

# The Daily Independent

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The Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's Ridgecrest committee members included, from left, Kathie Sievert, Amy Alden, Jordan Brannon, Travis Denning, Roy Byers. COURTESY PHOTO

## Walk to End Alzheimer's: Ridgecrest raises \$32.8K

### News release

Nearly 6,400 residents from across seven Southern California counties joined together from Oct. 2 through Nov. 13, 2021, each participating in one of 13 Alzheimer's Association Walks to End Alzheimer's California Series events in their local communities.

Ridgecrest participants — 95 strong — walked in Ridgecrest to End Alzheimer's at Leroy Jackson Park on Oct. 23,

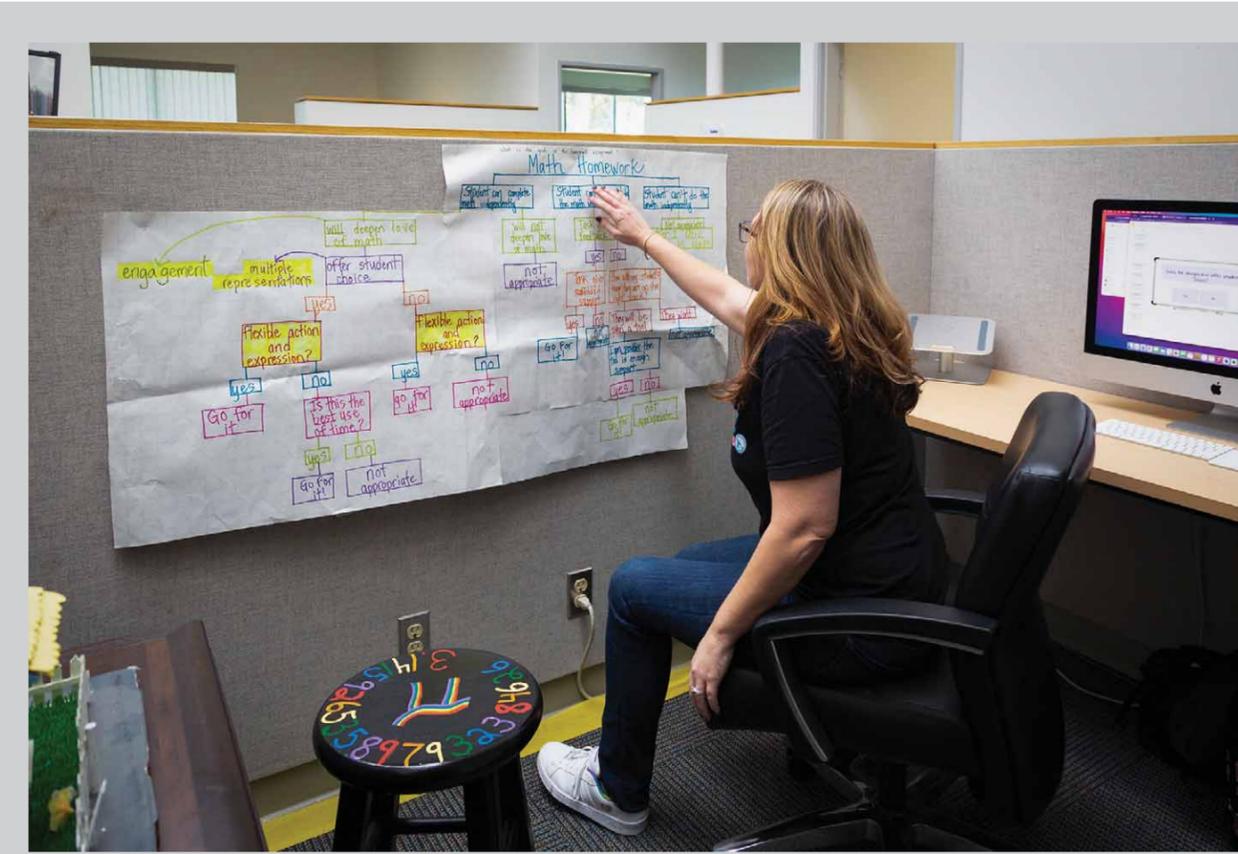
raising \$32,750 to ensure no one has to face Alzheimer's or any other dementia alone, and supporting the Alzheimer's Association long-term dedication to Ridgecrest and LA's Westside.

Monies raised will provide 24/7, year-round care and support through the Alzheimer's Association 24/7 Helpline (800-272-3900). The Chapter holds over 40 online and telephone support groups and education classes per

month and is in the process of returning to in-person meetings. Online webinars on the latest research are available to everyone in the chapter territory, and advocacy for those facing Alzheimer's and caregivers takes place at every level of government.

In the Ridgecrest community, sponsors, volunteers and supporters demonstrated a collective dedication to end

See WALK, A8



Rebecca Pariso in her office at Hueneme Elementary School District in Oxnard on Nov. 12, 2021. PHOTO BY JULIE LEOPO FOR CALMATTERS

## Council talks projects for federal dollars

By Darla A. Baker  
The Daily Independent

During the regularly scheduled Ridgecrest City Council meeting held Wednesday night at the Kerr McGee Center, councilmembers discussed how to use remaining funds made available through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed into law ARPA, which provides one-time fiscal relief funds to state and local governments and other program areas aimed at mitigating the continuing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"As we wait for the release of the final guidance from the U.S. Treasury, City staff has been meeting weekly to develop recommendations for the one-time American Rescue Act Plan funds to help with COVID-19 recovery and those that have been the most affected," said Cheri Freese, Finance Director.

According to Freese, the city of Ridgecrest's allocation of direct local stimulus is \$6,930,958, with the first 50% paid to the City in July of 2021 and the remaining balance in July of 2022.

According to Freese, funds must be used in the following ways:

- To support public health expenditures;
- Address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency;
- Replace lost public sector revenue; and
- Invest in water, sewer and broad-

See COUNCIL, A8

## Understanding the debate behind new math framework

By Joe Hong  
CalMatters

When Rebecca Pariso agreed to join a team of educators tasked in late 2019 with California's new mathematics framework, she said she expected some controversy.

But she didn't expect her work would be in the national spotlight.

"We were transforming math education, and change is hard and scary," said Pariso, a math teacher at Hueneme Elementary School District. "Especially if you don't understand why that change needs to occur. But I didn't expect it to go this far."

Every eight years, a group of educators comes together to update the state's math curriculum framework.

This particular update has attracted extra attention, and controversy, because of perceived changes it makes to how "gifted" students progress — and because it pushes Algebra 1 back to 9th grade, de-emphasizes calculus, and applies social justice principles to math lessons.

Their intent, the framework's designers say, is to maintain rigor while also helping remedy California's achievement gaps for Black, Latino and low-income students, which remain some of the largest in the nation.

At the heart of the wrangling lies a broad agreement about at least one thing:

The way California public schools teach math isn't working. On na-

tional standardized tests, California ranks in the bottom quartile among all states and U.S. territories for 8th grade math scores.

Yet for all the sound and fury, the proposed framework, about 800-pages long, is little more than a set of suggestions. Its designers are revising it now and will subject it to 60 more days of public review. Once it's approved in July, districts may adopt as much or as little of the framework as they choose — and can disregard it completely without any penalty.

"It's not mandated that you use the framework," said framework team member Dianne Wilson, a program

See MATH, A4

### PUBLISHER'S PEN

## Council did good job of spending federal \$6.9M

Congratulations to the city council for spending the federal \$6.9 million "rescue dollars" in a mostly wise manner. The Daily Independent's Darla Baker does a great job in her article about the proposed expenses. While the naysayers speak continually at council meetings, here's my two cents worth:

- It is about time the parks and recreation issues in our community are given attention.



John Watkins

- It's about time youth sports complexes are refurbished to the max.
- It's about overall quality of life. Our families deserve it.
- It's about selling our community to visitors.
- It's about revenue

generation.

- It's about having nice amenities to put our community in a good position for employers to hire solid applicants.
- Finally, it's about darn time!

**Another good decision.** The Kern County Board of Supervisors last week approved a \$5,000 donation to China Lake Alliance to continue their efforts to promote the base and weigh in on other issues for our community. Who knows what the

future holds, but CL Alliance will play a major role.

### Here's some Thanksgiving thoughts:

It's been a tough year for our business community, but thanks to the residents' support many have started a comeback.

New businesses are sprouting up and others are on the drawing board.

The new Visitors Center, with a big assist from the federal dollar coffers mentioned above, is now

open and will yield huge dividends to our community.

The base rebuild is well underway and more construction groundbreaking was announced last week. Nothing but good here.

From a personal standpoint, wife Lynda and I are blessed with a

group of hard working individuals who go above and beyond to bring the Daily Independent to you twice a week in print and 24/7 seven days a week on line.

Finally, thank you to our loyal readers who support the Daily Independent. It is much appreciated.

**Have 401(k) questions? Let's talk.**

**Suzan H Halsey, AAMS®**  
Financial Advisor  
1525 N Norma Suite D  
Ridgecrest, CA 93555  
760-446-4525  
HKT-SB94K-CA

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