**Water buyout vote tonight**

Tim Dewar
pub@ojaivalleynews.com

The battle to determine who the Ojai Valley’s municipal water supplier will be and how much local homeowners will pay for the privilege will set sail tonight when the Ojai Municipal Water District (CMWD) board of directors will likely vote on the proposed buyout of Golden State Water Company (GSWC) Ojai service area by the CMWD.

But the local, volunteer group leading the effort to unseat the privately owned company in favor of the CMWD is still in high gear. Ojai Friends of Locally Owned Water (FLOW), members hosted a meeting Thursday at the Ojai Valley Inn to help customers understand how the buyout would impact them prior to going in to vote tonight.

“The key is to understand that this is not our proposal. This is our analysis of someone else’s proposal,” FLow member Ryan Blatt told the 50 audience members. “We are not trying to force this down anyone’s throats. We are a group of concerned citizens trying to do what’s right. If it’s not right, we don’t want to do it.”

Blatt explained that there are three phases included in the CMWD proposal: pre-acquisition, acquisition, and post-acquisition. The first phase, includes between $2 and $5 million for legal fees and consulting work to prepare the bond for a vote. If the bond does not pass or if the bond amount is not enough to cover the costs and CMWD decides not to pursue the effort, they will face current CMWD customers who would have to pay those costs.

The second phase, Blatt stated, would be a 20-year bond with interest rates which are estimated to be between $21.4 million and $36.2 million. This is the money that would be allocated to purchase GSWC’s physical assets. If the bond does not pass or if the bond amount is not enough to cover the costs and CMWD decides not to pursue the effort, they will face current CMWD customers who would have to pay those costs.

The third phase, Blatt explained, would involve the development of new water sources and new infrastructure. The buyout would impact them prior to going in to vote tonight.

*See Meeting, Page A3*

**Barking dog alerts owners to fire**

Stilley Volaski
editors@ojaivalleynews.com

Barking dogs alert owners to fire.

Barking dogs and sleeping babies: A bad combination. But once, Blanche Street resident Cassandra Edwards was grateful for the noise.

Running into her backyard was a big howling dog. Edwards said she noticed, “… to quiet her howling dog, quiet her howling dog, quiet her howling dog…”

Sunday night’s blaze left the home extensively damaged.

For a resident Cassandra Edwards was grateful for the noise.

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*See Meeting, Page A3*

Almost two dozen volunteers including Boy Scouts from Troop 503, the Oak View Civic Council and community members came together as the 2013 Oak View Pageant of Excellence Saturday night. The year’s most featured girls ages 10 to 19 from across the unincorporated Ojai Valley performed a dance number, group dance, showed off their baking skills, displayed their hubbubs and walked the runway in their formal wear. The highlight of the evening, left, contestant savanna Johnson was introduced by her father to give her a quick pep talk before her speech with the judges. At better-than-normal odds, Johnson’s competitive Beth Angela helped make her desk. The only moment Johnson feared was the fire near Blanche Street, tears in her eyes, singer-songwriter Savanna Edwards is pictured with her father, one light and air unit and several fire engines, one support battalion, two battalion chiefs, five firefighters and public information officer, one light and air unit and a fire watch team.

“The fire in the interior of the structure was knocked down rapidly,” the release said, “but fire in the attic and walls required more attention. Knock down at 10:07 p.m.”

Mike Lindberry, VCFD public information officer, stated that while the home was not a complete loss, it did suffer extensive fire and smoke damage. He added that the fire is still under investigation. Final report is not unexpected.

As firefighters arrived on scene, Edwards said her family was evacuated due to the large tree hanging over both her home and the engulfed home next door. The flames were going up high enough that if they would’ve reached the branches then our house would’ve been done.” She said the family was allowed back in their home around midnight.

Lindberry said a team stayed at the structure through the night as a precaution. “We had people there all night.”

**Tubie Barron**

City of Oak View

The Ojai Planning Commission held its first public hearing regarding the city’s mandated Housing Element last week. The purpose of the hearing was to receive input from residents on eight programs that comprise the first of two phases in the 2006-2014 Housing Element. The City of Ojai Community Development Director Rob Mullane solicited the commission’s input regarding the percentage of units that must be deemed affordable before a development project qualifies as “affordable housing.”

He also recommended that not all of the 23 possible sites be given the overabundance designations because this would exceed the state requirements.

The commission recommended that 20 of the 23 possible sites be given the overabundance designation because this would exceed the state requirements.

“Within the 2006-2014 Housing Element, the acceptable designation is ‘affordable housing,’” said Mullane. “There are potential complications with the overabundance of sites.”

Commissioner Sean Foster said that he thinks it prudent to utilize mostly city-owned properties, giving the city the most control over development of its own parcels while still meeting state requirements. With this consideration, commissioners decided that formal recommendation to the council would include a combination of city-owned, city-customized, city-owned parcels, along with 3.5 acres of the OUSD property, 1.1 acres at 510 E. Ojai Ave., .77 acres on Santa Ana Street, 8.7 acres at 401 S. Ventura St., 2 acres at 402 S. Signal St., 2 acres at 402 S. Signal St., 2 acres at 418 Bryant St. and 2 acres at 408 N. Montgomery St.

Commissioners emphasized that this is merely a starting point to address the 2006-2014 Housing Element. The city can include the OUSD program, and other sites can be added to the Oak View Housing Element cycle. The commission also expressed that it’s premature to say the state didn’t leave us unprotected, when residents from the state didn’t leave us unprotected.

**Planning Commission sends Council zoning overlay recommendations**

*See Planning, Page A3*

**Miss Oak View 2013 crowned**

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**Planning Commission sends Council zoning overlay recommendations**

*See Planning, Page A3*
Matt Nava, a member of Oak Grove School’s class of 2004, recently spoke at the school’s annual fundraising event. Nava grew up at the school and went to Oak Grove School from kindergarten through 12th grade before going on to graduate from Colgate University of Art and Design. He now works for Thatgamecompany and is the art director for its latest video game offering, “Journey.” Nava has been nominated for eight BAFTA Academy Video Games Awards, beating out games like “The Walking Dead” and “Fury 3,” last year and this year.

According to him, “Journey” is his first large-scale project that he’s been a part of. “It was an honor to be a part of the making of the Game of the Year,” Nava said.

Unlikely companies that don’t dominate the world of video games with violent content, this company’s mission is to create a truly interactive entertainment that makes players change the human psyche world-wide,” Nava, in his talk at Oak Grove, explained than the premise of “Journey” is that he would like to work collaboratively to give the good of all, rather than kill each other. Primary considerations in creating the game were now to develop a sense of empathy and compassion in the players.

Thatgamecompany, Nava said, created an environment similar to the environment of Oak Grove that was provided a safe place to step outside of the known, and encouraged innovative thinking. “We were determined that Matt could come up from Los Angeles to speak at this event,” said Meredith Benom Rice, head of the school. “our graduate students are out there making a difference in the world and his company are quickly revolutionizing the world of gaming in such a positive way.”

www.oakgroveschool.org/blog/top-Nava’s-talk

“Shinto Sunsets” is a scene from Matt Nava’s award-winning video game, “Journey.”

We graduated from

Oak Grove grad speaks about success

Barbara "Ginger" Wilson

Barbara Z. Wilson, better known as “Ginger,” age 84, passed away at home in Oak View, March 5, 2013, from metastatic melanoma. She was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on January 29, 1929, the youngest of three.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Bernard Carl Ziegler and Edith Ellenberg. "Ginger" is survived by her brother, Robert Douglas, of West Seattle, Wisconsin, and her family including son Scott (Christine) and children Elisa, Jenny and Mark, daughter Dodie (Pat) and family, brother-in-law John "Duffy" and sister-in-law Mary (Rosie) and children Edward, Jennifer, Steven, and Jennifer. "Ginger" was a member of Ojai Presbyterian Church. She was a longtime member of the Ojai Valley Museum. She was a devoted friend and neighbor of Ginger's shining spirit and generous soul will be dearly missed.

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2003, they were paying eventually save money as every customer would savings for a few years, year and might not see not save money the first some ratepayers would Richard Hajas explained city of Ojai whether they ever, said because of the have repeatedly claimed to do over 10 years. Ca-
Continued from Page A1 Meeting:
These lobbyists are spending thousands of dollars to convince us that we are better off with Golden State
OUT-OF-TOWN lobbyists supporting Golden State Water don't want US to VOTE on our water future.
OUT -OF-TOWN INTERESTS
Casitas Meeting
Tonight they will be trying to convince Casitas that acquiring Golden State Water will not benefit Ojai.
HOW WILL THE CASITAS BOND BENEFIT OJAI?
F .L.O.W . members also
Local Control and Community ownership of our water!
$680,000 in overall savings for the community in the first year.
Don't let outsiders interfere with your right to VOTE!
We are all Ojai FLOW!
Casitas Messina Hall, a union high Auditorium 6 PM
OUT-OF-TOWN lobbyists supporting Golden State Water don't want US to VOTE on our water future.
Show up tonight and tell Casitas that you want VOTE on our water future! Don't let outsiders interfere with your right to VOTE!
These lobbyists are spending thousands of dollars to convince us that we are better off with Golden State Water. Let us VOTE to decide for ourselves!
Ojai Valley News · Wednesday, March 13, 2013 A3
$73.81 bi-monthly with Golden State and would have paid $50.75 with Cas-
$168.88 with Golden State and $100.08.

COMMUNITY SAVINGS.
his article will show how the $1- to $1.2-million bond, Hajas said the Ojai
amounts. Jerry Conrow indicated that GSWC has included in its
this report at section 6-7. No one ever
F 18-

Blaze: Convention Center at A1 night to make sure there was no rekindle. That's standard
That was the priority. There were no injuries connected to the fire, which displaced two adults, two dogs and a cat. They had to move out due to being in "fire danger and smoke covered outside, un-

Casitas Meetings
When there are tales of threats for an average customer in 2003, they were paying

Planning:
Continued from Page A3
Community Savings.
We are all Ojai FLOW!
Ojaiflow.com - Facebook.com/ojaiflow

Blaze: Convention...night to make sure there was no rekindle. That's standard.

Ojai Unified School District
Ojai City Council
Ojai Valley Defense Fund
The Surfrider Foundation
Ojai Board of Realtors

Community Ownership.
Community Control.
Community Savings.
We are all Ojai FLOW!
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$16,000,000 in savings in the Ojai Unified School District in the first year.
$54,000 in savings in the City of Ojai in the first year.
$54,000 in savings in the City of Ojai in the first year.
$168.88 with Golden State and $100.08.
$138.00. Future savings for each organization, he explained, would likely be in the $1- to $2 million range over 10 years.
	$680,000 in the community can save about $680,000 in the first year," Blaze ex-
those that are included in the Casitas bond’s post-acquisition

Community SAVINGS.

Casitas Messina Hall, a union high Auditorium 6 PM
Casitas Meetings
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Community Ownership.
Community Control.
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Teen Idols will rehearse for worldwide tour in Ojai

Ojai Valley Inn & Spa managing director, Pete Ells, stepped in to say hi to the World Famous Teen Idols featuring David Cassidy, Peter Noone of Herman’s Hermits and Micky Dolenz of The Monkees, at the Ojai Valley Inn & Spa’s Board Room recently. The group was in town to plan their international tour. Pictured are Paradise Artists agent Jim Lenz (left), Paradise Artists agent Bill Meent, Noone, Cassidy, Ells, Dolenz, Paradise Artists agent House Silverman and Paradise Artists agent Charlie Davis. The Teen Idols have confirmed that they will be rehearsing in Ojai for their upcoming worldwide tour.
Is astrology the oldest science?

ASTROLOGY

Is astrology the oldest science?

Ojai Valley News  Wednesday, March 13, 2013 A5

RANGE D’ANGELES

BRUCE GLADSTONE, PH.D.

Is astrology the oldest science?

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Ojai Valley News  Wednesday, March 13, 2013 A5

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Ojai Valley News  Wednesday, March 13, 2013 A5

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Is astrology the oldest science?
Thursday, March 14, at The Well, 214 E. Ojai Ave. Dinner is served at 5:45 p.m. For more information, contact Alisha Hicks at ahicks@ojaiusd.org or call 646-1464, Ext. 118.

**SCIENCE—** "The Maricopa Highway," by Mollie Donlon. "The Tales of St. Joseph’s Health and Hospitaller Brothers of St. John of Jerusalem — The Casitas Municipal Water District board will hold a public hearing today at 6 p.m. at the Lassen Building, 111 W. Santa Ana St., Ojai. The public is welcome. For more details, call 646-1639.

**DEPARTMENT—** "The Theo-
**WASHBURN VALLEY MUSEUM**

Washburn’s March 23 tour. Cost is $5. RGB.

**MATILJIA MEMORIAL VISITING CHURCH**

Mondays at 10:30 a.m., Ojai Valley Community Center, 113 S. Montecito Ave., Ojai. For more information, call 646-9187.

**MATILJIA COOK, 339 W. EL ROBLAR**

ART GROUP — every Friday from 2 to 4 p.m. Bring your own projects and share ideas. For more information, contact Trixi Scantlin at 525-1917.

**MOMS OF OJAI**

Newcomers are welcome to the monthly meeting. March 25 from 1 to 4 p.m. at Living Azalea, 512 W. El Roblar. Open to public. Kendo students will present the kendo form and share their experience in guiding and appreciating the art. Trixi Scantlin at 525-1917.

**THE OJAI EMOTIONAL DUAL SUPPORT GROUP**

A cancer support group offering encouragement, resources and support. Call Bill O’Brien at 646-2402 or via email at bobbie@ojaicommunitycenter.org. Check www.ojai.net/troop504 or call 646-2402 for more information.

**THE OJAI YOUTH CENTER**

A cancer support group meeting every Thursday of each month from 5 to 7 p.m. at The Ojai Youth Center, 130 W. Ojai Ave. Suggested donation. Visit www.pauseconejo.org for more information.

**PARKINSON’S**

Drop-in group offering encouragement, support and resources with others who have triumphed over Parkinson’s disease. Meets at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 355 W. Escondido Ave., Ojai, on the second Wednesday of each month from 10 a.m. to noon. For more information, contact Liz at 646-9187.

**PARKINSON’S —**

A support group for the family caregivers. March 17th at 5PM. Don’t miss out. Email lovewhitesparrow@gmail.com.

**THE OJAI COMMUNITY CENTER BENEFIT** — A new 10- member support group for the first time in Ojai’s history. The group meets every Thursday at 7 p.m. at City Hall, 99 Borden St., Ojai. The Cook, 339 W. El Roblar, will host two free events this month. Call 640-6405 or visit www.ojai.net/7th for more information.

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**TOUCH FOR HEALING**

A volunteer attorney is available Tuesday at 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Ojai Valley Law Center, 234 W. Ojai Ave. (Early birds are welcome. For more information, call 646-9187.

**WASHBURN VALLEY MUSEUM**

March 23 tour. Cost is $5. RGB.

**MATILJIA MEMORIAL VISITING CHURCH**

Mondays at 10:30 a.m., Ojai Valley Community Center, 113 S. Montecito Ave., Ojai. For more information, call 646-9187.
Call today!

Take advantage of the Ojai Valley News home delivery special. 15 months for $45. Offer ends March 15.

Call Michele (805) 646-1476, Ext. 210

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE
That is, if Casitas MWD’s board of directors votes to move forward with a $60 million water bond that will place liens on Ojai homes and businesses.

Why? Casitas MWD says they are taking this extraordinary action because Ojai FLOW submitted a petition signed by over 1,900 residents that want them to expand their service area by seizing Golden State Water Company (GSWC) by eminent domain. These petitions were signed two years ago – and promised that the water bond was “not to exceed $33 million” and only high-volume water users would pay for it.

But wait! In January, the plan changed like a bait and switch scheme, nearly doubling to $60 million! And it sticks every property owner with a 30-year lien, no matter how much water they use.

How can Casitas MWD act tonight on a petition that calls for an entirely different plan? NOT ONE Ojai resident signed up for this new plan. That’s worse, after reviewing all of the signatures and comparing them with public records, nearly 400 are invalid.

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Do you really know enough about this costly and risky plan?

- The new plan calls for a parcel tax (Mello-Roos) that will cost some property owners over $2,000 a year, increasing at 2% a year for at least 30 years – no matter how little water one uses! Those who conserve pay for those who waste.
- The true costs of the plan are unknown since the courts, not voters, will determine the true value of GSWC’s water system!
- The $60 million price tag will go up again because Casitas MWD has no idea what GSWC’s private property is worth. They conducted no appraisals of the water system and believe they don’t have to compensate GSWC for the value of water rights!
- Casitas makes promises about water rates, but they won’t include them in the binding tax plan. This gives them a loophole to raise rates whenever they want, in addition to the lien on your home.
- The water bond plan starts collecting (non-refundable) property taxes long before the courts decide whether the plan is legal and how much the plan costs. It’s like buying a house before knowing its price!
- Casitas MWD offers NO guarantees that they will abandon the taking when the cost exceeds $60 million or realize they can’t manage GSWC’s water system for less.
- If the court rules the plan illegal or it’s abandoned later on, Casitas MWD inserted a provision in the plan that holds them financially harmless… any property taxes collected will NOT be refunded. Liens will remain in place on your property until their debts (up to $5 million in election and acquisition related costs) are paid off.

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If Casitas MWD’s water bond poses no risk, why did they include loopholes that won’t guarantee lower rates and place all the risks on Ojai property owners if their plan fails?

Not only has the price of the water bond nearly doubled, but so have the risks!

If you are hearing about this for the first time, you’ll want to attend tonight’s public hearing before its too late. Visit www.StopOjaiWaterGrab.com for hearing information.
CPUC makes more money when they grant rate increases to utilities.

A good example — the city of Ojai has a water crisis. Mr. Richard Smith, who came to the F.L.O.W. town meeting was sympathetic at what the people of Ojai have had to pay for the bad service they have received, but had virtually nothing to say about the cost of providing sewage service. Mr. Smith said, ‘‘He couldn’t base his decision on that, because he didn’t have the authority necessary to make a decision in a meeting, because those that commission him to make decisions in that manner.’’

I think Mr. Smith had a beautiful chance to be empathetic on the coast and spent the night or nights in heaven because of the public and the people who could have saved themselves the cost of providing sewage service. So, he could give CPUC, what the people of Ojai have paid for the bad service they have received, and CPUC could take in more money.

Governor Brown, it is this way you get elected. The public does not think not. A good start would be to re-think the way you have been doing business from companies for water “like” water, from Southern Cali- fornia, and retain some of the people that you have lost.

The Golden State Water Company is rob- ing the people of Ojai because Gov- ernor Brown does not care what they say.

RYAN BLATZ, BOB DADDI, OJAI

Ojai Valley News, Wednesday, March 13, 2013 A11

More news connections were formed, new endorsements were given, and healing occurred. Many of the voters fell in love and will return again one day.

The success of the event was made possible by the countless lightworkers and busi- ness owners who generously donated their time, energy, space, and resources. In love and grate- fulness to everyone who offered donations of food and drink to make the event happen. Much to our delight, there was not a scrap of food or drink left over.

A land trust’s ability to create value in a place in a way that can’t be undone. I invite everyone to visit www.ovlc.org to give the Ojai Valley Land Sale is good for our future.

Land sale is good for our future.

CPUC makes more money when they grant rate increases to utilities.

The Ojai community will benefit in a way that can’t be undone. I invite everyone to visit www.ovlc.org to give the Ojai Valley Land

Commentary

The Ojai Valley News, Wednesday, March 13, 2013 A11

Where will water come from?

DAWN THIEDING, OJAI

I think Mr. Smith had a beautiful

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The success of the event was made possible by the countless lightworkers and businesses owners who generously donated their time, energy, space, and resources. In love and gratitude to everyone who offered donations of food and drink to make the event happen. Much to our delight, there was not a scrap of food or drink left over.

A land trust’s ability to create value in a place in a way that can’t be undone. I invite everyone to visit www.ovlc.org to give the Ojai Valley

Commentary

The Ojai Valley News, Wednesday, March 13, 2013 A11

Where will water come from?

DAWN THIEDING, OJAI

I think Mr. Smith had a beautiful

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Nordhoff baseball crew scores second win

Mike Miller
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This year the Ojai Valley Little League will have 28 teams in action this season. The OVLL will have 28 teams in action this season. After the opening ceremonies, three on the lower field and three on the upper field. President Brandon Pinkard concluded by saying, “This year we have 21 people on the board, which is unprecedented. We have an unbelievable group of board members and managers this year. It is going to be a great year.”

A group of Little Leaguers sing “Take Me Out to the Ball Game” as part of the Ojai Valley Little League’s opening ceremony last Saturday.

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The Citrus Blossom Century and Metric Century invite cycling enthusiasts and fans of the long-time rundas to take in a great spring event. 

The Citrus Blossom Century begins at Two-Rivers Park on the PCRR at 7:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 7, 2019. The tour will take ride-goers through the Los Posas Valley, Ojai, Santa Paula, and Fillmore. The day begins at Two-Rivers Park on the PCRR at 7:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 7, 2019. The tour will take ride-goers through the Los Posas Valley, Ojai, Santa Paula, and Fillmore. The tour features beautiful vistas of the Ojai Valley, the Ventura County coastline, and the first days of spring. The tour will take ride-goers through the Los Posas Valley, Ojai, Santa Paula, and Fillmore. The day begins at Two-Rivers Park on the PCRR at 7:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 7, 2019. The tour will take ride-goers through the Los Posas Valley, Ojai, Santa Paula, and Fillmore. The tour features beautiful vistas of the Ojai Valley, the Ventura County coastline, and the first days of spring. The tour will take ride-goers through the Los Posas Valley, Ojai, Santa Paula, and Fillmore. The day begins at Two-Rivers Park on the PCRR at 7:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 7, 2019. The tour will take ride-goers through the Los Posas Valley, Ojai, Santa Paula, and Fillmore. The tour features beautiful vistas of the Ojai Valley, the Ventura County coastline, and the first days of spring. The tour will take ride-goers through the Los Posas Valley, Ojai, Santa Paula, and Fillmore. The day begins at Two-Rivers Park on the PCRR at 7:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 7, 2019. The tour will take ride-goers through the Los Posas Valley, Ojai, Santa Paula, and Fillmore. The tour features beautiful vistas of the Ojai Valley, the Ventura County coastline, and the first days of spring. The tour will take ride-goers through the Los Posas Valley, Ojai, Santa Paula, and Fillmore. The day begins at Two-Rivers Park on the PCRR at 7:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 7, 2019. The tour will take ride-goers through the Los Posas Valley, Ojai, Santa Paula, and Fillmore. The tour features beautiful vistas of the Ojai Valley, the Ventura County coastline, and the first days of spring. The tour will take ride-goers through the Los Posas Valley, Ojai, Santa Paula, and Fillmore. The day begins at Two-Rivers Park on the PCRR at 7:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 7, 2019. The tour will take ride-goers through the Los Posas Valley, Ojai, Santa Paula, and Fillmore. The tour features beautiful vistas of the Ojai Valley, the Ventura County coastline, and the first days of spring. The tour will take ride-goers through the Los Posas Valley, Ojai, Santa Paula, and Fillmore. The day begins at Two-Rivers Park on the PCRR at 7:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 7, 2019. The tour will take ride-goers through the Los Posas Valley, Ojai, Santa Paula, and Fillmore. The tour features beautiful vistas of the Ojai Valley, the Ventura County coastline, and the first days of spring. The tour will take ride-goers through the Los Posas Valley, Ojai, Santa Paula, and Fillmore. The day begins at Two-Rivers Park on the PCRR at 7:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 7, 2019. The tour will take ride-goers through the Los Posas Valley, Ojai, Santa Paula, and Fillmore. The tour features beautiful vistas of the Ojai Valley, the Ventura County coastline, and the first days of spring. The tour will take ride-goers through the Los Posas Valley, Ojai, Santa Paula, and Fillmore. The day begins at Two-Rivers Park on the PCRR at 7:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 7, 2019. The tour will take ride-goers through the Los Posas Valley, Ojai, Santa Paula, and Fillmore. The tour features beautiful vistas of the Ojai Valley, the Ventura County coastline, and the first days of spring. The tour will take ride-goers through the Los Posas Valley, Ojai, Santa Paula, and Fillmore. The day begins at Two-Rivers Park on the PCRR at 7:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 7, 2019. The tour will take ride-goers through the Los Posas Valley, Ojai, Santa Paula, and Fillmore. The tour features beautiful vistas of the Ojai Valley, the Ventura County coastline, and the first days of spring.
Ojai author Ayn Cates Sullivan has released “Sparkle and the Gift,” the first children’s book in her upcoming series of inspirational parables. “Sparkle and the Gift” is a modern fable for children of all ages. It was just added to the Table of Honor at the London Book Festival and dubbed an “illumination.” The “Sparkle” series is designed to refresh the soul and in turn is part of UCSB Arts & Lectures’ “A Catered Affair” slated for April 21 at 3 p.m. at the Scherr Forum Theatre. Directed by Alan Bailey and coordinated by Jill Scherr, this classic family favorite, with musical direction by Brent Crayon and choreography by Marjorie Johnson, concludes June 16 in the Janet & Ray Scherr Forum Theatre with “The Secret Garden.” Single tickets are $40 with group discounts available. Tickets are available from Ticketmaster by calling 800-745-3000, visiting www.ticketmaster.com or at the Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza Box Office at 2140 Thousand Oaks Blvd. For information, visit www.civicartsplaza.com or call 409-ARTS (2787).

‘A Catered Affair’ slated for April 21 at 3 p.m. at the Scherr Forum Theatre.

Civic center gets beastly

Adventurism. Romance. Ancient curses. This award-winning musical has it all: OCBF Arts & Lectures presents American Family Theatre’s “Beauty and the Beast” for two on March 16 at OCBF Campfield Hall.

Be transported to a magical time long, long ago, as American Family Theatre returns with the classic family favorite, Beauty and the Beast. It is a new show, including “Imagining Love” and “One Small Step,” saw featuring Cornelia Belle Crow and Beauty journeys from her home in the Beast’s castle, where she tries to save the prince. The power of love can overcome even the beastliest of adversities. Don’t miss the musical theater company’s “spirit in interpretation,” written by Howard duCray.

The “Sparkle” series is part of OCBF Arts & Lectures’ Family Fun Series—high-octane entertainment to delight and pizzazz the whole family.

The Thousand Oaks Playhouse has received rave reviews. One humorous reader likened her writing to “Carlos Castaneda’s tale side of us.

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Earth Day Festival at
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Festival will be an-
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CEC will host 2013 Earth Day Festival
The Community Environ-
mental Council (CEC) will host its 2013 Earth Day Festival at Libbey Bowl on April 20 and 21 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. This year’s Earth Day Festival will promote awareness of various aspects of environmental action and preservation. The festival aims to educate the public on how their actions can contribute to the health of the environment and the development of a sustainable planet.

The festival will feature a variety of workshops, panel discussions, and hands-on activities designed to increase awareness and promote positive actions towards a more sustainable future. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about environmental issues, participate in interactive activities, and meet experts and organizations dedicated to environmental protection.

On March 17, the Ojai Valley News will host an exclusive one-time-only screening of the film “Change Begins Within,” directed by David Lynch and produced in collaboration with The David Lynch Foundation and Starbucks. The film explores the profound effects of meditation on mental health and offers insights into the transformative power of mindfulness.

On April 1, the Ojai Art Center will host a benefit concert featuring special guests Bruce Fine and Cathy Ladman. This event will not only support important environmental initiatives but also provide a platform for artistic expression and community engagement.

The festival will conclude on April 21 with a community picnic, where attendees can enjoy food, music, and games while discussing and celebrating the progress made towards a greener future.

In addition to the main events, the festival will also feature a variety of educational workshops on topics such as climate change, sustainability, and renewable energy. These workshops will be led by experts and organizations dedicated to environmental protection.

On May 3, the Ojai Valley News will feature the voices of students attending the 14th annual Ojai Storytelling Festival. This annual event is a celebration of the power of storytelling to inspire, educate, and entertain. The festival will feature community-funded, student-led performances that aim to engage and inspire.

On October 2, the Ojai Art Center will host a benefit concert featuring special guests Bruce Fine and Cathy Ladman. This event will not only support important environmental initiatives but also provide a platform for artistic expression and community engagement.

On December 1, the Ojai Art Center will host a benefit concert featuring special guests Bruce Fine and Cathy Ladman. This event will not only support important environmental initiatives but also provide a platform for artistic expression and community engagement.

The festival will conclude on December 31 with a community picnic, where attendees can enjoy food, music, and games while discussing and celebrating the progress made towards a greener future.

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On December 1, the Ojai Art Center will host a benefit concert featuring special guests Bruce Fine and Cathy Ladman. This event will not only support important environmental initiatives but also provide a platform for artistic expression and community engagement.

The festival will conclude on December 31 with a community picnic, where attendees can enjoy food, music, and games while discussing and celebrating the progress made towards a greener future.
NHS breathes new life into a classic story

Linda Harmon
contributor

All hands on deck, as Nordhoff performs “South Pacific” March 14-17, 17, dishing up a saucy version of the nostalgic musical by Rodgers & Hammerstein. From the early straining of victims to its final notes, the orchestra and the stellar cast never falter in the tale of boy meets girl. Voices and emotions circle, dip and soar as the Nordhoff cast gives new life to the story set against the backdrop of World War II. Exceptionally strong and nuanced portrayals are delivered by Audrey Pennington and Ryan Beaghler in Nordhoff’s production of “South Pacific.”

Their first act rendition of “Some Enchanted Evening” will win over the most jaded audience member’s heart. Their voices couldn’t be more appealing and dito for those of their strong supporting cast, which includes another star-supporting cast, which are at once mercenary scheming and meddling with the unfolding danger of war and prejudice more bearable for all the characters and the audience. He has the perfect voice and inflections for his character, and practical, the result of living with war under foreign rule. Hats off for his delivery of the sly “Bali Ha’i” and the manipulatively upbeat “Happy Talk.” And not to be missed is Tiarnan Nelson as serv-ant Jonathan Brackley. His cynical but likable comedic portrayal gives Bloody Mary a run for her money, making a profit out of poor circum-stances. His timing flows seamlessly throughout and makes the unfolding danger of war and prejudice more bearable for all the characters and the audience. First string Seabees Rowan Gaddis as Commander Harbison, Derek Kaiser as Lt. Buzz Adams, Spencer Potkas as Henry, Tal Bal-ayam as Stowpilot, and Emilis Urba as the Professor round out the principle supporting cast.

The entire 39-member cast, masterfully directed by Jim Halverson, shines under the expert direction of Bill Wagner, and vocal director Jaya Hersh. Along with produc-er Jim Halverson, they make “South Pacific” runs March 14,15 and 16 at 7 p.m., with a matinee March 17 at 2 p.m., at Matilija Auditorium.

Tickets can be purchased at the door, but because shows often sell out, reservations are strongly recommended. Visit www.nhsmusic.com or call 640-4343.

The talented Nordhoff ensemble included: Vi-liam Aragon as Stewpot, and Joey Monarres, Angelica Martel, Laurin Molina, Taylor Madden, Audrey Karnes, Hannah Johnsen, Beau Jones, Chaney Holland, McKay Son-Moir, Isabel Stub, Jerome, who charmingly supplied Nellie in “Honey Bun.”

Then there’s the dead-on performance of Daniel Cochlan as Cap-tain Brackley. Cochlan handles the fairly straight forward commanding-of-ficer’s role with believable matura-ty and humanity. First string Seabees Rowan Gaddis as Commander Harbison, Derek Kaiser as Lt. Buzz Adams, Spencer Potkas as Henry, Tal Bal-ayam as Stowpilot, and Emilis Urba as the Professor round out the principle supporting cast.

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Audrey Pennington and Ryan Beaghler play lovers in Nordhoff’s production of “South Pacific.”