

Kaiser facility plan draws praise – and critics

Some express concern about traffic generated by proposed center; others laud expansion of services in region.

Some residents of Murrieta – and plenty of their northern neighbors in Menifee – aren't entirely sold on the idea of a 37-acre Kaiser Permanente medical complex slated for land at Antelope and Keller roads.

In letters to the city of Murrieta and public



AARON CLAVERIE
STAFF WRITER

comments at recent meetings, area residents say the project will snarl traffic on roads in the northern portion of Murrieta and the southern part of Menifee.

They have asked the city to demand more money from Kaiser to

pay for road improvements or postpone the project until upgrades are made to the traffic infrastructure in the region.

"It's all traffic circulation," said Menifee Mayor Scott Mann, talking about the feedback from his residents. "It's all about the Scott Road interchange."

Murrieta's Planning Department said the traffic studies and environmental documentation for the project meet all state guidelines, and officials are recommending approval of

IF YOU GO

What: Murrieta City Council is taking up Kaiser's plans for a medical complex.

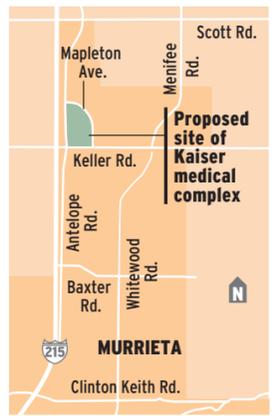
When: 6 p.m. Tuesday
Where: City Hall, 1 Town Square, Murrieta

the plans, which will be considered Tuesday by the Murrieta City Council.

The nonprofit health care organization, which spent \$9.3 million to buy the land in 2015, has proposed building a complex that

eventually could include a hospital. The first phase of the project, a multiphase endeavor that stretches over a 25-year timeline, is an 82,756-square-foot medical office.

Subsequent phases include a 114-bed hospital, a three-story diagnostic and treatment building, a central energy plant, a four-story medical office building and, down the line, an expansion of the hospital that adds 140 beds.



STAFF GRAPHIC

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“I started researching it and went ‘There’s a problem here’ and came up with a product that I thought could solve it.”

MARK LELONG
CRESTLINE RESIDENT, INVENTOR



Mark LeLong holds his invention in his workshop, a converted carport, on Jan. 19. The Crestline resident won the local round of a competition called the 2016 InnovateHER Challenge with an invention that helps relieve pain from radiation treatments for breast cancer.

A KOOL INVENTION

A Crestline man's creation, dubbed Kool Relief, aims to ease the burns caused by radiation therapy.

By **ANNE MILLERBERND**
STAFF WRITER

For years, breast cancer patients have suffered painful burns from life-saving radiation zaps.

In 2014, inventor Mark LeLong had an idea he thought could help.

For more than a year, he worked on a creation he says outperforms the creams offered to patients for the sun-burn-like side effects on their breasts.

The Crestline resident developed a small disk-shaped device he says sucks out the heat left by radiation therapy.

LeLong came up with the idea when

several friends and family members were diagnosed with breast cancer.

"I started researching it and went 'There's a problem here' and came up with a product that I thought could solve it," he said.

LeLong has a background fixing cars. He developed the product using advice his grandfather gave him while the two were working on car air conditioners.

"You cannot add cold, you have to remove the heat," he recalled his grandfather telling him.

The American Cancer Society predicts that more than 246,000 women will

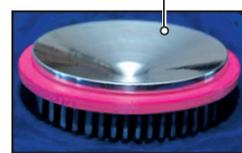
Kool Relief

Crestline resident Mark LeLong has invented a device that cools the painful burns that result from radiation therapy used to treat breast cancer. Once placed on a burn, the air moving over the disk pulls the heat out, leaving the cool feeling from the aluminum disk.

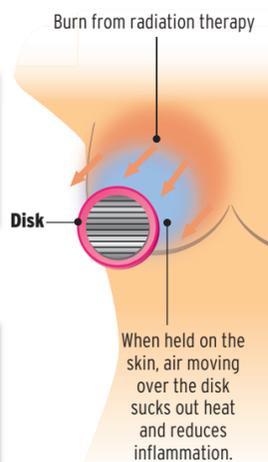
Front: Air moves through the ridged side, pulling out heat.



Back: The disk is placed on the breast and transfers heat to the front of the object.



Source: Mark LeLong



When held on the skin, air moving over the disk sucks out heat and reduces inflammation.

STAFF GRAPHIC



PHOTOS: KURT MILLER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Crestline resident Mark LeLong's invention sits on the 1960s lathe he uses to make them.

HIGHER EDUCATION



MARK MUCKENFUSS
STAFF COLUMNIST

A fine specimen of a museum

La Sierra University's natural history facility 'stuffed' with treasures.

Dr. E.A. "Billy" Hankins has a gorilla in his freezer.

He also has a 10-foot lizard in his foyer.

And inside the World Museum of Natural History at La Sierra University, he has cases stuffed with mammals, birds and reptiles from across the globe. The museum was recently ranked among the top 30 university natural history museums in the country by Best College Reviews. Only one other California university, Humboldt State, made the list.

In addition to the animals, the museum holds a large mineral collection – including the world's largest assortment of polished mineral spheres – and some American Indian artifacts.

Hankins, 77, said he is responsible for preserving about 99 percent of the animals in the museum. He was just a youngster, 10 or 11, he said, when he got into taxidermy, mounting a coot he found near the Santa Ana River.

But it was during his years as an Army doctor in Thailand that he began to amass a substantial collection of specimens. A dermatologist, Hankins said he became a regular customer at local markets that sold exotic animals.

"They had wild animal markets," Hankins said, "everything from tigers and elephants to all sorts of birds, and I would pick up their mortalities. I'd work all day in the clinic and then I'd work (at taxidermy) at night until 1 a.m."

By the time his two-year stint was over in 1968, he had 50 to 60 cases of animals to ship back to the states. A graduate of La Sierra, when it was still Loma Linda University, Riverside, he approached the school about establishing a natural history museum. In 1970, he opened the doors.

"We have stuff on display that's not in any other museum."

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