

HOLIDAY EVENTS • ALL AMERICAN ASPHALT • JEFFREY TRAIL BRIDGE

IRVINE

WEEKLY

DECEMBER 8, 2023 • VOL. 5 • NO. 12



Good Golly

Ms. Dolly!

Dolly Parton has recorded a rock album, because why not? By Brett Callwood

ENTERTAINMENT

DECEMBER 8, 2023 NO. 12

CONTENTS

ENTERTAINMENT: 2

Family events, ice skating, and holiday outings near Irvine.

BY EVAN J. LANCASTER

MUSIC: 4

Dolly Parton has recorded a rock album, because why not?

BY BRETT CALLWOOD

NEWS: 7

Irvine approves \$30 million for Jeffrey Open Space Trail bridge over I-5.

BY EVAN J. LANCASTER

NEWS: 8

All American Asphalt ceases production in Irvine.

BY EVAN J. LANCASTER

FAMILY EVENTS, ICE SKATING, AND HOLIDAY OUTINGS NEAR IRVINE

THERE ARE PLENTY OF ACTIVITIES TO BRING IN THE HOLIDAY SEASON AROUND IRVINE.

BY EVAN J. LANCASTER

TANAKA FARMS: HIKARI – A FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Friday, Nov. 24 – Sunday, Dec. 30
4:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Tanaka Farms has installed more than 1 million lightbulbs of colorful Christmas lights for the 2023 season. Chinese lanterns and other festive installations will light up the 30-acre farm. Hikari is open every day from 4:30 p.m. – 9 p.m. The first Holiday Wagon Ride departs at 5:30 p.m. and runs every 10 minutes. The last ride will leave at 8:30 p.m. Entry gates will close at 8 p.m., and Hikari will close at 10 p.m. each night.

This year, Tanaka Farms will host live music on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights. They will be closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, and New Year's Day.

Tanaka Farms is located at
5380 3/4 University Dr, Irvine
tanakafarms.com/hikari

NEWPORT DUNES 33RD LIGHTING OF THE BAY CELEBRATION & INAUGURAL FIRE AND ICE FESTIVAL

Friday, Nov. 24 - Friday, Jan. 1,
4 p.m. - 9 p.m.

With a pair of waterfront ice rinks and a Christmas tree lot, Newport Dunes is inviting guests to celebrate the holidays with the 33rd annual Lighting of the

Bay, which will feature more than 50 floating holiday light displays. The Lighting of the Bay will take place on Friday, Nov. 24 at 6 p.m., and will run nightly through New Year's Day.

In addition to the Lighting of the Bay celebration, Newport Dunes will host its inaugural Fire & Ice Festival, featuring the largest ice skating rinks in Orange County. Advance reservations for the ice rink are strongly recommended.

Newport Dunes Waterfront Resort is located at 1131 Back Bay Drive, Newport Beach
newportdunes.com

IRVINE 2/11 MARINE HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE

Wednesday, Nov. 1 – Friday, Dec. 11

The donation of unwrapped gifts for children the age of 12 and under is recommended. Donations can be dropped off at locations at Irvine City Hall and the Great Park Visitors Center.

Irvine City Hall is located at Irvine City Hall & Irvine Police Department, 1 Civic Center Plaza
Hours: Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The Great Park Visitors Center is located at 8000 Great Park Blvd.
Hours: Daily, 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.



HOLIDAYZ IN THE PARK

Friday, Dec. 2 – Sunday, Jan. 7

The Great Park will transform into a winter wonderland with holiday-themed crafts, treats, and the annual tree lighting ceremony. The Palm Court Light Display and the Holidayz Pop-up at the Artist studio will feature holiday decorations and festive family photo opportunities.

The Great Park is located at 8000 Great Park Blvd.

www.cityofirvine.org/great-park/holidayz-park

ILLUMINATE IRVINE

Saturday, Dec. 2, 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.

The Great Park Palm Courts Complex will host winter-inspired activities and feature classic holiday music. The event will culminate with the annual Lighting of the Tree.

The Great Park is located at 8000 Great Park Blvd.

www.cityofirvine.org/news-media/calendar-of-events/event/2023-illuminate-irvine

IRVINE FINE ARTS CENTER HOLIDAY MARKET

Saturday, Dec. 2, 3 p.m. - 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 3, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Located inside the Great Park Hangar 244, Irvine's annual holiday market will feature more than two dozen vendors that will have custom goods available for purchase. Visitors are encouraged to stop in and check out custom jewelry, ceramics and handmade fashion.

The Great Park is located at 8000 Great Park Blvd.

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS – HOLIDAY PET ADOPTION FUNDRAISER

Sunday, Dec. 10, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

The Irvine Animal Care Center will be celebrating the holidays with its 17th Annual Holiday Pet Adoption event. Aptly named 'Home for the Holidays' the event will feature hundreds of adoptable pets, gourmet food trucks and a bake sale. Participating shelters include the Newport Beach Animal Shelter and the OC Animal Care Center.

The Irvine Animal Care Center is located at 6443 Oak Canyon, Irvine

LETTERS TO SANTA

Monday, Nov. 13 - Monday, Dec. 11

The City of Irvine is inviting all residents to send in their holiday wish list directly to Santa this year. The city's magic online mailbox will ensure all

letters are rushed to Santa's office. All senders will also get a reply from Santa within a week!

irvineca.seamlessdocs.com/f/2023LettersToSanta



LINDA EDER: CHRISTMAS STAYS THE SAME

Friday, Dec. 15, 8 p.m.

Showcasing one of the greatest voices of our time, Linda Eder's diverse repertoire spans Broadway, standards, pop, country, and jazz. This holiday concert features performances of beloved holiday melodies, including "Oh Holy Night" and "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," along with a mix of Broadway staples, and heartfelt love songs. Eder has performed for sold-out crowds in venues across the country and throughout Europe, including Carnegie Hall, The Kennedy Center, and Radio City Music Hall. With a powerful, passionate vocal style that is always finding new expression in the lush, sweeping Broadway

melodies, inspirational ballads, and pop torch songs, Eder is one of America's most beloved singers and dynamic performers. Tickets are \$30 - \$140 and can be purchased at thebarclay.org.

Irvine Barclay Theatre is located at 4242 Campus Drive, Irvine, California 92612 adjacent to UC Irvine.

THE NUTCRACKER PRESENTED BY FESTIVAL BALLET THEATRE

Saturday, Dec. 9 – Sunday, Dec. 24

A cherished holiday classic perfect for all ages, "The Nutcracker" is a beloved tradition at Irvine Barclay Theatre. Festival Ballet Theatre's breathtaking production features superb, colorful scenery and dazzling costumes, which make this age-old tradition sparkle like new. Be swept away by Tchaikovsky's iconic score as the Sugar Plum Fairy, our heroine, Clara, and a cast of hundreds take you on a magical journey to mystical lands. This full-length traditional production is choreographed and directed by Festival Ballet Theatre's Artistic Director, Salwa Rizkalla, and features world-renowned guest artists, FBT's professional company dancers, and exceptional young talent from across the Southland. Tickets are \$45 - \$115 and can be purchased at thebarclay.org.

Irvine Barclay Theatre is located at 4242 Campus Drive, Irvine, California 92612 adjacent to UC Irvine.



HOLIDAY EVENTS: LIGHTING OF THE BAY (NEWPORT DUNES WATERFRONT RESORT)



FESTIVAL BALLET THEATRE (SKYE SCHMIDT)

MUSIC

GOOD GOLLY MS. DOLLY!

DOLLY PARTON HAS RECORDED A ROCK ALBUM, BECAUSE WHY NOT?

BY BRETT CALLWELL



COURTESY BUTTERFLY RECORDS. PHOTO BY VIJAT MOHINDRA.

When Dolly Parton was first nominated for and then inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame last year, certain quarters of the rock community lost their collective shit. Never mind the fact that a precedent has long been set by that institution that they're using the term "rock & roll" in its broadest sense, feathers were well and truly ruffled. "She's country, they have their own hall of fame, she doesn't belong in ours."

Frankly, it stunk of simplistic thinking. But ultimately, it all comes down to whether one views "rock & roll" as a genre or a spirit, a feeling. We've always veered toward the latter, which is why the likes of Public Enemy, and Kraftwerk, and yes, ABBA, absolutely deserve their spot. As does Dolly Parton.

The Queen of country has influenced countless musicians across countless scenes, smashing glass ceilings and kicking down metaphorical doors. When she initially, graciously declined the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame's nomination, those are

the arguments that they offered her. Her music transcends any genre, her legacy is primarily one of country music, yes, but her influence has organically spread much further.

Parton listened, she took it all in and she appreciated the sentiment. But it wasn't enough for *her*. She had to be comfortable with the induction, to feel like she'd earned it. So Dolly Parton set about recording a rock album, appropriately titled *Rockstar*.

"I had often thought that I'd maybe like to do a rock album, because my husband is a huge rock & roll fan," Parton told us via a Zoom interview. "Off and on, I used to think, maybe someday I'll do a rock album. Then I started getting older, and then I thought, 'Well, it's probably too late now.' I wasn't expecting to go into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. I kinda resisted it at the start, but they put me in anyway. I'm really big on timing. I believe that timing is everything. I thought, 'Well, if I'm gonna be in the rock & roll hall of fame, I need to earn it, and if I'm ever gonna do a

rock & roll album, now's the time.' So I took advantage of all of that, and just went for it. I think it turned out really well. I'm really proud of it. I was a little nervous at the start, but I felt like it turned out pretty good, considering I'd never done it before."

And so she just upped and did it. Parton selected a bunch of songs that she wanted to cover, and prepping some originals, too. She roped in a whole lot of premier league rock and pop icons, legends and general stars to work with, and then she recorded a whole lot of songs. Whittling them down proved impossible, so *Rockstar* ended up as a 30-song beast — 21 covers, nine originals.

"Before I knew it, they were just mounting up and I wasn't finished," Parton says. "I thought, 'I need to do all these songs so I can choose how many I will have, I'll have a great field to pick from, to make a normal album.' But the more I listened, I couldn't cut any of them out. And then we talked about it. I said, 'Well, since I'm probably never going to do another one, since I've never done one before, can't we just go ahead and put them all out? Just maybe do some vinyls, just to have stuff to leave for my legacy for people to pick and choose and do compilations of through the years.' So we decided just to go ahead and put it all out. We even had a few bonus tracks, too. We actually had about 35 things we did, 35 or 36 songs. Some of them are still in the can. Some of them we're gonna use for bonus tracks for different things at different times. But the 30 that we did are just the best of the lot, I felt."

Like the HOF, the list of people Parton has worked with is as eclectic as it is impressive. Goddaughter Miley Cyrus duets on "Wrecking Ball," while P!nk and Brandi Carlile appear on the Stones' "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction." Hip-hop star Lizzo is on "Stairway to Heaven," and elsewhere you can find the prestigious likes of Elton John, Paul McCartney, Steve Perry and John Fogerty.

"They were songs that my husband

had always loved," Parton says. "So I've just heard these songs through the years, him playing them in the house on his record player and in the car, in the truck, on the tractor, wherever he is, he's always playing rock & roll. So I thought, 'Well, if I'm gonna do this rock & roll album, I'm gonna do songs that he loves.' He always loved the song 'Open Arms' and he always told me, he said, 'I'll tell you what, you and Kenny Rogers could have a number one record with that, you should do that with Kenny.' And I missed my opportunity because Kenny passed away. That was one of the first thoughts I had. 'Well, if I'm gonna do this rock album, I'm gonna do 'Open Arms' for Carl.' After I had done it, I thought I'd call Steve Perry, and I asked if he would be willing to join me on it, and he said he'd be proud to. So he did, and I think he made it really special. Carl loved that one, when I played it for him."

It was also, naturally, vitally important to Parton to include some of the many female artists that followed her lead and rose to the top. This album features Debby Harry, Ann Wilson, Stevie Nicks, Joan Jett, Melissa Etheridge, Pat Benatar, and many more incredible women.

"It was important to me, to have those wonderful gals," Parton says. "I loved (Heart's) the 'Magic Man.' I always loved that. That was one of my favorites in the rock field. I thought it would be great to have all there, and some of the new ones like P!nk and Brandi Carlile, that joined me on '(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction.'"

Parton is a wonderful human being to have a conversation with. She's undeniably one of the biggest music stars in the world, and yet time in her presence feels very natural. She's warm, sweet and humble, but also well aware of what she's achieved and her importance to her fans. We put it to her that while *Rockstar* is great and clearly a fun project for all involved, it wasn't necessary for her to prove her rock credentials to anyone but herself.

COURTESY BUTTERFLY RECORDS. PHOTO BY VIJAT MOHINDRA.



"I'm a very thoughtful, considerate person and I know how I feel about country music," she says. "I spent my whole life in that, so any award they want to give me in country music, I feel like I have as much right to it as anyone else. I'm honored to get it and proud to receive it. But when they started to put me in the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, I was just certain there were so many people that spent their whole lives in rock & roll that would like to get in the Hall of Fame. I felt like I was taking something from

them – somebody as sincere about their work in their field as I am about mine. I just felt like I might be taking votes from someone else that deserved it more than me. So I just said, 'I'd just as soon pass on that and let some real rock & roller in.' But then they explained it to me and it kinda got turned into a little controversy. I wasn't being rebellious. I am rebellious when it comes to my beliefs, I just didn't believe I had earned it. But they convinced me that I had. It was more about the influence I'd had in other fields of music. I thought, 'I'm

certainly not a bad person, I will certainly accept it gracefully,' and I did. I thought, 'Well, if I'm gonna be in the rock & roll hall of fame, I'm gonna have to have a better reason for myself than just what they said.'"

While some of the covers have slowly emerged prior to the album's release, the leadoff single was an original – "World on Fire" – a song that sounds like it could have been written yesterday.

"We had already finished the rock album, we'd done 35 songs and thought,

COURTESY DOLLY PARTON



COURTESY DOLLY PARTON

"We've got to stop somewhere," Parton says. "We said, 'OK, enough.' The very night that we said, 'enough,' I woke up out of my sleep with this song, 'World on Fire.' I had watched the news, I'm sure, before I went to bed. I just thought, 'Oh my lord, this world has gone crazy. The world is on fire.' It was just about the whole world. I got up and wrote the song, and I was inspired by the shape the world was in. It's the same shape it's in right now. That was just a year ago when I wrote the song. I was concerned about all the things going

MUSIC

on, just thinking, 'Why can't we try a little harder, do a little better.' But it means a lot to me, that song. It'll be appropriate from now till the end of time, unless we really do shape up and try to do something different."

It is noticeable that Parton has an outspoken conservative on the album, Kid Rock, alongside vocal progressives such as Joan Jett. Parton says that she was only thinking about the music.

"I accept everybody for who and what they are," she says. "Of course we can always improve, but I'm talking about

people. We should love people. We should find that light in everybody and be drawn to that. Do it through love. I try not to judge or criticize people. I don't want to be judged or criticized, myself. I just want to be left alone to be me, and I want everybody to be left alone to be them. So I was just thinking about the music, thinking about the voices, thinking about the people that were appropriate for these songs, and what I wanted to accomplish with this album. But I'm glad I got to use a variety."

As far as Dolly Parton is concerned, this

is a one-off. Thirty songs on the album with a handful more in the can, and she's about done with recording rock & roll. She's unlikely to tour it, due to the huge endeavor of getting all of those musicians together. So beyond the occasional one-off performance, Parton will be moving onto other things. One of things might well be a gospel record. Why not?

"I want to do a great gospel album that's on the level of this rock album," she says. "Big, uplifting spiritual, positive songs to try and uplift people, too, and then have some of the great artists who are

into gospel. There's a lot of big stars, big artists, that grew up in church like I did. Of course, that music is so inspiring. I think I could get a lot of big artists from all fields to sing on a great, uplifting, inspirational album. That's something I'm burning to do. It'd be a joy for me."

She should. And after that, if Dolly Parton wants to make techno album, or a jazz album, or a thrash metal album, she should do that. This is Dolly Parton, and she can do whatever the hell she wants to.

Dolly Parton's Rockstar is out Nov. 17.

COURTESY BUTTERFLY RECORDS. PHOTO BY VIJAT MOHINDRA.



IRVINE APPROVES \$30 MILLION FOR JEFFREY OPEN SPACE TRAIL BRIDGE OVER I-5

THE PROJECT AIMS TO IMPROVE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY NEAR THE JEFFREY OPEN SPACE TRAIL, WHERE IT MEETS INTERSTATE 5. ONCE COMPLETED, THE BRIDGE WILL ACT AS A VITAL CONNECTION TO PACIFIC OCEAN TRAILS AND THE SANTA ANA MOUNTAINS.

BY EVAN J. LANCASTER

The Irvine City Council on Tuesday, Nov. 14, unanimously approved a \$30 million construction contract for an elevated pedestrian bridge that will connect the Jeffrey Open Space Trail at Interstate 5. Once completed, the JOST/I-5 Bridge Project will create a walkable overpass above Interstate-5.

Specifically, the JOST/I-5 Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge Project will fill existing gaps in the Jeffrey Open Space Trail system which serves as one of Irvine's most popular trails. According to a staff report, the JOST/I-5 bridge will connect Cypress Village at the north and the JOST Extension at the south, spanning I-5, California Department of Transportation Park and Ride and Walnut Avenue.

In terms of overall costs, Irvine has approved a final budget of \$30,608,349 for the project, which is slated to be completed by 2025.

The city awarded a construction contract for the amount of \$23,144,703 to Guy F. Atkinson Construction LLC., along with a \$2,499,989 engineering services contract with T. Y. Lin International. The council also approved a project budget adjustment for \$3,700,000. Project funding also includes \$10 million from the State of California Grant Fund.

In the years ahead, the bridge will act as a critical puzzle piece in connecting Irvine-based trails with nearby trails extending to the Pacific Ocean, Santa Ana Mountains and the Cleveland National Forest.

With an official length of 1,190 feet, the bridge will be designed with a clearance of 22 feet in height, a width of 21 feet and



provide 15 feet of surface for pedestrians and cyclists.

Staff reports indicated that Irvine received seven different competitive bids for the project with the highest bid for \$32,635,420.50 from Nationwide Contracting Services, Inc.

Irvine City Council Member Tammy Kim questioned the reasoning behind the bid selection and asked if the project would fall into Irvine's recently approved Community Workforce Agreement.

Irvine's CWA looks to prioritize the hiring of Irvine residents for city-related construction projects with a cost of more than \$500,000. The CWA has also established an apprenticeship program to maintain a workforce of 30% local hires for all Irvine-based construction projects.

Irvine City Manager Oliver Chi explained that this project will be the city's first under the CWA, which was

established in May. Chi added that due to federal regulations, the city was required to select the lowest responsible bid.

"This or any public works related projects, we are required by state and federal law to only accept the lowest responsible bid that is submitted. However, all of the bidders that submitted their pricing for the project had to bid the job consistent with all of the Union Shop-related wage rates that are embedded in our CWA," he explained. "While we are going with the lowest responsible bid, in the comparative bidding process everyone utilized the same input as it relates to labor costs."

Irvine resident Jack Fancher is an avid cyclist who rides through the city but says he feels unsafe in some areas. Fancher submitted an e-comment in support of the JOST/I-5 Bridge construction, adding that he's been

waiting for approval of this project.

"In 1988 I voted for the Irvine Open Space initiative that created the Jeffrey Open Space Trail (JOST). In the last 15 years, I have been regularly cycling around the trails and bike paths of Irvine. I really appreciate the JOST bridges and off-street trail. I often must cross the I-5 corridor. It is an obstacle to north-south cycling in Irvine. There is currently only one off-street trail crossing of the I-5, the Peters Canyon Trail beside the flood channel. For personal safety reasons, I no longer cycle the Culver or Jamboree on-street crossings, rarely use the Harvard On street crossing. I must use the Sand Canyon on-street "trail" which is hazardous," he wrote. "I've been waiting a very long time for the JOST crossing of the I-5. Please keep it moving along. Approve this project."

NEWS

ALL AMERICAN ASPHALT CEASES PRODUCTION AT FACILITY IN IRVINE

THE ASPHALT MANUFACTURING COMPANY WILL DISCONTINUE OPERATIONS IN IRVINE AS THE CITY PREPARES TO TRANSITION THE LAND INTO THE 700-ACRE GATEWAY PRESERVE.

BY EVAN J. LANCASTER



ALL AMERICAN ASPHALT (GOOGLE MAPS)

According to Great Park Executive Director Pete Carmichael, as of Wednesday, Nov. 15, all operations at the All American Asphalt facility in Orchard Hills will halt, as the company prepares to vacate the land.

On Tuesday, Nov. 14, Carmichael gave an update to the Irvine City Council regarding the progress of the city's \$285 million purchase of the 11-acre property utilized by the All American Asphalt company in Irvine, adding that All American Asphalt has committed to ending its operations in Orchard Hills by close of business on Wednesday.

"By end of day tomorrow we received a commitment from All American Asphalt that all asphalt production will cease at the plant," Carmichael explained. "After that first quarter of next year, likely February, the sale will close and the city will take ownership of the plant. Dismantling remediation will commence and then the plant property will be rolled into the larger gateway open space area."

In the coming months, Irvine will transition the land into the 700-acre

Gateway Preserve, which will feature more than 375 acres of dedicated open space and will simultaneously connect Limestone Canyon to Blackstar Canyon, and eventually stretch into the Cleveland National Forest.

The Gateway Preserve will also feature more than 70-acres of land for residential use. In terms of a timeline, Carmichael explained that the city is currently working on regulatory paperwork that will be submitted next year.

"This part of the project is created by knitting together several different properties," he said. "The city, through our Community Services team, is also working closely with Irvine Ranch Conservancy on [the] preparation of the Preserve plan – exactly how it will be used, trails, interpretive areas, parking, etc. They're working on a document called the Recreation and Recreation Management Plan which will be the regulatory document that goes through the various regulatory agencies for approval likely next year."

Originally built in 1993, the asphalt production facility in Orchard Hills became the source of complaints for residents living in the area, who say they became

inundated with foul odors emitting from the plant's emissions.

Many residents spoke publicly about their experiences living with the odors at city council meetings, adding that the city provided residents with few resources to file reports. Even potential homebuyers say they were not told about the existence of the facility when purchasing a home.

Now, the closure of the north Irvine hot mix asphalt manufacturing plant, spurred by the city's purchase of the property in April, effectively ends years of frustration from Irvine residents who repeatedly voiced concern over smelling noxious odors being produced by the asphalt plant inside their homes.

While the closure of the facility will undoubtedly bring relief to many worrisome Irvine residents, a class-action lawsuit, which has been preliminarily approved by an Orange County Superior Court judge, could help establish compensation for more than 2,000 households living within two miles of the Orchard Hills facility between 2018 and present.

Little Sheets Coulson, a law firm

based in Detroit, MI, published a copy of the official complaint on its website and included opt-in information for potential class members, which are defined as "All owner/occupants, tenants, renters or lessees of residential property residing within two (2) miles of the Facility's property boundary between March 9, 2018 and the present."

The lawsuit, *Elmira Rad, et al. v All American Asphalt*, was filed in 2021 and is seeking a cash fund settlement of \$1.25 million.

Specifically, according to the official complaint, Rad alleges that the All American Asphalt "unnecessarily emits noxious odors into the nearby residential community." Adding that "Due to Defendant's inadequate efforts to prevent Facility emissions from escaping into the adjacent residential neighborhood, Plaintiffs' property has been and continues to be physically invaded by noxious odors."

The complaint also alleges that the plaintiff's claims are supported by more than 800 reports of foul odor to South Coast Air Quality Management District between 2019 and 2020.