

# Orangevale View

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## Turkey Bowl 2024: TURKEY BOWL 2024: A SMASHING SUCCESS!

By MaryAnne Povey



Well, we did it again! This year's Turkey Bowl not only set the bar high, but smashed it. Thanks to our incredible community, we exceeded our ambitious goal of \$20,000 by raising over \$21,000 to feed 500 local families in need through the Orangevale-Fair Oaks Food Bank this Thanksgiving.



First Place: Palmer Poultry Pumlmlers with team members Sean Palmer and Keith Wright,

This cherished annual tradition brought together 16 spirited teams, all competing for the coveted title of Turkey Bowl Champions 2024. The event was filled with energy, camaraderie, and plenty of creative costumes as teams bowled their hearts out and rallied pledges and sponsorships to make this year's fundraiser the best yet.

Roll the drumsticks, here are the results of the Championship round: First Place: Palmer Poultry Pumlmlers with team members Sean Palmer and Keith Wright, and 2nd Place honors goes to Squires Squawkers, Brad Squires and Lance Loveday. It was a close and thrilling competition, with everyone bringing their A-game and plenty of enthusiasm.

In another category of competition of collecting the most pledges, the top three teams include the Tri Tippers of L & M Liquor & Deli and All Events Management, Derek Maldonado and Vanessa Kinch bringing in \$1,787, followed by the Fun Fowls Feeding Families team of Berkshire/Hathaway Home Services, Lisa Samson and Stacie Davis bringing in \$1,198 and Squires Squawkers, Brad Squires and Lance Loveday collecting \$1,137 from family, friends and fans.

Of course, we couldn't have done it without the support of our generous sponsors starting with our Platinum Turkey Sponsor: Supervisor Sue Frost – who graciously welcomed the crowd and was recognized for her support over the past five years. Our other generous sponsors include: Gold Turkey Sponsors: Supervisor Rich Desmond and Taco Bell. Silver Turkey Sponsors: Orangevale Chamber of Commerce, Luz Johnson, Sapphire Oaks Wealth Advisors, Scotty's Hideaway, and Kathleen Massae, Realtor - Compass, and

CONTINUE ON PAGE 5

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# ABOUT THE VIEW



## ABOUT THE ORANGEVALE VIEW

The "Orangevale View" – the ultimate, award-winning community newspaper – serves Orangevale and surrounding areas, including Fair Oaks, Citrus Heights, and Folsom, CA. With a present estimated readership of more than 37,000, this FREE paper grows with every issue. It is delivered twice a month to at least 15,000 residents' homes and to more than 100 high traffic locations.

The views and opinions printed within are not necessarily those of Publisher Brad Tatum or the Orangevale View staff. Rather, the views and opinions expressed are those of each individual contributor.

### SUBMISSION POLICIES:

Submissions from you, our readers, are always welcome, for this is YOUR newspaper. We await school, church, or sports team materials, anniversaries, births, special occasions, memorials, or other items of interest. Donations are encouraged and accepted for anniversaries, births, and other special milestones and announcements. Publication is at the discretion of the Orangevale View staff.

Requirements are simple:

(1) Acknowledge that either you are the author or you have permission to publish from the original author;

(2) Articles should not exceed 300 words. We like Community Calendar items of 45 words or less.

(3) Format: Microsoft Word format with photos at least 300 dpi JPEG or PDF.

Please use this format so we do not have to send your work back to you for corrections.

(4) The View does not verify the accuracy of your submissions, and in some cases, dates and information are subject to change. (5) Please email submissions, to YOUR newspaper. The email address is editor@ovview.com. It is you, our

contributors, readers and advertisers who make the Orangevale View a newspaper you want to read.

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## DATES TO REMEMBER

DECEMBER 2024

NOV 27 • Public Deadline

DEC 6 • PUBLICATION

OUT TO PUBLIC

NOV 27 • Public Deadline

DEC 6 • PUBLICATION

OUT TO PUBLIC



The public is invited to visit Santa at the Museum on Saturday, December 7th at the Orangevale History Museum 6920 Hazel Avenue from 12 pm to 3pm. Pictures with Santa and crafts for the children too. Snacks will be served. This event will be held rain or shine! The museum will be decorated for Christmas too.

The museum will be introducing the newest exhibit featuring elementary, middle and high schools of the area and their activities over the years. Come and reminisce about your school days and see what you remember!

The Orangevale History Museum container we call, "Bessie" will be presented. The box has beautiful designs on each with special depictions of the history of Orangevale. You are invited to walk along the new walkway around it. To prepare the new exhibit the museum will be closed on Tuesday, December 3rd and Thursday, December 5th.



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# ANNOUNCEMENTS



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A man who truly  
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in the **MAGIC**  
of Christmas

## DOVEWOOD COURT LOSES ONE OF ITS BRIGHTEST LIGHTS

Dovewood Court lost one of its most inspirational neighbors this summer in Roger Mendoza. Roger passed away after years of fighting and coming back from whatever was thrown his way.

Roger and his wife Lois loved Christmas so much. Everyone remembers the house with the amazing decorations inside the garage or the ferris wheel in their front yard. Every year all the

neighbors would wait to see what Roger and Lois would come up with next.

We are celebrating Roger this holiday season and want everyone to remember the joy he and his family brought to all of our families. There will be pictures of their wonderful decorations over the years and a guest book outside if you want to leave a message for Lois, Roger and family.

Dovewood Court opens December 8th this year. The best way to see all the spe-

cial things is by getting out of the car and walking. The church and the Grange offer safe parking and accept donations for a good cause. If you park on the surrounding streets, please remember to not leave purses or valuables in the car.

And and as always we are collecting donations of non-perishable food items to help those in need in our community.

Submitted by Mark Sweet

## TURKEY BOWL CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

finally our Bronze Clucker Sponsors: OV Moms Club, 7-11, Katie Yount State Farm, Mount Vernon Memorial Park, OV Rotary, A-Team Restoration, Brad Squires, Nor Cal Orthodontics, Dad's Kitchen, House to Home Moving, American River Urgent Care and Cal-Acoustic Interiors

Special thanks to our new

Grocery Outlet owners, Paul and Roman Kellner, who wholeheartedly embraced the spirit of the event and helped make it a success.

This year's event featured a fantastic raffle, with donations from our incredible community. And let's not forget the delicious food that fueled our bowlers provided by Badfish Coffee & Tea, Chick-fil-A Granite Bay and La Placita.

This year's Turkey Bowl proved, once again, the incredible heart and generosity of our community. Thank you to everyone who played a part in making this event possible – your support is what keeps this tradition alive and thriving. Here's to another year of community spirit and making a difference. Wishing everyone a very happy and blessed Thanksgiving.

*Orangevale Live - Maryanne Povey Photo by Tim Engle*



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## GUM FAMILY IN ORANGEVALE

Excerpts from *My Yesterdays* by Wilma Gum Aspholm (sister of Irving Gum)

Most residents of Orangevale are familiar with the Gum Ranch at the corner of Kenneth Avenue and Madison Avenue in Fair Oaks. It is now developed into new housing tracts. This article has a few memories of the Perry Gum Family when they lived on Beech Avenue in Orangevale.

Folsom State Prison was about six miles from where we lived. The fathers of some of the kids we went to school with worked as guards at the prison. Some lived in their own homes and others lived in houses on prison grounds. As kids we would ride our bikes up and around the prison.

Sometimes there were riots and breaks at the prison, and when that happened all hell broke loose, and you could hear this mournful wail of the prison sirens. One of the worst and biggest breaks was on Thanksgiving Day in 1927. Several prisoners escaped. Again in 1930, while attending the Orangevale School, there was a big riot at the prison. It was a gory riot with prisoners and guards being wounded or killed. The father of Eileen Singleton, a student at the school, was killed with an ice pick stabbed into his head. I remember that because it was so horrifying.

The doctor for the prison was Dr. Proctor W Day, and he held that job until World War II when he went into the service as a Navy doctor. He was a little tiny fellow for a man – seems like he was barely over five feet tall. What amazed people was the respect the prisoners had for him. He would walk all over that prison, even during bloody riots, caring for the injured and dying, and no one would lay a hand on him.

We didn't have a doctor in Orangevale, but there were two in Folsom who attended to people for miles around. They were Dr. Day and Dr. Sanborn. Dr. Day was the prison doctor but both of them had small offices at the rear of the drugstores. Both of them had erratic office hours, and appointments were unheard of. People went to the doctor's office and sat and waited their turn – first come, first serve. Dr. Sanborn, it was said, was a good doctor if you could find him sober, which was seldom. I remember Dr. Sanborn always had a red face. The druggists were more or less the receptionist.

When I was eight Dr. Day said I had to have my tonsils taken out, and he did the job at Mercy Hospital in Sacramento. I went to the hospital in the morning and got to go home in the evening. At that time, they still gave ether for the anesthetic. The nurse gave me a little celluloid doll dressed like a nurse to hold. When she had me sniff

the ether, she said. "Now, doesn't that smell nice, like orange blossoms." My thinking at the time was how stupid could that nurse be, I lived on an orange orchard and that dammed ether sure didn't smell like any orange blossoms to me.

Another thing about the doctors then was that they were lucky if they ever got paid. No one had any money during the depression years and people paid what they could, but often never paid at all. The fees for a call to the doctor were next to nothing, but still people seldom had the money to pay. Ma used to ask Dr. Day at times to figure our bill so she could see what we could pay on it. He always put her off with, "Well Mrs. Gum, I don't have time now, but one of these days I will figure it up." But he never did.

My folks did pay the hospital and Dr. Day too for having my tonsils out because I remember Ma telling me how she paid for it. She had a World War I Liberty Bond she had in the amount of \$60.

The Orangevale History Project invites the community to Santa at the Museum at 6920 Hazel Avenue. Children can visit Santa, enjoy crafts and food. New displays will be revealed in the museum too on Saturday, December 7th from 12 pm to 3pm. Rain or shine!

Museum closed Tuesday, December 3rd and Thursday, December 5th to prepare new exhibits.

## Why Sacramento Should Reject a New Sales Tax

Why Sacramento Should Reject a New Sales Tax

By Sue Frost

Living in Sacramento County, we all know how essential our roads are. Every day, whether we're heading to work, dropping kids off at school, or running errands, we rely on our roads. With over 5,200 miles of roads used by nearly 85% of us, the importance of maintaining and improving our road infrastructure is clear. We also know that far too many of our roads are in a dangerous state of disrepair and critical improvements are bogged down in bureaucratic agendas.

Recently, the Sacramento Transportation Authority (STA) suggested forming a 7-member subcommittee to consider if we need another sales tax increase - but most of the funds are allocated for underused public transit and questionable environmental programs. I voted against this because the idea doesn't meet the needs of most county residents, especially those living in rural communities like Orangevale and Rio Linda who rely heavily on roads.

We've seen similar tax proposals fail before, like Measure B in 2016, which didn't address the real concerns of our community. Our roads rank among the worst in the nation, affecting us all every day.

There is an obvious need for serious improvements to our roads and highways. This isn't just about patching up potholes but making big changes to cut down on traffic, make our drives safer, and improve our quality of life. We need to make



Supervisor Sue Frost

sure that every dollar spent is watched over closely and used well.

I'm not a knee-jerk opponent of all taxes. But I firmly believe in being transparent about how any new tax money would be used, ensuring there's a clear end date for these taxes. We need to be careful and clear, demonstrating exactly what improvements will be funded and when the taxes will expire to avoid undue financial pressure on our taxpayers. Our residents want to see real, lasting results from their taxes, not more empty promises.

Our main goal should be to focus on actions that genuinely improve our roads. This is the practical and necessary choice for our community's well-being.

Thank you for Reading – and as always if you want to contact me, call me at 916-874-5491, or e-mail me at [SupervisorFrost@saccounty.gov](mailto:SupervisorFrost@saccounty.gov). Sacramento County Supervisor Sue Frost represents the 4th District, which includes the communities of Citrus Heights, Folsom, Orangevale, Antelope, North Highlands, Rio Linda, Elverta, and Rancho Murieta.





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GIVING OPPORTUNITIES:

The Orangevale-Fair Oaks Kiwanis Club is back collecting PJ's for kids in need! Please donate some warm pjs to the 5th Annual pajama drive now through December 8! Lots of locations to drop off. Let's come together to bring comfort and joy this holiday season! Here's the amazon link to donate easy! [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1HYJU10WK7JB7?ref\\_=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1HYJU10WK7JB7?ref_=wl_share)

The OV Teen Council is hosting their Annual Stocking Drive for teens in need this holiday season now through December 8! See the flier below for details. Scan the QR code, use the Amazon link to make your donation, or drop off your items to The Last Tangle! Use link for easy donations! [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3GJ03CYT4ZHTC?ref\\_=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3GJ03CYT4ZHTC?ref_=wl_share)



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Our friend made this dish for dinner last week and it was delicious! It is the perfect dish to make on these cool fall evenings.

If you would like to share a favorite fall recipe, please send a copy to Suzanne Feblowitz at the Orangevale View (editor@ovview.com). Be sure to include your phone number or email with your recipe just in case we need to contact you. If you wish to remain anonymous, just let us know and we will omit your name.

### LINDA'S CHICKEN, BROCCOLI AND RICE CASSEROLE

3 cups broccoli flowerets  
 2 cups shredded cooked chicken, (You can use a Rotisserie Chicken)  
 2-3 cups cooked rice (brown or white)  
 4-5 white mushrooms, coarsely chopped  
 1/3 cup onion, chopped  
 Olive oil or butter  
 3 tablespoons butter  
 3 tablespoons flour

1 ½ cup milk  
 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese  
 1 TBSP lemon juice  
 1 cup sour cream  
 ½ cup panko breadcrumbs  
 ½ cup shredded parmesan cheese  
 2 tablespoons melted butter

Cook broccoli until crisp tender (bright green), do not overcook because the broccoli will continue to cook when you bake the casserole. Set aside.  
 Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Prepare a large casserole dish by spraying with Pam or lightly greased with butter. In a pan, sauté mushrooms and onion in a small amount of olive oil or butter. Set aside.

In a medium pot make the cheese sauce by melting the 3 tablespoons of butter, then whisk in the 3 tablespoons of flour and cook for 2-3 minutes. Slowly add the milk and stir until thickened. Add cheese and stir to melt. Remove from heat and add sour

cream and lemon juice. In a large bowl, mix cooked rice, chicken, broccoli, onion/mushroom mixture and cheese sauce. Add salt and pepper to taste. Pour mixture into the prepared casserole. Mix panko, melted butter and parmesan together and sprinkle on top of the casserole.

Bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes and then increase heat to 400 and bake 10 more minutes.  
 Enjoy!

## Introducing the New Orangevale-Fair Oaks Farmstand

Something exciting is sprouting at the Orangevale-Fair Oaks Food Bank Farm—a new farmstand that will offer fresh, local produce and help our community flourish!

The vision is to sell produce sourced directly from the farm and other local farmers and handmade food products from the community. It is anticipated to open in spring 2025 and operate every Saturday year-round. Local nonprofits and clubs will also be able to use it for fundraising.

Proceeds will support the growing Food Bank and Farm. The Food Bank sees 10 to 20 new families seeking help daily. In 2023, the Food Bank Farm produced 14,500 pounds of fresh, organically-grown

vegetables to support our community.

The Orangevale-Fair Oaks Community Foundation, which runs these programs, developed the farmstand plan with the help of a \$250,000 grant from Republic Services and Rebuilding Together Sacramento. Recognizing the need for more fresh produce and the popularity of programs like veggie boxes, the Foundation expanded its services.

“Our thriving farm started as an empty parking lot and a dream. The farmstand is the next step,” said Foundation Founder & CEO Brad Squires. “The farmstand will feed our community, support local farmers, and allow us to make a greater impact. It is another way to show the Orangevale-Fair Oaks community that we care!”



Thanks to the grant and the hard work of volunteers, the farmstand was built from the ground up and completed by the end of September. Painted with “The Farmstand Est 2024,” it begins a new chapter

for the Food Bank and Farm.

Stay updated by signing up for our email newsletter at foodbank.farm and following us on Facebook and Instagram. Farmers interested in part-

nering with the farmstand can email [info@foodbank.farm](mailto:info@foodbank.farm). We look forward to welcoming you to the farmstand in 2025!

Article Credit: Orangevale-Fair Oaks Food Bank Farm





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## GET READY TO CELEBRATE THE EXCELLENCE OF ORANGEVALE!



It's time to nominate your favorite local businesses, non-profits, schools, and volunteers who make our community shine. The Best of Orangevale is a friendly competition that highlights the diversity and dedication of our small businesses and community members. Whether you're a customer, supporter, or business owner, you can join in the fun and show your appreciation for the hard work of our local heroes. Nominations open on December 1st, and voting begins on January 1st, 2025. To participate, you must live, work, or have a business in Orangevale, or be an active Or-

angevale Chamber Member doing business in Orangevale. When voting starts on January 1st, you can vote for one nominee per category, with a minimum of three category votes. Some of the categories include:

- Best Restaurant
- Best Retail Store
- Best Service Provider
- Best Non-Profit Organization
- Best School
- Volunteer of The Year
- Teacher of The Year

The winners will be announced and celebrated at the Best of Orangevale Award Banquet on February 2nd. Don't miss this chance to honor the achievements of our local businesses and connect with other members of the Orangevale community. The goal of the Best of Orangevale is to raise awareness of the fantastic small businesses and organizations we have in Orangevale. We want the competition to be enjoyable for everyone involved. So, what are you waiting for? **Nominate your favorites at [www.bestoforangevale.com](http://www.bestoforangevale.com) today!**

## A 32-MILE JOURNEY RESULTS IN COMPASSION



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In the Democratic Republic of Congo, it's different. Many people travel over 30 miles by bicycle to receive medical care. The Paul Carlson Partnership is a religious medical organization that is training healthcare workers, improving access to clean water, providing medicine, supplies, and treatment for those who can't afford medical care.

Last month, our church, partnered with Paul Carlson Partnership. A group of ten of us rode 32 miles from Beale's point in Folsom to Discovery Park in Sacramento. Our hope was that we would get a taste of what it would be like to experience a 32-mile journey and grow in our compassion. We also wanted to raise awareness and money for this great cause (which is why I am writing

this article).

During the ride I experienced fatigue, my quads started hurting, my back end hurt (I wasn't used to sitting on a bicycle for that long). It was hot and windy. My discomfort compelled me to think about what it would be like to ride a bike if you had cancer, if you had to haul your child in a carrier, or what it would be like to pedal with a broken limb. What if you were giving birth? I can't even imagine.

I am grateful to be part of a church that loves their neighbor, even if they are halfway around the world. If you are interested in learning more, or would like to get involved, please reach out. [Dmeyerpeter@redeemercov.com](mailto:Dmeyerpeter@redeemercov.com) If you would like to donate, a link can be found on Redeemer Covenant Church's website, under news, then announcements.

Dan Meyerpeter, Pastor Redeemer Covenant Church

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Let's spark some joy and kick off this wonderful season! Come out to the Orangevale Community Tree Lighting on Friday December 6th at the Orangevale Community Center, 6826 Hazel Ave. This free community event brings Orangevale together for food, crafts, fun & more! Starting at 6:00 pm, we will have train rides and a community performance for everyone to enjoy. There will be refreshments & cookies provided by the Orangevale Woman's Club, tasty hot dogs made by the Orangevale Grange, and popcorn made fresh by the Orangevale History Project. The Orangevale Chamber of Commerce has gotten word that Santa is visiting all the way from the North Pole! You don't want to miss your picture with him. To end the evening, we'll gather around the Tree and watch Santa light up the night with help from our friends at EasyStumps. You won't want to miss this tree-mendous event!

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On November 14, 2024, Ottomon Elementary proudly participated in the Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day. Teachers, parents, and students gathered at the Redeemer Covenant Church, which graciously provided a meeting place and delicious donuts to start the day. The group then walked together to Ottomon Elementary, celebrating the spirit of unity and community while honoring Ruby Bridges' historic contribution to school integration. This event not only fostered a sense of togetherness but also highlighted the importance of inclusivity and the ongoing journey toward equality in education. Photo and information provide by Suzanne Febowitz

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**CASA ROBLE RAMS' PLAYOFF JOURNEY ENDS IN HIGH-SCORING THRILLER**

The Casa Roble Rams' playoff run came to an emotional end Friday night after a 55-41 loss to the Union Mine Diamondbacks in the CIF Sac-Joaquin Section Division V quarterfinals. Despite the loss, the Rams showcased tremendous heart and resilience, capping off a season filled with unforgettable moments and hard-fought victories.

**A Thrilling First-Round Victory**

The Rams' playoff journey began with a dramatic 27-26 win over the Foothill Mustangs in the first round, a game filled with twists and turns. Senior running back Braylen Blevins carried the team with 27 carries for 195 yards and three touchdowns, including a critical two-point conversion. Quarterback Aidan Lopez played a pivotal role, connecting with senior receiver Connor Campbell for a touchdown, while the Rams' defense held strong in the final moments to secure the win. It was a fitting farewell to the home field for Casa Roble's seniors, many



of whom had celebrated a conference championship the previous year.

"The game didn't unfold as we thought it would," Coach Chris Horner said after the Foothill game. "But our boys stayed calm and methodically drove it down. They dealt with adversity and stayed together."

**Quarterfinal Shootout Against Union Mine**



Friday night's game against Union Mine was a battle of offensive juggernauts. Neither defense could contain the other, and the game turned into a high-scoring shootout. With both teams trading touchdowns throughout the first half, it became clear that the winner would be decided by who could make the most of their possessions.

Junior quarterback Aidan Lopez delivered another stellar performance, throwing

for 297 yards and three touchdowns while completing an impressive 78.6% of his passes. Lopez also rushed for 35 yards, showcasing his versatility. His top target, senior Elijah Huddle, had 127 receiving yards and a touchdown, and he added another score on the ground. Freshman standout Dunedin Tupou and senior Connor Campbell also made significant contributions, embodying the team's balanced offensive attack.

Despite Casa Roble's firepower, Union Mine's offense proved unstoppable, posting 55 points—their highest-scoring game of the season. The Diamondbacks capitalized on a couple of key turnovers, including an interception and a fumble, which shifted momentum in their favor. While the Rams fought valiantly, Union Mine's ability to control the clock and finish drives sealed the victory.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19  
 Photos and article submitted by Tim Engle

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# OV CONNECT

Connecting Readers with Their Community

## CASA ROBLE RAMS' PLAYOFF JOURNEY CONTINUE FROM PAGE 18

### A Season to Remember

For Casa Roble, the loss marked the end of a special season. Many of the seniors were key players in last year's conference championship run, leaving behind a legacy of excellence and leadership. For head coach Chris Horner, this season was especially meaningful, as it was the second and final year coaching his son, Ethan Horner, an outstanding receiver who has been a cornerstone of the Rams' offense.

"It's always hard to see the seniors at the end of the last game," Coach Horner reflected. "But this group has been special, not just for what they've accomplished on the field, but for the way they've represented this program."

The postgame emotions ran heavy, as players and families shared hugs and tears, cherishing the memories of a season—and for some, a career—that had come to an end. While the scoreboard may not have favored Casa Roble, the bonds forged, the lessons learned, and the moments shared will last a lifetime.

### Looking Ahead

As the Rams prepare to move forward, they leave behind a season defined by grit, determination, and the unwavering support of their community. With young talent like Lopez and Tupou returning, Casa Roble's future looks bright. For now, though, the focus is on celebrating a team that gave its all and a season that will not soon be forgotten.

From their dramatic first-round victory to their high-scoring finale, the Casa Roble Rams proved what it means to play with heart. While their playoff run has ended, their story continues to inspire fans and families alike in Orangevale and beyond.



Patsy McGavock  
PART 1

When it comes to supporting student success across one of the largest and most diverse school districts in California, San Juan Unified School District brings families, schools and communities together.

San Juan Unified is the state's eighth largest school district, according to the California Department of Education's Oct. 28, 2024 report, with over 70 different languages spoken. It's also the fifth largest immigrant-enrolling district, according to an Aug. 2023 case study by Policy Analysis for California Education, focused on newcomer support in the San Juan Unified District.

The case study reports that "San Juan Unified School District recognized the need to listen first, then act; hire staff from the immigrant community; engage parents as leaders and partners; and expand its support through strong community-based partnerships."

Natalia Aguirre-Mazzi of the districts Family and Community Engagement (F.A.C.E) department works with school sites to accomplish some of those goals. When speaking of engagement she describes three tiers: school, family and community support surrounding student success.

"When a school brings a need or is working on ways to engage parents, F.A.C.E looks at the full story of the time and resources parents are able to

bring. If there are gaps, we look for ways the broader community can help," says Aguirre-Mazzi.

She also helps make volunteer registration and screening more accessible to potential volunteers through monthly after-hours fingerprinting clinics and mobile clinics via the FACE mobile at local school and district events. Volunteers must be cleared to work directly with children.

While care givers fill most volunteer opportunities, community partners come along side to support. "When there's a call out from a school for help, we see the spots fill. The spirit of volunteerism is there," says Aguirre-Mazzi.

"We see and support many different family structures," shares Aguirre-Mazzi. "Sometimes people, when they are new to the district, are not aware that not all youth have a two-parent or even one-parent household." Work schedules, living arrangements, transportation and even language differences can create barriers.

The F.A.C.E team builds community partners to accommodate those needs, such as engaging a service club to help maintain a school garden and gathering parents who speak the same language around that project. "The extra support makes a big difference," says Aguirre-Mazzi.

Opportunities are varied and year long, says Aguirre-Mazzi. Volunteers chaperoning a fall field trip may see the wonder of a kindergartener's independent venture to a pumpkin farm. Civic organizations and community members may support a student in need with warm winter clothes or school supplies during the holidays. As spring comes, those who have been looking for opportunity often come in to lift the load as donations slow down and longtime volunteers need a rest.

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