

# Fullerton Observer

FULLERTON'S ONLY INDEPENDENT NEWS

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## Fullerton and Fukui's 30th Year Anniversary Trip

*A Story of Loyalty and Integrity*

Fullerton Sister City Association has had an established sister city relationship with Fukui Japan since 1989. Our members were excited to visit Fukui to celebrate the 30th anniversary in March 2020 when the world suddenly shut down. Our delegates were a week away from a trip of a lifetime. Plans were set, deposits were made, and everything was ready. Instead, we suddenly found ourselves locked in our homes instead of traveling the world. Our hosts were just as disappointed as we were.

Over the next three years, we were uncertain of the impact of the pandemic. There were many false starts as we thought the world was opening again. We were close to following up on the travel requirements, and once the restrictions were lifted, we made arrangements promptly.

Dr. Stephen Tsai and his wife, Mimi, worked hard to communicate and maintain the trip arrangements with the delegation and overseas travel agency. In the end, 26 delegates could participate in representing our city on this excursion.

*continued on page 2*



Fullerton delegates tour Japan with hosts from sister city Fukui

## State of the City: Everything is Great

North Orange County Chamber of Commerce hosted its annual fundraiser, the State of the City, at California State University, Fullerton, on March 29. Approximately 150 guests paid \$125 each to enjoy Colette's Catering lunch and listen to several speakers.

The event began with a Fullerton Police officer Color Guard, a song by the Darden Sisters, and a short message from Chamber of Commerce master of ceremony CEO Andrew Gregson who announced the officials in the room, including 4th District OC Supervisor Doug Chaffee, mayors and council members of Buena Park, La

Palma, Stanton, Irvine, Placentia, and representatives of state offices.

CalState's Vice President of Advancement, Greg Saks, gave an update on campus development, including new visual arts and business buildings, Nutwood Bridge, statistics on student diversity, events open to the public, the Arboretum, and the value to the economy of having a university located in town. A video followed his address, and next was Farmers & Merchants Bank president Henry Walker who spoke about the history and gave an update on the bank's health, unlike those recently in the

news.

Several people walked out near the beginning of Mayor Jung's speech after he gave a short glowing biography of each council member, except for the 5th District representative, Council member Ahmad Zahra.

"This is the size and scope of the opportunities that sit before us as council members it requires that we realign our deepest values and commitments to meet this moment it is a privilege and a responsibility afforded to few leaders and it is a task I know the four

*continued on page 5*

## Outdoor Live Music to be Discussed at Planning commission

by David Nuñez

Fullerton residents can still look forward to listening to live music despite the City Council clarifying that outdoor live music is illegal during March 21 city council meeting. After an hour long discussion and public comment that had residents calling for live music to be allowed because it attracts people downtown and creates a vibrant atmosphere. While one resident asked for tighter regulations that will give those living near downtown clear quiet hours for sleeping.

Leaders in the previous council brought an amendment to a vote in November of 2020 but the item was pulled and continued with no follow up. Since the changes were never completed enforcing the current noise standards is difficult.

"What is important to note is that [what we have] is incomplete," said Sunayana

*continued on page 4*

## DEATH IN OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING

Fullerton Police Officers were alerted by a traffic camera that a vehicle associated with a robbery in San Bernardino County was near Harbor Blvd and Chapman Ave on Friday, February 10, 2023, at approximately 1:10 am.

Officers attempted to conduct a car stop on the vehicle, but it failed to yield and led officers on a pursuit through Fullerton and La Habra.

During the pursuit, the driver, later identified as Austin Heiselman, waved a handgun out of the window. Heiselman entered the intersection of Beach Blvd and Imperial Blvd in La

Habra at a high rate of speed and against a red light, striking a vehicle that was legally traveling through the intersection. Heiselman's car flipped and immediately caught on fire. Heiselman exited his vehicle and fled on foot, running into a nearby shopping center.

A police K9 was deployed in an attempt to detain him. However, as officers approached Heiselman, he took a shooting stance toward officers, at which point four officer-involved shootings occurred. Officers immediately began life-saving efforts until a Los Angeles County Fire Paramedic

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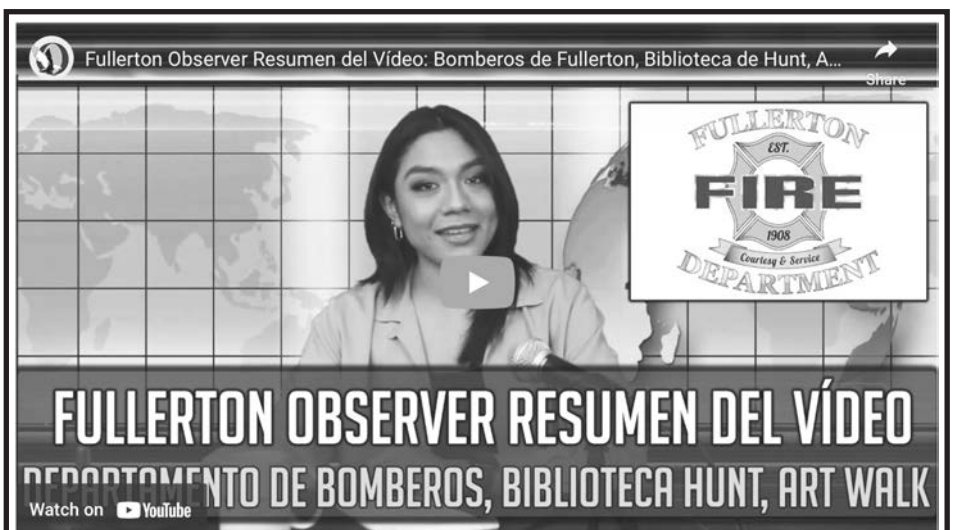
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Watch the Fullerton Observer Broadcast with Host Giselle Monterrosas in Spanish and English

# Fullerton Observer

The Fullerton Observer community newspaper, founded by Ralph and Natalie Kennedy, Roy and Irene Kobayashi, and other friends in 1978, is staffed by local volunteers who create, publish, and distribute the paper throughout our community.

This venture is a not-for-profit one. Revenues are plowed back into maintaining and improving our independent, non-partisan, non-sectarian community newspaper.

Our purpose is to inform Fullerton residents about political, economic, and social forces which impact their lives. We hope that this knowledge can empower residents to participate in constructive ways to hold these public and private entities accountable, so they serve Fullerton in lawful, transparent, and socially responsible ways. We seek to promote a sense of community and an appreciation for the values of diversity with which our country is so blessed.

**Distributed on the first and third Monday of every month except only once in January, July & August.**

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## Fullerton Loves Food Honored

Fullerton Loves Food members received commendation at the March 21 City Council meeting for their efforts to help local restaurants during the pandemic. This grassroots endeavour that started on FaceBook has helped many restaurants stay in business by working with owners to “cash mob” them with customers. Those honored were Tim Johnson, Sarah Erdogan Harmon, Kari Thune, Dave Smits, and Hannah Nossaman.



## Fullerton and Fukui’s 30th Year Anniversary Trip *continued from front page*

Our group was made up of a “melting pot,” much like our country. We had Americans of Romanian, Hungarian, Cuban, Japanese, Croatian, Slovenian, German, Polish, British, and Taiwanese descent. Our delegation consisted of doctors, nurses, lawyers, judges, teachers, artists, CEOs, engineers, business owners, and entrepreneurs. Our group successfully represented our diversity. We represented well!

The pandemic devastated the international travel industry, and many companies were no longer in business. However, our hosts had never given up hope that we would come. Since the restrictions were lifted, we were the first group of tourists to go to Fukui. We were grateful that the travel agency was able to accommodate our arrange-

ments. Upon our arrival in Fukui, we were greeted with a warm welcome from the staff, who also accompanied us on a wonderful discovery of our sister city.

From March 16th through the 26th, the trip’s goal was for the delegation to experience Japanese culture, food, and scenery. We visited the cities of Tokyo, Kyoto, Nara, Osaka, and Fukui during the ten days. We saw world heritage sites, including Mt. Fuji, temples, shrines, and modern shopping malls. We tasted genuine Japanese delicacies such as sushi, sashimi, tempura, and Kobe beef and learned to make mochi.

In addition, we experienced a traditional tea ceremony, Japan’s hot spring baths, and even a Zen experience led by a Monk.

“Sakura” or cherry blossom trees are

one of the highlights of a spring trip to Japan. When we arrived, we could see those bare branches with the dark pink buds and hoping they would bloom before we had to leave.

As the days passed, we started to see glimpses of the buds opening and on occasion saw some trees with beautiful white and pink flowers. One day before our return near the river bank and parks the cherry blossoms were in full bloom. Providing us with a wonderful backdrop to beautiful pictures and lasting memories.

It was time to say farewell to this amazing country. This trip initiated by two cities separated by various time zones but united in friendship, cultural, educational, and professional interests was well worth the wait and a delightful experience.

## The Assistance League seems to have it all with fashion, food, books, and a legacy *by Marilyn Buchi*

There is something new in Assistance League of Fullerton (ALF) after 83 years of service to the communities of North Orange County. But there is always something new....

Taste of the Town has a new venue at the airport Hanger 21 on Saturday, June 3, but the same great food from local restaurants, music, casino and multiple opportunities for gift drawings.

Save the date and look for tickets and details at [www.assistanceleague.org](http://www.assistanceleague.org) or email [info@alfullerton.org](mailto:info@alfullerton.org). Come Fly With Us!

The Fullerton Auxiliary of the Assistance League of Orange County was organized in 1940 by Mrs. Kraemer of Placentia. In those early days, The League was active with the Red Cross during World War II, making surgical dressings, layettes, knitted articles, and aided the USO. The League extended its aid to veterans at the end of the war.

The role of the Assistance League has changed over the years to meet different community needs.

By 1949 there were 30 active members and 22 sustaining members. The Fullerton Chapter received its official charter in 1950, though the group had been active for ten years.

The first fundraiser was a horse show. The Chapter’s professional aux-

iliary ALPHA has returned to the friendly equines with their Tara’s Chance philanthropy.

The greatest source of income is the Thrift Shop on Amerige that offers quality clothing and household items at great prices. Not surprising that members still like the original name Bargain Box. In the first year of operation, ALF held a rummage sale, precursor of today’s Thrift Shop.

Over the years, Assistance League

has helped open freeways and department stores and Knott’s John Wayne Theater. Income was realized from houses of design, auto shows, lectures, wedding receptions and party events of all configurations. When the new Fullerton Library was under construction, an Assistance League membership list was requested for placement in the corner-stone.

Look forward to more of “what’s new “and “what was” in days to come.

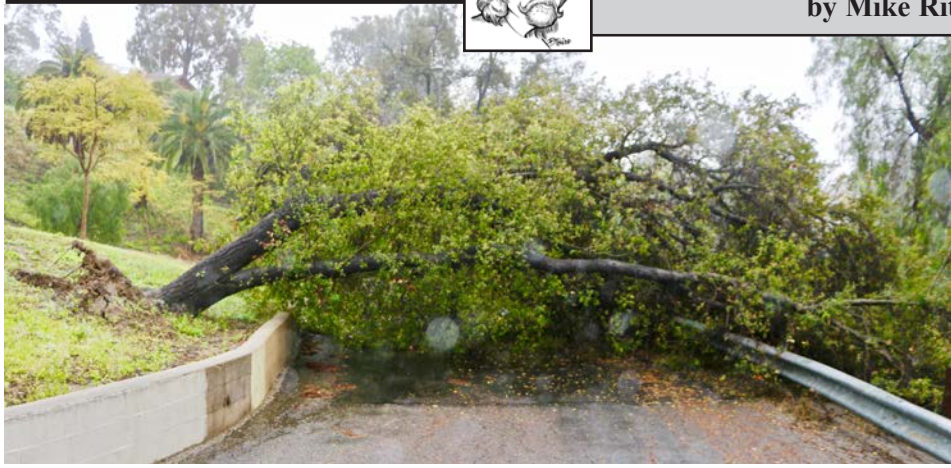


### Designer Purse & Designer Clothes Sale

**May 2<sup>ND</sup>, 4<sup>TH</sup> and 6<sup>TH</sup>**

**STOP BY and check out our bargain prices on JEWELRY, PURSES, CLOTHES and HOUSEWARES**

Assistance League® of Fullerton 233 W. Amerige Avenue, Fullerton  
Open: Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday 10:00am - 3:00pm

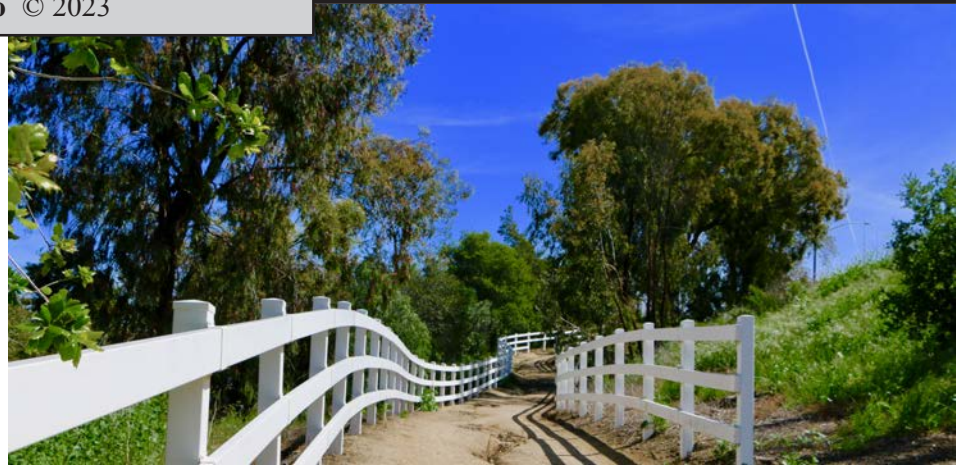


### King of Trees

Driving in the pouring rain, so what's new, around the downhill turn right after the famous bowl at Hillcrest - no traffic or sign of trouble. Then, there it was, a decades-old oak tree had just been uprooted, toppling onto the road and blocking the way down.

What a shame to see it go. We don't have a lot of mature oak trees to spare. When I backed up the hill, there were City workers already arriving on the scene to put safety cones out and take care of the fallen King of Trees.

They told me their concern was similar, especially if we get Santa Ana winds after all these storms. A



few other large, mature trees have fallen around town. We need lots of groundwater and are getting it, so we have to take the bad with the good.

Despite erosion due to heavy downpours, our trails are worn but alive and well, bordered by spring greenery.



### Heart and Soul

It all started so modestly, so bare bones. The parking lot next to the Fullerton Museum Center was mostly crumbling asphalt, and what would become the Beer Garden was less than half as large as it is now. Music was supplied by bands right across Wilshire Avenue.

The bands stood precariously on a couple of sheets of plywood, held up by creaking lengths of wood that barely kept them off the dirt, likely recycled pallets. "Bubba" recently recalled that his amp slowly sunk into the plywood and nearly hit the dirt on that first night, but a good time was had by all.

The Kettle Korn vendor was one of the first big success stories, popping it right there in a large hand-crafted kettle, sending an irresistible aroma wafting over anyone within 100 feet or so.

He handed out free samples to everyone who walked by and most quickly returned to purchase a large bag to take home as if it would ever make it that far.



A woman had converted an older camping trailer. She sold homemade cookies and large baked potatoes, which also became a huge hit.

Of course, the farmers who brought produce were already established, but this was a new location for a Farmer's Market.

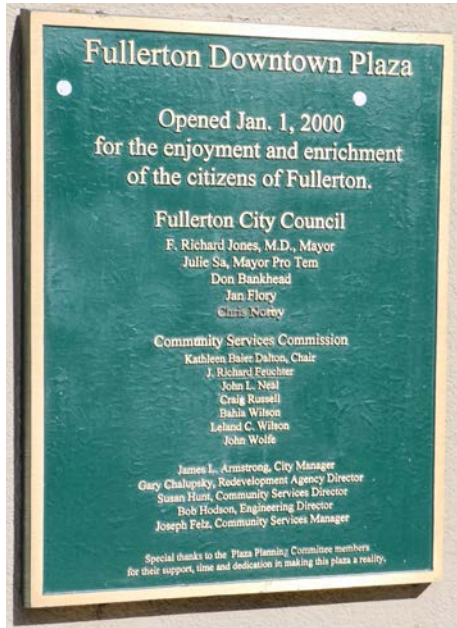
Kae Thomas, who we lost last year, lorded over the Farmer's Market and ensured it would take off.

When anyone moves to Fullerton, if it's the right time of year, we always tell them to go to the Thursday Downtown Fullerton Market if they want to find the heartbeat of Fullerton.

Craft vendors, food and drink vendors live music on the huge stage, and of course, the main attraction, lots of Farmers bringing in produce, much of it harvested early that same day.

It's that time now, so meet your neighbors and heed the often-heard slogan "Be there or be square" this Thursday, April 6, from 4 to 8:30pm.

Bubba and The Big Bad Blues once again open the year with great, local, live music, just as they did three decades ago.



### Humble Beginnings

Fullerton Downtown Plaza construction was completed in 1999. It opened on the first day of the new century "for the enjoyment and enrichment of the citizens of Fullerton."

But wait, there's more.

The dirt lot across the street became a park, now a daily attraction for families to play in and on and those who just like to relax on benches under the trees.

The ancient, often patched Wilshire Avenue was transformed into a comfortable concrete walkway, curbs removed, trees and other landscaping installed, and made ready for special events held there all year long.

### Photo Quiz

Send answer to Mike at [AllMedia@sbcglobal.net](mailto:AllMedia@sbcglobal.net)



**Last time:** Of course you got it, it's the clock tower at the parking structure in our Transportation Center, across from the Train Station. Leo Fender's first Fender Guitar factory was on that site.



**This time:**

No Saloon/Pool Hall For You. Some may know that the Continental Room on Santa Fe is Fullerton's oldest drinking establishment, but did you know the building that held our first saloon and pool hall is still here? Apparently, even without an official local government, locals wanted to make sure nobody in these parts operated such a place, so this one was summarily shuttered. Do you know what is there now?

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**City Council Notes:**

The Council meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 5:30 pm. Upcoming agenda information and streaming video of meetings are available at [www.cityoffullerton.com](http://www.cityoffullerton.com)  
 City Hall is located at 303 W. Commonwealth, Fullerton | Contact Council at (714) 738-6311 or [council@cityoffullerton.com](mailto:council@cityoffullerton.com)

**MARCH 21 MEETING**

**Presentation by OC Power Authority**

Council member Ahmad Zahra said that he was disappointed that this was not an agenized item that the council could make decisions, give direction, or for the public to even provide input on. "I think rebuilding public trust starts with allowing them to be part of the conversation," Zahra said, "My question is, why hasn't this been done since its inception? I have had so much trouble trying to get information. How can the public trust moving forward that you would be able to provide information in a transparent process?"

"We put together quarterly reports for all of our member agencies and will do that regularly. So I'm here before you on a quarterly report, the first quarter, to present on the progress of OCPA and answer any questions," Moska said.

"Several audits cite similar transparency issues and issues with contracts as well as management issues. So again, the question is, "Why is it that only now are you doing something about it," Zahra asked, "It's been two years."

"So there have been four different audits and reports that have been done of OCPA, and the most recent state audit was the most comprehensive one, and it was just released two weeks ago. The board of directors recently approved addressing every single [audit recommendation], and we are an agency that has existed for a very short period. We've identified every recom-

mendation concerning governance transparency, contracting, and ensuring that we're addressing that. We're adopting best practices," Moska said. "We've only been serving residential customers since October of 2022."

Zahra asked to agenzize the item to look at withdrawal options and how that affects residents. Mayor Pro Tem Bruce Whitaker seconded the motion to agenzize the item.

Council member Nick Dunlap said, "My understanding from the original discussion was that we would agenzize the potential to exit from OCPA and the impact it would have on Fullerton if we were to exit."

Council member Dr. Shana Charles asked about actual drill-down data on Fullerton residents. What percentage of residents have opted out, and what percentage have opted for each level? She directed Moska to bring back firm cost estimates, pros and cons, cost-effectiveness analysis, how much it costs Fullerton residents, and what they are achieving through those costs in terms of implementation of green energy. And to have the opt-out numbers.

Whitaker agreed with Zahra and Dunlap and added, "A lack of information leads people to assume the worst, and that includes a number of people who are your customers right now in the city of Fullerton, so it's incumbent on you to make that information wide-ly and easily available."

**ADVANCED RESOURCES LLC TEMPORARY STAFF AGENCY**

Request approval of \$125,000 for a change order to Advanced Resource LLC for temporary staffing support, mainly for the equipment and maintenance division. The city has six mechanic positions budgeted. However, four are currently vacant. The city has attempted recruiting for these vacancies several times with no

success. So, instead of continuing the field recruitment, staff contacted Advanced Resource LLC to procure temporary staffing support. This change order provides enough resources to take the city through the end of the fiscal year. It was passed unanimously.

**2022 Water Rate Progress Report**

Part of the increase in our water rates was to replace the aging infrastructure. The last water rate study was done before COVID, a lot of things have changed construction-wise and specifically construction costs. The next fiscal year, it is anticipated that the city will not meet the nine-mile water main replacement goal due to other needs in our infrastructure and the extraordinary increase in construction costs.

A new water master plan will take about 12 months. And a new water rate study will take an additional 12 months after that.

**FULLERTON POOCH PARK RELOCATION PROJECT**

Mayor Pro Tem Whitaker motioned to reject the bid and remand the item back to Parks and Rec. Dunlap seconded the motion. Motion was passed unanimously.

**UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
 303 W. COMMONWEALTH, FULLERTON**

- **April 3 at 4pm:** Transportation & Circulation
- **April 3 at 5pm:** Library Ad Hoc Committee in Library Conference Center
- **April 4 at 5:30pm:** City Council
- **April 10 at 5:30pm:** Cultural Arts
- **April 10 at 6:30pm:** Parks and Rec Commission
- **April 12 at 6:30pm:** Planning Commission
- **April 17 at 5pm:** Infrastructure & Natural
- **April 20 at 4pm:** Investment Advisory Committee

**American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (HOME-ARP)**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) HOME Investment Partnerships - American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (HOME-ARP) has allocated \$1,954,345 in funding to the City. The City must submit a HOME- ARP Allocation Plan to HUD by March 31, 2023.

As part of this grant there are four qualifying populations: homeless, at risk of homelessness, fleeing and attempting to flee domestic violence (dating violence and sexual assault), and populations where assisted would

prevent homelessness or provide assistance to greatest risk of housing and instability.

Funds will also be allocated to rental assistance, security deposit payments, utility payments as part of the rental assistance, or deposit payments as part of the rental assistance.

Fullerton has approximately 202 unsheltered homeless individuals and 70 in shelters.

Council member Zahra moved the item and Council member Dunlap seconded. Passed unanimously.

**Live Music in Fullerton** *continued from front page*

Thomas, Director of Community and Economic Development, during a noise regulations and standards study session presentation, "Because what we have today is obsolete, in a sense that its unenforceable and unrealistic noise levels of standard operations [for businesses]."

Mayor Fred Jung asked for clarification on the permission for live music since he has noticed there are currently restaurants with pleasant live music operating at a low noise level compared to other restaurants that have loud music heard on their patio.

"Are we just cherry-picking who we are enforcing, or are we not enforcing at all?" Jung said.

Council member Ahmad Zahra joined in asking, "Is live music was permitted downtown?"

Thomas said they have active code enforcement cases but did not name any restaurants specifically and that live music outdoors is not allowed per the current municipal code.

"Any entertainers outside of the establishment is not permitted," Thomas said.

The existing noise code allows for a maximum decibel level of 55 city-wide, which is equivalent to a quiet urban area during the daytime or a large business office with activity during operation. The proposed 2020 amendment would have brought the maximum level for downtown up to 80 decibels, which is equal to a diesel truck at 50 feet.

Since the maximum noise level is so low, enforcement is nearly impossible because enforcing the existing code

would overwhelm the system. Guillermina Torrico, Code Enforcement Manager, said that is why they are looking for direction regarding noise standards and regulations.

A line of public speakers showed up to show support for permitting live music in the downtown area. One of those was Jinan Montecristo, owner of Les Amis Restaurant, who called live music a "win, win, win" for customers, business owners and the city.

Echoing Montecristo's sentiments was Edmund Velasco, president of the Orange County Musicians Union, who said live music has a positive economic effect on the city but understands there should be a limit on the noise level and artists should be aware of that when performing.

"We are very mindful [of the noise level], and we try to be as responsible as we can. That's why we are professionals," Velasco said.

"I want the council to consider the times this noise ordinance should take place," said Z.J Hahn, a long-time resident and artist. "Music should be turned off at 10 pm so we can sleep and not come on until 7 am."

The council directed the staff to focus on a city-wide noise code that will allow for a live music component so people who are doing a public benefit by providing live music don't have to operate in the shadows.

"Let's have a very clear ordinance that makes sense to everyone," Jung said. "I'll look forward to seeing something like that going to the Planning Commission."

**TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR APRIL 4 CITY COUNCIL**

2. Rules of Procedure and Decorum for City Council Meetings
3. Classification Plan Update Relating to Police Officer Trainee and Police Officer Series Positions
4. Intrim Director of Public Works Employment Agreement
5. OKTA Identity Security License Renewals
6. Dump Truck Replacement Purchase
7. Traffic Signal Vehicle Detection Equipment Purchase
8. POINTE COMMON AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT at 1600 West Commonwealth Ave
9. 2023 FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION OPTIONS
10. Transportation and Circulation Commission Decision to Deny an Early Morning Parking Exemption on Both Sides of West Whiting Ave Between Ford and Highland APPEAL
11. Electricity Costs, Rates, and Options to Opt Down or Withdraw from the ORANGE COUNTY POWER AUTHORITY JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT (JPA)

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- District 5: Ahmad Zahra Council (714) 738-6311 [AhmadZ@cityoffullerton.com](mailto:AhmadZ@cityoffullerton.com)

**STATE OF THE CITY** *continued from front page*

of us – five of us – excuse me are now called to fulfill. I said four because there was an advertisement on social media that only had four of us,” Jung said.

This public action by Jung was even surprising to regular city council viewers who have long witnessed his disrespect of Zahra, including passing Zahra over for any committee appointments or upholding fair rotation and Zahra’s turn as mayor and voting for himself for the second time.

Zahra is Fullerton’s first openly gay and first Muslim council member. He recently won his second term despite the fact that there were many political attack ads funded by a Bushala-backed PAC called Taxpayers for Reform. Zahra also won his seat against candidate Oscar Valadez who both Bushala and Jung supported.

Newly elected council member Shana Charles walked out in protest. See her open letter to Mayor Jung on this page.

The accompanying three videos featured several of Jung’s political donors, including developer Tony Bushala, Jung’s campaign manager Jane Rands, and several downtown business owners, among others, speaking about the importance of the railroad and Fullerton’s excellent schools.

After the first video, Jung told a story about how devastated he was as a child to have lost a reading contest to a girl in his class and how that experience affected his life to always “read that extra book” and energized his intention to work hard to represent Fullerton residents. (Jung’s District 1 council seat is up for election in 2024, and he has already opened his campaign with contributions of over \$63,000).

The \$20,000 video taxpayers paid for was an excellent PR piece produced by Todd Huffman. Still, it left out the state of our roads, people experiencing homelessness, the fentanyl epidemic, and the lack of affordable housing.

The second video highlighted volunteer committees and service and education organizations. Notable was the absence of volunteerism and contributions by the large Hispanic population, such as Eglith Nunci and the District 5 Woodcrest women’s group, who have had a significant influence on the quality of life by advocating for improvement in parks, stop-lights, safety and crime prevention, infrastructure, and health. They have also spent countless hours organizing park cleanups, doing

a census for hard-to-count people, food drives, and community events to inform and advocate for residents.

Jung spoke about a new Korean Sister City, international commerce, and the streamlining of Fullerton’s planning department, with an open door for developers. But, unfortunately, Jung’s glowing portrayal of the city contradicts the reality of extremely reduced city employee retention and reliance on temp service employees. Finally, he talked about Fullerton’s diverse population and how business-friendly Fullerton is.

The third video centered on development around town, including the 1.5 million sq.ft. Goodman Logistics Center on E. Orangethorpe at State College Blvd. (previous location of Kimberly Clark), revealing for the first time that lessees of the massive warehouse/distribution property are Samsung, grocery chain Sprouts, and Japanese video game publisher Bandai Namco. Among other projects featured were Ralph Kim’s new Hispanic Provecho Market on Euclid, the new industrial use of the former Fullerton Hotel by the 91 freeway, the Fox Block on Harbor renovation, the transportation center hotel proposal, and various housing developments. According to the video, the city accepted 1609 new business registrations in 2022.

“We must change to keep pace with the future though our pride and egos can get in the way. We will ensure that every person in Fullerton has access to fair and just public safety, amenities, improved infra-

structure, and affordable housing. Our shared values make Fullerton great. I have great faith in our ability to come together and overcome our differences to build an extraordinary future for our neighbors, children, and grandchildren,” Jung said.

A list of sponsors of the event includes Farmers & Merchants Bank, Shopoff Realty Investments, Meta Housing Corp, DIO Real Estate, Hozoro Mortgage, Rexford Industrial, Innoarc Architecture Construction, Jones & Mayer Law, Edison Int, OC Power Authority, SoCal Gas, Stantec, Republic Services, Morningside, Providence St. Jude, GiabitNOW, Fibercity SIFI Networks, Credit Union of SC, and others.

The event was live-streamed and is available on youtube at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X-IIEjgJI\\_8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X-IIEjgJI_8)

**“I have great faith in our ability to come together and overcome our differences to build an extraordinary future for our neighbors, children, and grandchildren,” said Jung.**

**Open Letter to Mayor Fred Jung**

Dear Mayor Jung,

As you may have noticed, I left the room during the State of the City address last Wednesday. I am writing to make clear that I did not leave due to any other commitments or appointments. Rather, I was deeply disappointed in the treatment of Councilman Zahra in the speech. As Fullerton’s elected official chosen by a Council majority to represent our city and thereby give this speech, you had a responsibility to represent all of Fullerton. It was shocking and embarrassing to our city that personal vendettas were aired in this way.

The disrespect shown to Councilman Zahra not only insults his five years of public service, during which he has uplifted our most underserved communities, led the effort to clean up water PFAS contamination in District 5, and promoted economic growth in our Harbor corridor, but also was a direct rebuke to all those he represents. Councilman Zahra is not only the first

representative to specifically serve District 5, he is also the first Muslim and the first LGBTQ+ person to serve on the Fullerton City Council. For his public service and his commitment to his constituents, he deserved to be shown the same respect shown to other members of the Council.

Fullerton is an inclusive, multicultural, forward-looking city that is united in our common goal of building the city of our future while respecting our historic past. Our Mayor must promote those values for the common good. If you wish to continue as Mayor of Fullerton, it is your responsibility in that position to represent our city well, and to put aside your own interests when you are acting as our Mayor. I urge you to immediately and publicly apologize to Councilman Zahra.

Respectfully,  
Dr. Shana Charles  
Council member, Fullerton, D3  
(657) 767-6993  
[Shana.charles@cityoffullerton.com](mailto:Shana.charles@cityoffullerton.com)

**Know the Law** by Saskia Kennedy

**Safely Surrendered Baby Program**

The Safely Surrendered Baby Law responds to the increasing number of newborn infant deaths due to abandonment in unsafe locations. First created in January 2001, the Safely Surrendered Baby Law was signed permanently into state law in January 2006. The law’s intent is to save lives of newborn infants at risk of abandonment by encouraging parents or persons with lawful custody to safely surrender the infant within 72 hours of birth, with no questions asked.

**THE LAW**

The Safely Surrendered Baby law (California Health and Safety Code, section 1255.7) provides a safe alternative for the surrender of a newborn baby in specified circumstances. Under the Safely Surrendered Baby law, a parent or person with lawful custody can safely surrender a baby confidentially, and without fear of prosecution, within 72 hours of birth.

The Safely Surrendered Baby law requires the baby be taken to a public or private hospital, designated fire station or other safe surrender site, as determined by the local County Board of Supervisors. No questions will be asked and California Penal Code Section 271.5 protects surrendering individuals from prosecution of abandonment.

**THE PROCESS**

At the time of surrender, a bracelet is placed on the baby for identification purposes and a matching bracelet provided to the parent or lawful guardian,



in case the baby is reclaimed. A parent or person with lawful custody has up to 14 days from the time of surrender to reclaim their baby.

A medical questionnaire must be offered, however it is a voluntary document and can be declined. The questionnaire is offered solely for the purpose of collecting medical information critical to the health and survival of the infant. All identifying information that pertains to a parent or individual who surrenders a child is strictly confidential.

**All Fullerton Fire Stations participate in the Safe Surrender Baby program.**

**Optional Medical Questionnaire**

Although a person surrendering a baby under the Safely Surrendered Baby Law will be asked to complete a medical questionnaire, the form is optional and is intended solely for the purpose of collecting medical information critical to the health and survival of the child. Any information that may identify the person surrendering the baby will be removed in order to maintain that person’s confidentiality.

**Listen to the Student Run Podcast  
Observing Fullerton**

Observing Fullerton is a non-profit student run hands on journalistic experience focusing on keeping Fullerton positive by interviewing the people that do good works in and around Fullerton.

Recommend someone to [admin@observingfullerton.org](mailto:admin@observingfullerton.org)



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**STATE OF THE COMMUNITY**  
 With Mayor Fred Jung  
**Monday, April 10, 2023**  
**2:30pm to 3:30pm**  
 (As Always, 2pm for Networking!)  
**Fullerton Public Library Community Room**  
**353 W Commonwealth Ave, Fullerton, CA**  
 Streaming live @fullertoncollaborative



**HIGH SCHOOL BOARD**  
**HIGHLIGHTS & Commentary by Vivien Moreno**  
 The Fullerton Joint Union High School District Board  
 More information: (714) 870-2800 or [www.fjuhsd.net](http://www.fjuhsd.net)

## Real California Parent Rights

The 118th Congress recently passed HR 5, "The Parents Bill of Rights," and then the bill moved to stagnate in the United States Senate. The good news is a majority of HR 5's parental rights already exist for California parents of a student attending public school.

Parent rights can be separated into reactive and proactive actions. Media clickbait focuses on parents reacting to situations involving their child when it involves shouting and anger. Most parental education rights are proactive starting each year when parents are informed of conduct, dress codes, and grading procedures when they provide schools with emergency information.

For decades, opportunities to meet with their child's teacher at least twice yearly officially occur during the back-to-school night and fall conferences. Teachers provide multiple ways for parents and students to contact them through email, telephone calls, apps, and scheduled meetings.

Parents receive quarterly report cards reflecting if their child is at grade level for reading and can monitor daily attendance and homework through AERIES.

California guardians/parents can review all curriculum textbook material for a student's class 30 days before school board approval or upon request to the student's principal. Parents may remove their child from a particular lesson; however, the child is responsible for the lesson content on future assessments and may not be excused the entire class day.

Parents may review any film or online lesson plan before class instruction. Still, as a parent who sat through the "understanding your body" health films, it is 2 hours of your life you never get back. Public access to all grade-level California State Standards is on the California Department of Education website. [www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc/](http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc/)

Parents can participate in annual Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) meetings making sure the LCAP aligns with the district's budget revenue allocations. All parents, including nonvoting members, may attend school site council meetings to read the yearly school plans for student achievement.

Through these groups and surveys, parents can disclose additional knowledge they think the district should offer, like financial literacy, social media safety, academic services like tutoring, career and college exposure, internships, and health support through wellness centers and meal assistance.

Focus groups and LCAP meetings allow parents to tell a district what is working and what needs to change. Guardians can join PTA, English Language Advisory Committees

(ELAC), and Foundations to get more involved.

Parents can comment during attending public school board meetings while monitoring district budgets and new or discontinued curricula and programs. Director of Fiscal Services, Mr. Rami Bashara, presented the second interim report at the March 14 FJUHS board meeting informing the trustees and the audience that the district is in good standing with over \$240 million in expected revenues this year, averaging around \$15,800 per student, including one-time state and federal money allocations.

Mr. Bashara stated the district is watching declining enrollment numbers, increased low-income student populations, and inflated operational costs. Still, the district's financial status aligns with the LCAP reflecting a favorable fiscal position.

California student privacy laws exist to protect children from exploitation and harm. However, some complicated situations require discretion and caution to protect a student's privacy and cause other parents to be unaware of a student attending their local school experiencing health or family issues.

School administration and teachers are called to act as guardians while students attend school activities, but parents are informed about scheduled events through announcements and permission slips. In cases of emergency, or if the danger originates from the home, then school becomes a designated community resource for students to access help.

Out of all the redundancy listed in HR 5, two new services listed should be part of parental and student rights going forward. First, the ability to conduct parent conferences in person or by video conferencing makes it much easier for guardians to attend teacher conferences.

Second, stipulating all students nationwide to have broadband access is a real game changer. Lack of universal broadband access makes even parts of Fullerton an internet wasteland which incentivized the FJUHS to continue providing hotspots for students living in these areas.

California parents already have numerous rights in public school settings. However, engaging in proactive parental rights is an ongoing commitment of time and effort throughout the 13 or 14 years a child spends from T-K to graduation.

While not as dramatic as reactive parental engagement, proactive activities often add value to a child's success and welfare since it is done early, often, and consistently.

**While not as dramatic as reactive parental engagement, proactive activities often add value to a child's success and welfare since it is done early, often, and consistently.**



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FRIENDS OF JAZZ

## Friends of Jazz Mardi Gras 2023

*The good times rolled to keep music in the schools* by Judi McDuff

About 100 guests had plenty to celebrate at this year's Mardi Gras Ball, held on March 19 at the Velvet Rose in Orange. They literally had a ball. After all, it was the biggest fundraiser held by Friends of Jazz this year. And it was all for a good cause: keeping music in the schools.

And boy did they celebrate! Plenty of dancing, parading, eating, drinking, bidding on auction items and just plain merriment!

At 5pm, doors opened for cocktail hour, and guests were greeted by the CSUF Titan Ramblers (Bill Cunliffe, director). They were served delicious hors-d'oeuvres, given a drink ticket, a mask, and a ticket for a free photo while the band entertained. They also got their first look at the array of silent auction items beautifully displayed in numerous baskets, and they bought tickets for a 50/50 drawing and for the ever-popular wine wheel (which included a chance for dinner at the Summit House).

Dressed in their finest clothes, masks and costumes, guests joyfully joined in the krewe parade. FOJ's dragon and Fullerton College's Lemon Street Stompers led the way with Director Bruce Babad on the sax. Throughout the venue one could see, dancing and waving beautifully decorated parasols, while the krewe played "When the Saints Go Marching In."

In the ballroom, the CSU Fullerton Jazz Orchestra, directed by Bill Cunliffe, provided some great entertainment for listening, and there was

plenty of dancing. Of course, what ball would not be complete without the introduction of the 2022 king and queen, Nick and Dottie Batinich, whose reign began at the 2020 Mardi Gras Ball. Then FOJ President Colleen introduced the new royal couple for 2023: Bob and Doris Muschek.

While at dinner, guests were treated to the jazz vocal group, Fullerton College's own J-Train. Later on, their director, Jamie Shew, sang several crowd-pleasing jazz standards with the CSU Fullerton Jazz Orchestra, along with local crooner Gavin Braun and surprise vocalist Mark Miller. And there were plenty of dancers who enjoyed the music.

After collecting their auction items, guests were given a commemorative bag with a ballpoint pen and a small notebook to take home.

Many thanks to the National Charity League gals, their moms and FOJ member Nancy Nehring for helping make the event a success. Kudos to Larry Arthur, Mardi Gras Ball Director; Colleen Wadsworth, Assistant Director; Pam Appleman, Auction Chair; Don Dyer and Colleen Wadsworth, emcees; and to the Mardi Gras Committee for tirelessly putting it all together. And thanks to our members and guests, for helping to keep music in the schools by supporting this wonderful event.

Friends of Jazz, now in its 24th year, is supported by the Johnny Carson Foundation.

## INDIVIDUAL & COUPLES THERAPY

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### Teen Observer by Francine, 11th grade

## Tired of the Perennial Hectic Pace? Try this Interesting Antidote

If being a high school freshman gets you all geared up to prepare for college, wait until you reach junior year. This is when everything hits a frenetic pace. Many students take more challenging courses like APs and IBs. Extra-curricular activities crowd their already busy schedules. Even though not required in many colleges, a number opt to take the PSAT and SATs, hoping that with higher test scores, they might have a better chance at their preferred universities. Even the upcoming summer break may not even be a break at all, with some rising seniors trying to land internships and summer programs that they think might help even more with college preparation. The pressure is relentless, and it has never been this real. I am one of these juniors. I never realized I was feeling so much pressure until one quiet evening in the wilderness, away from the hustle and bustle of the city, with no device to hold onto for the first time in a very long time. I felt like a mountain load of pressure was taken off my back. It was a great relief. I was with other teens, but each of us was left to explore our inner space, the immaterial dimension of our lives.

We were all participants in a three-day retreat to prepare for an important rite in a Catholic teen's life - the Sacrament of Confirmation. We were born and raised in the Catholic reli-

gion. In a couple of weeks, we will officially confirm our decision to continue practicing our faith. But, Catholic or not, I discovered an immense value in the concept of spiritual retreat. Beyond religion (such as the organizational structures that people of similar beliefs are identified with), my experience with going on a retreat for the first time has brought awareness to that "something" that brings consciousness or "life" to my body which many refer to as our spirit or our soul. It is like a magical moment that made me realize that besides the apparent external life, I have an interior life that I need to nurture. It brings self-knowledge, a sense of peace, and an aspiration to connect more with what truly matters, like love, compassion, kindness, and being at peace with myself, my family, and my friends. I feel renewed. For three brief days surrounded by nature, it felt like I had gained a higher self-knowledge and revitalized my mental health.

If you're feeling tired of the perennial hectic pace of school or life in general, you might want to try this great antidote - a spiritual retreat. You may plan your own retreat, or you may reach out to family and friends for a referral to one that is professionally organized. For my retreat, I went to the Santiago Retreat Center in Silverado, Orange County, California, a 40-minute drive or less from Fullerton, nestled in an idyllic wilderness.

### Historical Perspective

by Mateo, 9th grade



## A Double-sided Day The Pranksters and the Fools

Just a couple of days ago, on April 1st, one of the most anticipated holidays for jokesters and pranksters alike occurred; April Fools' Day. Each year on the first of April, many people spend the entire day executing a variety of deceptive tricks on friends and family to embarrass and humiliate them in a fun, playful way.

These pranks can lead to a bunch of hilarious reactions from their victims, which is what the pranksters aim to achieve with their mischief. However, the large collection of tricks that are committed on this day begs the question: Why is April 1st the most popular day to prank others? Why don't we execute these funny acts on another day instead? Let's dive deeper into the origins of April Fools' Day to see how it has evolved over the years.

Although nobody knows for sure how April Fools' Day came to be, historians have a solid assumption as to where it originated. They believe the holiday dates all the way back to the year 1582, when the Gregorian calendar took the place of the Julian calendar in France.

One of the major differences between the two calendars is the beginning of the new year. The Julian calendar year starts around April 1st, while the new Gregorian calendar starts on January 1st. Many people realized that some citizens either had not heard the news of the calendar change yet or refused to acknowledge the new beginning of the year, meaning that they continued to celebrate the new year on April 1st. These ignorant people soon fell victim to a barrage of hoaxes and were thus

named "April fools." Some of these pranks involved people placing paper fish on the backs of April fools, symbolizing their gullible nature.

Historians also speculate that April Fools' Day is linked to the ancient Roman festival Hilaria, where crowds got together in late March and dressed in various costumes to mock other citizens, as well as to the Vernal Equinox, where it is said that Mother Nature fools unsuspecting people with its crazy weather on the first day of spring. April Fools' Day spread to the United Kingdom in the 18th century, where people sent others on crazy quests and kicked other peoples' bottoms.

Ultimately, the culmination of all these events and celebrations led to what we now know today as April Fools' Day. Nowadays, most pranks can spread quickly and affect millions due to the media. For example, in 1998 Burger King began promoting a new food item known as the Left-Handed Whopper, which drove many people to their drive-thrus requesting the fake meal.

Of course, if you prefer the more traditional pranks such as loosening the salt container or placing a whoopee cushion on your dad's chair, those are always viable options for smaller groups. So, now that you know a bit more about April Fools' Day, you have the entire year to plan out your attacks for April Fools' Day. Just make sure that they will not harm anyone or break any federal, state, or school/home regulations. Most importantly, have fun and stay alert!

### Back to Basics by Declan, 7th grade



## Our Body Needs it, but We Often Take it for Granted

From commonly being an ignored drink when there are sweeter options like juices, to being a daily necessity, water is required to be consumed by every human. According to the Centers of Disease Control (CDC), water regulates the human body's temperature and lubricates joints while protecting sensitive tissues like the spinal cord.

Without the quenching liquid, fatigue would kick in and the extreme thirst will lead to organ failure. However, not drinking enough water causes constipation which initiates severe pain in the lower stomach and abdomen.

Water flushes out waste through uri-

nation, perspiration, and bowel movements. Not absorbing enough water, the human intestines will be blocked, not allowing anything through unless laxatives are used.

The human intestine is around 15 feet long and waste continuing to block this important organ with nowhere to go would explode or cause injuries to the body.

The only way to prevent this catastrophe is to drink around a dozen cups of water for adults and 8 cups of water for juveniles, a simple daily routine that will save torturous pain.

### Viewpoint by Irene, 11th grade



## In Hot Water

Following a wave of concerns that TikTok's parent company, ByteDance, may be accessing user data and therefore enabling propaganda made by the Chinese Communist Party, American politicians have introduced new legislation to restrict the use of foreign-based technology companies and platforms, including TikTok. With over 150 million active U.S. users, according to CEO Shou Zi Chew, these efforts set a dangerous precedent for the future of our First Amendment rights.

There's no doubt that the platform has its fair share of defects. From misinformation to mental health concerns related to social media use, TikTok faces challenges that any other online platform is naturally subject to. But at its core, this initiative made by U.S. politicians is a blatant act of xenophobia and a modern-day example of the Red Scare. As government officials attempt to regulate our access and use of online platforms, they also restrict

the flow of crucial information. After all, TikTok is a powerful tool for members of our generation to share their creative talents, build communities and actively advocate for real-life problems that otherwise go largely ignored.

As a high school junior, in this past school year alone, I have learned more things on TikTok than I have within my classrooms. Platforms like TikTok allow younger generations to demonstrate the power they wield. Politicians are afraid of this. They fear the momentum that we create. But rather than making an effort to outright ban the app, legislators must take more significant measures to protect users' privacy by introducing new legislation that limits how personal information is sold and used across all platforms.

Government bans on TikTok will only exacerbate censorship rights across the country.

<https://www.cnn.com/2023/03/18/tech/tiktok-ban-explainer/index.html>

### Animal Trivia & Featured Pet

by Rosie, 6th grade



## Meet Oslo

Meet one-year-old Oslo, a Staffordshire who just wants quality time with a large bunch of human friends!

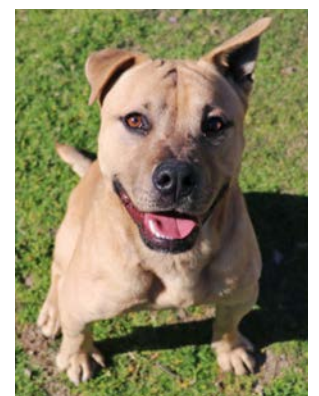
A love-able goofball, Oslo is very affectionate and enjoys the everyday walk. Staffies look like a pitbull but they are actually milder and friendlier. Oslo would sit for treats and let you enjoy his company.



PHOTO BY JOE SCHELLING

**Q: Are monarch butterflies poisonous?**

**A:** Recently, those colorful butterflies have been appearing less. Plummeting 99.9% since the 90s, they are officially on endangered status. 1,914 butterflies survive. Known for their long-distance migration, monarch butterflies can travel 2,700 miles. Eating poisonous milkweed as a caterpillar, they emerge as a butterfly with poison in their veins. Harmless to the monarch butterflies, but foul for predators. Once a predator snacks on a monarch, they will remember the distasteful experience forever.



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# HITS & MISSES

by Joyce Mason © 2023



## THE WHALE: Two Misses

Early in his career, Brendan Fraser starred in several popular films such as "The Mummy," "George of the Jungle," and "Gods and Monsters." But due to some health problems and several surgeries, Fraser's career was languishing until director Darren Aronofsky cast him in what had been an off-Broadway play that Aronofsky wanted to make into a film. "The Whale" proved to be a good casting decision and a successful comeback for Fraser because the actor just won an Academy Award for his starring role in this film.

Multiple challenges were built into the role because playing 600+ pound Charlie in "The Whale" required a daily application of cosmetics and prosthetics that took make-up artists six hours to apply. The film also required Fraser to rise from a sagging couch or an over-sized chair in order to maneuver slowly within his apartment. We have all heard the term "fat suit" and this is what Fraser wore each day. Also, with an enormous double chin and balloon cheeks, he had to express Charlie's emotions. In all of this, Fraser succeeds and is believable as grossly obese Charlie.

Charlie is employed as an on-line writing teacher working from a computer where he can see his students but with his own camera on "off" they cannot see him. He is good at this job and guides his college students through the challenges of thoughtful expression, careful analysis, and smooth organization. His criticism of their work is helpful but never harsh. Charlie does not leave his home, refusing to go to the hospital even when the visiting nurse, Liz (Hong Chau), gets an alarmingly high blood pressure reading.

A few other characters enter his home. Thomas (Ty Simpkins), a Christian Evangelist, likes to talk about religion with Charlie. Even though he remains unconverted, Charlie enjoys hearing Thomas's sincere religious beliefs. We gradually learn that Charlie

had been married but divorced his wife Mary (Samantha Morton) to have a homosexual affair with a former student. Charlie also has a seventeen-year-old daughter, Ellie (Sadie Sink), and he is trying to reconnect with her, but anger at her father for leaving them has consumed her. When he compliments Ellie on her intelligence and her insights, she flings invectives at him.

When he is not teaching or conversing with Thomas or Ellie or his former wife Mary, Charlie is eating. We see him eating an entire bucket of Kentucky-fried chicken; choking on an enormous meatball sandwich; eating and then vomiting up an entire pizza. Charlie never leaves his house and the farthest we get from his living room, bedroom and kitchen is a briefly seen front porch. We also catch a glimpse through two flashbacks of a trip taken nine years ago with Mary and Ellie when the three of them visited the coast of Oregon.

Yes, there are oblique references to Herman Melville's whale. Ellie has written an essay on "Moby Dick" and so have Charlie's students. But nothing takes us out of the bleakness of Charlie's existence. There are no light moments or hopeful insights in this two-hour movie. There are no grace notes, for nothing about Charlie's life allows us to rejoice in his humanity.

Director Aronofsky said in an interview: "What I really love about cinema is that it is this great exercise in empathy and that you can watch a movie about any person in the world and if it's an honest, truthful portrayal, you will be brought into their life." However, we don't know if what we have seen in this film is an honest and truthful portrayal of anyone's life, and it is difficult to feel empathy for a protagonist who wallows in self-indulgence while refusing to seek or accept medical help.

Even an award-winning performance cannot salvage two dreary hours.

**TWO HITS: Don't Miss it!**  
**A HIT & A MISS: You Might Like it.**  
**TWO MISSES: Don't Bother.**

**FRI, SAT, SUN**  
**through April 29**  
 • **8pm & 6pm: The Rocky Horror Show:** This anniversary production is sure to have audiences dancing in their seats.  
 RATED ADULT, not appropriate for under 13 Tickets \$15 - \$35  
**Maverick Theater**  
 110 E Walnut Ave, unit B, Fullerton (714) 526-7070 [mavericktheater.com](http://mavericktheater.com)

**THURS, FRI, SAT & SUN**  
**through April 2**  
 • **Times Vary: Did You See What Walter Paisley Did Today?:** When a struggling beatnik sculptor in San Francisco stumbles upon a new style of art that thrusts him into fame, fortune, and perhaps some big trouble, well – you'll just have to see what Walter Paisley did today.  
**La Mirada Theatre**  
 14900 La Mirada Blvd La Mirada Box Office: (714) 944-6310 [www.lamiradatheatre.com](http://www.lamiradatheatre.com)

**THURS, FRI, SAT**  
**May 4 through May 13**  
 • **7:30pm: THE WOLVES:**  
 Left quad. Right quad. Lunge. A girls indoor soccer team warms up. From the safety of their suburban stretch circle, the team navigates big questions and wages tiny battles with all the vim and vigor of a pack of adolescent warriors. A portrait of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for nine American girls who just want to score some goals. \$19  
**Fullerton College**  
**Bronwyn Dodson Theater**  
 321 E. Chapman Avenue, Fullerton Box Office: (714) 992-7150 [boxoffice@fullcoll.edu](mailto:boxoffice@fullcoll.edu)



**CalState University, Fullerton**  
 800 N State College Blvd, Fullerton (657) 278-3371 [artstickets.fullerton.edu](http://artstickets.fullerton.edu)

**Thurs, Fri, Sat**  
**Arena Theatre**  
**Through April 8**  
 • **8pm: Of Monkeys, Murders and Mayhem:** Six Plays by David Ives Minimum age is 4 years old and a ticket it required - no babes in arms. \$10

**Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun**  
**Little Theatre**  
 125 N Broadway, Santa Ana **March 24 to April 8**  
 • **2pm & 7:30pm: Street Scene - COTA Opera:** Please be advised this production contains mature subject matter, including violence, sexual assault, domestic abuse and language. \$24

**Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun**  
**Alumni House**  
**April 7 Through April 16**  
 • **8pm: Fefu and Her Friends**

It's 1935 and Fefu and her seven female friends are gathered at her country house for a raucous reunion. Conflicts arise as the friends gossip, plan, share, and interrogate each other, and themselves, in provocative ways that oftentimes conceal more than they reveal. Hailed as game-changing and challenging, "Fefu and Her Friends" is an innovative theater experience where the audience moves through four different stage sets as the drama unfolds around them.

\*\*\*Please note that this unique, immersive production takes place at the George G. Golleher Alumni House on the CSUF campus and is limited to just 40 patrons per performance and will require standing in certain locations for periods of time. The play also contains mature subject matter. \$14



**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2023**  
 MOVIE SHOWN AT 7:30 P.M. AT THE CAMPUS THEATRE  
 CULTURAL EVENT BEGINS AT 6:30 P.M.  
 321 E. CHAPMAN AVENUE  
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 ADMISSION:  
 FULLERTON COLLEGE STUDENTS: \$7  
 GENERAL PUBLIC: \$10  
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 Tickets \$35

**THURSDAY, APRIL 6**

• **7:30pm: Anna Maria Mendieta:** She has received international recognition for pioneering the harp as a contemporary tango instrument.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 13**

• **7:30pm: Two Accordion:** Father daughter duo Sergei and Maria Teleshev are both World Accordion Champions.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19**

• **7:30pm: Ilya Yakushev:** Russian pianist Ilya Yakushev will perform the music of Rachmaninoff, Beethoven, and Gershwin in honor of composer Rachmaninoff 150th birthday.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 27**

• **7:30pm: Night of Music:** An evening of music from the artists that will present the two musicals in the season in the amphitheater as a part of the Muck Thursday Night Concert Series.

Tickets at [electriccompanytheatre.org](http://electriccompanytheatre.org)  
 Event by Electric Company Theatre, the resident theatre company of The Muck.

**THURSDAY, MAY 4**

• **7:30pm: Bren Holmes:** With a career spanning 30 plus years, Dublin-born, long-time L.A. resident Bren Holmes made his name as an original member of Irish rock band 'The Young Dubliners'. His recent solo debut showcases his songwriting talent and mixes his Irish roots with folk/Americana influences.

**18th Annual Muck JazzFest:**

**Every Thursday, May 11 - June 15**  
 Eclectic, cutting-edge, and contemporary—join us for The Muck's Jazz Festival in Spring of 2023. \$35

**Fullerton College Campus Theatre**  
 321 East Chapman Ave, Fullerton (714) 992-7034 *Tickets at door.*

**THURSDAY April 6**

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**WEDNESDAY, April 26**

• **7:30pm: SYMPHONY:** The Fullerton College Symphony is a full orchestral ensemble comprised of Strings, Winds, Brass, and Percussion. The orchestra is comprised of undergraduate music majors and non-music majors who perform at a high level. Tickets \$10



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**WEDNESDAY, April 5**

**Meng Concert Hall**

• **8pm & 6pm: Brightwork New Music Guest Artist Recital:** Part of the 22nd Annual New Music Series "Out of Doors" Tickets \$10

**WEDNESDAY, April 12**

**Meng Concert Hall**

• **8pm: Jean Ferrandis, flute & Dominique Williancourt, cello Faculty & Guest Artist Recital:** Part of the 22nd Annual New Music Series "Out of Doors" Tickets \$10

**SATURDAY, April 15**

**Meng Concert Hall**

• **8pm: High School Festival & Symphonic Winds:** Minimum age is 4 years old and a ticket it required - no babes in arms. Tickets \$5

**SUNDAY, April 23**

**Meng Concert Hall**

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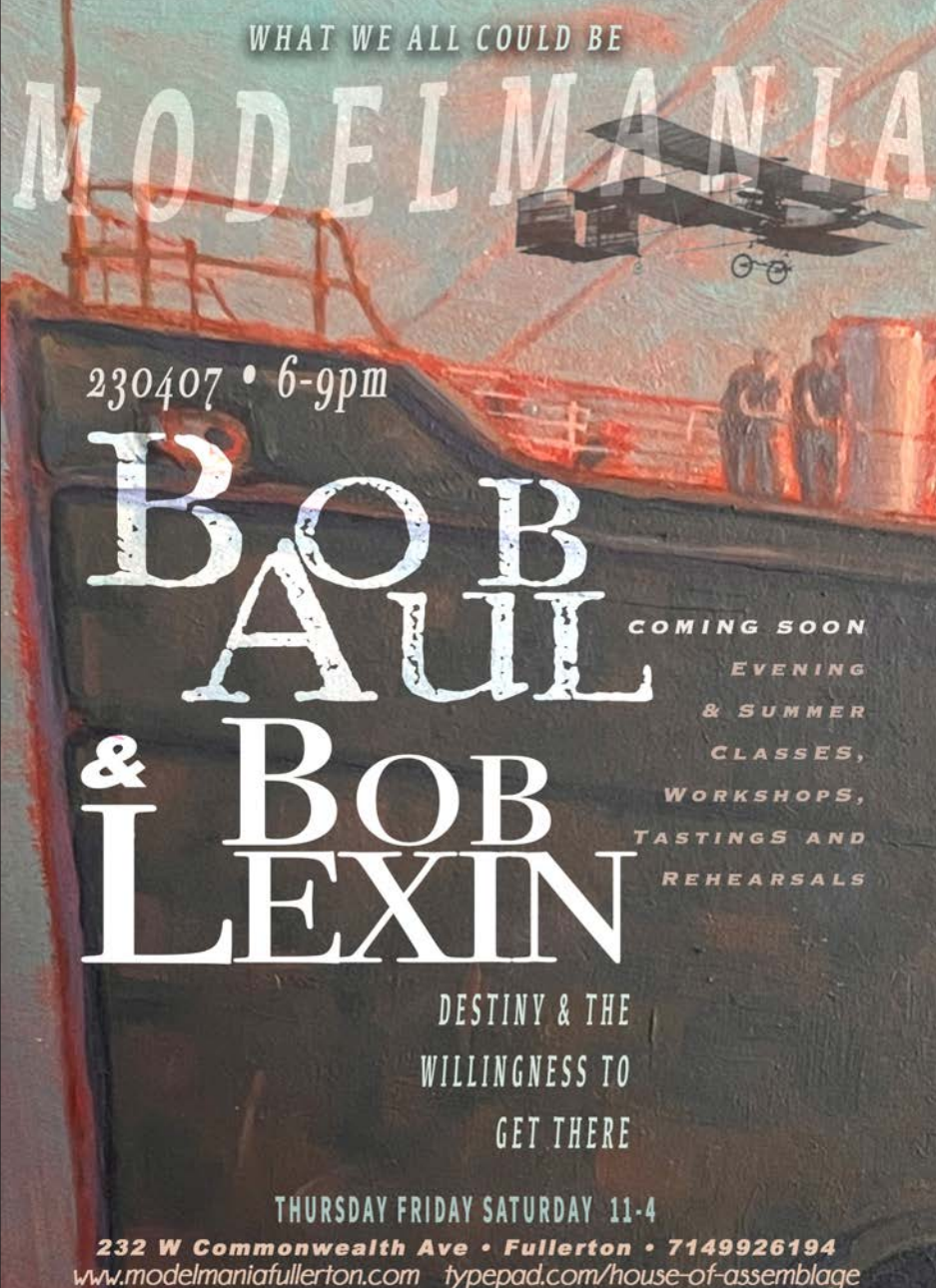
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- **Opening Gallery Reception:** Thurs Apr 6 | 5:30-7:30pm
- **May 11: "Fresh on the New Lawn" Competition**

**Show runs April 6 to May 26**  
**Master of Goryeo Celadon**

- **Opening Gallery Reception:** Thurs Apr 6 | 5:30-7:30pm

"Story of a Thousand Years" by Master Kim Se-Yong and his son, Dr. Dohun Kim, features the tradition of Korean Goryeo Celadon, a ceramic artform with a thousand year history. The vast array of 70 pieces were executed by a master of the form who, at age 77, is still working and whose works are in the collections of the Dalai Lama and the late Queen Elizabeth II.



**VIDEO OBSERVER**

by Emerson Little © 2023

See videos on YouTube @emersonlittle1901

**ALPHA's A Day of Authors Provides Funds for Local Philanthropies**

Every spring for the past 29 years, Fullerton's Assistance League Professional Humanitarian Auxiliary (ALPHA) has hosted "A Day of Authors," a popular fundraising event where well-known authors inform and entertain over 400 book enthusiasts. As in years past, proceeds from the 2023 "A Day of Authors" will help fund ALPHA's many philanthropy programs in Fullerton and surrounding North Orange County communities. Since this will be their 30th year holding the "Day of Authors," I decided to reach out to Becky D'Arrigo, ALPHA Resource Development Chair, to find out more about the philanthropies the auxiliary supports, how they've provided support to these different charities, and what they do for their communities.

"From 1992, ALPHA has hosted A Day of Authors. The generosity of event sponsors and funds raised by ticket and book sales, silent auctions, and raffles support our philanthropic efforts," said D'Arrigo via email.

According to their website, the auxiliary was organized in 1989 and received its charter in 1990. They're a volunteer 501(c)(3) non-profit, which means all contributions they receive are tax deductible. ALPHA comprises professional or businesswomen who support and invest their time and varied talents in "transforming lives through community programs that meet essential needs, especially those of children and youth." Currently, ALPHA consists of nearly 70 members, including those with active, sustaining, and associate status. This auxiliary is a part of the Assistance League of Fullerton. The National Assistance League has over 22,000 members in 120 chapters nationwide focused on making "our communities a better place to live." This year marks ALPHA's 33rd year serving Fullerton, Brea, Placentia, Yorba Linda, La Habra, and Buena Park.

The non-profit helps the "Healthy Beginnings" Program at St.

Jude's Neighborhood Health Center by providing clothing, blankets, diapers, and age-appropriate preschool books to needy infants and toddlers to support pre- and post-natal care reading readiness. According to an ALPHA Philanthropy Program flyer from last year, St. Jude Neighborhood Health Centers received a provision of 108 clothing sets, 40 blankets, 80 cases of diapers, and around 197 age-appropriate books from the auxiliary to help local children. According to ALPHA's website, "the Tiny Togs philanthropic program of Assistance League Professional Humanitarian Auxiliary supplies St. Jude Medical Center's Healthy Beginnings Program with baby layettes and its Pediatric Mobile Health Vans with reading books."

The "Day of Authors" event also allows the organization to support the McKinney-Vento Toiletry & Birthday Book Program. Assistance League Professional Humanitarian Auxiliary Volunteers distribute toiletry kits to homeless students in the Fullerton and Placentia/Yorba Linda School Districts. In addition, they celebrate the birthdays of these children with cupcakes and deliveries of wrapped books.

ALPHA also provides books for classroom libraries and supports scholarships for students. Last year, according to the organization's website, 26 teachers in the Fullerton School District, from Pre-K through 8th grade, were awarded up to \$250 each in books for approximately 450 books across 22 schools at the cost of about \$4,000. D'Arrigo explained that ALPHA's Teacher Classroom Assistance Awards are available to schools in the Fullerton School District to enhance their classroom libraries and promote reading in the community. ALPHA offers post-secondary Education Scholarships to help needy Fullerton Joint Union High School graduating seniors, who may be the first in their family to pursue accredited post-secondary education or training.

**ALPHA also provides books for classroom libraries and supports scholarships for students.**



Above: ALPHA Delivering Tiny Togs clothing  
Below: Donation to Tara's Chance PHOTOS COURTESY OF ALPHA



In coordination with Tara's Chance, ALPHA donates scholarship funds to allow children access to equine-assisted activities and therapies. The program promotes the physical, cognitive, and social well-being of at-risk youth and those with special needs through a partnership with horses.

Working with Fullerton Police Explorer Program Post 204, ALPHA donates scholarship funds to provide opportunities for deserving students to attend the police academy and learn about careers in law enforcement. Last year, according to the ALPHA Philanthropy Programs flyer, \$1,000 in scholarships were donated to provide the opportunity for ten deserving students to join the Explorer Program.

"In conjunction with the Assistance League of Fullerton, through their Operation School Bell project, we provide needy children and youth in the communities we serve with backpacks filled with clothing, shoes, and reading books, as well as providing Target paid shopping events, where the children can purchase clothing and

school supplies," said D'Arrigo via email. "We also join with their Operation New Start program in donations of food items to Pathways of Hope, and their Santa's Closet, Silver Santa project, providing toiletry items to needy seniors in the Meals on Wheels program. Along with Pathways of Hope and Fullerton School District Parent/Teacher Association, ALPHA provides holiday gift cards for families in need to use in the Assistance League Thrift Shop."

She explained that the organization purchases \$10,000 worth of books to enhance the Fullerton Public Library's young reader and teenage book collections. The non-profit also purchases plush toys that resemble the Police Department's canine comfort dog, "Nubbin." The toys are then given to local children during traumatic events.

Through last year's Day of Authors event, ALPHA raised well over \$600,000, according to ALPHA Chairperson Heather Gonzalez. The 2023 "A Day of Authors" event is scheduled for Saturday, April 22nd, at

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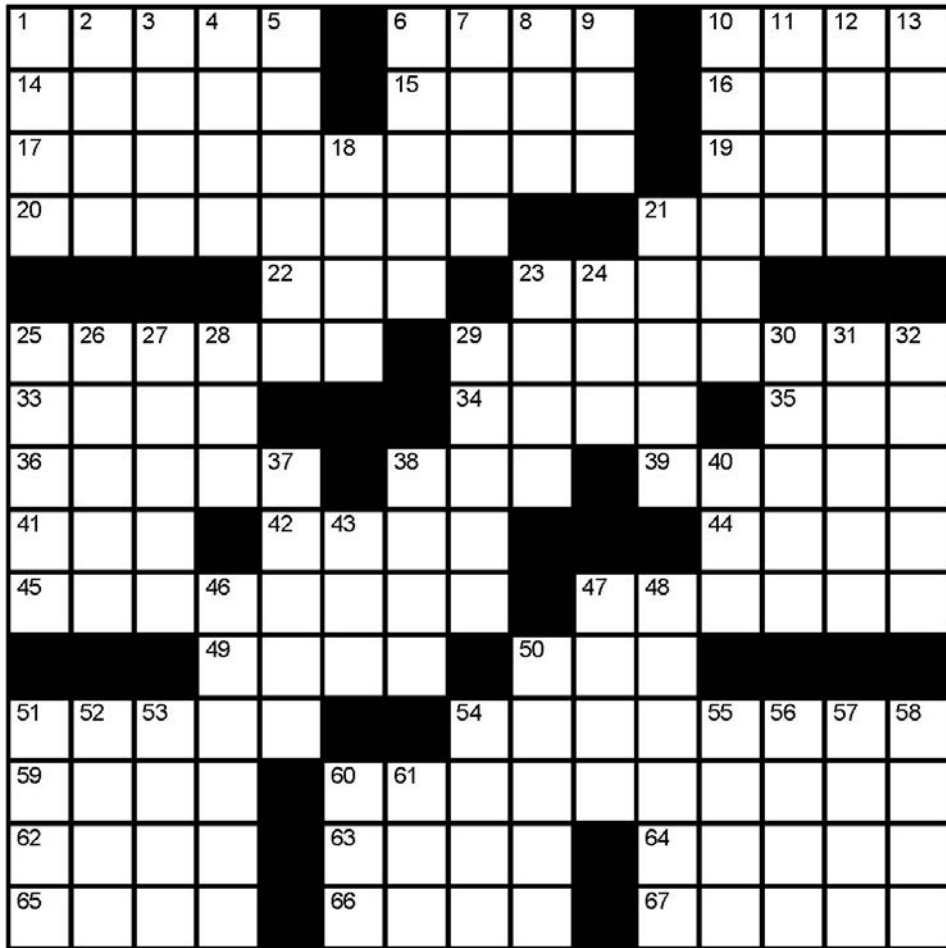
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# OUR TOWN CROSSWORD © 2023

"EGGS-CELLENT" by Valerie Brickey (answer key on page 15)



### ACROSS

- 1. Rum-soaked cakes
- 6. Word of woe
- 10. "Come again?"
- 14. Naproxen brand
- 15. Big party
- 16. Per person
- 17. \*Asian appetizer
- 19. Hillside near a loch
- 20. Much-anticipated nights out
- 21. \_\_\_ Hawkins dance
- 22. Water tester
- 23. Toot
- 25. Complicated situations
- 29. \*Rit result, perhaps
- 33. "\_\_\_ do you good"
- 34. Austin univ., in slang
- 35. Sedona auto maker
- 36. \_\_\_ Taco (dessert discontinued in 2022)
- 38. King topper
- 39. Rushed toward
- 41. Enero to enero
- 42. Fey of "30 Rock"
- 44. Ice cream holder
- 45. \*Pub crawl
- 47. Egg-centric holiday, and what both of the words in the starred answers relate to
- 49. Sneakers brand
- 50. Defective
- 51. Light \_\_\_ (ethereal)
- 54. Strike a chord (with)
- 59. Part of a Clue accusation
- 60. \*Poke fun at pals, say
- 62. Tombstone lawman
- 63. "Get Lucky" group \_\_\_ Punk
- 64. Shipping weights
- 65. Alerts from the LAPD
- 66. Graphic \_\_\_
- 67. "Blue Italian" English china maker

### DOWN

- 1. Big party
- 2. Food for Fido
- 3. Ernie's pal
- 4. Eager
- 5. Washington 100
- 6. Concur
- 7. Neighbor of Cambodia
- 8. Pledge of Allegiance ender
- 9. "Do the Right Thing" pizzeria owner
- 10. Google Docs, e.g.
- 11. Like a Saturday crossword
- 12. Trendy berry
- 13. What you used to be
- 18. Vintage Pontiac muscle cars
- 21. Passover meal
- 23. 8 bits, usually
- 24. Wide shoe width
- 25. Book after Jonah
- 26. Prefix with centric
- 27. John B, e.g.
- 28. Capital WNW of Denver
- 29. Old Venetian coin
- 30. In \_\_\_ (constricted)
- 31. "Big Little Lies" author Moriarty
- 32. Alma \_\_\_
- 37. None of the above
- 38. Authors Beattie and Patchett
- 40. Summer coolers, for short
- 43. Alternative to the pill, briefly
- 46. Cuts corners
- 47. Dawn direction
- 48. Rescues from the pound
- 50. Tops
- 51. Locale
- 52. Daytime TV "story"
- 53. Choice of two
- 54. Rapids transit
- 55. Type of tide
- 56. Prefix with dynamic
- 57. Rolled up unannounced?
- 58. Latin 101 word
- 60. Nutritional abbr.
- 61. Dinghy propeller

## AT HOME WITH THE HOMELESS

by Andrew Williams © 2023



### Remembering Kelly Thomas

You can't discuss homelessness without having a concurrent discussion about how we as a society treat the mentally ill. And you can't have a conversation about the homeless and mentally ill in Orange County without talking about Kelly Thomas. So this will be a two-part column. Part One is the "just the facts" about what happened to Kelly Thomas. Part Two will deal with lessons learned and unlearned.

On the evening of July 5, 2011, around 8:30 pm, the Fullerton Police Department (FPD) received a call from an employee of the Slidebar, located on Commonwealth Ave, that someone was allegedly vandalizing automobiles near the Fullerton Transportation Center (FTC), located at the intersection of Commonwealth and Pomona Avenues. FPD officers Manuel Ramos, Jay Cicinelli, and Joseph Wolfe went to investigate. They found Kelly Thomas, shirtless and disheveled, near the FTC.

He was initially described as being uncooperative and resistant to being searched.

Kelly Thomas was no stranger to the FPD or the police departments of neighboring cities. Between 1990 and 2011, Thomas had 92 encounters with the police. These encounters ranged from minor infractions, such as trespassing, to a guilty plea in an assault with a deadly weapon case sixteen years prior. It was also well-known to members of those departments that Thomas was homeless and schizophrenic. And unfortunately, people with schizophrenia sometimes stop taking their medications. So his lack of cooperation with peace officers could have been anticipated.

Instead of considering Thomas' obviously distressed mental state, the officers—particularly Officer Manuel Ramos—chose to become aggressive. "Now you see my fists?" Officer Ramos asked Thomas while slipping on a pair of latex gloves. "Yeah, what about them?" Thomas responded. "They are getting ready to f—k you up," said Ramos, to which Thomas replied, "Start punching, dude."

Pause. Does Thomas' response sound like the response of a rational, lucid human being? Or that of a mentally troubled man responding to a threat of aggression with a lack of concern for his safety? Anyone who has studied mental illness and the responses of mentally ill persons to authorities, such as law enforcement in crisis situations, is familiar with the oppositional defiant disorder (ODD). Persons diagnosed with ODD, as its name indicates, often respond with defiance to orders from authority figures, such as the police, known as "contempt of cop." This is not a crime, but it often elicits antagonism from peace officers.

At this point, where the infamous video recording begins, Thomas is sitting on a curb, not cooperating but not physically resisting officers. However, this changes very quickly when the

officers grab Thomas and yank him to his feet, supposedly to interrogate him about some stolen mail that they allegedly found on him. Thomas can be heard screaming in pain while the officers order him to comply, yelling, "I'm sorry!" and "OK, I'm trying!" as they stretch his arms behind his back.

Pause. The initial display of defiance has clearly given way to fear, confusion, and a plea for mercy. Not hardened criminal behavior but the response of a frightened, mentally ill person.

Resume. Unconvinced by Thomas' contrition and attempts to comply, the officers tasered him no less than FIVE TIMES. At this point, Thomas begins screaming for his father. The officers' response—now six in total—is to continue physically subduing Thomas.

Officer Ramos can be heard on the video saying, "I just smashed his face to Hell." He had been hitting Thomas



**A final note: Kelly Thomas would have turned 49 years old this week.**

in the face with the blunt end of his flashlight.

Thomas was initially taken to St. Jude Medical Center in Fullerton but was transferred immediately to the UC Irvine Medical Center with severe injuries to his head, face, and neck.

One EMT testified that he was first instructed to attend to a police officer's minor injury and then noticed Thomas lying unconscious in a pool of blood. Ramos had beaten Thomas' face so severely that he was unrecognizable. Indeed, if the picture of Thomas in the ER were to accompany this article, it would carry a warning

that this is a graphic photo that would upset readers.

Kelly Thomas died at UCI five days later, on July 10, 2011, without regaining consciousness. The autopsy revealed that, due to the beatings, Thomas had suffered compression of the thorax, which made it impossible for him to breathe normally and deprived his brain of oxygen, resulting in brain death.

His father, Ron Thomas, a former Orange County Sheriff's Deputy, took the Fullerton PD to court. The city of Fullerton was required to pay millions to Thomas' parents in compensation. In a still-controversial verdict, Ramos was found not guilty of 2nd-degree murder and involuntary manslaughter. Cicinelli was found not guilty of involuntary manslaughter and use of excessive force. All charges were dropped against Wolfe. No charges were ever filed against the other three officers.

The name Kelly Thomas, like George Floyd, has become synonymous with the need for systemic reform of police departments nationwide. Thomas, Floyd, Elijah McClain, Breonna Taylor, and too many others are still speaking to us from the grave.

Video: [www.YouTube.com/watch?v=A6IntxCA3sA](http://www.YouTube.com/watch?v=A6IntxCA3sA)

A final note: Kelly Thomas would have turned 49 years old this week.

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**OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING**

*continued from front page*

team arrived and pronounced Heiselman deceased. Heiselman was 48 years of age and a resident of Whittier.

A La Habra dispatch received a call from Heiselman's father during this pursuit. He said that his son intended to die by "suicide by cop."

A search of Heiselman revealed that he was unarmed at the time of the shooting. However, two replica firearms and replica ammunition were in Heiselman's vehicle.

**TO BE TRANSPARENT**

**WITH THE COMMUNITY WE SERVE**

The Fullerton Police Department is releasing its fifth Critical Incident Community Briefing, which will provide details to the community about the incident as we know them today. This includes Body Worn Camera (BWC) video footage from the incident itself, still photos, and police radio traffic.

Please keep in mind this is an initial review, and our understanding of this incident could change as additional evidence is collected, analyzed, and reviewed.

The Fullerton Police Department also does not draw any conclusions as to whether or not our officers acted within our department policy and the law until all the facts are known, and the independent investigation by the California Department of Justice (CA DOJ) is complete.

For more information on the CA DOJ Investigation, refer to <https://oag.ca.gov/ois-incidents>.

**CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY BILL 748**

With the July 1, 2019, implementation of California Assembly Bill 748, California police agencies must release any relevant video or audio of the critical incident within 45 days.

The California State Legislature allows for this 45-day release timeframe because there is an understanding that critical incidents are often complex, sensitive investigations, and it takes time to complete them thoroughly.

As a reminder, while body-worn cameras are an excellent investigative tool, they do not always show what the officers may have seen, and vice versa; they don't always see and experience what the body camera footage shows. We ask that the community keep this in mind when viewing these videos.

Fullerton PD Investigators contacted Mr. Heiselman's next of kin last week and offered them an opportunity to view this Critical Incident Community Briefing before its release.

Please be advised the images and content of this Critical Incident Community Briefing are graphic, and viewer discretion is advised.

The Critical Incident Community Briefing, which is roughly 14-minutes in length, can be found at: [https://youtu.be/2Bett\\_LVpxU](https://youtu.be/2Bett_LVpxU)



*Healthy Awareness*

by Jo Ann Brannock, Ph.D. © 2023

**Teenage Girls Struggle in Today's World**

Can you remember your high school days? What were they like? Well, today, especially for girls, it can be challenging. These are the years they try to find their "identity" or who they are. It is natural for teens to congregate into groups of similar interests or what we call "cliques." This is called "in-group bias," where one tends to favor one's group. Sometimes, some girls become isolated, especially in today's world, where technology has intensified bullying, making it immediate and lasting.

I was talking with a mother of a middle school student whose previous close friend had decided to be with the popular girls' group and exclude her. In being a member of a group, one is expected to be like the others and do as they do. They are expected to act a certain way if they say negative and hurtful things about another. If she does not behave like the majority of the group, she becomes an isolated outsider. It is rare for members of the in-group to stand up for the victims and voice their differences.

Hurtful statements about another girl can appear on Instagram, where the most popular girl in school calls another girl "ugly or fat ."A cell phone with this recording can be held up in a crowd for all to hear, and the girls will laugh at the one being picked on, causing her to feel desperate and alone.

The girl's mother may try to contact the bully's mother and talk about the inappropriateness of this behavior and how it affects her daughter. But that is not always possible, mainly because the mother does not want to be confronted concerning her daughter's hurtful behavior. In addition, Instagram lasts just 24 hours, making it difficult to trace, if not impossible, to verify what is happening.

In a Facebook study, teens blame Instagram for increases in the rate of anxiety and depression. Perhaps one of the causes of Social Phobia Disorder?

Also, teens use social media sites such as Snapchat and TikTok, which create more social comparisons, pres-

sure, and negative peer interactions. Teens measure their self-worth in the "likes" and followers they have.

With the pandemic due to Covid, a study found that 70% of 240 teenage girls missed seeing people a lot. In losing their social life, teens used these apps on their smartphones. They spend hours studying the posts of celebrities, friends, and strangers, which set up expectations that are non-obtainable. This becomes especially problematic when a young teen struggles to devel-

op an identity. The modern internet culture emphasizes physical beauty, conflict, competition, and "catastrophizing." Self-esteem is negatively affected.

In a survey in 2021 of more than 17,000 teens by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (February 2023), 42% said they experienced persistent sadness or hopelessness. A majority of the girls (57%) reported persistent despair versus 29% of the boys. Nearly 1 in 3 girls seriously considered suicide, with 13% stating that they attempted it in the past year.

Another source of teen anxiety concerns their future due to climate change and social upheaval.

These are especially hard times for teens, and as a parent, you need to listen to your teen and be socially supportive. Social support is linked to resilience to bullying. Help them get in touch with their feelings and give them some ways to deal with them. And talk about how social media overemphasizes the importance of self-perception and body image. Have your teen value other qualities such as artistic, scientific, literary, intelligence, caring, and empathy abilities. Valuing the role of women in society is also essential for girls.

If you need more help, you might seek psychological help. Your medical doctor can give several referrals and contact your insurance company for referrals.

Suicide Hotline of Southern CA:

714-894-4242 or 562-596-5548

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:

800-273-8255

*In a Facebook study, teens blame Instagram for increases in the rate of anxiety and depression.*



**BALANCE & CHANGE**  
by Michelle Gottlieb, Psy.D., MFT, LPCC © 2023

**Do you know what you want?**

In your relationships with others, are there things that you are missing? In your job, is there a change that you are looking for? In your life, is there something else that you are wanting?

So, have you asked for it?

Many people have a very difficult time asking for what they want. There are many reasons for this.

One is you may not be clear what you are actually wanting. A vague sense of unhappiness does not always translate to a clear answer of what is missing.

The first step is to make it very clear to yourself, very concrete, what is it that you are wanting?

The next step is to be able to communicate that to someone else. There are things that can get in the way of that. The most important may be your not

feeling that you are worthy of getting what you want. This is an important thing to work on since it will have a negative impact in many areas of your life. If this is something that you struggle with, please consider seeing a psychotherapist.

The next part is figuring out the words to say. There is a balance between not being too submissive and not being too aggressive. Being able to say "This is what I want" without putting down the person you are talking to or yourself can be tricky.

Practice it.

Just saying exactly what you want, without a threat or an apology.

You can do this!

It just takes practice!

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## Out of My Mind

by Jon Dobrer © 2023 • [JonDobrer@mac.com](mailto:JonDobrer@mac.com)



### On Wokeness

Unless you've been asleep, you've run into and been confused by the term "Woke." This is understandable since some use it as a synonym for "enlightened" and others as an accusation of pretentious oversensitivity. Thus, the meaning of woke is as blurry as our vision when rubbing the sleep from our slowly waking eyes.

The original meaning was clear. It was to be awake to the suffering of others—particularly of minorities. It meant not covering our eyes to the pain and injustice of historic persecution and also seeing and feeling our current inequities. It meant being sensitive to all the ways we still ignore, hurt, and oppress people who are not exactly like us.

For example, if you thought that the term "post-civil rights era" meant that we had solved the race issue and that the election of Obama proved that racial equality had been achieved, you were asleep on a wave of denial. You were not woke, not cognizant of the painful reality of so many of our fellow citizens. You were blind to what is actually going on.

The original intent of woke was clear: Wake up! Wake up to injustice, hate, and the pain that White (mostly male) privilege purposely and unconsciously inflicts on people of color, women, LGBTQA+ people, foreigners, and the poor.

How did this well-intentioned call to consciousness become an epithet to be derided, mocked, and satirized? Part of the answer is its origin in the African American civil rights community. A cry to "Wake up" to the injustice in our midst would also have been resisted,

but to use "Woke" linguistically betrayed its origin. It remains true in this so-called "post-civil rights" era that many White people don't tolerate thinking that People of Color are being condescending. To use an old racist epithet, they see any negative judgment as being "uppity."

To many in the ruling class, woke was an accusation of being willfully ignorant. It seemed an indictment of White male privilege. It conveyed a moral superiority on the part of women and People of Color. Since no ruling class has ever surrendered its privileges willingly, there was the inevitable pushback. And when the powerful push back, attention must be paid.

Their weapons of choice were satire, mockery, and caricature. The woke, they charged, were oversensitive snowflakes, smug and judgmental. They weren't really for justice but just hated White men of privilege. These "wokesters" didn't have to be minorities anymore. They could be college students looking for "safe spaces" and demanding "trigger warnings" for anything that might offend them or remind them of past trauma. They were accused of concentrating on "microaggressions," small slights, whether conscious or unconscious, whose accumulated damage was devastating.

Part of this counter-revolution (The Empire Strikes Back) was compiling lists of the woke's sins. Chief among

**Since no ruling class has ever surrendered its privileges willingly, there was the inevitable pushback. And when the powerful push back, attention must be paid.**

them was to accuse them of caring more about language than the actual problems. Examples were easy to find because, in any movement, there will be people who go too far and push a legitimate concern past its balance point and into absurdity.

The San Francisco School Board was understandably mocked for spending too much time changing the names of schools dedicated to problematic historical figures (Abraham Lincoln!) rather than trying to get schools that had been closed by Covid to re-open.

Even many liberals who supported removing statues of Confederate military and political figures (I won't use the word "heroes") balked. Revisionists, seeking to erase history in the name of perfection, can never stop. Moral standards and morés change. "Out with Lincoln, Washington, Jefferson, and all our slaveholding historic figures." This is a doomed enterprise. We would then have to go after biblical slaveholders, misogynists, homophobes, and lepers.

Turning the tables on their woke accusers, the establishment charged them with race, class, and gender hatred. The establishment hypocritically mocked them for caring more about the micro issues of language than the real problems of sexism, racism, homophobia, and the marginalization of the handicapped. They accused the woke of being on a linguistic virtue-signaling rampage. The handicapped became, for a while, the "otherly abled." A brouhaha was raised over the use of a "Lame duck" congressional session because of the pejorative tinge of lame. Moral "blindness" also had to go, along with Dutch treat and gyp (Egypt might be in trouble). Before the Civil War, we now

know there were no slaves, only "enslaved people." Ridding Spanish of gender nouns and inventing the gender-neutral Latinex was followed by "Womxn," getting the men out of women—both figuratively and, for some, literally.

The movement to change language, however, didn't begin with the woke. Long ago, we started getting sensitive to how hurtful words could be. We learned not to call someone a "spaz." The N-word became forbidden to White people. During my lifetime, I've used the words Negro, Colored, Afro-American, Black, and African American. Today Colored is wrong, but People of Color is fine. Too woke? No! Call people what they want to be called.

Various terms for LGBTQA+ people have come and gone. Today, many struggle with pronouns. It's ok to struggle. And yes, keeping up with changing usage takes time and work. So what? If it avoids hurting people, it's worth it. Women rightly argued against the idea that the word "man" included women. It didn't.

When I was in elementary school, a form asked for my "Christian name." Not yet a wise guy, I innocently told the teacher that I was Jewish and didn't have a Christian name. She said that "Christian meant everyone." Knowing that was offensive nonsense, I instantly became a wise guy and wrote my Hebrew name Yehonatan Bar Naftali. For the first but not the last time, I was sent to the principal's office.

Some, but not all, linguistic controversies are worth having. We can have our disputes in good faith and with kindness. We can judge the intent of those who make mistakes and are learning. We can get angry or choose to try to build a bridge or burn a bridge. Let's try to build and listen with open minds and open hearts. Let's be awake to the pain and the progress.

## What Fullerton Can Learn from the Clean Up Anaheim Coalition

by Gerri McNenny and Vern Nelson

Fullerton citizens can learn to encourage responsible city governance from a new group called the Clean Up Anaheim Coalition. The coalition was formed in the middle of last year in reaction to FBI revelations of the town's staggering corruption and the subsequent forced resignation of Mayor Harry Sidhu.

The coalition base consists of dozens of citizen activists from the People's Homeless Task Force Orange County and the Anaheim Democrats Club, residents complaining about city hall corruption for a decade or more. Opposition to corruption is nonpartisan, and several members are Republicans or independents. But a crucial addition to the coalition was the newly-rejuvenated nonprofit OCCORD (Orange County Communities Organized for Responsible Development).

In the previous decade, this group had been instrumental in getting district elections for Anaheim and a living wage for resort workers. In its latest incarnation, it focused on fighting municipal corruption. Most members are Latino and bilingual. They have been building awareness among Anaheim's working-class communities, bringing dozens more to meetings and rallies in addition to earlier participants.

Toward the end of last year, the for-

mer Anaheim Council was shamed into commissioning an independent investigation of the city's corruption. Recently, the coalition is focused on protecting that investigation – first, from being shrouded in secrecy and then from being limited and underfunded.

But the original impetus for the coalition, last summer, was to try to get then-Councilman Dr. José Moreno's campaign finance ordinance, known as the "Clean Up Anaheim Act," passed. This ordinance, partly based on the Levine Act, would prohibit a council member from voting on a matter affecting a party that had contributed \$250 or more to them in the past year.

The most important part was that this stricture also applied to Independent Expenditures or PACs, representing well over 95% of the contributions from Anaheim's wealthy special interests. But last summer, the ordinance failed by the City Council's 3-3 vote.

Two members who voted against the ordinance – Trevor O'Neil and Gloria Ma'ae – were defeated at the polls in November. Two who supported it – Dr. Moreno and Avelino Valencia – are no longer on Council.

A mostly new Council, all of whom had run on promises of "reform" and "transparency," was elected. The coalition was optimistic that the Clean Up Anaheim Act could be brought back

and passed.

But hopes were dashed this year when the new Mayor, Ashleigh Aitken, announced that she believed that the part of the Act that deals with Independent Expenditures – by far the most important part – would be found unconstitutional under the Citizens United ruling and that defending it would be a doomed and irresponsible waste of taxpayer money.

The coalition strongly disagrees with Mayor Aitken on this. As Vern Nelson argued in the Orange Juice Blog, "The 2009/10 Supreme Court decision known as 'Citizens United' prohibits governments from regulating or limiting or banning Independent Expenditures (IE's.) ... The 'Clean Up Anaheim Act,' which nearly passed last year (with a 3-3 vote), DOES NOT DO THAT. It does not regulate, limit, or ban any Independent Expenditures. Instead, it prohibits any council member 'from voting on a matter affecting the parties who made that IE for one year' – what Nelson describes as 'disincentivizing IE's,' as no vote can be expected in return for them.

As to the unconstitutionality of requiring lawmakers to recuse themselves when voting on an issue involving a group or individual who had donated to their campaigns, the Supreme Court in their Nevada Commission on Ethics v. Carrigan 564 US 117 (2011) decision was unequivocal in its support for recusal. As Nelson points out,

***"A year after Citizens United, the Supreme Court ruled that a body like our City Council COULD force its members to recuse themselves for specified conflicts. And it wasn't just Scalia either – the Supremes ruled unanimously, including all the Citizens United Five."***

The Clean Up Anaheim Coalition is to be commended for supporting Councilman Dr. José Moreno's proposal and for advocating for the passage of the ordinance to their individual council members representing each Anaheim district.

It appears that despite this new "reform Council" rhetoric, there is less chance of them passing the Clean Up Anaheim Act than ever. So instead, this issue will most likely be taken to the voters of Anaheim as a referendum or initiative – probably the next task of the Clean Up Anaheim Coalition.

But what if Fullerton citizens advocated for a similar campaign finance reform ordinance? The dynamics of city governance would be changed. This publication has tracked the contributions made to Fullerton's City Council members. With a campaign finance reform ordinance for Fullerton that required council members to recuse themselves from voting on issues pertaining to those contributors, those donors would hold less sway in the city's decision-making. That might allow the will of Fullerton's citizens to be heard instead.

## Rethinking Quality of Life in the Era of Climate Crisis by Sarah Mosko

Once again, the United States has failed to reach the top 10 of the world's happiest countries.

Since 2012, the United Nations has released annual survey results comparing how people in different countries rate their overall quality of life. The data are obtained through a World Gallup Poll and published every March in the World Happiness Report (WHR). This year, America ranked 15th.

The survey assesses the quality of life on a 0-to-11-point scale where 0 equals the worst possible life, and 11 is the best possible. America's best showing (11th place) was in 2012, and its worst (19th) was in 2019. "Happiness" and "quality of life" are used interchangeably in the WHR.

Finland ranked #1 in happiness in the last six years, with the Scandinavian countries and Switzerland claiming the top 3+ spots yearly.

People may conceptualize aspects of quality of life in concrete terms, like health status, access to food, shelter, education, medical care, personal safety, the strength of ties to family and community, and personal freedoms. However, the World Health Organization more abstractly defines the quality of life as "an individual's perception of their position in life in the context of the culture and value systems in which they live and concerning their goals, expectations, standards, and concerns." As such, if a society undergoes shifts in its value system, a person's perception of their position relative to those values will also be pressured to change.

So, what happens to the perceived quality of life when a society's value system shifts toward undermining that which makes life on earth sustainable? A case can be made; this began in the mid-20th century in America. It helps explain America's lackluster happiness ratings and, more globally, the path that led humanity to a climate crisis.

This narrative starts with the end of WWII.

Americans were understandably in party mode after the self-sacrifices of the war. For example, it's easy to imagine how people easily transitioned from food rationing and scavenging scraps of metal for the war effort to embracing the throw-away-society that emerged post-war when the fossil fuel industry – which steeply ramped up production in wartime – realized the profits to be had in making everything conceivable out of plastics. The public embraced the industry's marketed

promise that time-saving conveniences like single-use plastics equated with better quality of life.

Given the crucial part manufacturing played in winning the war (by supplying fighter jets, gasoline, and the like), the public was unlikely to suspect the industry's motives in the war's aftermath. Recognition of the externalities of manufacturing, wherein natural resources such as air, water, and soil could be polluted to the point of becoming unfit for humans and other life forms, was not yet in the nation's collective consciousness. The federal Environmental Protection Agency didn't exist until 1970.

At the same time, the nephew of Sigmund Freud, Edward Bernays (1891-1995), coached industry and government on how to use wartime-style propaganda to further self-serving ends. His name became synonymous with the field of public relations, wherein he advocated that corporations and government should control what information is released to the public to sway public opinion. He viewed the public as irrational and subject to herd mentality.

Bernays used Freud's exposé of the power of the unconscious mind in driving human behaviors to inform corporations on how to create needs for new products in the masses where no such need previously existed.

Bernays's influence on American society was so vast that, in 1990, Life Magazine named him one of the most influential persons of the 20th century. Many court rulings, including the 2010 Citizens United, were also reshaping societal values in favor of bolstered power and free speech rights for corporations.

Historically, corporations have also enjoyed largely unbridled freedom to pollute the natural world as a byproduct of their activities, free of responsibility for harm to the planet's livability. The climate crisis directly results from dumping greenhouse gases into the atmosphere from burning fossil fuels. Yet, this crisis is an externality for which the fossil fuel industry has yet to be held accountable.

To this day, the fossil fuel industry in the United States still enjoys a yearly subsidy of roughly \$20 billion.

America is the poster child of a con-

sumer society. Corporations might wish us to believe that consumption and convenience create happiness. Still, America's lagging in quality-of-life ratings suggests otherwise. Moreover, it is insidious to promote that quality of life could ever be separate from the state of the natural world upon which all life depends.

The climate crisis is of a magnitude and timescale never before encountered. Yet, according to a recent analysis, if greenhouse gas emissions magically dropped to zero today, there would still be a significant risk of overshooting the critical safety limit temperature increase of 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Moreover, a report just released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change details how climate change is already a direct threat to human survival. "Between 2010 and 2020, human mortality from floods, droughts, and storms were 15 times higher in highly vulnerable regions, compared to regions with very low vulnerability," the report states. Over 3 billion people "live in contexts that are highly vulnerable to climate change."

Climate change knows no geographic boundaries. The solution requires a global embrace of a societal value shift from seeking satisfaction in consumer goods and conveniences (like fossil fuels) to finding fulfillment in joining forces for the common good. The good news is this is the same fundamental human value that has always allowed our species to thrive and experience happiness within our families and in relation to our communities and societal institutions.

The 2022 WHR spells out how serving the common good contributes to happiness via trust in our societal institutions this way: "...the extent to

which the quality of the social context, especially the extent to which people trust their governments and have trust in the benevolence of others, supports their happiness...."

Sadly, public trust in our government has declined dramatically in the United States since the mid-20th century.

Relatedly, Americans suffer from deficiencies in the very tangible benefits which enhance the quality of life for Scandinavians, such as a rich social safety net providing universal health-care, free education, and supported parental leave; promotion of work-life balance through shorter workweeks and more paid vacation time; and recognition of the importance of social cohesion and equality in building strong communities. These all reflect a societal value emphasis on caring for one another in the present and future.

It should not be surprising, then, that the happiest countries are also ones that view the climate crisis through this same lens of acting for the common good. For example, each of the five Scandinavian countries and Switzerland enacted various forms of a national carbon tax.

In the United States, by contrast, issues concerning climate change are so weaponized in the internal battles for political advantage that policies to address the crisis are subject to the whims of those who wield political power. As a result, the possibility of committed collective action on the scale needed to solve the problem still seems remote.

The COVID pandemic reminds us of our dependence on human connectedness for quality of life. Likewise, the climate crisis is a red flag reminder that quality of life depends on a healthy environment. Once America shifts the needed societal value toward cooperation and serving the common good, the specifics of U.S. policies required to tackle the climate crisis will naturally fall into place.

A silver lining will be increased quality of life and survival for us all.

—  
**To this day, the fossil fuel industry in the United States still enjoys a yearly subsidy of roughly \$20 billion.**  
—



**"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:"** John

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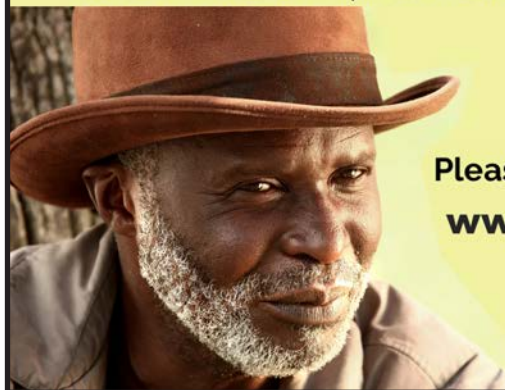
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April will again offer a renewal of the food distribution program at the Community Center by offering food twice a month to anyone facing the increasing cost to feed the family. While the selection is limited to what is available, the price (free) makes it worth checking it out.

(1st & 3rd Thursdays 10:45am-12:00pm)

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(714)738-6575 | 340 W Commonwealth Avenue, Fullerton, CA 92832

**Faith Deliverance Apostolic Church**

(714)504-4503 | 3800 W Commonwealth Avenue, Fullerton, CA 92833

**First Lutheran Church**

(714)871-7820 | 215 N Lemon Street, Fullerton, CA 92832

**Food Service Outreach Inc.**

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ANSWER KEY TO PUZZLE "EGGS-CELLENT" on page 11:

B	A	B	A	S		A	L	A	S		W	H	A	T			
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**PUZZLE  
MASTER  
Valerie  
Brickey**  
was born in Fullerton and returned to raise her family here. She has been contributing puzzles since 2014.

**Volunteer Positions Available at the Observer!**

The *Observer* is a volunteer and community-written newspaper that was established in 1978. We are students, educators, professionals, and residents that love Fullerton and want to ignite community activism and spark social change.

Our purpose is to inform Fullerton residents about the institutions and other societal forces which most impact their lives so that they may be empowered to participate in constructive ways to keep and make these private and public entities serve all residents in lawful, open, just, and socially-responsible ways. We seek to promote a sense of community and an appreciation for the values of diversity with which our country is blessed.

This venture is a not-for-profit one. Revenues are plowed back into maintaining and improving our independent, non-partisan, non-sectarian community newspaper.

**VOLUNTEER**

We are accepting applications for journalists and office workers to join the *Observer* team. The candidates for this job must live in Fullerton. They must be civic-minded and knowledgeable about the different departments that run Fullerton and

who the key people are or are ready and willing to learn.

**REQUIREMENTS**

- Attend civic meetings at least twice monthly in person or zoom the meetings and write reports
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\$16.75 Hr - Parks and Rec Dept  
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Job Number: 22 - FD Utility Wkr  
\$15.50 Hr - Fullerton Fire Department  
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To be considered for this position, you must be a P.O.S.T. certified dispatcher.

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Recruiting officer 714-738-3377

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Job Number: 2023-00009  
**Part Time - \$15 Hr**  
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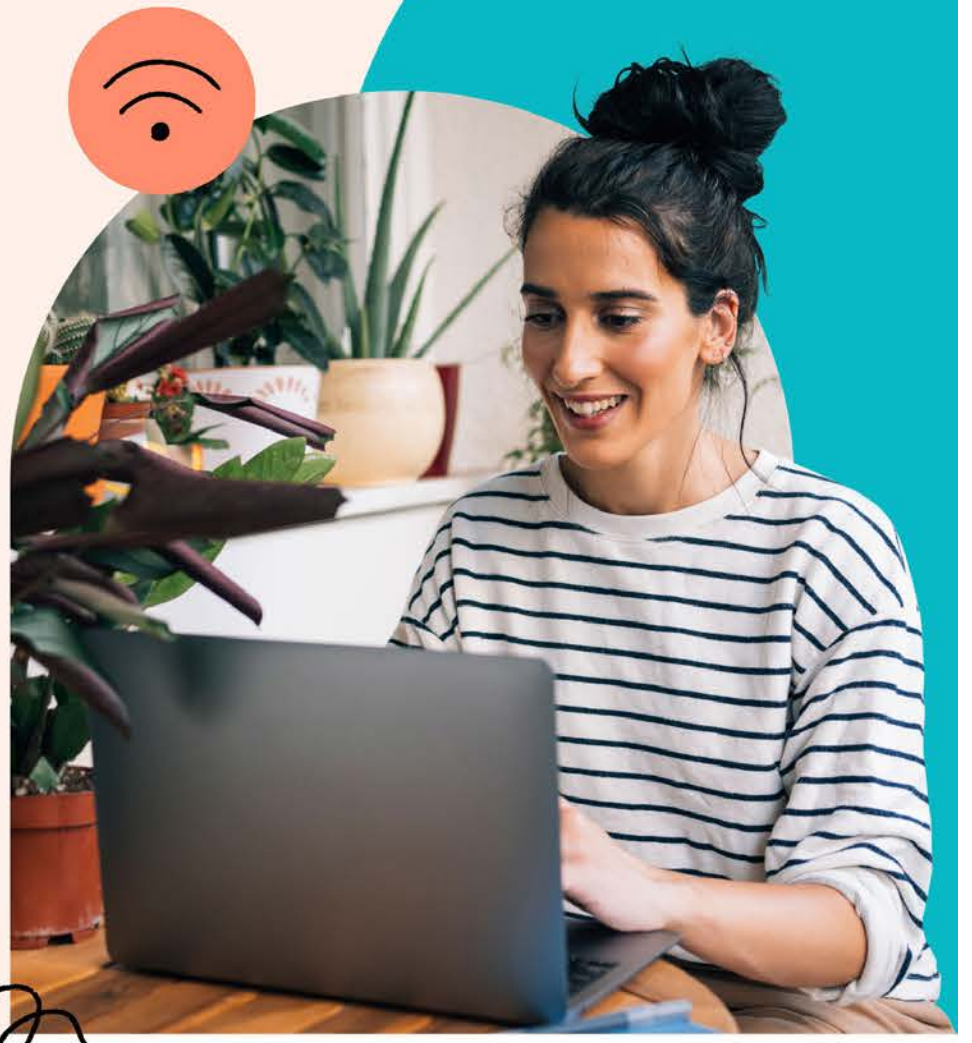
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