# FÖTHILIS SENTRY

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**A Monthly Community Newspaper** 

OCTOBER 2025

The Orange Elks held a ceremony, Sept. 11, to remember those who lost their lives on that day 24 years ago. The event was held in front of Orange City Hall. The theme was "Promise We Will Never Forget," to serve as a reminder for young people born after the horrific attack. See photos, page 11

# Sports field rentals top the list of unpopular fee increases in Orange

By Tina Richards

The City of Orange is considering raising fees for services, the first increase since 2015, to help reduce its budget deficit. A study conducted by Matrix Consulting Group determined that the city is under-recovering its costs by \$2.9 million.

Of the some 700 fees levied for services, ranging from building inspections to chimney repair to photocopies, the one that garnered the most public pushback was the hourly cost to rent sports fields. The city currently charges \$2 an hour to approved youth organizations for unlighted sports fields. An analysis conducted by Matrix determined that it costs the city \$38 an hour to administer and maintain the fields. The recommended increase was to \$19 per hour.

The Sept. 9 council meeting was slated to feature a discussion of the various proposed fee increases and the city's under-recovery rate. No decisions were to be made. The meeting, however, attracted a bevy of coaches, volunteers and parents from South Sunrise Little League and Olive Pony League who implored the council to keep field rental fees affordable. The volume of public comments and the council's con-

cerns about what was being said, focused that night's conversation on youth sports field fees and little else.

# Level playing field

Speakers noted that many players' families can not afford a substantial fee increase and those young athletes would be forced to drop out. Others noted that parent volunteers maintain the fields, thus "putting money back into them." Nearly all of the two dozen speakers stressed the value of youth sports in terms of building character, teamwork, sportsmanship and confidence.

South Sunrise and Olive Pony leadership expressed a desire to work with the city to find a "reasonable" fee compromise.

Council members concurred with the sentiments expressed by the public. John Gyllenhammer stressed that youth sports is an investment, and that investing in youth is exactly what organizations should be doing. The city should also be investing in youth, he said, and suggested that the city continue to subsidize those activities.

Arianna Barrios asked what percentage of the recovery loss

See "Rentals" continued on page 3

# Orange Design Review Committee will likely see its scope reduced

By Tina Richards

A proposed ordinance that would limit the scope of the Orange Design Review Committee (DRC) was recommended for City Council approval by the Planning Commission, Sept. 15.

The commission's recommendation was expected, as members of the City Council directed that the ordinance be drafted. The Council's, and thus the Planning Commission's, rationale was that the DRC review of building projects is inconvenient for developers and unnecessarily slows the approval process to the detriment of those wanting to "do business" in Orange. Eliminating DRC review will streamline the process.

# Historic preservation protected

The DRC would, however, continue to review development, demolition or remodels of properties in the city's historic district, those on the historic inventory and anything over 50 years old. Projects not falling within those categories would be reviewed administratively by staff. Major projects will still go to the Planning Commission.

"The only thing that changes," Community Development Director Russ Bunim told the commission, "is whether staff reviews a project or it goes to the DRC. Staff already does this for remodels or façade changes. Those are not subject to DRC review."

The DRC has been under fire before. Planning Commissioner Dave Vasquez noted that they had recommended approval for a similar proposal in 2020, but nothing happened. Then, as now, the DRC was perceived as a road-block, with little data to support that assumption.

Responding to questions from commissioners, Bunim could not quantify how much time would be saved without DRC review, how many projects would benefit, or if the streamlining would attract development. "It's difficult to say how much more development we'd get without the DRC," he said.

### Not a loose cannon

The Design Review Committee was established to ensure proposed projects meet city standards and requirements pertaining to historic preservation, mass, landscaping, color palette, building material, aesthetics and compatibility with their surroundings. The committee consists of architects, landscape designers and land-use professionals.

Planning Commissioner Tim McCormack served on the DRC for 16 years. He confirmed that the committee bases its review on city council-approved guidelines, ordinances and planning areas. "Most projects did not require a second review," he advised. "They were good designs. But we've seen a decline in the quality of drawings. You see the same mistakes made. The DRC has made a lot of projects better. Instead of fast food, we end up with a finely cooked meal."

"Fast" may be the operative word in the city's desire to limit the DRC's scope. It's the pace of the process that has alarmed the Old Towne Preservation Association (OTPA), the Orange Legacy Alliance (OLA) and unaligned constituents citywide.

# Cut to the chase

Last year, the city entered into an agreement with OTPA and OLA to work with staff on a historic preservation ordinance, redefine the DRC as a preservation committee, and survey and inventory historic properties throughout Orange.

A draft ordinance to that end has been stalled since May. The council, reacting to a financial analysis that predicted city bankruptcy, acted quickly to work around the agreement.

The council asked for the ordinance Aug. 12. Just one month later, it came to the Planning Commission. But, the historic property inventory that staff will rely on for project referral to the DRC is out of date and there are

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Orange Mayor Dan Slater (left) hosted a booth at the Orange International Street Fair so he could meet with and talk to constituents. Carolyn and Jerry Pierce were among his many visitors. See photos, page 7

# **NEWS INSIDE**

# FREEZE ON FEES

An expected increase in Villa Park water rates has been delayed until next year.

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# DIFFERENT STROKES

Narrow Orange Council majority says federal policy is beyond its local purview, but state politics warrant action and attention.

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# FIELDS OF GREENS

Farmers Market raises funds to buy locally grown fresh fruit and vegetables for struggling families.

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# THE STREET WHERE THEY LIVE

Neighbors are fed up with unruly Chapman students who turn quiet streets into party zones.

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# **PLAY BALL!**

Community Sports returns with coverage of high school football, water polo and volleyball.

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# Orange Council OKs state election resolution despite pushback from residents

By Carrie Graham

In spite of unanimous opposition from over a dozen community members who attended the Sept. 9 Orange City Council meeting, council members narrowly approved a resolution denouncing the state's plan to redraw congressional districts for the 2026 midterm elections, known as Proposition 50.

The proposition will be the only item on a Nov. 4 special election for Californians. It was proposed earlier this year in response to what many are calling "blatant gerrymandering" in Texas designed to alter the outcome of the next congressional election. Several other states, including Ohio, Indiana, Missouri, New Hampshire, Nebraska and South Carolina, may follow Texas' lead to ensure the country's ruling party remains in power.

In 2008, California passed the Voters First Act, which established a commission of citizens to draw district lines that were fair and promoted competition among elected office hopefuls based on the most recent census data. It created a committee of five members from each of the two largest registered parties, plus four additional members not affiliated. Since then, the California Citizens Redistricting Commission has become the nationwide gold standard for more equitable districting.

# Party politics on the dais

The resolution, brought before the council by member Denis Bilodeau, asked that the city denounce the proposition because it would mean overruling the maps drawn by the commission in 2021.

In addition to what he felt was an overstep of the state legislature, Bilodeau also cited the \$200 million taxpayer price tag the special election will carry.

However, the resolution received resounding scorn from a wide range of community members. A number of public commenters, as well as council members Arianna Barrios and Ana Gutierrez, had not forgotten the council's July decision to table a resolution that requested federal immigration officials to wear identification and unmask, on the grounds that the council's duty is to city-specific issues

"Council members said, 'It's a federal matter. We have no authority.' You rejected a concept that the city council's role can be advocacy. Therefore, it's misleading and frankly inappropriate for any member of the city council to speak against Proposition 50, which is a state election issue and not something you can decide just because you want to," said one resident who identified himself only as Alexis.

Councilmember Gutierrez, who proposed the tabled July proposal, felt particularly slighted by Bilodeau's resolution.

# Double standard

"I find it very disingenuous that you would bring this forward," she said. "I actually find it an insult to me, personally, and to a lot of us Latinos here in Orange, the 41% of us for whom you were silent and willing to table the topic when I spoke to you about what is happening on our streets, the safety in our streets.

"This resolution that you're

the safety of our residents here in Orange. How is it going to better our community?"

In addition to issues with the perceived hypocrisy of the situation, other residents believed the council was overstepping its jurisdiction.

"It is stated by the California Fair Political Practices Commission that the fundamental precept of this nation's democratic electoral process is that the government may not take sides in election context or bestow an unfair

bringing has nothing to do with advantage on one of several competing factions," said resident Devereau "Dev" Sellin. "But that is exactly what the city's proposed resolution intends to do -- use the influence of the city council to influence the outcome of Proposition 50."

> Other members of the public cited inaccuracies in Bilodeau's resolution as well. Most glaringly absent from the proposal's language is any acknowledgement of the fact that Proposition 50 is explicitly temporary, authorized only for 2026 through 2030.

# Serrano Water announces no rate increases for FY 2025/26

During a public workshop, May 8, the Serrano Water District (SWD) Board of Directors discussed the strategic transition involving Irvine Lake and the transferred responsibilities to the Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) that occurred in mid-January of 2025.

The move, characterized as mutually beneficial, allowed SWD to exchange a long-term liability for more reliable and sustainable water supply sources for its customers.

As part of the agreement, SWD received an infusion of over \$3 million into its reserves. The financial boost, combined with relief from the major capital demands associated with the Irvine Lake and the Howiler Treatment project, enabled the board to delay a previously scheduled water rate increase set for July 2025.

# **Priorities shift**

This afforded a focus on studying alternative rate structures and prioritizing critical capital improvement projects. Among those projects are drilling a new well to replace one over 90 years old, reconstructing the Smith Reservoir at Sycamore and Taft Streets, upgrading, and adding backup generators, and replacing other aging infrastructure throughout the ser-

In a follow-up workshop held Aug. 18, the board convened for the second phase of its rate study discussions. After a review of various rate types, the board concluded that the existing uniform rate structure remains the most equitable and practical for SWD customers.

Serrano Water District will now proceed with a comprehensive cost-of-service analysis and additional technical studies. These findings will inform the board's final decision regarding a potential rate adjustment scheduled for July 1, 2026, which will include a Workshop/Public Hearing in the April/May 2026 timeframe.

California water agencies typically charge customers based on two components: a fixed charge based on meter size; and volumetric rates per unit (one hundred cubic feet or HCF) of metered water use.

SWD currently utilizes a fixed charge based on meters size and a uniform volumetric rate of \$5.58 per HCF per month. SWD is in the final year of its current 5-year rate plan, and will vote to authorize that a new rate study be completed before the end of the 2025-26 fiscal year.

# Viet Nam memorial gets local attention

The Orange Elks made a \$1,475 donation to the Viet Nam Veterans Memorial, located in Washington, D.C., in honor of veterans.

The three-quarter scale replica of the memorial, "The Wall That Heals," is coming to Orange, Oct.

2-5. The exhibit will be displayed in Grijalva Park and will be open to visitors 24 hours a day. This is the wall's only Southern California appearance and is expected to attract visitors from throughout the region.

### City takes a stand

In addition to the citizen's commission resuming map authority, the proposition also calls on the federal legislature, in 2031, to pass laws making voting commissions, like the one in California, the law of the land going forward to ensure fairer election practices nationwide.

Ultimately, the resolution passed 4-3, with Bilodeau, as well as members Kathy Tavoularis, John Gyllenhammer and Jon Dumitru voting in favor. A substitution motion to table the resolution was shot down after receiving support only from members Gutierrez and Barrios.

Mayor Slater voted against both the resolution and the motion to table it, reiterating that it was not the city's place to have an opinion.

"Any council member is welcome to put anything on the agenda they wish, and we can have open debate and discussion. That's what we're here for. But again, I will not be supporting this because I think that we have enough to deal with at this city level," he advised.





# Orange Home Grown raises \$8,000 at "Market for the People"



Megan Penn, left, executive director of Orange Home Grown and Heidi Gaytan from Gaytan Family Farms unload boxes of fresh food.

# "Rentals" continued from page 1

was from sports fields and was told \$200,000. She noted that there must be different schemes the city could use to balance fees with actual costs, for example step-up fees based on a team's level of low-income players. "I don't want to exclude kids in need," she said. "There are other fees to consider. Building fees are a big chunk of money."

### More than one way

Reporting that Chapman University recently received a \$100 million grant from the state, she was curious about the amount Orange was charging Chapman for field rental. Rates vary between lighted and unlighted fields, Orange residents or businesses and non-residents or businesses. Chapman has two contracts with the city for field rentals which were negotiated separately and expire in 2029.

Seemingly confident that fee increases could be more equitable, Barrios asked staff to "come back with ideas."

Ana Gutierrez pointed out that in addition to sports fields, many other "community benefit" fees -- library cards, swimming lessons -- were being raised. "These community services relate to quality of life and life skills for residents," she noted, while recommending a separate council study session,

with public participation, to focus on those fees. "Let's not try to do this on the dais," she said. "It's a lot to look at."

### Points to ponder

"There is a budget issue in the city," Jon Dumitru reminded the audience. "That's why this is coming up. There are no sacred cows." But, he agreed, he would prefer a stepped-up approach to any increases. He also expressed frustration with the number of fees to consider and the lack of an advance briefing on the topic for council members. "I saw this list the same time you did," he said to the audience, adding that he would like to have a better understanding of the methodology used to determine what those increases should be. "I had sticker shock when I saw the swimming program," he said.

Denis Bilodeau agreed that fees should be phased in, with COLA (cost of living adjustment) included so the city would not have to repeat this exercise in 10 years. He also advocated subsidizing Little League with a 50% cost recovery as the goal.

Mayor Dan Slater directed staff to meet with the Little League and Pony team leaders to determine what is palatable. He agreed that a separate study session for community benefit fees is warranted; City Manager Jarad Hildenbrand agreed to set that up as soon as possible. Orange Home Grown hosted "Market for the People: Buy-Out to Nourish Our Community," a one-day farmers market event held to support local families.

During the special event, 100% of proceeds from vendor stall fees were directed to the El Modena Family Resource Center, not as a monetary donation, but as fresh, nourishing food purchased directly from local farmers and vendors. Through the generosity of the community and participating vendors, the event raised \$6,000, with an additional \$2,000 donation from the Orange Rotary, totaling \$8,000 in contributions to support families in need.

"This event is all about standing together as a community," said Megan Penn, executive director of Orange Home Grown. "Every dollar spent stayed within our community, supporting farmers and vendors while directly nourishing families in Orange. It's a beautiful example of a circular community and shows what can happen when we work together."

During August and September, contributions were delivered in the form of farm boxes to the Resource Center. Each box was curated with fresh, seasonal produce and staples, including cantaloupes, watermelons, tomatoes, potatoes, squash, stone fruits and eggs. Local farms and food artisans, including Gaytan Family Farms, Black Sheep Farms, Sunny Cal Farms, Harris Apiarie,

Lucky Habanero, and the Orange Home Grown Education Farm, helped package and deliver the boxes.

The El Modena Family Resource Center provides support services for families in the El Modena Orange community, including food and nutrition assistance, parenting support, youth programs, and access to community services.

The Orange Home Grown

Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit helping people reconnect to a healthy and sustainable food system. The branches of the nonprofit engage residents of all ages, ethnicities and income levels in creative environments and programs. These programs foster education, awareness and action around farming, food and health while celebrating the positive agricultural attributes of the City of Orange and surrounding cities.

# K-9 retires from Orange PD



Officer Michael Osborn and Wyatt

Police canine officer Wyatt, a Slovakian-born German Shepherd, was celebrated by the Orange City Council, marking his retirement from the department after 7.5 years of service.

Wyatt and his handler Officer Michael Osborn were issued a proclamation, Aug. 26, recognizing the canine's achievements as



Wyatt readies for action.

a multi-purpose dog trained for patrol, tracking and narcotics detection.

He assisted in more than 500 deployments, apprehending criminals, sniffing out narcotics and helping recover over \$3 million in cash.

He also served as a community liaison officer, participating in some 300 public demonstrations, along with Osborn, for civic organizations.

Wyatt will spend his retirement with Osborn and his family.



https://bit.ly/SCCTrunkorTreat2025

# **DAN SLATER**

# Happy Halloween Orange!

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# **Guest Commentary**

# Chapman University must be held accountable for student behavior

By Jonathan Zimmerman

As Chapman University begins another academic year in the City of Orange, its enrollment has grown to nearly 10,000 students — well above the city's agreed-upon cap of 8,700. This unchecked growth has had a significant and negative impact on our neighborhoods. Investors are buying many homes and cramming five or more students into single-family residences, transforming once-quiet streets into party zones and overflow parking lots. The charm, beauty and livability of Orange are being eroded.

Currently, the Orange Police Department bears the burden of addressing student behavior in our neighborhoods. Yet enforcement tools are limited. For example, under the city's current ordinance, police may only issue a citation for a party disturbance after 10 p.m. This leaves daytime parties unaddressed, and even after 10 p.m., police are often unavailable due to higher-priority calls. Without a citation, the University's Dean of Students has no grounds for discipline. The result is that many disruptive and disrespectful behaviors — noise, litter, vandalism, public urination and parking violations - go unchecked.

This creates a serious budgetary problem. Calls related to student behavior consume valuable city resources that should not be subsidized by taxpayers. Other cities with large universities including San Luis Obispo (Cal Poly), Davis (UC Davis), and San Diego (SDSU) — have already



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acted by adopting "nuisance party ordinances," requiring universities to pay into city service funds, regulating high-occupancy rentals as businesses, and establishing official Greek housing to better manage student behavior. Orange can and should follow suit.

Neighbors urge the City of Orange to take the following steps:

1. Hold Chapman accountable for enforcing its own Code of Conduct. Chapman's Code prohibits disturbances, public nui-



sances and trespassing. Yet these violations occur regularly in our neighborhoods with little consequence. The city should require Chapman to strengthen and enforce penalties for students who repeatedly disrupt the community.

2. Require Chapman University to directly fund city services impacted by student behavior including police, code enforcement and sanitation. A "university impact fee" or "luxury tax" would recognize that Chapman benefits enormously from being located in Orange but has not adequately shouldered the costs its presence

3. Enforce the enrollment cap that Chapman agreed to, ensuring the university does not continue to grow beyond the city's capacity to manage it.

4. Designate official Greek housing. Many universities require fraternities and sororities to live in designated housing, which helps concentrate and manage large gatherings instead of scattering them across neighborhoods.

5. Adopt stronger ordinances for parking and large-capacity rentals. Homes functioning as "mini-dorms" should be regulated as businesses, licensed, inspected and taxed appropriately. Cities like Berkeley and San Diego already use this model to protect neighborhood character.

It is time for Chapman University to act as a true partner to

the university, and homeowners all seem to point fingers at one another, rather than take meaningful action.

I appreciate your efforts to bring attention to this issue and hope you will continue to report on it. Public awareness is sorely needed. This will be a long process.

Robert Paul Orange

### **Dear Editor:**

I would like to bring to your attention some recent disturbing activities in our city. Our formerly family neighborhood is under assault from several business ventures that are allowed to operate in residential neighborhoods. The newest business venture, the Friendly Recovery Center, will house 6-8 men (on a rotating basis) in a mental health recovery home. The Friendly Recovery Center provides treatment for a range of conditions, including substance abuse, anger management, psychosis, PTSD and trauma. borderline and narcissistic personality disorders, self-harm, and emotional disturbances.

Nearby, the L'Arche Wavecrest Home for the mentally disabled is located only 150 feet from the Friendly Recovery House. Also, less than 250 feet away are two Chapman University student boarding houses. We have eight children living nearby who may be negatively impacted by the residents of these group homes.

I have respectfully asked our city government to consider quickly enacting ordinances that prohibit these group homes from operating so close together in one area and allow buffer zones between them and a nearby elementary school. Similar ordinances have been recently enacted in Fountain Valley (April 2025), Irvine (June 2025),

the community. The university's academic and civic mission must extend beyond its campus boundaries to include accountability for how its students affect the larger community. Student conduct enforcement should not fall primarily on neighbors or overstretched city resources.

With new leadership in the city and the university, we hope there will be a renewed commitment to solutions — enforcement of enrollment limits, financial responsibility for city services, stronger ordinances, and real accountability for student behavior through the Code of Conduct. We want Chapman students to succeed, and we want a positive "Town and Gown" relationship. But this requires the university to take responsibility for its impact on Orange.

Jonathan Zimmerman is a 38year resident of the City of Orange.

Mission Viejo (March 2025), Santa Ana (April 2025), and the County of Orange (2020). We believe immediate action is necessary to preserve our family neighborhood and keep it from becoming overrun by business ventures.

Jim Shoffit Orange

### **Dear Editor:**

September has arrived and with it, the return of Chapman students to our neighborhoods, with the very loud afternoon and latenight parties.

It is also the anniversary of an incident involving a male Chapman student. What did he do? He did something that other students have done and many residents of Orange have witnessed in front yards, through the years.

That is, he urinated in public. He leaned out the window where he lives, where he was visible to anyone walking on the sidewalk, driving on the street or sitting at a bedroom desk. He was visible because he leaned out the window of the two-story house and urinated in full view of the street and his neighbor in the house next door. Though the neighbor pounded her hand on the window and yelled "hey, hey you!" he did not stop.

She called police and filed charges against the student for indecent exposure. The Dean of Students at Chapman University was notified, yet the student continued to live in the same house without consequences, nor did he apologize to the neighbor. The resulting weak statements, "we'll look into this," and no follow-up from Chapman University added to the disrespect and lack of decency.

"Letters" continued on page 5

# LETTERS to the EDITOR

# Just passing through

Dear Editor:

I am writing to voice my concerns about the Chapman students living in neighborhood. There are many homes that investors have turned into five bedrooms, and rented them to students. Many of these homes have been renovated and remodeled to accommodate the students without obtaining permits. How is this fair?

Most often, each rental house adds five cars for the residents and even more for their visitors. neighborhood is loud and transient. There are many speeders, drivers disobeying stop signs, and parking to block fire hydrants and sidewalks. There is disregard for parking facing the right way, parking on curves, and parking too close to the intersections.

Do the college students not know about the city trash service? Often the trash bins sit out all the time, and they place boxes, furniture, household items, and extra trash bags on the curb. Whatever they no longer want gets put out on the curb.

There have been so many times that students disturb the peace. They are loud late at night having backyard get-togethers.

What can be done about the increasing number of boarding houses, the increasing enrollment, and the increasing use of our safety services. This drain on city resources, especially with unruly that trash was strewn Orange's deficits, needs to be taken care of. Maybe each student should pay a fee to the city to offset the services they all rely on and benefit from.

The students need to be educated about neighborhood, driving, and parking etiquette. Maybe this would cut down on the parties, loud behavior, and parking issues. Or, maybe boarding house enforcement, fines, fees and tickets for rule breakers is the way to go. Maybe, investor's student housing should be classified as the businesses they are and taxed and licensed accordingly.

Laurie Phillips Orange

# **Dear Editor:**

I live on E. Fairhaven Ave. in Orange. About three years ago, my neighbor sold his house, and a fraternity moved in. Due to the design of the house, it was seemingly destined to be repurposed as a multi-unit housing facility.

As I'm sure you've heard, investors are buying up homes and renovating them to squeeze in as many students as possible. This trend is deeply concerning. One of the core issues is that absentee owners are effectively running a business, yet they're not dealing with the collateral damage caused by the student parties. They should be required to obtain a business Licensing would give the city the authority to impose significant fines on these operators something the current, inadequate penalties fail to do.

A recent party became so everywhere, one of my trees was damaged, and police were needed to break it up.

Another major concern is the lack of accountability — the city,



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# **Guest Commentaries**

# State proposition has lasting impacts on our community

By Ronna Sarvas Weltman

When I think of all the reasons it is crucial to vote YES on Proposition 50, California's response to Republican gerrymandering, my first thoughts turn to our own community.

I am heartsick when I think of how many people lose their healthcare in the next few years.

I read about the cuts in scientific research and I wonder how many people – including children - will succumb to cancer who would otherwise be celebrating remission. I wonder how many diseases that we no longer worry about, such as measles and polio, will start affecting our kids.

Recently I was reading in the "Foothills Sentry" about local high school students excelling in science. I read it with enthusiasm, happy for their accomplishments. imagining their parents' pride. Then, suddenly, I had a sinking feeling. Those kids will not have the same opportunity to work on cutting-edge science in college like my son did at UC Irvine. The has been snatched away.

I walk in Peters Canyon and wonder how we can protect it and our neighborhoods from increasing drought and high temperatures when the administration and the Republican Congress pretend that climate change is a hoax.

Now I have another thing to worry about. Looking at my mail, I keep reading misleading information from the "No on 50" crowd. Friends are asking me why the League of Women Voters is opposing the proposition, which offers temporary redistricting to California voters.

They don't oppose it. And the people who are sending out those mailers know it.

Same with a mailers' inclusion of an early quote on redistricting from California Common Cause, intended to imply that it opposes Proposition 50. Although Common Cause has long been a supporter of independent redistricting, it now acknowledges that "a blanket condemnation [of Propo-

funding for their future education amount to a call for unilateral political disarmament in the face of authoritarian efforts to undermine fair representation and peoplepowered democracy."

That's what none of the anti-Proposition 50 mailers will tell you. When the President demanded Republican states gerrymander their elections to maintain his power, the legislatures in Texas, and now Missouri, and maybe others to come, followed his directions. Californians will get a chance to neutralize this power grab by voting YES on Proposition 50.

Proposition 50 is a temporary measure, in effect only until the next census, and abides by the Voting Rights Act to let the people decide.

The majority party leaders know they can't win with fair elections, so they are putting their thumbs on the scale. The states that have done it have not brought it to the people – they decided "in house" knowing that letting their citizens vote on it would be dicey. sition 50] in this moment would In California, the people get to

decide by voting in November.

Without Proposition 50 passing, the cowardly congressional majority that agrees to everything Trump wants, even while they know it goes against the interests of their constituents, will remain in place.

Without Proposition 50 passing, it will be virtually impossible to protect:

- Safety net programs -- Medicare, Social Security, SNAP, and Medicaid
- The air we breathe, the water we drink and our public lands
- · Public education and higher education
- Public health (think vaccines) and access to healthcare
- Immigrants and people of
- Due process and the rule of
- · Ourselves from our military being used against us
- · Our economic well-being from the bigots and oligarchs currently in charge.

By voting YES on Proposition 50, we can look forward to our

voices being heard in Congress. We can achieve:

- Taking back the rights we've lost, or keeping ones we're at risk of losing
- Passing common-sense gun reform
- Investing in our people, schools and infrastructure
- · Reducing the price of groceries and goods
- · Supporting families and
- Protecting the environment for future generations
- Using taxpayer money for the

people, not the billionaires.

Ballots will be mailed out on Oct. 4 for the Nov. 4 special election. Your ballot may be smaller than you are used to since we're voting on only one item. Keep an eye out for it.

Even though the ballot will be small, the consequences will be huge. That's why I'm voting YES on Proposition 50.

Ronna Sarvas Weltman is a community volunteer who lives in North Tustin.

# Proposition 50 is California's line in the sand

There's a reason why our community's educators and child advocates are voting YES on Prop-

osition 50, the temporary redis-

tricting plan to counter unethical gerrymandering.

By Rebecca Gomez

As a former city council member and trustee for the Orange County Board of Education, I understood my role to serve the community and to make life better for my constituents, not to make their life more challenging.

tion, the county received a grant to assist special education students. The grant was intended to use art to improve their ability to communicate and learn. When I asked one student about his art, he responded hesitantly, but then began to share a picture of his family. The instructors were amazed that he shared because he rarely spoke. The ability to use art enhanced his communication and academic performance. I later heard from the teachers that this

While on the Board of Educa- student's guardian was grateful for this program because it also improved his behavior and communication at home. This is one of many success stories.

Today, California's ability to protect our children and families stands at a crossroads.

Proposition 50 is California's line in the sand. While states like Texas and Florida have pushed aggressive policies that defund public education, censor curriculum, and target vulnerable students, YES on 50 ensures California doesn't follow that path. It's a proactive defense that redraws congressional districts to reflect our values and elect leaders who will fight for inclusive, well-funded schools.

It is not an exaggeration that the survival of public education in Orange County hinges on the passage of this proposition. Right now, we are looking at the federal government trying to withhold over \$800 million from California education programs. It is trying to cancel \$3.5 million from special education and teacher training. Short-sighted federal policies are resulting in teachers being intimidated and restricted from delivering approved curricula. These policies are intentionally weakening our neighborhood schools while subsidizing private and forprofit charter schools, some of which offer an unsafe, unproven, censored educational environment that fails to meet the learning needs of all students.

At the college level, classes are being curtailed or outright cancelled. Students are seeing their graduate and professional school offers rescinded. Their job offers are being terminated. Research funding has been decimated, which impacts future innovation. These conditions are devastating blows to our best and brightest.

Destroying our schools is not the only threat our children face if this proposition does not pass.

Federal rules to withdraw school vaccine mandates, like they are doing in Texas, will increase child mortality in Orange County. Removing Medicaid from families means children will have less or no access to health care. The curtailment and outright cancellation of childhood cancer studies will have an obviously gruesome impact on survival rates. Local hospitals and clinics rely on Medicaid funding, and its removal means many would have to shut their doors — to all of us. Removing SNAP food benefits to low-income families means children will come to school hungry.

And that is IF they come to Federal immigration policy has a severe impact on our children's mental health. Children are afraid to go to school, worried that they might come home to an empty house, with no way to find out where their parents have been sent. Parents are keeping their children home from school because they fear their children being snatched by ICE. When children are hungry or feel unsafe, they cannot learn. Saying YES on 50 is saying no to this cruelty.

Our community has proven time and again that we believe in diversity, access, and opportunity for all students. We don't want to be forced into a national mold shaped by extremist agendas. Each state is unique. That's one of the beautiful things about the United States. We should not be forced away from the table.

YES on 50 protects our ability to chart our own course—one that uplifts students, supports teachers, and reflects the progressive spirit that defines our state.

Rebecca Gomez is a former OC Board of Education trustee and Tustin City Councilwoman. She is currently a board member of the Tustin Community Foundation, President of the American Association of University Women Tustin-Santa-Ana-Orange and Director of the AAUW-Ca.



# 11:30 BUCKET DRUM CIRCLE 11:30 **BUCKET DRUM CIRCLE** THE BROTHER JONATHAN 3:30 FRANKLIN PUPPETEERS 12:00 THE POPPIES 3:00 **STORYTELLERS** WHISKY HAYRIDE 4:30 **ROAD KILL KINGS** 6:30 TED Z & WRANGLERS 6:00 8:30 GROOVE SESSION **SILVERADO FAIRGROUNDS ADULTS** AND

SILVERADOCOUNTRYFAIR.ORG 27641 SILVERADO CANYON RD, SILVERADO CA 92676

**COMMUNITY CENTER** 

KIDS UNDER 3 FREE

# "Letters" continued from page 4

This is only one of many problems that Chapman students bring to the neighborhoods where families live. Chapman University is bringing ruin to the city when it creates a housing problem. More housing away from our neighborhoods must be provided for students. Chapman seems uncaring when confronted with serious behavior problems.

I.T. Alvarez

# **Alarmed response**

# **Dear Editor:**

I am so disappointed in our current leadership. They are doing their best to dismantle our Constitution, the sacred document that formed the foundation for the greatest nation the world has ever seen, and pushing it aside to satisfy their lust for power.

The oligarchs win and the people suffer. The Republican Party will use every possible lever at its disposal, with little respect for the law, to gerrymander red states, and the people of California are to do nothing about it?

Turnabout is fair play.

That is why I am supporting Proposition 50. I don't like it, but dislike what the Republican Party is doing even more. This is about our survival as a democracy and a nation of laws.

Craig Attanasio Orange

# **Community Services** front counter moved

Front counter services for the City of Orange have moved to the Sports Center at Grijalva Park, effective Sept. 29.

The new location will offer consistent hours, Monday through every other Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and evening and weekend service during sports center programs. Park and facility permits are available online via CivicRec, (cityoforange.org, parks and facilities). Users must create an account on that site first.

Counter service is now provided at 368 N. Prospect Street, Building B.



# Stay alert!

The past is never dead...

The Sept. 2 Inter-Canyon League (ICL) meeting featured a short film screening introduced by History Committee member Scott Breeden. The group recently discovered a single reel of a Super-8 movie (with sound) documenting the 1975 Silverado Country Fair. Committee Chair Melody McWilliams digitized the movie, formerly stored at the old Silverado Library. In-person and online meeting attendees enjoyed watching the first 10 minutes of the 39-minute film, narrated by Bob Myers, Silverado resident Judy Myers's late husband. Judy reports that after 50 years she'd forgotten about the film, and that both she and Bob appear in it, along with several former and longtime current canyon residents.

As introduced by Breeden, "The 1975 fair was held at the Community Center just like today, but the Center was a bit different. No Hunt Building, of course, and there was a barn-like structure approximately where the gazebo is now, plus remnants of the 1930s-era school surrounding the main building."

Scott notes, "The film captures a parade down Silverado Canyon to the Center, led by two patrol cars, a high school marching band and color guard, a flotilla of old cars from the Orange County Model T Club, local fire trucks, Forest Service trucks, Smokey Bear, Woodsy Owl, horses, bikes and 'Dolly Dingbat' (Ann Gould in costume). Longtime Silverado businessman and school booster Tommy Beaulieu was Grand Marshal. And, of course, there was a mock gunfight, reportedly staged by Knott's Berry Farm ac-

tors."

Other highlights include Hawaiian dancers, baton twirlers, musicians, food and pottery vendors, the Grandmothers Club, a karate demonstration, a kids' piecating contest and 50-cent hot dogs. Fifty years later, ICL plans to screen the entire film several times at the Christmas Boutique during this year's fair.

### Fridge-a-dare

Rich Pfeiffer offered helpful, if painfully acquired, insight and advice. Make it easy on firefighters and emergency services providers who might make an unscheduled visit to your canyon home. Photocopy personal, medical and emergency contact information and magnet it to your fridge. That's where Station 14 and 16 volunteers and sheriffs look. Sure, it's on your cell phone (congratulations on today's steps, which ironically led to your fall) but that's password-protected. Helpfully, your refrigerator door

# In the zone

Mary Schreiber of Fire Safe Council reminded all to sign up for AlertOC, the county's notification system. Register online for emergency messages sent to your home, cell or business phone. And email. And since we now officially live in the State Responsibility Area (SRA) and the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone in the Local Responsibility Area (LRA) — lucky us! — we'll soon be responsible for complying with new, stricter (and lifesaving) defensible space requirements. Since the legislature passed AB3074 in 2020 and SB504 last year, the state's Board of Forestry and Fire Protection is directed to establish an ember-resistant defirst five feet around a structure, referred to as Zone 0." It's your house, basically. Zone 1 extends from Zone 0 to 30 feet around a structure and deck or to the property line if less than 30 feet. All to reduce wildfire risk by minimizing flammable materials and maintaining vegetation to slow fire spread.

# ... It's not even past.

This year's Oct. 11-12 fair highlights include live music from classic bluegrass banjo-picking to classic rock, and Cubensis, the popular Grateful Dead cover band. Featured local canyon artists with work for sale include Alice Phillips of Silverado Glass Studio showing her elegant fused glass and sterling silver jewelry, fine art photographer Vivi Wyngaarden, and multi-form nature-inspired artist Julie Williams. Buy local.

Kids and families will enjoy the Franklin Haynes Marionettes at noon on Sunday. Join the fivegallon bucket drum circle both days and contests, including best beard and, apparently timeless, pie-eating.

### **SMRPD**

Parks and Rec Board President Ted Wright laments the continuing funding struggle after county support was permanently cut by a third. "Alas, no free ice cream at summer concerts," says Wright. "We hope to fundraise for hams and turkeys for the Thanksgiving meal traditionally provided at the Silverado Community Center. But both parks and community centers are open, and we kept them open as cooling centers during recent heat waves."

# I'm with the banned

This year's Banned Books Week (Oct. 5-11) theme is "Censorship Is So 1984. Read for Your Rights." Sponsored by the American Library Association and celebrated by Library of the Canyons, you can read freely or join the book group on Wednesday, Oct. 1 discussing "The Lost Tomb" by Douglas Preston.

# (US) P.S.

It's costly to mail this local independent community newspaper. If you're reading this in the canyons, it's because volunteers dropped copies in Silverado and Modjeska, including at the Library of the Canyons, or delivered to your front porch. You're welcome!

# BSA Troop 538 to hold open house

Boy Scout Troop 538 invites the community to an open house, Tuesday, Oct. 22 at Canyon Hills Presbyterian Church, at 7 p.m.

Founded in 1975, Troop 538 is a scout-led troop which offers opportunities in leadership, community involvement, activities, adventurous outings (campouts, backpacking and hikes), and learning essential life-skills.

The troop is open to boys ages 11 and up and/or as early as 5th grade. It meets Tuesday nights at the Presbyterian Church in Anaheim Hills.

The open house will allow families to learn more about the spirit of scouting and Troop 538. The church is located at 190 S. Fairmont Blvd. RSVP or email questions to troop538ahills@gmail.com. To learn more about the troop, visit tinyurl.com/Troop538AnaheimHills.

# "Review" continued from page 1

no procedures in place to identify historic properties.

A letter written by a law firm on behalf of OTPA notes that "the proposed ordinance would conflict with General Plan goals, policies and implementation measures adopted to ensure historic preservation, protection and enhancement of scenic resources, and to reduce adverse impacts throughout the city." It further states that to comply with the General Plan, the city must revise portions of its zoning code before, or at the same time, it enacts an ordinance limiting discretionary project review in favor of administrative approval.

### **Details deferred**

The ordinance may also bypass CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act), which requires a determination whether a project would "conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation (including the general plan, specific plans, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect."

While the city fully intends to protect historic properties, the ordinance eliminates DRC review of projects in the rest of Orange. The DRC has, until now, studied development plans for projects citywide. It has been credited with calling out a two-story housing

development slated to be built on a site with a one-story restriction, correctly identifying floor plans for "apartments" as student dormitories and asking a developer to rethink a surrounding 12-foot block wall adjacent to a residential neighborhood.

# We jilt this city

"This is personal to me," resident Laurie Sandoval told the commission. "I've lived here for 30 years. I appreciate the DRC's insights and good questions. The city needs the DRC. Shortcutting makes Orange a less desirable place to live. The city consists of more than Old Towne."

Laura Thomas asked why the majority of Orange won't be given the same review and expertise as Old Towne. "What about neighborhood compatibility? Council's goals to streamline the process may be driven by financial circumstances, but this is a fix that may have unforeseen consequences."

"The DRC should be for all of Orange," McCormick advised. "It provides a benefit to a lot of people."

Commissioner Martinez admitted that he "feels bad" that the DRC is being portrayed as bad guys, and that the committee "has been very helpful."

The planning commission voted 5-1 to recommend approval of the ordinance. McCormick dissented. The city council is slated to hear it Oct. 28.





A massive structure under construction for the last five years was not subject to DRC review. Neighbors say it is not compatible with the rest of the homes on the quiet street in East Orange.

# Salem's new preschool opens



Salem Lutheran Church & School celebrated 60 years of ministry with a ribbon-cutting, Sept. 7, to unveil the grand opening of its brand-new preschool. Pictured here, left to right, Director of Safety & Facilities Julie Beckman, Ministry Leadership Council President Matt Noel, Preschool Director Stacey Davis, Business Manager Craig Olson, Principal Corissa Sheets, with Pastor Roger Frick looking on.



# **Annual International Street Fair transforms Old Towne Orange**



The Orange International Street Fair attracted throngs of food fanciers, libation lovers, music fans and families over the labor day weekend, Aug. 29-31 in Old Towne.



Paul Munoz, 9, scores a win on Children's Street, sponsored by the Orange Public Schools Foundation.



Emblem Club volunteers served food during the Orange International Street Fair, held Aug. 29-31. The fair food service is a fundraiser for the club's charitable donations, which are disbursed in March. From left, Club President Laurie Padilla, past President/Marshal Jan Genelle, Jr. past President Kim Smith, member Karen Kremer.



Ruby Raub, 8, shows off her glitter



Dancing in the street by spontaneous movers and shakers.



the Germany booth. Jeff Rice, far right, enjoys the moment.



John and Tristine Graves keep Stella comfortable away from the hot pavement.

# Celebrating family and fun at the Orange International **Street Fair**



By Vincente Sarmiento, 2nd nonprofits, and churches to raise **District Supervisor** 

As always seems to happen, the Orange International Street Fair means great food, music, and fun for families and folks of all ages, and some high temperatures as well.

This year was no exception, but the sunny summer skies and high temperatures could not dampen our spirits or the celebration. Community members from near and far turned out to enjoy the food, the bands, and the familyfriendly atmosphere.

I was proud to have our office sponsor Greek Street and join in this celebration with a purpose. For so many years, this great event has not only celebrated local cultures and communities but has also been an important event for local vendors and businesses.

The annual fair also serves as an opportunity for local schools, the funds they need to operate and provide services during the rest of the year.

It was terrific to see all the hard work that these great organizations do during the weekend event, but also get a glimpse of the incredible preparation that goes into making this event a suc-

Greek Street was hosted by the amazing team at St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, and it was a pleasure to meet the volunteers working their booth and all the families that enjoyed the great food and snacks prepared by the group.

It was great to see so many old friends come by and visit with our team at our booth. We also enjoyed the opportunity to meet and interact with folks from other parts of Southern California that came out for the fair, some for the first time.



# **City of Orange restructures** several departments

The City of Orange has announced the merger of the Economic Development Division with the Community Development Department to form one unified team focused on driving economic growth and innovation. The newly merged department, effective Friday, Sept. 5, , reflects the city's commitment to streamlining services, accelerating development opportunities, and providing enhanced support for current and prospective busi-

"Economic development is a top priority for the City Council as prosperous businesses and a consistent tax base are the key to a healthy city," said Mayor Dan Slater. "We hope to show residents, developers, and business owners that we are working together to invest in our financial health by making our city more business friendly.

With this strategic restructuring, the Community Development Department is better equipped to attract new investments, retain and expand existing businesses, and foster innovation across industries.



Join us in honoring Veterans, Gold Star Families, and the more than 58,000 service members who gave everything. Experience The Wall That Heals, the traveling three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, making its only Southern California stop.

FREE



**GRIJALVA PARK** October 2 - 5, 2025

24 HOURS

# Chapman names Mark Hilbert the Outstanding Volunteer of the Year



Mark Hilbert

Mark Hilbert has received the Chapman University Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award for 2025, a prestigious annual honor given to a non-alumnus.

Hilbert, who with his late wife Janet founded the Hilbert Museum of California Art at Chapman University, accepted the award from Jessica Berger, Chapman's executive vice president and chief advancement officer, at the 2025 Chapman University Volunteer Recognition Reception, Sept. 9.

"Mark's extraordinary vision and generosity have left a permanent mark on Chapman and continue to inspire us all," said Berger.

Established in 2016 through a gift of artwork and funds by the Hilberts, the Hilbert Museum

of California Art underwent an ambitious expansion in 2024 that grew the space available for museum operations and rotating displays from 7,500 to 22,000 square feet. The museum's permanent collection of 5,000 paintings and other works represents not only one of the world's largest collections of California narrative art, but among the largest private collections of Disney and

Hilbert Director Mary Platt was also acknowledged, as was a growing number of docents, followers and fans that have made the museum a top cultural destination in Orange County.

other animation art.

Chapman University presented its 2025 Outstanding Alumni Service Award to Jennifer Concepcion, a 2021 graduate, for her work building Dodge Next Gen, Dodge College of Film and Media Arts' alumni mentorship program for graduating seniors.



Jennifer Concepcion

# NCL to present 18th annual fashion show



NCL fashion show models are, back row from left, Sophia Barnes, Sienna Knarr, Charlotte Patton, Makayla Frith, Avery Yoast, Grace Samson; middle row from left, Gabriela Zewdu, Olivia Pham, Chloe Carrazco, Anna Mottl, Makenzie Griffith; front row, Allison Canton, Isabella Doeve, Gianna Burga, Megan Jarvi and Ryan Nguyen.

The National Charity League Orange/Villa Park chapter will host an afternoon of style, heart and community at the 18th annual National Charity League Fashion Show, "Coastal Couture," on Sunday, Nov. 16.

The show is inspired by the beauty and spirit of California's coastline.

The Class of 2027 juniors walking the runway are not only modeling fashion, but modeling what it means to lead with purpose. Over the past five years, these Ticktockers have served side-by-side with their mothers,

giving over 4,800 hours of their time to support the league's philanthropy partners.

Funds raised will help the junior class fulfill grant requests from local philanthropies. The chapter also offers its appreciation to the mothers of the class of 2027 and the committee members who poured their time, creativity, and passion into this show.

The show begins at 11 a.m. at the Waterfront Beach Resort, 21100 Pacific Coast Hwy., Huntington Beach. For tickets and donation information, visit: nclonthecoast.givesmart.com.

# Truck terminal project revised

A planned truck terminal, slated to be built at 534 E. Struck Avenue in Orange, has been scrapped and will instead be a warehouse.

Prologis, a global company that develops, owns, operates and manages warehouse and distribution facilities, was given city approval to construct the truck terminal in 2023. Citing changing market conditions, the company came back to the city with plans for a 231,572-sq.-ft. warehouse earlier this year. An existing 40,000-sq.-ft. building on the site will be demolished.

The truck terminal would have generated 396 truck trips per day; the warehouse will result in 372 truck trips per day. Because the warehouse is considered a less intense use with similar or reduced emissions, the original Environmental Impact Report, which found no significant environmental impacts two years ago, does not require revision.

Prologis asked the city for a Conditional Use Permit allowing the facility to operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The 9.98-acre project site is within 300 feet of a residentially zoned apartment development. Noise will be mitigated by routing trucks to the far side of the building; a 14-ft.-tall wall will be installed along the loading dock; landscaping will be designed to lessen the sound impact on neighbors; and trucks will be restricted from idling.

The council approved the project by unanimous vote. Projects like this, Mayor Dan Slater noted, will help keep city service fees lower.



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# 2025 ORANGE FIELD OF VALOR

In support of our local veterans, active duty military, and their families

**Handy Park in Orange | November 8th-13th** 

Opening Ceremonies on November 8th at 11:30 AM 2143 E. Oakmont Avenue, Orange CA 92867





# Boutique Noël kicks off holiday season



Despite the heat, these crafty Noëls are thinking holidays, and making unique items for the annual Boutique Noël shopping pop-up. Top row, left to right: Deb Hart, Nora Dankmyer, Yolanda Mitchell, Ida Rooney; bottom row left to right: Rita Conzelman, Pam Carlson, Donna White, and Darlene DeCenzo.

Assistance League of Orange's annual Boutique Noël shopping extravaganza offers décor, gifts and stocking stuffers for all your Halloween, autumn, Thanksgiving and holiday needs.

Back by popular demand are some of the best-selling vendors from previous years, who continually refresh and update their products and designs to keep them relevant. And, of course, Assistance League's own crafty elves, dubbed the Noëls, work throughout the year to create stunning and unique décor and gift items.

Support the philanthropic projects of Assistance League while doing your holiday shopping – there are less than 80 days til Christmas!

Boutique Noël hours are Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2:30-7 p.m.; Thursday and Friday, Oct. 9 and 10, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday, Oct. 11, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The boutique is located at 124 S. Orange St.

# Crescendo features singer Ivan Rutherford



 $Ivan\ Ruther for d$ 

The Crescendo Guild of Segerstrom Center for the Arts presents "More Than Broadway," with singer Ivan Rutherford, Thursday, Nov. 20 ,at the Bowers Museum.

Rutherford's appearance continues the group's Celeb-

rity Speaker Series 2025-26. He has performed the role of Jean Valjean in "Les Miserables" on Broadway and national tours and was nominated for "Best Actor" for his portrayal at the First Annual National Broadway Theater Awards. Other favorite roles include "West Side Story," "South Pacific" and the Tony Award-winning production of "Titanic."

The presentation begins at 10 a.m. at the museum, 2002 N. Main Street. Parking is \$7.00 cash at the museum.

Tickets are \$45 general admission. Bowers members may buy a ticket for \$35. For information about tickets contact Barbara Hagan at (714) 272-1134 or email her at crescendoticketsbowers@gmail.com.

Reserved tickets and additional tickets may be paid for at the

# Town and Gown announces Lunch at the Forum speakers

Chapman University's Town and Gown presents the 32nd season of its Lunch at the Forum lecture series, featuring university faculty and academic leaders.

Each event features a threecourse lunch, followed by a presentation. Bruce Bales of the College of Performing Arts reveals the musical secrets early composers left off the page, Oct. 2. His "More than Meets the Eye: Things Early Composers Didn't Bother to Write Down Because They Assumed You'd Just Know to Do It!" features live voices, period instruments and humor.

Matt Parlow, Chapman president, will address "Chapman University: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow," Nov. 6. Lisa Leitz, chair of the Department of Peace Studies, will present "Communicating for Peace & Justice: Lessons for a Divided World," Feb. 5, 2026.

"Cowboys and Classics: From Ancient Greek Tragedy to the American Western," will be discussed by Brennan McDavid and Michael Moses of the Smith Institute for Political Economy and Philosophy on March 5.

Anne Hogan, Dean of the College of Performing Arts and the Musco Center for the Arts offers a reflection on how dance shapes the mind, body and life beyond the stage in "There is No Such Thing as an Ex-Dancer," May 7.

Tickets are now on sale for the lunch/lecture series held at 11:30 a.m. in the George H.W. Bush Conference Center, Beckman Hall, Room 404. Season tickets (five lectures and a ticket to the Sholund Concert) are \$265. Individual lecture tickets are \$63.

Purchase tickets and earn more at chapman.edu/TGLATF. Questions? Contact Erin Peltier at epeltier@chapman.edu.

# OC FamilySearch Center Celebrates the Family



A chalk drawing done by local artists

The public is invited to the fourth annual "Dia de los Muertos Celebration of the Family" on

Saturday, Nov. 1, at the Orange County FamilySearch Center at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The celebration features a scavenger hunt that will help families get closer to their ancestors, and cultural activities to build a better understanding of this traditional Mexican holiday. The dead will be honored with music, folkloric dancing and calaveras (skeleton face painting). Authentic Mexican food will be available for purchase.

If you would like to share your artistic talents to create chalk paintings or learn more about the event, contact nielsenkathie@gmail.com.

The event takes place from 4 – 8 p.m. at the church, 675 S. Yorba. The library offers the community free online access to one of the world's largest historical genealogical databases.

# OPAWL elects directors for 2025-26

The newly-elected Board of Directors of the Orange Park Acres Women's League for the 2025-2026 program year include: Charla Harris, president; Kate Bonnaud, vice president; Jamie Spence, secretary; Noelle Hofmann, treasurer; Aspasia Zouras, vice president, membership; Michelle Schmidt, vice president, communications; and Lisa Shuss, sections coordinator.

Founded in 1984, the mission of the non-profit organization is to continue to develop a sense of community and foster friendships.

Numerous activity sections – pickleball, gardening, culture, among others — are available to members. For information about the organization, its activities and philanthropies, see Opawomen.





# The delicious Boysenberry was created in Orange County



## By Guy Ball

Local historian Chris Jepsen will discuss Rudy Boysen and his development of the deliciously unique Boysenberry at the next monthly meeting of the Orange County Historical Society.

The Boysenberry's story is so improbable, it's surprising the juicy berry survived to go into commercial production. The tale winds across California like a vine – from Merced County, to Napa, to Fullerton, to Buena Park, to Tustin and to Anaheim where Rudy Boysen (1895-1950) became the city's beloved parks director.

Jepsen shares his research on the Boysenberry, the creative and hardworking Boysen, the critical contributions of Walter Knott and Knott's Berry Farm, and how the berry – after nearly disappearing from the world at least twice – is making another comeback.

Chris Jepsen is the longtime president of the Orange County Historical Society and an independent historian. He's a frequent lecturer; has created museum exhibits and historical tours; and has written for historical journals, magazines, and his own blog, "The OC History Roundup." Jepsen wrote the first significant article about Rudy Boysen and the Boysenberry for OCHS' journal, "Orange Countiana," and continues to research the subject today.

The meeting will be held on Thursday, Oct. 9, 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 nonmembers.

For more information about the Orange County Historical Society, local history, and future meetings, visit OrangeCountyHistory.org.

# Boy Scout Troop 850 invites families to an open house

Boy Scout Troop 850, serving the cities of Villa Park, Orange, Anaheim Hills and surrounding communities will hold an open house to introduce scouting, in general, and the troop, in particular, to families interested in joining, Tuesday, Oct. 21, from 7 to 8 p.m. at Cerro Villa Middle School auditorium.

Troop 850 is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Villa Park and has been active since 1965. The Troop meets during the school year on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at Cerro Villa Middle School. The

Troop features an active scouting program with meetings, campouts, backpacks, day events, summer camp, and high adventure excursions. Typically, there is a planned outing every month and a visit to a week-long campeach summer. The Troop emphasizes leadership skills and has a high percentage of Eagle Scouts and Scouting alumni support.

The open house is designed for boys ages 11-17 and their families, for parents looking for a program that combines outdoor adventure with character development, and friends and classmates of current scouts who want to join an activity-driven, welcoming group. Attendees will meet scouts, leaders and their families, learn about the outdoor programs, discover "Banana University," the troop's unique and long-standing leadership training seminar, tour the meeting location and find out how scouting builds confidence, resilience and friendships.

Cerro Villa Middle School is located at 17852 Serrano Avenue. Email info@troop850.com or visit troop850.com.

# Orange Elks support veterans and community partners



U.S. Navy veteran and Elks member Wayne Nowakowski stands before his newly mounted flag.

Flags Over Orange was created by the Orange Elks to provide a flag for a military, police, fire, veteran, senior or disabled person that needs help mounting an American flag. The Orange Elks will install



American Legion Post 132 President Diana Trujillo, second from left, accepts a donation from Elks Lodge #1475 Exalted Ruler Kelley Martinez, far left, and officers Stephanie Fitzpatrick, John Carnes, Wanda McWhirter, Tom Wilkerson and Larry Mamchur.

a flag kit that includes a solar light to keep the flag properly displayed and illuminated overnight. A new flag was installed for Orange Elks member Wayne Nowakowski, a U.S. Navy veteran. American Legion Post No. 132 is one of the lodge's community partners. The Post suffered a broken water pipe, and the Orange Elks donated \$5,000 to help with the \$30,000 repair bill.

# The Election Rigging Response Act YES ON CA PROP 50 SAY NO TO TRUMP'S POWER GRAB!

**President Trump and MAGA** 

Republicans are using Texas and other states to change election results and weaken checks and balances. They want to eliminate California's values from the nation's politics.

# VOTE YES ON PROP 50 TO DEFEND CALIFORNIA.







# Orange Elks organize community event, promising "We Will Never Forget"



The Youth Ministry at Bridge Community Church provided the opening prayer.



Jan Genelle read an emotional letter from a 9/11 fire fighter's wife who asked us to think about the families that were left behind.



Youth Ministry at Bridge Community Church provided the closing prayers as "Amazing Grace" was played on bagpipes.



Don Westerfield talked about the American flag in the Lodge's lobby and the names of the many victims.



The El Modena High School Choir performed "The Star-Spangled Banner" and "America the Beautiful." The Orange High School MCJROTC presented the colors, and Boy and Girl Scout Troops #1475 lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

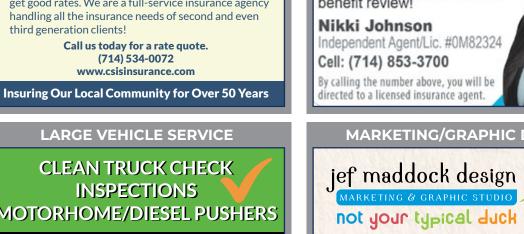










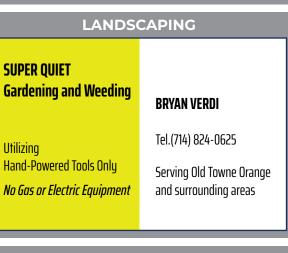




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One of the city's largest fes-

tivals will return early October

with rides, attractions and new

St. Norbertfest, hosted by St.

Norbert Catholic Church, started

as a family-friendly fundraiser

nearly 60 years ago to create a

community event reminiscent of

The three-day event features

carnival-style rides, games, food

and live entertainment, with pro-

ceeds supporting the church and

St. Norbertfest will run from

6-11 p.m. Friday, Oct. 3; 3-11

p.m. Saturday, Oct. 4; and 1-10

old-fashioned church fairs.

features.

its school.

p.m. Sunday, Oct. 5.

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St. Norbertfest returns to Orange

New this year is a Kiddy Sec-

tion, where tots will be able to

go on rides more appropriate for

their age. Sessions of bingo and

Lotería, a traditional Mexican

board game of chance similar to

bingo but played with a deck of

cards, will also debut in the gym-

nasium. Another new feature is

pre-sale tickets for game and food

Music will be featured every

day of the festival. Performances

include Ohio Trio Plus, playing a

sweet mix of Motown, R&B, pop,

and jazz, who will close out the

night with a performance from 8

to 11 p.m. Friday. The Soto Band

will keep the party going on Sat-

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# **Haunted Tour coming to Old Town Tustin**



Sherman Stevens residence

This October, you can again take a leisurely stroll through Old Town Tustin and learn about the strange occurrences and odd evening mysteries that happened in Tustin's early years.

Walk past stores and restaurants that may have seen a deadly past or something from the "other

See the ghosts you've been dying to meet and learn about all the spooky folklore.

where the mother died tragically. Even though the house is not occupied, lights have been seen

story Victorian-style hotel on 3rd Street, built in 1887 but a "derelict eyesore" a decade or two later? What were those spooky lights at night seen by passerby before the building was demol-

And then there is the crazy music teacher who lived nearby. She chased someone down the street with a butcher knife and later set

And just who is that apparition that we see in the historic Steven's Mansion on Main Street? People say he wears a green cardigan.

On the tour, you'll visit the spookiest places in Tustin. You'll hunt ghosts in Old Town. And you'll hear about the dark side of Tustin history.

Tour dates are Friday and Saturday nights, Oct. 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, and 25. Tours include up to about 20 people starting at 8 and 8:30 p.m. Advance tickets are required. Purchase tickets at eventcreate.com/e/tustin-ghosttours-2025.

The tour will start at the Tustin Area Museum located in the spooky 1925 Knights of Pythias Building at the corner of El Camino Real and Main Street. From there, you'll travel through the darkened streets of Old Town to hear spooky tales of old.

This walking tour is about three-quarters of a mile and about 90 minutes long, so wear comfortable shoes.

This event benefits the Tustin Host Lions Club and the Tustin Area Historical Society.

# showcase

High School.

This event will be presented in partnership with OUPSF, Orange Unified School District, and generously sponsored by Chapman University.

Possibilities," and will highlight the exceptional educational proments across all levels of learning within the Orange Unified School

The 2025 Celebration of Schools event will be shining a light on the wide range of Orange Unified Schools District's educational programs, resources and

# urday night, playing cover songs to get the crowd dancing from 7 to 11 p.m. The 7:30 to 10 p.m. Sunday night lineup includes Sonora Dinamita, followed by Los Cadetes de Linares.

Pre-sale unlimited ride wristbands are available online. The pre-sale one-day wristband is \$35 (\$55 on-site); the pre-sale oneday wristband with fast pass is \$55 (\$85 on-site). To purchase, visit bit.ly/4najujl. Pre-sale must be purchased by 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 3. Single tickets may be purchased on-site for \$1 a ticket; amusement rides are 3-12 tickets.

St. Norbert Church is located at 300 E. Taft Ave. in Orange.

# **OUPSF** invites the public to 2025 Celebration of Schools

The Orange Unified Public Schools Foundation (OUPSF) would like to invite the community to the 2025 Celebration of Schools Dinner and Showcase. This special fundraising event will be held on Wed., Oct. 15, beginning at 4:45 p.m., at Villa Park

The theme is "Pathways to

# grams, resources and achieve-

All proceeds from the Celebration of Schools will benefit OUPSF's charitable programs for Orange Unified. To purchase tickets, or if you would like to be an event sponsor, visit the OUPSF website at oupsf.org.

services offered to our families.

# **OC Dems** feature VoC publisher

The Central Orange County Democratic Club will host Norberto Santana, Publisher and Editor-in-chief of the Voice of OC, a nonprofit, reader-funded newsroom at its Wednesday, Oct. 22 meeting.

The meeting will also include an update on the YES on 50 campaign. Snacks at 6:30 p.m.; general meeting at 7 p.m. RSVP is required to attend, contact CentralOCDems@gmail.com.

Central OC Dems includes Tustin, Tustin Hills, Orange, Villa Park, and surrounding communities. All are welcome.

# moving in the upstairs windows. How about the 40-room, three-

# ished? OTPA announces Art of Wine

The Old Towne Preservation Association (OTPA) will feature the unique wines of Northern and Southern California at a wine tasting fundraiser, Nov. 8, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Held at the Hilbert Museum of California Art, guests may also view new exhibitions from the California West Coast Watercolor Group and the Pastel Society.

The wines are curated by Wil Dee, owner of Provisions, Haven and Chapman Crafted Beer. Tickets, at \$75 per person, in-

clude wine and hors d'oeuvres; proceeds will fund Anne Siebert interns provided to the Office of the Mayor to assist on preservation projects. Tickets available at OTPA.com. The Hilbert is located at 167 N. Atchison St.

# COMMUNITY SPORTS BY CLIFF ROBBINS, CHAD CLINE AND DIANE TORRANCE



Jalyssa Loatman from Orange High School intercepts a pass and returns it for a Panther touchdown.



James Munro brings downs an Ayala running back in the non-league game at SoFi Stadium. Canyon won the game, 26-7.



Kellen Rommelfanger holds a field goal attempt as Blake Hartfelder from Canyon High School nails the 34-yarder in SoFi Stadium.



Gavin Spargur (56) from El Modena High School blocks to spring Walker Duff for a big gain against Dana Hills.



Ethan Sorenson, El Modena quarterback, finds a receiver downfield.

# CIF-SS awards Orange High School trainer

Michael Partida, Orange High School athletic trainer, was one of only four recipients honored with the Champion for Character Award. It was presented at the 19th Annual Dr. Jim Staunton 2024-25 CIF-Southern Section Awards event held Sept. 22 at The Grand in Long Beach.



Lillian Quiroga, OHS, took the pitch and sprinted up the sideline for an Orange touchdown. Orange defeated Los Amigos, 14-0.



El Mo's Arnol Correa avoids the sack in the backfield against Dana Hills.



Orange High School girls flag football head coach Mitch Ryan gets his team ready for the season.



Jizelle Castillo (6) and Anessa Salinas (15) from Orange High School stop a Los Amigos running back.

# Commissioner Rich Shearer retires

CIF Commissioner Rich Shearer was responsible for football, wrestling and baseball. He was a teacher at Norte Vista High School and was the athletic director at Citrus High School. Shearer was recognized by the California State Athletic Directors Association, and was the Southern Section Athletic Director of the Year and honored with the Citrus Belt Area Athletic Directors Association Hall of Fame in 2019.

Shearer earned seven CIF-Southern Section titles and a CIF State Championship.

The CIF-Southern Section has chosen former Canyon High School coach Joe Hoggatt as Shearer's replacement. Hoggatt was involved with Shearer, directing football and baseball operations. Hoggatt served as athletic director at Bishop Amat High School for 11 years, and head coach at Canyon High School for 13 years. He posted over 400 wins and had two CIF Final Championship appearances.



# Chapman coach Bob Owens retires

After 18 seasons at Chapman, and over half a century of coaching, Bob Owens has announced his retirement as head coach of the Chapman University football team. He hangs up his whistle as the most successful coach in Chapman football history, with over 100 wins. Owens got win number 100 with a 43-23 triumph over arch-rival Pacifica University.

Chapman did not have to look far for a replacement. The university is pleased to announce that Casey Shine, former El Modena High School athlete, was chosen to lead the football program as the interim head coach for the 2025 season. Shine has been the Panthers' offensive coordinator for the last 13 years, and takes over the program he helped build into one of the best in the SCIAC and on the West Coast.



Jake Lind, Foothill High quarterback, found five receivers for 189 yards and one TD in the Troy game, despite the 21-49 loss.



FHS running back Aidan Faraj had a good night against Troy High School, rushing for two TDs and 124 yards.



Jayden Sessom, a starter for Santiago Canyon College, returns a serve against Irvine Valley.



Ashlyn Smith, a former Canyon High athlete and a starter for Santiago Canyon College, anchors the front line with a return.



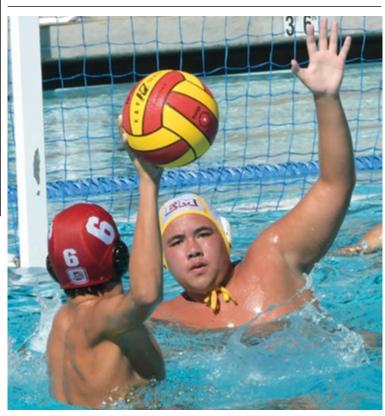
El Modena High goalkeeper Connor Morton saves another goal from El Toro.



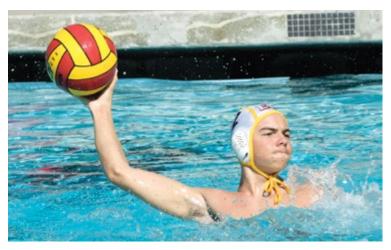
Hailey Gibson from Foothill High School digs it out in the Capo Valley game.



Foothill Knights Emili Gumbrecht (15) and June Stringham (14) set up for the block.



Max Devinney from El Modena High School blocks Orange Lutheran Parker Adkins' shot attempt.



El Modena's Braydon Walton has averaged two goals in each water polo game.

# THANK YOU PROVIDENCE ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL FOR YOUR DONATION

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If you would like to join Providence St. Joseph Hospital by donating to the Orange Police Foundation to support the Police Department for a safer City of Orange, please SCAN THE QR CODE or visit the URL listed above.



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