WHERE WE LIVE

THE DELTA

OAKLEY, BYRON, DISCOVERY BAY, BETHEL ISLAND & KNIGHTSEN

Once an enormous swamp, the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta is now mostly dredged and otherwise controlled for human navigation and play among its countless birds and 54 species of fish.
Vast triangle encircles many communities

By Rosetta Coles

The Vast Region of the world is the first clue that the Delta is a big deal to locale. The Delta is a land of great gulf and plant has every imaginable kind of group and place with the word in its name, from streets and streets.

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Delta is state’s heart

It is a broad, flat area laced with waterways, levees, growing cities and farmland. It covers nearly 1,200 square miles and is home to more than 40,000 people. It is that vital part of the Golden State that is known simply as the Delta.

If California were a human body, the Delta would be its heart, supplying the state’s lifeblood water to nearly 4 million acres of crops, nearly two-thirds of our drinking water and providing a home for 54 species of fish.

It is impossible to consider the Delta without talking about water. Much of that water comes from Sierra mountain runoff that flows into rivers and tributaries covering 11,000 acres of the Delta.

 Besides being a critical environmental habitat, those waterways provide a plethora of recreational activities. From fishing to boating to water skiing to personal watercraft, the Delta provides hours of entertainment for water lovers of all ages.

A UC Berkeley study once determined that 25 percent of the state's licensed fishermen had visited the Delta with their tackle boxes.

Since 1959, the Delta's boundary has been defined by statute. It extends just below the American River near Sacramento, south to the Tracy area, west to Pittsburg and back north through Rio Vista.

Contained within the sprawling region are the cities of Antioch, Brentwood, Pittsburg, parts of Rio Vista and Oakley, the area's newest city.

In larger terms, the Delta's importance to California has been recognized by the intense efforts that are being made to preserve it.

A multitude of agencies and organizations have been trying to find a way to resolve the natural conflicts that have existed concerning the use and needs of the Delta. An agency called CalFed was formed in an attempt to find adequate compromise to the competing interests.

In that sense the Delta has become a metaphoric battleground for the competing interests that exist throughout the western United States.

It is this confluence of interests that make the Delta a flashpoint. Environmentalists, farmers, recreational users and developers all have an intense interest in what goes on in the Delta.

Many environmentalists want guarantees there is enough good water in the Delta to ensure the safety of the fish there, while other enviros see limiting use of Delta water as a means of thwarting the state's growth.

In another corner of that issue are developers from all over the state, who see the Delta's water as the key to their plans to create more housing, which is desperately needed.

At the same time, agricultural interests that have a long history of access to Delta waters fear that if they grow their crops want to protect that access. Then there are the recreational users, who want to preserve the waters for boating and fishing and who worry about the pollution that is caused by agricultural runoff.

The issues are difficult, and to solve them will take a good amount of give and take on all sides. But solve them we must. The Delta is too valuable for us to do otherwise because this state simply cannot survive without its heart.
Yo, ho, ho: Adventures of the Delta

By Sarah Krupp
Time Staff Writer

The adventurous traveler can find whatever the heart craves in the Delta, from camping and hiking, family resorts and historical treasures to quirky restaurants and an island of hedonism.

Grand Island Mansion

- **Where:** Take Highway 4 over the Antioch toll bridge, which turns into Highway 160. At Ryde, turn left onto County Road 220. When the road ends at the river, turn right onto Grand Island Road. (Or just fly there: The mansion has a heliport.)
- **Why:** This opulent Italian Renaissance-style villa in Walnut Grove was built in 1917 for Louis Meyers, a native of San Francisco, and his wife, Audrey, daughter of the Lubin of the Weinstock Lubin department stores. The mansion is on an 800-acre ranch and is surrounded by manicured vineyards. It offers elegant six-course meals, pheasant and chukker hunting excursions and guided fishing trips. The 18-room mansion has a billiard room, bowling lane and an elegant ballroom. The grounds include a tennis court, basketball court, pool, Jacuzzi, sauna, gym, and docking facilities. For just a taste of the Grand Island Mansion, make reservations for its Sunday champagne brunch.
- **Contact:** 209-948-4135 or www.grandislandmansion.com.

Lost Isle Bar & Resort

- **Where:** There's only one way there: boat. It is at Light 24 on the San Joaquin River.
- **Why:** Some call it Shangri-La, others an island of paradise. The brightly colored buildings, palm trees, outdoor bar and volleyball court of Lost Isle are like a hedonistic mirage rising from the Delta. Although it is said to have quieted down in the past few years, the island, which is open Fridays through Sundays and is accessible only to those 21 and older, still promises a good time. It's a good place for barbecues and picnics. There is a swim-beach and grassy camping areas.
- **Contact:** 916-775-1705 or www.lostisle.com/html/home.html.

Snug Harbor

- **Where:** Take Highway 12 to Rio Vista and hop on the free ferry to Ryer Island, home of Snug Harbor. For landlubbers coming from Sacramento, get on Jefferson Boulevard (Highway 84), turn right on Courtland and follow to Miners Slough Bridge.
- **Why:** Clustered on the waterfront of Ryer Island is a family-oriented resort with waterfront wooden cabins and recreational vehicle sites as well as tent camping. The island offers sandy beaches and bike riding, and is, of course, the perfect site to launch into the Delta for whatever suits the fancy. The bass fishing is good in the fall. During the summer, the warm Delta water is inviting for water skiing, sailing, tubing and windsurfing.
- **Contact:** 916-775-1455 or www.snugharbor.net.

Delta Ferries

- **Where:** For free ferry rides to Ryer Island, take Highway 12 to Rio Vista. Just to the west side of the entrance to the Rio Vista bridge, take the off-ramp that leads you to downtown. Go north along the west levee road of the Sacramento River to the ferry ramp.

COZY AND FUN: Ryer Island's Snug Harbor is the place to go for family type activities including tubing, camping and fishing.

See SECRETS, Page 10
Ever-changing Delta teems with life

By Mike Taughn

Before the Delta took on its current shape and size, a series of sloughs forming 57 islands, it was a vast tidal swamp. There were grizzlies and salmon, otters and a host of other species that had flourished in a variety of habitats in the past century and a half. The Delta wasn’t necessarily hospitable to people, especially if they wanted to farm, fish, or navigate, but before 1860 the Delta housed an explosion of life.

“Before very wondrous ... on the hundreds of small mud covered islands...”

The Delta was a haven for salmon, otters, and duck hunters, a place of secluded backwaters that served refreshing cut of place in 21st century California. The Delta also was the state’s most important, fishery habitat,” according to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, which is the largest estuary in the United States.

Some species, such as a donkey that strolled away in ship ballast from Asia, have threatened changes to the basic functions of the Delta ecosystem. The donkey, known as a microbiofacial food, are reproducing other species of that food.

Water quality regulations consider the Delta impaired by pesticides used by farmers and home owners, including chlordane and dichlorvos, and a class of pesticides used by commercial farmers. Ever the most ancient nature lovers concede there is no way the Delta could ever be returned to a natural state. The Delta has become too important economically, and its structure of salmon, crabs and levees has forever altered it. Still, despite the massive amount of change in the Delta, many of the original residents and passers-through remain.

Massive pump near Tracy soak so much water from the Delta that they affect current throughout the Delta and draw seawater into the Delta, but water quality estimates are based on how far that salt can come in. Reservoirs upstream block and release water, also with the goal of maintaining a water quality balance in the Delta.

THE SCIENCE CENTER

The Delta Science Center, which is envisioned as an interpretive center, is developing a program to educate visitors about the Delta’s history, its unique features, and its importance in the overall ecosystem.

Permits required for phase one of the project:

- City of Oakley: a conditional use permit, an environmental permit, and a use variance permit.
- Federal government: a FONSI (Finding of No Significant Impact) permit, issued by the California, and the California Fish and Game Commission, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Coastal Commission, and the California Department of Fish and Game.

Unfortunately we don’t live in a magical world, but I think, this is where we’ve been working on it for so long.

This is a collaborative project, and many local agencies are helping out with the Science Center.

“From day one it’s been about collaboration,” he said. “The Delta Regional Park District will provide operational support and interpretation services, and that regional trail will go through the center.”

“It’s going to be built in phases appropriate to the old townsite’s ability to raise operating funds. We need to pay as we go.”
This school may seem private, but it's free

By Sarah Krupp
THE TIMES
KNIIGHTSEN — A school nestled between farms and quiet country roads is attracting parents who are looking for a more personal touch to their children's education.

Nearly 40 percent of Knighten Elementary School's 600 kindergartners through eighth-graders live outside Knighten, and many students attend the school.

Although the school has about two miles from the main artery that runs through Brentwood, does not have sky-high test scores, parents say it provides a strict but comfortable setting ideal for learning.

"The standards are very high," said Betty Mccormick, who does not have her four children in Knighten Elementary rather than their neighborhood schools in Brentwood.

"It's a wonderful, warm, encouraging atmosphere," she said. "I think McCormick's children were attending a private school in Antioch before enrolling in Knighten Elementary."

The school has some additional advantages that might appeal to parents of public schools do not have, including a 1,000-gallon pool that students use in physical education classes and the band that students can join in the fourth grade.

But its main attraction is its outspoken, energetic principal, Vicki Rinehart.

"It's a school that I don't have to pay for," she said.

Mccormick's children were attending a private school in Antioch before enrolling in Knighten Elementary.

Traditionally, the school has been underfunded, but it's free.

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Pastor competes for residents' time

By Rowena Coetse

The Rev. Larry Porter et al.

The Rev. Larry Porter et al. could be considered a little out of place.

The 58-year-old pastor lives in Discovery Bay but doesn't have a car, walkie-talkie or computer. He owns a boat and hasn't fished in several years.

The only outdoor recreation Porter dabbles in is golf, and it's not at the private country club in town on but in a municipal course near a nearby golf course.

All of which is to say he has something of an anomaly in a town that tends to be a place for those who want to live where they play. Or maybe not.

"I suppose in some ways I represent the people who... live on the Bay and would like to go out each evening but who leave early in the morning (for work) and get back later at night," Porter said. "They're tied up most of the time."

"Some extent I feel like I'm on a golf course," he added.

When Porter came to Delta Community Presbyterian Church in September 1990 he settled in Discovery Bay because he wanted to be close to the Loch, a number of whom live there.

The church is a microcosm of this town of 9,480, which resembles many other bedroom communities on and near the San Joaquin River.

Porter describes his 300-member congregation as "white bread," and does not have the only black member moved away last year and that it includes few Asians and Latinos.

The congregation is also relatively well-educated and affluent, even by Bay Area standards — a stark contrast to the church Porter led in Missouri's Ozark Mountains, where he says the average annual household income was $13,500.

Delta Community Presbyterian also reflects the area's casual lifestyle. Worshipers are more relaxed than those in his former white belt church who show up in t-shirts, Porter said.

"Shorts and a polo shirt would be fine," he said.

Even Porter dresses down during the hot summer months, leaving his traditional minister's robe in the closet. Slippers and socks suffice, and sometimes he skips the tie.

Like other spiritual developments, Discovery Bay church faces for those who prefer spending their free time outdoors.

That presents a challenge for Porter and other local pastors who want to draw in new churchgoers.

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FESTIVALS

Isleton Crawdad Festival
- What: Three-day event with food, live music and arts & crafts.
- When: Father's Day weekend
- Where: Downtown, Isleton
- Cost: Free
- Information: Jay Nichols, 916-482-1134

Rodeo on the River
- What: Rodeo events, Sunday parade, dancing and food.
- When: Sept. 6 and 7
- Where: Jackson Bough Road, Isleton
- Cost: $10, free for children under 3.
- Information: Rich Hahn, chairman 916-777-5591

Oakley Almond Festival
- What: This 14th annual two-day event includes a parade, the Love All NutFun Run, almond roast contest, games, music and a car show.
- When: Sept. 20 and 21
- Where: O'Hara Park, Oakley
- Cost: Free
- Information: 262-293-9740

Discovery Bay Boat Show
- What: In its 20th year, the annual event includes a display of boats. There is a bounce house for kids, music, food and live entertainment.
- When: Second weekend of May
- Where: Discovery Bay Yacht Harbor, Discovery Bay
- Cost: $5 general admission; free for kids ages 12 and under.
- Information: Jeff Donson, boat show chairman, 925-634-5583

New Year's Frozen Run Run
- What: New Year's morning race.
- When: First Day of January, 9:30 a.m.
- Where: Ruby Portolano, Boy's Harbor, Bethel Island
- Cost: $15 entrance fee; free to public
- Information: Bethel Island Chamber of Commerce

Rio Vista-Bass Festival
- What: Event includes a striped bass fishing contest, music, food, and booths. There will also be a carnival, car show and two stages with entertainment.
- When: Oct. 10-12, 2003
- Where: First Street Pier, Rio Vista
- Cost: Free parking and admission; entry $25 for adults and $5 for kids 12 and under
- Information: Rio Vista Chamber of Commerce 707-574-4700

FAVE BASKUSKAS, left, and Bob Shepard enjoy music at the Crawdad Festival in Isleton in June. Some 200,000 people attended.

Aslan New Year's Festival, Isleton
- What: Event features a parade, live dancers, street fair and food.
- Where: First weekend of March
- Where: Main Street, Isleton
- Cost: Free
- Information: Isleton Chamber of Commerce 916-777-5591

Bethel Island

Bethel Island Opening Day Parade
- What: A parade of boats around the island. Awards given in various categories. Event includes a cattle race.
- When: Second weekend in April
- Where: Beach at San Joaquin Yacht Club in Bethel Island and goes around island
- Cost: Free event; dinner after the parade is $10 (subject to change)
- Information: Rio Martin, vice commodore 262-694-9260

Discovery Bay

Discovery Bay Opening Day Parade
- What: Boats are decorated according to a certain theme and parade around the Discovery Bay waterways. Some boats carry live bands. Prizes are awarded in various categories.
- Where: Second weekend of April
- Where: Lighthouse Bay, Discovery Bay
- Cost: Free
- Information: Discovery Bay Yacht Club, Arl McSherry, Fleet Captain, 925-694-1210

Discovery Bay Lighted Boat Parade
- What: Participants from the yacht club and other clubs and lights to their boats and parade through the Discovery Bay waterways. There is also musical entertainment at various docks. Prizes are awarded.
- Where: Usually first weekend in Dec.
- Where: Lighthouse Bay, Discovery Bay
- Cost: Free
- Information: Discovery Bay Yacht Club, Arl McSherry, Fleet Captain, 925-694-1210
Future includes residential growth, preservation

By Jane Ramsey

Oakley is growing, and its citizens are embracing the changes that come with development.

The Oakley Chamber of Commerce is seeking ways to promote the city's growth while also preserving its natural beauty.

Oakley, California

Oakley is a city in Contra Costa County, California. It is located in the Bay Area and is part of the larger Metropolitan Area. Oakley is known for its warm climate, outdoor activities, and its proximity to the San Francisco Bay Area.

Oakley has a rich history, dating back to the 1800s when it was a farming community. Today, Oakley is a thriving residential area with a mix of single-family homes, apartments, and commercial buildings.

The city has a mix of industries, including manufacturing, retail, and services. Oakley is home to several large companies, including Safeway and Target.

The city government is dedicated to ensuring that Oakley's growth is sustainable and that the city's natural resources are preserved.

Oakley Chamber of Commerce

The Oakley Chamber of Commerce is the official business organization for the city of Oakley. The Chamber is dedicated to promoting the growth and development of Oakley's economy.

The Chamber provides resources and support to local businesses, as well as hosts events and activities to promote the city.

Oakley's Commitment to Environmental Preservation

Oakley is committed to preserving its natural resources and promoting environmentally sustainable growth. The city has implemented several initiatives to reduce its carbon footprint and promote recycling and reuse.

Oakley's mission is to create a vibrant community that is sustainable and enjoyable for all residents.
Oakley

**FOUNDER:** 1857, Incorporated July 3, 1955
**POPULATION:** 2,700

History: Oakley began life as a railroad stop on the San Jose line in the late 1850s. It was the largest wheat-producing region in the country between New Orleans and San Francisco. The climate was hot and dry, and the wheat didn't contain much moisture. Growers found it could be shipped all the way to England and sold better there. However, they also discovered wheat doesn't grow well in sand.

The original settlers in Oakley were known as "saddleburners" because of the sandy soil. Since they couldn't grow wheat in the sandy soil, they found something else and discovered that the soil was perfect for growing almonds and orchard fruits.

Oakley got its name from the forest of oak trees that covered the basin, gently rolling hills between the Delta and bayou. Today, majestic oak trees still dot Main Street and the older neighborhoods.

**MAJOR INDUSTRIES:** Current employers include various manufacturers of sheet metal, commercial cleaning services, and numerous general products. Musical instruments, advertising signs, and structural metal.

**MAIN ATTRACTIONS:** Bass fishing off Big Break in the Delta is very popular among residents and professionals. A number of sports fishermen worldwide come to Oakley. It has several renowned bass fishing tournaments, and anglers are welcome to experience a taste of history and some of the most desirable varieties of almonds and other fruits at the annual Almond Oak Festival in September.

Oakley boasts charming Old World-style vineyards that provide beautiful country views in a community experiencing rapid urbanization.

Byron

**FOUNDER:** 1857

**POPULATION:** 312

History: Byron is known as the "Snoopy's Birthplace" and is famous for its unique "Snoopy's Birthplace" statue. Byron is also known for its historical Oakley Farm, which has been in operation since 1857. The farm is considered one of the oldest continuously operated farms in the United States.

**MAJOR INDUSTRIES:** The town's major industries are dairy farming, poultry farming, and fruit farming. Byron is also known for its wineries and vineyards, which produce a variety of wines.

Isleton

**FOUNDER:** 1872, incorporated in May 1872

**POPULATION:** 822 as of 2000

History: Isleton was founded in 1872 by people of African descent who sought freedom from slavery. The town was incorporated in 1874 and is located at the mouth of the Sacramento River. Isleton is known for its history as a center for freed slaves and as a center for the African American community.

**MAJOR INDUSTRIES:** The main industries are growing peaches and corn, with a number of restaurants and hotels providing services to local and tourist visitors.

**MAIN ATTRACTIONS:** The main attractions are the Crow District, a historical site, and the Sacramento Old Town, a historic district.

**CITY PROFILES**

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Delta
FROM PAGE 1
the Gold Rush made the Delta a popular thoroughfare for steamboats and other vessels between Sacramento and San Francisco. Chinese immigrants, a cheap and ready source of labor, had been imported to work on the transcontinental railroad, migrated to the Delta to tend the large wooden dikes that had held the water back. Their descendants still live in the area.

They constructed 1,100 miles of earthen dikes to separate water from land, dig canals, and use the levees to create approximately 80 islands that now dot the region.

The massive reclamation project enabled farmers to grow crops, such as rice, and harvest everything from wheat, barley, and beans to asparagus, peas, and potatoes.

The Delta continues to change. In the 1970s, developers began carving the town of Discovery Bay from it, dredging and filling the area to create land. Today, new developments can be seen dotting the landscape.

Runoff from the Sierra Nevada mountains flows into the Delta and its tributaries, which discharge over 1,000 cubic feet per second of water into the Delta.

The two largest, the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers, converge from the west, and the Delta supplies water to 4 million acres of crops, fully half of California's farmland. It provides two-thirds of the state's drinking water and is home to 54 species of fish.

So rich is this natural resource that for decades it has been the focus of battles among agricultural and environmental groups, as well as those who export the water for use in urban areas to irrigate crops and高尔夫 courses. Multiple state, federal, and local agencies are trying to preserve the Delta in different ways. Maintaining habitat, conserving and recycling water, reducing pollution and making it easier for salmon to migrate through the Delta.

Another ongoing project is preventing levees from giving way. Flooding during winter storms can cause damage, and a recent California Department of Water Resources study found that the 700 miles of waterways and sloughs in the Delta are in poor condition.

Contra Costa County alone has 39 marinas in the Delta, according to a 1995 inventory, but mention public parks, private yacht clubs and campgrounds.

"There's nothing formal about the Delta. You just come here to kick back, kick loose," said Pam Clarke, manager of Contra Costa County Visitors Bureau.

Fishermen flock to the Delta for its striped bass, trout, salmon, and catfish. A 1995 UCD Berkeley study found that 23 percent of California's licensed anglers visited the Delta with their rods and reels.

The area boasts boat shows, races, and cruise destinations. Fishing derbies, crab feed, parades of lighted boats at Christmas, and July 4 fireworks that hundreds of vessels, from dinghies and kayaks, to yachts, watch from the water.

The granddaddy of all is Antioch's Crawfish Festival, an annual three-day celebration of crawfish and Cajun culture, which attracts an estimated 100,000 visitors this June to a town that normally home to only about 800 people.

Although it's hard to calculate exactly how many tourists the Delta draws, Cal-Save's association had about 300,000 unduplicated visitors to its website last year. Those who make their trip are struck by the contrast between big-city business and the calm of life in the Delta, where the only morning traffic one sees may be from a lone tractor-trailer truck.

"The Delta is a large marina, but you can just get two miles away and you're in the countryside," said the St. George resident, who has been writing magazine columns about the Delta for several decades.

With the calm there's a camaraderie that sets the region apart. Boaters will give each other space on the water, or they will offer assistance if someone is in trouble. A 20-mile radius is a small town by any other name, "he said.

Reach Rowena Cotoles of 325-279 or rcotoles@conthine.com.

Airport
FROM PAGE 8
As parachutists from around the country float downward onto the airport grounds, thousands of onlookers, medics, and assists work to help people make their jumps.

Although some large jumps are planned, as many as 20 people are expected to make jumps at a time. Spectators are welcome.

Experience or not, the jumpers who want to participate should check www.byronbogie.com.

Leashog: The Leashog is a short, stubby, and fast, that has long been the Delta's favorite plane for jumpers.

There will be more airshows and more events to come, including a more festive airport atmosphere for jumpers, said one jump.

The event promises to be the biggest in the Delta's history, according to Big Chief, this year's organizer.

Specialty aircraft, such as the single-engine Bucker Jungman, will be available. A new group opens the scene, and plenty of food vendors will be on hand.

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Experience or not, the jumpers who want to participate should check www.byronbogie.com.

Leashog: The Leashog is a short, stubby, and fast, that has long been the Delta's favorite plane for jumpers.

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Area attracts developers, businesses

By George Avalos

Byron, Discovery Bay and Bethel Island are works in progress.

Just ask Jack McNamara and Robert Cameron, two Bethel Island residents who can look out the window and see their boats riding on the lazy Delta waves. "It's beautiful out here, and you can't beat the scenery," said McNamara, who has lived on Bethel Island since the 1970s.

The next town I can see is Vallejo. Every day is the same, but every day is different." But changes are in the works on the Delta. After decades of the quiet life, growth is headed to these quiet communities in a big way. And that's just fine with more than a few residents.

"Bethel Island for years was a weekend retreat for folks from all over Northern California," said Robert Cameron, a member of the Bethel Island Chamber of Commerce. "They came up to use the boating as their weekend residence. But in the last seven to 10 years, the island has changed a lot. It's become a bedroom community. This little island has been a well-kept secret for a long time, but that's over now." A number of developers are eyeing the three Delta communities for residential projects. Even on Bethel Island, which is in a 100-year floodplain, developers hunger to build homes.

"What we want to do is improve the business areas downtown," Cameron said. Community leaders would like to see some sort of a theme for the facilities along the main street just north of the bridge that links the island to the rest of the East Bay. "The buildings could have some sort of a Cape Cod look," Cameron suggested.

Officials in Byron see the airport and the nearby hot springs resort as two possible hubs for development. "The airport has the potential for light industry and other commercial development," said Kathy Leighton, a member of Byron's Municipal Advisory Council and a local historian. "That won't happen right away, however." Another project with decent prospects is the Byron Hot Springs Hotel, whose decaying structure borders amid a grove of palm trees.

BYRON HOT SPRINGS HOTEL has fallen into disrepair, but East Bay Associates' David Fowler plans to restore it to its 1920s glory.

The airport hotel and spa, used as a German prisoner interrogation center during World War II, has fallen into disrepair.

But David Fowler, president of the Community Hot Springs Resort, is working to renovate the 200-acre site and restore it to its old glory. Nearby developers hope to transform the long-neglected site into a modern-day resort reminiscent of the Mendocino Hotel, which was destroyed by fire.

"It will be a historical-recreation that will take it back to where it was in the 1920s," Fowler said. "It would have a golf course, spa and conference center. It will have the hot springs and a lot of other recreational activities, tennis, bowling, a gym, an all that stuff."

These developments interest business leaders in Discovery Bay. "Even in that bedroom community, changes are occurring. More homes are being built in the community, and more retail has been added with the opening of a shopping center anchored by Safeway and Longs.

"Discovery Bay is still a bedroom community, but more activity at the airport could change that," said Dave Cirlis, president of the Discovery Bay Chamber of Commerce. "The airport could bring a lot more commercial development to the area."

The Byron airport could grow significantly if Buchanan Field in Concord is closed to make way for possible commercial development there.

Cirlis said it's possible that changes at Oakland International Airport could divert air cargo flights to Byron.

For Byron leader Leighton, the changes in the Delta communities have been nothing short of remarkable. But they are a reminder of a way of life that is passing and won't return.

"I remember as a kid playing hopscotch in the middle of Vasco Road," Leighton said. "It's amazing how much growth we've had but have here."

George Avalos covers the economy. Reach him at 925-977-8474 or gavalos@sjs.com.
THE FACES OF THE DELTA

DIVERSITY, BY CENSUS BLOCK

Bethel Island
In 2000, Bethel Island's diversity ranked 68th of 52 East Bay cities and places recognized by the Census Bureau. China also ranked 69th.

Byron
In 2000, Byron's diversity ranked 26th.

Discovery Bay
In 2000, Discovery Bay's diversity ranked 45th. Rio Vista also ranked 45th.

Knightsen
In 2000, Knightsen's diversity ranked 250th. Yolo Hall also ranked 250th.

Oakley
In 2000, Oakley's diversity ranked 23rd. Brentwood and Castro Valley also ranked 23rd.

Least diverse
MM 21 - 40
61 - 100
Moderate
61 - 80
41 - 60

Diversity index, based on 2000 census

The diversity index measures the probability that two people chosen randomly would be of a different race or ethnicity. The index has a scale of 0 to 100. The higher the number, the greater the diversity.

Census blocks vary in size. The census block boundaries are determined by visible features such as roads, railroad tracks, and streams, and invisible boundaries such as county or city limits. The blocks are usually small, but can be large in less populated areas. The color that appears for parks, schools, retail, undeveloped areas, etc., represents the residents who may live on the periphery of the same census block as those inside.

RACIAL AND ETHNIC PERCENT OF POPULATION

NOTE: Racial and ethnic percentages for each census are presented, but care should be taken in making census to census comparisons.

In 1990, individuals could choose one of two captions when they described their race or ethnicity: White, Black, American Indian, Eskimo, or Alaskan Native; or "other".

In 1990, individuals could make one choice: White; Black; American Indian, Eskimo, or Alaskan Native; or "other".

In 2000, individuals could identify themselves as White; Black; American Indian, Eskimo, or Alaskan Native; or "other".

For the purposes of this year's calculation, the possible combinations are as follows:

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MOVERS & SHAKEERS

Name: Kathy Leighton | Age: 57
Community service: Has been a member of the Bynum Municipal Advisory Council, the East County Historical Society, the East County Costa County Citizens Conservation Plan and the county's local Land Use Commission. Named the Woman of the Year for 2001 for California Assembly District 15, nominated for state senator of the Year and named Woman of Achievement by the Delta chapter of the Soroptimists. Proud civic achievement: A local historian, Leighton wrote "Footprints in the Sand," a book last year detailing the area's history, biggest challenge facing the Delta: "Smart growth," she says. "I get tired of all those people from the coast and the south side of the river who want to leap over the East County so we can have more open space. Property owners have rights too. I'm not necessarily anti-development, but the answer is not to put the entire burden on East County."

Name: Seth Cockrell | Age: 58
Community service: Chairman of the Knight's San Town Advisory Council. A retired firefighter, Cockrell also is a fire commissioner for local fire districts. Cockrell is president of the Knight's San Youth Association and a member of the East County Historical Society. Proud civic achievement: "It's a whole bunch of little things," he said. "The biggest thing is getting the Delta recognized by county services. More things are happening out here. People in different parts of the county know where Knight's is now."

Name: David Pliego | Age: 41
Community service: Discovery Bay town council member. Pliego is a resident of East County. The city code enforcement officer and member of the City of Discovery Bay Municipal Hospital Foundation, the Discovery Bay Community Task Force and former member of the County of Contra Costa's Youth Council. Proud civic achievement: "Both David's legs were broken in a weekend accident on Highway 4. From his hospital bed, he got to work establishing a safety corridor on the roadway going from Discovery Bay to Brentwood. It's a double-duty zone." Biggest challenge facing the Delta: "Water rights. If you don't have water, you can't grow communities. We need to conserve our water and protect our water rights," he said.

Name: Mary Pliego | Age: 40
Community service: Byron Union School District trustee, president of Mountains A Blends oversight committee for Contra Costa Community College District, past member of the Discovery Bay Chamber of Commerce board of directors, former president of the Los Medanos College Foundation board. Proud civic achievement: "I think being elected to the school board was a big accomplishment because there was a lot of turnover in the school district. It allowed me to participate and get out in front of the public. We are definitely on the road to recovery and consistently gaining trust and moving forward."

Name: Scott Harvey | Age: 44
Residence: Oakley
Community service: Harvey, who owns and runs WastePro Construction, a sound and stage management company, is active in Oakley. Harvey is a community member of the Oakley Discovery Bay and Brentwood chambers of commerce. He also will serve as the National Community Empowerment Program's executive director, a nonprofit that will focus on Oakley and develop emergency response services in the region. "The biggest mistake is getting the Delta recognized by county services. More things are happening out here. People in different parts of the county know where Knight's is now."

Name: Enrico Cinquini | Age: 76
Community service: His service on the then-Eastern Contra Costa County Board of Realtors bestowed the title of Realtor of the Year on him in 1967. Oakley Chamber of Commerce named Cinquini Citizen of the Year in 1960 and a decade later gave him a Lifetime Achievement Award. Cinquini also served as a volunteer firefighter before sitting on the board of directors for two decades. Proud civic achievement: Cinquini helped to guide Oakley through the process of becoming a city. "I don't think people are going to be satisfied until we are a city," said Cinquini. "I think the city is important. It's an opportunity for people to have their say and their input. You can't have the same population that everybody looks for," said Cinquini.
### AGE, SEX, RELATIONSHIPS, HOUSING

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Bethel Island</th>
<th>Discovery Bay</th>
<th>Oakley</th>
<th>Byron</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 and younger</td>
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<td>58%</td>
<td>62%</td>
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#### Median Age
- Bethel Island: 44.5
- Discovery Bay: 44.5
- Oakley: 44.5
- Byron: 44.5
- Total: 44.5

### ECONOMY

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<th>Location</th>
<th>Median Home Value</th>
<th>Median Household Income</th>
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<tr>
<td>Byron</td>
<td>$324,900</td>
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### RESIDENCE PROFILE

- **Residents who lived in the same house for more than 10 years**: 46.1% in Bethel Island, 48.8% in Discovery Bay, 51.2% in Oakley, 55.3% in Byron.
- **Residents who moved within the Delta**: 23% in Bethel Island, 25% in Discovery Bay, 28% in Oakley, 31% in Byron.
- **Residents who moved outside the Delta**: 11% in Bethel Island, 13% in Discovery Bay, 15% in Oakley, 17% in Byron.

### Occupation


### Housing

- **Total homes 66,000**: 40% in Bethel Island, 35% in Discovery Bay, 30% in Oakley, 25% in Byron.
- **Median value 225,000**: 180,000 in Bethel Island, 195,000 in Discovery Bay, 210,000 in Oakley, 225,000 in Byron.

### Photos

- Photos by Dean Coppola, Nader Khouz, Sherry LaVars, and Christine Thompson.
Try sittin' on the many beautiful docks of the Delta

By Danielle Samaniego

Hills washed in golden tans greet those entering eastern Contra Costa County, reminiscent of a scene out of a John Steinbeck novel.

What may not be so easily seen from this agriculturally rich county are the Delta waterways that parallel a trip into the Oakley/Brentwood area. It is here where many believe the lifestyle of this community lies — in the marinas.

There are a multitude of marinas lining the waterways, providing an all-access pass to some of the best, fishing and recreational opportunities around.

"The marina is the place where we draw a lot of people to the Delta outside of Contra Costa County because it's a great place to recreate, and there's no other place like it," said Chris Lauritzen, co-owner of Lauritzen Yacht Harbor LLC.

"The Delta is a unique area all unto itself, from the fishery that we have to the fresh vegetables that are grown around here. We fantasy No. We're not San Francisco — we're cut-offs and T-shirts, but we're a fabulous place to enjoy fresh water." Lauritzen certainly knows of what he speaks. He is a third-generation marina manager and runs the Lauritzen family business with his sister Margaret in Oakley. The Lauritzen family has lived and worked on and around the Delta waters in the Amador-Rio Vista area for more than 100 years, Lauritzen said.

Many of the local marinas are a family affair, such as Rico's Marina Inc. in Bethel Island. It is owned by John Lauro, who operates the place with his sons, John and Joe. John, the popular spot is well-recognized, not so much because of what it offers but because of the family atmosphere it provides.

"We give friendships with our customers," said assistant manager Jason Russo.

Bethel Island is a very close knit community of friends and family. Essentially, the entire island is family, Russo says, because everyone knows everyone within the intimate community.

The location also offers quick access to the many marinas, which is a plus for those who frequent the waterways.

Tucked away at the end of Bethel Road, just past surrounding pastures, Bethel Harbor opens up to the water like a tiny community unto itself. It offers only storage in enclosed hangars as well as covered berths, a complete service and parts department, and a boatyard. The marina usually sees a lot of boat owners and water enthusiasts who say the area provides just the right climate.

"My parents used to come out here when they were kids... but my parents have no idea where it is," said San Francisco resident Keith Rice, 37. He wants his 10-year-old son to get his boat at the harbor. "It's that close to the Delta and has been a good place to keep my boat in the Bay Area. The service here is great.

The marina in search of recreationally friendly marinas also seek out Orinda Resort in Brentwood, where the friendly atmosphere of the marina is considered a warm atmosphere where families can camp, swim or relax on the sandy beach along the water. It also boasts great conditions for water-skiing.

But if fishing that comes to mind when thinking of the river, locals know Big Break Marina in Oakley is the best place for pulling in everything from black bass to sturgeon and striped bass. Just down the road off Main Street, Big Break is recognized among top game fisherman as the sweet spot. It was named among the top 25 fishing holes nationwide in Fish & Stream magazine this year. It is the site of major fishing tournaments on the Delta and is undergoing renovations under new owner David Biro.

"Not only are we preparing our facilities for the marina, but we're also putting in more improvements for the huge amount of fishing tournaments we host here," Biro said. "I think we have a lot more potential for the marina, we're more off-the-beaten-path, and the fishing's excellent."

Biro hopes to update new construction with the original charm of the marina and incorporate other amenities.

Solar power should be easy to garner during the hot summer months when the seasonal marina business thrives. Cities within east Contra Costa County see the area as the gateway to the Delta, but few people would have imagined on the water without the marinas.

"Without the marinas, Northern California would dry up," said R. Justin Oxford, a native of the area who works for Marine皇帝 in Bethel Island. "You've got to have them. It's big business."
Delta offers water park in back yard

By Kelli Phillips

Andrea Nesby says if she hadn't grown up near the waterways of the Delta, she might ride horses more often than waves.

The 15-year-old competitive swimmer says her proximity to the expansive waterway led her to follow in her father's footsteps - right behind a power boat.

Andrea's parents, Scott and Margaret Nesby, moved to Brentwood from Livermore shortly after she was born. Her dad was a cowboy and her mom a high school rodeo queen, she said.

"My dad used to Delta all the time," Andrea said. "If he didn't learn to water ski, we probably wouldn't have got into it. I probably wouldn't have been a cowboy."

The Liberty High School sophomore competes regionally and nationally in slalom and trick water skiing competitions.

She said the sport is unique among her friends, but with sales of open water and a maze of more secluded sloughs, the Delta is considered a playground by the many local youth who have honed their skills on the waterway.

Sharon Rhodes and her husband, Jim, have run a waterskiing camp on King's Island for nine years. Each year they host 24 to 34 kids from the area's five sloughs, who range in age from 8 to 17.

"We bring in the river rats of the lake mice and the alligator mice, Rhodes said. "It's really nice to grow up like that with the Delta, they have to feel very special."

Steve Martin's 9-year-old daughter, Ashley, attended the Delta RATS Camp this year. The Martian Discovery Bay Camp wages war against the Delta rats in deep water.

"Ashley has been skiing competitively for three years," said Steve. "She's one of her friends who know how to ski when they get out with her on the boat for the first time."

"The Delta RATS Camp, which is the Delta and Tournment Raters, brings the two groups together for about a week with campers and instructors.

"My father said living on the Delta is like having a waterpark in your backyard."

They cover the waterfront, lots of it

By Rowena Coetzee

Whether the offense is burglary, theft or drug dealing, law enforcement agencies in the Delta will take care of business.

Local, state and federal agencies in six counties monitor activities on the area's vast network of waterways.

In Contra Costa County, those players include the Sheriff's Office, the state Department of Fish and Game and two federal agencies: the U.S. Coast Guard and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Drawing on law enforcement sources and federal government records, this column examines the area's most active perpetrator groups.

As a result, the Delta's network of waterways is being attacked by the Delta's most active perpetrator groups.

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Barrack lives his dream on the Delta

By Melissa May

New family fishing

For some families, fishing is a way of life. For the Barrack family, fishing is a way of life. They have been fishing together for over 30 years, and it has become a tradition for their children. They enjoy spent time together on the water, catching fish and sharing stories.

"Fishing is our way of life," said Mrs. Barrack. "It's something we've always done. Whenever we're not fishing, we're talking about fishing." The Barrack family is one of many families who have made fishing a part of their everyday life.

"It's not just about catching fish," said Mr. Barrack. "It's about enjoying the outdoors and spending time with family." The Barrack family believes that fishing is a great way to bond with family and friends, and they encourage others to try it out.

"If you haven't tried fishing before, I highly recommend it," said Mrs. Barrack. "You never know what you're missing." The Barrack family looks forward to spending more time on the water, catching fish, and making memories.

Ideal conditions put region on tournament fishing map

By Sarah Krupp

Tune in to the Delta

Several years ago, the Delta region became a popular destination for tournament fishing. The area is known for its abundant fish population, which has attracted anglers from all over the country. The Delta is the perfect place for tournament fishing, with clear and calm waters, and a variety of fish species.

"The Delta is a fantastic place to fish," said Mr. Krupp. "It's got everything you could want in a fishing region. It's got big fish, clear water, and a diverse mix of species." The Delta is a popular location for both amateur and professional anglers, and it's not uncommon to see large boat fleets on the water during tournament weekends.

"It's a great place to be a fisherman," said Mrs. Krupp. "You can fish in the morning, then come back to the shore and enjoy the afternoon." The Delta region is known for its picturesque scenery, and it's not uncommon to see anglers taking in the view while they fish.

"It's a place where you can relax and enjoy the outdoors," said Mr. Krupp. "It's a great place to be with your family, or to get away from it all." The Delta region is a popular destination for anglers, and it's not uncommon to see large boat fleets on the water during tournament weekends.

An abundance of striped bass and bluefin tuna has made the Delta one of the top fishing destinations in the United States. The region is known for its clear and calm waters, and a variety of fish species. The Delta is a popular location for both amateur and professional anglers, and it's not uncommon to see large boat fleets on the water during tournament weekends.

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Anglers get straight talk at bait shops

By Arris B. Shabagian

I was looking for something to do and got tired of fishing—believe it or not.”
—Chuck Grandon, owner of Chuck's Bait Shop in Bethel Island

Bill Ellis of Bethel Island has been buying bait from the shop for nearly 10 years. “It’s like a ‘Cheers’ atmosphere here,” he said.

Ellis fishes five to six times per week at Russo Marina and said he appreciates the old-fashioned feel of Chuck’s Bait Shop. “If you come here on Friday or Saturday, there is a good chance you will see a good number of them in here,” he said.

Chuck’s is not the only shop on the Delta that has built a community around its regular customers.

At the Hoof, Line, and Sinkers bait shop in Oakley, there are also a group of men congregating throughout the day. Charlie Brown of Sherman Island visits the shop daily. “All my friends are here,” he said.

If there is anybody who knows about the importance of loyal customers, it would be Gene Buchholz, owner of Hook, Line, and Sinkers. “Hook rats,” he affectionately refers to the guys who hang out at his shop as “hook rats,” Buchholz said.

Buchholz, 51, a pro-bass angler, bought the shop in 1988 after developing a close friendship with the former owner. “I tried to sell the store for a long time,” Buchholz said. “Then I was talking to my wife one day and she said, ‘Let’s do it.’

Two years ago the store moved from Big Break Marina to a busy commercial strip along Highway 4 near downtown Oakley.

Buchholz said that before the move, the store mostly catered to black-bass fishermen, but it has more variety now. Though profits have increased 15 percent over the past year, since the move, Buchholz said the bait and tackle business is not easy. “You can lose money due to things that are out of your control like the weather. If it’s bad, people don’t fish,” he said.

Buchholz is quick to credit the “hook rats” for saving the business. “They have always just given me support and always recommended people to come down here,” he said.
Downtown specializes in the unique, antique

By Arris Shabagian

OAKLEY — A row of storefronts that is often unnoticed by drivers on a busy stretch of Highway 4 is gaining more attention from antique buffs who hear about it through word of mouth.

This section of the highway, known as First Street in downtown Oakley, is lined with furniture stores, antique shops and colorful boutiques that are drawing more customers as word spreads of the unique stores.

"People might think that with these shops being so close together, customers are competing for business, but it's quite the opposite," said Sue Lane, owner of Lane's House of Bargains.

"In this business everyone is different: the competition isn't there," said Sue Lane, owner of Lane's House of Bargains.

In any given day when business is slow, shoppers will find store owners visiting each other and enjoying a cup of coffee together. According to Elizabeth Banas, owner of the Love Bug Boutique, they are like family.

And this family variety proves to be a shoppers oasis along a highway full of fast cars and big rig trucks.

Banas, who owns the Love Bug Boutique for a year, specializes in accessories, gifts and knickknacks from different styles of home decor. Each section of the store has a theme: the garden, shabby chic and Mediterranea.

"We have a lot. We try to feed everybody's need," Banas said.

Kathryn Oke, said having traveled to the store twice in one week from San Leandro, a nearby 53-mile drive each way while shopping the first day, she spent a medium-sized hand-painted cabinet.

"Can't beat that," Oke said.

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Riverboat II offers an epicurean cruise to Italy

By Judith Priee

AKLETON - With 1,500 miles of twisting sloughs and blind curves, you never know what lies around the bend in the Delta. It's not a place for those in a hurry, and there's no better way to get a taste of life here than to visit one of the many eating, which range from the upscale waterfront restaurants to the homey cafes and Roadhouses.

Food is good here, and it's only better when you're on the water, and nowhere is that more true than at the newly reopened Riverboat II, an 1880-era paddle-wheeler, which has been restored and now offers plenty of places to dock for those looking for a little respite and rest.

For the landlocked, it's a place to visit, whether you're on the Delta Loop or Highway 12.

At the helm is owner and chef Gary Cammack, who took over from longtime owner Ken Schlegel in April, and transformed the menu from Cajun to Italian.

Although Cammack has more than 30 years experience in restaurants such as the Cosmopolitan in Lodi, Rochester's in Wallace and Dominic's Restaurant and California Catering in South San Francisco, this is the house at the Catfish Cafe.

The paddle-wheeler replaced the 1980-era boat that housed Moore's Riverboat Restaurant, which burned down in 1993.

With a deck all around, large windows and wet wooden floors, the Riverboat II has a glorious open feeling. Scenic puntins by Delta artist Brian Basham offer a truly beautiful view of the Delta.

The menu offers an array of Italian classics, from hearty fare to lighter foods of the Mediterranean region.

Cammack's crab cake, red snapper, veal marsala and chicken Parmesan are all excellent. Cammack also offers a variety of seafood, including deep-fried prawns, scallops and fresh shrimp.

All meals begin with a basket of warm, stone-ground bread and a crisp, mixed green salad or a selection of fresh vegetables. Next up is a choice of a creamy homemade New England clam chowder or a hearty minestrone soup with carrots, barley and macaroni.

For our entrees, we selected the "pasta" prime rib ($13.95), a very large, juicy cut of beef, stuffed with fettuccine and sweet Italian bread Stuffing Crab, shrimp and cal-
Artist finds ‘gold’ in colors of Locke, levees

By Jennifer Modeness
The sun-drenched fields of Southern France, which dazzled impressionist plein-air painters and inspired some of the most innovative paintings of the 19th century, have nothing on the exquisitely wild, fertile land of the Delta.

At least that’s what Locke painter Ning Hou says.

"The most powerful light, which all European artists, all those powerful colorists, wished for, was the light which we call 'gold'," happens in California," says Hou, a 14-year resident of the historic Delta town.

Hou is one of the many artists who find the beauty of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta levees, sloughs, bridges and general landscape irresistible.

Several galleries dot the tiny towns of Walnut Grove and Locke. The River Road Art Gallery sometimes has scrawny, quixotic, has-gone-locoweed, and the Espresso Gallery showcases the work of Locke resident Laura Lueck. The gallery is now privately owned, although gallery owners and Locke resident Laura Lueck, who is the gallery's director, have an annual show there since 1987.

A few women shown in the River Road Art Gallery are artists in Locke's two museums. Gold painter Ning Hou is also an artist at the Locke and levees are two of the Delta's hidden jewels.

"My goal in having a school is to not only teach people interested in art but to teach people who enjoy the Delta and the levees." Hou says he is planning to build a museum in Locke that will showcase the work of Chinese artists and the efforts of Chinese workers in the construction of Locke's levees.

"I chose Locke because Locke is out of sight, out of mind," Hou says about his 31-year-old teaching career.

He makes his home in a rambling, cobalt blue house that sits on the levee and the Delta, and the Delta Museum and the Delta Historical Society.

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ARTIST

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is surrounded by viscously colored flowers.

Hot's intense concern reflects his preoccupation with almost every aspect of the Delta. Large, airy barns, their beams glittering like mosaics, are painted against swirling clouds. Drawings are strokes of thick impasto paint against moody and turbulent skies. Flood Delta waters are broken up by the serene branches of trees that turn into fountains of color with leaves thick crusts of orange and green.

There's incredible seduction, as well an intense study, behind Hot's kinetic painting. He went through rigorous training in his native China and received instruction from a friend of Picasso's. His talent carried him through the rigors of day-to-day life in communist China, but his independent spirit caused him to challenge authoritarian figures. Aborting the history and techniques of Asian art while developing Western art history and methods, Hot created a hybrid painting style. He is the first to say that and to explain the necessity of learning about "the roots and glory of European, Indian, Asian and African art."

With goals that include opening seven museums of his work worldwide, Hot may be the most ambitious of Delta artists. But it's not hard to imagine that the Delta's early inhabitants shared similar dreams.

"Time is a witness, and space is a processing, and you can hear, you can see, you can visualize, something passing through," muses Ng on the community of Locke. "He is so passionate about the Delta that he plans on staying there always."

"I can go anywhere," says Hot. "But the Delta is my first base."

DIETING

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The Sugar Barge: 405 Willow Road, Bethel Island, 433-769-4190 or 800-259-9255. Open Tuesday through Sunday for lunch and dinner at 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Tuesday through Sunday for dinner at 5:30 p.m. Closed Monday.

The High Point Inn: 701 North Main Street, Bethel Island, 433-769-4190. Open Tuesday through Sunday for lunch and dinner at 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Tuesday through Sunday for dinner at 5:30 p.m. Closed Monday.

Discovery Steakhouse: 701 North Main Street, Bethel Island, 433-769-4190. Open Tuesday through Sunday for lunch and dinner at 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Tuesday through Sunday for dinner at 5:30 p.m. Closed Monday.

The Delta Flyer: 505 Main Street, Oakley, 433-769-4190. Open Tuesday through Sunday for lunch and dinner at 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Tuesday through Sunday for dinner at 5:30 p.m. Closed Monday.

The Delta Cat: 405 Willow Road, Bethel Island, 433-769-4190. Open Tuesday through Sunday for lunch and dinner at 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Tuesday through Sunday for dinner at 5:30 p.m. Closed Monday.

The Delta Inn: 701 North Main Street, Bethel Island, 433-769-4190. Open Tuesday through Sunday for lunch and dinner at 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Tuesday through Sunday for dinner at 5:30 p.m. Closed Monday.

The Delta Grill: 701 North Main Street, Bethel Island, 433-769-4190. Open Tuesday through Sunday for lunch and dinner at 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Tuesday through Sunday for dinner at 5:30 p.m. Closed Monday.

The Delta Tap: 405 Willow Road, Bethel Island, 433-769-4190. Open Tuesday through Sunday for lunch and dinner at 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Tuesday through Sunday for dinner at 5:30 p.m. Closed Monday.

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Miles of waterways for that 'vacation at home' feeling

By Kelli Phillips

Whether you're into boating, fishing, camping or windsurfing, the bay and estuaries of the Delta offer a wide variety of outdoor activities. From paddling a kayak to setting up a tent under the stars, the Delta has something for everyone.

The Delta is home to a variety of fish, including largemouth, smallmouth and striped bass, crappie, catfish, striped bass, shad, catfish and salmon, as well as crawfish. Boaters can enjoy the scenic views of the bay area and waterfront properties.

There are two main ways to access the Delta: by boat or by foot. By boat, you can easily explore the many islands and coves scattered throughout the Delta. By foot, you can hike along the many trails that wind through the Delta.

The recreational opportunities in the Delta are endless. Whether you're interested in fishing, bird watching, or just taking a leisurely stroll, the Delta has something for everyone. So pack your gear and get ready for a day of fun in the sun!