City puts hold on wireless communication projects

Not happy with the denial of a cell tower license, Casitas Municipal Water District (CMWD), Golden State Water Company (GSWC) filed a lawsuit March 26 in Humboldt County Superior Court to overturn the decision. District officials in March 2013, GSWC sought to have a parcel in Ojai that the department is assembling and the absence of clear direction from the legislature that the county does look forward to find the solution to this complex issue … social and economic challenges. At the Feb. 24 hearing, attorney Ryan Blatz said Ventura County has a spray program aimed at reducing the use of toxic alternatives and are working to eliminate the use of RoundUp®. "Although we don't want to say it was due to rain. The online posting on May 5.”

"We need to carefully craft a new ordinance for telecommunication facilities … we need to be in a position where we’re absolutely convinced that there’s enough to warn people as they’re going down the roads," said Pagaling. "The Ojai Valley Trail is going to spray in certain areas across the county is going to spray in the watershed, along the bike path and on the sides of the roads," said Pagaling. "It’s important that we all be aware of the spraying. "I respond to each email about 10 emails from residents individually. "I would have never argued that the turnout didn’t authorize the use of Mello-Roos tax on their parcels for this purpose. "To achieve its 123rd Year, No. 58  Friday, April 11, 2014  Newsracks, 75¢, retail stores, 70¢ plus tax  Yearly subscription, $52

South County’s herbicide spraying gets some people’s go-

Sixth grade may be added to Matilija

Sixth-graders may be added to Matilija

Sixth grade to Matilija Junior

The committee will be looking at many, many sections of the ordinance, and social issues, and support from other area schools. The committee will be looking at many, many more public meetings will be scheduled in the coming months. The committee will be looking at many, many sections of the ordinance, and social issues, and support from other area schools.

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Meek receives award for volunteer service

Awards (PSA).

Presidential Service

...children, will be hand-

Month, and School on

unteer Appreciation

Hospital to host tobacco cessation classes

cessation classes at Ojai Valley

5:30 to 7 p.m. once a

tion classes at Ojai Val-

Quits” tobacco cessa-

age cravings, minimize

on how to recognize

apy products and advice

of breath.

d of cancer, lowering the

is the third

ect for more than

its PSA for more than

on Wheels (left), presents Ojai’s Catherine

Catherine Meek, with a

vest Service to the organiza-

...COMPLIMENTARY MINI FACIAL

408 Bryant Circle, 

Wednesday and Friday, at

ine replacement ther-

y products and advice on how to recognize

m a gold PSA for more than

meek will be re-

lives in Ojai with her

A2 Ojai Valley News  Friday, April 11, 2014

SCHOOL ON WHEELS AWARD

Catherine Meek was awarded a gold Presidential Service Award (PSA) for more than 20 years of volunteer service to the organization. This is the third time Meek will be re-

a 5-year-old woman

was arrested in Libbey Park on April 5 on suspi-

tion of being under the influence of a con-

trolled substance, and possessing drug para-

phernalia, metham-

phetamine and more

than 28.5 grams of

influence of a con-

sciousness.

Criminal threars were reported in the 1700 block of 

an arrest.

A 50-year-old man was arrested on East Ojai Avenue April 7 on a warrant for failing to appear. Bail was set at $5,000.

A 20-year-old man was arrested on Signal Vista Road April 7 on a warrant for failing to appear. Bail was set at $45,000.

A 27-year-old man was arrested on Padre Avenue April 6 on suspicion of public intoxication. Bail was set at $2,500.

A 32-year-old woman was arrested on Signal Vista Road April 3 on suspicion of being under the influence of a controlled substance. Bail was set at $5,000.

A 55-year-old woman was arrested on McNeill Road April 3 on a warrant for failing to ap-

n Jotwin, board president for School on Wheels (left), presents Ojai’s Catherine Meek with her award for 500 hours of volunteer service.

School on Wheels kicks off its 18th year by presenting its own executive director, Catherine Meek, with a gold PSA for more than 20 years of volunteer service to the organization. This is the third time Meek will be receiving the award. Meek lives in Ojai with her husband, Al erle.

Two volunteer en-

ters from Ventura County will be receiving this award. Visit www.schoolonwheels.com for more information about the group's services and volunteer-

A 46-year-old woman

was arrested on North Ventura Avenue April 8 for public intoxication. Bail was set at $2,000.
there's the space to do it," Bangser said. Another issue most middle schools in Ventura County — and across the country — have moved to a six-seven-eighth model this year. "It's the only place it makes sense," Matilija principal Bill Murray said. "That doesn't mean that’s the best thing that can be done." Bangser agreed. Thus far, Bangser and his colleagues have had a few inquiries from parents but no real objections. Everyone looking more for infor-

mation concerns about the potential change, both said. But there have been mixed responses on so-
cial media, including on the Ojai Community Net-
work Facebook page, where some wonder that the current model doesn't make en-
ough sense to handle the 'big kids' and those that are younger. Carolyn Vondriska, mother of three boys — a fifth-grader, a seventh-grader and a ninth-grader, a fifth-

grades, eighth-graders; those in the seventh-
grade experience. "It's an opportunity to

the students are getting, and one-half come in

the eight model for junior high, one-
half comes in the sixth-
grade experience.

"There's a lot of organization," Bangser said. "There's an appeal and as such, there is little on

will appeal and as such, there is little on

will appeal and as such, there is little on

will appeal and as such, there is little on
**Call 646-1464.**

should bring chairs and

directed by Tracey

the outdoor amphitheater,

other snacks. For more in-

510 Park Road. Admission

Recreation Department,

Marlon Brando and di-

front” (1954), starring

the “Winter Youth Film Se-

Ojai Valley Youth

401 E. Ojai Ave. No cover

9:30 p.m. at Il Giardino,

form Fridays from 6:30 to

www.ojaiwordfest.com or

shops. For more details

through Mondays at vari-

fourth annual Ojai Word

FLORA GARDENS
-

9am - 4pm

A Rose

208 E. Ojai Ave., 640-1255.

JOIN US AT

DANIEL STEWART KIR-

OLD-TIME FIDDLERS
-

A Rose

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208 E. Ojai Ave., 640-1255.
**THE WAR OF SUCCES-**

**HUMAN-CAUSED HARMONY**

**WALT WHITMAN RE-**

**LIVINGTON HOSPICE**

**HEALTHY MOUTH HEALTHY BODY**

**FULL MOON COMMUNITY**

**URINETOWN** —

**THE OJAI INDEPENDENCE DAY COMMITTEE**

**PRIDE TO PRAYER**

**THE OJAI CONCEPT OF FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE**

**ONE CHURCH** GOOD NEWS...
Each year the Ojai Pixie Growers Association donates Pixies to local schoolchildren. Pixies can be found in local businesses throughout the valley this month.
First Church of Christ, Scientist

Information about the scheduled events for the week of April 14:

- Good Friday: The Easter Vigil will be held at 7 p.m. The public is welcome.
- Saturday, April 18: Stations of the Cross at 9 a.m. The second service at 10 a.m.
- Sunday, April 19: The second service at 10 a.m. The second service at 10 a.m. The second service at 10 a.m.

St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church

Information about the scheduled events for the week of April 14:

- Good Friday: The Easter Vigil will be held at 7 p.m. The public is welcome.
- Saturday, April 18: Stations of the Cross at 9 a.m. The second service at 10 a.m.
- Sunday, April 19: The second service at 10 a.m. The second service at 10 a.m. The second service at 10 a.m.

Holy Cross Church

Information about the scheduled events for the week of April 14:

- Good Friday: The Easter Vigil will be held at 7 p.m. The public is welcome.
- Saturday, April 18: Stations of the Cross at 9 a.m. The second service at 10 a.m.
- Sunday, April 19: The second service at 10 a.m. The second service at 10 a.m. The second service at 10 a.m.
Daylight saving time jumps us at one of the most crucial times of the year that cannot wait to get out and play. That's why I like to end with both extra time in the morning and the opportunity to re-establish determination and energy.

It's spring, time to push yourself ahead.

Doctors talk about the importance of a yearly physical exam that cannot wait to get out and play. That's why I like to end with both extra time in the morning and the opportunity to re-establish determination and energy.

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Classified

Perry’s Picks

with a team-high 15 RBIs and Daniels has made an

School from Oak Park.

transferred to the Ojai Valley

University of San Francisco

and has been in touch with

attention from college scouts

junior is also garnering some

batting .476 with nine runs

Connor Floyd. He is currently

Under Armour All-American

has also been a jack rabbit on

impressive .522. Takamatsu

currently batting an

team’s leadoff hitter and is

has been serving as the

local group of players are

Local baseball fans can expect

as keys to their early success.

Hillcrest Christian, Orcutt

defeated Santa Clara,

happy with our play.”

Overall though, I have been

play of his troops this spring.

He said, “We are off to a good

play for our players this spring.

Ojai Valley School baseball crew has promising future

Ojai Valley has also

Sundowners meeting slated for Tuesday

Three finish first in Front Nine mini-tournament

Laura Reynolds

The Front Nine

women’s golf group started the spring season at Soule Park with a mini-tournament theme of fewest putts. Three golfers tied for the win, each with a low of 16 pars. The winners included Kris Dutter, Cookie Brewer, and Carla Cable. “I always like to start a session

with this theme,” said founder Mitnee Duque. “Because new players can see how they play in this group and we can then establish a working handicap. In other categories, Jenny Davis smashed her drive 215 yards on the 18th hole while Joan Logan hit her drive 160 yards to win the women’s handicap group starting April 29. Players unable to attend the annual meeting should call Ryan Blake for more information on this year’s season at 798-2348.

A team from the Ojai Lightning Youth Basketball Program poses after a 2013 tournament. The Lightning is recruiting players again this season.

Youth basketball team recruiting new players

The Ojai Lightning Youth Basketball Program has both boys and girls from third grade to high school participate in their season in an effort to provide for-profit that helps fund the program. We are not only our basketball skills but

also their knowledge of the game. The program also enforces the concept of family so much that many current school high school players keep coming back to participate in their future. For more, visit www.ojailightning.org or call head coach Lonnie Stanford at 754-0091.

Lonnie Stanford at 754-

4008. Over the years, he has hit four doubles.

“Lonnie has been a very nice

addition to the team. He has

provided protection in the

battling lineup for Connie, so

we are very happy to have

him hit. Our offensive production has been a result: Lonnie, a very good all-around player for us,” said Floyd.

Ojai Valley has also been involved in production from their seniors as well as from Lock Mcintosh (300); and Cameron Carbohydrate, who has been all-solid at the plate when called upon.

On the mound, Daniels has been the go-to pitcher for the Spuds this season. The junior had pitched 25 innings and is 2-1 with a 2.52 earned run average.

If there is an area the Spuds will need to shore up moving forward, it is their defense. So far this year, they have committed 25 errors, which have led to unaired runs. “We have been able to make up for our errors with solid pitching and offense, but we will need to cut down on those mistakes. I believe we can compete with any team; we will face this season if we can limit mistakes when we have the opportunity,” added Floyd.

Another area where the Spuds are excelling this season has been on the base paths. They look more like a track and field team than a baseball team at times. Through seven games, they have swiped 44 bases. “We like to put pressure on defenses, so we’ll run when we can,” said Floyd.

This year, the Condor League will be very competitive, so OVS will have plenty of company in the race for the league title. It is noted that Thacher, Dunn, and Ojai are the other programs this year.

Internally for baseball fans, the Spuds will be out of action until they return from spring break later this month. When they do return, the Condor League will feature nine teams and the Ojai Lightning will be one of them. OVS currently has a three-game winning streak and are 5-2 overall and 0-1 in Condor League play.

Head coach Craig Floyd has been proud of the play of his troops this spring. “We got off to a good start and could easily be 6-1 rather than 2-0. We surely much away the game against Valley Christian because of some errors. Overall though, I have been

Ojai Valley School junior Connor Floyd dives into third base after hitting a triple earlier this year. Floyd and the Spuds are currently 5-2 on the season as they head into their spring break.

Highlighting prep, rec and area sports

Maritza Memorial contest scheduled for May 31

25th annual George

Maritza Memorial

Tournament is set for May 31. The Condor League Memorial serves as the fundraiser for the Ojai Valley High School golf program. NHS head coach and event organizer Dick Sebek recently announced that the field will be limited to 80 players, so interested participants should plan accordingly. The event will be held at the Soule Park Golf Course and will start with a shotgun start at noon. The entry fee is $80 and will include a golf cart. Sebek also noted that awards will be given for best gross, low gross, low net, ladies, closest to the pin, longest drive, and putting contest.

For more information or to register for the event, contact Sebek by email at ksebek@dslextreme.com or call 664-7693.

SunDowners meeting slated for Tuesday

Sundowners meeting slated for Tuesday afternoon at the Soule Park Golf Course, 3101 S. Ojai Avenue. The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. with the annual dinner at 7 p.m. President Carla Cable will present the annual report, followed by speaker Pat Duff. New members are always welcome. For more information, contact President Carla Cable at 754-8646 or email at carla@lynneonline.com.

Cookies: With your consent we use cookies in order to provide the best possible service, to deliver targeted advertising, to offer social media services and to analyze our traffic. For more information about cookies please read our privacy policy. You have the right to withdraw your consent at any time. Accept Privacy Policy

The Ojai Lightning Youth Basketball Program had their annual mini-tournament for third grade and above this past weekend. Entry level golfers play their nine holes every Tuesday at the Soule Park Golf Course. Please contact Michael Milker or Carla Cable for more information. Mike Miller

mike@ojailightningnews.com

As the Ojai Valley School heads into its spring season, they have to be pleased with where their baseball team stands after seven games. The Spuds are currently 5-2 overall and 0-1 in Condor League play.

Mike Miller

mike@ojalightningnews.com

The Ojai Lightning Youth Basketball Program has both boys and girls from third grade to high school participate in their season in an effort to provide for-profit that helps fund the program. We are not only our basketball skills but also their knowledge of the game. The program also enforces the concept of family so much that many current school high school players keep coming back to participate in their future. For more, visit www.ojailightning.org or call head coach Lonnie Stanford at 754-0091.
**FREE ESTIMATES!**

Below is a page from the Ojai Valley News, dated April 11, 2014, featuring classified ads and announcements. The page includes ads for various personal and business services, such as personal care providers, home office assistants, and construction services. The page also has an announcement about the importance of not making investments based on advertisements, cautioning readers to thoroughly investigate services and products advertised in this publication.

---

**Help Wanted**

**EXPERIENCED**

**PT**

**BACKGROUND CLEAR**

**CANDIDATE WILL PROVIDE**

**Criminal Record**

**& Staff. Training will be provided. Criminal Background**

**Clearance**

**MUST BE PROVIDED.**

**Candidates must be**

**Assistance to our seniors.**

**CANDIDATE WILL PROVIDE**

**EVENINGS & WEEKENDS.**

**APPLICANTS MUST BE AVAILABLE TO WORK**

**MUST BE AVAILABLE TO WORK**

**MUST BE AVAILABLE TO WORK**

**MUST BE AVAILABLE TO WORK**

---

**Help Us Grow!**

**Furnish Ojai’s oldest and finest Heirloom Seed Organization with a long-term lease of residence or ranch.**

**DETAILS:**

http://lease.ojaidigital.net

**OJAI VALLEY NEWS**

**BUSINESS AND SERVICE DIRECTORY**

---

**Acton Electrical Service**

**Serving the Ojai Valley • Free Estimates**

**Licensed • Bonded • Insured**

**Second Unit Compliance • Residential Commercial • Sales & Installations**

**30 Years Experience**

**805-764-2850**

---

**Best Ever Firewood**

**(805) 798-4940**

**805-640-0917**

**24 Hour Service**

**Free Estimates**

**35 Years Experience**

**805-746-8132**

**LUCY WALKER GRACE**

---

**Reyes Handyman Services**

**798-5797**

**MANUAL REYES**

**15 years experience**

---

**Greg Rents**

**Propane Special $3.20 per Gallon**

**(while supplies last)**

**340 N. Ventura Ave. Oak View**

**gregrents@att.net**

---

**Pet Care**

**From Poodles to Percherons**

**Dog Walking & Kennel**

**Dog sitting & a lot more**

**LUCY WALKER GRACE**

**805.746.5033**

**Available on request**

---

**Classifieds@ojivalleynews.com**

**Deadline for placing your ad**

**For Friday’s paper, Wednesday before Noon.**

---

**DISCLAIMER**

Any advertisement with respect to the sale or rental of a dwelling, or with respect to an employment opportunity that indicates ANY PREJUDICES, discrimination based on race, color, religion, creed, sex, national origin or ancestry, marital status, number of tenants, status with respect to public assistance, disability, age and sexual orientation, or sexual preference is unacceptable. Advertisements For Roommates: Advertisements for roommates may specify gender, but only in two cases: IF the accommodation is for two or more people who are related by blood or marriage, or IF the accommodation is a girl’s dormitory.

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**Notice to advertisers**

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before the expiration. The
or registered owner. A new
Section 17920, a fictitious
with subdivision (a) of
Thrift Store
DOING BUSINESS AS:
(1st Fictitious Business
Street Address of
274 Franklin Lane, Ventura,
Registrant
Mark A. Lunn
March 28, 2014
Ovm03-13-2014
File Number 20140401-
NAME STATEMENT
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
MARK A. LUNN
106 Montgomery St.   Ojai 93023
Amount of unpaid balance
$1,000.00
NOTICE – In accordance
with the County Clerk of
Code).
false is guilty of a
demand punishable by
one thousand dollars ($1,000).)
violation of the rights of
in this state of a
Use in this state of a

Please help keep Ojai
don't rain too much
on the day of your
Take down your rights
when your sales is over.
LEGALS @ OJAIVALLEYNEWS.COM
In celebration of sustainable living, global awareness, and the joy of nature, Food For Thought, Oak Grove School, Ojai Valley Green Coalition, Ojai Valley Land Conservancy, and Once Upon a Watershed are teaming up again to host this once-a-year community event. Ojai’s official Earth Day celebration, “Earth Play 2014—Wishes for Our Watershed” will be held April 19 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Oak Grove School, 220 W. Lomita Ave.

The day will include local school involvement, environmental exhibits, arts and outdoor activities for all ages, live entertainment, useful foods and more. Everything takes place on the 130-acre campus, and admission is free.

Visitors will also have ample opportunities to find ways to live greener and appreciate the natural wonders we all share. “Earth Play 2014” will be filled with color and creativity. Exhibitors will share their earth-friendly products and services, provide hands-on activities, and present informational and interactive displays.

Scheduled to perform are Lissie, Dave Palmer and Friends, Kalinka, Shylah Sunshine, stories by Alan Salazar, student bands from throughout the valley, and much more. Plus the new CD, “Voices from the Valley,” will be released.

The Ojai Trolley will offer free rides to the event all day. See www.ojaitrolley.com for their schedule.

For more information visit www.earthdayojaivalley.org, or call 546-8236, Ext. 151. Proceeding the Earth Day event there will be a family-friendly benefit evening of folk music and contra dancing, Friday, April 18, from 7 to 10 p.m. at Earthtrine Farm (aka Dautch Family Farm), 1091 Cucamonga Road, in Ojai. Suggested donation is $10, kids under 12 admitted free. All concert proceeds are being donated to Ojai’s Earth Day Event. The evening’s music will be presented by The Onlies, one of Seattle’s top folk ensembles and contra-dance bands.

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OYES is seeking support to raise funds

The Ojai Youth Entertainers (OYES) is seeking much-needed community support as they kick off their 2014 Spring Fund Raising Effort: “20K in 20 Days!” Their mission is to educate and entertain children and families in the Ojai Valley through the experience of quality theater, dance and music.

“OYES was inspired by the need to raise funds,” said Krista Kim, artistic director, “but the work we do plays a critical role for the entire Ojai community. Twenty thousand dollars in 20 days is a challenging goal.” Kim noted, and it’s actually about half of the funding the organization needs annually to keep the doors open and the staff paid. “If there’s any small community in America that can pull together and help us meet this goal, it’s Ojai.”

Three times each year, OYES produces musical theater programs for kids. Past productions include “Beauty and the Beast,” “Aladdin,” “Little Mermaid,” and “Annie.” Currently they are in rehearsal for “Mulan Jr.,” but they also offer technical theater classes, upcoming summer camps, youth improvisation workshops, and a few community choir classes.

OYES also offers programs for adults, including the Ojai Valley Improv Group that meets twice each week and performs on the first Saturday of every month. In addition, the senior choir, Old School, meets weekly at OYV. “Our tuitions and ticket sales only cover about half of our budgetary needs,” Kim explained. “We’re required to find that additional support from time to time, and right now we’re faced with a gap that must be filled.”

OYES will incorporate phone calls, email, social media to reach as many people as possible in the Ojai Valley during this critical fund drive. OYES is a 501(c)3, non-profit. Contributions and donations are tax deductible to the extent of the IRS tax code. Those wishing to help OYES in their goal for “20K in 20 Days” should visit www.ojaiyes.org or call the office at 646-4390.

OYV is also seeking support to educate and entertain children and families for “20K in 20 Days!” Their mission is to develop an understanding to the extent of the IRS tax code. Those wishing to help OYES in their goal for “20K in 20 Days” should visit www.ojaiyes.org or call the office at 646-4390.

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WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPING ORDINANCE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Ojai City Council will hold a public hearing in consideration of a Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance, which would revise various provisions of the Ojai Municipal Code implementing the Water Conservation in Landscaping Act of 2006, AB 1881 enacting standards to conserve water and reduce the amount of water used with State code. As part of the matter, the Ojai City Council shall consider a notice of exemption from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15150(1)(a) of the CEQA Guidelines as the proposed ordinance would not have the potential to cause a significant effect on the environment.

The public hearing will take place on Tuesday, April 22, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Ojai City Hall, 5 S. California Avenue. Any interested persons may appear before the City Council and present their views as an advocate or opponent of this Ordinance. The City Council will be the decision making body for this Ordinance.

Further information about this matter is available from the Community Development Department at 401 South Ventura Street, Ojai, California. Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or by calling (805) 646-5581. Any one who seeks to challenge the decision of the City Council in court with respect to this public hearing item may be limited to raising only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice or written comments delivered to the City Clerk at or prior to the public hearing.

Subscribe online at ojaivalleynews.com

Ojai Valley News • Friday, April 11, 2014 B5

Scouts visit radio station

Recently, four Boy Scouts from Troop 304 visited Gold Coast Broadcasting in Ventura, where they spent time with disc jockey Kelli McKay recording a public service announcement for the troop’s 14th annual pancake breakfast. For the last three years, various scouts from the troop have had the opportunity to visit with McKay, learn a little about the radio industry, and record the radio ad to help generate interest and support for their biggest fundraiser of the year.

“Advertising on the radio has added a new dimension to the marketing we do for this annual event, and each year we have more people come to our pancake breakfast — who have heard the ad,” says Scoutmaster Jerry Thurlston. “The boys now have a fun experience being in the studio and developing an understanding of the recording process. They get a glimpse into Kelli’s logistical ability to cut up, mix this with that, while ultimately putting it all together into a seamless radio ad.”

This year’s pancake breakfast will be held on Saturday, April 26, from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at Chaparral Boulevard, 444 E. Ojai Ave. Tickets are available at the door for the event. If you want to purchase tickets in advance, contact Thurlston at 419-0504, or stop by the weekly troop meetings held on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. at Ojai United Methodist Church, 120 Church Road. Ojai Boy Scout Troop 304 is sponsored by the Lions Club of Ojai.

The Ventura County Fire Department recently hosted a retirement party for several local veteran firefighters. Friends, family and fellow firefighters gathered at Lake Casitas March 28 for a barbecue to honor Engineer Greg Yates, Engineer Cindy Gordon (from left), Engineer Bert Van Auker, Capt. Bob Towers, Battalion Chief Glenn Garcia and Engineer Greg Yates.

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Dry Lakes Ridge offers jaw-dropping beauty

The long-abandoned, five-mile trail along Dry Lakes Ridge is recommended for experienced hikers only, since it involves a murdously steep climb and a fair amount of route-finding. An old firebreak leads to a fascinating botanical area of jaw-dropping beauty. The hike is best done with someone who’s been there before and knows the way.

The trek begins along the dirt shoulder on the west side of Highway 33, between the Rose Valley turnoff and the former Beaver Campground. There is no official trail anymore, just an unsigned firebreak that steeply ascends the mountain. You can see the firebreak from the highway as it approaches a divide, just before descending into the Sespe, about 16 miles north of Ojai.

The firebreak gains over 1,000 feet in elevation the first mile, even steeper than the torturous Chief Peak Road in Rose Valley. After the initial climb, the route settles down into path finding through the low chaparral. Navigation along this stretch isn’t too difficult, but sometimes requires a little trial-and-error. Usually, the boot prints of previous trekkers will be your best clue to the easiest route. Just over a mile into the hike, you reach a summit and get your first views of dry lake number one. The route drops into a growth of thicker brush, and this is where the going gets a little tricky. As of this writing, some colored tape attached to branches will help you stay on course.

At the bottom of the hill, a road cut to the left of the first lake seems like the obvious path, but it soon dead-ends in the brush. Instead, bear to the right and follow a very faint double-track, still visible in the first few sage-covered basins. The series of dry ‘lakes’ along the ridge are actually shallow depressions set in porous sandstone. Each one offers a unique combination of plant life—grasses, sage, humps and piles. But you will not find any water in the area, even in the lakes.

One of the best things about the hike to Dry Lakes Ridge is showing off this unusual 400-plus-acre botanical area to other outdoor enthusiasts. My friend, Ojai mountaineer Bardley Smith, said recently he’d never explored the ridge, so one Sunday morning he drove, and I played navigator.

“Dude, (chuckle),” he said several times. “Amazing.” Two must-reads on Dry Lakes Ridge are Craig R. Carey’s “Hiking & Backpacking Santa Barbara & Ventura” (for a more detailed description of the route), along with the works of biologist and botanist David Magney, who has done exhaustive research on the region.