

## WE ARE TEMESCAL VALLEY

Vol. 5 No. 7

#### WeAreTV.org

November 2019

## Embezzlement could be as much as \$2.6 million

## CNUSD's Ted Rozzi faces 30 felony charges in alleged theft of public funds

Following more than two years of speculation and rumors about the quick departure of **Ted Rozzi** from the **Corona-Norco Unified School District, Riverside County District Attorney Mike Hestrin** earlier this month announced 30 felony charges had been filed against the former assistant superintendent of facilities.

Rozzi, who served 25 years in that position overseeing school construction, allegedly embezzled \$2.6 million of public funds from the district. **Edward Mierau**, chief executive officer of **Neff Construction**, also was charged with 27 felony counts.

Hestrin, in the initial announcement of the alleged crime, had placed the amount at \$1.1 million. The results of an independent audit presented to the CNUSD Board of Trustees Nov. 12 indicated there was sufficient evidence that \$2.6 million may been embezzled.

Rozzi was arrested Nov. 7, but released on his own recognizance. He is due to be arraigned Dec. 20.

Both Mierau and Rozzi were charged with 18 counts of money laundering, embezzlement by a public officer, misappropriation of public funds and making a false entry on a document. Rozzi also was charged with 12 counts of being a public official with a financial interest in a contract. Mierau was charged with nine counts of helping Rozzi violate the law.

The two are accused of a scheme that diverted school construction funds paid by Neff into personal banking and credit card accounts held by Rozzi.

In a story written by reporter **Brian Rokos** and published Nov. 7 in **The Press-Enterprise**, Rozzi's attorney **Eric Anderson** told Rokos, "I am opposed to trying cases in the press. Court is where we do that. Mr. Rozzi has been a dedicated public servant for several decades and is entitled to go through the proper legal process."

Neff Construction attorney **Rod Pacheco** told Rokos that Mierau is innocent and had no knowledge of the crimes described by the District Attorney's Office. Pacheco will represent Mierau in the criminal case.

Pacheco, a former Riverside County District Attorney, added, "For the life of me, I cannot understand how they filed charges against Mr. Mierau. Mr. Mierau isn't not guilty, he is innocent. It's not close. They have no evidence that Mr. Mierau committed a crime."

The alleged embezzlement occurred during December 2011 and May 2017 and could involve funds from **Measure U**, a \$250 million ballot measure passed by district voters in 2006. Measure U was to pay for the construction of seven news schools, including Rancho Serrano High School in Temescal Valley that wasn't built.



**LONG-TIME EMPLOYEE:** Ted Rozzi, who served for 25 years as the CNUSD assistant superintendent of facilities, oversaw all school construction projects.

**Measure GG**, a \$396 million bond measure was approved by voters in 2014.

In each instance, the CNUSD board appointed a state-mandated **Citizens Oversight Committee** to monitor the expenditure of funds to ensure they were being spent on the voter-approved projects itemized in the ballot measures.

The alleged embezzlement was discovered in May 2017 by a CNUSD employee who noticed a suspicious transaction between Rozzi and Neff Construction. The district reported it to the **Riverside County Sheriff's Department** and an investigation ensued. Rozzi was placed on administrative leave Aug. 11, 2017 and resigned Aug. 14.

Hestrin noted in his news release CNUSD had "cooperated fully" with the DA's office and the Sheriff's Department and thanked the district for its "assistance and patience during this lengthy investigation."

The district issued a media statement jointly with the DA's news release. CNUSD Superintendent **Michael Lin** said the district "shares in the community's disappointment and hurt" over Rozzi's actions. He said because of the ongoing investigation the district was unable to share information with the public. He indicated the district has taken action to restructure departments and add new layers of accountability. Those actions include:

 Moved the Facilities Department under the direction and oversight of Assistant Superintendent of Business Services

**CONTINUED NEXT PAGE** 



# Class is scheduled Dec. 6-8; it's 20 hours of free disaster training that could save lives

If a disaster struck – a really big disaster, would you be prepared to help yourself, your family, your neighbors?

The county's **Emergency Management Department** (EMD), has scheduled a **Community Emergency Response Team** (CERT) training **Friday, Saturday** and **Sunday, Dec. 6, 7** and **8**. Hours are from 5 to 9 p.m. Friday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. This final training of the year will be held at the Lakeland Village Community Center, Building D, 16275 Grand Ave., Lake Elsinore.

The training is free, but to obtain authorization of course completion, people must attend all 20 hours of training.

In the absence of emergency responders, the program teaches people basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization and disaster medical operations.

Temescal Valley is the only unincorporated area in the county that has an EMD-coordinated **Disaster Response Team** (DRT), comprised of residents who completed CERT training – a prerequisite for DRT training. DRT membership is a step up from CERT – with team meetings and ongoing training sessions. Team members also are on-call if their assistance is needed by county EMD.

Prospective DRT members must fill out an application and take four FEMA online courses. The application cannot be submitted until the FEMA courses are completed but can be submitted prior to CERT training completion. Applicants also must have a nocost background check.

Pre-registration for the upcoming CERT training is a must – class size is limited -- and can be made online:

https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ego3lufsc0203bf0&oseq=&c=&ch=

Here is the DRT application package: http://www.wearetv.org/blog/safety/drt.pdf

Temescal Valley DRT Team Lead **Kelli Noss** can answer questions about CERT and DRT. Email: **kellinoss@live.com** 

#### EMBEZZLEMENT...

#### FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

- Standardized the fiscal oversight in Facilities to be consistent with district practices
- Moved all procurement functions away from the Facilities Department and into the Purchasing Department

The independent audit presented at the Nov. 12 board meeting was conducted by **Fiscal Crisis Management Team** (FCMAT) and requested by the County Superintendent of Schools **Judy D. White.** CNUSD is required by Nov. 27 to submit a report to the **Riverside County Office of Education** outlining the changes made to ensure sound fiscal practices.

FCMAT was created by AB 1200 in 1991 to assist local educational agencies in meeting and maintaining financial obligations. AB139 was approved by Gov. Jerry Brown in 2001 and authorizes county superintendents to call for a FCMAT review or audit of an educational agency if they have reason to believe that fraud, misappropriation of funds, or other illegal fiscal practices may have occurred.

At the time Rozzi resigned, White was notified of the alleged criminal behavior and ordered the audit. Hestrin's office also worked on the audit.

Read the <u>District Attorney's news release</u>
Read <u>CNUSD's media statement</u>
Read The Press-Enterprise report

# Sheriff shares local crime stats for August, September, October

During the October Temescal Valley Municipal Advisory Council meeting, Lt. Donovan Brooks of the Lake Elsinore Sheriff's Station gave a detailed report on Part I crimes that occurred here in August, September and October.

Part I crimes include serious felonies; Part II crimes are nonserious felonies and all misdemeanors.

He said the station received **406 calls** for service from Temescal Valley during October – 33 fewer calls than received in September.

**Thirty-one** calls in October were for Part I crimes. There were no homicides for the three-month period. Here is the breakdown:

Assaults – 4 in August, 6 in September and 3 in October. Burglaries – 5, 5 and 3. Grand/ Petty Theft – 10, 13 and 14. Rape – 0, 1 and 0. Robbery – 1, 1 and 1. Vehicle Theft – 4, 6 and 2. Theft from Vehicle – 8, 8 and 8.



There were **5 arrests in August** - 3 felony and 2 misdemeanors. **September saw 7 arrests** - 4 felonies and 3 misdemeanors, and there were **10 arrests in October** - 2 felonies and 8 misdemeanors.

Vandalisms reported for August, September and October were 7, 12 and 7, respectively. **Disturbing the Peace** calls numbered 37, 25 and 34.

### Assisted living facility could be coming to Temescal Valley

Joel Morse of T&B Planning presented plans at a recent meeting of the We Are Temescal Valley Development Committee for an assisted and independent living facility at the southwest corner of Trilogy Parkway and Temescal Canyon Road.

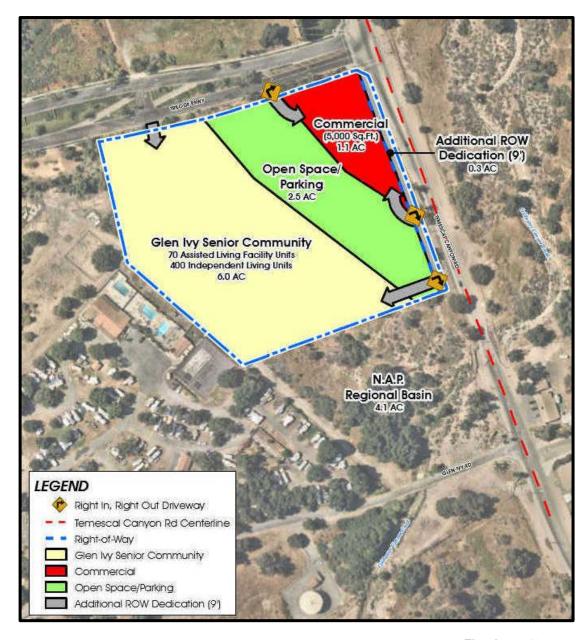
Representing property owner **Ben Day**, Morse said the development is in the planning stages and even the name, "**Glen Ivy Senior Community**," could be changed.

He said the almost 10-acre parcel would have 6 acres of residential housing -- 70 assisted living units and 400 independent living units. Another 2.5 acres would be used for open space and parking, with the final 1.1 acre – the corner lot – devoted to commercial use within a 5,000-square-foot building. The residential buildings are expected to be at least two stories.

An additional nine feet of property fronting Temescal Canyon Road will be dedicated as right of way. The development will have four entrances and three exits.

Morse explained county approval of the project will only require granting a conditional use permit (CUP), because the proposed development is compatible with the property's current land use and zoning designations.

He said they hope to be able to file the CUP application with the county in four to six months and a presentation will be made at a **Temescal Valley Municipal Advisory Council** meeting prior to the filing.



**SOUTHWEST CORNER TRILOGY PARKWAY AND TEMESCAL CANYON ROAD:** The almost 10-acre parcel would have 6 acres of residential housing, 2.5 acres of open space and parking, and 1 acre of commercial retail.

### Mail theft on rise in Temescal Valley

Mail is being stolen in several Temescal Valley communities. It appears a master key is being used because there is no damage to cluster mailboxes from which the mail has been taken.

If you believe mail has been stolen, file a report with the Sheriff -- 951-776-1099 (option 5) and with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service -- 877-876-2455. Both agencies need your name and address on file in case someone is arrested with your mail in their possession.



If you see mail theft happening, try to get as much detail as possible (description of suspect, description of vehicle), but most importantly, a license plate number. Do not approach the suspect. You can also report stolen mail to the Postal Inspection Service online: https://www.uspis.gov/tips-prevention/mail-theft/

If you find piles of discarded stolen mail, call the sheriff and deputies will retrieve it.

#### **CALENDAR**

#### **EVENTS**

- Mother-Daughter Movie Night: For Temescal Valley Elementary School, "Frozen 2," 6:30 p.m., Friday, Nov. 22, Dos Lagos Starlight Cinemas. Purchase tickets at school — \$10.
- <u>Thanksgiving Break</u>: No school for CNUSD and LEUSD students, <u>Monday</u>, <u>Nov. 25</u> through <u>Friday</u>, <u>Nov. 29</u>.
- <u>Thanksgiving</u>: Take a turkey to dinner, Thursday, Nov. 28.
- Community Emergency Response Team Training: Last CERT course of the year. Twenty hours -- 5 to 9 p.m., Friday, Dec. 6; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 7, 8. Lakeland Village Community Center, 16275 Grand Ave., Lake Elsinore. FREE! Register HERE
- Sycamore Creek Interpretive Center: A hands-on learning experience featuring exhibits, displays, activities and touch tables. The center is open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, 11875 Indian Truck Trail. FREE!
- <u>El Cerrito Public Library</u>: Many fun activities for the kids.
   Located behind El Cerrito Middle School, 7581 Rudell Road, 951-270-5012 or check out the November events <u>HERE</u>
- 100 Mile Club: For all schools, 8 to 9 a.m., every Sunday, Deleo Regional Sports Park, 25655 Santiago Canyon Road in Sycamore Creek. Adults must accompany runners.
- West County Bookmobile: 9 to 11 a.m., Tuesday and Friday, Deleo Regional Sports Park.
- Tom's Farms: FREE! Every weekend Craft Faire, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Magic Show, noon and 2 p.m.; live music, 12:30 to 5 p.m. New Event: 7 to 11 p.m., Second Thursday of the month, Bar & Grill Bike Nights. Family friendly -- motorcycles welcomed.

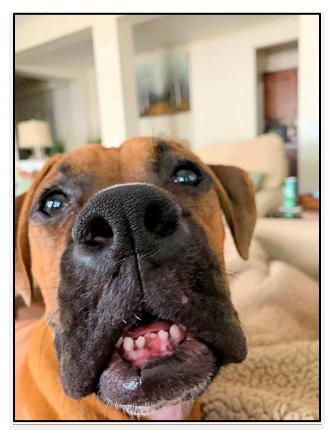
#### **TEMESCAL VALLEY MEETINGS**

- <u>El Sobrante Landfill Citizens Oversight Committee</u>: 10

   a.m., Monday, Nov. 18, Temescal Valley Water District, 22646
   Temescal Canyon Road. <u>AGENDA</u>
- We Are Temescal Valley Education Committee: 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 21, meeting place to be announced.
- <u>Temescal Valley Water District Board Meeting:</u> 8:30 a.m., <u>Tuesday</u>, <u>Nov. 26</u>, 22646 Temescal Canyon Road. <u>AGENDA</u>
- We Are Temescal Valley Identity & Beautification <u>committees</u>: 6 and 7 p.m., respectively, Thursday, Dec. 5, Tom's Farms Hamburger stand.
- We Are Temescal Valley citizens' group: 8:30 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 7, Trilogy Lake Center, 24477 Trilogy Parkway.
- <u>Temescal Heritage Foundation</u>: 9 a.m., <u>Saturday</u>, <u>Dec. 21</u>, Temescal Room, Trilogy Lodge, 24503 Trilogy Parkway.
- <u>Temescal Valley Municipal Advisory Council</u>: No meeting in December. Next meeting -- 6 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 8, place to be announced.

#### **MEETINGS THAT AFFECT US**

- Riverside County Board of Supervisors: 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 19, Dec. 10 and 17. Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon St., Riverside. <u>AGENDA</u> | <u>WATCH LIVE VIDEO</u>
- Riverside County Planning Commission: 9 a.m., Wednesday, Nov. 20, Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon St., Riverside; 9:30 a.m. <u>AGENDA</u> | <u>WATCH LIVE VIDEO</u>
- Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District Board Meeting: 4
   p.m., Thursday, Nov. 28 and Dec. 12, 31315 Chaney St., Lake Elsinore. AGENDA
- <u>Lake Elsinore Unified School District</u>: 6 p.m., Tuesday, Dec.
   10, 545 Chaney St., Lake Elsinore. <u>AGENDA</u>
- <u>Corona-Norco Unified School District</u>: Business Meeting, 7
   p.m., <u>Tuesday</u>, <u>Dec. 17</u>, 2820 Clark Ave., Norco. <u>AGENDA</u>



#### **OCTOBER PHOTO WINNER**

The theme was anything starting with "The Letter T."

Congratulations to Paige Simoneau, a Painted Hills resident, for this photo titled "T is for teeth!" Paige says "Harper is showing us her two baby teeth in the middle. Couldn't help but laugh!"

#### MAKE YOUR OPINION KNOWN!

## Deadline is Nov. 22 for comments on I-15 Express Lanes Extension

The **Riverside County Transportation Commission** (RCTC), held three meetings earlier this month to present plans for the **I-15 Express Lanes Extension project**. If you missed a meeting, everything presented by RCTC is available online. View it here:

https://www.rctc.org/i15-express-lanes-project-southern-extension-online-meeting/

Folks attending the Nov. 14 **We Are Temescal Valley Development & Transportation Committee** all agreed that the finished Express Lanes should not cause additional backups at Temescal Valley interchanges and on local surface streets. Unfortunately, a consensus could not be reached as to what comments should be included in a form letter to RCTC.

You're on your own. Educate yourself about what is proposed and what is important to you. Deadline for your comments is **Friday**, **Nov. 22**. Email your opinions to: **15expsouth@dot.ca.gov** 



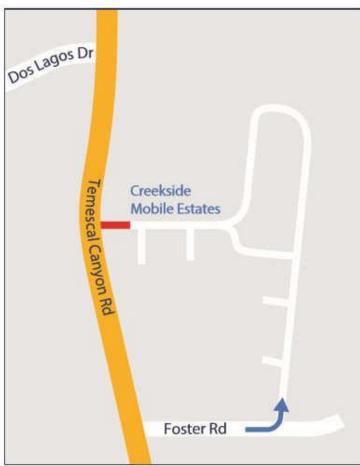
The contractor continues to work on storm drains, utility relocations, curb & gutter, and street paving along Temescal Canyon Road from Dawson Canyon Road to Dos Lagos Drive.

#### **Current Construction and Traffic Restrictions**

The driveway entrance to Creekside Mobile Estates on Temescal Canyon Rd. will be closed on the morning of Friday, November 22 and will remain closed throughout the weekend and reopen on the morning of Monday, November 25. During the closure, residents can enter Creekside Mobile Estates on Foster Rd.

This closure is required to adjust the driveway elevation to match the elevation of the new street surface on Temescal Canyon Rd.





Project Hotline: (909) 800-0451 Websitehttps://rcprojects.org/temescal-canyon-improvements-project



II AM-2PM SLEDDING RAMPS - CRAFTS SNOW PLAY . TRAIN RIDES KIE DECORATING • GIVEAWAYS





FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT RKROSS@RIVCO.ORG OR 951.9554816



# Professional Santa Photos





Photos: Nov. 30-Dec. 22 Saturday & Sunday Monday Dec. 23rd Ilam-7pm.

Follow us on Follow us on Visit us at: www.Tomsfarms.com









## Story Time Among the Sycamores

#### Pre-kindergarten age and under

Free story and an activity: Second week of each month • 10:30 am

Dec 12, 2019 An Adventure with Bobby Bear by Maurice Pledger Activity: Paper Plate Bear Paws (Please register by Dec 10)

Jan 10, 2020 A Log's Life by Wendy Pfeffer
Activity: Hand Print Tree (Please register by Jan 7)

Feb 13, 2020 Mr. Bumble by Kim Kennedy

Activity: Bee Foot Print (Please register by Feb 11)



Registration is required. All children are to be accompanied by an adult, and a liability waiver must be signed at first class attended.

To register: (951) 277-0219, email scic@rcrcd.org or Facebook message: SCICTV

- Practice rhythm and sounds.
- Work on following directions.
- Practice fine motor skills.
- Use imagination and get creative!
- Cultivate a love of nature.
- Parents: meet other local parents.

Weather permitting, we will read under one of our sycamore trees!

#### Sycamore Creek Interpretive Center

11875 Indian Truck Trail Temescal Valley, 92883

(Find us at the intersection of Campbell Ranch Rd & Indian Truck Trail, across from the shopping center)



Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District

#### This FREE training is provided by:



#### WHERE & WHEN:

Friday-Sunday, December 6-8, 2019 at Lakeland Village Community Center – Building D 16275 Grand Avenue Lake Elsinore, CA 92530

> Friday, 5:00pm-9:00pm Saturday and Sunday, 8:00am-5:00pm



#### REGISTER AT:

https://tinyurl.com/LakelandVillageCERT DEC

For more information or ADA assistance contact us:

951-955-4700

EMDVolunteer@rivco.org



#### **Building Resilient Communities**

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program educates volunteers about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations.

CERT training is a commitment of **20 hours** and is **free**. Only those who successfully complete the practical exercise with hands-on instruction in fire suppression, search and rescue, cribbing and medical operations will receive a certificate of completion.

\*\*\*CERT courses may be subject to cancellation at any time prior to start of class, if minimum registration number is not met\*\*\*









# TEMESCAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION ACORN TO OAK PROJECT

Time to collect ACORNS! Drop off acorns at Sycamore Creek Interpretative Center 11875 Indian Truck Trail, Temescal Valley, CA 92883 Thursday – Saturday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. OR

Temescal Valley Water District 22646 Temescal Canyon Road, Temescal Valley, CA 92883 Mo - Th 7:30 a.m - 5:00 p.m., Fr 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

- Please collect and label acorns in a zipper bag, include location and species.
- Try to keep the species separate, usually by shape of acorn and the leaves. If you can't figure out the species, collect a twig and keep with the acorn sample.
  - Coast Live Oak- Most common
  - Interior Live Oak
  - Canvon Live Oak
  - California Scrub Oak
  - California Black Oak
- Best to pick right from tree.
- Those in the ground have to be float tested for viability, please note.
- Any that have obvious holes are no good and don't add to collection.
- > Ten per tree, twenty if picked from ground.
- > Keep in refrigerator until you drop off.

THANK YOU! Any questions contact Tracy Davis, project lead tracycyto@yahoo.com
Once refrigerated the planting will begin in the spring.



