

The Best News In Town Since 1969

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

A Monthly Community Newspaper

JULY 2026

Canyon groups challenge controversial development

Public interest citizens groups have sued the County of Orange and its Board of Supervisors over a controversial, urban-style 181-unit housing tract. Saddleback Meadows, located on 222 hillside acres in rural Trabuco Canyon, near Cook's Corner, is designated a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone.

The project site is governed by the Foothill/Trabuco Specific Plan (FTSP), a land-use plan approved by county supervisors in 1991, that requires new development to maintain the rural character and scenic landforms of the area and provide a buffer between urban development and the Cleveland National Forest. Over 7 million cubic yards of earth movement will be needed to carve the 181 lots out of the rugged hillside terrain. A known wildlife corridor runs through the site, connecting two regional parks—O'Neill and Whiting Ranch—and is used by local mountain lions, now listed as threatened.

The Saddleback Canyons Conservancy and Rural Canyons Conservation Fund filed suit in

See "Canyon lawsuit" continued on page 4



Phyllis Taylor will celebrate her 100th birthday on America's 250th anniversary, July 4. See *Happy Birthday*, page 2.



Photo by Tony Richards

Todd Brody of North Tustin turned his front yard into a miniature railway. He invites the public to visit his mini-theme park once a year. See *Making tracks*, page 12.

Orange council votes to place sales tax measure on November ballot

The Orange City Council agreed to place a one-percent sales tax measure on the November ballot at a special meeting called June 3.

If approved by voters, the tax will generate some \$37 million annually and sunset after 13 years. The income will be used to maintain police and fire protection, retain and attract police officers and firefighters, keep public parks safe and clean, address homelessness, boost wildfire protection and prevention, repair city streets and improve critical infrastructure.

An independent oversight committee will be created to monitor how the city is spending the sales tax revenue. The committee will consist of

residents appointed by the city council and/or the mayor. A parent or guardian of a student enrolled in any school within the city will serve as an at-large member.

The vote to place the sales tax measure on the November ballot was postponed from the May 26 meeting because the council could not agree on the length of time it should continue. The options ranged from letting voters decide when to end it or a predetermined sunset of 10, 12 or 15 years.

With the deadline to notify the county Registrar of Voters nearing, the special meeting

See "Sales tax measure" continued on page 2

Thirty homes proposed for horse arena site in East Orange

Residential development on the 7.4-acre property at 6146 E. Santiago Road, currently a horse arena, got an official start with the release of a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) clearance document on June 11.

A MND is issued when a proposed project will have no significant environmental impacts and does not require a full-on Environmental Impact Report (EIR). If the MND is approved, it will allow residential development of the site, located on the southeast corner of E. Santiago Canyon Road and N. Nicky Way, with 30 two-story single-family homes. The existing produce stand,

equestrian arena, training rings, and several small paddocks would close, and the property cleared to make way for the development.

The project uses State Density Bonus Laws, which supersede local zoning, to boost the allowable number of units per acre from 1-2 to 4.05. The State Density Bonus Law provides that, with certain percentages of affordable units, a project can obtain a 100 percent density bonus.

This project includes the required six affordable units

See "Horse arena" continued on page 3

NEWS INSIDE

FOR OLD TIME'S SAKE

The Tustin Historical Society has been curating the city's stories, legends, artifacts and ancestors for half a century.

See *Tustin*, page 2

WHITED OUT

An ill-directed coat of paint erased the words of a local legend; when discovered, the disheartening deletion was restored.

See *OUSD*, page 3

CURVES OF STEEL

Student senior project transforms high school entryway into a long-lasting work of art.

See *Foothill*, page 7

LONG MAY IT WAVE

Elks install American flags at the homes of veterans, first responders and seniors.

See *Flags*, page 11

SPORTS IN OVERTIME

Venerable sports editor comes out of retirement to report on award-winning high school athletes.

See *Community Sports* pages 13,14

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Tustin Area Historical Society celebrates its 50th anniversary



A horse drawn trolley brings Tustin history to life.

By Guy Ball

The Tustin Area Historical Society celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. It has served the public and members through the Tustin Area Museum and a variety of programs for half a century.

It all started with the founding of Tustin's Bicentennial Foundation in the mid-1970s, created to celebrate the nation's 1976 anniversary. Members of the Foundation's Heritage Committee; Carol Jordan, Mary Etzold and Vivien Owen, collected and documented artifacts and old photographs.

The Bicentennial Foundation members started the Tustin Area Historical Society. The Society opened the Tustin Area Museum in 1975, with displays housed in the old police building at 135 W. Third Street. A few years later, it moved to its current location in the 1925-built Knights of Pythias building at 395 El Camino Real. The museum was able to display a larger variety of exhibits from Tustin's past, including a host of agricultural and "early technology" displays.

In 1979, the converted 1912 Buick that became Tustin's first fire truck was restored. It was added to the museum's collection by removing the front window and gently sliding the vehicle into the museum.

The collection of artifacts and photographs has grown into one of the largest local archives in Orange County. The Society has participated in citywide events, held home and garden tours, offered free tours of their museum collection to children and residents, and assisted authors in publishing several books on Tustin history – most of which are available for sale in the museum and online.

Other projects include:

- "Night at the Museum" speaker events
- An award-winning website to support online research

into Tustin-area history, featuring articles and vintage photographs

- A computerized learning center to preserve history and provide a research resource at the museum
- Scanning years of back issues of the Tustin News community newspaper to help document local Tustin-area history.

To help promote and celebrate Tustin history, the Society has hosted Old Town Tustin Home and Garden tours to many unique and picturesque locations. Proceeds from the tours, as well as donations and memberships, allow the Society to provide programs to stimulate historical interest in the area, protect historical papers and photographs for research, and continue its "History-in-a-Box" program. That popular program is offered at no charge to over 100 third-grade classes in the Tustin Unified School District.

More information about the Society, including a video tour of the museum, can be found at TustinHistory.com.

"Sales tax measure" continued from page 1

was called to get council the special meeting to get council concurrence on the time frame, which turned out to be 13 years.

The entire meeting lasted 18 minutes, which included time for four public speakers. Two said they support the measure. One believed the additional tax revenue was weighted too heavily in favor of police and

fire and another reminded the council that its last tax measure failed, and that voters were unsure how money would be spent.

Mayor Dan Slater advised that the council would be working on a spending structure at its next meeting. The vote was five in favor (Arianna Barrios, Ana Gutierrez, Dan Slater, Jon Dumitru, Kathy Tavoularis), with Denis Bilodeau opposed and Jon Gyllenhammer absent.

Happy 100th Birthday, Phyllis!

While the U.S. is celebrating its 250th anniversary, Phyllis Taylor will be at the Angels game, celebrating her 100th birthday.

She was born on a farm near McCordsville, Indiana in 1926 – and has lived through wars and The Great Depression, plus decades of change, from rotary phones to smartphones, horses and Model Ts to electric vehicles, satellites, space exploration and cryptocurrency.

After high school, she worked as a waitress for 50 cents an hour in order to attend Indiana Business College to learn office skills. She parlayed skills to work for an insurance company before, at age 21, applying for a federal civil servant position to work with residents in Japan after World War II.

There, she met and married an Army 2nd Lt., relocating with him to bases around the world, finding employment at each location as nonmilitary office staff.

In 1968, Phyllis settled in her current home in Orange, never to move again. She was a single mother of one, Steve, and took courses to earn a degree in Business Administration from Cal State Fullerton. She worked for the Social Security Department as a claims agent, meeting with the clients during the day, then rushing home to work at her own small business.

The centenarian has slowed down only slightly, still driving, shopping, gardening and tending to her own home and helping her son.

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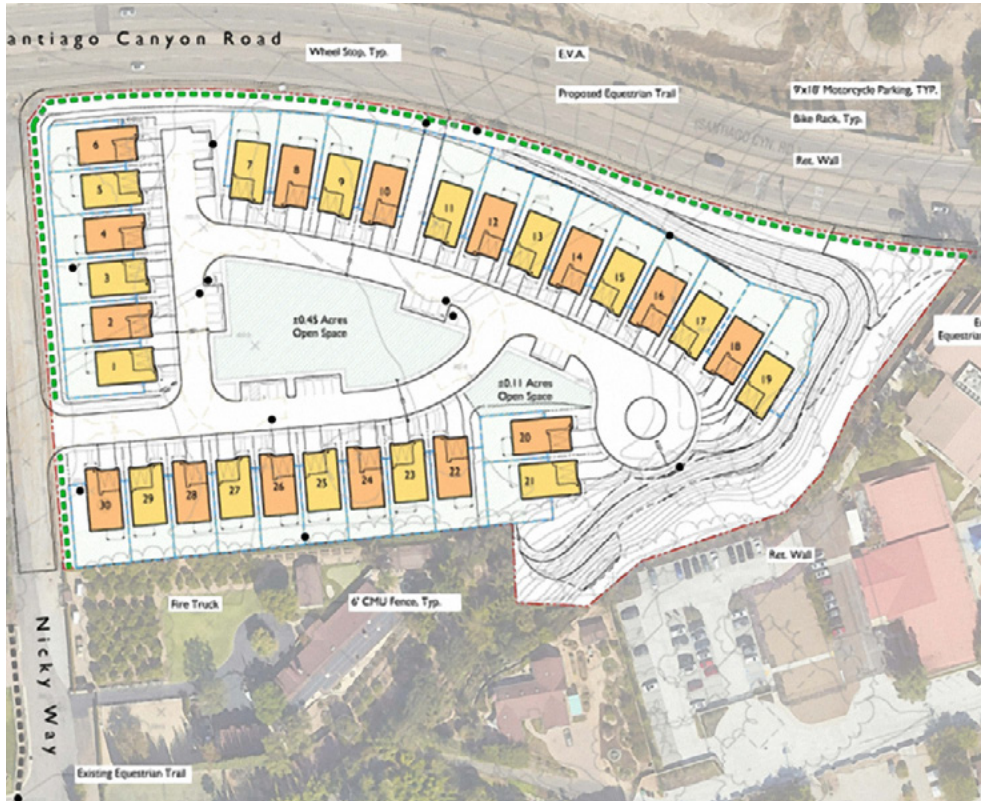
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Presented in cooperation with the Value of Water coalition





The tract map for the 30-home East Orange development indicates the scope of the project.

"Horse arena" continued from page 1

(three at the moderate-income level and three at the very low-income level).

Plans also include physical street improvements to Nicky Way, and necessary utilities to serve the tract. The project requires several entitlement actions. No hearing date has been set for the Planning Commission, after which the project moves up to City Council for a final determination.

Property owner Milan Capital entered a Memorandum of Understanding with the City in 2025 so it could pursue alternative development options for the arena site and the nearby Sully-Miller property. Milan had previously submitted two "Builder's Remedy" applications to the city in 2023, with 118 units proposed for the arena site and 231 on Sully-Miller property. The Builder's Remedy was a legally untested theory that enabled developers to override local building restrictions if a city did not have a state approved housing element. Orange has subsequently received state

approval for its housing element, but both those applications remain active.

In the MOU, Milan noted its openness to work together toward the eventual development of the 96-acre Sully Miller property as public open space and divestment. That effort is ongoing. While Milan submitted the separate application for 30 homes on the arena property, it also moved forward with site preparation access of the property it owned in Mabury Ranch. That property was approved for 22 homes in 2020 and sold by Milan to D.R. Horton last year.

The current horse area residential proposal includes private streets, an equestrian trail along the northern and western site boundaries, common open space, open guest parking, the retention of 25 existing trees and the addition of 113 new trees, new lighting, and other required site and life safety improvements. The tract lot sizes range from 4,644 to 7,965 square feet with all homes having a two car garages and includes 27 off-street guest parking spaces located throughout the community

Orange Elks augment Same Day Solutions

The Orange Elks' "Marketplace at The Hub" project recently participated in the Same Day Solutions event hosted by The OC Hub Resource Center.

Same Day Solutions is a collaborative outreach event designed to connect individuals experiencing homelessness or hardship with vital services and resources in one central location. Services include housing assistance, medical care, identification services, food and hygiene supplies.

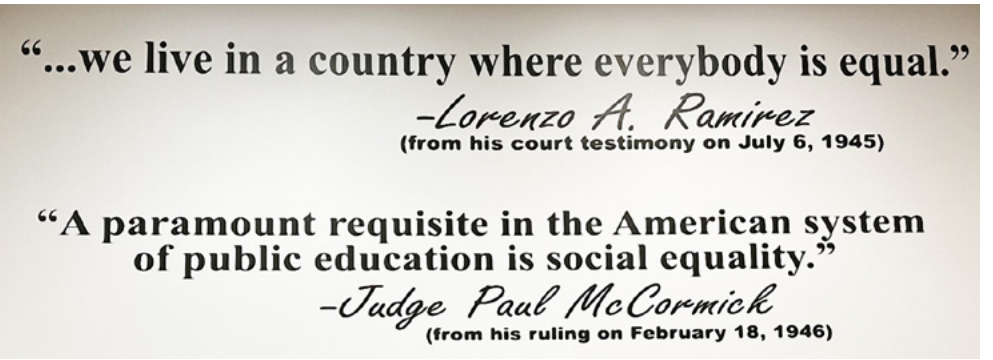
As part of the event, the Orange Elks provided essential items to community members

in need. Over 200 individuals were served, and more than 1,000 items — including hygiene products, socks, underwear and food — were distributed in a dignity-based, self-choice shopping experience.

"The Marketplace at The Hub" is part of the Elks' ongoing commitment to community service, focusing on meeting critical needs while fostering respect and connection.

The success of the event reflects the strength of Elk volunteerism and the positive impact of coordinated community efforts.

OUSD restores and reaffirms Lorenzo Ramirez legacy at El Modena High School Library



Quotes on the walls of the library at El Modena High School, intended to recognize Lorenzo Ramirez's contribution to school desegregation, were painted over when the facility was freshened up.

Lorenzo Ramirez, a plaintiff in the landmark court case that ended segregation in California schools, eight years before Brown vs. Board of Education did the same for the nation, is a local hero. His descendants and members of the El Modena community have long tried to get him the recognition he deserves.

Ramirez was one of five plaintiffs in the Mendez, et al vs. Westminster School District in 1946. As one of the et als, the then-El Modena resident was destined to become a mere footnote in history. Which is why a committee was formed to ensure his legacy endured.

In 2012, the Orange Unified School District renamed the El Modena High School Library to the Lorenzo A. Ramirez Library in recognition of his desegregation achievement. An inside wall of the bore a quote from Ramirez, as well as the judge who ruled in the case. The school district vowed to honor Ramirez and the court decision every March 2, the anniversary of the court ruling.

The annual recognition of the court case proceeded sporadically at some district schools and not at all at others. The promised recognition was further tarnished when El Modena resident and former college professor Sammy Rodriguez was invited to give a talk at the high school's Lorenzo A. Rodriguez Library. He was shocked to discover that the commemorative quotes were gone, apparently painted over.

No one at the school, seemed to know why, how or when it happened. Rodriguez was particularly concerned that no one, besides him, had noticed. The school principal was new to the campus and had no idea. Rodriguez, acting on behalf of the El Modena community, contacted the district's Acting Superintendent Mike Christensen and asked for answers. Christensen responded with a letter of apology to Rodriguez and the Ramirez family and assured them that the error would be corrected.

Rodriguez followed up with

another inquiry about the missing quotes to newly named Superintendent Rachel Monárrez. He asked for more than an apology. He wanted the district to investigate how and why the quotes were removed.

The district did look into it and reported that the removal was due to a lack of administrative oversight. The library walls had been repainted and those doing the work simply painted over the quotes. In a letter signed by Monárrez and OUSD Board President Stephen Glass, Rodriguez was assured that "there was no directive for removal. There was no intent to remove these historic words; the oversight stemmed from a lack of thoughtful planning."

The quotes were immediately restored. Working with El Modena students, high-quality vinyl replacements of the quotes were manufactured and installed. In addition, a replacement stencil of the quotes will be permanently stored with facility records to ensure that the quotes will remain "in perpetuity."

The district also confirmed that other commemorative items, Ramirez artifacts and a 1979 Toltec mural remain intact and are protected.

"I want to thank the superintendent for the investigation and apology," Rodriguez said. "My only complaint is for three months the quotes were erased and nobody at El Modena High School said anything about it. If I had not been at the Library speaking about the legacy of Lorenzo Ramirez and filed the complaint with the district, the Lorenzo Ramirez quotes would have been erased from history forever."

OPA Fall BBQ coming

Tickets for the Annual OPA Fall BBQ & Dance go on sale Aug. 1. The event will take place Saturday, Sept. 19, beginning at 5:30 p.m. For information visit orangeparkacres.org or call the OPA hotline, (714) 900-2OPA (672).

**"Canyon lawsuit"
continued from page 1**

Orange County Superior Court after county supervisors denied their appeal of the County Planning Commission's January approval of a Use Permit—a key entitlement needed to move the project forward.

The complaint says the county violated the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) by relying on an outdated Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that ignores significant changes that have occurred since 2002 when the county certified the EIR.

Those environmental changes include increased wildfire frequency and intensity, and the recent state listing of the mountain lion as a threatened species. The suit also says that the 2002 EIR and two subsequent EIR addenda quietly approved by the county failed to analyze how the project will impact emergency evacuation times for both new and existing residents who will share an evacuation route. Nor was there any mention or impact analysis of a massive one-million-gallon water tank to be constructed at an unknown offsite location as

part of the project.

The complaint further alleges that the project's average lot size for the market-rate housing—6,062 square feet—is less than the 20,000 square feet that the FTSP and the county's own Zoning Code require to preserve the area's rural character.

The suit also complains of an unfair hearing of their appeal because County Supervisor Donald Wagner, in whose Third District Saddleback Meadows is located, indicated before the hearing that he supported the project and would vote to deny the appeal, and, during the hearing, made a long presentation to his fellow supervisors advocating for the project.

The complaint requests a court order directing the county to vacate its approval of the Use Permit and to comply with CEQA, the FTSP, and the Zoning Code in any further actions on the project. Saddleback Canyons Conservancy and Rural Canyons Conservation Fund are represented by Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger LLP, a public interest law firm that focuses on environmental and governmental law.

Santiago Hills Landscape assessment to increase

Property owners in Santiago Hills will see their annual assessment for neighborhood landscaping services increase by three percent. The fees, which appear on property tax statements, pay for the upkeep of the community's common areas and provide a capital budget to replace aging landscaping and infrastructure.

Santiago Hills falls within two landscaping management assessment districts. The first was established in 1986 and is capped at \$369.44 per year for a single-family home; \$221.66 per year for a condominium. The second district was approved by voters in 2015 to supplement the no-longer-adequate returns of the first.

The second assessment is subject to an annual cost of living increase. Single family homes

will rise from \$279.30 to \$287.68; condominium levies will increase from \$198.31 to \$204.25. Under a separate agreement, Santiago Canyon College pays \$22,907 for median maintenance.

This totals \$958,221 in revenue for FY27. Expenditures are anticipated to be approximately \$1,080,468. The projected FY27 combined year-end reserve fund balance is \$1,412,130. Reserve funds will be used to supplement any deficiency.

Sycamore Crossing is the only other community in Orange subject to a landscape maintenance fee. The current annual payment of \$293.08 for interior tract homes, \$298.94 for those adjacent to the landscape improvement area, and \$597.88 for the Harmony Creek senior housing site will remain the same for FY27.

OC Dems present DemocraShe

The Central Orange County Democratic Club will welcome Sarah Jakle, founder and Executive Director of DemocraShe, at its Wednesday, July 22, meeting. She is dedicated to inspiring and empowering

female high school students to become future elected leaders.

Snacks and shmooze at 6 p.m., general meeting at 6:30 p.m. An RSVP, at CentralOCDems@gmail.com, is required to attend. Visit CentralOCDems.com.

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LETTERS to the EDITOR



Cool it

Dear Editor:

Neighborhoods with trees, whether front, back or on parkways, can be up to 10% cooler than those without. Fortunately, I planted our parkway trees myself, rather than the measly worthless trees the city had planted. Citizens are not watering those trees enough to have gained decent growth, nor cared for them with proper pruning. Worst of all, the city gave homeowners the option to not have any planted. Far too many thoughtless folks opted out.

With our increasingly hot temperatures the norm, we need to do all we can to cool down in the most natural way possible, rather than run air conditioners full blast, which only exacerbates the problem of global warming. That's the main reason why there are organizations that plant trees in urban areas, Los Angeles being one.

We need the city to step up.

Stephen Tyler
Orange

Hold your fire(works)

Dear Editor:

As we know, skyrocketes and other illegal fireworks have been going off well before the upcoming July Fourth holiday. They wreak terror in our canine companions, pollute the air and are toxic to wildlife via means of bird feeders and waterways. Additionally, they upset nesting birds of various species. Furthermore, on multiple occasions, they've been known to have caused heart attacks.

Citizens can anonymously report the addresses of those using illegal fireworks to our police department who, for our safety, are required to investigate. Rather than complaining to other neighbors, we all need to become involved and do our part.

Timothy Scott
Orange

Meet residents halfway

Dear Editor:

"Badges? We don't need no stinking badges." (A memorable line from the 1974 movie "Blazing Saddles.")

Almost fits Chapman University's philosophy of an Agreement or MOU with the City of Orange. We don't need no stinking agreement.

This has been evident to many of us living in the shadow of Chapman over the past years. One of the latest examples came this past May with the undie run.

The city clearly stated to the university that no services would be provided, including no street closures. Yet Chapman students still took over the historic Old Towne Plaza while drinking, blocking traffic and getting into the fountain. Even Mayor Carolyn Cavecche, back in 2008, was displeased with this "tradition."

The university still ignores the city's capacity limit, and noise and party complaints continue. The university's Offices of the Dean and Community Relations have had no real or meaningful success in enforcing the school's stated Code of Conduct.

One would hope that it be possible for our city manager and our police chief to work with the Dean of Students and

the President of Chapman to be more proactive in helping the college kids to grow up in my neighborhood -- where we have 85 college student houses. Could the city work in harmony to set up a 'party patrol' program and agree to a pilot program? A good starting point would be

to actually have a Memorandum of Understanding or a city "Contract with Chapman" as a basis for what Chapman professes as a Town and Gown relationship.

Jonathan Zimmerman
Orange



The Woman's Club of Orange recognized America's 250th birthday at its June General Meeting. The Revolutionary Color Guard presented the flags for the salute, and Mayor Dan Slater (center) addressed the group to express the city's appreciation for their community contributions.



The Woman's Club of Orange (WCO) board members presented a check to Alfa Hernandez and Letti Solis from Homeless Intervention Services (HIS), June 3. From left, Kathleen Stevens, WCO 1st vice president; Alfa Hernandez and Letti Solis, HIS representatives; Carol Allen, WCO president; and Kathy Thomas, WCO recording secretary.

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SAVE THE DATE
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CANYON BEAT *by Andrew Tonkovich*



The quick brown fox . . .

Silverado safety

A dozen attendees showed up two weeks ago for an ad hoc emergency community meeting addressing increased concern about what you could call traffic safety on Silverado Canyon Road. Or, if you watched the widely shared Ring cam video footage capturing an estimated 60-mile per hour speeder who hit a wall, you might call it something less benign. A familiar longstanding, if urgent, problem, residents including Inter-Canyon League (ICL) president Geoff Sarkissian reviewed all-too-familiar possible responses, including installing signs as well as both real and fake surveillance cameras.

Sarkissian — our canyons' go-to reconciler, advocate, and overburdened volunteer — reports, punily, that in dealing collectively with automotive scofflaws we must be the squeaky wheel, organizing citizen lobbying of local agencies and electeds.

Next step might be composing a template letter which can be modified and addressed to Supervisor Don Wagner, state senate and assembly members, Trabuco Ranger District, OC Sheriffs, CHP, CalTrans and anybody else who might step up to make drivers slow down.

Each might potentially help, whether in practical, visionary, legislative or educational ways. Silverado residents have objected in the past, justifiably, to speed bumps which, besides causing noise, don't work.

The Cleveland National Forest (CNF) can't close the Maple Springs Gate, and shouldn't. It's unlikely that an automatic ticketing pilot program, as recently implemented in five California cities (AB645) would fly in Orange County, much less a politically divided canyons community, which includes civic Good Samaritans as well as libertarians, conspiracy theorists, and live-free-or-die types, not to mention canyon golf cart operators whose ostensibly Low Speed Vehicles already offer law-abiding non-racing drivers a challenge.

Helpfully, at ostensible, if not always observed, maximum 25 mph speeds, they are unlikely to cause harm to anybody except, of course, cart drivers themselves, small children and pets riding along sans seat belts.

Speeders vs. racers

Please don't be either, but appreciate the cause of renewed traffic safety concerns courtesy this helpful taxonomy of road terrors. Bic Edwards, Silverado canyon activist reporting much of the motorized misbehavior, offers two categories, sociological meets (not versus, please) criminal justice-informed identification of those responsible for the unwelcome phenomenon. Her helpful shorthand categories suggest that "speeders" drive fast and recklessly to and from the Maple Springs gate. "Racers" are road rally participants in well-documented, well-organized (illegal) high-performance auto racing whose perversely dangerous competitive goal is getting to the gate and back as quickly as possible without damaging their souped-up vehicles. These ambassadors of ill will belong to the same criminal cohort regularly racing on Santiago Canyon Road and, of course, the 5 and 405 late at night.

Eco-unfriendly

Modjeska locals will have noticed hand-made signs and information sheets lately posted regarding harm caused other (non-human) locals after consuming gopher and rat poison. The recent slow, agonizing death of a California grey fox, witnessed by many as it was cared for by a resident on a neighbor's driveway, might remind folks to just knock it off with the poisons already. It's not only squirrels and birds who die from ingesting poisoned rodents, but the gorgeous native and its introduced cousin, the red fox. OC Animal Control arrived to advise this ailing creature's volunteer caregiver on caring for the juvenile animal, its best chance finding its way back into the scrub. Taking a little food and water, it nonetheless expired a day later. Informally diagnosed as poisoned, its carcass was collected by Animal Control. RIP. Resist Introducing Poisons!

Indeed, however dramatic or only anecdotal, indicators suggest the disappearance of other local fox communities close to homes in Modjeska and Silverado. At my own semi-wild redoubt adjacent to the boundary of the Cleveland National Forest, a regular local

canid's reliable visits have ceased, nightly droppings lately not in evidence. As a parent and domestic cat owner, I never imagined missing poop cleanup.



SMRPD

This fall, four seats open on the Silverado-Modjeska Recreation and Park District (SMRPD) Board. At least three current directors whose terms will expire indicate they won't run for re-election. Absent candidates on the November ballot, the Board of Supervisors appoints. To his credit, the last time that occurred, Supervisor Wagner asked SMRPD's recommendation of willing community members, subsequently appointed. Residents might recall a less responsive previous Sup appointing his political allies. Interested in filling this nonpartisan role in our singular governing entity, which administers our two parks and community centers and programs? Check out ocvote.gov. A "Candidate Filing Portal" opens July 13, with an Aug. 7 deadline for filing election papers at the Registrar of Voters office (where making an appointment is recommended).

Still to be resolved is a request from OC Public Works (OCPW) for use of the "Riviera" across from Silverado Community Center during planned reconstruction of the nearby downstream bridge, work which could take up to three years. Saint Michael's Abbey owns the land, allowing SMRPD parking. How, locals wonder, would OCPW's use affect summer concerts, and the annual Silverado Country Fair?

Summer fling (cheesecake edition)

Thanks to 100 attendees of the 3rd Annual Spring Fling supporting the Inter-Canyon League (ICL) Friends of the Library. Congrats to a bidder who set a record with the purchase of a baklava cheesecake (\$200) baked by Natalie Garth. Worth every bite and shared with those at her table. SMRPD President Ted Wright's twin Basque cheesecakes together nearly matched that amount, with more cheesecakes contributing to \$3,000 raised. Sweets for the sweet, and material support, programming, and prizes (see

below) for Library of the Canyons patrons, especially kids.

Mark your calendars

On Wednesday, July 1 at 5 p.m., the Library Book Group of the Canyons discusses Vera Wong's "Guide to Snooping (on a Dead Man)" by Jesse Q. Sutanto. Attend the Thursday, July 2 (11 a.m.) "Shadow-Catcher's Workshop: From Tintypes to Cyanotypes" program and learn about the early days of photography from Bailey-Denton Photography. This is a hands-on history (wear gloves) for the whole family and an opportunity to win a tintype. Bailey-Denton historical photography studio is dedicated to preservation of "wet-plate" photography, the height of photographic technology during the late 19th century. Finally, on Wednesday, July 22 at 11 a.m., get up close to a fire truck and firefighting gear. Presented and sponsored by OC Fire Authority.

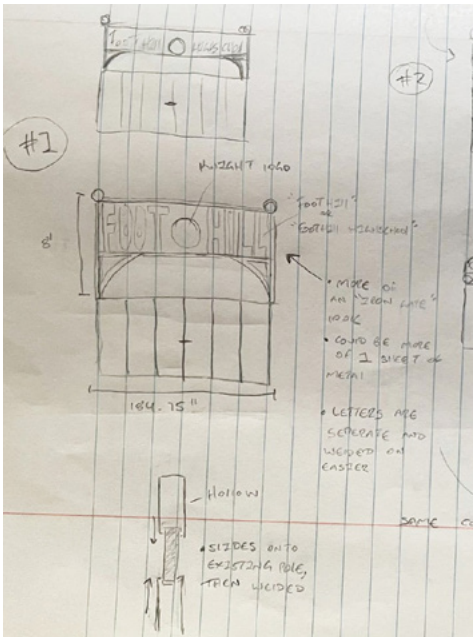
. . . Jumps over the lazy dog

Basic social and political literacy and once-shared civic knowledge needs a platform. Consternation over the very public death of a fox, expressed in discussion and photos on social media, seems a feeble response. Does anybody imagine that canyon residents who use poison, water or cut down oak trees, grade illegally, move GSOB-infected limbs, allow livestock waste to enter adjacent streams, or routinely park their cars blocking traffic, give a (poisoned) rat's ass about policy, stewardship, civic goodwill or mutual aid? The absence of an easily available shared news and community education "platform" beyond the Foothills Sentry suggests newbies perhaps don't know the rules, neighbors don't know each other's addresses, and opportunities for lobbying, mutual aid and conversation are limited. When my family was welcomed into this community, we received gifts, a potluck reception, and a copy of a canyon directory. It included information on local resources, canyon FAQs, and helpful advice on septic care, not burning poison oak (it will kill you), recycling, canyon etiquette, government and volunteer agencies. We need a new, updated directory.

Play loud!

Silverado's Summer Concert Series continues on the Zachary Dupre Stage (6-10 p.m.) with the Saturday, July 18 line-up of Iron Hollow, a bluegrass outfit, and The Whiskey Throwbacks, offering classic rock you're invited to dance to. (Don't throw your back out.)

Foothill High School grad signs off with a high sign



Alyssa Kay started her senior project with pencil drawings.



The sign was mocked up using 3-D modeling.



Fabricating the sign required the wide open space of Foothill's automotive lab.



The new sign was installed on a campus gate May 12



Alyssa Kay with her senior project that ended up to be a perfect fit.

Foothill High School graduate Alyssa Kay left a lasting mark on the campus that should endure for years.

An arch-shaped metal sign proclaiming "Foothill", recently installed above an entry gate was conceived, designed, 3-D modeled, manufactured and painted by Kay. Choosing engineering as her elective in her freshman year, she stayed with it, focusing on manufacturing, for the next four years. In her final year, she was tasked with identifying a suitable senior project. A teacher suggested some sort of signage that could go on a door. Kay liked the concept, but she had a bigger idea.

She envisioned the word "Foothill" separated by the school logo rising above an existing wrought iron gate. She put together some engineering drawings and carefully measured the space between the gate posts. The posts were leaning in opposite directions, so they had to be made parallel before serious measurements were undertaken.

The arch was fabricated from a steel pipe that Kay cut with a

crank operated machinist's tool. It took a long time, she says, to get the pipe curved the way she wanted it, and intensive use of her math skills to ensure the arch was perfect.

She plasma-cut the individual letters, deciding not to curve them to fit the arch, but to cut them straight and use metal tabs on either end to adjust the letters to match the curvature of the arch.

She did her work in Foothill's automotive lab because that was the only space big enough to hold her project. Because the finished sign weighed 140 pounds and was just over 15 feet long, she needed help installing it. It was put into place May 12, with the vice principal and her teacher and fellow students assisting. The new sign fit perfectly.

Kay lives in Orange, but attended school in the Tustin Unified School District because her mother teaches there, and it was easier for the family to stay in one district. Kay is planning to enroll in the welding program at Cerritos College in the fall in preparation for a career in that field.



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Supervisor hosts Career Fair in Tustin



Supervisor Vicente Sarmiento addresses job seekers and employers at the annual career fair held in Tustin.

By Vicente Sarmiento Second District Supervisor

Four hundred fifty job seekers and 72 employers participated in the annual career fair held in Tustin. The event was all about connection – bringing together people ready to work and businesses looking for talented individuals.

At a time when so much of the job search process has become impersonal and it can be a struggle to stand out, this all-in-person event allowed employers to meet individual job seekers face to face and get to know the whole person beyond what is inside the four corners of a resume.

Conducted by OC Community Service and the OC Workforce Solutions team, the event was a partnership with the Tustin Chamber of Commerce and our office. It was my pleasure to welcome the employers and attendees, along with Nancy Cook, our Workforce Development Director, and Anna Ullman, CEO of the Tustin Chamber.

I want to thank the City of Tustin for hosting the event at the Columbus Tustin Recreation Center and Karen Caswelch and Maria Linares, who represent my office on the Workforce Development Board, for joining us at the event.

This event, held in late April, played a vital role in expanding economic opportunities for our hardworking residents and families while strengthening our entire community. By bridging the gap between job seekers pursuing new or better opportunities and employers striving to meet their evolving workforce needs, it provided an essential connection, especially in today's challenging labor market.

OC Workforce Solutions provides opportunities and resources for both youth and adult job seekers.

County residents can take advantage of training and development opportunities as well as a full range of services if they are seeking a new job, career growth, or a change in careers.

Two honored at VPWL Tea



Risa Scott, left, and Ola Al Asadi

Villa Park Women's League celebrated the conclusion of its program year and annual installation meeting at a flower-bedecked tea, June 6, held at Trinity Episcopal Church Parish Hall. Two prestigious awards were given.

The Circle of Friendship Award, established in 1996, honoring a member who fosters unity, connection and friendship

among women, was presented to Risa Scott.

The Community Service Award, established in 1971, recognizing exceptional volunteer service and commitment to Villa Park and the surrounding communities, was presented to Ola Al Asadi.

For information about the organization and its many activities, see vpwl.org.

WCO presents live theater performance

The Woman's Club of Orange will feature "Look What Fell out de Mango Tree," a humorous and moving play, Sunday, Aug. 16 at the Clubhouse.

Written and performed by Debra Ehrhardt and directed by Academy and Grammy Award-winner Paul Williams, the play explores themes of forgiveness, vulnerability and healing. It is recommended for ages 16

and older. After its local run, the production will move on to Philadelphia, San Francisco and London.

The play begins at 3 p.m., with doors opening at 2:30 p.m. The clubhouse is located at 121 S. Center Street. Tickets are \$30, and must be purchased before Aug. 9. No ticket sales at the door. For more information visit womanscluboforange.org.



The Woman's Club of Orange (WCO) recently honored five scholarship recipients at its general luncheon meeting. From left, Natalie Gutierrez, Richland HS; Alex Contreras, Orange HS; Leslie Ortiz, Orange HS; Ashner Aguila, Richland HS; and Alan Antonio Ramirez, Richland HS.

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Assistance League of Orange honors members

The Assistance League of Orange annual meeting, held June 5, honored two members for their extensive contributions to the organization.

The Anne Banning Leadership Award, named after the founder of Assistance League, was created to recognize a valued member who embodies the spirit of leadership, service and dedication, was presented to Deena Arnold by Ginny Abell and Robin Lyall.

Deena has been a member of Assistance League of Orange for more than two decades, has served on numerous committees and in key leadership roles, most notably co-chairing the Embrace Orange gala for 15 years, building it into an extraordinary fundraising event. Deena has also been instrumental in shaping the Assisteens Auxiliary program, working directly with the 120-plus students to nurture their growth, empathy and leadership.

The Ada Edwards Laughlin Award is named for the co-founder of Assistance League who was a less visible, but hardworking "behind-the-scenes" volunteer whose contributions were vital to the

organization. Kathy Leichtuss, a 38-year member of Assistance League of Orange, was honored with this award presented by Charlotte Vaughn.

Kathy has served on the board and chaired countless standing and philanthropic committees, but has also been working equally hard behind the scenes. For years, she has been quietly pouring through meeting minutes, newspaper articles, yearbooks and archival notes dating back 85 years, to the inception of the chapter, to prepare a year-by-year, Archival History of Assistance League of Orange. The culmination of hundreds of hours of work, the 125-page book was presented as a gift to the members.

It reflects the colorful history of the organization: during WWII, Assistance League members made and served coffee and baked goods to the 1,500 soldiers stationed in Orange; dues were \$5.50 in 1941; the first fundraiser was a horse show; early philanthropies included paying for tonsillectomies, surgery for a blind child, sponsoring the training of a seeing-eye puppy and funding a Hubbard Tank to treat polio victims.



Deena Arnold, left, was the recipient of the Anne Banning Leadership Award, given by Ginny Abell, center, and Robin Lyall.



Kathleen Leichtfuss, left, received the Ada Edwards Laughlin Award, presented by Charlotte Vaughn.

Tustin Movies in the Park return this summer

By Guy Ball

Bring your blankets, chairs, and snacks to movies in various Tustin parks during the summer. All movies start on Friday evenings at 6 p.m.

There will be a variety of food

trucks and other vendors. Admission, thanks to the city and a variety of local sponsors, is free.

For more information, visit Tustincta.org/movies or call (714) 573-3326.

This year the movies, parks, and dates include:

National Treasure	Tustin Sports Park	July 10
The Good Dinosaur	Frontier Park	July 17
Elemental 2023	Peppertree Park	July 24
K-Pop Demon Hunters	Camino Real Park	July 31
Cars	Veterans Sports Park	August 7

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Footloose in Tustin

Kick off your shoes and head to Peppertree Park —“Footloose” is coming to Old Town Tustin!

Get ready, Orange County!

Tustin Area Council for Fine Arts (TACFA) is bringing the hit Broadway musical “Footloose” to Peppertree Park in Old Town Tustin for five spectacular nights, August 4–8, and it is shaping up to be THE outdoor event of the summer.

Produced in cooperation with Give Kids Panto, this year’s Broadway in the Park production tells the story of a city kid who arrives in a small town where music and dancing have been banned — and the sparks that fly when he refuses to stay quiet. “Footloose” is packed with the iconic songs you know and love: “Holding Out for a Hero,” “Almost Paradise” and “Let’s Hear It for the Boy” are just a few of the crowd-pleasers on the set list.

The best part? This is a full-on party under the stars. Gates open at 5:30 p.m. and the show

kicks off at 7:45 p.m., giving you plenty of time to settle in, grab a bite from the food trucks, and soak up the magic of a summer evening in Old Town Tustin before the curtain rises. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets, pack a picnic dinner, or enjoy wine, beer, and snacks at the bar. A kids’ zone with games, crafts and community vendors means there’s something fun happening for every member of the family.

Tickets are \$30 for adults, \$25 for groups of 15 or more, \$20 for children ages 5–10, and free for children 4 and under. Upgrade to a reserved seat or even reserve a table for eight if you want to make it a real occasion for your crew.

Tickets are on sale now at TACFA.org. Don’t wait — this one sells out fast, and for good reason.

“FOOTLOOSE” is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals.

GRIP Greeters celebrated



GRIP volunteers, including Elks and police, are ready to thank the GRIP parents who have volunteered as school greeters during the year.

Orange Elks Drug Awareness Chairmen, Jimmy and Julie Brown, worked with its community partner, GRIP, aka Gang Reduction Intervention Partnership, to honor and thank the GRIP Parent Greeters from OUSD elementary schools.

The GRIP advisors honored the parents of GRIP kids who volunteer as greeters and

welcome students in the mornings at Orange elementary schools.

The Lodge’s Drug Awareness Program provided and served breakfast.

Eighty-five awards were handed, out and 15 Elks helped. Each parent received a certificate, goodie bag and beverage tumbler.

Orange Woman’s Club hosts August events

The Woman’s Club invites new and prospective members to join the group at a get together, Wednesday, Aug. 5 and a Luau, Tuesday, Aug. 25.

The new member get together

begins at 10 a.m. at the clubhouse. Light refreshments will be served.

The social is an opportunity to learn more about the club, its section and activities. RSVP by July 30 at womanscluboforange.org/member-interest.

refreshments served. RSVP by

Aug. 20 at womanscluboforange.org/member-interest. There is no charge for either event. The clubhouse is located at 121 S. Center Street.

There is no charge for either event. The clubhouse is located at 121 S. Center Street.

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Flags fly over Orange

Thanks to the Orange Elks Lodge #1475, flags are proudly flying over the homes of local veterans.

Flags Over Orange was created by the Orange Elks to provide an American flag for a military, police, fire, veteran, senior or disabled person who would like to fly the flag, but could use a helping hand mounting one.

The Orange Elks will install a flag kit that consists of flag and pole, and also a solar light to keep the flag properly displayed and illuminated overnight.

J C Cortez and the Orange Elks Flags Over Orange Committee recently visited six veterans to install flags at their residences, and heard the veterans' stories of their memorable military experiences.



Steven Osborne, an Army veteran who served in South Korea.



Flags Over Orange replaced Santiago Salazar's U.S. and USMC flags for him.



Joseph Montero, an Army veteran who served in Vietnam.



Michael Keenan, an Army veteran who served in Vietnam.



Raymond Del Rio, a Marine veteran from Vietnam.



Michael R. McBee, a Marine veteran, with his wife Karen.

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Making tracks in North Tustin



Photos by Tony Richards

A detailed miniature railroad graces the front yard of North Tustin's Todd and Linda Brody.

Todd and Linda Brody wanted to discourage gophers from continually digging up their North Tustin front lawn. Todd's solution, which Linda went along with, was to replace the grass with a 52 x 20-foot miniature railway.

The project started in 1997, when Todd drew detailed plans for the rail lines and ordered 600 feet of track. He started laying the track that September, and the G-gauge trains were rolling by October. The layout has three main circuits and several spurs. The tracks traverse a small town, mining operation, archaeological dig, fishing lake, a train station, and numerous building clusters.

He created the entire garden railroad himself, from installing subterranean wiring to building a 14-foot trestle, to plumbing for water features and planting live dwarf trees.

Linda reports that over the years, the detailed landscape has grown with buildings, cars, people and whimsical scenes given to them by fellow miniature railroaders or purchased at conventions. An additional 10 x 15-foot extension was later added perpendicular to the main layout.

The Brodys open the garden railroad to visitors once a year. Saturday, June 20, was this year's invitational opening.



The railroad layout is replete with whimsy. Here, an outhouse is tipped over by a prankster.



The track bypasses an archaeological dig taking place on the far side of a small-scale mountain.



Todd Brody remedies a derailment.



A canoe is destined to go over the falls, part of the elaborate waterway designed and built by Brody.



COMMUNITY SPORTS

BY CLIFF ROBBINS, CHAD CLINE AND DIANE TORRANCE

El Modena High holds 18th Annual Hall of Fame Award



El Modena High School inducted three former athletes into the Hall of Fame: Tara Whitfield Nichols (1991-1994); her sister Kaylee Whitfield Hertz (1992-1996); and Scott Johnson (1971-1975).

Tarartrackandcrosscountry, was a four-time letterman and named four times as First Team All-Century League. She set a school record at Woodward Park, Mt. SAC Relays and the Sun Devil Invite, and was ranked in the top 10 All-State in 1994. Whitfield was named First Team All-State. Whitfield continued her career at USC and graduated in 1999 with a degree in Communications and Business Administration.

Kaylee, a year later, continued the honors as a three-sport athlete in cross country, soccer and track, lettering all four years in all three sports. Kaylee was Player of the Year in 1994 in soccer and Most Valuable Player in track in 1994. She was named Female Athlete of the Year by the Rotary Club in 1994, El Modena Female Athlete of the Year in 1996 and Orange County Athletic Director Player of the Year in 1996.

Kaylee went to USC on a soccer scholarship, earning a B.S. in 2000 and a Master of Science in Education from Cal State University San Jose in 2006.

Scott Johnson was a two-sport athlete in football and wrestling, lettering three years in both. Johnson was a First Team All-Century League Offensive and Defensive. Johnson was named First Team All-County Defense and the LA Times Lineman of the Year in 1974, and was honored as Lineman of the Orange County All-Star Game in 1974.

Johnson played football on a scholarship at Long Beach State, earning a B.A. in Biology and Chemistry in 1981, and a M.S. in Marine Biology in 1998.

Vanguard Athletes of Character Awards were received by Anthony Waldez, boys basketball; Lindsay Lyons, girls basketball; Lauren Radzke, cheer; Samantha Cuevas, dance; Daniel Vega Torres, baseball; Scott Tran, boys volleyball; Jenna

Mason, girls volleyball; Amalie Subia, girls flag football; Jeremy Russell, football; Ava Savala, softball; Cooper Haradon, boys golf; Liliana Lara, girls golf; David Tapia, boys lacrosse; Sadie Ceballos, girls lacrosse; Landon Metoyer, boys track and field; Adriana Ayala, girls track and field; Caleb Mey, boys swim; Emily Vu, girls swim; Jake Davis, boys soccer; Alexandra Avila, girls soccer; Gabriel Huerta, boys wrestling; Brianna Vazquez, girls wrestling; Keiana DeGrave, pom; Gavin Barrera, boys water polo; Jaclyn Seibert, girls water polo; Teodoro Villarea, boys XC; Ella Clapper, girls XC; Dahlia Davis, girls tennis; Cayden Doudreau, boys tennis.

Awards were given to Brooklyn Calderon and Alyssa Galasso, Female Rookies of the Year; Maximus Devinney, Male Rookie of the Year; Kylie Tafua, EIMo and Century Conference Female Athlete of the Year; and Logan Honikel, Male Athlete of the Year.



Canyon High School held 6th Annual Athletic Award Ceremony

Canyon High teams won 11 league championships and had one CIF Champion team this year. The fall season began strong with Girls Flag Football, Girls Golf, Girls Tennis, and Boys Water Polo all winning league titles, with six teams qualifying for CIF.

The winter season saw Girls Soccer, Boys Soccer and Girls Wrestling earning league titles. All teams qualified for CIF, with Boys Basketball advancing to the quarterfinals, Boys Soccer and Girls Basketball making it to the semifinals and qualifying for the State playoffs.

Girls Wrestler, Tessa Fortenbaugh, finished second in CIF and competed in the State Championships.

Canyon Cheer won the CIF-SS Division 1 Championship. Team members were Chloe Alexei, Lili Biberstein, Evelyn Deller, Brooklyn Duterte, Aidynn Enriquez, Noelle Horton, Addison Hunter, Ryann Lewis, Briana Lindsey, Juliet Lolli, Camila Martinez-Canseco,

Sydney Pino, Elizabeth Robinson, Abigail Smith, Yeva Syroid, Sydney Troge, Isabella Trout, Lilly Williams, Alina Williams, Alina Wu and Avery Yost.

Scholar-Athlete of the Year awards are given for a combination of outstanding athletic success and exceptional academic results. The awardees are Gavin Shea, Male Scholar Athlete; Ellie Nguyen, Female Scholar-Athlete; Tommy Boyle, Male CIF Scholar Athlete; and Rylie Piche, Female CIF Scholar Athlete.

The Greg Jones Scholarship Awards were given to Kellen Rommelfanger and Alyvia Jeha.

Ironman of the Year Awards were given to Anika Banez, cross country, tennis and track; Aidynn Enriquez, cheer, stunt and track; Ella Feldhaus, flag football, soccer and lacrosse; Caroline Hicks, flag football, soccer and track; Noelle Horton, flag football, cheer and stunt; Ariel Lantz-Loza, flag football, song and track; Noah McClary, football, soccer, and track; Sophia Patsios, flag football, soccer and track; and Sophie Punsalang, flag football, soccer and track.

Sportsmanship and Leadership Award recipients were Layla Vanasopha, Blake Hartfelder and Landon Wade. The **Bill Hall Awards** went to Ella Feldhaus, Camden Goetz and Rylan Avellan. **Athletes of the Year** were named: Aidan Dunn and Tessa Fortenbaugh; **Female Athlete of the Year** was Caroline Hicks.

CIF AWARDS CIF-SS Athletes of the Year

Canyon High School CIF-SS honorees are Thomas Boyle, 4.00 GPA, Male Athlete of the Year, track and field; and Ryley Piche, 4.00 GPA, Female Athlete of the Year, soccer.



Orange High School athlete CIF-SS awardees are Wesley Lundell, 4.00 GPA, baseball, football, track and field; Alina Gomez, 4.00 GPA, basketball flag football, softball.

Villa Park High athletes are Jaden Broussard, 4.00 GPA, wrestling; Eve Benson, 4.00 GPA, tennis.



All CIF-SS AWARDS

Athletes were recognized in their respective sports.

Baseball: Calden Lauridsen, Div. 1, FHS, 11, P; Justin Lopez, Div. 2, VP, 12, P; Jack McGuire, Div. 2, VP, 12, P; Evan Gonzalez, Div. 6, ORG, 12, P, SS.

Softball: Parker Mayes, Div. 1, ELM, 11, P, C; Shea Gonzalez, Div. 3, VP, 12, OF; Scarlett Poitra, Div. 8, ORG, 11, P.

Competitive Cheer: Danielle Clark, Div. 1 Canyon High School Coach of the Year; Elizabeth Robinson, Div. 1, CAN, 12; Noelle Horton, Div. 1 CAN, 12; Aidynn Enriquez, Div. 1, CAN, 11; Jalyssa Loatman, Div. 8, ORG, 11; Aubrey Macedo, Div. 8, ORG, 11.

Boys Soccer: Isaac Ortiz, Div. 1, ORLU, 11, D; Kyler Firouznam, Div. 1, ORLU, F, 11; Dylan Rodriguez, Div. 1, ORLU, M, 12; Noah Jacoby, Div. 1, ORLU, F, 11; Ryan Grimm, Div. 2, CAN, M, 12; Blake Hartfelder, Div. 2, CAN, F, 12; Cash Margolis, Div. 2, CAN, M, 12.

Boys Volleyball: Josiah Trautman, Div. 2, ORLU, DH, 12; Max Lopez, Div. 2 ORLU, S, 10; John Garabedian, Div. 2 ORLU, OH, 11; Owen Pietsch, Div. 6, ELM, MB, 12.

Girls Soccer: Caroline Hicks, Div. 2, CAN, F, 12; Macey Tuiolosega, Div. 1, ORLU, D, 11; Charlette Kamansky, Div. 1, ORLU, F, 11.

CIF-SS Team Awards

Team awards, including team GPA, went to Villa Park, Baseball, First Place; Canyon, El Modena and Orange High, were awarded Honorable Mentions.

Flag Football, First Place to Orange Lutheran High; Honorable Mentions to Villa Park and Orange High.

Girls Swim and Dive honors went to Villa Park High, First Place; Orange Lutheran, Canyon and Orange High earned Honorable Mentions.

In Football, Villa Park ranked in First Place; Orange Lutheran, Canyon and Orange High earned Honorable Mentions.

Stunt, Canyon High School took First Place; Villa Park, Canyon, Orange Lutheran and Orange earned Honorable Mentions.

COMMUNITY SPORTS

BY CLIFF ROBBINS, CHAD CLINE AND DIANE TORRANCE

Pro Anglers return from Cabo with marlin and tuna

The 54th Annual Pro Angler Marlin Tournament was a success with 18 marlin caught and released in Baja waters. The Pro Angler tournament, based out of Orange, is the oldest active tournament in Baja. Tournament director Dan Bohannon announced that Team Anaheim captured the three-day tournament. Anglers were Rich Bybee, Rob Walton and Steve Bengochea and friends.



Tournament director Dan Bohannon (left) fought this 150-lb. tuna; teammate Dale Walton shared the rod to bring the tuna to the docks for weigh in.



Anglers at the 54th annual Pro Anglers Marlin Tournament gather around a 200-lb. yellowfin tuna brought to gaff.

Alicia Seevers named new CIF-SS Assistant Commissioner



Alicia Seevers

Former Orange High School Athletic Director Alicia Seevers has been selected as the newest CIF-SS Commissioner, as announced by Mike West, the CIF-SS Commissioner of Athletics. Seevers will begin her position on July 1.

Seevers served the Orange High School for 26 years, and was the girls head basketball coach from 1996-2000, before becoming the OHS athletic director.

Seevers held positions on the CIF-SS Executive Committee, and was the Girls Athletic Directors Representative, a member of the Ethics in Sports Committee and served on the Basketball Advisory Committee since 2024. Seevers served as President of the Women in Sports in 2021-23, and was president of the Orange County Athletic Directors Association. She was awarded the 2017 Norm Mackenzie Award from the California State Athletic Association, and, in 2019, was named the Athletic Director of the Year.

Seevers will review and determine eligibility for CIF-SS athletes.

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