

June 2026



The **PONY EXPRESS**

Nellie Gail Ranch

Community Newsletter



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE: EQUESTRIAN COMPETITION RESULTS • NGR GRADUATES • TEAM DARKHORSE

HIGHER STANDARDS | BETTER RESULTS
**FEATURED LISTINGS BY THE
BRAD FELDMAN GROUP**



26041 SPUR BRANCH LANE
LISTED FOR \$4,700,000

8-BR | 11-BA | APPROX. 7,372 SF | 15,525 SF LOT



25402 GALLUP CIRCLE
LISTED FOR \$4,500,000

4-BR | 4.5-BA | APPROX. 5,000 SF | 17,000 SF LOT



25761 HIGHPLAINS TERRACE
5-BR | 6-BA
APPROX. 5,805 SF | 19,350 SF LOT
LISTED FOR \$3,650,000



25901 NELLIE GAIL ROAD
6-BR | 4.5-BA
APPROX. 4,700 SF | 10,496 SF LOT
LISTED FOR \$3,259,000



27773 HIDDEN TRAIL ROAD
5-BR | 4.5-BA
APPROX. 3,886 SF | 21,600 SF LOT
SOLD FOR \$3,072,500

**CURIOUS WHAT YOUR
NELLIE GAIL HOME IS WORTH?**

Scan the QR code for a free
comparative market analysis on
your property today!



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949.678.5198
Brad.Feldman@elliman.com
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Trent.Mason@elliman.com
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**BRADFELDMAN
GROUP**
AT DOUGLAS ELLIMAN REAL ESTATE

Douglas Elliman
Broker #01947727



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Save The Date

06/12/2026
Summer Concert Series
 Wayward Sons
 At Gallup Park
 starts at 7:00pm

06/19/2026
Yacht Rock Trivia Night
 at The Watering Hole
 From 6:30pm - 9:30pm

06/26/2026
Summer Concert Series
 Surf City All Stars
 At Gallup Park
 starts at 7:00pm

07/10/2026
Summer Concert Series
 90's Rockshow
 At Gallup Park
 starts at 7:00pm

07/24/2026
Summer Concert Series
 K-tel All Stars
 At Gallup Park
 starts at 7:00pm

On The Cover:
 Destiny Stewart riding
 El Corazon at
 Jump Nee Galway Downs

Community Contacts



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Board of Directors

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Loree Blough	VICE PRESIDENT
Dan Sparks	SECRETARY
John Park	CO-TREASURER
Holly Permech	CO-TREASURER

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The Pony Express publishes articles that are relevant to the community or are directly related to property maintenance and community activities in NGROA and are in support of the Association's purpose to preserve property values within the community. The Editor reserves the right to refuse, edit or modify any submitted material and the editor's decision is final. Submissions selected for publication by the Editor may be edited according to the space limitations of each specific issue. Publisher cannot be held responsible for copyright breaches arising from any materials supplied by a third party. NGROA Board of Directors and employees are not responsible for any errors, inaccuracies or claims in articles or advertisements printed herein. Any opinions stated herein are solely those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of NGROA or its representatives.

NOTE: When community events take place, photographers may be present to take photos that may be used in this publication.



25281 Empty Saddle Drive, Laguna Hills CA 92653

Phone: (949) 831-6660

Clubhouse Reception
clubhouse@nelliegailranch.org



25202 Nellie Gail Road, Laguna Hills CA 92653

Office: (949) 425-1477

Cell: (949) 371-1595

Nikki Garcia | Equestrian Center Manager
ngarcia@nelliegailranch.org

Equestrian Center EMERGENCY: (949) 533-7282

Renovation
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Important Numbers

(949) 425-1477	Association Office
(949) 831-6660	Nellie Gail Ranch Tennis and Swim Club
(949) 533-7282	Nellie Gail Ranch Equestrian Center
(657) 825-8930	The Watering Hole
(949) 533-7282	Equestrian Center (Emergency)
(949) 439-2251	Quezada Professional Landscape
(877) 728-0446	CR&R (Trash Pickup)
(949) 831-2500	Moulton Niguel Water District
(800) 411-7343	SDG&E
(800) 427-2200	Southern California Gas Company
(949) 470-3045	Animal Control (Mission Viejo Shelter)

County of Orange

911	Emergencies
211	County Service Information
(949) 770-6011	Sheriff's Dispatch - Non Emergency
(949) 707-2600	City of Laguna Hills
(949) 707-2650	Laguna Hills City - Weed Abatement
(800) 611-7343	SDG&E Emergencies/Outages
(714) 573-6000	Fire Authority
(714) 971-2421	Vector Control

Assessment Remittance Address

Please remit all assessments to:
P.O. Box, 30354, Tampa, FL 33630-3354
or drop off at the Association Office.



Mission Statement

To take all reasonable and necessary steps to preserve and improve the unique value of living in Nellie Gail Ranch and to enhance the overall sense of community.

Board of Directors Meetings

The next Open Session Board Meeting and Open Homeowner Forum is scheduled for **June 16, 2026**, and will be held at the Association Clubhouse.

Executive Session starts at - 6:00 pm and Open Session - 7:30 pm

The agenda will be posted in the Association Office and on the NGR website on the Friday prior to the meeting, or you may contact the Association Office to obtain agenda information. All homeowners are welcomed and encouraged to attend the meetings.

Architectural Review Committee

Architectural Review Committee meetings are generally held the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm. Completed applications must be submitted to the Association Office at least 10 business days prior to the ARC meeting. Please check the calendar in each issue of the Pony Express for exact submittal deadlines and ARC meeting dates.

Association Committees

The Nellie Gail Ranch Owners Association has several committees comprised of Homeowners that provide support to the Board of Directors on selected Community topics. For more information or to join any of our Committees, please contact the Association Office at (949) 425-1477.

Architectural Review Committee

Emergency Preparedness Committee

Equestrian Committee

Events Committee

Fire Prevention Committee

Historical Committee

Landscape Committee

Security Committee

Trails Committee

OPERATIONS MANAGER'S MESSAGE



SUMMER ACTIVITIES AT NELLIE GAIL RANCH

By Rob This

The onset of summer means many different things for different people. For some, it means time to travel. Others enjoy spending time at the beach or relaxing by the pool in their backyard. For me, as a parent of younger children, summer means finding fun and engaging ways to keep the kids active during summer break.

Outdoor sports and activities are a great way to stay active and enjoy the beautiful summer weather, and Nellie Gail Ranch offers a wide variety of summer programs for children while they are out of school.

The Nellie Gail Ranch Tennis Club has successfully operated one of the largest and most positively reviewed Summer Tennis & Swim Camps in Southern California. It is a fantastic introduction to the sport in a safe, fun, and encouraging learning environment. The program offers week-long camps for different age groups and skill levels.



In partnership with Nellie Gail Ranch, Evolution Swim Academy also operates a variety of summer programs, including seasonal swim lessons, summer swim teams, and a summer sports camp.

With the summer camps in session, swimmers using the Nellie Gail Ranch pool should be aware of the Summer Swim Program Schedule. A swim lane will always remain available for members and residents during any swim program. See flyer to the right.



The Mickey Hayden Equine Riding School also partners with the Nellie Gail Ranch Equestrian Center to provide summer camps for up to 175 campers. This program focuses on basic riding skills while teaching horse care in a safe and supportive environment. For more information visit <https://www.mhequineridingschool.com/summercamp>.

Another popular summer tradition within Nellie Gail Ranch is the Summer Concert Series. The series



SUMMER SWIM PROGRAM SCHEDULE 2026

June 8, 2026 – August 14, 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<i>Trilavie</i> ADULT SWIM 6:00 AM – 7:00 AM		<i>Trilavie</i> ADULT SWIM 6:00 AM – 7:00 AM		<i>Trilavie</i> ADULT SWIM 6:00 AM – 7:00 AM	
	<i>Evolution Swim</i> SWIM TEAM 8:00 AM – 11:30 AM	<i>Evolution Swim</i> SWIM TEAM 8:00 AM – 11:30 AM	<i>Evolution Swim</i> SWIM TEAM 8:00 AM – 11:30 AM	<i>Evolution Swim</i> SWIM TEAM 8:00 AM – 11:30 AM	<i>Evolution Swim</i> SWIM TEAM 8:00 AM – 11:30 AM	
	<i>Evolution Swim</i> SPORTS CAMP 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	<i>Evolution Swim</i> SPORTS CAMP 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	<i>Evolution Swim</i> SPORTS CAMP 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	<i>Evolution Swim</i> SPORTS CAMP 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	<i>Evolution Swim</i> SPORTS CAMP 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	
	TENNIS CAMP 1:15 PM – 3:30 PM	TENNIS CAMP 1:15 PM – 3:30 PM	TENNIS CAMP 1:15 PM – 3:30 PM	TENNIS CAMP 1:15 PM – 3:30 PM		
<i>Sea Stallion Scuba</i> DEEP END 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM	<i>Evolution Swim</i> LESSONS (3 Lanes) 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM	<i>Evolution Swim</i> LESSONS (3 Lanes) 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM	<i>Evolution Swim</i> LESSONS (3 Lanes) 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM	<i>Evolution Swim</i> LESSONS (3 Lanes) 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM		<i>Sea Stallion Scuba</i> DEEP END 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM
		<i>Trilavie</i> ADULT SWIM 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM		<i>Trilavie</i> ADULT SWIM 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM		

The Nellie Gail Ranch Swim Center has many programs that utilize the pool throughout the year. The pool is open to recreational swimmers during all hours of operation. A swim lane will always be available for members and residents during any Swim program. Pool hours are 6:00am-10:00pm Monday through Friday and 6:00am-7:30pm Saturday and Sunday. For more info, please contact the Swim Center at 949-831-6660.

features five concerts held every other Friday evening beginning June 12 through August 7. Grab a chair and head over to Gallup Park to enjoy great entertainment, delicious food trucks, and unforgettable evenings with your neighbors.

I would like to wish each of you a fun-filled and memorable summer!



ARCHITECTURAL REVIEWS

THE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEWS RESULTS ARE AVAILABLE ON-LINE

The Architectural Review results are accessible online for your convenience. You can easily view them by scanning the QR codes provided below:

Architectural Review
May 2026
QR Code



Minutes
April 2026
QR Code



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CFG is a family-run practice owned by local Nellie Gail residents. We specialize in working with business owners, executive professionals, and families. Our areas of expertise include:

- Retirement Planning
- Tax Mitigation Strategies
- Estate Planning & Wealth Transfer
- Wealth Management

CFGWEALTH.NM.COM



Contact us for a Complimentary Consultation
949-863-5938 | jimmy.cusimano@nm.com

PROGRAMS 2026



SEASONAL SWIM LESSONS
REGISTRATION ONGOING



SUMMER SWIM TEAM
REGISTRATION ONGOING



SUMMER SPORTS CAMP
REGISTRATION ONGOING

REGISTER TODAY!

FOR PROGRAM SPECIFIC START DATES AND FOR PRICING INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE

WWW.EVOLUTIONSWIM.COM | 949 388 4545

Nellie Gail Ranch



DP TENNIS ACADEMY



SUMMER TENNIS & SWIM CAMP 2026 REGISTRATION OPEN!

MONDAY - THURSDAY

Little Hitters | 5-8 years

10.30am - 2.30pm

\$280

Week 1 - June 8th

Week 2 - June 15th

Week 3 - June 22nd

Week 4 - June 29th

Week 5 - July 6th

Week 6 - July 13th

Week 7 - July - 20th

Week 8 - July 27th

Week 9 - August 3rd

Week 10 - August 10th

Challengers | 9 years+

10.30am - 3pm

\$315



Music Maria

Yacht Rock

TRIVIA NIGHT

Join us at The Watering Hole for a fun night of trivia with thought-provoking questions, great music, fun prizes, and entertaining hosts!

FREE TO PLAY!

FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 2026 | 6:30-9:00PM

FOR NELLIE GAIL RANCH RESIDENTS, MEMBERS, AND THEIR GUESTS

25281 Empty Saddle Drive,
Laguna Hills

949.994.2658

THE
WATERING HOLE
WHERE NEIGHBORS GATHER



Thank you to our
Contributing Sponsor:
Amy Moossavian



SUMMER CONCERT SERIES 2026



GALLUP PARK
FRIDAYS @ 7PM

**FOOD
TRUCKS**
for Dinner
& Dessert

JUN 12 **Wayward Sons** Contributing sponsor: Brad Feldman
80's Rock Nostalgia

JUN 26 **Surf City All Stars**
Beach Boys and Jan & Dean tribute band

JUL 10 **90's Rockshow**
90's Rock Tribute Band

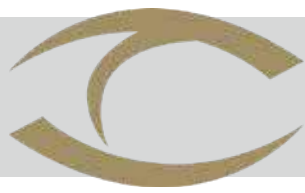
JUL 24 **K-Tel All Stars** Contributing sponsor: Brad Feldman
The Totally 70s Show

AUG 07 **Redneck Rodeo** Contributing sponsor: Martha Haecherl
Top Country Hits from Six Decades

THANK YOU
to our concert series
Contributing Sponsor:

**Bring your chairs
and an appetite!**

For more information, call
949.425.1477 or visit
nelliegailranch.org/events



Clearer Vision Starts Here

Tayani Institute in Laguna Hills, located right off La Paz and the 5, offers advanced cataract, LASIK, and pediatric eye care services to help patients of all ages see clearly and live more confidently without glasses or contacts. The practice is excited to welcome an exceptional ophthalmologist to our team, Dr. Majid Roubach, who brings extensive expertise in LASIK, premium cataract surgery, pediatric ophthalmology, and strabismus care.



MEET MAJID ROUBACH, M.D.

Dr. Roubach is a board-certified ophthalmologist with over 20 years of experience in cataract, refractive and LASIK surgery. He also specializes in pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus surgery, helping both children and adults with eye alignment and vision concerns. He completed fellowship training in cornea research, pediatric ophthalmology, and strabismus surgery at University of Illinois at Chicago.

Dr. Roubach is known for being personable and tailoring his care to each patient's needs, making him a favorite among both children and adult patients alike.

Comprehensive Eye Care from A-Z

At Tayani Institute, we provide everything from routine eye exams to advanced surgical care for patients of all ages. Our services include cataract surgery, glaucoma treatment, advanced laser procedures, vision correction options like LASIK, refractive lens exchange, and ortho-k, dry eye treatment, retinal care, upper facial plastic surgery, and management of eye diseases like macular degeneration and diabetic eye disease. We also offer glasses and contact lenses at our full-service optical boutique.

Schedule Your Eye Exam Today

Regular eye exams are key to protecting your vision and overall eye health. Whether you need a routine checkup, treatment for an eye condition, or want to explore vision correction options, the team at Tayani Institute is here to help you see your best with advanced technology and personalized care.



@TayaniInstitute

Request an
Appointment



(949) 489-2218
www.TAYANI.com

25200 La Paz Rd. #100,
Laguna Hills, CA 92653

SECURITY COMMITTEE

PROTECTING YOUR VEHICLE FROM THEFT

Nellie Gail Ranch is known for its beautiful homes, equestrian lifestyle, and strong sense of community. While our neighborhood remains one of the safest and most desirable places to live in Orange County, residents should still remain vigilant as vehicle burglaries and theft-related incidents continue to occur throughout Southern California.

Law enforcement agencies across California have reported ongoing concerns involving thieves targeting unlocked vehicles, garage areas, and cars left with visible valuables inside. In many cases, criminals are not "breaking in" at all — they are simply checking for unlocked doors and taking advantage of easy opportunities. Organized theft rings have also increasingly targeted gated and upscale communities throughout the state.

Modern vehicle theft has also become more sophisticated. Criminals are now using electronic tools and "relay attacks" to intercept key fob signals from vehicles equipped with keyless entry systems. Luxury vehicles, SUVs, and newer cars with push-button start systems are especially attractive targets.

Experts note that many vehicle burglaries are crimes of opportunity. A thief walking through a neighborhood may try dozens of car doors in minutes, targeting the easiest vehicles first. Even brief moments of carelessness can make a vehicle vulnerable.

Although national vehicle theft numbers have recently declined, hundreds of thousands of vehicles are still stolen annually in the United States, with one vehicle reportedly stolen every 48 seconds. California continues to rank among the states with the highest number of vehicle theft incidents.

By staying alert and practicing simple security measures, Nellie Gail Ranch residents can help protect not only their own property, but also the safety and security of the entire community.



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Every home has a story, and we were honored to guide this one from preparation to a successful close. Led by Liz Hansche's 30+ years of Orange County expertise, our team takes a hands-on approach to every sale, from preparing your home for market to executing strategic marketing and navigating negotiations with precision.

With inventory in Nellie Gail Ranch remaining limited, well-positioned homes continue to attract strong buyer interest, creating a meaningful opportunity for homeowners considering a move. For Jacquelyn (Jax) Shoults, this community is personal. Having grown up in Nellie Gail Ranch, she brings a deep, firsthand connection to the neighborhood, adding a layer of insight and care that complements our team's strategy.

We're proud to represent this community and are always here as a trusted resource.



LIZ HANSCHÉ

949.295.9373
LizHansche@bhhsca.com
DRE #01358416



JAX SHOULTS

949.433.5720
JaxShoults@bhhsca.com
DRE #02188382

**BERKSHIRE
HATHAWAY**
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CALIFORNIA
PROPERTIES

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THE WATERING HOLE

WHERE NEIGHBORS GATHER

Disco Night



Thank you to

photos by
Laoree Blough

Amy Moossavian
for being a contributing sponsor



ALTA
REALTY GROUP CA



CELEBRATING OUR TEAM'S SUCCESS IN THE SHOW RING

Congratulations to all of our riders and horses on their outstanding performances at The Oaks Capistrano Cup 2 in San Juan Capistrano! We are incredibly proud of the hard work, dedication, and sportsmanship our team continues to demonstrate both in and out of the show ring.

- Lane Clarke & Idaho De Beaufour — 6th in the \$50,000 Grand Prix
- Lauren Katzenellenbogen & Chrysolite Fonroy — 5th in the \$2,500 1.25m Jumper Classic
- Lauren Katzenellenbogen & Little Big Star — 6th in the \$2,500 1.25m Jumper Classic
- Destiny Stewart & Fergus De Frajus — 7th in the \$2,500 1.25m Jumper Classic
- Lane Clarke & I Know De Beaufour — 3rd in the 1.20m Jumper
- Kimberly Williams & Everlasting Ivy — 2nd in the 1.10m Jumper
- Haley Smart & Of Passion Van Den Dael — 2nd and 3rd in the 1.0m Amateur Jumper, and 3rd in the \$500 1.05m Amateur Jumper Classic
- Vanessa Royal & Hypnos — 3rd in the 0.80m Jumper

These accomplishments reflect the dedication, perseverance, and strong partnerships our riders have built with their horses through countless hours of preparation and training. We are also incredibly grateful for the continued support of our wonderful barn family, trainers, staff, and community.

Additionally, we would like to extend a special congratulations to Destiny Stewart on completing

her very first Grand Prix aboard El Corazón at Jumping at Galway Downs in Temecula on May 23!

This exciting milestone is a true reflection of Destiny's hard work, determination, and commitment to exceptional horsemanship. Completing a first Grand Prix is a major achievement, and we could not be more proud to celebrate this accomplishment with her.





***Proud to be a Nellie Gail Homeowner for 40 years!
No broker residing here has sold more Nellie Gail Homes.***



Nellie Gail Ranch \$2,525,000



Mission Viejo \$1,830,000



Mission Viejo \$1,960,000

THERE IS A CHANGE IN THE AIR !!! IS IT TIME TO SELL ???

If you have been considering selling your home, now may be the best time in many years. And it may be the best time for several years to come. The inventory of homes for sale is exceptionally low, and buyer demand remains high. Despite the doubling of interest rates, prices are holding strong for now. Please give me a call to discuss the details of moving up to a new home, or downsizing if the time is right for that lifestyle change.



Marty Samuel
(949) 643-1321



DRE #00452321

**Want to stay updated on all Nellie Gail listing & sales activity?
Email me for a free personalized MLS Portal: marty@martysamuel.com**

Nellie Gail sales based on MLS data since Oct 1989

Mai Park Capital | Pence Wealth Management

Managing Director, Mai Park, CPWA®

With more than 20 years of experience in private wealth management, Mai Park works with engineers, executives and families from companies like Raytheon, Northrop Grumman, Lockheed Martin, SpaceX and Tesla. She founded Mai Park Capital, in partnership with Pence Wealth Management, and specializes in developing wealth strategies tailored to the unique compensation structures and financial challenges of the aerospace and technology industries.

As a managing director at Pence Wealth Management, Mai is backed by an advisory team that manages over \$2.7 billion in client assets and offers comprehensive services in retirement planning, tax strategy, estate coordination and investment management. She was recognized by Forbes as one of America's Top Women Wealth Advisors Best-in-State in 2023, 2024 and 2025.

Highlights

- Wealth Management
- Retirement Planning
- Tax-Efficient Strategies
- Portfolio Construction

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FIRM.

I founded Mai Park Capital to gain the freedom to create fully customized portfolios for clients, and to access a breadth of investment vehicles. Partnering with Pence Wealth Management gives me access to an actively managed and tax-harvesting platform.

WHAT IS YOUR AREA OF EXPERTISE?

Goals-based wealth planning. I create personalized strategies that align every financial decision with a client's life goals. Rather than focusing solely on market movements or short-term performance, I help clients define what truly matters to them—whether that's retirement readiness, funding education or leaving a legacy—and then design tax-efficient, diversified portfolios to support those objectives. It's about turning wealth into a tool for living with purpose.

HOW DO YOU ESTABLISH TRUST WITH NEW CLIENTS?

Trust is earned through consistency, transparency and genuine care. We start by listening and understanding what truly matters to each client before offering any advice. Education and clarity are key. When clients understand the "why" behind their strategy, confidence naturally follows. And above all, we lead with integrity. Every recommendation we make is guided by our fiduciary duty to put clients' best interests first.

WHAT'S THE MOST VALUABLE LESSON YOU'VE LEARNED FROM ADVISING OTHERS?

True wealth isn't just about numbers; it's about purpose. Clients' goals, values and life experiences shape their definition of financial success. My role is to listen deeply, understand what matters to them and build strategies that align their wealth with their lifestyle.



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Let's Talk.

Disclaimer: Securities and advisory services offered through LPL Financial, a registered investment advisor. Member FINRA/SIPC. AUM of \$2.7 billion as of February 3rd, 2026.



PHOTOGRAPHED BY FABIEN & LAURA CASTRO

TATE | LAMOTT

GROUP



27215 STAGEWOOD
OFFERED AT \$3,250,000



27101 SHENANDOAH
OFFERED AT \$3,260,000



25602 RAPID FALLS
SOLD FOR \$3,245,000



25582 RAPID FALLS
SOLD FOR \$4,120,000

BEN TATE

949.244.3748

DRE 01871507

SARAH TATE

DRE 01882269

JERRY LAMOTT

DRE 00469045

TATELAMOTT.COM

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COMPASS

Congratulations!



Class of 2026

Congratulations to all of the graduates from the **Nellie Gail Ranch community!** This exciting milestone represents years of hard work, dedication, perseverance, and achievement. From kindergarten promotions to high school, college, and advanced degree graduations, we are incredibly proud of each student and all they have accomplished. Your Nellie Gail Ranch neighbors and community celebrate your success and look forward to seeing all that you will achieve in the future. Wishing all of our graduates continued success, happiness, and new opportunities in the exciting journey ahead!



Brayden Fisk moved to Nellie Gail Ranch when he was five years old. Brayden spends most of his free time camping, biking, and off-roading. Brayden has volunteered as a flag football coach for the past four years—proudly leading his teams to three championship titles. Brayden has worked as a professional lifeguard for the last three years. He will expand his life-saving skills working as an EMT this summer. Brayden is graduating with honors from Laguna Hills High School and looks forward to pursuing a business degree at San Diego State University this fall.



Paige Holland is graduating from Laguna Hills High School, where she made her mark as a dedicated athlete in both wrestling and flag football. In addition to her athletic achievements, Paige earned the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout with the Boy Scouts of America in 2024—a testament to her leadership, perseverance, and commitment to service.

This fall, she will begin an exciting new chapter at Texas A&M University, where she plans to pursue a degree in Agricultural Business. The future is bright for Paige as she continues to build on her accomplishments and follow her passions.



Maryam is graduating from Mission Viejo High School and plans to attend California State University San Marcos, where she will study Public Health with the goal of eventually becoming a Physician Assistant. In addition to her academic achievements, Maryam works at the Nellie Gail Ranch Clubhouse and has enjoyed being part of the community. She is excited for this next chapter and grateful for the support of her family, friends, and community throughout her journey.



Congratulations April Jean, graduate of Saddleback Christian Academy. What a pleasure and joy it has been to walk through life with you. Mom and I are very proud of who you are as a young woman. Your character and faith are inspiring. It is a joy to see your dedication to music and the hard work you have put into educating yourself and developing your craft.

April is a singer who will be coming out with her first single in August. If you would like to support her on social media, you can find her @ [apriljeanmusic](#), on all social media platforms.

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TEAM DARKHORSE - 3D Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Division Support Committee is the (all volunteer) IRS 501 (c) 3 non profit org formed in 2010, following the Laguna Hills City Council formal vote to adopt this Camp Pendleton Infantry Unit. For more information, to volunteer, or make a donation please contact President, Vanessa Kon at vanessakon@cox.net.



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- by Karen L. Robbins

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Battalion Commander LtCol Kevin Nicholson let us know when the shipment arrived, and shared a few photos of the jubilant Marines shown here.

Next up is our goal of surprising them with boxes of protein bars --- enough to distribute 3 bars per Marine. If you like, join us in the mission by donating today!



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Nellie Gail Garden Group

By Kase Rogers.

I recently had the pleasure of hosting our Garden Club, where I shared my orchid collection along with the knowledge I've gathered over the years caring for these beautiful plants. It was a wonderful morning spent outdoors, connecting with neighbors and talking about all things gardening.

My collection is primarily made up of Phalaenopsis (fuh-len-OP-sis) orchids, commonly known as moth orchids. These are widely available at local retailers and are a great option for beginners. Stores like Trader Joe's often carry them at very reasonable prices, though more unique varieties can sometimes be found at specialty nurseries.

Like many gardeners, I've had my share of trial and error—I've certainly lost a few along the way. However, I've found a care routine that works well in our local climate and helps keep orchids healthy and blooming year after year.

One of the most important things to know is that an orchid is not dead just because it has lost its flowers. In fact, with proper care, these plants can live for decades! Most orchids will bloom once or even twice a year, with flowers lasting anywhere from two to six months.

When you first bring an orchid home, it is typically planted in a moisture-retaining "plug" made of materials such as sphagnum moss or coco coir. While helpful in a greenhouse setting, this plug can retain too much water in a home environment and may lead to root rot over time. For this reason, it's best to remove it once the plant has finished blooming. Also, despite common advice, orchids should not be watered with ice cubes—these are tropical plants and prefer room-temperature water.

The roots will indicate when watering is needed: silvery gray roots mean the plant is thirsty, while



green roots indicate sufficient moisture. While your orchid still has its plug, a simple watering method is to place a few inches of water in the bottom of a decorative pot and allow the orchid to soak for 10–15 minutes once a week, then drain any excess water.

After the blooms have fallen, you can repot your orchid and remove the plug. Gently remove it from its pot, clear away the old growing material, and trim any dead or damaged roots using sanitized pruning shears. If the flower spike is still green, you may leave it, as it can sometimes produce additional blooms. Just trim away the portion that has already flowered, as it will not rebloom.

Repot using a mix of approximately 20% sphagnum moss and 80% orchid bark, ensuring the plant is secure but not tightly packed. This provides the orchid with the right balance of moisture and airflow. Ongoing care is simple: water weekly, fertilize every other week with an orchid fertilizer, and avoid getting water into the crown (the center) of the plant to prevent rot.

For best results, orchids prefer bright, indirect light and benefit from a slight drop in temperature in the fall, which helps trigger new flower spikes. In our area, this often occurs naturally near a window, but it can also be encouraged by slightly opening a window for a few evenings.

Locally, the orchid blooming season typically runs from December through March. As new growth begins, watch for spikes forming between the leaves. These differ from aerial roots by their flat, mitten-like tips—spotting one is always exciting!

Orchids are a rewarding addition to any home, and with a little care, they can provide beautiful blooms for many years. If you receive one as a gift—or pick one up locally—don't be discouraged when the flowers fade. With the right approach, your orchid can thrive and rebloom season after season. Happy Gardening, Kase Rogers.





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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Taco Tuesday at The Watering Hole	3 Annual Meeting and Election at 6:30 pm @ the Hideout	4 Wine & Design (by appointment)	5	6
7	8	9 Taco Tuesday at The Watering Hole · ARC Meeting at 6:00pm @ The Association Office	10 Reconvened Election at 6:30 pm @ the Hideout	11	12 Summer Concert Series Wayward Sons at Gallup Park @ 7:00pm	13
14	15	16 Taco Tuesday at The Watering Hole · Board Meeting 7:30pm @Club- house	17	18	19 Trivia Night Yacht Rock @ The Watering Hole 6:30pm - 9:30pm	20
21 HAPPY Father's Day	22	23 Taco Tuesday at The Watering Hole	24	25	26 Summer Concert Series Surf City All Stars at Gallup Park @ 7:00pm	27
28	29 ARC Submittal Deadline for July 14th meeting	30 Taco Tuesday at The Watering Hole				



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