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CALIFORNIA COURT RULING MAY LIMIT DROUGHT FIGHTING TOOLS

A recent ruling by the 4th District Court of Appeal against the city of San Juan Capistrano in Orange County potentially deals a blow to agencies statewide that have used a tiered pricing structure to encourage water conservation.

The 3-0 ruling upheld a Superior Court judge's decision that found that charging bigger water users incrementally higher rates violates a voter-approved law that prohibits government agencies from charging homeowners more than the cost of a service. The court said the tiered structure violated Proposition 218, a 1996 state law, because the highest rates exceeded the cost of delivering the water.

About two-thirds of water districts in the state use some form of tiered pricing that encourages people to save water. The ruling was being closely watched to see how it might apply beyond the appellate court, which is only binding in Orange County.

The court said it had to follow its responsibility to uphold existing law. Under the ruling, tiered pricing would be legal, but it would have to be tied to the cost of the water, the court said.

San Juan Capistrano charged nearly four times as much per unit of water for users in the highest tier to provide an incentive to conserve. Residents complained the higher rates were arbitrary and unfair.

Contacted by the Bulletin, El Dorado Irrigation District General Counsel Tom Cumpston said that he did not believe that the ruling would affect the District. ~



Woodridge entry at Bass Lake Road and Madera Way

WOODRIDGE ENTRY PHASE 2 ON TRACK

Phase 2 of the renovation of the Woodridge entry at Madera Way and Bass Lake Road is slated to be completed this June.

Readers will recall that Phase 1 consisted of the renovation of the center median. In March of 2013 Bass Lake Action Committee (BLAC) hosted a planning meeting with CSD General Manager Brent Dennis, Parks Supervisor Gino Sciandri, and concerned Woodridge neighbors to plan the arrangement of the landscaped median. A landscape design consisting of ornamental pear trees, roses, loropetalum and society garlic was chosen. The median renovation was soon completed, and was dedicated by planting the trees on on Arbor Day 2013

At the 2013 meeting, neighbors complained that the lights that illuminate the entry had been out for some time, rendering the intersection and entry way on Bass Lake Road very dark at night. The problem was that thieves had stolen the landscape lighting fixtures that illuminate each side of Madera Way, and in the process had severed the wires powering the lights that illuminate the "Woodridge" signs. The CSD promised



SENIOR SHUTTLE TO OFFER EDH SERVICE

The El Dorado County Senior Shuttle, which offers residents over the age of 60 a convenient ride for shopping and scheduled special outings, recently announced that it has added several locations to its route. "The shuttle now routinely makes weekly trips within Placerville and Cameron Park," said Star Walker, Program Supervisor for El Dorado County Senior Services. "We have recently expanded that service to include the communities of Pollock Pines, Georgetown and El Dorado Hills so that we can more comprehensively serve residents. We also make periodic trips to Folsom and Sacramento."

According to Walker, in addition to its normal weekly Placerville and Cameron Park route, the Senior Shuttle will travel to Pollock Pines every first and third Thursday

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello All,

I believe that this is the longest Spring I have seen in many years. I recall it started in January, and now it's May, and it's still here.

Mind you, I'm not complaining. It seems to me that once you have done all you can about the future, you ought to start enjoying the present. And there's nothing I can do about the weather. Except talk about it, of course. But there's no use in my complaining.

By the way, I have noticed that many of my plants are thriving in the reduced water regimen. Only getting watered once or twice a week seems to have done them good. But what about your lawn, you might say.

Well, I had a lawn once, and it was nothing but trouble. Well, not the lawn itself, but all the bugs and the blight and the brown spots and all that water to keep it green, that was the problem. Spray, water, and aerate. Not to mention mowing and edging and weeding it. So I promised myself that I would never have another lawn.

Not having a lawn has been a relief. Nothing to worry about, and no lawn-envy and no competition over who has the greenest lawn.

So I am going to relax and enjoy the Spring time, and I hope you will, too. Even if you might have to worry about your lawn.

Sincerely,
John Thomson
President

SENIOR SHUTTLE *(continued)*

of each month, to Georgetown every third Wednesday and to El Dorado Hills the last Wednesday of each month.

To use the service, senior residents must call to schedule a pick-up from their home. The shuttle normally starts pick-ups around 9:00 a.m. and takes riders to the grocery store and other venues, then returns them to their home. The cost of the round-trip transportation is normally a suggested donation of \$2.00 to \$5.00. Riders of the shuttle must be at least 60 years of age and mobile. The shuttle is not handicap accessible for those in wheelchairs.

The Senior Shuttle is operated as a community service through the El Dorado County Health and Human Services Agency (HHS), Community Services Division. The shuttle vans are driven by volunteers. For more information about the shuttle schedule or to make a reservation, please call (530) 621-6369. A monthly schedule with details regarding the Senior Shuttle dates and locations can also be found in the "Senior Services" section of the HHS website at www.edcgov.us/humanservices. ~

WOODRIDGE *(continued)*

to repair the front lights shortly after the planning meeting, and it was decided that Phase 2 of the renovation would consist of repairing the lighting scheme for the roadside landscaping.

BLAC has learned that Parks Supervisor Gino Sciandri recently performed a complete site inspection of the entry, and that the lighting repairs are expected to be completed in June. The existing light fixtures will be replaced with LED lights and new fixtures will be installed in the area where the former ones were stolen.

Readers will recall that the entry landscaping is part of the Bass Lake Village B Landscaping and Lighting Assessment District (LLAD), which is maintained by the El Dorado Hills Community Services District (CSD). Woodridge residents are annually assessed for the LLAD maintenance costs on their property tax bill.

The annual amount assessed for maintaining the LLAD has varied over the years. Under California law, the assessment must reflect the actual cost of maintaining the landscaping. As the result of several suggestions offered by BLAC, the CSD has proposed to reduce the Woodridge LLAD assessment for the next fiscal year (2015-2016) to \$49.50 per home. That amount is about half of the previous year's assessment. ~



CALIFORNIA WEATHER NEVER "NORMAL"

The normal climate of California includes droughts and years that are particularly wet. Very rarely does California weather actually match long-term averages. The state's average annual runoff totals 71 million acre-feet, but the range is tremendous—as little as 15 million acre-feet during the severe drought year of 1977, but up to 135 million acre-feet in the exceptionally wet winter of 1983. The annual volume in Sierra Nevada rivers can be 20 times as great in very wet years as in very dry years.

Concerning droughts, no simple criteria define a drought. The most severe recorded California drought occurred from 1929 to 1934. It set the standard that has been applied ever since for developing needed reservoir storage capacity in the state's water system. The driest recorded water year spanned the winter of 1976 to 1977; state wide runoff was only 21 percent of average. That extremely severe condition lasted only one year. The drought of 1987 to 1993 was a close match to the drought of 1929 to 1934 in both length and severity.

Though accurate rainfall and snowpack records only go back a century, scientists studying the thickness of annual tree rings can identify major historic weather patterns. Near San Diego, 560 years of tree rings were studied in bigcone spruce. Dry cycles averaging 15 years were found to be interspersed with wet cycles about 12 years long. A 420-year reconstruction of Sacramento River runoff data, also based upon tree rings, was used to establish the drought of 1929 to 1934 as the most severe in those four centuries.

Age dating of tree stumps that are now submerged in lakes and rivers has identified two epic drought periods in California during the Middle Ages. Stumps at Mono Lake, Lake Tenaya, and Walker River show two medieval droughts, one lasting 140 years, and the other at least 100 years. The twentieth century was not "normal" when compared to this longer record. It was, in fact, the third- or fourth-wettest century of the past 4000 years. ~



EDH DOG PARK TO OPEN BY MEMORIAL DAY

El Dorado Hills Community Services District (CSD) officials, El Dorado Dog Owners Guild (EDDOG) members and others gathered with their pooches last month to break ground on the El Dorado Hills dog park. The park should be ready by Memorial Day, according to CSD general manager Brent Dennis.

The dog park is located on two acres at the north end of El Dorado Hills Community Park, adjacent to the soccer field at El Dorado Hills Boulevard and St Andrews Drive. The location is shaded beneath an oak canopy and will include both large and small dog areas.

EDDOG is a 501[c]3 institution whose mission is to enhance the quality of life for dogs and their owners in El Dorado County. For more information visit eddog.org. ~

Credit: Village Life



Chess Club founder Wil Brunet

CALLING ALL CHESS PLAYERS

All chess players are cordially invited to join the new chess club which is now meeting at the Oak Knoll Park Club House, at Oak Knoll Park, on the first and third Wednesdays of the month, from 2:00 to 4:00 o'clock in the afternoon.

The club was started by former ranked chess player Wil Brunet, who told the Bulletin, "If you already play chess, join us and be part of our new Chess Club which will meet bi-monthly. We will exchange playing ideas, re-create famous games, and compete

with other participants. All ages are welcome and invited to join, and participants are asked to bring their own chess board." Wil may be contacted for particulars at wbrunet@comcast.net.

All levels of chess players are welcome, from novice up, but the club is not for brand-new beginners, as no lessons will be offered.

Oak Knoll Park is located at 3331 Alysum Circle, in The Hills of El Dorado, in El Dorado Hills. Please call the Senior Center at 916-358-3575 to let them know you are coming.~



THE ANCIENT AND NOBLE GAME OF CHESS

The history of chess extends over 1500 years. The earliest version of the game is thought to have originated in India.

From India, the game spread to Persia. When the Arabs conquered Persia around 651 AD, chess was taken up by the Muslim world.

The game reached Western Europe and Russia by at least three routes, beginning in the 9th century. By the millennium it had spread throughout Europe. Introduced into the Iberian Peninsula by the Moors in the 10th century, it was described in a famous 13th century manuscript entitled Libro de los Juegos (Book of Games).

The game continued to evolve and gain popularity, with the development of reliable reference works, chess tournaments bolstered by reliable timing mechanisms (first introduced in 1861), effective rules, and charismatic players.

Soon thereafter, modern chess tournament play began, with the first World Chess Championship being held in 1886. The 20th century saw the establishment of the United States Chess Federation (USCF) and the World Chess Federation (FIDE).

Developments in the 21st century include use of computers for analysis, which originated in the 1970s with the first programmed chess games. Online chess gaming appeared in the mid-1990s. ~



Sue and Stuart Colvin

BLAC MEMBERS OFF TO AUSTRALIA

Long-time Woodridge residents and BLAC supporters, Stuart and Sue Colvin, are embarking on a new phase of their lives. In mid-May they will depart on a six-month driving tour of the United States before returning to California in October for a few weeks before flying to Melbourne, Australia, where they will retire.

Stuart and Sue have led an interesting and varied life. Originally born and raised in Australia, shortly after their marriage they moved to England to follow Stuart's employment. From there they relocated for 2 years to San Jose before returning to England for 18 months. Then they had a 3-year stint in the Netherlands before returning once again to England. In 1993, they moved back to California, settling in the Bay Area and eventually moving to El Dorado Hills.

Over the past decade, Stuart and Sue have been stalwart supporters of BLAC. Aside from attending BLAC meetings and hosting several outstanding BLAC Christmas parties, Stuart designed BLAC's first web page, and was our Web Master for many years. Family needs impelled them to move to a bigger home in Serrano a few years ago, but Stuart and Sue continued as loyal BLAC members and contributors. Stuart and Sue have also been members of Faith Episcopal Church for the past decade and have been actively involved in several ministries there, including small group leadership and the audio visual team.

Neighbors, friends, and church colleagues will miss Stuart and Sue's intellect, enthusiasm, and wit, and I am sure that they all join with BLAC in sending them good wishes as they begin their new life adventure Down Under. ~





BLAC BOARD MET IN MAY, NEXT MEETING SET FOR AUGUST

The board of directors of the Bass Lake Action Committee met on May 4 at 7:00 PM at the home of John and Fran Thomson, 501 Kirkwood Court in Woodridge, El Dorado Hills, 530-677-3039.

The board received reports on the Rescue Union School District's Bass Lake Property and Bass Lake Regional Park, the Lighting & Landscaping District Assessments for Woodridge and Hills of El Dorado, the Road Crack Filling Project, and the Hawk View and Bell Woods Developments. The board discussed the speed limits on Summer Drive, and appointed member Dale Chambers as chair of the BLAC Traffic Calming Committee, in order to deal with the public agencies about the problem.

The next regular board of directors meeting of the Bass Lake Action Committee will be held on August 3 at 7:00 PM at the home of John and Fran Thomson, 501 Kirkwood Court in Woodridge, El Dorado Hills, 530-677-3039.

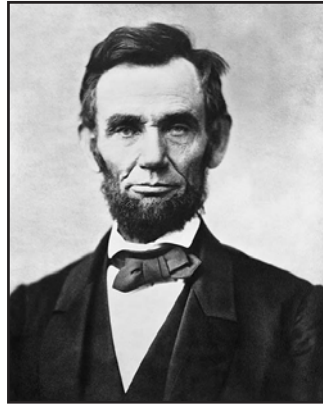
As always, all BLAC members are cordially invited to attend all meetings. For further information about BLAC meetings and membership, please contact Vice President Kathy Prevost at 530-672-6836. ~



May Song

How fair doth Nature
Appear again!
How bright the sunbeams!
How smiles the plain!
The flow'rs are bursting
From ev'ry bough,
And thousand voices
Each bush yields now.
And joy and gladness
Fill ev'ry breast!
Oh earth!—oh sunlight!
Oh rapture blest!
Oh love! oh loved one!

—Goethe



Abraham Lincoln

The Gettysburg Address

"Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

"Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

"But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate—we cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It

is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

(The Gettysburg Address was delivered by Lincoln during the American Civil War, on the afternoon of Thursday, November 19, 1863, at the dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, four and a half months after the Union armies defeated those of the Confederacy at the Battle of Gettysburg.)



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