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A Monthly Community Newspaper

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From left, Mike Noble, Mark Kuli and Eric Reynolds led their Wanda Road neighbors in protesting a possible rezoning of their neighborhood. Said Kuli, "We really appreciate the Wanda area residents for voicing their concerns, and the city council for listening. This is the way city government should work. I'm proud of Villa Park."

VP council removes Wanda Street rezoning from housing plan

By Andie Mills

Villa Park residents turned out, May 11, to voice their opinions at a city council public hearing regarding the state-mandated housing element update requiring 296 housing units to be penciled in for the city.

The majority, rallied by a neighborhood "Stop Wanda Road Rezoning" campaign, protested the rezoning of Wanda Road between Lincoln and Collins to allow for 14 to 40 or more housing units. Residents of the neighboring streets, led by Mark Kuli, Eric Reynolds and Mike Noble, put up signs and ramped up a social media campaign garnering over 1,300 views, asking for letters and phone calls to the councilmembers. City Manager Steve Franks reported that over 130 comments were received, the majority relating to the Wanda option.

As Mayor Crystal Miles stated, the goal of the meeting was to find a solution that is "reasonable and the least-impactful to residents," considering infrastructure, traffic, schools, future housing plans -- not an easy undertaking in a city that is 99% built out. The city is not required to develop the 296 units, only to plan for a zoning change and amendment to the General Plan. But any rezoning carries the possibility that, at some future date, building construction may happen.

No wiggle room

Should the city not follow the state mandate to alter zoning, the ramifications would be severe, including penalties, loss of control of housing and permit processes within the city.

Residents, most of whom had moved to the "Hidden Jewel" because of its half-acre lots and rural ambiance, were concerned that their quiet locale would be destroyed by imposing multi-unit structures, parking problems and traffic.

The Wanda rezoning was one of 12 recommendations presented, none of which were overwhelmingly supported. The other 11 proposed options were: single family units on 11 vacant parcels; Town Center multi-family units; accessory dwelling units (ADUs); rezone remainder of Town Center; Tropical Plaza Nursery; reduce minimum lot size for vacant/underutilized lots to 8,000 sq. ft.; reduce minimum lot size for other developed lots; OUSD surplus property; rezone Smith basin/Villa Park Road parcels to multi-family; allow more than two ADUs per lot in selected areas, or large lots.

Take some off the top

Miles motioned that, as several of the options would not meet city land-use goals, they should be removed from consideration. Namely, the rezoning of Wanda, with an underground pipeline, would be intrusive, and cause increased traffic and safety issues; units on 11 vacant parcels; reducing the minimum lot size for vacant or developed lots; and the OUSD surplus property option, as the district has no interest in selling its properties.

Councilman Robert Collacott,

See "VP" continued on page 3

District 3 voters look into recall

Voters in Orange District 3 are exploring the process for a recall campaign in response to the city council's appointment of an unvetted candidate to represent them.

Following the departure of Councilman Mike Alvarez, who stepped down after the court ruled that he was ineligible to run for the District 3 seat, the city council had the option of holding a special election or appointing someone. District 3 voters overwhelmingly preferred the special election, which would give them the opportunity to choose their council representative.

Failing that, many voters urged the appointment of runner-up John Russo, who placed second to Alvarez when the election was held last November.

Instead, the council appointed Kathy Tavoularis, April 13, one of seven people who had applied for the position. Although active in the Republican Central Committee, she is largely unknown to District 3 voters. They had no

resume to review, no job history to assess, no idea where she stood on local issues or who, other than the mayor and three council members who do not live in District 3, endorsed her.

While emphasizing that they have nothing against Tavoularis, District 3 voters, who felt dismissed and discounted by the council's choice, hoped to launch a recall campaign soon after she was sworn in.

They were, however, advised by Orange City Clerk Pamela Coleman that a recall could not be announced until 90 days after the appointee takes office. Then, notice must be given, and 10 days after that, the Registrar of Voters must be provided with copies of the recall petition. The registrar has 10 days to review the petition and notify the proponents of any required changes. According to the OC election code, the actual recall campaign could take 40 to 160 days to commence once notice has been filed. No decisions have been made.

Mountain lion relocated from Williams Canyon

By Mike Boeck

A homeowner in Williams Canyon discovered a mountain lion in his livestock pen, along with two dead sheep and two dead goats, on the morning of May 4.

The lion had apparently squeezed through a small opening in the chain link roof and could not get back out. An adult goat and a ewe were still alive and largely uninjured, save for a laceration on the ewe's lip.

The homeowner called 911 and soon the OC Sheriffs showed up, along with a police helicopter and a California Fish and Wildlife officer. The sheriffs were heavily armed and prepared to shoot the lion if it escaped and presented a threat to human life.

The group waited for the arrival of Fish and Wildlife Environmental Scientist Amelia Viera, who subsequently darted the lion with a tranquilizer gun so it could be safely captured and relocated.

The sedated lion was trussed

to prevent it from harming itself or others. It was weighed, its temperature taken multiple times to monitor its condition, and its teeth were photographed. Since normal body temperature for lions is between 100-103 degrees, and this one's was 104 degrees, it was cooled off with water bottles, then with a garden hose. The tranquilizer used to sedate wildlife often elevates body temperature. Eye drops were administered as the lion's eyes were open and needed lubrication.

Once the lion was subdued, the sheriffs put away their firearms and helped in the care and documentation of this lion. Two people were unable to lift it to weigh it, but the part of it they could lift weighed 125 pounds. Its total weight was estimated at 150-plus pounds.

See "Mountain lion" continued on page 6



Photo by Mike Boeck

A male mountain lion, discovered in an animal enclosure in Williams Canyon, was sedated by Fish and Wildlife so he could be safely moved to a remote location.

NEWS INSIDE

WORTH THE WEIGHT

Building mass and scale restrictions waived for Ronald McDonald House "good cause" expansion.

See Orange, page 2

COURSE CORRECTION

Former Orange elected official takes council to task for lapses in community-centric leadership.

See Guest Commentary, page 4

PAST TIMES AT TUSTIN HIGH

As its centennial anniversary approaches, THS plans festivity, fundraising and family fun.

See Tustin, page 5

DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS AND SERVICE

College-bound seniors and military recruits get a financial boost from the Assistance League

See AL, pages 6, 14

YOU GOTTA HAVE ART

Canyon artists host drive-by for socially distanced displays and discoveries.

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Orange bends design standards to accommodate a good cause, the Ronald McDonald House expansion

By Tina Richards

City approval of the proposed expansion of the Ronald McDonald House (RMH) on Batavia Street in Orange came down to the value of its charitable mission versus the value of design standards intended to preserve the architectural heritage of Old Towne.

The RMH provides a home away from home for families of seriously ill children undergoing treatment at nearby hospitals. Opened in 1989, the facility serves some 800 families per year. "The expansion is critical to our mission," Project Manager Jan van Dijs told the council at its May 11 meeting. "Our focus is on the needs of families that we'd have to turn away."

The Old Towne design standards restrict building height, scale and mass. No building in Old Towne is as massive as the expanded RMH (17,325 sq. ft. added to its existing 12,580) or as tall (38 ft.). Expansion plans were rejected by the city's design review committee last December, but approved by the planning commission in February. Its first hearing before the city council, April 13, was continued to allow RMH to address the project's compatibility with the historic district and neighborhood concerns about privacy and scale.

Concessions count

Throughout the approval process, the RMH architectural team made numerous changes in response to neighbors' concerns about loss of privacy: window alignment was altered, taller trees added to the landscape design, and walls

heightened. The roof slope was modified to appear shorter, and catwalks placed well away from the outer edges of the building.

At the second council hearing, RMH reported that it had recently increased the size of the trees to be planted from 24-inch boxes to 36-inch. Those trees will stand 16 to 18 feet from day one. In addition, RMH agreed to limit construction hours and construction parking will not be allowed on adjacent residential streets. "We've met with the neighbors," van Dijs said, "and are addressing their concerns."

Public comments made at the design review, planning commission and council meetings were split between neighbors who were alarmed at the size of the building that would loom over their backyards, and supporters who stressed the need for the expansion to serve more families. Proponents ranged from CHOC medical personnel to RMH volunteers to Orange residents. All noted the invaluable service RMH provides, the physical and psychological benefits it offers to families coping with severely ill

children.

Mission merits amendments

RMH wants to increase its capacity from 21 rooms to 44. It is asking the city to amend the property's General Plan designation from "low-density resident" to "public facility and institution." It also needs a zone change from "single-family" to "public institution." A historic home on Culver Avenue, located just behind the facility, was also subject to rezoning. It will be used as office space for RMH staff.

Early in the review process, the Old Towne Preservation Association (OTPA) submitted a list of suggested changes to make the structure more in keeping with historic standards. RMH agreed to a number of exterior changes to make the building more "craftsman" looking. The sticking point remained the expansion's sheer size.

When asked by planning commissioners in February and council members in May if the project met Old Towne standards, the city planner said no.

OTPA ultimately conceded that

the benefits provided by RMH exceeds the issues of scale and mass. And, it was explained by city staff, the building is on the western edge of Old Towne, across the street from another large building and shares that portion of Batavia with several other three-story office buildings.

Not a sore thumb

The height limit in Old Towne is 30 feet. The existing house exceeds that because, staff said, a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) issued in 1987 allows it. That CUP stays with the property and covers the expansion. Councilwoman Ana Gutierrez asked city staff and City Attorney Gary Sheatz repeatedly how the CUP bestowed on the original lot transfers to the lot where the expansion will reside. "I'm not trying to be difficult," she said, "I just really want to understand."

The explanations provided by the city planner and Sheatz were unclear, with the city attorney noting that the CUP in question was "a descriptor" only, and that today a variance would be needed. But, in 1987, the CUP was

sufficient. Gutierrez moved on to another topic.

The council voted 6-1 to approve the General Plan amendment and zone change to accommodate the project. Arianna Barrios, whose constituents live in the shadow of the house, voted no. "I think what you do is extraordinary," she said, "but I still have a lot of reservations because of the size."



The existing Ronald McDonald House looms over the backyard of a neighbor.

TAWC awards scholarships

Graduating seniors from Tustin Unified School District were each awarded \$1,000 scholarships by the Tustin Area Woman's Club.

Tustin High's Elise Lauren Carlen-Jones will attend DePaul University, Chicago, majoring in communications and media. Emma Vandal, also from Tustin High, will attend UCLA or Berkeley with a major in molecular, cell and developmental biology.

Foothill graduate Audrey Pederson will attend the University of Oregon, and plans to major in human physiology and sports medicine. Claire Poissonnier, also from Foothill, will attend Brown University to study medicine and compete as a DI college athlete playing water polo.



Following a nationwide search, the Rancho Santiago Community College District Board of Trustees unanimously approved the appointment of Dr. Pamela Ralston to serve as President of Santiago Canyon College (SCC), making her the first female president in the college's history. Dr. Ralston's term will begin on Aug. 2.

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See "VP" continued from page 1

with a second by Councilman Vince Rossini, made an alternate motion to suggest that Tropical Plaza Nursery also be removed from the list, due to traffic and parking issues on Serrano and Meats. Councilman Robbie Pitts disagreed, suggesting that the traffic would flow to Santiago.

Consultant John Douglas cautioned the council to consider several approaches, and not to "put all the eggs in one basket. The more options the city presents, the more likely it is that the state will approve the city's plan." Collacott withdrew his substitute motion and the council voted, 5-0, to withdraw only the options that Miles had suggested.

Of the seven remaining options, two had been approved when submitted in draft form to California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD): 80 ADUs and 28

units in a rezoned portion of the Town Center.

No good answer

Collacott suggested implementing a more robust ADU program, but it was noted that street parking would likely be an issue, as an additional space is not required for an ADU. Residents spoke to the need for senior housing, but the city cannot dictate the type of units a developer must build.

With four persons estimated per housing unit, an additional 1,184 residents within the city may increase tax revenues, but traffic, parking, schooling and infrastructure are real concerns.

Public comments and debate centered, primarily, on the rezoning of the remainder of the Town Center or the use of the Smith basin, the 22 acres of Santiago Creek open space west of Cannon, off of Villa Park Road, owned by Orange County Water District, but within city limits. Miles suggested that rezoning the eastern

portion of the Smith basin, with a maximum of 20 units per acre, would have less of an impact on residents whose street overlooks the basin. Mayor Pro Tem Chad Zimmerman advocated for saving the open space and rezoning to create a more vibrant town center. Parking, again, was an issue – would it be underground?

Ultimately, the motion by Mayor Miles to rezone the eastern portion of the basin was seconded by Rossini; the vote carried, 3-2, with Pitts and Zimmerman the naysayers. Zimmerman anticipates more "feedback" about the Smith Basin at the September hearing. The final housing element revision is due Oct. 15.

It was Zimmerman who asked about the ramifications if housing was not built. Per Douglas, the HCD could monitor for progress, or the rezoned options could be used to satisfy future needs. If the state plan to increase housing by 5 million, with 1.3 million units in SoCal, is rescinded, city zoning could be reversed.



Kaitlyn and Lauren Minaya, students in the Orange Unified School District, will be state finalists in the National American Miss 2021 Pageant, representing the City of Orange in their respective Junior Pre-Teen and Pre-Teen divisions at the July competition. Outside of school, the girls volunteer at the St. Norbert food bank and are involved in community events. Lauren, far right, shown with Kaitlyn, left, and National American Miss Princess Madison Villanueva, center, sang the national anthem at the Anti Asian Hate Rally held in Irvine in May.



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Guest Commentary

Putting Orange to the Rotary's Four-Way Test

By Dan Slater

Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

The four pillars of Rotary International's Four-Way Test were developed as a moral and ethical foundation for business and personal relationships, and is used worldwide.

We need to apply this Four-Way Test to our municipal leadership in Orange and assess if city hall passes. Under its current leadership, Orange has been fumbling through a fog of translucence - from one avoidable situation to another. Residents have been kept at arm's-length as city leadership favors insider interests over what is best for the residents.

In most cities, the city council represents its community. In Orange - as was made evident by the council appointment in District 3 - our council majority represents special interests and par-

tisan insiders instead of the true community. Something needs to change, or we are in serious jeopardy of losing what we hold most dear about our beloved city.

None of this should be surprising to those who have followed the council's efforts to stifle public participation. While nearly every city council in Orange County meets at least twice a month, the Orange City Council meets only 12 times annually and schedules second meetings grudgingly. Innovation and technology have made it a simple matter to bring the public inside the process, but that, too, has been ignored. Orange has been on autopilot for too long, and is not serving its residents well.

From Sully-Miller to code enforcement, to councilmember term limits and short-term rentals, residents are constantly forced to battle our own city to protect the quality of life we expect, enforce our own ordinances, and ensure

city leadership will follow the laws that its own residents voted in. As a former city council member, I find it deeply sad that we have come to this stark reality.

Residents must step in

When the council ignored its own General Plan, as well as hundreds of residents, by approving a housing development on land set aside for open space, citizens were forced to get signatures to allow the voters to decide whether such a rezoning was a good idea or not - not just once, but TWICE (remember the Fieldstone proposal in 2003?). Not only is the property not zoned for housing, but the site is also located in a flood inundation zone, a high-risk fire area and adjacent to a heavily congested intersection. Why do the same tired ideas and tactics keep being recycled?

Most councils listen to their residents, but not in Orange. The fervid dedication of our mayor

and council majority to deep-pocket developers and party insiders is both disappointing and reckless.

Homelessness continues to be a big problem in Orange. WHY? Our council should demand that our city staff fiercely defend neighborhoods, parks and businesses for the enjoyment of our residents. We need a greater investment in our Homeless Assistance Resource Team (HART) to provide help for those who want it but make it clear for those who don't that Orange is not a city open for those who want to live a "home-free lifestyle."

New opportunities, and challenges, are on the horizon for Orange: the North Tustin Street Specific Plan, the proposed expansion of Chapman University, the proposed extension of the Plaza Paseo. These are critical issues that will affect Orange for generations, and must be approached with transparency and inclusion.

If past is prologue, all these issues will likely be rushed through with minimal public input, or even council discussion, followed by a quick vote -- and then the city will brace itself for the residents to rise up once again and propose a referendum.

There is no evidence to show that our elected and appointed leaders will listen to the community. How often can this city council vote against the best interests of its residents before the residents finally say, "ENOUGH!"?

Perhaps by following the Rotary's Four-Way Test, our city can rebuild the ethical foundation that harkens back to Orange's storied history. We are a city built on truth, goodwill and friendships, and if residents demand it, we can once again be a city that is fair and beneficial to ALL concerned.

Dan Slater is a former Orange councilmember and mayor pro tem.



Voter's choice

Dear Editor:

There is a stench at Orange City Hall, and it is emanating from the chairs of Kim Nichols, Chip Monaco and Mark Murphy. The three are drunk with power, and are representing themselves, rather than the city. Nichols and Monaco had the audacity to claim that the council and the city attorney don't decide the eligibility of the candidates. The city attorney is responsible for enforcing city policies. It is a fact that he approved the illegal candidacy of Mike Alvarez. The city attorney should be fired, based on the judge's decision.

The three council members were happy because an Alvarez win meant the voting block of four would remain. The council and city attorney knowingly approved an illegal candidate for their self-interests. Nichols, Monaco and Murphy played politics and appointed an ally rather than the logical choice of runner-up John Russo. John's honesty and integrity are qualities that frighten the three little people.

This appointment looked to be a premeditated move, just in case Alvarez got booted. A serious recall effort for Nichols, Monaco, Murphy and the city attorney should begin immediately. They obviously, and painfully, are not qualified to govern the city.

Steve Palmer
Orange

Dear Editor:

I was upset about the way Mark Murphy appointed the new council member. I was glad to see I wasn't the only one. There were some great letters to the editor. Glad to see some people are paying attention. Thanks for bringing awareness. And the article written by Arianna Barrios and Ana Gutierrez was great. They are brave to speak out. Really brave. They said it right out in print. Love that.

Shari Carter
Orange

Habitat not houses

Dear Editor:

I understand the need for affordable housing and am well aware of the challenging requirements for updating city General Plan Housing Elements. However, I was dismayed by the Villa Park City Council's 3-2 vote to consider rezoning 17.96 acres of open space on Santiago Creek (Smith pit) owned by the Orange County Water District, to multi-family mixed-use development to accommodate up to 360 housing units.

The state guidelines provided to cities for completing Housing Element Updates discourage the use of areas zoned open space for housing purposes. The residents living just east of the Smith pit know far too well the harm that filling this area would cause in the near term: truck traffic, noise, dust, and the removal of essentially all wildlife.

Residents and developers had a vision for this area over 50 years ago and identified it as one needing protection for the health and well-being of the community. It is part of the Santiago Greenbelt Plan that prior Villa Park city councils have supported. As we deal with urban sprawl and our need and want to maintain a small town rural feeling, this open space is necessary for the health of residents, the respite our eyes and bodies all require, the protection of the watershed to decrease the chance of flooding, preservation of our drinking water, the protection of endangered and threatened species that inhabit the area, and for connectivity to other areas of the creek corridor to retain biodiversity and to act as a carbon sink to lesson climate change.

It is possible to meet the update requirements with two of the other options presented at the council's May 11 meeting: implementing incentives for building ADUs and expanding the rezoning of the Villa Park Town Center to accommodate mixed-use beyond the 28 units already approved. Future

Town Center residents would be able to walk rather than drive to the wide variety of services and shopping available. The result would be an addition to a thriving, vital community, rather than subtraction of valuable open space. I urge the Villa Park City Council to take development of Santiago Creek open space off the table and promote a vision of a protected Santiago Creek corridor that our generation and those that follow can enjoy.

Bonnie Robinson
Orange

Bottom line?

Dear Editor:

Regarding the landscape assessment fees for Santiago Hills: I would ask the city council and city staff for more clarity before the public hearing at the June meeting.

The existing staff report only references the amount for one of our two assessment fees (LMD 86-2). It confusingly states that only LMD 15-1 (the other one of our two assessment fees) will increase by 1.5% according to the CPI, but it doesn't say how much this actually equates to. I pulled my own property tax bill (condo) and my parents' (single-family home) and found the values listed below:

- Condo property tax (2020-21) Indsep main dist. \$173.58 Indsep & Itg #1: \$221.66
- Single-family home property tax (2020-21) Indsep maint dist.: \$244.48 Indsep & Itg #1: \$369.44

I called the property tax phone line, but no one answered, so I have no idea which of these taxes are due to go up because the staff report does not include that level of detail.

Which line item above refers to LMD 15-1 and which is LMD 86-2? I'm guessing the second one is LMD 86-2 because the preliminary engineer report says the maximum assessment rate for LMD 86-2 is \$369.44 for a single-family home.

I am assuming it is the top line for each that they want to increase by 1.5%. Is it accurate to say it will be an additional \$2.60 for condos and \$3.67 for single-family homes?

I will reserve my comments about the city's negligence in its

handling of our landscape district for the June public hearing.

Jess Barber
Orange

Dirt devils

Dear Editor:

I know Orange residents care about Santiago Creek and its future. When I read the article in the last *Sentry*, "City and fill operator out of touch with state and resident reality," I am frustrated with our city leaders and city staff. Chandler claims it has the right to fill in this beautifully restored canyon because it once was a gravel pit. The city attorney, city manager, and even the mayor have taken the easy stance by agreeing with Chandler. This same threesome gave Milan and Chandler carte blanche on Sully-Miller and now the public is living with the illegal mountains of construction waste and rubble next to Santiago Creek. Thank-

fully the county and the state intervened to stop the fiasco on Sully-Miller. The city was ready to allow Chandler to fill in the adjacent wetland but was stopped by the Regional Water Board as it is a water of the state. Santiago Creek is an amazing jewel that runs the length of our city. Why would our elected leaders and city staff continue to enable these companies to destroy our treasured Santiago Creek?

Paul Andrews
Orange

Brain drain

Dear Editor:

Recently I queried the County of Orange about why it was releasing water behind the Villa Park dam, which would destroy the waterfowl habitat in the middle of nesting season. This defied logic, as these wetlands provide critical habitats for birds and other wildlife. After making

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numerous calls, it was apparent the county was on autopilot one answering machine at a time.

I finally spoke with an individual who seemed bothered I was calling; he was rude and condescending and didn't seem to care that this widespread draining was altering the wetlands and affecting the bird population. His sole focus was dam maintenance. I can appreciate the dam needs maintenance, but why not schedule it before or after nesting season?

Other residents experienced the same frustration when reaching out to the county on this issue. It might be good if all county employees were encouraged to engage politely with the public, as many of us are concerned that our natural resources are managed responsibly. Citizens do have a right to know, as these are our public lands.

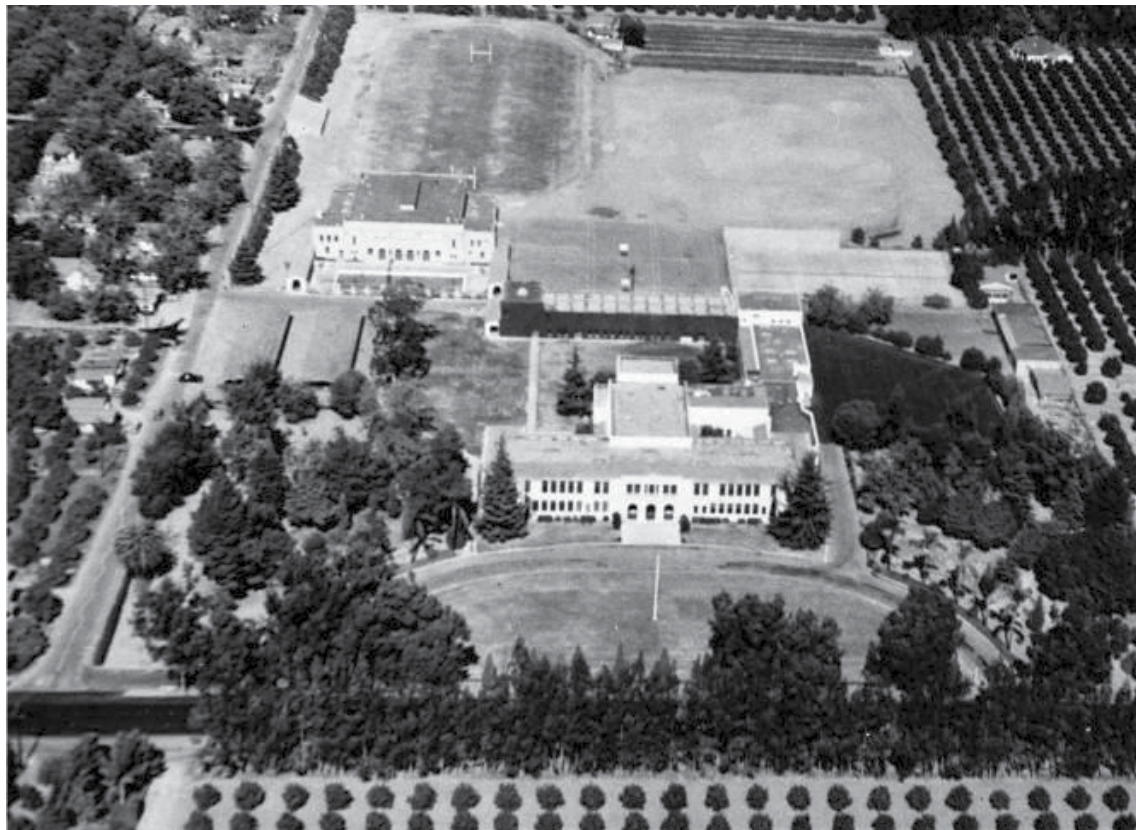
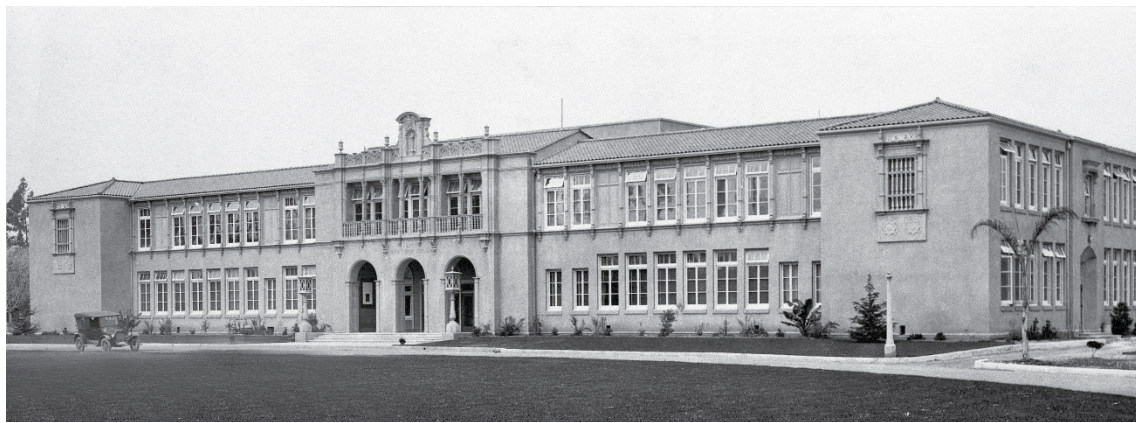
In fairness, I did speak to a staffer who tried to help, but it was clear no one knew what was going on. For now, the water release has stopped. Let's hope the county will come up with a maintenance schedule with nesting season in mind.

Katrina Kirkeby
Orange

Friendship Tea slated

The Tustin Area Woman's Club is taking reservations for its annual Friendship Tea slated for Saturday, June 19 at the Santa Ana Elks Lodge.

The tea, to be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., will feature vendors and a silent auction. Proceeds will benefit TAWC scholarships and philanthropies. Reservations are \$40, and may be made by contacting TustinAreaWomansClub.com before June 10.



Tustin High School is 100 years old

By Mark Eliot

Tustin High School, originally known as Tustin Union High School, opened its doors for the first time on September 18, 1922. The 2021-22 school year will mark Tustin High's centennial celebration.

The Tustin High Century Task Force (CTF), a planning committee comprised of Tustin High teachers, staff, alumni and community members, is fundraising and preparing for a 100th anniversary celebration.

Festivities will include a homecoming football game, a family

picnic during the fall of 2021 and a gala reunion event in the spring of 2022.

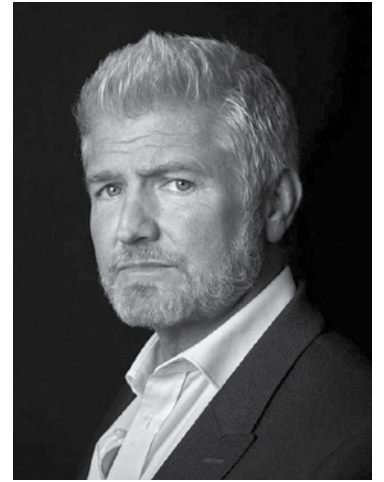
In addition, the CTF plans to award one or more \$1,000-\$5,000 Centennial College Scholarships to deserving Tustin High graduating seniors.

The Task Force is searching for historical memorabilia, such as yearbooks, photos, Tiller ephemera, to be displayed inside the Tustin High sports pavilion. Items can be dropped off at Tustin High's administration office. The committee is also seeking financial support for the activities,

printing of promotional materials, commemorative T-shirts, campus banners and other items.

Donation checks, payable to "Tustin High School CTF," can be mailed to Tustin High School Century Task Force, 1171 El Camino Real, Tustin, CA 92780. Individuals may also use Venmo @TustinHS100 to donate (please specify "CTF" in your donation). Tustin High's tax identification number is 91-1752549.

For more information, call Tustin High School at (714) 730-7414 or the TUSD Communications Office at (714) 730-7339.



Crescendo to feature "Best Actor" from "Les Miserables"

Ivan Rutherford, concert soloist and veteran portrayal of Jean Valjean, the protagonist in the classic "Les Miserables," will appear at the Crescendo Chapter of the Guilds of Segerstrom Center's Celebrity Speaker series on Thursday, June 17.

Rutherford has performed the lead role in "Les Miserables" over 2,300 times on Broadway and national tours, and was named "Best Actor" in the show. He has also had major roles in "West Side Story," "South Pacific" and "Titanic."

The Celebrity Speaker series is held at the Bowers Museum Norma Kershaw Auditorium, 2002 N. Main Street in Santa Ana, and begins at 10 a.m.

Tickets are \$30. Bowers members may buy one discounted ticket for \$20; student tickets are \$25, or three for \$20. Parking is \$6. For information, contact Mary Staton, (714) 544-5549.

The Guilds of Segerstrom, including the Crescendo Chapter, raise funds to support the center's community engagement and arts education programs, which each year serve more than 360,000 young people, families and educators throughout Orange County and other California counties.



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Volunteers help place 14 meals in a bag.

Nana's Kidz helps feed families

By Jan Lawrence

No child should go to bed hungry. With that in mind, the non-profit Grandma's House of Hope is helping families in Orange, Tustin, Santa Ana, Anaheim and Fullerton by providing nutritious meals for K-12 students through its Nana's Kidz program.

Since 2007, Nana's Kidz has been providing healthy meals to children and families living in motels, low-income housing or experiencing homelessness. With families losing jobs and income due to COVID-19, the program skyrocketed in 2020, growing from 10,000 food bags (each containing a week of breakfasts and lunches) to 60,000 bags a month. Nana's Kidz estimates that it will be distributing 30,000 bags a month in 2021.

Food for Nana's Kidz typically comes through donations from local food banks. Additional support from the Bishops' Storehouse of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has proved instrumental as need has spiked. Funds are also donated from private and corporate contributors. Distribution points for Tustin and Orange are at Columbus Tustin Middle School, Sycamore Magnet and the El Modena Family Center.

If your community service, church group, or business is interested in helping to provide food, funds, or volunteer time to help feed our community's kids, contact Grandma's House of Hope Office at (714) 558-8600, ext. 115 or virginia@grandmashouseofhope.org.



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See "Mountain lion" continued from page 1

The bed liner in the pickup truck was hosed down to cool it off before the lion was carefully loaded. Cold packs were placed under the lion's legs to help with cooling. The lion was transported to an undisclosed location, far from populated areas.

The OC Sheriffs involved in this procedure showed professionalism and respect for the lion. Since state law protects mountain lions, much caution and careful handling was required to deal with this situation without harming the lion. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife and Amelia Viera also did their jobs well.

Unfortunately, this particular lion was positively identified, by a scar on its right side and a black tip on its tail, as a regular visitor to the canyons, and to be a predator of domestic livestock and pets. A resident who lives in Modjeska near Fire Station 16 reports, "He's been a problem for months. He's killed well over 10 goats, two llamas, a mama sheep and her baby lamb, many chickens and an elderly horse."

Less than a month ago, the lion had entered the same Williams Canyon enclosure and killed multiple goats, sheep, and chickens. A roof was then attached to the enclosure, but it got in again anyway.

Fortunately, the homeowner is an animal lover and did not shoot the lion, although at this

point he could have legally done so. (A Fish and Wildlife Department permit is desirable first, of course.) Animals have also been killed in Silverado.

While canyon residents respect the endangered status of OC's mountain lion population, many of them are also concerned about the danger this particular lion presents to people and livestock, and are celebrating its departure.

Residents with concerns about mountain lions are encouraged to contact the cougar conservancy (cougarconservancy.org), a nonprofit that offers protective pen-building assistance, disposal of depredated animals and tips on how to coexist with cougars. The conservancy may also offer financial assistance for pens and carcass removal.



Photo by Mike Boeck

A Fish and Wildlife officer measured the lion's teeth while it was sedated.

AL of Orange salutes future military leaders

Assistance League of Orange honors the high school graduates who have elected to serve in a branch of U.S. military at its annual "Salute to Service" program.

The program begun in 2016 by Dani Kavanagh with only 13 honorees, has now swelled to students from all OUSD schools, plus neighboring Esperanza, Yorba Linda and Troy.

The traditional dinner event, with honorees and their families, was tailored to the times, with small meetings at each high

school.

This year, each senior was given a congratulatory note and gift card from the Assistance League of Orange, and a Certificate of Recognition from Orange County Third District Supervisor Don Wagner.

Students not pictured include, from Canyon High: Arainna Neeki, Navy; Ethan Lytton and Christian Estrada, Air Force; Jagger Hood, Marines; and Nickolas Eaton. From Villa Park: Ava Maresh, Army.



Kimberlee Martin, beautification chair for Villa Park Women's League, stands among the new succulents and potted plants designed for the Town Center. The organization, whose mission is to help beautify the city, donated funds for the plants and irrigation.



El Modena High School graduate Grant Terlaak, second from left, with his parents, Heather and Garrett Terlaak, will enter the U.S. Navy. He is saluted by Dani Kavanagh, Assistance League of Orange President Norma Hockensmith, Al Tello and Pat Buttress from Don Wagner's office, and ElMo Principal Jill Katevas.

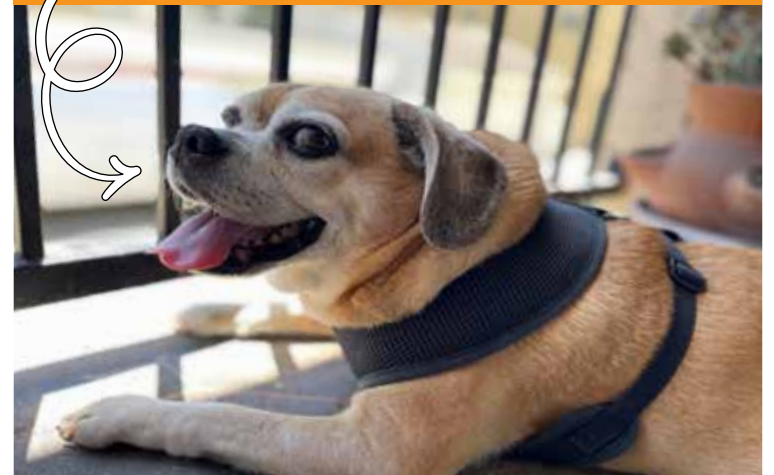


Students destined for military service include, from left, Villa Park High graduates Simon King, U.S. Army; Carlos Morales, Matthew Im-sande, Devin McRae and Elliot Castillo, all U.S. Marines; and Canyon High graduate Kiley Gabriel, U.S. Navy.



From left, Al Tello and Pat Buttress from Supervisor Don Wagner's office; Orange High graduate Jose Marquez, U.S. Army; Dani Kavanagh; Jeremiah Gilbert, U.S. Naval Academy, and Assistance League of Orange President Norma Hockensmith.

Looking for love



Hamlet is a seven-year-old puggle, a winning combination of pug and beagle. The little guy has a super sweet and spunky personality, and is dog, kid, and cat-friendly. Hamlet has a neurological condition that causes some weakness in his back legs, but he still gets around great. He is looking for a loving home without stairs. For adoption information, see the Pugs N Roses Rescue page at pugsnroses.com.

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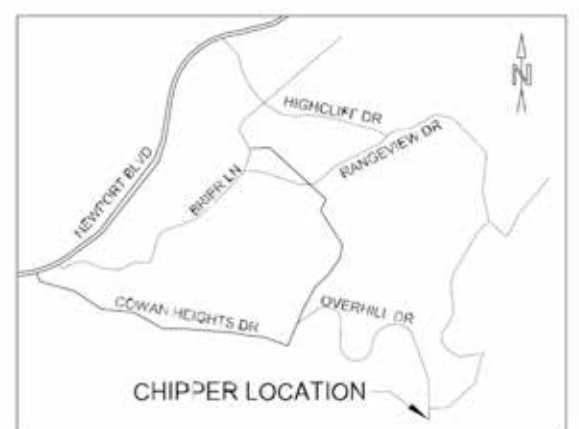
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Location: Overhill Drive
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North Tustin couple celebrate 50th anniversary

On June 19, 1971, Margy Claire Richards and Terrill Wesley Price were married by Reverend John Binkley, before family and friends, at the Norwalk First United Methodist Church.

Margy and Terry set up house-keeping in a small apartment in Norwalk, and eventually found themselves residents of North Tustin, where they have resided for the last 35 years.

Their union was blessed with two children: Scott born in 1976, and Elizabeth in 1981. They

spent many happy years watching their children grow and become successful adults. Scott married Mary Cachet, and Elizabeth married Nicolas Caniglia, giving Margy and Terry five grandchildren: James Price, 15; Nathan Price, 13; Carly Price, 8; Claire Caniglia, 12; and Nolan Caniglia, 9. The grandparents could not be prouder of their family.

Terry retired from the City of Santa Ana as the fleet manager, after 37 years of service. Margy retired from Fullerton School

District as principal of Ladera Vista Junior High. The couple have been retired for almost 12 years, and enjoy travel, grandchildren and their activities, their dog Wesley, Kansas State women's basketball (go Wildcats!), family and friends.

Margy and Terry thank their many friends and family for their kindness, encouragement and love! They look forward to a future full of adventures, more anniversaries, and making many more memories.



Photo by Jim Philipp

The riparian area behind the Villa Park Dam was drained by about four feet by OC Public Works before a resident uproar encouraged the county to stop. It's nesting season and the wildlife and habitat are protected by California's Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Dam draining stops when citizens react

Neighbors of the Villa Park Dam discovered early on the morning of May 11 that OC Public Works was draining the riparian wetland behind the dam to allow for scheduled maintenance on the structure.

Since the Oroville Dam failed in 2017, dams statewide have been subject to increased inspection and maintenance. Someone in public works determined that now was a good time to attend to the Villa Park Dam, even though it is nesting season and fledgling waterfowl were abundant in the area. The wetlands behind the dam are a major habitat for egrets, ducks, geese, herons and bitterns.

Residents were outraged at the county's timing, and began a barrage of phone calls to public works and Supervisor Don Wagner's office. "We just wanted the draining to stop," said dam neighbor Katrina Kirkeby. "Public works was destroying an important habitat." The calls went directly to answering machines.

One caller reported contact with an actual person. "I contacted OC Watershed and spoke to someone who said a team went out there before any work could be done," she said. "Mitigation measures would have been indicated and permits required. When I asked who made the request and the purpose, I was instructed

to call Development Services. I called the number she gave me and got an answering machine. I left a message. Then I called OC Operations and Maintenance and got the same answering machine. I then called the deputy director of OC Public Works and spoke with someone who said she had just received a report about the drainage. She stated that their department wasn't responsible, transferred me to Infrastructure Works. Got a different answering message and left my own message there."

Don Wagner's office returned a *Sentry* reporter's call early that afternoon. He said he'd check with public works and report back. Hours later, Shannon Widor from public works called back to say that the draining activity had stopped about 3 p.m., and it would not resume until a county environmentalist had assessed the site. He advised that the water was never going to be drained completely, just enough to allow for the maintenance. Asked why public works was doing this during nesting season, he could not say.

"Why does it always fall to citizens to make sure the county is doing the right thing?" a frustrated resident sighed. "Isn't anybody in the county paying attention?"



The Woman's Club of Orange has been holding "socially distanced" sales to fundraise for its philanthropies. A plant sale, held at a member's home in May, generated \$2,000. To learn more about the Woman's Club of Orange, call (714) 744-6469.



Chrissi Gadegbeku of Tustin High School has been named Young Woman of the Month by the Tustin Area Woman's Club. Gadegbeku is a member of the Tustin High girls volleyball and basketball programs, which have taught her the principles of teamwork, community and leadership. She is also enrolled in multiple AP classes, which have helped her learn time management. She plans to study either mechanical or electrical engineering at University of California, Berkeley.

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Visitors view canyon artworks

Artists in Silverado and Modjeska Canyons opened their studios/homes for a socially-distanced, not quite drive-by, display of their works, May 1.

Maps were available to motorists at the Canyon Market, and signs along Silverado and Modjeska Canyons pointed the way to plein-air painters, sculptors, photographers, ceramicists and jewelry makers. Visitors were invited to drive from site to site, park in temporary spots provided by friendly neighbors or wide spots in the road, and take in the ambiance as long as they liked.



Photos by Tony Richards

Freda Hauks (left) looked over samples of artist Monica Edwards' work.



Julie Williams displayed her mixed media creations.



Photographer Vivi Wyngaarden welcomed visitors to her outdoor art gallery, set up for the day.



Photo courtesy of Turville Photography

The seniors are, from left, back row: Ellie Larson, Sierra Heredia, Kaitlyn Ambriz Holl, Kassy Arnold, Skylar Shelton, Alexis Little, Jillian Morris; front row, from left: Grace Fairchild, Eden Haymond, Sage Gonzales Lambert, Janice Lee, Clara Smith, Sofia Rizzuto, Samantha Lester; not pictured: Heather Eslick, Katryn Goggins and Sophia Santangelo.

Assistance League of Orange hosts 54th Medallion

The 54th Annual Assistance League of Orange Assisteens Auxiliary Medallion Presentation took place May 2 at the Phoenix Club.

Fourteen graduating high school seniors were formally presented their Medallion jewelry by their mothers. Each of the honorees has been a member of Assisteens for at least three years, contributed a minimum of 90 hours of philanthropic work within the community, and held a leadership position.

Kaitlyn Ambriz Holl, Assisteens chairman for the 2020-21 year, received the Outstanding Assisteens of the Year award. Kassy Arnold was honored with the Acts of Kindness award. Shay Friedman was presented the NORMA award, initiated by Chapter President Norma Hockensmith over 17 years ago, which stands for Nothing Overwhelms "R" Magnificent Assisteens.

Kat Tighe was named Most Spirited New Member, and Emily Woodford, Outstanding New

Member.

Parent-volunteer Bridget Ambriz Holl was honored with the Medallion Circle Award for her hours of dedication to the Assisteens program.

The Coveny Spirit Award, for consistently demonstrating key Assisteens qualities of enthusiasm and positivity was awarded to Janice Lee, Simone Bilodeau and Kylie Rios.

Rios was presented the gavel, and will serve as 2021-22 chair with the theme "Be the Change."



Zoom into TAC

Plein air painter Dawn Buckingham will be the featured artist at the Tustin Area Council for Fine Arts June 9 Zoom meeting. Buckingham will discuss her equipment, the plein air process and then demonstrate how she uses those resources, painting in soft pastel. The meeting is 5 - 7 p.m. Get the log-in link at tustin-art.blogspot.com. Attendees are urged to join early to socialize.

THOUGHTS from a TREE M.D.

by Vince Olivieri,
ISA Certified Arborist (WE-12884-A)



Stop and smell the roses

Take a walk outside and look around. What do you see? This time of year yields all of nature's most magnificent colors and color combinations. And thanks to natural color, we have splashes of color in our fashion, home renovations, even our cars.

But let me draw your attention to a specific range of colors, the roses. Roses, the Victoria's Secret models of the plant world. Beautiful, sophisticated, classy and catty! Roses have always been known to provide spectacular displays of color, were often kept by royalty, and have been known to be therapeutic. Roses are actually tiny fruit trees. The "fruit" is the rosehip, and they function much like the fruit trees we know and love.

In the beginning of my career, I wasn't a fan of roses. Every time I brought a rose bush home, the flashy roses they displayed at the store disappeared like the money I spent on them, never to return. I was convinced they were a sham. This, however, is natural. Even in us humans, we can't always be "all go." We need our down time, our rest, our time to rebuild.

Fast forward to last week, when

I was hired to teach a private "rose training" class for some of my clients. We had just installed 30 new lavish roses for them, and I shared my tips and experience in regard to rose care. Like the high maintenance queens that they are, they require a lot of attention. And when that attention is provided, they reward you with mesmerizing beauty and intoxicating scents. While my "me time" may look like a spa and massage, or a hike, hammock and a book, roses need their Epsom salt baths, fish bone meal, crushed potassium and coffee grounds.

In the winter, when the holidays are over and the new year is upon us, that's when we'll cut them back, restructure and prepare them for their winter vacation. That way, when spring rolls around, they are recharged and ready to make you smile all over again.

There's a saying, "stop and smell the roses." How about we take it a step further and live like the roses. Take the time you need to relax, regroup and recharge, and when you're ready, put on that show that everyone knows and loves. You are beautiful.



Serrano Water District General Manager Jerry Vilander looks over the progress on the new PFOS-filtering facility being built on the Serrano site by Orange County Water District. A fall completion date is anticipated.



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Elks help veterans

Elks Lodge 1475 works with the Orange County Rescue Mission to aid men, women and children from many walks of life. Some are highly educated; many are survivors of abuse, addiction and abandonment. The people at the Rescue Mission could be a former neighbor, coworker -- or perhaps a family member. The goal is to treat each person with respect and dignity.

Fifteen of the lodge members prepared a barbecue dinner for the mission families, including lemon chicken, burgers, beef hot dogs, and a selection of sides and desserts. The Elks also provided games and educational toys for the children.

The Elks National Veterans Service Commission awards Freedom Grants of \$2,500 to 350 Elks Lodges for projects or donations that will serve veterans and active-duty military members.



From left, Elks Brian Fitzpatrick and Exalted Ruler Paul Pelasky with Sam Johnson.

Orange Elks received the grant, and donated \$2,500 to the Orange County Rescue Mission.

Each year, the Orange Elks Lodge Veterans Committee presents a scholarship to help a veteran with education expenses. Sam Johnson, an Army veteran working on his master's in theology, was the recipient of the \$1,475 scholarship check this year.

Tustin Dems to host DA candidate

Pete Hardin, a former judge advocate in the U.S. Marine Corps, deputy district attorney, and special assistant U.S. attorney, will talk about his campaign for Orange County district attorney at the June 22 Zoom meeting of the Tustin Democratic Club.

The meeting begins at 7 p.m. It will also feature Tustin's own Lee Fink, a longtime voting rights advocate and lawyer, who will talk about the upcoming congressional and legislative redistricting, and how the community can make sure that the Citizens Redistricting Commission draws districts that truly represent Tustin's values.

The club had a busy spring informing Tustin citizens how to access the vaccine. To connect with fellow Democrats, see TustinDemocraticClub.org.



Despite the pandemic, Villa Park High School French Club students, under the direction of teacher Madame Fatima Pazargardi, coordinated their 15th annual French Wedding, at fresco, in less than 10 days. The event, conducted completely in French, was replete with flowers, confections, crepes, ring bearers, a flower girl, music and pageantry. As "father of the bride," Principal Dr. Kenneth Miller escorted Jar-etzhi Reyes down the aisle to meet her groom Meena Salib. The event included a speech by French Club President and coordinator Emily Vu, music by the VPHS Madrigals and Brianne Kang. Maid of honor was Gillian Pascual; bridesmaids included Vu and Colette Enge; best man was Thomas Wheelock; groomsmen included Nathan Jones and Ian Jones; Madame Marx acted as mother of the groom; Gwen Hodson was the officiant. Seen here, bride Jar-etzhi Reyes and groom Meena Salib with Madame Fatima Pazargardi.

Foothill students commemorate AAPI Heritage Month

The Foothill High School Students Activist Club created 10 posters for Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month, which were displayed on all school campuses in the Tustin Unified School District during the month of May.

Each poster included an image of an important figure, a motivational quote and a brief caption. The figures on the posters covered a wide variety of achieve-

ments, including those in the fields of business, film, government, music, science and sports. To celebrate cultural diversity, club members also included the national bird and flower of the Asian country from which each figure received their heritage.

All posters were original and designed by Foothill club members to celebrate the diversity within the TUSD community and encourage students to reach their

fullest potential, especially academically.

The Foothill Students Activist Club consists of over 60 students who encourage their peers' interests in a wide variety of social issues. Through passion and teamwork, the club's goal is to create a more inclusive environment in the Tustin Unified school community. The poster project was coordinated by Club President Bella Noriega, a junior.



Irene Gardner, a resident of Orange since the 1950s, celebrated her 99th birthday with a friends and neighbors drive-by, May 15. Gardner is known for handing out treats to the neighborhood dogs along the route she traverses using her walker. The pups joined in the celebration. Irene and her husband purchased their home on Rose Avenue when it was surrounded by orange groves. She has been a local celebrity ever since.

VP Rotary announces essay winners

Chad Zimmerman, Youth Services chairman for Rotary Club of Villa Park, announced the winners of the organization's annual essay contest. Middle school

students are invited to submit an essay on "What the Rotary Four-way Test Means to Me."

The Cerro Villa Middle School winners were: Jocelyn Huang,

first place, \$200; Cardin Chiem, second place, \$150; Piper Yohman, third place, \$100; and Hana Mohammad and Nicole Najera, honorable mention, \$50 each.



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“Scaramouche, will you do the fandango?”

The Silverado Summer Concert Series is back. Starting this month and continuing on third Saturdays monthly through September, live bands perform for live people, with hamburgers for sale, and free ice cream sundaes. The June 19 show starts at 6 p.m. at the fairground with the Goat Hill Gamblers. This open-air venue complies with county guidelines.

Old friends

The Friends of Silverado Children’s Center, a 501c3 nonprofit, hosts the inaugural “Wheelie Fun Festival” on Saturday, June 5. Decorate bikes, tricycles, scooters, balance bikes, or anything with wheels, and cruise a tot-friendly obstacle course. Bounce house, dunk booth and carnival activities will entertain kids of all ages toward raising funds to sup-

port the center, 10 a.m. to noon, community center.

For whom the bell tolls

St. Michael’s Abbey offered corroboration of the acoustic phenomenon, now a seven-times-daily feature of Silverado life. Except it’s a he-tolled, she-told story. Father Vianney supplemented his report of regular bell ringing, which began in February, with theology and church tradition. Some residents in earshot are unpersuaded, and certainly unconverted, complaining about early wakeups (5:15 a.m.), and volume sometimes drowning out both bird calls and Zoom meetings. One was advised by the father to move. Each side quotes Scripture, one celebrating the call to share God’s sonic blessings, the other asking for some love-

your-neighbor-as-yourself peace and quiet.

Kudos to Kerrigan

Each year OCFA stations nominate persons for recognition of outstanding service. Steve Kerrigan (Silverado Station 14) was nominated and selected as Reserve Firefighter of the Year in Battalion 3, then honored as OCFA Reserve Firefighter of the Year. His friend, Modjeska Chief Bruce Newell, offers: “Steve was selected based on his longstanding leadership and commitment to Station 14. Steve and his personnel were first to respond to the Silverado and Bond Fires and played significant roles in saving homes and resident safety.”

“Remote rescue”

Newell also confirms a major fire and rescue incident, which many heard via Radio Net, late evening on May 14. Reports of a vegetation fire drew responses involving nearly every fire and law enforcement agency around. The one-acre fire, resulting from a Jeep gone off the road near Bedford Motorway in Cleveland National Forest, was extinguished. Emergency personnel evacuated one trauma patient ejected from

the vehicle, with fire personnel on site all night. Reports of an abandoned vehicle earlier in the week, and a mentally unstable individual requiring assistance now seem unremarkable by comparison. Don’t become a comparison!

Feel chipper and chip in

Mary Schreiber of Fire Safe Council reminds all to clean up and sweep up. Mark the first two Saturdays in June for delivering dried brush and branches to the community center. No bamboo, palm fronds or milled lumber. Straw bales, okay. Schreiber advises making a day of it if you chip on June 12. That’s when Fran Williams of Friends of the Library hosts a swap meet at the center. Contact Fran to volunteer or drop off donations on Friday, then drop some bucks to benefit the Friends on June 12 or 13.

New friends

The Environmental Nature Center was started 40 years ago by Newport Harbor High as an outdoor classroom. At its monthly meeting, Inter-Canyon Leaguers were pleased to hear current director Bo Glover announce that he’d signed papers to acquire the Tucker Wildlife Sanctuary as an

ENC project. ENC’s main site has been a standout resource for nature education, eco-friendly building practices and community collaboration. Pending a short review period, Glover anticipates reopening Tucker, with a big role for Friends of the Tucker, neighbors and canyon supporters. ICL members welcomed this good news after months of negotiation with CSU Fullerton and Audubon, with volunteers feeding birds and policing the grounds. In other ICL news, Geoff Sarkissian and Scott Breedon report that relief checks to Bond Fire grant applicants had gone out, with \$100,000 awarded to 20 residents. Government rules require public notification of awards, easily accessed on the ICL website. Director Dion Sorrel and OC Parks Curator Katie McKay report that Arden is open Wed. - Sat., 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

“Ten out of ten”

... means you’re heard loud and clear on Radio Net weekly check-ins. Bic and Keith report further work on the Mine Track repeater. An increase in members and a switch to “Silverado” frequency are cause for celebration. Pro tip: cell phones don’t work in Maple Springs and Black Star. GMRS hand-helds do.

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OBITUARIES



Charles Benzie 1944-2020

Charles Benzie was born in Cleveland, Ohio on January 17, 1944 and died in Anaheim Hills on July 19, 2020. Also known by his nickname, "Bunny," Charles was a long-time resident of Orange. His parents owned the Villa Park poultry ranch where he enjoyed working during his high school days at Servite.

He married Peg Berning on June 24, 1972. They lived in Mabury Ranch in Orange and had two sons, Christopher and Brian. The boys attended Linda Vista, Cerro Villa, and Villa Park High School.

His love of fishing and surfing was passed on to his sons. He took great care in keeping his

lawn green and weed-free. He was very handy around the house, fixing anything broken, painting, and making sure all electrical was up to code.

He became a very proud grandfather of Abigail, Adaline, Gavin and Donavon.

Bunny loved all his cars, and he had many. One of the latest was a 1952 eggshell pickup truck with the license plate EGGRNCH. You may have seen him driving it around town. He later sold it to Selman Chevrolet.

He worked at the County Sanitation District, ITT Cannon, Printronix, and Seagate, winning awards and recognitions.

He was responsible for, and oversaw, the startups in Ireland and Mexico. After retiring, he and Peg moved to Valley Center where he could relax and enjoy nature before his health brought him back to Orange County to be closer to family.

Charles was exposed to a chemical in 1982 which causes skin cancer. Through all his pain, he remained a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother and uncle. His stories will live on through them.

Please join us in the celebration of his life, June 24 at 1 p.m., San Antonio de Padua del Canon Catholic Church, 5800 E. Santa Ana Canyon Rd.

Tustin Public Schools Foundation honors teachers

Tustin Public Schools Foundation has been active in celebrating Tustin Unified School District's Teachers of the Year, selected from each of the 30 schools in the district. A professional photography session kicked-off the announcements, followed by recognition yard signs and personal celebrations with visits from TPSF board members. At a reception at Zov's Bistro, Superintendent Greg Franklin recognized the teachers' efforts with awards and special gifts.

In the North Tustin area, Foothill AVID and AP Statistics teacher Becky Duesler was recognized with the school's highest honor for her commitment to her students, including finding creative ways to recognize graduating seniors during their final year. Hewes Middle School honored seventh grade math teacher and site leadership team member Susan Moffat as Teacher of the Year. Specialized academic Instructor Nichole Siller was selected by Arroyo Elementary School to receive the recognition at her school.



Foundation President Kristin Simpkins (left) and Susan Moffat.



Becky Duesler



Scholarship recipients from Orange High School include, from left: Daisy Fernandez-Reyes, the Eugenia Love Arts Scholarship, Chapman University; Vi Nguyen, a general scholarship, Loyola Marymount; Paulina Escalera, the Alfreda Niewig Nursing Scholarship, CSU, Fullerton; general scholarships were awarded to Stephany Alcaraz, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo; Paola Victorina, CSU, Fullerton; Allen Lai, CSULB; and Raul Lopez, Jr., Santiago Canyon College.



El Modena High graduates who received general scholarships are, from left, Sienna Janes, Santa Clara University; Jeffrey Hoang, CSULB; and Elizabeth Raburn, Cal Poly Pomona. Emily Elliott received the ALO Memorial Scholarship to attend Central Methodist University. General scholarships were awarded to Jocelyn Ha, UCI; and Maxwell Bui, UCI.



Two students from Villa Park were general scholarship recipients: Armann Chopra, left, UCLA; and Molly Donoghue, Northern Arizona State.



Two Canyon High students received general scholarships: Zach Sheinouda, left, USC; and Dominic Agarwal, CSULB.

AL of Orange awards scholarships

Assistance League of Orange awarded a total of \$47,500 in scholarships to 21 graduating high school students. Scholarships have been a part of the philanthropic efforts of the nonprofit since 1948. This year, co-chairs Karen Goodwin and Tanis Nelson awarded one Eugenia Love Arts Scholarship, for a student pursuing an arts major; two Alfreda Niewig Nursing Scholarships for students pursuing a health care major; two scholarships for students who have attended Richland High during the current year; one ALO Memorial Scholarship for Special Needs; and 15 general scholarships.



Andres Viera, also an ElMo Vanguard, was awarded a general scholarship for UC, Davis.



Kaylee Ortiz, from Richland High, was awarded a scholarship to study at Santiago Canyon College. Not pictured: Jonathon Hernandez-Rubio, who will attend American College of Healthcare & Technology.



Carolina Estrada was the recipient of the Alfreda Niewig Nursing Scholarship, and will study at Cypress College.

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Sports today

COVID precautions shut out not just spectators, but also newspaper photographers. *Sentry* staff, though, managed to capture a few plays from the Villa Park vs. El Modena High baseball game, May 7. VP Spartans trounced the ElMo Vanguards, 8-2. In a previous match-up, May 5, VP shutout the Vanguards, 7-0, with Isaac Ontiveros pitching the no-hitter.



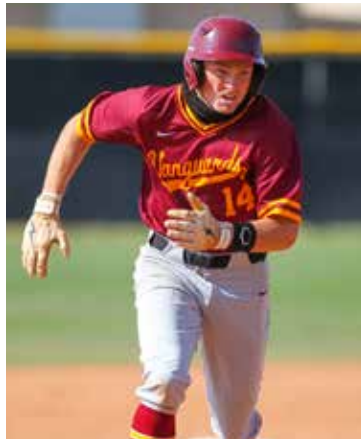
North Sunrise Little League has 14 teams, some of which played on Mother's Day weekend. Those players presented their moms with flowers. Above, the Orioles.



Spartan sophomore Gavin Grahovac picked off a line drive to help defeat the Vanguards, 8-2.



Villa Park High senior Benny Vogel gets ready to deliver a pitch. He pitched the entire game, ending in a 8-2 win for the Spartans.



El Modena's Brendon Killeen, a senior, hot-feets it to first base.



Gavin Rossi, a junior at Villa Park, slides into base to score for the Spartans.



Brandon Luu, a sophomore, steps up to the plate for Villa Park.



El Modena's Aaron Cenicerros, a junior, was one of three Vanguard pitchers in the May 7 game against Villa Park.



Cameron Langseth, a junior, was the closer pitcher in the El Modena line-up against archrival, Villa Park.

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POISONOUS OR EDIBLE? FORAGING 101



I was on a hike this past weekend, and my nephew decided he wanted to pick some berries and start eating them! Luckily for him, he didn't grab any berries that were harmful, but he could have. I proceeded to go into full "geek" mode and began teaching him some basic rules for berry foraging. If you come across blue, black or purple berries, they will most likely be ok to try. About 90% of the darker bluish to blackish berries are edible. If you aren't sure of what kind of berry it is, stay away from the white or yellow berries. Only about 10% of white and yellow berries are edible. With red berries, you generally have about a 50-50 chance at it being edible.

Regardless of the color, in case it isn't edible, never eat more than a few at a time. Try some, wait for a while to see how it affects you, and if in a few hours you still feel fine, have some more. If you do ingest poisonous berries, they may lead to: Fever, headache, scratchy throat, vomiting, nausea, diarrhea, abdominal pain, respiratory depression, or death. Identifying if the berry is safe or poisonous requires proper identification of the plant, the leaves, bark, flower and berry. Never try to identify only the berry as there are many doppelgangers which can be extremely poisonous.

WE ARE:

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- Certified Plant Healthcare Technicians
- Landscape Maintenance Specialist
- Consulting Arborists
- Heavy Equipment Operators
- Your Neighbor!



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