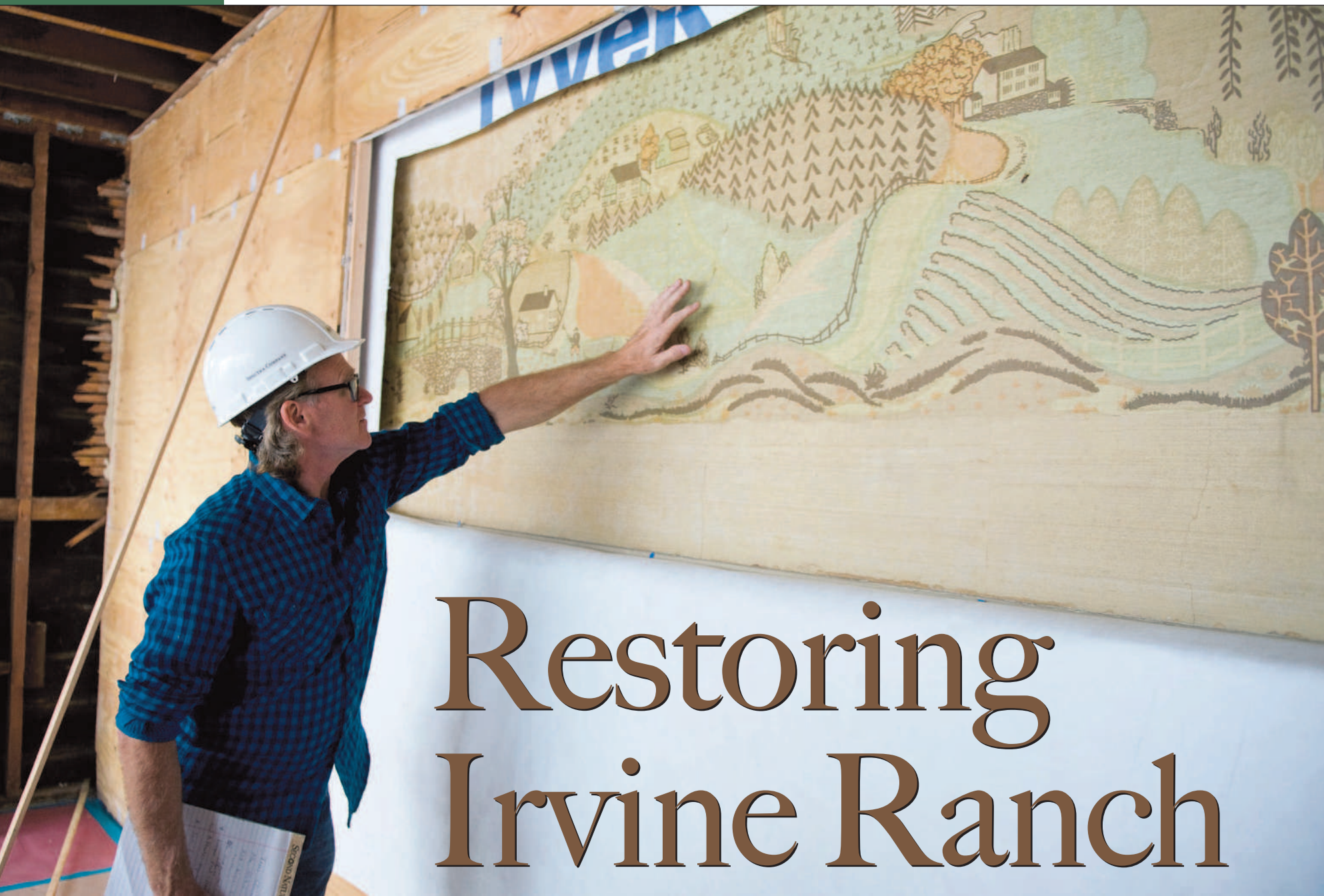




Timberwolves win Pacific Coast League girls soccer match. **SEE PAGE 12**



# Restoring Irvine Ranch

PHOTOS: SAM GANGWER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ray Adamyk, president of Spectra Co., shows a piece of the mural wallpaper found in the old mess hall of the Irvine Ranch Historic Park. Seven buildings, including the old mess hall and dormitory building for the ranch hands, are being restored by a crew from Spectra Co.

## The historic buildings will be OC Parks offices after renovation.

BY IAN WHEELER  
STAFF WRITER

Workers are three months into a delicate, \$5.8 million renovation of seven buildings in the city's cradle – Irvine Ranch Historic Park, once the center of the Irvine family's agricultural empire.

The renovation began in October and is expected to finish in early 2015. Once complete, former ranch-hand living quarters, a bathhouse and an old office and lab will serve as a cam-

pus for the OC Parks department.

The department in 2008 moved its staff from Santa Ana to a building at the site that was once the ranch's headquarters. It's on Old Myford Road near Irvine Boulevard. Hallways were cleared to fit cubicles and large metal safes were converted into storage closets. Other department staff work out of temporary

buildings on the grounds.

Though not slated for work now, the main building eventually will be renovated, said spokeswoman Marisa O'Neil.

Restoring these buildings will involve reinforcing their frames, retrofitting them to withstand earthquakes and installing elevators and wheelchair ramps to bring them up to code. The buildings also will get new roofs,

electrical, plumbing, heating, air conditioning, insulation and a coat of paint.

Restoring a building is a balance of preserving the original structure while bringing it to today's standards, said Ray Adamyk, president of Spectra Co., the Pomona-based restoration firm tasked with the project. Choices have to be made on what to remove and what to restore.

"Usually, when we look at

**SEE RANCH • PAGE 4**

### Project facts

**Oct. 2013**

Work started

**Early 2015**

Expected completion

**\$2.8 million**

Cost

**7**

Buildings

Source: OC Parks

**SEE THE HISTORY BEHIND THE BUILDINGS ON PAGE 4**



A very rusty and large Wedgewood stove from about the 1920s is still inside the old mess hall in the Irvine Ranch Historic Park.



A construction worker with Spectra Co. grabs a shovel and broom from one of the rooms inside the old mess hall and dormitory building for the ranch hands.

## Petition forces a special election, ousts Irvine Unified board member

Replacement will serve five months in position before seat opens again in November.

BY JORDAN GRAHAM  
STAFF WRITER

Irvine Unified School District's next board member will be chosen via a June 3 special election. The Orange County Department of Education confirmed Wednesday that a

petition calling for such a ballot had gathered more than enough valid signatures.

The successful petition also removed recently appointed board member Ira Glasky from his post, leaving the school board to operate with four members in the coming months.

Whoever is elected in June will serve for only five months and six regularly scheduled board meetings before the seat opens up again in November's general election.



Glasky

The Orange County Registrar of Voters was able to verify 1,798 of the petition's signatures – more than the 1,642 needed to force a special election but far fewer than the approximately 2,600 unverified signatures submitted in late December.

Two Irvine residents – Patricia Schneider-Zioga

and Stephen Buxbaum – launched the petition last month, two weeks after the school board appointed Glasky to the interim post to replace longtime board member Gavin Huntley-Fenner.

In November, after Huntley-Fenner resigned to focus on his growing consulting business, the board had the option to hold a special election or make an appointment. Board members said they opted to appoint

**SEE PETITION • PAGE 4**

## Park earns \$161,522 from Cirque parking

BY KIMBERLY PIERCEALL  
STAFF WRITER

The big top at the Orange County Great Park is long gone, but the return of Cirque du Soleil left about \$161,522 more in the park's bank account for parking.

That's what was left after the park paid a company \$94,718 to manage the lot. It cost each car \$10 to park.

The performances of "Totem," which traced evolution, attracted at least 77,000 people starting near the end of November and through December. A publicist for the touring production described it as being on par with the company's past performance at the park.

In 2010, about 100,000 tickets were sold for "Kooza," said Cirque and city officials at the time.

"It was a great run in Orange County," said Francis Jalbert, publicist for Cirque du Soleil. Tickets cost \$55-150.

Unlike Cirque's last run at the park three years ago, the "Totem" show came to Irvine first before packing up and going to Santa Monica.



# RANCH: Goal is to preserve the character of the buildings

FROM PAGE 1

a building, we'll look to see what are the character-defining features of the building, and what were additions," Adamyk said.

The back of the two-story mess hall was added to in the 1960s or '70s, he said. "It really didn't match the historic period, so that was removed."

An elevator will be installed in the space gained.

Sometimes walls go down so workers can gain access to various parts of the building, Adamyk said. "You try to save as much as you can, but you've got to have access."

But workers are careful not to damage relics, such as a wallpaper mural in the mess hall and the corrugated metal walls of the former bathhouse, which will be patched up and kept for looks.

It's difficult to put dates on when rooms, appliances and other features were tacked on throughout the life of the ranch, Adamyk said.

Restoration projects should never go too far, Adamyk said. "You don't ever want to make things completely new because you want to see some of the character of the actual building."

But the older the building is, the more difficult it is to restore, he said.

The Irvine Ranch Historic Park is eligible to be listed as on the state's registry of historic places, said Marta Crane, project manager at OC Parks. "We are under great responsibility to make sure it's preserved. If not listed, at least preserved."

The buildings won't necessarily be open for public tours when they're finished – parks staff will be working in them – but visitors are still welcome on the grounds, O'Neil said. The farmers market, which was moved to Irvine Regional Park last summer, will return to Irvine Ranch Historic Park when all work is done, she said.

Nearby Katie Wheeler Library is not affected by the construction, nor is the historic Cogan House, which serves as office space for OC Parks and the Orange County Farm Bureau. OC Parks plans to renovate Cogan House, as well, though details have not yet been resolved, O'Neil said.

Spectra Co. was the lower of two bidders and was given the contract in September – both offers were above an engineer's estimate of \$5.6 million.

Spectra Co. has taken on other restoration projects around Orange County, including work at the Fox Theatre in Fullerton and the Old Orange County Courthouse in Santa Ana.

**CONTACT THE WRITER:**  
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iwheeler@ocregister.com



SAM GANGWER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The team from Spectra Co. directing the restoration of seven buildings in the Irvine Ranch Historic Park are, from left, Tim Harris, operations manager, Ray Adamyk, president, and Troy Parry, project manager.

## About the buildings

Established by James Irvine in the 1860s, the Irvine Ranch was based in a complex of buildings that still stand on Old Myford Road near Irvine Boulevard. From those structures, the state's most successful farming operations ultimately evolved into the Irvine Co. The ranch was made up of buildings that were built at various times over the last century, many of which sport additions. The historic site also includes Katie Wheeler Library, a replica of the original Irvine family ranch house, which was damaged by a fire and demolished in 1968. These seven original buildings will be restored and will become offices for the OC Parks department:



COURTESY OF OC PARKS

The Irvine Ranch, as seen from the air circa 1960, was once California's largest producer of beans and barley.



COURTESY OF OC PARKS

This photo, likely taken in the 1990s, shows the dining room and mural in one of Irvine Ranch's living quarters, built in 1906.

### Mess hall

**Built: 1906**  
This is where many lower-level ranch workers lived, complete with a walk-in wooden cooler and a decades-old wallpaper mural. The Irvine Co. repaired and added to the original structure after a fire damaged it in 1967.



SAM GANGWER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

### Early office

**Built: 1891**  
This small office building was once half its size until the Irvine Co. added to it and turned it into an agricultural lab. A trap door leading to space under the building was found recently during renovation.

A building that served as the original office for the Irvine Ranch is under restoration.



SAM GANGWER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

### Foreman's row

**Built: 1906-1935**  
These six one-story row houses were for ranch workers who had been made foremen by James Irvine II. Three were built in 1906; the others were built in 1935. The three nearest to the OC Parks main office are under renovation and will be included in the department's campus.

One of several houses for ranch foremen is under restoration at the Irvine Ranch Historic Park.



SAM GANGWER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

### Bathhouse

**Built: early 1900s**  
This is where the ranch workers bathed. An old boiler will be saved and restored for aesthetics, as will the structure's corrugated metal walls. Soon it will be a bathroom with showers and lockers.

The old bath building for ranch hands is being restored but the fixtures and boiler will remain original.



COURTESY OF OC PARKS

### Agricultural headquarters

**Built: 1929**  
This building now serves as OC Parks headquarters. By 1959, it had nearly doubled in size. The Irvine Co. added to the building to accommodate its real estate and planning division. Source: OC Parks, Irvine Historical Society

Built in 1929, the agricultural headquarters building, now OC Parks headquarters, was the hub of Irvine Ranch's operations.

# PETITION

FROM PAGE 1

because Huntley-Fenner had only one year left on his four-year term and because the county had estimated a special election would cost the district approximately \$400,000.

That cost estimate has since been lowered to between \$152,840 and \$194,079, because the county has opted to hold the special election on the date of a scheduled election, according to Chris Lombardo, director of business services for the Orange County Department of Education.

Schneider-Zioga said in December that she started the petition because she believes democratic societies should always elect representatives when that possibility exists. Schneider-Zioga has not responded to multiple phone calls and



FILE PHOTO: JORDAN GRAHAM, STAFF

Irvine Unified school board's newest member, Ira Glasky, left, was ousted from his post Wednesday after a special election petition was found to have enough signatures.

emails since then.

After the petition was submitted with a high number of signatures, Glasky said he expected it would be successful. On Jan. 14, at what Glasky assumed would be his last board meeting, he bid farewell to his fellow board members and district staff.

"As this is most likely my last board meeting, at least for now, I want to thank the board for their support and believing in me in the proc-

ess," Glasky said. "I have been very honored to work with them over the last couple months."

Glasky has previously announced his intention to run in the special election.

Several school board members, including board President Sharon Wallin and Paul Bokota, have said they view the petition as an attempt to politicize school issues.

"It seems like so many of our issues are being politic-

ized," Wallin said at the January board meeting. "Instead of others looking out for the best interests of our students, it seems to be a lot about money and politics. I'm tired of it. I've been sitting on this board for 12 years and I've never seen it this bad."

Irvine City Councilman Larry Agran said in December he supported the petition because he viewed Glasky's appointment as an "insider's handoff" to some-



FILE PHOTO: ED CRISOSTOMO, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Glasky's replacement will be elected in June and serve only five months on the Irvine Unified board.

body who already backed the board's site choice for Irvine Unified's planned fifth comprehensive high school. Agran favors a different location.

Wallin called that characterization false.

Glasky and Wallin could not be reached to comment on the petition's success.

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# RECYCLING PLANT IS EXPANDING

Each day at the Irvine Ranch Water District's Michelson Water Recycling Plant, an average of 18 million gallons of wastewater are converted into recycled water, which is used for landscape irrigation, industrial uses and toilet flushing.

Built in 1961 and located in the San Joaquin Marsh, the plant is undergoing an expansion to allow it to convert 28 million gallons of wastewater into recycled water. The Irvine Ranch Water District said that 20 percent of its supply is recycled water, enough to supply landscape irrigation to 80 percent of its business and community customers, including parks, schools and golf courses.

- Christopher Earley



COURTESY OF IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT  
The Irvine Ranch Water District's Michelson Water Recycling Plant is undergoing an expansion.

## QUOTABLE



**"Everything you open, you find something new."**

- Troy Parry, project manager at Spectra Co.

Parry is part of the crew restoring seven old buildings at Irvine Ranch Historic Park. When tearing down one wall, workers found an old metal ashtray, which likely belonged to a ranch hand. A trap door was found in an old office.

- Ian Wheeler

# THE FIVE THINGS TO KNOW

BY THE IRVINE WORLD NEWS STAFF

## SAY CHEESE!

### #GREATPARKBALLOON



**The Great Park balloon is a popular, iconic attraction.**  
STAFF FILE PHOTO

Did we miss a landmark? Visit [Facebook.com/IrvineWorldNews](http://Facebook.com/IrvineWorldNews) to tell us.

- 208 posts**  
#GreatParkBalloon and #GreatParkBalloon Ride (plus #GreatParkIrvine, #GreatParkofIrvine, #GreatParkOC, #GreatParkBallon, #GreatParkofOrange, #GreatParkOrangeCounty, #GreatParkBallonRide, #GreatParkinIrvine)
- 2,174 posts**  
#LasVegasSign
- 30,713 posts**  
#HalfDome
- 66,522 posts**  
#HollywoodSign (not counting #HollywoodSignBehindMe, #HollywoodSignSelfie and more)
- 122,342 posts**  
#SpaceNeedle

Larry Agran has said it before, and he said it again at the Jan. 14 City Council meeting: The Great Park balloon ride is one of the most photographed icons west of the Mississippi. "Maybe the Golden Gate Bridge has more photos taken of it," the councilman said, hedging his bet a bit.

In an entirely unscientific study of Instagram, what's the most photographed icon based on hashtags?

### 208 posts

#GreatParkBalloon and #GreatParkBalloon Ride (plus #GreatParkIrvine, #GreatParkofIrvine, #GreatParkOC, #GreatParkBallon, #GreatParkofOrange, #GreatParkOrangeCounty, #GreatParkBallonRide, #GreatParkinIrvine)

### 2,174 posts

#LasVegasSign

### 30,713 posts

#HalfDome

### 66,522 posts

#HollywoodSign (not counting #HollywoodSignBehindMe, #HollywoodSignSelfie and more)

### 122,342 posts

#SpaceNeedle

## You should really get a flu shot

Every year about this time, they start dropping like flies. Coughs punctuate people's sentences, trash cans fill up with used tissues. Then one day, it's suddenly a lot quieter in the office or classroom - because half of your peers are out sick.

Partly out of laziness and partly out of a (misguided) hope that maybe it won't happen to us this time, a good number of us tempt fate and resist getting a flu shot. (Myself included, and now I'm writing this from the comfort of my bed with a box of Kleenex.)

- Lauren Jow

If you haven't gotten your flu shot yet, here are a handful of places around town that'll get the job done quickly:



**Albertsons Sav-on Pharmacy**  
4541 Campus Drive  
949-854-8280  
14201 Jeffrey Road  
949-733-0945



**CVS**  
14330 Culver Drive  
949-559-8129



**Walgreens**  
5695 Alton Parkway  
949-726-0716  
6316 Irvine Blvd.  
949-451-1563



**Rite Aid**  
3875 Alton Parkway  
949-250-4465  
18112 Culver Drive  
949-786-0151

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Doorbuster \$18-21.60. Reg. \$60-\$72, after 1pm: \$21-25.20. Only at Macy's. From Club Room & Alfani. ★ WebID 1008747.



### DOORBUSTER

**4.99**  
JUNIORS' TOPS  
Orig.\* 14.50, after 1pm: 9.99. Clearance long-sleeve knit tops in solid colors from Planet Gold and Grane.



### DOORBUSTER

**EXTRA 25% OFF**  
SELECT IMPULSE SHOES  
Doorbuster 37.49-97.49. Reg. \$59-\$169, after 1pm: 49.99-129.99. From BCB Generation, more. Shown: ★ WebID 1036662.



### DOORBUSTER

**2 FOR 24.99**  
BRAS  
Reg. \$32-\$40 ea., after 1pm: buy 1, get 75% off 2nd. From Bail®, Maidenform®, more. Shown: ★ WebID 560829.



### DOORBUSTER

**39.99**  
ALL 3-PC. OR 5-PC. SETS  
Reg. \$100, after 1pm: 69.99. 3-pc. comforter sets or 5-pc. coverlet sets. Full-king. Shown: Andover. ★ WebID 776314. Twin also on doorbuster.



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### DOORBUSTER

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Reg. 39.99, after 1pm: 29.99. Cyclone 12-speed blender. #BLC12650HB. ★ WebID 466894.



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