

Love loves Love

FULLERTON'S ONLY INDEPENDENT NEWS

FullertonObserver



Fullerton Joins the Annual Orange County Black History Parade & Unity Festival for First Time

Photo & Article by David Spargur

Fullerton officially joined other OC cities in this year's 44th annual OC Black History Parade & Unity Festival held in Anaheim on February 3.

Fire Chief Adam Loeser, driving Fullerton's 1962 vintage fire truck, with passengers Fullerton Joint Union High School Trustee Dr. Vicki Calhoun and City Councilmember Ahmad Zahra were joined by members of the Fullerton Police Department, the Fullerton Public Works Department, OC Supervisor Doug Chaffee, State Senator Josh Newman, and Congressman Lou Correa.

After the parade at the Unity Festival, Councilmember Zahra presented a certificate of recognition on behalf of the City of Fullerton to the Orange County Heritage Council for organizing a great celebration and for their dedication to building unity and awareness of black history in Orange County.

Above: Fullerton Fire Department Chief Adam Loeser driving, Fullerton City Councilmember Dr. Ahmad Zahra, and FJUHS Trustee Dr. Vicki Calhoun were among those representing Fullerton at the annual Black History Parade.



Michael Lorenzen accepting the key to the city from Mayor Dunlap and fellow councilmembers.

Baseball Pitcher Michael Lorenzen Presented with the Key to the City

The City of Fullerton honored Michael Lorenzen for his outstanding achievements in the world of baseball at the City Council meeting on February 6. In a historic moment for the sport, Lorenzen, a native of Fullerton, accomplished a remarkable feat by pitching a no-hitter last year.

On August 9, 2023, in his first start for the Philadelphia Phillies, Lorenzen became the fourth Fullerton Union High School alumnus and 14th Philadelphia Phillie to throw a no-hitter. He did so with his mom Cheryl, wife Cassie, and daughter June, in attendance while throwing 124 total pitches, of which 76 were recorded as strikes.

To commemorate this significant milestone, Mayor Nicholas Dunlap presented Lorenzen with the Key to the City of Fullerton.

Tom Elliot of *Past Time Collectibles* gave Lorenzen a gift from his vintage sports memorabilia store, and a young Golden Hill player handed Lorenzen a bat and told him that he was an inspiration to the whole team.

Lorenzen was drafted in the first round (38th overall) by the Cincinnati Reds in 2013. A video of him hitting his first major league home run, in his first game after his father's unexpected passing, went viral on the internet, being viewed over 5 million times. On September 4, 2019, Lorenzen became the second player in baseball history to hit a home run, earn the win as the pitcher, and play in the field in the same game when the Reds defeated the Phillies 8-5. The only other player to achieve the feat was Babe Ruth on June 13, 1921.

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Policing from On High

by Brady Rhoades

Why do Fullerton police need drones roaming high above the city? What are the potential abuses? These questions are at the marrow of an increasing trend toward the use of high-tech tools and military weapons by police departments in Orange County.

The Fullerton Police Department conducted a “Drone as First Responder concept” trial over the summer. A drone with impressive range patrolled the sky. The plan was to “provide the ability to immediately deploy [drones] to reported emergency incidents, calls for service, or first responder requests,” according to a police department press release.

“In many cases, drones can arrive at any given incident prior to first responders on the ground.”

Drones stream live video to officers before they reach the scene, resulting in heightened situational awareness. They probably make ground-bound cops safer, too. And they assess when officers aren’t needed, saving taxpayers money.

“During the four-week trial, which cost about \$15,000, the drone responded to over 340 calls for service and was on scene prior to patrol officers 194 times,” said Lt. Tony Rios, in an email.

“The drone was able to clear 85 calls without patrol officer response. Most of these calls for service... require a two-officer response. Essentially, during 85 drone deployments, 170 officers were not needed to respond, thus freeing the officers for other critical calls for service in the city. The drone responded to 57 priority one calls. Of those 57 priority one calls, the average response time was 2:19 and the average response time for patrol was 3:52.”

“It was a really good tryout,” Police Chief Jon Radus told me.

According to Police1 (*police1.com*), a reputable pro-police website, there are 11 reasons that police deploy drones. All 11 center on reconnaissance and response, best I can tell. The site has touted the potency of drones by posting a story headlined, “YOU CAN’T HIDE!”

It’s about Grover Beach, California police using an infrared drone to pinpoint and arrest a man suspected of car theft. The man hid in thick brush and trees, but to no avail. Woods and forests are no match for thermal imaging. In Fullerton’s trial run, the benefits of an eye in the sky were inarguable.

Lt. Rios reported more than a dozen incidents in which the drone — call sign Hornet — helped officers detain suspects. In one, Hornet responded to a domestic violence situation at Fullerton College and was able to “locate the suspect and direct officers on the ground to his location and take him into custody without incident.”

In another, “Hornet located a stolen vehicle from an LPR hit, observed the driver get into the vehicle, and guided officers to safely approach the vehicle and take the driver into custody without incident.”

Chief Radus confirmed that 85 calls for response were canceled after the drone data showed there was no need for officers. This saved officers’ valuable time and taxpayers plenty of money, he said. Fullerton Police are expected to deliver more information to the City Council. The Council will then decide whether to move on with the program. If it’s green-lighted, there will be multiple drones on high, with drone pilots headquartered at the Police Department.

The physical drones themselves will be an outsource job. It’s not news that police departments are using high-tech

devices that, at their best, enhance first responders’ efficiency and, at worst, threaten our civil rights, particularly with regard to privacy. Nor is it news that police are militarizing to the extreme.

In Fullerton, that means armored personnel vehicles, assault weapons, specialized shotguns, flash bangs, tear gas, pepper balls, battering rams, a long-range acoustic device, projectile launch platforms for munition weapons and more.

In Orange County, that’s the norm. And drones are ubiquitous, like hawks circling the skies over the county’s 30-plus cities, only hawks aren’t much interested in us. But what about concerns that drones will spy on citizens? Compile data on innocent individuals? Or one particular segment of society? Invade our air space, home in on the details of our properties and private lives?

“That was one of my questions, too,” wrote Fullerton City Councilman Ahmad Zahra in an email. “However, there are strict guidelines on privacy and other due process matters that PD adheres to and that would apply to any drone program, too.”

City Councilwoman Shana Charles emailed: “Thanks for reaching out but unfortunately, I’m not able to answer any of these questions as I’m not very involved in that program. Those deci-

sions are made at the police department level and they would have the information you need.” Not involved? Can’t answer any questions?

Misuse of drones by law enforcement is well documented by the ACLU, among others. The ACLU of Northern California has shown that the California Highway Patrol has employed aerial surveillance, to zoom in on individual faces and record personal conversations. Other footage focuses on protests for racial justice.

There’s no evidence that Irvine, to use one OC city as an example, has done anything that extreme with its drones. But folks are being recorded. Irvine Police Department Lt. Christopher Bees told KABC that taxpayers ought not worry.

“With the exception of training and demonstration purposes, if we do record something, at the end of the operation we review it for evidentiary value. If there’s nothing of evidence, we delete any video that we retain.”

I asked Chief Radus to provide more details on concerns regarding accountability. He said department policy — outlined at <https://www.cityoffullerton.com/government/departments/police?locale=en> — restricts what drones are allowed to do, similar to the policies in place for police helicopters.

“A drone can only go where flying normally takes place,” he said, meaning when not on call, a drone can’t wander to your bedroom window and play Peeping Tom.

If a complaint were filed, “we would launch an internal affairs investigation,” Chief Radus said. “It’s the same as when an officer allegedly does something wrong.” And, he stressed, “We’ve got all the flight data.”

Will citizens have access to that data?

No, he said.

How do we exact accountability without material evidence of what’s going on? It’s a neat trick that government have played on people for centuries. We see you; good luck seeing us...

Do we trust that, if abuses of our rights occur, quick and sure redress will be probably, given that police are investigating themselves? That if the costs to citizens outweigh the benefits to law enforcement, that something significant will be done? That the power imbalance — they have the technology to know what I’m doing, down to the cigar stub on my patio, and I can only guess what they’re up to — will be brought into balance?

Do we, as citizens, hold our breath, or do the opposite?

Brady Rhoades is a journalist and author who lives in Fullerton.

FullertonObserver

FULLERTON'S ONLY INDEPENDENT NEWS

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.

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

Created & Published in Fullerton by local volunteers since 1978
Published by Fullerton Observer LLC

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Fullerton Lions Club Student Speech Contest

"For a better world, what would you change?" was the topic for the Lions Club student speech contest held on February 1. The student speakers had between 5 to 10 minutes to speak on the topic to showcase their ability to articulate their thoughts effectively, presenting well-researched perspectives, and independent thinking.

The winner moves to the next level of the contest on March 4, 6pm at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 209 N Orange, St, La Habra where the final winner will be announced.

Students Aarna Vaiyapuri (9th grade), Suren Sanjay (10th grade), and Ravali Vallurupalli (11th grade) from Valencia High and Sera Yu (9th grade), Avni Patil (10th grade) from Troy High with Chairperson of the Student Speaker Contest Joy Yao.

Local Fullerton physician-scientist pioneers eye disease study in space by Anjali Tapadia



Left: Hema Ramkumar, MD
Right: Fluorescein angiogram of the microvascular circulation of the mouse retina (Phoenix Micron IV)

Hema Ramkumar, MD, an ophthalmologist and physician-scientist based in Fullerton, is launching a groundbreaking study on an eye disease called macular degeneration – into space.

As a local physician-scientist and founder of the drug development firm Oculogenex, Dr. Ramkumar has long been interested in treatments for age-related macular degeneration, or AMD. AMD is a disease of the eye's retina that affects 20 million Americans.

People affected by AMD often suffer from vision loss involving their central vision. Some earlier stages of the disease are currently considered incurable, but Dr. Ramkumar hopes to change that. And the treatments that do

exist for later stages are effective but burdensome, sometimes requiring patients to undergo monthly administration indefinitely. As a retinal specialist, she sought to find a way to decrease this burden for her patients, so she looked for genetic therapies that would confer lifelong benefits.

So, Dr. Ramkumar turned her attention to creating a treatment that would strengthen the retinal cells and prevent them from dying off, as they typically do in AMD. She found that spaceflight causes the same type of oxidative damage to the retina as AMD does and wondered whether she could use spaceflight to study this AMD treatment. After founding Oculogenex in 2020, she set up a research laboratory in BioLabs LA that has since been under the directorship of Zhongyang Lu, MD, PhD, a talented ophthalmologist and physician-scientist. NASA approached her with a grant to apply her experiments to space travel.

This project will test Dr. Ramkumar's treatments with the help of mice. Some of the mice will be given the experimental genetic AMD therapy, and some will receive a placebo. After

launching from a SpaceX rocket, these mice will spend 30 days aboard the International Space Station, where they will be cared for by ISS astronauts under strict humane research standards. Meanwhile, an on-the-ground "control" group will undergo the same treatments and experience the same conditions, even down to the "whooshing" sounds from takeoff, landing, and on-board fans. This means that the only difference between the in-space and on-the-ground groups will be the gravitational forces and unique spaceflight experience.

Before and after the trip, the mice's eyes will be scanned, and the results will help determine whether this genetic therapy stops, slows, or reverses AMD. Dr. Ramkumar explains that she is treating space as an "accelerated aging model" in that the chronic stress from space travel mimics real-life aging. In multiple other models of AMD, this investigational therapy has demonstrated retinal cell protection, and she plans to start human clinical trials with the treatment this year.

This will be a groundbreaking study involving the first retinal photos after

spaceflight, the first gene therapy study in space, the first ophthalmic treatment study on live animals in space, and the first study involving an all-female mouse team (previous studies only used male mice). Beyond age-related macular degeneration, this project may shed light on the effect of spaceflight on the retina, as well as unravel the potential to enhance our ability to combat the stressors of spaceflight -- topics NASA is very interested in as it continues to pioneer human space exploration. Dr. Ramkumar expects a "high chance of success" for this mission.

She explains her passion for both research and clinical medicine. As a lifelong problem-solver, she loves the cycle of seeing patients, then conducting research, applying what she has learned in the lab to caring for her patients and seeing patients improve as a direct result of Oculogenex's research. Every step of the process is important to further scientific knowledge and improve her patients' quality of life.

Dr. Ramkumar is practicing in Fullerton, CA, and can be reached at 714-738-4620.

A Perspective on Black History Month

photo and story by Gaston Castellanos

Since 1976, when February was officially recognized in the U.S. as Black History Month, critics of the observance have run in two general directions - those who say focus on the brutal history of the African American experience is divisive, and those who say limiting recognition of contributions made by African Americans to a single month is insufficient and disrespectful.

A panel discussion of Black History Month at a meeting of local Democrats on February 1 focused on the observance as a celebration of Black American achievement.

Moderating the panel was activist and politico Andre Charles, who welcomed two Black elected officials to the discussion - Dr. Vicki Calhoun, Fullerton Union High School District trustee, and David Crockett, a trustee on the Rancho Santiago Community College District Board.

"I didn't grow up with Black History in West Virginia," said Crockett. "It wasn't until I got to college that I began hearing stories of Black achievement that blew my mind."

America's long history of systemic racism, particularly against its African American citizens, dates back hundreds of years. "The cargo ships that

followed the first European arrivals were full of slaves," said Crockett.

Dr. Vicki Calhoun grew up in Fullerton and remembers being called the "N" word as a child and not knowing what it meant. Her mother told her not to worry about it. "I knew the ticket to success was going to be a good education, and I got that in Fullerton," said Calhoun, who befriended former Fullerton City Councilmembers Sharon Quirk-Silva and Pam Keller on the drill team. Quirk-Silva currently represents Fullerton in the State Assembly.

"My grandfather marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, and my uncle was a pallbearer at the funeral of Senator Robert Kennedy," said Calhoun. "I know who I am, and I walk tall every day."

The origins of Black History Month came from a need to tell the story of African Americans who were left out of the "sea to shining sea" versions of our history. Not even the Civil War brought the contributions of Black Americans to the national consciousness.

The History Channel tells the story of Harvard grad Carter G. Woodson and the prominent minister Jesse E. Moorland who founded the



Above: David Crockett, a trustee on the Rancho Santiago Community College District Board and Dr. Vicki Calhoun, Fullerton Union High School District trustee participated in a panel discussion.

Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH) in 1912. The organization was dedicated to researching and promoting the achievements of Black Americans.

The Civil Rights movement of the 1960s forced a reckoning of America's treatment of its African American citizens, and, in 1976, the official designation of February as Black History Month in America began.

"When I came to Southern California, I had to wrap my head around the freeway culture of LA and OC," said Crockett. "There wasn't a critical mass of Black people, so there were no mentors readily available." Crockett allied himself with people who had common values even if they didn't look like him. That put Crockett

in listening mode, and he found out that he shared common ground.

"Black History is American History," said Crockett. "It's about learning to have the difficult conversations we need to have to move this country forward."

In 2021, California became the first state to make Ethnic Studies a graduation requirement. Dr. Calhoun is hopeful and sees the coming implementation of Ethnic Studies as a big step in the right direction.

Having young Americans learn through ethnic studies classes about the contributions of marginalized communities to the development of the United States will no longer be limited to just one month of the year.



Fullerton Union High School Baseball team with alumnus Michael Lorenzen, and Mayor Nicholas Dunlap during recognition ceremony at city council.

Fullerton Union High School acknowledged for remarkable contributions to Major League Baseball history

Mayor Dunlap presented a proclamation celebrating Fullerton Union High School's remarkable contribution to Major League Baseball history. Fullerton Union High School has produced four pitchers who have thrown no-hitters in Major League Baseball.

The first no-hitter was thrown on July 1, 1920, by Walter Johnson, pitching for the Washington Senators against the Boston Red Sox at Fenway Park. Johnson attended Fullerton High School from 1904 /05.

The second no-hitter was thrown on April 27, 1973, by Steve Busby, pitching for the Kansas City Royals against the Detroit Tigers at Tiger Stadium. Busby

graduated from Fullerton Union High School as a member of the class of 1967. The third no-hitter was also thrown by Busby on June 19, 1974, pitching for the Royals against the Milwaukee Brewers.

Fun fact: The Brewers were managed, at the time, by Del Crandall, a 1947 Fullerton Union High School graduate. During his MLB playing career, Crandall was among the few catchers in baseball history to catch three no-hitters.

The 4th no-hitter was thrown on September 29, 1983, by Mike Warren, pitching for the Oakland Athletics against the Chicago White Sox at Oakland Alameda Coliseum. He graduated from Fullerton Union High School class of 1979 and became only

the 3rd rookie in Major League Baseball history to throw a no-hitter.

Mike Lorenzen threw the 5th no-hitter on August 9, 2023, pitching for the Philadelphia Phillies against the Washington Nationals at Citizens Bank Park in Philadelphia. He graduated from Fullerton Union High School in 2010 before attending Cal State Fullerton and playing for the Titans.

The Fullerton City Council, on behalf of the City of Fullerton, recognized Fullerton Union High School and the Fullerton Union High School Baseball Program for their exceptional contributions to the game of baseball and for their five no-hitters in the Major Leagues.

City Council Notes

by Staff

Meetings are on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 pm. Upcoming agenda information and streaming video of meetings are available at www.cityoffullerton.com • City Hall is located at 303 W. Commonwealth, Fullerton

Contact Council at (714) 738-6311 or council@cityoffullerton.com

Tuesday, February 6 Meeting

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Liza Boone and Tammy Hill became the new proprietors of 1555 W Commonwealth, formerly the Joy Learning Center. It is going to be the Family Heart Preschool Center. They are awaiting licensing but are opening their doors to the public for homework tutoring program Grades one through six. Find out more at: www.familyheartlearningcenter.com

Zee: Spoke about no response from representatives at Republic Services. Zee, along with other community members, never received the reimbursement that was promised by the City and Republic Services for not picking up waste due to the strike in December 2021. Zee also thanked Councilmembers Dr Ahmad Zahra and Dr Shana Charles for putting the Union Pacific Trail back on the agenda and credited their efforts as catalysts for the community win.

Todd Harrison said that he and his wife, Yolanda, are still housing endangered residents of Rancho La Paz. The City Council repeatedly failed to hinder mobile home park owner John Saunders's plans to convert Rancho La Paz SENIOR mobile home park to an all-ages mobile Home Park, thereby ending rent subsidies for approximately 300 fixed-income seniors who bought mobile homes in the park. There are several examples of cities successfully stopping such conversions elsewhere in California. The city attorney Dick Jones mistakenly advised the council on the legal issues related to

this, saying that nothing could be done.

In the context of Fullerton's agreement with the state about the new housing mandate numbers and policies, the plan to make Rancho La Paz an all ages is one step along a timeline on his plan to make it possible to close the Mobile Home Park.

This is proven by Saunders's history of mobile home park purchases, where he has done this and posted instructions to other mobile Home Park owners on how to make money off their ownership, with their eventual closing to use the land commercially, which is stated as the goal. The current step of removing age restrictions is clearly listed as a way to raise rents and income while driving away homeowners.

Residents of Rancho La Paz are fighting the conversion and have gained at least six months of delay. "But we cannot stop Mr. Saunders all alone. We need your help to save our seniors," Mr Harrison concluded.

Yolanda Harrison said that despite her mostly invisible disabilities and multiple other health conditions, she stood to speak for those who couldn't or can't, along with her husband, who was the duly elected representative of the Rancho La Paz Senior Mobile Home Park's HOA, who are still fighting for their homes. "That predatory landlord, John Saunders, and his cohorts have broken every lease that remains in the park. Even if the residents don't sign the new rules and reg-

ulations, they come into effect by the new school year. It wasn't only the homeowners but also the renters who did not want the park turned into an all-ages park. John Saunders, in his very predation, chose December as the time to sledgehammer new rules into place; even as he allowed the property to dissolve into a slum, he knew that we would be unable to fight him as many of the seniors were visiting family? Instead, you could have been our heroes; you should be ashamed of yourselves."

Woudarek referred to an article in the *Fullerton Observer* that said the city passed an ordinance that prevents homeless encampments within 25 feet of critical infrastructure. "You have an attorney here. What legal advice does he usually render to the Fullerton City Council? There is a landmark case that was passed: the case of Martin versus Boise."

[In 2009, after a local homeless shelter in Boise closed, six people were cited for violations of a city ordinance that makes it illegal to sleep on public property. One of those people, Robert Martin, and the others, represented by Howard Belodoff, filed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of an ordinance that punishes someone for sleeping outside when they have nowhere else to go.

In 2019, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear an appeal of the case, leaving the precedent intact in the nine Western states under the jurisdiction of the Ninth Circuit, which includes California.

In 2021, Boise settled the lawsuit by agreeing to spend \$1.3 million for additional shelter spaces, \$435,000 for

the plaintiffs' attorneys' fees, and agreed to amend ordinances on public sleeping as well as to train their police not to arrest people or issue citations when there is no shelter space available. People who are offered appropriate available shelter space but refuse to go could still be cited under the settlement.]

"You cannot come up with any law, regulation, or bylaw to outlaw camping on public property. In 2023, California expanded and said you can not arrest a homeless person on public property. It is unconstitutional and in full violation of the 8th Amendment. I hope your attorney is aware of that," said Woudarek.

"I wonder why people hate homeless people. We are dealing with human rights. Right now, it has been flooding since Sunday. There are people who don't have a place to sleep. This council has wasted millions and millions of dollars. They pay over a quarter of a million to just a single person. Why can't we buy even one whole apartment [building] and put people there? There is no prudential management of public funds, and that is very bad."

He recommended a book called *It's Our Time to Eat* and told the council that they better have a moral conviction on how they use public funds.

Curtis Gamble repeated his usual list of facts on homeless shelters and resources - among which was added the 13,000 + homes to be built - and various new grants for the homeless.

Julie said that since mid-October, the U-verse 99 no longer works to watch the city council.

The City Clerk said they would get that resolved.

APPROVED ITEMS ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR

1. January 16, 2024 Meeting Minutes

2.Treasurer’s Report Ended December 31 2023
Received and filed

3. Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Grant

4. Clean River Purchase Order for Recycling Containers

5. Tech Logic Purchase Order for Library Materials Handler

6. Professional Engineering Consultant Services Authorization
7. On-Call Real Estate and Land Use Advisory Services Agreements

8. Museum Operation Agreement Second Amendment

9. Crown Area Water Main Replacement Contract

10. Rancho-Verona Area Water Main Replacement Contract

11. Raymond Grade Separation Post Construction Configuration

12. Basque Avenue Rehabilitation Contract

ITEM 13: NOISE REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS MUNICIPAL CODE AMENDMENTS (CONTINUED FROM DECEMBER 19, 2023 MEETING)

Zahra asked how feedback from the public and businesses helped with the ordinance. Staff said there was overwhelming support for outdoor music. He asked about the train whistle - and was told that the city could not modify the state regulations on train whistles without infrastructure changes, which would be expensive.

Mark Storm, the consultant, said decibels in the mid-60s were average at multiple locations currently.

Whitaker said speech can be up to 70 - so these seem low. Mr Storm said-background ambient noise could include where it says “No Entertainment after 10 pm.”

Whitaker asked if that meant no outdoor but okay for indoor.

The staff said yes.

Public Comments

Josh Ferguson said, “The whole mess has been going on for years. One quote given during the presentation “The path to enforcement already exists today,” is horrible because it’s not being enforced. It has never been enforced, and the council should not just send it back, but send it back with direction to find out what enforcement will actually take place in the city because one example given was that the chief can revoke entertainment permits.”

“Last I checked,” Ferguson continued, “there were 13 businesses with violations of alcohol control and that requires that business be dragged before planning and that has happened only twice. So there is no enforcement in the city.”

He said he went downtown with a decibel meter and found that the current 55 is nonsense because it factors in ambient noise.

“To take an accurate measure of ambient, you would have to have all bars shut down, or you are conflating with the noise that is happening. The actual ambient is between 55 and 60 when you are near roads. When you are away from that, it is much less. You don’t have to enforce from 50 feet away –you bump into sound from another bar. Check what OSHA says about sound. If you set the level at 75 from 50 feet away - it would have to be 180 inside, which endangers the staff and employees. We have all kinds of sound barrier devices, so why would it have to be any higher than the ambient? 9 of 13 businesses after midnight

were 80 to 85 decibels - where is the enforcement?”

Zee said consistency is a quality of a well-run city - he agreed with Ferguson that 13 violations only resulting in two coming before planning is not consistent or fair to business owners. What’s the penalty? There’s no follow-through. It should be done without favor.

Reifer said decibels are going up by 10 - 25 decibels. We should have a CEQA study, but it should just be in the C3 zone.

Council comments

Zahra said Ferguson has some good points.

Staff -There are enforcement levels, but they are unenforceable since all of downtown is already above 55 (which is the conversation level). All businesses downtown are in violation. New levels are more realistic. 65 is ambient - violation is 75.

Whitaker said years ago, it was amplified music with doors closed. “I would be in favor of sending it back to planning for more tweaking.”

Charles said she was more concerned that the level was too low for fun and reasonable levels. She asked, “Will this pertain to areas beyond downtown?”

Staff - Most of the city is in C3, and G-C is concentrated from Harbor from Commonwealth to Chapman.

Jung said residential is separate from what we are talking about. It should go back to planning and include that aspect.

Staff - for ease of readability and clarity around the commercial zone. Outdoor speakers and amplified music are not allowed now - enforcement is impossible because everything over 55 is a violation. The penalties are in place so that we have a track record and are set by the state.

Charles said the planning commission had already approved this unanimously. She made a motion to add Jung’s concern and pass this tonight. Zahra seconded.

Dunlap said, “85 Decibels on the sidewalk is ridiculous. Fines should be higher. I would like to see it return to planning to add a separate residential zone.” He then countered the motion and made a motion to send it back to planning.

Passed. 3-2. (Zahra, Charles no)

ITEM 14: JULY 2024 SPECIAL EVENT CELEBRATION OPTIONS

Staff asks whether to hold a City-hosted special event this July as a Fourth of July event on the California State University, Fullerton campus, or downtown. Alternatively, a special event like Founders Day in July could be possible.

Proposed Motion: Direct staff to present a budget amendment at a future City Council meeting to request increased funding for the Fourth of July Event in Downtown Fullerton.

Three options with increased costs of \$195,000 to \$280,000 were presented.

Public Comments

Lloreda said Cal State options are too expensive (\$280,000). She said the council should narrow it down to the downtown plaza with day and night events.

Gamble said, “I don’t support fireworks or these options. You might not like the homeless community, but residents have said homeless issues are at the top of their concerns. We have to put priorities in order - no fireworks - approve nothing until you deal with people dying on the street.”

Zee said he liked a daytime event for families to celebrate history. He encouraged his neighbors to bring fireworks to the area designated so he didn’t have to water down his roof.

Milton said, “We are supposed to celebrate with fireworks and fun. The daytime celebration we used to have was good.”

Arnel Dino said he had been part of a group trying to bring fireworks back for July 4th.

Council Comments

Dunlap said downtown seems the best choice for bringing even more people downtown.

Zahra agreed with Dunlap. “I like the idea of a parade, and a drone show would be unique,” he said.

Charles also agreed and said she would like to see the Latin band, Korean entertainment, and other cultural entertainment.

Whitaker favored Cal State because it was bigger.

Jung could not be heard in chambers or online.

Bringing the celebration to downtown was passed unanimously

ITEM 15: SAFE AND SANE FIREWORKS SALES

Last year, 27 groups applied for fireworks stand sales permits, and 15 groups were selected by lottery.

The fee has increased based on actual costs incurred by the City in providing services.

Gamble said that as a veteran, he thought everyone should be included, even people experiencing homelessness. When people are left out, I feel the need to include them. It’s hard to be happy when people are dying.

Dunlap agreed that he didn’t like raised fees.

City Manager Levitt said there should be a \$2900 and \$3000 option phased in over years so that the sticker shock would be less.

Jung said the costs aren’t passed on; the fireworks company sets the price. He motioned for \$2900 to be the fee, which Dunlap seconded.

Charles said, “So the cost to the city is \$4,000, and we are phasing in fee increases beginning with \$2900?”

Passed unanimously

ITEM 16: THE SECOND QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT

The budget report was received and filed. Second Quarter Financial Report for FY 2023-24. The FY 2023-24 Mid-Year Budget Amendments and authorize the City Manager, or designee, to make amendments to the FY 2023-24 Adopted Budget was approved.

ITEM 17: CITY MANAGER EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

A measure passed unanimously authorizing the First Amendment to the city manager’s employment agreement as well as to the proposed resolution for council-appointed employees.

Eric Levitt was appointed as City Manager in May 2022. The amendment is an increase in the base salary from \$250,000 to \$270,000 and a 2nd provision adds a \$350 monthly flex credit to be applied to the medical benefits which include —health, dental, and vision.

APPOINTMENTS & 2024 SCAG DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE

Council Member Charles appointed Cal State Fullerton student Andrew Galusha to the Active Transportation Committee.

The council selected Mayor Pro Tem Jung as the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Delegate and the alternate is Councilmember Zahra.

AGENDA FORECAST (Tentative)
for City Council Meeting Tuesday, February 20

FULLERTON FLIGHT CENTER RENOVATION PROJECT LOAN FINANCING

SOUTH ACACIA AVENUE AND EAST VALENCIA DRIVE STORM DRAIN REPAIR BUDGET

JANUARY 2024 CHECK REGISTER

RFP AGREEMENT FOR GRANT WRITING SERVICES

RFP AGREEMENT FOR LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

REGIONAL TRAFFIC SIGNAL SYNCHRONIZATION PROGRAM COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

FLOOD ORDINANCE UPDATE

AB STREAMLINING ACT ORDINANCE

REVIEW OF YOUTH COMMISSION STRUCTURE

SENIOR COMMISSION ESTABLISHMENT

REPUBLIC SERVICES UPDATE & AMENDMENT

How to contact your District Representative			
Mayor/ Chair		• District 3: Dr. Shana Charles	
• District 2: Nick Dunlap		(714) 738-6311	
(714) 738-6311		shana.charles@cityoffullerton.com	
nicholas.dunlap@cityoffullerton.com		• District 4: Bruce Whitaker	
		(714) 981-8474	
		bwwhitaker@live.com	
Mayor Protom/Vice Chair		• District 5: Dr. Ahmad Zahra	
• District 1: Fred Jung		(714) 738-6311	
(714) 738-6311		ahmadz@cityoffullerton.com	
fred.jung@cityoffullerton.com			



H2 Whoa

Yes, the big story all over Southern California and beyond was and continues to be rain, rain, and a lot more rain, and of course, there are areas in and around Fullerton, including downtown in particular, that are very active when it hits hard. Where does all of that water come from, and why does it all end up rushing by Downtown Fullerton?

It has been outlined here before, but since it became such a big story recently, we will just remind you that Brea Creek is a tributary of Coyote Creek,

and water flows from Brea Canyon to Tonner Canyon and then makes some bends and ends up at the Brea Reservoir. Hikers are familiar with the Brea Dam area, where the creek joins Coyote Creek and then Fullerton Creek.

According to the USGS site, the water level at Brea Dam rose about 2.5 feet. Another report from where the water rushes by West Malvern showed flooded streets and otherwise ordinary mayhem. We sun-hungry Californians consider rain an invasion and, therefore, mayhem, even after experiencing the endless insanity of our massive, much-needed rainy season

last year.

Where most of us notice the large flow of water may be what's pictured right here, just south of where Brea Boulevard and Harbor Boulevard meet. When we were there after one of the downpours, it was obvious that falling into that channel just south of East Valley View Drive would mean sure disaster, raging through the rest of Fullerton and on to Buena Park. Good fencing all around keeps that from happening.



BIKE RACKS

Many bike enthusiasts are in town, on the streets, and on the trails. We encourage them with bike routes, bike lanes, bike trails, and, here and there, bike racks. Bike racks can be artistic and are found in many other cities, one of which will give a rack to a business if they request one.

Here are a few of ours, and hey, we can use a few more around town, in areas near the trails that have none, in

parks, and in other areas downtown near businesses that could benefit from those riders as they decide to shop or get a coffee or food instead of just heading back home. How about one that looks like a Fender guitar? A Valencia orange tree? We have one that looks like an antique high-wheel bike right in front of Hopscotch—got a million other ideas, how 'bout you? Maybe more bike racks plus a map that shows where they are?



Classic Café

Just as hoped and cautiously predicted, we now have news on the newest place to eat in town, as the Classic Café opened in the midst of a three-day downpour on Tuesday, February 6. Those brave enough to traverse the flooded streets discovered that life goes on, even in the rain, with good food and drinks to be safely found.



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Photo Quiz

Send answer to Mike at AllMedia@sbcglobal.net



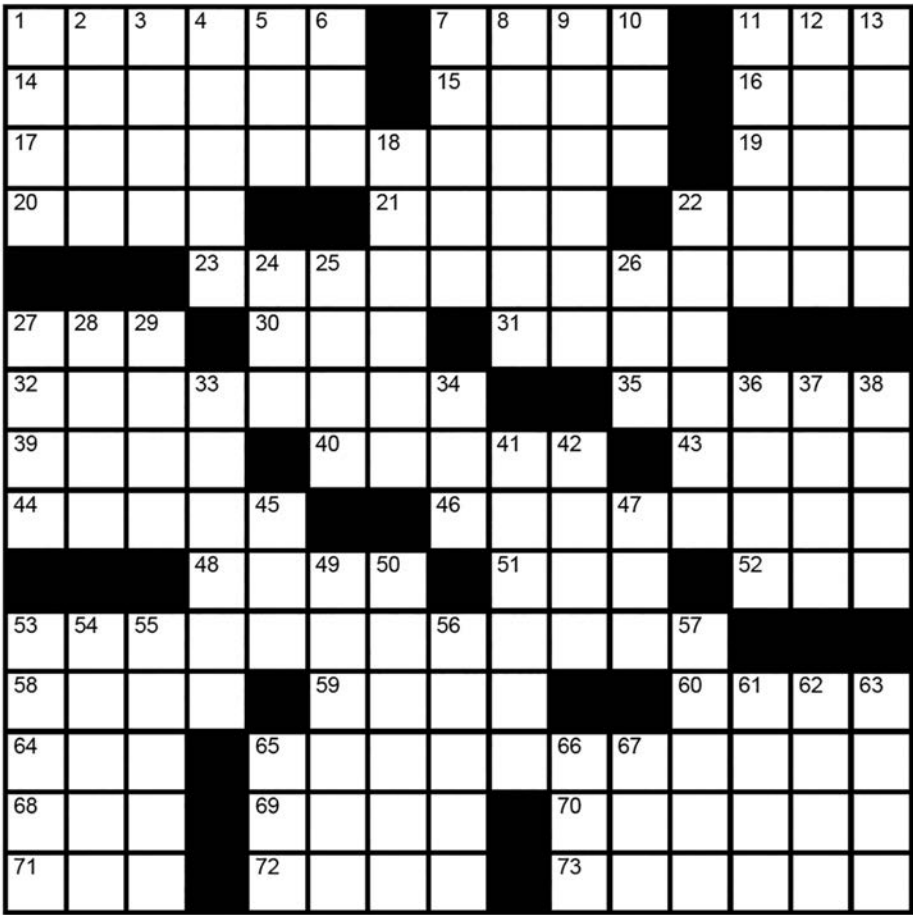
Last time: Nobody came close to naming all of the locations of the clocks, so the prize rolls over for this one



This time: Where is this bike rack located?

OUR TOWN CROSSWORD © 2024

"SEEING RED" by Valerie Brickey (answer key on page 15)



ACROSS

1. Peet or Plummer

7. Office message

11. "Gotcha!"

14. New start for a movie series

15. Shepard in space

16. Joke

17. Alabama team

19. Televis

20. Adjusts, as a clock

21. Bit of physics

22. Reebok rival

23. Popular street in Pacific Beach (San Diego)

27. Commotion

30. Word before "Shorty" and "Smart," in film titles

31. "Game of Thrones" Jon

32. Left high and dry

35. Guy found in kids' books

39. Smoothie superfruit
40. Navy Seals' raid target of 2011

43. Stink

44. Oscar-winning Berry

46. "What I Am" singer Edie

48. Auction endings?

51. ___ Park: Pirates' field

52. Soul provider

53. Marvel's Wanda Maximoff

58. Lindsey and Linden

59. "Born From Jets" automaker

60. "___ girl!"

64. Half a sawbuck

65. First Black student to desegregate in Louisiana

68. Tarnish

69. "___ old cowhand..."

70. Think highly of

71. Final: Abbr.

72. Townshend of the Who

73. Deem appropriate

DOWN

1. Circle parts

2. ___ mortals

3. Some

4. Claim on some food packaging

5. Bobs and weaves

6. From ___ Z

7. Flat finish

8. George and T.S.

9. Bedlam bloke

10. "A Chorus Line" number

11. One more time

12. 17-syllable work

13. Side (with)

18. Port on the Loire

22. New Jersey airport city

24. Have ___ at

25. City near Lake Tahoe

26. Solemn promise

27. Asian nurse

28. Obama-era immigration policy, familiarly

29. Thermometer type

33. Gretzky's first NHL team
34. Apply gently

36. Onion relative

37. Where to find a hero

38. Tex. neighbor

41. Onetime Dr. Pepper rival

42. "___ No Sunshine": Bill Withers hit

45. Electric fish

47. 300, to Caesar

49. Work history

50. Take a ___ (attempt)

53. Former SeaWorld star

54. Secret group

55. On the lookout

56. "Party on, ___!" "Party on, Garth!"

57. "You ___ at hello"

61. End-of-the-week cry

62. Garr of "Tootsie"

63. At ___ time (prearranged)

65. Tear

66. Dorm figures: Abbr.

67. Suffix with fluor



Mr and Mrs Kim in their garden at Rancho Fullerton

Update: Elderly Couple File

Appeal with Help from Local Law firm

The Thakur Law Firm filed an appeal in the OC Superior Court on behalf of Sam and Wha Kim, stating that the elderly Korean-American couple, who speak very little English, were deprived of a fair hearing to present their case against Rancho Fullerton Mobile Home Estates due to inadequate interpretation service provided. Adding to that point was the fact that the couple (who live on fixed Social Security retirement benefits) was unable to hire an English-speaking attorney, so they appeared in Court to present evidence themselves.

The original case brought by Gregory Beam & Associates Inc., on behalf of The Nicolas Family LLC dba Rancho Fullerton Mobile Home Estates against mobile homeowners Sam and Wha Kim, took place on June 15, 2023. As a result of that hearing, Judge Corey S. Cramin in OC Superior Court granted the injunction order instructing the Kims to clean up the construction debris around their mobile home.

The Kims brought time-stamped photographs showing the approved HCD construction and clean-up had been accomplished months before the

trial. Still, the Court mistakenly relied on non-time-stamped photos submitted by Nicolas Family lawyer Beam during the construction period resulting in an injunction against the Kims. As a result of that ruling, the Kims were hit with a \$12,800 bill for attorney fees from Beam.

After that court date, the couple was presented with a list of alleged violations by Rancho Fullerton manager Andrea West which she updated and added more to several times. The list required removing a tomato plant and a persimmon tree the couple had added to their garden and removing a bug zapper among other things.

Most recently, the couple was given a 60-day notice to vacate even though their property is tidy, and they have never missed paying their space rent.

Thakur's argument concluded with the request that the Court reverse the previous injunction order and grant a new hearing due to the fact that the Court failed to furnish an adequate interpreter and to regulate communications in the Court depriving the Kims of their ability to present their case and, thus depriving them of due process of law.

Appellants' right to an interpreter is enshrined within California's Evidence Code at section 752.(a)

Empty Bowls

Empty Bowls is an international grass roots effort to fight hunger. Guests are invited to a simple meal of soup & bread donated by local restaurants for a freewill \$30 donation & keep a local potter handcrafted bowl as a reminder that they have helped feed a low-income homebound Fullerton resident.

Meals on Wheels of Fullerton

Saturday, Feb. 24, 2024 11am-1pm

Celebrating 50 years of service

St. Paul Lutheran Church

111 W. Las Palmas Dr., Fullerton

Contact emptybowlsfullerton@gmail.com

GROUND SWELL

Have you been impacted by a Hate Crime, Hate Incident, or Hate Activity in Orange County, CA?

We would like to know and encourage you to report it.

There are 4 ways to report:

• Fill out an online form — <https://hatecrime.211oc.org/>

• Email any information you know about what happened/where/when/to whom to ochateactivity@211oc.org

• Call to talk to someone anytime – Dial 2-1-1 and press #6

• Text **OCHATEACTIVITY** to **898211** to receive a direct link to report

FULLERTON JOINT UNION
HIGH SCHOOL BOARD

HIGHLIGHTS & Commentary by Vivien Moreno
For more information: (714) 870-2800 or www.fjuhsd.org



February 6 Meeting

The FJUHSd Trustees celebrated Career Technical Education (CTE) Month at the February 6 board meeting, honoring La Habra High School's Emergency Response Pathway Instructor, Jeff Breier, and three La Habra High School Emergency Response CTE students for their achievements in Fire Technology: Noah Valdez, Lucas Trevino, and Cruz Castillo.

Buena Park High School (BPHS) celebrated Mechatronics Instructor Maroun Nehme, who leads the Advanced Robotics and Mechatronics (ARM) pathway at BPHS. BPHS ARM students Michael Barba, Erin Gaerlan, and Edwin Rodriguez shared how the CTE pathway and their Skills USA Club, mentored by Mr. Nehme, support their efforts to successfully follow manufacturing and modern robotics career pathways.

Administration honored District Technical Director, Weston Baughn, and the video production team that films board meetings and district communications. The student team: Melusine Tenkoff, Isabella Loarca, Owen Villagrancia, Nathan Na, Elena Vidaurri and Mason Barney are assisted by Sunny Hills High School instructor, Danny Flores, and his brother, La Vista/La Sierra High School Film Production instructor, Joey Flores.

New Fullerton Secondary
Teacher's Organization
(FSTO) Programs

Fullerton Secondary Teacher's Organization President Angie Cencak reported on 2 FSTO programs. First, the New Educator Mentoring Program matches up new educators with experienced FJUHSd instructors at their

school sites to provide a more productive probation period.

Program Coordinator Christy Kenny Kitchen, a Buena Park High School (BPHS) English Language Arts teacher, has partnered with coaches and new teachers at BPHS, Troy High School (TRHS), Sonora High School (SOHS), and Sunny Hills High School (SHHS). New educators receive mentoring and four completed and reviewed practice observations before the formal administrative observation to align new instructors with campus culture and FJUHSd expectations. FSTO teachers created the program to foster greater teacher retention throughout FJUHSd.

FSTO Instructional Leadership Core is also focused on creating a collaborative teaching model. It pairs special education instructors with general education teachers to facilitate expanded mainstream accessibility for students with special needs. Planning and training are currently financed by National Education Association grants, allowing FJUHSd teachers to explore this education option, which is considered by the California Teachers Association to provide students with special needs with another beneficial "least restrictive" educational environment.

Master Facilities
Plan Update

Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Ruben Hernandez and DLR Architect Kevin Fleming started their update by showing samples of the interactive website-based Master Facilities Plan. They reviewed stakeholder input, which mainly consisted of administration and staff constituting 560 itemized but possibly duplicated



You can join FSTO/CTA/NEA by going to the following link:
<https://www.cta.org/join>

contributions. The over \$200,000 plan allows the public to access a current assessment of the age, condition, and needs of all district facility sites. It provides FJUHSd's educational conceptual goals and technical specifications coupled with a list of projects, including conjectured maintenance and building future costs.

Each site's projects echoed popular safety themes, additional athletic synthetic tracks and fields, and updated infrastructure. The Trustees asked no questions, not even about the proposed FUHS multistoried parking structure on the old Gymnasium site, including 6 CIF-sized tennis courts on the roof. (How high would the netting need to be?) Every school site listed infrastructure as a priority, but no trustee asked what type of infrastructure needed to be updated. Every school site's administrative office is planned to be rebuilt, redesigned, or relocated. BPHS plans to absorb the front covered walkways to create a new administrative office and lobby. Lighting is a big topic now that school starts at 8:30 am and practice fields are being used later in the evening. The next steps are to solicit community input on prioritizing the projects and call a school site principal

to get a link to participate.
(www.fjuhsd.org
under Our Schools tab)

Arts and Instructional
Materials Block Grant

FJUHSd receives over \$8 million from the California-authorized \$3.6 billion Arts and Instructional Material Block Grant. The grant allows individual educational agencies (like FJUHSd) to utilize the one-time funds in numerous ways if accompanied by a plan presented at a regularly scheduled public meeting and used by the 2025/26 school year.

FJUHSd Board President Dr. Chester Jeng requested that Mr. Hernandez explain the plan posted in the consent calendar. Mr. Hernandez said the plan allocates \$155,000 to each comprehensive school site this year for itemized visual and performing arts equipment. In the following 3 years, the remaining \$7 million dollars will go to offset state-mandated classified (CPRS) and certificated (CSTRS) staff pension increases. Trustee Lauren Klatzker commented that the Governor approved using the grant money in this way, which Mr. Hernandez confirmed.

The next regular schedule board meeting is March 12

IMPORTANT OC DEPT OF EDUCATION SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION MARCH 5 by Marcy Fry

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION: This election is a "one and done" election. The results in March are final, with no run-offs. The ballots will arrive in early February, and OCDE School Board candidates will be near the bottom of the ballot. This election is significant as it will decide the majority of the board, influencing critical decisions in children's education across Orange County.

Positions are for election in Areas 1, 3, and 4, with two candidates in each contest. The incumbents, marked with an asterisk, face intense competition. A map of the areas and candidate information appear later in the article.

RESPONSIBILITIES

OF THE OC DEPT OF EDUCATION SCHOOL BOARD:

The board makes impactful decisions regarding educational policy, budget allocations, and overall direction for schools in their jurisdiction. Students directly under the jurisdiction of the OC Board of Education include students in alternative education programs (Access), special education, and juvenile hall schools. The outcome of this election is particularly crucial, as the board's majority can significantly influence the implementation of educational programs, approval of charter schools, and other key administrative decisions.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT AND RECENT SHIFTS:

Before 2020, most people didn't pay attention to the party affiliation of school trustees because few trustees used their positions to advance partisan goals. We've seen a significant change as the agenda of many candidates and trustees have shifted to include a political agenda. National political debates have been brought into local school board meetings. Polarizing topics have included mask mandates, virtual learning, race and gender in the curriculum,

book banning, and the role of parents in school governance. School board composition can lead to significant shifts in educational policies, affecting curriculum choices, school operations, and overall educational philosophy.

School board elections can have big consequences and cause chaos and dysfunction in school districts. This is evidenced by the Orange County Department of Education and local districts, including Placentia/Yorba Linda School District, Orange Unified School District, and Chino Hills Unified School District. For example, California State University, Fullerton pulled their student teachers from classrooms from Placentia Yorba Linda School District for banning critical race theory.

HOW TO MAKE AN INFORMED VOTE:

Choosing the right candidate requires more than just listening to their campaign speeches. Are their motives genuine or politically motivated? How do you know? Scrutinizing each candidate's background, endorsements, and campaign financing gives a window into their priorities.

Questions about their personal investment in public education, such as where they sent their children to school, can offer insights into their motivations. Controversial terms like "Critical Race Theory," generally not taught in K-12 schools, are often misused to mean a variety of race-related topics. *A Parent's Voice* originated during COVID-19 and was a "code" for fighting mask mandates and vaccines. These terms are frequently used in political discourse but may not accurately represent the issues in K-12 education.

2024 Board of Education Candidates and the Areas they Represent (See video by Jodi Balma, <https://youtu.be/BfdJgPKFrXk?feature=shared>)

Three positions will be filled on March 5, Areas 1, 3, and 4, with two candidates running in each area.

TRUSTEE AREA 1 CANDIDATES:

- Jorge Valdes
 - Beatriz Mendoza
- Area 1 includes Anaheim and Santa Ana.

TRUSTEE AREA 3 CANDIDATES:

- Ken Williams (incumbent)
 - Dr. Nancy Watkins
- Area 3 includes NE neighborhoods in Fullerton, Brea, Placentia, Yorba Linda, Orange, Villa Park, Foothill Ranch, Irvine, Portola Hills, Anaheim, portions of Lake Forest, and portions of Tustin.

TRUSTEE AREA 4 CANDIDATES:

- Tim Shaw
 - David Johnson
- Area 4 includes Fullerton, La Habra, Garden Grove, Stanton, and Westminster.

RESEARCHING AND UNDERSTANDING
THE CURRENT BOARD:

In each race, the incumbent has a challenger. Researching and learning about the present board can help clarify their positions.

The OC Board of Education's website (<https://ocbe.us/Pages/Home.aspx>) has videos of board meetings, transcripts, and agendas. Understanding their achievements, financial management, and practices (including their choice and management of charter schools) offers a window into further governance. Resources such as Ballotpedia (which shares a wealth of information) and Vote11 can provide comprehensive information about the candidates.



What's Trending? by Irene, 12th grade

Fall From Stardom

In light of the Internet's obsession with true crime podcasts and television series, 32-year-old Gypsy-Rose Blanchard's Dec. 28, 2023 release from the Chillicothe Correctional Center, sparked the media's latest short-lived sensation. Recognized as one of the most notorious cases of Munchausen syndrome by proxy — a form of abuse in which a caretaker fabricates or induces symptoms of various medical illnesses — Blanchard's upbringing was distinctly characterized by years of medical mistreatment coordinated by her mother. After undergoing years of such abuse, in 2015, Blanchard and her then-boyfriend, Nicholas Godejohn, orchestrated the murder of her mother, landing her a 10-year sentence in prison.

With numerous adaptations of Blanchard's infamous story, like the 2019 Hulu mini-series, *The Act*, and the 2017 HBO documentary, *Mommy Dead and Dearest*, TikTok memes and content further heightened the public's interest in the case. Just days ahead of her release, millions of fans took to social media in support of the figure.

The social media "icon" now celebrates a combined 18-million fanbase across TikTok and Instagram and was featured on various news outlets where she shared insights into her newly-found freedom alongside her husband, Ryan Anderson, whom she met during her time in prison.

Praised for empowering victims of domestic abuse and adored for her witty social media posts, Blanchard became an instant cultural sensation. But as rapidly as she ascended to stardom, her fall from fame, because of her relationship with her new husband, was marked with even greater speed.

The convict-to-pop culture icon pipeline poses a moral dilemma for viewers who hope to address Blanchard's role in her mother's death. Can an individual convicted of second-degree murder possibly maintain their "influencer" status? How does social media affect our perception of true crime cases? This malicious media cycle of glorifying and then canceling sensational personalities highlights the folly and danger of idolizing non-celebrities.



College Applications by Francine, 12th grade

Lessons Learned

Embarking on the college application journey is both exciting and daunting. There were many things that I wish I had known before. For example, even when my GPA should already be impressive, it is important to know as early as before enrolling in high school that a student must be thoughtful in course selection because this can impact a student's GPA and class rank, which are typically required when filling out application forms. Some courses have more weight. These are the honors or AP/IB courses. So, even though you may get an A, you may end up having a lower GPA and class rank due to the weighted grading system. Beyond the grades, the choice of courses also impacts a student's admission chance. The courses, both academic and electives, and extra-curricular activities should align with the student's chosen pathway in college. While most universities are test optional for the incoming freshmen in Fall 2024, it is worth preparing and taking the SAT/ACT as early as Spring because there is the likelihood that colleges might begin requiring these again. Just last week, Dartmouth was the first Ivy League to announce they will again require SAT/ACT for incoming freshmen in Fall 2025.

Start Early:

The cardinal rule of college applications is to start early. The process can be overwhelming, and beginning well in advance allows ample time for research, self-reflection, and the crafting of compelling personal statements. The SAT/ACT testing begins in February 2024. During my application journey, it was hard to start early due to my numerous commitments in school and extra-curricular activities, so I went through the same hardship as those who worked on their application close to the deadlines. The UCs and CSUs deadline is November 30th, and almost all universities are on January

1st, so unless you are fine with working through the Thanksgiving and Holiday breaks, you might want to work on your applications way before these due dates.

Research Thoroughly:

Each college is unique, with distinct programs, cultures, and values. Take the time to delve into each institution's offerings, faculty, and campus life. My application process involved creating a detailed spreadsheet with essential information for each college, ensuring I could make informed decisions tailored to my academic and personal goals. Also, college application questions tend to ask about how their program suits you.

Stay Organized:

With multiple deadlines and requirements, staying organized is paramount. Utilize calendars, checklists, or organizational apps to keep track of deadlines, submission requirements, and communication with prospective colleges. Staying organized ensures that you don't miss a crucial step in the application process.

Balance Ambition with Realism:

While reaching for the stars is admirable, balance ambition with realism. Apply to a mix of reach (a.k.a. "beyond your reach"), match, and safety schools to ensure a well-rounded list that aligns with your academic profile. Reflecting on my experience, maintaining this balance eased the pressure and provided a range of potential opportunities.

The college application journey is undoubtedly challenging, but with careful planning, authenticity, and a commitment to self-reflection, it can also be an immensely rewarding experience. My journey taught me that each element of the application process contributes to the bigger picture of who you are. Embrace the process, and remember that the right fit is not just about impressing colleges but finding a place where you can thrive personally and academically.



Values We Uphold by Marcella, 6th grade

Cleanliness on Campus

As students walk around the school campus, they are confronted with a disheartening sight--a school marred with litter and neglect. The cause? Countless students thoughtlessly abandon their trash, leaving the responsibility of cleanup to others, be it a janitor, another student, or even a squirrel.

"It is pitiful to see the student body litter the campus daily without thinking twice, or about how it affects these men [the custodians/janitors]. The custodians linger in the shadows of our everyday lives. And just as we spend our teenage livelihood in classrooms, they spend theirs cleaning up our messes," writes Mohammed Syed in his article "Students Unaware of Trash Problem They Create" in *The Californian Paper*, an award-winning

student newspaper of California High School.

When people do not clean up after themselves, it is disrespectful to the planet and the teachers, principals, parents, other students, and janitors. When students neglect to dispose of their trash, they burden the janitor with an additional task that could have easily been managed if the student had taken responsibility. A janitor's job is tough and important and, without them, the school would be left in a sorry state. A janitor has to clean the bathrooms, classrooms, halls, lunch tables, and school grounds. Additionally, they have to clean a student's mess that could have been easily taken care of by that student. That's not fair. We all need to step up and clean up after ourselves, it is just a basic responsibility.



National Observances by Mateo, 10th grade

Darwin Day, February 12

There have been many influential scientists in recent history who have changed the way we think about our world. Isaac Newton discovered and established the laws of motion and gravity. Albert Einstein, one of the most famous physicists of all time, developed theories regarding special and general relativity that still aid astronomers in their studies today. Nikola Tesla invented the alternating current and made many breakthroughs in the field of electricity. Another scientist whose incredible work makes him one of the greatest of all time is Charles Darwin, whose research on evolution and natural history reshaped our thoughts on life as we know it.

Darwin was born in 1809 in Shrewsbury, England, a small market town located in the country's western portion. He was an extremely bright and intelligent child, and at sixteen he enrolled at Edinburgh University in Scotland, where he would study medicine briefly until deciding to switch gears and study theology at Cambridge instead.

In 1831, Darwin began a five-year voyage to South America as a naturalist, working to study and chart the continent's coastlines. While there, the young scientist collected samples of plants, animals, and fossils in Brazil, Argentina, the Galápagos Islands, and many other regions in the area. Upon his return home in 1836, he began care-

fully studying these samples to make better sense of them.

Darwin's research of these South American samples led him to establish the theory of natural selection—that is, organisms that are better adapted to their environment produce more offspring than other organisms of the same species, therefore increasing the chances of certain beneficial traits becoming more widespread and potentially resulting in the formation of a new species. Darwin published his book *On the Origin of Species* in 1859, claiming that all species on Earth originate from a common ancestor and that species can change over extremely long periods. Many scientists rejected his theories when they were first published, but as technology advanced further and DNA research became easier to conduct, more and more evidence arose to back them up. So eventually scientists collectively agreed to accept them.

Although Charles Darwin died in 1882, his influence is still felt by many scientists around the world. Darwin Day is celebrated worldwide every year on his birthday, February 12th, to honor the famed naturalist. It is not just a commemoration of his life achievements and breakthroughs, but more so a day that serves to encourage people everywhere to reflect on the beauty of science and how it has impacted our understanding of the world we live in today.

SWIM LESSONS

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AUSTRALIAN SWIM SCHOOL

(inside Meridian Health Club)

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www.australianswimschool.com



HITS & MISSES

by Joyce Mason © 2024



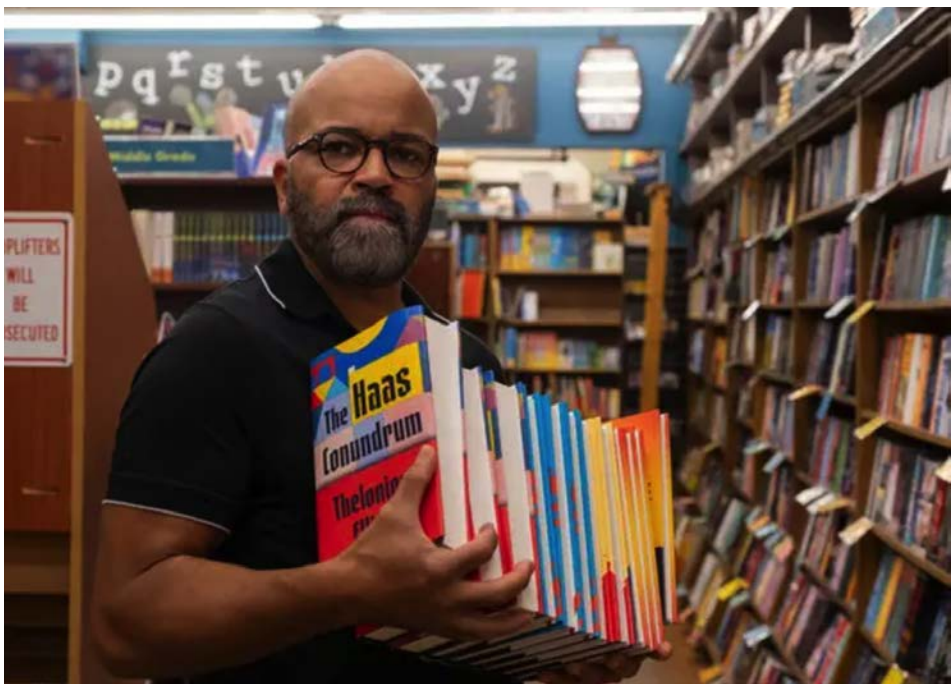
AMERICAN FICTION: Two Hits

"American Fiction" is one of ten films nominated for a Best Picture Academy Award and has received nominations in several other categories. Writer/director Cord Jefferson has been nominated for Best Adapted Screenplay, having already won an Emmy in 2019 for his HBO series "Watchmen." Thanks to a gifted cast and a talent for satire, Jefferson has created an insightful and engaging tale about the role of Black fiction in today's reading marketplace.

A full-time professor and scholar, Thelonious "Monk" Ellison (Jeffrey Wright), specializes in the plays of ancient Greek writers and is now working on an updated version of Aeschylus. His agent tells him that when the public reads a book by a Black author, they expect to read about life in the ghetto, and he reminds Monk how well Sintara Golden's books are selling because she writes about Black women in the inner city. Walking past the local bookstore, Monk sees Sintara reading an excerpt from her latest book, "We's Lives in Da Ghetto," to a rapt white audience. He is appalled by the stereotypes and clichés he hears.

As an exercise in "Black writing," Monk goes home and begins writing a book entitled "My Pafology," filling it with clichéd descriptions of Black male urban life. Embarrassed by the quality of what he has written, he signs the manuscript with a pseudonym, Stagg R. Leigh, and sends it to his agent (John Ortiz), who responds with enthusiasm and the certainty that he can sell it to a publisher. Monk agrees to the arrangement because his true identity will not appear on the cover. He even suggests changing the title of the book to "Fuck."

Because Jefferson is a skilled scriptwriter, he does not rely solely on the satire in this movie but fleshes out his leading character. Monk has grown up in an educated family, and we observe him interacting with his mother and siblings. His sister, Lisa, has a career as a medical doctor. His younger brother, Clifford (Sterling K. Brown), is rebellious, outwardly gay, and openly combative. Although he has little



screen time, Brown creates an indelible image. Their father has passed away, and the family cherishes their mother, Agnes (Leslie Uggams, probably the most famous actor in the film). Agnes, whose health is failing, is cared for by Lorraine (Myra Taylor), a live-in housekeeper.


Monk, a talented and honorable man, is not always affable or easy to get along with. Critical of others, he even has trouble establishing a romantic relationship with an attractive and interesting new neighbor. Coraline (Erika Alexander), a lawyer, is not intimidated by Monk's academic credentials and publishing successes.

Besides its well-written script and relevant theme, "American Fiction" is rich with talented actors. Jeffrey Wright has been nominated as Best Actor in a Leading Role, and Sterling K. Brown as Best Actor in a Supporting Role.

Two Hits: Don't Miss it!

A Hit & A Miss: You Might Like it.

Two Misses: Don't Bother.



VIDEO OBSERVER

by Emerson Little © 2024

See videos on YouTube @emersonlittle1901

Museum with the World's Largest Collections of California Narrative Art to Open in Orange

Recently, I had a unique opportunity to tour the spaciouly reimagined new home of one of the world's largest collections of California narrative art with art collector and philanthropist Mark Hilbert. Founded in 2016, the Hilbert Museum of California Art at Chapman University holds the distinction of being the only museum in the world committed to tracing the rich, iconic history of the Golden State from the late 1800s to the present, through works by leading California artists and Hollywood studio artists and animators. Touring the museum before it opened, I learned that it will debut with nine new exhibitions featuring Millard Sheets, Mary Blair, Norman Rockwell and acclaimed Chicano artist Emigdio Vasquez as well as vintage radios, Navajo weavings and examples of California modernism.

"We will be the biggest art museum in Orange County," said founder Mark Hilbert, who with his wife gifted the couple's extensive collection to Chapman University to make it avail-



Mark Hilbert next to vintage radios from the Hilbert Collection

able for public viewing. "It is a museum of a lot of artwork that we've collected over a fifteen year period. We're exhibiting a variety of exhibitions so that there will be a lot of art from the last one hundred and twenty-five to thirty years, starting from early work to contemporary art. There will be some illustrative art. We also have some Norman Rockwell paintings. In addition, we've got a show on Navajo women weavers, featuring eye dazzler blankets. Then there's a variety of shows and collections including California Scene paintings, which feature narrative scenes of California life from the 1930s to the present, as well as exhibitions dedicated to animation and cinema arts, where we're going to feature Mary Blair, who was one of the most important artists at Disney."

Meeting with Mark Hilbert and Bob Ochsner outside the museum, we watched as construction workers made finishing touches to Millard Sheets' 40-by-16 foot "Pleasures Along the Beach" glass-tile mosaic. Rescued and moved from a former Home Savings Bank building on Wilshire Blvd. in Santa Monica in 2019, this mosaic has been meticulously reassembled, tile-by-tile. In the institution's outdoor courtyard, Hilbert pointed out a lot of different drought-resistant, California Native plants, including a California Oak tree. The native gardens are intended to create a new front door to the museum. Two expanded gallery buildings, constructed by architectural firm Johnston Marklee, surround the courtyard, offering a total of 26 galleries for rotating displays and exhibitions, as well as a café, research libraries, and a community room for lectures, classes and events.

"The museum is located in what's called the Cypress Barrio, and there was a famous artist named Emigdio Vasquez, who started his career capturing scenes of everyday life in Orange's historic Cypress Street Barrio," explained Hilbert as we walked through Emigdio Vasquez: Works from the Fred Ortiz Collection, an exhibition curated by Ortiz, Vasquez's longtime friend and local resident. Many Fullerton residents may be familiar with Vasquez's work through the murals at Lemon Park, Fullerton College, Fullerton Museum Center Auditorium, Cal State Fullerton and Maple Elementary School. This exhibit featured many of the acclaimed Chicano artist, muralist and teacher's social-realist paintings.

The expanded Hilbert Museum and nine new exhibitions will be open from 10am to 5pm Tuesdays through Saturdays starting February 23, 2024, and closed on Sundays and Mondays. Admission to the museum is free for everyone, continuing a promise that Mark and Janet Hilbert made when the original museum debuted in 2016 to keep their collection as accessible to the public as possible. Advance online reservations are recommended. For further information, please visit <https://hilbertmuseum.org>.

Please read longer version at www.fullertonobserver.com

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Friday, February 16

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WITH BILL CUNLIFFE, PIANO

Saturday, February 17

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WITH THE TALICH QUARTET

Sunday, February 18

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Sunday, February 25

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UNIVERSITY SINGERS & GUESTS ACDA

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Sunday, March 3

FABIAN ZIEGLER, PERCUSSION

Wednesday, March 6

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Art Gallery Room 1004

IN SPRING WE ARE REBORN / RENACEREMOS

EN CADA PRIMAVERA

February 15th - March 20th

The exhibition will feature an immersive installation of woodblock carvings and prints, filling the gallery like a garden of artworks. The work explores themes of our relationship to nature and animals; cycles of life, death, and rebirth; mourning and renewal—all through the rich cultural traditions of Acevedo's Zapotec heritage.





Making of Fantastitail by Natasha Rindt, Acrylic Paint on Blue Tape, 2023

John Wayne Airport has a Splash of Color

Southern Californian painter Natasha Rindt brings her colorful personality to John Wayne Airport in the latest Community Focus Space exhibit, Cultivating Chromatic Joy, from January 29, 2024, to February 29, 2024.

Natasha lays the foundation of her artwork by creating multi-dimensional canvases in her woodshop. She states, "As a painter and canvas maker from

Southern California, bright and sunny landscapes have always inspired me, and my favorite color has always been rainbow."

Rindt uses personalized tools to create her artwork, including a "mega brush," a fusion constructed of multiple paint brushes for enhanced blending and recycled masking tape pieces across various projects to craft unique color schemes.


"Painting allows me to enter another realm where all the chatter of the world disappears, and I can enjoy the beauty of existence purely through colors and shapes," Rindt expresses.

This sentiment is vividly depicted in Rindt's Odd Shape series. In 2022, she ingeniously crafted her inaugural oddly-shaped painting on a hand-built canvas, skillfully weaving in an optical illusion.

To further explore Natasha's art process, watch videos, browse available artwork, and learn how to paint your own chromatic joy, visit her website at www.TashaVision.com. For behind-the-scenes glimpses, follow her on social media: Instagram, [@tashavision](https://www.instagram.com/tashavision) or TikTok, [@tashavision](https://www.tiktok.com/@tashavision).

Cultivating Chromatic Joy is viewable at pre-security Lower level, Terminal A Baggage Claim.

For more information about the John Wayne Airport Arts Program, visit www.ocair.com/terminal/artexhibits.



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BALANCE & CHANGE

by Michelle Gottlieb, Psy.D., MFT, LPCC © 2024

After achieving a goal, what is next?

Okay, you have had a major goal, perhaps planning a wedding, a career goal, or buying a house, and you just achieved it! Congratulations! After the celebration, there is often a sense of “What’s next?”, a sense of letdown. The question is, what comes after success?

This can be a significant challenge for many people. If you are an athlete, and you finally conquered that time, that win, that challenge that you have been focusing on and putting all your time and energy into, what’s next?

You have had career goals that you have striven for, that job, that income, that title, and you have finally made it; then what’s next?

You had an image of being married, having children, and a house; you have

them all now; what’s next?

Often, the first thing that happens after celebrating success is a letdown. All of the excitement is gone. There feels to be no goals. There is no focus. Now what? People can get depressed. Life can feel meaningless without the focus. Acknowledge that what you feel is normal; it does not mean you are doing anything wrong. Many people talk about how, after they have achieved their goal, they enter into a slight depression. If it goes on for more than a couple of weeks, please reach out for professional help.

After you have achieved that goal, there are some important things to do. First, give yourself some well-deserved rest. You have been very focused for quite possibly a long time. It is more than okay to take time to recover. Make a plan of what that recovery looks like, ensuring that good, healthy sleep and healthy food are part of that recovery! If you have not seen friends because of the goal that you just met, reconnect! That can also help to elevate your energy and mood again!

Okay, you have rested and recovered, and your mood is returning; now what?! Oh, that is easy: set a new goal! And, as always, enjoy the journey!



Healthy Awareness

by Jo Ann Brannock, Ph.D. © 2024

What Does Love Have to Do with it?

Recently, I was at my book club, and *Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow* by Gabrielle Zevin was the book of discussion. The main character, Sadie, was interested in the fact that she loved more than one man at one time, the father of her daughter and her long-time friend and co-owner of their computer video company. During our book discussion, the question of how many kinds of love there are was brought up. Since Valentine's Day is only a few days after this publication, I thought I would write about love - a firsthand emotion.

February 14 is called St. Valentine's Day, so where did that come from? Several Christian martyrs have been named St. Valentine, but the one that stands out is Saint Valentine, the priest and physician. He secretly married couples to spare husbands from war, and in defying the emperor Claudius II Gothicus, was said to have been executed on February 14, 270. When he

was in prison, one story says that he fell in love with the jailer's daughter, whom he cured of blindness. On the night before he was executed, he wrote a farewell message to her and signed it, Your Valentine.

The ancient Greeks, such as Plato and Aristotle, studied love and often spoke of seven types of love:

- 1) eros (passion, lust, sexual attraction, or romantic love);
- 2) philia (deep bonds of friendship where each is there for each other);
- 3) storge (family or unconditional love that parents have for their children and vice-versa);
- 4) agape (universal love of strangers, nature or God);
- 5) Ludus (playful; flirting or teasing love);
- 6) pragma (practical love between married couples or long-term love); and
- 7) philautic (healthy or unhealthy self-love).

Touching base with psychologists, Z. Rubin's theory comes to mind. According to Rubin, love is made up of three basic elements:

- 1) caring (where you help others),
- 2) attachment (where you need to be with the other person), and
- 3) intimacy (where there is empathy and trust with close communication and self-disclosure).

"What has sex got to do with it?" So, let us turn to Robert Sternberg for that. Robert Sternberg's Triangular Theory of Love covers sex in three components:

- 1) I: intimacy (close to each other);
- 2) P: passion (sexual or erotic); and
- 3) C: commitment (long-term care of one another).

These three combine to form eight types of love, which are the following:

- 1) non-love, where all three, I, P, and C, are absent;
- 2) liking, where intimacy (I) exists, such as in friendships, but no passion and commitment;
- 3) infatuated love, where there is passion (P), but no intimacy or commitment;
- 4) empty love where there is commitment (C) without passion or intimacy and the couple stays together, such as for the children or financial reasons;
- 5) romantic love where there is passion and intimacy (P + I), but no commitment;
- 6) companionate where there is intimacy and commitment (I + C), such as with strong friendships and close family member, but no passion;
- 7) fatuous love which is impulsive with passion and commitment (P + C), but no intimacy and is most likely to fail; and
- 8) consummate love called real love in the Western culture where all three are present, intimacy, passion and commitment (I + P + C).

Some people freely use the term love, but now you can be an amateur psychologist without a license and diagnose what kind of love it is. Even Tina Turner might be impressed that you can know "What Love Has to Do with It" by differentiating between the various kinds of love.

(Britannica and Microsoft Bing, 2024 referenced)

There is no Emergency Cold Weather Shelter in Fullerton by Saskia Kennedy

When the “hurricane that never happened” was predicted, there was no emergency shelter for homeless in place in Fullerton. We have been experiencing heavy rain and thunderstorms, as well as 48-degree nights, and there are still no cold weather or emergency shelters in our city for homeless individuals.

According to the Fullerton Fire Department, in case of an emergency it is able to quickly produce shelter and medical services for the City. However, the City would have to tell them to do so and it is only used for things like large scale fires, earthquakes, train derailments, etc. Wouldn't a hurricane be a good time to practice and help the homeless at the same time?

There were approximately 272 people in Fullerton experiencing homelessness in the 2022 Point in Time Count (the last available), 202 of them were unsheltered. (Twenty-eight

homeless people died in Fullerton in 2023.)

The need for a cold weather emergency shelter is obvious. Despite this need, Fullerton has not opened an emergency cold-weather shelter this winter. (Previously, Fullerton and Santa Ana were the only locations of emergency cold weather shelters funded by the county. In past years, Fullerton has opened emergency shelters at the Armory, EV Free Church, or the Independence Park gym.)

Meanwhile, Anaheim opened temporary shelters at four churches in the central and west parts of the city that offer 50 overnight beds to people connected to Anaheim.

The lack of an emergency cold-shelter in Fullerton is even harder to explain since Director Doug Becht from the Orange County Executive Office | Office of Care Coordination sent a letter on October 5, 2023, stating in part,

“With the understanding that smaller, regional emergency sites that are proportionate and responsive to the individuals in a city or surrounding community are more impactful on the population served, while less imposing on a community than a large site that serves the entire county the Commission is asking Fullerton to consider and propose a model that will serve their communities’ needs.

“It is expected that different models will be proposed by each city, such as providing a site that is either city- or provider-operated, working with a provider or faith-based group that can host a program and/or a city working with their year-round shelter to carve out some capacity during this time of year to specifically operate for this purpose.”

The letter was addressed to then Mayor Fred Jung (currently Mayor Pro Tem) and cc'd the City Manager Eric Levitt. The letter was not sent to the

rest of the city councilmembers until an inquiry about the letter was made in February 2024 by the *Fullerton Observer*.

Questions as to why the letter was not sent to the rest of City Council and who decided Fullerton should not participate in opening a cold weather shelter have not been answered by either the City Manager or the Mayor Pro Tem at the time of this article.

The current lack of emergency shelter is not acceptable both for the most vulnerable members of our community and for the public at large who don't want streets dominated by homeless encampments. It is also costly. An OC United Way study estimated that \$299 million was spent to address homelessness in Orange County by governmental and non-governmental entities in 12 months in 2014/2015. The City of Fullerton needs to take action, and to take that action as soon as possible.



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LETTERS TO EDITOR

Over the years I have read the *Observer* while waiting in one of the medical offices at St Jude's Val Mesa building. Your piece about the importance of local media told me that I needed to subscribe even if I do not live in Fullerton. Newspapers with real people researching and writing stories of what is actually occurring in the community is so critical. Now more than ever.

News reporters keep citizens informed and government and organizations on their toes. The "news" that so many people get over the internet is garbage. That is why the recent downsizing of the news room at the *Los Angeles Times* is so disturbing.

Except for those years I was in the service or at school, I have depended on newspapers. During WWII, the *Washington Post* was my geography text. Thank you for carrying on with the *Observer*.

Morrison Clements *La Habra*

This letter is in response to Douglas Cox's statement at a city council meeting on December 19, 2023.

Mr Cox asserts that the homeless can defecate in public without penalty. In California, it is generally considered "disorderly conduct" to urinate or defecate in public. However, there is no specific statewide "public pooping" or "public urination" law. Many cities, however, have laws prohibiting human waste in public. He also seems to be unaware that without 24/7 access to public restrooms, the unhoused have few to no options for toileting, especially at night.

Cox said, "Most of them are drug addicts, and most have mental problems." I don't have current figures for 2023. Still, it is a fact that in any homeless population, you will find many addicts and mentally disordered people since these two issues are the greatest obstacles to steady employment and housing.

I don't know what card Mr. Cox refers to or what services are listed on it. But if his demeanor in print is anything like his approach to the unhoused, I'm not surprised that no one took him up on his offer for help. And while there are some homeless who do prefer life on the street, that doesn't apply to all homeless. That is a common logical fallacy—applying a blanket statement to all members of a group, assuming homogeneity where there is none.

Mr Cox, as too many before him have done and continue to do, advocates for arresting the chronically mentally disordered to get them needed mental health and other services. This is the equivalent of attacking a gnat with an AR-15. Taking the mentally ill and incarcerating them—ostensibly for their own good—will only worsen their existing conditions, burden them with a criminal record, and add to the already huge cost of mental health treatment.

Andrew Williams



Out of My Mind

by Jon Dobrer © 2024 • JonDobrer@mac.com

Human Evolution: Batteries Not Included

Robots will not replace me! The fear that we're building our replacements is unfounded. We are building our replacement parts. Robots aren't coming to get me. I'm absorbing them into my body. I'm the potential host. I can implant all kinds of mini electro-mechanical devices into my body. And, as I age and my body expands, I seem to be making room for them.

I used to joke that when someone had a knee or hip replacement, they were becoming bionic. Well, my wife, The Fair Helenkela, had both knees and hips replaced, and she may be Wonder Woman, but she's still low-tech and definitely not a robot.

I'm not talking about inert implants, e.g., dental fillings, bone transplants, surgical mesh, filters to catch embolisms, or breast implants. I'm not counting mechanical prostheses. I am grateful for the lifesaving wonders of heart, lung, kidney, and liver transplants. Still waiting for "If I only had a brain" to become feasible.

High-tech electronic implants that rely on electric power are a different kettle of fish, a horse of another color. Maybe we'll become a different sub-species of humans as we evolve not physically but mechanically.

If we keep going in this direction, we won't go to doctors or hospitals but to Genius Bars for tech support and hardware stores for parts. We're already using so many battery-powered implanted devices that instead of fearing falling in the shower, we should fear getting electrocuted in the shower.

I live in an age where I could need and receive an implanted pacemaker and defibrillator to regulate my quivering heart. I could get a mechanical heart. I wouldn't have to fear cholesterol. However, rust could be an issue.

Though I'm not ready, I could compensate for my hearing loss with cochlear implants or have

implanted devices to stimulate my diaphragm. (The one that helps me breathe, not the very temporary implants for birth control for which I don't physiologically qualify.) We have deep brain stimulators for seizure disorders. We implant pain pumps and insulin pumps. We can also implant stimulators for our vagus nerve. Please note: It's not "Vegas nerve," though there could be an electroshock implant to disincentivize gambling.

I see ads on TV exhorting me to stop pricking my fingers to check blood sugar but instead to get an implant. They also advertise an implantable device for sleep apnea. Is there really that much room for all these pumps and batteries?

I have bright friends concerned about the "Robot Apocalypse" and how our robots might band together to replace us. This is exactly backward. We're becoming them by choice.

I'm fortunate that there are lifesaving medical devices I could implant—or maybe "install" would be a better term. All of these implants will eventually make the bionic joke a reality. We'll be stuffed with new and improved organs.

In our Brave New World, if I'm lucky (or unlucky) enough to need and receive all these implants with their various power sources, how will they fit inside my admittedly expanding body? I could be so stuffed with electronic devices and their batteries that my insides will resemble my garage—or worse, my desk.

This being America, where healthcare is not guaranteed, I know cost will be a factor. I'm certain the finance industry would step in to fill the void. So, naturally, I must wonder if I were to fall behind on my payments, would they physically repossess my devices or, more likely, turn me off?

We're already using so many battery-powered implanted devices that instead of fearing falling in the shower, we should fear getting electrocuted in the shower.

AT HOME WITH THE HOMELESS

by Andrew Williams © 2024

Part V: The War on Opioid Users Continues

"The essence of fanaticism lies in the desire to force other people to change: the common inclination to improve your neighbor, mend your spouse, engineer your child, or straighten up your brother, rather than let them be. The fanatic is a most unselfish creature. The fanatic is a great altruist...He wants to save your soul, he wants to redeem you, he wants to liberate you from sin, from error, from smoking, from your faith or from your faithlessness, he wants to improve your eating habits, or to cure you of your drinking or your voting habits."--Amoz Oz

The DEA doesn't get it, like the temperance societies of the past century that believed that since they didn't need or want alcohol, no one else should, either. But Carrie Nation didn't have the power of Federal law, as J. Edgar Hoover or Harry Anslinger did, to control what substances Americans could ingest, whether to enhance pleasure or reduce pain. Our Puritan ancestors are long dead, but their death grip on our country's law and order policies remains.

Last year, I reported on the opioid crisis in America—not the one making headlines to this day, the quiet one: the one where the voices of patients and doctors are being silenced by the heavy hands of the Center for Disease Control and the Drug Enforcement Agency. This columnist is on record indicating his understanding of the need for new guidelines in prescribing opioids in the face of so many deaths. The problem? The pendulum swung in the complete opposite direction, going from over prescribing of opioids to Draconian new regulations and laws that forced doctors to under prescribe, or worse, stop prescribing pain medications for patients in chronic and systemic pain. The reason? DEA spank.

In the last 53 years, starting under Dick Nixon, to the present, the US Drug Enforcement Agency has had overweening control of what substances Americans may legally ingest. Since 1971, cannabis has been on Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act—along with heroin. That's not a typo. Nor is it hyperbole. If you compare the deaths yearly from heroin use (thousands) to deaths associated with cannabis (nonexistent), or assess potential health benefits of cannabis use (considerable; see below) to potential health benefits from heroin use (limited and canceled by costs of addiction), it's clear that this is an

apples and oranges fallacy. Yet no one has corrected it. Only in the last year has Congress timidly suggested that cannabis should be moved from Schedule I to III, so doctors can prescribe it to patients they feel would benefit from its use—without losing their medical licenses and practices.

Forbes magazine reported last month on a study published by Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia proving that cannabis could protect people from getting COVID, as well as having therapeutic uses post-COVID. The study was a systematic review of the available scientific literature concerning how cannabis use might affect patients pre- and post-COVID. According to the study's authors, "Post-SARS-CoV-2 infection, cannabinoids have shown promise in treating symptoms associated with post-acute long COVID-19, including depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress injury, insomnia, pain, and decreased appetite." Furthermore, "Cannabinoids have the potential to be used as a preventive approach to limiting the susceptibility and severity of COVID-19 infections by preventing viral entry, mitigating oxidative stress, and alleviating the associated cytokine storm. (emphasis mine)" This is incredibly good news, since cytokine storms—where the immune system goes into hyper drive and can cause damage to the heart and other organs—have been the most serious side effect from exposure to the COVID virus and vaccine, particularly affecting young people..

Also in January, a coalition of 12 Democratic state attorneys general released a letter urging the DEA to move cannabis to Schedule III. Schedule III would put cannabis on the same tier as Tylenol 3 with codeine, ketamine, anabolic steroids and testosterone, all of which can be legally prescribed, have lower potential for abuse and addiction, and have recognized medical uses.

And piling on, the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) weighed in with a 252-page review on the medical efficacy and safety of cannabis, essentially demanding that the DEA do as the Attorneys General suggested. The writers of the report concur with the state AG's and the researchers at Dalhousie "that there exists some credible scientific support for the medical use of marijuana in at least one of the indications for which there is widespread current experience in the United States."

As the word limit for this installment has been reached, the next column will show that the history of marijuana prohibition is based on junk science, while ignoring data from scientifically legitimate studies. It will also show the DEA has overstated the harm done by opioids and opiates, thus turning addicts into pariahs and patients into drug seekers.

Albert F. Franco 1935 - 2024

Albert F. Franco passed away peacefully at his home in Fullerton on January 11th, 2024, with his family by his side.

He was born March 18th, 1935, in Camarillo, Ca. to Florencio and Adelina Franco. The family moved to Los Angeles where he attended Belmont High School. He joined the National Guard and attended a trade school, later securing a rewarding 25-year career at Hughes Aircraft Company. There he met and married Sally; they recently celebrated their 50th anniversary.

He was an avid baseball (Dodgers) and boxing fan. He enjoyed attend-



ing his grandchildren's sporting events and loved vacationing in Cancun.

He is survived by his wife Sally, daughters Suzanne (Don), Michele, son Albert Jr. (Denice), brothers Abe (Joan), Art (Corrine), five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents Florencio and Adelina, brother Ernie, sister Hortencia, and son Anthony.

Albert was a kind and generous man who will be greatly missed.

A service will be held on February 24th at St. Andrews Episcopal Church in Fullerton at 11:00 am.

Sharon Lang Beedle 1931 - 2024

Sharon Lang Beedle, long-time resident of Fullerton, died at her home in Sunnycrest Senior Living, Fullerton, on December 24, 2023, after a short illness. She was 92 years old. Her husband of more than 50 years, Walter Beedle, died in February 2015. They had no children.



hairdressing chemicals damaged her hands.

Along the way, Sharon owned and operated Sharon's Beauty Salon at 219A North Richman Avenue and later at 201 North Euclid before closing the business and finishing her hairdressing career at Maria Callas

Coiffures on 801 South Euclid. Sharon then worked for several years in a machine shop that manufactured structural components for military and civilian aircraft, owned and operated by her husband, known as Aerospace Engineering Company, at 727 S. State College in Fullerton.

Sharon was a second-generation American. Her father, James Thompson Lang, was born in Paisley, Scotland. He immigrated to the United States in 1910 and became a citizen in 1941. Sharon, like all of her family before her, was a Presbyterian. She was a long-time, beloved member of Morningside Presbyterian Church in Fullerton.

When Sharon was born in 1931, Alaska and Hawaii were not states. Herbert Hoover was President. The Ford Model A Roadster was the best-selling car. The average cost of a loaf of bread was 8 cents. Having grown up during the Great Depression and World War II, Sharon, like her brother, James, learned to take hardship in stride. They were always cheerful. They NEVER complained. The world changed greatly during Sharon's 92 years.

Radio was king when she was born. Amos 'n' Andy became the most popular radio show of all time. Television had not been invented. Another way to think about how much the world changed during Sharon's lifetime is to consider that \$8,173.43 was the "all-in" cost to purchase the lot and construct her family's middle-class home on Regent Street in Lomita in 1937 (Sharon's father kept meticulous records). A person would need \$1,100,000 to purchase that home today.

Sharon was an exceedingly lovely person. Sentimental. Thoughtful. Trusting (and trustworthy). Earnest. Kind. Fun. Agreeable. She made friends easily. She lavished affection on her cats. She was the "Cool Aunt" to her brother's children, Jim Lang (Chesapeake, Virginia), Chris Anderson (Yorba Linda, California), Carrie Cannon (Austin, Texas), and Scott Lang (Bellflower, California). She is deeply missed by all who knew her.

A celebration of Sharon's life will be held at Morningside Presbyterian Church at 1 pm on Saturday, February 24, 2024. The address is 1201 Dorothy Lane, Fullerton. All are welcome. If you feel so moved, the family encourages donations in Sharon's name to Morningside Presbyterian Church, the nearest animal shelter, or the charity of your choice.

Sharon's only sibling, James Hugh Lang, lived down the hall from her at Sunnycrest Senior Living until his passing in May 2021. She is survived by her nieces, her nephews, and her cat Katie (now comfortably adopted into another loving home).

Sharon was born in Harbor City on May 11, 1931, to James Thompson Lang (1908-1990) and Hazel Warner Lang (1910-1973). She was the first child born to her parents. Her brother, James, was born in 1935.

Sharon was the first girl born into the family in two generations. She was doted upon by her grandparents, Hugh Ritchie Lang (1879-1943) and Isabella Lang (1879-1955), formerly of Paisley, Scotland, formerly of Weymouth, Massachusetts, and then of Harbor City.

All four of her uncles were similarly infatuated. In 1934, the grandparents, together with a longstanding family friend from Scotland (Agnes McDonald), took Sharon by car from Harbor City to Rhode Island to introduce her to the large group of Langs who settled there after the entirety of the Lang family had immigrated from Scotland, in phases, between 1870 and 1910.

Sharon's family relocated from Harbor City in 1937 so they could move into a larger, more comfortable home at 26223 Regent Street in Lomita, a home that was built by her grandfather, Hugh Ritchie Lang, owner and operator of Lang's Service Station in Harbor City, and by her uncle, Peter Lang (1905-1994), a carpenter who built movie sets in Hollywood.

While living in Lomita, Sharon attended and graduated from Orange Street Elementary School. She was the Vice President of her 9th-grade class at Narbonne Junior High School. She graduated from Narbonne High School in 1949. That same year, Sharon was elected the Honored Queen of Lomita Bethel No. 137, International Order of Job's Daughters, having been sponsored into that organization by her father, a 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Freemason. As Honored Queen, Sharon presided over a court consisting of 35 peers.

On finishing high school, Sharon, in 1950, graduated from Reno's University of Beauty in Long Beach and then passed the examination to earn her state license as a hairdresser and cosmetician. She moved to Fullerton at some point in the early 1950s and lived in that city for the rest of her life. She worked as a hairdresser for 35 years, leaving the industry in 1985 after exposure to

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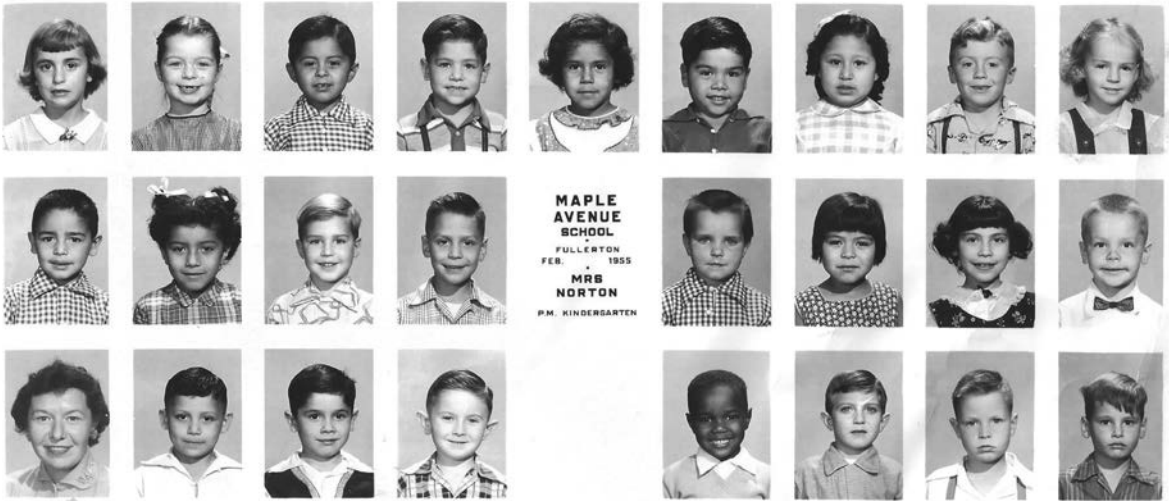
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Mr. Hamm & Bobby at Acacia Elementry School 1967



Maple School became segregated after 1958. Above: Kindergarten 1955 Below: 6th Grade 1961



Maple School Celebrates 100 Years!

Part Two: Integrated to Segregated in 1958 by Roberto Melendez

Two Factors Leading to a Segregated School:

Maple School was racially integrated since 1924 but became segregated after 1958. There were two contributing factors.

Racially Restricted Covenants:

One was racially restrictive covenants that were attached to homeowners' deeds and denied housing to nonwhites. According to *Fullerton – The Boom Years*, "Many of the Fullerton subdivisions established in the 1920s and 1930s included racially restrictive covenants – private agreements barring nonwhites from occupying or owning property – that led to segregated neighborhoods." Americans of Mexican, African, and Asian descent were confined south of the Santa Fe Tracks in the East Truslow barrio or into family housing camps provided by citrus associations or railroad companies.

Richman School Opened in 1958:

The second factor was the Richman School opening. After World War II, Fullerton experienced a population boom. New housing communities sprang up, which required more schools. According to *Fullerton-The Boom Years*, "Fullerton's population surged from 10,442 in 1940 to 85,987 in 1970. By August 24, 1955, city staff reported that twenty-seven homes were added to the city's residential areas every weekday."

The only new housing tracts in Fullerton available to nonwhites were those adjacent to Maple School. Many East Truslow families – along with families from citrus and railroad housing camps – bought these homes. Therefore, when new boundaries for Richman School were set in 1958, the children transferring to Richman were majority white. Students remaining at Maple were mainly nonwhites, thus producing the only segregated school in the FSD.

Cal Blood, a former Fullertonian,

lived in the Maple Area. His maternal great-grandfather shepherded the flocks of Domingo Bastanchury. He attended Maple School during the demographic transformation. He was among the few whites remaining at Maple and jokingly stated, "I was a minority within a minority. The change didn't affect me much because I had more Chicano friends."

Segregated Schools Ruled Unconstitutional:

The 1954 U.S. Supreme Court case of *Brown vs Board of Education* Topeka, Kansas, ruled that racially segregated schools were unconstitutional. The FSD began desegregating Maple School in 1966 by bussing the 5th & 6th graders. Announcements were mailed to parents informing them about the bussing plan. There were parent meetings to determine schedules and school designations. Parents generally accepted the initial bussing process in 1966. Nevertheless, this yearly, incremental bussing plan would lead to the closing of Maple School in 1972.

My Bussing Experience to Acacia School:

I transferred to Acacia in 1966 for 6th grade. I was very fortunate to go to a new school with many friends. Other Maple students were less fortunate. I got up earlier and returned home much later than if I attended Maple. Students boarded buses in front of Maple, and bussing would continue for 30 years. Upon arriving at Acacia, a teacher escorted us into the campus while we were stared at and scrutinized by several groups of Acacia students.

Sticking close together – I and Maple friends Ricky Jaimes, Joseph Valenzuela, Albert Ybarra, and Fernando Arce – headed to the playground, our custom at Maple. A fellow Little Leaguer, Kevin Barlow, greeted us with his friends. We agreed to play football, and it was the browns versus the whites. When the bell rang, Kevin said, "Bobby, tomorrow I'll be on your team." That exchange began my fruit-

ful experience at Acacia.

Our Acacia teachers, Mr. Hamm and Mr. McGregor organized seasonal sports teams, and for me – it was a sports-loving boy's paradise! Our principal, Mr. Alan Elliott, was welcoming and supportive, and the Froelich and Maglione families opened their homes to us.

My Maple classmates transferring to other schools experienced the following:

- **Karen Esqueda** - "Oh, my dad was very upset because he disagreed with only us getting bussed, so he enrolled me at St. Juliana Catholic School."
- **Anita Louise "Weez" Morris**, Acacia - "I didn't like getting bussed out of my school and neighborhood. The girls at Acacia weren't friendly, except for a new friend, Linda Bridgford."
- **Albert Ybarra**, Acacia - "It was a good experience and beneficial for me. I met new friends, and it helped make me more outgoing in a different environment."
- **The Twins, Charlene & Darlene Quijano** - Golden Hill.

• **Charlene** said, "They immediately started calling us "Beans & Tortillas." "Initially, it was not a good experience, and the girls weren't nice."

• **Darlene** stated, "The bus driver was also rude to us, so we ditched the bus one day and walked to Golden Hill. The first months were unpleasant, but it got better."

• **Victor Garcia**, Golden Hill - "It helped me, and mom said it was important for us kids to mix. Some of my Maple textbooks were well-worn, and previous names listed on the book inside flap included my sister - who was ten years older."

• **Jesse L. Wallace Jr.**, Fern Drive – "It was good and bad. I was immediately called the 'N-word' by a boy, who eventually became one of my best friends."

Next is Part Three: 1972 - Bearing the Brunt - A District-wide, Bussing Plan Placed on One School, reviews Maple Community's resistance to the school's closure, a failed legal effort against one-way busing, the school's transition to the Maple Community Center, and changing ethnic demographics leading to reopening Maple School.

All the Arts for All the Kids Foundation



Artist: Lauralyn Eschner



Artist: Marsha Judd



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