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Leanna Forcucci the Woman of the Year

Congratulations to Leanna Forcucci (pictured with husband, Steve Shepard) on being awarded Fullerton District 5 Woman of the Year!

Leanna has dedicated over twenty years to improving Fullerton.

The award was presented by District 5 Councilmember Dr. Ahmad Zahra at an award ceremony held at Fullerton Downtown Plaza during the Fullerton Museum Center's Women's Festival on March 16, 2024.

Attempted Bank Robbery Leads to Officer-Involved Shooting

Fullerton Police officers responded to a robbery in progress at the Wells Fargo Bank located at 141 W. Bastanchury Road, on March 26, 2024, at approximately 5:09 pm. A male wearing a mask entered the bank and demanded money from the teller. He told the teller that he had a bomb, and he produced a white box that appeared to contain an explosive device. The suspect threatened to detonate the device.

The bank was open with customers present, during the attempted robbery. Officers arrived at the scene within two minutes and were able to make contact with employees via telephone. When the suspect exited the business, holding a white box containing stolen money and the suspicious device, an officer-involved shooting occurred. Due to the threat of a possible explosive device, the Orange County Sheriff's Department Bomb Squad responded to render the suspicious devices as well as the crime scene safe.

The Bomb Squad located an item constructed to resemble an actual explosive device, referred to as a facsimile device, in the suspect's possession at the time of the officer-involved shooting.

The male suspect, believed to be in his 70's, was pronounced deceased at the scene. The Orange County Coroner is responding and will release the identity of the suspect pending the notification of the next of kin.

The California Department of Justice responded and will conduct the investigation of the officer-involved shooting per AB 1506 to ensure our officers acted within the law.

The Fullerton Police Crimes Against Persons Unit is investigating the criminal actions of the suspect that preceded the officer-involved shooting.

No officers or witnesses were injured during this incident.

Per state law, the Fullerton Police Department will be releasing all relevant videos, recordings and images within 45 days via a Critical Incident Community Briefing Video.

This investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information about this incident is encouraged to contact Fullerton PD Detective N. Kaprielian at (714) 738-6763. Those wishing to provide information anonymously can call the Orange County Crime Stoppers at 1(855) TIP-OCCS or can visit their website at *http://www.p3tips.com/913*.

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New law requiring bars to offer drug testing devices

by Alcohol Beverage Control

A new law mandating certain alcoholic beverage license holders to offer drug testing devices for sale or at no cost to patrons will take effect beginning July 1.

AB 1013 (Lowenthal) requires establishments with a Type 48 license from the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) to have signage displayed in a prominent and conspicuous location, letting patrons know that drug testing kits are available to test for common date-rape drugs, often referred to as 'roofies.'

The required signage reads, "Don't get roofied! Drink-spiking drug test kits are available here. Ask a staff member for details." A sample sign is available on ABC's website and can be downloaded and printed by licensees.

The new law impacts approximately 2,400 licensees across California. Type 48 licenses are issued to bars and nightclubs. The license authorizes the sale of beer, wine, and distilled spirits for consumption on the premises where sold. Minors are not allowed on the premises, and food service is not required.

Licensees will be responsible for procuring testing kits. ABC does not sell or provide kits and does not recommend or endorse any specific company that does.

Additionally, Type 48 licensed premises must either offer the drug testing devices for sale to customers at a price not to exceed a reasonable amount based on the wholesale cost or be given to customers free of charge. Drug testing devices could include test strips, stickers, straws, or other devices that can detect the presence of controlled substances in drinks. These substances could include flunitrazepam, ketamine, and gamma-hydroxybutyric acid.

License holders who do not comply with the new law could face administrative actions impacting their licenses.

Fullerton Observer Survey

How important is it to you to have a paper newspaper?

Due to the high cost and environmental impact of paper, the *Fullerton Observer* is considering going to subscription only.

That means no more distribution sites where the paper is picked up for free.We request your input to help weigh the pros and cons of this important decision.

We would also like to know:

• What reports or articles are important to you.

• What do you think are the most important issues to cover?

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Mark Freeman and daughters Sydney & Riley

Spotlighting a Fullerton Dad Supporting Girl Scouts

The Girl Scout Cookie Program is the largest girl-led business in the world, and this year Girl Scout Entrepreneurs in Orange County hope to sell over 2 million packages. They're hard at work with the help of an amazing support system, including many Orange County dads and male volunteers who step up and take an active role in the Girl Scout experience. Here's a spotlight on just one of the men involved in the 2024 Girl Scout cookie season:

Fullerton resident Mark Freeman helps 9-year-old Sydney and 6-year-old Riley with everything related to cookie sales. Their standout, colorful booth, which was hand-built by the former cabinetmaker and his daughters, gets a lot of attention and attracts a lot of buyers. This is the 3rd cookie season the booth is being used, and this dad is thrilled to be supporting his little entrepreneurs.

Freeman said, "Anytime you can get kids off screens, there is value there. It's time to be with my daughters. I always love that time. I value the Girl Scouts program and its resources, helping make the girls better, well-rounded adults."

Vikki Shepp, Ed.D., Girl Scouts of Orange County's CEO, said, "Girl Scouts of Orange County serves nearly 15,000 girls, and it takes a village of people to support the important work we do. We are a female-oriented organization, but we encourage men's participation and involvement as positive role models. Not only are they, in most cases, strengthening the parent-child relationship, they help make the world a better, more inclusive place."

All proceeds from the cookie sales stay with local councils and troops to power amazing experiences year-round for Girl Scouts. With every sale, these young entrepreneurs can unbox a more equitable, barrier-breaking, out-of-this-world fun future while learning critical entrepreneurial skills: goal setting, money management, decision-making, business ethics, and people skills.

Above: *UUCF donated $10,000 from various fundraisers throughout 2023. The two weekend performances generated an additional $2K at last count.*
Right: *The cast of the Cabaret for Reproductive Justice.*

Unitarian Universalist Congregation Raises $12,000 for Reproductive Justice by Christina Garner

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fullerton (UUCF) hosted a Cabaret for Reproductive Justice on the evenings of March 22 and 23 as a fundraiser for Planned Parenthood. Local playwrights Chance Vernon and Christina Garner debuted two theater pieces at the cabaret, and talented musicians from the congregation joined them.

The first play, "Annunciation," authentically captured women's reactions to the results of their pregnancy tests at a free clinic in the 1980s. The second play, "Ladies' Night at Pippi's Place," was an irreverent comedy featuring a host of female archetypes gathered at the Spring Equinox to reflect on the joys and sorrows of motherhood.

Since the Supreme Court Dobbs decision in 2022, UUCF's Social Action Committee has included reproductive justice as one of its many forms of community outreach. The congregation has raised over $12,000 to support travel expenses for women who need reproductive health care that is not available in their home state.

For information on the UUCF or future events visit *https://www.uufullerton.org*.

Fullerton Observer
Fullerton's Only Independent Newspaper

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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The Mid-April issue will be distributed on April 15. Deadline for writers & advertisers is April 08.

Right: *Coyote spotted on March 14 at Brea Dam*

Below: *OC Animal Control officer Kevin Frager*

Coyote Town Hall Meeting Offers Tips for Residences

by David Spargur

Many of us have "coyote tales" of seeing one late at night, or hearing a distant howling in the dam areas or bridle trails. But for some attendees of the recent "Coyote Town Hall", the encounters were not so benign- resulting in dead pets or chickens.

One attendee said, "I saw my dog get taken in my backyard while I was there. They were fast." Another had lost chickens while he was close by.

OC Animal Control officer Kevin Frager led this "Town Hall" to give advice on dealing with problem coyotes, and what to do if residents need help.

Officer Frager said he expected more coyote activity in March through mid-August because the pups are weaning and they need more food.

Coyotes can lose their natural fear of people. For example, years ago Frager got reports from the Cal State Fullerton area that they were being overrun by coyotes. On investigation Frager and his team found a coyote still inside a trash container. Frager's team got the residents to clean up the trash situation and soon OC Animal Control was getting far fewer complaints. "If they see a pizza, of course they will go after that." he said.

Frager said that the biggest coyote deterrent is community participation. He encouraged people to spread the word to keep trash sealed and inaccessible. Open water sources can be an attraction. Fallen fruit and pet food left out at night attracts rats which in turn attract coyotes. If you feed feral cats you are inviting coyotes in. And yes, he has heard that there are wildlife lovers that intentionally feed coyotes. It's said that "a fed coyote is a dead coyote" because it gets them acclimated to people which can lead to aggressive behavior and a bad ending for the coyote.

If you see a coyote hanging around, Frager recommends hazing it. Throwing rocks or flashing lights work, but the best deterrent is very loud noise. His prefers an air horn, which he will use even late at night. Banging a pot works. If the coyotes retreat some distance and looks at you, he encourages chasing them until they are out of sight.

Frager says don't use firearms for hazing, not even BB or pellet guns "because you might hit something else." A meeting attendee mentioned that Fontana trapper Lowell Miller got sentenced to 120 days for felony animal cruelty for shooting a coyote caught in a trap repeatedly in the face.

Frager also stressed the importance of keeping pets on leashes when walking.

Coyotes can jump over fences. If you have chickens or are concerned about a small pet, Frager recommended fences that are over five feet high with "coyote rollers" installed on the top and not easy to dig under. If your dog sleeps outside, an enclosed dog run will provide protection. Motion-activated sprinklers or lights may help, too.

Coyote incidents can be reported at *http://ucanr.edu/sites/coyoteCacher/*

Residents are encouraged to call OC Animal Control at 714-935-6848 or 714-259-1122 if:

- A human or a pet has been attacked or bitten.
- If a coyote seems sick or injured.
- If a coyote has lost its fear of humans and does not respond to PROPER hazing techniques.

For more info, search "coyote information" at *www.cityoffullerton.com*

At the April 2nd City Council meeting the council will vote on a "Wildlife Action Plan" draft which will be available online.

Letters to Editor • Letters to Editor

Juliette Wang's journey as a 12 year old small business owner

I see that she is now selling Easter cookies to raise money for the House Rabbit Society which helps find homes for abandoned rabbits. Easter is the worst time of year because people buy bunnies as gifts and then abandon them.

instagram.com/p/C467T-BLbdU/
instagram.com/p/C467y52rLOw/

Jim Simon ***Fullerton***

After years of enjoying picking up the *Observer* at nearby stores, I decided it was time to get it delivered. I will still pick up a few copies to share with neighbors. Great paper! Great job!

Linda Henke ***Fullerton***

I enjoy reading your paper even though I reside in Anaheim. Keep up the great print journalism!

Marlene Sampson ***Anaheim***

I Killed Christ by Jon Dobrer Mid-March 2024 issue

Hello Jon from the Olympic Peninsula in Washington,

As a Fullerton resident for 50 years until 2010 I still keep up by subscribing to the Observer. I want to thank you for your excellent article "I Killed Christ". Your insight and analysis of history were an easy read and right on. It should be reprinted as an editorial in every major newspaper in America!

I spent time leading "Holy Land" tours from the 1990's to 2006 and came to love the people in Israel and Palestine. I still support "The Four Homes of Mercy in Bethany" and "Combatants for Peace" as the challenges today for peace are so difficult. Netanyahu's Gaza solution reminds me of Stalin's Ukraine famine with a goal of starving millions of people. We must stop it now and focusing a light on it is a step in that direction.

Henry J. ***Formerly of Fullerton***

Critical areas of immediate improvement needed at the Fullerton Police Department:

1. Foot and bike patrols downtown. There is a sense of danger in downtown lately. Many (most?) non-retail and non-food/alcohol downtown businesses are forced to keep their doors locked both night and day due to disruptive and aggressive transients who feel entitled to use non-public bathrooms or steal whatever they can steal (merchandise, purses of workers, equipment) because of a refusal of FPD to respond when so-called minor crimes like petty theft are reported. A lot of these problems, as well as additional nighttime problems related to alcohol, could be reduced with the increased visibility and responsiveness which comes from foot/bike patrols. An additional benefit of better community relations comes with the increased interaction with the public.

2. Customer service. FPD is significantly non-responsive to the needs of crime victims. They are highly focused on tactics, which for the most part are very sound, but completely drop the ball on more mundane but critical tasks like taking thorough reports or responding to incidents a dispatcher or even a cadet has deemed not worthy. They kiss off an awful lot of reports that should absolutely be taken. Calls are not returned. I realize that responsiveness is impacted by the difficulty in hiring and retaining personnel. There is a deeply ingrained us vs. them mentality with the public which is clearly communicated by many FPD personnel. I'm an extremely strong police supporter….but I have a negative view of FPD as a result of my own interactions with them as a crime victim.

John Hoger ***Fullerton***

Homelessness and Severe Mental Illness

I would like to address some points about problems with unhoused persons as raised before the City Council (12/19/2023) and commented on in the Mid-February issue of the Observer. Since the mid-20th century when new antipsychotic drugs became available there have been huge changes in options for those who would previously have been found to need institutional care. Whereas many mentally ill patients had been hospitalized long-term, the new drugs suggested that treatment was going to become easy. Some experts in the field proposed that community-based care should be the model for all psychiatric patients. Others denied the reality of severe mental illness (SMI), or maintained that the individual with SMI became worse when removed from the community or hospitalized. Thousands of patients were released from psychiatric hospitals with no options for community-based follow-up. This swing in practices without adequate planning or funding put many vulnerable persons on the streets.

Schizophrenia is a brain disease that is one of the most disturbing illnesses known, both to the patient and to his/her observers. Hospitalization is usually necessary for patients with schizophrenia who are sick for the first time. Hospitalization is sometimes voluntary, but half of persons with schizophrenia are not aware that they are ill and cannot contribute to their treatment. To these persons themselves, they are not sick and do not need help. Hospitalization allows professionals to observe symptoms, rule out other problems that may be causing the symptoms, start medication in an environment in which side effects can be observed, and protect the patient from self-harm. Competent psychiatric care may result in stabilizing the patient for a short period, or for a longer one, but follow-up care will still be needed. Involuntary hospitalization is sometimes a life saver.

In California in 2023 the number of psychiatric hospital beds were 6,542. This was 16.8 per 100,000 people. The minimum standard is 50 beds per 100,000 people. How likely is a mentally ill person in California to find treatment? The likelihood of incarceration vs. hospitalization is 5 to 1.

A big step to overcome the problem of a large homeless population would be to better meet the needs of individuals with severe mental illness. We can provide more alternatives to incarceration.

For more information: E.F Torrey: Surviving Schizophrenia: A family Manual, 7th ed., 2019 (in the Fullerton Public Library) *www.treatmentadvocacycenter.org*

E. Gould ***Fullerton***

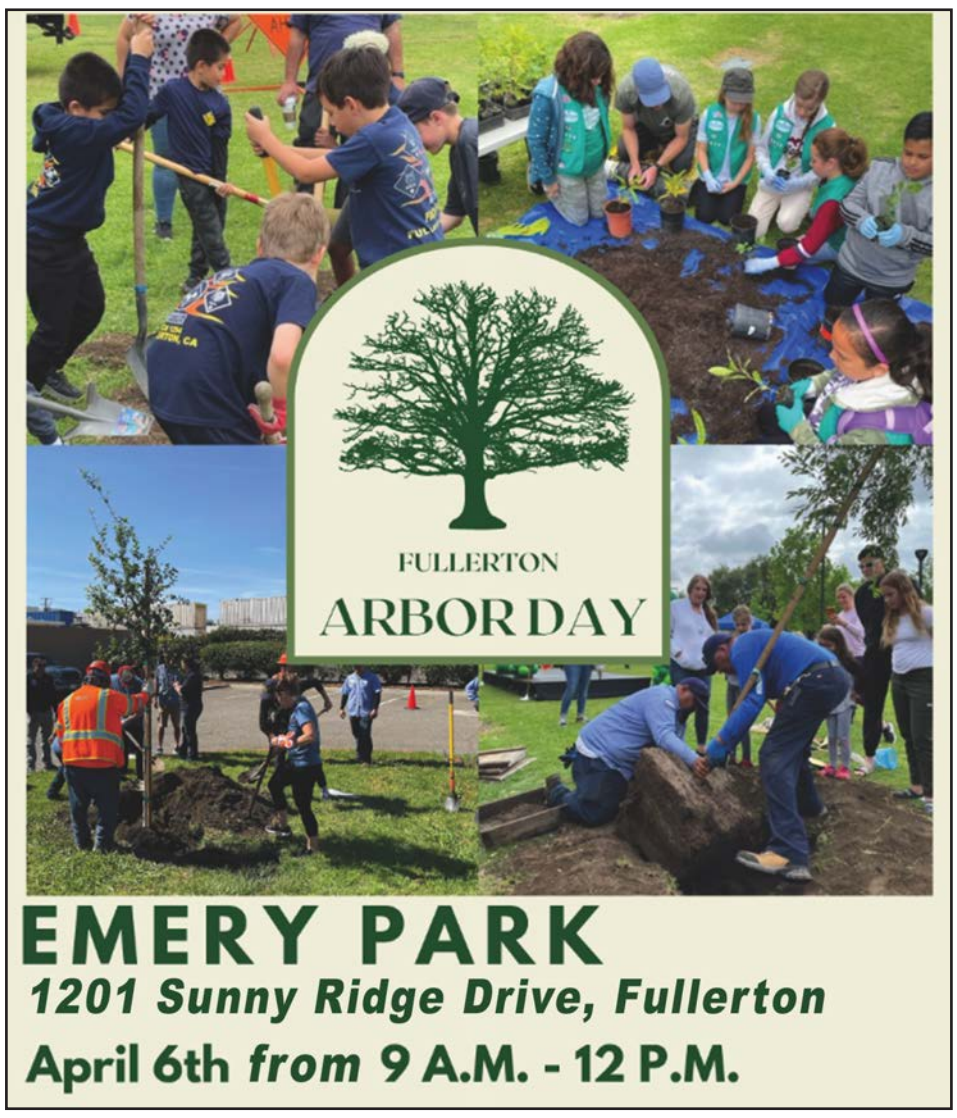
City Council Notes by Staff

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* under meetings and Agendas. City Hall is located at 303 W. Commonwealth, Fullerton Contact Council at (714) 738-6311 or *council@cityoffullerton.com*

Tuesday, March 19 Meeting

New Appointment to Transportation Commission

Mayor Pro Tem new appointment to the Transportation and Circulation Commission Mr. David DeLeon. He will serve as a direct appointment to the Transportation Circulation Commission term ending December 31st, 2024.



PROCLAMATION
for Arbor Day on April 6th

Fullerton held its first Arbor Day in 1971. It was one of the first cities in Orange County to receive a Tree City USA designation from the National Arbor Day Foundation. In celebration of its 53rd anniversary, Fullerton strives to continue expanding and protecting its urban forest of 39,000 trees.

Trees can be a solution to combating climate change by reducing the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water. Trees also cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce life, give oxygen, and provide habitat for wildlife. Trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community too. Wherever they are planted, trees are a source of joy and spiritual renewal.

The Arbor Day certificate was presented to Fullerton City Arborist Julio Jacobo by City Council.

Upcoming City Meetings in Council Chambers 303 W. Commonwealth, Fullerton

- **April 01 at 4pm:** Transportation & Circulation
- **April 02 at 5:30pm:** City Council
- **April 08 at 5:30pm:** Cultural Arts Subcommittee
- **April 08 at 6:30pm:** Parks and Recreation
- **April 10 at 6:30pm:** Planning Commission
- **April 15 at 5pm:** Infrastructure & Resources

How to contact your District Representative

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nicholas.dunlap@cityoffullerton.com

Mayor Protem/Vice Chair
• District 1: Fred Jung
(714) 738-6311
fred.jung@cityoffullerton.com

• District 3: Dr. Shana Charles
(714) 738-6311
shana.charles@cityoffullerton.com

• District 4: Bruce Whitaker
(714) 981-8474
bwwhitaker@live.com

• District 5: Dr. Ahmad Zahra
(714) 738-6311
ahmadz@cityoffullerton.com

Consent Items Aproved

- Early Morning Parking Program _____ Received and filed
- March 5, 2024 Meeting Minutes _____ Approved
- Monthly Committee Report _____ Received and filed
- February 2024 Check Register _____ Received and filed
- EPMC Contributions _____ Adopted
- Annual Housing Element Progress Report _____ Received and filed
- Hunt Library Security Guard Funding _____ Approved
- Early Morning Parking Pilot Program _____ Adopted
- SB 1383 Compliance Program _____ Removed
- Workers' Compensation Litigation Agreement _____ Approved
- Amendment Three to Dudek Professional Services Agreement __ Approved
- JIG Consultants Design Services Agreement _____ Approved
- Insituform Technologies Sewer Lining Contract _____ Approved
- Hardy & Harper Street Rehabilitation Contract _____ Approved
- All American Asphalt Street Rehabilitation Contract _____ Approved

PUBLIC HEARING

- Short-Term Rentals Appeal Process _____ Introduced
- Mills Act Program Guidelines Revisions _____ Adopted

Councilmember Reports

Councilmember Dr. Ahmad Zahra:

Zahra thanked everybody who came out to speak. "First of all, I want to wish our Muslim community a blessed and happy Ramadan. I hope it brings peace to our communities and those suffering worldwide." He wished the Iranian American community a happy Nowruz festival of light. He also wished everyone a Happy Saint Patrick's Day. He congratulated and thanked the museum center and all the staff, boardmembers, and volunteers who hosted the Women's Festival over the weekend. During the festival, he announced Fullerton's District 5 Woman of the Year, Leanna Forcucci, president of the Fullerton Collaborative. "She has done so much over the years for our community. The Fullerton Observer has posted a very nice article with the bio and a little more about Leanna in the Mid-March issue."

Zahra further stated that he requested an update on street lighting and for this to be returned as a council update. He added, "We've got a budget study session coming up. So, I encourage our general public to come and attend those because part of it also allocates funds to different capital improvement projects, including roads. So please do participate. Those are important meetings. These are our taxpayer dollars that we are appropriating throughout the year for projects and investments in our community."

Councilmember Bruce Whitaker: Whitaker had no report.

Councilmember Dr. Shana Charles:

Charles wished everyone a happy Nowruz, Ramadan, and Easter and thanked all the public speakers.

"Councilmember Zahra and I had the honor of attending a wonderful Interfaith Iftar hosted in Fullerton for the entire Los Angeles and Southern California region. Folks from Los Angeles and San Diego and Congressman Mark Takano from Riverside came, and six different faiths were represented. It was remarkable that they all shared the stage in unity and peace. I would also like to thank our Planning Commissioner, Arif Mansuri, who put the event together. It was quite a moving celebration."

"I know it's important to bring things to our attention, and indeed, no one can pretend everything is perfect. So, I believe that the public service's point is fixing issues, and I want to thank everybody for bringing up issues. I want to say that I think we would all agree on the tragedy [a man was killed by FPD after being shot by a less lethal projectile] that happened earlier this month. We in Fullerton have instituted so many reforms. As I said, our Police Department has been very proactive and has implemented all the initiatives I care about as a progressive reformer. They get de-escalation training, they were using nonlethal weapons, and we do have a social worker program that hopefully is on that. In this case, it wouldn't apply because the person was already called in as being violent.

"In those situations, that would be the reason for a police response, and there's just a tragedy. There is an open community report that our Police Department puts together. I appreciate the transparency that we have. Anybody can go and view that footage. The body cams are for us to see. Even when all of these things are in place, things happen that we don't want to happen. When you watch that, the police officers themselves immediately try to do life-saving. It wasn't what they wanted to happen, and it was very clear from that video.

"We also need to continue the conversation about how to avoid these kinds of tragedies in the future. This particular nonlethal weapon, in this case, did something that it wasn't intended to do and shouldn't have done. How can we prevent that in the future? But it needs to be a conversation, not people yelling at each other. We're all on the same side about improving public safety, including our Police Department, which has partnered with us to implement these reforms."

Mayor Pro Tem Fred Jung: Jung had no report.

Mayor Nicholas Dunlap:

"The serious lighting issue is obviously important. It affects folks from all over the city. I'd like to have the opportunity to sit down with Noresco to review some of the highlights of the upcoming energy efficiency survey that will soon be released. In their report, they talked about some of the potential solar adaptations and modifications that can be made that might be more cost-effective, allowing us to take ownership and get some of those repairs done quicker. Public Works Director Bise, could you talk with them about some of those solutions before we get this back? That way, we have something we can potentially act on, if not budget for, for next year."

Item 15: Short Term Rentals Appeal Process Amendment

Community and Economic Development Directors Sunayana Thomas and Chris Schaefer were directed by the City Council to include an appeal process for short-term rental and replace language declaring the Planning Commission decision as final. This would allow for due process and the right to appeal the Planning Commission's decision at the City Council. It only refers to Municipal Code section 15.76, which is the current appeal process. That language read that all decisions made by the Planning Commission would be final. Staff is seeking approval to amend this.

There was no public comment.

Dr. Charles: "When there's another type of appeal for the Planning Commission process that we've seen before, we and residents have mentioned that it's a $2000 fee when they're appealing a decision in regards to a development or something of that sort, would there be a fee attached to this appeal process as well?"

Thomas: "Yes, it would be the same process."

Mayor Dunlap: "This is an interesting one for me. I've been quite involved with staff on this because I initially supported short-term rentals when this came about. I've had an experience in my neighborhood, as I unfortunately have one across the street. However, I was also fortunate to see firsthand what the rollout would look like. When neighbors of mine got noticed and the initial alert was that somebody was planning a short-term rental, they came to me and said they didn't want this and asked what they should do. I walked them through the process, only to find out later that the staff had not been there. The staff involved in this are no longer with the city. But I point this out because, essentially, these folks followed the process for appeal only to have the appeal denied at face value without staff even coming out to look into their concerns. So, that was concerning to me. And then we've had many issues from the short-term rental. As a former planning commissioner, I know some things at the Planning Commission level are clear-cut and can be rubber-stamped. Other things, not so much. This allows people to appeal something they're concerned about, especially when they feel their concerns were not heard. I looked back at this case, and of course, this would not be retroactive, so it would not apply to us because I saw firsthand what the neighborhood did and how it responded. You know what staff didn't do and how staff responded. And so, I think realistically having another mechanism in place for, you know, for the public to be able to appeal is why I support expanding this to allow that."

Dr. Zahra: "Any time we can improve the process to allow our community to have more say in any of these issues, it's a good thing. So, I'm supportive of it. I'll make the motion to approve."

Dr. Charles: "We've had public comments railing against the fact that they couldn't appeal. I've seen the incredible pressure put on the Planning Commission with these issues, and planning commissioners have spoken to me about that. They wish there could be less pressure. This is an important safety valve, so it seems to me that we were elected to take the pressure, and the appeals process should be the same for that issue as it is for other things as well."

Passed unanimously.

Proposed Changes to the Mills Act Program

Background: The City Council approved the Mills Act in April 2020, and some guidelines were set. For instance, a property of $800,000 or less was qualified for the program, some inspection requirements, and some dates regarding submittals. Only two applications have been processed. The original program set a cap of 10 applications per year.

In year four, there were only two applications. Based on discussions with Fullerton Heritage and city staff observations, it was determined property owners had a lot of difficulties qualifying for the Mills Act program. For instance, the cap $800,000 was determined to be on the low side because many properties in Fullerton are in the $1 million range. For example, the average home cost for single families last year was $1.3 million. Anaheim, the City of Orange, and Pasadena have no cap. Staff had proposed to set a cap at $1.3 million but the Planning Commission determined to remove the cap altogether.

An additional concern was the cost of the application. Many people stated their reservations about putting down $1500 and possibly not getting approved. Staff considered reducing the application fee and examined other cities' cost ranges, which were found to be between $0 and $2600.

A final problem was the reoccurring inspection fee, which is set at $85 a year.

The staff worked with Fullerton Heritage for some months to work out these impediments. They also clarified some of the language and removed some duplicative inspections. The staff recommends that the application fee be reduced to a $1000. At this time, the staff wanted to thank Fullerton Heritage.

The staff recommended approval of the resolution. Additionally, the Planning Commission recommended approval for the same.

Passed unanimously.

On the Agenda: April 02

The full agenda: *https://fullerton.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx*

There is only one item and two reports. The agenda packet includes two PowerPoint presentations: 1) Orange County Power Authority (not very informative) and 2) Hunt Library update (mostly pictures).

Item 8 considers a Coyote Management Plan. Read report on page 3. Management is mainly limited to reducing "attractants." Little is suggested that would reduce the size of the coyote population or manage behavior. This item could generate some discussion since some people strong feelings about them.

March Election Results 2024

by Jodi Balma, Political Science Professor

The California Secretary of State will officially certify the March 5, 2024 election results on April 12, 2024. Most races have been decided, but ballots are still being counted, and a few remain too close to call, including the Bay Area's 16th Congressional District race. Democrat Sam Liccardo has secured the top spot, but only FOUR votes separate #2 Joe Simitian (D) and #3 Evan Low (D) from advancing to November.

Orange County's 45th Congressional District race came down to the wire. Again, the top vote-getter was clear – Michelle Steel got 55% of the vote in a district where there are more registered Democrat than Republican voters. Determining who will face incumbent Steel in November took weeks of ballot counting. It was an incredibly close race, with less than 400 votes separating third-place Kim Nguyen Penaloza (D) from second-place Derek Tran (D). Nguyen Penaloza conceded graciously, and Tran will advance to November to challenge Steel for the seat (which will possibly determine control of the House of Representatives).

PROPOSITION 1 Behavioral Health Services Program and Bond Measure : PASSED (BARELY)

A ballot measure backed by the Governor with no opposition passing isn't surprising. That it's this close was a big surprise.

After all, 72% supported the measure in a December 2023 poll (Politico/Morning Report), so most assumed it would pass easily.

According to Ballotpedia, opponents of the proposition spent nothing, while its supporters spent almost $14 million. Governor Newsom also actively campaigned for the ballot measure.

Two weeks after the election, this remained one of the closest statewide ballot measures we've seen, passing with only 50.2% of the vote.

UNITED STATES SENATE
Full Term and Partial Term

- Adam Schiff (D)
- Steve Garvey (R)

The term of the Governor's appointment to the United States Senate seat, Laphonza Butler, will expire with the November 5th election, so the voters have to choose someone to fill the remainder of the term until January when the 119th Congress will be sworn in with the winners of the November election.

ORANGE COUNTY HOUSE DISTRICTS
– * denotes an incumbent

38th Congressional District
- Linda Sanchez (D)*
- Eric Ching (R)

40th Congressional District
- Young Kim (R)*
- Joe Kerr (D)

45th Congressional District
- Michelle Steel (R)*
- Derek Tran (D)

46th Congressional District
- Lou Correa (D)*
- David Pan (R)

47th Congressional District
- Dave Min (D)
- Scott Baugh (R)

49th Congressional District
- Mike Levin (D)*
- Matt Gunderson (R)

CALIFORNIA STATE SENATE
-* denotes an incumbent

37th Senatorial District
- Josh Newman (D)*
- Steve Choi (R)

CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY
* denotes an incumbent

59th State Assembly District
- Philip Chen (R)*
- Dave Obrand (D)

64th State Assembly district
- Blanca Pacheco (D)*
- Raul Ortiz, Jr. (R)

67th State Assembly district
- Sharon Quirk-Silva (D)*
- Beth Culver (R)

68th State Assembly district
- Avelino Valencia (D)*
- Mike Tardif (R)

70th State Assembly district
- Tri Ta (R)*
- Jimmy Phan (D)

71st State Assembly district
- Kate Sanchez (R)*
- Gary Kephart (D)

72nd State Assembly district
- Diane Dixon (R)*
- Dom Jones (D)

73rd State Assembly district
- Cottie Petrie-Norris (D)*
- Scotty Peotter (R)

74th State Assembly district
- Laurie Davies (R)*
- Chris Duncan (D)

Not all races on the ballot were primaries determining who would advance to the November General Election ballot. The races for Orange County Board of Supervisors and the Superior Court Judges are decided on the primary ballot if one candidate gets more than 50% of the votes. If no one gets a majority, there's a runoff election in November between the top two candidates. The Orange County Board of Education Trustees are decided with a plurality of the votes on this ballot, regardless if a candidate receives over 50% of the votes.

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Incumbent Supervisor Dan Wagner won re-election with 64% of the vote, defeating Farrah Khan. In District 1, Janet Nguyen and Frances Marquez will face off in the runoff election on the November ballot.

ORANGE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES

Orange County voters tend to vote for judicial candidates with the "OC Deputy District Attorney" ballot designation, so it was no surprise when all three candidates with that job title won their elections.

- Jason Baez
- Richard Zimmer
- Whitney Bokosky

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

The incumbents in the Board of Education races succeeded in their re-election campaigns.

Area 1: Jorge Valdes
Area 3: Kenneth Williams
Area 4: Tim Shaw

ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT RECALL

Both trustees facing a recall in the Orange Unified School District were recalled from office with 53% of the vote. Once the OC Registrar of Voters certifies the election, they will be removed from office. The remaining OUSD Trustees will either hold a special election or appoint a replacement for each of those district areas.

Area 4: Madison Miner
Area 7: Rick Ledesma

The DOWNTOWN Report

by Mike Ritto © 2024

MIKE NESS SOCIAL DISTORTION

This could fill up not only this page but also the entire newspaper. Mike Ness grew up here in Fullerton and attended Troy High School with some of you, including my wife Karen, and that is where Social Distortion kicked off a musical journey that is still in full swing today. The first live concert our kids attended with us was, of course, Social Distortion. Many of us are still driving around with 'Skelly' on our rear windshields. His autobiographical song "Story Of My Life" includes a reference to his life growing up in Fullerton and mentions downtown. The seminal punk song "Kids Of The Black Hole" by The Adolescents, another Fullerton band, refers to his legendary apartment, a short walk from where I sit. Sample lyrics from Story of My Life:

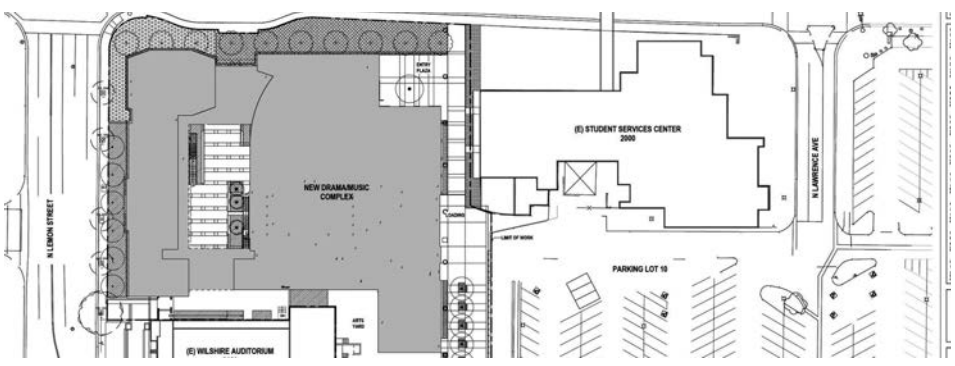
"And I went downtown
to look for a job. I had no training,
no experience to speak of.
And I looked at the holes
in my jeans
And I turned and headed back."

Mike will return (as a much-missed friend to many, not a prodigal son) on Wednesday, April 3, and will be given the key to the City. The event is Mike Ness Day; a VIP package is available, and all can attend the live concert by Greg Antista & The Lonely Streets plus Kid Ramos beginning at 4pm on the plaza stage. Vendors, food, and all the good stuff you expect.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF FULLERTON PUBLIC LIBRARY HISTORY ROOM

Spring Training in Fullerton

Our baseball heritage is real, and in the last issue we mentioned "Spring Training in Fullerton" by local resident and author David Jerome. Our historic downtown baseball field at Amerige Park has hosted an incredible 42 Baseball Hall of Famers over the many years that games have been played there. The players include locals Tommy Lasorda, Arky Vaughn, and Gary Carter, as well as baseball legends Satchel Paige, Joe DiMaggio, Honus Wagner, Bob Feller, Ted Williams, Pee Wee Reese, and Vin Scully.



Performing Arts Center

Here is exciting news for those of us who attended Fullerton College and took courses in the 1300 building, either for acting or radio. This rendering shows the new building that will replace the Sculpture Garden that is there now. The floor plan shows you the layout and you can understand why everyone is really looking forward to this great addition. We are not sure what will become of the sculptures in the garden it will replace but surely they will be handled with care.

BASEBALL

Fullerton once again turns its eyes to the Cal State Fullerton Titans, and Tom Elliott fills us in as he does every season: "The Cal State Fullerton Titan baseball season was entering the Big West Conference portion of its schedule with an 8-12 record when we hit a rough stretch. While they are a young team, they will look to regain their footing at the season's midpoint. They appear ready to make a statement with wins over Stanford and a three-game sweep of Jacksonville."

Mark your calendar for May 3, when the Titans take on the UCLA Bruins at 6 p.m. at Angel Stadium. With Dodger and Angel baseball underway, you can enjoy a great brand of baseball locally for a lot less at Goodwin Field.

To follow the Titans and to view the remainder of their 2024 schedule, go to *Fullertontitans.com* baseball and to purchase tickets for upcoming games, go to *FullertonTitansTickets.com*. See you at the ballpark - Go Titans!

New in Town

Sweet Scoops at 135 E Commonwealth had a soft opening in mid-March, which is an interesting way to open a homemade ice cream shop, if you catch the drift. Wow, all flavors are made in-house and flavors include Sticky Rice with Mango and Banana Cream Pie. There are 9 flavors in all so far and they are adding more as they go.

Nurses

You may have heard about the shortage of nurses, who are a vital part of the healthcare system. The shortage began in 2012 and is expected to last until 2030. Driving by Fullerton Union High School on Friday, March 22, revealed that many new nurses are about to help prevent that from happening. This was the WCH-OC pin ceremony, and we congratulate everyone who is moving into this extremely important profession.

Photo Quiz

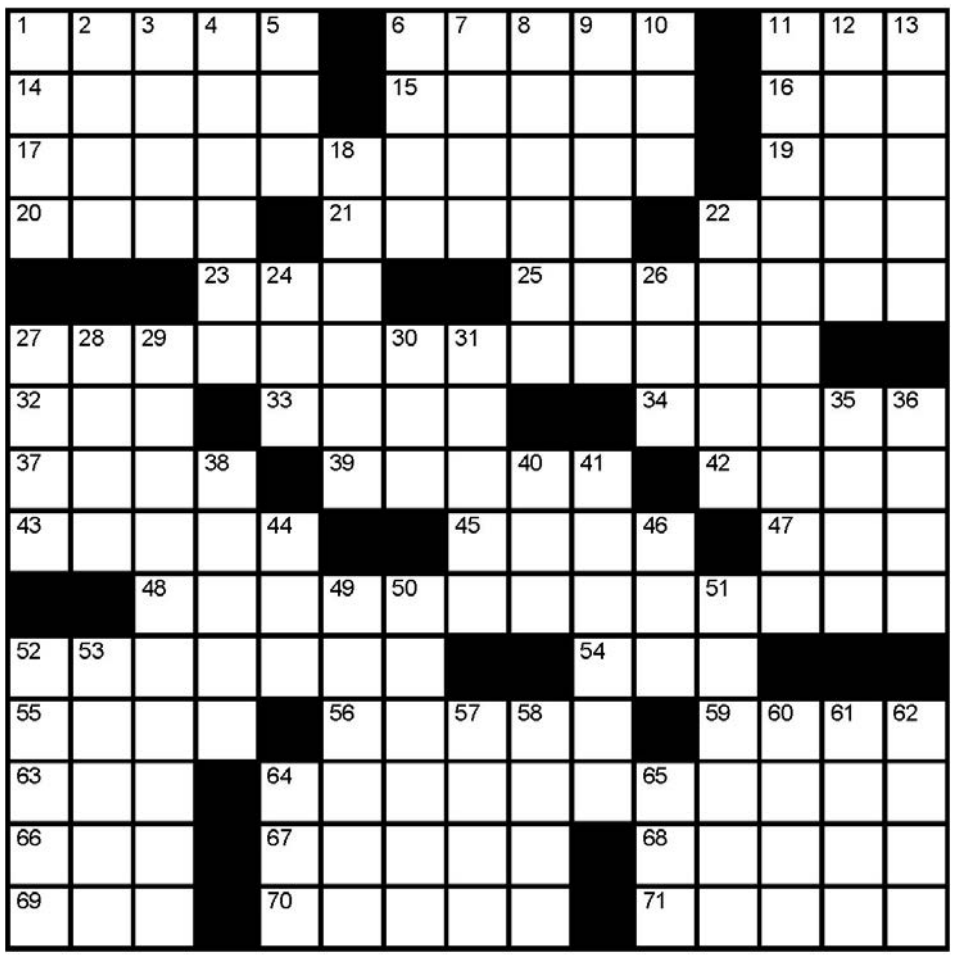
Send answer to Mike at AllMedia@sbcglobal.net

Last time: Yes, our trails do look much the same in places, and a few responded with certainty about the location. Still, the first correct answers were from Sandra, then Amanda, who identified the start of the Fullerton Loop near the Courthouse, which leads to the Hiltscher Trail.

This time: Where is this sculpture located?

OUR TOWN CROSSWORD © 2024

"LONGER DAYS AHEAD!" by Valerie Brickey (answer key on page 15)



ACROSS

1. Middle daughter on "Downton Abbey"
6. "Yabba ___ doo!"
11. "Welcome to the Black Parade" rock gp.
14. Kidney-related
15. "You're ___ one, Mr. Grinch"
16. Mine find
17. *Kwik-E Mart town
19. ___-tzu (Father of Taoism)
20. Majestic
21. Tabloid twosomes
22. Blend
23. "You ___ one job!"
25. Old money neighborhood in "The Great Gatsby"
27. *Bakeware used for cheesecakes, often
32. "..___ quit!"
33. Reverse, e.g.
34. Radiant
37. Invoice abbr.
39. Parcel of land
42. Gutter locale
43. Request from
45. Lye, chemically
47. Flying geese formation
48. What we all did on March 10th, and a literal hint to the starred answers
52. Orser's rival in the "Battle of the Brians" at the 1988 Winter Olympics
54. Sitcom costar of Betty and Estelle
55. Kind of sax
56. Dwight's opponent in '52 and '56
59. "Mission: Impossible" theme composer Schifrin
63. NAACP co-founder ___ B. Wells
64. *"The Boss"
66. ___ Aviv
67. Pastoral patterned fabric
68. Spooky
69. NBC show since 1975
70. Mar. 17 figure
71. Crucifix

DOWN

1. Gaelic language
2. Johnny of "Ed Wood"
3. Inscription on 71-Across
4. Meditative martial art
5. "Forensic Files" cable channel
6. Batty
7. Bordeaux bestie
8. Pricey German wheels, informally
9. Fragrant fir
10. "Go on ..."
11. Hot flower
12. Bond portrayer in "Skyfall"
13. Corporate shuffle, for short
18. Frances Lawrence's nickname
22. "All the world's a ___..."
24. "The Ice Storm" director Lee
26. Mudbath locale
27. Pop
28. JFK, but not LAX
29. Goes in 100%
30. The ___ Side (Gary Larson strip)
31. Shaggy simian, for short
35. Walkie-talkie word
36. Garden intruder
38. Admit
40. Half-___ (order for a barista)
41. ___ to fail
44. Monk's title
46. Charlemagne's realm: Abbr.
49. "Pease porridge ___..."
50. Afrin nasal spray
51. Matthau or Mondale
52. Puts on the line
53. Bygone
57. Reader's Digest co-founder Wallace
58. Work without ___ (be daring)
60. Prefix with dynamic
61. Frangipani garlands
62. Singles
64. MN and NM
65. "Hold on a ___!"

WHO VOTED?

by Jodi Balma, Political Science Professor

72% of all ballots cast in the state of California and the County of Orange were from voters 50 years old and older, although these make up only half of registered voters. 18-34-year-olds account for roughly 25% of all registered voters but were responsible for only 1 out of every 10 ballots cast this election. We need to improve civic education to engage and inform young voters to participate in elections.

LOW VOTER TURNOUT

We know that voter turnout for the March 2024 election was low. Currently, statewide voter turnout is 35%, making it one of the lowest turnouts in a presidential primary election. Though many expected the competitive United States Senate race to motivate voters to return their ballots even though the presidential race was over before it really started, only 1/3 of the ballots mailed to registered voters were returned.

Voter turnout in 2008 was incredibly high, with 58% of registered voters casting a ballot. Two factors contributed to that high turnout: there were competitive primaries for both political parties choosing their presidential nominees, and California moved up the election to February 5th so our state could have a say in that decision.

However, 2008 was also an anomaly as we had two primary elections that year. Only the presidential races and a few ballot measures were on that February ballot. The rest of the primary races and county offices were on the June primary ballot, which had much lower voter turnout as a result, with only 28% of registered voters casting ballots. This low turnout in June 2008 ended our state's experiment with splitting the primary elections.

Happy 70th Anniversary!

Fullerton residents, Tom and Fran Gaglio, will be celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary on April 2. They've been Fullerton residents since 1965.

Happy 75th Anniversary!

97-year-old Fullerton residents Manuel and Maria Maturino celebrate their 75th wedding anniversary with family.

FULLERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
237 W Commonwealth, Fullerton

PUBLIC MEETING

TOPIC: 2023 MILITARY EQUIPMENT USAGE BY FPD

APRIL 3, 2024 | 2 PM TO 3PM

Fullerton Police Department Mural Room

HITS & MISSES

by Joyce Mason © 2024

NYAD: Two Hits

The movie "Nyad" did not receive widespread promotion when it opened in 2023, but it was not overlooked by the Academy when award nominations were made. Annette Bening was nominated for Best Female Lead Role and Jodie Foster for Best Supporting Actress. These were clearly appropriate acknowledgments of two stellar performances in this film about Diana Nyad (Bening) and her remarkable 103-mile swim from Havana, Cuba, to Key West, Florida, at age 60.

Throughout her life, Diana had felt a strong affinity to the water, through both the encouragement of her father and the realization that her last name served as a reminder of naiads, the water nymphs of Greek mythology. She had made an attempt to swim the strait in 1978 at age 30 but abandoned the quest and settled for less dangerous challenges, like swimming around the island of Manhattan.

Diana Nyad has led a life of successful ventures. She speaks several languages, authored a book, made Phi Beta Kappa in college, and has been able to convince corporate entities to sponsor her endeavors. Then, a line from a Mary Oliver poem encouraging readers to embrace challenges in their lives prompts her to mark her 60th birthday with the goal of making the swim that she had once abandoned. Knowing that she will need some support in this endeavor, she turns to her best friend.

Bonnie (Jodie Foster), equally feisty but always loyal, initially turns down Diana's request to serve as her coach, but she eventually signs on to the role. First, the two of them have to find a navigator. On the open sea, a swimmer always needs to be headed in the right direction, and the two women find gruff and gritty John (Rhys Ifans) to be their navigator. A boat needs to go alongside long-distance swimmers, but the swimmer cannot board the boat at any time. Diana receives her food through a tube, which is fed to her by coach Bonnie. A medic also needs to be on board in case of an emergency.

Even with some sponsorship, the two women also have to mortgage their homes to finance this venture. Among other challenges, Diana must wear a rubber suit to fend off the stings of abundant jellyfish. She also needs an electronic shark-repellent device. Some swimmers stay in a protective cage to prevent shark attacks, but Diana wants to set a record without one. However, audiences need to be forewarned that it takes more than one attempt at this journey before it succeeds.

But "Nyad" is still a gripping production. Jodie Foster, as Bonnie's coach, succeeds in making her role almost as pivotal as that of Bonnie's, and we never tire of her efforts and determination without which the endeavor would not have succeeded. And audiences will be amazed at the grit that Bening displays. She does her own swimming and abandons any vanity as her skin becomes shriveled and wrinkled and her eyes puffy.

Also making this movie succeed are the directing team of Jimmy Chin and his wife Elizabeth Vasarhelyl, who have filmed other outdoor movies, the most famous being "Free Solo," about a mountain climber's ascent up El Capitan in Yosemite.

Produced by Netflix, "Nyad" can be seen on their streaming service.

Two Hits: Don't Miss it!
A Hit & A Miss: You Might Like it.
Two Misses: Don't Bother.

The Muckenthaler Cultural Center
1201 W. Malvern Ave, Fullerton
(714) 738-6595 • *info@themuck.org*

KAT TREVINO - HEAD IN THE CLOUDS
Main Gallery • Through April 14 • 10 am to 5 pm
Gallery Admission: $5 - Includes access to all current exhibitions
Kat Trevino returns to The Muck with a solo gallery show: The ever-changing clouds move with our emotions. From the view through the eyes of a child or an elder we all look up seeking for clarity and vision.

Veggiepalooza at Fullerton Arboretum

1900 Associated Rd. Fullerton

Our annual Veggiepalooza is almost here! Get ready to shop over 200 varieties of fresh vegetables and herbs grown at the Arboretum. Visit our website to view the plants and start making your wishlist.

Thursday-Friday, April 18-19, 12–4pm
Saturday, April 20, 9am–3pm

Members receive a 10% discount and can preorder their plants starting April 12 at 8am to April 16 at 5pm. Make sure to purchase or renew your Arboretum membership so you don't miss these benefits.

Fullerton Museum Center
301 N. Pomona Ave, Fullerton
(714) 519-4461 • *info@fullertonmuseum.com*

Fullerton Flea: Earth Day Celebration
Saturday, April 20 • 12 - 4 pm
This is our 4th Fullerton Flea, and it is even bigger than last year!

Beer Garden + Farmers' Market
Thursday April 4th • 4 - 8:30 pm
Join us every Thursday for fun vibes and drinks at our Beer & Wine Garden. What's on Tap? Only the best! Beer, wine, and mixed drinks. All proceeds benefit the Fullerton Museum Center.

ARTWALK & OPEN MIC
Friday April 5th • 5 - 9:30 pm every first Friday of the month
Don't forget to sign up and share your talent during our open mic section.
Artwalk & open mic with free gallery admission.

Senior Citizens Club of Fullerton Presents its Annual
SPRING Fling Social
April 4
3 to 6 pm
Doors open at 2:45 pm
340 W Commonwealth Ave, Fullerton
MEMBERS $4- NONMEMBERS $6
5 STAR BAND - SPONSORED BY OPTUM
COMPLIMENTARY REFRESHMENTS
DRAWING FOR PRIZES OF YOUR CHOICE

Mo's Fullerton Music
WE MOVED!
-New Location-
1109 E. Commonwealth
Repairs, Rentals, Lessons, and more!
Open 10 - 6 Monday - Saturday
MO'S FULLERTON Since 1946 MUSIC CENTER

All the Arts for All the Kids Foundation
Art Auction XXVI
Saturday, April 13, 2024
www.allthearts.org

Art Talk with Over the Moon by Jane Ouweleen and Carol Van Ahlers

Fullerton's Reputation as an Art Community - How Did It Happen?

Fullerton's Reputation as an Art Community - How Did It Happen?

Fullerton's purposeful focus on the arts began in the early 1960s. At that time, art collector Norton Simon was looking for a permanent location to house his large art collection, and Fullerton was a possibility. To showcase Fullerton as a city interested in art, Florence Arnold, a well-known artist from Orange County, and a group of local residents founded "Night in Fullerton," an event that began in 1964 and continued until 2009.

We interviewed artist Marjorie Kerr, who was a member of that group. "During the 1960s, Fullerton's art scene was very active. We hosted many exhibits, many through the Orange County Art Association. We showed our work mostly at the libraries - the building on Pomona, which now houses the Fullerton Museum and the Hunt Library," said Marjorie.

While Simon eventually chose Pasadena for his collection, Fullerton's art scene continued. "Night in Fullerton" grew in popularity at nine participating venues, including Dorian Hunter Gallery (a prominent art gallery that closed in 1969), Fullerton College, and Cal State Fullerton.

"Night in Fullerton" was a precursor to Fullerton's Artwalk, which was begun in 2010 by Jesse La Tour and the Magoski Arts Colony. The Colony was a collaboration of three independent galleries, Hibbleton, PAS, and Violet Hour, located in a warehouse in Fullerton. The warehouse was also home to several artist studios. The Colony's influence on the art community was recognized with the Dr. James Young Arts Legacy Award in 2019, a year after its closure in 2018.

Today, Fullerton continues to grow from its artistic roots. One major contributor has been "All the Arts for All the Kids', a foundation aligned with Fullerton's school district, which began providing art education in elementary schools in 1990.

"Throughout the years, people in this town have advocated for the arts and believed in the power of art to change kids' lives. Art crosses over all parts of life and is a powerful element of what makes us human. People in Fullerton understand that," said Lauralyn Eschner, the program's founder who served as the director for nearly three decades. Currently, All the Arts Foundation funds programs that provide over 10,000 students with lessons in art, music, dance, media arts, and theatre.

Thanks to its many passionate advocates for art, Fullerton continues its reputation as one of Orange County's cities with a strong art culture. It offers a large collection of enriching events, ongoing art activities, workshops, and classes. Among these are:

Fullerton Museum Center: Offers exhibitions, educational programs, and events. The museum also houses the Leo Fender Gallery, honoring the achievements of the legendary inventor who helped revolutionize the electric guitar.

The Muckenthaler Cultural Center: Offers an exhibition gallery with visiting artists as well as art classes and a large selection of musical and dramatic performances.

Day of Music: Held annually on the summer solstice (June 21), this event features musicians performing at venues throughout town and on the downtown plaza stage. The concerts are free, and all musicians donate their time to spread joy through music.

Fullerton Artwalk: Several local venues offer art exhibitions on the first Friday of each month. Artwalk evolved from the premise of the Night in Fullerton, established in the 1960s. Currently participating venues are Modelmania (which took over the role of the former Magoski Arts Colony), Bootlegger's Brewery, the collective, Blanquel Arts, Comic Book Hideout, and Fullerton Museum Center.

Fullerton College and California State University, Fullerton: Each offers a robust art department with faculty and students actively promoting their art through community outreach.

Years ago, Jack Bedell, a member of the Fullerton School District Board, summed up Fullerton's attitude toward the arts, "In other communities, there is public outrage if they take away football, but in Fullerton, there is a public outrage if they try to take away the arts!"

Want to support the arts in Fullerton? Attend 'All the Arts for All the Kids' Auction: The Auction will be held on Saturday, April 13 at the Community Center. This fundraising event offers an abundant selection of art for bid, with all proceeds funding art education.

Tickets and more information are available at *www.allthearts.org*.

Over the Moon Gallery is a 100 percent online art gallery that connects collectors with affordable artwork created by dynamic and talented artists.

Visit their website at *www.overthemoongallery.com*.

The Muckenthaler Cultural Center

1201 W. Malvern Ave, Fullerton
(714) 738-6595 • *info@themuck.org*

HUTCHINS CONSORT

Thurs, April 4 • 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm
• Admission: $35

Now in their 25th season, The Hutchins Consort is an innovative violin chamber ensemble which performs on the rare and beautiful Hutchins violins. The distinctive lineup of eight meticulously designed, scientifically-tested violins were crafted by Dr Carleen Hutchins, a dynamic woman whose contributions made an indelible mark on science, music, and women's history.

THE ROAD TO OZ (immersive)

Saturday, April 6 • 11am-1pm
• Admission: $25

In the next installment of ECT's annual show for elementary school students, The Road to Oz is an original play that will take students all over the grounds of the Muck. Students will have to help the citizens of Oz to save their home from the Wicked Witch. By meeting characters along the Yellow Brick Road, students will find their own interactive way in finding solutions to help Oz.

Purchase tickets at
electriccompanytheatre.org

MORGANNE PICARD

Tuesday, April 9 • 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm
• Admission: $5

Morganne Picard performs to mark the closing of the Head in the Clouds exhibit.

JESSICA FICHOT

Thurs, April 11 • 7:30pm to 9:30pm
• Admission: $35

L.A. based chanteuse, songwriter and accordionist Jessica Fichot is a lot like her hometown of Paris: French at heart, but with a soul that's truly international. Drawing from her multi-ethnic French / Chinese / American upbringing, her music fuses styles and languages, taking the listener on a twisting journey out of the French chanson tradition, into the lands of gypsy jazz, 1940s Chinese swing, international folk, and into the wilderness of her imagination.

SECOND MOON

Sunday, April 14 • 7:30pm to 9:30pm
• Admission: $35

Evoking Korean traditional Pansori sounds and mixed with Western instrumentals, Second Moon is a dynamic 7-member band that has been making waves since their formation in 2004. Incorporating Irish tin whistle, bodhran, and mandolin into their music, Second Moon has created a captivating fusion of musical styles that will leave you spellbound.

Fullerton Joint Union High School Board

HIGHLIGHTS & Commentary by Vivien Moreno

For more information: (714) 870-2800 or *www.fjuhsd.org*

March 12 Meeting

The FJUHSD Board meeting introduced a new "Rising Stars" award, celebrating two students from every school site in the district. This new honor focuses on students facing significant challenges who choose to overcome adversity and complete their education. Assistant Superintendent of Education and Assessment Dr. Sylvia Kaufman said the principals chose students with determination, grit, and resilience that has equaled success. The following students are the 2023/24 FJUHSD "Rising Stars."

Buena Park High School

Neil Navarro is a baseball player and community volunteer. He is also an AP Capstone student, a program that offers AP credit and teaches skills that support students' transition into higher education.

Avril Acosta attends the dual enrollment college credit program and plans to become a family and marriage therapist.

Fullerton Union High School

Julie Martinez is a yearbook editor and founder of the Helping Hands Club on campus. A Woodbridge Scholarship recipient, Julie plans to attend Pitzer College in Claremont.

Abdul Karim Umar is a refugee from Ghana who has played soccer and football for the past two years. He is still mastering his English and plans to attend Fullerton College in the fall.

La Habra High School

Ephrim Hinojosa is an NJROTC member, FFA member, and Best Buddies volunteer who plans to attend Fullerton College in the fall.

Morgan Valez volunteers with Best Buddies and is a dedicated musician. She plans to study music and printing at Fullerton College.

LA Vista and La Sierra High School

Vanessa Juarez volunteers at Maple Elementary School. Originally attending Fullerton Union, she will graduate from La Vista High. She plans to study Biology at Fullerton College.

Marianna Alfaro entered SOHS virtually in 2020 and transferred to the iSierra Distance Learning program in 2021. A gifted writer, Marianna is deciding to attend Wellesley College or Cal State Fullerton in the fall.

Sonora High School

Nathaniel Gray attends the Agricultural CTE Pathway. An FFA member, he plans to attend WyoTech in Laramie, Wyoming, to study Diesel Mechanics.

Senior Ellie Taylor participates in Volleyball and Track. She plans to study biomedical engineering at the University of Utah or the University of Iowa.

Sunny Hills High School

After two years at Buena Park, Savannah and Symone Taylor transferred to Sunny Hills. While Simone studies fire science at Fullerton College, Savannah plans to become an X-ray technician focusing on women's health.

Troy High School

Mattrina Ifopo Aisea is a Girls CIF Wrestling Champion and plans to wrestle for Cerritos College in the fall while pursuing her educational goals.

Alex Hernadez Aispuro loves playing soccer. He transferred back to Troy in his senior year after attending La Sierra to master English and regain lost units so that he could graduate on time. He plans to attend Fullerton College.

Trustee Dr. Vicki Calhoun

Dr. Calhoun shared that, as a teenager, she had a difficult time attending FUHS. She said that even when life is tough, you just keep working and trying, and eventually, anything is possible. Dr. Calhoun started her higher education at Fullerton College, where she now teaches. Her motto is "Never give up and never give in."

Student Board Member Application

Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services, Dr. Karl Zener, announced the opening for the 2024/25 Student Board Member. Open to all current FJUHSD juniors, the district wants highly motivated students to apply.

Student Board Members share student perspectives with district administrators and school board members, participate in community events, and expand their leadership skills. Go to *www.fjuhsd.org* and click the link to get the application. Applications are due April 10 to your school principal.

Fullerton School District Report by Vivien Moreno

Board meetings are held at Fullerton School District Headquarters Located at 1401 W Valencia Drive • Go to*www.fsd.k12.ca.us* for more info.

March 12 Meeting

The board welcomed Kellee Wightman, Executive Director of All the Arts for All the Kids Foundation, who announced the Art Auction on April 13. This classic Fullerton fundraising event supports four art lessons for all FSD students covering dance, music, visual arts, and theatre.

The foundation supports ongoing art programs and offers after-school activities, traveling art labs, summer school camps, and instructor grants. Art participation soothes emotional stress, allowing students to interact with their environment in ways that provide a greater understanding of their world. This foundation allowed FSD to continue providing art instruction to students during drastic school budget cuts and continues to support numerous art programs. Go to *www.allthearts.org* for ticket information.

Electronic Bulletin Boards

FSD Attorney Natasha Sawhney answered board member questions concerning Peach Jar, FSD's electronic bulletin board. Superintendent Dr. Bob Pletka explained that informational flyers were vetted, printed, and distributed "in-house." [The district spent too much time and money sharing information.] Assistant Superintendent of Innovation and Instructional Support Jeremy Davis utilized Peach Jar, allowing community organizations with family-focused activities to post their flyers on the site. The e-bulletin board notifies FSD families about local community events. Parents may opt out of Peach Jar at the beginning of each school year.

Attorney Sawhney explained that electronic bulletin boards are a community forum with First Amendment rights. FSD retains the right to not post a flyer that does not align with FSD's mission. Community organizations who post on the e-bulletin board receive clear directives concerning acceptable postings and FSD does not officially endorse the activities. Trustee Aaruni Thakur asked what happens if a flyer is a prank? He was assured by Dr. Pletka that Assistant to Superintendent Ana Im examines every flyer for valid contact information and that none of the writing is obscene, defamatory, or slanderous.

Trustee Ruthi Hanchett encountered parents who were displeased with some events posted, but Attorney Sawhney stated that different perspectives are not a valid reason to remove flyers. Trustee Hilda Sugarman supports the continuing "opt out" policy as this may be the only communication families receive about local activities and events.

Board President Leonel Talavera asked how parents who opt out of the service are getting important district news. Mr. Davis said the district utilizes Blackboard to share important student and school information with parents.

Transportation Update

Transportation Services Director J. D. Mancha presented FSD's bus service, current costs, and future projections. FSD offers 6 bus routes serving Beechwood, Rolling Hills, Ladera Vista, Parks, and Hermosa and 21 routes serving Special Education students throughout the district. All 6th grade and under students who live more than 1.25 miles from their designated school site (2 miles for jr high) are eligible to ride a school bus to and from school. Students designated as low-income, English learners, Foster Youth, or in an Individual Education Plan (IEP) are eligible for free transportation. If a student without these designations lives beyond walking distance and there is room on the bus, it costs $399 a year to ride. Parents have student-riding options (to and/or from school), and paying riders can start any time during the year with prorated terms and payment plans.

A recent FSD survey found that most students felt safe riding the bus, and many parents requested additional bus routes to lower the traffic around schools during drop-off and pick-up times. Most of the survey respondents requested free access.

Dr. Robert Coghlan, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, explained all California funding for buses froze in 1982 when FSD received $1,023,629 to transport many students to school, on field trips, and other events. For 2023/24, FSD buses less than 500 students daily which, including field trips, cost about $3.28 million. In 2021, there was increased-state funding increased transportation resources, but state funding still only covers 56% of current FSD transportation costs.

State mandates require conversion to clean fuel transportation. None of FSD's current 41 buses are electric and without local bond money, the cost of replacing each bus with a $400,000 electric bus makes conversion difficult. The current FSD budget covers maintenance, fuel costs, and driver training. Trustee Hilda Sugarman asked if hybrid buses were available and Mr. Mancha said that hybrid buses are not in production. He is currently purchasing a wheelchair-accessible electric van for the district, but he stated that the district lacks the electrical infrastructure to maintain electrical bus charging.

To combat bus driver scarcity, Mr. Mancha decided to "grow our own" bus drivers. He created a training program that provides 15 hours of ongoing training for its current drivers and pays applicants for training. Open to applicants and in-house employees, the training includes snow conditions, tire chain application, and the initial 40 non-student driving hours required for the certificates. This training has allowed FSD to bring home winter camp students in snow conditions for the last two years, where other districts have had students stuck in the mountains.

If you are a parent interested in utilizing FSD transportation for your child, contact your school's principal for additional information.

Next FSD board meeting April 16.

Fullerton School District Preschool Program

Free Part Day & * Full Day Preschool

Children who have their birthdays between 12/02/2019 and 12/01/2021 may be enrolled in the California State Preschool Program.

Children who turn 3 after December 1 of the current school may be enrolled on or after their third birthday.

REGISTRATION PROCESS FOR THE 2024/2025 SCHOOL YEAR

Complete the Intent to Register Form by scanning the QR Code

Complete the registration packet - found on the Fullerton School District website or you may pick up a hard copy at the **Preschool Office: 1401 W. Valencia Dr., Fullerton, CA 92833**

Schedule an appointment with the Preschool Office Staff to turn in your completed registration packet.

Ages Eligible
3-5 years old

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Part Day (3 hours): Based on family size and income

Full Day/Full Year: Based on family size, income and **need**

** Monthly charges may apply to families in the Full Day Program*

To show need, each parent **must** meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Employed • Seeking employment • Engaged in an educational program
- Seeking permanent housing for family stability; • Incapacitated.

For more information contact the Preschool Office at 714-447-7499

Life Lessons by Erin, 9th grade

Rare Spaghetti Trees and How to Care for Them

The day to honor comedy in action is here again - April Fools' Day. One of the best pranks in history is the Spaghetti Hoax of 1957. A BBC reporter, Richard Dimbleby, gave a convincing TV broadcast that intrigued the people watching. He fooled people into thinking that spaghetti grew on trees in Ticino, Switzerland. The program showed a Swiss family farm harvesting spaghetti strands from a tree that they had supposedly patiently waited for due to "the past winter being one of the mildest". Although it might seem too unbelievable and silly to people in the United Kingdom, it seemed somewhat reasonable, because of the scarcity of spaghetti in their country. The report caused commotion and interest about the "spaghetti tree". People showered the BBC with questions asking where they could buy a spaghetti tree to grow. The BBC recommended viewers to "place a sprig of spaghetti in a tin of tomato sauce and hope for the best."

This idea inspired other companies to create similar hoaxes to fool and engage audiences. For example, a 1978 San Giorgio commercial claimed that, "Nobody grows spaghetti like San Giorgio!" and there were other hoaxes like pickle farms in Michigan and Maryland.

Not only was this entertaining, but it taught viewers the lesson not to believe everything they see in the media. Just like how you might've been fooled reading this title!

Kids Rule by Teagan, 6th grade

It's Fools Day, Indulge and Enjoy!

As April begins, many people around the world enjoy the fun and mischief that comes with April 1st, also known as April Fools' Day. This day is dedicated to playing pranks and jokes on friends and family, to make them laugh. Pranks range from disgusting toothpaste, to replacing the cream inside Oreos, to a harmless confetti cannon in one's face. However, not all pranks go as planned, leading to some memorable moments.

One of the most famous April Fools' pranks happened on April 1st, 2008 when the BBC announced that penguins could fly. The news report claimed that camera crews had captured footage of penguins taking flight and soaring through the skies. To deliver this "miracle news", BBC produced a documentary titled "Miracles of Evolution". The story even included quotes from experts and witnesses who allegedly saw the amazing sight.

This quickly went viral, with many believing that penguins had indeed developed the ability to fly. However, it was later revealed that the story was a hoax, staged by the BBC as an April Fools' joke. The prank served as a reminder of the lightheartedness and fun that April Fools' Day brings. It also highlighted the power of the media to perpetuate false information and how easily people can be fooled, or how gladly they play along with being fooled especially on a day dedicated to pranks and hoaxes. In a world that can sometimes feel heavy and serious, April Fools' Day offers a welcome break that energizes and excites us so we might as well indulge.

As we celebrate the beginning of April and the arrival of spring, let's also remember the penguins and people believing they could fly. And who knows, maybe one day penguins really will take flight. Until then, let's enjoy the whimsy

National Observances

by Mateo, 10th grade

National Greeting Card Day April 1st

Many people associate the first day of April with mischief, trickery, and laughter, often at the expense of others. After all, it is April Fools' Day, a day filled with pranks and jokes. Although events like these bring joy to many people, it is the genuineness and authenticity of life that we value more as a society. Much of our daily lives depend on truthful and honest interactions, which is why it matters that we uphold these virtues and work to further strengthen them. One way to achieve this is by showing appreciation and gratitude through a greeting card.

The use of a card as a means of showing affection towards someone began several centuries ago with the Ancient Chinese in celebration of the New Year, and the Ancient Egyptians who passed greetings to each other on papyrus scrolls. This concept spread to Europe in the 14th century during the early Renaissance and Age of Chivalry. People used cards to send and receive love letters. In Germany, people created handmade cards using woodcuts and utilized them as New Year's and Valentine's greetings.

As the influence of greeting cards continued to evolve, so did its variety of uses. For instance, the first Christmas card was made in the 19th century for an English royal to send out to his friends and family. Greeting cards also became increasingly popular during Valentine's Day as more people began to realize their effectiveness in getting a special message across to a loved one. The technological boom of the 20th century helped grow the industry. As printing processes became more efficient, many companies engaged in mass-produced greeting cards making them more affordable for the public and spreading them further around the world.

To this day, sending a greeting card still counts among the best ways to show gratitude and appreciation. Whether it's for Valentine's Day or for a birthday or for some other occasion, these cards help express our feelings via the written word. I still keep and cherish the multiple cards given to me by friends and family during various periods of my life because I know that the messages in these cards are genuine and precious. So, this April 1st National Greeting Card Day might be a good day to send a greeting card to someone in your life to show you care.

Toastmasters International

The leading nonprofit dedicated to effective oral communication and leadership development. In the last 99 years there have been 4 million members. Members meet to deliver and evaluate prepared and impromptu speeches in an effort to improve as speakers and leaders. Mid-Day club generally meets the first and third Saturdays at 7am to 8am Pacific Time, and the second and fourth Tuesdays at 8:30 am to 9:30 am Pacific Time. Guests are always welcome.

Mid-Day Toastmasters meets for 1 hour on
- Saturdays April 6 and April 20 at 7 to 8 am.
- Tuesdays April 9 and April 23 at 8:30 to 9:30 am.

The meetings will stream
https://tinyurl.com/zoomwithmidday and
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9239283290

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

by Jo Ann Brannock, Ph.D. © 2024

Positive Psychology

Positive psychology focuses on the strengths of humans. It seeks to understand how we can nurture resilience, joy, and meaning in life through character strengths, optimism, life satisfaction, happiness, and well-being. This innovative approach was developed by Martin Seligman and Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi around 2000.

Instead of focusing on what is wrong with people, positive psychology focuses on what is right. Everyone has character strengths, such as kindness, creativity, gratitude, social intelligence, leadership, humor, love of learning, and perseverance. Some psychologists feel these are innate and different from skills or talents but need awareness and nurturing.

A major emphasis is on optimism, which stresses a positive outlook of hopefulness. Topics such as gratitude, compassion, and self-esteem, among others, enhance these character traits. There is an element of Maslow's self-actualization in which one's full potential in life is satisfied. However, one does not go through all these four stages of Maslow's needs:

1) physiological,
2) safety,
3) belonging and love, and
4) esteem to achieve this hopefulness and satisfaction.

Take a few moments to list your positive traits or virtues and how your life has been affected. Do you experience a certain sense of satisfaction with life? Listing these traits can help you become consciously aware of your strengths. It helps to make this list, especially since research has shown that only about 1/3 of the population in the United States are aware of their strengths. Consciously becoming aware of these strengths and applying them in work, education, leisure, personal growth, and relationships can lead to greater happiness.

Here is an exercise promoting positive thinking developed by Hugo Alberts. One is responsible for changing one's behaviors and becoming aware of personal strengths and weaknesses, which can be controlled when autonomy is facilitated.

Evaluate each element in your life and see what changes.

1) Reality and the environment one lives in. For example, our job, our possessions, our house, our geographical location, and our direct physical reality. What if your life is rocky and turbulent? We can change the environment to be calm and peaceful by changing our lives, for example, by getting a different job.

2) Our direction in life that meets our needs or personal values. How must you change your direction to meet these needs and values? How do you want to live your life?

3) Goals and wishes. Are you headed in the direction you want? How can you change it if you are not taking steps towards your goals?

4) Ineffective coping and weakness. How can you learn effective ways to cope with mishaps?

5) Effective coping, strengths, and resources. Represented in our authentic thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. What do you need to make your sails more optimistic and positive?

6) Internal feedback, feelings, emotions, and intuition. What changes do you need to have positive feelings and emotions and know you are on the right track?

7) Uncontrollable circumstances in life. How do you deal with uncontrollable events, such as losing a loved one or getting stuck in traffic?

8) Other people, our social network. How can we stay true to our values and feelings and not let others take over and set the course for our lives?

The eight elements above do not exist in isolation but are affected by each other. Alberts gives the example of a leak in the boat, which can be related to one's belief that they cannot achieve anything, which in turn infringes on the direction of determining how you want to live your life or the goal. Focusing on one element can affect other elements when we want to change our lives to be more positive.

Other examples are when a person's behavior and thoughts negatively affect well-being and produce emotions like fear, anxiety, and stress. These affect destination or goal setting. When someone is so caught up in pleasing others that personal values are downplayed it affects your destination. Thanks to Hugo Alberts for this exercise, which will help you grow to be happier, more positive, and more authentic.

Coffee Withdrawal Isn't for Wimps

by Edith Harvath

Recently, I suffered from a bout of indigestion and went to the doctor for help. After giving me a series of tests, she determined it wasn't an infection of any kind and suspected a food allergy was causing the problem. She suggested I keep a food diary of everything I ate, which I dutifully did. Then, one morning, after having several cups of coffee, it hit me–maybe it's not a food, I thought, but the coffee I'm drinking with it.

I looked it up on the internet, and it did say that coffee sometimes causes stomach upset, so that was enough for me. I decided to give up this long-standing habit of drinking coffee throughout the day.

I wasn't prepared for the fact that coffee is a drug and causes withdrawal symptoms when you stop drinking it. I went through several days of tiredness, lack of energy, and head and body aches, but I didn't give in to the temptation to have a cup. I was determined to find the cause of what was causing me so much discomfort.

One thing I missed about coffee was the mental stimulation it would give me when I needed a lift, an extra push when I faced something difficult or unpleasant—or just relaxing with a cup in the afternoon when the house was quiet. Seeing others drinking the brew at a social event or when dining out was particularly hard.

But it paid off. I got used to not having it, and it's been several months now, and I feel great. Not only is my indigestion gone, but I'm proud of myself for having the discipline it took to not give in to my cravings.

I found ice water was about the best substitute. It quenched my thirst and went well with meals. Drinking it out of a coffee mug helped a lot, too!

Well-meaning friends suggested tea, decaffeinated coffee (which still has some caffeine in it), and numerous other substitutions, but I found that ice water worked for me. I even enjoyed it!

Another suggestion I often heard was to have one cup in the morning, which I discovered is what many people did. But really, I didn't want to take a chance on my stomach disorder returning. I take one day at a time, which is the best way to live.

BALANCE & CHANGE

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

A Gentle Response

Have you ever had a friend feel more distant from you? You may have talked/texted several times weekly, but the frequency has decreased. The times that you would get together have also diminished. You may be feeling hurt or angry over this. But wait! Before you fire off that angry text, consider other options.

The first thing that you need to do is get yourself centered. Take a few deep breaths so that you are not agitated. Then, check in with yourself.

What exactly is triggering you?

Is it something in the present or something from your past?

Be sure that you are reacting only to what is happening in the present. If there are issues from your past that are coloring what you are seeing, please be sure to work through them before reaching out to the person you are dealing with today!

Okay, you are calm and present, great! Now, be really clear about what is upsetting you. Have they stopped contacting you, or are they no longer willing to do the things you used to do together? Make it concrete. Then calmly let them know what has been bothering you. It might help to write down your important points before you speak with them or write some practice texts before you actually hit send!

It is interesting how often, when we can approach a situation calmly, we get a response. It is possible that there are issues going on in their life that have nothing to do with your friendship. It may be that there is an issue that needs to be resolved, and now it can be because you approached it kindly!

So, please consider a gentle response. You may be very pleased with the reaction. And, as always, enjoy the journey!

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The Dental Corner: Better Oral Health

What is a Dental Crown?

A dental crown is a tooth-shaped ceramic that fits over your tooth like a hard shell. Each one is custom-made by a contracted dental laboratory.

It is appropriate for a badly damaged tooth. By placing a crown, we reinforce and protect the tooth, preserving it for much longer. Occasionally, we also do this for cosmetic reasons.

A common concern is that to make a crown, we must occasionally grind the tooth down to a stub. After we have removed the diseased parts of a tooth, little remains. However, it is important to remember that those areas were already badly damaged.

In many cases, the procedure only requires us to remove a thin layer of the tooth on all sides. We then replace it with a new, solid structure that covers the tooth.

It's like having bodywork on your car after an accident. While a mechanic might be able to buff out a minor ding from a fender-bender, major damage often necessitates replacing the entire bumper. Likewise, we use fillings to repair small areas of damage, but sometimes, we need a more robust solution like a crown.

Eric Kim, DMD: Family Dentistry
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Out of My Mind

by Jon Dobrer © 2024 • *JonDobrer@mac.com*

You Don't Have to be a Believer to Believe

I am so ready for Easter and Passover. I am so happy to be reminded of hope, life, and rebirth. More than most, I need to be reminded of hope and rebirth this spring.

It's been a tough winter. My family has "lost" dear friends, family, and social friends—four in this month alone. Not since the heights (or depths) of the AIDS Plague have I been so immersed in both personal loss and the deep pain of family and friends. Truly a winter of discontent.

This is why I'm so happy to turn to the comfort of our stories—and whether one takes them literally, historically, or metaphorically, still, there is both comfort and wisdom in their messages.

Easter is, of course, about rebirth, about rising from seeming death to life. The spring reminds us that all the seeming death in winter was, in some ways, illusory. The leaves on trees turned gold, then brown, and fell to the ground. But new life emerges from the recycled mulch. The sun sinks, days grow short, and darkness closes in. But now the days lengthen once more, and the sun also rises. We do, too, as our spirits rise—reborn with nature.

Passover (unsurprisingly) carries the same message. It is a birth, or rebirth, story. From slavery in Egypt, where the sun sets in the west, it is a journey towards the rising sun in the east. (East and Easter a coincidence? Hardly.) The people on the Exodus were conceived in the darkness and borne through a canal made by the parting of the Red Sea. They were fed on manna—as infants are fed. They grew and revolted—as teens do. They paired up and grew up and then came to another river, the Jordan, that they could not cross, but their children could.

Theirs is the story of a generation, any generation, that goes from darkness towards light, from being taken care of to growing into people and facing their mortality. It is a story not of the Hebrews alone but of everyone in every generation. It offers the hope of rebirth and a journey towards light and enlightenment.

With all our fighting—war in Israel/Gaza, war in Russia/Ukraine—it is easy to lose faith in both peace and humanity's ability to learn. With all our anger at each other in this country, the yelling combined with a lack of listening and without the assumption of the decency of people who think differently and believe differently, it is easy to lose faith in our ability to heal and form a more perfect union.

Yes, there are times I want to turn off the news, cancel the newspapers, and stick my head in the sand, and times when I lose faith that I can make a difference and have only to choose between constant complaining or despair. But I resist because I may not take our spring celebrations literally, but the deep truths of their wisdom inform me and bring me back—back to work, back to believing, back to having a job of trying to heal our broken yet beautiful world.

I wrote earlier that we "lost" family and friends, but it's not really true—or not entirely true. As long as we remember them, as long as we speak their names, as long as their lives still inform us and inspire us, they are not lost. It does, however, take some time to move them from in front of our eyes into a peaceful chamber of our hearts, there to carry them, remember them, and let their lives act as a loving benediction blessing and inspiring us.

I believe in the reality of darkness and the power of light. I believe that we can journey from despair to inspiration. Though reason and human history might indicate otherwise, irrationally, I believe we can learn to live in peace with each other and with peace in our own hearts. I believe our hearts and spirits can rise from the grave of despair and walk towards the light—an old light and a new life.

AT HOME WITH THE HOMELESS

by Andrew Williams © 2024

Mental Health and Mental Illness

"If everybody had good mental health, then all the other problems could be solved. Because in order to take care of mechanical and practical problems, you have to have good mental health in order to attack those problems…if people were just in a position to have their minds functioning right, then everything else would fall into line."
–Frank Zappa

Where does the sovereign right of the individual to refuse mental health treatment fall below the need for public safety? Does it ever? And if so, what do we do about it?

Kelly Thomas would have been 50 years old this week. I would recapitulate the horrible circumstances of his death, except that I did that at this time last year, and all the gory details are easily available with a couple of clicks to anyone with computer access. Wikipedia has the most accurate account, and it is chilling in its completeness. I don't recommend watching the video unless you have a cast-iron stomach.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Killing_of_Kelly_Thomas

This time out, in light of what happened to Mr. Thomas on July 5, 2011, as well as the incident on March 6, 2024, involving the fatality of a homeless, mentally disordered man at the hands of the Fullerton PD (I'm willing to bet that the "less lethal kinetic energy projectile" was a rubber bullet), it's past time to re-examine where we are with the twinned issues of mental disorders and homelessness.

Last month, Prop 1 squeaked through, which will negatively impact mental health resources at the county and state level, as well as lead to involuntary hospitalizations of the mentally disordered. And I still haven't forgotten or forgiven Douglas Cox for his abrasive comments printed in the early February issue. For those whose memory needs refreshing or who have no idea who I'm talking about, this is the most salient passage from Mr. Cox's statement: "(Governor) Gavin Newsom just signed bill SB43 in October (2023) that expanded forced medical treatment. Start by arresting severely ill homeless people to get them into the system where they can get mental services."

Where does the sovereign right of the individual to refuse mental health treatment fall below the need for public safety? Does it ever? And if so, what do we do about it?

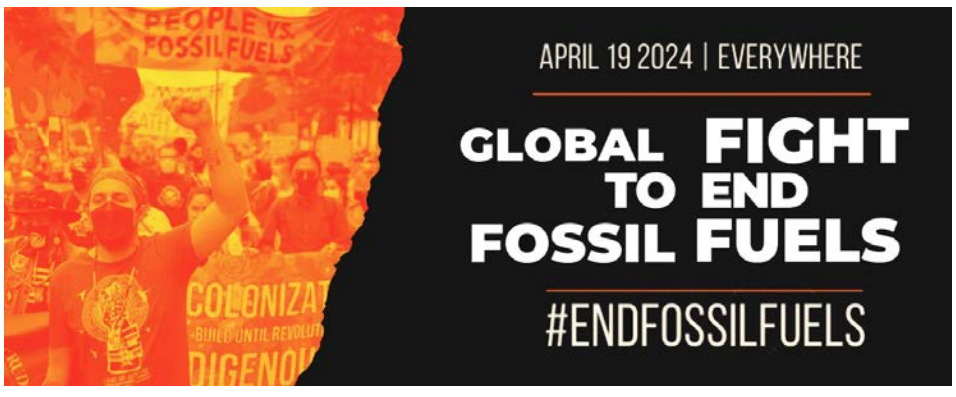
If you think Cox represents the minority here, you must look at the voting results for Prop 1. Anyone alive during the Vietnam War is familiar with the edicts "bomb them back to the Stone Age" and "destroy the village to save it." That's exactly the sort of blinkered thinking that is on display here, that gave us My Lai and the carpet bombing of Laos and Cambodia. It's using the tired, contraindicated military-industrial law enforcement model to deal with mental health issues. It's been a disaster in the War on People with Drugs; why would it work here? Answer: It wouldn't, but remember the informal definition of insanity–doing the same thing repeatedly while expecting different results.

But even the most ardent civil libertarians need to recognize that while the mentally disordered must retain their Constitutional rights, including the right to refuse and resist forced treatment, there is the counter issue of how people with untreated and grave mental health disorders are supposed to function in a society that doesn't really understand what bipolar disorder is, or schizophrenia, or multiple-personality disorder, and simply isn't geared to handle untreated and unmedicated persons diagnosed with these disorders.

It would be wonderful if all people diagnosed with mental disorders could acknowledge them and voluntarily receive treatment. Unfortunately, it is in the very nature of these disorders that the mind lies to itself: it often refuses to acknowledge any dysfunction, displacing it onto others. Even when treatment is accepted, assuming that it can be found and at a low cost, there are continuous issues such as side effects from medication and the unfortunate tendency of patients to decide that, once a medication begins to work, it no longer needs to be taken.

I understand this last problem all too well. I've gone off psychiatric meds "cold turkey" when I thought they had done their job and, therefore, weren't needed anymore. This usually occurs within two weeks of a new psych med regimen once the levels of serotonin in the blood and brain reach optimum levels. The person starts to feel more like themselves–the self that was before the mental aberration took hold–and it feels like you've been cured. And if you're cured, the illogic runs, then why do you need to keep taking the medication? That's when you need to learn about withdrawal, downregulation, and other physical phenomena that occur in the mind and body when a medication is abruptly withdrawn.

None of this makes for easy solutions, neither the "lock 'em up to get 'em treatment" nor "medicate up the wazoo" approaches. So what is the solution? I would argue there never is one solution, no magic bullet. But the one area that does show distinct promise is psychedelic-assisted therapy, that orphan child of 1960s-era psychiatric research that has experienced a welcome resurgence in the last two decades. That's where we'll pick up next time.



Fridays for Future Orange County (FFFOC) is a global youth movement for climate justice. We organize a Global Day of Climate Action twice a year, when we all take to the streets worldwide on the same day. Following last year's March to End Fossil Fuels in NYC, this year's theme continues the #EndFossilFuels narrative.

This year, FFFOC will be joining Youth Climate Strike LA's event for the Global Day of Climate Action on April 19! We will take the train up to LA together as a group, if you would like to join us, please see below for information on which train we will be taking (we also have a Google Form to coordinate carpooling in case anyone needs a ride). There will also be two sign-making events in OC in preparation for April 19th (see below for dates and locations).

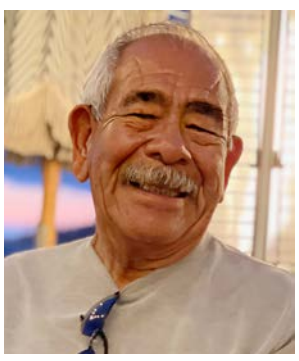
Art Build / Sign-Making:
(1) Thursday March 28 at 5pm - Hart Park in Orange
(2) Saturday April 13 at 11am - Heritage Community Park in Irvine

Trip to LA by Train:

A group of us will gather at the Irvine and Orange train stations to take the last Metrolink that morning down to LA together. The train leaves at 9:04 a.m. in Irvine and at 9:21 a.m. in Orange. You can also board the train on your own at any other stations it stops at (e.g., Santa Ana, Anaheim, Fullerton) and meet us on the train or at Union Station.

See this Google Doc for information about how to get a ticket. Metrolink tickets are free for anyone under 18 and college students (*https://actionnetwork.org/events/global-day-of-climate-action-2*).

Bobby Lopez *1943 - 2024*



Long-time Fullerton resident Bobby Lopez was born on August 14, 1943, in Bella Vista, a small coastal town outside of Tepic Nayarit, Mexico. He was the first of six children born to Robert and Enedina Lopez.

Bobby was a hard-working family man who enjoyed his retirement working in his garden, tending to his fruit trees, and hanging out with his wife, children and grandchildren. Bobby loved playing handball and billiards with his son-in-laws and grandchildren. He was most happy spending time with his loved ones enjoying the outdoors.

Bobby entered heaven on March 9, 2024, joining his daughters Evelyn and Evangelina, his parents, and his brother Raymond, along with many family and friends who have gone before him. He leaves behind his beloved wife of 51 years, Maria, his daughters, Mary, Evette, Roberta, and Sandy, brothers and sisters, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews, who all carry wonderful memories of Bobby.

Bobby's Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, April 13, from 1pm to 2:30 p.m. at Harvest Church 17600 Gillette Avenue, Irvine, CA.

Yolande Anne Hansler *1926 - 2024*

Yolande (Yo) Anne Hansler was born November 17, 1926, to Victor and Leonie Duplessis in Los Angeles, CA. She grew up in Los Angeles and graduated from Catholic Girls High School.

She married John Francis Hansler on June 15, 1947, and they had four children. She lived in her Fullerton home for 64 years.

Yo began working as the administrative secretary of the Department of History at Cal State Fullerton in 1961 and retired in 1990.

She traveled the globe on cruises with her brother, Fr. Donald Duplessis. She resided in Iran for over 18 months and left when the Shah was disposed of in 1979.

She loved spending time with family and friends and became known as "the Life of the Party."

Yo is survived by daughters Denise Wadsworth (Fullerton), Madonna Gustaveson (Corona), Sharon Sparks (Placentia), and son Steve (Redlands), nine grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

A celebration of life will be held at the Yorba Linda Community Center on May 4, 2024, from 1 to 4 pm.

Joanna Ducey Lawton *1937 - 2024*

Joanna Ducey Lawton, beloved wife, mother, and friend, departed this world on Tuesday, January 23, 2024. She was 86 years old. Joanna suffered an extended illness related to a cerebral hemorrhage. Her robust health (she was an avid aerobic dancer) kept her with us for four months. Though we were sad to see her suffering, her longevity proved a mixed blessing, as it allowed her friends and family to spend time with her before she left us.

Joanna is preceded in death by her parents, John and Connie, her sisters, Veronica and Connie, and her son, Jerry. She is survived by her husband of 64 years, Joe; their sons, Ted, Tony, Rich, and Dan; seven grandchildren-Julia, Payton, Sarah, Ryan, Joe, Jordan, and Declan; and her adopted "daughters" Sue, Michael, Kelly, and Murph.

Joanna was born in Park Ridge, Illinois, on October 8, 1937. She was the daughter of Constance and John Ducey and the older sister of the late Connie Coleman. A third sister, Veronica, died in childbirth. As a teenager, Joanna enjoyed dancing and listening to the music of The Crew Cuts, Frank Sinatra, and Elvis Presley. In 1955, after graduating from high school, she attended Duchesne College in Omaha, Nebraska, on a full-merit scholarship where she graduated in 1959 with honors and a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology with minors in philosophy, English, and history. Along the way, she served in multiple student-body leadership roles.

Joanna met her future husband, Joseph Lawton, at a fraternity dance in Omaha in 1958. Neither got to attend the other's graduation ceremony because both took place on the same day – June 3, 1959. Afterward, Joe and Joanna drove to Chicago, where they were married three days later in her family's parish church. From there, the newly married couple drove to California on U.S. Route 66. There, Joe began his medical residency at LA County Medical Center, and Joanna worked for American Airlines and the LA County Medical Center as a social worker.

The couple rented a small apartment in Los Angeles, where they lived until moving to Fullerton in 1961. The couple's first son, Jerry, was born in Los Angeles in 1960. He died when he was 11 months old as a result of a congenital heart defect. From 1961 to 1968, the couple welcomed four more sons, Dan, Richard, Tony, and Ted. All four boys attended school at the St. Mary's Parish Elementary school in Fullerton, where she served as a teaching assistant in remedial reading.

Joanna devoted all her waking hours to her young and growing family: attending their athletic contests, driving them to and from school and practice, planning epic and memorable family vacations, organizing and producing beautiful Christmas, Easter, Halloween, and birthday celebrations, and tirelessly supporting Joe and their sons in all their endeavors big and small.

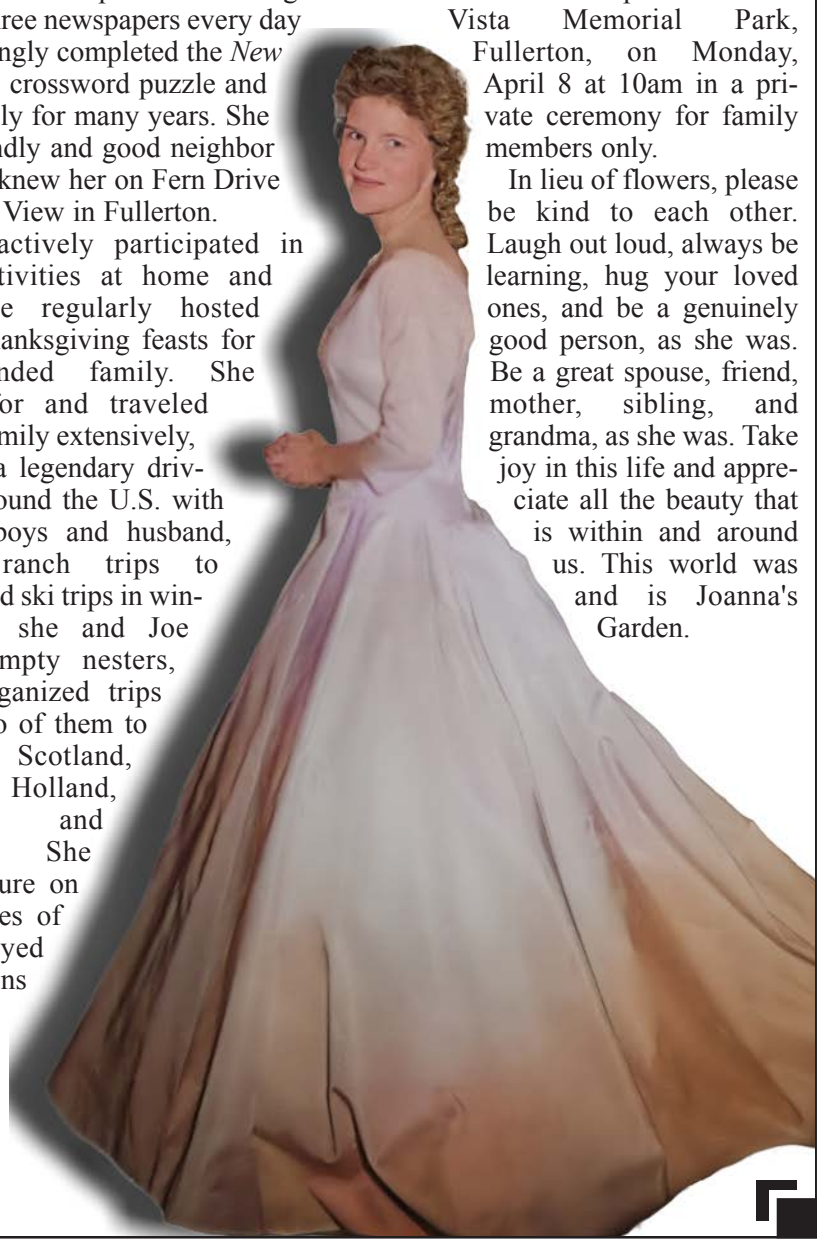
Joanna cultivated many strong and enduring friendships and enjoyed hosting regular bridge games with family friends for over sixty years. She was an accomplished and passionate gardener who loved giving to her friends all the fruits and veggies she grew in her most productive garden at Fern Drive.

Joanna was a disciplined fitness enthusiast and athlete who played girls' basketball in high school. She started doing Jazzercise aerobics workouts during the 1970s and never stopped doing them. She was doing one of those very workouts when she was stricken with a subarachnoid hemorrhage at home on September 18, 2023.

Joanna was a wonderful storyteller with an encyclopedic memory, a lover of parties, jokes, wordplay, and games of all kinds. Her vivacious personality lit up the room wherever she was. For several decades, she painstakingly created an annual calendar that included new family photos and carefully noted the ever-expanding list of birthdays and wedding anniversaries in her family and mailed it to her sons and grandchildren soon after the first day of the New Year. This was one of the many ways in which Joanna served as the glue that held her family together as the years passed. She was also an indefatigable and loyal wife, mother, grandmother, and friend who never forgot a birthday. For several years, she was a daily communicant at St. Mary's Church, which is still the family parish, over sixty years after she and Joe moved to Fullerton.

Joanna was an advocate for social justice and change. She was an avid reader and devoured the novels and stories of Arthur Conan Doyle, Agatha Christie, and other writers. She was a fan of "BBC" radio, "PBS," "60 Minutes," and a "Jeopardy" enthusiast who would routinely "wow" us with her breadth and depth of knowledge. She read three newspapers every day and unfailingly completed the *New York Times* crossword puzzle and Wordle daily for many years. She was a friendly and good neighbor to all who knew her on Fern Drive and Valley View in Fullerton.

Joanna actively participated in family activities at home and away. She regularly hosted famous Thanksgiving feasts for her extended family. She planned for and traveled with her family extensively, including a legendary driving trip around the U.S. with her four boys and husband, summer ranch trips to Oregon, and ski trips in winter. After she and Joe became empty nesters, Joanna organized trips for the two of them to Ireland, Scotland, France, Holland, China, and Indonesia. She was a fixture on the sidelines of sports played by her sons and grandchildren. She also enjoyed multi-generational family trips to Philadelphia and Durango and cruises to the Panama Canal, the Caribbean, the Mediterranean, and Mexico. She loved hosting Joe's weekly jazz concerts on the front lawn outside their home, something they started during the COVID shutdown but continued long after COVID passed. She would hand out wine and her famous pretzels while conversing with the friends gathered at 601 W. Fern Dr.



Funeral services will take place at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Fullerton, on Saturday, April 6, at 10am and will be celebrated by Father Manuel Chavira. A reception and celebration of life will take place following this service at the Erickson Educational Center at St. Jude Medical Center. All are welcome. Parking is free and available. Lunch will be served.

Inurnment will take place at Loma Vista Memorial Park, Fullerton, on Monday, April 8 at 10am in a private ceremony for family members only.

In lieu of flowers, please be kind to each other. Laugh out loud, always be learning, hug your loved ones, and be a genuinely good person, as she was. Be a great spouse, friend, mother, sibling, and grandma, as she was. Take joy in this life and appreciate all the beauty that is within and around us. This world was and is Joanna's Garden.

Send photo and text for tribute to ***ADS@FullertonObserver.com*** or send to PO Box 7051, Fullerton, CA 92834.
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Department: Public Works
Job Number: 2024 - AirportServWrk

Laborer

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Non-Regular (At Will/Non-Benefited)
Category: Maintenance
Department: Public Works
Job Number: 2024 - Laborer

Library Page I

Full Time: $15 - $16 Hourly
Non-Regular (At Will/Non-Benefited)
Category: Library
Department: Library
Job Number: 2023-00009

Fire Department Utility Worker I/II

Full Time: $15 - $16 Hourly
Category: Public Safety / Fire & EMS
Department: Fire Department
Job Number: 22-FD Utility Wkr (Cont)

Homeless Outreach Case Manager (Consultant/Specialist)

Full Time: $30 - $33 Hourly
Non-Regular (At Will/Non-Benefited)
Category: Community & Health Services/Human Services
Department: Community & Economic Development
Job Number: 2024 - Homeless Outreach

Library Technology Assistant

Full Time: $48,095 - $61,382 Annually
Category: Administrative Assistant
Department: Library
Job Number: 2024-Lib Technology Asst

OUR TOWN CROSSWORD © 2024

ANSWER KEY TO PUZZLE "LONGER DAYS AHEAD!" on pg 7:

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

E	D	I	T	H		D	A	B	B	A		M	C	R
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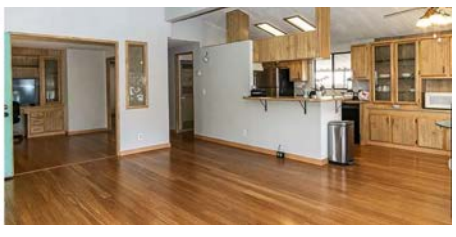

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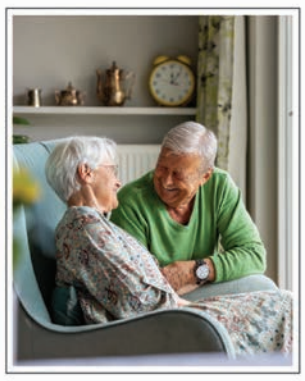

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Video *Observer*

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Looking Back at Fullerton's Silent Film Star Sharon Lynn

On the Fullerton Public Library's website, I read a fascinating entry about a silent film actress named Sharon Lynn, who was known as La Verne Lindsay when she graduated from Fullerton High School back in 1920. Lynn would go on to star in the first "perfected talking picture" to be screened at the the Mission Court Theatre in 1929 (later known as the Fox Fullerton), which made me interested in learning more about her career in old Hollywood and how she made the transition from silent films to talkies.

Inside the Fullerton Public Library's Local History Room, archivist Cheri Pape had a ton of historic documents and photographs on the actress. The daughter of an oil worker who moved around a lot, Lynn, whose formal name was D'Auvergne Lindsay, was born in Weatherford, Texas in 1901. Her family settled in La Habra around 1919.

Pape pointed me to a copy of The Pleiades yearbook from 1920, where I learned that while attending Fullerton High School, Lynn was a song leader, a member of the nominating committee, and had a leading role in the drama class production of John Harley Manners' comedy "The House Next Door" (1912).

After graduating from high school, she began her career singing in night clubs, and working as an extra on various movie productions, appearing in quite a few film shorts. She made her credited acting debut (as La Verne Lindsay) in the 1924 six-reeler,

"Curlytop."

Around the mid-1920s, she decided to change her name to Sharon Lynn. Following her success in the silent picture, Clancy's Kosher Wedding (1927), she signed a long-term contract with Fox Films in 1928. Lynn was one of the few actresses to successfully make the transition from silent films to talkies. The studio had high expectations for her in the late '20s and early '30s. Between films, she starred in stage productions and composed songs. One of Lynn's most notable songs was "Monte Carlo Moon," which became a huge hit and was featured in the 1926 film, "Monte Carlo." She went on to act in a number of silent westerns, most notably "The Cherokee Kid" (1927), and "Son of the Golden West" (1928), which marked the debut of western star Tom Mix.

In the late '20s, there was high demand for films featuring sound at Fullerton's Mission Court Theatre. So, on Sunday, February 17th, 1929, when the movie theatre announced the opening of "perfected talking pictures," local residents were excited. What made the event even more anticipated was the fact that Fullerton's first talkie, "Give and Take," featured Sharon Lynn. She would make regular appearances in different musicals and comedies, including "Fox Movietone Follies of 1929," "Speakeasy" (1929), "The Big Broadcast" (1932), and "Happy Days" (1929), notable for being the first feature film shown in widescreen format.

Besides appearing in the Broadway production of "Sunny Side Up," Lynn went on to act in the film version from 1929, co-starring in a sequence which a number of historians consider the first truly cinematic production number on film.

Many of the early musicals that Lynn appeared in are considered by cinema historians as "important steps in the developing genre as studios experimented with new ways to present song and dance outside the confines of a stage show." She eventually appeared on screen with well-known actors such as Spencer Tracy, Cary Grant, Bing Crosby, and Will Rogers.

Lynn is best known for her role in Laurel and Hardy's comedic 1937 film, "Way Out West," where she acted as a devious foil to the clueless comedians. In one of the most famous scenes from the film, Lynn tickles Laurel to steal a mining deed he has hidden in his jacket.

During the '30s, Lynn reached her peak as a motion picture star. Everything from her exotic bird collection to her fashionable dress sense was regularly reported on in popular movie magazines, including Variety, Photoplay, and Modern Screen Magazine. She made several appearances at local events, including the

Anaheim Valencia Orange Show in May 1928.

By the end of the '30s, Lynn found it harder to find film parts, and retired from cinema. She died in 1963 at the age of 62 of multiple sclerosis, according to the Inglewood Park Cemetery.

Fullerton Heritage nominated Sharon Lynn to be included on the Fullerton Union High School Wall of Fame in October 2015, and on September 16, 2016, she was inducted, becoming only the twelfth 1920s graduate to make it into the Wall of Fame in the FUHS Administrative Offices.

A number of Lynn's films and production numbers are still available on YouTube, including "Turn on the Heat" and Way Out West. The Fullerton Public Library's Local History Room also has movie stills, publicity photographs, fan magazine articles, and other information on Lynn. Open Public Access Hours for the FPL Local History Room are Tuesdays through Fridays from 11 am to 1 pm.

(Go to *FullertonObserver.com* to read the full story)