Governor Issues “Stay at Home” Order Amid Pandemic

California governor Gavin Newsom issued an executive order on March 19 requiring all Californians to stay home except to get food, care for a relative or friend, get necessary health care, or go to an essential job, to slow the spread of COVID-19.

The order also states that those working in “critical infrastructure sectors” may continue their work because of the importance of these sectors to Californians’ health and well-being. The Federal Government has identified 16 critical infrastructure sectors considered so vital to the United States that their incapacitation or destruction would have a debilitating effect on economic security, public health or safety.

On March 4, Newsom proclaimed a state of emergency in California as a result of the threat of COVID-19. Since then, COVID-19 has rapidly spread throughout California, necessitating updated and more stringent guidance from federal, state, and local public health officials.

City Declares Local Emergency in Response to COVID-19

City Manager Kenneth Domer signed a formal Proclamation of Local Emergency on March 16, as a means to work with state and federal authorities to slow the transmission of COVID-19. The Fullerton City Council ratified the proclamation on Tuesday, March 17.

“This has been a challenging week for our community and nation,” Domer said. “I have been in numerous conversations with health officials, operational staff, local partners and other city managers throughout the region and at this time I am issuing this proclamation to formalize our emergency response and ensure access to necessary resources.”

The proclamation asks “that the governor waive regulations that may hinder response and recovery efforts, that recovery assistance be made available under the California Disaster Assistance Act, and that the State expedite access to state and federal resources and any other appropriate federal disaster relief programs.”

The City continues to work with other agencies such as the Orange County Health Care Agency, the California Department of Public Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Some notable portions of the proclamation include:

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ST. JUDE Responds TO Coronavirus

by Matthew Leslie

St. Jude Medical Center is taking steps to avoid the spread of the COVID-19 virus by implementing new screening protocols that include taking the temperature of anyone entering its hospital. Anticipating increased numbers of patients, St. Jude has also erected a tent outside of its Emergency entrance in order to “screen patients prior to their entry into the facility,” according to St. Jude spokesperson Dunn Copping.

Other preparations to “build capacity and prevent the spread of the virus” include eliminating visitations and postponing “elective non-urgent surgeries and procedures.” The medical center has halted its support groups, classes, and events and is currently trying to move them online.

These extraordinary steps are being undertaken as the number of people in Orange and neighboring counties testing positive for and dying from the COVID-19 virus increases daily. Citing patient and staff privacy, St. Jude will not reveal whether anyone being treated in their hospital or any of its health caregivers has tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. Orange County health officials have begun reporting COVID-19 cases on a city-by-city basis, with Fullerton reporting 7 cases on March 27.

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Schools to Remain Closed Through at Least May 11

Fullerton School District (FSD) is following and implementing the newly issued guidelines from Governor Newsom and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).

Based on the CDC guidelines and Governor Newsom’s press conference on March 17, the district is dismissing school until at least May 11, however this date may change based on the COVID-19 situation. The District will continue to provide breakfast and lunch for all Fullerton children under the age of 18 from 11am to 1pm during the week.

Beginning Monday, March 30 and until further notice, meal distribution will resume Monday through Friday at all elementary and K-8 schools in FSD (no meals served at Ladera Vista, Nicolas, and Parks Junior High Schools, however students attending those school can go to any FSD elementary school to pick-up food). As new information becomes available, FSD will provide all families and community members with updates.

Visit fullertonsd.org to get more information on free and low-cost home internet options. Visit the Food and Community Resources pages for more information on how to access these resources.

The district is accepting donations of non-perishable items and basic necessities at Pacific Drive and the District Office Monday through Thursday from 9am to 1pm. Please look for the donation boxes under the blue sunshade pop-ups.
GOVERNOR ISSUES “STAY AT HOME” ORDER
Continued from frontpage

“This Order is being issued to protect the public health of Californians. The California Department of Public Health looks to establish consistency across the state in order to ensure that we mitigate the impact of COVID-19. Our goal is simple, we want to bend the curve, and disrupt the spread of the virus,” the order reads.

When people need to leave their homes or places of residence, they should be at all times practice social distancing.

On March 20, the Orange County Public Health Care agency released the following statement:

What Orange County Residents Should Know About State Public Health Order

Businesses that remain open are encouraged to support their employees in working from home as much as possible. Employers and employees who need financial assistance during this time, should visit the Employment Development Department’s website: www.edd.ca.gov/about_edd/coronavirus-2019.htm.

Residents are encouraged to practice good health hygiene, including washing their hands, staying home if they are sick, avoiding close contact with people who are sick, and covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or their sleeves (not hands). Practice social distancing whenever possible by keeping a distance of six feet between yourself and others.

Does this supersede the County of Orange Public Health Order?

Yes. Our order includes that any State of California Orders that are more restrictive supersede the County Public Health Order.

How long will we stay at home?

This order went into effect Thursday, March 19, and will remain in place until further notice.

Which businesses can stay open?

Businesses and employees will have to review the 16 federal critical infrastructure sectors (www.cisa.gov/identitying-critical-infrastructure-during-covid-19) to determine if they will still operate and at what level.

What can I do? What’s open?

Per the order, essential services will remain open such as:
- Gas stations
- Pharmacies
- Food: grocery stores, farmers markets, food banks, convenience stores, take-out and delivery restaurants
- Banks
- Laundromats/laundry services
- Essential state and local government functions will also remain open, including law enforcement and offices that provide government programs and services.

What’s closed?

- In-restaurant dining
- Bars and nightclubs
- Entertainment venues
- Gyms and fitness studios
- Public events and gatherings
- Convention Centers

This is not an exhaustive list. Please refer to the 16 federal critical infrastructure sectors (www.cisa.gov/identitying-critical-infrastructure-during-covid-19).

Can I go outside?

You can go outside for walks and recreation but won’t be able to do so in groups. We recommend avoiding play structures and playgrounds as they are high-touch areas.

Why should I comply?

This is a lawful order from the State of California that requires your compliance. This order protects the health of all California residents. By staying home you are protecting your loved ones and your neighbors. Your community needs your help to “flatten the curve,” which reduces the risk of exposure for everyone.

This is best accomplished by adhering to the guidelines defined above. We are requesting your voluntary compliance.

California governor Gavin Newsom issued the statewide “Stay at Home” order on March 19 to prevent the spread of COVID-19. AP Photo/Rich Pedroncelli

Where does this apply?

This is in effect throughout the State of California.

Who do I call?

For business questions, this is a directive from the State. Please refer to the guidelines on the 16 federal critical infrastructure sectors (www.cisa.gov/identitying-critical-infrastructure-during-covid-19). For more information on the State order, visit https://covid19.ca.gov.

For general information about COVID-19, please call the OC Health Care Agency’s (HCA) Health Referral Line at (800) 564-8448, visit www.ochealthinfo.com/novelcoronavirus, or follow the HCA on Facebook (@ochealthinfo) and Twitter (@ochealth).

For non-medical questions, contact the County of Orange Public Health Information Hotline at (714) 628-7085.

The United States Now Has the Most Coronavirus Cases in the World

As of March 28, the United States now has the most coronavirus cases in the world with 121,043 cases and 2,020 deaths. These numbers are rapidly increasing each day.

Globally, there were 660,000 cases and 30,642 deaths as of March 28.

As of March 28, the state of California has 4,980 cases and 104 deaths. The state of New York has 52,318 cases and 728 deaths.

On March 27, congress passed a roughly $2 trillion coronavirus response bill intended to give relief across the American economy. There are six main groups that would see the widest-reaching impacts: individuals, small businesses, big corporations, hospitals and public health, federal safety net, state and local governments, and education.

Here’s what each group can expect from this bill:

St. Jude Responds to Coronavirus

Continued from frontpage

Previously, all cases were reported as an aggregate number attributed to the county at large.

Ms. Copping indicated that the hospital believes they will have sufficient ventilators on hand, “however, it will depend on the surge or influx of patients.” Ventilators are necessary in the most serious COVID-19 cases as lung functioning declines. The Observer was referred to Orange County Public Healthcare Agency in response to the question of whether enough COVID-19 test kits are available at St. Jude. The agency’s website lists only one private health lab with the capacity to test fewer than 1,500 specimens.

At this time, COVID-19 tests are not available on demand. Instead, patients must have an order from a physician, who will evaluate the patient to look for specific criteria. Symptoms of the disease include fever, cough, and shortness of breath, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, who advise seeking medical help immediately if a person develops emergency warning signs, including trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, bluish lips or face, or newly developed confusion or the inability to arouse. It is spread through respiratory droplets from coughing or sneezing. The virus can live on surfaces; frequent handwashing is advised.

St. Jude released a statement from Chief Executive Brian Helleland: “If you need us, St. Jude is here and please don’t hesitate to come in. But there is important information about this outbreak and we need the community’s help in getting the word out. If you begin to feel sick, self-isolate at home and do not immediately go to the emergency department (ED), urgent care, or a physician’s office for testing. If your symptoms worsen, please contact your physician’s office. While news and social media highlight the need for testing, most common illnesses are not COVID-19 and can be cared for with self-isolation and symptom management. Healthcare can rapidly become overwhelmed and our resources drained if everyone comes to the ED. We need our physicians and caregivers to be able to focus on those who are most critically ill.”

A tent set up outside St. Jude hospital for potential overflow.
City Declares Local Emergency in Response to COVID-19

Continued from frontpage

It is known that there are cases of COVID-19 currently present in the city of Fullerton and within the county of Orange.

If COVID-19 spreads in California at a rate comparable to the rate of spread in other countries, the number of persons requiring medical care may exceed local available resources.

Such conditions are beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and families of the City and require the combined forces of other political subdivisions to combat.

The city of Fullerton has ordered that within the boundaries of the City, the State Department of Public Health’s recommendations shall be deemed mandatory.

In accordance with Governor Newsom’s “Safer at Home” order to slow the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19), effective Friday, March 20, Fullerton implemented additional temporary changes to City government functions.

The Safer at Home order directs all residents to stay at home until further notice and to limit activity to only the most essential needs, such as medical care and grocery shopping.

The following City facilities are closed to the public:
- Fullerton City Hall
- Fullerton Airport
- Fullerton Maintenance Yard
- Fullerton Public Library
- Fullerton Community Center
- Fullerton Museum Center
- Chapman Center
- Gilbert Community Center
- Garnet Community Center
- Richman Community Center
- Orangeathorpe Center
- Fullerton Tennis Center
- Fullerton Pool Park

The City has postponed all public events as recommended by State health officials, until further notice.

Although these facilities are closed, essential City services will continue running either online, by drop-off, pick-up, phone, or email. Below is a list of services that will continue to be available to the public:

Emergency Services
Call 911 for emergencies.
- Fullerton Police Department: 714-738-6700. The Police Department front counter will remain open for email and phone only. To report a crime please call 714-738-6716.
- Fullerton Fire Department: 714-738-6500. The fire administration office will be closed to the public. The phone line will be open for general fire and hazmat inquiries.

Administrative Services Department
The Utility Services cashier counter is closed to the public. Water bill payments can be processed online. The following phone lines are open for questions/information.
- Water Billing: 714-738-6890
- Business Licenses and Permit Fees: 714-738-6531 or 714-738-5326 or email businessregistration@cityoffullerton.com

Community Development Department
- Planning Division
  - Planning counter is closed for in-person visits.
  - Plan checks/reviews and development applications can be accepted via email at planning@cityoffullerton.com.
- Building & Safety Division
  - Building counter is closed for in-person visits.
  - Permit applications, submission of plan checks, and inspections available by email or by postal service only. Please call 714-738-6343 for questions or more information about electronic submittals.
  - Inspections will continue to occur, however, out of an abundance of caution, if you are ill, staff asks that you refrain from scheduling inspections. Inspectors will inspect only exterior elements of the building or interiors if the building is currently unoccupied.

Code Enforcement Division
- Office is closed for in-person visits.
- Overnight parking restrictions are being eased and non-health and safety code enforcement is being suspended.
- Water and electric shut-offs are suspended.
- Phone line is open for general inquiries and request for inspections; please call 714-773-5704.

Economic Development and Housing Division
- Offices are closed for in-person visits.
- For questions or information on economic development projects, please call 714-738-6837.

Housing & Community Rehabilitation Program
- Please call 714-738-6654 for application process information.

Information for Businesses
The State has ordered that all bars, clubs, theaters, entertainment centers, fitness centers, and other non-essential businesses be closed until further notice. Restaurants will be permitted to serve take-out or delivery food only and grocery stores may remain open.

Public Works Department
Engineering Permits
- Please call 714-738-6485 or email ppermits@cityoffullerton.com for information and updates regarding permits.

Trash Services
- Trash pick-up will continue as usual. No service interruption expected at this time.
- Fullerton’s trash hauler, Republic Services, is also taking proactive measures to ensure that they can continue providing essential services.
- Trash collection services will continue without interruption. For questions or more information, please visit Republic Services website or call 714-738-6890.

City Service Requests
- Service requests for non-emergency issues can be submitted through the City’s “myFullerton” app. This service can be used to report potholes, graffiti removal, illegal dumping, and street light malfunctions, among other issues.
- Issues may also be reported by phone at 714-738-6997 or by email at mainten ance@cityoffullerton.com.
- The Graffiti Removal Hotline will continue to be in service: 714-738-3108.

Fullerton Airport
- The Airport Administration building, lobby, and restaurant (Wings Café) are closed until further notice.
- Flight training activities at Fullerton Flight schools are suspended at this time.
- Runway/taxiway and associated airfield lighting will remain open.
- The Air Traffic Center is on a 7am to 9pm normal schedule seven days a week.

Parks & Recreation Department
- Phone line for Parks & Recreation Administration Office will be open for inquiries at 714-773-0861.
- Phone line for the Fullerton Community Center is also open for inquiries: 714-738-6575.
- All Parks and Recreation programs, special events, and activities in parks and facilities are temporarily suspended.
- For more info visit www.fullertoncommunitycenter.com
- Parks will remain open, except for the Fullerton Pool Park. All park equipment will be cleaned on a regular basis to maintain sanitary conditions. The City encourages all park users to take proactive measures and practice social distancing.
- The Meals on Wheels program at the Fullerton Community Center will be delivering meals to seniors. Please contact 714-738-6575 or email parks@cityoffullerton.com for more information.
- The Wednesday and Thursday Farmers Markets are currently being modified to ensure compliance with current CDC guidelines. See page 5.

Fullerton Public Library
- Staff will be available to answer questions from the public by phone at 714-738-6335 or by email at libraryref erence@cityoffullerton.com.
- Questions regarding your library account can be emailed to circulation@fullertonlibrary.org.
- Residents can still access Library services digitally at www.fullertonlibrary.org/borrow/digital_content/default. asp.

City Meetings
- City Council meetings will take place as planned. As a precaution to reduce community spread of COVID-19, the City is implementing social distancing standards, and encouraging residents to watch meetings live on Spectrum Channel 3, U-verse Channel 99, and on the City’s website.
- Public comments can be submitted in advance of a regularly scheduled City Council meeting at citycounciloffice@cityoffullerton.com.
- The City is currently exploring teleconferencing options for City Councilmembers and City Council meetings in accordance with the Governor’s Executive Order. City Council meetings will now be posted on the City’s YouTube Channel within 24 hours after meeting closure.
- For more information and the latest status of City services, visit the City website at www.cityoffullerton.com/coronavirus. Updates will be shared regularly through the City’s Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter pages.

To learn more about the Coronavirus, visit the Orange County Health Care Agency website (www.oehealthinfo.com) to get the most up-to-date, accurate information.
Council Passes Temporary Eviction Moratorium

In response to the coronavirus, the Fullerton City Council voted 4-1 (Whitaker “no”) to enact a temporary eviction moratorium for residential (including single family, multi-family and mobile homes), commercial, non-profit and certain hotel/motel tenants.

This urgency ordinance would prohibit a landlord from initiating proceedings or otherwise taking steps to evict a tenant for non-payment of rent if the tenant demonstrates that the inability to pay rent is due to Covid-19.

Providing tenants with short-term protection from eviction due to the inability to pay rent will help stabilize the rental housing market by reducing displacement. During this state of emergency, and in the interests of protecting the public health and preventing transmission of the coronavirus, it is essential to avoid unnecessary displacement of tenants. To that end, prohibiting evictions on a temporary basis is important until the spread of the virus can be minimized and the emergency restrictions lifted.

In order to take advantage of the protections provided in the ordinance, both residential and commercial tenants are required to, within 30 days after the rent is due: (1) notify the landlord “in writing” that they are unable to pay or a portion of their rent due to Covid-19-related financial impacts, and (2) provide documentation. “In writing” includes email or text communications to a landlord or the landlord’s representative with whom the tenant has previously corresponded by email or text.

If rent is late for an additional month, tenants are still covered for rent deferral if they’ve notified the landlord with documentation the first time the rent was overdue. Because of this, it is essential to submit the notification and initial documentation within 30 days of the first time rent is late, which will qualify the tenant to defer additional months of rent if necessary.

Nothing in the urgency ordinance is intended to waive or remove a tenant’s obligation to pay back rent owed once this ordinance is no longer in effect.

Due to the Governor’s activation of the National Guard to assist in food and supplies distribution, the Cold Weather Emergency Shelters located at the Fullerton and Santa Ana National Guard Armories have been relocated.

The Emergency Cold Weather Shelter in Fullerton has been relocated to the Independence Park Gymnasium, 801 W. Valencia Drive. The shelter includes ample secured outdoor space for persons to remain during daylight hours.

The Santa Ana Cold Weather Emergency Shelter has been relocated to the Salvation Army site at 2603 W. First St. in Santa Ana.

The Cold Weather Emergency Shelters are scheduled to close on April 15, but the County is working with City partners to extend that date and continue 24-hour access to address the current situation.

While housed at the Cold Weather Emergency Shelters, individuals will receive supportive services including medical and housing, and will be entered into the County’s Coordinated Entry System for future housing opportunities and continued services.

The County is working to develop alternate locations to shelter COVID-19-symptomatic and vulnerable homeless persons.

For medical questions about COVID-19, please call the OC Health Care Agency’s (H/CA) Health Referral Line at (800) 564-8448, or visit www.ochealthinfo.com/novelcoronavirus, or follow the HCA on Facebook (@ochealthinfo) and Twitter (@ochealthh). For non-medical questions, contact the County of Orange Public Information Hotline at (714) 628-7085.

I am writing this on March 17th, so by the time you read this everything may have changed. Again, but there are some important things to remember right now as we are all going through the coronavirus pandemic. First, do not panic. There are some very useful guidelines out there to the best known practices to stay healthy. Please read and follow, especially if you are an elder, medically fragile or in close contact with either of those groups. It is important that we do so in order to keep people as healthy as possible and out of the hospitals.

Now for the rest. There is a gift guide of every issue. There are gifts here for us. Everyone always complains that they are too busy. Good, now you can slow down. You have time to re-connect with your loved ones. You have time for those conversations. You have time to play games. Read a book. Pet your dog. Go for a walk! You now have time for all of those things that you had wished to do! Please, take advantage of this gift! You have time to get caught up. Think of this as a reset button. Take the time to look at your to-do list and see what things that you have never gotten to. Do those. Or even better, take a nap, which is a wonderful way to re-set yourself.

But, again, the most important thing is to not panic. This too shall pass. The world will change because of it. But not all of those changes will be bad. Take a deep breath. And take in those changes. It is to not panic. This too shall pass. The world will change because of it.
Local Prepared Meals and Food Banks open during COVID-19 Crisis

By Jane Rands

Food distribution supplies are low and some regular sites are currently closed. Below is a list of sites that are currently operational with the limitations noted for the individual sites. If you are not in need of these services at this time and have resources to spare, please consider making a donation:

Pathways of Hope
611 S Ford Ave
Food Distribution Monday - Friday 1-2:30pm

Saint Andrews
1231 E Chapman Ave
Hot boxed meals to go Fridays 6-6:30pm

First Baptist Church of Fullerton
223 E Wilshire Ave
Food Distribution, Alternate Sundays 1-2pm - next April 5 & 19

Second Harvest Food Bank at the Honda Center
Drive up Food Distribution, Saturday 9-11am

Fullerton Joint Union High School District
Campuses Closed: School campuses will be closed to students until further notice.

Grab-and-Go Service: Breakfast and lunch are available to those who participate in the free and reduced lunch program.

Distribution Days: Monday through Friday

1st EV Free
2801 Brea Blvd
Good Samaritan Center is closed
Go to church office for pre-packed bag
Monday - Thursday 9am-4pm

Fullerton Community Center
340 W Commonwealth
Frozen prepared meals distributed Tuesdays 11am-12:30pm

Food For Christ
at the Rock
101 E. Orange Grove Ave
Drive up only food distribution Saturdays 7-9am

North Orange County Regional Health Foundation
901 W. Orange Grove Avenue
Food distribution, 3rd Saturday Drive up preferred, walk ups not turned away but no children

New Wine Church
1425 S Brookhurst Rd
Drive up only food distribution MWF 6-6:30pm

Both Fullerton Farmers Markets Open for Produce Only on Wednesdays and Thursdays

By Jane Reifer

If you are missing fresh eggs and produce directly from the growers, you will be glad to hear two farmers markets are continuing in downtown Fullerton. A certified farmers market means that you are buying directly from the grower, their team, or a partner-certified farm, so everything is fresh-picked from farm to consumer — no warehousing, no middleman. You will find only produce that is grown on their or their partners’ specific farm and only what is in season. Social distancing standards (patrons keeping 6 feet apart) will be observed. Growers will wear gloves and will be using appropriate sanitizers. Produce will be available pre-bagged and there will be not be the normal tasting and cut samples.

Wednesday Farmers Market — NEW LOCATION — Fullerton Public Library, 353 W. Commonwealth Ave.

This Wednesday, April 1, from 8am to 1pm, and every Wednesday until further notice. The longstanding Wednesday Fullerton Certified Farmers Market is relocating to the Fullerton Public Library parking lot. Hours are from 8am to 1pm. The growers have oranges, tangarines, grapefruit, lemons, avocados, lettuce, broccoli, cauliflower, kale, spinach, cabbage, leeks, carrots, radish-es, strawberries, dates, eggs and honey. There will be a few food vendors but it will be available only pre-packaged for takeout: bread, popcorn, tamales, empanadas, spreads and salads, and possibly goat cheese. All growers and vendors accept cash, and some accept credit and debit cards. Unfortunately, EBT is temporarily unavailable, and the farmers market WIC program doesn’t start until mid-May. For more information call (951) 532-2822 (text preferred) or www.cityoffullerton.com/resident/community_events/farmers_market.asp.

Thursday Farmers Market — Downtown Fullerton Plaza (at the Museum), 301 N. Pomona Ave. at Wilsihre

RE-OPENED Thursday, March 26, from 4pm to 7:30pm and every Thursday until further notice. The Thursday market will be produce only — no beer garden, kids’ corner, or live music. There will be a variety of fruits and vegetables, honey, flowers, bread, and possibly sprouts. There will be a public restroom with monitoring by City custodial services. More information will be posted when available. Call (714) 738-5335 or visit www.cityoffullerton.com/resident/community_events/farmers_market.asp.

Grocery Stores Set Hours for Vulnerable Shoppers and Seniors 60 and Older

By Terry Hendricks

To avoid the spread of coronavirus to vulnerable shoppers and elderly folks, local grocery stores have begun implementing special hours for these residents. These hours are as follows (as of March 24). Please contact your local store before visiting to confirm. Note: Some stores offer home delivery and/or curbside pickup. Check stores’ websites.

Albertsons/Safeway/Von’s: Tuesday and Thursday from 7am to 9am. For more information visit local.safeway.com.
Costco: Tuesday and Thursday from 8am-9am, including pharmacy.
Food 4 Less: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 7am – 7:30am.
Mother’s Market: Wednesday from 6am to 7am for “elderly, disabled, those with compromised immune systems, chemo patients, etc.” Also offering free home delivery with promo code FREE4SENIORS.
Ralphs: Exclusive for seniors 60 and older – 7am to 7:30am
Trader Joe’s: Daily from 9am to 10am with separate lines for these shoppers.
Walgreens: Tuesday from 8am to 9am. This time also available to caregivers and immediate family
Walmart: Tuesday from 6am to 7am from March 24 through April 28.
Whole Foods: An hour before opening for 60 and older, which is 7am in most Orange County stores.

Feeding the Children

Both the Fullerton School District (K-8) and the Fullerton Joint Union High School District (9-12) are making sure that children do not go hungry while schools are closed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Fullerton School District

Campuses Closed: The Dylan eatery is making available free breakfast burritos to kids ages 6-12 years old Monday through Friday from 7am to 8am. Located at 190 S. State College Blvd.

Locations: All school sites except

11am to 1pm

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Walgreens: Tuesday from 8am to 9am. This time also available to caregivers and immediate family
Walmart: Tuesday from 6am to 7am from March 24 through April 28.
Whole Foods: An hour before opening for 60 and older, which is 7am in most Orange County stores.
Caravan of Hope

It’s been tough and scary for all of us grown-ups but what about children? When our friends were forced to cancel their 3 year old’s birthday party, we organized a caravan and drove by as the family watched from their driveway. Some gifts were left on the curb, and a birthday song was blasted from the lead truck. Neighbors must have been notified—some were sitting in chairs in their front yard cheering us on. As you can see (above), young Jaxson Reeves was duly impressed, getting a hug from his big brother Mason, as Mom and Dad Johnny and Dominique took it all in.

Chalk Walk

Setting out some sidewalk chalk with a note to take a piece and add to the ‘art’ up and down the street seemed like a nice idea. Sitting in my home office, I could see people stop as they walked by, many walking their dogs, some alone, some with their kids. A lot of people walk where I live, and I’ll be doing this again. Like castles in the sand, the efforts all washed away in the rain, but the sentiment did not.

Photo Quiz

This issue: This time, I don’t know the answer, maybe you do. Is this a home (at right) above the Muckenthaler Mansion? It definitely is Fullerton, not sure about the structure but maybe it is even still here? Send your answer to Mike at AllMedia@sbcglobal.net

Last issue: What was the original purpose of this building and where is it (at left)? First correct answer: Paul McKay, who knew this photo was of the former Union Pacific Depot, built in 1923, moved across Harbor from the West side of the Boulevard, and now forming the main building for The Spaghetti Factory. Reader Glenn Mitchell was next with the correct answer and details. Some of you actually witnessed the move in 1980. The railroad was key to the very existence of Fullerton, and fortunately we have preserved our historic downtown buildings.

Fullerton-What’s Cookin’

Before the ink was dry on my last column about Heroes and other downtown restaurants, plus some downtown events, everything had changed. I headed out to see what was happening on St. Pat’s day and saw Jack Franklyn in the alley between Heroes and Roscoes. He had closed all of his restaurants and was not likely to make a go of take-out, and said he really did not have a way to make a profit from that. He vowed to pay his employees what they were owed and hoped things would change in a couple of weeks. It now looks like a couple of months.

The events we spoke of were all cancelled. Many retailers were hoping to stay open but then they closed as well. There was a lot of confusion regarding if all had to close and today, as I write this, we know most businesses are closed or are operating from home, trying to find ways to stay afloat, all hoping the relief package gets everyone through this. We’re in it together, and perhaps, finally, we will all act like it.

Staying Alive

Almost immediately, there were some posts on social media from some who decided they would try to make take-out only work. Bourbon Street also offered FREE delivery and takeout only from 3pm-9pm and The Bowery made sure you knew pizza was available by ordering online. The Slidebar stepped up and offered “Kids eat free” from Tuesday-Friday, 4pm- 8pm. Bootlegger’s Brewery offered up “Essentials To Go” with items like eggs, milk, butter, pasta, toothpaste, cotton swabs and more, along with, of course, beer. Angelo’s and Vinci’s, The Twisted Vine, D’Vine, Back Alley, and many others also are offering take-out, with many adding delivery options, too. To see the latest locations that are participating, read on.

Now This

This Facebook page (Fullerton-What’s Cookin’) popped up and many restaurants quickly joined so we can all find out where we can get food while the closures are in effect. Many local restaurants posted specials, menu items, pick-up times and more. Fullerton-What’s Cookin’ quickly caught on and Fullertomians found a new way to support our local businesses, even in a time of trouble. We have always promoted shopping and dining in Fullerton first, now it is critical. Just found another source, www.dinefullerton.com, which is also constantly being updated.
FULLERTON OBSERVER Page 7

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"WRITE IT DOWN" by Valerie Brickey (answer key on page 19)

The Fullerton Observer is offering a free, local news and crossword puzzle starting with this week. This is a box for the crossword puzzle.

EARLY APRIL 2020

LOCAL NEWS & CROSSWORD

FULLERTON OBSERVER Page 7

Nick and Dottie Batinich were selected as the Mardi Gras King and Queen.

Fullerton Non-profit Friends of Jazz Mines Gold at Annual Fundraiser

By Eric Marchese

The Fullerton educational non-profit Friends of Jazz, which for more than 20 years has been raising funds to help college, high school, and grade school students cover the costs of their studies of music and jazz, held its largest annual fundraiser on March 8.

Friends of Jazz’s Mardi Gras Ball, the organization’s 19th overall, was held in the grand ballroom of the Embassy Suites Hotel in Brea and drew a sizable crowd of members, supporters, and new non-members interested in helping the non-profit continue its mission.

More than 100 revelers enjoyed the fun event, which is part elegant dinner-dance, part costume party, and part fundraiser by virtue of cash donations and items sent in that are sold during the evening’s silent auction, with all proceeds going back into FOJ’s numerous music education programs.

Nick Batinich, FOJ’s chief financial officer, reported that the evening raised enough money to make it the most successful Mardi Gras Ball FOJ has yet held.

Batinich himself and his wife Dottie, became an integral part of the event early in the evening when they were selected as the evening’s Mardi Gras King and Queen.

Students from Fullerton College and Cal State University Fullerton provided live music for the evening. Just prior to dinner, nine fourth-graders from Beechwood Elementary School played recorders to provide a brief concert. FOJ’s Fourth-Grade Recorder program helps encourage youngsters interested in music, while the high school and college programs support them once they’ve become more proficient.

Longtime member Linda Duarte Wolf called it “the best Mardi Gras ever.” It was a very joyous evening.

ACROSS

1. Former
6. Capital of Jordan
11. Part of U.C.L.A.
14. Because
15. Drunken
16. Wall St. debut
17. Excellent speaker
19. Mint
20. Popular tea brand
21. “Encore!”
22. Land unit
23. Low island
25. As much as a vehicle can carry
27. Quarantine, and what all of us are currently under; stay healthy!
32. Peddle
33. “So that’s your game!”
34. Continental money
36. Actor Vaughan
39. Light purple
41. Long-distance inits.
42. Decorative embedded design
43. Massachusetts Senator Henry Cabot
44. Easter treats
46. “A Chorus Line” number
47. Space drink?
49. English ___ spaniel
51. Property
54. Suffix with meteor or social
55. Justice’s garb
56. Radiated
59. Heavy-duty hand soap brand
63. Bing Crosby’s hit “___Be Home for Christmas”
64. Bed protector
66. “Savvy?”
67. Had dinner at home
68. Clamor
69. L.A. hours
70. Peter of “Casablanca”
71. Queen ___ lace

DOWN

1. Cousin of “ahem”
2. Talk show host Kelly
3. 1960’s “Mockingbird” singer Foxx
4. Three or six follower
5. Divinity school subj.
6. 1980’s hit song “In ___ Country”
7. “American Beauty” actress Suvari
8. “M*A*S*H” extra
29. Wintertime dose, perhaps
30. “That's a ___!”
31. Jottings, and a hint to the ends of the longest answers
32. Peddle
33. “So that's your game!”
34. Continental money
36. Actor Vaughan
39. Light purple
40. Playing marble
41. Long-distance inits.
42. Decorative embedded design
43. Massachusetts Senator Henry Cabot
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On March 27 the Orange County Health Care Agency held a press conference to update the county’s three million residents about measures being taken to address the threat of the COVID-19 virus. Board of Supervisors Chair Michelle Steel opened the televised and Facebook live-streamed half-hour press conference, also attended by appropriately distanced OC Health Care Agency Director Dr. Nichole Quick, and County Executive Officer Frank Kim, each of whom responded to questions posed by reporters via telephone or in person, off camera.

On the same day, the county website dedicated to information about the fast-spreading virus, coronavirus.in-oc, listed numbers of residents by city for the first time, instead of only releasing an aggregate number of COVID-19 positive individuals, as well as those who have died from the disease in Orange County. Fullerton is currently listed as having seven cases and no deaths. Souleles emphasized that the numbers do not reflect where an individual may have contracted the virus, and that residents continue to be at risk countywide. “We don’t want people to assume that because their city has a high number or a low number, that they are either at greater risk or lesser risk,” said Dr. Quick, who also noted that the numbers were not meant to represent “clusters or outbreaks” specific to a business or neighborhood.

There are no numbers available for individuals who have recovered from the virus because, as Souleles explained, it is no longer required that patients test negative before being considered as having recovered, and, consequently, the total data is unavailable to the agency.

Dr. Quick said that the system of local hospitals remains below typical levels of activity based on availability of beds, but that the county anticipated more cases of COVID-19 and deaths from it in the coming weeks. The county is actively working with the State of California to “coordinate an alternate hospital system” (etc.) to hospitals and healthcare agencies from a local warehouse and state stockpile. Healthcare providers continue to submit requests for the scarce items, however, in excess of available supplies. Disruptions to the supply chain have caused local healthcare providers receiving only partial orders of PPE nationwide, prompting OCHA to appeal to the state for more supplies, as well as efforts on the part of the agency to procure the items themselves. Souleles appealed directly to corporations and other businesses to donate new and unopened masks, face shields, disposable gloves, isolation and medical gowns, and antibacterial and disinfecting wipes by calling a county hotline at 714-628-7085.

Testing kits for the virus are also in short supply, leading to a prioritization of those at greatest risk or most ill for testing. Patients with underlying health conditions and/or those over the age of sixty-five are considered most at risk for developing serious or life-threatening cases of the disease. Dr. Quick reiterated a warning issued two days earlier about a particular South Korean serology test measuring antibodies in blood serum being offered by a Little Saigon doctor because it was not approved by the Federal Drug Administration (FDA). Other tests check for the virus by capturing it on a cotton swab from a patient’s nasal passage.

Souleles declined to comment on drug trials reportedly taking place at UC Irvine Medical Center and other facilities.

The World Health Organization estimates that over 80% of people who become infected with the virus will likely experience mild to moderate illness and recover, but transmission of the virus remains of such dire concern that the officials repeatedly urged county residents to comply with Governor Newsom’s “stay at home” order, issued March 19.

Asked by one reporter how long before the agency expected a difference in the numbers of cases in the county and for a time frame for the duration of the stay at home order, Dr. Quick noted that the incubation period for COVID-19 is thought to be up to fourteen days, HCA could only continue to monitor the situation over the next several weeks, she said.

County CEO Frank Kim responded to a question about how the county plans to deal with individuals who flout so-called social distancing guidelines for staying six feet apart from others while visiting county beaches and parks. Kim noted that parking lots for county facilities had already been closed, and that additional signage addressing the guidelines had been posted since last weekend, when people flocked to beaches and parks to seek relief from the isolation of their homes, ending up in groups dense enough for the virus to spread among them. Kim indicated that county employees would be visiting the parks over the coming weekend in order to evaluate whether or not more drastic, unstated, measures might need to be taken, presumably implying that the parks and beaches could be closed entirely.

For the second time, an appeals court has blocked a court order prohibiting the Friends for Fullerton’s Future blog from publishing city documents allegedly obtained from a City of Fullerton Dropbox account. On March 26 the Fourth District Court of Appeals granted a motion to dismiss an injunction issued by Judge James L. Crandall on March 12 in Orange County Superior Court. Judge Crandall’s earlier restraining order prohibiting the named bloggers from “Selling, publishing, distributing, disclosing or otherwise using any of the information or documents obtained from the City Dropbox folders and files (etc.)” was stayed by the same court last year.

The City of Fullerton filed a civil law-suit against FFFF blog authors Joshua Ferguson and David Curlee in 2019, charging that they illegally downloaded files from a City Dropbox account, and subsequently published them on the blog. FFFF counsel Kelly Aviles considered the case to be a “SLAPP,” or Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation. On March 12 Judge Crandall denied a petition to dismiss the case, which is scheduled to be heard in January, 2021.

**Court Lifts Fullerton Blog Gag Order Again**

by Matthew Leslie

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In the United States, 2.5 million kids take part in the homeschooled program (www.nheri.org/research-facts-on-homeschooling/). As we go back to school after the spring break, we will be joining the millions of students who are being home-schooled except that in our case, it is called distance learning. There is actually a difference between distance learning and homeschooled. In our school, distance learning means logging in to Google Classroom or Powerschool to obtain lessons and activities and teachers providing live instructions to students via Google Hangouts and Zoom. Homeschooling, on the other hand, does not involve live instruction from the teachers. The parents are the ones who teach their kids the necessary lessons that they need to know in their grade level. This week, the Fullerton School District is rolling out the Distance Learning Program that will be in effect until May 11 or further notice.

One of my friends from St. Juliana School, who is already in her second week with this change, says she enjoys how she can work at her own pace and still exercise her brain. She also likes the fact that she is still able to see her teachers and classmates online and ask any question she may have.

Although distance learning may seem unusual and difficult at first, we can take advantage of the new opportunities we have been given by the Fullerton School District. Along with the ELA and Math, new IXL options have been made available to students such as Science, History, and Spanish. IXL is a subscription-based learning site for K-12 students.

But, what about these students who may not have Internet access? They can consider the following options:

a) Free 60 days of internet per family through Spectrum
b) Low cost internet, call 888-519-4724
c) Paper learning packets can be picked up from the school during lunch distribution time.

For more information, go to www.everyoneon.org/fds.

Due to COVID-19, also known as the Coronavirus, citizens of California are staying indoors to avoid contamination. Despite this, there are many things one can do while staying at home:

1) Take virtual tours of museums online like the Louvre Museum in Paris, the National Gallery of Art, or the San Diego Zoo (free).

2) Go to Google Earth Tours of U.S. National Parks like Yosemite, Yellowstone, etc.

3) Take virtual tours of famous sights around the world like The Sistine Chapel or the Great Wall of China.

Check out this link for complete guide to virtual tours:
- www.travelandleisure.com/attracti0ns/museums-galleries/museums-with-virtual-tours
- Famous Museums and Attractions such as the Louvre Are Offering Free Virtual Tours

Because of COVID-19, many schools have shut down including the schools in Fullerton. We were told that we would have an extra week off, and then have Spring Break. Having two weeks off of school was unexpected. We were taught in school how to wash our hands properly and keep our hands away from our faces. At home, I wondered what I should do in between washing my hands. It’s easy to be bored with nothing to do. As I strolled the internet, watching a video of someone playing the guitar, I realized I had an old guitar that was my uncle’s 20 years ago. I pulled it out of the closet and searched for chords online. Even though school is canceled, we cannot go anywhere except for some places like markets and gas stations. Recently the mayor of Los Angeles ordered all restaurants and bars to stay closed to prevent the spread of the virus. If you’re stuck at home, here’s some advice to pass the time.

Read books. The Fullerton Library has a bunch of online books. Play board games with your family. Draw and make crafts. Learn new magic tricks. Cook and make a new recipe. Take naps (especially if you’re tired).

Maximus is a neutered orange short-haired tabby who loves to cuddle and receive lots of pets. He would do best in a cat-loving family who has experience with cats. Loud sounds can frighten him, but with lots of love and affection, he will become more confident. This two-year-old would be a good companion for you. If you’re interested to check out Maximus, you would have to wait because OC Animal Care is temporarily closed due to the COVID-19 safety measures. In the meantime, you can keep track of Maximus at ocpetinfo.com.

Doctors save several lives every day. 64% of the 700,000 physicians in the world work overtime every week, often working as much as 60 hours per week. Doctors risk their lives to treat patients who have contagious diseases and try their best to save as many people as possible. By now, we must have all realized their valuable contribution in the fight against COVID-19.

March 30 is National Doctors’ Day. The day was created to appreciate physicians who help save our lives. The holiday was started back in 1933 and has been honored every March on the 30th, the day when a doctor first used ether anesthesia. You can support your doctor by sending an appreciation card or by donating to a local medical center. Especially at a time like this when the coronavirus is spreading, doctors need our appreciation and support.

Sources:
- nationaltoday.com/doctors-day
- www.factretriever.com/doctor

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Echoes of the Invisible: A Conversation With Filmaker Steve Elkins

By Jesse La Tour

Fullerton resident Steve Elkins has spent most of his adult life as a musician and filmmaker. His first feature documentary, “The Reach of Resonance,” which took him ten years to complete, won the prize for “Best Film Essay” at Montréal’s International Festival of Films on Art. Elkins has recently completed his latest film, “Echoes of the Invisible,” which took him around the world and into the lives of scientists, monks, artists, and journalists to explore the search for silence in an increasingly noisy world.

I caught up with Steve recently (before the coronavirus pushed us all indoors) at Dripp Coffee in downtown Fullerton to chat about his current project, which was scheduled to premiere at the South by Southwest film festival this year, until that festival was cancelled due to the coronavirus outbreak. It was recently announced that, despite the festival’s cancellation, “Echoes of the Invisible” was awarded the ZEISS Cinematography Award for “the very best imagery in story-telling.”

I’ve seen a rough edit of the film, and it’s a masterpiece. Here’s a lightly edited version of our conversation:

Can You briefly explain the concept of the film?

The film became a reflection on the importance of silence and stillness in the digital age. Thinking about our relationship to technology at this point in human history, it’s a really critical moment. Technology is becoming increasingly intimately integrated into our lives. We’re becoming dependent on it for so many basic things that we never depended on before. We really have to ask ourselves some serious questions about what is being gained and lost in that process.

The film is intended to be pretty open in its stance. It’s not anti-technology and it’s not pro-technology. It shows some of the wonders of technology, like CERN’s Large Hadron Collider. A total scientific marvel, it is the largest machine ever created by human beings that, according to the people who use it, allows us to see the conditions of the first trillionth of a second after the Big Bang to understand how everything came to be.

And likewise, there’s the technology used by astronomers in the film where they’re looking back into the furthest reaches of time and space. The first astronomy observatory I filmed at was ALMA in the Atacama Desert in Chile, which enabled astronomers to see a wavelength of light that had never been seen before—called the millimeter/sub-millimeter range of the color spectrum. They began to see parts of the cosmos that had never been visible before—specifically the oldest and coldest light in the universe. ALMA is twice the size of the Very Large Array in New Mexico.

So the film looks at the wonders of technology, but then also takes a serious step back to think about what we’re losing through the use of technology. Hopefully the film illuminates some things that people haven’t thought about before.

A major aspect of the film is the search for silence—meaning radio/Tv/visible light silence that the astronauts need, but the film also focuses on various religious monks. Can you talk about some of those folks and the silence they’re after?

I wanted to make the film a kind of large mosaic where it’s not just following one particular person’s story, but rather looking around the globe at how this theme affects people from all different professions or walks of life. So I made sure this mosaic includes scientists, monks, artists, journalists, athletes. I realized that they were all being affected by our connection to technology and the lack of silence we have.

In some cases it’s literal silence—like the monks need literal silence to be able to look further inward and do the self-study and reflection they need to do to understand more about the human soul and brain, what they’re trying to connect to spiritually.

But there are other people who need technological silence. There is so much information and noise that’s invisible to our eyes, but that’s flying through the air all around us, all around the earth, surrounding the planet.

So there’s a double meaning to my use of the words “silence” and “noise.” One is the literal, and one is the technological (radio, TV, wifi, etc.). Scientists are deeply affected by the amount of noise traveling through our stratosphere because it literally blocks them from seeing further into the universe. Likewise, for monks, if there’s too much noise around, it prevents them from looking further inward.

The further I got into the project, I found that this also affected athletes and artists and, perhaps most interestingly, journalists. That’s where the film really started to expand, when I brought in the Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and National Geographic fellow Paul Salopek. He has devoted much of the rest of his life to walking across the globe from Ethiopia to the Southern tip of Chile along one of the migration routes that our ancestors took when they were first discovering the planet, when they were migrating out of Africa.

One of Paul’s Pulitzer Prizes was awarded for his reporting on the genetic revolution in the 1990s, when a lot of this stuff in our DNA was first coming to light—when we actually could trace old migration patterns through markers in our DNA.

So he decided to take this pilgrimage because it’s an exercise in what he calls “slow journalism.” We have this sense that we’re more intimately connected to the world than ever before because of the Internet and social media and the fast pace at which information gets to us—-the easy access, the convenience. But Paul would argue that we are in many ways less connected to the world than ever before precisely because of the speed at which news is written and delivered to us—the need to have click-bait articles that meet the next day’s deadlines.

So “slow journalism” would involve taking a lot longer to tell a story that goes a lot more in depth than a quick overview?

Exactly. Paul felt that there were always a lot of gaps in his reporting because he would fly in and out of a place, or he would drive in and out of a place. But by slowing his reporting down to literal walking pace, about 3 miles an hour, that is the pace at which human relationships have primarily been formed for almost our entire history. That’s how we’ve communicated with each other. By walking across entire continents, it not only slows him down to get more information, but to form relationships and connect dots that wouldn’t be connected across the world if you were just flying in and out of a particular location.

The sense I got from watching the scenes with Paul was that even though it may seem like a very esoteric or academic thing he’s doing, he’s actually reporting on very pressing contemporary problems. Not climate change from a numerical standpoint, but how climate change is causing tribal warfare in Africa over resources, for example. Or the mass migration crisis, which is also a consequence of climate change and many other things. You hear about these things in the abstract in the news. I felt like Paul was doing some real current, relevant reporting, even though he’s doing it slowly. It’s not just some old pilgrimage he’s taking, but he’s being forced to confront these current problems.

Absolutely. Something that I really value in what he’s doing is that it’s both things at once—the ancient and the contemporary that he’s connecting. So for example when he’s walking through war zones or regions where there’s a migration crisis, he connects that to the deep history of that region. What is there from the ancient past of this region that is still directly affecting this region today and continuing to cause problems, or how have things changed? So, it’s really about connecting the present to the deep past, which I love. It was interesting to me that journalists need silence as much as monks and scientists because, in Paul’s case, slowing down enough changes the story. It allows you to see something that was previously invisible, which is what connects all of the people in the film. Stillness and silence allow us to see things that were previously invisible, regardless of your walk of life.

I get better ideas when I’m walking.

That is something else that Paul talked a lot about in our interview. Walking is known to unlock all these things in the human mind and body that we don’t even realize. It’s not just a simple activity. There’s a long history of, for example, poets and mystics throughout the centuries in all cultures, Christian, Islamic, whatever, who have talked about the connection between walking and unlocking the spiritual resources of the human spirit or creativity in artists. So it helps with all these things including journalism—you put the pieces together.

This even reminds me of John Luther Adams, a composer from my first film “The Reach of Resonance,” who lives in Alaska. I remember when I was filming him, his composing studio was out in the woods, about a half mile from his home. So he would have to take time to walk to it, and walk away from it. And he said that most of the composing, most of the creative problem-solving, was done on that walk, not when he was in the studio.
I told him I could relate to that too because when I’m working on my own projects, I often have ideas that I want to get stuck on things I would only solve the moment I stopped thinking about it and just started moving, just walking.

I remember you mentioning Paul Salopek wrote an article about his walk around the world called “What I’m Doing Is Normal” where he talks about how, for millennia humans have spent a good deal of their lives walking. I liked that because as someone living in Orange County, when I tell people I don’t have a car, they look at me like I’m weird. So I was very heartened by someone saying that actually walking everywhere is normal for humans. What’s weird is sitting down in machines that move for us.

Exactly. This is a classic example of that whole theme of how our relationship to technology is making certain things invisible to us. It’s “invisible” to us that it would be normal for us to walk the equivalent of from LA to New York and back every year, which is the pace Paul is doing his journey. But when they put GPS trackers on some of the world’s last hunter-gatherers in Tanzania, they found that that’s the amount that they walk in a year. So, that’s actually a normal amount of walking for our species.

I know that this project has taken you all around the world. Can you talk about some of the interesting places that this film has taken you? In no particular order, it took me to Chile where I was filming at astronomy observatories at really high altitude locations in the Atacama Desert. It’s the driest desert on Earth, which is why astronomers love it, because the lack of moisture in the air is one of many things that allows them to see deeper into the cosmos. Moisture smudges up the light. Also, it’s rare on Earth to find a desert at such a high altitude, way up in the Andes. That combination of factors makes it an ideal place for science. I also went to Ethiopia, where I filmed monks who live in these rock-hewn cave monasteries high in the mountains in a region called Tigray. There’s a whole tradition of monks out there who pray by going very far from cities. They kind of wander in the wilderness like John the Baptist in the Bible and they literally will live in holes in the ground or in caves. I found an area where they live in these caves carved out of the mountains.

They are seeking silence?

Yes, and they have an actual tradition of silence within Ethiopian Orthodox Christianity that has to do with going to these remote environments. It really interested me that these monks had to go to the same types of environments that scientists had to go to see something invisible. Really far from any city centers.

I focused on monks who had to free climb up these mountains to even get to their prayer caves. I had to climb with them up these nearly vertical cliffs that just had tiny finger holds and toe holds, which was kind of insane.

That sounds terrifying.

It was at times. But we had guides who helped us. It was a really slow process because they’d literally push our feet and hands into position. It was too dangerous for us to guess, and they knew those mountains like the backs of their hands. So we were really fortunate to have them with us. And then I went to India, to film monks who bow their way across the Himalayas, and to film at remote monasteries there. And to capture this tradition of making certain types of sand mandalas, which is a really important tradition in Tibetan Buddhism. Even though a lot of the sand mandala footage I shot was not in India, it was still reflecting the traditions that came from India. People might find it hard to believe that a lot of the sand mandala footage was shot in El Paso, Texas by a monk who used to be the personal attendant to the Dalai Lama. He’s, I think, the only person in the world who makes these mandalas alone. It’s usually done by teams of monks over the course of many weeks. But this guy does them all by himself. The one that I filmed took over a month to make. There’s a scene in the film where you actually see time lapse of the entire month in like a minute and a half.

I’m trying to think if there was anywhere I left out. Those were the main places I went.

I know you went to some places in the United States—the mine in Minnesota.

Oh yes. I filmed in a mine half a mile underground—an abandoned 19th century iron mine that scientists now use to try to detect dark matter particles—dark matter being the predominant matter that makes up the universe. There’s more dark matter than there is visible matter, and yet we have no idea what it is. And then I climbed to the peak of Mt. Whitney, the highest point in the Continental US. That was really exhausting.

I know that, like your first film, you have invested years of your life in this project. I hope the film does well financially, but I don’t get the sense that you are primarily motivated by profit. What is your motivation for making this?

From a certain angle, it’s a mystery. It might sound cheesy, but I think the world is a really magical place. There are so many unbelievably amazing things in this world, and I just want to see them. And a lot of them are in places that are kind of off the beaten path. This film is definitely an exploration of off-the-beaten-path places that I may never have any other reason or opportunity to see. For some locations we had to get special visas, some were “restricted areas” that people can’t just travel to. But another part of it is, and maybe this is more central, I just think we have such a greater capacity as human beings than we recognize. All of us do. There are so many untapped elements of just how amazing people are—whether it’s our skills, our emotional capacity, our capacity for empathy or seeing beyond ourselves. Or even just athletically, like Al Arnold who is in the film. He did something that was thought impossible—running across Death Valley in the middle of summer, and then all the way up to the peak of Mt. Whitney, while he was in his 50s and legally blind.

It’s just unprecedented what he did. So, I think that is kind of a central motivation for me in general, in any form of storytelling, whether it’s writing or filmmaking or even music. I just feel like all of us have much greater capacities than we recognize in ourselves.

That was a goal in making this film, to kind of start by showing who we would definitely perceive as extraordinary people—it almost seems superhuman what they are accomplishing. Building a machine that can look back at the first trillionth of a second of the Big Bang. Or Al’s run. But what I really want is, at a certain point in the movie, for people to really recognize that this is them. What these extraordinary people represent on screen is the audience’s own capacity or potential, which may or may not be fully realized.

In a sense, these are not extraordinary people. They are normal, the same way that Paul really boils down his walk to being like, “This is normal. I’m walking at the pace that our ancestors walked for most of our species’ history.” So I really want that shift to happen.

We’re often caught in the tyranny of the moment, thinking: This is my life. These are the constraints of what I can do. But the people in your movie clearly transcended that. Absolutely. So I think that was a central motivation for me, to kind of give people a mirror, where at first they are in awe, and then realize “I am these people.” There’s a kind of shift in the film at a certain point where you kind of realize that it’s very much about our interconnectedness.
COVID-related Discrimination Reported at OC High School

A discrimination-related incident in correlation with novel coronavirus (COVID-19) was recently reported at a local Orange County high school.

“I am appalled by the racist conduct perpetrated against Vietnamese American students by their classmates at Bolsa Grande High School,” Vice Chairman Andrew Do, First District, said. “As a former victim of repeated racist attacks when I was a student at Bolsa Grande, it hurts me deeply to see these same patterns continue decades later. While I condemn those students’ acts, I want to commend the Garden Grove Unified School District on their swift and decisive response to this incident and I am proud that they are working closely with the Orange County Human Relations Commission to address issues of racism and discrimination.”

“The County has zero tolerance for hate of any kind, and we are dedicated to protecting the safety of all Orange County residents,” Chairwoman Michelle Steel, Second District, said. “We encourage students experiencing discrimination to reach out to their local counselors, teachers, or parents so this inappropriate behavior is properly addressed.”

“Our next generation must learn to unite under challenges and exercise extra grace as much as possible,” I want to kindly remind the public that they should act to rally — and not crush — the courage of those facing the stigma around COVID-19; a healthy future depends on it,” Supervisor Wagner said.

“This is a stressful time for people,” Supervisor Doug Chaffee, Fifth District, said. “I want to thank Garden Grove Unified School District for handling this incident appropriately, and I hope our students receive possible discrimination in the future.”

“Asian-Americans make up one-fifth of our County’s population,” Supervisor Lisa Bartlett, Fifth District, said. “We encourage those witnessing this type of behavior to stand up for your classmates, neighbor or even a stranger experiencing discrimination related to COVID-19, or any other type of discrimination that is witnessed.”

“We stand with the Chinese American and Asian American community against the rise of racist rhetoric, stigma, and paranoia due to fears about COVID-19.”

“Since the coronavirus crisis started, there have been too many headlines and stories about the rise in anti-Asian sentiment throughout the country. In the midst of this public health crisis, the Asian American Pacific Islander community has experienced an increased amount of physical assault, discrimination, and harassment. In California’s 39th District, I’ve heard directly from AAAP restaurants and grocery stores about the drop in business amid COVID-19,” Cisneros said.

“Referring to the coronavirus as the ‘Chinese Virus’ or the ‘Wuhan Virus’ creates a stigma toward the Asian American community. The words we use matter. The CDC Director and the World Health Organization both agree and have condemned calling the virus anything other than its scientific name.

COVID-19 outbreak, the Orange County Water District tests water from approximately 1,500 locations throughout the Orange County Groundwater Basin, analyzes more than 20,000 samples each year, and reports more than 400,000 results to ensure our water meets rigorous water quality standards. Whether it’s tap water or bottled water, it’s crucial to stay informed about water quality, regulations, local tap water, a plentiful and high-quality, and the natural groundwater basin. While it is always advisable to stock bottled water at home in case of emergencies that disrupt the water supply, the presence of the COVID-19 virus has not been detected in drinking water supplies and the Orange County Water District (OCWD) and our city don’t expect this health crisis to disrupt water service to homes or businesses.

Those of us living within the Orange County Water District’s service area are residing on top of a groundwater basin that holds trillions of gallons of fresh water supplies. The groundwater basin aquifers are vast, the water they hold is plentiful and high-quality, and the natural aquifers are vast, the water they hold is plentiful and high-quality, and the natural geography of our basin helps protect this valuable supply. About 77% of the water being delivered to our homes in Fullerton comes from this local groundwater basin.

In addition, 30% of the water that is annually put back into groundwater basins comes from the Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS). The GWRS is a partnership with the Orange County Sanitation District and is the world’s largest groundwater reuse project. It uses advanced technology and a three-step process consisting of microfiltration, reverse osmosis and ultraviolet light with hydrogen peroxide to purify secondary treated wastewater to near distilled drinking water quality. The microfiltration process uses bundles of hollow polypropylene fibers to remove particulate contaminants from water. Under a vacuum, water is drawn through the fiber's minute pores, each approximately 0.2 microns. The reverse osmosis system uses envelopes of semi-permeable polysulfone membranes rolled into bundles and encosed in long pressure vessels. Pressurized microfiltered water enters at one end of each vessel and passes through the membrane to the inside of the envelope where purified water is collected. At this point, it is ultra-purified, yet, OCWD exposes the water to ultraviolet light with hydrogen peroxide to disinfect the water to ensure its purity. Dissolved salts, organic chemicals, pharmaceuticals and viruses are removed during the GWRS process.

Additionally, the Orange County Water District tests water from approximately 1,500 locations throughout the Orange County Groundwater Basin, analyzes more than 20,000 samples each year, and reports more than 400,000 results to ensure our water meets rigorous water quality standards.
Because of the current Coronavirus crisis, I’ve been trying to distance myself from other people as much as possible. Even though my college classes are now online and I’ve been doing my school work from home, I have found that hiking helps me get outside while still practicing social distancing.

As I was scanning through my emails to try and find something to write about, I came across a message from Observer reader Bob Stevenson. After I had written about the wildflower bloom last spring, Mr. Stevenson had suggested that I visit Yorba Linda Lakebed Park, nicknamed “the Hidden Park.” Now that I had some time on my hands, I decided to check out the 96-acre park. In fact, according to the website yorbalindahistory.org, in 1902, the Anaheim Union Water Company completed work on Yorba Linda Reservoir. It was drained in 1969 and was more recently renamed “Yorba Linda Lakebed.”

Mr. Stevenson wrote that “the park has no parking lot, no drinking fountains, no restrooms, no picnic tables, nor even a sign telling you that you are at the park,” and he was absolutely correct. The “Hidden Park” really was hidden since it was hard for me to locate on Google Maps. I ended up travelling down Bastanchury to Rose Drive, where I made a left turn on Buena Vista and continued straight. Just past the intersection of Buena Vista and Lakewood, I found the entrance to the park on the right side of the street. There was no sign saying “entrance.” It was just a small pathway off the side of the road that followed a rock-lined ditch into a wilderness area. I parked on the side of the road of a residential neighborhood and began walking. Since it was a rather sunny Saturday, it was getting late in the day, so I decided to head back home.

On my way back to my car, I once again spotted clear yellow flowers growing on a hill with houses at the top. These were black mustard. Keep in mind that black mustard is actually an aggressive non-native weed masquerading as a colorful wildflower. Black mustard produces chemicals that prevent native plant germination and grow quickly, sucking up water that would otherwise be available for native plants, so don’t be fooled by their beautiful yellow appearance. By summertime, these local wildflowers will no longer be colorful. They will be brown and a fire hazard, so now’s the time to check out the Yorba Linda Lakebed. To see the wildflowers I encoun-
tered while hiking in the “hidden park,” visit www.fullertonobserver.com and click the tab on the lower left corner that tab, click on “Emerson Little YouTube Channel,” which will take you directly to my page.

The title of this film as it appears on the screen has a redacted word between THE and REPORT. We learn almost immediately that the inked-out word is TERROR, and writer/director Scott Z. Burns bases his movie on a Senate investigation into “enhanced interrogation.” Also alarmed by these rumors is the Senate Intelligence Committee, chaired by Senator Dianne Feinstein (a very convincing Annette Bening), who gets her committee to agree on forming an investigative study of the C.I.A.’s procedures.

To head this investigation and write the report, she assigns a scholarly, hard-working young man, already serving on her staff: Dan Jones (Adam Driver) seems to need little sleep and even less diversion or entertainment. Persistent by nature and thorough by habit, Dan also pos-
sesses a sense of humor that works out of a vault-like basement office with a few assistants, Dan delves deeply into the rumored torture techniques that the C.I.A. appears to have used to get information from detainees captured after the 9/11 terrorist attacks and placed in several prisons located in unidentified “black sites.”

They learn that what passes as “enhanced interrogation” begins to appear to Dan and his assistants like torture. The deeper the committee digs, the more horrific their findings become. One detainee has died from torture. Another has been water-boarded more than 150 times. It is not the C.I.A. agents who perform these egregious tactics; they have hired psychologists who claim to know how to use foolproof techniques for obtaining “useful” information about the detainees’ activities.

The techniques are called “Walling,” “Use of Insects,” and “Mock Burials.” They are designed to result in “Dread” and “Learned Helplessness.” However, none of the detainees held in these “black sites” have officially been arrested nor has their connec-
tion to 9/11 been proven. Somehow these facts enter into Assistant Attorney General’s (Annie Parisse) argument for justification for allowing the Geneva Accords to be ignored, since the detainees are not technically prisoners of war. As the Senate Committee learns of the ugly find-

ings Dan and his assistants have uncovered, they also learn that no accurate or usable information has been extracted from any of the detainees. Dan’s work extends for five years and results in a 6,700 word report.

Even the most skilled writers and directors would be challenged trying to create a movie about a report. And not all audiences will become engaged in the journey we take with Dan and his investigation—its challenges, setbacks, its breakthroughs, and its eventual outcomes.

“The Report” demands work on the part of audiences because the material is arcane and the many flashbacks can be confusing. Yet, Dan and the acting is superb. The scenes in which Dan meets with Senator Feinstein are riveting. Both Bening and Driver are completely convincing as they portray their charac-
ters’ clear-headedness and determination in serving the country in an accurate and honorable manner.

It is important to note that at this writing all theaters are closed. “The Report” streaming on Amazon Prime and will soon be available on DVD.
Creative Empathy in a Pandemic

by Robert C. Koehler

One thing about a pandemic: It’s inclusive. We cannot survive it, move beyond it, by protecting merely some people. We have to protect everyone.

Of all the disruption, paradox, and chaos that have been unleashed by the coronavirus, this is the most stunning: It has something to teach us that we could never learn on our own. My God, we are one place — one people. This isn’t idealism, it’s the most pragmatic social organizing principle possible.

As Robert Reich pointed out regarding the American public health system: “. . . we have a private for-profit system for individuals lucky enough to afford it and a rickety social insurance system for people fortunate enough to have a full-time job. At their best, both systems respond to the needs of individuals rather than the needs of the public as a whole. In America, the word ‘public’ — as in public health, public education or public welfare — means a sum total of individual needs, not the common good.

But health equals wholeness. Without collective health, we have humanity shattered by greed and paranoia, that is to say, social hemorrhage, or, what Randall Amster called business as usual: “The simmering cauldron of political vitriol, reification of otherness, escalating inequality, endless war, even more endless waste, and a rapidly warming world hasn’t exactly set us in good stead to weather the storm.”

But here we are — all of us — stuck in isolation, disconnected from our parents, our children, our grandchildren, one another, even as we value them more than ever. There’s no knowing how long this will last or what outcome awaits us. But if the best of who we are is able to prevail, we may find ourselves living through an extraordinary shift in human consciousness, a rewriting of our human history that transcends borders. If possible, we would clap and dance and sing together was ‘a kind of triumph of spirit’ as one Italy-centric Twitter account put it on Friday.

A montage video showing Italians serenading one another in high rise apartment buildings while playing music together was ‘a kind of triumph of spirit’ as one Italy-centric Twitter account put it on Friday.

Indeed, this sort of thing is happening in a number of places. Common Dreams mentioned both Lebanon and Spain. Part of the joy and excitement I feel about this is that it transcends borders. If possible, we would clap and dance and throw our voices across all the national borders on the planet.

What else? At the institutional level, the city of Detroit, in response to service demands, has reimposed water service to thousands of people who were cut off for not paying their bills. And, all over the world, prisons are slowly and at least temporarily opening their doors. Iran, for instance, has so far released 8,500 prisoners. And the sheriff of Los Angeles County, according to NBC News, “is releasing people from prison early and is asking officers to cite and release people when possible, instead of arresting them.”

At a slightly more personal level, Michael Cohen, Donald Trump’s former lawyer and fixer, who is serving a three-year prison term, has asked to serve the rest of his term at home because the coronavirus outbreak has made prison conditions utterly unsafe, according to NBC. His lawyer recently wrote to the federal district judge that the Bureau of Prisons is “desmascorably incapable of safeguarding and treating . . . inmates who are obliged to live in close quarters and are at an enhanced risk of catching coronavirus.” While there may not be much empathy here — this is Cohen trying to save himself — the public nature of his complaint could have much larger ramifications. The lawyer added: “In the absence of Presidential leadership, judges should act thoughtfully and decisively.”

Fair and compassionate treatment for prisoners? Where will this stop? Abdullah Shihpar writes in the New York Times: “We could come out of this feeling more connected to each other than before.”

And Ken Butigan declared: “The greatest social movement in human history is coming. Each of us is called to join it. It is a global movement, a movement of movements . . . rooted in the blood and tears of millions who have spent their lives throughout history clamoring for justice, working for peace, laboring for a world that works for everyone.”

Just as all of us are, of necessity, isolated from each other, we are all participants, via our creative empathy, in this shift in human consciousness. What examples of this empathy have you noticed? Let’s share.

Robert Koehler is a Chicago award-winning journalist and editor. He is the author of Courage Grows Strong at the Wound.
Tuesday Morning Art Kit Kiosk at The Muck in Fullerton

On Tuesday mornings, the Muckenthaler Cultural Center will have a drive through Art Kit Kiosk in their parking lot from 10am-1pm.

To alleviate some of the Coronavirus housebound blues, The Muck invites parents to drive by and pick up a new free art project each week to entertain housebound kids, all without leaving the car. Although if anyone would like to park, stroll the eight acres of grounds and get some fresh air, that's fine too. The art projects are designed by Muck Master Artists Marsha Judd and Willie Tabata, and constructed by community volunteers from CSUF, with partial underwriting from their CICE program. Additional help has been provided by one of the true angels of our community Christine Sanchez at Giving Children Hope.

Chief Education Officer Stephannie Bobadilla remarked on these partnerships, “This is one of those efforts that takes the entire community, and we are grateful to be surrounded by such generous and proactive partners.”

To make this as safe as possible, the Muck has have taken the following precautions:

1. The kits were made days in advance so the virus wouldn't still be living on any surface.
2. Tuesday morning, all personnel, whether they touch the kits or not will be wearing gloves.
3. The kits will be left on a table to be picked up, not handed out directly.
4. People helping with this project will have a table separating them from the car window—they will be six feet away.

As they find new ways to reach the community, CEO Farrell Hirsch notes, “Our mission is to inspire the imagination through the arts. It doesn't say only when it's easy, or times are good.”

“The Muck’s mission is to celebrate the human spirit through the arts. The Muckenthaler Cultural Center is located at 1201 West Malvern Avenue, Fullerton, California. For more information please visit www.TheMuck.org or follow us on Instagram and Facebook.

Note from a reader: “I wanted to send you some pictures (above) of my sons enjoying the art project that the Fullerton Observer newspaper shared. They put their own twist to the art project. They made them into rocket ships. They enjoyed this project with their dad while I was able to cook dinner for the family. It was a fun project. I know it took so much time and effort to put this together. Our family is so grateful for everyone who put this together to make this moment a reality for our cooped-up family of five.”

Janelle D, Fullerton

Native Plant Community Garden

Fullerton local Jensen Hallstrom has created a beautiful native plant garden on the Hilscher Trail in Fullerton, for the public to enjoy. Above and below are some photos of this magical little spot.
Out of My Mind
by Jon Dobrer © 2020

This will not be a partisan political column. This is about us, not about them.

“No one saw this coming. It’s utterly without precedent.” Of course, neither of these statements is true. We saw it coming. We saw its direct ancestors arrive as SARS and as MERS (Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome). We saw COVID-19 spread out of Wuhan and then reach Hong Kong and a couple of cruise ships. We didn’t take it seriously enough until the quarantine ship turned into a petri-dish and people started dying in numbers that were significant to the scale of the number of passengers. Previously, discounting the deaths in China wasn’t automatically racist. We just couldn’t trust the num-
bers China reported and couldn’t calculate the virus’ lethality. The cruise ship was our wakeup call. Yet many pushed the snooze button. Some still snooze and deny. And so it arrived—by ship, by plane, carried by tourists and returning citi-
zens. It’s traveled around the world, and this deadly world tour is likely to continue for several seasons, until vaccines and protective inhibitors are developed, tested, and distributed.

But COVID-19 actually has many predecessors from the Bubonic Plague that swept Europe in the 14th century killing millions. Yellow Fever, Typhoid and Typhus and Cholera epidemics and it’s endemic in some parts of the world. And so it arrived—by ship, by plane, carried by tourists and returning citizens. It’s traveled around the world, and this deadly world tour is likely to continue for several seasons, until vaccines and protective inhibitors are developed, tested, and distributed.

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The Truth on COVID-19 is Ugly and the Lies are Deadly

by Wim Laven

On March 19, the gutless deplorability of failed leadership found a new poster boy in President Donald Trump. Richard Black was found to have sold off his stock that he knew would be losing value (hotels, travel industry) before the stock market started crashing from the pandemic. COVID-19 while simultaneously.toeing Donald Trump’s line that everything was fine. He provided warning to his colleagues, but set the rest of the public up.

On St. Paddy’s Day, Trump finally reached a point of inflection following his attempts at deflection—from declaring a “hoax,” and “bad flu” he finally admitted we have a very serious pandemic. If we are going to solve this by just ignoring it, we are in trouble.

I think an increasing number of Americans are beginning to accept that The Great American Experiment demands inclusion of a tangible, appropriate, rapprochement of our bloodsplat with a more judicious future. It is, in any case, incapable of being imposed. We have to want to do this, not because it is easy, but because it is right (if I may paraphrase John Kennedy).

As always, I am impressed with the honesty, clarity, and complexity, and passion that emerges from the pages of the Observer. Fullerton is, indeed, fortunately, able to have that journalistic competence. In this crowded, local printed news media continues to disappear, the importance of that is more critical than ever.

It will only be done with people power. It will be done by us. The power and money we have been lied to repeatedly by fake leadership. Let’s beat these threats, from the monumental to the local in the White House. It will be done by the people. It will be done by the people. It will be done by the people. It will be done by the people. It will be done by the people. It will be done by the people. It will be done by the people.
Tracy Wood 1943 - 2020
Journalist broke barriers

Tracy Wood, a reporter who broke through the male-dominated press corps to become the first female reporter to cover the Vietnam War, and who later shared the L.A. Times Pulitzer Prize for coverage of the L.A. riots, died at her home in Fullerton on March 12 after a long battle with cancer, according to her brother, Scott. She was 76.

A wartime correspondent, a serious and persistent investigative reporter, and a nurturing editor later in life, Wood had a long career as a journalist, from her first stint as a reporter at City News Service in Los Angeles, to 17 years on the LA Times investigative team, to her pioneering efforts as a founding co-editor of the Voice of OC, a nonprofit digital news startup, as well as serving as an interim editor at Ms. Magazine. She covered conflict abroad, racial tensions in intercity Los Angeles, and investigated suspect politicians and corrupt career bureaucrats.

She served as a valued advisor to the Fullerton Observer for over 20 years. "Tracy was passionate about rights to public information and worked with the Observer on several key stories, including internal problems at the Fullerton Police Department," Observer publisher Sharon Kennedy said. "She was always responsive with advice when I called her with tough questions on how to proceed. She taught me everything I know about journalism and was a great friend and mentor."

"Few reporters could get the respect of both rival reporters and politicians, but that was Tracy," Gustavo Arellano, former OC Weekly editor and current Times staff writer, said. "She was tough and fair, pioneering but always working—everything a reporter should ever want to be."

Born Aug. 21, 1943 in Monmouth Junction, N.J., Wood attended the University of Missouri before landing in L.A. as a reporter at City News Service and then United Press International (UPI), first working at the wire service’s Sacramento bureau and then in New York.

Times political columnist George Skelton, who was Wood’s editor in Sacramento, recalled the young reporter demanding to be allowed to enter the all-male Sutter Fair, pioneering but always working—everything a reporter should ever want to be."

"Tracy could dig out any story," Skelton said. "I’ve never worked with a better reporter."

Over the objections of her editors in New York and counter to the prevailing media mindset that only men should be on the front lines during wartime, Wood landed in Saigon in 1972 as the war was grinding on. Wood was there when American prisoners were released in 1974 and a year earlier had watched as future Sen. John McCain was released from the Hanoi Hilton, used by the North Vietnamese to house, torture, and interrogate captured American servicemen.

She, along with other women, wrote about their experiences in “War Torn,” a compilation of stories from women who covered the war.

Wood later worked in the UPI’s Hong Kong bureau before coming to The Times, where she worked in Los Angeles and Orange County. She shared in the paper’s Pulitzer in 1993 for its coverage of the riots following the acquittal of four officers charged in the beating of Rodney King. Later, she helped lead the Orange County Register’s investigative team and then helped launch the Voice of OC, leading investigative efforts and civic coverage.

"Tracy was the toughest journalist I’ve ever known," Norberto Santana Jr., publisher and editor-in-chief of the Voice of OC news site, said. "She really took seriously a reporter’s job to protect our freedoms at home, and got all sides of a story. She saw it as an extension of what so many men and women died on distant battlefields to protect."

Wood was survived by her brother.

Margaret’s homecoming was March 14, 2020. She was born in Fullerton on November 23, 1962, to Stanley and Sheryl Fowler. She attended Fullerton schools from the start of her education to her graduation from Fullerton High School in 1980. After high school graduation, she went to Spokane, WA, where she attended Whitworth College and graduated with a BA in Art. For her Master’s Degree, she went across the country to Vermont College in Montpelier for a MA in Art Therapy. Hoping to become a missionary and use her skills, she went to Colorado to attend the Wycliff Bible Translators program. But, in 1996, that endeavor ended because of a malignant brain tumor, which required surgery and treatment. After the cancer went into remission, she continued to create beautiful art for others and to make music. A significant creation was the transformation of utility cement blocks to resemble Orange Crates that were so prominent in the Fullerton area some years ago. She contacted the City of Fullerton for permission to paint the cement blocks on State College near the corner at Yorba Linda Blvd. Those “orange crates” have added so much to the area.

She painted the cement blocks on State College near the corner at Yorba Linda Blvd. Those “orange crates” have added so much to the area.

Tracy was tough and fair, pioneering but always working—everything a reporter should ever want to be."

—Gustavo Arellano

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For your safety, McAuley & Wallace Mortuaries can make funeral arrangements without you leaving the safety of your home.

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www.orangetheorpe.org

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Sunday Service & Sunday school: 10 a.m.
Wednesday Testimony Meeting: 7:30 p.m.
Reading Room & Bookstore: Mon - Sat, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
First Church of Christ, Scientist
1300 N. Raymond Avenue, Fullerton 92831
(714) 525-4062
www.christiansciencefullerton.org
csfullerton@sbcglobal.net
Orange County District Attorney Establishes Coronavirus Scam Hotline

The Orange County District Attorney’s Office has established a hotline to report individuals or businesses they suspect of engaging in price gouging or any other COVID-19-related scam. The Hotline is (714) 834-3482. Reports can also be emailed to reportscam@da.ocgov.com.

District Attorney investigators are looking into every report provided to the Orange County District Attorney’s Office regarding a COVID-19-related scam.

When reporting a suspected scam, members are asked to provide the following information:

- The name of the individual or business they are reporting.
- The description of the conduct.
- The address or city where the individual or business is located, and if there is a contact number for the person reporting the conduct.

The reporting party may remain anonymous, but it is important to provide a contact number as District Attorney investigators may need additional information to investigate the conduct. This information will not be shared outside of the District Attorney’s Office.

During a declared state of emergency, it is illegal for a business to increase its prices for essential goods or services by more than 10 percent, unless they can show their own costs have increased.

Governor Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency in California on March 4, and the Orange County Board of Supervisors declared a local emergency on February 26.

“The Orange County District Attorney’s Office is vigorously investigating any and all reports that someone is attempting to illegally profit from the coronavirus threat,” Orange County District Attorney Todd Spitzer said. “This global pandemic has understandablely caused widespread anxiety and fear. Exploiting the public’s fear is not a defense to engaging in criminal activity. The County District Attorney’s Office is committed to ensuring that those criminals who break the law and prey on vulnerable victims are held accountable.”

Violations of the price gouging statute are subject to criminal prosecution and can result in one year in county jail and/or a fine of up to $10,000. Violations are also subject to civil enforcement actions including civil penalties of up to $5,000 per violation, injunctive relief, and mandatory restitution.

The law applies to several products and necessities including food and drink, emergency supplies such as water, flashlights, radios, batteries, blankets, soaps, diapers, toiletries, and medical supplies such as prescription medications, bandages, gauze, isopropyl alcohol, and antibacterial products.

It is also a misdemeanor for a hotel or motel to increase regular rates by more than 10 percent during a declared emergency and for the 30 days following the state of emergency.

In addition to price gouging, consumers should be on the lookout for other types of scams that are common during emergencies. Criminals may set up fake websites or charities, send emails, texts, or post on social media pretending to be from the World Health Organization or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in an attempt to profit illegally. They may also seek donations to help victims of this emergency.

Also, be wary of any business claiming to have a miracle cure. There is currently no cure for coronavirus. Do not allow your fear and anxiety to overtake your common sense.

The Fullerton Observer provides space for NEIGHBORS to advertise. To participate you must have a local phone number. Contractors must provide valid licenses. Editor reserves right to reject any ad not considered suitable for our family newspaper. The cost of a classified is $10 for 50 words or less per issue. Payment is by check only. The Observer assumes no liability for ads placed here. However, if you have a complaint or compliment about a service, please let us know at (714) 525-2626. Call City Hall at (714) 738-6531 to inquire about business licenses. For contractor license verification go to the California State Contractor License Board website at www.cslb.ca.gov.

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List of Orange County Public Services Suspended due to COVID-19

Note: Services are subject to change. Please call ahead to verify availability of county services.

County Service Center, 601 North Ross Street, Santa Ana: Temporary closure until further notice. For questions, call (714) 343-8141. Only open on weekdays between 8am and 5pm, Monday-Friday during this closure. Property tax payments (no cash) can be dropped off at the Outside Payment Drop box on Ross Street or made online by check (no cost) at ocgov.com/octax. Bill payments must be made by check, money order or credit card. No cash accepted. All services are suspended. Several large food facility inspections have been postponed to minimize operational impact to hospitals.

Human Resource Services
www.ocgov.com/hr

Human Resource Services (HRS) is significantly reducing and might eliminate in-person testing for candidates currently in the hiring process. HRS will work to accommodate candidates who do not have access to online systems. HRS is exploring significantly speeding up the hiring process as allowed per the emergency rules, especially for OC Health Care Agency.

OC Community Resources
www.ocgov.com/occr

Occupy Orange County Animal Care www.ocdacs.org

The shelter in Tustin is closed to the general public until further notice. Owner surrenders are limited to emergency only. Adoptions/rescues/fosterings & pet relocations will be by appointment only. Field Services will be limited to essential services (in-person licensing services are suspended).

OC Community Services
www.ocgov.com/occs

The senior home delivered meal program will change to one to two deliveries per week, with multiple meals provided at a time. Congregate meals are canceled, but brown bag/frozen meal pick-up is available 3-5 days a week, depending on the site. Sites with limited operational days will offer multiple meals to cover the entire week. Senior home assessments have been waived. New clients in need of food will be registered over the phone and granted conditional eligibility to be able to start receiving meals immediately. California Department of Aging will verify driver’s background check requirements. As long as they have a background on file with any agency, they will be provided conditional on the-spot approval. The Veterans Services Office is seeing clients solely by appointment. No walk-ins are accepted to ensure social distancing and proper sanitation. Centers will remain open by appointment only to provide critical services to customers during this difficult time. Alternative service delivery strategies for One-Stop Centers that have been suspended include telework, which expands reach to the farthest areas of large and gridlocked geography. They will provide services remotely through daily phone calls, video conferences and web content. Appointment-only in-person visits to the AJCC, staying to the recommended social distancing guidelines. They will continue with Rapid Response activities as needed and where social distancing is possible or done remotely.

Orange County Housing Authority
www.ochousing.org

All face-to-face visits are suspended. All inquiries and questions should be made via phone call and email. Information will be posted on the OCHA website. All annual inspections will be rescheduled and any past suspended New lease inspections will continue as the units are vacant. All communication with the owner will be by email/phone call. Special inspection will be delayed unless it is essential to the health and safety of the tenant.

OC Housing & Community Development www.occommunityservices.org/hcd

Face-to-face and in-person meetings are suspended. Affordable housing monitoring inspections will be rescheduled.

OC Parks
www.ocparks.com

Outdoor spaces at OC Parks and restrooms at Caspers Wilderness Park and O’Neill Regional Park are canceled through April 5. New reservations and permits are suspended.

OC Public Libraries
www.ocpl.org

All library branches are closed until further notice.

OC Visite & Recycling www.ocdacs.org

Effective through March 31, Materials Exchange Programs at OC Waste & Recycling’s Homeless Waste Collection Centers will be closed. The collection center operation itself will remain open.

Public Defender
www.publicdef.com/

OC Custody clients have been notified via website and contact with attorneys to see if they can give 977 authority for the attorney to appear on their behalf, removing the need to appear in court themselves.

Registrar of Voters
www.ocvote.com

The Registrar of Voters (RoV) continues with the required manual tallies and auditing related to the March 3 primary election. Registrar Neal Kelley brought those final results to the Board on March 24. RoV is working with the Secretary of State to gain authorization from the Governor to halt in-person voting requirements for the April 7 Westminster Recall election. All of auditing functions are being live streamed on com/ra allowing for full public transparency. RoV is also staffing all of its phone operations, including all supported languages—Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese and Spanish. The public may call 714-567-7600 for assistance.

Sheriff’s Department
www.ocsherd.com

The front lobby of all Sheriff’s Department buildings and central city police services substations are closed to the public. All volunteer programs are suspended; this includes senior programs in contract cities and those provided by jail volunteers. Jail programs provided by staff will continue. All in-person tours of the civilian work areas and alongs will be postponed. Patrol deputies have been directed to use discretion in responding to calls for service that require social contact. Where possible, deputies will call reporting parties and take necessary reports over the phone. Community service officers and motor deputies will not respond to non-injury traffic collisions unless vehicles are disabled in the roadway or creating a hazard. Public jail visiting is suspended, and video visits are provided by free five-minute phone calls per week. Enhanced symptom screening for jail intake has been implemented in coordination with the OC Health Care Agency’s Correctional Health Services. All training at the Sheriff’s Regional Training Academy is suspended.

Social Services Agency
ssao.cogov.org

The Social Services Agency (SSA) has closed the following offices: Aliso Viejo Regional Center Anaheim Regional Center Center-Santa Ana Regional Office County Community Service Center Cypress Regional Center Garden Grove Regional Center Laguna Hills Regional Center Santa Ana Regional Center. Clients may apply for Medi-Cal, CalFresh and CalWORKs benefits, review case information, request a replacement benefits card and submit verification forms, by calling SSA (714) 901-3212 or by email/phone call. Social Services Agency (SSA) has closed the following offices: Aliso Viejo Regional Center Anaheim Regional Center Center-Santa Ana Regional Office County Community Service Center Cypress Regional Center Garden Grove Regional Center Laguna Hills Regional Center Santa Ana Regional Center. Clients may apply for Medi-Cal, CalFresh and CalWORKs benefits, review case information, request a replacement benefits card and submit verification forms, by calling SSA (714) 901-3212 or by email/phone call. Social Services Agency (SSA) has closed the following offices: Aliso Viejo Regional Center Anaheim Regional Center Center-Santa Ana Regional Office County Community Service Center Cypress Regional Center Garden Grove Regional Center Laguna Hills Regional Center Santa Ana Regional Center. Clients may apply for Medi-Cal, CalFresh and CalWORKS benefits, review case information, request a replacement benefits card and submit verification forms, by calling SSA (714) 901-3212 or by email/phone call. Social Services Agency (SSA) has closed the following offices: Aliso Viejo Regional Center Anaheim Regional Center Center-Santa Ana Regional Office County Community Service Center Cypress Regional Center Garden Grove Regional Center Laguna Hills Regional Center Santa Ana Regional Center. Clients may apply for Medi-Cal, CalFresh and CalWORKS benefits, review case information, request a replacement benefits card and submit verification forms, by calling SSA (714) 901-3212 or by email/phone call.