

THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

PRICE: 75 CENTS • MONDAY, NOV. 5, 2012 • OCREGISTER.COM



SPORTS * OUTDOORS

Gotta scoot

San Clemente man makes his living pushing a spinoff sport

SPORTS 1, 9

CIF football

Mission Viejo is among the top teams in the high school playoff pairings



The final push in a tight race

Rivals spend last weekend before Election Day sprinting across contested states.

Two days from judgment by the voters, President Barack Obama on Sunday raced through four far-flung battleground states while Mitt Romney ven-



ured into traditionally Democratic Pennsylvania, seeking a breakthrough in a close race. Appearing before some of the largest crowds to hear them speak so far, the two rivals stressed their differences on the economy, health care and more, while professing an eagerness to work across party lines and

end gridlock in Washington. In a campaign that began more than a year ago, late public opinion polls were unpredictably tight for the nationwide popular vote. But they suggested at least a slim advantage for the president in the state-by-state competition for electoral votes that will settle the contest, including Ohio, Wisconsin, Iowa and Nevada. **News 4-6**

Obama: In Florida, he said, "If the price of peace in Washington is cutting deals that will kick students off of financial aid, or get rid of funding for Planned Parenthood, or let insurance companies discriminate against people with pre-existing conditions, or eliminate health care for millions who are on Medicaid ... I'm not willing to pay that price," reciting charges he has leveled against Romney.

Romney: In Des Moines, Iowa, he said he would meet regularly with "good men and women on both sides of the aisle" in Congress. He said of Obama, "Instead of bridging the divide, he's made it wider." And in a new ad: "He's offering excuses. I've got a plan" to fix the economy. "I can't wait for us to get started."

Syrian council revisions on table

Syria's fractious opposition groups began talks Sunday in Qatar as they try to forge a more unified front to reshape the political landscape in a bloody conflict that claims more than 100 lives virtually every day. **News 4**

NATION

POWERING DOWN • The USS Enterprise, the world's first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, ended its remarkable career at sea when it pulled into its home port in Virginia for the final time. **News 9**

FOCUS: IRAN

CLASSIC SQUEEZE • Because of financial stresses or political disfavor, the nearly 80-year-old Tehran Symphony Orchestra has been silenced. **News 3**

ORANGE COUNTY

ARGYROS GIFT • Chapman University President James Doti announced during a gala Saturday night an \$8 million naming gift for the Musco Center for the Arts from the Argyros Family Foundation. The center's main concert space will be called the Julianne Argyros Orchestra Hall. **Local 1**

O.C. CRIME

EX-HUSBAND BOOKED • A 71-year-old woman accused of murder in 2004 was found dead Saturday in her bed with a stab wound. Investigators said the woman's ex-husband was booked on suspicion of murder. **Local 3**

O.C. WATCHDOG

PAYROLL GLITCHES • The rollout of the state's new payroll system for the in-home supportive services program has gone so badly that Orange County officials are warning workers that paychecks might be delayed when the system goes live in O.C. **Local 1**

EYE ON O.C.

FAMILY FEELING • Hearty laughter and firm handshakes rule at a fundraiser for Big Brothers Big Sisters in Newport Beach. **Life 10**

ENGINEERING A SAFER O.C.

Concrete channeling of riverbeds and the building of dams reduces chances of Sandy-like flooding here.

Disasters in Orange County

While Orange County doesn't have to contend with hurricanes, any natural disaster serves as a good reminder to prepare for an emergency and its aftermath.

Scenes of wrecked and submerged neighborhoods in the aftermath of Sandy, the East Coast superstorm, are unlikely to be replicated in Orange County any time soon.



PAT BRENNAN
REGISTER WRITER

MORE INSIDE

- The latest on superstorm Sandy's cleanup. **News 4, 8**
- Tips for preparing for emergencies. **News 9**

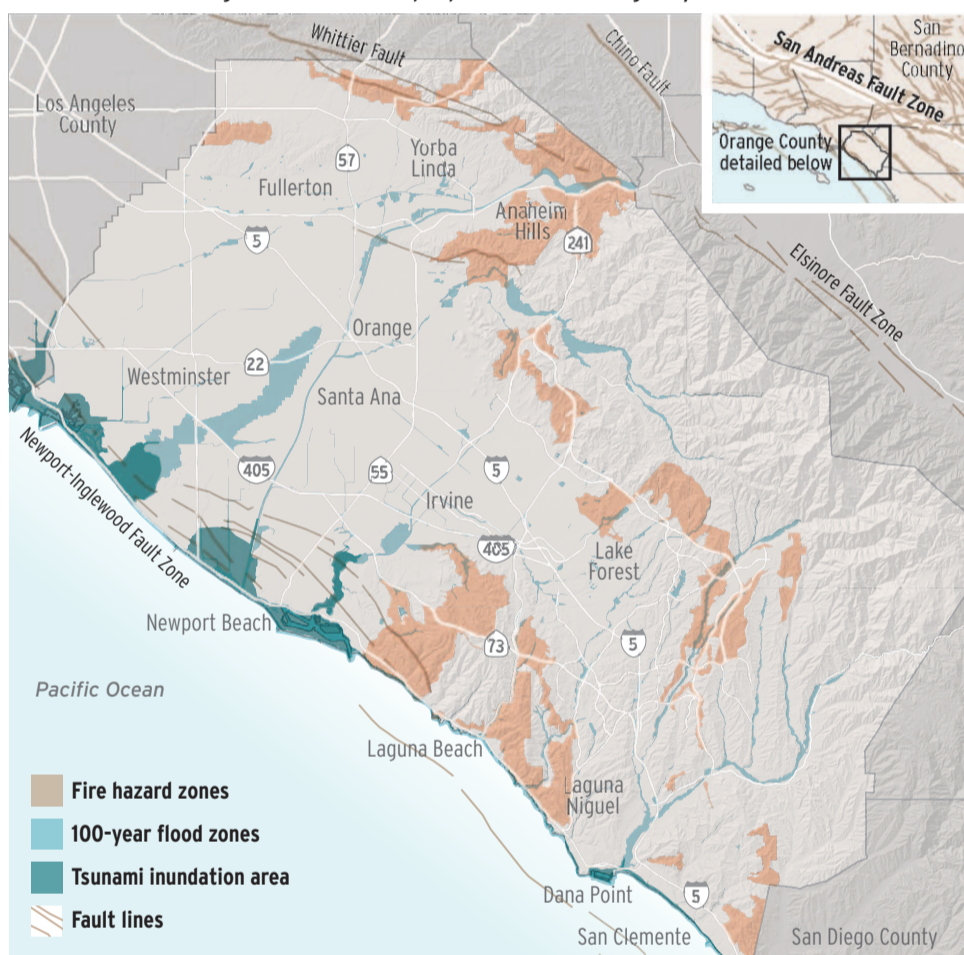
for a 1938-style catastrophe. But the devastation didn't happen this time.

The difference comes down to human engineering. The 1938 flood prompted construction of Prado Dam above Orange County on the Santa Ana River and the concrete channelization of riverbeds across Southern California.

Sealing riverbanks in concrete speeds storm flow on its way to the ocean, depriving us of the chance to capture some water, perhaps, but preventing catastrophic flooding.

"As much as everybody complains about concretizing rivers, if we hadn't done that, we would have had 1938 déjà vu all over again," said Bill Patzert, an ocean and climate researcher at

SEE FLOODS • PAGE 9



EARTHQUAKE

Cause: Movement of tectonic plates releases energy in seismic waves, shaking the earth.

Frequency: Southern California annually has about 10,000 small quakes. About 15 are above magnitude 4.0. The southern San Andreas last moved in 1690, though the fault historically ruptures every 150 years.

Most recent sizable quakes near O.C.: Newport-Inglewood (6.4 in 1933), Elsinore (5.2 in 1910), Whittier (5.9 in 1987) and Chino (5.4 in 2008).

FLOOD

Cause: High ocean swells, flash floods, and overflowing of channels and the Santa Ana River pose flood dangers. The construction and continued improvement to the Prado Dam lessens risk from the river.

Frequency: Severe storms have occurred in fewer than 10 of the past 175 years.

Most recent: In the winter of 1982, floods caused \$25 million in damage and forced 1,500 people to flee their homes. In 1938, at least 19 died when the Santa Ana River flooded.

FIRE

Cause: In 2011, lightning sparked 258 fires in Southern California that burned 24,000 acres. Humans caused 4,633, burning 80,000 acres.

Frequency: Devastating fires that once occurred only every 100 years now rip through the state every few years. As fire frequency increases, native plants cannot return and are replaced by easily burned brush.

Most recent: The Freeway Complex fire in 2008 burned 30,305 acres across three canyons and several North County cities.

Tsunami

Cause: A shape change, often triggered by an earthquake, in the ocean floor that displaces water. The Aleutian Islands in Alaska pose the largest distant tsunami threat. The Catalina fault is a potential local tsunami threat.

Frequency: California has seen seven tsunamis in the past 70 years.

Most recent: O.C. saw 3-foot waves after an 8.8 quake off Chile. A 9.2 Alaska quake in 1964 killed 12 people in California and brought 1-foot waves to O.C.

Sources: Register archives, U.S. Geological Survey, National Interagency Fire Center, California Department of Conservation, California Institute of Technology, FEMA, Orange County Professional Firefighters Association, Earthquake Engineering Research Institute.

Sonya Quick and Maxwell Henderson / The Register



COURTESY OF BUENA PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Days of rain in 1938 flooded much of northern Orange County, including this Buena Park filling station.

THE MORNING READ

George Lucas' filmmaking rooted in rebellion

Sale of film empire stems from desire to step back from corporate role.

By **RYAN NAKASHIMA, MICHAEL LIEDTKE and CHRISTY LEMIRE**
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES • There's no mistaking the similarities. A childhood on a dusty farm, a love of fast vehicles, a rebel who battles an overpowering empire — George Lucas is the hero he creat-

ed, Luke Skywalker.

His filmmaking outpost, Skywalker Ranch, is so far removed from the Hollywood moviemaking machine he once despised that it may as well be on the forest moon of Endor.

That's why this week's announcement that Lucas is selling the "Star Wars" franchise and the entire Lucasfilm business to The Walt Disney Co. for more than \$4 billion is like a laser blast from outer space.

Lucas built his film operation in Marin County near San Francisco, largely to avoid the meddling of Los

Angeles-based studios. His aim was to create artistic independent films.

Today the enterprise has far surpassed the 68-year-old filmmaker's original goals. The ranch covers 6,100 acres and houses one of the industry's most acclaimed visual effects companies, Industrial Light & Magic. Lucasfilm, with its headquarters now in San Francisco, has ventured into books, video games, merchandise, special effects and marketing. Just as Anakin Skywalker became

SEE LUCAS • PAGE 10



LISA TOMASETTI, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

George Lucas, here directing Anthony Daniels, who plays C-3PO, in "Star Wars II: Attack of the Clones," sold his company to Disney last week for more than \$4 billion.

LOOKING AHEAD

A fun look at who else is running for president, from legitimate-party candidates, like Roseanne Barr, to tongue-in-cheek promotional candidates, like Hello Kitty. **Tuesday in Life**

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