

FOOTHILLS SENTRY

The Best News In Town Since 1969

East Orange • Old Towne Orange • Orange Park Acres • Villa Park • Silverado/Modjeska Canyons • North Tustin

A Monthly Community Newspaper

JUNE 2025



Photos by David Hillman

The City of Orange's Santiago Creek Commission has been meeting quarterly to develop a strategic plan to guide the waterway's future. The commission is currently exploring the existing state of the publicly owned portions of the creek and identifying options for its use as a recreational amenity for the public. Still early in the process, the recurring themes are planting trees and native vegetation, connecting and landscaping bike paths and walkways, and eventually creating a linear park.

North Tustin ZIP code gets another chance

U.S. Representative Young Kim (CA-40) has signed on to a bill, HR3095, that would give North Tustin a dedicated ZIP code. The bill must pass the House and then the Senate to be enacted.

Kim joined with 26 other representatives to co-sponsor the bill that would give 74 communities nationwide their own ZIP code. North Tustin is one of six California communities that would benefit from the legislation.

"North Tustin has long been a pillar of Orange County, but its status as an unincorporated area causes confusion for taxes and USPS," Kim said. "A unique ZIP code would provide certainty for residents who have called North Tustin home for decades. I will keep working to get this across the finish line for North Tustin residents."

Community identity

"I am pleased to see this ZIP code change moving ahead and thank Congresswoman Kim for working with my office to prioritize this issue facing our shared constituency," said Orange County Third District Supervisor Don Wagner. "For far too long, our constituents in North Tustin have been subjected to excess local taxes solely because of their ZIP code. They never voted for the taxes, raising a constitutional concern of taxation without representation."

"The residents of North Tustin are grateful to Congresswoman Young Kim for co-sponsoring a bill that will create a unique ZIP code for North Tustin," said Richard Nelson, president of the Foothill Communities Association. "Until 1996, North Tustin had a unique ZIP code. Expanding the area of the ZIP code into neighboring communities created many problems and confusion. We applaud our congresswoman for supporting our community."

Orange Unified hires new superintendent

By Tina Richards

The Orange Unified Board of Trustees approved a three-year contract with Rachel Monárrez to serve as the district's superintendent at the May 7 board meeting.

Her name was selected from a field of qualified candidates generated by a search firm. Of 24 applicants, the board narrowed the field to five for interviews.

"It was unanimous," Board President Kris Erickson said of Monárrez's selection. "All of the candidates we interviewed were excellent, but she rose to the top of the list of each board member."

Monárrez comes to OUSD from the Worcester Public Schools in Massachusetts, where, as superintendent, she was credited with increased academic performance, organizational effectiveness and community outreach. She was named a "Superintendent to Watch" by the National School Public Relations Association based on her dedication to communication and family engagement.

Before Worcester, Monárrez was deputy superintendent in the San Bernardino City Unified

School District. With 31 years' experience in public education, she previously served as assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction, senior director of an English learner program, principal and teacher.

Bilingual in English and Spanish, Monárrez holds a Ph.D. in urban education and a master's degree in education from Claremont Graduate University. She also has a bachelor's degree in history from the University of California, Irvine.

Before voting to approve the contract, board members explained the hiring and selection process to constituents attending the board meeting.

"This is the first superintendent the district has hired from outside since 2008," Erickson said. "It was a collaborative and constructive process built on the voices of staff, community members, surveys and listening sessions."

"You told us you wanted someone with experience in California education, committed to building trust and listening, who appreciates diversity, and has an unwavering commitment to all OUSD students. Dr. Monárrez stood out.

She is laser focused on student achievement, has whole school experience. Her entire body of work emphasizes continued learning and transparent communication."

Sara Pelly, a former educator and elementary school principal, reported that she was looking for a candidate with a wide range of experience, starting with the younger grades. "Monárrez worked all the way up," Pelly noted, "including English learners. She increased the literacy rate in her Massachusetts district and looked at different funding

See "Orange Unified" continued on page 5



Rachel Monárrez

Sellers of safe and sane fireworks in Orange chosen by lottery

A lottery to select nonprofits eligible to sell safe and sane fireworks in Orange was conducted at the May 13 City Council meeting.

When voters approved the sale of fireworks within city limits last November, the city council agreed to issue 12 permits to qualified organizations wishing to sell them.

A qualified organization is defined as any nonprofit recognized by state or federal law, a group that is an integral part of an established charity or any educational facility located within the City of Orange.

When passing the ordinance allowing fireworks sales, the council set aside four of the 12 permits for the city's high schools: El Modena, Orange, Orange Lu-

theran and Richland. It is up to the school to determine which organization within its purview will have the opportunity to sell fireworks. Richland High School declined the permit, which left nine slots to be filled via the lottery.

The city received 32 applications; of those, 26 were deemed qualified.

Lottery winners were chosen by a random drawing, with the mayor and each council member in attendance pulling one name at a time from the vessel containing uniform slips of paper bearing the name and number of the applicant.

Those selected are: The Hub OC, Journey to Hope Ministries, Carter-Drenner-Kalms Foundation, Inc., St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School, Spirit and

Truth Worship Center, Salem Lutheran Church and School, Orange Plaza Rotary, North Sunrise Little League and Fletcher Elementary PTSA.

Those groups must now obtain the needed city permit to conduct the fireworks sale. Six additional names were drawn as a backup, in case any in the first group drop out. Those on the alternate list include, in order: Hub for Integration, Reentry & Employment, Olive Pony Baseball, American Legion Post 132, House of Mercy, Scepter Chapter #132 Order of the Eastern Star and the Orange International Street Fair.

Sales will commence on July 1. Sales on July 1, 2 and 3 will be legal from noon to 10 p.m. Sales on July 4 will commence at 10 a.m. and end at 9 p.m.

NEWS INSIDE

WHERE THERE'S FIRE

California Fire Marshal releases updates to fire hazard maps delineating responsibilities for vulnerable communities.

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LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

Corporation with local roots and national reach will erect new headquarters in City of Orange.

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DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS

Local organizations reward high achieving seniors with scholarships for college.

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BUILDING BLOCKS

City of Tustin enters final planning stages for transformation of former Marine base.

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SURFIN' SENEGAL

Canyon man travels across the globe to ride the waves on his 80th birthday.

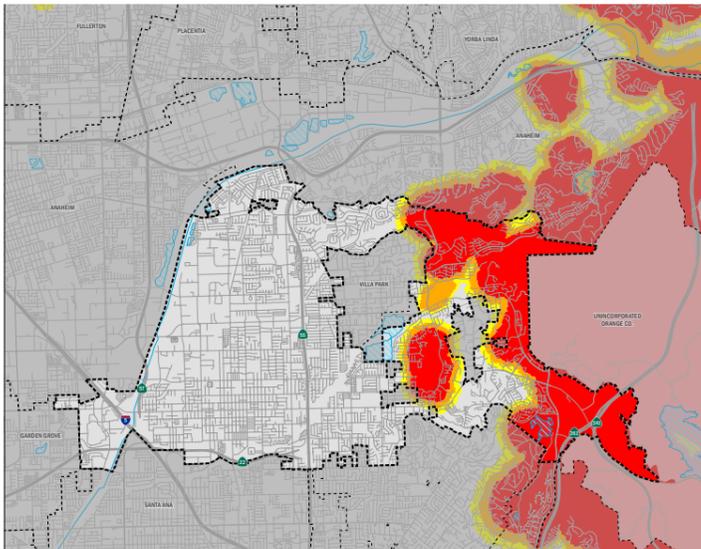
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State's Fire Hazard Zone map prompts changes to City of Orange fireworks boundaries



Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ) in Local Responsibility Area (LRA), as Identified by the State Fire Marshal

Very High High Moderate

Fire Hazard Severity Zones in State Responsibility Area (SRA), Effective April 1, 2024

Very High High

A Fire Hazard Severity Zone map, issued by the State Fire Marshal, that outlines areas of local responsibility was adopted by the Orange City Council, May 13.

By mandate of AB211, local governments are required to adopt the maps without decreasing the defined level of hazard. The Orange map was made available for public review at the end of March. No recommendations for expansion, the only alteration the city could suggest, were received. The city fire department recommended the council approve the map without any changes.

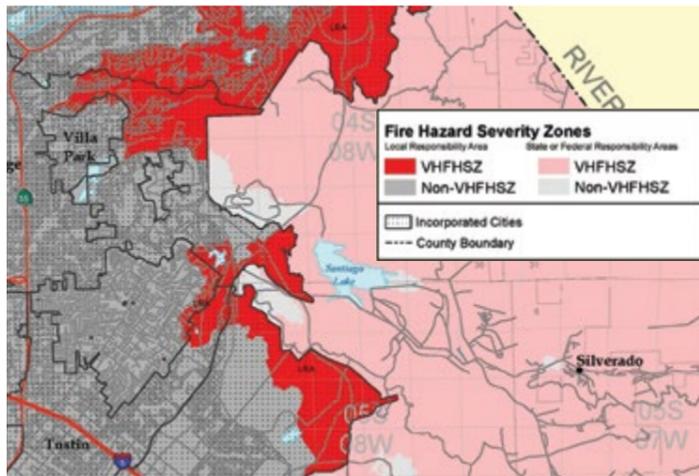
The state's Fire Hazard Severity Zone map, however, includes areas of the city wherein the council had previously approved the use of safe and sane fireworks. To ensure the exclusion zone for fireworks conformed with the state map, the council amended the ordinance to broaden the portions of the city where fireworks are prohibited.

The amendment makes the sale, ignition, discharge or use of safe and sane fireworks "in any area located east of Hewes Street within the City's jurisdictional boundaries, any area west of Cannon Street, north of Santiago Canyon Road, south of Taft Avenue within the City's jurisdictional boundaries, any area located east of Cannon Street north of Santiago Canyon Road within the City's jurisdictional boundaries, and any area east of Meats Avenue north of the City of Orange-Villa Park city limit boundary within the City's jurisdictional boundaries."

Concert in the (Villa) Park

The Kings of 88 will kick off the summer, performing Sat., June 30 at Cerro Villa Middle School. Their fun and danceable music features the Legends of Piano Rock – Little Richard, Jerry Lee Lew, Billy Joel, Elton John, and more!

This free community event is hosted by the Villa Park Community Services Foundation; for information about the organization, see VPCSFoundation.org.



Villa Park, North Tustin and the canyons are served by the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA). This map from the State Fire Marshal shows which high fire hazard zones are the responsibility of OCFA, and which are Cal Fire. All fire agencies help each other out when needed.

OPA Dreamin' at 4th of July Parade

The 58th annual 4th of July Parade is themed "OPA Dreamin'," bringing together horses and equestrians, woodies and surfboards.

Staging for the parade begins at 9 a.m. on Orange Park Boulevard adjacent to Salem Lutheran Church.

The parade begins at 10 a.m. Grand Marshal for this year's

event is Salem Pastor Roger Frick.

Registration for the parade, online at orangeparkacres.org, opens June 1. Scheduling, a road closure map and additional information is also available on the website.

The OPA 5k run precedes the parade, starting at 7:45 a.m.

OPA is a no fireworks zone.

SCC to celebrate commencement during 25th anniversary year

Santiago Canyon College (SCC) will celebrate its annual commencement ceremony at 6 p.m. on Thursday, June 5, at Fred Kelly Stadium. This milestone event marks a special moment in the college's history, recognizing student achievement during SCC's 25th Anniversary Year.

Nearly 1,300 students have been invited to participate in the 2025 commencement ceremony, with SCC anticipating the conferral of more than 3,500 degrees, certificates and awards. More than 400 graduates are expected to cross the stage, supported by an estimated 3,500 family members and friends. Each graduate may invite up to eight guests, with seating available on a first-come, first-served basis. Guest tickets are required for entry.

For more information about Santiago Canyon College's commencement ceremony, email commencement@scccollege.edu or see scccollege.edu/commencement.

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Vets make music at American Legion Post #132



The inaugural class of Guitars for Vets celebrates graduation day.

American Legion Post #132 in Orange celebrated the graduation of its first class of veterans from the Guitars for Vets program, marking a milestone in music therapy and community engagement for local military heroes.

“Music has the power to heal, and that’s exactly what this program is about,” said course instructor Art Rothafel. “It’s inspiring to see these veterans pick up a guitar and use music as a path to wellness, self-expression and camaraderie.”

The Guitars for Vets initiative, a national nonprofit, partners with local organizations like American Legion Post #132 to provide free guitar lessons and instruments to veterans coping with PTSD and other service-related challenges. The success of this inaugural class signals strong interest in expanding the program throughout Orange County.

The graduation ceremony recognized the dedication and musical accomplishments of participating veterans who completed the 10-week guitar instruction program. Each graduate was presented with a brand-new acoustic guitar and accessory kit — theirs to keep — along with heartfelt applause from fellow vets and program coordinators.

“This is just the beginning,” said Rothafel. “Our current class is full, but we welcome sign-ups for our September program. For more information about future sessions or how to enroll in the program, please contact Art Rothafel at art.rothafel@guitarsforvets.org or visit https://g4v101.com.

Supporters, donors and volunteers are encouraged to get involved and help bring the power of music to more veterans in the community.

TAWC names Young Women of the Month



Sara Farnoush



Krissy Lee

The Tustin Area Woman’s Club announced its final Young Women of the Month for the 2024-25 school year. They are Sara Farnoush from Foothill High School and Krissy Lee from Tustin High.

Sara Farnoush is an International Baccalaureate candidate and has been on the Mock Trial team for four years. She serves as president of the California Scholarship Federation and vice president of the National Honor Society at FHS. She has been a dedicated member of Foothill’s Advanced Theater Arts program, performing in three productions each year for the last two years. Farnoush is a varsity athlete on the track and field team, competing in shot put and discus.

She is a proud Girl Scout and the co-CEO of Oui Tutor, a non-

profit free tutoring service for underserved elementary students. She will be attending UC Berkeley in the fall and plans to study business, with a minor in global studies.

Krissy Lee is involved in Tustin High’s Vietnamese Student Association, the French Club, Comic Club, and was the secretary of the Chess Club and treasurer of the Graphic Design Club. She participated in an internship with Irvine Moms, focusing on the marketing field. She tutors students in English and mentors them with classwork and homework. Lee plans to attend UC San Diego in the fall, majoring in biology and will pursue a career in healthcare.

Also named for May are Mili Shah of Beckman High; Janelle Huerta and Kiera Anya Seth of Legacy Magnet.

National Charity League celebrates seniors



The National Charity League, Inc. Orange/Villa Park Chapter celebrated its Class of 2025 Ticktockers at the annual Senior Recognition event, held at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum. Senior Recognition is a meaningful tradition across NCL chapters, honoring graduating seniors for their six years of service, leadership and growth. Each of these young people has dedicated countless hours to local philanthropies, developed leadership skills, and strengthened bonds with their mothers and fellow Ticktockers. Top row, from left, Kennedy DeMarco, Taylor Robinson, Nickolette Morrell, Chloe Samson, Fallon Boyle, Amber Larsen, Ava Candelaria, Isabella Puccio, Joslyn Winn. Front row, from left, Ava Kellman, Trudy Schmidt, Hailey Rodriguez, Olivia Trevizo, Abygail Durdella, Sophia Griego, May Reyes, Claire Elliott.

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“The Wall That Heals” brings Vietnam memorial tribute to Orange



By Chris Locke

A powerful symbol of remembrance and healing is coming to Orange. From October 2–5, The Wall That Heals Orange-2025, a three-quarter-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., will be installed at Grijalva Park. The exhibit honors the 58,281 men and women who died in the Vietnam War, including 23 servicemembers who once called Orange home. During the exhibit, they

will be honored—a solemn reminder of this history that remains in our city.

Open to the public 24 hours a day, the wall gives visitors the chance to reflect, remember, and learn. A mobile Education Center travels with the memorial, sharing the stories of those whose names are etched into the wall and educating younger generations about the war's enduring legacy.

For many, this visit represents more than a historical moment—it's deeply personal. Orange is the only city in Southern California to host The Wall That Heals (TWTH), and approximately 15,000 visitors will come from far and near to visit TWTH during the four-day event. Orange families who lost loved ones in Vietnam, including Gold Star families, will be honored in a dedicated ceremony. Their sacri-

fices remain etched in the community's conscience, and this event offers a chance to publicly acknowledge that loss with dignity and gratitude.

Additionally, there will be a special segment recognizing veterans affected by Agent Orange exposure. Many Vietnam veterans returned home carrying invisible wounds—physical and psychological—that persisted long after the war. This tribute aims to shine a light on their suffering and resilience, and to affirm that their struggles have not been forgotten.

The arrival of The Wall That Heals has been made possible thanks to the tireless efforts of local volunteers and the generosity of community sponsors. From coordinating logistics to staffing the site and assisting visitors, dozens of volunteers—many of them veterans—will ensure that each

person who visits feels welcomed and supported.

“Hosting The Wall That Heals in Orange is a community effort,” said Doug Redding, president of The Wall That Heals Orange – 2025. “Veterans, volunteers, city leaders and neighbors have all come together to bring The Wall home. Our focus is simple: to honor those who served and to create a space for healing and reflection.”

Sponsorships and donations from local businesses, service clubs and residents have made the event possible, reflecting Orange's long-standing commitment to honoring military service. Those wishing to contribute can visit our website: TheWallThatHealsOrange-2025.org, call (714) 497-0257, or email INFO@TheWallThatHealsOrange-2025.org.

Ceremonies and educational programs will run throughout the exhibit's stay, with a full schedule available online and onsite. For more information or to donate and volunteer, visit TheWallThatHealsOrange-2025.org. As Orange welcomes The Wall That Heals, it does so with reverence, reflection, and a solemn promise to remember the names, stories, and lives that shaped a generation.



LETTERS to the EDITOR



Actions speak louder

Dear Editor:

In the dead of the night, while America was asleep, Rep. Young Kim made a troubling decision—contrary to her promise to the American people that she would not take away their healthcare. This is a clear betrayal of trust.

Republicans in Congress voted to strip healthcare from millions of Californians in order to provide tax breaks to billionaires, prioritizing the wealthy over the health of our communities.

Rep. Young Kim had the opportunity to protect Medicaid

and the Affordable Care Act but chose not to. We must hold her accountable and make it clear that this is unacceptable. We are not merely numbers in a budget; we are real people deserving of quality healthcare.

Let your Congressman know how you feel about slashes in funding to our health care system. This is the time for us all to let our elected officials know that we will not sit by while White House starts hacking away at these entitlements. In the City of Orange that would be Representative Young Kim (young.kim@mail.house.gov).

Mark Moore
Orange

Editor's note: The House budget bill passed by a 215 to 214 vote in the wee hours of May 22. As the negotiations continued through the night, many last minute changes were made to the bill. It is unclear whether Kim read the bill she supported.

Shock and bah!

Dear Editor:

What is the matter with Orange Unified?

The board says that enrollment is declining, so they're looking at consolidating and selling off schools. Currently poised for the chopping block is La Veta Elementary – an Advisory Committee is meeting to explore selling part of the school property. What the heck??

How do you rip part of a children's school away from them? I thought California was so focused on kids' physical and mental health? Where are they supposed to exercise and relax with almost the entire playing field taken away?

We've been here before – it's nothing new if Orange Unified reacts rashly when school enrollment is declining. So what happens when older residents move out of neighborhoods, and young families move in? All of a sudden, we have a school shortage – not enough space for kids to learn. And with Newsom's outrageous demands for California cities to increase housing density, those days of increasing enrollment are surely coming fast.

Then there's the impact on the

neighborhood if this sale moves forward. Who is the likely buyer? Surely a developer -- and surely a developer who will want to help the city comply with our governor's outrageous demands to squeeze apartments into every available square inch. High density apartments in this single-family-dwelling neighborhood will stress our already overtaxed power grid, impact the sewer system, dramatically increase traffic, and along with it, noise and air pollution.

Pull it together, Orange Unified. Spend your creative energy on something that can make a positive difference – like improving academic and recreational programs for the students you already have, and the students you want to attract to your schools.

Elisabeth Beall
Orange

Dear Editor:

What a shock to find out that Orange Unified is considering selling part or all of our neighborhood's La Veta Elementary School. Not at all shocking was the dismal way the district “informed” the community about the advisory committee considering this sale – or the meetings they had scheduled in the district's transportation yard, of all places, to discuss it.

The district apparently wants to sell off part of the school property because of declining enrollment. I fail to see how the sale of most of the playing field addresses the decline in student population.

How about focusing on being a trusted resource for the community, instead of threatening to remove resources from students and their families?

Orange Unified may have an enrollment problem. But the answer isn't taking more away from students – particularly students from a minority community, who are receiving free or discounted lunches. If Orange Unified thinks it can pull the playing field out from under these students, they should know that they will have a fight on their hands.

Eleanor Bullock
Orange

Good to know

Dear Editor:

Thank you for including the guest commentary of Orange

Unified School Board President Kris Erickson in last month's issue. As soon-to-be OUSD parents, we are pleased to see the school district our child will be attending for the next 13 years taking a long-term approach to planning the best education for our child and use of our tax dollars. With financial uncertainties ahead, we're assured by the proactive nature of Erickson's comments. Many of the problems we see locally in cities and school districts have a root cause in simply pretending the problems aren't there, refusing to make adjustments, and then having an emergency when the problem has been left to fester for far too long.

We are pleased with these attempts to keep community members like ourselves informed, and look forward to being part of the conversation as OUSD takes on the issues of today.

David Dufault
Dr. Lisa Leitz
Orange

Trust busted

Dear Editor:

Congratulations to the *Foothills Sentry* for its exemplary reporting last month regarding the millions of dollars intended for Rancho Santiago CCD that have been hidden from the public and elected officials for decades. (“RSCCD Finds Funds Hidden by Insurance Cooperative”). A scathing forensic audit, paid for by taxpayers, outlined education code violations, conflicts of interest, inaccurate accounting, failure to report to the auditors, improper use of the funds - all of which created “the impairment of public confidence.” One would think this would be enough for the board to take the appropriate action against those culpable for this embarrassment. Instead, Board President Daisy Tong wants \$50,000 to pay another firm to review the forensic audit and evaluate its findings! If anyone wonders why there will never be a bond passed for the college district, this debacle is why.

Barry Resnick
Orange

Land a better legacy

Following is an open letter to Donald Bren, Chairman of the Irvine Company:

Dear Mr. Bren:

As I once met you many years

ago, I hope this letter makes its way to your desk. A pleasurable encounter, I was impressed, especially learning how you've kept so much land open for us to enjoy.

Rapidly disappearing wilderness, whether locally or globally, is of tremendous concern. I was quite surprised and taken aback to learn of the Orange Heights project. Certainly, you've obtained substantial wealth to last your family many times over, enough for generations to come. Please leave a legacy of one who kept lands open for people to hike and wildlife to thrive.

Below is a quote from a letter I had sent about an experience at Irvine Regional Park.

Many of us visit parks to escape the noise and pandemonium of urban living. We want to immerse our minds, truly our souls, into the wonderfully healing properties nature provides. We enjoy watching and listening to the multiple bird species that visit this jewel of an oasis.

Stephen Tyler
Orange

SCC makes Esports official

Santiago Canyon College (SCC) welcomed more than 400 students, faculty, staff and community members to its inaugural Neon Night, held May 8.

The highlight was SCC President Jeannie G. Kim, Ph.D. announcement that Esports will become an official college sport at SCC in Fall 2025. The Esports program, led by Head Coach Roshan Uma, will join SCC's nine intercollegiate athletic programs and compete year-round.

Neon Nights featured an Esports showcase, where student teams competed on a 40-foot stage enhanced by a 20-foot LED video wall. The event also included a Prompt-a-Thon, an artificial intelligence tournament where students applied AI tools to tackle real-world challenges in the medical field, and Resource Alley, where attendees could connect with staff and explore hands-on exhibits from college programs and industry partners across technology, gaming and healthcare fields. Neon Night reflects SCC's mission to foster academic innovation, community connection, and student opportunity.

To learn more about SCC, see scccollege.edu.

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Ground broken for MSI headquarters in Orange



Photos by Tony Richards

Wielding shovels are, from left, Orange Councilman Denis Bilodeau, Orange Councilwoman Kathy Tavoularis, Mayor Dan Slater, MSI owners Raj, Sona, Rika and Manu and Rup Shah and Planning Commissioner Rick Martinez.



Artist's rendering of the MSI headquarters



Rika and Manu Shah accept an acknowledgement from Mayor Dan Slater.

Officials from the City of Orange, Supervisor Don Wagner's office and the offices of Representative Lou Correa, State Assemblyman Avelino Valencia and State Senator Steven Choi joined the owners of MS International to break ground for the company's new headquarters in Orange.

"We are proud to have you in the city," Mayor Dan Slater said. "You are a true American success story and we are happy to help the company grow and expand in the City of Orange."

"This is really the story of America," MSI owner Manu Shah noted. "It's the story of an immigrant coming to America and achieving success."

Shah and his wife Rika started the company 50 years ago, providing quality stone for residential and commercial use. Today, MSI is a leading supplier of flooring, countertop, wall tile, and hardscaping products in North America. It boasts 3,000 employees in 57 locations.

The Shahs moved the company to Orange in 2003, and the family has lived in the city for 29 years. Sons Raj and Rup Shah grew up in the business and have taken over its day-to-day operations.

"This is not just a building," Raj Shah said of the new headquarters, "it reflects who we are, and we chose Orange because the city shares our values."

Tustin Area Man and Woman of the Year nominees announced

By Mark Eliot

Nominees, three men and three women, have been announced for the 2024 Tustin Area Man and Woman of the Year (TAMWY) by local nonprofit groups.

The 2024 nominees for Man of the Year are: Johnny Johnson, American Legion Tustin Post 227; Brady Michel, Tustin Host Lions Club; and Ed Reynolds, Tustin Community Foundation.

The nominees for Woman of the Year are: Tammis Berkheimer, Tustin Community Foundation; Nettie Hershman, Tustin Area Woman's Club; and Sona Shah, My Private Professor.

The TAMWY program has been held for more than 60 years. Tustin area individuals are recognized for their dedicated work, leadership and outstanding volunteerism in the community. Nominations for the awards come from local nonprofit organizations or previous winners (TAMWY Committee "life members").

The annual Tustin Area Man and Woman of the Year Awards Dinner will be held on Friday, June 6, at 6 p.m. at the Santa Ana Elks Lodge, 1751 S. Elks Lane. The dinner is attended by city and county officials, previous TAMWY award winners and

community members.

TAMWY 2025 Awards Dinner tickets can be purchased at the Tustin Community Foundation website at TustinCommunity-Foundation.org.

Additionally, the TAMWY Committee will recognize an outstanding high school senior from the Tustin Unified School District. Student musicians from Beckman High School will perform at the event.

For more information, please contact 2022 TAWOY Sharon King at sharonking01@gmail.com, or 2022 TAMOY Kurt Bensworth at kbauthor2@gmail.com.

Tustin Area Woman's Club announces scholarship winners

Tustin Area Woman's Club (TAWC), an all-volunteer philanthropic community service organization, has announced its college scholarship winners for 2025.

For over 60 years, TAWC has given college scholarships to deserving Tustin Unified School District students. This year,

TAWC has awarded a \$1,000 collegiate scholarship to two graduating seniors from each of the five high schools in the district: Foothill, Tustin, Hillview, Beckman and Legacy Magnet Academy.

From Foothill High, Isabella Lugoj plans to attend UCLA to study biochemistry and molecular biology; Alexis Chew will attend

UC San Diego to study human biology.

From Tustin, Roselyn Gallegos is exploring Vanguard, Cal State Fullerton or Azusa Pacific to earn a degree in nursing; Ruby Nguyen looks forward to studying public health sciences at UC Irvine.

Other awardees include Mia Ayala and Julissa Rivera from Hillview; Madeleine Chang and Madison Heimann from Beckman; Rabina Kaur and Jaidyn Lin from Legacy Magnet.

REAL ESTATE
with David Silva

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APRIL 2025
Single Family

\$3.17M Avg. Sales Price + 20%	\$2.98M Avg. List Price + 4%	3 No. of Prop. Sold + 47%	23 Avg. Days on Market + 77%	\$716 Avg. Sales Price per Sqft. + 7%
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DAVID SILVA
M: 714-227-2622 | CARE #: 01327642

MARKET SNAPSHOT
TUSTIN, CA
APRIL 2025
Single Family

\$1.51M Avg. Sales Price + 2%	\$1.74M Avg. List Price + 1%	21 No. of Prop. Sold + 50%	34 Avg. Days on Market + 18%	\$742 Avg. Sales Price per Sqft. + 3%
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DAVID SILVA
M: 714-227-2622 | CARE #: 01327642

"Orange Unified" continued from page 1

for different schools to make sure everybody was getting what they need."

"This was a new process for all of us," Ana Page said. "We got some 2,000 survey results in multiple languages. We held focus groups in English and Spanish. Dr. Monárrez connects with families in English and Spanish. She is a transformational leader."

"Selecting a superintendent is the most important task the board takes on," Andrea Yamasaki advised. "We worked with the community to put together a collective vision for our schools. That collective vision included a passion for students, teachers and public education; someone familiar with the area who is bilingual. She has that experience, most of it in California. She has plans for community roundtables and visited every one of our schools before her interview."

While the majority of the audience at the meeting expressed support for the board's choice, there was one naysayer who expressed her discontent with the candidate during public comments.

Crystal Miles said she was concerned that the board didn't release the survey results and formally requested them. "And," she noted, "the board is missing an important point. Recall voters wanted someone to land in the middle. I believe you guys landed far to the left. You haven't given us any reason for hiring her, except she's bilingual."

Erickson suggested that "caring about kids is not a left or right issue, that public education should not be political."

Stephen Glass summarized the view of the board, noting, "how often can you say we hired the most qualified person and stand on that. There was no better individual to take on this position at this particular time."

Monárrez starts July 1.

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Oh, no, not another learning experience!

Further (Re)developments

Sil-Mod Recreation and Parks District (SMRPD) directors and local activists have lately gotten a crash course on the distribution of property tax revenues, which largely fund SMRPD, but were supplemented, until recently, by leftover monies from state redevelopment agencies, abolished in 2012. Their remaining assets were since then regularly redistributed, including in Orange County, to projects including our recreation and parks district.

Surprising to SMRPD, those anticipated funds in fact ran out last August, with the county suggesting it might use other sources to partially support us, now short significant anticipated annual operating funds -- about which nobody told the board last year.

Among other needs, President Ted Wright points most urgently to the district's liability insurance bill, due on both Silverado and Modjeska parks and community centers in July, with worries that the timing of promised property tax monies in fall threatens continued use of these popular facilities over the summer months. The Children's Center

is in the black for now, but utilities and site maintenance are at risk even as the board has taken measures to eliminate less essential services. Wright identified an estimated immediate \$40,000-\$50,000 shortfall, and recently asked for help and direction from Supervisor Wagner's office. It responded by contacting the OC Auditor-Controller's office, mostly toward answering everybody's biggest question: Why wasn't the SMRPD notified of the shortfall for this fiscal year?

Meanwhile, thanks to two stalwart volunteers who have placed their names into consideration as replacements for outgoing directors Brittney Kuhn and Tamara Beauchamp. Wright and the board announce their appointments in June.

At your service

May's ICL meeting featured reading of Representative Young Kim's (R-CA 40) written response to the board's letter regarding the firing of 1,700 full-time National Park Service workers, and staffer John Ding reporting the Congressman's willingness to meet with canyon residents. Lately averse to town halls, an

in-person visit would be a welcome first from a sitting member of Congress. Her letter reminded Leaguers that Kim supported the March Continuing Resolution (CR) if inexplicably referencing "a historic pay raise for junior enlisted servicemembers" [sic], i.e., those in U.S. military service.

The letter also referenced the CR's long-overdue pay raise for unionized federal wildland firefighters. It continues: "... we have received strong assurances from the Natural Resources Committee that full staffing for the Forest Service remains a top priority for Chairman [and forester Bruce] Westerman [R-AR]."

To further these efforts, the Congresswoman will be leading an appropriations request to direct the Forest Service to prioritize addressing the growing threat of Goldspotted Oak Borers (GSOBs) in our forests."

How a firefighter raise relates to GSOBs is unclear or only AI-generated. Thus far, Cleveland National Forest (CNF) has no plans, much less staff, to address infected or vulnerable trees.

More ICL ...

History Committee member Scott Breedon's report celebrated Clara Mason Fox (1873-1959), pioneer, watercolorist, and poet of Orange County. An exhibition of her work, "Canyon Colors: The Botanical Art of Clara Mason Fox," is at the Moulton Museum in Laguna Hills through June 26. ICL Fire Safe Council sponsors a Chipper Day, June 7, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Riviera.

Francesca Duff reported that a county consultant will survey unincorporated areas subject to

planned road maintenance and development plans, with a visit from Public Works likely at the Aug. 5 (first Tuesday of each month) ICL meeting. Volunteers are needed, including licensed bartenders, for the Oct. 11-12 annual Country Fair. Contact geoff.sarkissian@intercanyonleague.org.

Third Saturday

No, not the name of an OC cover band, just the date to remember for the Silverado Summer Concert Series, this month on Saturday, June 21 featuring 70s rockers Act Yer Age and classic 80s outfit Flip Out, live on the Zach Dupree Stage.

Audience participation!

The Library of the Canyons offers eclectic educational and entertaining summer programming in June, starting with the first Wednesday book club discussion of "Lies and Weddings" by Kevin Kwan. See the online calendar for knitting, adult crafts and origami classes; a docent-led family hike and astronomy lecture; and two comedy-magic shows featuring juggling, puppetry and games. Thanks to Friends of the Library, whose June 1 "Spring Fling" fundraiser supports these activities.

Lorraine (Lopez) Castruita, RIP

Longtime Modjeska resident and pet whisperer Lorraine Castruita reportedly passed away just weeks after departing her Modjeska Canyon home. Her gentle manner and big smile were appreciated by locals, but her singular, remarkable gift was a St. Francis-like empathy for animals. Locals Chris and Dayna

Edwards: "Lorraine began as our pet sitter but quickly became our friend, and the apple of our dog's eye. When she pulled up in her 'treatmobile,' Abbey could hardly contain her excitement. Our pets knew, as we did, just how deeply she loved them. One of the most compassionate, loving, and kind-hearted people we've ever known, Lorraine will be missed."

OC Dems to feature Katie Porter

The Central Orange County Democratic Club will welcome former House member and present California governor candidate Katie Porter at its Wednesday, June 25 meeting.

This event will fill up quickly, so anyone wishing to attend should sign up early. Club members get first access to meeting notices, so join the club to be the first to know about club events. Snacks and conversation 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, which is required to attend.

Central Dems includes the communities of Tustin, North Tustin, Orange, Villa Park and Anaheim Hills. All, however, are welcome to join. Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 1221 Wass St. in Tustin. Central OC Dems is not affiliated with St. Paul's.

Contact the group at CentralOCDems@gmail.com or visit CentralOCDems.com.




Congratulations

CLASS OF 2025

We are proud of all you have accomplished and excited for the bright future ahead. Keep striving toward your goals—this is just the beginning of great things to come.

Wishing you all the best in your future endeavors!

Orange Unified School District Trustees, Administrators, Teachers, and Staff








McPherson students excel in science competitions

Nathan Lew's science project placed third in the "Product Science" category at the California State Science Fair held at California Lutheran University.

Nathan Lew, an eighth grader, was one of two students from McPherson Magnet School to advance from the Orange County Science and Engineering Fair to the California State Science and Engineering Fair, where he competed against students from throughout the state.

Nathan's project, "A Bubbly Concoction," explored the effect different sugars (sucrose, glucose, fructose, maltose, steviol glycoside) have on carbonation



Nathan Lew at state competition levels in homemade ginger beer. His was one of 800 projects from throughout the state at this year's fair, and one of 27 projects in the Junior Division "Product Science" category.

Two teams from McPherson Magnet School placed in the Science Olympiad, Air Trajectory Build at the California Regionals. JJ Sanchez, a seventh grader, and partner Oliver Walton, an eighth grade student, placed third; Nathan Lew and Damani Hadden, both eighth graders, took fifth place. Under the direction of coaches Bob and Karen Ashford, the students began planning and spending nights and weekends since early October to build a cannon that could be altered to accurately shoot a ping-pong ball at a target, with the coordinates speci-



The Air Trajectory teams are, from left JJ Sanchez, Nathan Lew, Damani Hadden and Oliver Walton.

fied only at the competition. The teams had to react quickly, and accurately compute and refine the trajectory to hit the coordinates.

The Science Olympiad program has been in place for only four years at McPherson, led by science teacher Kayec Conrad.

Assistance League of Orange celebrates scholarship awardees



The 2025 scholarship awardees are, from left, front: Makayla Nguyen, Anya Chopra, Claire Elliott, Yadhya Ramirez, Xochitl Carmona, Krystal Gonzalez, Briseyda Aguirre; back row, from left: Alina Casares, Gabriel Gomez, Ariana Kang, Henry Lloyd, Victoria Mendoza Malo Juvera, Gray De La Rivera, Daniel Salinas, Samuel Mendoza Rodriguez, Karelle Soriano, Diego Flores Vazquez, Teresa Ngo, Emily Merado and Cyra Tran.



Scholarship recipient Samuel Mendoza Rodriguez



Scholarship recipient Emily Merado



From left, Alice Prothero, Scholarships Co-Chair; Michael Short; Mike Escobedo, Advisory Council; and Tanis Nelson, Scholarships Co-chair

Assistance League of Orange hosted the Class of 2025 Scholarship Awardees at a luncheon, May 2. They celebrated the achievements of this year's scholarship recipients, whose talents and dedication align with the core values of the organization.

Students submitted comprehensive applications, including an essay, resume, transcripts and a letter of recommendation. The selection process was highly competitive, with a record 61 applicants. After thorough review, 25 high school seniors were awarded scholarships totaling \$58,000.

Samuel Mendoza, this year's recipient of the Eugenia Love Arts Scholarship, spoke about the transformative impact of his mentor Michael Short, a local musical legend. As a participant in both band and choir, Samuel shared

how music has enriched his life, and how he hopes to inspire future generations as he pursues a degree in music education.

Emily Mercado recounted how backpacks and uniforms from Operation School Bell (an Assistance League philanthropy) during her earlier school years helped her feel a sense of belonging and boosted her self-esteem. Now, as a scholarship recipient, Emily described this moment as coming full circle, with the Assistance League once again supporting her as she heads off to college.

The program is made possible through the work of the Scholarship Committee, co-chaired by Alice Prothero and Tanis Nelson, who devote countless hours to reviewing and ranking applications.

For information about the philanthropies of the organization, see assistanceleague.org/orange.

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Tustin has developed about 1,000 acres of the former Marine base, with the remaining 600 acres in the planning stage.

Orange Elks and Emblem Club hold clothing drive



Elks member Amelia Castro organized the clothing drive that filled 1,200 bags with garments.

The Orange Elks and the Orange Elks Emblem Club held a clothing drive to support the community.

Orange Elks member Amelia Castro organized the project that netted over 1,200 bags of clothes that were temporarily stored in the Lodge basement until picked up. The biggest hurdle was getting the bags of clothing from the basement to the street. Elks members formed an assembly line to solve the problem.

During the past year, the Elks and Emblem Club have donated

\$9,300 to community partners, including Friendly Center, OC Rescue Mission, Meals on Wheels, Orange Police Canine Unit, Operation Gratitude, CNHEC service dogs, CNHSAEC Scholarship Foundation, Supreme Grant-in-Aid, Supreme Literacy Program, Supreme Scholarship Fund, TKO Boxing Camp, Working Wardrobes, Braille Institute, Ronald McDonald House, Orange Emblem scholarship fund, American Legion, Sheepfold, Orange Senior Center, Esplanade Elementary School and San Antonio Church.

Tustin Legacy buildout options presented at open house

By Carrie Graham

Affordable housing, commercial development and several parks are just some of what the City of Tustin plans to build at the Tustin Legacy site, where one of two decommissioned military hangars caught fire two years ago.

Community members were presented with updates to the decades-long reuse plan at an open house held at The Annex, a community use space near Veterans Sports Park on May 13. Area residents were given the chance to see what the reuse plan has in the pipeline, as well as give feedback on priorities and concerns.

One of the most recent changes to the plan, approved by Tustin's city council through an ordinance on Feb. 18, is the near-doubling of units on an Irvine Company property. The development, originally slated to add about 700 new apartments to the city, will now instead add 1,336. Of those, 334 will be affordable housing. Those units will be specifically reserved for individuals whose income is considered either very low, low or moderate.

State mandates more housing

Although California has incentivized denser housing options since 1979, the state expanded those incentives in 2021 to increase the allowed density bonus, or additional units over what would normally be permitted, from 35% to 50%. It also

made several other amendments, including loosening the definition of a transit hub to increase exemptions on parking requirements, and provisions to streamlining the permitting process for building.

Better incentives, plus the state's housing crunch, have made properties with high unit counts increasingly more appealing for developers, as well as for cities hoping to bring in more residents and, with them, more revenue.

In addition to housing for over 1,300 individuals and families, the development will also include a publicly accessible 0.66-acre park, cafe and pedestrian paseos, and right-of-way dedications and easements for public sidewalks.

The Irvine Company will take responsibility for landscaping and maintenance of publicly accessible areas, with construction expected to begin sometime next year.

Confluent Developments is planning a 234-unit senior congregate care facility. It will feature a combination of units for independent living, assisted living and memory care.

Still more to come

In total so far, 1,000 of the site's 1,600 acres have been completed, comprised of 95 acres of new parks, 5,000 housing units and about 2 million square feet of commercial space. When finished, Tustin Legacy will have

over 9,000 housing units, 170 acres of parks, trails and recreation space and over 9 million square feet of commercial space.

Along with glimpses of what's yet to come, the open house also featured projects recently completed. The Bark Barracks, Tustin's first dog park, held its grand opening on March 8, and includes separate areas for small and large dogs, shaded seating, natural turf and various doggie amenities.

Last May, Alley Grove Promenade opened. The promenade connects The District to a neighboring office campus and sports a walking trail and pickleball, bocce ball and basketball courts for public use.

Centennial Park, the city's oldest park, is expected to reopen this summer after its recent renovation. It's one of several parks to be built or receive a facelift in the past three years as Tustin works to balance the demand for housing with residents' requests to preserve green and open space.

Moving forward, the constraints the city faces in developing the remaining 600 acres include how to best maintain and renovate the south hangar, the ongoing remediation of the fire damaged north hangar, federal and state restrictions and compliance needs, and infrastructure installation costs. The costs associated with the south hangar alone could range from \$10 million for safety and security, to over \$100 million for a full renovation.

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Tired of touristy destinations? Try Senegal



Jim Sill surfs at Secret Spot in Senegal on his 80th birthday.



From left, Emma Williams, guide Almamy Badiane and Jim Sill



Jim Sill and granddaughter Emma enjoy maafe with hostess Awa and her family.

By Jim Sill

I had a clear objective in mind. I wanted to combine my two favorite things to do: surfing and adventure travel. My 80th birthday was coming up and I decided,

after doing some due diligence, that I wanted to surf Senegal on my 80th birthday.

Why Senegal? It's the home to the western-most geography in Africa, jutting out into the Atlantic farther than any other African

country. There are lots of waves. It's in the Voodoo region of Africa, where juju and animism merge with Islam, spirituality that manifests in unique ways unfamiliar to most folks in the West. If you like African art—I do—Dakar is a treasure trove of old and new art from all over West Africa.

Senegal is relatively stable. Most Dakar neighborhoods are safe to walk the streets. But as always with any unfamiliar place, you have your situational awareness dialed up. Most importantly, I found the Senegalese to be sweet people who personify *teraanga*, the Senegalese cultural trait of welcoming hospitality.

Preparing for our adventure

I have never been a fan of pre-arranged tours. Adventure travel requires more effort. You have to learn about the customs and caveats unique to each locale. You do your homework, then make local arrangements after you arrive.

Senegal is a former French colony. The lingua francas are French and Wolof. I used Duo for four months to learn basic French. My travels in other parts of French-speaking West Africa taught me that the ability to communicate makes for a smoother and more enjoyable experience.

I needed to know about surfing conditions. My birthday is in March. I learned that ambient daytime temperatures were low to mid 70s°F, with night time temperatures in the mid to upper 60s. Water temperatures were 68-70°F, so I knew to take a 3-2 wetsuit with me.

I also learned, just before leaving, that the President had cancelled U.S. aid specifically designed to help Senegal.

The Senegal I had hoped for

My stepdaughter Emma and I flew out of LAX via Air France and arrived in Dakar after about

20 hours. I had booked two rooms at the small boutique hotel La Residence, a gated compound located a block from the ocean in the Almadies area of Dakar. I chose it because of its 24-hour English speaking reception and quiet location. The accommodations were clean and cavernous, had a large, private balcony, and a comfortable king-sized bed with good mosquito netting.

I met Emma for breakfast in the morning. La Residence provides a breakfast buffet on the patio overlooking the pool. Afterwards, we walked around the neighborhood and changed money.

Local currency is the Central African franc trading at 590 CFAs to 1USD. Many of the smaller shops also accepted U.S. cash.

After our walk, we contacted a local guide named Almamy Badiane and arranged for a half-day tour of Dakar the next morning.

Unlike tours I've taken that focused on monuments and museums, Almamy focused on the Senegalese people: what they do, where they shop and how they live. He included a visit to his own home. He helped me bargain for African artifacts. When we said we were hungry, he took us to a Senegalese barbecue where we dined with locals on skewered lamb and chicken served on sheets of paper smeared with condiments and spices. It was a full day.

He sent me this email the next morning. "For yesterday thank you so much for being patient, flexible, understanding, friendly and for everything! Wishing you and your family a wonderful time in my beautiful country!"

I booked two more tours with him.

My birthday finally arrived. I had officially entered dotage. That was a scary thought, but on the other hand, I was in Senegal. Special moments require special

circumstances.

I had found a surf spot—I saw many—called Secret Spot, a short walk from La Residence. There was also a surfboard rental place/restaurant right in front, run by a local surfer named Mayoro who had a longboard similar to the custom board I regularly ride at Trestles. My Trestles surf homies had donated surf stuff to take with me: a wetsuit, fins, leashes, board shorts. I gave it to Mayoro before I paddled out. He was pretty stoked.

There was beaucoup stoke that day. I surfed Senegal on my 80th birthday! Not a bad wave either. Joyeux anniversaire à moi.

Emma helped me celebrate into the evening at nearby oceanfront restaurants.

Our final outing with Almamy took us to his sister's house in another part of Dakar. She was to teach us how to cook maafe, a quintessential Senegalese dish featuring a savory and spicy peanut-tomato sauce with lamb or chicken served over rice. Although I had made the arrangements—I like to cook—Almamy's sister Awa viewed cooking as a woman's job, and immediately put Emma to work.

It was a "when in Rome" moment. Women cook. Men watch.

When the maafe was ready, Awa arranged short stools around a communal platter. She handed each of us a spoon as we sat down with her family. She piled rice in the center of the platter, spread it out so all of us had rice in our part of the platter, then she poured a generous amount of Maafe over the rice.

We felt like part of her family. There's something about sharing food with other people that confirms our humanity.

That's how our adventure ended. There are 54 countries in Africa, give or take. Senegal was my sixth visit. Africa never disappoints.



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Woman's Club of Orange presents Inspirational Young Woman Awards



Lesley Mendez

The Woman's Club of Orange selects an exceptional young woman from Orange Unified District high schools each year to receive the WCO Inspirational Young Woman Award. The award recognizes the students' accomplishments, as determined by their teachers and counselors.

Lesley Mendez from El Modena High says she finds her strength and inspiration through her Christian faith. She was involved with the Digital Marketing Collaborative college prep program at El Modena and held a leadership role in the Interact Club. One of her teachers noted her progression from a timid sophomore to a confident leader. Lesley enjoys playing the viola



Victoria Esperanza

and piano as well as volunteering for the community. She plans to study to become an ultrasound technician.

Victoria Esperanza Mena Perez from Villa Park High is a high achiever whose motivation is to help others. She was a member of National Honor Society, Academic Decathlon, Mock Trial and Science Olympiad. She was a member of the Kindness Club, ASB, and was editor of the yearbook and newspaper. She represented her school at Girls State and created events for young readers at the Orange Public Library. Victoria Esperanza Mena Perez notes that her first name represents victory, her second name represents hope and her two last names carry



Maribel De Rosas

the legacy of her mother and father, who she credits with inspiring her to achieve. Victoria plans to study biology, with the goal of becoming a doctor.

Maribel De Rosas from OUSD Edge Virtual Academy has a passion for technology and game development. Developing game technology allows her to use her artistic talents to tell stories through drawings and animation. Not only has she excelled in her high school courses, she has also completed a year of college. Her counselor writes that her determination, resilience and commitment to excellence make her an inspiration to her peers. Maribel plans to attend a university with a major in computer engineering.

Town and Country Philharmonic Committee



Long-time Committee members Judy Alverson (35 years) and Carol Hay (41 years) enjoyed catching up at Town and Country Committee's 50th Anniversary Membership Tea.

The Town and Country Philharmonic Committee, with members in North Tustin, Orange and Villa Park, celebrated 50 years of supporting the Philharmonic Society's Youth Music Education Programs at a membership tea, held at the home of Jan Lawrence. Jazz pianist Ron Kobayashi entertained the 45 members and guests attending.

Each of the 17 Philharmonic Committees in Orange County hold an annual fundraiser to benefit the Philharmonic Society's Youth Music Education Programs for K-12 students. Each Commit-

tee may then reinvest 10% of its fundraiser's income to benefit their local community's music programs. Town and Country Committee recently donated \$450 to Tustin Unified School District to help purchase 80 copies of violin music books for use by fourth and fifth grade string classes. This will reach approximately 2,300 students across all 18 TUSD elementary schools.

If you are interested in joining Town and Country Committee or donating to support music education, contact education@PhilharmonicSociety.org.

Tustin seeks Superheroes

By Guy Ball

Tustin organizations have, for the last 17 years, recognized many of their volunteers who have given their time, energy, and heart for their fellow residents. The Superheroes of Tustin Community Volunteer Recognition is an annual celebration of those real-life heroes who work to make Tustin a

better community.

"This cherished tradition honors the volunteers who are champions of our schools, booster clubs, youth sports leagues, service clubs and the many other nonprofit groups that strengthen our community," noted Erin Nielsen, executive director of the Tustin Community Foundation, which sponsors the celebration event.

Nonprofit organizations can select their volunteers to be recognized. A celebration will be held in August to honor them.

The Foundation is currently soliciting organizations to nominate their volunteers for the honor. An application form and additional information is located on the website, tustincommunityfoundation.org.



Photo by McGuire Photography

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Project helps OUSD students cultivate confidence and career skills



Photo by Kevin Sullivan

Students in OUSD's Adult Transition and Workability Programs interact with customers at their succulent sale.

By Hana Brake

Students in the Orange Unified School District's Adult Transition and Workability Programs gain meaningful, real-world experience through hands-on learning projects that combine creativity, entrepreneurship and skill-building.

Most recently, these students hosted a succulent sale featuring plants in pots with handcrafted designs and artistic touches that they painted and decorated themselves. This effort was a demonstration of how experiential learning fosters growth, inclusion

and preparation for life beyond the classroom.

The OUSD District Office hosted the succulent sale. Students were proud to share their work with enthusiastic customers. Beyond offering an outlet for creativity, the project allowed students to develop practical skills in communication, financial management, customer service and teamwork.

The Adult Transition Program in Orange Unified serves young adults with disabilities, ages 18-22, by providing instruction and experiences that promote independent living, employment

readiness, and community integration. The Workability Program, a statewide initiative, offers students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) opportunities for pre-employment training, job placement, and ongoing support in real-world work environments.

"This project is a shining example of the incredible things our students can achieve when we give them the tools, support and opportunities they need," said OUSD Superintendent Michael Christensen. "These are the experiences that shape lives and build stronger communities."

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Villa Park celebrates the 4th with "Stars on Parade"

Start off the 4th with the "Stars on Parade" in Villa Park. Kids of all ages are encouraged to decorate a bike, trike, scooter, wagon, skateboard, stroller or classic car for an Independence Day roll along a 1.5-mile residential route. Villa Park friends and neighbors will cheer them on along the pa-

triotic journey through the "Hidden Jewel." Gather at 8:30 a.m. at Cerro Villa Middle School; the parade steps out at 9 a.m. This, and other community events, are sponsored by the Villa Park Community Services Foundation, VPCSFoundation.org.



Art Association to meet

The Orange Art Association will host fine artist Marie Stone at its Monday, June 9, meeting. Stone will demonstrate how to add figures to landscapes. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. at the

Community of Christ Church, 395 W. Tustin St. The group will recess for the summer and reconvene on Sept. 8. For information, contact Pat at (714) 538-8069. Visit mariestonefineart.com.

Meet the colorful characters of California history at Tustin museum talk

By Guy Ball

California is known for its unusual characters: consider Emperor Norton of the United States in the 1870s who called San Francisco his home. Then there is William B. Ide who called himself the President of the Republic of California in the early 1800s. And let's not forget William Money (pronounced "Moe-NEE") who was a rather eccentric fellow, a quack doctor, a cult leader, and claimed that he could rise from the dead like Jesus.

Historical researcher Paul Loya will talk about these gentlemen and more at the Friday, June 27 meeting of the Tustin Area Historical Society.

Loya earned a master's degree from UCLA and is a retired social worker for L.A. County who specialized in working with Native American children. Since his retirement, he has traveled up

and down the state many times, searching out unique and out-of-the-way historical sites and writing about them.

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



Paul Loya

Tustin Concerts in the Park return this summer



Photo by Patty Wood

By Guy Ball

Music returns to Peppertree Park in Tustin this summer with even more bands playing on the open sound stage while residents enjoy an evening picnic on the lawn. The concerts are on Wednesday nights during June and July from 6 to 8 p.m. at Peppertree Park, 230 W. First St.

There will be a variety of food trucks and other vendors. Admission is free.

For information visit Tustinca.org/concerts or call (714) 573-3326.

This year the bands include:

The New Romantics, a Taylor Swift tribute, June 11.

Funk Phenomenon, 80s & 90s Funk and R&B, June 18

The Convertibles, horn-driven rock, soul, R&B, June 25

Stone Soul, Classic Motown, July 2

FlashPants, 80s tunes, July 9

So Petty, Tom Petty cover band, July 23

Sticks and Stones, rock & roll, July 30.



William Money



William P. Ide



Emperor Norton

Proposed truck terminal gives way to warehouse

The company that had won city approvals for a logistics center that would have brought 176 semi-truck trips to Orange every day has modified its plans and hopes to instead build a warehouse at 534 Struck Avenue.

The site borders the former home of Mary's Kitchen, now used by Hub OC for homeless services.

Not quite starting over

Citing changing market conditions, Prologis's plans for a 213,572-sq.-ft. warehouse and a 450-sq.-ft. detached pump house are wending their way through the city approval process. The Design Review Committee gave the project the nod May 7. It will next go to the Planning Commission.

Prologis will demolish an empty 40,000-sq.-ft. facility from the 9.98-acre site. It will also remove an abandoned railroad spur. The proposed two-story structure will contain 199,572 sq. ft. for warehousing and 14,000 sq. ft. of office space.

Less truck traffic

While the previous proposal included 188 spaces for semi-trailer parking, the new plans call for 45. The loading dock will accommodate up to 27 delivery trucks.

An environmental review had been conducted for the truck terminal project; it found no significant or unavoidable environmental impacts, although mitigation measures were required to cover potential issues with nesting migratory birds, potential buried archaeological or tribal resources, or hazardous materials.

The new project will not result in any new, increased or substantially different impacts, so the 2023 Environmental Impact Report remains the defining document.

No further public review is required.

COMMUNITY SPORTS

BY CLIFF ROBBINS AND CHAD CLINE

Foothill Girls Lacrosse wraps up a perfect season

The Foothill Knights (19-2) Girls Lacrosse team advanced to the Div. 1 CIF-SS finals after defeating San Clemente in the semi-finals, 12-4.

It was the fourth trip to the finals in five years. Foothill won, 12-7, over previously untested Mira Costa, ranked No. 1 and undefeated at 18-0.

Foothill took seven shots before Brynn Perkins put the ball in the net to get the Knights on the board. Foothill went up 4-2 in the middle of the second quarter, and never looked back. Foothill started the second half up 6-4. Foothill scored six goals in the second half to take the Div. 1 Championship title.



Taylor Lindores, center; Foothill Girls Lacrosse head coach, is flanked by Assistant Varsity Coach Jojo Boston, left, and Angelina Dieu, JV coach. This was Lindores' first year coaching at Foothill.



The Foothill High School Girls Lacrosse team celebrates after winning the CIF-SS Div. 1 Championship over Mira Costa, 12-7.



Elle Vickers from Foothill High School scores in the Div. 1 finals.



Lizzy Weaver, left, and Hadley Mills, right, from Foothill team up to block the Mira Costa shot in the Div. 1 finals.



Hadley Mills and Foothill goalkeeper Nella Banuelos (in white) stop the San Clemente scoring threat. Foothill won, 12-7, advancing to the Div. 1 finals.



Addison Duvel from Foothill High School saw the goal open, and scored against San Clemente.



Sofia Timpane, Canyon High School girls lacrosse goalkeeper; stops a shot mid-flight.



Ella Feldhaus scores for Canyon High School against St. Margaret's in the first round CIF playoff game.

COMMUNITY SPORTS

BY CLIFF ROBBINS AND CHAD CLINE



Remington Glenn from Canyon played the back line to return the serve in the Div. 3 finals.

Canyon High is runner-up in Girls Beach Volleyball finals

Canyon High School advanced to the Div. 3 Girls Beach Volleyball finals after shutting out Schurr High School, 5-0, followed by a 3-2 win over Camarillo, then besting Capistrano Valley, 4-1. Canyon faced Long Beach Poly where its season came to an end, winning three matches and dropping two.



Canyon High's Rylie White saves a return and sets for Kendall Vanderplow.



Kemuel Zhang, pitcher for Canyon High, picked up the first round CIF playoff win over Maranatha High School, 10-6.



Canyon High Knight Ellie Nguyen dives to save the point in the Div. 3 finals.



Gilbert Vargas (17), Canyon third baseman, stops an infield hit in the first round playoff against Maranatha. Canyon faced Servite in the second round.



Rylie White from CHS digs out a serve in the semi-finals against Capo Valley.



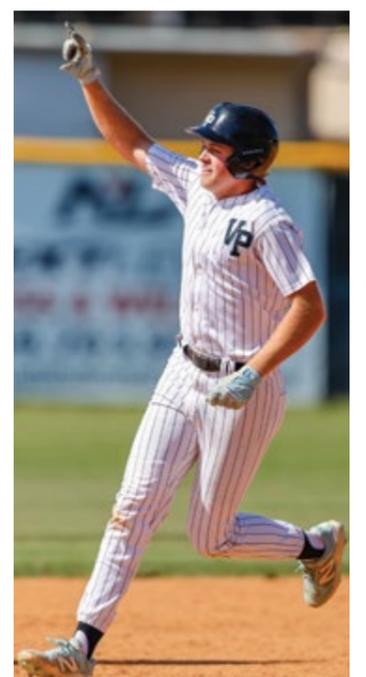
Sean Green from Foothill High takes third base safe after a high throw the Dana Hills player couldn't handle. Foothill won, 3-0.



Chip Mertz (1) from Canyon High School high fives Camden Goetz (5) after a three-run blast to win the first round playoff over Maranatha, 10-6.



Jack McGuire pitched for Villa Park first round Div. 1, walked 2 and struck out 2. Villa Park won, 8-7, over Bishop Amat.



Jake Nobles from Villa Park High sent the game-winning home run over the fence to take the first round in Div. 1 over Bishop Amat, 8-7. Nobles had 3 RBIs.



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