



FRANK MICKADEIT LOCAL 2

STIRRING A HORNET'S NEST

Asserting Hawaiian ancestry

Huntington Beach woman speaks for preferential school admission policy for those of native descent.

By LAURIE KAWAKAMI
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Noelani Jai is on a mission to educate one person at a time.

When she's not planning prayer vigils or staging demonstrations, the Huntington Beach woman speaks to small gatherings at hula classes and Hawaiian glee clubs around Orange County.

The message is always the same: Help preserve her alma mater, the Kamehameha Schools in Hawaii.

The private school's admission policy has been the subject of controversy because it gives preference to children of native Hawaiian ancestry. Of its 6,550 students, only two are not of Hawaiian descent.

A federal court in San Francisco found last year that the policy constitutes "unlawful race discrimination." That decision transformed Jai into an activist.

"I was sickened," said Jai, the salutatorian of the Class of 1983 at Kamehameha Schools.

A larger panel of judges with the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals will rehear



H. LORREN AU JR., THE REGISTER

PERSISTENT ADVOCATE: Noelani Jai led a protest of a federal court decision last year in San Francisco.

the case next month.

The case is being closely watched by legal scholars because of its implications for

other organizations and institutions.

Many native Hawaiians see Kamehameha Schools as their

Noelani Jai

Age: 41

Hometown: Huntington Beach

Occupation: Former attorney, currently studying to be a pastor at Hope Chapel Huntington Beach

Education: Kamehameha Schools, Pomona College, UC Berkeley

last institutional hope for overcoming centuries of social and economic hardship.

But others question the need for a segregated school in the 21st century and say the school fosters discrimination.

Through it all, Jai, 41, has emerged as a one-woman

SEE ADMISSIONS • PAGE 2

REGIONS

NORTH

More graffiti • North Orange County cities are spending thousands of dollars to eradicate what Deputy District Attorney Nick Thompson labels "a cancer in the community."

LOCAL 4

CENTRAL

Teacher honored • Students have selected Eva Garnet, 92, as the Part-time Emeritus Professor of the Year of Irvine Valley College's Emeritus Program, where she has taught since 1991.

LOCAL 5

SOUTH

Studies • Scientists are studying whether it's feasible to turn saltwater to drinking water at Doheny State Beach to ease reliance on imported supplies.

LOCAL 6

Plus • Crime reports and city-by-city coverage.

ALSO INSIDE

People Making a Difference • Bus driver Raj Patel helps the Orange County Transportation Authority fare well.

LOCAL 2

Safety • A reader wants some safety tips for traveling overseas.

LOCAL 2

Life Story • It wasn't easy raising 12 children, but Amelia Gonzales, 84, of Garden Grove saw the bright side of life.

LOCAL 7

Gym • Cal State Fullerton's Titan Youth Gymnastics program, which served Fullerton and surrounding cities for roughly 30 years, is ending in August.

LOCAL 7

DEATHS LOCAL 7

COUNTY LINE POLL LOCAL 2

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COMING UP

Ask the teacher • Experienced teacher and assistant principal Carol Veravanich answers readers' queries.

WEDNESDAY IN LOCAL

OPINION

Editorial • Voters in the Democratic primary for governor can pick either a fan of government or a bigger fan of government.

LOCAL 8

HOW TO REACH US

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Reservoir declared off-limits

Water-skiing, triathlon may taint drinking water, state officials say.

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

VILLA PARK • State health officials have barred a water-ski school from using an Orange County reservoir where it had operated for nine years, violating health codes and possibly tainting the drinking water of nearby residents.

The state action also forced organizers of a triathlon planned for Saturday to cut the water portion of the race from the event, costing the group about \$100,000 in expected registration fees, said event organizer Ron Wortman.

Officials for both the Cutting Edge Water Ski School and the Orange County International Triathlon said they had approval of the Serrano Water District, which manages recreation in Irvine Lake and controls drinking water for Villa Park, a city of 6,500 five miles to the west.

The state Department of Health Services stopped the school from using the lake after learning of the violations

SEE WATER • PAGE 3

Parents protest schools' condition

By SAM MILLER
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

MISSION VIEJO • In a portable classroom with water-stained ceiling tiles, Newhart Middle School parents met last week to complain about the school's facilities.

Days earlier, the school's PTA had released a report that portrays the Mission Viejo school's facilities as cramped, unwelcoming and unclean. It showed pictures of stained bathroom fixtures, damaged portable classrooms and exposed electrical outlets.

"My children never went in the bathroom," Sharon Campbell said at the meeting, which included the school's principal, Timothy Reece. "I don't have girls. If I had a girl in

SEE SCHOOLS • PAGE 7

SALUTING THOSE WHO SERVE



RYAN HODGSON-RIGSBEE, THE REGISTER

VETERAN: Pearl Harbor survivor Jefferson Maner of Laguna Woods bows his head during an opening prayer at the San Clemente Memorial Day morning commemoration at the Community Center grounds. More photos from Memorial Day on Local 3

MAGNOLIA MEMORIES

Americans of all ages assemble at one of O.C.'s oldest cemeteries.



MINDY SCHAUER, THE REGISTER

FLAG: Brooke Arledge, 3, waves the colors Monday at Magnolia Memorial Park Cemetery in Garden Grove.

By ANN PEPPER
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

GARDEN GROVE

In a touching Memorial Day ceremony held at one of Orange County's oldest cemeteries, two members of America's military – a retired Army veteran and a brand-new Navy recruit – placed a wreath and snapped a solemn salute to honor their fallen comrades.

"Help us not to trivialize this into a day of barbecue ... but instead remember those who have sacrificed their lives for our freedoms," Pastor Mark Swaim of Garden Grove Friends Church prayed before a crowd of about 100 at Magnolia Memorial Park.

Approximately 300 veterans, including at least one who served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War, are buried at Magnolia.

Swaim also prayed for the men and women serving in the armed forces today.

One of many Memorial Day observances held around the county Monday, the one at Magnolia's intimate, grassy,

Magnolia's history

Until Rose Drive Baptist Church bought Magnolia Memorial Cemetery nearly five years ago as a non-profit ministry, it had fallen on hard times. The church has been painstakingly restoring the site, which shelters the graves of relative county newcomers and county pioneers, unknown and well known.

Lampsons (or Lamsons) and Chapmans are here. So is a single local victim of the 1933 Long Beach earthquake. A murderer is rumored to be buried under its shady trees. So is Loving Coker, a decorated Confederate veteran, who still has relatives living in Huntington Beach.

old-fashioned setting included a medley by David Francis Phillips.

SEE MEMORIAL • PAGE 3

PARADES AND PATRIOTS



EUGENE GARCIA, THE REGISTER

WESTMINSTER: Korean War veteran Roy Carlson of Westminster, right, stands as the Marine Honorary Color Guard from Camp Pendleton marches past at Westminster Memorial Park.



RYAN HODGSON-RIGSBEE, THE REGISTER

SAN CLEMENTE: Marine Col. Stewart Navarre salutes the flag at the beginning of a Memorial Day ceremony at Semper Fi Park.

MOVED TO TEARS: Nancy Farrell, left, takes part in the service Monday at Magnolia Memorial Park Cemetery in Garden Grove. Farrell has family members in the military.



MINDY SCHAUER, THE REGISTER

MEMORIAL: Honoring service

FROM PAGE 1

As Phillips sang the signature song of each military branch, its members stood up in the crowd to be recognized and honored.

Then, a bagpiper in the shady distance played "Amazing Grace" as retired Army Sgt. Louie Aguilar, 48, and Navy recruit Jacqueline Allison, 17, placed a wreath by the graves of two World War II-era veterans, representing all the military buried at Magnolia. The sudden blast from a replica of a 19th century "mountain howitzer" cannon met their salute and sent a cloud of smoke drifting across the grassy field.

"This means quite a bit," said Aguilar, a Cypress resident. "It brought back a little bit of tears inside remembering fallen comrades. It was a very touching ceremony. There's probably not enough of this going on today, but

there probably could never be enough."

Wearing her new Navy dress uniform, Allison, who will head for boot camp in Illinois this summer after graduating from Pacifica High School, said the ceremony reminded her of why she was eager to serve.

"I just love this country so much," she said. "The freedoms that we are given. I'm very proud to serve. I'm so proud of all the people who've served before me and this gives me an opportunity to say thank you to them."

Allison said she wants to make the Navy her career and eventually become an officer.

Among those taking part in the event were: Assemblywoman Lynn Daucher, R-Fullerton; Garden Grove Mayor Bill Dalton; and several members of the City Council.

A couple of dozen visitors took the opportunity to take the tour offered by Paul Gil-

lette, a Civil War historian. Gillette guided them past a sampling of the Civil War-era graves scattered around the 6½-acre cemetery, telling stories of the men who served.

Jacqueline Allison is the link between today's military and the cemetery's Civil War soldiers, said the Rev. Keith Arledge, Rose Drive's pastor.

"We honor all the veterans here as well as those currently serving," he said.

"We have a lot of people who've sacrificed a tremendous amount for us. We have to honor their sacrifice and their commitment. Whether people agree or disagree with any particular conflict going on today is immaterial. The military is still to be honored and respected for their courage," Arledge said.

"People forget that we have too many freedoms and blessings to ignore the sacrifice of those who helped secure them."

WATER: State, district at odds

FROM PAGE 1

last month and was conducting a review.

Mark Graeff, owner of Cutting Edge Water Ski School, said the Orange County Health Care Agency continuously tested the water in the lake and told him his business did not pollute the water. He says at the most, he has 20 skiers in wetsuits on the lake in one day.

Meanwhile, up to 200 motorized fishing boats are allowed on the lake on a given day, he said.

State health codes prohibit swimming and water-skiing in sources of drinking water to protect against waterborne diseases, though fishing and boating can be allowed.

District general manager Dave Noyes said last month in a letter to the state that the district believed that if the skiers wore wet suits, the activity was allowed.

State officials said wet suits make no difference under the law.

"They know the statute for not allowing full body contact

with the water. They should have been aware it was illegal," said Heather Collins, a regional manager for the state health department. "I know if I lived in Villa Park, I would be upset about this."

Noyes said in the letter that state officials had known about the school since its opening in 1997.

The violation was discovered when triathlon organizers asked the state for a one-time waiver to swim in the lake, and the request was denied.

The triathlon has been converted into a run-bike "duathlon," causing registration to drop from an expected 1,000 participants to fewer than 400, said event organizer Wortman.

Organizers said they began asking last summer whether racers could swim in the lake as part of the triathlon and were assured as recently as March that swimming would be allowed so long as swimmers wore wet suits.

Registration began in January, Wortman said. Organizers learned in late April that the



The Register

swimming portion of the event would not be allowed.

"Believe me, this is the first thing that we checked out last summer," organizer Bill Leach wrote on the OC International Triathlon Web site.

"I cannot tell you the amount of work that has gone into putting this race together."

The state had no plans for sanctions against the water district.

The Associated Press and Register staff writer Jeff Collins contributed to this report.

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