



## What's next for La Quinta-owned thoroughbred Hot Rod Charlie?

SPORTS, 1B

# The Desert Sun

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## CVWD approves steep water bill hikes

### Small homeowners among those to see increased rate

**Janet Wilson**  
Palm Springs Desert Sun  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Coachella Valley Water District board voted Tuesday to approve a rate hike — the first of potentially several over the next five years — that includes steep increases for small homeowners beginning July 1.

"It's never a joy to increase rates... but I look across the (Coachella) valley and into Riverside and I think we're competitive," Director Peter Nelson said.

While a few customers objected by phone and Zoom before the vote, and 166 written protests against the increases were received, a whopping 64,906 written protests would have

been needed to stop the vote per state law.

The proposed hikes each year are the maximum amounts that will be allowed. The board would need to publicly discuss and vote separately each year on an additional increase.

Director Anthony Bianco, the sole dissenter on the 4-1 vote, said while he



Nelson



Bianco

ultimately decided to vote no, he understands that state law (known as Proposition 218) leaves the board with with no choice but to raise revenues in certain ways that aren't always favorable to the smaller user.

"We can't arbitrarily change things to

See **HIKES**, Page 6A

## License-plate cameras are being mulled by Coachella

**Eliana Perez and Christopher Damien**  
Palm Springs Desert Sun  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Coachella leaders are considering purchasing dozens of license-plate reading cameras — possibly 50% more than are being used in any other valley city — as part of a new crime-fighting effort advocated by the Riverside County Sheriff's Department.

But some people in the community have raised concerns about the Automated License Plate Recognition software and cameras, including the potential for encroachments on civil liberties.

Lt. Andy Martinez, a sheriff's department liaison, delivered a presentation at a recent council meeting on the possible acquisition of 65 cameras from Flock Group Inc. for an annual amount of \$162,500 and a one-time 10% installation charge. While the city has a contract with the sheriff's department for police services, the council would have to approve the expenditure.

Martinez said technically the city would become a subscriber with Flock and the sheriff's department would then request data access from the city.

According to Councilmember Megan Beaman-Jacinto, however, the cameras would still be budgeted as a police service, something the city is

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A solar-powered license plate camera  
MATT BURKHARTT/GREENVILLE NEWS FILE

## A NEW CAR DEAL



Local auto dealer Dan Jessup has plans to expand into Rancho Mirage by developing this land for new Volvo and Infiniti dealerships. JAY CALDERON/THE DESERT SUN

## \$6 million Rancho Mirage loan will help auto dealer Jessup expand

**Sherry Barkas**  
Palm Springs Desert Sun  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Local auto dealer Dan Jessup has plans to expand into Rancho Mirage with Volvo and Infiniti dealerships, an estimated \$14 million development that will be partially funded with a \$6.27 million loan from the city, at market interest rates.

The dealerships would be built on 6.5 acres on the western portion of 25.54 acres of undeveloped in the 71-000 block of Highway 111, across from the Rancho Mirage Public Library and between VCA Animal Hospital Rancho Mirage and Audi Rancho Mirage.

The city is home to several high-end auto dealerships, including Ferrari,



A rendering shows the dealerships planned for the 71-000 block of Highway 111. PROVIDED BY SANBORN ARCHITECTURE GROUP

Bentley and Jaguar, all located along Highway 111.

The plans call for three buildings — a 5,807-square-foot Infiniti dealership; a 8,650-square-foot Volvo dealership; and 15,995-square-foot service building for both, along the rear of the site. The dealerships would be set back 114

feet from Highway 111 on the northern property line.

Water-efficient landscaping, including date palms and shrubs, will be placed along the Highway 111 frontage and around the buildings, Assistant

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USA TODAY

## Jan. 6 Capitol riot report reveals delays, failures

A Senate investigation into the Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol revealed widespread law enforcement and military failures that led to the attack. 9A

## Board questions mask guidance for workers

Riverside County supervisors expressed frustration Tuesday over recently updated California mask guidance for workplaces, with one supervisor saying a state board has gone "as far as you can go" with its proposed rules. "This has to stop," Fifth District Supervisor Jeff Hewitt said. 3A

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## Man charged with murder

Prosecutors in Orange County charged Marcus Anthony Eriz, 24, with murder in a Southern California road rage shooting that killed a 6-year-old boy on a freeway last month, stunning the region and attracting national attention. AP

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