

LOCAL

Historical site's future up for discussion

Planning Commission this week will look at options for Wintersburg site, home to first local Japanese Presbyterian Church.

HUNTINGTON BEACH • Several buildings, including a 1934 church on a site rich in Japanese American history, are being threatened with demolition as city leaders consider the future of the Wintersburg property.

JAIMEE LYNN FLETCHER
REGISTER WRITER

Planning Commissioners on Tuesday will discuss an environmental study for plans to change the zoning for the property at Warner Avenue and Nichols Lane from residential to commercial and whether to allow

GOVERNMENT

the destruction of six buildings that are more than a century old.

The roughly 4-acre site was home to the first Japanese Presbyterian Church in Southern California, and it has gained much attention in the past year after a Huntington Beach resident formed an organization aimed at saving the site.

"We have lost more than half of our historical resources here in Huntington Beach, (and) it's a continual problem that we have no citywide historic preservation plan," said Mary Urashima, chairwoman of the Historic Winters-

burg Preservation Task Force.

There are no plans for the site, but the property owner, Rainbow Environmental Services, has requested the zone change for a potential future project, according to the city staff report.

The property is home to the dilapidated church on the corner with the familiar "Jesus Lives" mural, a bungalow, a family home, a mission built in 1909 and a manse where clergy lived. Open space was once filled with goldfish ponds and later, water lilies and sweet peas.

Although the buildings are run down, Urashima says the site can

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MICHAEL GOULDING, ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Planning commissioners this week will discuss a zoning change for the Wintersburg property in Huntington Beach.



COURTESY OF WINTERSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A postcard shows the 1934 Japanese Presbyterian Church building.

The crowd reacts to the opening salvos of artillery in the Battle of Costa Mesa.

At right, Union troops fire at the advancing troops of the Confederacy.



PHOTOS: MICHAEL GOULDING, ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

CIVIL WAR IN COSTA MESA

A Civil War re-enactment known as the Battle of Costa Mesa drew thousands of people to Fairview Park this weekend to witness simulated battles of the type that defined U.S. history. Costa Mesa resident Scott Peca, 58, started the re-enactment five years ago as a "great opportunity for the Newport-Mesa school district to learn about the Civil War." Dave Major and his son, Charlie, 13, have attended the event all five years. They said they love the re-enactment's accuracy through its equipment, costumes and acting. "That's what makes it really special," said Major, 57.

STORY BY KENDRA ABLAZA ON LOCAL 10

UCI Law ethics class targets gray areas

Suppose you, as a lawyer, are the compliance officer for a manufacturer.

And suppose that firm, a huge employer, releases toxic substances into the environment during its manufacturing process. As its lawyer, and a person who tracks the realities of environmental prosecutions, you know the industry enforcement agency is overworked and conse-

quently tends to bring cases only against firms that pollute at twice the legal limit.

If you tell your client about the agency's enforcement practices, are you in essence advising your client how to get away with polluting? But if you don't tell, are you not doing the job you were hired to do?

This is just one of the hy-

pothetical situations law students at UC Irvine try to pin down as they wrestle with ethics during an innovative first-year course. It's their only class that studies the legal profession itself.

"We want to teach students how to be a good lawyer in the broadest sense of 'good,'" explains law professor Catherine Fisk, who developed the new curriculum with professor Ann Southworth.

Some rules of conduct are clear, they say, but oth-

ers are ambiguous.

Is a good lawyer always good?

• • •

Fisk and Southworth stress that this required course they teach is more than an ethics class for lawyers. More broadly, it teaches students about the various types of law practices and the opportunities and challenges of each.

Part of the course is teaching how ethics fits into

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MORE INSIDE

CONCUSSIONS: GROWING CAUTION

Concussions were the hot topic at the 22nd annual American Medical Society for Sports Medicine conference in San Diego. Heightened awareness, largely stemming from the physical decline seen in many retired National Football League players, has elevated the rate of diagnosis. Although there's still much unknown about this type of brain injury, experts agree that children are more vulnerable, and guidelines on how to treat athletes who've suffered a concussion are evolving toward more cautious approaches. **Local 9**

LOOKING AHEAD:

O.C. Watchdog. Today on ocregister.com/watchdogblog and in Tuesday's Register

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OUR TOWNS: SOUTH

ALISO VIEJO

Concert: Local beach rock group Wheeland Brothers will perform Tuesday at the Aliso Viejo Conference Center, 31 Santa Barbara, from 6 to 9 p.m. Tickets are \$15 advance, \$20 at the door. Tickets include two tacos and one house special margarita or beer. Must be 21 to attend. Information: 949-425-2555.

Kellie Mejdrich

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THE CANYONS, COTO DE CAZA & LADERA RANCH

Ladera council meets: The Ladera Ranch Civic Council tonight may appoint one of four candidates to fill an open director's seat. The meeting starts at 7 p.m. in the Santa Margarita Water District boardroom, 26111 Antonio Parkway, 26111 Antonio Parkway.

Irciviccouncil.org.

Brooke Edwards Staggs

949-454-7343 bstaggs@ocregister.com

DANA POINT

Planning Commission: A public hearing at tonight's Planning Commission meeting will discuss the demolition and rebuilding of a single-family home in Monarch Beach. The meeting begins at 6 p.m. at 33282 Golden Lantern. The commission will also nominate and vote on which of its commissioners will serve as the new chairman and vice chairman through April 2014.

Lindsey Ruta

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LAGUNA BEACH

Pill drop-off: A drop box for prescription pills was installed at the Laguna Beach Police Department, 505 Forest Ave. The collection box is intended for people who want to dispose of old or unnecessary prescription and over-the-counter pills in a safe and environmentally friendly manner. It is available 24 hours a day.

Joanna Clay

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LAGUNA HILLS

Prescription drop-off: Police Services is taking part in National Prescription Take-Back Day on Saturday. Unused, unwanted and expired prescription medications may be dropped off anonymously and for free, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Community Center, 2555 Alicia Parkway. Information: 714-647-4133

Megan Nicolai

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LAGUNA NIGUEL

Public restroom: The City Council on Tuesday held a public hearing on how it plans to spend about \$220,000 in Community Development Block Grant Funds. The city's plan, which could be approved at the May 7 council meeting, includes \$149,084 for a new public restroom at Crown Valley Community Park. The bathroom has an estimated cost of \$400,000.

Luke Ramseth

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LAGUNA WOODS

Exhibition: The Laguna Woods Table Tennis Club will present an exhibition by the pingpong champions of East China University of Science and Technology. The event is set for 2 p.m. today in the Table Tennis Room at the Community Center.

Jennifer Karmarkar

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LAKE FOREST

\$1 books: A new bookstore that sells books for \$1 each recently opened in Lake Forest. One Dollar Bookstore, 22621 Lake Forest Drive, Suite D1, is the fourth bookstore that owner Piccolo Lewis operates in Southern California. Lewis said he plans to open two more bookstores in Orange County.

Sarah de Crescenzo

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MISSION VIEJO

Grant plan: The City Council last week approved a breakdown on how the city should spend an estimated \$350,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds it is expecting to receive in fiscal 2013-14. The council set aside \$227,500 for housing rehabilitation, \$52,500 for services from nonprofit organizations serving residents, and \$70,000 for staff to administer the federal grant, according to a city staff report. The city must provide federal housing authorities with a spending plan before it receives the money.

Mona Shadia

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RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA

Book sale: The Rancho Santa Margarita Friends of the Library will hold its semiannual book sale May 10-11. Proceeds go toward city library programs such as story time, summer reading and film programs. Donations for the sale are being accepted until May 4. The two-day sale is 10 a.m.-4 p.m. May 10 and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. May 11 at the library community room, 30902 La Promesa. Information: 949-459-5524 or rsmfol.com

Tomoya Shimura

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SAN CLEMENTE

Parking ban? In June, it could become illegal to park at night at an Avenida Salvador lookout spot said to be a late-night partying place for teens. The City Council last week introduced an ordinance banning parking from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. along 465 feet of curb. It'll take another vote May 7 to adopt the ban, effective 30 days later. Officials say a parking ban could be a deterrent since it would give deputies probable cause to check a car at the location.

Fred Swegles

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SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO

Fraud classes: Learn how to combat phone scams and stay safe online Thursday through a class at the Senior/Community Center, 25925 Camino del Avion. The San Juan Capistrano Police Services Department is hosting the class. Fraud investigator Jason Ito and crime-prevention specialist Celina Corley will address seniors and their families on common scams and basic computer safety to help them avoid being victimized. Classes are at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. For more information, call 949-493-5911.

Meghann Cuniff

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Concussion research calls for more caution

HEALTH

SAN DIEGO • Although there's much still unknown about the causes and long-term effects of concussions, clear guidelines are emerging about treating athletes who have suffered the injury.

For instance, anyone who has had a concussion – caused by a fall or blow to the head – in a game or practice should not return to competition that same day.

"That, I think, everyone agrees upon. And you know what? Five years ago I think there was not consistency in that recommendation," said Dr. John DiFiori, chief of the Division of Sports Medicine at UCLA and team physician for the Bruins' football and men's basketball teams.

He's also the new president of the American Medical Society for Sports Medicine, which held its annual meeting in San Diego over the weekend. Concussions were the dominant issue at the conference; among a series of 16 research present-



Meehan



DiFiori

ations on Saturday, 14 dealt with concussions or other neurological research.

One of them, by Dr. Daniel Herman of the University of Florida's Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine Institute, suggested that a concussion increases the risk of subsequent injuries in the legs and feet. This finding shows how the science on concussions is evolving.

A concussion is a type of brain injury often associated with the game of football but which can occur in just about any sport. Around 90 percent of professional and collegiate athletes recover within 10 days and can resume normal activities, DiFiori said. But there's strong evidence that children need more time off.

"It may be more like two weeks," DiFiori said.

Not only should kids sit

Symptoms of a concussion

- Difficulty thinking clearly
- Confusion or difficulty concentrating.
- Inability to remember something that happened right before, or after, the incident
- Nausea, dizziness or vomiting
- Sensitivity to light or noise

Note: The vast majority of concussions don't come with a loss of consciousness. If this happens, or if there are other, more serious symptoms like slurred speech or a headache that doesn't go away, seek immediate medical treatment.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

out until they've been cleared by a doctor to play, they also might need to take a break from studies, since reading or concentrating on a lesson could worsen symptoms.

"There's a gradual return to the classroom, just as there's a gradual return to the field of play," DiFiori said.

Coaches and players, and even the media, used to brush off a hard hit as "getting your bell rung," and players who put their health aside and went back in the game were praised for their toughness. Now there's much more caution.

The cumulative effects of several concussions is still unclear, but a 2007 study

showed that NFL players who'd had at least three concussions were three times as likely to be clinically depressed in their post-playing days.

"Back in the 1970s and '80s, people didn't do anything about it because we thought there was no harm in it. You get better, you go back, you're fine," said Dr. William P. Meehan III, director of the Concussion Clinic at Boston Children's Hospital. "Now people are more likely to report it to someone, a coach or athletic trainer or doctor, and get pulled out."

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ZARNOW: Class includes role playing

FROM PAGE 1

a broader context.

The workplace realities students will encounter will depend on how and where they choose to practice law. In the class, they hear from about 35 practitioners across a wide spectrum of legal careers.

"They get a clear sense of how a particular opportunity might mesh with their own values," Southworth says.

A 2007 study by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching faulted law schools on this. It said schools teach legal skills just fine, but they don't teach conduct in the context of the real world.

"They need to understand the 'practice context,'" Southworth says.

They need to learn how to navigate not only the law they practice, but also the ethical implications of their choices – and ultimately of how they choose to act.

"The ways in which generally good people find themselves making decisions that are between illegal, unethical or unwise," Fisk says, "are not just that they don't know the rules or the difference between fraud and hard bargaining."

"People feel constrained by norms of their work culture."

In each setting – public-interest lawyer to private counsel – a lawyer will feel "pressure points."

Basic rules governing client confidentiality and conflicts of interest are clear – but how to apply them to the real world is not always.



MACKENZIE REISS, THE REGISTER

UCI professors Catherine Fisk, left, and Ann Southworth created a legal profession course for first-year law students that teaches students about the realities of practicing law and how ethics factor into a lawyer's decision-making process.

Lawyers will feel a pinch.

Fisk says the difference between "a competent lawyer and a superb lawyer is teaching students what to do when there is a gray area. ... We are not aiming merely at competence; we're aiming for excellence."

Students start law school green as corn: There is the law and you learn it.

But how do you choose which clients to represent? How do you handle conflicts between law and conscience?

The class helps ripen their thoughts.

The course opens with a study of the role of lawyers: their obligations to their clients and how to discharge them.

"It's not a simple question," Fisk says. "Lawyers often think it is, but it's not."

Southworth says the

rules of conduct can be quite vague.

"How do you exercise discretion?"

That's why the course includes role playing.

"They step into the shoes of a lawyer and try to imagine everything a lawyer faces," Southworth says. "We raise ethical issues in the practice contexts where they are most likely to arise."

There are ways lawyers might be tempted to behave – such as being excessively aggressive or lying during negotiation. What are the rules that govern them?

For example, how does a prosecutor decide who to charge and when to plea bargain?

A simulation about settling a wrongful-death claim raises issues about how candid attorneys should be during a negotiation.

Another involves associates who object to their firm's decision to represent Republican congressmen in litigation challenging the Federal Defense of Marriage Act. A different simulation questions how to define "public-interest work" to determine eligibility for grant funding.

The hard part is not teaching the rules that are clear, the professors say. The hard part is teaching the nuanced strategies that weigh legal obligations (which can be ambiguous or conflicting) vs. consequences.

Suppose your client confesses to a crime for which someone else was convicted. The confession is confi-

dential – but does a lawyer have any alternatives to silence?

Suppose your client lies on the witness stand to protect her parents, who entered the country illegally.

There is a rule to correct perjury under oath, Fisk says, but related rules cover how the lawyer should handle the problem, and students need to know that.

"The reality is that if something is prohibited, doesn't mean that people don't do it," Fisk says. "Lawyers, like everybody else, need to understand the temptations to ignore a clear rule – and the risks."

Southworth notes that students need to know how to implement rather vague language in a sensible way: What does the rule require, what are the options, and what are the difficulties?

In a profession that concerns itself with the letter of the law, these students consider gray areas that could be right or could be wrong. That seems incredibly worthwhile.

"Spending time on ambiguity, that's teaching judgment and problem solving," Fisk says. "That's the hardest part of education."

The course aims for nothing less than teaching students how to have a successful, rewarding and responsible law career – because, in the end, they will make their own choices.

Better to start thinking about them early.

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