

Hometown HAPPENINGS

Thursday, April 20, 2017 W COMMUNITY NEWS ACROSS CITRUS COUNTY WWW.CHRONICLEONLINE.COM



Members of Boy Scout Troop 457 paint the restroom building, after the new roof was installed. From left are Christian Mysilwiec, Ben VanDermark and Vito Delgorio. You can find more photos on page D5. Special to the Chronicle

Rotary Club of Inverness completes Scout camping area upgrade in Whispering Pines Park

Special to the Chronicle

The Rotary Club of Inverness has continued its long association with Whispering Pines Park in Inverness with a project this year to upgrade the Scout camping area. The Rotary Club was instrumental in creating the park more than 30 years ago, and has supported it with improvement and beautification projects since then.

The 2017 project used locally raised funds along with Rotary District grant monies to undertake a major facility upgrade of the park's campground, heavily used by Boy Scouts and other youth groups.

Upgrades included replacing the restroom building's badly deteriorated roof with a new, metal roof with large skylights,

and upgrading restroom fixtures to meet current codes and ADA guidelines.

In addition, the restroom building and large pavilion structure were painted inside and out, plus solar collectors and on-demand lighting were added for convenience and safety inside the restroom building.

A lantern pole plus fire ring with moveable cooking grate were installed. Finally, a wood fence was erected to delineate the vehicle parking area.

Rotary District Grant projects require hands-on work by Rotarians. Club members were joined by Rotary Youth Exchange students, Boy Scouts from Troop 457, which the club sponsors, Interact club students from Citrus High School, plus family and friends of club members.

Whispering Pines Park manager Ron

Hodges supervised the workday activities as well as the roofing and plumbing vendors.

Previous Rotary Club of Inverness grant projects at Whispering Pines Park included: refurbishing the activities building; reworking the park entrance/gatehouse area with major new signage and landscaping, irrigation and lighting; upgrading and re-landscaping the swimming pool complex area; making major improvements to the popular Family Recreation Area; and installing way-finding signage for the park's five trails, plus adding strategically placed benches.

The projects on which the Rotary Club of Inverness collaborates with the city are ones the city is unable to complete on its own at the time, but is able to maintain once they are in place.

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Special to the Chronicle

Rotary Youth Exchange students Gustav Gunnarsson and Marina Iribarren paint the pavilion building, while Rotarian Ned Barry steadies the ladder during a recent improvement project by the Rotary Club of Inverness at Whispering Pines Park.



Rotary Club of Inverness President John Murphy helps Rotarian Jim Hunt level a fencepost. Special to the Chronicle



Special to the Chronicle

Rotarians install a solar collector on the refurbished restroom building. Chet White, on the ladder, is supervised by Rotarians Eric Williams, Rocky Hensley, and Eloy Nunez, steadying the ladder.