

Fullerton Observer

Fullerton's Only Independent Newspaper

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PHOTO BY DAVID SPARGUR

64th year of Gymkhana in Fullerton by David Spargur

Fullerton Recreational Riders (FRR) held its 64th year of competitions, proving Fullerton's horsey heritage is alive and well. On April 27, cowgirls and cowboys of all ages rode horseback around barrels and weighted slalom poles at the Laguna Lake horse arena for best-in-time and all-around fun. Over 50 competitors on almost as many horses competed in Gymkhana, where riders race the clock on four types of obstacle courses.

See Gymkhana on page 3.

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 JANUARY, JULY, AND AUGUST

FULLERTON
 OBSERVER
 PO BOX 7051
 FULLERTON CA 92834

AT&T's Plans to Drop Landlines

AT&T, along with other providers of landline phones, will be actively phasing out their landline services soon in response to the Federal Communications Commission Landline Shutdown Order 19-72. U.S. service providers will be required to offer customers an alternative to landlines and use devices to convert analog signals to digital, either thru fiber optic cables or wireless technology, like LTE/5G.

This isn't going to happen overnight but both AT&T and Verizon are pushing now to be fully operational on newer infrastructure in the next few years. AT&T has already applied for a waiver to stop servicing traditional landlines in California.

Maureen Milton, a disabled senior 56-year resident of Fullerton, said, "This is a very scary situation. Please write letters regarding this action because, without landlines, we're dead when you can't contact emergency services. But you can write letters and call everybody. Landlines may be old technology, but often old technology is still the best when the power goes out."

To file a complaint with the FCC visit <https://consumercomplaints.fcc.gov>; or call 1-888-CALL-FCC (1-888-225-5322); ASL: 1-844-432-2275.

SENIOR ADVISORS NEEDED

Meet other civic minded Fullerton residents over 60 years old who want to make a difference in the quality of senior living in Fullerton.

Apply in person at City Hall
 301 N Pomona Ave, Fullerton or call
 Amanda Arbisio (714) 738-3338



Francine and Irene Graduate from Young Observers

Francine Vudoti and Irene Sheen will be graduating from high school and "graduating," too, from the Young Observers. Young writers transition from the youth page upon graduation from high school and may then choose to continue as regular contributors to the *Fullerton Observer*.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone, especially Sharon Kennedy, Ms. Saskia, and those Young Observers who have worked with us for many years. Words are not enough to describe how I feel, but as we have all written in the 5th-anniversary issue last January, we are all grateful to have this rare opportunity to share our voices, hone our writing skills, contribute to our community, and enjoy each other's company," said Francine.

Francine began writing for the *Observer* in 2014 when she was 8. In 2018 she began recruiting other young writers for the Young Observers page, which she created and edited. Behind the scenes she mentored and encouraged the writing team. She also organized meetings, award and anniversary

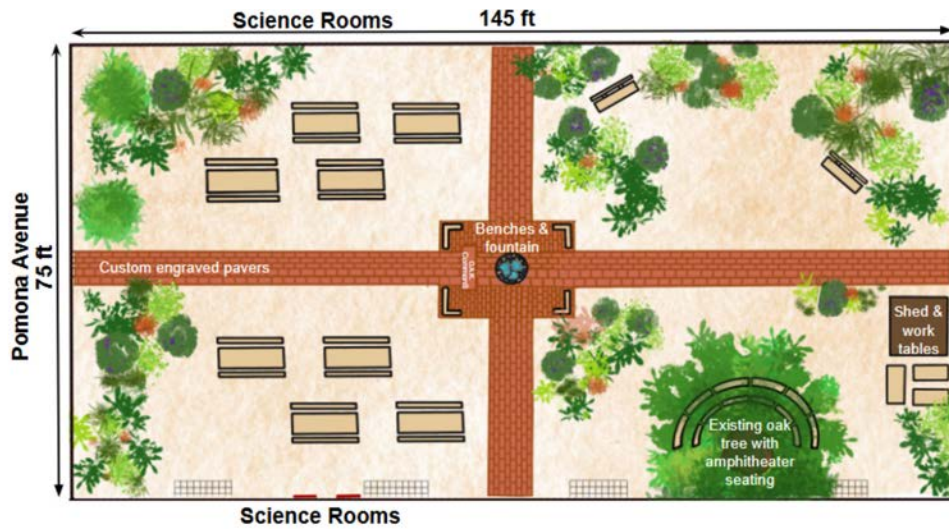
parties and started a Young Observers International group that corresponds with students in the Philippines.

One of the first recruits to the Young Observers page was Irene Sheen who recently wrote, "To be a Young Observer means to be an advocate. As young students, we often grapple with the misconception that our voices hold little value in our community. The *Observer* and the Young Observers page, however, have effectively dismantled this belief and have inspired me to become an advocate within my community."

Irene has never shied away from a controversial topic. Tackling topics from youth representation in politics to the phenomenon of Techno-Orientalism, and more - her reporting style is thought provoking and logical.

The *Fullerton Observer* wishes both these amazing young women success in their next steps and hope they will keep us updated. They will be missed immensely.

See Young Observers page 11



Outdoor Classroom at Fullerton Union High School Looks for Community Support

The goal for the Outdoor Learning Lab and Native Garden is to create a dynamic outdoor learning space for science students in all levels of classes. We envision dividing up the learning lab to offer various seating arrangements to facilitate different types of learning.

The area would give students a place to practice sustainability, engage in hands-on Science and Engineering Practices outlined in the three dimensions of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), take ownership of their learning, and facilitate mental wellbeing. We currently have multiple classes tasked with environmental action projects tied to the six guiding principles in the Blueprint for Environmental Literacy for California.

Our plan for the initial year is to have students take ownership of the Outdoor Learning Lab to plan and design fea-

tures to attract native species and build a community garden space. Through the process of building and maintenance, our garden will foster a sense of community amongst parents, teachers, students, and community members.

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT:

1. Spread the word about our project!
2. Purchase a legacy brick below
3. Donations are always welcome!

We invite FUHS students, alumni, and community members to pave the way as we fundraise for OAK Commons, our new native plant garden and outdoor learning space. By purchasing a paver for our garden walkway, you will leave your mark on FUHS for generations to come. Your paver can be customized with text and a graphic to commemorate your connection to FUHS.

See ad below.

FULLERTON UNION HIGH SCHOOL
FAMILY & COMMUNITY!

EG RD

TYLER MARTINS
2010

LEAVE A LEGACY AT FUHS WITH A CUSTOMIZABLE BRICK FOR OUR NEW OUTDOOR CLASSROOM. YOUR PURCHASE WILL FOREVER PAVE ITS WALKWAY.

FOOTBALL

MICHAEL PRITCHARD
CLASS OF '10

visit tinyurl.com/FUHSbricks for details

FFA

FINNEGAN FAMILY
2028

CORTEZ FAMILY
LEGACY '62 '92 '94

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CITY LIGHTS

This is a topic that residents should be included within the discussion. City lights are meant to support residents within the city, meaning they should have the opportunity to voice their opinion. Although this would be great improvement on the city, it is beneficial to understand how residents feel and their thoughts on the options of lights provided. The city is large so by bringing awareness of the change in city lights, residents in the area could give more insight on the best option for their area. Let's educate the positives and negatives from the three options given and feedback should be taken into account by SCE and the city. An option would be a voting poll that requires the voter to state the area they are residing in or if they are a frequent visitor in the area. Since there are three options, it can help determine the solution that is best for the area in city. This is a great conversation for our community to come together and bring our ideas to make the city a better place. It will provide a safer environment because the city lights will work more efficiently.

CB Fullerton

ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY PAPER

One of your readers [Jon Whittaker] provided us with details about *The Fullerton Observer Newspaper Survey*. We wanted to respond to your survey and address some of our concerns with the messaging used and how it impacts our shared industry. Hopefully, you are familiar with Two Sides <https://twosidesna.org/>, an initiative run for the print and paper sector to promote the great sustainable story of paper products.

There is a great story to tell about using less emissions for delivery or cost savings. However, the very specific statement about the environmental impact of paper fuels consumer perception that newspapers and paper products are not sustainable or are a primary cause of deforestation. This is an argument the newspaper industry has defended for many years.

Wood, of course, is used for making paper products but, typically, the virgin fiber comes from the crown and thinning of the tree, while the core goes to lumber. In addition, a high volume of recycled fiber is used in paper production.

We have research and several Fact Sheets available that show consumer preferences for paper and address misconceptions about its sustainability. Not to mention, the industry directly employs around 925,000 people and supports more than 2 million additional jobs throughout the supply chain (including your newspaper). The forest products industry significantly contributes to the U.S. economy, representing approximately 5% of manufacturing GDP.

Some resources can be found here:

- Myths & Facts: United States - Two Sides North America (twosidesna.org)
- 2023-US-Trend-Tracker-Summary-4pg.pdf (twosidesna.org)

Together, we can amplify the message that our products are made from natural, renewable, non-fossil materials.

Jill Crossley
Director of Operations
Two Sides North America

Fullerton Observer

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

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

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

• STAFF •

- ACCOUNTING: Saskia Kennedy
- CALENDAR: Marjorie Kerr
- CHIEF WEB OFFICER: Mehul Desai
- COPY EDITOR: Stephen O'Connor
- COUNCIL REPORT: *Needed*
- CROSSWORD: Valerie Brickey
- DISTRIBUTION: Jere Greene
- DOWNTOWN REPORT: Mike Ritto
- EDITOR: Saskia Kennedy
- EDUCATION: Vivien Moreno
- FEATURE: Emerson Little
- HEALTH: Jo Ann Brannock & Michell Gottlieb
- INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER: Rachel Raiy
- MOVIE REVIEW: Joyce Mason
- PHOTOGRAPHERS: Emerson Little, Mike Ritto, Jere Greene, and Gaston Castellanos
- POLITICAL COMMENTARY: Jon Dobrer, Vince Buck, Jodi Balma, Marcy Fry, and Jack Hutt
- REPORTERS: David Spargur, Andrew Williams, Jody Vallejo, Karen Lloreda, and Diane Vena
- ROVING REPORTER: Jere Greene
- SENIOR LIVING: Edith Harvath
- SHIPPING: Irene Kobayashi, Marjorie Kerr, Leslie Allen, and Barbara Meyer
- SOCIAL MEDIA: *Volunteer Needed*
- THEATRE REVIEWS: Angela Hatcher
- YOUNG OBSERVERS EDITOR: Francine Vudoti

VOLUNTEERS WANTED:

- ADVERTISING SALES AND CREATIVE
 - CALENDAR LAYOUT EDITOR
 - CITY PLANNING REPORTER
 - OCPA REPORTER
 - OC SUPERVISORS REPORTER
 - ACTIVE TRANSPORT REPORTER
- Send writing sample and resume to: Contact@fullertonobserver.com

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Fullerton
Fullerton's Only Independent Newspaper

Observer

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Patriots and Paws was presented a certificate of recognition from Fullerton Councilmember Dr. Ahmad Zahra by Jere Greene

At the Patriots and Paws 2nd Annual BBQ Smoke Off Competition held at their Anaheim warehouse, Councilmember Dr. Ahmad Zahra presented a certificate of recognition on April 27, 2024, for all they do for veterans and their families. The public was invited to attend and aid their mission to support veterans and military families.

Patriots and Paws is dedicated to providing Veterans, Active Military, and Reservists and their families throughout Southern California with basic home furnishings for their newly acquired residences.

Military clients submit a list of required items, such as bedroom furnishings, kitchen items, appliances, and living room furniture.

They tour the aisles of racks holding the currently available items and are allowed to select those that meet their needs. Staff volunteers then move the items from the rack and load them into vehicles provided by the veteran. This is all provided at no charge to the recipient, who then transports the items as their only expense.

It is estimated that 95% of those assisted have experienced homelessness and have recently secured their HUD/VASH housing vouchers or other forms of housing. Patriots and Paws extends their support to all Veterans, Active Military Members, or reserves, regardless of their physical condition, branch, or rank. They are part of the 8% who have served or the 4% who are currently serving the U.S.A., and Patriots and Paws helps to make their transition smoother and their lives better.

In addition, they offer a unique program where interested individuals can be matched with a rescued companion animal. They also provide a range of resources to support and guide Veterans as they transition into civilian life, including job placement assistance, mental health support, and financial counseling.

For more information visit:
<https://patriotsandpaws.org>

Donations can also be scheduled for pickup by contacting Info@PatriotsAndPaws.org.



PHOTO BY STAFF

From left to right: Patriots and Paws Executive Board President Tom Macias, Fullerton City Councilmember Dr. Ahmad Zahra, Founder and CEO Penny Lambright, Ishka Diller (the dog), Jennifer Diller, and Patriots and Paws Executive Board Secretary Christine Mantyla.



PHOTOS BY DAVID SPARGUR

Gymkhana *continued from the front page*

Gymkhana in Fullerton is a set of four timed courses. It includes the "Cloverleaf" barrel pattern, which is well known to rodeo fans, plus the "Big T," which adds slaloming through poles, "Skill Barrels," and "Birangle" variations. Most riders are local to Fullerton, Yorba Linda, and surrounding cities. One participant came from Temecula.

The competition is divided into divisions and subdivided into junior and senior sections (14 and over). The lower-numbered divisions are the most advanced and competitive. Divisions 3, 5, 6, and 7 riders competed at this Gymkhana event. Riders must perform three shows without errors to advance to the Southern California Regionals in Yucaipa. Riders can then advance to the California State Show of Champions in Watsonville.

According to Alison Konrad, mother of two riders, the competition can be dangerous. In the past, Mrs. Konrad's daughter Tessa got a nasty leg gash from hitting a barrel. The horses themselves can be quite feisty. A young rider, Emily Harris, was bucked off at the end of her ride but was unhurt. Riders under 18 are required to wear

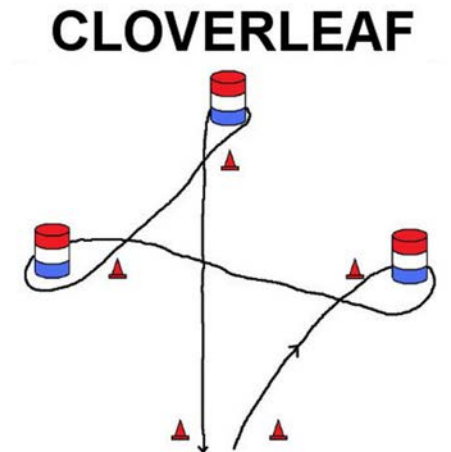
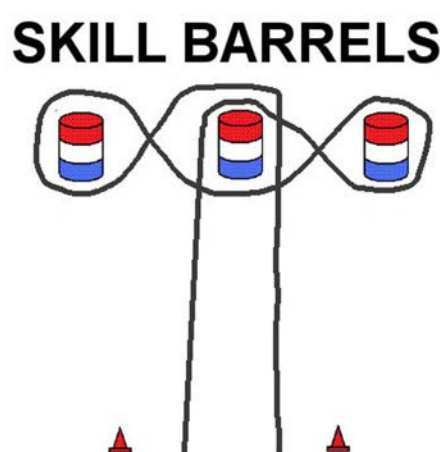
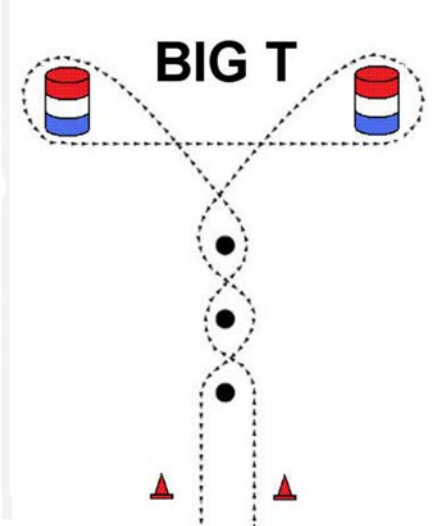
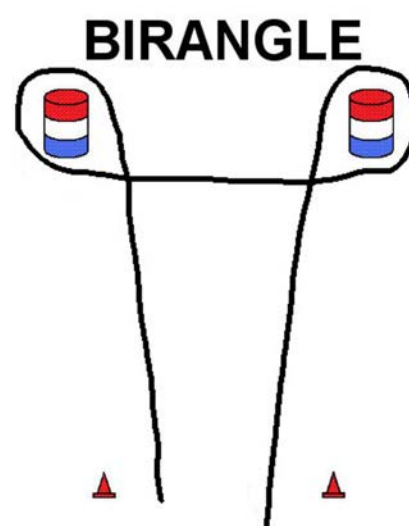
helmets, and riders over 18 are allowed to wear cowboy hats. Local craftslady Jo-Anne Pritts makes helmets disguised as cowboy hats, combining style and safety.

"The trick is to take a barrel as tight as possible without knocking it over for a 2-second penalty," said Konrad.

Versa Harris, owner of V&H Stables on Bastanchury, offers Gymkhana classes. Some of Ms. Harris's riders don't own their horses and lease Ms. Harris's horses.

"A big challenge is keeping your mount under control so it takes the correct path around the poles and barrels," Harris said, "Being competitive requires commitment just like athletes. A horse needs to be "turned out" (exercised in a ring) four or five times a week. Typically, a rider will have weekly classes."

According to FRR president and Gymkhana judge Bryan Button, when it celebrates its 65th anniversary next year, FRR plans to hold a community fair with bounce houses and equestrian attractions. FRR holds Gymkhana events once a month on Saturdays. See the schedule and find out more at <https://fullertonreriders.org>



PARKS JUNIOR HIGH, TINY HOME PRESENTATION

Eighth graders at Park Junior High, Annette Lee, Kyrsten Kim, Kaitlyn Choi, and Evelyn Lee, presented the Fullerton School District's (FSD) Tiny Home Project.

The purpose of the tiny home project is to support under-housed families by providing them with the comfort of their own homes. Eventually, these families will be able to support themselves and create a stable life once again. In this way, we are making an effort to diminish the world's and Fullerton's problems with homelessness. They invited the public and city to join this endeavor and provide a new chance for Fullerton families in need.

As the name implies, tiny homes are scaled-down houses typically under 600 square feet. They can be built on concrete or trailer foundations and are designed to house one to four people. Some benefits of tiny homes are environmentally and economically friendly conditions while providing the comforts and necessities of traditional housing.

The final location will be on the Orangethorpe campus near the

Community Center. This location will support three tiny homes. The effort aims to be a turnkey home for an under-house FSD family. Currently, 191 FSD families are categorized as being under-housed or unhoused. Providing them with a home and a case manager will include helping find work, providing access to healthcare, and meeting essential needs. In the future, FSD wants to provide more for families by eventually creating communities of tiny homes right here in Fullerton. The city has undergone a recent Housing and Community Development (HCD) lawsuit and must create and submit a housing plan by November 5th and modernized zoning codes. As part of the agreement, the city will need to adopt A plan to allow for the development of over 13,000 homes. More than 5000 people will need to be in low or very low-income homes. With help from the city, building more tiny homes can make housing more affordable, becoming an additional asset for the HCD requirements and maximizing surplus land around Fullerton while providing affordable

FSD Tiny Home

Built on a trailer
Plans by Ana White
Nicolas Jr High Woodshop II
students project
Final location:

- o Orangethorpe Campus at the new Community Center



homes. Tiny houses can support people struggling with homelessness and the city of Fullerton in numerous ways.

"As the city leaders, it would make the entire process easier if you provided incentives for our builders and helped us expedite the building procedure. For example, you can help us secure grant funding. The Tiny House had to be built entirely with donations from the community. So, looking forward to next year, we need to secure even more donations, which you can provide to build our next tiny home. The four of us have been very fortunate with all the support, especially from

Mr. Williams at OC United, Senator Newman, Mayor Dunlap, and former Mayor Silva, who were very helpful. Some of our strongest tiny home supporters have been the Fullerton Education Foundation, Phelps Foundation, and New Dimension Construction. Building a tiny home takes a lot of people and resources, so we invite you to join us. Our Fullerton district's efforts for this cause can create an impact. However, with your efforts, we could make a lasting difference," said one of the student representatives.

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREEK FESTIVAL AND THE 62ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

"This is a special place for me because many years ago, my dad was an altar boy there when he was a kid after coming over from Greece," said Mayor Nicholas Dunlap.

Dina Maverick Sakis, the vice president of the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society at Saint John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, said, "We're the Ladies Auxiliary, the charitable arm of the church. We do a lot of work within our community or church community and with the community at large. We have been working with

Higher Ground Youth and Family Services, which recently opened its services at Raymond Elementary [located at 517 Raymond Ave, Fullerton]."

Mark your calendars for the Greek Festival, a three-day extravaganza from May 17th to May 19th at Saint John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, 405 Dale St, Anaheim. Get ready to immerse yourself in the vibrant world of Greek culture with authentic food, lively music, traditional dances, and much more!



PROCLAMATION FOR DRINKING WATER WEEK MAY 5TH - 11TH

Water is the most valuable natural resource, and drinking water serves a vital role in the daily lives of residents, serving an essential purpose for their health, hydration, and hygiene needs. Tap water delivers public health protection and fire protection, supports our economy, and improves our quality of life.

The entire water sector works to serve the community, from designing capital projects to operators

ensuring the safety and quality of drinking water or a member of a pipe crew maintaining the infrastructure communities rely on to transport high-quality drinking water from its source to consumer taps.

The City experiences 100 to 115 main breaks each year, and the Public Works staff responds quickly to ensure continued safe drinking water to the community at all times.

We are all stewards of the water infrastructure upon

which current and future generations depend, and to ensure quality drinking water, the City is proud to partner with the Orange County Water District to operate and manage the second PFAS treatment in the City of Fullerton.

The citizens of Fullerton are called upon to help protect the source waters from pollution, practice water conservation and get involved with their water board by familiarizing themselves with it.



PROCLAMATION ON BEHALF OF NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK MAY 19TH - 25TH

Public works professionals focus on infrastructure, facilities, and services that are of vital importance to sustainable and resilient communities and to the public health, high quality of life, and well-being of the people of Fullerton. The dedicated efforts of public works professionals provide these infrastructure, facilities, and services. The engineers, managers, and employees at all levels of government and the private sector are responsible for rebuilding, improving, and protecting our nation's transportation, water supply, water treatment, solid waste systems, public buildings, and other structures and facilities essential for our citizens. It is in the public interest for the citizens, civic leaders, and children in

Fullerton to gain knowledge of and to maintain an ongoing interest in understanding the importance of public works and public works programs in their communities. 2024 marks the 64th annual National Public Works Week, sponsored by the American Public Works Association and Canadian Public Works Association. Nicholas Dunlap, Mayor of the City of Fullerton, on behalf of the entire Council, designates May 19th through 25th as National Public Works Week to celebrate public works, public works professionals, engineers, managers, and employees and to recognize their substantial contributions to protecting National Health, safety and quality of life.



ARBORLAND MONTESSORI CHILDREN’S ACADEMY DUBBED THE ANIMATED CHINESE TV SHOW FLOWER ANGEL IN ENGLISH

Arborland Montessori School acquired exclusive rights to dub the animated Chinese TV show Flower Angel in English. The students enrolled in the Theater & Voice Acting Workshop auditioned to lend their voices to the American-dubbed movie version of Flower Angel. Arborland students landed most of the speaking roles in the movie. Arborland held a red carpet premiere on May 3 at the Krikorian Metroplex 18, 8290 La Palma Ave, Buena Park.

Students honored were Kira Suinn, Lucas Astudillo, Isabella Estudillo, JaelynAn, Kiaan Iyer, Jolie Michaels, Kaitlyn Han, Noah Malan, Sirisha Sriram, Briana Schroeder, Cecelia Zeni, Shoshana Ling, Sophia Kim, Zenona Kwinciak, Alexandria Qin, Aarav Gupta, Billy Poolsawat, and Aiden Si. Faculty honored were Doctor Sue Ling Chen, Miss Veronica Chen, Miss Denise Biasca, and Ryan Blatchford Smith.

City Council Notes by Staff

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

Tuesday, May 07 Meeting

REVISED PARAMEDIC SUBSCRIPTION PROGRAM

Established as the “Paramedic Service Program” by City Council Resolution No. 7086 in June of 1983, the City’s utility bill was chosen as the billing method for annual fee.

The program waives out-of-pocket expenses for eligible emergency medical services provided by the City including first responder, advanced life support escort, and unlimited service visits. The membership does not cover ambulance transportation. A single membership covers entire household or business.

Requested change to utility bill enrollment process is automatic enrollment with an opt-out provision. Currently, the City’s new Tyler Munis Utility Billing System does not support “opt-Out” option. Enrollment will continue to be offered through the utility bill. However, residents must now manually opt-in to be enrolled. Meaning that even if residents pay through autopay, they must return the utility bill with additional payment of \$46 annual fee.

City Council Adopted this revision.

STREET SWEEPING OPERATIONS ALTERNATIVES & ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

The city’s street sweeping program began operating over 40 years ago. This sweeping operation was conducted in-house until 2019, when it was outsourced to Sweeping Corps of America (SCA). Their current operation includes 3 sweepers weekly.

St. sweeping is considered a best management practice for compliance with stormwater regulations for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, which is the most efficient method to eliminate debris, oils, and pollutants from entering our stormwater system. When vehicles are parked in the sweeper’s path, streets are not properly swept. Therefore, parking enforcement for St. Sweeping was initiated to improve the effectiveness of St. Sweeping operations. In August 2023, the Public Works completed a citywide no parking signage on St. sweeping routes. The city also retained SP Plus Citation services to enforce the sweeping parking restrictions. Citywide enforcement began shortly afterward.

In the past five months, the average monthly citations were approximately 3500. The decrease in citations and resident calls indicates residents are progressively complying with the street-sweeping parking restrictions.

This item was continued with staff directed to show more options.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Several people from a group called Dare to Struggle advocated for homeless people who have faced some of the highest forms of injustice at the hands of the police.

“To City Council members, how would you feel if the Fullerton Police Department killed your relative or close friend? And the officers involved were never publicly known or punished for their crimes?” said one member.

“Just like what they did to Kelly Thomas, they weren’t just maiming and killing those individuals. They were sending a message. A message to all the homeless, core, and dispossessed people in the city to stay in your place, or this is what will happen to you. It’s no different in form and reality than the brutal lynchings that the KKK and local sheriffs did in the Jim Crow South, which told black people that the dominant power structure did not see them as fully human. But these days, the police play that role with state backing and the thin blue line of silence,” said another member.

Yet another member said, “People will stay homeless until this city chooses to manage its housing crisis accordingly. In 2023, it was documented that one in three individuals experiencing homelessness in the US has a disability. Criminalizing people based on poverty, disability, or housing status is not a solution to homelessness and will continue to exacerbate every issue in the city. Criminalization does not work. It doesn’t work for any public housing or any public health crisis. It does not work for substance abuse.”

Zee: At the last City Council meeting, the street engineer stated that he could utilize street maintenance funds to repave in the past years, but not this year. No funds are available.

There are parts of the city that do not have working St. lights. Our Police Department is down by 24 officers. The fire department is forced to work with equipment that is older than expected.

Tonight, I will ask each of you, what your idea is to widen the tax base for Fullerton? I have an idea. It would increase our city revenue by \$30 million to \$100 million every six years.

To all of the 600 Fullerton city workers, union and non-union, you all need to support a new tax dollar initiative to

ensure your future and that your current job still exists at a pay raise annually that you can live on.

Anjali Tapadia: As you likely know, another bicyclist member of our community was killed by a car driver this month. This occurred on Orangethorpe near the park and ride. Details are not available, but I do not think they matter. The fact is that another member of our community has died a sudden and horrible death, and our roads are still not safe for anyone outside of a car.

I am asking the City Council to take concrete measures and direct staff to prioritize meaningful road safety measures. They should not be optional. They should not come secondary to car driver convenience. They should be meaningful parts of a larger vision to improve road safety. I say no more road deaths. Everyone comes home safe.

If you don’t act on this, you’re basically saying that certain community members are expendable. You’re saying that you accept a certain number of road deaths and injuries because if we don’t do something meaningful, then there will be more. And so I ask, whom in Fullerton would you appoint to die next? Is it someone in this room? Maybe one of your neighbors? Someone who lives in your district. Is it me?

The way our transportation system is currently designed, it is extremely difficult for anyone outside of a car to move around. Our lack of safe crosswalks and our lack of traffic calming our diagonal curb cuts our dismal bicycle infrastructure that puts vulnerable bikes next to 40 miles an hour.

Car traffic is high. Car travel speeds are Construction zones that do not accommodate bikes and PEDs. Our crosswalks are too far apart. All of these threaten public safety and restrict people’s freedom of mobility, especially those who cannot drive, of which there are numerous in our city.

Rosa Merritt: We do have a system that can work, and it did for my family member who has been assisted ever since. We also got a psychiatrist to help. It wasn’t overnight, it was a big process. So I just wanted to thank our system for helping me with that.

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

- **May 13 at 6:30pm:**
Parks & Recreation
- **May 15 at 5:30pm:**
Active Transportation
- **May 20 at 5:00pm:**
Infrastructure & Resources
- **May 21 at 5:30pm:**
City Council
- **May 22 at 6:30pm:**
Planning Commission
- **May 30 at 5:00pm:**
Library Board of Trustees
- **June 03 at 4:00pm:**
Transportation & Circulation
- **June 04 at 5:30pm:**
City Council



Above left: Jacaranda on May 21, 2020 Above right: Jacaranda on May 1, 2024

Jacaranda Trees

It's ordinarily impossible to escape the lure of blooming Jacaranda trees in Fullerton this time of year. There are so many, and quite a few are huge specimens that have been around since the 1930s when a Jacaranda Festival was held.

In Mexico City, Jacarandas began to bloom in January, setting alarm bells and leading scientists to

declare climate change the culprit. Rising temperatures meant the early end of Winter, triggering the bloom. Temperatures have been up and down here in Fullerton all Spring long, seemingly bringing June gloom and May gray in early instead of warm air, so it's time to do a photo survey.

The first photo above was taken downtown on May 21, 2020, in full bloom. The second one is just beginning to bud, so there is no need to panic regarding

our official city tree. Many are looking forward to the show, which appears to be coming up soon. The clean-up once all of the blooms begin to drop? They say the mighty Jacaranda is a great tree in your neighbor's yard and the view from a short distance. The result from feedback: this is not the first time this has happened. Colder weather and mature trees, so no worries—but I'm wondering, will we have July bugs instead of June bugs this year?



New In Town

The Fullerton College Chapman Newell Instructional Building (try saying that fast) is really taking shape now, as you can see. A huge crane was brought in, and very heavy steel was being moved into place, so we can now see the outline of the new building.



Roundabouts

Roundabouts are designed to make intersections safer and more efficient for drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists. Since the completion of roundabouts on Wilshire between Acacia and Euclid, despite all the testing, there are residents who believe they are not doing the job. Here are some observations.

We drove through all ten roundabouts at various times of day, talked to residents, city officials, and law enforcement, and considered comments from people firmly entrenched on either side. There is no in-between, but some observations led to testing the theory that traffic does not slow down, which is a purpose and benefit of these roundabouts.

The speed limit is 15mph, and that's about as fast as one can go through them safely. There have been reports of vehicles speeding as fast as 40mph.

Although accidents have occurred, particularly early on at the intersection of Wilshire and Highland, we could not confirm that it was due to speeding. The lack of experience with this type of traffic control is a concern. Yet, cars seem to slow down and even stop when approaching because of that unfamiliarity, and most drivers, over time, have figured them out.

Some who drive north and south on side streets are less aware of the speed limit and more inclined to be aggressive in proceeding through them, thinking they have the right of way. The absence of crosswalks is a common concern for residents. We found one crosswalk removed in March of 2017, and the expected bike traffic after the installation is less than predicted. Residents feel drivers don't know how to handle the roundabouts, and that also seems to be true about the yellow left-hand arrows that allow traffic to flow at a red light if it is safe.



Sabor de Mexico Festival

There was yet another big turnout, putting the Downtown Plaza to good use on Cinco de Mayo, and this time, classic cars were lined up on the nor-



mally closed Wilshire Avenue. Live music all day, food, art, vendors, and perfect Spring weather made for a fun and colorful scene for all ages.

For more info on this event, see Sabor de Mexico Festival at the Museum Plaza online at www.fullertonobserver.com.

Photo Quiz

Send answer to Mike at AllMedia@sbcglobal.net



This time: Where is this stairway located?

Last time: Jeffrey was first to ID the second mystery obelisk at Richman and Richman Knoll and believes it may be a plot boundary marker from the early days of Fullerton. There are holes in both of them, indicating signage may have been installed, but we still don't know what kind. I'm still hoping an early photo surfaces.



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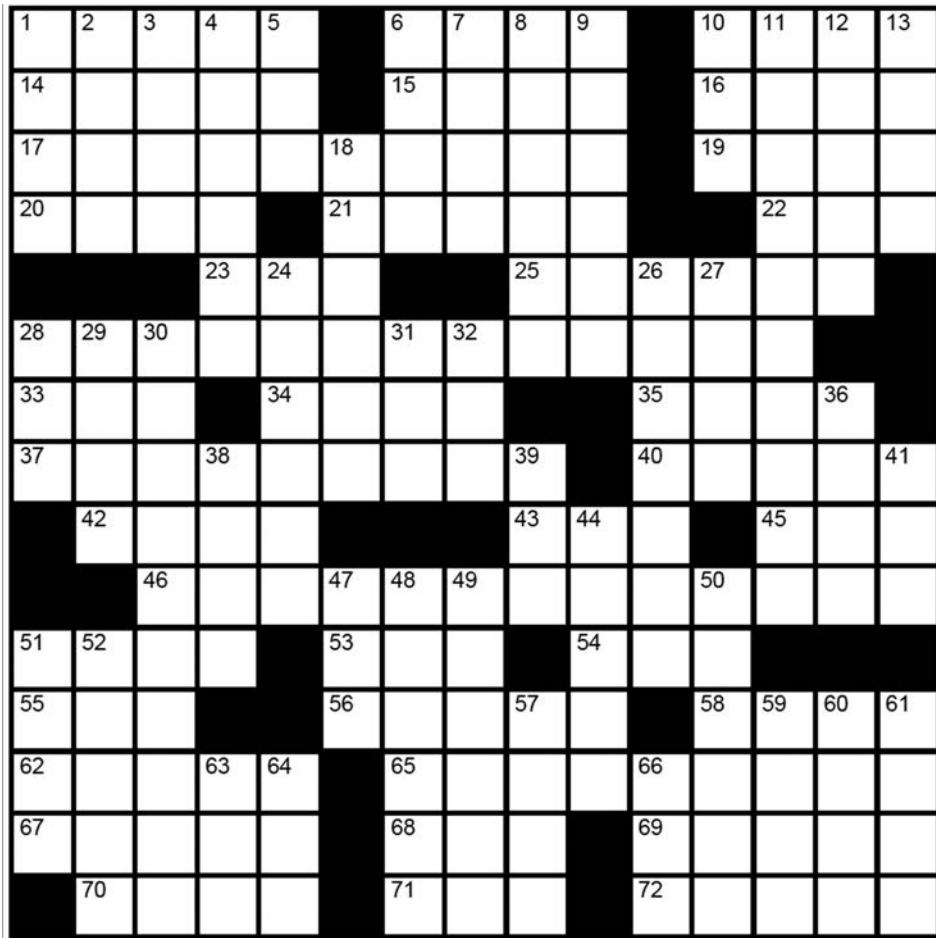
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OUR TOWN CROSSWORD © 2024

"HELP IN THE END" by Valerie Brickey (answer key on page 15)



ACROSS

- 1. Inner circle
- 6. Yukon and Suburban
- 10. Fairy tale opener
- 14. Astrological ram
- 15. Bounce back
- 16. Breakfast, lunch or dinner
- 17. *1984 Prince hit
- 19. Clothing
- 20. Cigar or kitchen ending
- 21. Rocket fuel ingredient, for short
- 22. Mom-and-pop grp.
- 23. ___ Lingus
- 25. Compadres
- 28. *Two-humped desert dweller
- 33. ___, amas, amat...
- 34. Start of a play
- 35. Have ___ (be connected)
- 37. *Does a dog trick
- 40. Do better than average, gradewise
- 42. Diversion
- 43. Go kaput
- 45. Parseghian of Notre Dame
- 46. *Deepest part of the Pacific Ocean
- 51. Em, to Dorothy
- 53. Former AT&T rival
- 54. Dict. listing
- 55. 106, to Romans
- 56. Actor/comedian ___ Baron Cohen
- 58. Three, in Berlin
- 62. Ponders
- 65. Metaphorical influence, and a feature of the starred clues
- 67. Rocker John
- 68. Feverish
- 69. Actress Burstyn
- 70. "It will come ___ surprise..."
- 71. Two-time loser to D.D.E.
- 72. Vote into office

DOWN

- 1. "___ Fear" (1962 and 1991 film)
- 2. Stuck in ___
- 3. Soil
- 4. Say again
- 5. Night school subj.
- 6. Spice Girl Halliwell
- 7. Future doc's exam
- 8. French president between Mitterrand and Sarkozy
- 9. Napa neighbor
- 10. Texter's "Holy moly!"
- 11. Variety of ice cream or pizza
- 12. Shoppers' aids
- 13. Idris of TV's "Luther"
- 18. Physicist Fermi
- 24. Mistake corrector
- 26. Figurative writing
- 27. Film critic Siskel
- 28. Tavern
- 29. Cupid, to Romans
- 30. Steve Lopez and Bill Plaschke, for two
- 31. Off-roader's purchase, for short
- 32. Never, in Nuremberg
- 36. Drug cop
- 38. Future atty.'s exam
- 39. Nutritional abbr.
- 41. "___, humbug!"
- 44. "Where ___" (1996 Beck hit)
- 47. Online chats, briefly
- 48. Street or elementary school name in Fullerton
- 49. Actress Kidman
- 50. Ulitimate goal
- 51. Cartoon maker of iron bird seed
- 52. "Little grape" in the throat
- 57. Lindsey and Linden
- 59. Anger, with "up"
- 60. The "E" in PG&E: Abbr.
- 61. Ain't right?
- 63. A billion years
- 64. ___ Balls (former Hostess treats)
- 66. Driver's aid



Uninsured Against Radiological Accidents

by Sarah Mosko

Many residents of Orange and San Diego counties were relieved when the nuclear power plant at San Onofre was permanently shut down in 2013. That the plant posed risks to people and property only while the reactors were operational was challenged in the OC Register, March 31, "Concerns about San Onofre are real, but experts debate the level of risk" by lead reporter Terri Sforza, in which two nuclear experts weighed in on the dangers of storing 3.6 million pounds of nuclear waste onsite at San Onofre.

The false hope in 2013 ignored the hazards of dry storage of spent nuclear fuel (SNF), which contains some of the most dangerous materials on earth. Used nuclear fuel is termed "spent" only because it can no longer sustain fission in a nuclear reactor. The decay products of nuclear fission, which must be stored safely once a plant is shuttered, are millions of times more deadly than the original uranium fuel.

Due to the federal government's failure to construct a geologic repository as mandated by the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, San Onofre will remain a nuclear waste dump site for the foreseeable future. This highly radioactive waste requires remote handling and isolation for up to a million years, which is a cause for concern for all southern Californians.

Add to that the worrisome facts of how and where the waste is stored: adjacent to the shoreline, with sea level rise inevitable; in an earthquake/flood/tsunami zone; in temporary thin-walled canisters susceptible to cracking; and in plain view, therefore vulnerable to terrorist attack.

Given that, like most states, California insurance policies for homes and commercial properties do not usually cover nuclear accidents of any type, home and business owners in southern California should invest in ensuring that San Onofre's SNF is being secured as safely as humanly possible.

Like most homeowners, I overlooked the Nuclear Hazards Clause in the exclusions section of my homeowner's policy. In mine, the exclusion applies to "any nuclear reaction, radiation, or radioactive contamination, all whether controlled or uncontrolled or however caused or any consequences of any of these."

This means zero insurance coverage for any radiologic-caused damage or contamination to anything within the property's perimeter, including building structures, soil, and water. Nor are relocation costs covered if the property becomes uninhabitable.

This exclusion protects insurers from the obligation to honor impossibly huge payouts when large numbers of properties are impacted.

Nuclear power plant operators are also shielded from liability and com-

ensation to the public in the event of a radioactive release through the 1957 Price-Anderson Act. This law limits the liability of individual commercial reactor owners to a defined amount (\$500 million per site). It also explicitly caps at \$16.1 billion, the total compensation available to the public for any radiological incident exceeding \$500 million. That cap includes an industry-wide self-insurance program in which other commercial nuclear power sites chip in.

Any additional possible compensation to the public for an incident at San Onofre or elsewhere would require an act of Congress.

Contrast that \$16.1 billion cap to a 2019 white paper on the economic impact of a radiological release impacting a 50-mile radius around San Onofre, which concluded: "... about \$13.4 trillion in gross regional product could be at risk over a 50-year time horizon."

Sforza's article addressed the particular risks of San Onofre's dry waste storage system. Two engineers with lifelong careers in the nuclear industry expressed differing views on the most imminent threats. Paul Blanch, a nuclear industry consultant and safety advocate, prioritizes flooding risks from sea level rise, storm surges, earthquakes, and tsunamis. Sforza said he'd feel much better if the dry storage system were hoisted another 20 feet in the air.

Regarding David Lochbaum's views, a nuclear engineer and safety advocate turned watchdog, Sforza wrote: "Lochbaum's concerns center on the dry storage systems themselves.... Lochbaum would feel a lot better if more regular and rigorous inspections of dry storage systems and canisters were required."

Though these experts might disagree on the most imminent risks, there is apparent agreement that the current system for SNF storage at San Onofre is faulty, that radiological accidents are possible, and that both people and property are at risk. Many local nuclear safety advocates also want the thin-wall canisters replaced with more robust and fully inspectable thick-wall casks used throughout much of the world.

Despite controversy over the best solution(s), there is widespread agreement that Southern California Edison, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and possibly the State of California must take quick and decisive action to protect people and property better.

A similar war clause is also in the exclusions section of home and commercial property insurance policies. This suggests that a radiological accident at San Onofre caused by an act of terrorism could leave homes and businesses doubly out of luck.

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HITS & MISSES

by Joyce Mason © 2024



THE FALL GUY: TWO MISSES

For the past couple of years, especially during Academy Award season, interest has grown in adding a new award category for the “unsung dare-devils of action movies,” the stunt doubles. Perhaps this movement prompted former stuntman and now director David Leich to make a film in which a stuntman is the hero of the movie. “The Fall Guy” is a paean to these performers.

Although the film provides a beginning, a middle, and an end that involves dangerous stunts, Leich expects to keep his audience by stringing out a weak love story. To his credit, he cast two very fine actors in the lead roles. Fresh out of his successful lead role in “Barbie,” Ryan Gosling creates a charismatic “fall guy” in a movie that emphasizes action rather than dialogue or character development. His love interest, Jody, is a former camerawoman turned director, played by the lovely and under-used Emily Blunt.

The film opens on the set of a movie

being directed by Jody Moreno (Blunt) on the outskirts of Sydney, Australia. She finds that she is in need of a skilled stuntman, and her assistant hires Colt Seavers (Gosling). Through a flashback, we see Colt, the ultimate stuntman, falling from a twelve-story building but injuring himself seriously enough that he has spent the last eighteen months recovering. Tired of parking cars to make a living, Colt eagerly accepts the new job offer.

After protesting to her casting director for hiring Colt, Jody is assured that he is the only stuntman available to work on her film, “Metalstorm.” We learn that her reason for not wanting to hire Colt is that the two of them have once been romantically involved, and he had broken off the relationship. Colt regrets having done this and tries to win back Jody’s affection. He is also the most qualified for the stuntman’s role in “Metalstorm” because it requires his character to be set on fire several times, and Colt is an expert at pulling off this stunt.



The remainder of “The Fall Guy” consists of two narrative threads. Jody’s film becomes more and more action-packed, with Colt able to perform whatever stunts are required, and Jody succeeds in making her first film exciting. There is some rivalry between Jody and another female director, but their antagonism is never explored. Will Colt and Jody rekindle their romance? Audiences don’t need to see the movie to guess the answer to this question. But there is a question left unanswered in this hodgepodge of a movie. Is it meant to be a comedy, a romance, or just an action movie?

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

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For more information contact Jim Samuel, VPPR, (855) 402-8255, or distinguished@rocketmail.com or see the club web page <https://4139.toastmastersclubs.org>, or [Toastmasters.org](https://www.Toastmasters.org)



through May 25th

Aliento a Tequila (or The Spirit of Tequila) exhibition explores and celebrates the landscape, culture, and traditions that gave birth to tequila, Mexico’s mestizo national drink. This series of photographs by Joel Salcido includes the original distilleries that literally founded the industry, as well as several artisanal tequileras committed to the ancestral ways of tequila-making, from harvest to bottle.

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EVA SCOW

Thursday, May 16 • 7:30 to 9:30 pm
Admission: \$35

Eva Scow is a mandolinist and violinist from California. Eva began studying music at a young age, starting on the piano and violin at age 4, and later adding the mandolin at age 8.

QUARTETO NUEVO

Thursday, May 23 • 7:30 to 9:30 pm
Admission: \$35

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Thursday, June 06 • 7:30 to 9:30 pm
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County of Orange Releases 2024 Point in Time Count Results

A total of 7,322 persons experiencing homelessness were counted during the 2024 PIT Count. Of the 7,322 individuals counted, 3,149 persons were sheltered, while 4,173 persons were unsheltered. In comparing 2024 to 2022, there was a 37 percent increase in the unsheltered population versus an increase of 18 percent in the sheltered population. However, when comparing 2019 to 2024, the increase was smaller at only five percent in the unsheltered population and nine percent in the sheltered population. In total, Orange County experienced a 28 percent increase from 2022 to 2024 and a seven percent increase from 2019 to 2024.

The 2024 PIT Count replicated the methodology utilized during the 2022 and 2019 PIT Count, providing the most accurate data comparison on the scope of homelessness in Orange County over the last five years. The 2024 PIT Count collected participant-

level information, including sheltered and unsheltered household compositions, subpopulations, and disabling conditions information, such as substance abuse disorder, serious mental illness, and physical disability, amongst other demographic factors. The information collected through this process is self-reported and allows for a better understanding of the needs and challenges of people experiencing homelessness.

The County in partnership with the Orange County Continuum of Care (CoC) conducted the unsheltered count, with a record turnout of 1,251 volunteers over three days, to ensure the 800 square mile Orange County jurisdiction was canvassed effectively. Over 100 Emergency Shelters and Transitional Housing Programs collected participant-level information for those staying the night in each program.

The U.S. Department of Housing and

2024 POINT IN TIME COUNT BY THE NUMBERS

7,322
Persons

North: **3,227** Persons
Central: **3,454** Persons
South: **641** Persons

City	Unsheltered	Sheltered	Total
Anaheim	601	816	1,417
Brea	82	0	82
Buena Park	186	193	379
Cypress	46	6	52
Fullerton	208	226	434
La Habra	76	0	76
La Palma	17	0	17
Los Alamitos	1	3	4
Orange	214	155	369
Placentia	37	145	182
Stanton	169	37	206
Villa Park	0	0	0
Yorba Linda	3	0	3
County Unincorporated	6	0	6
Domestic Violence Program	N/A	0	0
North Service Planning Area	1,646	1,581	3,227

Urban Development (HUD) requires that all CoC jurisdictions across the nation complete a biennial unsheltered count and an annual sheltered count of all persons experiencing homelessness in the community on a single point in time during the last ten days of January.



OC Board of Education Trustees oppose SB 907

by Mehul Desai

Longtime OCBOE Trustee Ken Williams organized a protest against SB 907 outside Senator Newman's Fullerton office on May 3rd, joined by Trustee Lisa Sparks and other supporters. Observers noted that there were fewer than 30 protesters at the rally.

Senate Bill 907 (SB 907) would, if passed, restructure the OCBOE by expanding its composition from five to seven trustees and shifting its elections from the primary ballot in March to the general election ballot in November of each even-numbered year.

"Since the last time the Orange County Department of Education was modified, in 1977, the population of Orange County has more than doubled," said Senator Josh Newman, Chair of the Senate Education Committee. "Increasing the number of trustees on the OCBOE will ensure a more representative and responsive board, and aligning the OCBOE's trustee elections with the November

balloting will improve civic participation and parental engagement in our local education decision-making processes. Both of these changes are long overdue."

A press release from Newman's office also noted that of the state's ten largest counties, OC, which is the third most populous, is just one of four that still has only five trustees on its Board of Education. Moreover, of the 47 county offices of education that held elections in 2020, Orange County was one of only five to hold its elections as part of the lower turnout March primary, with the other 90% conducting their elections during the higher turnout November general election.

The Orange County Board of Education (OCBOE) holds significant sway over decisions impacting the local education landscape, from approving charter schools to navigating policies during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The current OCBOE, which is majority conservative and has frequently taken positions in opposition to state policies -- opposes SB 907's intent to restructure the OCBOE. The board's president, Tim Shaw, opposed the bill during the Senate Education Committee hearing.

Trustee Lisa Sparks criticized the bill, saying, "SB907 is a bad-to-the-bone bill. It is a political football in terms of policy-making. Why would a bunch of people from Sacramento be targeting the Orange County Board of Education? San Diego is bigger than Orange County. If what is being proposed is good policy and legislation, changes should be statewide."

Steven Choi, who is running against Newman in November, also addressed the protestors, "Josh Newman is using political weaponization of his power as a supermajority senator, and he does not represent the voters of OC."

Ken Williams said, "This really means a lot. It means that parents are in control, and not a single legislator in Sacramento who is making a power grab."

Tim Shaw and Lisa Sparks talked to the *Fullerton Observer* on a conference call.

"One of my points is that this is simply not a decision that the state legislature should be making," said Shaw. "If we need to discuss the number of trustees and date of elections, we can do that at the local level. LA County

does not have Board of Education elections at all. They should look at Los Angeles. The state legislators did not address this point at all."

Speaking to the *Fullerton Observer* following the protest, Newman remarked, "This is not actually about politics, it's about representation. If the Board majority is so confident in its positions, it shouldn't be afraid of more voters participating in a November election. I have a long track record of advancing pro-voter legislation, and I certainly have nothing against parents or parental involvement. As things stand, a large share of voters, thousands of whom are parents, feel their votes are not being counted, and their voices are not being heard. Nor do I have anything against charter schools. On the contrary, I strongly believe in the right balance between charter schools and public schools. My record as a legislator, especially as Chair of the Senate Committee on Education, attests to that. I'm proud to have a good working relationship with the California Charter Schools Association."

On the one hand, the current trustees and their supporters want to maintain the status quo, believing the current process is fair. On the other hand, we have state legislators who want to increase representation. SB 907 highlights the complex interplay between state and local politics in shaping educational policies.

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National Observances by Mateo, 10th grade



**Dementia Awareness Week
May 13th-19th**

Dementia is a general term for a group of symptoms that encapsulates the impairment of one's cognitive skills, including the ability to remember, think, and problem-solve, thus adversely impacting a person's everyday life. These symptoms directly affect a person's behavior, feelings, relationships, and everyday activities, making dementia a major issue worldwide. Dementia symptoms become evident typically at age 65 or older. A 2023 study showed that around 6.7 million Americans within this age group displayed symptoms of dementia, and a separate study from 2019 observed over 1.8 million deaths worldwide that year due to its symptoms. The need to create awareness of the threats that dementia imposes on the older population ultimately led to the institution of Dementia Awareness Week.

Dementia occurs when a disease or a combination of multiple diseases damages brain cells and affects their ability to communicate with each other. This lack of communication between brain cells causes the symptoms generally associated with dementia. Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia, being responsible for 60-80% of cases, but vascular and Lewy body dementia are also prevalent. Each form of dementia brings slightly different symptoms to its beholder. For instance, Alzheimer's typically causes drastic memory loss, while Lewy body dementia causes visual hallucinations.

Unfortunately, most of these symptoms are permanent and gradually worsen as time goes on, making the condition lethal. Although there is currently no cure, doctors can provide dementia patients with drugs that weaken its effects, so being able to identify the symptoms early can lessen overall suffering.

In 1979, the Alzheimer's Society, a UK-based charity committed to supporting those with dementia and ultimately finding a cure, initiated Dementia Awareness Week. This annual event, commencing on the third Monday of May and spanning a full week, serves as a platform to highlight the perils of dementia and inspire others to contribute to the search for a cure. The society's mission extends beyond improving the lives of those affected by the symptoms; it also strives to educate the public and potentially save countless lives.

For those who feel compelled to contribute, supporting this cause can be as simple as making a donation to the Alzheimer's Society or other charities dedicated to finding a cure for dementia. Leveraging the power of social media to raise awareness about this condition can also be a significant step in engaging others in this issue. Even the act of sharing this information with our families and discussing preventive measures, particularly for older family members like parents and grandparents, can make a substantial difference.

View Point by Irene, 12th grade



Bidding Farewell

Dear *Fullerton Observer*,

My first write-up for the "Young Observers" page dates back to December 2018. As an aspiring author and a spirited 12-year-old, I became a youth contributor to the *Fullerton Observer* publication, with the intention of expanding my writing expertise. Precisely 65 months later, as a graduating Sunny Hills High School senior preparing for the next chapter of my life, I am filled with immense gratitude for the gifts that this enriching experience has granted me.

The youth is at the forefront of change, and every Young Observer contributes to that profound narrative. Over the past five years, my columns have evolved from exploring teenage fashion trends to analyzing the growth of Techno-Orientalism in Western media. This remarkable transition reflects not just the progression of my age and writing ability, but also the shift in my perception of the world. I began to embrace "contentious" topics, seeking newer, bigger, and bolder opportunities to examine complex social and political issues. Pursuing subjects that compel me to think critically, and perhaps, even contest my

preexisting values and perspectives, I have proudly assumed the role of an advocate within our community. The "Young Observers" page nurtures a space for passionate students to express their individuality, find solace in text, and fulfill their civic duty.

Although I initially joined the youth team with a limited understanding of journalism, I now bid farewell to the *Fullerton Observer*, carrying a lasting legacy, fundamental skills, and valuable memories. My contributions to our city's independent newspaper empowered me to find a greater sense of purpose and belonging within the Fullerton community, in addition to entirely altering the trajectory of my life. This exceptional experience has largely shaped my passions and identity. In my last words for the newspaper, I wish to extend my greatest gratitude to Francine Vudoti, Saskia Kennedy, and most importantly, the publication's readers who have vested me with an invaluable platform. Thank you for investing in a brighter future for the next generation of leaders.

Yours truly, Irene Sheen

Featured Pet by Jules, 8th grade

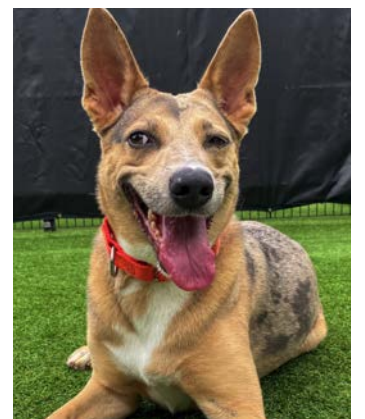


Meet Alma!

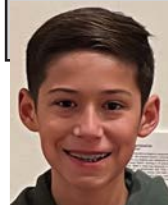
Meet Alma, an energetic two-year-old Catahoula mix searching for her forever home. This playful pup has plenty of stamina and enjoys playing fetch and going on hikes.

Always up for an adventure, Alma would fit best in homes with active, nature-loving families.

If you want to meet or adopt Alma, please contact OC Animal Care at (714) 935-6848 and state Animal ID: A1837999 or visit their website at ocpetinfo.org.



Poetry by Lukas, 9th grade



A Nonet

(Each line gets 1 syllable short starting at 9)

Poetry is unpredictable art;
constantly changing form, various
styles, each more difficult to
write than the last, turn most
future poets from
approaching the
method of
writing.
Sad.

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FSD Classified Employees carry out numerous tasks that are crucial for the smooth functioning of both the school and the District. Working behind the scenes, every task they perform is vital. In appreciation and recognition to FSD Classified Staff for their ongoing dedication, strength, and compassion.



The Dental Corner: Better Oral Health

Why do I need a Deep Cleaning?



Some patients can miss a few cleanings and be fine. Unfortunately, that isn't the case for everyone, and a few neglectful years can damage the gums. Such patients may require a more advanced cleaning.

When gums are healthy, they provide a tight seal around our teeth. There's nowhere for food and plaque to hide. We can remove all the gunk that builds up with good brushing and flossing.

When gums are diseased, that seal can become compromised, and small crevices develop where floss can't

reach. Bacteria now have a place to linger. Over time, those crevices deepen. And while this can cause symptoms, it is often a silent process.

When these crevices (or "pockets") reach a certain depth, patients need a Deep Cleaning. The hygienist must find and thoroughly clean each crevice. This takes a lot of work, and most areas require numbing. Fortunately, in most cases, the gums can be brought back to health.

If it's been a while since your last cleaning, don't fret. Just remember, it's always better to come back sooner than later!

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BALANCE & CHANGE
by Michelle Gottlieb, Psy.D., MFT, LPCC © 2024

The Amazing Journey of Life

Spring has sprung! The rain has stopped. The temperatures are going up. Flowers are blooming. The world shakes off the winter blues every year and prepares for growth. We can learn a lot from how Mother Nature does her yearly cycle.

You have the liberating opportunity to do a deep spring cleaning on yourself. What old dust bunnies have been hiding under your emotional couch cushions? What have you held on to much longer than necessary and now is just cluttering things up? Look deep. Do you have any hurts from old relationships that have nothing to do with today, but you are still clutching those emotions tight? That is not helping you anymore, and those dust bunnies do not make your room look any better.

What old patterns are still clinging on, even though the sun is shining? Acting as if it is still winter and you need to keep that heavy coat on, even though it is a lovely day, will make you feel awful! Take it off and dump it along the side of the road! Take those old habits that do not help make you feel sick and dump them as well!

Life is an amazing journey! It is even better when you can let go of the old and point your face to the sun. Always, always, enjoy the journey and the potential for personal growth it brings!

Healthy Awareness

by Jo Ann Brannock, Ph.D. © 2024



How to Find Companionship When You're Older

Jeffrey Bernstein, Ph.D. (2024), found love after turning 50, as did many of his clinical clients. He emphasizes three essential considerations when pursuing love and companionship.

First, being older can provide one with a wealth of life experiences that can help one clearer understand one's desires, values, and priorities, and this is an asset, not a limitation.

The second consideration is taking the time to cultivate an authentic connection of genuine compatibility, shared values, and mutual respect with a prospective partner. Be open in sharing passions and talk of each other's vulnerabilities.

Thirdly, embrace the power of patience to find the right person. Rushing into relationships, mainly out of desperation, often leads to disappointment. Be patient.

A gentleman, I will call Jim, thought he was ready to find a relationship but found out after dating that he was not, so he took a step back. He focused on living in the present moment, nurtured his existing friendships, and pursued his passions for cooking and playing tennis. When the time felt right, he went on a dating site and pursued a relationship with Linda, whom he found to be compatible.

In interviewing Linda, I found that she had established relationship rules and boundaries. To be in the present, she felt that one does not talk about previous relationships or spouses.

Companionship and similar interests are of prime importance. Going to concerts, movies, plays, games, museums, dinners, and travel were some activities that couples mentioned as necessary in not going alone. One couple retained their own homes but enjoyed gardening at each other's place during weekends. Sharing a daily telephone call is an important way to start the day with a "good morning" or end by discussing one's activities with a "good night."

See if you feel a sense of fulfillment in your life. A friend's sister in her late 80s is giddy as a teenager about the special man in her life. Both are getting around with canes, but the excitement is there. One gentleman at 82 told me that sex is not foremost in the relationship, but to him, it is a human touch and having someone who cares about him.

So, how does one start a relationship with Jeffrey Bernstein's self-discovery? Make a list of qualities you seek in a man or woman and the unacceptable ones, such as divorced many times, smoking, drinking too much, different political views, financial problems, and problems with children such as drugs.

First, see if you are compatible, then see if physical sparks fly after dating for at least three months, as a friend suggested. Look for the inner beauty, such as kindness, instead of just the outer physical beauty, and yes, put age aside.

If using a website to meet a prospective mate, check out the authenticity of the person whose photo is viewed. Be aware of scams! The person you might be responding to may not match the picture of who you think. In addition, some people who are married present themselves as being single and are only looking for free sex, commonly referred to as "hook-ups".

Also, some websites may have what are called "Yahoo boys" in places like Uganda, whose job is to misrepresent someone in another country and scam you out of your money. In some cases, one's entire life savings! Some women are also threatened with their lives to become associates to help get money from other victims.

In summary, the main purpose in many older relationships is companionship, which means having someone to talk with and do activities with, such as dinner and travel, that fulfill one's needs.

**Happy
Mother's Day
on Sunday,
May 12th**

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Out of My Mind

by Jon Dobrer © 2024 • JonDobrer@mac.com

Protests in the 60s & Today

I've never received so many requests to write about a topic as this: The current "horrifying" campus protests in comparison to our "righteous" protests of the '60s.

I did survive Civil Rights protests in the early '60s—only once detained by the police and slugged by a baton-wielding cop—and anti-war protests featuring over-enthusiastic police and teargas in Berkeley after "we" bombed Cambodia. I emerged largely unscathed.

Before looking back, it's important to understand some categories. These boundary lines are not fine but blurry.

- Protest is protected speech. It's a right and sometimes a duty.

- Civil Disobedience is a category of protest. It's not protected, even when peaceful, but should be tolerated and accepted as a legitimate means of witness up to a disputable point.

- Then there's violence, vandalism and violent resistance. These aren't in the category of legitimate protest.

I supported sit-ins for civil rights and anti-war protests. When, however, does a sit-in become an occupation or encampment? Is sitting on a university quad made something different when you bring in tents and send them out for pizza or claim that the university is committing a "crime against humanity" for not feeding you? (Yes, that happened at UCLA.) Is the disruption of an institution's purpose transgressive enough to be criminal? Sometimes, the lines are unclear.

It's both easy and tempting to look back through the rose-colored granny glasses of nostalgia at our righteous protests of the Vietnam War. However, that wouldn't be entirely accurate. We started well enough. There were speeches, teach-ins, and marches. I remember them fondly.

Most of us were committed to nonviolence, following the lead of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King and the Civil

Rights movement. Dr. King was challenged by more militant movements, such as the Black Panthers and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. Similarly, the nonviolent Peace movement fell into the hands of more radical and violent factions—the Weather Underground and Students for a Democratic Society.

We initially believed in and tried to practice the teachings of Thoreau, Gandhi, and Dr. King. Our purpose was to witness our values by openly breaking laws and policies that we saw as oppressive, wrong, and even evil. We were not going to use violence or threats. We wanted to be put on trial to put the conscience of the nation on trial.

In our protests of the late 60s, the last thing we wanted was anonymity. Masks would have been antithetical to our aims. Later, a different generation of protestors occupied buildings and made "non-negotiable demands," including for personal amnesty. It took years for this to happen.

Civil rights advanced in part because Bull Connors turned on the fire hoses and loosed the dogs on people who were peacefully bearing witness. Civil rights advanced because we depended on "Jury Nullification," that juries, knowing we had broken immoral laws against segregation or marching without a permit, would still acquit us enough times to change the system. The haters and their violence built our moral high ground. It wouldn't have worked if we had been peaceful and there had been no Bull Connors or Lester Maddox.

The moral center of the anti-war movement didn't hold. Elements of protest turned to violence, vandalism, intimidation, and even domestic terror. Ocluded by the foggy haze of time, we tend to forget the bombings—FBI reported over 2,500 hundred in 1970-71. Most were small and at night and

left few victims. Some were deadly.

When we compare that violence to current Pro-Gaza (Hamas) protests, today's might seem relatively benign. Not benign is the hate speech that seems to advocate replacing one alleged genocide aspirationally with another.

My fear is that the pro-Palestinian movement devolved rapidly into hate, threats, and bullying. This took only weeks, not years, but some current protestors are idealistic, and some useful idiots, unwitting tools of Russia and Iran. I don't believe that most of the protestors, presently spreading the virus of hate in the name of peace, understand the issues. Seeing signs such as "Queers for Gaza" is to display an offensive ignorance which is comparable to members of my cohort wearing Che Guevara and Mao Zedong t-shirts and calling the police "Pigs." I thought that in Berkeley, "Blue Meanies" was sufficient. We criticized their actions, not their essence. Today, a relatively peaceful encampment is too peaceful for radicals who intentionally escalate by fortifying the space. These provocations inevitably cause institutional overreaction.

In comparing then and now, I see similarities in opposing what one perceives as a moral outrage, e.g., the war in Vietnam and mass casualties in Israel/Gaza. I see a mixture of idealism and cynicism. I see fierce certainties that deny the humanity of those on the "other side." I also see the current protest moving rapidly towards the kind of violence that eventually crushed peaceful protest.

The Civil rights struggle was to spread liberty. The antiwar movement was to stop the killing. Some of today's protests are to stop the killing, but too many of the current voices call for the end of Israel and assume that any Jew who doesn't denounce Israel is a Zionist agent complicit in a redefined "genocide."

When remembering the 1960s and understanding today, we must be mindful not to become exemplars of the causes we protest.

When we remember the 1960s, we remember the good times. We remember being young, our youthful exuberance, and our fierce certainties. As militant peaceniks and flower children, we nostalgically remember both the stench of teargas and the scent of flowers.

In Case You missed It: Student Protests 2024

Protesters at major universities worldwide are calling for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza, an end to US government military assistance to Israel, and divestment from Israel arms suppliers, and other companies profiting from the war in Gaza.

Over 2,900 demonstrators have been arrested on 130 college campuses since April 18.

Pro-Palestinian protests on college campuses across the US include students and faculty of various backgrounds, including Jewish, Muslim, and Christian faiths. Organizers in the US include Students for Justice in Palestine and Jewish Voice for Peace.

University administrators, including from UC Riverside, UC Irvine, Union Theological Seminary, Evergreen State College, Northwestern, Brown University, and Rutgers, have agreed to divest or at

least open negotiations with students.

Some university administrations including at Columbia, Barnard, UCLA, University of Texas, University of Pennsylvania, MIT, Harvard, Yale, and more have suspended students involved in protests and called in police in riot gear who have dismantled encampments and arrested peaceful demonstrators.

Similar student and faculty protests are being held on campuses around the world including in Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, Ireland, France, Germany, Netherlands, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, Austria, Belgium, Finland, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, Bangladesh, Egypt, Lebanon, and more.

Daily Updates at:

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AT HOME WITH THE HOMELESS

by Andrew Williams © 2024



Shelter Woes, Part II: Electric Boogaloo

Ending the cycle of homelessness will require a multidisciplinary effort from government, religious, and mental health organizations. But part of the problem may be that some of these organizations have spread themselves too thin, like Mercy House (MH), which operates facilities in five counties in California and Maricopa County in Arizona.

Three issues I've addressed with MH staff numerous times through the grievances/reasonable accommodations process that were even worse beforehand, according to the ACLU lawsuit:

1. The 24/7 use of lights in the dorms, turning residents into unpaid guinea pigs for an uncontrolled experiment on how 24/7 exposure to light affects the circadian rhythms of humans. (Note to ACLU SoCal: There might be an Eighth Amendment case here.)

2. The wonky sensors in 3/5ths of the bathroom sinks that allow water to flow even after people remove their hands and

3. The inefficient shower system that a) has to be reset every 90 seconds and b) dispenses a spray that is literally painful to the skin, thus providing multiple disincentives for clients to use the showers. And there is still no hot water. The dispensers are geared so that the temperature can only be adjusted by repeatedly turning the faucets on and off, usually requiring 3-5 minutes. Then you might-might-get some lukewarm water going. That was a sacrifice in obeisance to Poseidon.

None of these grievances have been addressed. Some nights, most lights are turned down in dorms, only to be turned on full blast at 5am. Other nights, they are left on at the same lumen level all day, even when the sun shines directly through the windows and doors, wasting electricity.

The sinks still waste water by dispensing it even when no one is standing there. And the shower heads are still a pain, literally. In addition, there is an ongoing issue with non-working toilets and urinals (though with less frequency and more often due to resi-

dents' abuse of facilities). Put another way, this building's Energy Star rating would be sub-par.

The fact they've not been addressed begs two questions: 1) Why haven't they been addressed? And 2) What about major client issues that can't be solved by flipping a switch or calling a plumber?

And then there's this absurd "lock-in/shut-out" policy, which has been a bane of shelter residents' existence and the cause of lost hours and wages, as well as excessive car fees that could have been better spent elsewhere. While I understand that the county mandates it, it should be crystal clear from the plaintiff's testimony that it impedes residents from seeking gainful employment and independent living. It does little or nothing to protect businesses nearby and perpetuates stereotypes about unhoused persons.

The shelters in Anaheim and Buena Park operate shuttles: two in the early morning, three in the afternoon, and early evening. On average, there is a two-hour gap between shuttles and no service between 9am-2pm. Orange County Social Services must approve the drop-off points, the facilities at those locations (Placentia), or the police in those cities (Anaheim, Buena Park, La Habra, and Brea). It is useful

within these severe limitations. It is a Band-Aid on a gaping wound.

In conclusion, returning to the lawsuit, what relief are the plaintiffs requesting from the Court? From the writ:

1. That the Court issue a declaration, a writ of mandate, and an injunction prohibiting Defendants from engaging in the unlawful conduct described above.

2. That the Court award damages and any applicable penalties for the acts described above, including punitive damages.

3. That Plaintiffs be awarded attorneys' fees and costs under Civil Code § 51.9, Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5, Government Code § 12965, and any other applicable law.

4. Such other and further relief as the Court deems proper and just.

So why did it take a lawsuit by the ACLU to begin redressing these grievances? Why didn't the organizations involved quietly work to fix these problems when they were duly notified by numerous residents instead of sticking their heads in the sand and pretending the problems didn't exist? Because solving problems involves change. And no one likes change, but it is inevitable.

Helen "Janet" Hall Jerome 1937-2024

Helen "Janet" Hall Jerome was an 87-year resident of Fullerton. She was a breach-baby, born at Fullerton's Cottage Hospital on February 7, 1937, to Bill & Nella Hall.



Janet was their only daughter, ten years younger than her only sibling, big brother Richard, who was off to the service when Janet was eight years old. She spent her entire childhood in a small house on West Wilshire Ave.



She attended Ford Elementary and Wilshire Jr High before graduating from Fullerton Union High School with the class of 1955. She also attended some classes at Fullerton Junior College before working in the clerical department at Standard Oil in La Habra.

She had many friends, and she and her single girlfriends had many fun times. One highlight was a cruise to Hawaii, on which she discovered that John Wayne and Lee Marvin were passengers on their way to the islands to film the movie Donovan's Reef. She met John Wayne at the captain's cocktail party and got a photo with him.

Soon after returning from Hawaii, she became engaged to another life-long Fullertonian, Don Jerome. Don & Janet were married at the First Baptist Church in Fullerton in 1963. They would remain lifelong members of the church.

In 1965, the Jeromes welcomed a son, David, and two years later, a daughter, Cindy. Janet worked as a wife and mother, changing diapers, packing lunches, and offering coat wisdom. "It's better to have it and not need it than to need it and not have it."

Don and Janet worked hard but also loved to have fun. While the kids were still home, they enjoyed get-aways to Palm Springs to see the Bob Hope Desert Classic Golf Tournament and Las Vegas to see live entertainment, including Elvis. As the kids got older and more independent, those trips expanded to destinations around the country and the world.

In the late 1970s, Don and Janet took up square dancing, joining the Apollo Eights and later the round dancing group Hacienda Rounders. They danced with the groups several times a week and made many fun-loving friends. They danced, dined, traveled, and partied for the next two decades with their dancing friends.

Janet was an avid daily walker in her Sunny Hills neighborhood when she and Don weren't traveling. A petite woman just 100 pounds soaking wet, she walked so fast that no partner could keep up with her. Instead, she chose to walk alone while listening to the radio on her headphones. She listened to many

shows and commentators, but her favorite was Rush Limbaugh. Walking through the neighborhood, she met many other "Ditto Heads" who became friends. She was so committed to her 2-mile walk daily that inclement weather, falls, and dog bites didn't deter her.

At night, she used to drive around the neighborhood before calling it a day. She had a set route through downtown's business and residential neighborhoods and was so consistent that some neighbors would bet on what time she would pass by.

Janet was a member of the local charity group Damas De Caridad and Fullerton's Republican Women. She enjoyed visiting the Nixon Library to hear nationally known conservative authors speak, and she had a long list of notable people whom she had met there.

During the last year of her life, she had several setbacks, but she always kept a positive attitude. As her appetite waned, one of the few food items that she would eat was huevos rancheros from El Farolito.

Helen "Janet" Hall Jerome died in Fullerton on May 3, 2024. She leaves behind her husband of 61 years, two kids, and five grandchildren. Interment will be in the family plot at Loma Vista Memorial Park.

Rest in peace. We will miss seeing you around Val Mesa Apts.
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Alfred Lee Owens Jr 1939-2024

Reflection of the Life of Alfred Lee Owens Jr

Alfred ("Al") L Owens Jr was born in Linden, Texas, on April 13th, 1939 to the late Alfred L Owens Sr and Roxie Lee Love. In search of a better life, they moved to Orange County, CA in 1941.



Alfred began his education in 1943 and attended Maple Elementary, Wilshire Jr High, Fullerton Union High School, and Fullerton Junior College. In the 1950's Alfred (Al) was an outstanding football player at FUHS and FJC. Alfred (Al) played blocking back and defense for FUHS Sunset League Champions and was an All American in 1957. He played minor league football with the Orange County Rhinos at the Glover Stadium in Anaheim. Alfred (Al) signed with the Chicago White Sox, Alfred (Al) also enjoyed playing Rugby.

On November 26th, 1965 Alfred married the love of his life Glenora Peek Owens, they have a son Brian A Owens, daughters Lisa A Owens and Lauren A Owens who preceded them to heaven. When Alfred transferred with General Foods in 1970, the family lived in Memphis, Tennessee for 5 years. They were excited to return to Fullerton, CA. Alfred continued to work in management for General Foods where he retired after 30+ years. For over 57 years, Alfred and Glenora enjoyed spending time with family and friends.

Alfred (Al) was the heart and soul of the Leon Owens Foundation where he was a charter member for 30+ year. He enjoyed raising funds every year for our Annual Celebrity Golf Tournament, and Shies for Kids Project. He enjoyed seeing their smiling faces when the students would receive their new shoes and the annual college scholarships.

There will be many precious memories of Alfred's love, smile and generosity towards others and lastly his awesome laugh that will be remembered. He is survived by his loving children Brian A Owens, Lisa A Owens, daughter in law Anna Duron and his pride and joy grandson Nathaniel D Owens, his siblings David Owens, Theodore Owens, Dorothy Owens Whitehurst, and a host of nieces, and nephews, cousins, and friends. Preceding Alfred in death are his father Alfred L Owens Sr, his mother Roxie Lee Live Owens, his brothers Jewell, Leon, Bridgman, Marvin, Jesse, and sisters Audrey Mae (Gardner), Laurence (Jeffries) and Shirley McClanahan.

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Karen Marie Murphy 1951-2024

Karen's passing was very unexpected, leaving her family with beautiful memories and deep loss and grief.



Karen Marie Mason entered this world on October 6, 1951, in East St. Louis, Illinois, to her proud parents, William Lockwood Mason Sr. and Thelma Elizabeth (Remington) Mason.

Her parents later chose to relocate to Southern California, where they raised Karen with her sisters Janice and Theresa and brother William Jr. Karen enjoyed a happy and healthy childhood. She was a bright and inquisitive student graduating from Sunny Hills High School in Fullerton, CA.

In 1969, she met and married Dennis Eugene Murphy, with whom she celebrated their 54th wedding anniversary in November 2023. In 1970, Karen delivered her daughter Deanna, and then in 1975, Karen welcomed her son Sevren.

Professionally, Karen used her clerical skills in positions with various local companies. Karen spent many years with Hughes Aircraft before she moved from that company to become the Office Manager for a recording studio, Rocshire Records. Unfortunately, the label collapsed soon after it began, and Karen started a position at Hunt's in Fullerton as an executive secretary in the Research and Development department.

Karen spent many years with Hunts, which in 1990 was sold to Conagra Foods. During her time with Conagra, Karen took an interest in becoming more active in the company's labor union. She was passionate about contract negotiations and always strived to improve the bene-

fits provided to Conagra's employees. Soon after the company moved her position to Irvine, Karen left Conagra to pursue more local employment. That pursuit led her through several assignments with temporary employment staffing agencies until she retired.

Karen was blessed with two grandsons, Nicholas and Mitchell. She loved both boys deeply and enjoyed being "Gran." She loved having family get-togethers where she could be surrounded by people so dear to her heart.

She and her husband Dennis had great adventures traveling together, visiting friends in Idaho, family in New York, and exploring other places that piqued their interest. Karen had deep faith in her relationship with her Savior, Jesus Christ. A particularly meaningful verse to her was Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

She is survived by her husband, Dennis; daughter and son-in-law, Deanna and Erik Brake; son and daughter-in-law, Sevren and Karyn Murphy; grandson and granddaughter-in-law, Nicholas and Joselyn Gomez; and grandson and granddaughter-in-law, Mitchell and Alicia Gomez.

Karen is also survived by her sisters and their husbands: Janice and Ron Knolls, Theresa and Mike Hilty, and her brother William Mason Jr.

In lieu of flowers, please donate in Karen's memory to The National MS Society, PO Box #91891, Washington D. C., 20090-1891, www.nationalmssociety.org.

Yuan-Hsih Hsin 1932-2024

Yuan-Hsih Hsin, 92, passed away on Saturday, May 4th, 2024, surrounded by his family.



Born in Shanghai, China, he was one of ten children. After WWII, he lived and worked in Taiwan for 25 years before immigrating to the United States with his family in 1973.

After graduating from the National Defense Medical Center (NDMC) in Taipei, Yuan-Hsih was an attending dentist at Taipei Veterans General Hospital. He later moved to the United States, earning his degree from Tufts Dental School in Boston.

In 1997, Yuan-Hsih retired from dentistry and spent 20 years living in Las Vegas, Nevada, before relocating

to the Morningside of Fullerton, a continuing care retirement community in Fullerton, California, for the last seven years.

Yuan-Hsih leaves behind three children, Nora (William) Shang, Angie Walko, and Robert Hsin, as well as six grand-

children, Bryton, Kelsey, Frankie, Randy, Sascha, and Chloe.

A Celebration of Life Service and Reception will be held at Morningside of Fullerton on Saturday, May 18th, from 12:30-4 pm. A Funeral and Burial Service will be held at Palm Eastern Mortuary in Las Vegas on Saturday, May 25th at 10 am.

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 Department: Community & Economic Development
 Job Number: 2024-CEO

Community Services Leader Series - Community Center

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 Category: Parks and Recreation
 Department: Parks and Recreation
 Job Number: CSL-CC-2023

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

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 Category: Public Safety / Fire & EMS
 Department: Fire Department
 Job Number: 22-FD Utility Wkr (Cont)

Homeless Outreach Case Manager (Consultant/Specialist)

Full Time: \$3,581 - \$4,570 monthly Non-Regular (At Will/Non-Benefited)
 Category: Community & Health Services/Human Services
 Department: Community & Economic Development
 Job Number: 2024 - Homeless Outreach

Maintenance & Senior Maintenance Worker I

Full Time - \$4,982 - \$6,358 Monthly
 Category: Maintenance
 Department: Public Works
 Job Number: 2024-MWS-Cont (Q2)

Police Cadet

Full Time: \$15 - \$16 Hourly Non-Regular (At Will/Non-Benefited)
 Department: Police Department
 Job Number: 05

**"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind."
 "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." Matt. 22**

Sunday Service & Sunday school at 10:00 a.m.
 Wednesday Testimony Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
 Reading Room: Monday thru Saturday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.



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 1300 N. Raymond Avenue, Fullerton 92831
 Office (714) 525-4062 Reading Room (714) 525-2649
christiansciencefullerton.com cfullerton@sbcglobal.net

OUR TOWN CROSSWORD © 2024

ANSWER KEY TO PUZZLE "HELP IN THE END" on pg 7:



PUZZLE MASTER Valerie Brickley

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

C	A	D	R	E		G	M	C	S		O	N	C	E	
A	R	I	E	S		E	C	H	O		M	E	A	L	
P	U	R	P	L	E	R	A	I	N		G	A	R	B	
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VIDEO OBSERVER

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CSUF Student Starts Petition to Save Trees in Uptown Whittier

Eva Rodriguez, a first-year student at Cal State Fullerton majoring in psychology, was stopped by a woman while walking with friends around Uptown Whittier, the City’s historic tree-lined district, which gives the town its unique identity and sense of character. It was late March, and Rodriguez and her friends had just finished participating in a rally.

They explained to the woman that they were against the Whittier City Council’s recent decision to cut down over 100 trees in Uptown Whittier all at once. This woman had seen Rodriguez and her friends holding signs and was asking questions about what was happening, wondering if they had a petition she could sign. It hadn’t even occurred to Rodriguez and her group that no one had made a petition yet, so they decided to start one.

I recently had a chance to interview Eva Rodriguez about what motivated her to make an online petition, why she joined the “Save Our Trees Whittier” campaign and how the group of concerned Whittier residents plans to convince the Whittier City Council to change their minds. Since it was created on March 29, 2024, Rodriguez’s Change.org petition now has more than 2,980 signatures.

“As of December 12, 2023, the Whittier City Council decided to remove 108 trees on Greenleaf Avenue all at once, disregarding their prior plans to gradually phase out the trees slowly while their replacements grow,” said Rodriguez. “The original plan would maintain the shade that the trees currently provide while they renovate the promenade. However, the Council voted in favor of a project that would cost 19 million more than the previously discussed proposal.

The Council eliminated a phased-in approach to tree replacement that had been discussed with the community for the past five years. To show the Council that their beliefs are not aligning with the people of their community, my friends and I created a petition to ‘Save the trees.’”

According to the “Save Our Trees Whittier” website, after residents found out about how Whittier City Council voted to remove the 108

mature trees in Uptown, they began to organize and show up at Council meetings to express their opposition, anger, and disbelief about the Council’s decision.

On Saturday, March 16, a “Save the Trees” rally was held, beginning at Whittier City Hall Plaza and quickly transitioning into a march of impassioned residents carrying ficus-green signs. Residents of the area who participated in the rally walked up and down Greenleaf Avenue, chanting “Save Our Trees” while carrying signs and informing anybody who would listen what the City Council had voted on.

Rodriguez said, “I heard about the first Save our Trees Whittier rally through my friend, who has been helping me organize the petition and making flyers. He was working at city hall during the primary elections, and he met Conny McCormack, who introduced us to the tree issue. The ficus trees in Uptown Whittier are one of the highlights of what makes it such an inviting, walkable environment in which to hang out. There are few spaces for people to hang out without spending money as it is, especially places with fully grown, shady trees, and I think we should fight to preserve that privilege.”

McCormack, who happens to be the main organizer behind “Save Our Trees Whittier,” said, “We’re hoping the City realizes they made a mistake, and we just want compromise. We are not unreasonable. We want to go back to what they promised us for four and a half years, which was to phase in the tree removal and replacement.

Originally, the City planned a one-block renovation back in 2019 for about three and a half million dollars, and then COVID money came in, and they started looking at more possibilities, including putting a new water main down the middle of Greenleaf Avenue. And then it sort of went from a beautification plan to a public works plan to tear everything out to put in the water main and plant all-new small twigs, and we’ll lose our beautiful canopy of shade that we need so badly.

The City Council wants to replace the mature trees with new trees that will take years to reach their full



height. If this plan is approved, it will cost \$20 million to remove the mature trees all at once, just to be replaced with baby trees that do nothing for Uptown’s infrastructure.”

Rodriguez’s petition to “save Whittier’s historic urban forestry” will remain open as the group continues to gather signatures, which they plan to present to the Whittier City Council to show how many people are against their new promenade plans. To find out further information about the “Save Our Trees Whittier” group, please visit www.saveourtreeswhittier.com.

86th Annual
Avenue of Flags

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COMMÉMORATION**

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