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June 2022

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Draft EIR released for Tustin Hills Racquet Club infill development

By Scott Logue

The Orange County Public Works (OCPW) Public Notice of Availability of a draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for a North Tustin project proposal to construct high density infill housing on what is currently the Tustin Hills Racquet Club property was published on May 10.

The Public Notice advises all interested parties to review the EIR draft and comment by June 29. It is available by searching Ranch Hills at ocds.ocpublicworks.com.

Zoning disconnect

The project proposal would allow the replacement of the existing Tustin Hills Racquet Club with a development consisting of 17 buildings containing 34 single-family townhome units and three single-family detached units for a total of 37 units. It also includes 169 parking spaces, inclusive of garages, driveways, and on-street parking, all on land currently zoned as General Agriculture (A1).

The Public Notice states that a zone change is not required because, "the Project is consistent with objective General Plan standards and criteria," then contrarily states, "but the zoning for the Project site is inconsistent with the General Plan due to the inconsistency between the zoning and General Plan the density allowances [sic]."

Environmentally benign

In addressing the environmental impact that such a large infill development and its potential addition of 169 cars would have, the Public Notice simply states, "the Project would not result in any significant and unavoidable environmental impacts."

The large lots and open spaces of North Tustin neighborhoods are attractive to infill developers. The Foothill Communities Association (FCA), an all-volunteer collaboration of neighbors, anticipates many future attempts at infill development in the area, and will be aggressively opposing those efforts.

FCA, therefore, opposes the Ranch Hills infill development in North Tustin.

Neighbors are encouraged to submit comments on the draft EIR no later than 5 p.m. on June 29 to Kevin Canning, OCPW, 601 North Ross Street, Santa Ana, CA 92701 or email at Kevin.Canning@ocpw.ocgov.com.



Sunny, the City of Orange mascot, shares a float with Miss Orange Victoria Johnson in the Orange May Parade. See photos, page 3.

Orange budget talks extend to public safety and "visionary" thinking

By Tina Richards

An Orange City Council study session for the 2023 budget morphed into a comprehensive discussion of police and fire staffing levels, and the need for multi-year strategic planning to ensure the needs of a growing population are met.

The number of sworn police officers was the major topic during the study session, April 26, and again at the city council meeting, May 10. In April, the city had 159 police officers, giving Orange a ratio of 1.15 officers per 1,000 residents. The 2023 budget presented at that time would increase the number of officers by nine. Of those nine, six positions are already budgeted and three would be new. The proposed force of 165 officers would bring the ratio to 1.22 per 1,000.

"I don't think three new officers are enough," Councilwoman Kathy Tavoularis stressed at both budget sessions. She noted Orange's increasing population and that neighboring cities are adding more officers to their police departments. She also expressed alarm that the Orange

police department had not expanded since 2000.

Police department static

Six new officers were approved and budgeted in 2008, but those positions were never filled. The recession hit; new hires were frozen. Once the recession subsided and the economy improved, those positions still remained vacant. Mayor Mark Murphy noted that pension fund obligations forced the city to move some funding around, which, he added, may or may not have affected those unfilled positions in recent years.

"It was a strategic decision," Chief Dan Adams explained, "159 was the effective number."

During the April session, Chip Monaco agreed that three new officers are not enough. He asked about coming retirements, attrition from officers leaving for other cities and incentives to attract and keep new police personnel. "We offer longevity pay and bonuses," Adams said. "We're not sitting back waiting for retirements, we have succession plans. We have 100 RSVPs for the next testing." At the May 10

meeting, Chief Adams reported that three officers had recently been hired, bringing the total to 162.

The council agreed to increase the number of new hires from three to five. The cost would be about \$145,000 per officer. "We're able to do it right now," Murphy said. "Let's take advantage of this moment in time."

The additional officers will boost the police-to-population ratio to 1.24 per 1,000. That ratio, the chief emphasized, does not tell the whole story of public safety. There are other factors, but it does give the city an idea of how it compares to other jurisdictions. In a countywide report on police to population ratios, Orange ranked eighth overall, but was in the top tier of cities with over 100,000 residents.

Fight fire with firefighters

The proposed 2023 budget for the fire department would include funding to hire 12 ambulance

See "Budget" continued on page 5



Canyon precinct walkers met with the Democratic candidate for the new Congressional District 40, Asif Mahmood. He was being shadowed by reporters and photographers from the San Francisco Chronicle, which is watching OC races. From left, Martie Lubetkin, Christianne Rottenberg, Rusty Morris, Linda May, Asif Mahmood, Andrew Tonkovich, Sarah Sarkisian, Karen Lawson, Keith Morris.

NEWS INSIDE

ATTRACTIVE NUISANCE

The details of a revived Paseo are open to residents' comments and concerns before its fate is finalized.

See Orange Paseo, page 3

FRIENDLY FIRE

Third District's Don Wagner takes Sentry to task, reports his position on East Orange dumpsite.

See Supervisor, page 4

RUNNING ON EMPTY

Lack of candidates for park district seats threatens the canyon's only form of self government.

See Canyon Beat, page 6

LIFE IN THE PAST LANE

As yet undeveloped canyon site reveals remnants of ancient inhabitants.

See Indian, page 10

HOME IS WHERE THE ART IS

Canyon artisans set up roadside galleries for one-day art walk.

See Silverado, page 10

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Cemetery opponents remain vigilant

Neighbors of the proposed cemetery, slated for a former landfill near the Orange Dog Park, have been keeping watch and calling everyone they can think of when the potentially hazardous ground is disturbed.

The abandoned landfill site, located off of Yorba Street, was once home to a YMCA that burned down in 2021. The rubble was not removed, and neighbors reported scavengers digging through it, looking for material that could be salvaged and sold. The charred remains, according to residents, contain asbestos, which becomes airborne when jostled.

Within the last few months, the site became a dumping ground for paint cans, furniture and unwanted appliances. "We kept calling the city," neighbor Sharon Galasso said, "and, finally, a no trespassing sign was posted."

The debris was recently removed, but the work started without a permit, without following any precautions and without a manifest declaring where the waste is being taken. "The material was not being covered or watered down before being moved, and there was dust in the air," Galasso reports. "We called the Air Quality Management District. The agency came out to the site and stopped them. They eventually got a permit, but it is not clear where the contaminants ended up."

Residents have also kept in touch with the OC Solid Waste Local Enforcement Agency (LEA). The LEA is mandated to ensure that any use of a former landfill protects public health and safety, prevents public contact with waste, landfill gas and leachate and prevents landfill gas explosions. The agency notified the property owner in November 2021 that the proposed cemetery was not approved.

LEA reiterated its denial to the owner in an April 17 letter. Noting that the nature of solid waste disposal sites is to settle over time due to compaction, gas migration, and leachate, LEA expressed concerns that the proposed 4-by-8-by-4 foot concrete frames covering some 3,600 gravesites would exacerbate the settlement process. The added weight could also impact drainage and erosion control, water runoff, infiltration and methane gas generation.

Cemetery opponents continue to attend city meetings to remind decision makers that the land is zoned as open space/recreation, and that a house in their neighborhood built closest to the landfill had to be demolished due to methane gas.

The project has not yet been reviewed by the Orange Planning Commission or city council.

Congrats, Grads!

All OUSD graduation events will be held at Fred Kelly Stadium: Richland and Parkside High, 4 p.m., June 8; Orange High, 7 p.m., June 8; El Modena, 1 p.m., June 9; Canyon, 4 p.m., June 9; and Villa Park, 7 p.m., June 9.

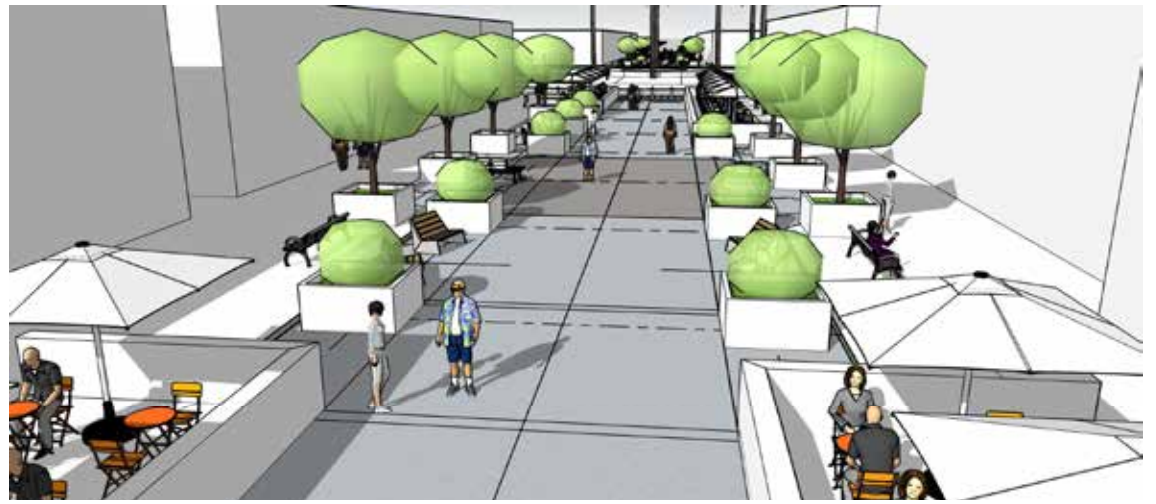
Class of 2022 TUSD graduates matriculated in May: Tustin High on the 24th; Foothill High on the 26th.

Orange Paseo concepts introduced for public review

The public was invited to provide input on the goals and appearance of a proposed outdoor dining Paseo on Glassell Street at a workshop, May 16.

The original Paseo, wherein two blocks of Glassell on either side of the Orange Plaza were closed to vehicle traffic to allow for outdoor dining, was created to boost restaurant business during the pandemic. It was successful at that time, and the City of Orange is considering reopening it either permanently or seasonally. An Environmental Impact Report is currently underway, and a design firm was hired to conceptualize the features, landscaping and furnishings of the Paseo, in the event that it is ultimately approved.

"The city is studying the area in a more formal way," Senior City Planner Anna Pehoushek told the audience of about 80 people. "We're looking at a seasonal Paseo that would be open in the summer and end with the Street Fair. This meeting is not to debate whether the Paseo is a good or bad thing, just what it would look like, and how it could serve the



Conceptual drawing of the proposed Paseo that would encompass two blocks of Glassell Street on either side of the Orange Plaza

character of the community."

City staff and the Arroyo Group design team held meetings with Old Towne restaurants, merchants, the Old Towne Preservation Association and residents. The imaging presented at the workshop was "shaped by that feedback."

Workshop attendees were asked to review the goals, streetscapes, color palettes, and architectural elements displayed on easels, and comment on them with sticky

notes and green stickers signaling approval.

The reviews were mixed, ranging from those who loved the Paseo and wanted it to be permanent, to those who hated it in any configuration. Reviewers tended to agree that it should follow a traditional, rather than contemporary, direction; that it should provide activities beyond outdoor dining; and that it should include a business zone and common areas for public use.

There were also questions about the status of the EIR, traffic impacts, parking options and the implications for surrounding residential neighborhoods. Those questions will, apparently, be answered later.

A third option for Glassell was turning street parking spaces into "parklets" for outdoor dining. That scenario would allow Glassell to remain open to through traffic. It is, Pehoushek said, "off the table for now."

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Chamber of Commerce presents post-pandemic Orange May Parade



The Orange May Parade took over a portion of Chapman Avenue, May 7, proceeding around the Plaza and over to Almond, cheered by spectators lining the sidewalks. Over 200 entrants, ranging from marching bands to decked-out autos to flag bearers,

represented Orange schools, community groups and local officials. Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, the May Parade is a revival of the May Festival Parade that, from 1933 to 1991, celebrated the Valencia Orange packing season.



Larry Day and Bob Torrez from Orange Park Acres appear as Sheriff Theo Lacy and Orange founder Alfred Chapman.



Photo by Tony Richards

Los Chinelos is a carnival dance that originated in Mexico after the Spanish conquest. Dancers in the 19th century mocked the Europeans' clothes, mannerisms, uplifed beards and gloved hands, wearing elaborate costumes and masks to (originally) hide their identity.



The Ghostbusters were on hand to ward off unwelcome apparitions.



The Orange Elks float won first place.



Chapman University's robodog entertained parade watchers.

Public hearing set for SH landscape fees

The Orange City Council will consider a 3% increase in annual fees to be paid for landscape maintenance by property owners in Santiago Hills.

Landscape and hardscape maintenance in common areas of the East Orange community is managed by the City of Orange under a 1986 agreement with the developer. The original assessment of \$369.44 for single-family homes and \$221.66 for condos did not include any Consumer Price Index increases. By 2007, maintenance for common areas was severely underfunded. Voters approved a second overlay assessment in 2015 that is subject to annual increases.

The 3% increase for 2022-23 is based on the Consumer Price Index for the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim area. The overlay assessment for a single-family detached unit will increase by \$7.44, from \$248.16 to \$255.60. The assessment for condominiums will increase by \$5.29, from \$176.19 to \$181.48. The public hearing is slated for Tuesday, June 14 at 6 p.m. at city hall.

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Guest Commentary

Reform and scrutiny needed for citizen appeal process

By Adrienne Gladson

Residents of the City of Orange may appeal decisions made by the planning commission by filing a form, paying a fee and then appearing at a hearing before the city council to make their case. Citizens who want to exercise their right to appeal may, however, be discouraged by the city's response.

Reform is needed for the City of Orange appeal process. In May 2021, I appealed a decision made by the Orange Planning Commission for Nexx Burger, a fast-food operation, located at 2940 East Chapman. The appeal centered around two points: failure of council to first adopt a lower parking space requirement before it was applied to this project; inadequate on-site vehicle circulation and entry into, and exit out of, a small site.

The appeal was heard on Aug.

10, 2021, at 10:30 p.m. and was quickly denied.

The council stated, on the record, that a critical mistake had been made. The city had intended to reduce the number of parking spaces required for new business construction, but had not formally done so. The planning commission, however, allowed Nexx Burger to go with the lower, not yet legal, number. The council admitted the process was "backwards," and agreed that my filing fee (\$1,000) should be refunded.

Council never directed staff to require a gag order as a condition of the refund, but that's exactly what I was asked to sign. I never expected our city officials to act in bad faith or fail to keep their word. This craziness went on for several months, until I finally realized the refund was being stalled, in hopes that I would sign. I said no several times.

On Dec. 20, 2021, I received a \$2,580.50 bill from the city for the August hearing. Why withhold that information for that long? The bill was for 23 hours charged for the time of six staff members (fees ranging from \$67 to \$173 per hour) attending/preparing for the late-night hearing.

Speech isn't always free

The full waiver agreement itself is not worth repeating here. It wasn't something I would ever expect after the council admitted an error. I chose to pay the bill instead of giving up my constitutional right to free speech and obligation to help neighbors. I continue to hold steadfast in my differing view of the council's decision. Getting the details correct and delivering proper planning is core to what I, and I believe the community, values.

As to the reform, I recommend

the city move to a flat rate of \$1,000 or less for non-applicant appeals, so no one else is financially overburdened. I am glad I had savings to use. But why be so punitive and not forthright? Anaheim has a flat rate of \$450 for a non-applicant appellant; Yorba Linda is \$500; and Garden Grove is \$480. One OC city charges only \$50 for a non-applicant appeal. Either way, if there's a clear error made by staff in processing an application that's respectfully pointed out by a community member, all the appeal fees should be waived. It's fair. It's right to admit a mistake and commit to never doing it again.

Second, I suggest all appeals first be thoroughly reviewed by the city manager and that an honest, good faith discussion with the appellant ensue. The matter could be resolved and withdrawn. It should be staff's goal to openly

educate why and how decisions are made. They should never get pulled into stonewalling, fear losing their job, or bullying a citizen. Residents seeking answers on land-use matters should never be denied; it's part of healthy, transparent policy discussions and good decision-making. The community isn't the enemy.

As to the second part of the appeal, it remains my view that only 18 parking spaces for a 3,070-square-foot fast-food restaurant (with a constrained drive-thru and alcohol service) will not be enough. Whether the limited access to and from the site will work safely, will soon be answered. It's presently under construction.

Adrienne Gladson is a land-use consultant, former member of the Orange Planning Commission and a candidate for city council, District 6.

Supervisor Don Wagner responds to Sully-Miller dumpsite story

Last month, the *Foothills Sentry* published another factually inaccurate article regarding the Sully-Miller site, with unfounded accusations towards the County of Orange and my office. Unbelievably, the article ran on the front page without a byline and has created confusion in the community. I write to present the facts to the public as the *Sentry* failed to identify the author or assume accountability for its content.

Most importantly, the Sully-Miller site is not county property. The site is currently owned by Milan Capital Management and has been zoned by the City of Orange for the last 40-plus years. The County of Orange has no jurisdiction over the property's zoning.

The county is only responsible for this property to the extent it enforces solid waste laws and regulations throughout Orange County.

The *Foothills Sentry* "reporting" opens by referencing false claims from a Facebook page, asserting an illegal dumping agreement with the county. The source, not held to journalist ethical standards, leveled charges without the *Sentry* verifying the accusation with me or anyone at the county.

The county, as the local enforcement agency (LEA), regulated the site's solid waste and in 2020, became aware that the site was accepting construction debris for disposal without a permit. The LEA has continued to regulate.

The LEA has conducted numerous inspections since 2020. Currently, we have not observed any hazardous materials/waste at the site.

Inspectors have observed only solid waste material stockpiles: sand, gravel, and other construction-related material. The LEA has not identified any hazardous materials or waste from investigating other documents.

Far from engaging in any "back-room deal" or coverup, as implied by Mr. Whitefeather and the article's anonymous author, my office has met residents about this issue and maintains a consistent record of prompt constituent response. The same level of transparent engagement is also offered

to the *Foothills Sentry*. In a clear disservice to its readers, the *Sentry* failed to consult me about the false charges it levied. The LEA issued a registration permit for the site in June 2020, requiring the site to accept the construction stockpiles. The testimony regarding the unpermitted site, and removal of the stockpiles, was made in the context of the LEA's position concerning the site without a registration permit.

At the October 2020 administrative hearings, the LEA submitted that without a registration permit, stockpiles must be removed when there is no valid permit to accept them.

The LEA has since reviewed alternative approaches, such as solid waste laws and regulations, and with the site owner's plan to close the site, using it by following applicable zoning codes and approved plans.

The LEA determined that the site owner may close and implement a post-closure maintenance plan (as necessary) under the state minimum standards per Title 27 of the California Code of Regulations. The site owner would be required to do pre-development analytical testing and investigate onsite stockpiles to determine whether any parts contain toxic levels, including hydrocarbons, volatile organic compounds, heavy metals, pesticides, PCBs, asbestos and methane.

Should the investigation report reveal any toxic concentrations, the site owner will be required to remediate the premises or stockpile removal in accordance with an LEA-approved plan, and solid waste laws and regulations. The LEA also allows the removal of any parts of the on-site clean stockpile to an appropriate facility or authorized operation in accordance with the law.

Kathryn Cross's statement, "I saw it back in February...it's now buried probably 20-30 feet below and it's mixed," is incomplete and out of context. This statement was not connected with on-site toxic materials or waste, but whether the stockpiles contained construction materials, such as shingles and plasters. During the administrative hearing, the LEA

challenged the site operator and owner's position that the stockpiles were accepted as part of site operations. Ms. Cross provided testimony about her observation of such materials during site visits. Contrary to the *Foothills Sentry's* article, these statements were not made in connection with on-site toxic materials.

As to the alleged coverup, I categorically rejected the outrageous charge. Any agreement reached between the LEA and the site owner will be recorded with the Orange County Clerk Recorder's Office. All future site owners are also bound to comply with these same obligations for the public to be fully informed of what is happening at the site.

I have previously encouraged the *Foothills Sentry* to contact me regarding county issues. I do encourage my constituents to contact my office with any questions or clarification of facts. I want to assure my constituents, and the wider *Sentry* readership, that I will continue to remain vigilant of the agreement to ensure that the county continues to monitor the situation.

The public can reach my office at Donald.Wagner@ocgov.com or by calling (714) 834-3330.

Don Wagner
3rd District Supervisor

Editors note: The story, "County may allow toxic waste," that appeared in the May Sentry was a press release issued by a group called Orange Citizens.

The Sentry erred in not identifying the source of the story. Members of Orange Citizens have closely followed the Sully-Miller dump issue for several years, maintained regular contact with LEA and are a trusted and reliable source of information relating to that subject.

The reference to a "back room deal" was the opinion of a citizen, based on his experience. Any references to "clean stockpiles" are a misnomer. LEA has previously stated that once contaminated material is introduced, it cannot be separated back out.

Orange declares Level 2 water supply shortage

In compliance with California State Water Resources Control Board (SCWRB) requirements, the City of Orange is adopting Level 2 water use restrictions, aimed to reduce consumption by 10 to 20%.

The restrictions, spelled out in a city notice, include limiting landscape irrigation with potable water to three days per week (Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday only), from April 1 to Oct. 31, and two days per week (Tuesday, Saturday) between Nov. 1 and March 31.

Landscape watering is prohibited between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., and limited to 15 minutes per station. Municipal water customers will be required to repair leaks, breaks and plumbing malfunctions within 48 hours. Washing down pavement is prohibited; vehicles may be washed with a bucket or hose

equipped with a self-closing nozzle.

City staff is collaborating with neighboring Orange County water agencies to provide consistent and effective water conservation measures to the public.

Agencies in other parts of Southern California may have different water restrictions, depending on their water supply. Much of Orange's water comes from the OC groundwater basin, which is replenished with recycled waste water.

The Water Resources Control Board is also prohibiting the use of potable water for the irrigation of non-functional turf at commercial, industrial and institutional sites.

The prohibition will be enforced by the SWRCB and has exemptions for turf that is used for recreational purposes or for civic or community events.

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LETTERS to the EDITOR



Criminal intent

Dear Editor:

In the April 2022 issue appeared an article titled, "Crime rates in Orange portray more sticky fingers than fisticuffs." To me, that implies that minor crimes, such as stealing, are just fine. Not to me. Minor crime, unenforced and without consequence, leads to major crime. And I dispute the "fact" that violent crime is on the decrease.

A few weeks ago, I was enjoying a walk along the Santiago Creek Trail, east of Mabury Road, on a beautiful spring day, minding my own business. Suddenly and without warning, I was approached from behind by a male who blocked my free path of travel along the trail, began cursing in a foreign language and threatening me with bodily harm. The suspect brandished a large knife toward me in a very threatening manner. I was scared, since I had no escape route or any immediate means to adequately defend myself.

I retreated and called the police. Police responded; the knife was recovered, and the suspect was later contacted and detained further down the trail, toward Santiago Oaks Park, in possession of another edged weapon.

The lackluster police response resulted in the suspect being arrested for outstanding warrants and nothing else. I found the re-

sponse disappointing. However, given the way our police have been dismissed and demoralized the past few years by certain segments of society, media and politicians, I do sympathize with them and somewhat understand.

At least the dangerous suspect was removed from the area, due to the outstanding warrants. To the best of my knowledge, no police report or documentation of the event occurred.

Officially, violent crime, "fisticuffs" as you call it, may be down in our city, but I don't believe it. Crime only occurs when it is reported. If a crime is not reported, it never occurred. No crime report = no crime. We may not be as safe as we are led to believe.

Fortunately, I was not attacked or injured. Even along that beautiful trail, often frequented by people walking alone, bad things can and do happen. Always be aware of your surroundings, and be prepared to protect and defend yourself at any moment. Violent crime IS on the rise. It simply is not being reported. Be safe, be aware.

Stan Faulwetter
Orange

Still no waters

Dear Editor:

Five swim seasons with no pool.

You read that right, El Modena High has not had a pool in five years! It was a February afternoon in 2018 when water was pouring out of a crack on the pool deck. The school district's days of putting band-aids on decades-old problems had come to a head and the feet-dragging began.

The lack of urgency, back and forth, and finally a choice to approve a subpar-sized pool, was approved a few years later. Then came bidding issues and other backdoor problems, prolonging the project more. All of these came even before COVID. In five years, swimmers have watched a football stadium be rebuilt and an entire science building completed. In the meantime, we have lost quality swimmers and water polo players to other schools. Not to mention the lack

of equity this has brought to our aquatics program. Practices have been held at Villa Park or Orange in the evenings, with no bussing provided, causing our programs to lose even more athletes.

With the grand opening date pushed back to July 1, it's safe to say that this year's graduating seniors were never given the opportunity to step foot in their own school's home pool. When the aquatic center is complete it will be wonderful, but it's hard for the athletes and parents to be excited after being inconvenienced and let down all these years. So, on July 1st, I hope I don't see any OUSD school board members at the grand opening. This was not a project you fully supported or pushed for; you only approved it because it needed to be done. This photo op is not for you.

A. Otellio
Orange

Man with a plan

Dear Editor:

I've been asked about my plan to bring resolution to the "eyesore" known as the Sully-Miller property. Here's my plan:

1. Milan must be forced to clean up its mess. It's an illegal dumpsite and likely has toxic material in it. The site must be restored and be environmentally safe – for future use and for nearby residents.

2. Immediately, the city council should rezone the property from "Sand and Gravel" to "Open Space." This will finally send the important message to developers that development is not what the citizens want (as proven by two referendums) and that the city is moving in another direction.

3. Once the site is cleaned up, Orange citizens can begin to envision what this PERMANENT OPEN SPACE could look like.

4. Once that plan is in place, we can pursue grants to make the vision a reality.

All of this will take time and patience, but I look forward to the day when this land is transformed from an "eyesore" into an open space that Orange can truly be proud of.

Dan Slater, candidate for mayor
Orange

Cash for kids

Dear Editor:

California is expected to have another massive budget surplus this year, with most estimates projecting revenues in the tens of bil-

ions of dollars over expenses. As the governor and the legislature prepare to negotiate this year's budget, their top priority should be lifting children up out of poverty. The most effective way to do this is direct cash payments.

Danett Abbott-Wicker
Orange

Dear Editor:

I have been a Villa Park resident since 1990 and live near the Wanda Greenbelt strip. Although I scrutinized photos of the plans for the revitalization of the area, and noted the cute orange-crete-type signage, in none of those plans was a wrought iron vine-covered fence evident or discussed. Regardless, such a fence was installed last week and, per the city manager, is going to be covered by a lovely vine, which the city intends to maintain. With said fence standing variably 1-12 inches from the existing fence, it will be challenging to maintain control of the vine.

Rats are a problem in Villa Park, even to the extent that in 2017, classrooms at Villa Park Elementary, which is a few blocks from the new fence location, were evacuated when rodent mites were biting staff and students. OC Vector Control was called in to assist in resolving the issue.

Vector Control defines public nuisance as any property, artificially altered from its natural condition so that it harbors vectors. Vectors are any animal capable of transmitting human disease or producing human discomfort or injury, including, but not limited to, mosquitoes, flies, mites, ticks and rodents.

I would like to have it noted that I consider said new fence planting in the Villa Park Knowles to be a public nuisance and potential health hazard. Please reconsider before city funds are wasted on the proposed rat hostel and breeding area.

Barbara J. Doty, DVM
Villa Park

Revitalized Orange Public Schools Foundation signs agreement with district

A Memorandum of Understanding between Orange Unified School District and the Orange Unified Public Schools Foundation (OUPSF) was approved by the Board of Education, May 5, effectively reviving the district's long-dormant fundraising arm.

OUPSF is a group of parents, educators, and community leaders whose mission is to mobilize the community to provide equitable opportunities for all students to learn creatively, think innovatively, and collaborate effectively.

They are dedicated to bolstering Orange Unified School District by augmenting the resources that enrich OUSD students' experience and equip them to

succeed in their education, career, and life.

During their presentation at the May Board of Education meeting, OUPSF introduced its steering committee members, its new logo – designed by Villa Park High senior Anya Valdivia – and revealed plans to raise money to support the district's visual and performing arts, student mental health and enrichment programs, as well as fund teacher grants and student scholarships in the 2022-23 school year.

To kick off fundraising efforts OUPSF is selling senior graduation banners to be displayed at Fred Kelly Stadium during commencement ceremonies. Banners may be purchased at oupsf.org.

"It's Coming Up Roses" for VPWL

Villa Park Women's League will celebrate and thank this year's board and hold its installation of new executive officers for the 2022-23 year on Thursday, June 23, with the theme "It's Coming Up Roses."

The meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. at the Community Room of the Trinity Episcopal Church in Orange.

The new officers for the up-

coming year are: Risa Scott, president; Sandy Bass, first vice president, programs; Pam Dunn, second vice president, philanthropy; Carla Gilkerson, third vice president, membership; Barbara Perez, recording secretary; Candy Carlberg, treasurer; and Eva Wyszowski, parliamentarian.

All members are invited to attend; see vpwl.org for information and membership.

"Budget"

continued from page 1

operators. The goal, explained City Manager Rob Houston, is to boost the number of fire fighters per ladder truck from three to four, by taking them out of rescue vehicles and replacing them with ambulance operators. The department has been operating with only three people per ladder truck since 2016, when it needed to reassign personnel to staff a fourth ambulance.

Most firefighters are also EMTs, Fire Chief Sean deMetropolis explained. They can be assigned to rescue vehicles, but the city is better served when they are on ladder trucks. "We're used to working with only three per truck, it's not a problem," he said, "but the optimum number is four." The new ambulance opera-

tors will staff the city's four rescue vehicles as well as an added fifth for backup.

Chief deMetropolis was applauded by council members for the "innovative" approach to staffing ladder trucks by hiring less expensive ambulance operators. When asked about unfilled positions, he said he had none. He acknowledged that 26 retirements are predicted. Asked if he was planning for those departures, the chief replied that the department does not need to introduce incentives because "plenty of people want this job."

A vision vacuum

A recurring theme during both the April 26 and May 10 discussion was strategic planning, or as Councilman Chip Monaco called it, a "vision for the city." Budgets are forecast 10 years out, but that is apparently the extent of the

city's planning. Monaco pointed out, during the April session, that the council had not had any strategic planning meetings since he'd been a member.

"We have not decided as a council what our priorities are," he said. "We should be leading this discussion. We should be doing it frequently. Department heads need to know what our target is. We have to set a common vision. When we have seven visions, nothing gets done."

Monaco asked the city manager to schedule a strategic planning meeting for later this summer. Houston agreed that it is a great idea for all city departments to forecast their needs and set higher-level goals in conjunction with city council priorities, because "we're all in this together."

When the topic was revisited May 10, Tavoularis asked that the city consider five-year plans that

would extend from chief to chief, and from one city council to the next.

Kim Nichols suggested that strategic planning should include the full needs of the city and not be limited to a few departments.

Survey says

Arianna Barrios emphasized that any strategic planning should include a community needs assessment. "We need to ask residents what they want, what is important to them," she said. "It's a big component that we haven't taken advantage of." She suggested that a community needs survey could be done "in the \$50 to \$100K range."

"Put that on the wish list," Murphy advised.

While all city council members attended the April 26 session, Ana Gutierrez and Chip Monaco were absent May 10.



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Democratic Crossroads

A modest proposal

A speedy, if not swift, response to the challenge of local governance might be helpful, urgently needed, or only provocative. Silverado-Modjeska Recreation and Park District (SMRPD) elections arrive soon, with no candidates declared for three open seats. The history of our singular community government agency, one of hundreds of state “special districts,” includes a period of tumult. A decade ago, when sitting board members failed to complete their filings, then-Supervisor Bill Campbell appointed

political allies. A grassroots citizen campaign assembled a slate and, in November 2014, elected a competent, committed, hard-working majority including Phil McWilliams of Modjeska.

Metamorphosis?

Observers see a similar potential threat on the horizon, with financial reporting snafus, new policy requirements for SMRPD volunteers, publicly-voiced frustrations about administrative workload and the future of the Children’s Center. Commitment to that beloved, if perpetu-

ally bedeviled project, a gorgeous community resource, along with managing two community centers and their adjacent parks, is ostensibly the entire and singular purview and responsibility of the five-member elected board. Ironically, the Children’s Center is in the black financially, if serving a tiny minority of actual canyon families and faced with costs of delayed maintenance. Its non-profit, Friends of the Children’s Center, is responding.

New insurance-required procedures complicate volunteerism and programming and the board has, for obvious reasons, added limited disaster response to its wheelhouse, the only governmental agency that meets certain organizational criteria for grants and insurance.

Let’s check in with McWilliams, who once served on the board and recently read (so you don’t have to) a 43-page 2021 memorandum to the California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions (CALAFCO) whimsically titled “The Metamorphoses of Special Districts: Current Methods for Consolidation, Dissolution, Subsidiary District Formation and Merger.” His take?

“SMRPD has had some great boards. The traits of these board members were simple, and no political experience required. Members needed management or basic people skills, a genuine love, respect and concern for the canyons, no hidden agendas or self-interests, a willingness to serve and listen, and to fight for the mission of the district. People hate politicians, so if you were a straight shooter and answered

questions directly, that didn’t hurt. We’ve also had some not-so-great boards. Here’s the rub; good people who could successfully run the district are here, but many have retired, or are too busy to volunteer, or don’t want the hassle. It takes considerable time to learn and understand procedures, rules, deadlines, and numerous complications needed for successful district management, all with no pay. Each election cycle I worry when no one with the traits needed steps up. Or that someone less than qualified is either elected or appointed.”

Phil sincerely, perhaps bravely, floats an idea: “One possible solution, which may be forced on us anyway, perhaps sooner than later, is absorption of the district into OC Parks. I understand concerns about loss of local control, but if good canyon folks don’t step up, effective and efficient local control is simply not possible anyway.”

Benevolent takeover might stir outrage or cries of “big government.” Or, perhaps, as a result of Phil’s gentle thought experiment, potential candidates, hoping to avert a crisis, might step up. Filing period, July 18-Aug. 12.

Home improvement

OC Parks’ restoration of the Modjeska Stone House, the Opid Cottage and drainage work has been underway at Arden since 2018. Successfully out to bid and ready to be awarded, the Opid Cottage portion of the project has been pulled to accommodate work at Mile Square Park. This essential improvement would complete the balance or restoration begun in 1992. Neighbors

are concerned that the building is now at high risk of irreparable damage.

Diane Carter RIP

Modjeska resident Jean Chapman shares recollections of Diane Carter, who passed away March 24. “Diane’s faith was unwavering. As one friend said, she embodied unyielding faith through the toughest of times.” Carter volunteered in many capacities. An avid equestrian, she fought hard for open trails and trails for all, and was on the Search and Rescue Team for many years. She was active in the San Juan Capistrano equestrian group Las Vaqueras and the city’s Chamber of Commerce.

Many treasure the memory of her riding in the Swallow’s Day Parade, proudly representing female equestrians and American Horse Products.

Just your type

Red Cross Blood Drive: Silverado Community Center, June 7, noon to 6 p.m..

Ready, Set, Go!

Check out OC Fire Authority’s online tool for property owner compliance with new wildfire safety regulations, per Assembly Bill 38: ocfa.org/RSG.

There’s a virtual assessment with questions about eaves, gutters, and spark arrestors, and a report generated at the end, though local fire departments will visit by appointment too, all to provide you “...documentation stating that the property is in compliance with Section 4291 of the Public Resources Code or local vegetation management ordinances.”



Arianna Benitez ‘22, Pete the Panther, Chapman President Daniele Struppa and Mareek Pitts ‘23 celebrate Giving Day at the Party in the Piazza.

Chapman community unites to raise over \$1 million

A 24-hour fundraiser on Giving Day 2022, held April 26, netted \$1,237,714 for Chapman University student scholarships.

Student volunteers staffed the phone lines for 24 hours straight. They wrote thank you cards, posted outreach on social media and made donations themselves. Student gifts up to \$2,022 were matched by Dean Jerry Price in honor of this year’s graduating class.

More than 650 donors participated, with many contributions doubled by matching grants. A \$275,000 matching grant, sponsored by members of the university’s boards, was announced in the evening, and helped raise \$550,000 in the final six hours of the day.

At Chapman, the importance of Giving Day goes far beyond

the dollars raised. “We talk a lot about the Chapman family, and on days like today it’s apparent how true that phrase is,” said Kim Greenhall, assistant vice president of strategic engagement and development. “Students and staff ensured every part of the day went off to perfection. Everyone – staff, faculty, alumni, students – came out to join us in the Attallah Piazza for our first in-person Giving Day celebration.”

Funds raised on Giving Day go to the Chapman Fund, a foundational resource for scholarships, university programs, student activities, faculty development, research centers and more.

Some financial aid is received by 86% of Chapman students, which means there is an ever-present need for donor support.

ElMo football golf tournament to tee off

The El Modena High School football program will host its 13th Annual Golf Tournament at Strawberry Farms Golf Club in Irvine on Friday, July 15. The Bob Lester Classic honors ElMo’s legendary coach who finished his coaching career with 213 wins and three CIF titles over a 20-year span.

The day begins with a shotgun start at 8 a.m., and includes breakfast, beverages and a BBQ luncheon. Foursomes are \$750, and individual players are \$200. Visit elmodenafootball.com for additional information. Or, contact golf@elmodenafootball.com to register, and learn more about sponsorship opportunities.

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Assistees of Orange celebrate 55th Medallion

One of the largest-ever graduating classes of the Assistees Auxiliary, Assistance League of Orange, gathered with family and friends for their formal Medallion ceremony on April 24. Each of these 29 graduating high school seniors from area schools have worked together throughout the previous three or more years, and volunteered a minimum of 90 hours providing philanthropic services to the community. They have also learned leadership skills, as each held an office or chairmanship in the Auxiliary. The Medallion ceremony, where each is formally presented a keepsake medallion, is the culmination of the years of service and growth.

2022 Medallion Recipients include, back row, left to right: Jane Hernandez, Samantha Behnke, Mary Hernandez, Brooke Ketner, Kaleigh Beachler, Gwen Hodson, Teagan Kridle, Elizabeth Duncan, Jessica Clayton; middle row, Mia Fairchild, Paul Belinsky, Mikayla Kendall, Meg Nichols, Raya Tamburrelli, Avery Ancich, Josephine Gray, Madilyn Stremick, Kaitlyn Romero; front row, Vanessa John, Jessica Morris, Malia Carrasco, Wren Anderson, Kylie Rios, Taylor Cartwright, Lauren Fujitani, Cayla Auxier. Not pictured are Sydney Moss, Luke Oliva and Chloe Scales.



Orange Elks volunteers turned out for the inaugural Soccer Shoot.

Elks host inaugural Soccer Shoot

By Bill Neessen

The Orange Elks have many programs that serve young people, veterans and the community. Soccer is one of the fastest growing youth activities in the U.S. The Orange Elks seized the opportunity, and organized the first Soccer Shoot.

Steve Baez, Elks soccer chairman, organized the event. The Soccer Shoot was designed

for boys and girls, divided into age groups. Each age group had a different size goal to shoot at to gain points. The youngest group shot from 15 feet at goals ranging in size from 48 inches to 17 inches. The 10-14 year olds scored points by kicking the ball into certain sections of the goal.

Lodge members secured donations from Big 5 Sporting Goods, Angels Baseball, Concourse

Bowling Center, Sunny Smith Boardshop, OC Sports Equipment, Yogurtland, The Habit, Chili's, 1886 Brewing Company, South Coast Plaza and Orange County Children's Dentistry, such that each soccer player left with a gift.

The event included athletes from local soccer clubs and the Gang Reduction and Intervention Program (GRIP).

Grocery shoppers were treated to an impromptu flash mob dance, presented by the SOS Dance Crew at the Albertsons on Chapman Ave. and Hewes St., May 7. The group is comprised of seniors, aged 65 to 83, coached by Zumba Gold Instructor Susie Vanderlip. The Dance Crew has been together for eight years.



The Soroptimists participated in the Tustin Community Foundation paper football fundraiser, assisted by two Foothill High football players. The Soroptimists portrayed women in history. From left, Martha Soto-Johnson, as Rosie The Riveter; Chris Gregg, Juliet G. Lowell; Joseph Moser, Foothill High School; Bonnie Wilkinson, Mary Queen of Scots; Jennifer Fryhoff, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Ginsburg; and Christopher Johnson, Foothill High.

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The 2022 Assistance League scholarship recipients are, left to right, Christopher Quiroga, Mary Lee, Gracie Clark, Valerie Cervantes, Anneliese Pinto Marques, Lisseth Gomez-Quintero, Lexie Ortega, Kyla Ranker, Olivia Cortez. Not pictured: Kasey Ayres, Jose Cuayahuitl, Ashly Chavez-Acosta, Rogelio Salas, Thang Nguyen, Zachary Pilon, Angel Salazar, Ruth Wilson, Miguel Alvey, Cindy Hernandez.

Assistance League honors scholarship recipients

Assistance League of Orange held its annual Scholarship Luncheon on May 6 to celebrate the accomplishments of the 19 high school seniors who received scholarships totaling \$47,000.

The students, who represent all five OUSD high schools, spoke of their plans to pursue education in the sciences, the arts, business and engineering, and their career interests, as diverse as landscape architecture, veterinary medicine, environmental science, travel industry management and computer science.

The Eugenia Love Arts Scholarship was given to Kasey Ayres from El Modena High School, an award-winning filmmaker who plans to study film and TV production. The Alfreda Niewig Nursing Scholarships will support three students' interest in health-related fields: Jose Cuayahuitl from Orange High, Olivia Cortez from El Modena High,

and Gracie Clark from Villa Park High. Valerie Cervantes, from Canyon High, received the Assistance League Memorial Scholarship; she plans to work with children with special needs.

The scholarship recipients each credited their parents for being their #1 supporters. The students also expressed how happy they were to be back on campus, after spending so many months isolated due to the pandemic.

Christopher Quiroga, an Orange High senior, made it clear that he appreciates Assistance League, "Improving lives, one student at a time," and, in his case, helping him enroll in the U.S. Merchant Marines Academy to study mechanical engineering. Assistance League has been awarding scholarships to students since 1941, and emphasizes academic achievement, volunteer activity, financial need, and leadership among its selection criteria.



Teagan Prowell, Foothill High



Emma Whyte, Tustin High

TAWC announces Young Women of the Month

The Tustin Area Woman's Club has named Teagan Prowell of Foothill High School and Emma Whyte of Tustin High its Young Women of the Month for May.

Foothill High's Teagan Prowell is an International Baccalaureate candidate. She serves her community as a member of the Tustin Assistance League, and is a riding instructor and counselor at Hidden Creek Ranch. Prowell has been a competitive horseback rider for 10 years, competing at the national level with her horse Dez at the National Championship, Arizona Sun Circuit and the Arizona National Horse Show, receiving the reserve overall

highpoint for her age division. She will be attending Loyola Marymount University with hopes of continuing to veterinary school.

Emma Whyte of Tustin High School was born and raised in Tustin. She is an Advanced Placement/Honors Student maintaining a 4.5 GPA while being a part of competitive cheerleading for 13 years. She has participated in community-based service clubs, including Hollywood Connections and Book Buzz. Whyte will be continuing her academic and cheerleading career at the honors college of San Diego State University.

Tustin Dems to meet

The Tustin Democratic Club will give members an opportunity to meet and celebrate with winners from June's primary at its Tuesday, June 22, 7 p.m. meeting. Members will also be able to kick off plans for electing candidates in the November election. The meeting will be held via Zoom, and possibly in person as well, subject to COVID safety.

A Zoom link and information about the meeting location can be obtained by emailing TustinDemocraticClub@gmail.com

Anyone wanting to connect with fellow Democrats, get informed and help increase community involvement is welcome to join. More information is available at TustinDemocraticClub.org.

Birder will share photos and stories

Canyon Hills Branch Library, Anaheim Public Library, invites the community to an educational and entertaining presentation celebrating the beauty in nature. Professional photographer, author, poet, and chemical engineer Steve Kaye will share his inspirational, beautiful photos and memorable stories beginning at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, June 22. The event is free and open to the public. Canyon Hills Branch is located at 400 S. Scout Trail in Anaheim. To view Kaye's photos, blog and articles, see stevekaye.com.



Steve Kaye



Luzuli Bunting Male

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Indian site identified in Trabuco Canyon

By Douglas Westfall

An 80-acre property in Trabuco Canyon, once the site of the first Boys Town in California, is now zoned for housing. Indian Ridge, along the top of the property off of Rose Canyon, has five buildings on it; since 2018, it has housed Vera's Sanctuary for Women, a residential drug treatment site for victims of human trafficking. The Sanctuary owns 12 acres; the rest belongs to Stone Building Corporation, which wants to construct 27 houses on the buildable portion of the property.

It has, however, recently been identified as the former site of a Native American village. The village site likely extended along the ridge, down to Trabuco Creek. A number of rocks, so far undisturbed by development, bear holes left by mortars used to grind corn at least 10,000 years ago. The site is likely that of the Acjachemen People, part of the Juaneno tribe.

Today, little evidence of the village is visible. However, there are some well-preserved remnants. A few arrowheads and rock knives have been found near the creek,

plus some shells used for ornamentation, as well as a mortar and pestle, or two. Most striking are the bedrock mortars that are scattered across the hillside.

Dr. Gary Stickel, a noted archaeologist who taught at UCLA and has consulted on many Native American digs, was invited to view the artifacts and to hike to several of the bedrock mortars. After hiking the hillside, he stated, "I can confirm, these are bedrock mortars of the Acjachemen people. This was the site of an Acjachemen village." He identified chert arrowheads and an obsidian knife found near the site as "definitely local Native American."

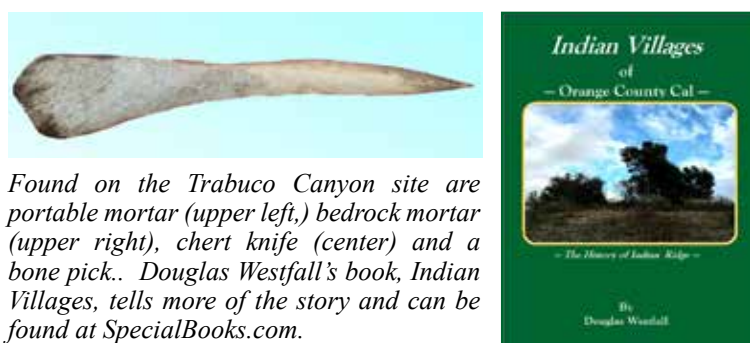
The proposed 27-home development was likely slowed by the pandemic, but it is still on deck. Stacy St. James of the South Central Coast Information Center for the State Historic Preservation Office at CalState, Fullerton reports, "If the mortar is on private land, there is probably not much you can do except make an appeal to the owner to not develop that location. If it's on state or federal lands, that appeal may have a dif-

ferent discussion. It's also possible that the Native American Heritage Commission in Sacramento knows about this if it's a sacred site."

Jerry Howard, archaeologist for the county, elaborated on the development process. "The company will have to conduct a survey of the project area to determine if there are cultural resources present," he said. "They are required to record the site and include it in their CEQA declaration that goes to the State Historic Parks Office. In some cases, they may be required to consult with Native American tribes regarding the project. The CEQA declaration should be filed with the state Governor's Office of Planning and Research."

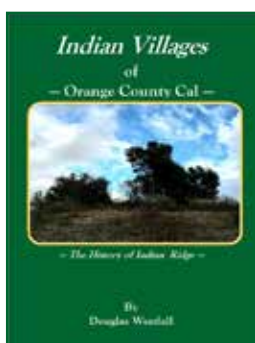
Indian Ridge may or may not be a sacred site, but it is the location of an Acjachemen village, and reflects the history of our nation.

Douglas Westfall is a Congressionally-recognized national historian, and has published multiple books on America's history and lectures on these topics.



Anna Fairchild, right, was named Woman of the Year by the Orange Woman's Club. Club President Suzanne Vaugine presented the award.

Found on the Trabuco Canyon site are portable mortar (upper left), bedrock mortar (upper right), chert knife (center) and a bone pick. Douglas Westfall's book, Indian Villages, tells more of the story and can be found at SpecialBooks.com.



Silverado features art walk

Canyon artists displayed their wares during the Silverado Art Walk, May 14. Stops up and

down the roadway led to pastels, oils, acrylics, photography, jewelry and ceramics.



John Ringer displays abstracts and seascapes. Photos by Tony Richards



Carmen Spievak and Victor Cardenas enjoy a "garage gallery."



Debbie Perry, left, and Cindy Couisne browse at a stop along the art walk. Alice Phillips highlights one of her dichroic glass pendants.

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Grace and Victoria Peters carried the CPOC banner in the Orange May Parade, May 7. They were followed by a Lexus driven by James Wallace, District 68 Assembly candidate, accompanied by CPOC Vice President Martha Ming and Membership chair Michele Markel.

CPOC meeting to feature post-election analysis

The Conservative Patriots of Orange County will offer an analysis of the primary election results at its June 16, 5:30 p.m. meeting. Political analyst Marc Ang will discuss what's next for California, based on the primary outcome, and what can be done in the run up to the Nov. 8 general election. Election Integrity Committee Chairman James Peters will give a talk on that subject. The keynote presentation by Orange County

Informed and United will focus on the vaccine passport contract in OC. No photography or taping will be permitted. The meeting will be held at the Santa Ana Elks Lodge, 1751 S. Lyon St. Reservations for a dinner buffet may be made at conservativepatriotsofoc.org or by calling Peggy Baranyay (714) 828-1289. Cost is \$30 per person; nonmembers are welcome.

Elks honor young achievers

by Bill Neessen
The Orange Elks Lodge's Youth Appreciation Night honored the award-winning youth from numerous Elks programs held throughout the year. Following a proclamation by Councilwoman Kathy Tavoularis, the colors presented by Scout Troop 1475 and the Orange High choir rendition of the national anthem, Master of Ceremonies Paul Pelasky introduced Orange Police Chief (and Elk) Dan Adams as the guest speaker. He encouraged the students to make good choices and make a difference. Miss City of Orange Victoria Johnson and Elroy T. Elk, the face of the Orange Lodge and the Drug Awareness mascot, assisted in the presentation of awards. Hoop Shoot chair Tim Reissmueller presented awards to winners Malana Pelasky and Jaden Dixon. Mike Cash, Drug Awareness chair, presented the contest winners with this year's theme of "The Best Me is Drug Free." Logan Vaughn, essay; Macie Brooks, poster; Cerro Villa

Middle School students, junior high video; El Modena High, high school video. Each winner of the essay contest on "What does it mean to love your country?" was given a \$50 scholarship by Americanism chairman Chris Michaelis. The fifth grade winners were Anderson Jeng, Ozzi Kendler and Brooklyn Pearce; sixth grade winners were Kaylee Cuevas, Luke Hough and Ryan Petz. Scholarship chair Lynda Einstein presented \$500 scholarships to six college-bound seniors: Kent Tran (an Eagle Scout Troop 1475), Kylie Seppala, Rogelio Salas, Sharon Kim, Evelinn Gonzalez and Connor Dapkus. The Third Grade Dictionary Program, which provides each student a personal dictionary, was altered during the pandemic. Dictionaries are now delivered to schools, not directly to the students. The Elks delivered 2,184 dictionaries to 27 schools, plus motel kids and OC Academy. In 15 years, the Orange Elks have delivered over 32,000 dictionaries to every third grader in Orange.



Brielle Boyce, 10, a finalist in two jiu-jitsu tournaments in Southern California, won medals in both. She is the daughter of Anaheim Hills residents Aaron and Holli Boyce and the granddaughter of Jerry Freudenberg, a longtime resident of OPA. Boyce, a student at Kings MMA Jiu-Jitsu in Anaheim, has moved up to a gray-white belt.

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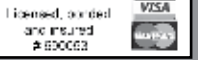
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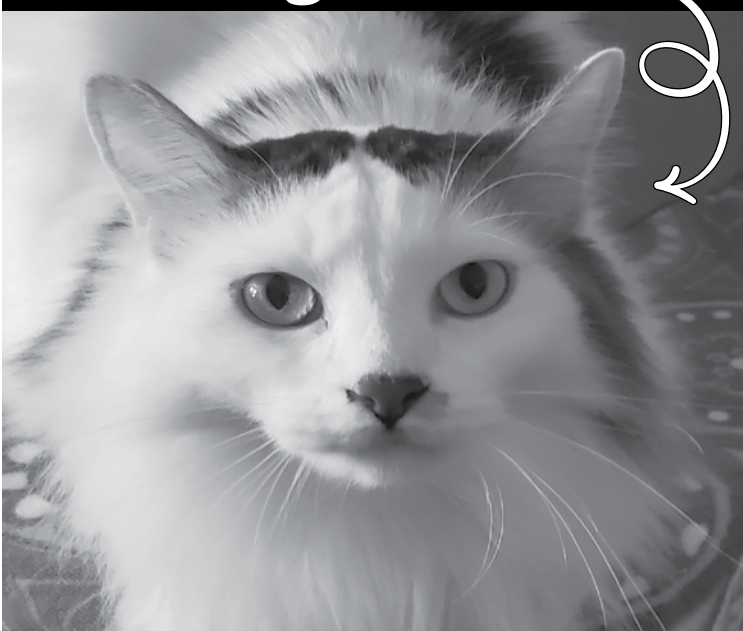
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From left, Speaker Ray Lozano, Mike Cash and Lorena Rubio, Principal of Jordan Academy of Language and Computer Science.

Elks host Drug Awareness Assemblies

This year Elks Drug Awareness Chairman Mike Cash delivered a message about the dangers of drug abuse to 18 elementary and middle schools and held a webinar session in the evening for parents, all featuring National Elks Speaker Ray Lozano.

The focus in the elementary schools was on the effects of vaping. The middle schools' message concerned healthy choices and choosing to not use drugs. After each assembly, Cash asked questions, and students who answered correctly received a prize.

COMMUNITY SPORTS

BY CLIFF ROBBINS AND CHAD CLINE

Canyon High School changing of the guard

After six years serving Canyon High School athletics, Ashley Higuera announced that she will be stepping down from her role as athletic director at the conclusion of the 2022 school year.

Higuera has been instrumental in helping Canyon become one of the top athletic programs in the Century Conference. She has led the Canyon athletic programs to 61 Century Conference league championships, six CIF Finals appearances, two CIF Championships, two State Finals appearances and has seen several teams ranked nationally during her tenure.

Higuera was also a driving force in the track and field and gymnasium renovations, as well as overseeing the startup of the boys and girls lacrosse programs. She was recognized by her colleagues with the Norm Mackenzie Award, which is presented from CIF to an outstanding rookie athletic director every year.

Nate Harrison will assume the role of girls athletic director.

Sean Barnett will take over as head girls varsity basketball coach, after two seasons as girls assistant varsity coach at Esperanza High. He helped lead the team to a Division 1 Final and State Regional Semifinal appearance.

Previously, Barnett was the head girls varsity coach at Magnolia High School, leading the Sentinels to a CIF quarterfinals appearance in his first season with the team.

He was awarded the Co-coach of the Year for the Orange League that same year. As Anaheim High's head girls JV coach and assistant varsity coach, he helped lead the team to a State Regional Finals appearance that year.

Matt Silva takes on an additional role as Canyon's head girls volleyball coach. Silva has spent four successful seasons as CHS head boys volleyball coach, and will continue in that role. Silva has led the boys to back-to-back league titles, as well as trips to the CIF quarterfinals and CIF semifinals. This year, his boys finished with a 20-4 overall record.

Prior to Canyon, Silva attended and played volleyball at St. John Bosco High, where he was All-CIF and earned MVP of the Del Rey League; he attended Long Beach City College, where he was a part of multiple state titles. When his playing career ended, Silva became co-head coach for the college, and was named Coach of the Year after leading his team to another state championship.

Century League pitchers silence Empire League bats

The senior Century League pitchers combined to limit the Empire League to just one run on four hits, while striking out 11 batters to win the Ryan Lemmon Senior Showcase in Irvine, 4-1.

Both teams left runners stranded in the first and second innings. Ryan Osso (El Modena) led off the third with a walk, Aaron Ceniceros (El Modena) singled, Pedro Hernandez (Foothill) singled scoring Osso. JT Swain (Brea) singled, driving in Ceniceros and Hernandez, taking a 3-0 lead. Brett Castillo (Foothill) hit into a double play to end the inning.

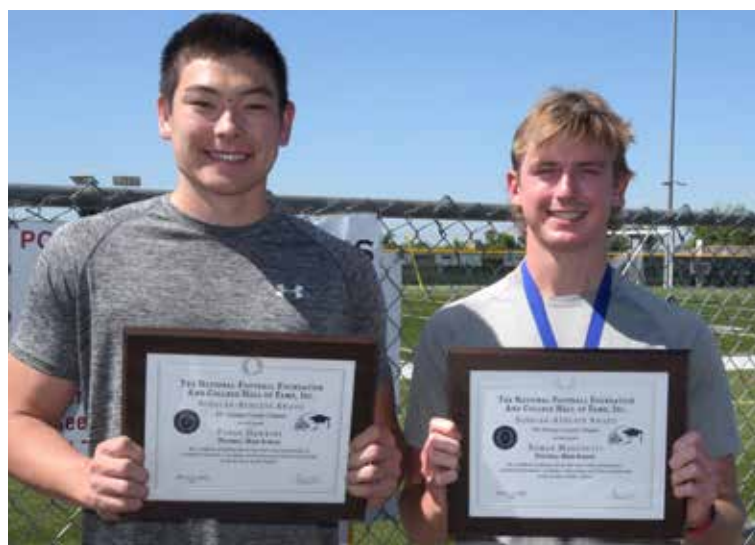
Bryant Smaaladen (El Modena) came in to pitch the fourth; with two outs, he walked a batter and gave up an unearned run on a throwing error. Nick Aufdemberg (El Modena) singled to start the sixth, and Justin Cabada (Brea) sacrificed to score Aufdemberg.



Andrew Grove from Villa Park drives home Villa Park's only run in the semifinals of the boys Div. 1 baseball playoffs.



Jack Burke, the catcher for Villa Park, catches the JSerra runner in a run down, making the out.



Foothill's Paddy Hawkins (left) and Roman Marchetti received scholar-athlete awards from the National Football Foundation-OC Chapter. Hawkins carried a 4.61 GPA, and Marchetti a 4.63 GPA.



The National Football Foundation OC Chapter awarded Roman Marchetti from Foothill High the Paul Schwegler Award. Marchetti was captain of the team and league Co-most Valuable Player for defense. Marchetti carried a 4.63 GPA and played football all four years at Foothill. He will continue his education and walk on at USC in the fall. The Paul Schwegler Award was a memorial scholarship fund in his honor. The athlete must maintain a high scholastic standard to receive one academic year to the college of choice.

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Foothill hoists the championship trophy after winning the D1 Lacrosse Championship, 17-9, over Rancho Santa Margarita High School.



Foothill High School celebrates winning the D1 CIF-SS Lacrosse Championship.



Vince Namba, left, and Assistant Principal CK Green from Foothill High accept the CIF-SS Championship Lacrosse Trophy. It was the second year in a row Foothill made it to the finals.



Rowan Dillard from Canyon High dives to control the pass against Corona Del Mar in the girls lacrosse quarterfinals.



Kathleen LaBroad, goalkeeper for Canyon High, stops a Corona Del Mar shot in the quarterfinals of the girls lacrosse playoffs. Corona Del Mar won, 9-8.



Drew Demogines from Canyon High scored nine goals in the rout of Roosevelt High in the first round of the CIF-SS lacrosse playoffs; Canyon won, 22-9.



Dean Chavez (left) teams up with Jaden Phillips to block the shot in the CIF-SS volleyball playoffs. Villa Park advanced to the second round.



Braeden Lilomaiava from Villa Park gets set up for the spike. The Spartans took three games straight from Mission Viejo in the CIF playoffs.



Ian Condon from Villa Park plays the net.

Correction

In the May issue, the Most Valuable Player of the RLF Tournament was mis-identified. Jacob Spencer was the MVP.



The VPHS Spartans celebrate their Boras Classic Championship.

VP varsity baseball sweeps Boras Championship

Villa Park baseball, now at 27-4, is ranked first in the PBR California Power 25. The Spartans, coached by Burt Call, took the 2022 Boras Baseball Classic Championship in their

first appearance at this elite SoCal tournament, defeating JSerra 11-3 in the final. Previous match-ups were against Servite, winning 5-4; Huntington Beach, 7-2; and Notre Dame, 2-1. Mason Miles

was awarded Defensive MVP of the game, and Britton Beeson was awarded Offensive MVP. Call, then coaching at Mater Dei, won the tournament a decade earlier, when it was first started.



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