



Fullerton Observer

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COUNCIL VOTES TO ALLOW CANNABIS BUSINESSES IN FULLERTON

by Jesse La Tour

Fullerton City Council voted 3-2 (Fitzgerald and Whitaker “no”) at their October 6 meeting to introduce an ordinance that would allow and regulate certain commercial cannabis activities in the City. Council will vote to adopt the ordinance at their next meeting.

The ordinance allows 5 cannabis retail businesses, 5 manufacturing, 5 cultivation, 5 transportation/distribution and unlimited testing businesses in certain commercial and manufacturing zones within the City, pursuant to specified development and operational standards. On page 4 is a map of where such businesses would be allowed to operate.

The ordinance also requires a separation “buffer” of 800-feet from schools, daycares, youth centers, youth organizations, or club facilities, parks, playgrounds, city community centers, and libraries. It also requires a 300-foot buffer between cannabis retail locations.



The Last of the Orange Groves? Is this picture in Fallbrook, Vista, or Escondido? No, it's in Fullerton, a half mile away from two freeways! Drone photo by Jensen Hallstrom. See story on page 12.

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Orange County Remains in 2nd Most Restrictive Tier of COVID-19 Reopening Plan

by Matthew Leslie

Orange County COVID-19 Statistics

More than 8 million people in the United States have contracted the coronavirus, with the pace of new cases increasing in many parts of the country. But in Orange County officials think that statistics for test positivity rates for the virus and the overall numbers of known cases of COVID-19 are trending in the right direction for more businesses and public facilities to eventually reopen.

Both Disneyland and Knott's Berry Farm remain closed with the State government declining to issue reopening guidelines for amusement parks, though County officials have met park operators and toured the closed parks to review proposed safety measures. County officials and State representatives, including Assemblywoman Sharon Quirk-Silva, newly seated as Chair of the Assembly Arts, Entertainment, Sports, Tourism, and Internet Media Committee, are calling for the Governor to allow the parks to reopen in a safe manner.

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OC AND STATE REPUBLICANS PROMOTING ILLEGAL BALLOT DROP BOXES

Jordan Tygh, a regional field director for the California Republican Party, posted a photo of himself on Twitter on October 8 (which he has since deleted), holding an official ballot next to a metal box designated “Official Ballot Drop Box,” and encouraging voters to vote for Republican Congressional Candidate Michelle Steel, and to “DM me for convenient locations to drop your ballot off at!”

The box he was kneeling next to was not an official Ballot Drop Box, and according to both OC Registrar of Voters Neal Kelley and CA Secretary of State Alex Padilla, designating a box as such is illegal.

Amid numerous reports of such unofficial ballot drop boxes popping up across the State, both Padilla and Kelley issued cease and desist notices to the Los Angeles, Orange, and Fresno

Republican Parties confirming the illegality of this practice, and encouraging voters to utilize only official Ballot Drop Boxes, which are safe and secure.

“The use of unauthorized, non-official ballot drop boxes is prohibited by State law,” Kelley said. “Voters who want to return their ballot at a drop box should only use official County drop boxes. Official Ballot Drop Boxes are clearly recognizable, designed to meet State standards for security, and bear the official Orange County Elections logo and Orange County seal.”

Locations of Orange County's official Ballot Drop Boxes can be found at ocvote.com or in Section 8 of your Sample Ballot & Voter information Guide.

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ARE FULLERTON PARKS SAFE FROM DEVELOPMENT?

by Angela Chen Lindstrom

According to the city of Fullerton's General Plan, Fullerton's 14,376 acres is 90% built-out. This year the City Council began putting city-owned land up for sale for development, citing a new State law called the Surplus Land Act. In June, 2 parcels of land at 1600 West Commonwealth and 799 Rolling Hills Drive were declared surplus. This was followed by 2 more parcels in August at 3151 North Euclid and The Bastanchury Tree Farm at the corner of Parks and Bastanchury. The latter has caused particular public objection because this 7.9-acre parcel is actually designated for parks and recreation use in our General Plan. You don't have to tell that to the locals as they use it every day for walking, running, and biking. That begs the question, are Fullerton parks safe from development?

California's Surplus Land Act went into effect this year as part of the State's continued effort to create affordable housing. Other recent State laws attempt to solve this through rent control, relaxing state and local development processes, and encouraging Accessory Dwelling Unit additions to existing residential properties, which effectively ended the single-family residential (SFR) zoning.

Planning for the housing needs of everyone in the community has been a State mandate since 1969. The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) is charged with working with local governments to implement State housing laws. Cities and counties are required to plan how they will meet their housing needs in the Housing Element sections of their General Plans.

The HCD's Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) process estimates each region's housing needs and works through regional government bodies such as the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) to assign housing needs allocations to each city. Cities are then required to update their Housing Element plans to meet those allocations.

Housing allocations are defined in RHNA cycles that span several years. The RHNA housing allocation considers demographic growth, housing needs, and future forecasts. It is *not* based on how much available land cities have to develop.



The Bastanchury Tree Farm offers a natural respite for Fullerton residents. Photo by Angela Chen Lindstrom

Over time the State's lack of affordable housing has grown, not for lack of goal setting. In the past, HCD lacked teeth to induce cities to meet the State's housing demand. So, it's not surprising that up to now, most cities have failed to

meet RHNA housing allocations. In response, the State Legislature authorized HCD to set higher housing allocation targets and strengthen compliance standards for cities.

The upcoming RHNA cycle covers the period of 2021-2029. Southern California's proposed regional allocation is 1,341,827 units. Fullerton's share is 13,180, with about 40% of that being low- to very low-income units. By comparison, the previous RHNA (2014-2021) allocation was 700,000 units. Fullerton's share of that

was 1,841 units.

There are two reasons the previous allocation is significantly lower than the upcoming one. First, it was made in 2012 during the "Great Recession" when growth was slow. Second, RHNA has since changed its allocation method to include existing housing needs in the upcoming allocation. So, if a city was already lacking in affordable housing, that would be rolled into its upcoming housing allocation. This reason alone accounts for 43% of the upcoming allocation for Southern California.

Has Fullerton been keeping up with the previous RHNA allocation in planning for the housing needs of everyone in the community? Well, yes and no. According to the City's 2019 Annual Housing Element Progress Report, it has



Neighbors have begun advocating to save the Tree Farm.

exceeded the RHNA allocation for higher income housing by 348 units or 46%, but fell well short of the median to affordable housing needs by 628 units or 60%.

Many residents are shocked by the upcoming RHNA allocation of 13,180 units for Fullerton. Not only is it a big number, it also means adding about 27% more dwelling units than the previous RHNA allocation to a city that is supposedly 90% built-out. That's also at least 27% more load on our crumbling roads and water infrastructure.

At least one City Council candidate has vowed to appeal Fullerton's upcoming housing allocation to the State. While State law allows for appeal, it's an uphill battle starting with SCAG. They will not accept "unrealistic" and "not enough vacant land" as legitimate reasons. The appeal process is also a "zero sum" game. That is, even if SCAG were to approve lowering Fullerton's allocation, it would need to re-allocate that difference in units to other cities' allocations.

Getting back to the Surplus Land Act, does this RHNA housing allocation mean the end of parks? Not according to this State law, which actually recognizes the shortage of open space and parks and says that land should be made available for parks or open space purposes before development through the surplus process. That makes the City Council's decision to sell the Bastanchury Tree Farm for development all the more mysterious because it is already designated as parks and recreation in our General Plan.

Parks and open space are invaluable resources for the health and quality of life of our community. This has been

made all the more apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic as many recreational venues, gyms, stores, and restaurants were closed. We flocked outdoors for respite and exercise.

Parks and open space are important in fighting climate change too; soils, plants and trees take carbon out of our atmosphere to reduce the warming effects of increased CO₂ that is raising temperatures around the globe. California is feeling the cascading effects of climate change with recurring and growing seasons of deadly wildfires, as well as rising seawater that endangers coastal communities. While Fullerton is not exactly a coastal town, we depend on groundwater. As sea level rises, it becomes increasingly difficult to keep salt out of our fresh water aquifers.

In October, Governor Newsom signed an executive order to preserve 30% of California's natural land and waters by 2030 to combat the damaging effects of climate change. According to our General Plan, only about 7% of our City is designated as parks or open space.

So much of Fullerton's future depends on our land use decisions. Fullerton's Housing Element update for 2021-2029 started this year. We are 3 weeks from electing 3 of 5 (which is the simple majority needed to make most decisions) Fullerton City Council members who will be challenged with navigating housing, infrastructure, parks, and financial challenges that have been backlogged and risen to crisis levels through the years. Public participation is key unless you trust that 5 people can make all the right decisions for the 138,628 people who live in Fullerton without ever hearing from them.

Parks and open space are invaluable resources for the health and quality of life of our community.

County Remains in 2nd Most Restrictive Tier of COVID-19 Reopening Plan

Continued from front page

The County has documented over 57,000 COVID-19 cases since January and 1,391 OC residents are known to have died from COVID-19, 86 of them in Fullerton. 2,682 people have tested positive for the virus in Fullerton, 212 of those cases have occurred in Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs). A disproportionately high number of Fullerton deaths (34) have occurred in SNFs.

Despite the hopes of County officials, all of Orange County remains in the Red or second-most restrictive of the 4 color-coded tiers in California's framework for the reopening of counties. Progressing through the tiers allows counties to open more and more businesses and public places. California's Blueprint for a Safer Economy requires that the number of reported COVID-19 cases and the positivity rate of tests for the virus stay below specified levels for each tier for 3 weeks prior to a county being allowed to move to the next less restrictive tier. An additional requirement, an Equity metric, is used to ensure that "the test positivity rates in its most disadvantaged neighborhoods, as defined as being in the lowest quartile of the Healthy Places Index census tracts, do not significantly lag behind its overall County test positivity rate," according to the California Department of Public Health. Orange County had already targeted 3 ZIP codes—2 in Anaheim, 1 in Santa Ana—that have disproportionately high rates of infection, by forming and implementing the Latino Health Equity Initiative to bring down case rates. The State is now measuring test rates on these census tracts to determine the health equity of each county.

The most recent figures released by the California Department of Public Health show OC's Health Equity metric at 6.5%. A level no higher than 5.2% is required to move into the less restrictive Orange tier. According to County officials, the adjusted case rate for Orange County peaked at 5.2 out of 100,000 people, but is now down to 4.6, a figure still within the Red Tier range. The County needs to reach a number less than 4 to advance to the Orange Tier. OC's test positivity rate is 3.5%, below the 5% threshold for moving into the Orange Tier. County CEO Frank Kim said the County is "trending in the right direction" during an October 15 news conference.

Dr. Clayton Chau, Director and County Health Officer for the Orange County Health Care Agency (OCHCA), believes that OC has an undeserved bad reputation for resisting the wearing of face masks. He reasons that the County's relatively low COVID-19 numbers are a result of non-medical measures such as mask-wearing, social distancing, avoiding the mixing of households, and frequent hand-washing by residents. But he warns that COVID-19 transmission is still happening in the overall community and, "We have to accept that." The County's 2 testing Supersites had previously been running

at 30% to 40% capacity, but in recent days have performed over 900 tests per day.

Orange County AAPI COVID-19 Strike Team

Building on the success of the County's Latino Health Equity Initiative, 9 separate Asian and Pacific Islander (API) community-based non-profit organizations that form the Orange County API Taskforce announced the formation of the API COVID-19 Strike Team, a collaboration with the OC Health Care Agency. The API Strike Team will provide mobile testing within 9 targeted OC ZIP codes with higher than average positivity rates, including the heavily Korean American 92833 zip-code in west Fullerton, as well as others in Garden Grove, Buena Park, and Anaheim. The coalition, comprised of organizations representing south Asians, Vietnamese, Korean, Chinese, Pacific Islander, Cambodian, and Asian senior citizens in general, will address barriers to testing and care, and provide navigation for treatment and referrals to related services for Asian-American residents who might not otherwise know where or how to be tested for the coronavirus.

In less than a week, the strike team has already tested more than 700 mostly API residents. Although the program targets Asian and Pacific Islanders, no one is turned away. Their strategy is to reach deeply into ethnic communities where individuals may not speak English well enough to know about how to get tested, or may not be familiar with the general area enough to locate the county's drive-thru testing Supersites at the Anaheim Convention Center or the Orange County Fairgrounds, or might lack transportation to get there. Mobile pop-up testing will take place between October and December.

OC HCA provided approximately \$1 million to OC API for the Strike Team, which the group has used to leverage additional support, such as \$100,000 from the California Endowment. Funding is shared with testing provider Kahala Biosciences. The group continues to seek additional outside support for their programs, knowing that the federal government has, so far, failed to reach a deal to fund a second CARES Act.

Korean Community Services and OCAPI Director Ellen Ahn, a Fullerton resident, noted that Orange County is the nation's third largest API locality. During the press conference, she explained that the API Strike Team testing units are scheduled to appear at religious institutions, groceries stores, city halls, and wherever they can arrange appropriate locations.

A schedule can be found at www.apitaskforce.org/covid-19testing. They hope to test essential workers and anyone else who has contact with the public. Director Ahn has worked not only with Dr. Chau at HCA, but has also been in contact with Fullerton City Manager

Age	92831	92832	92833	92835
0 - 3	10	5	12	2
4 - 9	9	10	18	4
10 - 12	6	10	11	2
13 - 14	8	8	9	1
15 - 18	28	22	30	7
Total Cases	61	55	80	16
Population	35,831	25,317	55,846	26,148

Fullerton Youth COVID-19 Cases by Zip Code

Ken Domer to determine possible pop-up testing sites in the city of Fullerton, possibly in the Richman and Woodcrest neighborhoods.

The API Strike Team grew out of an earlier coalition initiative called LOVE (Loving our Vulnerable and Elderly) formed at the outset of the pandemic to provide food and emergency supplies to older Asian residents during the period of the strict Stay at Home order. Strike Team organizers try not to duplicate the work of the Latino Health Initiative, but have definitely learned from it. One critical difference between the 2 efforts is the number of languages spoken by API residents. Shikha Bhatnager of the South Asian Network listed half a dozen different languages used in her organization's work alone. No County information had been translated into any of them.

First District Supervisor Andrew Do, speaking at the press conference announcing the formation of the coalition, said that differing access to health care, income, occupation, living conditions, and other social determinants are examples of inequities that can lead to

much greater rates of infections. Fourth District Supervisor Doug Chaffee co-sponsored the initiative on behalf of the County.

Roomkey to Toolbelt

Orange County will be transitioning from the Project Roomkey initiative, created to find housing for people experiencing homelessness and/or at high risk of severe illness during the pandemic, to a new program called Project Toolbelt. Seventy percent of Roomkey funding was provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and must be spent by the end of the year. Residents currently housed in Roomkey-sponsored hotel rooms and other locations will be referred to alternate housing. The County is partnering with several non-profit support organizations, including Pathways of Hope in north OC. Pathways has placed 57 of the 194 people transitioned by the County into various forms of housing; 8 in emergency shelters, 35 in temporary housing, 11 in permanent housing, and 3 referred to drug treatment programs.

An equity metric is used to ensure that the test positivity rates in the most disadvantaged neighborhoods do not significantly lag behind the County's overall test positivity rate.





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VOTE NOVEMBER 3RD

COUNCIL VOTES TO ALLOW CANNABIS BUSINESSES IN FULLERTON

Continued from front page

The businesses will be selected through a merit-based point system reviewed and scored by an independent review panel. City Council will certify the selection process and a top candidates list. Commercial cannabis business permits must be renewed annually.

The ordinance also has local hiring and social equity requirements, extensive security requirements, and a community relations representative for ongoing outreach and education.

Cannabis/Marijuana was legalized for recreational use in California when Proposition 64 was passed 2016 by a majority of voters, including a majority of voters in Fullerton.

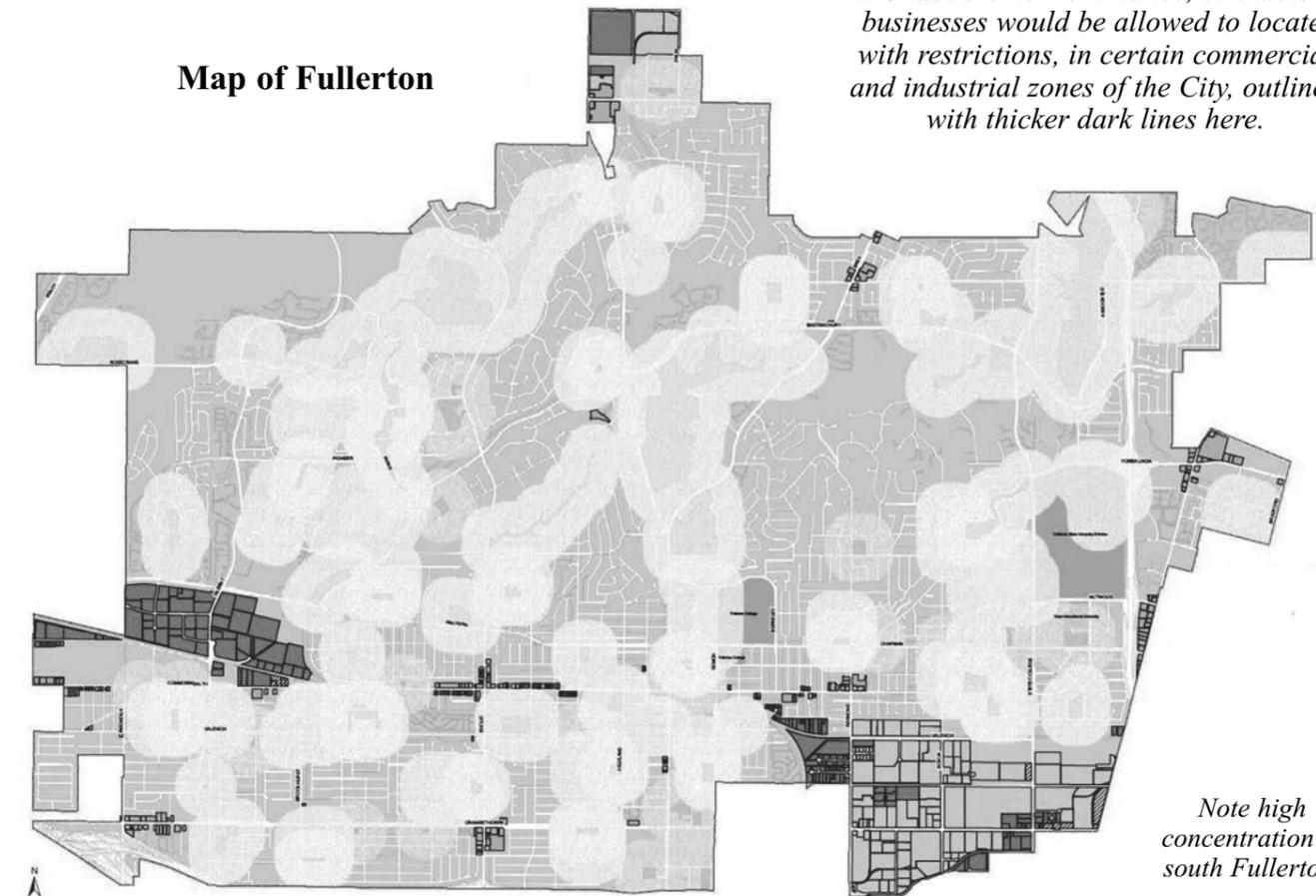
Between February and August 2020, the City held 5 community outreach meetings on this topic.

Earlier this year, the City contracted with a company called FM3 to conduct a poll of City residents to get their answers to the question, "Do you support or oppose allowing, regulating, and taxing the sale of cannabis products to adults over the age of 21 in Fullerton?" Again, a majority of respondents said yes.

According to a staff report, all costs associated with the ordinance are anticipated to be fully recovered through fees charged to the cannabis business applicants for a total annual revenue of \$2.25 to \$3.75 million once fully implemented and if all permits are issued.

With the approval of the ordinance, the City also becomes eligible for cannabis-related grant opportunities from the State, through the Marijuana Tax Fund, to provide financial support for development of programs related to substance abuse prevention, public safety, youth education, and economic development.

During public comments, several residents and parents (including many Spanish-speaking residents from south Fullerton) expressed opposition to the ordinance out of concern that children (and residents) would have access to



Under the new ordinance, cannabis businesses would be allowed to locate, with restrictions, in certain commercial and industrial zones of the City, outlined with thicker dark lines here.

Note high concentration in south Fullerton.

cannabis and the negative impact this would have both on individuals and the neighborhood.

Some told of their negative experiences with having illegal dispensaries operating in their neighborhoods, and the negative impacts of marijuana on the lives of their family members.

Many residents, particularly from south Fullerton, spoke against the ordinance.

Jay Williams of local nonprofit OC United pointed out that the bulk of the dispensaries would be in south Fullerton, further exacerbating the inequalities between north and south.

Leonel Talavera said that the City should equitably distribute these dispensaries throughout all 5 districts.

Other public commenters who were in support of the ordinance argued that legal operators are not allowed to sell cannabis to children, are heavily regulated and vetted, and that allowing legal dispensaries would give the City the ability to more effectively shut down illegal dispensaries, create a safer product, decrease crime, increase City revenues, and create new jobs.

Mayor Fitzgerald, who voted against

the ordinance, asked that Council consider removing retail dispensaries from the ordinance, and expressed concern about the lack of a buffer from residential zones.

Council Member Jesus Silva, who voted for the ordinance, said that legal dispensaries have 24-hr security and lighting, and that the legal ones will eliminate the residents' concerns with illegal ones. He cited the example of the city of Santa Ana, which went from over 100 illegal dispensaries to a handful after they allowed legal ones.

Silva moved to amend the ordinance to have no more than 2 dispensaries per district, and no more than 3 south of Chapman to avoid over-concentration in south Fullerton.

Councilmember Ahmad Zahra, who voted for the ordinance, said that this is not a moral issue, but is about public policy. He said that when the City does

not regulate substances that are legal, it creates a black market. He said that kids are currently getting cannabis from illegal dispensaries and that his goal has always been to get rid of illegal dispensaries.

Zahra said that legalization has been tested in other cities and has resulted in reduction in crime and illegal dispensaries and that we need to create education programs.

Whitaker, who voted against the ordinance, but also voted against the city cannabis ban in 2017, said he thinks it is wrong to impose this on longstanding neighborhoods.

Mayor Pro Tem Flory, who voted for the ordinance, said that cannabis gets in the hands of kids because they're getting it from illegal dispensaries and the black market, and that this ordinance makes businesses accountable.

OC and State Republicans Promoting Illegal Ballot Drop Boxes

Continued from frontpage

According to the Associated Press, California's Republican Party has acknowledged owning and distributing unofficial ballot drop boxes across the State, which have been reported at local political party offices, candidate headquarters, churches, gun shops, and other businesses.

On October 10, Freedom's Way Baptist Church in Castaic (Los Angeles County) posted on social media that a box similar to the one seen in Orange County was "approved and brought by the GOP." As reported by the Orange County Register, The Fresno County Republican Party posted on its website a list of "secure" ballot collection locations. However, none of the listed locations are official county drop box sites.

In a memo issued to all county registrars of voters, CA Secretary of State Alex Padilla said, "In short, providing unauthorized, non-official vote-by-mail ballot drop boxes is prohibited by State law."

State GOP spokesman Hector Barajas

told the Associated Press that State law allows an organization to collect and return groups of ballots. However, according to Padilla's memo, unauthorized ballot drop boxes do not fall under that allowance, as there is not a designated person to sign for the ballots.

The Orange County District Attorney's office has stated that it is investigating at least two unofficial drop boxes in 2 different cities.



This is an official Ballot Drop Box

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Angelina Rosales



Miguel Alvarez

COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEE CANDIDATES ANSWER QUESTIONS

This election season some Fullerton residents will be voting to fill the seat on the North Orange County Community College District (NOCCCD) Board of Trustees (Area 4) that was vacated by long-time trustee Molly McClanahan last year. The district includes Fullerton and Cypress Colleges and North Orange Continuing Education.

NOCCCD is governed by seven elected trustees who establish all policies that guide the general operation of the

District. The Chancellor of the District has responsibility for carrying out the decisions and directions of the Board.

In order to better inform voters, we reached out to the two candidates running to fill the Area 4 seat with a series of questions meant to highlight their priorities and vision for the community college district which includes tens of thousands of students. Here's what they had to say.

Briefly introduce yourself and explain your qualifications for serving on the Board of Trustees.

Rosales: My name is Evangelina Rosales. As a community college professor, a graduate of Cypress College, and a longtime homeowner in Fullerton, I know from experience the needs of instructors, students, parents, and the community. My life and my work embody all of these roles. In addition, as a small business owner, I also have firsthand fiscal management experience.

Alvarez: I am a 20-year resident of Fullerton and a product of our schools. I

graduated from Fullerton College and UCLA earning my degree in Political Science & Policy. I have focused my career in Higher Education, holding positions in the UC system, California Community Colleges, and in EdTech. I created partnerships between K-12, Community Colleges, UC's/CSU's to build academic programs and pathways for students. I served on statewide/national committees for community college student success, UC admissions, and student equity. I've built industry pathways for students at technology companies like Google. I will bring this experience to our Board.

Why do you want to serve on the NOCCCD Board of Trustees? What do you see as your primary role on the Board?

Rosales: I want to move forward policies that increase access to higher education, support programs that help student completion, and protect job-training programs.

Alvarez: Being the first in my family to attain a college education allows me to bring a firsthand experience of the challenges our students face. I have experience in managing large public budgets and worked on higher educational policy in California. I want to be an asset to our Board and bring innovative solutions that will prepare our students for the global workforce. My primary role as Trustee is to assure fiscal health and stability of our district, evaluate/monitor institutional performance, evaluate educational quality, and ensure accreditation standards compliance. I will build partnerships with our cities, businesses, nonprofits, and universities.

How do you view the relationship between the NOCCCD and the local High School Districts?

Rosales: Collaborative efforts between NOCCCD and the local High School Districts has been in place. Efforts must be made to close the gaps with programs that support student transitioning from high school to community college, to assure that students who transfer into University have the support of programs to assure quality education for our student completion.

Alvarez: The district's role is to ensure our high school students and families have access to academic and community programs. We must have partnerships with our high school districts to provide students with the opportunity of dual/concurrent enrollment (taking college courses as a high school student). We must collaborate with the faculty/teachers of the high schools and

community colleges to share student outcomes and best practices on the performance of students entering our colleges from the high school district. With the North Orange County Promise Program and Anaheim Pledge, I see our partnerships deepening and strengthening on student success.

What are some of the biggest challenges facing the district?

Rosales: The current COVID-19 pandemic has put into sharp focus some of the future challenges NOCCCD faces. We need to ensure that NOCCCD students have access to technology and receive the educational tools they need to be competitive in the changing workplace of tomorrow.

Alvarez: 1) Public health and COVID-19: opening schools safely, student access to technology, and protecting staff and faculty with PPE and supplies. 2) Student housing and food insecurity experienced by our vulnerable populations. 3) California budget cuts that will impact academic offerings, student services, and programs. 4) Providing faculty and staff dependent health coverage. 5) Adjunct faculty (part-time) employment pathways to a full time position.

What distinguishes you from your opponent?

Rosales: What distinguishes me is that I am a community college professor with years of classroom experience. My children graduated from Fullerton College and I graduated from Cypress College. My family has been settled in Fullerton for 26 years and has a long history as active members of the community. My experience as a Professor has allowed me to view firsthand the needs of instructors, students, parents, and the community because I embody and live all of these roles. As a business owner, I also have firsthand fiscal management experience.

Continued on page 19

City Council Campaign Finances

by Jane Rands

Contributions to city council candidates of \$1,000 or more and independent expenditures supporting or opposing council candidates are submitted to the Fullerton City Clerk and are publicly available on the city website: www.city-offullerton.com. Here's a review of what has been reported since the Early October edition of the *Fullerton Observer*.

District 1

Andrew Cho has received another contribution from Rancho La Paz Mobile Home Park owner John Saunders, double his previous, and another \$2,000 contribution from the Western Manufactured Housing Communities PAC. Cho also reported combined contributions from Fritz von Coelln totaling \$1,075.92 and \$1,000 contributions each from the California Apartment Association, a retired individual in LA, and a homemaker in Buena Park.

Fullerton Taxpayers for Reform has reported 3 independent expenditures opposing Cho. The first shows \$954 for yard signs and \$1,222 in Facebook ads. The other 2 report \$2,624 and \$1,709 for mailings that oppose Cho and support the other district 1 candidate, Fred Jung.

Fullerton Firefighters have also made

Independent Expenditures supporting Fred Jung. The firefighters reported a total of \$3,749 between 2 reports for consulting services, voter data, graphic design, art production, video filming, broadcast and print advertisements, and email blasts.

Fred Jung reported two \$1,000 contributions—one from Pacific Trial Attorneys (Newport Beach) and Southwest Regional Council of Carpenters.

District 2

Dr. Faisal Qazi has received a \$1,500 contribution from an MD in Glendora and three \$1,000 contributions each from a radiologist in Orange, an MD in Rancho Cucamonga, and a dentist in Orange.

Nick Dunlap reported one \$1,000 contribution from the Western Manufactured Housing Communities Association PAC and another contribution from John Saunders in the amount of \$2,000.

District 4

Aaruni Thakur has received two \$2,000 contributions, one from a retiree in Rolling Hills and another from a physician in Turlock, \$1,500 from the Orange County Employees Association, and a second contribution from

Fullerton's representative on the MWD, Adan Ortega in the amount of \$900.

Fullerton Firefighters have made independent expenditures supporting Thakur totaling \$2,685 for consulting, graphic design, print advertisements, art production, and email blasts.

Fullerton Taxpayers for Reform have paid for a \$2,624 postcard mailer opposing Thakur and supporting his opponent Bruce Whitaker.

Bruce Whitaker has received a \$2,000 contribution from Western

Manufactured Housing Communities Association PAC, \$1,500 from the Apartment Association of Orange County, and \$1,000 each from D&M Auto Sales (Santa Ana) and former Planning Commissioner Kevin Pendergraft.

No new reports are available from the campaigns supporting or opposing ballot measure S and U.

The second pre-election campaign finance disclosure will be filed with the Fullerton City Clerk by October 22.

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CAN'T SEE THE FOREST

Politics, pandemic, and pessimism have invaded our souls and it's hard to notice the good things happening all around us. Nobody is immune and even the smallest of problems seem larger than life, and many feel as if "Everything is a hassle!" We can all relate—and yet....

As mentioned here before, my family volunteered to help plant trees at Hillcrest Park on Arbor Day 2018 and we were given a Jacaranda to plant just above the restored fountain. My sisters and I grew up with a huge Jacaranda in our front yard and we named the new tree Syd after our late Dad, who loved

the tree, most of the year. Anyone who has a Jacaranda, our official city tree, knows what I am talking about. It was a happy day and we knew we would be able to visit it for many years to come in the park he introduced us to when we were very young. Life goes on.

On August 6, I decided to park my car in the lot above and take the short hike to the tree. I discovered yet another reason to hate 2020, the tree appeared to be on its last legs. I notified our Public Works Department and wow. They did some rescue work, and I recently took a follow-up photo. A ray of hope, a reason for optimism, a tree in the forest.

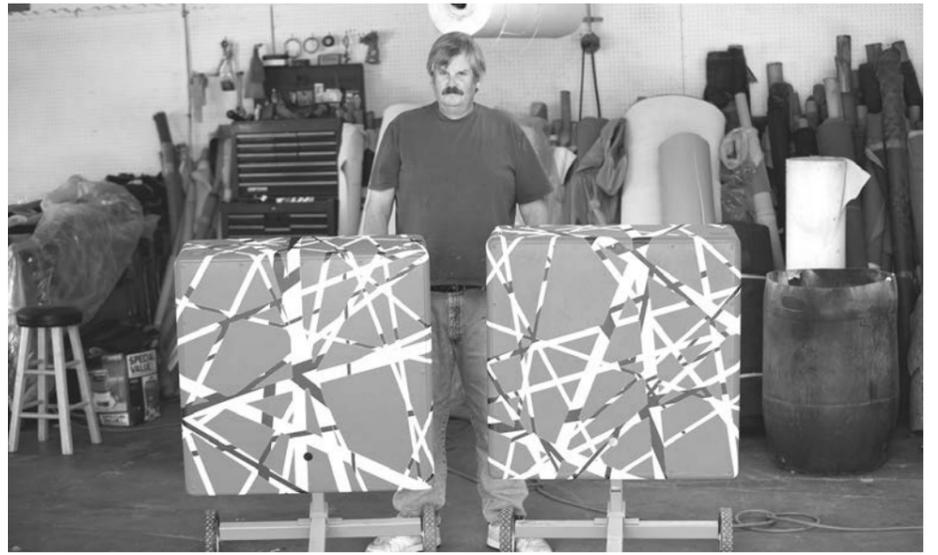


NEW IN TOWN

Frame Coffee had their Grand Opening on October 10 and of course they offer many types of coffee, espresso, americano, batch brew until 11am, lattes and teas, plus house-made ice cream, and more. Outdoor seating. Stop in soon and say hi to Michelle Kang.

Located at 817 N. Harbor.

Les Amis Restaurant and Lounge, in addition to their popular Lebanese fare, now serves breakfast on Saturday and Sunday, and as you know, they have plenty of outdoor seating. 128 W. Wilshire.



Kerry in his workshop. Photo by Nathan Fawley.

Kerry Wright

Making a habit of taking multiple walks every day to get away from my desk and computer screen led me to stop in and visit with Kerry Wright in his 'SoCo' shop quite often. At times, same as me, he did not like being interrupted, but he always welcomed me. I think he knew I would leave if I sensed he was in the middle of something that needed his full attention. I moved my office to another downtown location a few years before he left, but still always found time to visit.

Kerry just passed away unexpectedly and left a long list of friends and musicians behind. It seemed appropriate to have them say a few words about their friend, as well.

Kerry was the best at his craft, working for the famous to the locals who heard about him. They all knew they could count on him. So long friend. Here are a few comments.

"The world lost another friend. Kerry was the master builder of amplifier cabinets for the biggest artists in the music industry. He and Eddie Van Halen (who passed away Oct. 6) worked together to build his custom cabinets for tour and many of you saw them at The Namm Show in years past. Kerry was a dear friend and his life, legacy, and impact in the music industry needed to be shared.

Rest in peace my friend. Godspeed," Nathan Fawley (Duesenberg Guitars).

"Kerry Wright was a friend, a listener, a doer, a problem solver, an imaginer, a craftsman, an artist, and more. He commented on, collaborated on, and built for me many of my inventions and tools of the trade. I am a builder of instruments, specifically of voices. He was a builder of instruments meant to express all of what the voice could not. I will close my eyes and imagine the torch he carried. It feels like if I don't, I will never again see that torch he carried. God Bless you, Kerry, you are well loved, remembered, and celebrated," Eric Futterer (Fullerton musician, the force behind the Muckenthaler Jazz Series, and vocal teacher).

"I was always amazed at the amount of details, persistence, and dedication he put into making a cab or refurbishing a piece of wood. He was sharp and knew his stuff. NEVER forgot anything, any important details or dates. Most of all I miss the camaraderie, the stories, the way he framed them, the places you would envision as he told the story. I miss my co-worker and friend. I didn't really get to say goodbye," Conrad Viva (who worked with Kerry in the shop he moved to in Anaheim).

Kerry was a master builder of amplifier cabinets for the biggest artists in the music industry, including the late Eddie Van Halen.

Photo Quiz

This Issue: Where was this located and what is it (pictured below)?

Last issue: What? Not ONE of you got this correct? One more try, what FUHS building is this?

Send your answer to Mike at AllMedia@sbcglobal.net



Women's Transitional Living Center Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month

by Dan Pittman

Because survivors of domestic abuse are one of the most vulnerable groups affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, Fullerton nonprofit Women's Transitional Living Center (WTLC) has announced a list of public activities designed to increase awareness of the issue throughout October during Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM).

This year's theme is Your Voice Matters. People are encouraged to use the hashtag #MyVoiceMatters to break the silence on domestic violence and human trafficking. For event details, visit www.wtlc.org.

The schedule of activities includes:

- Oct. 22: A virtual screening of "The Mask You Live" film and a panel discussion on the topic of masculinity.

- October 22: Anyone who wears purple on this day in support of raising awareness to stop domestic violence and human trafficking and posts it to their social media account with #MyVoiceMatters will be entered in a raffle for a \$25 Amazon gift card.

- Oct. 29: 3rd Annual live Dueling Pianos fundraising event. 7-9pm at WTLC's Center at 201 Amerige Ave, Fullerton.

During the month, WTLC is challenging friends to give up their coffee, tea, or other "cup" for one day, one week, one month or anything in between, and then



donate what they would have spent to WTLC. The goal is to get 50 individuals who will commit to donating a "cup" or \$5 monthly to make sure support to survivors goes beyond Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

"We have seen a 71% increase in calls to our helpline."

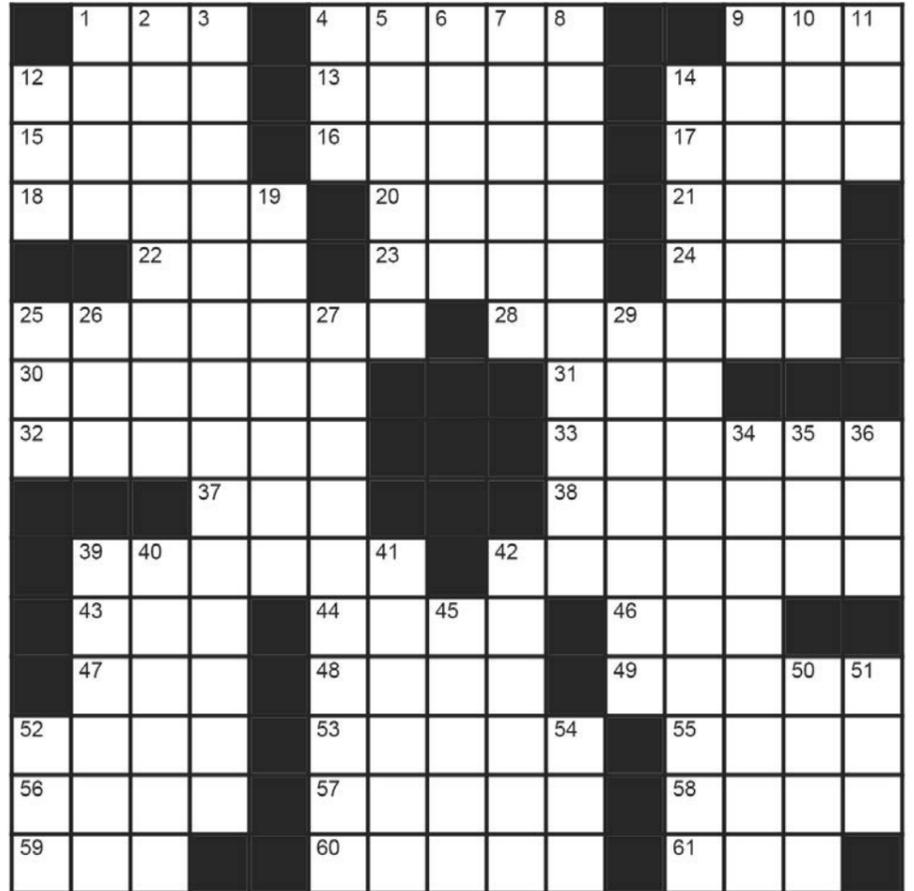
—Mark Lee, WTLC CEO

"We have seen a 71% increase in calls to our helpline as the pandemic takes its toll on a vulnerable segment of our community," WTLC's Chief Executive Officer Mark Lee said. "We want people to know that WTLC has housing services, legal resources, and counseling.

WTLC is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping individuals and families escape the depths of domestic violence and exploitation by providing the tools and resources to build self-esteem and empower people for independent living. If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse, contact our 24-hour bilingual helpline at (877) 531-5522 or love@wtlc.org. For more information about WTLC, visit www.wtlc.org.

OUR TOWN CROSSWORD © 2020

"AUTUMNAL" by Valerie Brickey (answer key on page 19)



ACROSS

- Adobe doc suffix
- "___ Me" (1984 Lily Tomlin film)
- However, briefly
- Geometry calculation
- Spanish queen
- Fingerboard ridge
- Table salt, to a chemist
- Original
- Choice of two
- Big battery
- Simon or Diamond
- ICU staffer
- Miss Piggy's coy question
- Prefix with centric or morph
- Only Super Bowl the Eagles won
- Snubs
- Toto hit from 1982
- Summer cooler, that sounds like a rapper
- Stimpy's cartoon pal
- Amble
- Station identification?

- Husband's dad, briefly
- Vocalized, feline-style
- Pushover
- Water polo teams, e.g.
- Attorneys' org.
- Where Southwest Airlines is LUV
- Your, of yore
- Actress Tyler or Ullmann
- "___ smile be your umbrella!"
- "Night Moves" rocker Bob
- Partnership for Peace org.
- "___ L.A." (1983 Randy Newman song)
- Kaplan of "Welcome Back, Kotter" or Lopez of OCSA
- USA part
- "Dressed to the ___"
- "Silent All These Years" singer Tori
- Elton John, e.g.
- Paradises
- Confident solver's tool

DOWN

- Oversight grp. to monitor the \$2.2 trillion in government funds for COVID-19
- Last month
- No longer preferred
- Prince Valiant's son
- Lions, in Lima
- Pep up
- New York silverware manufacturer
- Event of 476 A.D.
- Start of two Henry Miller titles
- Abdominal protrusion
- Wagering letters
- "Then what?"
- Clothing retailer's jingle that debuted in 1973
- Human fiction?
- ___ de veau (sweetbreads)
- Med. procedure to treat depression
- Comply with policy
- Images or ideas formed by repeated exposure
- Dodgers playing in Anaheim, e.g.
- Actor Beatty
- Asner and Begley

- Deli offering
- ___ dictum (passing remark, in the law)
- Pupil protector
- Opposite of hell
- "JFK" director
- Black, in poetry
- Legal matter
- "If I Ruled the World" rapper
- Serpentine letter



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HIGH SCHOOL BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

& Commentary by Vivien Moreno

The Fullerton Joint Union High School District Board information available by calling 714-870-2800 or visiting www.fjuhsd.net

October 6 FJUHS Board Meeting

Superintendent Dr. Scott Scambray announced the appointment of Assistant Principal Mr. Marvin Atkins as the Interim Sonora High School Principal. Former Principal Dr. Adam Bailey left his 8-year term at Sonora High School to take a Director of Personnel position for the Riverside Department of Education. Mr. Atkins has over 20 years of education experience and has been an Assistant Principal at Fullerton High School and for the last 2 years at Sonora High School.

Hybrid School Board Meetings

President Montoya proposed to reopen in-person attendance to the monthly board meetings. Trustee Buchi requested that the HVAC filters be upgraded to the MERV 13 filters now installed in the classrooms. Trustee Klatzker indicated that she felt in-person board meetings reflects equity since they are requiring the teachers to return to the classroom. Both Montoya and Fawley agreed to a hybrid meeting as long as the audience would have a chance to publicly comment. Dr. Scambray said that he needed to gather data on spacing and council boardroom HVAC filters, but it was probable that a hybrid type meeting would be possible for the next regular meeting on November 10.

Reopening School Sites

The Trustees discussed possible high school reopening dates after listening to a lengthy public comment period consisting of parents insisting on reopening the high schools and teachers voicing concerns about safety protocols. The Trustees took parent and teacher concerns seriously. After mentioning parents' concerns about the intense amount of online instruction screen-time coupled with the additional hours of homework stressing out their children, as well as teachers questioning the efficacy of the District's between class disinfectant regime, they decided that reopening to hybrid instruction on November 2 would give the District a few weeks to address additional safety issues, allow teachers to begin the difficult transition to hybrid teaching schedules, and give parents hope with a start date in the near future. Student Board Member Jenna Bening asked about daily instructional online schedules, but agreed with the start date.

President Montoya stated that a rise in local COVID-19 cases would postpone reopening in-person instruction again. Trustee Klatzker said that every decision this Board makes is for the safety and welfare of the students, and keeping the teachers and staff safe is an integral part of student safety.

Returning to in-person instruction will mean that students experiencing social, emotional issues and/or academic loss with distance learning will get in-person intervention and care. All students can access outside resource help through Care Solace (see school websites for additional information).

Each school reopening plan is clearly posted on their individual websites. All plans include social distancing in all indoor areas, temperature checks, classroom transition cleaning and disinfection protocols, handwashing, bathroom monitoring for access and supplies, mask procedures, and sanitizing. Food services will continue to provide free

and reduced breakfast and lunch to students in need. Prepackaged lunches will be available for purchase from various locations at every school site during the in-person instruction days.

It is imperative that students and teachers be honest about how they feel, their exposure risks; stay home when they feel unwell, stay vigilant during the day to handwash frequently, move through the school in a responsible manner, and do not share food or beverages. All students have the option of changing to distance learning of Cohort C at any time.

Next scheduled regular meeting is November 10 at 6pm.



Bilingual Korean-English YouTube video for Fullerton Senior Center:

A bilingual Korean-English choir made a virtual YouTube video to share with Sunrise Senior Center (2226 North Euclid St, Fullerton CA 92835), instead of singing in person. We like to also share our video with your readers: www.youtube.com/watch?v=pAsqPXDFUk&feature=youtu.be. They wanted to share a piece of positivity with our community.

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for NOCCCD Board of Trustees

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— Professor Evangelina Rosales

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Evangelina will work to close the achievement gap and prioritize programs that provide college access, support, and help students complete their degree.

CAREER EDUCATION

Evangelina is dedicated to investing in state-of-the-art educational technology to ensure our students have the resources and tools they need to succeed in the careers of the future.

FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE BUDGET FOR THE DISTRICT

Evangelina is committed to a district budget that addresses the needs of our community while managing our finances responsibly. We must ensure strict bond oversight and prioritize community input.



- *NOCCCD Graduate
- *Fullerton Resident for 26 years
- * Children attended Fullerton schools and Graduated from Fullerton College
- * Fullerton Community Volunteer
- * Professor at Golden West College

EvangelinaRosales.com

VOTE by TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Paid for by Rosales for NOCCCD Trustee Area 4



TEEN OBSERVER

by Francine, 9th grade

FSD STUDENTS WORRIED ABOUT COVID-19 BUT HAPPY TO BE BACK IN SCHOOL

Over 8,000 or about 60% of total enrolled students returned to in-person classes last Tuesday, Oct 13, as the Fullerton School District reopened its schools. Due to the unique circumstances surrounding the students' return to school campuses, including new school set-up and a number of safety measures and restrictions, many are eager to know what the first week looks like. It turns out that students do worry about COVID-19 but still prefer in-person classes and after their first week of school, 81% of the respondents indicated they were happy and their experience ended on a good note. Learn more about their views from the survey results below:

How do you feel after being able to attend in-person classes?

- Happy: 58
- Disappointed: 5
- Worried: 8

81% of the respondents are happy to be back in school mainly because of the opportunity to see their classmates and friends. They also find it easier to learn in school because there is less distraction. There were a few disappointed students who failed to see their friends in school and a small number who worry about catching COVID-19 and wish to go back to distance learning.

Face Masks

- Wore throughout the day and was comfortable: 50
- Wore throughout the day and was not comfortable: 16
- Not comfortable wearing mask and would like to return to distance learning: 5

All respondents wore masks throughout the school day with 70% of them feeling comfortable and 30% not at ease and a handful who did not like wearing masks and would rather return to distance learning. The top suggestion offered by students on the use of masks is to have a specific time when they can be given a few minutes' break from wearing a mask, not just during the lunch period.

Were you able to interact with friends and classmates despite social distancing?

- Yes: 57
- No: 10
- Yes, without social distancing: 4

The opportunity to interact with friends and classmates is the biggest motivation for students to return to the campus. Most of them were able to engage in conversations, but there were a few who will need to keep trying as they adjust to the new norm. There will also be those who are unable to resist breaking safety protocols and will need to be reminded.

Teachers Wearing Masks While Teaching

- Teachers wore masks in class and we understood what was said: 60
- Teachers wore masks in class, it was hard to understand what was said: 10
- Teacher did not wear mask so we could understand what was being said: 1

Some students had a hard time understanding their teachers during lessons. A possible solution to this could be the use of a microphone so that teachers do not have to yell and strain their voices nor remove their masks.

Risk of getting COVID-19 or unknowingly bringing it home to family

- I'm scared but I still want to go to school: 34
- I'm not scared and I will continue attending in-person class: 25
- I'm scared and would like to return to distance learning: 12

All respondents are aware of the risk but 50% still prefer in-person classes and 35% are not bothered by the virus at all. The remaining 15% would like to return to distance learning so as not to further expose themselves and their families to the risk of catching the virus.

While the threat from COVID-19 is still high, there is a reason to be grateful about this week's school reopening. Knowing that the students were happy about their experiences is an indication that they were able to cope with all the new policies and procedures regarding in-person classes in this time of pandemic, and the schools' diligent preparations paid off. But, students have raised a few concerns that may be worth considering. Masks would be easier to bear for long periods if students can have specific times when they can take them off and take a breather, not just during lunch break. A fourth-grader went further to suggest that they could have even just a five-minute break from the mask as a reward for good behavior. Some students have difficulty hearing their teachers speaking with their masks on. If they are not yet using a microphone, they can be asked to use one just like some of the other teachers are doing.

After a brief experience with in-person classes, a few students want to switch back to distance learning because they feel like masks for long periods of time are suffocating and they realize they no longer want to take the risk of getting the virus or unknowingly bringing it home. Would the schools give them a chance to change their choice? These concerns have been forwarded to the FSD School Board so they can review.



Wonder What Happens When a Student Attends In-Person Classes?

Insider Scoop from a Seventh Grade Student

by Mateo, 7th grade

In-person classes started this week for students who chose to attend either the hybrid or five-day learning format. I picked the hybrid format and as a 7th grader, I finally attended my first week of on-campus experience in my new school. As expected in the COVID-19 era, there are many procedures put into place at school to keep everything safe and fun for students, teachers, and staff.

At the start of the day, we walk into school in a single-file line in which everyone is socially distanced, 6-feet apart. We then receive hand sanitizer as we enter campus and are free to go to our respective plazas (waiting areas in between passing periods). Masks are not provided but everyone is required to bring their own. Our temperature is taken in school as we walk through the line. In the plazas, social distancing is observed by teachers and staff, but it is hard to implement this efficiently when there are so many kids. I saw groups of people getting a bit too close to each other, and some even touching each other. However, it is kind of hard to talk to friends from a 6-foot distance, especially while wearing masks. It is very hard to hear each other, and sometimes you have to get a bit close in order to understand your friends. Once we get into the classroom, hand sanitizer is available right next to the front door for students to disinfect their hands. On average, my classes have around 12-13

students. Masks are required all day, except during lunch when we eat. Our teachers wear masks as well. It is not hard at all to hear them through the masks. Some of them even use microphones to make their voices a bit louder. I think teaching both in-person kids and the Zoom kids simultaneously is quite challenging, as almost all of my teachers encounter issues with Zoom. During lunch, we sit at an assigned marker in our respective plazas. We eat outside rather than inside our classrooms. There is even a bathroom protocol; only two people in the bathrooms at a time, and a supervisor monitors us. After school, even though each class is assigned an exit gate, social distancing is not very well-observed at the end of the day. Everyone just flies out looking for their parents.

To be honest, school is a bit strange, and it feels like a long day, but I enjoy being in school and it makes me happy. Other than the Zoom issues, there were no other unusual incidents. Wearing a mask was pretty annoying at first, but I have worn a mask for close to an hour straight before, so it is not a big deal. Sometimes a mask feels weird on you, but once you get used to wearing them for long periods of time, it is fine. If you haven't gone to in-person school yet, hopefully this will give you an idea of what to expect. Note though that this is just the first week and things can change.



BOOK REVIEW

by Katie, 9th grade

Call It What You Want

by Brigid Kemmerer • Contemporary Fiction
Published June 25, 2019 • 5/5 stars

Rob loses everything after his father is caught embezzling millions from the city, then attempts suicide. Everyone treats Rob badly because they suspect he was going along with his father's plan. Maegan is an overachiever who has lived in her older sister's shadow for years. As a result, the pressure to do well gets to her, and she cheats on the SAT. When her sister comes home from college pregnant and broken-hearted, she's not sure if they are the "perfect family" anymore. Both Rob's and Maegan's social reputations plummet after these events. They are labeled criminals, cheaters, and are outcasts at school.

Both of their personalities are so profound and complex, having many layers that makes it seem like the reader knows them inside and out. Their relationship is strong, and they learn to see one another

as they are, not how they imagine each other to be.

This heartfelt novel contains so many hidden messages for readers to discover. It discusses how your own silence speaks great volumes, and how one mistake does not define us nor determine our future. It navigates through the comparisons of privilege and suffering, and emphasizes that we should never suffer alone. While doing so, it also exposes the flaws of society, questions our morals, and shows how different every one of us is. To sum it up, *Call It What You Want* is a thought-provoking, bitter-sweet book, with a riveting storyline and relatable characters. It covers tough topics such as bullying and grief in a realistic way, and made me really think about different parts of society. Highly recommended.

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A Closer Look at Propositions on the 2020 Ballot

Californians are voting on a number of propositions that deal with a wide variety of issues this election season. Here's a closer look at the 12 propositions on the ballot. This is a summary of information taken from the official California voters guide and the website Ballotpedia.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Prop. 17

Changes the State Constitution to allow people on state parole to vote.

Arguments in Favor: Parole is intended to be a period of reintegration into the community. People on parole who have completed their prison sentences raise families, hold jobs, pay taxes, and contribute to society in every other way. Restoring a person's voting eligibility removes stigma and helps strengthen their connection to the community.

Arguments Against: Parole is to prove rehabilitation before full liberty, including voting rights, is restored. If the State does not trust parolees to choose where to live or travel, with whom to associate, and what jobs to do, it must not trust them with decisions that will impact the lives and finances of all other members of society.

Groups supporting Prop 17 include: California Democratic Party, ACLU of California, League of Women Voters of California

Groups opposing Prop 17: Republican Party of California.

Proposition 20

Would add stricter sentencing and parole restrictions for certain crimes and require DNA collection (for a State database) for certain misdemeanors. It was designed to make changes to AB109 (2011), Proposition 47 (2014), and Proposition 57 (2016)—three measures that were each intended to reduce the State's prison inmate population.

Arguments in Favor: Prevents the early release of violent offenders and sexual predators by classifying 22 crimes "violent" under the law, and requires that victims be notified when their assailants are set free.

Arguments Against: People are demanding more changes to fix unjust policies that disproportionately harm poor people and people of color. Prop. 20 would repeal the progress we've made and take us backwards toward the failed, wasteful, and unjust policies of the past.

Groups supporting Prop 20 include: Republican Party of California, Orange



County Board of Supervisors, Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs.

Groups opposed to Prop 20 include: California Democratic Party, California Labor Federation, ACLU of California, League of Women Voters of California, Public Defenders Association.

Proposition 25:

Would replace the cash bail system (for obtaining release from jail before trial) with a system based on a determination of public safety and flight risk.

Arguments in Favor: Money bail is unfair. Under the current money bail system, if you can afford to pay bail, you go free until your trial. If you can't afford bail, you must stay in jail. So, the rich can go free, even when accused of serious violent crimes, while the poor stay in jail even when innocent or accused of low-level nonviolent offenses. Prop 25 means decisions will be based on risk to our safety, not a person's ability to pay.

Arguments Against: California's experiment with "zero bail" during the coronavirus pandemic had disastrous results as many defendants were arrested, released back on the streets and committed new crimes within hours, and then rearrested the same day.

Groups supporting Prop 25 include: California Democratic Party, California Teachers Association, League of Women Voters of California

Groups opposed to Prop 25 include: Republican Party of California, Orange County Board of Supervisors, American Bail Coalition, California Bail Agents Association, California Business Roundtable.

RENT CONTROL

Prop 21

Allows local governments to enact rent control on housing that was first occupied over 15 years ago, with an exception for landlords who own no more than two homes with distinct titles or subdivided interests.

Arguments in Favor: Would keep families in their homes, preserve affordable housing, stop homelessness, and save taxpayers money.

Arguments Against: Will increase housing costs and hurt California's economic recovery.

Groups supporting Prop 21 include: California Democratic Party, California Nurses Association, ACLU of Southern California, AIDS Healthcare Foundation, Eviction Defense Network, Los Angeles Tenants Union.



Groups opposed to Prop 21 include: Republican Party of California, Equity Residential, Essex Property Trust, Inc., Invitation Homes, Prometheus Real Estate Group, Inc, American Legion, Department of California, California Taxpayers Association, Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association

APP-BASED DRIVERS

Prop 22

Would consider app-based drivers to be independent contractors and not employees or agents protected by State labor laws, including a minimum wage, healthcare, paid sick leave, unemployment, and workers' compensation coverage.

Arguments in Favor: Protects the choice of app-based drivers to work as independent contractors.

Arguments Against: Uber, Lyft, and DoorDash paid to put Proposition 22 on the November ballot. Why? To create a special exemption for themselves that will legally deny their drivers' basic rights and protections at work such as paid sick leave, workers' compensation, and unemployment benefits.

Groups supporting Prop 22 include: Republican Party of California, Uber, Lyft, DoorDash, Instacart, Postmates, California Chamber of Commerce.



Groups opposed to Prop 22 include: California Democratic Party, California Labor Federation, California Teachers Association, SEIU California State Council, Transport Workers Union of America, United Food and Commercial Workers Western States Council.

CONSUMER PRIVACY

Prop 24

Expands the state's consumer data privacy laws, including provisions to allow consumers to direct businesses to not share their personal information; remove the time period in which businesses can fix violations before being penalized; and create the Privacy Protection Agency to enforce the state's consumer data privacy laws.

Arguments in Favor: Consumers need stronger protections. We should be in control of our own information, and have the right to stop the use of our most sensitive personal information.

Arguments Against: It was written behind closed doors with input from giant tech corporations that collect and misuse our personal information—while the measure's sponsor rejected almost every suggestion from privacy and consumer rights groups. Reduces privacy protections by severely weakening your rights under current California law.



Groups supporting Prop 24 include: AFSCME California, Common Sense, Consumer Watchdog, with major funding by Alastair Mactaggart (\$5,396,162)

Groups opposed to Prop 24 include: Green Party of California, Libertarian Party of California, Republican Party of California, ACLU of California, California Small Business Association, Consumer Federation of California, League of Women Voters of California.

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To learn more about Propositions
on the 2020 Ballot visit:

voterguide.sos.ca.gov

MEDICINE & HEALTH

Prop 14

Would issue \$5.5 billion in bonds for the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM), which was created to fund stem cell research.

Arguments in Favor: Provides continued funding to develop treatments, advance clinical trials, and achieve new scientific breakthroughs for California's patients with Cancer, Diabetes, Heart Disease, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, HIV/AIDS, ALS, MS, Sickle Cell Disease, Lung Diseases, Kidney Disease, Bubble Baby Disease, Age-Related Blindness and Genetic Blindness, Epilepsy, Stroke, Schizophrenia, Autism, other Mental Health and Brain Conditions, and Infectious Diseases like COVID-19.

Arguments Against: Paying back Prop 14's costs of \$7.8 billion could mean huge tax increases at a time when our economy is on its knees. Or laying off thousands of nurses and other heroes who do the real work of keeping California healthy.

Groups supporting Prop 14 include: California Democratic Party, JDRF (Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation), University of California Board of Regents

Groups opposed to Prop 14 include: Editorial boards of The Orange County Register, The Bakersfield Californian, Mercury News & East Bay Times, San Francisco Chronicle, and Los Angeles Times



Proposition 23

Requires chronic dialysis clinics to: have an on-site physician while patients are being treated; report data on dialysis-related infections; obtain consent from the state health department before closing a clinic; and not discriminate against patients based on the source of payment for care.

Arguments in Favor: Would make common-sense improvements to dialysis treatment that will protect some of the most medically vulnerable people in our society.

Arguments Against: Would jeopardize access to care for tens of thousands of Californians who need dialysis to stay alive. Would increase clinic costs by hundreds of millions annually, putting half of all clinics at risk of closure.

Groups supporting Prop 23 include: California Democratic Party, United Healthcare Workers West.

Groups opposed to Prop 23 include: Republican Party of California, and commercial dialysis clinics DaVita, Inc, US Renal Care, Inc, and Dialysis Clinic, Inc.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

Proposition 16

Would repeal Proposition 209 (1996), which stated that the government and public institutions cannot discriminate against or grant preferential treatment to persons on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in public employment, public education, and public contracting (i.e. affirmative action).

Arguments in Favor: Would create opportunities for women and people of color to receive public contracts that should be available to all of us, which improves access to quality education, both K-12 schools and higher education, for all of California's kids, as well as invests wealth back into our communities as opposed to continuing to allow the rich to get richer.

Arguments Against: Discrimination of this kind is poisonous. It will divide us at a time we desperately need to unite. Politicians think they can "fix" past discrimination against racial minorities and women by discriminating against other racial minorities and men who are innocent of any wrongdoing.



ing.

Groups supporting Prop 16 include: California Democratic Party, Los Angeles County Board of Education, University of California Board of Regents, California Labor Federation, California Teachers Association, ACLU of California,

Groups opposed to Prop 16 include: Republican Party of California, Association for Education Fairness, Chinese American Civic Action Alliance, Students for Fair Admissions, Inc.

VOTING RIGHTS

Proposition 18

Would allow 17-year-olds who will be 18 at the time of the next general election to vote in primary elections and special elections.

Arguments in Favor: We need youth voices to be represented at the ballot box. This will lead to a more inclusive election process for our state overall.

Arguments Against: A 17-year-old is not a legal adult. Voting is a serious responsibility. Voters decide who will hold the power to make and enforce laws, whether to raise taxes, and many other complex issues.



Groups supporting Prop 18 include: California Democratic Party, ACLU of Southern California

Groups Opposing Prop 18: Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association.

1978 PROP 13 REFORM

by Jane Rands

Proposition 15

The ballot argument in favor of Proposition 15 says billions that could be used to supplement school funding is given away to wealthy corporations through tax breaks. The opposing ballot argument states, "Prop 15 will be the largest annual property tax increase in California history." Let's take a brief look into Proposition 15.

Proposition 15 would undo some of the tax reforms instituted by the 1978 Proposition 13 but only for non-residential property valued at over \$3 million. Prop 15 would not change the 1% property tax rate as provided by Prop 13 and makes no changes to single-family or multi-family residential property taxes. Residential property would maintain Prop 13's 2% per year limit on property valuation for taxation purposes.

Prop 15 essentially reassesses non-residential industrial and commercial properties every 3 years and calculates the annual 1% property tax on the current market value for those valued at \$3 million or more. To offset pass-through rent increases on small businesses and encourage innovation, Prop 15 relieves small businesses with 50 or fewer employees from property taxes

on equipment and removes taxes on the first \$500,000 for larger businesses. As the new assessments are phased in, properties occupied by at least 50% small businesses will be reassessed last in fiscal year 2025-26.

A study by Beacon Economics found that most property owners' property tax on small businesses would not be increased by Prop 15. "Two-thirds (of properties studied) sold for less than \$3 million" with a median price of \$1.6 million.

A report by Blue Sky Consulting commissioned by Prop 15 proponents, concluded that 10% of businesses would account for 92% of the tax revenue. Industrial and commercial properties that are under-assessed by 50% or more account for this large differential.

Property tax revenue statewide is projected to increase from \$8 billion to \$12.5 billion per year with \$6.5 billion to \$11.5 billion per year going to local government, according to the State's Legislative Analyst's Office. Sixty percent would go to cities, counties, and special districts. Forty percent would go to schools. Analysis by School Services of California calculates Fullerton schools would increase per pupil spending by \$391 to \$692 at the high schools and \$337 to \$596 at the elementary and junior high schools.

The top contributors supporting Prop 15 are Chan Zuckerberg Initiative Advocacy, California Teachers Association, and SEIU state and local organizations. Total contributions are \$37.5 million.

The top contributors opposing Prop 15 are Blackstone Property Partners, Kilroy Realty, Macerich Management, Douglas Emmett Properties, Hudson Pacific Services, Michael Hayde, and Cypress Management via "California Business Roundtable Issues PAC" and Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association. Total opposition funding is \$48.7 million.

Proposition 19

Proponents of Proposition 19 say it would protect vulnerable Californians, close tax loopholes, and fund fire protection and emergency medical response. The argument in favor is signed by the President of the California Firefighters, the President of California Disability Rights, and a Board Member from the California Senior Advocates League (CSAL). Note that the SCAL has not endorsed this or any 2020 State ballot measure though it did make endorsements in 2018.

Proponent funding that totals \$44.6 million comes from 2 "Yes on 19" Committees. The first has raised contributions totaling \$22 million. Its largest contributors are: California Association of Realtors, National Association of Realtors. The other supporting committee has raised \$22.6 million. Its top contributors are: California Association of Realtors, California Professional Firefighters Ballot Issues Committee, and Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3 Advocacy/Ballot Initiative PA.

Opponents argue that Prop 19 removes 2 voter-approved taxpayer protections. The opposition argument is signed by the President of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, State Senator Pat Bates (south Orange County), and Assemblyman Ken Cooley (Sacramento). There is no campaign opposing the measure.

Proposition 19 would expand the portability of a homeowner's taxpayment on a primary residence for people who are 55 and older, with a severe disability, or affected by fire or other natural disasters. Their taxpayment could be transferred as many as 3 times to a new primary residence anywhere in the State within 2 years of selling the primary residence.

Prop 19 also creates the ability to transfer the taxpayment to a new primary residence assessed at a higher value than the home sold. The portion of the home value that exceeds the prior home's value would be taxed at the current assessed value and added to the transferred taxpayment.

Prop 19 would expand the inherited tax transfer benefit from children only to grandchildren if the child's parents are deceased and expand the tax transfer benefit to family farms.

However, Prop 19 would limit the inherited taxpayment benefit to homes used as a primary residence only and limit the tax transfer benefit for homes valued at more than \$1 million than the taxable value. If the market rate value of a home at the time it is transferred or sold to the qualified family member is greater than the taxable value plus \$1 million, then the property tax would be the transferred taxpayment plus the tax on the assessed value that exceeds the prior taxable value plus \$1 million.

Tax revenue increases that result from the reduction in the inherited taxpayment benefit minus the loss of tax revenue to do expanded tax transfers in Prop 19 would go to the California Fire Response Fund.

Proposition 15 would undo some of the tax reforms instituted by the 1978 Proposition 13 but only for non-residential property valued at over \$3 million.

LAST COMMERCIAL FULLERTON ORANGE GROVE IN JEOPARDY

City Considers Development at Former Kimberly Clark Property

by Jane Reifer

*City Council to Vote
Nov 17 at 6:30 pm.*

*Attend in-person or
watch and eComment at
fullerton.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx*

Longtime residents are concerned that a massive new 65-acre warehouse project will remove extensive orange, avocado, pecan, and persimmon orchards, many specimen trees such as oaks, and a rare, large Japanese black pine. As open space, the trees and orchards provide habitat for bees and diverse local wildlife. Even a fox and a roadrunner were observed on the property within the past few years.

The developer, Goodman Logistics, has plans to build 4 large warehouse buildings side-by-side with parking between each building. Their current plans envision the removal of all trees, and all onsite structures except for the City's well facility. As part of their project, they will be adding sidewalks where none now exist, repairing adjacent streets, upgrading traffic signals, and contributing \$750,000 to the purchase of a fire engine for the City.

Local group Friends for a Livable Fullerton (FFLF) welcomes this exciting new business, but is hopeful that the City can develop a plan that is favorable to both the community and the applicant, especially in an area in the southeast part of the City which has almost no parks or open space, and has a deficient

parks-to-people ratio. A first step would be an assessment of the trees, the wildlife, including bees, bats, owls, and raptors, and a history of the Selinger family, an important early pioneer family who were the original grove owners. These reports should be done before any decision is made to eliminate the groves.

The Project's Environmental Impact Report (EIR) missed crucial data. The groves are more extensive and robust than the EIR indicates and contain more than just oranges. There are about 10 acres comprising over 500 mature trees on the property, including oranges, heirloom avocados, persimmons, pecans, pines, and oaks, as well as several additional types that were not able to be identified. A proper tree survey needs to be done before any decision is made as to their destruction. The report also repeatedly refers to the orchards as "remnant" and "ornamental" and, while stating correctly that the fruit is not sold, it is incorrect that it is not harvested. The consistent use of these terms may be a way to discount the impact of the conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use.

Agriculture was the predominant business and land use in this area and these orchards exemplify an important period in the City's history. FFLF has photos showing the groves as early as 1927, a decade earlier than the EIR indicates. It's possible the groves are older still. The pioneer Selinger family purchased the property in 1919 and owned it for 35 years before it was sold to developers and then to Kimberly Clark. They were



an important family in their own right, and were friends with other important Fullerton, Placentia, and Anaheim families such as the Tuffrees, Porters, Crowthers, and Melroses, as well as being married into other important families, such as the McWilliams, Schultes, Athertons, Kellenbergers, Chandlers, and Betz families.

At the recent Planning Commission public hearing, the Commissioners questioned City Staff at length about the City agreeing not to charge the Developer the normal Traffic Impact Fee, that would have amounted to about \$600,000. The Developer will be paying it in the form of road and traffic signal improvements. The Development Agreement was released just a few hours before the meeting, so the Commissioners felt they didn't have enough time to review it properly. There was even some discussion about the potential for this site to be used under the new cannabis ordinance, but the applicant said that although things could change, some of their funders are in the public pension sector and object to being involved with cannabis businesses.

There was extensive discussion of the trees but most of it was dismissive of the value, with one Commissioner saying that they didn't understand people letting fruit rot on the ground for years and now acting like the grove is some prized possession. Several Commissioners mistakenly referenced Fullerton Heritage as part of their dismissal of preserving the orchards, but the comment from Fullerton Heritage was specifically about the 1963 vintage building no longer being a viable candidate as a Local Landmark. Fullerton Heritage did not submit a comment on the groves.

In the end, the developer offered to plant a dwarf orange tree near the plaque that they will be installing to commemorate Kimberly Clark as a long-time Fullerton business, and the Commissioners voted unanimously to recommend that the City Council approve the project.

Due to COVID-19, public comments had to be submitted by email to the public hearing, but the 3 commenters who did were frustrated as they had expected to have their emailed comments read in lieu of the normal 3 minutes usually allowed for in-person public hearings.

FFLF believes that the orchards meet the criteria for designation as a Fullerton Local Landmark:

City Criterion 1: Character, interest, or value as part of the heritage of the City. The orchards at Kimberly Clark do not need to be the first or largest to be eligible for listing under this Criterion. These orchards certainly contributed to Fullerton's agricultural heritage.

City Criterion 3: They are identified with a person or persons or groups who significantly contributed to the culture and development of the City, as above.

City Criterion 9: They seem to have a physical characteristic representing an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood.

Residents welcome the new business but hope that a compromise can be reached that provides a win-win for the developer, the future business tenants, and the community at large.

To reach Councilmembers, call (714) 738-6311 or e-mail Council@cityof-fullerton.com.

For more info on FFLF call or text (714) 729-3019 or e-mail: together@SaveFullerton.com.

To learn more visit www.SaveFullerton.com.



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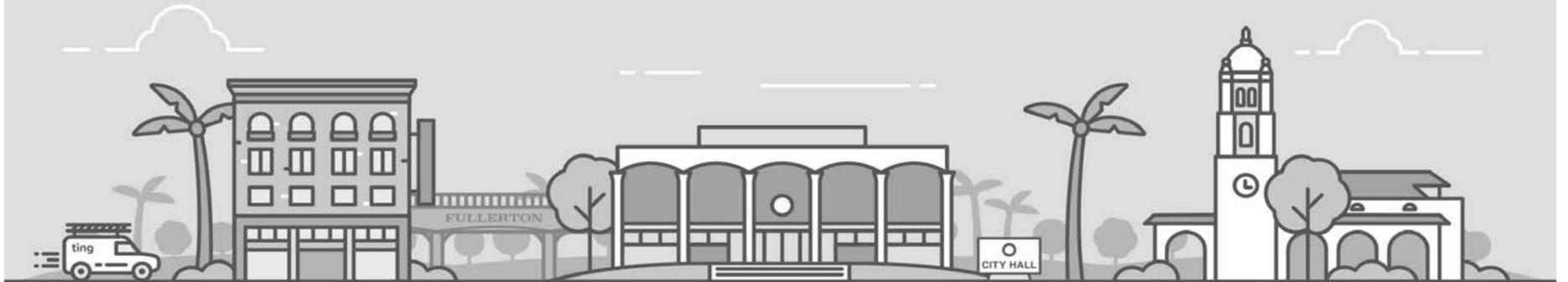
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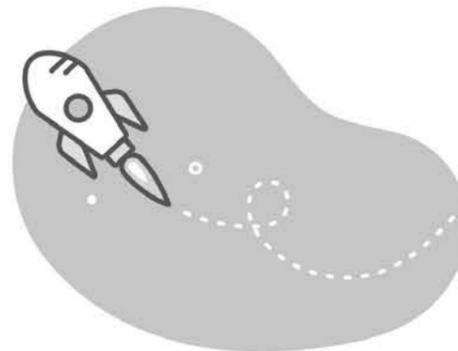


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VIDEO OBSERVER

by Emerson Little © 2020

A History of Hauntings at the Old FUHS Auditorium

Since Halloween is near, I've decided to look into the history of haunts at the Fullerton Union High School Auditorium, one of Southern California's most famous destinations for paranormal researchers who have carried out numerous investigations in the building throughout the years. In fact, there are 3 conclusions shared by almost all the investigative groups: 1) The auditorium is definitely haunted; 2) It is a very active location with documented evidence in the form of equipment readings, EVP (electronic voice phenomenon) and unusual photographs; 3) The spirit of Louis E. Plummer, a former Superintendent of Fullerton's High School and Junior College District from 1919 to 1941 who was historically tied to the Ku Klux Klan, inhabits the building.

According to a 2002 booklet handed out during the Fullerton Museum's Haunted Walking Tours, then-auditorium manager Evan Shirk said that numerous strange events and one apparition have taken place in this classic California Mediterranean building. Theater staff and volunteers have reported many encounters over the years with a spirit they call "Louie." The story goes that in December 1999, as staff was setting up for a high school dance performance, a large mirrored "disco ball" began spinning on its own. This in itself wasn't that exciting, but as the ball's orbit grew wider and wider, became faster and faster, and started to spin wildly out of control, the staff backed away in fear and began calling, "Okay, Louie, cut it out now. We're getting a little freaked out!" The ball stopped, and then started spinning again in the opposite direction.

Longtime auditorium manager Tony Gonzales has described many unexplained events to Aimee Aul, a former ghost guide for the Fullerton Museum's Haunted Walking Tours. He has reported seeing an apparition in areas from the ground floor east portal to the balcony landing. He's also experienced disembodied voices, an unexplained swinging chandelier and a consistent sense of being followed around by a child. However, the chandeliers in the auditori-

um can't actually swing since they are bolted to the ceiling.

The landing on the west balcony staircase of the theater has the reputation of being the most haunted spot in the building. There was a common ritual that a lot of newly hired auditorium employees went through that involved being sent up to the balcony after closing to look for some forgotten program or flashlight. Almost always, the new staff member would come charging down the stairs

panicked at the sensation of an eerie presence on the landing.

Back in 2001, psychic researchers caught some fascinating anomalies on film as they took photographs of the west stairway into the balcony landing. The pictures revealed a faint blurry outline of a gowned woman moving up the stairs. The figure bears a noteworthy resemblance to a figure depicted in the historic mural, "Pastoral California," on the auditorium's exterior west wall. The mural itself was painted by Charles Kassler in

1934 and depicts scenes from California's mission and rancho days, including a depiction of Pio Pico and family seated in front of Mission San Juan Capistrano and being entertained by an elegantly attired Mexican dancer. According to an old Fullerton Museum Center pamphlet, "Oral history has it that the dancer is Laura Moya, a famous singer of the 19th century, and that Kassler used as his model the well-known 20th century California singer Luisa Espinel, who would later become the painter's wife." The haunting beauty of the painting and the stories of the spirit on the balcony landing have led some to believe that the two are somehow connected. A different group of psychic researchers who conducted an investigation of the auditorium in 2003 claimed to feel the presence of an "angry woman" at the spot on the landing where the picture was taken. Could the spirit be that of Laura Moya or Luisa Espinel? Or is it perhaps the spirit of a departed theater goer in an elegant dress, enjoying an evening of music as she did in life?

Aimee Aul, who has done some research into local paranormal investigations for the Museum Center's Haunted Walking Tours, wrote via email, "Back

Theater staff and volunteers have reported many encounters over the years with a spirit they call "Louie."



The old FUHS auditorium is one of the most active haunted places in the City.

in 2006, a group of paranormal researchers were in the balcony of the auditorium when 2 members of the group became aware of a scratching sound. They both looked toward the stage where the sound was coming from and saw a disembodied arm come reaching over the balcony railing! They both screamed and the investigation was promptly ended!"

Ms. Aul recalls ghostly encounters reported by other employees of the FUHS Auditorium as well. "I'm not sure what year it was, but a lighting crew member was adjusting lights in the catwalk when he felt someone enter his 'personal bubble' and walk past him. This staff member had been a paranormal skeptic and couldn't explain what he had experienced as anything other than a ghost," she wrote via email. "And one time, during an evening performance, one of the ushers reported a burning smell coming from the balcony. The light fixtures, original to the building, were melting! Tony quickly turned off the power to that area, and the melting stopped, but there was no way the small amount of heat generated by the lighting fixture could have damaged the fixtures so severely. There were no problems with the wiring. Staff even tried to replicate the event with blowtorches with no luck. This incident is especially interesting because Tony has been told that he is followed around the building by a spirit known as 'the electrician,' and also 'the electrician's daughter.'"

There have been other incidents with footsteps in the balcony area. According to an interview with Tony Gonzalez from the 2006 book, *Fullerton Ghosts: History and Hauntings in Orange County, California*, "In the southwest hallway leading from the main foyer to the foyer in the balcony, people have heard the sounds of footsteps walking along the hallway and up the stairs. Part

of the area is stone and part is carpeted, which muffles people's footsteps." Gonzalez went on to explain that one time there was a man cleaning in this area, including the lighting fixtures in the upstairs foyer. The worker was wiping down the fixtures when all of sudden he heard footsteps running up the stairs. "He definitely heard heavy footsteps as if someone was running up the stairs, skipping every step," Gonzalez said in the book interview. "It was a loud thump, then small steps and a loud thump. He thought someone was playing a trick on him, so he put his back up against the wall, and listened to the footsteps coming up the stairs. He listened and when it got to the top of the stairs, he jumped out, and made a scary sound, and nobody was there. So, he freaked out and ran downstairs."

Ms. Aul didn't know how far back the first reported haunting at the auditorium was, but she did mention that back in the 1970s, the high school auditorium had a reputation for being haunted. "Students and employees would feel creepy sensations on the balcony especially," she said. "The story was that Louie and his wife were buried under the lobby, which is not true. They are in Loma Vista with everyone else."

However, one of the scariest encounters to happen at the auditorium actually took place on the ground floor east portal to the balcony staircase. It was there that the Assistant House Manager at the time looked up after closing one night to see the floating head and shoulders of a balding man. The auditorium employee told the Fullerton Museum Center, "Maybe it's someone else altogether. His name isn't Louie and he's hanging around till we get it right!"

The auditorium is one of the most active haunted places in the City, and those who have worked there seem to be well aware of the spirits.

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HITS & MISSES

by Joyce Mason © 2020



“The Glorias” Gets Two Hits

The title refers to the trailblazing feminist leader Gloria Steinem, glamorous, smart, witty, talented and driven. Director Julie Taymor (“The Lion King”) bases her film about this icon on her autobiography, *My Life on the Road*, and reinforcing the peripatetic nature of Steinem’s life, Taymor uses a familiar motif throughout the film—the Greyhound bus. We see the various actresses who portray Steinem throughout the film on this bus talking to each other about decisions made and values examined.

Four actresses portray Gloria Steinem from childhood to the present—Ryan Kiera Armstrong, Lulu Wilson, Alicia Vikander, and Julianne Moore. Much of her childhood was spent on the road with her mother, father, and older sister.

As a young child, Gloria never knew her mother to be physically or mentally well; a doctor describing her as having a “broken spirit.” This was the early 1940s and few inroads had been made into studying mental health. One day when she was caring for her mother, Gloria found some scraps of paper with writing her mother had done as a young woman. She learns that her mother had given up a career in journalism in order to marry and have children. In Gloria’s reaction to this, we see the first glimmer of the talented journalist and independent feminist that she would become.

At 22, Gloria received a grant to spend two years in India studying the status of women, opening up for her a lifelong interest in working with women within other cultures, which serves her well as she becomes the activist Gloria. The assignment abroad also causes her to become focused on a woman’s reproductive rights. She finds she is pregnant,

and in 1950s London, on her way to India, she visits a doctor who tells her that he will refer her to a safe abortionist but she must promise never to give his name and to do “what you want to do with your life.” She fulfills those promises.

On her return to the States, Gloria finds work with New York magazine but is frustrated by the assignments that put her on the Women’s Page covering fashion and home design. In the early 60s she takes an assignment to work as a Playboy Bunny for several months and then to write about the experience. The article becomes an enormous success, but, eager to shed the image, she refuses an offer to write an entire book about life as a Playboy Bunny.

The movie shows Gloria’s gradual involvement in the women’s movement of the late 60s and early 70s.

The movie shows Gloria’s gradual involvement in the women’s movement of the late 60s and early 70s. Working with Dorothy Pitman Hughes and other Black women more experienced in leadership roles, she learns to overcome her fear of public speaking. Actual film footage from the 1970s is woven into the movie as we see her growing into the iconic figure she became.

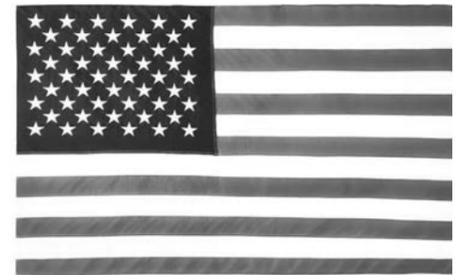
There are also some amusing scenes showing Gloria and friends conceiving, naming, and putting together the first issue of what would become a groundbreaking publication for women—*Ms. Magazine*. Taymor weaves in 1970s film footage of the backlash, led by Phyllis Schlafly, against Steinem and the entire women’s movement. “The Glorias” ends with Hillary Clinton’s defeat in trying to be the first woman president and Steinem concluding that the race is not over but is a relay. And the baton will be passed on.

“The Glorias” runs 2 ½ hours and can be streamed on Amazon Prime.

Two HITS: Don’t Miss it!
A HIT & A MISS: You Might Like it.
Two MISSES: Don’t Bother.

The Changed Meaning of the American Flag

Op-Ed by Divia Swendson



Individual rights, justice, and freedom are true American ideals, and the American flag should stand for these values of “liberty and justice for all.”

However, recently I’ve noticed that the flag seems to be more commonly shown by conservatives. Donald Trump Jr. tweeted recently, “Why do you never see an American flag on a house with a Biden sign in the front yard?” The implication is that Democrats are less patriotic for not supporting Trump.

However, waving the American flag more doesn’t directly correlate to patriotism. Many consider themselves the true “patriots” or “Americans” because they “back the blue”. However, the police’s job is to maintain security and order, not to necessarily protect all people’s rights and freedoms.

In many cases the police, acting as an arm of the government, infringe on people’s rights, as we see in the Black Lives Matter movement.

If we had to decipher who was fighting on the “American” side, we’d see that the protesters are the ones fighting for justice and safety for their communities.

However, some people continue to push the idea that “backing the blue” is the true American position. President Trump stated, “I want you to know Patriotic Americans of all backgrounds truly support and love our police.” Despite the illogical association, attaching an emotional symbol to their arguments does give them power. It has also led to a changed meaning of the American flag.

When I see someone with a flag taped to the back of their truck or printed on their clothes, I assume they lean right in politics.

We might assume that protesters would use the American flag most, since they are standing for our country’s ideals, but the opposite seems to be true.

Pictures of “back the blue” rallies show people holding up both the blue lives matter flag and the American flag.

Besides the clear irony in people holding up a flag symbolizing freedom while simultaneously trying to silence a movement, their displaying the American flag is unusual when compared to past movements. Pictures of the civil rights movement show more American flags flown than the amount we see today in the Black Lives Matter movement. This change is not a reflection of which side is more American, but rather what the flag has come to symbolize.

Patriotism does not mean mere obedience to authority, but it becomes presented that way when conservatives continuously use the American flag or repeat phrases such as “always back the blue” as a shield for what they’re really defending.

The real meaning of “always back the blue” doesn’t come down to patriotism. If it is a choice between maintaining law and order or American ideals of liberty and justice for all, they will always choose the side of law and order no matter if the law unequally favors one demographic over another or actively defies the ideals the American flag is supposed to stand for.

Jackie Robinson explained the way the flag’s meaning changes based on the intentions of the holder when he said in 1969, “I wouldn’t fly the flag on the Fourth of July or any other day...When I see a car with a flag pasted on it, I figure the guy behind the wheel isn’t my friend.”

BALANCE & CHANGE

LIVING MINDFULLY

Here we are, months into the pandemic. People have asked me how I am maintaining my balance. Today I will share that with you: living mindfully. Live in the moment. Take whatever the world is handing you right this very moment and notice that. This can be quite a challenge. The reality is that most of the time, this very moment is tolerable; it might even be good or pleasant. If, however, we are remembering all the things that we are unable to do or all things that may go wrong, we will become depressed or anxious.

Let’s do this together. Stop. Look around you. What do you see in this moment? Look at the colors, the peo-

ple, the pets. What do you smell? What do you hear? What do you feel? Are you sitting on a couch? Can you feel the textures? Stop. In this moment, how is your body? Are you healthy, or at least mostly? Do you have food? Stop. In this moment, do you have shelter? In this moment, are you safe? Again, stop, in this moment, can you see, smell, feel, hear, touch something that brings you happiness, joy or peace? Allow yourself to bring that all in. Allow yourself to know the good or calm or peace that is available to you in this moment. Stop. Be present in the now.

Be here. Be now. We will get through this, one moment at a time.



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Out of My Mind

by Jon Dobrer © 2020

Herds, Science, and Chimeras

There may be some kind of herd immunity to COVID-19. That's when about 70% of the population has had either the disease or an effective vaccine. This could provide a biological firebreak, interrupting the spread of the virus. "Could," not necessarily "would."

We know more than at the beginning; there's much we don't know—yet many opine with incautious ignorance, driven more by hope than science. The President had COVID-19 and now publicly proclaims, "People tell me that I'm immune." He adds, accurately, "I don't know if I'm immune forever or only for several months." That's correct. We already have certified cases of reinfection—one of them fatal. Are the reinfections from the same strain or a variant? We don't know.

The current idea of herd immunity is dangerous as speculation and monstrous as policy. The Great Barrington Declaration, supported by radiologist Scott Atlas and not epidemiologist Anthony Fauci, relies on protecting vulnerable people (somehow) and letting the young, without co-morbidities, go back to school, work, parties, and life as we once knew it—seemingly a lifetime ago.

This is a form of Social Darwinism, based on the protection of those whom we believe to be the weakest, and a life/death lottery for the young and younger adults. This didn't work in Sweden and is likely to cost hundreds of thousands of American lives.

One of the many problems—we don't know how long immunity lasts in recovered patients. Does a mild case confer brief immunity and recovery from a severe case grant longer immunity? Without a scientific answer, we are gambling with millions of lives.

Even when there's a more reliable kind of herd immunity made possible by vetted vaccines, there's so much we still won't know. For example: How long will it take for the shot to stimulate an

effective protective response? People who get a flu shot, then get the flu a few days later, often confuse causation with correlation, by thinking that they got the flu from the shot. No. The shot takes time to stimulate the immune response. Likewise with any COVID-19 vaccine. How long before it's effective? How long will it remain effective—months, years, decades? Not having an approved vaccine, we're unable to answer any of these important life/death questions.

Yet, there are reasons for optimism. Some of the finest scientists in the world are working on vaccines, and they are coming at it from different angles. That's good. Some promising vaccines are in third stage clinical trials, involving thousands of people. Some trials have been temporarily halted because of subjects getting ill. That's also good. It's important to know what

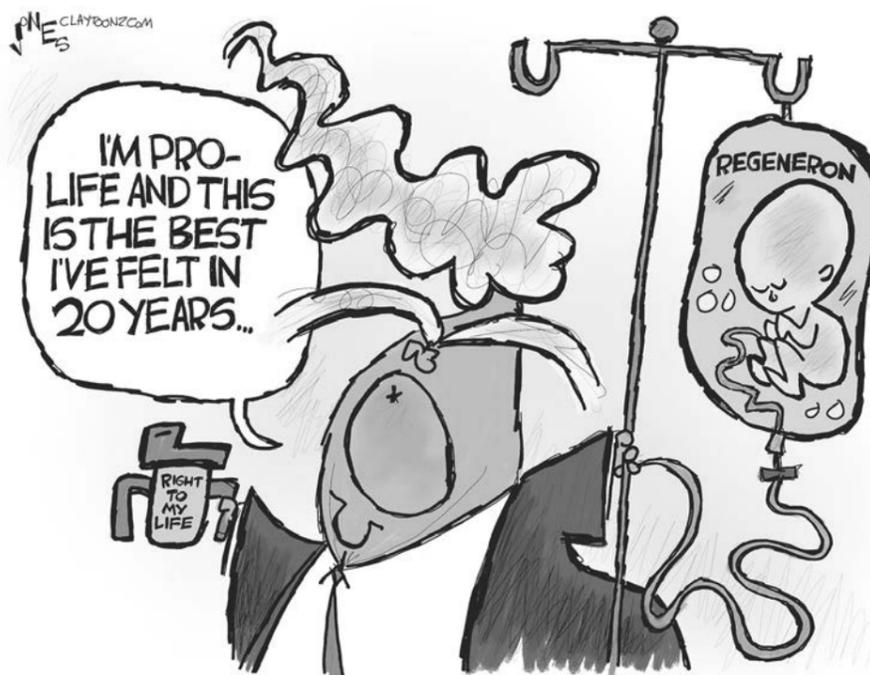
may be a side effect and what is a coincidence. Even if a side effect, we must balance its prevalence and danger against the vaccine's efficacy.

We know that many cancer treatments have challenging side effects. Yet they may be judged therapeutic enough to market. There are probably very few important drugs without side effects—from the steroids the President took that can distort personality and judgment, to antibiotics that can result in anaphylaxis or deadly consequences.

Scientists make judgments based on experiments and data—not political advantage or election schedules. But we're in an age when the light of reason seems to be flickering, and too many trust neither science nor our political institutions. We're becoming tribal.

It's not all Trump's doing, or it is. People are rioting in Israel, Germany, and England, resisting policies that could save their lives and the lives of their families and friends because they want to go to a party, a café, a pub. COVID-19 spreads as one herd is

The current idea of herd immunity is dangerous as speculation and monstrous as policy.



immune, not from COVID-19—but from common sense.

People come to believe what they want to. If I'm young and feel like Superman, I'll find no problem in partying. This is the folly of sending young people off to college. Without considering those around them, they will congregate. They will conjugate—and I'm not talking verbs. When people ignored eternal damnation to get together, when they ignored Syphilis (which used to be deadly), when HIV (25 years ago) was nearly 100% fatal, people still lived in emotional denial without denying their urges. Today, with lethality for the young and seemingly healthy at under 1%, there's no chance of protecting them from themselves.

Colleges can have protocols and procedures. They can promise testing and supervision, but when the kids come home for Thanksgiving, it will be more dangerous than dining with the Borgias. Most of the young will survive, but some won't.

If I'm older—perhaps wiser—I see the virtue in trying to stay isolated or semi-isolated, while trying to make a bargain with my bubble. My bubble contains everyone that each member has physically contacted. There is no hermetically sealed 100% protection, only our own bargains with the odds.

Then there's the vast middle of 20- to 60-year-olds who might or might not have underlying, but undiagnosed, vulnerabilities. Who do we protect and how?

All over the world, this virus is surging. Countries that we thought had done well got much worse and are locking down (Singapore, Israel, Germany, Hong Kong). Countries that did a bad job got better (Spain, Italy, Great Britain). Now, they are locking down—against the will of much of their populations. No nation is doing a good job—simply variations on bad.

Yet, all is not lost. Vaccines are coming in late spring—hopefully good ones. Treatments are getting better. We understand why ventilators didn't work well in oxygenating lungs filled with scar tissue from thrombi. We see effectiveness from steroids and non-steroidal anti-inflammatories. The monoclonals offer a lot of promise.

There's a terrible toll to be exacted by this pandemic. It can't be avoided, but it can be ameliorated by following science and not following a false and deadly herd of chimeras.

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PLEASE VOTE NO ON PROPOSITION 22

I have worked for app-based driver and delivery companies for the past four years. I need a job in which I can sit down most of the day due to back problems. I am an older worker with two college degrees, one from CSUF, but in today's economy, who cares?

I'm asking readers to Vote No on Prop. 22 because what it offers is not enough. It doesn't offer workers the same government benefits other minimum wage employees enjoy. Drivers will still not be covered by SDI, or eligible for paid sick-leave, Workman's Compensation, or any other legal protections employees receive. Prop. 22 has a "guaranteed wage" section that includes not paying for "waiting time." Waiting time is determined by market needs and how many drivers are seeking work for any given time period. With this in mind, it is possible that a driver could spend half of their shift waiting for rides or orders. That means they could work for eight hours but only get paid for four.

Another issue not addressed by Prop 22—these app-based companies can let a driver go at any time and they do not

have to give a reason. There is no appeal process protected by any laws because we are not employees. The app companies have the "at-will employment" power of all employers, but not the supervisory responsibilities.

For example, in the past four years I've probably completed about 3,000 to 4,000 deliveries. I never had anything in the software or in a supervisor noticing that my mistake rate (forgetting items) was perhaps 1% or 2%. No one ever recognizes that I've been good at my job, not even the app. Nevertheless, these companies, like all at-will employers, can legally let me go anytime and there is nothing in our current laws that allows me to appeal that decision. In fact, these huge companies are not even required by law to have a phone number with human help available if drivers have issues with their pay.

What California needs is more living-wage jobs, especially for college graduates. Prop. 22 doesn't answer that need.

C. Taylor
Fullerton, CA

Vote Yes on Measure U

In 2012, 47% of Fullerton residents voted against legalizing fireworks; 53% voted for fireworks, not a landslide win, and Fullerton became one of ten Orange County cities that legalized fireworks. Most Fullerton neighborhoods had no problems with illegal fireworks until 2013 when, not coincidentally, the noise, air pollution, and fire risk began to markedly increase each year. Since then, legal and illegal fireworks use goes on days before and days after the Fourth of July, causing a drain on our police/fire departments, animal control, and other safety resources. Example: This year, from 12:01am on the Fourth of July to 3am on July 5, our Police Department received 320 fireworks-related calls.

In 2012 and recently, statements have been made online and in mail ads that legalizing safe and sane fireworks will help to get rid of or lessen illegal fireworks use by providing Fullerton residents with a legal option. This has been proven untrue, as evidenced by eight years of escalating illegal fireworks use, to the point of competitions of sorts to see whose illegal fireworks are loudest/highest/showiest. A Grand Jury report (title: THE ANATOMY OF SAFE AND SANE FIREWORKS

SALES IN ORANGE COUNTY) provides a roadmap of what cities can expect if they legalize fireworks. Notably, it states that increasing illegal fireworks use is predictable after legalizing fireworks because it enables users of illegal fireworks to mask their activities behind legal fireworks activities.

Fundraising for organizations is also addressed in the Grand Jury report (Page 13, Section R-4b), which states, "Encourage cities to become proactive in encouraging fireworks applicants to find other fundraising options in lieu of fireworks sales." Our City Council could help all of us find a solution to fundraising concerns by reaching out to the 24 Orange County cities that ban fireworks to learn how those cities' organizations are successfully fundraising without depending on fireworks sales.

Public health and safety are important to everyone. Please vote YES on Measure U.

To read the full Grand Jury Report: <https://www.ocgrandjury.org/pdfs/fireworks/fireworks.pdf>

Debbie DeSpain
Fullerton

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Which Teachers' Choice?

After the great recession, the job market yielded a conflicting era for college graduates, in particular those seeking community college employment. The people with degrees were many, but some professions were in steep decline. Multiple part-time jobs, gigs, no benefits, and other Uber-like conditions crossed into teaching, leaving many young graduates in the education sector with charter schools hiring, for-profit colleges offering classes to teach, academic gig work, or leaving the industry to move on. Ask anyone who has attempted to apply and interview in the full-time academic job market beyond 2008; the experience is often marked as leaving more people out than it brings in.

Prior to the shut down, we attended North Orange County Community College District's Board of Trustees meetings. During this year, both faculty unions, Adjunct Faculty United (which represents part time-faculty) and United Faculty (which represents full-time faculty), were both holding actions during meetings to make their voices heard.

While the direct actions were inspiring, it was also very obvious that the demands were very different. Adjunct Faculty United was demanding to have the State law for Rehire Rights (seniority) applied to their bargaining unit, a feat other colleges had worked out much quicker, and the full-time faculty were picketing with signs that read, "My second job bought this sign" and, "I am worth more than 1%." They were upset about stalled benefits and pay negotiations. It reminded both authors of their own battles for more money, except both authors are adjunct faculty, and have also directly experienced wage exploitation, just like Adjunct Faculty United.

In the race for North Orange County Community College District, Evangelina Rosales claims to be "The Teachers' Choice" on her signs and mailers. But which teachers? She is endorsed by United Faculty, but they are less than 30% of the faculty within the district. Adjunct Faculty United, representing between 60-70% of the faculty, has endorsed her opponent, Miguel Alvarez. If it were ten, or even thirty years ago, it might be a knee-jerk reaction to vote for the person who is also a "Professor" for this race. However, this line of thinking assumes that the "professor" understands what faculty needs. The reality for most college educators is not the full-time tenured position. The reality for most professors is an existence of unpaid professional development, unpaid office hours, and no health care access, without any assurance of future teaching, or full-time work. Despite working as a full-time Cosmetology Instructor at Coastline Community College District and being employed as an Adjunct by two other community colleges, Fullerton College and Compton College, Rosales did not seem to realize that there are two distinct

work experiences and paths for faculty in the California Community College system.

The majority of faculty is hard pressed to stay in the academic job market for long since the average expiration for obtaining a full-time tenured position at a community college is between nine to twelve years doing the job of teaching students as a part-time faculty member in multiple districts. In which other industry does a temp with positive evaluations stay a temp for over 10 or 15 years or even for the duration of their career?

While Evangelina Rosales is employed with the North Orange County Community College District as an Adjunct, the Adjunct Faculty United union did not endorse her. The interviews of both candidates are on the Adjunct Faculty United Facebook page and their differences are stark. If residents of Trustee Area Four want to see more from Evangelina, they will be hard-pressed to find video of her responses, except a produced video on her campaign page. Only the Adjunct Faculty United video offers both candidates side by side discussing issues. While

Alvarez gave clear concise specific examples and answers, Rosales gave vague answers and did not seem to understand that she was seeking the endorsement of the adjunct local, of which she is a member.

United Faculty represents full-time tenured Faculty and they support the retention of those jobs, so that teaching is in the hands of faculty who will call the college their home. How is it possible that they are supporting someone who did not seem to know this very obvious distinction while seeking to represent her district?

Rosales is someone who is gaming the system without understanding the system and her role in maintaining the exploitation of 70% of the faculty in the State. And when faced with the represented faces of her own union, she was not able to relate to them as peers because ultimately, she is the choice of teachers who operate from positions of privilege and not experience and knowledge of how the community college system is desperate for critical thinkers on the dais who will represent constituencies and tax payers, not just the needs and whims of less than a third of the employed faculty of the district. While Dr. Smart is not a resident of Area 4, Lyndsey Lefebvre is happily casting a ballot for Miguel Alvarez because someone who is able to think through the complexities of higher education is the real teachers' choice.

By Dr. Bobbi Lee Smart, Community College Professor, Resident; Trustee Area One; and Lyndsey Lefebvre, Community College Professor, Resident; Trustee Area Four

The reality for most professors (adjunct faculty) is an existence of unpaid professional development, unpaid office hours, and no health care access, without any assurance of future teaching, or full-time work.

Margaret Ann Milne

Margaret "Peggy" Milne passed away peacefully on October 7, 2020, surrounded by family. She is survived by daughter Ann, son Paul and grandchildren Mark and Micah. She was predeceased by John Milne, her husband of 56 years, sisters May, Vivian, Helen, Susie, and brother Johnny.

Born in her beloved Deerwood, Minnesota in 1923, Margaret never really left. Though her life was full, she was always a small-town girl at heart. Her warmth, kindness and generosity were hallmarks of her relationships with others, and those that knew her well were forever grateful for her friendship.

She left her hometown to attend the University of Minnesota in the early 40s. Upon earning her degree, she was recruited to teach school in Oak Ridge, TN, a "secret city" that was built as a Manhattan Project site to produce the world's first atomic weapons. She met and fell in love with John Milne while in Oak Ridge. They started married life together in Columbus, OH and then moved to Dallas, TX. Margaret continued work as a kindergarten teacher over these years and touched the lives of many children. John and Margaret moved to Orange County, CA in 1959 and bought their dream home in Fullerton in 1961, where they lived for the rest of their lives.



In Dallas, daughter Ann was born and upon arriving in Fullerton son Paul soon followed. The kids benefitted mightily from their Mom's steadfast love, as well as her obsession with fresh baked cookies and See's Chocolates. Margaret's children brought her great joy and were by her side at the time of her passing.

Later in life, John and Margaret took a fitness class at Cal State Fullerton, where they met Alain Bourgault, a yoga teacher and elder fitness expert. For the rest of their lives, Alain supported first John and then Margaret as a fitness trainer, as well as a spiritual confidant. Margaret kept fit mentally as well, as she played bridge and worked the daily crossword puzzle late in to her 90's. The well-fed birds outside her patio window will miss her as well.

Margaret cared deeply about her faith and was a long-time member of First Presbyterian Church of Fullerton. In this time of COVID-19, a small private service will be held at her graveside. Her family looks forward to sharing memories of Margaret with her greater community over the coming months and years.

The family would appreciate donations in her memory to First Presbyterian Church, 838 N. Euclid Ave., Fullerton, CA.

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North Orange County Community College District Trustee Candidates Answer Questions

Continued from page 5

Alvarez: The expertise that I bring to the position distinguishes me apart. I have served in creating educational policy, managing multi-million dollar budgets, administering grant initiatives, and improving academic quality across the UC system and community colleges. I have experience in governance, finance, managing taxpayers investments, and higher education operations and accreditation. The endorsements I hold are bipartisan and our community stands behind me. My opponent has not been endorsed by organizations and community members we both sought. It is critical that we have an experienced Trustee who focuses on the needs of our students and financial prudence for taxpayers.

If elected, what are your top priorities?

Rosales: If elected, my priorities are to support Career Technical Education for jobs. I also feel strongly about Technology equity to help move Fullerton forward. Another priority is to recognize and help other board members to recognize the Board role for fiscal oversight of the public funds allocated to the district. Our students deserve to have a Board with their interests at the forefront, not administration's interest. Finally, I will work to close the achievement gap and prioritize programs that provide college access, support, and help students complete their degrees.

Alvarez: 1) Improve student success and graduation rates through technology and innovation. 2) Ensure transparency and accountability over the district's budget and bond projects. 3) Prepare students for 21st century jobs through workforce partnerships and career education. 4) Reduce student homelessness and hunger.

Do you think adjunct faculty are treated fairly, as compared to full time faculty? If not, what needs to change?

Rosales: The Board of Trustees is charged with representing the best interests of the District as a whole. All employees must feel valued in order to have a positive and inclusive District culture.

Alvarez: Adjunct faculty are treated unfairly due to their employment status. Many achieve graduate degrees with insurmountable debt and little opportunity for a full time position. Part time faculty are working at three to four colleges which lowers the academic quality of instruction for our students. They do not have access to medical benefits and face housing/food insecurity. We need to evaluate budgeting and administrative bloat and ensure we are budgeting for full time faculty positions for our adjuncts. We will need to institute a fellowship program with our part time faculty to accelerate their hiring into a full time position.

OUR TOWN CROSSWORD © 2020

ANSWER KEY
TO PUZZLE "AUTUMNAL" on page 7:



PUZZLE MASTER Valerie Brickey was born in Fullerton and returned to raise her family here. She has been contributing puzzles since 2014.

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