

FOOTHILLS SENTRY

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A Monthly Community Newspaper

August 2021

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The City of Orange received a state grant to create a Specific Plan for the Tustin Street corridor. Conceptual ideas were presented to the public at a workshop, July 20. One concept is a “soft” transition on Canal Street between residences and the reimagined Village Mall property. See page 8.

Orange Paseo saved the day during pandemic, city now ponders saving it

By Tina Richards

The Orange Paseo, the 100 blocks of north and south Glassell, will be shut down to accommodate the International Street Fair and reopened in late September, while its ultimate fate is yet to be determined.

The Aug. 25 closure of the Paseo satisfies the city’s contract with the fair organizers to provide a “footprint” around the Plaza over the Labor Day weekend for food booths and entertainment. The street fair, shut down last year by the coronavirus, is a major fundraiser for local nonprofits who sell food and beer on internationally themed streets in the center of Old Towne Orange.

The Paseo was closed to traffic in July 2020, and opened for outdoor dining as an emergency measure during the heart of the pandemic. The goal was to keep restaurants open and people employed. It was a runaway success. City Manager Rick Otto reported that sales tax revenue increased by 3.6 to 4%, based on a two-block business boom that, he said, was on track to gross

some \$60 million.

Aside from voting to close the Paseo to accommodate the street fair, the council weighed the options of closing it completely, leaving it open permanently or reopening it on a seasonal basis. The council discussed those options at length, but chose to defer a final decision.

Peace and prosperity

Restaurants and retailers that border the Paseo reported increased foot traffic, higher sales and happy customers who love the walkable environment. The manager of an antique mall on Glassell told the council, “It is easier for customers when the street is closed. Our business is better. Customers like the food, no buses and no smog. It’s a fun place to work again.”

“We have the community back,” resident Bill Masters observed. “People are talking to each other. The Paseo is bringing in people from the outside.”

Chamber of Commerce President Al Ricci noted that, “The best thing that came out of the

virus was the Paseo. Instead of declining sales, we had increased sales.”

Boom and bust

While most speakers at the July 13 council meeting supported a permanent Paseo, not every business benefited. The owner of an antique furniture store, located just beyond the closure, reported her business suffered beyond what the pandemic wrought. “We used to be on a thoroughfare,” she said. “It’s killing our business. Now we’re in what is essentially an alley, with no cars driving by and no parking. We don’t sell \$5 ice cream cones. We have expensive items. Our clients are unable to park or drop in. They just stopped coming.”

Old Towne Preservation Association President Tony Trabuco applauded the council’s action to put the Paseo in place and provide a “lifeline.” But, he explained, the concept was not in keeping

See “Paseo”
continued on page 2

Mary's Kitchen 11th hour notice falls on few ears

By Tina Richards

The news that the City of Orange would not renew its license agreement with Mary’s Kitchen drew scores of the charity’s supporters to the council meeting, July 13. Many of them held homemade “Save Mary’s Kitchen” signs, and many others spoke publicly on behalf of the facility that has served meals to the homeless for decades.

Some 25 volunteers, clients, homeless advocates, and two of Kitchen founder Mary McAnena’s grandchildren implored the city council to allow Mary’s Kitchen to remain at its Struck Avenue location. They addressed the council during the public comments portion of the meeting, the time set aside for residents to speak on topics that don’t appear on the agenda. Because those comments do not relate to a specific agenda item, the council cannot respond to them. It can only listen.

Each speaker was thanked for his comments by Mayor Mark Murphy, but nothing more could be said at that time.

Conflicts with county course

The city explained its position in a June 18 letter to Mary’s Kitchen CEO Gloria Sues. The letter applauded the kitchen’s history of service and its excellent partnership with the city. It referred to the county’s regional focus on “continuum of care,” intended to get people off the streets and into housing, and noted that Mary’s Kitchen was not in synch with that. The kitchen’s mission statement, “Those who do not care to improve their standard of living will be provided food and personal care support” only serves to enable homelessness, the city said. The letter also cited a change in clientele, “making the site an attractive nuisance with an increase in crime and calls for service from the police department.”

Several speakers disputed the city’s characterization of the clientele, noting that it was a “community” where people with nowhere to go felt safe and accepted. Several described Mary’s Kitchen as a lifeline, a cornerstone, an incredible place.

Life on the streets

“I’m one of the criminals that came out of Chino,” Bert Steensma told the council. “I had nothing. Someone told me about Mary’s Kitchen. You can eat, you can shower, you can have an address.” His experience there, he said, turned his life around.

See “Notice”
continued on page 6

NEWS INSIDE

ALL POLITICS IS LOCAL

Elected state and federal representatives come to our town. See Min, Porter, page 2

LOST IN THE OZONING AGAIN

Land-use decisions made by locals and state legislators require residents’ eternal vigilance. See Commentary, page 4

URBAN INTERFACE

Canyonites juggle the natural world with the intrusions of city living. See Canyon Beat, page 7

THE EAGLES HAVE LANDED

Boy Scouts honored for hard work and high achievements. See pages 9 and 10

HORSE POWER

The OPA parade returns to the streets with the requisite garnish of red, white and blue. See 4th of July, page 14

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Foothills Sentry



Letters To The Editor	Page 5
Canyon Beat	Page 7
Service Directory	Pages 11-13
Prof. Directory	Page 13
Classifieds	Page 13
Obituaries	Page 15



Jack Williams of Mabury Ranch is representing the United States in the Tokyo Olympics as a member of the U.S. Archery Team. See story, page 6.

See "Paseo" continued from page 1

with Old Towne standards. "That thoroughfare has been there for 135 years," he said. "It's one of the few continuous-use plazas in California. There is nothing in the design standards about shutting down thoroughfares. Residents are getting motorcycles and buses while you're enjoying your dinner."

Before bringing the options to the council, city staff had surveyed Old Towne merchants, property owners and stakeholders. Staff sent out 123 surveys and got 14 responses. Of the 14, 13 supported either a seasonal or permanent Paseo. A Chamber of Commerce outreach garnered similar support.

The surveys, according to many neighbors, did not include residents.

Worth repeating

The Paseo's success inspired Councilman Chip Monaco to advocate for permanency. Calling it the council's "greatest achievement" during his tenure, he cited the boost to businesses and the increase in revenue "while the nation was floundering." He said that he sees the Paseo as a park, and "parks cost money to maintain." The estimated \$50K per month to maintain a permanent Paseo didn't bother him, he said, because "it brings people into Orange to spend money."

Jon Dumitru suggested that if the Paseo continues, there must be standards. "It looks like a swap meet," he said. He also noted his concerns about the rest of the city. "If we allow tents in Old Towne, what about everywhere else?"

Kim Nichols noted that the long-term future of the Paseo did not have to be decided that night.

"We're not going to hash this out on the dias," she advised. "We should form a community group of businesses and residents to come up with a negotiated solution. We need to look what benefits the most and infringes the least."

Monaco said he was "ready to decide right now. Businesses need to stay open. Kicking the can down the road just loses time."

Think outside the block

Arianna Barrios, whose district encompasses Old Towne and the Paseo, acknowledged the three council members (Mark Murphy, Nichols, Monaco) who approved it last year. "It was the right thing to do, but businesses outside the Paseo did not do well. They had no traffic. We're not here to play winners and losers. We have to be fair. This should be the first of many discussions."

"It's a fallacy to think of the Paseo as a 4% gain," Murphy said. "It's more reasonable to look at a 40 to 50% decline without it." He suggested reinstating the Paseo after the fair, allowing it to be open while the council debated further.

The council voted 7-0 to shut down the Paseo for the street fair. Monaco suggested reopening it a week after the fair ended.

"I understand your excitement," Barrios said, "but you don't live there. Residents need a break, especially right after the street fair. And when the fair ends, Chapman students come back. We're going to have an influx of new residents. People need a break."

The council voted 7-0 to reopen the Paseo on Sept. 24; options for its long-term status continue to be deliberated.

Trails at Santiago Creek EIR rescinded

The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Trails at Santiago Creek development was quietly rescinded by the Orange City Council, July 13. Before voters defeated the project via a referendum in 2020, the Orange Park Association had challenged the EIR in court. With no project, the EIR is no longer needed.

"We are pleased that the City of Orange has rescinded its certification of the EIR for the project," OP Association President Sherry Panttaja confirmed. "This is the result OPA sought when it challenged that EIR in court. While the voters overwhelmingly rejected the project at the ballot last fall, rescission of the EIR was still needed to ensure that a similar project could not rely on the EIR in the future. Having achieved exactly what it intended in suing the city, OPA will be dismissing its lawsuit. OPA does not object to the Mabury project on the northern portion of the Sully-Miller property, which is consistent with the City's planning and zoning."



State Senator David Min (D-37) visited the Orange Home Grown Farmers & Artisans Market, June 26, and met residents, farmers, community stakeholders and elected officials to talk about what was happening in the city. Orange District 1 Councilmember Arianna Barrios (left) and former Orange Mayor Pro Tem Dan Slater (right) toured the senator around the Farmer's Market, as well as The Plaza and other areas of Orange.



Congresswoman Katie Porter (D-CA45) visited the El Modena Family Resource Center in Orange, July 8, to introduce the \$300 per month per child tax credit that took effect July 15. Porter was joined by the Community Action Partnership (CAP) of Orange County and leaders from other local family advocate organizations. The child tax credit is part of the American Rescue Plan passed by the U.S. Congress earlier this year.

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Rick Nelson and Pat Machado were named Tustin's Man and Woman of the Year by the city's Chamber of Commerce. Nelson is active in the Foothill Communities Association, the Legacy Foundation, FCA Charitable Corporation, Tustin Citizens' Oversight Committee for Measure S, Tustin Chamber of Commerce and the Tustin Community Foundation. Machado's contributions to the community include volunteering with Tustin Dollars for Scholars, Tustin Area Foundation for Fine Arts, the Tustin Community Foundation, Tustin Tiller Days, the Tustin chili event and the Old Town Sip n' Stroll event.

Orange City Council agrees to reinstate compensation

The Orange City Council approved two ordinances that allow councilmembers to be reimbursed for travel and provide a monthly stipend. It rejected an ordinance that would have enabled health benefits for members.

Orange electeds have not received compensation or reimbursement since 2011, when the then-council voted to forego any payments, as a nod to city staff who had been denied raises.

The subject was revisited last fall by Councilmen Chip Monaco and Mike Alvarez, and again in December by Councilman Jon Dumitru.

At the July 13 meeting, Kathy Tavoularis pointed out that only two cities in Orange County – Orange and Villa Park -- do not offer stipends to councilmembers.

Monaco stressed that lack of compensation might prevent qualified people from running for

office. Dumitru agreed, saying compensation would "help put us in a better spot for the future."

Councilmember Kim Nichols, acknowledging that Tustin voters had reinstated compensation for their council, asked if it could be put on a future ballot for Orange voters to decide. Mayor Mark Murphy explained that the state was not allowing other items on this September's recall ballot, and the next chance would be in 2022.

Reimbursement for city-related travel expenses was the least debated ordinance, as it would encourage councilmembers to represent the city at regional meetings, where it has admittedly been lacking. That ordinance passed, 5-2, with Murphy and Arianna Barrios opposed.

The government code establishes stipends based on population. For Orange, it is \$600 per month.

Monaco and Dumitru asked the city attorney to confirm that reimbursement, stipends and health benefits are optional, and a member could decline to accept any or all of them.

The stipend ordinance passed 4-3, with Murphy, Barrios and Kim Nichols voting "no." The health and welfare ordinance that would have provided \$2,115 a month for insurance failed by a 3-4 vote, with Murphy, Barrios, Nichols and Ana Gutierrez against.

"Timing and perception is important," Murphy said. "I'm not ready to make any changes."

City Attorney Gary Sheatz reiterated that the ordinances simply paved the way for payment "policies" to be determined by the council, and that none are mandatory. Compensation/reimbursement will be effective following the November 2022 election.



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Guest Commentary

Studies needed on Orange Paseo

By Adam Duberstein

When the City of Orange voted to temporarily close Glassell Street north and south of the Plaza during the pandemic, the effort had near unanimous support from the community. Businesses were struggling, and restaurants could not serve their customers inside. Closing the streets was a lifeline to many restaurants. Even though there were impacts to the surrounding community by closing off a major city street, we were all in it together.

Now that the worst of the pandemic is behind us and indoor seating is again permitted, there was an assumption from many

in the community that Glassell would reopen to traffic, and life would resume as normal.

The city council, however, has voted to keep the Paseo open indefinitely, and has no plans to do an impact study on this major change in the community. City staff provided a report noting that keeping the Paseo closed is costing Orange taxpayers \$50,000 per month in cleaning, trash pick-up and other services. Additionally, the city is gifting the public streets to the restaurants and shops on Glassell for free.

The city polled the restaurants that benefit from this gift of public funds, and found, unsurpris-

ingly, that 13 of the 14 shops surveyed would like to continue receiving this benefit. The city did not bother to check in with even one resident who lives in the area about the impact the closure of a major city street has had on us.

Tens of thousands of vehicles each week, including public buses, have been rerouted to go down residential streets, creating noise, air quality and traffic impacts. The impact to the residents, however, is apparently irrelevant to this city council.

At a minimum, the city should review the impacts of closing down one of the city's major arterial roadways before doing so

by fiat. The lack of regard for the residents in Orange and for the history of the Plaza is staggering. But, based on the history of this city council, not surprising.

Closing this street not only has a negative impact on the residents, but also on the vast majority of Orange businesses that do not enjoy the added benefit of significantly increasing their operating space. Those businesses asked the council to consider their struggles and their efforts to get back on their feet post-pandemic, but this council is clearly interested in creating an uneven playing field, by picking winners and losers, when it comes to businesses

in Orange. And once again, the residents end up getting ignored entirely.

When one thinks of a government spending tax dollars to benefit certain businesses, while denying others, and simultaneously casting aside the interests of their citizens, countries like Cuba or China come to mind. This is not the Orange I know, and this is not the direction Orange should be taking.

Adam Duberstein is a founder of Respect Orange, a non-partisan group of concerned citizens focused on bettering life in Orange.

Sentry Commentary

Single-family zoning is under fire statewide

The California legislature is poised to pass two bills that will destroy neighborhoods and forever alter the concept of single-family communities. The legislative body is not setting out to ruin neighborhoods specifically, but that's exactly what SB9 and SB10 will do. The bills have already passed the state senate and await approval by the assembly.

Positioned as a way to solve the "housing crisis," the bills will override local land-use plans and zoning designations. They will pave the way for split lots and multifamily dwellings to replace single-family homes, with little oversight and no public input. Neither bill, however, stipulates affordable housing, referring to the new units as market rate.

The pending legislation, for example, would allow North Tustin's large residential lots to be subdivided to allow for two single-family homes (or duplexes)

on each half. Those units could be joined by accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and junior ADUs, which have already been exempted from local control by legislation. That means each property could host up to 10 units. The same goes for Orange Park Acres and Villa Park.

Large lots, however, are not the primary target. "Middle class" neighborhoods, like most of Orange and the flatlands of North Tustin, are central to the scheme because they are more attractive to investors. The legislation would allow lot splitting on smaller properties as long as each new plot is 1,200 square feet.

SB9 and SB10 were written by State Senators Toni Atkins (D-San Diego) and Scott Weiner (D-San Francisco). Both say they want to see an end to single-family zoning in California. Weiner has stated that "single-family homes and yards are immoral."

SB9 rezones, by state statute, virtually all parcels within single-family residential zones. It preempts local zoning, prohibits public hearings and discretionary decisions on split-lot housing, and exempts those developments from environmental review. Applications to split lots must be approved "ministerially." There is no consideration for community values, i.e., heritage trees, views, bike paths, open space. With only four-foot setbacks required, units can be crammed together with no greenspace. Developers are not required to contribute to infrastructure or provide parking.

SB9 does exempt historic districts, hazardous waste sites, high fire zones or land designated for conservation.

Enter SB10. It gives city councils and county supervisors the ability to ministerially rezone properties in loosely defined "urban infill" or "transit rich" areas

for 10-unit buildings. "Urban infill" in California means virtually any lot containing housing or businesses, or any vacant lot. "Transit rich" means there is a bus line a half-mile away. SB10 will allow 10-unit "market-rate" apartment buildings plus granny flats on most blocks in most communities.

The only exemption is state-defined high fire zones. The bill does not reconcile the impacts on infrastructure. It invalidates CC&R restrictions and, most egregious, it allows local governing bodies to overturn zoning restrictions enacted by voter initiative.

Attorney Robert Perlmutter, who has represented Orange citizens on land-use issues, wrote a letter to Senator Atkins' legal counsel regarding SB10. "As the California Supreme Court has repeatedly affirmed," he wrote, "the initiative power is not a right granted to the people. Rather, it is a power reserved by them in their constitution. A fundamental aspect of the initiative power at the local level is that it gives the voters the final legislative word.

SB10 would turn this principle on its head by giving legislative bodies the final word over voters."

Developers and investors are salivating. Homeowners who may see an opportunity to cash in on their residential investment might be disappointed. They must pay off their mortgages when they split their lots, and the new parcels will be reassessed at the resulting higher value. Homeowners may not want to take on a higher property tax burden, but developers will. And why not? Backed by a stable of investors, developers can outbid families looking for a home and replace a single residence with up to 10 units, with no pesky local ordinances to work around, no environmental impact reports to produce, and no public hearings to endure.

The bills must still pass the assembly and may go back to the senate. Assemblyman Steven Choi represents Villa Park, North Tustin, the canyons and most of Orange. Dave Min is the area's state senator. Readers are encouraged to contact both.

Guest Commentary

Commission approval for Nexx Burger appealed to city council for a good reason

As a long-term East Orange property owner, I recently appealed a Conditional Use Permit, Design and Minor Site Plan Review for a proposed Nexx Burger located at 2940 E. Chapman Avenue. It was approved by the planning commission on May 17.

The appeal centers around two important issues. First, the commission's approval to use a lower parking rate -- 18 spaces instead of 31 -- for Nexx Burger, by relying solely on a citywide parking code that may be adopted later this fall.

The future code amendment would permit a lower parking rate for all drive-thru restaurants in town. The Orange Municipal Code and California law require changes to local zoning code be done via an ordinance, reviewed first by the planning commission and then formally adopted by the city council. It's unclear why the new code was applied to this project in May, and why the parking

code amendment was moved up for council consideration from fall to Aug. 10 after my appeal. Why not follow the legal process and schedule the project for a hearing, after the new parking code was adopted? This appeal will give the city council the ability to review all of this more closely.

Second, the proposal for a new 3,070 sq. ft. fast-food Nexx Burger includes a new drive-thru. The property was formerly home to Johnny Rebs which didn't have a drive-thru. The addition of a drive-thru brings the need for proper vehicle queuing, detailed vehicle clearance for cars to park and circulate around the building, safe pedestrian paths including ADA needs, and trash truck, delivery and emergency access. I believe the council should take a careful look at these details too.

This second look should ensure vehicle conflicts on and off-site will not occur. Plus, it

lets the neighbors chime in. All the owners in the area have private property rights that must be equally guaranteed and protected. A delay in cooking an order or a full parking lot, could push parking onto the surrounding streets, to adjacent commercial centers, and/or have vehicles stacked out to Chapman Avenue.

I strongly support Nexx Burger joining the Orange business community. But we should expect it to follow the rules. The final record should reflect that the details are spot-on, and no parking problems or circulation issues will ever happen on or off-site. I would also like to know if the city council concurs that it's appropriate to use a lower parking code rate without reviewing or adopting it first.

The council hearing is Aug. 10. What do you think?

Adrienne Gladson, AICP, former Orange Planning Commission chair.

Foothill High to hold 50th reunion

A reunion for members of the Foothill High Class of 1971 is slated for Saturday, Sept. 25 at the Tustin Ranch Golf Club, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lunch

will be served, and an alumni directory/biography booklet will be provided to all attendees.

For information, visit the re-

union website at reunion-specialists.com or call (760) 721-0525. Tickets are \$115 per person prior to Aug. 25, and may be purchased via the website.

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LETTERS to the EDITOR



Sand storm

Dear Editor:

As a resident and parent living near the Sully-Miller sand and gravel operation, I am writing to express concern for the health effects that it will have on East Orange residents who will breathe the dust and diesel exhaust.

Dust from surface mining operations produces airborne pollution, including crystalline silica that can cause lung cancer, silicosis, COPD, kidney and autoimmune diseases; increases susceptibility to infections like TB; and increases hospitalizations for heart disease. The dust from gravel mining may also contain heavy metals and radon, both of which cause cancer. Even if these emissions are within the allowable limits of state regulations, the potential health effects will not be eliminated.

Dust landing on the property of nearby residents will be stirred up during daily activities, thus magnifying the health consequences, particularly for active young children and babies in utero. Exposure of pregnant women will extend the health consequences to more than one generation, because of increased pollution and diesel exhaust damage effecting chromosomes and fetal development.

Diesel emissions will add to the health hazard. Diesel exhaust is a carcinogen and is more toxic than gasoline vehicle exhaust. Long-term exposure to even low levels

of diesel exhaust raises the risk of dying from lung cancer about 50% for residents who live near industrial operations, and about 300% for the workers.

Based on the scientific evidence and proven health effects of pollutants produced by gravel pit mining, I consider this operation to be entirely incompatible with what should be the City and County of Orange officials' first priority – protection of public health, families, children and pregnant mothers living in nearby residential areas in East Orange. There must be a reasonable solution. Finding a remedy is one of the most important issues to address in East Orange in 2021.

Mark Moore
Orange

Black and white

Dear Editor:

Lately, I have noticed that a particular skunk travels through our neighborhood. It always scents the air with a smell that pervades through walls and into nostrils. Its fragrance can wake one out of a deep sleep! Making sure there is no residence for "Pepe LePew" anywhere on our property, I wonder who is harboring this black and white "stink bomb."

My hope is that my neighbors will make sure this critter is not in their yard. It is up to each resident to keep his/her property clear of this type of wild life. If people would make sure their property is free from places where skunks like to live, like debris piles or unkempt brushy areas, then the pesky stink bombs will pass by and go to a more natural habitat. I am sure this is happening not only in my neighborhood. There is little information out there for this type of thing. If people are not educated on how to keep skunks from inhabiting neighborhoods, it can only increase, as skunks, like humans, like to have families. More skunks mean even more stink and danger to animals and humans alike.

Mary Keough
Orange

To be clear

Dear Editor:

We appreciate the opportunity to be included in your story about the State of Old Towne. We have three important corrections regarding Alisa Driscoll's quotes in the article "State of Old Towne addressed at annual meeting."

First, Alisa specified that the plans for the Killefer School are that the space is to be used for research, academic or possible other administrative space versus office space.

Second, Alisa specified that the potential properties we are looking for to house students are near Panther Village, on the western end of town.

Third, the "old apartments" to be renovated are the Davis Apartments on campus – an existing complex.

Pamela Ezell
Asst. VP,
Communications
Chapman University

Trash talk

Dear Editor:

The article on the front page about Waste Management's complete and obvious control over the County Board of Supervisors makes me think it is time to bring in the Attorney General to investigate this abuse and potential graft from WM.

These contracts with this company cannot be legal any more than the "mafia-run" businesses back in the 1920s. They have been ripping the people off for many years now, and it has become obvious to me that the county supervisors are being paid off in order for WM to receive such a golden pay raise at the expense of the people. There seems to be no end to what this company can get away with. Especially when compared to "CR&R" in the same article. Please, wake up" that attorney general.

Joe Del Rio
Orange

From the desk of...

Dear Editor:

Foothills Sentry readers should share my disappointment at Tina Richards' article about new trash contracts in the July edition. Since readers only heard one side, let me share the full story.

When my office heard concerns over the manure rates from the OPA community for the first time the week before the contracts were to be approved, I immediately directed county staff to renegotiate the manure rates and I said so on the dais.

From that direction, we significantly negotiated down the trash rates. Buried at the back of Ms. Richards article, she characterizes the rate reductions we accomplished as a "bit" lower. In fact, we negotiated an over 30% reduction in manure rates. Now the manure rate is only a \$1.08 increase from the last year.

Similarly, Ms. Richards tries to compare the new OPA rates to those charged by a different company set years ago in the City of Orange. The comparison is absurd. It ignores (1) changes to state laws regarding environmental treatment of waste in OPA that were not in effect in Orange when those "comparison" rates were set and that drive up current rates, and (2) what the new Orange city rates are expected to be given Sacramento's new mandates.

The simplistic comparison is the equivalent of comparing Union76 gas prices today to Shell gas prices three years ago across town. Furthermore, the county solicited bids from multiple waste haulers. The waste hauler for the City of Orange bid on the contract for OPA, and did not provide pricing anywhere near what the current rates are in Orange.

Finally, Ms. Richards strangely accepts without challenge -- and certainly without even bothering to ask me about it -- that OPA and El Modena somehow should be lumped together by the county in a trash contract. But those communities are vastly different. They have long been served by different providers, and they offer no "economies of scale" or other benefits by necessarily being considered together.

Moreover, in the meeting with OPA residents, we discussed this issue in detail and I sided with our OPA residents in asking this question of our OC Waste & Recycling experts. We vetted that option and it was found that the

increase was not reduced by any economies of scale.

Any question and concern from our residents we take seriously and vet in their entirety. We continue to work with our OPA residents to ensure that they are provided the best service and that we hold our contractors accountable. After hearing the concerns from the OPA community, I have asked to appoint an OPA Board Member to the Orange County Waste Management Commission.

If any resident has a problem with trash collection, please let our office or Orange County Waste & Recycling know so that we can help address those issues.

Don Wagner
Third District Supervisor

Ed. Note: The story was based on what was said and done at Board of Supervisors meetings and publicly available documents and correspondence. County waste rates are substantially higher in July than they were in June. One OPA county resident reports that her manure waste bill went from \$280 in June to \$377 in July. Another's rose from \$43 to \$217. A "bit" more than \$1.08.

Jan Breslauer, author of last month's waste fee Commentary replies:

"Waste Management's alleged "manure rate" exists only on paper, and is not actually available to customers. The reason there is no "manure rate" is because Waste Management does not recycle manure or anything else. If you "negotiated an over 30% reduction in manure rates," then why did my bill just increase 35%?"



Orange Park Acres resident Logan Eldridge graduated from Cal Poly Pomona summa cum laude, with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and a bachelor's degree in computer engineering. While Eldridge attended Canyon High School, he also took classes at several junior colleges concurrently in order to complete his UC/Cal State undergraduate requirement and the calculus series prior to his high school graduation three years ago.

Eldridge accepted a full-time position as an electrical engineer with the firm where he interned. During college, Eldridge also worked on campus in the IT department as administrative desktop support, and spent his free time creating and coding websites. He will be back at Cal Poly this fall attending the Master of Business Administration program.

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See "Notice" continued from page 1

The recurring theme among the speakers was that "people need help, people need to eat."

Mary McAnena understood that, and turned her early tureens of barley soup into a respected establishment that provides two full meals a day for anyone who is hungry.

Right now, speakers explained, there are no viable alternatives in the area, and due to the city's "heartless" decision, people will suffer.

"The city has an obligation to provide for all of its population," Elizabeth Martin said. "Being poor is not a moral failing. The only homeless service in Orange is Mary's Kitchen."

"I've lived around here for 60 years," Heidi Zimmerman chided. "I was taught to love each other, no matter who they are. Your actions are killing people."

I can't believe you are shutting down Mary's Kitchen. You have no soul."

Following the Mary's Kitchen testimonials, the council meeting continued until after 11:30 p.m. By then, the council chambers were nearly empty. After the final agenda item was concluded, Murphy made a few comments, and announced that "the meeting was adjourned."

But wait

"Before the meeting is adjourned," City Attorney Gary Sheatz interjected, "could I report out on one item?"

"Yes," Murphy answered. "I remember you mentioned that earlier."

"I need to report," Sheatz said, "that in closed session [held at 4:15 p.m.], the council voted unanimously to confirm the actions of the city manager and staff to terminate the license agreement between the city and Mary's Kitchen."



VPWL commences 53rd year

Villa Park Women's League, founded in 1969, formally installed its executive board for the 2021-22 year at a brunch event. From left, officers are First Vice-president Bridgett Baril, programs; Second Vice-president Anita Kantak, philanthropy; Third Vice-president Risa Scott, membership; President Eva Wyszkowski-Hartman; Parliamentarian Andie Mills;

Treasurer Angela Shaw; and Recording Secretary Barbara Perez. The nonprofit organization was founded to promote friendships and civic pride, and continues in that mission with numerous social activities, quarterly meetings and events. The first meeting of the year will be held Sept. 16. For information about the meeting, activities and membership, see vpwl.org.



Caregiver's photos on display at the Muck

Orange Park Acres resident Jane Canseco was one of 12 caregivers who was given a camera and asked to document a day in her life. Southern California Public Radio and LAist sponsored the project.

The photo essay project took place last summer, during the height of the pandemic. Project sponsors wanted to provide a window into child care providers' roles as educators, nurses, social workers, cooks and janitors. Canseco and her husband Jorge

are part of their family's network of care providers for grandson Adrian Deleon. An equestrian, Jane spends a lot of time at the nearby stables, and takes Adrian with her as often as she can. He, in turn, loves horses and the outdoors.

Childcare Unfiltered, featuring Canseco's photo and those from the other participants, is on display at the Muckenthaler Cultural Center, now through Aug. 31. The Muck is located at 1201 Malvern Ave., Fullerton.

Orange archer makes U.S. Olympic team

By Isabella Ferrentino

The minute Jack Williams picked up the bow, released the arrow, and finished 23rd in Cub division in the Junior Olympic Archery Development Summer Nationals, he was destined. An eighth grader, he had only been practicing with his recurve bow for six months. But he was hooked, and began training full-time for archery. Now 21, he's competing for the U.S. at the Tokyo Olympics.

Williams, from Mabury Ranch, was introduced to archery by his fencing coach in seventh grade. "At the beginning, I was doing archery just for fun," he says. "As I got better at archery and realized I was successful at it, the Olympics became a goal for me."

He took the sport seriously. His high school allowed archery in place of regular P.E., so, five times a week, parents Jeff and Wendy Williams drove him to practice at the nearest range (12 miles each way) and on weekends to El Dorado Park (25 miles each way). The teen competed in U.S. and World Tournaments, improving, winning medals and setting a state record, even while maintaining a 4.0 GPA and playing as first chair cello at school.

Early to rise

In 2016, Williams applied for the USA Archery Resident Athlete Program, which gives athletes the chance to train full-time for the Olympic Games. Once admitted to the program, he took the High School Proficiency Exam, officially graduating high school before the end of his junior year so he could focus full-time on archery, despite being the youngest competitor on the U.S. archery team.

"Keep trying to improve your-



"I think knowing that you're one of the best athletes in the world, and that everybody looks up to you, you become an inspiration for everybody else," says Jack Williams. "With the pressure of always performing as an athlete, you have to always be on, you have to be amazing and compete at any moment."

self," he advises, "instead of doing stuff that's not in your control. There's other aspects to archery that you can't control. Don't stress out about those and try to just control yourself."

His hard work paid off, as he competed as a senior in four National Tournaments that led to a #4 ranking in the U.S. Senior Division and a spot on the 2018 World Cup Team. He spent his 18th birthday en route to the World Cup in Shanghai, awakened by teammate and five-time Olympian Khatuna Lorig when they crossed the international date line.

He finished 2019 ranked #2 in the U.S. Senior Division, and #11 in World Archery Outdoor. He beat three-time Olympian and U.S. #1-ranked Brady Ellison,

broke the 2019 Pan Am Games record score, won bronze at the U.S. National Target Championships, plus a gold Team Medal there.

"The biggest thing that goes through my head," he says, "is making sure everything is sent the same. As I start my shot, I make sure that I'm consistent as I focus on the target."

COVID forced the cancellation of international competitions in 2020. In restricted U.S. competitions, Jack took a gold at the Gator Cup, securing the #1 ranking in the U.S., and becoming the first to unseat World record-holder Ellison since 2009.

Now Jack Williams, one of the youngest on the U.S. Olympic archery team, is poised to realize his dreams in Tokyo.

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Daisy Troop Group 8257 donated \$177 of cookie sale profits to Mary's Kitchen. Rear, Troop 8257 co-leaders Jonelle Strickland, left, and Alison Luckey flank Mary's Kitchen Director Gloria Suess; front, from left, Daisies Abby Nguyen, Gwennie Biard, Avery Kurtti, Emma Luckey, Ruby Nguyen, Christina Chao, Sierra Strickland, Sage Strickland and Rebecca Mechael.

Orange Daisy Troop supports Mary's Kitchen

Girl Scout Troop 8257 didn't know how many cookies to pre-order in January 2021. The early cancellation of booth sales due to COVID, and the fact that it was a brand new troop made up of five, six and seven-year-olds made for a lot of unknowns.

Still, the girls set a sales goal of 1,200 boxes, or about 100 each. Their goals were to ride a Duffy boat and to support Mary's Kitchen. "Helping those less fortunate than ourselves was a decision the girls made together," says troop parent Derek Kurtti. When the girls doubled their sales goal to 2,528 boxes, they proudly handed

over \$177 of their troop earnings to Mary's Kitchen.

But the girls didn't stop there. They gathered clothes, hygiene products, and a crate full of sunblock to distribute to Mary's Kitchen patrons on June 12. "One of the girls picked out two of her largest dolls, Blinky and Blanca," says Troop co-leader Jonelle Strickland, "because she wanted others to have what she has."

When troop parents learned about Mary's Kitchen's "90 days to vacate," they braced themselves for a heart-to-heart conversation with their daughters, Strickland says.

Santiago Hills landscape fees to increase

The Orange City Council approved a 1.5% increase in the overlay assessment for the Santiago Hills Landscape District, July 13.

Property owners in Santiago Hills pay for landscaping and maintenance in the community's common areas via two assessments that appear on property tax bills.

The first originated in 1987, and is capped at \$369.44 per single-family detached home. Voters approved a second overlay assessment in 2015, which

allows for annual increases based on the Consumer Price Index. Together, the assessments fund maintenance and improvements for neighborhood plant life, hard-scape, and utilities.

Overlay assessment fees for single-family detached homes will increase from \$244.49 to \$248.16. Condominium fees will go from \$173.59 to \$176.19.

Under a separate agreement, Rancho Santiago Community College pays the city to maintain the parkways adjacent to the school.



Temperature check

The county reported an updated total of 101 COVID cases in the Silverado "region" in mid-July. With spikes in both reported cases and deaths in OC, masks are making a comeback among patrons of post office, library, and canyon businesses, as state-sponsored phone outreach to homes, and incentive programs are attempting to boost OC's overall 55% fully-vaccinated rate, disappointing, but above LA's. SCE continues pole replacement and insulated wire installation, with frequent, if brief, lane closures. In Modjeska Canyon, some dog walkers carry aerosol bear spray after sightings of another cougar. Hot weather fails to discourage mountain bikers, but many walk their bikes up Modjeska Grade Road. Since July 4, the once-familiar boom of nightly 9:30 p.m. Magic Kingdom fireworks echo again in our hills, a sonic reminder of both a tentative return to normalcy and its risks.

Who speaks for the trees?

The Lorax. But who speaks, exactly, for the branches and limbs through which power lines and communications cable run? Recent inquiries about who might trim these, toward both further fire prevention and easier emergency vehicle access, led your humble reporter into a bureaucratic wilderness of institutional hierarchy. To review: Edison line is on top, with Cox and others renting space below for aerial communications cable. If your home once received service from another provider, say AT&T, you'll see as many as four lines in the oaks or sycamores. SCE maintains the poles, assessing safety and

viability. You likely knew that, but a jolly morning spent with an Edison naturalist illustrates further happy complications via a birdwatching tutorial. The expert avian surveyor was identifying active nests, typically abandoned by late summer, so that tree crews don't disturb busy habitat. In under 45 minutes, he introduced me to hummingbirds, hawks, band-tailed pigeons, spotted towhees, nuthatches, house wrens, house finches and goldfinches, both ravens and crows, with assurances of a Golden Eagle nest above Madame Mo's house. Sometimes you can't see the birds for the trees! Nesting season ends with the arrival of Santa Anas, so anticipate migratory tree-trimming crews then.

Loving Lepidoptera

The answering machine message at Tree of Life Nursery in San Juan Capistrano anticipates questions from gardeners eager to do the right thing for visiting monarch butterflies: "Yes, we have tons of California native milkweed available this summer, and we won't run out." Indeed, a recent "New York Times" story inspired mass action by first responders to our butterfly crisis. Recommended for our region, and for the species' health, are showy milkweed, narrow leaf milkweed and a desert milkweed. Planting a popular tropical varietal confuses the insect and distributes a deadly virus.

"Hey now!"

The Conspiracy Radio Band (motto: Rock Done Right) tribute outfit and Hempstring Orchestra, a jam band heavy on Grateful

Dead classics, perform together on Sat., August 21 at the Silverado Summer Concert Series.

Every 56 days

If you joined the recent Red Cross Blood Drive in Silverado, then you'll want to schedule your next donation for as early as Aug. 10. RedCrossBlood.org.

In Inter-Canyon news ...

Emeritus board member Francesca Duff continues hustling on our behalf for Radio Net repeater funding, but, meanwhile, scored a \$10,000 grant from Edison. Those funds cover emergency first-aid kits for disasters, as well as training in CPR for neighborly volunteers, and mental health counseling for residents impacted by recent fires, flooding, and evacuation. The diligent Duff also reports that modest legal complications have delayed final purchase (not "assignment") of the Tucker by the Environmental Nature Center, with predictable confusion over historically weird canyon parcel boundaries. Good faith efforts by both seller (CSU Fullerton) and buyer (Bo Glover of ENC) challenge a real estate-meets-meteorological phenomenon called "cloudy provenance." Locals hope for clear skies.

Friends of the Library Chair Fran Williams reports \$3,500 in proceeds from the recent swap meet. Organizer Jane Bove plans a scaled-back Silverado Fair, with Zach Dupre lining up bands and volunteers invited to commit now. Steve Kerrigan takes over September clean-up days from longtime Inner-Coastal and All Canyons coordinator Phil McWilliams. Perhaps Phil can now coast a bit, but still stay chipper. He continues to liaison with Waste Management, which joined a recent ICL meeting after concerns from residents about idiosyncratic rates, and practical questions about pick-up and recycling protocols. See the ICL minutes online, but note that recyclables should be put in bins loose, not bagged, and anticipate a new statewide color-coded bin protocol.

Safety in Solidarity

Canyon Watch now boasts a block captain network count of 30, and over 460 canyonites with GMRS or base radios. Sixteen volunteers patrolled over Fourth of July weekend, stationed at Maple Springs Gate, Silverado Post Office, and Jackson Ranch, as well as patrolling from Silverado Canyon Road to the 241. Fire Watch stalwarts patrolled Modjeska and Williams Canyon.



Lisa Alvarez enjoys the refurbished fountain at the Modjeska House.

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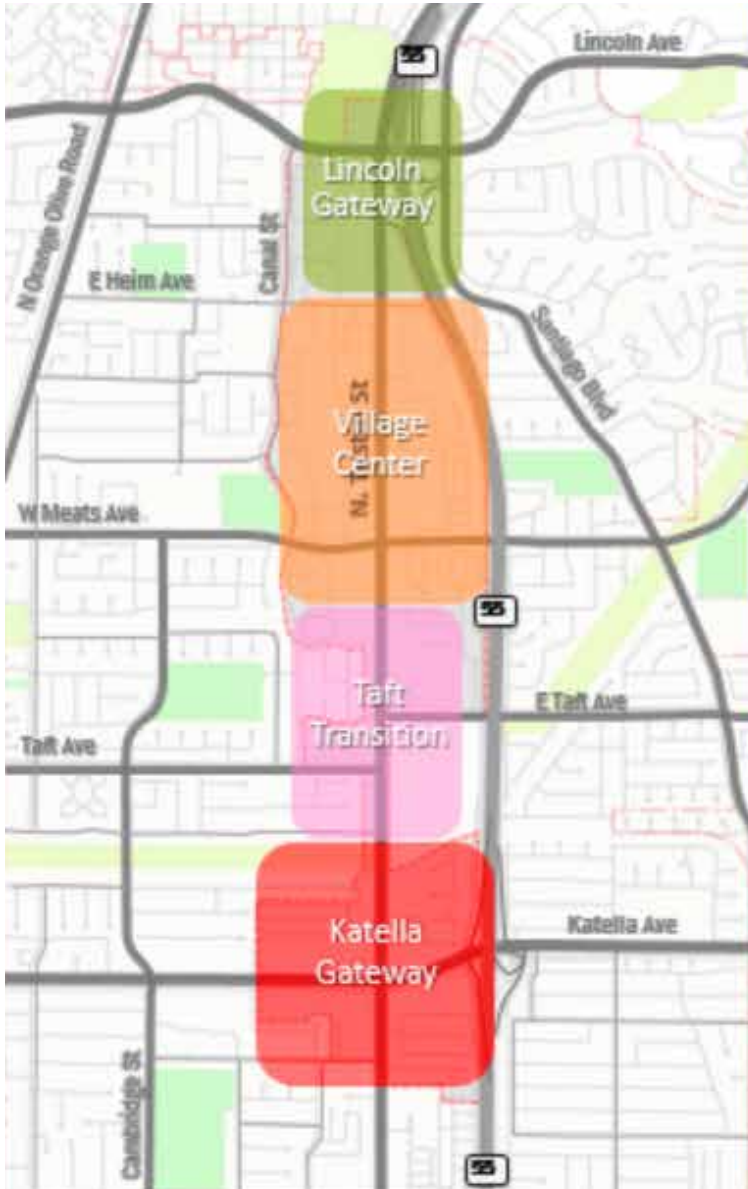
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Ideas for Tustin Street Specific Plan unveiled



The portion of Tustin Street slated for rezoning has been divided into four "places." Each place is being considered individually. Existing successful businesses and car dealerships will remain in place; however, improved landscaping is recommended.



Many of the 100-plus attendees at the workshop were alarmed at the four-story buildings envisioned for the Village Mall frontage on Tustin Street. City staff assured the audience that "these are not plans, they are just ideas." According to staff, there are no projects, details or done deals at this time. The city is still soliciting input from the community. More details will be presented at a subsequent workshop.



Retiring Orange Police Chief Tom Kisela (center) is a member of the Orange Elks. The Elks, shown here, were part of an event honoring the chief.

Assistance League tees up for Orange

Assistance League of Orange will hold its first meeting of 2021-22 on Friday, Aug. 27 at 10 a.m.

President Karen O'Keefe, a golfer, will unveil her theme "Tee it up for Orange: Time, Talent, Treasure," chosen because volunteer members donate time, share talents and contribute treasure through their support and donations to the Now & Again Thrift Shop.

The mission of the 80-year-old nonprofit is to transform the lives of children, veterans, students, women and families through its community philanthropic programs. For information, see alorange.org, or contact membership@alorange.org.



Four students from Carolyn Biller's North Tustin Piano Studio have earned Paderewski Medals from the American College of Musicians. From left, Arielle Kayekjian and Charis Pan from Anaheim, and George and Thanos Syrengelas of Irvine have completed a 10-year journey to merit the medals. Students must play 10 memorized pieces before a judge every year for 10 years, and earn superior scores each year. It is one of the highest award given to piano students by the College of Musicians/National Guild of Piano Teachers.

Sales coming to Orange Library

The Orange Main Library will hold a comic book sale, Sat., Aug. 14 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The sale will be held in front of the bookstore. Buyers are asked to bring their own bags.

A bag sale for books is slated for Sat., Aug. 28 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the community room. Friends of the Public Library members are invited to get a head start at 9 a.m.

A \$5 donation buys shoppers an FOPL bag, which they may fill up with the books of their choice. The main branch library is at 407 E. Chapman.



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ORWF to feature Spitzer and Dunsmore

Orange Republican Women, Federated returns from summer break with guest speakers Orange County District Attorney Todd Spitzer and Rescue California Chair Anne Hyde Dunsmore, at its Thursday, Aug. 19 meeting.

Spitzer will address public safety, the DA's role and current issues; Dunsmore will speak about the recall. The meeting, held at the Santa Ana Elks Lodge, begins at 6 p.m.; doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Elks chefs will prepare a taco bar for the meeting. The cost is \$25 per person. Make your reservation early by contacting Peggy Baranyay at (714) 828-1289. Bring a friend!

For more information, contact ORWF President Andrea Krupka at andrea.krupka44@gmail.com or visit ORWF.org.

Santa Ana Elks Lodge is located at 1751 S. Lyon St.

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Troop 850 recognizes new Eagles

Boy Scout Troop 850 of Villa Park celebrated 12 new Eagle Scouts at the Oak Canyon Nature Center in Anaheim Hills on July 11. Not only was this the largest Eagle Court of Honor in the troop's history, but each of these young men made Eagle rank despite the hurdles the pandemic threw their way.

The event was attended by four past and present Scoutmasters, past and current Troop 850 members, parents, family and friends. The opening ceremony made use of 50 state flags, 11 historical flags, a troop flag, and the American flag.

Eagle Scout took the podium and shared his most meaningful memories of scouting and thanked those who helped him



Troop 850's new Eagle Scouts are, front row, left to right, Chris Gudmundsen, Lance Esquillo, Tom No, Matthew San Pedro, Hunter Strauss, Shawn Ricker; back row, left to right, Thomas Wagner, Kyle Chen, Joseph Ettipio, Griffin Dwyer, Dominic Agarwal and Andrew Strauss. Scoutmaster Shawn Sessions is in back.

make it to the Eagle's Nest.

To earn the rank of Eagle, the highest attainable rank in scouting, each Scout completed an Eagle Scout Service Project, earned at least 21 merit badges and participated in camping adventures, learning valuable leadership skills along the way.

Eagle Service Projects in-

cluded the design, construction and installation of benches, bird houses, Gaga Ball pits, educational kiosks, bridges, irrigation systems, gardens, patios, podiums, tables and split rail fences at nature centers, religious centers and schools.

Troop 850 is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Villa Park.

VP equines' popularity swells

During the pandemic, Jax and Mia were the unofficial mascots of Villa Park, with a friendly greeting for runners, bicyclists, walkers, kids, moms with strollers and dog-walkers. So many people stopped by to visit the duo, bringing treats of apples and carrots, that Mia gained a whopping 300 pounds.

Owners Julia and Mitch Felde promptly put Mia on a diet and were pressed to erect "do not feed the horse" signs. Jax, the palomino, is 28 and a retired hunter-jumper. Mia, 8, is a thoroughbred. They still receive numerous visitors each day, and Mia always trots over to see if there is a treat, but the signs have helped her remain slim.



From left, Mia shows off her newly svelte shape, with Julia Felde, Jax and Mitch Felde.



Jax's expressions reflects his thoughts on the new signage.



Crescendo presents Joely Fisher

Actress/singer Joely Fisher will be the featured guest at the Celebrity Speakers Series, sponsored by the Crescendo Chapter of the Guilds of Segerstrom Center.

Fisher earned awards for her comedic roles on TV, sang on Broadway and starred in dramatic films. She is a member of the talented Fisher family, the daughter of Connie Stevens and Eddie Fisher, with sibling Carrie Fisher.

The program will be Thursday, Sept. 9 at 10 a.m. at the Bowers Museum, 2002 N. Main Street. Tickets are \$30 for general admission and Crescendo Chapter members. Bowers Museum members may buy one discounted ticket for \$20; student tickets are \$25, or three for \$20. Parking is \$6.

The Guilds of Segerstrom, including the Crescendo Chapter, raise funds to support the Center's community engagement and arts education programs. See SCFTA.org, under Support Us.

Tustin Dems address local, state issues

The Tustin Democratic Club will focus on local and state issues at its Aug. 24 Zoom meeting, beginning at 7 p.m.

Orange County Supervisor Katrina Foley will share her board experiences and answer members' questions. The remainder of the meeting will be devoted to the recall election, with a focus on how citizens can inform the community and get out the vote.

The club's Democratic Task Force has launched its first initiative to promote stewardship of community resources. It is fostering a Community Choice Energy (CCE) plan for Tustin. CCE accelerates the transition to clean energy sources.

See TustinDemocraticClub.org or email TustinDemocraticClub@gmail.com.

Orange Elks reach out to at-risk youth

The Orange Elks are active participants in the county Gang Reduction Intervention Partnership (GRIP), which aims to keep students in school and decrease their chances of joining a gang.

The GRIP program includes Elks, law enforcement officers, probation officers and social workers, who all work together to mentor at-risk kids and change lives. The mentors teach kids to make and set goals, and they must show improvement to stay in the program.

Kids between 8 and 12 years old are pre-selected to participate in the program. Candidates include those struggling in the classroom, with poor attendance, behavioral or truancy issues. GRIP kids often have low self-confidence or limited hope for their futures.

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Orange resident will tell the truth – or not – on TV game show

Cowan Hills resident Carla Buchanan will appear on the ABC TV show, "To Tell The Truth," Aug. 1 at 10 p.m.

Buchanan, who describes herself as a senior citizen who refuses to let age slow her down, says being on the show gave her the opportunity "to be her true self, get out there and have some fun."

She has lived in the same house in the City of Orange for over 32 years, where she and husband Allen raised three children. "We did a great job raising our three kids," she says, "and now it is my turn to have a little fun!"

A TV star for a day, Buchanan reports she had her own dressing room with her name on the door, complete with a large make-up mirror and a bathroom with a shower in it. She had a make-

up artist and hair dresser, but her wardrobe was all hers.

"They asked me to bring a suitcase of clothes that I thought might work, but they also had a complete wardrobe department," she says. "I am proud to say that I brought the right clothes and shoes with me. That seems like a little thing, but most of the other people on the show ended up wearing clothes from the wardrobe department."

"To Tell The Truth," hosted by Anthony Anderson, features a celebrity panel who have to pick the "real" person from a group of three.

One of the three is sworn "To Tell The Truth," and the other two use all the tricks that they can think of to fool the panel of celebrities.



Orange City Councilman Jon Dumitru left, Sgt. Phil McMullin, rear, and Mayor Mark Murphy, far right, honored the new Eagles Scouts, from left: Nathan Gonzales, Jack Conrad, Alex Davis, Danny Ashford, Nathan Tjoa, Riley Baltes, Anthony Endo and Ryan Seppala.

BSA Troop 543 honors new Eagles

Boy Scouts of America Troop 543 honored eight new Eagle Scouts at the Court of Honor, June 26.

Danny Ashford, Troop 543's 100th Eagle Scout, is the fifth Ashford to achieve Eagle, following his father and three uncles. For his project, he built a science demonstration table for his school's science lab.

Riley Baltes, a '20 Foothill High graduate, built covers for eight raised garden beds at Coastkeeper Garden for his project.

Jack Conrad, the 99th Eagle in Troop 543, spearheaded the design and manufacture of 50

wooden crosses to honor servicemen and women on Memorial Day each year at The Meadows.

Alex Davis graduated from El Modena High in 2020 as class salutatorian. For his Eagle project, Davis built two raised garden beds, with covers, for Coastkeeper Garden at Santiago Canyon College.

Anthony Endo, a graduate of Canyon High, is the 101st Troop 543 Eagle. For his project, he made a storage cart for the Memorial Day crosses for The Meadows.

Nathan Gonzales, Eagle number 95, now attending Golden

West College, runs his own dealership fixing, and selling cars. He also enhanced Coastkeeper Garden, building a bench for it.

Ryan Seppala, a 2020 graduate of El Modena High, earned his Eagle rank in 2019; his project entailed planning, financing and the construction of nine compost bins for Coastkeeper Garden.

Nathan Tjoa's scouting activities helped him earn a South African Research Expedition scholarship to gather data about white rhinos. Tjoa designed and constructed a free Little Library at La Purisima Church for his Eagle project.



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HOT HOT HOT

Summer is in full swing, and I spend a lot of time outdoors. Boy, has it been hot! As I walk a site or get involved in a project, I often forget to hydrate. I get focused and just keep moving. Yes, I am wearing a hat and other protection, perhaps that's why I don't feel it quite as much. But then, out of nowhere it seems, I feel woozy and see spots. I sit down for a minute and look around at the very trees I am caring for, and have to laugh at myself. These trees cannot move, they can't get up and walk into the air conditioning or book a flight somewhere cooler. They're stuck wherever it is we put them.

One hot day, I was breaking the compacted, dense soil around a tree, and turning it into a giant bowl of beautiful fluffy, organically sound soil. In the high heat you can almost see a tree's fibrous

roots taking up the water as it is put down.

When we get hot, we sweat. It's our body's natural way of cooling off. Trees however, release gases (oxygen) through tiny pores on their leaves called stomata. This release creates a tension in the xylem, which forces the roots to pull up whatever moisture they can.

Similar to how our bodies respond to water loss and overheating, trees can show signs of these stresses as well. It's so important to provide water for your trees at a time of day where they can actually benefit from it. That is, early in the morning or late evening. Trees transpire (absorb nutrients) at a faster rate when it's cooler. And calcium helps to bind water molecules to the roots, similar to how electrolytes help us.

Stay hydrated my friends.

Looking for love



Spunky little Stella Marie is full of personality. She enjoys dangly toys, scratching posts and furry mice. A lover, she gets vocal if you are not petting her enough. For information about adopting Stella Marie, or another available sweetie, contact OCSP Cat Rescue at ocsp.adoptions@gmail.com, or complete an application at ocspcatrescue.org.



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OPA 4th of July parade is back in the saddle

Anxious to celebrate after a year lost to the pandemic, OPA 4th of July Parade participants, along with furred, feathered and forelocked friends, took to the streets of OPA, cheered on by festive families and neighbors lining the route. It was the community's 54th Independence Day parade.



Jason and Riley Hannon stand by a 1936 Auburn.



Photos by Tony Richards

The parade Grand Marshals were Walt and Kathy Ashford, long time OPA residents. Kathy is one of the creators of the community's Specific Plank drafted 50 years ago. John Reina is the chauffeur.



The Miner, Sloan and Martinez families are full of red, white and blue spirit.



Left to right, Noah Sweeney, Kevin Gallorzo, Ethan Plettinck, Wilson Dunn and Hayden Algra assure on-lookers that yes, this dog, Harlow, really is bigger than a horse. The equine prefers being called The Duke.



Dan Slater, riding Amos, took the parade opportunity to announce his intentions for 2022. He is flanked by Quinn Thomas (left) and Ian Goode.



John Owen, left, joins Steve Palmer, Zach, Kaitlyn (rear), Charlie and Zoey Heberer shortly before firing up their historic fire truck.



Alexander and Zlota Meier give Oreo the goat and Snowflake the silkie a little reassurance before the parade begins.

OPA BBQ returns this fall

Preparations are in full swing for Orange Park Acres' 50th Annual Fall BBQ and Dance to be held on Sat., Sept. 18 at the home of Mark and Julie Sandford. All proceeds benefit OPA in maintaining trails, trail connections and preserving this historic 93-year-old equestrian community. For auction donations or event help, contact OPA President Sherry Panttaja at hartofopa@gmail.com. Tickets and table purchases are now on sale at the Hitch 'n Post, or from any OPA board director. Learn more at orangeparkacres.org or call (714) 900-2OPA(672). You don't have to own a horse to attend!

The event features a catered BBQ, presentation of the Gary Bandy Award to the volunteer of the year and entertainment by the Chris Lozano Band.

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For questions, registration and additional information, email oabb4h@yahoo.com.

What is 4-H?

4-H is an organization for youth ages 5-19 that promotes hands-on, experiential learning, leadership development, and public speaking skills. 4-H welcomes youth members and adult volunteers from all backgrounds and all locations. The local clubs are run for youth, and by youth, with adult advisers. The overall program is administered through the University of California's Orange County Cooperative Extension. oc4h.org



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OBITUARIES



Howard Philip Kirschner
1942-2021

Howard Philip Kirschner was surrounded by love as he left, on July 2nd, at the age of 78. We'll do our best to follow his example, living life to the fullest.

Born on Dec. 25, 1942 to Martin and Sadie Kirschner in Los Angeles, Howard made his younger siblings -- Jeff and Judy -- laugh, taught them how to iron his shirts, and gave them the honor of washing his car.

He began his greatest adventure on July 20, 1963, marrying Barbara Lee Molter, his friend from the age of 13 and high school sweetheart. With Barbara, Howard built a life from the ground up, and crafted it into something steady, beautiful and full. Howard and Barb grew together, with

commitment and understanding and passion and deep, beautiful love. He steered his life skillfully and with intention.

He graduated from Lakewood High School in 1960, and earned his bachelor's degree at California State University, Long Beach in 1965. Howard dedicated 19 years to Xerox, then went on to work in home loans. In recent years, he was semi-retired in the reverse mortgage business, teaching and leading professional round tables. A resident of Villa Park for 41 years, in 2016, he ran for Villa Park City Council.

Howard was a natural leader, with charisma off the charts. He was a lover of all sports and cars and cool clothes, and an avid golfer. Little things brought Howard big joy -- tending his gardens, listening to James Taylor, and squeezing fresh orange juice with his grandkids.

The Kirschners' home in Villa Park is a beautiful, blooming, living portrait painted by Howard for his love Barbara, a place for them to send the grandkids out to find berries, avocados, citrus, peaches, even a first pluot.

His memory is cherished by his two children, Trevor and Stacey, his children-in-law Dionne and JJ, and his greatest prides -- his grandchildren Olivia, Ryan, Jake and Jonah. Howard couldn't have left a deeper mark on this place. He is embedded in everyone he

met and his family will carry him everywhere, always.

Expressions of sympathy can be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, stjude.org/donate.



Jean Audré Balsamo
1935-2021

Jean Audré Balsamo passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, five dogs, and two kittens, on July 11. She was born July 2, 1935 to Gerald (d. 1942) and Gertrude (d. 1985) Ratelle in Holyoke, Massachusetts. During high school, her family moved to Torrington, Connecticut, where she graduated from Torrington High School in 1953.

Audré was an animal lover, and often brought home stray dogs. One such "stray dog" turned out to be Audré's Prince Charming, August Balsamo. Audré and Augie married in April 1955 and headed to Southern California for their honeymoon. They went on to have five daughters: Audeen, Amy, Alaine, Annette and Alyssa.

Audré was involved in her children's school community, choreographing dances, planning events, and making costumes. As

her girls got older, Audré went to work at a medical office, where she worked for 23 years, making many friends along the way.

She loved traveling, but her favorite spot was the family beach house in Newport Beach. She loved music, dancing, crafting, painting, writing, but most of all, her 13 grandchildren, who referred to her lovingly as Memère.

Audré is survived by her brother and sister-in-law Jerry and Helen Ratelle; daughters and sons-in-law Audeen Balsamo, Amy and Guy Hugaert, Alaine Balsamo and Alec Gillis, Annette and Matthew Lilly, and Alyssa and Tim O'Hara; grandchildren Jessica (Lilly) and Paul Guzman, Camille Balsamo-Gillis and Reid Col-lums, Blair (Hugaert) and Jorge Ramos, Sofia Lilly, Blake and Nicole Hugaert, Devon (Balsamo-Gillis) and Gabriel Gault, Seamus O'Hara, Dominic O'Hara, Grace Balsamo-Gillis, Levi Lilly, Isabella Balsamo-Gillis, Sawyer O'Hara and Luke O'Hara; great-grandchildren Gianna, Carmen, Arthur and August; many nieces, nephews and her little dog too, Liebchen.

She was predeceased by her husband, Augie Balsamo (d. 1997), her two sisters Suzanne Ratelle (d. 1939) and Clarisse Cizeski (d. 2019), and her first grandson, Denver August Lilly (d. 1990).

Having been a "high roller" at several casinos, it is fitting that she cashed in her chips on 7-11-21.

There will be an Open House Celebration of Life on Sunday, Sept. 19, from 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. at the home of Alyssa and Tim O'Hara, 1450 E. Concord Ave. in Orange.



Don Wagner

Consensus reached on cemetery site

The proposed veterans cemetery in Gypsum Canyon inched a step closer to reality, with a bipartisan agreement on its location announced by Supervisor Don Wagner, July 1.

The county-owned 280 acres near Route 91 and the SR241 at Gypsum Canyon in Anaheim Hills is envisioned as OC's future veterans cemetery site once Sacramento allocates funding to survey the land.

Elected officials from the county, Anaheim, Irvine and a coalition of Army, Navy and Marine Corps veterans agree that the site is an acceptable location, now that plans for a cemetery at the Great Park site in Irvine fell through.

"I picture Arlington Cemetery and that hallowed ground when I look at our hill," Wagner said. "At this site, we can echo Arlington and thank our veterans for the service they've given to the United States and the entire world. The men and women who serve deserve a dignified spot to be buried. The Gypsum Canyon site is that spot."

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Gruettville Gazette

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In Southern California, it seems that our fire season is year-round! Therefore, it is extremely important to prepare and protect your house from wildfires, especially in the summer-time. Some counties and cities will actually fine you if you don't maintain weeds and grass on your property. The area 5 feet from your house is known as the Immediate Zone and is most vulnerable. It is crucial to clean all fallen leaves, needles, dead plants, and grass clippings from your yard within this zone.

It is also important to remove any tree limbs that extend into this area as well as regularly trimming trees, so branches are at a minimum of 10 feet from other trees. If you have slopes, or overgrown areas, be sure the weeds are cut short, and dead trees are removed. Contact the tree care specialists at Gruett Tree Company and we'll give you a free quote for weed abatement and dead tree and limb removals!

For updated fire safety news and guidelines go to: ocfa.org/SafetyPrograms/FireSafety.aspx

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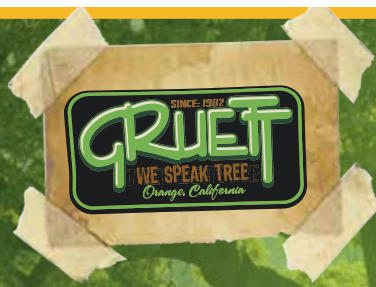
My backyard is a constant warzone, the war of the roots I call it. Between my neighbor's Ficus tree, my Carrotwood tree and my Palms, which my architect ever so cleverly planted right by my house, the roots have waged war on my pool, my drainage pipes, and my back-patio's foundation! I knew the risks if I just started hacking away at them, the trees would go into shock. I also knew that the plastic root barrier I installed around my pool was compromised with the Ficus roots growing through it like a butter knife through a wet napkin.

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