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A Monthly Community Newspaper

APRIL 2025

Potential outcomes for OUSD's surplus Peralta property under discussion -again

By Tina Richards

The Orange Unified School District Board is, once again, considering options for its Peralta site, and agreed to ask for a waiver from the state Board of Education allowing it to bypass codified instructions for selling or leasing surplus property.

The Peralta site was deemed surplus in 1985 when Peralta Elementary School was closed. The grounds have been leased to a golf and recreation enterprise since the 1990s. The buildings were leased to a private school until 2023, and are now occupied by charter school Explore Academy. Over the years, the board has considered more permanent uses for the site, but none have come to fruition.

Surplus property owned by a public entity, including school districts, must first be offered to other public entities. Notice must be given via direct mail or published in a newspaper. Agencies have 40 to 60 days to respond. If there is no interest from a public entity, the property may be offered for bid to interested parties. The district must then accept the highest bid that meets the terms and conditions laid out in the bidding process, or it may reject all offers.

Less red tape

The district may, however, put the property directly up for sale or lease by issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) if it gets a waiver to do so from the state. To date, OUSD has applied for a waiver on the Peralta property twice. Both waivers were granted, but have since expired. Waivers are generally approved when the district can demonstrate that the RFP process better "serves the community good." The first step in the waiver process is to hold a public hearing. OUSD held that hearing March 12. While just about everyone agrees that "something" must be done with the site, there is no consensus on what that would be. The property is currently zoned public institution and may not be used for housing. Orange Lutheran High School has expressed interest in using it for athletic facilities. Santiago Canyon College, too, is eyeing the property.



The Foothill High girl's soccer team captured the Division 3 CIF-SS Girls Soccer championship. The team celebrated its hard-fought win with Foothill head coach Steve Patterson.

FCA annual meeting offers updates and information for North Tustin residents

By Tina Richards

North Tustin residents heard updates on pending land-use lawsuits, neighborhood demographics and public safety, and celebrated community veterans at the 62nd Foothill Communities Association (FCA) annual meeting, March 3.

Attendees also had the opportunity to interact with public agencies and community partners who serve North Tustin. Among them, representatives from the offices of Supervisor Don Wagner, Representative Young Kim and Assemblyman Philip Chen, FCA, OC Public Works, Orange County Fire Authority, Sheriff's Department, California Highway Patrol and the East Orange County Water District.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Commander Sy Ellis of Tustin American Legion Post 227 presented each veteran in attendance with a commemorative star cut from a retired American flag. The stars, Ellis said, are reminders that veterans are not forgotten. Post 227 has, so far, distributed 3,000 stars to the Veterans Hospital and deployed troops, and intends to make sure all local vets get one.

Local case has wider impacts

David Holt, a member of the group battling a housing development on the site of the Tustin Hills Racquet Club, reported the status of two lawsuits and the Racquet Club itself. Yes, he said, the Racquet Club is open for tennis, pickleball and swimming -and is busier than ever.

The club was purchased six years ago by a developer who wants to build 37 condo units there. Residents have been fighting it ever since. Their appeals to the county planning commission and Board of Supervisors (save for Don Wagner who supported residents) went unheeded, leaving them to challenge the project in court.

The first lawsuit challenges the validity of state legislation SB330 in regards to this property and the Board of Supervisor's reliance on it to approve the project. That suit is slated to be heard in April. The second lawsuit asks the court to uphold a 50-year-old covenant

between the Racquet Club and its neighbors, holding that the site will always be used for recreation, but if ever developed for housing, the new units would mirror the surrounding neighborhood. That is, single family homes on 20,000-sq.-ft. lots. No court date has been set for that action yet, but Holt reports that the suit has been joined by two affordable housing organizations. This lawsuit has statewide implications, Holt said, and people will be watching it.

FCA President Rick Nelson advised the audience that it will take another \$200,000 to see the litigation through, but, he said, "FCA has done it before."

Notable in NT

A relatively new resident of North Tustin, Larry Duong, presented demographic information about the area, explaining that he moved here in 2019 "with a wife and Jack Russell terrier," and was immediately welcomed by neighbors and wanted to share data

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NEWS INSIDE

IT AIN'T BROKE

As many school districts face budget woes, OUSD reports that, contrary to the rumor mill, its financial position is sound.

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NO ZIP IN SLOWED CODE

County Island's hopes for a dedicated ZIP code dashed as House bill relegated to back burner.

See North Tustin, page 3

FROM TENNIS COURT TO COUNTY COURT

Local land-use lawsuits draw statewide attention; neighbors simply seek to preserve property rights.

See Guest Commentary, page 4

99 YEARS ON THE BALL

Community leader celebrated for a long life well lived.

See North Tustin's, page 5

HISTORICAL "FOOTNOTE"

Suggested uses include an aquatic center, community the-

See "Peralta" continued on page 2



Veterans attending the FCA meeting were given commemorative stars, hand cut from retired American Flags by members of American Legion Post 227. The stars are a reminder that they will always be remembered.

IS NOT FORGOTTEN

Lorenzo Ramirez joined a lawsuit that changed California; Orange residents want his name remembered. See Local School, page 7





The Orange Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau announced the cancellation of this year's May Parade due, primarily, to the increased costs associated with organizing the event.

Since the parade was reinstated in 2019 after a 28-year hiatus, the Orange Chamber has relied

Orange May Parade cancelled

on sponsorships from local businesses to help finance it. It has always been presented by the Chamber and Visitors Bureau, not the City of Orange. The city does not contribute financially to the event and charges the organizers for services. Those fees continue to increase.

Moving forward, the boards of the Chamber of Commerce Visitors Bureau and the Chamber of Commerce Foundation will continue to explore alternatives, and collaborate with other nonprofit organizations and potential sponsors to ensure the success of future community events.

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ater, or facility for indoor recreation. Any of those amenities could be built and operated by OUSD, a private party or be subject to a joint use agreement. Whether the Board decides to sell the property outright or lease it for up to 99 years, it will be able to determine, in advance, the end result. Under the RFP process, the board can specify terms and conditions, end uses and time frames. It can also include community input, defining what is considered to be "for the public good."

Proceed with caution

Peralta neighbors who offered public comments at the hearing supported the waiver and were happy that the district was moving forward. "It could be a win for the district, the neighborhood and the city," one resident said.

Former trustee Kathy Moffat reminded the board that buildable property in OUSD is valuable because "there isn't much of it." Because it is centrally located, it has immense potential for OUSD students. "The board," she said, "has responsibility for safekeeping the property now and for the infinite possibilities of the future. This asset must be preserved to meet the needs of students. Don't foreclose on students by disposing of this property."

Student board member Alex Tran, speaking as an individual, stressed that he didn't want private interests taking anything away from OUSD. Referring specifically to Orange Lutheran, he noted that it is "competition" for OUSD, as it takes students away from the district. By rewarding our competition, he said, OUSD students will be left behind.

It's a start

Trustee Andrea Yamasaki stressed that Peralta is a valuable piece of property and her preference is to explore what OUSD could do with it rather than leave its future up to a third party. She said she did not want to sell it, and feared that the resolution seeking a waiver from the state would just bring the board one step closer to making that decision. For that reason, she said, she could not support the resolution.

Board President Kris Erickson advised that the waiver did nothing more than give the board "options to benefit the district." "This property is not benefitting the district now," she said. "The waiver opens up the possibilities of what we can do with the property. I'm in favor of getting the

the development.

Approval of the lease agreement required a super majority, or five votes. The final vote, was 4-3. The development was quashed.

Ten years later, the board majority negotiated a deal to lease the property to a charter school, largely behind closed doors. The transaction was presented to the public as a done deal, despite the objections of three minority trustees.

This time it was a done deal. Two of the charter school partisans had been on the board when the 2012 lease agreement failed. They learned from that experience. To avoid the five-vote threshold required to approve the

sale or lease of district property, they called this deal a "license agreement." A license agreement required a simple majority, or four votes. The vote was 4-3 in favor.

Foothills Sentry

In the rush to acquire the property, however, the charter apparently failed to discuss its plans with the City of Orange before signing the agreement. Orange planners identified a large number of flaws that needed to be corrected to get city approval. Revising the plans to meet city standards would have been costly. The charter school withdrew is application from the city and terminated its lease/license agreement with OUSD.



The OUSD Board of Trustees will explore options enabling the district's surplus Peralta property to be used for public benefit.

OUSD in a strong financial position to navigate uncertain times

The Second Interim Financial Report, a mid-fiscal year update for the Orange Unified School District, was presented to the board on March 12.

The report compares the district's actual income and expenditures with the adopted budget, as well as projections for the remainder of the year and the following two years.

The board unanimously adopted the recommendation to issue a Positive Certification, the highest approval possible for a school district.

Several board members alluded to frustration over what they described as false claims by private individuals that the financial health of the district was in question.

The report and certification highlighted a strong financial position with a balanced budget projected for the 25-26 and 26-27 school years, with projected surpluses of \$1.6 million and \$2 million respectively. OUSD is currently projected to enjoy an ending fund balance of \$200.9 million of money held in reserves, roughly 35% of the annual budget, exceeding the state-required minimum of 3%.

Reserves are held to insulate districts from unexpected or rapid changes in funding or expenditures. As the federal Department of Education, and its funding, approximately 6-9% for OUSD, faces an uncertain future Orange Unified students will not face sudden losses of programs if funding is rescinded.

Additionally, with market uncertainty and worries of excessive inflation Orange Unified could use reserve funds to offset higher costs in expenditures such as gasoline, electricity or food. While this would lead to interim deficit spending, OUSD's ample reserves would allow for shortterm spending to mitigate such changes.

Many local districts do not carry the ample reserves of OUSD and may find themselves laying off staff or cancelling programs in order to meet budgetary constraints



process started."

The vote to request the waiver was 6-1, with Yamasaki voting no.

Regardless of the immediate or long-term outcome for the property, OUSD constituents welcome the board's transparency on the issue. Peralta neighbors remember the handling of a lease agreement with a developer in 2012. At that time, several board members made a deal with a builder who planned to build three-story residential units on the property under a 99-year lease. Neighbors and other district stakeholders knew nothing about the proposal until it was announced as a nearly done deal at a board meeting.

The wrong way

Word got out. The community was furious and began a several month blitz to fill the board room with angry neighbors challenging 714 282 0828 | jadtec.com aco 4202

Foothills Sentry

"FCA" continued from page 1

"highlighting what's great about our community."

Duong's findings, based on a review of census data, revealed that North Tustin's median income is \$186,000, ranking sixth in the county; the median age is 45-64, but younger families are moving in. Sixty percent of the population has a B.A. or higher, and employment is primarily professional, scientific, or management; education ranks second; and finance third.

He reported that North Tustin is among the top 30 fastest growing suburbs in America; that the average lot size is 20,000 sq. ft. or more; and that the average home sales price is \$1.86 million, above the Orange County average of \$1.73 million.

All politics is local

Supervisor Don Wagner began his remarks by noting he is a proud resident of North Tustin. Calling public safety "a legitimate function of government," he talked about the benefits of flock cameras installed at major county intersections.

The surveillance cameras recognize license plates; make, model and color of vehicles; and help county sheriffs deter and solve crimes. They are not, Wagner stressed, "red light cameras" that identify driver infractions. They are used only to recognize vehicles reported to be involved in a crime.

Wagner also explained a new, voluntary, camera registry program wherein homeowners with Ring cameras or other private surveillance systems may upload their camera data into the sheriff's system.

The program is expected to roll out shortly. "It will provide a virtual canvas of the county," he said. That, coupled with successful neighborhood watch programs, lets "the bad guys know we are watching."

A summary of other county projects included Crawford Canyon Park, due to be completed this summer; the veterans cemetery, working its way through Sacramento and "on the list" for federal funding; and the county housing element, finally approved after three iterations. Now compliant with the state mandated requirements for new housing, Orange County will have greater flexibility to protect its communities.

Jurisdictions that do not yet have a state-approved housing element are targets for developers who may use that deficiency to override local building codes.



Commander Sy Ellis of Tustin American Legion Post 227 displays a star cut from a retired American Flag. The stars were given to veterans.



The annual FCA meeting drew a near full house to the Hewes Middle School gym, March 3.



Al Tello, right, field representative for Supervisor Don Wagner takes feedback from a constituent.





North Tustin ZIP code is a moving target

Residents of North Tustin were disappointed to learn that a bill giving them their own unique ZIP code died in the California Senate at the end of last year.

Representative Young Kim had signed on to a House bill authorizing separate ZIP codes for a number of communities nationwide. She had North Tustin added to that list, and the bill passed the House in December. Because it was not passed by the Senate before the 118th Congress adjourned, it died.

With the new 119th Congress convened, bills left on the table must be drafted anew, passed by House committees, passed by the House and then sent on to the Senate again.

In a videotaped message delivered to the Foothill Communities Association at its annual meeting, Representative Kim assured constituents that she was going to pursue the dedicated ZIP code issue once again.

Linette Choi, district director for Representative Kim, reports that the Congresswoman is planning to reintroduce a ZIP code bill for North Tustin, but has learned that a similar bill may be introduced in the Senate.

Kim, according to Choi, is waiting for that Senate bill to materialize and will sign on to a House bill then. Ultimately, the House and Senate bills must have the same language to be approved by both bodies.

Meanwhile, 10 Congressional representatives have cosponsored HR672, which requires the post office to designate unique ZIP codes for 14 communities. That bill was referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on Jan. 23. Kim has not signed on, and North Tustin is not on the list.



86th Annual Spring Flower Show Saturday, April 26, 2025 12 Noon to 4 PM

OPEN TO ALL AMATEUR GARDENERS NO ENTRY FEE TO EXHIBIT

- Enter your prized plants, flowers, or flower arrangements in our professionallyjudged show.
- Enjoy the plants and floral arrangements on display from local gardens.
- Shop vendors' booths, including our Sweet Shoppe and Plant Booth.
- Pause and refresh at our Garden Cafe. Pick up a light luncheon or a beverage & dessert.

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Information & Entry Forms Available at: The Woman's Club of Orange 121 S. Center St. More Info: www.womanscluboforange.org or call 714-836-5919



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Guest Commentary

Urgent Support Needed: Protect Our Property and Zoning Rights

By David Holt

What began as a local zoning squabble in North Tustin six years ago, has now critically escalated to a major legal battle with statewide consequences that could have lasting implications for local control and private property rights.

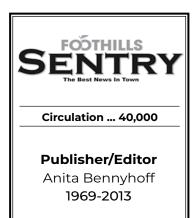
The Tustin Hills Racquet Club, North Tustin's only open space recreational facility, is at the center of this fight. This popular hub for tennis, pickleball, swimming, Pilates and community gatherings has benefitted Orange County residents for over 50 years.

Ranch Hills Partners purchased the Club with the intent to demolish it and replace it with a 37condominium unit project. North Tustin residents and the Foothill Communities Association (FCA) strongly oppose the project, due to serious concerns relating to fire safety, community impact and its inconsistency with local zoning laws.

Club history and battle for its future use

The club, established in 1958, sits on about six acres in the hills, and has long shared the same zoning as the surrounding Tract 3883—118 single-family homes. The zoning required half-acre lots for residential homes, and for decades, the club and the tract coexisted under this shared regulation.

In the early 1970s, when the club sought to expand, it applied to rezone its property to A-1 Ag-



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Graphic Designer

riculture, which would not only allow the expansion, but would provide the club with tax benefits. The county refused to rezone without community approval.

Area residents agreed to the rezoning in exchange for a binding land agreement, a covenant. This recorded 1974 covenant restricts future development on the property, ensuring that if the club ever ceased operation, it could not be redeveloped in ways inconsistent with the original zoning.

SB330 and the pressure on local government

Recently passed California SB330 seeks to address, among other things, California's affordable housing shortage by increasing residential unit development. SB330 also strengthens the Housing Accountability Act (HAA) by restricting use of local rules to limit housing production. Under the pressure of SB330, the county approved the condo project without addressing the enforceability of the covenant.

Snowball decision

Just two months after project approval, the California Court of Appeal (Second District) rendered its first decision interpreting SB330/HAA in Snowball West Investments L.P. v. City of Los Angeles. Snowball involved a 215-unit development in Verdugo Hills, with the developer relying on HAA to force the city to approve the project. Sound familiar? Unlike Ranch Hills, the Snowball developer's application was denied at the local level. Developer appealed. The critical issue on appeal (nearly the identical issue decided by the county on the Ranch Hills' application) was the interpretation of the term "inconsistent" under HAA.

In upholding the denial of the Snowball developer's application, the Appellate Court held that HAA does not abrogate local control. Rather, HAA only applies when a proposed housing development project complies with local zoning and development policies.

Statewide legal implications

Two lawsuits are currently in progress:

1. FCA is challenging the county's approval of the project, arguing that HAA should not override local zoning, as decided in Snowball; and

2. Area residents are suing Ranch Hills for breaching the 1974 Recorded Covenant.

The FCA lawsuit has been extensively briefed by both parties; it was initially set for hearing on April 2, but, has now been continued by the court until April 30.

Until recently, the covenant lawsuit was treading water, mired in procedural issues. However, this lawsuit is no longer just a tract matter; last month, the court permitted two developer-friendly intervenors into the case: Californians for Homeownership, Inc., and California Housing Defense Fund.

The matter now has exponentially expanded. At issue is whether the covenant (and like agreements and state HOA regulations) are against the public policy declared under SB330. The determination of this issue will have a rippling effect across California.

Why we must act now

While California faces a housing shortage, it's essential to understand that not all housing projects should automatically be approved. We cannot let the approval of this project undermine local zoning laws or invalidate private agreements that protect the interests of our community.

The outcome of these cases could set a precedent that impacts private property rights throughout California. If we lose, it could pave the way for the erosion of longstanding community agreements and zoning laws everywhere.

How you can help

We urgently need your support to continue this fight. Financial contributions are crucial to ensuring that we have the resources to take this battle to its rightful conclusion.

Please donate today to help protect our community and safeguard local control.

To Donate:

1. Gofundme.com. Search for save-the-racquet-club-supportca-residential-communities, or scan the QR code.



2. Send check made out to FCA, PO Box 261, Tustin CA 92781 (note "Racquet Club Litigation" on memo line)

David Holt is an attorney practicing in Tustin and a neighbor of the Racquet Club.

Orange names new police chief

GOCAT announces Annual Gala: "From Blueprint to Spotlight"

The Greater Orange Community Arts Theater (GOCAT) will hold its Annual Gala, "From Blueprint to Spotlight," beginning at 6 p.m. on Thursday, May 8, at Hotel Fera Anaheim, a Doubletree by Hilton in Orange.

All proceeds will directly support Greater Orange Community Arts Theater's mission to enhance the community through arts education, cultural enrichment, and performance opportunities.

With a vision of fostering a diverse and vibrant creative space, GOCAT is dedicated to empowering artists and audiences alike.

"This year's theme, "From Blueprint to Spotlight," celebrates the next step in creating a sustainable and thriving arts community," said GOCAT President Michael Short. "We are excited

Orange Elks

support Ember

to showcase the incredible impact of the arts education while engaging supporters who believe in the importance of community arts."

Tickets, \$200 per seat, are available now at gocat4all.org. Sponsorship opportunities, ranging from \$895 to \$25,000, are also available for businesses and individuals looking to make a lasting impact on the future of Orange art and culture.

The gala will feature live performances by local artists and future GOCAT performers and a silent auction. The hotel is located at 100 The City Drive S.

For more information on the event, sponsorships, or how to support GOCAT, please visit gocat4all.org, or contact Mark Wimberley mark.wimberley@ gocat4all.org.



Chief Adam Jevec

Captain Adam Jevec, who began his career with the City of Orange Police Department 19 years ago, has been appointed as the City's new Chief of Police, effective March 28.

Jevec was born and raised in Orange and is a graduate of Orange High School. He ventured away from Orange to Sonoma State for his bachelor's degree, then to George Mason University in Virginia for a graduate degree in history. Jevec began his law enforcement career with the Arlington County Virginia Police Department in 2004. He returned to Orange and joined the Police Department in 2006.

Jevec worked a variety of assignments, including patrol officer, field training officer, SWAT team member and gang unit detective. He was promoted to sergeant in 2015, lieutenant in 2019 and Captain in 2021.

Most recently, he commanded Field Services, where he was responsible for over 130 employees and managed patrol services, the traffic bureau, neighborhood enhancement, homeless engagement, communications and SWAT.



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Ember

The Orange Elks donated \$2,000 to the Orange City Fire Peer Support Dog Program. Chairmen Clarke Balvanz and Kati Bye presented the check to help with training expenses for Ember, the new Fire Support Dog,

Ember will be a therapy dog to help the men and women who go out on traumatic calls deal with the stress of the job, and may also be used on calls where residents could use a little puppy love.



Lodge #1475 hosts blood drive

Diane and Jason Wilkerson

The Orange Elks recently conducted a blood drive to support its community partner, the American Red Cross.

Orange Elks Jason and Diane

Wilkerson coordinated the drive, one of two that Lodge #1475 holds every year. The next Orange Elks Blood Drive is scheduled for September 2025.





Scan to register Scan to register a vehicle vendor booth

Email to register: Jamie Sokoll jamiecsokoll@gmail.com

- Spectators FREE -501 (c) (3) - All proceeds benefit music education at Villa Park High School. TAX ID: 95-3537732

North Tustin's Hal Marshall feted on 99th birthday

By Scott Logue

Longtime North Tustin resident and community volunteer Harold "Hal" Marshall was celebrated by his friends, neighbors and family members at a private party, sponsored by the Foothills Community Association, in honor of his 99th birthday.

Hal Marshall was born on Nov. 19, 1925 in Economy, Indiana, exactly a century after his greatgreat-great-grandfather Charles Osborne purchased, platted and founded the town in 1825. Its location was considered more "economical" than where they were before.

Hal was raised among the farmlands of Economy, a town not far from Dayton, Ohio, where the Wright Brothers had studied flight. As a child, Hal had only watched planes fly high overhead from the airbase at Dayton until he went to investigate a P-38 fighter that crashed in a farm nearby. It was the first plane he would see up close in a long life of aviation and engineering.

During Hal's senior year of high school, he met Faye, who had just moved to town. One of Hal's best friends had access to a 1932 Ford Phaeton four-seater, perfect for a first double date, wherein Hal and Faye shared their first kiss, ultimately leading to a lifetime of happiness together.

Hal enlisted in April 1943, and at the age of 17, began his naval

pilot training, leaving for active duty in August of that same year. Hal trained across several airbases in Indiana, Georgia, Tennessee and Florida and trained on many aircraft, including the Taylorcraft monoplanes, Stearman Biplanes, the SNJ Texan, a multiengine Beechcraft Model 18 and a PB4Y-2.

In August of 1945, the Japanese surrendered, and one month later Hal graduated with his wings and as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Navy. Hal returned to Economy to marry Faye, his high school sweetheart, on Oct. 11, 1945.

As a married couple, Faye and Hal moved together for Hal's various operational training assignments until Hal was assigned to Sangley Point in the Philippines for anti-submarine training maneuvers, at which time Faye returned to her parents' house.

Humble beginnings

With the GI Bill, Hal enrolled in Purdue University in 1947, buying a house trailer nearby for \$1,500, with electricity and plumbing. Hal studied aeronautical engineering while working Friday nights for 50 cents an hour in a bakery and installing floors and roofs in the summer for a builder. After four and a half years, Hal graduated from Purdue with a Master of Science in Aeronautical Engineering.

In 1952, Hal and his family

moved to Garden Grove, and he began his career with Douglas Aircraft in Long Beach. In 1959, he accepted a job with Ford Aerospace in Newport Beach for a further 30 years, eventually retiring in 1991.

It was in 1961 that Hal and his family moved to North Tustin, and it was during Hal's time at Ford Aerospace that he met Bruce Junor and Rick Nelson, all three now serving together on the Board of Directors for the Foothill Communities Association (FCA) for North Tustin.

Across a loving marriage spanning 74 years, Hal and Faye were blessed with three children: Douglas, Vicki and Philip, seven grandchildren and seven greatgrandchildren. Faye and Hal had a very happy and fun-filled life with their children and friends, all the while supporting their children's schools and extracurricular activities.

In the 1970s, Faye and Hal became international travelers and visited roughly 50 countries, making many friends along the way. In the early 1990s, they purchased an RV and traveled throughout the U.S. by themselves and with travel clubs.

Though Faye passed away on Nov. 16, 2019 at the age of 93, Hal continues to be involved in the North Tustin community, still actively serving on the FCA board, and pursuing his many other interests.



The Foothill Communities Association hosted a party to celebrate the North Tustin icon's 99th birthday.



Hal Marshall at his birthday celebration.



Hal Marshall and future wife Faye shared their first kiss in a 1932 Ford Phaeton.



Orange Elles #1475 visited Sentiage Charter Middle School to new angle deliver a \$500 donation to be used

Old Towne celebrates National Historic Preservation Month

By Valerie Smith

The Old Towne Preservation Association (OTPA) is celebrating National Historic Preservation Month by providing a variety of workshops, free of charge to residents interested in learning more about preservation and, possibly, becoming a preservation enthusiast. Look over the workshop summaries and see if something interests you. Contact OTPA at info@otpa.org for additional information.

Preservation 101 – Sunday, May 4, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Pitcher Park, 204 S. Cambridge

Curious about historic preservation? Join us as we kick off National Historic Preservation Month exploring strategies and challenges maintaining and advocating for historic homes and landmarks in Old Towne. Tour the Pitcher Park Museum following the presentation.



mayor and other historians of Old Towne.

Lost & Found – Discovering the Hidden History of your Home – Wednesday, May 21, 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. and Thursday, May 22 11 a.m. – noon. Orange Public Library and History Center, 407 E. Chapman

for a graduation trip for eighth grade students who will be promoted. Left to right, Elk JC Cortez, Santiago Principal Lisa Adray and staff Cynthia Robles and Elk Kevin Wagner.

Orange Key Clubs receive recognition

By Randy Garell

With financial support and encouragement from the Orange Kiwanis Club, the El Modena and Orange High Key Clubs were honored in four categories at the

Division 4 Awards Ceremony, representing about 40 Key Clubs in Orange County.

Liliana Estrada from the El Modena Key Club was named Key Club Member of the Year. Kiki Hamilton from the Orange High Key Club was named President of the Year. The Key Club of the Year was Orange High School Key Club.

Greg Lewin, from Orange Kiwanis Club, was named Kiwanis Advisor of the Year. History in your Hands – Wednesday, May 14, 10 a.m. – noon Hart Park Bandshell, 701 S. Glassell

Come to this hands-on workshop to learn the proper techniques for cleaning and maintaining historic markers, while exploring their significance in shaping our community. Visit with our Discover secrets of your home, learn how to trace past owners, uncover architectural changes, and find historical records that reveal the stories behind your home's walls. A tour of the History Center and presentation by an archivist is included.

Foundations, Frames and Foliage – Saturday, May 31 10 a.m. – noon. Play Coffee Orange (Wells Fargo bldg.) 101 E. Chapman

Whether you're preserving original features or making era appropriate updates, this workshop will cover the essentials of foundation care, period appropriate landscaping, and restoration techniques. The workshop will be held in the upstairs area of the historic building.

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Foothills Sentry



(Country) Fair Warning

Run it up the flagpole

... and see who salutes, or for two recently departed canyonites, see who remembers, mourns and celebrates. Eleanor Reynolds and Fran Williams left friends and neighbors with memories of long lives. Silverado resident Zach Dupre cracked wise and affectionately at Williams' service, attended by 75 at a "Lunch Bunch" memorial gathering, pledging to fly the iconic hat she'd worn from his bespoke memento mori flagpole. Some attendees left with clay sculptures crafted by Fran, longtime chairperson of the Friends of the Library. Save the date for the Friends' second annual dinner fundraiser, Sunday, June 1, at the home of Sarah and Geoff Sarkissian.

Out, on a limb

Madame Modjeska's neighbors heard the mighty crack of a hundred-year-old oak at 3 a.m. one recent night, discovering at daybreak damage to the property's 75-year-old Opid Cottage, once slated for restoration with the recently renovated and celebrated adjacent Pleasants Stone House. Unsafe for occupancy, the country club-era building with a charming front porch was used for storage. Perhaps a historic limb falling on a historic structure will result in further historic renovation.

Inter-Canyon League

March's ICL meeting included presentation of a draft sample letter to 40th CD Rep. Young Kim, responding to Forest Service cutbacks. After reviewing official assurances that Trump budget cuts wouldn't hit firefighting and law enforcement, one Zoom attendee noted his unanswered application for seasonal fire crew work. Francesca Duff and ICL President Geoff Sarkissian noted possible threats to long-term administrative and on-site functions, including compliance and road maintenance, expressing concern about U.S. Weather Service funding. Congressmember Kim's field rep, John Ding, promised a meeting with Mary Schreiber of Fire Safe Council.

(G)SOB story

March and April are prime months to diagnose and treat Gold-Spotted Oak Borer infestation of your property's oak trees and organize your neighborhood for treatment. Recent ICL guest, licensed arborist Chris Burke of RPW Services, works with neighbors to schedule visits efficiently

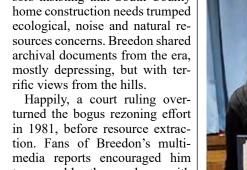
and economically. He is a statelicensed and county-registered pesticide applicator using the chemical bifenthrin, which does its preventive barrier work in a 300-foot radius. It's safe, and the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources Department and industry standard. Schedule a visit at (657) 243-2942.

Urgent! The annual Silverado Country Fair still needs a volunteer coordinator ASAP and PDQ. Jane Bove, retiring after decades of organizing the annual community shindig, is a terrific mentor and will teach the new director(s) how to coordinate booths, food vendors, and entertainment.

Julie Williams reported sightings of young cougars, uncollared, in our canyons. Good news! She recommends the noon, March 19 Mountain Lion Foundation, "Living with Lions." Register now to attend at https:// mountainlion.networkforgood. com/.

Scott Breedon's ICL History Committee report included the saga of a proposed, and unanimously approved, 1978 sand and gravel mining operation for Williams Canyon. Vigorous community opposition failed, supervisors insisting that South County

to assemble them, along with





news clippings, archival photos, and occasional song lyrics, into a book.

Finally, Sarkissian and other meeting participants suggested future ICL meeting guest speakers, including representatives from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Irvine Ranch Water District and Library of the Canyons. Attend the next regular meeting, April 1, to see who accepted an invitation.

Grade: A

Joanne Hubble's communication with the Modjeska Grade Improvement project manager produced this "Project Tentative Schedule," bullet-point poetry: 95% Design Completion: By the end of March 2025. 100% Design Completion: By August 31, 2025. Construction Start: Scheduled for the end of February 2025. Right-of-way offer letters will be sent to affected residents shortly thereafter. Additionally, OCPW will conduct community outreach before the start of construction to communicate potential traffic impacts and address any concerns. Grade resident Jim Carter offers a more prosaic report: "We are not getting everything we wanted, but the good news is the county is beginning to see us as a rural community with different attitudes and perspectives than their other constituents. Standing fast and united on the Sil-Mod plan is our best way to keep the rural feel in our canyons. The project entails a large inconvenience for about a year, but we'll get much better drainage and a little safer road that still gives the feel of what the county was like 40 or 50 years ago."

"The Namesake"

The monthly (Wednesday, April 2, 5 p.m.) Library of the Canyons Book Group discusses Jhumpa Lahiri's debut novel, the story of two generations of Indian immigrants, adapted into a film. The book and movie are available at the library. Tell 'em Fran sent vou.

Young Women of the Month celebrated



The Tustin Area Woman's Club

announced the Young Women of the Month honorees for March.

They are Alexis Chew from Foot-

hill High School and Harshini

Alexis Chew is a dedicated

student and athlete, committed to

both academics and competitive

fencing. As the president of Foot-

hill's Red Cross Club, she has or-

ganized multiple blood drives to

support her community. She is an

International Baccalaureate candidate with a strong interest in the

medical field, planning to major

in human biology. Beyond aca-

demics, she is passionate about engineering projects and mentor-

ing young fencers.

Mahesh from Tustin High.



Harshini Mahesh

Harshini Mahesh has participated in the Model United Nations program at Tustin High School for four years, and has served as the Director General of Advanced Communities for the last two years. She played on the varsity tennis team for four years, enjoyed being on four consecutive league champion teams. She is serving as captain this year. Mahesh has earned the State Seal of Civic Engagement and has completed the biomedical pathways course. She interned at Tustin Holistic Health last summer.

Also recognized were Elizabeth Hsu of Beckman High and Nimrat Kaur of Legacy High School.

Celebrating the Victory of Jesus Christ Over Death! Because He is Alive Lanyons We Have a Living Hope! lne Sunday, April 20 · 6 and 10 am Message by Pastor Larry DeSimone

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Local Author!

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Local school desegregation hero is closer to getting his due

By Tina Richards

El Modena community leader Sammy Rodriquez is infuriated that the historical record of the landmark Mendez, et al vs. Westminster court case that desegregated schools in California in 1947, is all about Gonzolo Mendez and the "et als" are barely a footnote.

He is particularly aggrieved because one of the et als, Lorenzo Ramirez, was living in El Modena at the time, and his participation in the lawsuit was focused on segregated schools in Orange.

Lorenzo Ramirez is a local hero, Rodriquez says, and should be recognized and remembered for his courage, not forgotten. He, along with William Guzman and Thomas Estrada from Santa Ana and Frank Palomino of Garden Grove, are the et als that history is ignoring.

Libraries a start

Working with members of the Ramirez family and several other supporters from El Modena, Rodriquez encouraged Santiago Community College (SCC) to name its library after Lorenzo Ramirez and place a bust of him in front of it. The group also asked the Orange Unified School District to name a school after Ramirez, but settled for the El Modena High School library as a namesake.

His mission to immortalize Ramirez is, he says, far from over. That's why he was delighted when Dr. Stephen Glass, a trustee on the OUSD school board and a Distinguished Faculty in Residence in the educational leadership department at Cal State Long Beach, asked him to give a talk on Ramirez to his doctoral students.

Rodriquez, himself a former professor of ethnic studies, said yes, but only if the class would meet at the Lorenzo Ramirez Library at El Modena High. Which they did on Saturday, March 15.

Reaching the next generation

The group of 12 doctoral candidates were joined by 13 ElMo students, Principal Bob King and City Councilwoman Ana GutierPortes by Tony Richard

Doctoral candidates, ElMo students, squeezed together with Sammy Rodriguez, Stephen Glass, Ana Gutierrez and community members for a group shot following the March 15 presentation.

rez, whose District 5 includes the El Modena barrio. Glass' educational leadership students, each pursuing areas of study designed to enhance the depth, scope and relevance of public education, were a receptive audience.

Rodriquez made his point about the community's ignorance of the role Lorenzo Ramirez played in school desegregation in California, years before Brown vs. Board of Education ended school segregation nationwide, by asking the ElMo students if they knew who the library was named after. Only one did. He asked them if they had been taught about Ramirez in elementary or middle school. OUSD says it covers Ramirez and the court case in fifth and eighth grades, but none of the students remembered it.

Ana Gutierrez, who grew up in El Modena, told the group that as a child, she played with the nieces and nephews of Ramirez, but she had no idea who he was.

More than Mendez

"It's always been about Mendez and the Mendez family," Rodriquez said. "When the court case is discussed, its Mendez vs. Westminster. Even Santa Ana named a school after Mendez, ignoring its own Guzman Family."

It's up to us, he told the soonto-be Ph.Ds, to make sure that history is accurately portrayed, that all the players are recognized. On the local level, learning about Ramirez's specific role in the court case opens a window into Orange's history. He recalled the days when Mexican kids went to Lincoln School and white kids attended Roosevelt, just 120 yards away.

At that time, Mexican kids were not expected to continue school past the eighth grade; they were expected to be farm workers. According to El Modena residents who remember those days, educational opportunities were far from equal. Lorenzo Ramirez wanted more for his children and went to court to get it.

Rodriquez reported on the ups and downs of the drive by locals to get recognition for Lorenzo Ramirez. He called out SCC when it hosted a speaker who extolled the Mendez court case without mentioning Ramirez, even though the name on the campus library and the bust of the man were in plain sight. The Ramirez family was hurt by the omission and let the college know.

Years later, both the family and Rodriquez received a letter of apology from the SCC chancel-



Dr. Steven Glass welcomes his students to the presentation. lor.

Gathering momentum

He's also asked OUSD why its 2011 promise to recognize March 2 as a day to celebrate Ramirez has been ignored. The district is looking into it.

He has recently enlisted the aid of Councilwoman Gutierrez and Trustee Stephen Glass to name an OUSD school after Ramirez. The library is not enough, he says.

Gutierrez is also encouraging the city to erect a commemora-



Sammy Rodriguez makes the case for the legacy of Lorenzo Ramirez.

tive plaque honoring Ramirez at the site where the Lincoln and Roosevelt schoolhouses stood. "Orange should be proud that the roots of school desegregation were planted here," she says.

"Lorenzo Ramirez got together with five others to sue local school districts," Rodriquez summarizes. "Mendez's name was used when the case was filed, but that shouldn't lessen the contributions of the et als, especially, in Orange, Lorenzo Ramirez."





to Spotlight

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Orange Elks donate to the Hub Resource Center



Working with community partner HRC are Elks, from left, Mike Cash, Kelley Martinez, Alex Geringer-Pate, Kevin Wagner, JC Cortez, Terrie Schatz and Linda Greeley.

The Orange Elks Lodge #1475 donated \$6,000 to the Hub Resource Center, which aids the unhoused population.

The funds were made available via the Spotlight Grant and a Beacon Grant.

The donation will help feed the homeless and provide essential needs kits.

A portion of the funds will provide 850 hot meals; the other half will go to purchase food items, hygiene products, cleaning products, sleeping bags, diapers, incontinent products and winter clothing.

As part of its outreach, lodge members packed 300 hygiene kits and 200 shower kits.

Easter Sonrise coming to OPA



Paul Carter

By Guy Ball

Author and historian Paul Carter shares his research on California-born Richard Nixon, the 37th President of the United States, during a special Night at the Museum meeting on Friday, May 2 at the Tustin Area Museum.

Paul Carter is an attorney with more than 20 years of experience in investigation and trial work. He spent over a decade conducting research, which included interviewing many of Nixon's closest and most guarded associates,

Nixon Library's vast archival collections.

Tustin Museum features author of "Richard Nixon: California's Native Son"

> Carter's newest book, "Richard Nixon: California's Native Son" is the story of Nixon's Southern California journey from his birth in Yorba Linda to his final resting place just a few yards from the home in which he was born.

In his book, Carter shares his 🛣 research regarding "Nixon's rise, fall, and ultimate redemption on 🕋 the grandest stage of American politics" according to Joseph Dmohowski, a Nixon family author and historian.

Carter is also the author of an earlier work on Nixon - a biographical map titled "Native Son: Richard Nixon's Southern California.'

This Night at the Museum meeting will be held from 7 to Harley graduated from service 8:30 p.m. at the Tustin Area Museum, 345 El Camino Real. Tickets are \$20 per person, \$15 each

as well as searching through the for members. Due to the limited seating area, tickets are expected to sell out quickly.

For more information and tickets visit TustinHistory.com or call the museum, (714) 731-5701.



dog school and is now certified. new mascot.



Pastor Larry Day

Pastor Larry Day will host the annual cowboy Easter Sonrise Service, Sunday, April 9 at 7 a.m. Horses and pets are welcome. Coffee and donuts will be provided; bluegrass music played by the

Wimberleys. Pastor Day will deliver his Easter message accompanied, as always, by his horses. The service will be held at the Mara Brandman Arena, 6422 E. Santiago Blvd.

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L.A. Times columnist will speak to OC Dems

The Central Orange County Democratic Club will welcome Gustavo Arellano, a writer and journalist who is currently a columnist for the Los Angeles Times, at its Wednesday, April 23 meeting.

Arellano is the former editor of Orange County's "OC Weekly." His satirical column, "Ask a Mexican!," is syndicated nationally, and has been collected into a book of the same name.

He has won numerous awards for his writing, including the 2007 Presidents Award from the Los Angeles Press Club, and was part of the Los Angeles Times' Pulitzer Prize-winning team that covered the L.A. City Hall tape leak scandal. He will talk about his 25 years covering Orange County politics.

Snacks and conversation begin at 6:30 p.m., general meeting starts at 7 p.m. Visit the club website calendar, Mobilize.us or the club Facebook link to access the Mobilize link to RSVP. RSVP is required to attend.

The meetings will be held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1221 Wass St., Tustin. Central OC Dems is not affiliated with St. Paul's. New members are welcome.

Questions can be sent to CentralOCDems@gmail.com or visit CentralOCDems.com.

Rotary gears up for 29th car show lic. In addition to the spectacular

car displays, attendees can browse

through the many vendor booths

offering a variety of goods and

services, and purchase raffle tick-

ets to win a 55-inch TV, gift cards

This year's car show prom-

ises to be bigger and better than

ever, with a diverse range of clas-

sic cars on display, from vintage

The Orange Plaza Rotary Club announces its 29th Annual Car Show, set to take place on Sunday, April 13 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Old Towne Orange.

The event will showcase over 400 classic cars, offering a visual feast for automotive enthusiasts of all ages.

The car show, a community tradition, is free to the general pub-

OPA Town Hall meeting slated

The Orange Park Association will host a town hall for residents, May 14 at 7 p.m. Topics will include fire safety and evacuation, the 4th of July Parade and community updates. The Town Hall will take place at Salem Church, 6500 E. Santiago Canyon Road.

and more.

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roadsters to powerful muscle cars. The Orange Plaza Rotary Club invites everyone to join in a day of fun, community spirit, and appreciation for automotive history.

All proceeds will support the Rotary Club's local community service projects .For more information, please visit orangeplazarotary.org or email info@orangeplazarotary.org

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Easter Services

8:30am | TRADITIONAL 9:00am | CONTEMPORARY 10:30am | CONTEMPORARY

Egg Hunt: Following the 10:30am Service!





Tustin Lions Club presents Music Fest '25



Revelers dance it up at last year's music festival.

By Guy Ball

Tustin will be rocking on April 27 -- and you're invited. The Tustin Host Lions Club is holding Lions Music Fest '25 at the Rock & Brews Restaurant from 2 to 6 p.m. with live music and a buffet meal.

"This will be our fourth annual music festival to benefit some very worthy nonprofits," noted Sue Payne, co-chair for the event. "We've raised about \$20,000 over the last three years with this concert. One hundred percent of all net proceeds go to charities."

This year, the charities include Beyond Blindness (formerly Blind Children's learning Center); Life Rolls On, which helps the physically disabled with water activities and sports; and Hope Harbor group homes, which helps teens through tough times.

"It's an enjoyable way for friends and families to donate to good causes and have a fun time doing it," added Payne.

The live concert includes three

musical groups: Ryan Siegel, Matt Koerner, and the Shenanigans. Music starts at 2:30 p.m. The buffet runs from 3 to 5 p.m.

Tickets include the three bands and buffet for \$75 per person. For tickets, visit tustinlions.org/ events. Space is limited, and previous festivals have sold out, so the club recommends buying tickets early.

Sponsorships are available until April 13, which will include recognition on the menu, website, and banners. For sponsorships or more information, call (657) 229-0246.

The Tustin Host Lions Club performs many projects helping the local community, including a vision screening and glasses give-away event, a food drive for the OC Rescue Mission (last year collecting 4,000 pounds of food), military Christmas bags for Marines at Camp Pendleton, volunteering for city events, and other charitable gifts to Tustin area nonprofits.



Orange Library to host financial

workshop for seniors

Peter Kote, left, with guest presenter Patrick Chu, covers the series' first topic, "Overview & Tax Changes."

Financial & Estate Literacy [FEL] announces its 2025 spring financial workshop series for older adults, which will kick off at the Orange Public Library, April 8 at 10 a.m.

The six-week workshop, "It's Your Money," is free to participants and will cover tax planning, financial planning, medical care planning, investments and equity and fixed income investing. FEL's second track, "It's Your Estate," features estate law changes, health care and power of attorney, wills and trusts, retirement asset planning, charitable giving and estate administration.

Guest speakers present a different topic each week, and are

vetted volunteer industry experts with a fiduciary duty to act in the best interest of participants. FEL founder Peter Kote has regularly moderated the sessions at Orange Public Library. "There will be no salespeople — it's a safe environment that your mother can attend," he says. "Our goal is to educate the community. It has been gratifying to help people in an area that can truly serve them-their money and investments." The organization does not collect contact information from attendees.

The Orange Public Library is located at 407 E. Chapman. See itsyourmoneyandestate.org for more information.

Orange Blossoms cook up delicious Taste of Orange

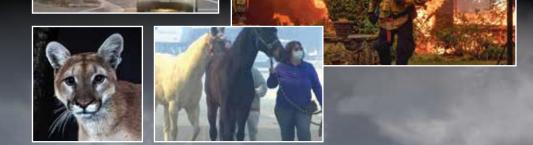
Foodies, get ready! Orange Blossoms Auxiliary of Assistance League of Orange is prepping for its much-anticipated annual Taste of Orange event, to be held Sunday, May 4. Over 40 local eateries and breweries are committed to provide unlimited tastings of their specialties, plus beer, coffees, drinks and wine samplings. The Kelly Boyz Band will add their musical energy to the outdoor venue.

Nosh on local favorites, and find new favorites, from Wise Guvs Pizzeria, Smoqued California BBQ, Cortina's, Bab G's, Café Zocalo, O SEA, Zito's Pizza, Rekindle, Nothing Bundt Cakes, Polly's Pies, District Lounge, Tacita Coffee -- and more! -- for a ticket price of \$45 per person. Wristbands for alcohol are \$20, allowing pours from Green Cheek Beer Co., LAVA Craft Cocktails, 1886 Brewing, Broken Timbers Brewing Co., Barrel and Steve, Brewery X, Seis Soles Wine and others.

The event will take place outdoors in Old Towne Orange, at 124 S. Orange St., from 3 to 7 p.m. New this year: a VIP experience for \$75 per person. Tickets and info available at Assistance-League.org/orange/ under the Orange Blossoms and Taste of Orange tabs, or via the Taste of Orange Instagram.



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Fran Williams 1943-2025



Longtime Silverado resident and community leader Fran Williams passed away on Feb. 15 at Chapman Global Medical Center in Orange, at the age of 81. The cause of death was congestive heart failure.

For decades, Fran led the Friends of the Library, which raised funds to buy books and other items for the Silverado Library. She served for years as treasurer of the Inter-Canyon League (ICL). Her duties expanded tremendously when the ICL received a \$1 million donation after the 2007 Santiago Fire, and Fran oversaw distributing the funds to local residents who had lost their possessions and homes. At Silverado's popular summer concerts, Fran, for years, managed the cash box. Other evenings you'd find Fran and Judy Myers patrolling the roads on Canyon Watch.

Fran loved decorating for parties, and when the Senior Lunch Bunch started, she happily lugged out boxes of colorful decorations to brighten the mood.

Raised on the East Coast. Fran graduated from the University of New Hampshire with a degree in social work. Always with a heart for the underdog, Fran moved to New York City where she worked in the poorest neighborhoods. After a few years, Fran and her friend Donna took a road trip on Route 66. Their car broke down in Orange, where Fran's older brother, Bill, had a workshop. Bill and his friend, Jules, fixed the car. But the real story of that adventure was Fran and Jules---it was love at first sight.

Fran and Donna returned to New York, and two weeks later, Jules was at the front door to take Fran back to California. They moved to Silverado, bought a lot and started building a dramatic pole house. Unfortunately, Jules passed away from cancer soon after it was finished. Fran stayed in the canyon and became the driving force behind many community efforts.

Fran is survived by her older brother, Bill, and her two cats.

Orange Elks cook at the Stand Down



By Bill Neesen

What is a Stand Down? The definition provided by the Veterans Village of San Diego: "In times of war, exhausted combat units requiring time to rest and recover were removed from the battlefields to a place of relative security and safety."

Today, Stand Down refers to a community-based intervention program designed to help the nation's homeless veterans 'combat' life on the streets.

Elks Lodges from the Orange Coast District, including Orange Elks #1475, held a Stand Down at the Garden Grove Elks Lodge to assist veterans. Many services were available: medical, dental and vision exams, mental health and substance abuse counseling, legal assistance, veterans and Social Security benefits, showers, haircuts, clothing and hygiene kits, education aid, housing and employment services, children's services, chiropractic, acupuncture, massage therapy and podiatry services.

The Orange Elks Lodge's Taco Crew provided asada and chicken tacos, rice and beans, with all the fixings, serving approximately 250-300 vets and their families.

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VPWL supports VPHS

LIKE THE FOOTHILLS SENTRY?

Villa Park Women's League is proud to support the community by helping with the Annual Pancake Breakfast at Villa Park High School, to be held April 12.

The Petal Pushers gardening activity members will create beautiful floral center pieces for the event, as well as donating items for the silent auction. Many

dedicated VPWL members will also be volunteering to ensure this fundraising event is a success - because giving back is at the heart of who they are.

Join on Saturday, April 12, from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Villa Park High School. All proceeds will support the school's academic, athletic and cultural programs.

March N Spartans to host 21st Annual Car Show



The award-winning March N Spartans, the field and parade portion of the Villa Park High School Instrumental Music Program, will host their 21st Annual Car & Bike Show on Saturday, May 10.

Classic and custom cars, exotics, hot rods, bikes and boats are invited to exhibit. Check-in and registration will begin at 6 a.m.; judging for awards in five categories will commence at 11 a.m., with trophy presentations at noon.

Gates open at 8 a.m. for spectators; admission is free. Live music, vendors and food will add to the fun.

Eat pancakes to support VPHS football and school

The community is invited to enjoy a breakfast of fluffy pancakes and more at the Villa Park High School Annual Pancake Breakfast, to be held from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 12 at the school campus breezeway, 18042 Taft Ave. In addition, the VP Football Boosters will be selling spirit wear and auctioning off a VP Football Spirit Wear gift basket. Additional items will be available from other school groups.

Tickets, at \$10 each, are available at the VPHS front office, at



website and through the PFSO link, vphspfso.weebly.com/pancake-breakfast.

other booster club or the PFSO, when purchasing, so that 50% of the purchase price will be returned

The Orange County Historical Society presents Historian and

topic of next meeting

Huntington Beach City Archivist Kathie Schey, who will share stories of the Huntington Beach residents of who served in World War I at its next monthly meeting.

The meeting will be held on Thursday, April 10, starting at 7:30 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church, 2400 N. Canal St., Orange. Attendance is free for OCHS members or a \$5 donation for non-members.

More than one hundred local men joined the service after the U.S. entered WWI in April 1917 - a staggering number for a tiny

members of the occupying force in Germany.

Some of the stories that Schey will be sharing include: three boyhood friends who met serendipitously in a French battlefield, then separated, their fates unknown to each other and to their frantic families at home; another soldier who had written to his father to watch for him in a newsreel; one infantryman who disembarked at the very port his father immigrated from decades earlier; and the first African American graduate of Huntington Beach High School proudly assigned to one of only two Black units allowed to bear arms at that time.

For more information about



Soldiers of the Great War is the

By Guy Ball



the door, through the VP Football Designate VP Football, or an-

to the designated organization.

liferated on city streets, sidewalks and trails, it has become clear to lawmakers and law enforcement that existing city and county codes regarding non-powered bicycles are ineffective.

Last year, he Orange County Grand Jury issued a report on e-bikes that included a series of findings and recommendations for municipalities.

As a result, Orange has modified its bicycle ordinance to clarify regulations, safe operation, designated routes, and enforcement.

The ordinance now includes definitions for e-bikes (class 1, 2 and 3) and includes them in the language that once pertained to bicvcles only. Class 1 e-bikes are pedal assist up to 20 mph; Class 2 are throttle powered up to 20 mph; and Class 3 are pedal assist up to 28 mph, with a speedometer required.

As the use of e-bikes has pro- E-bikes, like pedal powered bikes, are not allowed on sidewalks without due caution for pedestrians; they must yield to pedestrians or vehicles as specified in the California Vehicle Code, obey traffic signs and signals, may not carry passengers unless the bike is designed for multiple riders. Riders under age 18 must wear a helmet; no rider may lift one or more wheels in the air while moving, or exceed 20 miles

per hour on a bicycle path, lane or sidewalk.

Riding on sidewalks is prohibited in business districts. Where it is permitted, riders must provide an audible signal before passing pedestrians, operate at a maximum speed of 10 mph and slow to 5 mph when pedestrians are present.

The Orange Police Department will provide semi-annual e-bike training via its citizens academy program.

city less than a decade old. They served on land, on sea, and in the air. Most went to France, while others were sent to China or were

Spring Flower Show blossoms this month

The Woman's Club of Orange invites the public to its 86th Annual Spring Flower Show, Saturday, April 26, from noon to 4 p.m.

The show is open to all amateur gardeners who may enter roses, potted plants, flowers or flower arrangements at no cost. The show will be professionally judged, with roses judged by the rules of the American Rose Society. First, second and third place awards will be given in each classification, with special awards for Best Rose, Best Theme Arrangement, Best in Show, Junior

the Orange County Historical Society, local history, and future meetings, visit OrangeCountyHistory.org.

Best in Show, President's Choice and Judge's Choice.

Entry forms will be completed when delivering entries to the Orange Woman's Club. More information may be found at womanscluboforange.org, or by calling (714) 836-5919.

The show will be held at the Woman's Club, 121 S. Center Street. Visitors may browse the plants and floral arrangements, shop in vendors' booths and enjoy a light lunch at the Garden Café. Opportunity drawings will be held every hour. Admission is free.

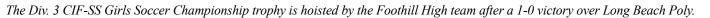
Wayne Spring

Flags over Orange was created by the Orange Elks Lodge #1475 to provide an American flag for a military, police, fire, veteran, seniors or disabled person who would like to fly one, but could use a helping hand mounting it. The Orange Elks will install a flag kit that consists of a flag. pole and a solar light to keep the flag properly displayed and illuminated overnight.

The Orange Elks Flags Over Orange committee visited U.S. Coast Guard veteran Wayne Spring, an Orange resident since 1975. Spring recently celebrated his 93rd birthday.









Foothill head coach Steve Patterson, left, accepts the CIF-SS Div. 3 Soccer Championship trophy with Asst. Athletic Director Vince Namba looking on.



Addison Moon, on the right, teams up with Foothill goalkeeper Jenna Sanchez, on the ground, to deny the Portola a shot.





Arllene Vite from Foothill High School finds the back of the net against Portola. Foothill won the semifinal in overtime, 4-3.





Foothill goalkeeper Jenna Sanchez clears it out; she accounted for five saves.

Jerry Herrera, 7, from Villa Park High School draws the foul. Andre Resendiz shot the penalty kick.

Kaitlin Fortes advances the ball up field in the semifinal game against Portola.



Chelsea Riedel, left, and Jayden Sessom from Santiago Canyon College teamed up against Riverside City College in beach volleyball.



Ashlyn Smith from Santiago Canyon College dives for the ball during a match at the Great Park.



The team of Ashlyn Smith, left, and Ava Cline from Santiago Canyon College was too hot to handle. The duo went undefeated.

Santiago Canyon springs into beach volleyball

its inaugural women's beach volleyball season at the Great Park, vying against Cypress and Riverside College.

The team is led by sophomores Ashlyn Smith and Ava Cline. Former Canyon High School athletes Sophie Ziglinski, Megan Morton

Santiago Canyon launched into and Kayleigh Guyot round out the roster. Other local athletes are Chelsa Riedel from Portola, and Liean Navarro from Esperanza High.

Ashlyn Smith teamed up with Ava Cline to go undefeated and top Cypress's top team 21-8, 22-20, and 15-9.



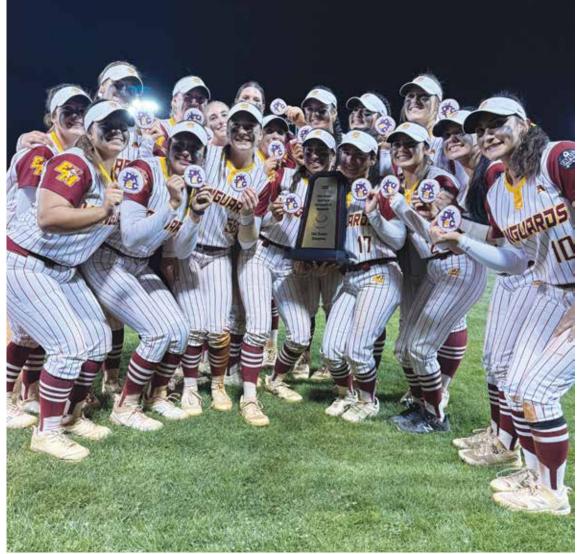


Canyon's Sam Andraso, 11, stops a shot on goal directly in front of the goal.

Cash Margolis from Canyon High School flies up to attack the ball in the Edison playoff game.

Foothills Sentry





The El Modena High softball team won the Dave Kops Tournament of Champions, beating Norco, 5-4. This was the first time the Vanguards captured the tournament championship, finishing 5-0.



Malakhi Johnson from Villa Park High School shoots an off-balance layup against St. Bonaventure.



Tristan Griffin, left, from Villa Park High School battles the boards in the CIF playoff game against St. Bonaventure.





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