A long-unused sign tips precariously in the vacant lot in Meiners Oaks that is the proposed site of a 64-unit assisted-living project.

Kimberly Rivers Ojai Valley News correspondent

Keywords: Meiners Oaks, Assisted living, El Roblar Drive

The Casitas Municipal Water District (CMWD) has made an offer to buy the Ojai District of the Golden State Water Company (GSWC) for the sum of $23,700,000. The purchase offer was made in a Feb. 26 letter to the attorney representing GSWC, George M. Soneff, of the Los Angeles-based firm of Manatt, Phelps & Phillips LLP.

The letter, prepared by CMWD’s special counsel Jefrey Odoritan, expressed the water provider’s wish to acquire the tangible and intangible property and property rights and assets of GSWC’s Ojai operation. The amount does not include the discounted value of GSWC’s account balance for charges figured under the Water Rate Adjustment Mechanism (WRAM), and it does not yet deduce the amount of any prepaid fees, charges and refundable deposits paid by property owners.

“They’re not going to accept the offer, more than likely,” CMWD Board Member Russ Baggerly said Tuesday. “You’re familiar with the term ‘digging in your heels’. They going to do anything they can at this point.”

If CMWD goes to court to press for eminent domain, Baggerly said, GSWC goes to court as a defendant.

“I can’t say if they’ll take it or not,” CMWD Board Member Pete Kaiser said Tuesday. But GSWC will have to respond to the offer, Kaiser added, and whether it does so in a timely manner remains to be seen.

“Considering what they (GSWC) have done in Ojai, they need to wake up and realize — especially based on the condition of the infrastructure that any offer would be a good offer for them,” Kaiser added.

That infrastructure is poor, he said, with the city experiencing years of leaks and water main breaks that speak for the general condition of the system. "Especially during a time of drought,” Kaiser said.

### No violation for Haney FCCP says

Kimberly Rivers Ojai Valley News correspondent

Keywords: Randy Haney, Michael Shapiro, FCCP

The Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) has said a complaint alleging Ojai Councilman Randy Haney has a conflict of interest because he had not recused himself from discussions relating to leaf blowers was without merit and no further investigation will be done.

“After review, it appears there is insufficient evidence of a violation of this prohibition. We will not pursue the matter further,” said Galena West, chief of the Enforcement Division with the FPPC, in a letter sent Tuesday to Ojai Valley resident Michael Shapiro.

Shapiro, and two Ojai residents, filed a complaint Feb. 12 with the FPPC against Haney alleging a conflict of interest because he had not recused himself from council discussions about a potential leaf blower ban. The complaint said Haney is biased because he was affiliated with the California Landscape Contractors Association (CLCA), which has taken a position against leaf blower bans across the state. Haney owns and operates a landscape design business.

Shapiro and others are pushing for a ban due to health concerns.

“We knew it was a long shot. The litmus test of the FCCP has to do with financial interest and we were not able to show that,” Shapiro said.

### City decides on Libbey Bowl uses

Bill Warner bwanner@ojaivalleynews.com

Keywords: Libbey Bowl, committees

The prospect of a more vibrant Libbey Bowl gained momentum Feb. 23 when the Ojai City Council approved the recommendations of an expanded ad hoc committee formed to set a course for the facility in the years ahead. In particular, the likelihood of commercial uses is back on the agenda.

The resolution, which the City Council passed unanimously, also called for Councilman Randy Haney to form a standing committee for the purpose of monitoring the Libbey Bowl’s progress. Comprising representatives from the City Council, the Arts Commission and the Parks and Recreation Commission, along with two members from the public, the committee would also be charged with generating fundraising ideas.

The 11-member committee began meeting in November as part of the state-mandated process required when a public school district wants to explore closing, selling or leasing real estate. The committee has been reviewing data regarding OUSD elementary schools sites.

The Ojai Unified School District (OUSD) 7-11 Committee members have been asked to come to Thursday’s meeting ready to share their views on whether one or more elementary schools should be closed and what they see might be other uses for district properties.

The 11-member committee began meeting in November as part of the state-mandated process required when a public school district wants to explore closing, selling or leasing real estate. The committee has been reviewing data regarding OUSD elementary schools sites.

The committee is preparing to make views, a public hearing will be scheduled. Following that, the committee could revise its recommendation or present it to the board as is.

“First for the time since the committee began, speakers sharing their views about why a particular school, in this case Summit Elementary, should not be closed,” Kaiser said.

“Chief Peak 4-H has been meeting at Summit for over 75 years,” said 18-year-old Hannah Hassien. She said she started with Chief Peak when she was 9 and is still actively involved. “I am the Ventura County ambassador for 4-H. Activities are limited (for kids) in Upper Ojai. 4-H is an agricultural-based (program) and teaches ethics, responsibility, leadership and community involvement. There is no other community program.”

Rod Thompson spoke next. His family has been in the upper valley since the 1880s and his granddaughters — now attending Summit School — represents four generations of that family to have done so. “Since the 1880s we’ve attended school up there. It is a community meeting place,” said Thompson.

Thompson also serves as the president of Sisar Water, which meets at Summit School. The Upper Ojai
In September, the CMWD likewise rejected it in July. After rejections by the superior and appellate courts, the lawsuit aimed at blocking CMWD’s plan to form a community facilities district for CMWD’s plan to form a community facilities district for the buyout. After rejection by the superior and appellate courts, the lawsuit was made it to the Supreme Court of California, which likewise rejected it in July. In September, the CMWD retained the services of the Ventura-based Bruce W. Huff & Associates to conduct an appraisal of the Ojai District.

As far as what the buyout proposal is worth, it might mean for the average customer, it is still too early to say. The newspaper’s attorney Ryan Blatt said Tuesday, Blatt represents Ojai Friends for Locally Owned Water (ELOW), the grassroots organization largely responsible for having brought the question to popular vote in 2013. “We can’t guess at the total bond,” Blatt said, “because we don’t know the full amount of post-acquisition.”

GSWC has a 10-year plan for repairs to the infrastructure, according to Blatt, some of which are prioritized. What repairs or upgrades GSWC might accomplish before acquisition would make a difference in the post-acquisition costs. And I don’t know how Casitas will handle the sale of bonds — whether they plan to do it all at once or over time,” he added. “It’s all at once, then they’ll need one number.

A single bond issue was the plan from the outset, CMWD general manager Steve Wickstrum said Tuesday. Wickstrum emphasized the buyout is structured so that existing CMWD customers would not be paying for the deal. Paying off whatever bonds are issued will fall to the roughly 2,800 customers of the Ojai District, currently served by GSWC.

CMWD would obtain Series B bonds covering the amount of the buyout as well as upgrade, Wickstrum said, but what that might mean for the former CMWD customers remains to be seen. For one thing, he said, there is no way of knowing what kind of interest, among other costs, would be applied to the bonds. Wickstrum wouldn’t venture a guess as to whether GSWC would accept the offer or as to the timeline likely to follow. “It’s a negotiation process,” he said. “We haven’t heard a ‘no’ and we haven’t heard a ‘yes’ yet.”

Sonneff declined to comment on the case when contacted Monday.

Continued from Page A1

Offer:

Continued from Page A1

Discounted rain barrels offered

The Ventura County Community for a Clean Watershed is offering 50-gallon rain barrels at a discounted price. The normal cost per barrel is $149, but the discounted price is $75 plus tax.

Those interested should order their rain barrels by March 6 for a March 13 pickup at one of two locations: Ventura County Government Center (Parking Lot B and C, 800 S. Victoria Ave., Ventura) and Calleguas Municipal Water District (2000 E. Olsen Road, Thousand Oaks).

All rain barrels must be purchased. Bring a copy of your email confirmation to pick up your rain barrel.

To place a phone order or request an order form, call (919) 835-1699 and ask for the Ventura County rain barrel program price.

For more information about Ventura County Community for a Clean Watershed, visit www.cleanwatershed.org.

Free presentation on joint replacement set

Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association will host a free presentation by orthopedic surgeon Andrew Jeffers, M.D., on Friday, March 4. Dr. Jeffers will discuss what patients should know before and after knee or hip surgery.

The presentation will take place from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. at Scan Health and Wellness Center, 6633 Telephone Road, Suite 100, in Ventura.

To RSVP by calling 658-0365.

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P.O. Box 402
Ojai, CA 93023-0402

Monica Ros School Annual Art Auction
Saturday, March 5
5:30 - 9:00 pm
Ojai Valley School

Rotary Club names Student of the Month

Nordhoff High School student Tucker Allen was recognized as the Rotary Club of Ojai West February Student of the Month at the club’s Feb. 23 meeting. Tucker plays football and soccer teams and is a weight lifting assistant in the gym. He is in the Ranger Gridiron Club director of the High School Rodeo Association. He participates in steer wrestling, team roping and calf roping.

Hanevy:

Continued from Page A1

leging financial misconduct,” said Shapiro in response to the FPPC finding. Shapiro responded to the complaint by saying he asked city attorney Matthew Summers whether he should re- ceive himself and was advised there was no conflict.

“I think the city attorney is one of the worst we’ve ever had,” Shapiro responded. “He consistently sides against the people on any number of issues. I can’t take Matthew Summers seriously. I have no confidence in his judgment.

“The bottom line is Haney can’t be a member of a group such as the CLCA, who squarely works hard to oppose any bans … and sit in judgment (without bias) on the issue,” said Shapiro. “We are dealing with a very serious health issue. There are very serious health consequences for the operators of leaf blowers and people nearby.”

Tuesday, the Ojai Valley News requested the amount Summers has so far charged the city for legal services rendered relating to the leaf blower issue, but Ojai Finance Director Rudolf Livingston, following consultation with Summers and City Manager Rob Clark, said the information is considered privileged. “Invoices are not created for the purposes of litigation, so they are not privileged information,” said Nikki Moore, legal counsel with the California Newspaper Publishers Association. The CNPA is a member of various legal organizations working in the state to ensure freedom of the press. Moore provided the OVN with case citations demonstrating precedent that invoices from outside counsel to counties and districts are protected from public disclosure under the FOIA, but because exemp- tion in the California Public Records Act (CPRA). The OVN’s interest here is to follow. “It’s a negotiation process,” he said. “We haven’t heard a ‘no’ and we haven’t heard a ‘yes’ yet.”

Sonneff declined to comment on the case when contacted Monday.

Continued from Page A1

Neighborhood news briefs

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All rain barrels must be pre- purchased. Bring a copy of your email confirmation to pick up your rain barrel.

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Monica Ros School Annual Art Auction
Saturday, March 5
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Ojai Valley School
Libbey: Continued From Page A1

The resolution authorizes a commercial shows in the Libbey Bowl. Season, he said, could see $40,000 available for maintenance of Libbey Bowl on an annual basis.

School: Continued from Page A1

people get together. I encourage you to consider keeping Summit School

Assisted: Continued from Page A1
central courtyard, and will include a pool, outdoor bar

the District pays nothing for them. He presented the idea of forming an environmentally magnet school at Meiners Oaks Elementary, and about creating a Resilient Schools Program in the Ojai Valley.

He described a visit from offi-cials of Slow Food USA, a national organization, who were so impressed with the programs at Meiners Oaks they want to fund worm bins at schools across the country, based on what they saw. “We are a leader in environmental education already, not just aspiring, we are already achieving it.”

His group has heard a presentation from commit-tee member David White. He has worked with every OUSD school for a decade as an outdoor educator either with Food for Thought (FFT), Once Upon a Watershed (OUW) or with the Center for Regenera-tion Agriculture. All programs are self-funded, meaning the school site include an underground retention and percolation system, designing it an environment-al magnet, and combining that with a district-wide resilient schools program, White said OSD could leverage the “unintended good consequences” and attract families, students and teachers.

“Part of the resilient schools program is about creating standards-based lessons based on what is happening at the school … Buildings and hardscapes become learning-scapes … Everything that happens at school is a lesson for the children. Home-Ec is part of school again,” be noted. “Resilient schools, resilient communities.”

There has been some hesitancy to wrap our arms around (the idea of magnet school). In a small district, you don’t really want to have one school become the art school, because really all of our schools are art schools,” said Andy Castell, OUSD assistant superintendent of business and administrative services. He is the district representative on the committee. He voiced his support for every part of White’s presentation but asked about whether the program would be restricted to one school.

“Do all participate. Meiners Oaks has emerged as the center because of its location and community connections,” said White.

“Every school has unique features. Summit is the gate-way to the Los Padres Nation-al Forest. That is a national resource,” said Chris Danch, a committee member. Danch also has ideas about educa-tional programs related to outdoor education.

“Summit has a killer gar-den too,” said White, agreeing with Danch that each school campus has opportunities. The group wrapped its Fed. 25 study up by exam-ining information providing a basic appraisal of each el-ementary school property if those properties were to be developed for housing. The appraisals were pre-

pared by Erik Wilde with Coldwell Banker Property Shoppe in Ojai. Zoning, variances, density and surround-ings were not taken into con-sideration.

According to Wilde, Meiners Oaks Elementary School and its 7.36 acres might be valued from $1.5 million to $1.75 million. Mira Monte El-ementary School and its 8.75 acres, could bring between $1.75 million and $2.25 million. San Antonio Elementary School, sitting on 8.97 acres, would likely net between $2.25 million and $2.75 million.

Summit Elementary School, and its 5.42 acres, was the smallest and least valuable, estimated to fetch between $1 million and $1.25 million, while Topsy Topa El-ementary, the largest at 9.22 acres, could be the most valu-able, at between $2.75 million and $3.25 million.

The next 7-11 Committee meeting is Thursday from 7 to 9 p.m. in the OUSD School Board Room at 414 E. Ojai Ave.

Visit http://www.ojai valley.net/Parents-Community/ OUSD- 7-11-Committee to view video of each meeting and the documents presented.

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**This Week**

**Wednesday, March 2**

**OJAI LIBRARY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP** — The Ojai Library’s Book Discussion Group will meet today at 7 p.m. to discuss “Canada” by Richard Ford. The library is at 111 E. Ojai Ave. Everyone is invited to join the group. The only requirement for participating in the discussion is to have read the book and come willing to share your opinion and listen to others. Call 646-1639.

**Friday, March 4**

**“GUYS AND DOLLS”** — A4 Ojai Valley News • Wednesday, March 2, 2016

Docent Barbara Washburn will lead the March 5 tour. Cost is $7 or $15 per family. Drop-ins are welcome. For reservations or tours during the week, call 640-1390.

**OJAI MARDI GRAS MASQUERADE BALL** — “Psychedelic Neon Nights” will be the theme of the Ojai Mardi Gras Masquerade Ball being held Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at the Ojai Art Center, 131 S. Montgomery St. The event will feature music by the Ojai Mardi Gras Band, dancing, costume contest, food and a no-host bar, plus crowning of the king and queen and throwing of beads. Tickets: $20 in advance, $25 at the door; available at www.ojaimagrass.com, several retail businesses or call 646-7843.

**Sunday, March 6**

**FAI S-DO-DO** — The Ojai Historical Walking Tours depart from the Ojai Library, 111 E. Ojai Ave., at 10 a.m., Ojai Historical Walking Tours depart from the Ojai Valley Museum, 130 W. Ojai Ave. (approximately one-hour tours of downtown historical and cultural attractions). Docent Helen Peterson will lead the March 12 tour. Cost is $7 or $15 per family. Drop-ins are welcome. For reservations or tours during the week, call 646-1390.

**COMEDY IMPROV SHOW** — The Ojai South Entertainers Studio, 316 E. Matilija St., will host Ojai Valley Improv for an afternoon of fun and laughs, March 13 at 2 p.m. They will mix it up with games, scenes and skits. Tickets: $10 at the door. Call 646-4100.

**SMART DRIVER COURSE** — Want to be a better driver? Take the AARP Smart Driver Course being offered at Help of Ojai, 111 W. Santa Ana St., Ojai, March 14 and 15 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The class is low stress and no tests are required. Cost: $15 for AARP members, $20 for non-members. Register in advance by calling 646-4100, ext. 1908, or online: www.aarp.org/drive/smartdriver. Or call 646-1740. ½ day course payable to AARP (no cash). Your insurance can give you a discount for AARP drivers. Register early and bring your AARP ID for verification.

**LITERARY BRANCH**

**Ojai Trees Next Deadline**

March 14 is the deadline to let them know at email trees@ojaitree.org or call 646-9958. If you’d like to have Ojai Trees feature a topic, submit a short essay (100-200 words). Deadline is March 14. Please indicate if you’d like a response to your essay. If you have an idea for a topic, please send a short paragraph and photo. Deadline is March 14. If you have a topic, please email it to ojaitree.org or call 646-9958.

**LITERARY BRANCH**

**PRESENTATION** — On March 14 at 7 p.m., the Literary Branch will host John Nichols, essayist and photographer, who will read from his latest

**Special Care**

**Glaucoma**

**Cataracts**

**Diabetic Retinopathy**

**Cataract Surgery**

**Glaucoma Therapy**

**Macular Degeneration**

**Macular Surgery**

**Glaucoma Laser Treatment**

**Cataract Laser Treatment**

**Diabetic Retinopathy Laser Treatment**

**Macular Degeneration Laser Treatment**

**Optim Health**

**Optim Health**

**Optim Health**
BOOKS — “Esasy Man,” and share his publishing knowledge at the Ojai Art Center, 113 S. Montgomery St. His gallery in Santa Paula displays vintage, vernacular and contemporary photography. His first book, “St. Francis Dam Disaster,” was published in 2002. In addition to gallery exhibits he has designed and curated numerous exhibits for museums around Ventura County. Reception will follow the presentation. A $5 donation is suggested. For more information: www.johnnicholsgallery.com or ojaicenterart@gmail.com.

“DHARMA AS THE LAW OF BEING” — The Theosophical Society in the Ojai Valley will meet March 15 at 7 p.m. at Kropena School on Kropena Hill. In Ojai, Ezeida Elena Carbonell will speak on “Dharma as the Law of Being.” Call 646-2653.

“GOD APPEARS AS HIS OWN DEVOTEE” — The American Vedic Association Bhagavad Gita. As It Is Fellowship will meet March 15 at 7:30 p.m. at 687 Villanova Road to discuss “God Appears as His Own Devotee.” Encountering genuine love for God is so extraordinary that the supreme Lord wanted to taste it. “GOD APPEARS AS HIS OWN DEVOTEE” — “DHARMA AS THE LAW OF BEING” —

ON GOING EVENTS

TOURS —

OJAI HISTORICAL WALKING TOURS — Saturdays at 10:30 a.m., Ojai Historical Walking Tours depart from the Ojai Valley Museum, 130 W. Ojai Ave. (approximately one-hour tours of downtown historical and cultural attractions). Drop-ins are welcome. For reservations or tours during the week, call 640-1390.

T R A D IT I O N AL B O TA N I C A L ART” TALK — The Ojai Library, 111 E. Ojai Ave., will host Ventura artist Ellie Tu, March 19 at 1 p.m., giving a free talk titled “Channel Islands National Park Guide Book Illustrations and a Glance at Traditional Botanical Art.” She will speak on the process of creating the Guide Book illustrations and give a drawing demonstration. Tu will also bring plant samples for guests to experience from a botanical illustrator’s point of view. Call 218-9146 for more information.

P A T R I O X M U R E I THI CONCERT — The Ojai Youth Entertainers Studio, 316 E. Matilija St., will host a concert March 20 at 6 p.m. by Kenyan singer-songwriter who lives in Springfield, Mo. His album, “This I Believe,” is a collection of songs that are influenced by folk, Delta blues and reggae. The concert will feature music and storytelling from his life and the making of his documentary in Kenya. Tickets: $10. Go to www.ojaiyouth.net or call 646-4300 for more details.

APPOINTMENT WITH THE WISE OLD DOG — The Theosophical Society in the Ojai Valley will meet March 22 at 7 p.m. at Kropena School on Kropena Hill in Ojai. Robert Ellwood, Ph.D., will host a program on “Appointment with the Wise Old Dog,” a DVD prepared by David Blum when he was diagnosed with cancer. Call 646-2653.

FULL MOON COMMUNITY MEDITATION — A community group meditation at the full moon of Aries will be held March 22 at 7:30 p.m. at Meditation Mount, 10340 Beevers Road in Ojai, as an act of celebration and service to invoke, anchor and distribute blessings to the world. Contemplative music begins at 7 p.m. Suggested donation: $10. Call 646-3508 or visit meditationmount.org for more information.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING — The Ojai City Council will meet March 22 at 7 p.m. at City Hall, 401 S. Ventura St., Ojai.

GENEALOGY LIBRARY OPEN — Find your roots at the Genealogy Library, 411 San Antonio Drive, Ojai, Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. and Wednesdays and Thursdays from 2 to 8:30 p.m. Call 646-2173 or 640-8351.

COMMUNITY BREATHWORK — is held at 6 p.m. every Wednesday at 2240 Maricopa Highway, across from the Deer Lodge. Practice gentle breathing techniques as well as a full transformational breathwork session. $10 donation is suggested; no one turned away. Call Rory at 921-6883.

FREE QI GONG — classes, wild goose form, are held Tuesdays at 11:10 a.m. at Bryant Street Health and Fitness Center, 406 Bryant Circle. Call Jille at 646-0868 for more details.

SMALL BUSINESS COUNSELING — Small business counseling is available regularly at the Ojai Valley Chamber of Commerce. Call 646-8216.

OJAI FILM SOCIETY —

The Ojai Film Society will screen three art-related films in March at the Ojai Art Center Theater. The theme for this special trio of documentary films is: “Célébration of the Arts: Music, Fashion, Fine Art.” The series features three extraordinary artists who have each excelled at their craft. “Amy,” on March 13, tells the haunting story of the talented British pop icon, Amy Winehouse. “Iris,” on March 20, portrays the flamboyantly dressed, 93-year-old style maven, Iris Apfel. “Hockney,” on March 27, explores the life of one of Britain’s most important artists, David Hockney. The films will be shown at the Ojai Art Center Theater, 113 S. Montgomery St., at 5 p.m. Admission is $10 general admission and $7 for seniors and students. Tickets are sold at the door. For more information visit www.ojaifilmsociety.org or call 646-8946.

SMALL BUSINESS COUNSELING — Small business counseling is available regularly at the Ojai Valley Chamber of Commerce. Call 646-8216.

SMALL BUSINESS COUNSELING — Small business counseling is available regularly at the Ojai Valley Chamber of Commerce. Call 646-8216.

AMERICAN LEGION BINGO — The American Legion Post 482 in Ojai hosts bingo Tuesdays from 12:30 to 4 p.m. at The American Legion Hall, 843 E. Ojai Ave. Early birds from 12:30 to 1 p.m. Refreshments are provided. All proceeds go to our veterans.

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Ojai Valley News • Wednesday, March 2, 2016 A5
Decker Slaney coming to Ojai to work with budding track stars

Ted Cotti
Ojai Valley News correspondent

From 1972, when she first gained fame, at 14, by winning the 800 meters at the USA-versus-USSR dual meet, to 1996 when she qualified for her fourth Olympic team at 37, Mary Decker Slaney was the face of American track and field.

Decker Slaney will bring her experience to Ojai Friday and Saturday to participate in the Ojai Roadrunners’ Olympic and Elite Track and Field Academy. Her husband, Richard Slaney, who competed in the 1984 Olympic games as a discus thrower for Great Britain, will also attend.

It was Slaney who carried his torch to the Slaney’s, who reached the Olympics — both Decker and her husband Alberto de Oliveira — who reached the Olympics — both Decker and her husband Alberto de Oliveira — who reached the Olympics — both Decker and her husband Alberto de Oliveira — who reached the Olympics — both Decker and her husband Alberto de Oliveira — who reached the Olympics — both Decker and her husband Alberto de Oliveira — who reached the Olympics. The pair will join fellow track-and-field luminaries Carl Lewis, Steve Lewis, Michael Powell and Kevin Young at a Friday night reception and then will take to the Nordhoff High School track Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. to work with young track enthusiasts.

Ojai resident and former Olympian, Danny Everett, helped organize the event to raise money for the Roadrunners, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year.

“On generally a very shy person and don’t typically do a lot of this stuff,” Decker Slaney said, “but I have a lot of very good friends in track and when people like Claudette (Groenendaal) ask me, I am happy to give back to the sport.”

Groenendaal heard about the Ojai event from Everett. Both ran for the Santa Monica Monica Track Club during their heyday and have remained friends, according to Everett’s wife, Tazza Taylor.

It was Groenendaal — a two-time NCAA champion at the University of Oregon who trained with Decker Slaney (and was the 1984 Olympic champion Joaquim Cruz among others) in the late 1980s under Brazilian track coach Luiz de Oliveira — who reached out to the Slaneys.

During her career, Slaney set 36 national records, 17 world records of the Year in 1983 after capturing the 1500 and 3000 titles at the World Championships in Finland. She was inducted into the USA Track and Field Hall of Fame in 2003.

Decker Slaney achieved all this despite battling lower leg injuries through much of her career — injuries that left her unable to run today.

“I’ve had so many injuries and surgeries that I can’t get any push-off with my calves,” she explained. “I can sort of shuffle still, but I can’t run. I can hike, and I do a lot of that with my five dogs (three Weimaraners and two miniature dachshunds), but my main form of exercise, my physical release, is mostly riding the bike.”

Ever the competitor, Decker Slaney recently competed at the California Death Ride and a multi-day Arbitrator Foundation Ride aboard her bicycle.

“The ‘98 surgery pretty much ended my competitive career, but it’s just ingrained in me to challenge myself,” Decker Slaney reflected. “That’s something I share with young athletes: find something you enjoy doing and forever keep challenging yourself to do it better.”

While Decker Slaney will occasionally visit high school teams — she recently addressed the Fountain Valley High School squad — she has a particular soft spot for club teams, like the Roadrunners.

Part of the reason for that is because the school district where she grew up in Orange County made the blossoming star eliminate athletics between representing her junior high team or running for her club team.

And perseverance is important, but I can’t ever remember ever going out to a workout and go ‘I have to do this; I was always excited that I get to do this workout.’”

Slaney, who now restores aircraft for a living, lives with Decker Slaney on a 55-acre farm in Eugene. “For me, I like the bookends of helping the throwers at the Ojai clinic.”

“Hey, really good with kids,” said Decker Slaney. “He helped coach the team when our daughter (Ashley) was in school and really enjoyed it.”

Ashley who did her undergraduate work at UC San Diego and earned a master’s degree from the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism at Arizona State — now lives in the Chicago area. She is not a track athlete.

“She was never very competitive athletically,” her mother recalls. “But she was competitive in academics and then really got into it.”

O c k e r Slaney, on the other hand, has admittedly always been a super competitive but that competitive fire has never taken her into coaching.”

She says she enjoys following the careers of today’s stars, especially those athletes who understand and respect her friend and former Athletics West teammate Alberto de Oliveira.

She has remained incredibly impressed, but not all surprised, by the performance of Galen Rupp at the Men’s Olympic Marathon trials last week.

“Alberto had a very definite plan for Galen all along and has been very patient with the athlete,” she said.

“Alberto and I have talked about the fact that we know so much more about training and others like him who were once good athletes themselves, can dedicate themselves to coaching. I can’t,” she concluded. “‘I think the reason I never went into coaching is because I love the sport so much and would want to work at it so hard and that I’d be scared some of my athletes wouldn’t be able to have that same passion.’

For two days in March, however, Decker Slaney is going to take that risk and come to Ojai and share her passion for track and field.

For tickets or more information, go to www.OjaiRoadrunners.com or call (310) 339-5147.

Ojai Valley Little League opens play Saturday

Little Leaguers all over the Ojai Valley have been sleeping in uniforms, dreaming of home runs and starring at the calendar in anticipation of the start of the 2016 season. That day will arrive Saturday when the Ojai Valley Little League (OPLL) celebrates Opening Day 2016.

The OPLL will kick off the day with its annual pancake breakfast from 7 to 9:30 a.m. at the Oak View Community Center. The cost is $5 for adults and $3 for children with all proceeds going back to the league. Openning ceremonies will get under way at the OLFF fields at 10 a.m.

Check out future editions of the Ojai Valley News for expanded coverage of this year’s action with photos, results and updated standings.

The Oak View Community Center is at 18 Valley Road in Oak View.

Ladies Front Nine golf ends its winter season

While most of the country was getting hammered by winter storms, the winter session of mini-tournaments for the Soule Park Ladies Front Nine concluded Thursday with perfect golf weather. Twenty-six competitors, from as far away as Vermont, played in the season-ending tournament.

The race for the two-ball scramble net-team title was close, but when the scorecards were totaled, Sandy Blake and Jodi Martin claimed the top spot with a 32 while the team of Mitnee Duque and Karen Gastineau finished a stroke back at 33. The duo of Cookie Brewer and Laurine Hodges took third place with 34.

Closest to the pin honors were claimed by Jane Spiller and Rae Harrell on the third hole. They also came back to win longest drive with a 206-yard blast down the fairway. Denise Breenkeee and Cher Berlin were the other long-drive winners. Team Duque-Gastineau had low gross honors, at 39, and also won the fewest-potts prize with 13.

The event also included a dinner which was hosted by the Front Nine Club in the Soule Park restaurant for all players. Upcoming events include a free golf clinic for members by golf professional at Tyson York that will be held March 10.

The Front Nine’s spring session (542 session) begins March 31. Each session includes eight mini-tournaments, free golf clinic, members-only dinner and an end-of-year awards dinner.

Women golfers may call Duque 272-8490 or email mitnee@roadrunner.com for more information and a membership application.
The cast of the upcoming Nordhoff High School musical “Guys and Dolls,” at a recent rehearsal. Photo by Mary Long

‘Guys and Dolls’ hit the Nordhoff stage

by John Hankins

After months of rehearsals, the Nordhoff High School musical “Guys and Dolls” is only two days and three generations away.

For the next three weekends audiences will be able to follow the follies and fascination of two disparate couples — gamblers Nathan Detroit (McKay Johnson) and dancer Adelaide (Chelsey Holland), and Sky Masterson’s (Luke Hamann) infatuation with strait-laced missionary Sarah Brown (Emma Rose Allen).

Surrounding this quartet are guys and dolls who sing and dance in a celebration of Broadway with hip street-speak by the famed Damon Runyon, with tunes such as “Luck Be a Lady Tonight” and the title tune telling: “When you spot a John waiting out in the rain; Chances are he’s insane, as only a John can be for a june.”

“Guys and Dolls” will play at the Matilija Junior High School Auditorium, at 703 El Paseo Road in Ojai, Fridays and Saturdays from March 4 through March 19 at 7 p.m. and Sundays from March 6 through March 20 at 2 p.m.

For tickets or more information, visit www.nhs.music.org or call 640-4343 Ext. 1898.

The Ojai Library is at 111 E. Ojai Ave. in Ojai. It is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays from March 4 through March 20, and noon to 5 p.m. Fridays and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays.

Annual Mardi Gras celebration on tap

The 26th annual Ojai Mardi Gras celebration is set to kick off Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in the Ojai Art Center, and members of the Art Roofs collective were hard at work Wednesday readying the décor. From left, Lucy Roadarmel, Dawn Meyer Gallagher, Nancy Nazario and Holly Stone show off some of the posters destined to illuminate the theme of “Psychedelic Neon Nights.” Visit www.oajairdigras.com for tickets and information.

New A.C.T. musical should be a scream

“The Addams Family” musical, where cartoonist Charles Addams’ famed New Yorker panels come to life, will come to the Ojai Art Center Theater (A.C.T.) stage March 11 through April 3.

Gomez and Morticia, Uncle Fester, Grandma Addams, Wednesday and Pugsley and manservant Lurch, all will be there. It seems Wednesday day has a boyfriend, Lucas, whose “normal” parents, Mal and Alice, want to meet her parents.

Veteran director and theater teacher Gay Jones is serious about this comic story, unearthing a tale about families who support and love each other … about how our past (ancestors) are in our lives and also about how important love is.”

For tickets or more information, visit www.ojaiaCT.org or call 640-8797 for reservations.

FOTM event will focus on weavers

Focus on the Masters’ (FOTM) popular Artist Spotlight Series will introduce two members of the Ventura County Handweavers & Spinners Guild, Rich Deppe and Carl Friedlander, at its next Artist Spotlight interview on Sunday from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at Brooks Institute, 5301 N. Ventura Ave. in Ventura.

Mary Galbraith, moderator, will chat with Deppe and Friedlander, connecting the threads and weaving their stories together to give greater understanding of the creative process.

The AfterGLOW fundraising event, a celebratory supper will be hosted by Jo Ellen Lee and prepared by Old Roads Catering Company immediately following the interview at the FOTM Archive & Library, 505 Poli St., Suite 405, Ventura. Maps will be given to paid guests at the interview.

Paid reservations are essential and required prior to March 6 for the AfterGLOW. To RSVP or for tickets, visit www.focusonthemasters.com or call 653-2501.

Qai Library to host free noontime concerts

Opera Santa Barbara will present a series of free noontime concerts at the Ojai Library on the second Thursday of March, April and May. Each concert will begin at noon in the main room of the library and will last approximately 45 minutes.

The concerts will feature members of the Mosher Studio Artist Program, a residential training program for members of opera in training. These concerts are free to attend and will feature a diverse repertoire of popular and lesser-known operatic arias and duets, all accompanied by piano.

The Ojai Library is at 111 E. Ojai Ave. in Ojai. It is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and noon to 5 p.m. Fridays through Sundays.

For additional information, call 805-640-0144.

Carnegie exhibit on tap

“Learn to Know Your Hawks” by Luke Matjas

CSU Channel Islands (CI) associate professor and chair of art Luke Matjas will exhibit more than 30 pieces of artwork in a large solo exhibition at Oxnard’s Carnegie Art Museum (CAM). “That Great Rock Mass Is Called the Earth” will be on display from Sunday, March 13, to drawings.

Amid familiar Ventura landscape features, there are tributes to P-18, one of the local mountain lions struck by a car on the 101 freeway, as well as Condor #358, the California condor that died after becoming entangled in a recreational rope atop Tar

What are the upcoming noontime concerts at the Ojai Library about and when do they take place? The noontime concerts at the Ojai Library will feature free educational training programs for members of the Mosher Studio Artist Program, a residential training program for members of opera in training. These concerts are free to attend and will feature a diverse repertoire of popular and lesser-known operatic arias and duets, all accompanied by piano. The concerts will begin at noon in the main room of the library and will last approximately 45 minutes. Each concert will feature members of the Mosher Studio Artist Program, and the concerts will be held on the second Thursday of March, April, and May. For more information, call 805-640-0144.
Glеб Иванов, Piano

“Eerily like the ghost of Horowitz, Mr. Ivanov engulfed the keyboard, rattling the rafters and thrilling the audience. His talent is larger than life.” — The Washington Times

“Gleb Ivanov is a cut above the usual: a young super-virtuoso, with musical sensitivity and an appreciation of style to go with the thunder and lightning.” — The New York Times

Sunday, March 6, 2016
3:00 pm / Logan House
adjacent to the Beatrice Wood Center for the Arts in Upper Ojai

Vita Art Center welcomes Bittl!
Alice Neel’s “Nancy and Olivia” will be one of the works from the collection of Ann Bittl featured as part of “Empowerment: Works by Modern to Post Modern Women Artists,” at the Vita Art Center. An opening reception will be held Friday from 6 to 9 p.m. and the exhibit will run from March 4 through March 27. Contributing artists include Louise Nevelson, Mary Cassatt, Baine de Kooning and Lee Krasner. An art history happy hour will be held March 13 from 4 to 6 p.m. during which Bittl will discuss women in the arts, modern to post modern, and Sharon Beynon will discuss modernism and literature. Vita Art Center is at 432 N. Ventura Ave., Studio 30, in Ventura. Visit www.vitaartcenter.com for more information.

On tap at the OBC...
We now have 50 beers on tap! Stop in to experience the largest variety of beers on tap in Ojai.

Happy Hour - Monday thru Friday
11:30 - 2 and 4-6
$1 off Draft Beers and House Wines
1/2 Off all Apps

The Happy Valley Cultural Center Presents
Chamber On The Mountain
An extraordinary musical experience in a setting of extraordinary beauty

Gleb Ivanov, Piano

Sunday, March 6, 2016
3:00 pm / Logan House
adjacent to the Beatrice Wood Center for the Arts in Upper Ojai

Kaufer continues Herb Walks for 40th anniversary
Ojai native plant guide Lanny Kaufer will continue his 40th anniversary Herb Walks tour with a nature hike to Rose Valley Falls March 12 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Participants will learn about Rose Valley’s diverse plant communities during the hike, which begins along Howard Creek and continues along a shaded half-mile walk each way to the falls. To register, or for more information, visit www.HerbWalks.com or call 646-6281.

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Events

Thursday, March 3

David Lee, local naturalist, wildlife biologist and author, will host on talk on the native wildlife of Ventura County in the Ventura City Hall from 7 to 8:30 p.m. This event is free, but RSVPs to invitations@Venturaskiologicals.com are requested because space is limited.

Sunday, March 6

The 1892 Dudley Historic House Museum will open for docent-led tours from 1 to 4 p.m. accompanied by period music in the parlor and upstairs library lending. Admission is free. The museum is at the corner of Loma Vista and Ashwood streets in Ventura. For more information, visit www.DudleyHouse.org or call 642-3345.

Friday, March 11

The Ojai Valley Women’s Club will sponsor a talent show from 7 to 10 p.m. at 441 E. Ojai Ave. There will be song, dance, instrumental and comedy acts. Tickets will be available at the door for $5 each. In addition to the dramatic and comedy acts. Tickets are available from Ticketmaster at (800) 745-3000, through Ticketmaster at www.civicartsplaza.com or call 449-2787.

Monday, March 14

The Ojai Art Center Literary Brunch will host John Nichols, essayist and photographer, at 7 p.m. Nichols will read from his latest book, “Essay Man,” and share his publishing knowledge. Nichols’ gallery in Santa Paula displays vintage, vernacular and contemporary photography. Visit www.johnnicholsgallery.com or e-mail info@tibetanaid.org for more information.

Saturday, March 19

Hashtag Comedy will bring comedy headliners to Thousand Oaks’ Hillcrest Center for the Arts, 403 W. Hillcrest Drive, at 8 p.m. The hour and a half show is for ages 18 and older only. Doors open at 7:30. Tickets can be purchased at www.hillcrestarts.com, the Hillcrest Center for the Arts box office or by calling 381-1246.

Mel Brooks will provide an exclusive, inside look at his career and the making of the legendary and groundbreaking movie “Blazing Saddles,” at the Fred Kavli Theatre at 7:30 p.m. “Blazing Saddles” will be presented on the big screen followed by a live conversation and audience Q & A with Brooks. Tickets are available from Ticketmaster at (800) 745-3000, at www.civicartsplaza.com, or through the Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza box office, at 2100 Thousand Oaks Blvd.

For more information call 449-2787 or visit www.civicartsplaza.com.

“Rising Consciousness Triumphs over Big Ag and Big Food,” a talk by Dr. John Fagan, professor of molecular biology at Maharishi University of Management, will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the E.P. Foster University of Management, will be held Saturday from 4 to 6 p.m. Call 525-5554.


Music

Thursday, March 3

Through Saturday: Call 648-1235.

March 2 at the Ojai Art Center, 113 S. Montgomery St., will host an installation, “I Love Pastels,” and sale by the Pastel Society of the Gold Coast, through today. Call 648-0117.

Through March 5: The Buenaventura Art Association Gallery, 700 E. Santa Clara St., will present “Handel’s Messiah” in Santa Paula, at the Ojai Art Center, 113 S. Montgomery St., at 8 p.m. tickets are available from Ticketmaster at (800) 745-3000, at www.civicartsplaza.com or through the Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza Box Office, at 2100 Thousand Oaks Blvd. For more information call 449-2787 or visit www.civicartsplaza.com.

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We leave the father’s house and turning back, we save

Esoteric astrology as news for

the week of March 2 through 9.

The above words are the seed thoughts of Pisces recited by the

New Group of World Servers during Pisces and especially

at Tuesday evening’s Pisces new moon festival. We also have

a solar eclipse, the first one of the year, followed by a lunar eclipse

in two weeks at the full moon.

Solar eclipses signify something
esential, as bright and important
as the sun in our lives, has come
to an end, its task completed.

The south meditative seed thought

for Pisces is: “I leave the father’s house and turning back, I save.” There is a similarity

between Pisces and Capricorn

in two weeks at the full moon.

The soul’s meditative seed

thought was made

us responded to the sacri
cial

world is that long ago, each of

the secret of wholeness. The gifts

preparation to re-emerge into the

humanity will be able to thrive in

working within community that

intentionally creating, living and

preparing to bake

Easter eggs with natural leaves and grasses, thinking about

making food baskets for Purim or

Easter, and preparing to bake

nuts and honey and poppy seed

bread while reading from the

Book of Esther, the only Old

Testament book that does not

mention the king’s name.

AQUARIUS: Should you feel

overwhelmed? Don’t be. Some you’ll understand,
some you won’t. Some are good,
some not. As you come to

appear, you find what feels like

home with safe and protective

barriers. Sometimes we just need
to retreat, hide under covers and lazily swim toward tranquility.

CAPRICORN: Because the

tradition is correct

as it will be only through

purification and purification. Build a fountain.

SCORPIO: Creativity should

have slipped into your life quite

easily, taking you by the hand,

creating new interests and
goals, asking that you mingle

a bit more among artists,
writers, musicians, performers

so you begin to identify more

specifically as highly creative

and not just a darker stranger behind

goggles and long black coat

while standing in the bright, hot

and radiant sun. Someone shows

up to help you understand.

SAINTGIRIS: Many opportunities seem to overflow

into your life. So many you may

feel under/overwhelmed. Don’t be. Some you’ll understand,
some you won’t. Some are good,
some not. As you come to

appear, you find what feels like

home with safe and protective

barriers. Sometimes we just need
to retreat, hide under covers and lazily swim toward tranquility.

This assures us you will continue

the coming years. There is a need

humanity will be able to thrive in

working within community that

intentionally creating, living and

preparing to bake

Easter eggs with natural leaves and grasses, thinking about

making food baskets for Purim or

Easter, and preparing to bake

nuts and honey and poppy seed

bread while reading from the

Book of Esther, the only Old

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mention the king’s name.
SUDOKU Answers

2 3 4 6 1 7 8 5 9
9 1 8 5 2 3 4 7 6
6 7 5 8 4 9 3 2 1
7 5 6 9 3 8 1 4 2
8 9 1 2 5 4 7 6 3
3 4 2 7 6 1 5 9 8
4 2 9 3 8 5 6 1 7
1 6 3 4 7 2 8 9 5
5 8 7 1 9 6 2 3 4

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take a treasures hunt through the valley and follow the

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GALAXY 5 in lavender OtterBox case, lost in the Rainbow Bridge parking lot on 2/7. Call (805) 291-2546 or (818) 826-1262. $REWARD$