News for the people, by the people Est. 1978 • YEAR 46 #21 **MID-DECEMBER 2024** contact@fullertonobserver.com • (714) 525-6402 • PO Box 7051, Fullerton, CA 92834 • Daily Stories at: www.fullertonobserver.com



LOCAL YOUTH MARCH FOR FREEDOM AND PEACE by Shane Scott

Dozens of young volunteers from the International Peace Youth Group (IPYG) gathered at Santa Monica Pier on November 30, demonstrating their commitment to freedom and peace.

The event attracted participation from a diverse group of individuals, including Jewish and Middle Eastern young adults from various Orange County communities, such as Fullerton, Santa Ana and Laguna Beach.

The march expressed gratitude for the freedoms in the United States, contrasting them with global wars and discrimination. Participants supported freedom of expression, religion and education through an interactive street art display, where a 6 by 6 feet board allowed pedestrians to share messages and artwork. Colorful handprints shaped a peace dove silhouette, symbolizing unity and hope.

Robert Val highlighted the challenges faced in other parts of the world, noting the religious persecution occurring even in developed democracies, such as South Korea.

"I want to voice that these things shouldn't be tolerated and express our thankfulness to exercise these liberties here in the US," Val said.

The IPYG has announced plans to continue organizing events that promote peace, freedom, and unity, encouraging the community to stand together in this vital effort.

AND AUGUST EVERY MONTH EXCEPT ONLY ONCE IN OR CURREN JANUARY, JUL MONDAY OF

FULLERTON CA 9283 OBSERVER

Fatal Traffic Collision in Fullerton Claims Bicyclist's Life

A tragic incident occurred on Monday evening, December 9, 2024, when an adult female pedestrian was struck and killed in the eastbound lanes of W. Orangethorpe Ave. at Jefferson Ave. Fullerton Police Officers responded to the scene around 8:01pm after receiving reports of a person down in the roadway.

Upon arrival, officers found the victim alongside a bicycle. The Fullerton Fire Department pronounced her dead at the scene. Preliminary investigations reveal that the woman was walking her bicycle in the number one eastbound lane when a black 2003 Lexus RX 300 collided with her. The 32-year-old driver from Westminster remained at the scene and is cooperating with police.

Officials discovered that the victim initial impact. Investigators are current- site at occrimestoppers.org.

ly searching for a light-colored pickup truck involved in this second collision, which fled the scene.

At this time, authorities have not determined whether drugs or alcohol were factors in the collisions.

The identity of the deceased woman will be disclosed by the Orange County Coroner's Office once the family is noti-

Accident investigators are urging any witnesses to either collision to come forward. Those with information are encouraged to contact Fullerton Police Traffic Accident Investigator J. Feaster at (714) 738-6812 or via email at *jfeast*er@fullertonpd.org.

Anonymous tips can also be sent to the Orange County Crime Stoppers at was struck by a second vehicle after the 1(855) TIP-OCCS or through their web-

Urgent Call for Cold-Weather Shelter

by Saskia Kennedy

In Fullerton, the harsh realities faced by the homeless community are becoming increasingly dire as temperatures are set to dip into the 40s this week. Local outreach volunteers, including those conducting weekly initiatives at the Fullerton Transportation Center, are raising alarms about the urgent need for a temporary coldweather shelter — especially given the chilling history of the location, which is marked by the tragic death of Kelly Thomas, an unhoused person, at the hands of police in 2011.

Read Cold-Weather Shelter on page 15

Fair Mayor Rotation & Swearing in of New **Council Member**

Fullerton residents are encouraged to attend a pivotal city council meeting on December 17 at 5:30pm, where District 4 representative Jamie Valencia will be sworn in as the newest member. The event will also mark the farewell to retiring council member Bruce Whitaker and the election of the mayor and mayor pro tem.

According to the city's fair rotation policy (No. 226 in the Policy and Procedures Manual), the mayor pro tem is automatically elevated to the position of mayor after serving a year, which limits the mayor's term to one year. The policy prioritizes selection based on seniority, considering the consecutive years served on the council without holding the mayor's position. Read Fair Rotation on page 16

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Total nonfarm payroll employment rose by 227,000 in November, and the unemployment rate changed little at 4.2 percent, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported on in December. Employment trended up in health care, leisure and hospitality, government, and social assistance. Retail trade lost jobs.

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RE: New education laws FOR CALIFORNIA SCHOOLS BY VIVIEN MORENO

Dear Mrs. Moreno,

All these new laws a stirring the pot, money floating around, but not addressing the key issue!

Why are our students 45th in the nation despite the money and the laws? Not one proposal in that regards.

Jens Kiesel Anaheim

RESPONSE

Dear Ms. Kiesel,

Thank you for your comments which gives me a chance to share some education statistics. Covering education locally includes staying updated on state laws governing public education.

Ranking California students as 45th is inaccurate. National student achievement rankings are problematic since a nationally standardized achievement test for all students does not exist. Every state controls its education standards, testing and finances. The closest national ranking resource is US News Report, which takes various data points to rank the nation's schools. Currently, US News ranks California at #23 in overall education and #37 in pre-K-12 grade education.

Comparing apples to apples, California's 2024 test scores for English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics finds Fullerton elementary students rank 30 standard points above the state average in ELA and 46.5 points above the average in math (although they are still 2 standard points below 50% overall in math). The high school district averages 59.8 standard points above the state ELA average and 25 standard points higher than the state average in math (still 22.6 points below 50% overall in math). Statewide, 45.3% of all English language learners (ELL) made progress compared to 49.7% Fullerton elementary and 55.9% of high school ELL students who made progress. More statistics can be found at:

www.caschooldashboard.org

Education is a complex issue with room for improving our children's educational experience. Both our elementary and high school districts continuously work to address academic and social challenges facing students and their families which requires acknowledging the complexity of their challenges and continually reviewing and trying out new educational options.

Vivien Moreno Fullerton Observer

Does the Fullerton community prefer that homeless die rather than open a cold weather shelter?

I have been tirelessly pouring my heart into weekly direct, volunteer street outreach at the Fullerton Transportation Center in Fullerton, CA—the very place where, in 2011, six Fullerton police officers brutally murdered homeless man Kelly

Since the summer of 2024 until now. I have reached out, time and again, to the Fullerton City Manager, the Chief of Police, the Housing Manager, and various case management organizations, pleading for a cold-weather, temporary homeless shelter.

Yet, I am met with a chorus of empty reassurances, a cycle of "yes" that leads nowhere. The city points fingers at the county, and the county defers to the cities, leaving vulnerable lives in the cruel hands of bureaucratic inaction. This is nothing short of reckless; we cannot afford the complacency of local governments. Lives hang in the balance. People will die.

The NO WALK-UP RESERVA-TION ONLY POLICY in existing shelters is utterly INHUMANE.

These shelters are perpetually at capacity, and the waiting list stretches on endlessly. We desperately need a temporary cold-weather shelter, and we need it now!

According to the Weather Channel, the lows tonight and throughout this week in Orange County will dip into the chilling 40s.

The National Weather Service warns that a person can die from exposure and hypothermia when temperatures fall between 30 and 50 degrees. And with rain on the horizon next Monday, the risk of death escalates by 40%. In 2023, 28 homeless individuals succumbed to death in Fullerton alone.

This is not merely a number—these are lives lost, stories untold. I was there for the 2024 Point-In-Time count, witnessing the devastation firsthand. Many of the homeless individuals I engage with are over 55, and they are particularly vulnerable to the frigid chill and the relentless rain.

Perhaps the city of Fullerton, along with other cities in Orange County, prefers to ignore the suffering and let the homeless perish cold and alone on the streets. It's a grim reality; maybe it's cheaper and simpler for them to let the coroner's office handle the aftermath of their indifference. But I am not like them. I care deeply as a fellow human being.

All the necessary elements are in place—the county has the funds to support Fullerton, and there are several approved SB2 zones ready for temporary shelter locations. Operators are eager to manage these shelters — so what on earth is the hold-up?!

I refuse to accept the lies any longer or to wait while needless suffering and untimely deaths plague our local streets. I implore you to contact me immediately and/or conduct your own investigation into this urgent matter.

What's a homeless person's life or death worth in Orange County?

Thank you for your attention. You will help save lives. But we don't have much time left.

Leigh White Fullerton

Thank you

Dear Observer Staff,

You are doing a wonderful job of keeping the community informed. Thank you.

Michael Horn Fullerton

Dear Observer,

Please continue our subscription. Thank you for your good work providing an invaluable service to our community.

Mr and Mrs Lindahl Fullerton

Dear Observer editor and staff,

I wish to comment on the Massive New Up Zoning article. I found the article to be both informative and well written. Keep up the good work.

George Stephens Fullerton

Dear Ms. Urooj Naveed,

I've been interested in your column the past few months in the Fullerton Observer, specifically when you stress the importance of newspapers, large and local to keep citizens informed of numerous events that will impact their lives, both internationally, nationally,

I believe strongly in the statement that "journalism is what maintains a democracy."

I'm a regular subscriber to the Fullerton Observer and appreciate the local news it provides.

I have just heard of the loss of your brother in today's Fullerton Observer. My prayers are with you and your family. I am so sorry.

Sandra Jensen Fullerton

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•

- EDITOR: Saskia Kennedy
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- CWO: Mehul Desai
- COPY EDITOR: Stephen O'Connor
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NEXT DEADLINE FOR WRITERS & ADVERTISERS IS DECEMBER 30. THE MID-DECEMBER ISSUE WILL BE DISTRIBUTED ON JANUARY 06.

State Law (AB 3074) now requires all Native American nicknames be removed by public school athletic teams by July 1, 2026

Observer,

Enclosed is a copy of a letter to the FHS community, with copies sent to the board principal, ASB Prez., Supe. and newspaper advisor. Please publish this in the Observer as an Open Letter, using the illustrations enclosed.

A new mascot/ nickname for our city's namesake high school should foster community-wide dialog, and the

Observer could be a part of it! I've spoken personally with Vicki Board Member Calhoun, Superintendent McLaughlin and the student

They all have open minds but are as yet unsure as to how to proceed, as this law is fairly new.

newspaper advisor and staff.

We have 1 1/2 years to come up with a new mascot. I like Fullerton Fenders!

Chris Norby Fullerton



Dear Chris,

I love Fender guitars; however, I am not a fan of the name's meaning, nor do I agree with a white individual representing a school. When I was in high school, our school wanted to change its logo and mascot, and they asked for input from all the students. I prefer that approach.

Saskia Kennedy Editor

HOW TO VOICE YOUR OPINION

The *Observer* welcomes letters on any subject of interest. Opinions are those of the writer. We must verify your identity, but we allow initials and town to be printed, or anonymous attribution if a reasonable case can be made. Opinions sent to us without name, address and phone number will not be printed. Due to space, shorter letters have a better chance of getting in. Send to contact@fullertonobserver.com or mail to: Fullerton Observer, PO Box 7051, Fullerton CA 92834



Thank You to All the City Employees

The CSUF Center for Healthy Neighborhoods celebrated and honored all the City of Fullerton employees with a homemade meal. A special thanks to the volunteers who served the wonderful meals: Blanca Hernandez Bautista, Felipe Perez, Paula Robles, Marta Diaz, Rosa Altamirano, Dallany Muratalla, Tanya Esquivel, Iliana Camacho, Rosalía Ortiz, Anna Madera, Mari Ramírez, Claudia López, Carla Aguayo, Andrea Rios, and Carime Calixto



Left to right: Fullerton Police Officer Cpt. Arana, Lt. Bogart, Fullerton Police Chief Radus, and Fullerton Fire Chief Loeser

Lt. Tony Bogart Retires After 28 Years with Fullerton Police Department

Police Lieutenant Tony Bogart retired today after 28 years of service with the Fullerton Police Department (FPD), leaving a lasting impact on both the department and the community

Bogart began his career in 1996 as a Police Cadet and became a Fullerton Police Officer the following year. Over the years, he rose through the ranks to Lieutenant in 2019, serving in

Police Lieutenant Tony Bogart various roles, including DARE etired today after 28 years of service Officer and Detective, while mentorists the Fullerton Police Department ing many within the department.

In addition to his law enforcement role, Bogart actively engaged with the community as the umpire-in-chief and a board member for East Fullerton Little League.

The FPD recognizes his significant contributions to the department and the Fullerton community.



Latest updates on Walk on Wilshire

Supporters of Walk on Wilshire (WoW) gathered at the October 15 City Council meeting, packing the venue to advocate for the permanent retention of the pedestrian-friendly space in Downtown Fullerton. The passionate turnout demonstrated the community's strong desire to keep WoW operational, leading the City Council to postpone their official vote on the matter until January 2025.

At the meeting, the grassroots group Save Walk on Wilshire presented a comprehensive 175-page packet that included support from local business owners, residents, and community members. After more than two hours of discussion and public comment, the Council opted for a 90-day delay in their decision.

"This outcome was only possible because of the enthusiasm and support from our community," said a representative from Save Walk on Wilshire. "However, we must remain vigilant, as this postponement raises concerns about the motives behind it."

City staff will be conducting a study over the next three months to evaluate two options: reverting WoW back to a vehicle thoroughfare, or potentially expanding the pedestrian area to extend down to Malden Avenue. Advocacy groups are worried that if the proposed

expansion is deemed unviable, the City Council may use this as justification to eliminate Walk on Wilshire altogether.

Supporters of WoW are urged to continue sharing the petition and encouraging neighbors and friends to attend the upcoming Council vote in January. Save Walk on Wilshire, a volunteer network of community members that formed earlier this summer, is dedicated to keeping Fullerton walkable, family-friendly, and vibrant.

As January approaches, the community's collective voice will be crucial in shaping the future of this beloved space.

###

Save Walk on Wilshire is an entirely volunteer group of Fullerton residents. "Most of us met for the first time this summer because we are passionate about keeping Fullerton walkable, family-friendly, and vibrant! We are currently partnering with residents, local organizations, and Fullerton small businesses to help save WoW," said a WoW member.

Residents with questions or suggestions can email: savewalkonwilshire@gmail.com or visit Instagram: @savewalkonwilshire for further engagement in their efforts to support Walk on Wilshire.

Piano powerhouses Duo Turgeon Performs in Fullerton Once Again!

by Tyler Huor

The Fullerton Friends of Music hosted Canadian pianists' power couple, Anne Louise-Turgeon and Edward Turgeon who invigorate the audience inside the Fullerton First United Methodist Church with a passionate performance on December 7.

The two remained charismatic and cheerful throughout their performance— even telling a few tidbits about themselves, their experiences with Californian weather, and their passion for music.

The pieces they performed were composed by various renowned musicians such as Franz Schubert, Johannes Brahms, Antonin Dvorak, George Gershwin, Anne Louise-Turgeon, and Valery Gavrilin. They played at their own tempo, creating their own unique atmosphere.

In the first section, the Duo Turgeon played the difficult pieces with such energy. They've played professionally since 1996.

After each piece, they'd tell another snippet about themselves or the weather with a bright smile followed by a chuckle either from themselves or the wonderful audience in the pews.

After the intermission, the duo hit their stride with Gershwin's Cuban Overture and Louise-Turgeon's Winter at Gros Cap. Having both the low tone keys and high tone keys felt like one was listening to a chaotic and passionate conversation— the subject being whatever the person could imagine.

Lastly, the duo played various Gavrilin sketches, which involved the upbeat and somber nature of



winter.

This concert was in memory of Mary Morgenstern, who passed away in November. Her impact and kindness will never be forgotten.

The next performance from the Fullerton Friends of Music is Saturday, January 18, 2025, at 3:30pm by the Park Brothers Guitar Duo and the Fullerton First United Methodist Church located at 114 N Pomona Ave, Fullerton.

Official Election Results from OC Vote



City Council Rep District 1, Fred Jung



City Council Rep District 2, Nick Dunlap



City Council Rep District 4, Jamie Valencia



FSD Trustee Area 2, James Cho



FSD Trustee Area 5, Vanesa Estrella

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 click on meetings and agenda.

City Hall is located at 303 W. Commonwealth, Fullerton

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

Special Meeting Tuesday, December 03 Meeting

6th Cycle Housing Element

In a surprising turn of events, and despite its starkly contrasting opinions on local housing needs, the council has reached a community-friendly decision by approving a significantly smaller state-mandated housing program. The council voted to authorize the development of 204 parcels, a drastic reduction from the previously proposed 730+ units, a number which now meets, rather than exceeds, the state's requirements.

Taking a new tack, council members opted to utilize credits for housing units already in progress, effectively lowering the City's outstanding unit requirement from 13,209 to 10,288, and removed most parcels from both the Chapman and the Commonwealth corridors.

The council also established a higher affordability ratio for developers, allowing the City to meet affordability goals faster by including 20% of units as affordable instead of the previous 10% as a requirement for being able to build high-density residential units byright in areas that are currently zoned exclusively commercial or industrial.

Additionally, the council opted not to approve the flawed Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that had been under scrutiny. Members expressed a commitment to understanding the financial ramifications of their deci-

sions and stated their dedication to supporting the City's small, independent businesses.

Advocates voiced their urgent call for enhanced protection of the City's historic houses, many of which remain without official designation. They also highlighted the precarious state of the City's scenic corridors, which, although addressed in the City's general plan, still lack significant safeguards. Unfortunately, these pressing concerns were disregarded despite passionate appeals.

The council postponed discussions on non-HIOZ (Housing Incentive Overlay Zone) proposed zoning changes to a future meeting, allowing more time to study the matter—a move proposed by community advocate Scott Hess.

Discussion of some aspects of the Housing Element will be continued at the council meeting scheduled for January 7th, and final approval from the state's Office of Housing and Community Development (HCD) is still needed before the City will receive the necessary certification for the Housing Element and be in compliance with the stipulated judgment in the lawsuit from Californians for Homeownership, a nonprofit project of the California Association of Realtors.

Approved 4-1 (Whitaker No)

Meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays at 6:30 pm.
Upcoming agenda information and streaming video of meetings
are available at www.cityoffullerton.com click on meetings and agenda.
City Hall is located at 303 W. Commonwealth, Fullerton
Contact Council at (714) 738-6311 or council@cityoffullerton.com

City Planning Notes by Staff

Wednesday, December 11 Meeting

Regulations for Emergency Shelters

The City of Fullerton is amending Title 15 of its Municipal Code to update regulations for Emergency Shelters, Low Barrier Navigation Centers, and Supportive Housing. The amendments focus on definitions, permitted uses, and development standards, and they are exempt from further CEQA review.

The Planning Commission has been authorized to review these changes, with public notice issued. Recent state laws require local codes to permit shelters without a Conditional Use Permit, leading to revisions in existing regulations. Proposed amendments include development standards for emergency shelters, parking requirements, and the establishment of Low Barrier Navigation Centers with services for permanent housing.

Supportive housing will also be allowed by right in commercial zones under specific conditions aimed at accommodating lower-income units, thereby aligning city regulations with state mandates to improve the response to unhoused people.

AB 101 mandates that low barrier navigation centers be allowed in mixed-use and nonresidential zones permitting multifamily uses, provided they meet certain criteria. Staff proposes to permit them in C-3 zones with the these residences. Unlice homes will adhere to stand and safety laws. Lastly code will be updated to factured housing and ensure cy with state regulations.

following requirements:

- 1. Compliance with FMC Section 15.42.050 development standards.
- 2. A services plan connecting individuals to permanent housing.
- 3. Linkage to a coordinated entry system for assessments and services.
- 4. Adherence to Housing First principles per Welfare and Institutions Code Section 8255.
- 5. Use of the local Homeless Management Information System for tracking client information.

The proposed changes under AB 2162 allow supportive housing by right in multifamily and mixed-use zones, including the C-3 commercial zone, permitting up to 50 units under specific state criteria.

To promote development, the amendment will remove the separation requirement from schools. The definition of "family" will be expanded to better support housing for persons with disabilities. Furthermore, the City plans to eliminate the Conditional Use Permit requirement for large group homes, making it easier to establish these residences. Unlicensed group homes will adhere to standard health and safety laws. Lastly, the zoning code will be updated to define manufactured housing and ensure consistency with state regulations.

Short Term Rentals

Joseph Kwon; Property Owner

A request has been made for a Short-Term Rental permit for a whole home rental at 2231 Jose Way, allowing rentals for less than 30 days.

The proposal is exempt under CEQA guidelines and complies with the R-1-20 residential zoning. However, residents have expressed concerns about the potential impact of transient rentals, such as increased traffic and disruption to the neighborhood's character. They have requested a public hearing with the Planning Commission regarding the matter.

The property owner is currently in compliance with city regulations, awaiting the necessary permits to operate as a short-term rental.

Faiqa Siddiqui; Property Owner

A request for a status report on a Short-Term Rental (STR) permit for a partial home rental at 1850 Edgecliff Drive. The location is approximately 150 feet west of Raymond Avenue, on the south side of the street.

The proposal is exempt under CEQA guidelines and complies with the R-1-20 residential zoning. The staff planner handling this request is Benjamin Koff.

The City of Fullerton uses a service called "Host Compliance" to monitor

rental activity through platforms like Airbnb and Vrbo. From November 22, 2023, to November 22, 2024, a particular residence was rented out 14 times, and two complaints were logged.

One concern on December 9, 2023, was about nuisance due to four vehicles parked overnight on the street.

Although two rentals were recorded in December, it was unclear whether the vehicles belonged to the property owner, their guests, or short-term rental customers. According to city guidelines, overnight parking should occur on the property and not block sidewalks or alleys.

On January 12, 2024, it was noted that the owners of a property have a Short-Term Rental Permit for a partial home rental, but their listings on *Airbnb* and *VRBO* misleadingly advertise it as a whole-home rental.

The *VRBO* listing title suggests it is an entire 3-bedroom home, while the description indicates it is actually divided into two units. Staff recommend changing the listing title for clarity to accurately reflect that it is a partial rental, which would help both the community and potential renters. Currently, there are no active listings on *Airbnb* or *Booking.com*.

Upcoming Meetings in Council Chambers - 303 W. Commonwealth

- December 17 at 5:30pm: City Council
- December 18 at 5:30pm: Active Transportation
- December 19 at 6pm: Library Board of Trustees
- January 6 at 4pm: Transportation & Circulation
- January 13 at 6:30pm: Parks and Recreation
- January 14 at 5:30pm: Community Development
- January 16 at 5:30pm: Investment Advisory
- January 30 at 4pm: Youth Advisory Committee

How to contact your District Representative

• District 2: Nick Dunlap - Mayor/ Chair (714) 738-6311 nicholas.dunlap@cityoffullerton.com • District 1: Fred Jung Mayor Pro tem/Vice Chair (714) 738-6311 fred.jung@cityoffullerton.com • District 3: Dr. Shana Charles (714) 738-6311

shana.charles@cityoffullerton.com

• District 4: Bruce Whitaker (714) 981-8474 bwwhitaker@live.com • District 5: Dr. Ahmad Zahra (714) 738-6311

(714) 738-6311 ahmadz@cityoffullerton.com

Parks & Recreation Notes by Staff

The Fullerton Parks and Recreation Commission meets the second and fourth Mondays of the month, convening at 6:30pm. Upcoming agenda information and streaming video of meetings are available at www.cityoffullerton.com click on meetings and agenda. City Hall is located at 303 W. Commonwealth, Fullerton

Monday, December 9 Meeting

TREE DIVISION UPDATE

West Coast Arborists Inc. is currently providing contract tree services to the City of Fullerton.

November

- Trees Trimmed Citywide: 268
- Trees/Stumps Removed Citywide: 47
- Tree planted citywide: 1

December

- Trees Trimmed Citywide: 352
- Trees/Stumps Removed Citywide: 31
- Tree planted citywide: 0



Chuy Sandoval is the new recreation supervisor overseeing special events. She joins us from the city of Mission Viejo.

OUTDOOR FACILITIES AND PARKS UPDATE

- Boys and Girls Club (See story on page 12)
- Emery Park playground has been purchased, and construction is underway. The project was put out to bid in early December and will be awarded by the council on January 21st. The Parks and Recreation team is handling the purchase of play equipment and the engineering for construction.

The bid includes an option for rubber mulch, and which will be evaluated by the costs to decide between the using wood chips versus rubber mulch for the playground surface.

- Fullerton Tennis Center: The city is hiring a second contract instructor for the spring program, in addition to the Fullerton Tennis Academy. The windscreens were replaced, giving the center a refreshed look. Monthly events are being hosted with the Friends of the Fullerton Tennis Center. Coordinator Jacob is available for tours.
- **Independence Park:** Staff is exploring ADA improvements using CDBG funds, but first, a topography survey is underway. The plan also features a community garden and parking lot improvements.

Construction of the pool fencing on the north side of Independence Park started in the second week of November and is expected to be completed by the end of December, with fencing improvements set for January.

Laguna Lake: Duckweed, although it is not harmful, spread quickly in the standing water. The city now been restored to its normal condition.

• Lemon Street murals are being restored to create a vibrant entryway to our city. The Parks and Recreation staff raised about \$2,000 through T-shirt sales, which are still available for \$20 each at city hall.

NEW EMPLOYEE

• Union Pacific Trail Phase Two project, connecting Richmond to Independence Park, is currently at the 60% design stage, with city staff awaiting the final 90% design. KTA design firm and city staff hold monthly meetings to ensure progress as state deadlines approach.

Designs are available on the Union Pacific Trail webpage on the city's website. It is expected to have the 90% designs by the end of December and then finalize the plans. In January the construction plan goes out to bid and is expected to be awarded by March 2025. A ground breaking ceremony is expected in April and construction is estimated to be complete by September 2025. The goal is to connect Union Pacific Park with Independence Park.

• Valencia Park is gaining attention due to an ADA improvement project approved by the Council last November, with construction set to begin in January. This project will include ADA-compliant restrooms, additional turf, and new paint for the basketball court.

As to inquiries about park lighting, those improvements will be part of a separate project since CDBG funds can only be used for ADA improvements. A Kaboom application has been submitted for a new playground, and staff worked with Aqua Bio to resolve the is working with local partners and pubissue in two weeks. Laguna Lake has lic works to address lighting. The project is expected to be completed by March 2025.

ATHLETIC FIELD USE & ALLOCATION PROCESS

On November 5, 2019, the City Council approved the Athletic Field Use and Allocation Policy to manage field use and support partnerships with youth sports organizations. It outlines the allocation process for seven Youth Sports Partner Leagues and rentals.

The City has 45 fields, with only 6 lighted. It lost Clark Park, which had 5 fields and 3 lighted.

The Athletic Field Use and Allocation Policy prioritizes groups as follows:

1. Partner Group (1st Priority): 501(c)(3) non-profits based in Fullerton with 80% residents and state/national affiliations, following conflict-of-interest guidelines.

- 2. Fullerton Competitive Group (2nd Priority): 501(c)(3) youth sports non-profits with at least 55% Fullerton residents and state/national affiliations, required to submit team details by the deadline.
- 3. Rental Group (3rd Priority): Groups not meeting the first two criteria, with limited reservations.

Fullerton youth sports leagues must have 80% local residents, be 501(c)(3) nonprofits, use volunteer coaches and board members, and adhere to a conflict-of-interest policy, while being affiliated with a state or national sports organization.

Local Water Issues

The Orange County North Basin plume of toxins is located in northern Orange County, California, and includes parts of Fullerton, Anaheim, Placentia, and Buena Park. The approximately 8-mile-long plume covers 18 square miles and is located northwest of the intersection of the CA-57 and CA-91 Freeways. The site is contaminated by known and unknown industrial sources located in the plume area. The chemicals of concern are predominantly VOCs (volatile organic compounds) - PCE (tetrachloroethylene), TCE (trichloroethylene), 1,1-DCE (1,1-dichloroethylene), and 1,4 Dioxane. Other Analytes of interest: PFAS (Per-and-polyfluoroalkyl substances), Perchlorate, TCP (1,2,3 Trichloropropane), and DCA (1,2 Dichloroethane).

OCWD is currently monitoring the plume as part of their North Basin Groundwater Protection Project, which was initiated in 2005 to minimize the spread of VOC contamination and clean up the groundwater in this portion of the basin.

OCWD conducts regular water quality monitoring programs and testing to comply with permits and drinking water regulations. The agency collects water elevation and water quality data from nearly 700 wells, including over 400 OCWD-owned monitoring wells. This groundwater monitoring program resulted in the discovery of the VOC plume. The focus of the OCNB project is to help remediate the groundwater plume before it reaches the drinking water aquifer, which serves 2.5 million people countywide. Fullerton's current representative on the OCWD board is (recently termed out) Councilmember Bruce Whitaker.

The cleanup of the plume is under the direction of the CA Department of Toxic Substances Control, the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Board, and the US Environmental Protection Agency. The plume area was declared a USEPA Superfund National Priorities List site on September 3, 2020. The NPL includes the nation's most toxic hazardous waste sites. Sites included on the list are eligible to receive federal funding for long-term, permanent cleanup. This is Fullerton's second Superfund site – the first being the McColl Dump Site -involving sumps created by local oil company dumping.

Before achieving Superfund listing, a Settlement Agreement signed on October 14, 2016, with the USEPA interim Remedial Investigation Feasibility Study (RI/FS) for groundwater under EPA oversight. The OCWD placed monitoring wells in key areas and treatment wells in Fullerton, and the EPA installed 24 monitoring wells in 8 locations to find the depth and spread of the plume. OCWD's obligations under the settlement with the EPA ended in November 2024 with completion of the RI/FS.

Possible Sources of **VOC** Contaminants

OCWD filed a lawsuit in 2004 against several of the main VOC polluters to protect ratepayers and force polluters to pay cleanup costs. The case against most of the businesses was dismissed in 2017 - leaving Northrop Grumman, the only remaining defendant. Northrop settled five days before the case was finally set to go to trial on August 15, 2022. Details of the settlement were not released. Federal Superfund cleanup actions in the future may include litigation for reimbursement from some of the suspect companies that didn't settle.

PFAS Contaminants

In addition to the VOCs endangering our water supply, PFAS contaminants also affected over 100 wells within OCWD jurisdiction. OCWD installed the first PFAS Extraction Plant in Orange County in April 2021 at the former Kimberly Clark site in **Fullerton**

(https://fullertonobserver.com/2021/04 /23/pfas-extraction-plant-installed-atformer-kimberly-clark-site/).

Two additional extraction systems designed for Fullerton's Main Plant remove both PFAS and VOCs (https://fullertonobserver.com/2021/08 /05/pfas-extraction-plant-makes-histo-

OCWD, with the City of Fullerton and other OC cities as co-defendants, filed a lawsuit in OC Superior Court in December 2020 to protect the water supply and recover cleanup costs against 3M, DuPont, Chemours, Corteva, and DECRA Roofing for the manufacture and sale of PFAS, (OCWD v. 3M Company Superior Court Case No.: 30-2020-01172419-CU-PL-CXC) - (the case was moved to federal court in 2023).

The City of Fullerton operates a drinking water system that consists of 11 active wells serving approximately 138,251 people. The City obtains its drinking water from groundwater from the OC Groundwater Basin and from surface water imported by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. The City is separated into three areas. Area 1 receives primarily groundwater; Area 2 receives a mixture of groundwater and imported water; and Area 3 receives primarily imported water.

Based on groundwater monitoring data in 2015, OCWD concluded that VOCs are migrating from the Shallow Aguifer into the Principal aguifer, which is used for drinking water. Five drinking water wells within the footprint of the existing plume were destroyed because of contamination (four in Fullerton, and one in Anaheim). All 11 groundwater wells operated by the City are within 4 miles of contaminated Principal aquifer monitoring wells within the plume. PCE, TCE, and/or 1,1-DCE have been detected in eight active City of required the OCWD to conduct an Fullerton wells (Well Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, Sunclipse No. 10, Airport Well No. 9 and Kimberly No. 2). City of Fullerton wells Kimberly No. 1 and Fire Station No. 13 were destroyed in 2002 after elevated concentrations of PCE were detected.

More Information

For those interested, the next OCWD Board meeting will be held December 18 at 5:30 pm in the OCWD Boardroom, 18700 Ward Street, Fountain Valley, CA 927708

For more information on PFAS visit: https://www.ewg.org/research/more-40m-could-lose-pfas-drinking-waterprotections

https://news.bloomberglaw.com/environment-and-energy/3ms-10-billionpfas-deal-approved-by-court-as-rulelooms

https://www.ocwd.com/what-wedo/water-quality/pfas/





Navigating A Busy Downtown

Heads up: many events were happening in the area on a busy Friday, December 6th evening, so we opted for parking at the structure east of Harbor at Wilshire, across from the Downtown Plaza. That's a breeze because there are usually plenty of open spaces during that time of day.

A leisurely stroll west brought us past this tour bus. It was a smart move there, for a large event was taking place in the venerable Chapman Building, and they all arrived at the same time.

What a bonus, checking out the festive lights on Harbor as we crossed for Art Walk On Wilshire.

Sure enough, a kettle of parking vultures was circling the lots and parking structure on the west side since the Villa parking lot was also busy due to a wedding in the courtyard. It was early, but many were already arriving at Art Walk, and when we peered into Mulberry Street, we could see they were already doing a brisk business.

We ran into Carlo, Mike, Chad, Sasha, Sulia, and cousin Monica, and... Yeah, lots of friends were already there taking it all in,

Pilgrim Coffee was crowded, but not so much that one could not check out their Art Walk installations and order excellent food and drinks.

Everyone was in a good mood at these events organized to promote the arts. After that, it was time to head to the Pour House for more music, then return to Art Walk On Wilshire, and finally join a lively group at Mulberry Street. Blanquel Popular Art was going off, too, as were so many other downtown spots. Be there next time, or be square. FREE the first Friday of every month.

The Next Day

Winterfest, which originated with the Fullerton Chamber of Commerce, was then produced by the Fullerton Downtown Business Association with support from the City of Fullerton and many downtown sponsors. At its peak, it drew over 10,000 revelers at locations throughout downtown.

When the Redevelopment Agency dissolved as part of the 2011 Budget Act, funding for special events was gone. Since we had provided everything at no cost to the public, we really could not suddenly start charging for the snow, the giveaways, the raffle prizes, and everything else, so that was that.



Fortunately, we have another successful tradition, Winter Market, held at the Downtown Plaza on Saturday, December 7th. The stage was hyperactive the entire time, with emcee Too Tall Paul introducing each act and also performing. Here he is with one of his fans. The many vendors did well as you all heeded the Shop Fullerton First mantra, and hey, who wants to get stuck at a Mall this time of year anyway?

Photo Quiz Send answer to Mike at AllMedia@sbcglobal.net



This time:

The answer to what and where this is appears on this page, but who knows what is inside the tower?



This one deserves some added info, especially after Jon and Maxine responded to us right away with interesting comments. Yes, it is our New Formalist Architecture City Hall, which was constructed in 1963 at a cost of about \$2 million. It took one year to build and since it was designed to replace the building right across Highland that now houses our Police Department, tile colors, arches, and walkways were included to echo some of that landmark building's architecture. We were told everyone would know the answer to this one, but no, maybe that City Seal is hiding in plain sight, ha.



New In Town

Tokyo Eats is now open at 114 W Commonwealth and specializes in curry and katsu along with ramen, noodles, udon, rice bowls, and more.

There is a new vintage clothing store downtown at 206 N Harbor Blvd called Retropolis.

We told you about Cat O Comb Barbershop back in September, and they are now open at 519 N Harbor.





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OUR TOWN CROSSWORD © 2024

"Ha-Ha Holidays" by Valerie Brickey (answer key on page 19)

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ACROSS

- 1. Baldwin of "30 Rock"
- 5. Twinge
- 9. 2022 World Cup Golden Ball winner Lionel
- 14. Venus de __
- 15. Banned apple spray
- 16. Bygone
- 17. What you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?
- 19. "Rudolph the Red-Reindeer"
- 20. "Wolf Hall" novelist Hilary
- 21. Fenway Park and Wrigley Field
- 23. Boast
- 25. LAX info.
- 26. Thespian
- 29. Where the mistletoe went to get famous?
- 35. Uno + due
- 36. Mex. neighbor
- 38. "Do ____, not "
- 39. Mascara site
- 1. Radio toggle
- 2. Old Italian bread
- 3. Entrepreneur Musk
- 4. Store with a Kirkland Signature brand
- 5. Artist Picasso
- 6. Frazier foe
- 7. D.C. MLB team
- 8. Storybook sister
- 9. Boomtown Rats "I Don't Like
- 10. "The Time Machine" race
- 11. California sch. of Padres legend Tony Gwynn
- 12. Appear to be
- 13. Sen. Sanders and Sen. Sinema
- 18. firma
- 22. Jazz classic with the line "My lonely days are over"
- 24. Sudden urge
- 26. Rand McNally product
- 27. Concoct
- 28. 3-Down brand
- 30. Arkansas's Mountains 31. Sheboygan's st.
- 32. Letts play "August: County"
- 33. Like some casks
- 34. Bagless vacuum pioneer
- 37. Plump
- 40. Opposite of vert.

- 41. Actors Epps and Sharif
- Fifth Avenue
- 44. Financially solvent
- 46. Decomposes
- 48. Prefix with caching
- 49. Where Santa takes his reindeer for a drink?
- 51. Ivy in Philly
- 53. "Knives Out" actress de Armas
- 54. Unwanted spots
- 56. Word of admonishment
- 61. Strapped
- 65. Rio ___ (college in Whittier)
- 66. What the gingerbread man used for
- his broken leg?
- 68. Whopper topper
- 69. "Night" author Wiesel
- 70. Without warranty
- 71. Pasta choice
- 72. Prolific TV producer Norman
- 73. Mani mate

Down

- 42. Parks of Alabama
- 45. Mother-of-pearl source
- 47. Like a south-facing room, perhaps
- 50. Unsubscribe
- 52. Something removed before signing
- 55. Mulled drink
- 56. Union workplace
- 57. Fine-tune
- 58. "It's open! Come "
- 59. Japanese noodle
- 60. Yarn
- 62. " on Down the Road" (song from "The Wiz")
- 63. City west of Tulsa
- 64. Ricky's portrayer
- 67. Vardalos of "My Big Fat Greek Wedding"

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about the history of Fullerton. You can follow my ongoing research and writing at www.fullertonhistory.com. Part of researching local history

involves spending many hours in the Local History Room of the Fullerton Public Library, looking at microfilm the archives of Fullerton Tribune newspaper, which began in

Fullerton was a small but growing community at this time, inhabited mainly by farmers and merchants. The Fullerton Tribune was a local paper, edited by Edgar Johnson, was typical of small-town newspapers of that time. Its slim pages were filled with national news, local gossip, advertisements, and items of local interest. Pressing local issues included the Temperance Movement, establishing a local high school, incorporating as a city, lots of crop-related issues... and disturbing anti-Chinese sentiments.

[A brief content warning here. The Fullerton Tribune in the 1890s often refers to Chinese people with the racist term "Chinamen."]

In 1892, the Geary Act was passed, which extended the infamous 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act for another 10 years. The Chinese Exclusion Act severely limited the immigration of Chinese into America, provided for an apparatus of identification and deportation of Chinese people, denied Chinese people citizenship, and limited their rights in other nefarious ways. Chinese exclusion was a really big deal in California, particularly because there was a fairly large Chinese population here, in part due to the recruitment of Chinese labor to build the Central Pacific Railroad a couple of decades

America was hit by an economic depression known as The Panic of 1893, and jobs became scarce. The Chinese Exclusion Act was seen as a way to protect the jobs of white people at the expense of the Chinese. It is an unfortunate fact that recent immigrants are often the first to suffer in times of economic uncertainty, both in the past and today in America.

As I scrolled through the microfilm of the Fullerton Tribune of 1893-1894,

The following work-in-progress is I noticed a running trend of articles dealing with the topic of Chinese Exclusion, all heartily supporting it. Edgar Johnson was not shy about giving his views on what to do with the Chinese.

In an article from May 20, 1893, he suggested the U.S. use its warships to transport the Chinese back to China: "What have we got all these war vessels for if they are not to transport Chinese upon? If they will just begin moving these fellows, it won't be very long before there be some room left for white people in this country."

On October 7, 1893, Johnson reported that "Two Chinamen were arrested at Santa Ana Tuesday and taken to Los Angeles to go before Judge Ross on a charge of violating the Geary Act by not registering within the time prescribed by law.'

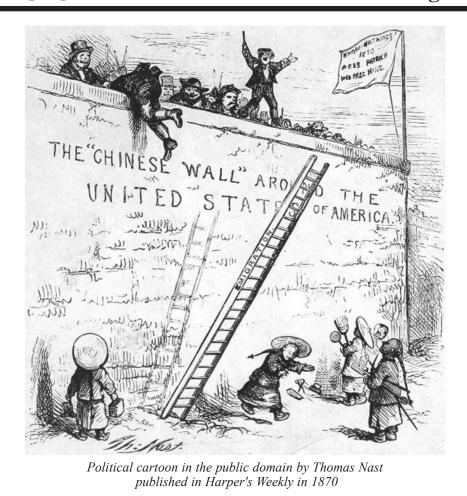
On January 6, 1894, Johnson called it a "well-known fact that the Chinese do not make desirable residents in this country."

On February 17, 1894, Johnson reported an event that happened in Fullerton. An article entitled "John Had to Go: Five Chinamen Leave Town –Didn't Like Fullerton 'Climate" describes how local growers, the Porter Brothers, had hired some Chinese laborers to pack oranges. This sparked such outrage in the Fullerton community that a mob of around 40 local citizens literally forced the Chinese workers to leave town.

"It looks like the citizens of this community are determined not to allow Chinamen to do orange picking and packing in this section," the Tribune article began, and after describing the incident, concluded, "We believe in giving the unemployed white man a chance first, last, and all the time."

Apparently, even after this incident, the Porter Bros. continued to employ Chinese workers, much to the chagrin of the local community. People were so outraged that they got a petition going, urging the Porter Bros. only to hire white workers.

The Chinese Exclusion Act set a terrible precedent for American immigration laws targeting certain racial and ethnic groups. It remained in effect until 1943.





SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTES by Vivien Moreno

- Fullerton School District Board meets at 6pm at District Headquarters, 1401 W Valencia Dr, Fullerton For agenda go to: www.fsd.k12.ca.us or call 714-447-7400
 - Fullerton Joint Union High School Board: (714) 870-2800 or www.fjuhsd.org

Fullerton School District November 19 Meeting

Election Results

District 2 will now be represented by James Cho, a parent new to the district. District 5 will be represented by Vanesa Estrella, parent and current DELAC (District English Learner Advisory Committee) President. Facilities Bond Measure L passed with 61% of the voters' support.

At the November 19 FSD board meeting, the elementary school district trustees celebrated high achieving student programs, honored board members, and discussed a new social studies curriculum.

Student Programs

High achieving students often need additional educational pursuits to stay interested, and the Middle College and AP classes offered at Fisler K-8, Parks, and Ladera Vista Junior High Schools keep a steady stream of these students engaged.

In cooperation of The College Board and Fullerton Community College, teachers Stephanie Yee and Darcy Blake offer eighth grade students AP Computer Science and AP English Language Composition. Each year, the 60-80 participating students experience the high level of rigor and density of material that the college board curriculum requires with the option to take the AP test at the end of class.

The test results are entered on a student's transcripts entering high school, but the classes do not remove high school requirements of four years of ELA classes or replace any other high school graduation requirements. The Middle College, headed by program specialist, Tamara Ligon, offers college level rigor experience for 8 graders in areas of dance, art, journalism, and digital arts as a way to keep students interested in the learning process, and allow first generation college bound students gain skills at note taking, organization, and time management in order to handle higher level education.

The program teachers are currently exploring expansion into AP Spanish for eighth grade dual language students.

Celebrating Trustees Hilda Sugarman and Leonel Talavera

After 28 years serving as a FSD Trustee, Hilda Sugarman wrapped up her time as a trustee. The immense impact Trustee Sugarman and the Fullerton Education Foundation she founded has had on the school district cannot be understated.

FSD also wished leaving Trustee Board President Leonel Talavera well on his future endeavors as he leaves his position at the end of the year.

To watch the reflection videos and testimonies of administrators and teachers, and parents throughout the district, the celebration starts at minute 57:40 at:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=lQ1uGi b3DuA

District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC)

DELAC President, Vanesa Estrella, announced that the FSD DELAC is

hosting two "Safe Zone" information sessions for FSD families held at the Hunt Library on January 8 at 9-11am and at 4-6pm.

Facilities

Superintendent Dr. Bob Pletka thanked Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, Dr. Robert Coghlan and the Board for actively getting Measure N passed and announced the first facilities projects, with board approval, are Gymnasium and Multipurpose Room builds at Parks and Nicolas Junior High Schools.

New Social Studies Curriculum

Director of Education, Emily McDougall, presented an updated social studies curriculum for the trustees. Studies Weekly was tested for the past year by 37 teachers, every school location, and unanimously approved by the teachers as the new curriculum.

Studies Weekly includes rich historical content, multiple and diverse points of view, skill building, students' own life experiences, instructional supports, and assessments materials. Stakeholder groups consisted of teachers, 40 parents and community members, and over 500 students who gave feedback on the clarity, engagement, and accessibility of the content.

The curriculum includes Spanish translated materials including texts and primary resources, accommodations for students with disabilities, and enrichment for GATE classes to explore optional subjects in greater depth.

California social studies curriculums must align with the FAIR Act that requires diverse perspectives of people with disabilities, different religions, races, ethnicities and LGBTQ persons to have their stories embedded in the main historical timeline, not just as side stories. The advisory groups came to consensus and approved this curriculum for pre-k to 6, it has been 20 years since the last curriculum upgrade.

Trustee Ruthi Hanchett asked about any Korean translated content with the curriculum. Ms. McDougall said the Studies Weekly group is working with the district, but the Korean Dual Language program teachers will be translating content "in house" for Korean speakers. No Korean translated lessons exist at this time in any acceptable curriculum. Educators are mindful of translations and cultural sensitivities as the teachers translate Kindergarten and first grade materials for the dual language program.

Trustee Sugarman asked about alignment with ELA and Social Studies lessons and objectives as well as long term cost issues. Ms. McDougall indicated that both texts and consumable materials would have the comparable financial investment as a program with just texts. The curriculum program contract lasts eight years.

Next FSD Board meeting Monday December 16 at 6pm.

Fullerton Joint Union High School District November 12 Board Meeting

PTA

Fullerton Council of PTA's Executive Vice President, Dr. Nivie Jhawar reminded everyone that to qualify for higher learning scholarships, 12th grade students must belong to the PTSA by December 31, 2024.

Go to www.fullertoncouncilpta.org, scroll down the page to the "Become a member" tab to join.

Election Update

FJUHSD Superintendent, Dr. Steve McLaughlin announced the passing of FJUHSD facilities bond "Measure L" by 58% of voters. The Fullerton Aquatics Center, funded with the last Measure I funds, opened October 14.

Early Retirement Agreement

Mr. Ruben Hernandez, the assistant superintendent of business services, announced an early retirement incentive for certificated and classified employees during a commitment window from January 6 to February 7, 2025. Concerns were raised by CSEA Union President Joni Best and Attendance Clerk Rosie Whitaker

regarding the inequitable salary calculations for classified employees, as their pensions are based on average daily salary rather than base pay.

Previously, early retirement offers had addressed this disparity. Despite not needing classified staff to achieve cost savings, the district requires at least 24 certificated employees to accept the deal to make it beneficial. The district anticipates not replacing 6.8 certificated positions due to declining enrollment.

Although Trustee Dr. Vicki Calhoun expressed concerns about the Early Retirement plan, the other trustees approved the offer with a 4-1 vote.

UPDATE: At the board meeting (December 10) Calhoun was proven right to wait until the district had all the facts on the early retirement offer. The trustees approved a new resolution last night that changed the original offer in order to make it equitable to both classified and certificated employees in the district. The district is issuing FAQ to combat the confusion the initial offer created.

Next FJUHSD Board meeting will be December 10 at 6pm.

Simon Scholars

The Simon Scholars program started in 2003. Starting in 10th grade through graduating with a four year college degree, recipients receive financial allocations to bridge the gap between financial aid and living expenses coupled with mentoring allowing students to excel academically and socially to successfully start a career path.

The scholarship offers up to \$16,000 over four years, a Mac laptop, and services including tutoring, internships, college tours and college application support.

THIS YEAR'S CLASS OF 2026 FJUHSD SIMON SCHOLARS

Buena Park High School:
Diana Flores, Odin Flores,
Tram Nguyen and
Yocelen Urzua Mendez

Fullerton High School: Giselle Garcia and Darelys Rizo Roman

La Habra High School: Ruby Hernandez, Isabelle Morales, Ashley Parra, Natalie Rodriguez, Jonathan Torres and Jaylene Vargas



FULLERTON JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

1051 W. Bastanchury Road, Fullerton, CA 92833 <u>www.fjuhsd.org</u>

High School Open Enrollment Option

The Fullerton Joint Union High School District (FJUHSD) offers an open enrollment option for students who live within the District boundaries. Students have an opportunity to apply for attendance at one high school other than their school of residence.

Applications for the 2025/2026 school year must be completed in person at the school of residence, January 13 through January 31, 2025. Proof of residence is required (utility bill and rental agreement/mortgage statement).

Application window will be closed on January 31, 2025 at 3:00pm.

Acceptance letters will be mailed by the end of February.

For more information visit www.fjuhsd.org or contact Eileen Lopez by calling (714) 870-2846 or emailing elopez@fjuhsd.org.

Trending by Erin, 9th grade

Winter Fashion

As winter blows our way, wearing the right amount of layers is important, and stay informed about the predicted fashion trends for the season. Starting with a cozy start comes the "countryside coded" look, which includes flannel, cashmere knit sweaters, and boots, specifically riding boots, as Vogue says. Not only wool but animal fur, fake or real, keeps you warm and fashionable all day long.

Loafers, including Dr. Martens, and plaid patterns are also returning, a nod to preppy style. The earthy colors of burgundy and dark brown are trending across platforms like Vogue, Marie Claire, and Glamour. The luxurious texture that comes alongside dark brown is suede, which may be seen this winter. Velvet and corduroy, which we saw in the 2000s when Juicy tracksuits became luxury branded velvet and corduroy in the 1980s.

The animal prints of the 2000s, like

snakeskin, tortoiseshell, zebra, and leopard/cheetah prints, made an entrance this

summer and are anticipated to remain popular through winter.

The boho trend is also experiencing a revival. Its freestyle of vivid, flowy, frilly, floral prints, mesh, and lots of layers of jewelry and clothing make it stand out. A good example of boho, as Harpers Bazaar mentions, would be Serena van der Woodsen in Gossip Girl, which also includes polo dress shirts, sequins, long necklaces, neckties, skinny jeans tucked under long

The movement of including more patterns may encourage the style to evolve from the simplicity often associated with brands like Brandy Melville to more eccentric and lively outfits. Hope we are in for a cozy and bright winter!

Gift of Sight Month - December

National Observance by Mateo, 11th grade

According to the World Health Organization, nearly a quarter of the world's population has some degree of impaired eyesight. For some people, such as myself, this impairment is quite mild and does not interfere too much with daily activities. For others, however, the level of blindness is so severe that they cannot perceive their surroundings through their eyes, drastically impacting their development, education, and overall ability to accustom themselves to an increasingly demanding society.

Despite these harrowing facts, far too many people continue to take for granted how paramount their sense of vision is to their survival and fail to take quality care of their eyesight. Gift of Sight Month, set annually in December, works to spread awareness to the public about how damaging impaired eyesight can truly be and why yearly eye checkups are crucial for preserving

Gift of Sight Month was established in 2019 by Versant Health, a leading organization promoting healthier eyes in America. Their overarching mission is to highlight the overlooked importance of eyesight maintenance and encourage people to get their eyes checked yearly. Versant initially worked towards this goal through their partnership with Vision to Learn, a non-profit that offers U.S. students in nate as it is, however, this is the reality poor financial states access to eye exams and glasses. However, despite their efforts, over a billion people worldwide have unaddressed eye problems impacting their daily lives.

Versant's more centralized effort to fulfill its mission has become a more widespread endeavor. You can support the cause in many ways during Gift of Sight Month. The best way to do so is by scheduling

your yearly eye exam if you have not

Many causes of eyesight impairment, such as refractive errors or cataracts, can easily be treated through prescription glasses, small surgeries, etc. However, without a proper examination by an optometrist, these causes can go unnoticed and thus be left untreated. By taking just a couple of hours each year to get your eyes checked, you could potentially catch these issues at their earliest stages and prevent them from worsening.

Another way to help is by donating to one of the many charities supporting those who are visually impaired. From providing impoverished or financially struggling families with inexpensive and widespread eye care to developing technologies that will correct blindness and other imperfections in the future, there are a variety of ways organizations around the world work to improve the lives of those affected by visual impairments. You could make a monumental impact on their progress with just a small donation.

It is difficult to imagine living in a world where all your surroundings are cloudy, blurry, and unclear. As unfortuthat millions of people worldwide face daily. Gift of Sight Month serves as a necessary reminder to all of us that we should take the proper precautions to preserve and protect our eyesight health, as it is impossible to perceive just how valuable something truly is until it is taken from you.

Cultural Traditions by Alicia, 7th grade

Holiday Dishes Around the Globe

The holiday season is marked by celebrations that often center around unique traditional foods from various cultures, reflecting heritage and bringing people together.

Italy: Christmas is incomplete without panettone, a sweet bread loaf filled with dried fruits and candied citrus. Panettone, which originated in Milan as a goody for special occasions, is typically served as a dessert or breakfast treat. Another delightful Italian dish is torrone, a nougat with honey, sugar, egg whites and toasted nuts. These are often shared with family and friends as symbols of warmth and generosity during the holiday season.

Mexico: Tamales are a dish deeply rooted in tradition. Tamales are made by wrapping masa, a dough made from corn, around various fillings like pork, chicken or vegetables, steamed in corn husks. They are often served during Las Posadas, a nine-day celebration leading to Christmas. Similarly, champurrado, a popular rich chocolatebased beverage thickened with masa, provides warmth and comfort during cold winter nights.

Sweden: The Christmas feast revolves around the julbord, an array of traditional dishes. The julbord features cured salmon, pickled herring, and gravlax alongside meatballs and Janssons frestelse, a creamy potato

casserole. For dessert, lussekatter, which are saffron-flavored sweet buns shaped like an

"S," is a must. These buns are traditionally served on St. Lucia's Day and are a bright reminder of light during the dark Scandinavian winters.

Japan:: A unique tradition for holicuisine, especially during Christmas, is enjoying fried chicken. This custom began in the 1970s when a fast-food chain launched a successful holiday campaign, and it has since become a beloved part of Japanese Christmas celebrations. The fried chicken is often paired with a decorative Christmas cake, typically a sponge cake topped with whipped cream and strawberries, symbolizing joy and fes-

Ethiopia: The holiday of Genna, or Ethiopian Christmas, is celebrated with a communal feast featuring doro wat, a spicy chicken stew served with injera, a sourdough flatbread. The rich flavors and communal nature reflect the Ethiopian emphasis on togetherness and gratitude during the holidays.

Traditional holiday foods are more than just meals; they are expressions of culture, history, and shared joy. These dishes connect families and communities, making the holidays a truly global celebration.

Self-improvement by Tegan, 7th grade

The Pursuit of Authenticity

Dear 2025,

This year, please bless me with better study habits, cuter clothes, and more

Money would be nice too. Also, make me a better person and some other stuff like that, I guess.

Thanks.

Who are you? Who am I? Are we the individuals we say we are, or are we the individuals cowering behind the glorious and fraudulent mask we compose? Are you trapped in the same routine of broken and empty promises, telling yourself that "tomorrow will be different."

Tomorrow, you'll start your work early, stick to that workout plan, and you won't procrastinate or binge-eat. But tomorrow, the only accomplishment you make is timidly hauling another broken promise into the towering landfill of its kind.

This is the comfort of avoidancethe immediate relief of distractions. You are conditioned to chase things that don't really matter— like the next trendy outfit, the latest phone, or the next big purchase that promises to fill the void. You are so focused on being the girl or boy or woman or man that everyone envies. Consumer culture

tells you that more stuff will make you happier, more successful, and more complete. But

you're still empty inside, and now you have a new pair of shoes to mock you.

Then comes the facade of oneself presented to the outside world: the ideal you. The person who's on top of it all, the one who says, "Everything is going perfectly." Everything isn't going perfectly. Lies are told-not always out of a malicious intention, but of convenience. It's easier to pretendpretend that things are well, that things are under control- than to admit to your vulnerability.

2025 is here.

Yet, 2025 isn't different from other years. It isn't different from 2024 or 2023. It's a year to change.

No more waiting for a perfect moment or magic shift. This is the moment to stop pretending everything is fine, this is the moment to start confronting your previous ignorance. Do not hide behind excuses, material distractions, or mindless consumption. Stop living in the hopeful and repetitive loop of "tomorrow."

There is no "better tomorrow" without change.

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HITS & MISSES

by Joyce Mason © 2024





ANORA: Two Hits

Written, directed and co-produced by Sean Baker, "Anora" won the coveted Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival this year. Baker's films are always a bit gritty, but his basic humanity allows him to create characters who may be flawed but who have a survival instinct that is admirable. His previous film. "The Florida Project," dealt with a sex worker who was a single mother trying to raise her young child as lovingly as possible

Anora, who goes by Ani (Mikey Madison), is also a sex worker, fiery and firm but possessing a demeanor of vulnerability. Madison's performance has drawn attention from many sources, even an extended interview on National Public Radio, where she discussed the effort she had put into learning how to be an exotic dancer and then how to be "for hire" for patrons at the club where she works.

Friendly, flirty, and very pretty, Ani catches the eye of a young man who asks her if she speaks Russian. She says that she learned some Russian from her grandmother, who had refused to learn English. Even though Ani's Russian is rudimentary, Ivan (Mark Eydelshteyn) is enchanted by her. He next asks Ani if she "works outside the club." She does, so we next see them driving to the Brighton Beach

mansion where Ivan lives. His parents own the home but they are currently in Moscow, where his father has become a billionaire.

Ivan tells Ani that he can procure drugs in Las Vegas, so the two fly to Vegas in his private jet. They have a blissful week that ends with Ivan proposing marriage to a receptive Ani. News of this development reaches Ivan's parents, who have employed a state-side Armenian priest to oversee their holdings in the U.S. They instruct him to do whatever is necessary to annul the marriage.

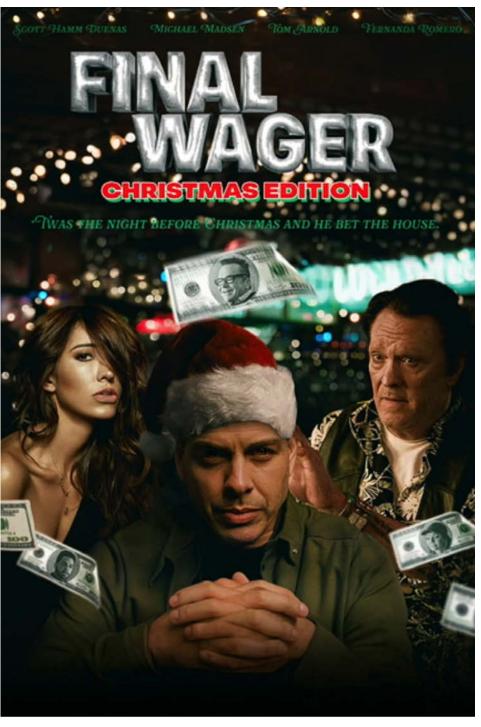
Toros (Karren Karagulian) knows that he will need to hire some strong, burly hitmen to effect change. Two are hired and they soon learn that Ivan is compliant but Ani is a fighter. Humor does appear in this film in unusual ways and under odd circumstances, especially as the film winds down to its ending.

It is probably safe to predict that "Anora" will be nominated for an Oscar in the best film category. The film's original screenplay and superb casting distinguish it. Also, Mikey Madison's remarkable performance will very likely receive the attention of the Academy.

*This movie contains scenes that some viewers may find too explicit.

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





New Film "Final Wager" Highlights Local Talent and Fullerton's Community Spirit

A new movie titled "Final Wager" showcases the talents of several individuals with strong ties to Fullerton, California. Significantly, most of the film was shot on location at Heroes Bar and Grill in downtown Fullerton.

The film features the notable contributions of Scott Hamm Duenas, a Fullerton high school graduate and local resident, along with two other cast members who also graduated from Cal State Fullerton.

Scott Hamm Duenas, who serves as both actor and producer, plays the lead role of Chances Sleigh. Having moved to Fullerton at a young age, Duenas developed his roots in the community, attending Golden Hill Elementary School and Nicolas Junior High School before graduating from Fullerton Union High School. In his youth, he played baseball at Golden Hill Little League and made history by participating in the first all star team from Fullerton that made the junior league World Series.

Duenas expressed his affection for the city, stating, "I love Fullerton; it was the perfect place to grow up. For me, Fullerton is the perfect mix of big city and suburb. I've made lifelong friends here and go back as often as possible to visit my friends and family."

His family remains in Fullerton, residing in the same home he grew up in on Highland Avenue, while his mother, Toni, has worked at the same State Farm office in the area for 35 years.

The film is also bolstered by Jerry

ArtuKovich, who serves as the writer and producer. An Emmy Award-nominated casting director known for "The Golden Bachelorette," ArtuKovich lived in Fullerton for over a decade and is a graduate of CSUF, where he formed a lasting friendship with fellow alumnus Trevor Penick.

Penick, an actor in "Final Wager," is also a musician and member of the successful boy band O-Town, which was founded by Lou Perlman. He resided in Fullerton while attending university and graduated alongside ArtuKovich.

Executive producers Brad Kerr and Bobby Patel are also key players in the film's production. Close friends of Duenas, the trio launched Toni Nycole Productions, an independent filmmaking company, stemming from their lifelong friendship that began in the Little League. Kerr, who is a successful local realtor at Brad Kerr Homes, and Patel both continue to live and work in Fullerton.

Notably, the film also stars Michael Madsen from "Kill Bill" and "Resevoir Dogs" and Tom Arnold from "True Lies" and the tv show "Rosanne."

As "Final Wager" prepares for its release, it stands as a testament to the vibrant artistic community in Fullerton, showcasing the collaborative spirit and shared hometown pride of its creators.

"Final Wager" is a heartfelt, edgy Christmas film with a twist: Now available on Amazon Prime Video, Apple TV+, Google Play, and Fandango.

Sparkle Ball Lane

Evenings in December
Enter north on to Yale at 801 East
Chapman, a short left and right turn
hides the display from Chapman Ave.
The neighborhood with the best holiday lights in Orange County is right
here in Fullerton! Families visit this
unique destination known for its handmade "sparkle balls" that surround the
streets.

Darden Christmas Concert:

December 19 from 7:30 - 9:30 pm.

Muckenthaler Cultural Center

1201 W. Malvern Ave

Get into the holiday spirit with the Dardens in this magical concert. The Dardens will perform classic Christmas yuletide carols and contemporary holiday songs.

Tickets at: themuck.org

StemUp4Youth:

December 21 from 2 - 3 pm.
Fullerton Public Library
353 W. Commonwealth Ave
Main Library Osborne Auditorium
STEM programs hosted by students
from Fullerton Union High School.
For children in 1st through 4th grade.
https://fullertonlibrary.org

Family Movie Matinee:

December 21 from 3 - 5 pm.
Fullerton Public Library
353 W. Commonwealth Ave
Make way for new emotions with this
family friendly movie. Inside Out 2 is
a 2024 American animated coming-ofage film. A sequel that features Riley
entering puberty and experiencing
brand new, more complex emotions as
a result. https://fullertonlibrary.org

Discover Fullerton On Foot!:

December 21 from 8:30 - 10:30 am. Fullerton Community Center 340 W Commonwealth Ave The monthly in-person, guided walks around town. Please wear comfortable shoes, water and a hat. To register call 714-738-6575 or visit the center.

Holiday Festival:

December 22 from 12 - 4 pm.

Muckenthaler Cultural Center
1201 W. Malvern Ave
Celebrate the holiday season with free
family-friendly activities, live music,

food and drinks, art workshops for kids, and an arts and crafts sale.

More info at: https://thanuck.org

More info at: https://themuck.org

Community Carols by Candlelight:

December 22 from 5:30 - 6:30 pm. Downtown Fullerton Plaza 125 Wilshire Ave

This festive evening will feature live music as we gather to sing beloved Christmas carols and celebrate the advent season.

The event will include light refreshments such as hot chocolate and cookies, and children under 10 will receive free activity packs.

First Night Fullerton:

December 31 from 7 pm to midnight.

Downtown Fullerton Plaza

125 E. Wilshire Ave

Ring in the New Year with us at 'First Night'! Get ready for an evening packed with unforgettable family fun! Presale Tickets grant you access to a night brimming with carnival rides, inflatable attractions, face painting, and classic carnival games. Avoid the lines and score the best deal by grabbing your tickets early - it's the ultimate way to celebrate the New Year with joy, laughter, and endless entertainment for all ages!

Pre-Sale Ticket Pricing:

Individual Tickets: \$1.00 each
Bundle Deal: 25 tickets for \$20:

Bundle Deal: 25 tickets for \$20; 50 tickets for \$40; 75 tickets for \$60;100 tickets for \$80

Pre-sale tickets are available only inperson at the Fullerton Community Center front desk. All sales are final, and lost tickets cannot be replaced. Secure your tickets now until Monday, December 23. Monday - Friday: 8:30 am - 7:30 pm; Saturday: 8:30 am - 2:30 pm. Closed on Sundays. Cash payment will not be accepted at the event.





A 90-minute abridged performance, perfect for children of all ages! Celebrate the season with Clara, the Nutcracker, and the Sugar Plum Fairy as they journey to the Kingdom of Sweets. Reserved seating \$25–\$35. For more information (714) 526-3862 or nouveauchamberballet.com

Fullerton Museum Center

exhibit runs through Jan 5, 2025 (714) 519-4461 • info@fullertonmuseum.com

June Wayne: The Art of Everything

The Art and Science of June Wayne exhibition showcases the influential work of artist June Wayne (1918-2011), known for her exploration of the connection between art and science.



Fullerton College Art Department Presents

EVOKE: Focused Perspectives January 6 - January 23, 2025

This exhibition showcases the evocative photographic explorations of students from the Fullerton College Photography Department, under the Division of Technology and Engineering.

The works on display embrace a spirited spectrum of subject matter, seamlessly bridging the worlds of fine art and commercial photography. Through their lenses, these emerging artists challenge conventions, crafting a compelling dialogue between creativity and functionality, vision and purpose.

Gallery Hours: Monday-Thursday: 10am - 12pm and 2pm-4pm Closing Reception: January 23rd from 5:30pm - 8:30pm

Fullerton Friends of Music presents

Park Brothers Guitar Duo

Saturday, January 18, 2025 at 3:30pm



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The Park Brothers came together as a guitar duo studying under one of the world's preeminent guitar virtuosos of the classical guitar, Christopher Parkening. The duo's virtuosic technique combined with expressive artistry have captivated and delighted audiences as far away as Montreal, Canada and Heidelberg, Germany.

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Group photo of Boys & Girls Club, Foresters Financial, and KABOOM! Volunteers at the groundbreaking for the new playground at the Lozano Teen Center on December 7th

will provide

safe and engaging

space to stay active,

build friendships,

and create lifelong

memories.



VIDEO OBSERVER

by Emerson Little © 2024 See videos on YouTube @emersonlittle1901

Fullerton Playground: Built In A Day

At eight o'clock in the morning on Saturday, December 7, over 130 volunteers from the Boys & Girls Club of Fullerton, Foresters Financial, and the national non-profit organization KABOOM! arrived at a field in the back of the Lozano Teen Center to build a new playground.

The Teen Center, located at 410 South Richman Avenue, has a lot of programs and services tailored to support the development of teenagers in the community. In case you aren't too familiar with the organization, The Boys & Girls Clubs of Fullerton is a non-profit committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for young people in the Fullerton area. While their teen center has a lot of workshops and activities, the only outdoor play opportunities they offered before this playground were basketball and field sports.

"There's a desire to address childhood obesity at all ages, as well as improve the mental health of teens. The new playground has areas to climb, a ring bridge and a double slide. KABOOM!'s shared commitment to reflects our shared commitment to

creating a hub of physical activity where youth can participate in outdoor play and foster connection," said the three organizations in a joint press

According to a volunteer from Foresters Financial, this project started three months ago during a special Design Day. Back in September, Fullerton Boys and Girls Club drew imaginative visions for a new playground. In collaboration with Foresters Financial and organizers from KABOOM!, these drawings from the Boys & Girls Club helped to inspire the play area's final designs.

As quoted in a press release, Brett Ackerman, Chief Executive Officer of the Boys & Girls Club of Fullerton, said, "This new play space will provide our children with a safe and engaging This thoughtful design reflects space to stay active, build friendships, Foresters, the Lozano Teen Center, and and create lifelong memories. It

enriching young lives and ensuring every child in our community has the opportunity to grow and thrive, and we could not have done it without the support from Foresters."

Foresters Financial volunteers wore turquoise t-shirts outside the Lozano Teen Center on December 7. Since I wasn't familiar with who they are and what they do, I had to ask a few of their representatives and learned that they're a 150-year-old global financial services provider offering life insurance here in the U.S. and abroad in Canada and in the UK. According to their website,

since 2006, they have funded and built 175 different playgrounds across 101 cities in 31 states and This new play space provinces throughout North America. This new young people at the *our children with a* build at the Lozano Teen Center is their 175th playground.

The national non-profit is known as KABOOM! I had heard about it previously. I remember reading and researching how they partnered with the City of Fullerton to build a playground at Gilbert

Park in South Fullerton for an earlier issue of this newspaper. According to the organization's website, since 1996, KABOOM! has partnered with kids and communities to build or improve over 17,000 play spaces and ensure opportunities that play spaces offer. today in Fullerton."

This new playground at the Lozano Teen Center will reportedly give more than 250 children and teens access to a great place to play.

When I arrived in the morning on December 7, I checked in with members of Foresters Financial and made my way to an open field where a giant mound of mulch was being shoveled by community high school volunteers to the play area where the foundation for the equipment was being laid. The side projects, such as manual labor and volunteers building park benches, were happening on the far end of the park.

Speaking with Brett Ackerman from the Boys & Girls Club, I learned that they had to prepare everything days in advance to basically separate each component of the park build into different stations. Some of the stations included one for mulch, one for concrete, and one for painting, but in total, I counted about eight different teams of volunteers working. They started building the playground at eight o'clock in the morning and ended at around two thirty in the afternoon.

"There are a couple of things we have to do after getting it certified before the kids can play on it," explained Ackerman. "We have to add an ADAaccessible ramp for the kids, and then once we do that, playground certification people will come back, and hopefully, we'll be able to open this park by the end of the year. But it's super neat; to see a park go up in a day is a rare that nearly 12 million kids have equifeat. As they say, it takes a village, and table access to the crucial benefits and we have our village building a park



Fullerton Women's Leadership Forum 2024 Honorees

Award for Community Engagement

Egleth Nuncci is the Community Liaison for the Cal State University, Fullerton Center for Healthy Neighborhoods at Richman Park in Fullerton, where she empowers resident leaders to address community needs and influence policy for equitable opportunities. "When one of us wins, all of us win," she said.

Her civic journey started as a single mother when her daughter, Giulianna, attended the Head Start Program. Egleth received the Orange County Parent of the Year Award for 2012-2023 and has held leadership roles, including President of District English Learner Advisory Committee for the Fullerton School District. Her contributions have earned recognition from the Orange County Board of Education and various organizations.

Egleth has improved school safety, strengthened community-police relations, and reduced food insecurity, assisting over 11,000 families through food drives. She was honored for her role in the 2020 Census and named Woman of the Year for District 5, with additional recognition from Senator Tom Umberg.

Above all, her proudest achievement is being the mother of Giulianna.

The Warrior Award

Judith Kaluzny has lived in Fullerton since 1964 and worked as an investigative reporter for The Fullerton Observer from 2002 to 2023. After earning her law degree in 1976, she practiced family law and mediation for 43 years.

Before law school, Judith was an active community member, leading efforts to improve Fullerton and serving as a Fullerton Fair Housing representative.

Lifetime Leadership Achievement Award

Barbara Johnson moved to Fullerton in 1963 with her husband, Bruce, where they raised their five children after he became the minister at the Congregational Church of Fullerton.

Barbara has been a lifelong volunteer dedicated to addressing community needs. Her passion for alleviating hunger and homelessness led to the creation of the Fullerton Interfaith Emergency Service, now known as Pathways of Hope. She served as

She co-founded the OC Fair Housing Council and the Community Open School. Additionally, she was involved with the Women's Coalition and the first board of directors for the Women's Transitional Living Center.

All seven of her children attended Fullerton public schools, with three earning Ph.D.s. Judith published "The Marriage License Handbook" in 2002 and is currently writing "The American Way of Divorce: A Fraud on Families."

Executive Director for 23 years and retired at the age of 75, proudly reflecting on the organization's achievements over the past 40 years.

Additionally, she is one of the founders of The Fullerton Observer.

At 94, Barbara continues to live in the same home, feeling blessed to have family nearby who help her stay connected with friends. She is proud of her seven grandchildren, and seven greatgrandchildren.



Egleth Nuncci, Judith Kaluzny, Barbara Johnson, Rosalina Camacho, and Jodi Balma

Award for Veteran Advocacy

Rosalina Camacho is the Adult worked with Latino Advocates, Inc. to Learner Coordinator for the Transfer, Adult Re-Entry, Parenting, and Pregnant Student Center at California State University, Fullerton. With over 20 years in higher education, she has served as the Women of Color Coordinator and Family Coordinator for the Veterans Resource Center, supporting military-connected students and women veterans.

She has chaired the Women Veterans in Higher Education Conference and honor Latino veterans. Rosalina is dedicated to fostering an inclusive environment for transfer students, adult learners, veterans, and their families.

She holds a bachelor's degree in social ecology with a minor in psychology and social behavior from UC Irvine and is involved with community organizations like the YWCA Orange County and the Native American Indian Association, promoting positive change on campus and beyond.

Award for Education

Professor Jodi Balma has been a political science professor at Fullerton College since 2000 and has coordinated the Honors Program since 2012.

She specializes in American politics and California state and local government, helping students develop critical thinking skills and engage with community issues, regardless of party affiliation.

During election cycles, she promotes voter education and participation through candidate forums and information on ballot measures. As a member of the League of Women Voters, she hosts local candidate forums throughout North Orange County.

Balma regularly offers political analysis for various media outlets, including the Los Angeles Times, Orange County Register, Voice of OC, KPCC, The Fullerton Observer, and

She also hosts a podcast called "A Slice of Orange," which focuses on North Orange County politics to educate both students and the community about local government.



Fullerton Sister City Association in Italy A Journey of Connection and Culture by David Krausman

Fullerton Sister City Association's recent trip to Italy left us with memories to cherish and stories to share! This vibrant excursion, filled with history, friendship, and culinary delights, brought our community closer to one of Fullerton's newest sister cities, Tollo, and showcased the beauty of Italy's unforgettable charm.

We kicked off our voyage in Rome, where we explored the majestic remnants of Ancient Rome. Our days were packed seeing the beautiful Vatican, including the awe-inspiring Sistine Chapel, with its breathtaking frescoes by Michelangelo, and the grand St. Peter's Basilica.

Of course, no visit to Rome would be complete without indulging in gelato. We wandered the cobbled streets, sampling creamy flavors in gelaterias and soaking up the lively nightlife, where laughter and conversation danced through the air against a backdrop of twinkling city lights.

Next on our adventure was Florence, where we encountered a bit of a weather hiccup — buckets of rain. But that didn't dampen our spirits. We were honored to meet with Consulate General Daniela Ballard at the US Consulate to celebrate the Fullerton-Tollo Sister City Connection. The homemade cracker jacks her team prepared for us were a delightful surprise and brought back sweet memories of

From Florence, we ventured to the enchanting town of Orvieto, which is nestled atop a hill, this quaint town intrigued us with its rich history. There was an extensive underground tunnel system dating back over 2,500 years that was used for food and wine storage, these tunnels were rediscovered in the late 1970s and offered a fascinating peek into the past.

Our visit to Tollo was nothing short of extraordinary. We met with Mayor Angelo Radica, exchanging gifts that symbolized our growing friendship. The highlight of our stay was an exhibition baseball game hosted by Tollo Baseball. Two youth teams, decked out in Lasorda jerseys, showcased their skills while honoring the late Dodgers legend, Tommy Lasorda.

Laura Lasorda, Tommy's daughter, made the event even more special by presenting each student with unique Dodger gifts, including replicas of World Series rings which were a hit among the kids.

Our hosts prepared a culinary feast for us, roasting an entire pig and serving delectable homemade desserts that

had us going back for seconds — and thirds. The warm conversations and connections with the local families reminded us of the joy of community.

We're thrilled to announce the selection of a Junior Ambassador delegation set to visit Tollo this summer, June 20 to July 1, 2025. Current 8th graders through seniors in high school are encouraged to apply. Applications are currently open, and more details can be found at our next information session that will be held on January 8 at Fullerton Public Library.

As we reflect on our incredible adventure in Italy, we're reminded of the power of friendship and the bonds that connect us across continents. We can't wait for the next chapter in this

For any inquiries, feel free to contact fcsayamamoto@gmail.com.





Left: George Acosta and Alma Gamez Right: Lily Gough and Norman Hansen

SENIOR LIFE by Edith Harvath

A Festive Club Meeting

Fullerton Senior Club held its annual meeting and holiday party at Fullerton Community Center Friday afternoon, December 6th. Members voted for officers for the upcoming year, danced to the music of DJ Jose Miranda and were also treated to a performance by K. Nanta USA Drum Team. A complimentary lunch, consisting of chicken, beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, salad and green beans, catered by Touch of Paradise, was served. All agreed they had a great time! Sent in by Edith Harvath

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Left to right: Sean Kao, Patrick Park, Sidney Kao and Ethan Luc

FAST Masters Swimmers Set World, National Records

Aquatics Sports Team (FAST) set a relay world record and two national records at the Southern Pacific Masters Long Beach in early December.

The standout performance came from the team of Ethan Luc, Sidney Kao, Patrick Park and Sean Kao, who set a new Masters world record and a national record in the 200-meter freestyle relay, clocking in at an impressive 1 minute and 30.4 seconds. This remarkable time surpassed the previous world record of 1:30.57, which had been set by a British team just a month prior. Additionally, the FAST team's record-breaking swim

Masters swimmers from Fullerton also eclipsed the national record of 1:36.7, previously held by a team from Phoenix since November 2017.

In another stellar achievement, the Short Course Meters Championship in FAST team also claimed a national record in the 400-meter freestyle relay, finishing with a time of 3:22.27. This time topped the former record of 3:35.67, set by a Virginia team in November of the previous year.

The FAST Masters team holds regular practices at Janet Evans Swim Complex in Independence Park. Athletes do not have to compete to swim with the FAST Masters team. For more information about the FAST Masters team, contact Lauren Morford

at lmorford@fastswimming.net.



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Healthy Awareness by Jo Ann Brannock, Ph.D. © 2024



One of the highlights of my life was obtaining a master's degree in 1975. Given today's technology, it's hard to believe I used a card catalog to find past research in my area of interest. After locating the relevant entries, I would walk down the library corridors to find the suggested articles, only to discover that sometimes they were torn out of the journals.

In those days, I calculated statistics using a Wang calculator, which resembled an adding machine. There were no computers in college, and a typewriter was the only option for writing my thesis. If there were any mistakes, I had to retype the entire manuscript! Looking back, I wonder what other experiences I had with technology during that

In 1960-61, I worked in the research lab at Westinghouse, focusing on developing computer circuit boards under the guidance of an electrical engineer. The design of the circuit board was first photographed onto an emulsion and then etched using highly corrosive hydrofluoric acid. Gold wires were subsequently attached using robotic arms under a large microscope in sanitary conditions. While the number of connections made at that time was minimal, today's microchips contain hundreds of thousands of these connections.

Microchips have enabled computers to become much smaller than the mainframe computers of the past, which filled large, air-conditioned rooms. These earlier computers were quite expensive, making it difficult for small start-up companies to afford them; as a result, many had to rent access to these machines instead.

In the late 1960s, I enrolled in a computer class at Fullerton College taught by an IBM professional. We used sequentially punched computer cards to run our programs. I often felt anxious because if I accidentally dropped the box of cards, it would mean a very late night trying to sort them back into

In the late 1960s at CSUF, I had a teacher who earned a degree from Carnegie Mellon, an institution renowned for its focus on computer technology. For our class, we were assigned a project at the end of the semester that required us to outline the steps for a computer to solve a specific

I had my eldest son, who was 10 years old at the time, detail his solution. I audiotaped him and later translated his steps into a program for the computer to execute. My kids were my guinea pigs for my class projects!

Here are some significant milestones in the advancement of technology:

- 1) As early as 1843: Ada, Countess of Lovelace, publishes notes on the Babbage's Analytical Engine, a mechanical device for tabulating log-
- 2) 1952: Manual ability to perform election predictions.
- 1956: The first Artificial Intelligence conference was held.
- 4) 1971: Introduction of email.
- 5) 1975: Microsoft and Apple launched.
- 6) 1975: First personal computers become available.
- 7) 1977: Joseph Carl Robnett Licklider, a psychologist and technologist, is considered the father of the internet.
- 8) 1983: Microsoft announces Windows, and the first public cell phone occurs.
- 1984: Apple introduces Macintosh.
- 10) 1998: Google is launched.
- 11) 2001: Wikipedia is created.

Today, students can do all their research and type their papers on computers. The technology field has exploded, and unfortunately, some of the older generation has been unable to keep up, especially in the area of artificial intelligence. We have come a long way with technology.

BALANCE & CHANGE

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

Giving of Yourself is a Precious Gift

This is the time for giving, but per- more independent by learning how to haps we can make it a time for helping as well. It can be easy to give. Whether it is sending money or going on to Amazon and clicking and sending something virtually. It takes very little thought or effort. And no real connec-

But let's look at helping. Imagine the impact of asking someone how you can help them. Perhaps someone fighting cancer needs a ride to their doctor's appointment? Perhaps an elder needs company? Perhaps a child needs someone to sit and play a game with them? Perhaps a teen needs to learn how to be cook meals?

What do all of these ideas, and so many more, have in common? You need to actually show up and connect with someone. You need to be present and give of your time and person. Helping takes more energy. It takes more time. It takes more of yourself. But what you get back is truly priceless! Seeing the impact that you have on others can warm you in a way that nothing else can.

So, this holiday season, as well as the rest of the year, please don't just give. Please help!





Since losing her son, Stephen Frank Chaplin, to a drug overdose in 2022, Fullerton resident Andree Scanlon has spent countless hours raising awareness of the epidemic of drug use and addiction. Her front yard, near Roosevelt and Amerige, is an extension of that effort.

Those who have lost loved ones to overdoses can honor them by putting a memorial ornament on the tree. There's also a standing box at the edge of the property that offers Naloxone — a medicine that rapidly reverses the effects of opioid overdoses — as well as resources for those dealing with addiction, either directly or indirectly.

There were about 90,000 drug overdose deaths in the United States from July 2023 to July 2024, down 17 percent from the period of July 2022 to July 2023, according to the CDC. Shown here is Scanlon's display. Sent in by Brady Rhoades.

The Dental Corner: Better Oral Health

Smiling Through the Years: Dental Care for Seniors

patients, and our seniors are especially important to us. Dental issues can disrupt daily life and vacations, and we aim to help minimize that impact.

As we age, routine dental care becomes

even more essential. It's not just about keeping your teeth healthy; it's about ensuring you can continue enjoying the foods you love, maintaining good nutrition, and smiling confidently. Many seniors experience dry mouth, which can lead to cavities and gum issues. Regular visits help us manage these



problems, and we can offer guidance on adjusting your oral hygiene routine to make brushing and flossing easier, especially if hand coordination becomes more challenging.

Over time, fillings and crowns can wear down.

Replacing them before cavities form around them is crucial for preventing more serious dental issues.

A healthy mouth is vital for a good quality of life, boosting our confidence and social connections. If it's been a while since your last checkup, give us a call — we're here to help!

Eric Kim, DMD: Family Dentistry 501 N Cornell Ave • 714-992-0092 www.erickimdental.com

Cold-Weather Shelter continued from front page

reached out repeatedly to the Fullerton city manager, the chief of police, the housing manager, and various case management organizations in their quest for support. However, their efforts have mostly been met with promises that lead to inaction. The city frequently cites the county as the barrier to establishing such shelters, while the county points back to the cities, creating a frustrating cycle of bureaucratic deflection that leaves the most vulnerable populations without adequate protection.

"Lives hang in the balance. People will die," emphasizes one volunteer who has witnessed firsthand the realities of homelessness during the 2024 Point-In-Time count. This volunteer highlights that many of the individuals on the streets are over 55 years old, making them particularly susceptible to cold exposure and severe weather conditions.

Existing shelters in the area operate under a "no walk-up, reservation only" policy, which critics argue is inhumane, especially given their frequently full capacity and lengthy waiting lists. The National Weather Service has issued warnings that individuals

Since this summer, advocates have exposed to temperatures between 30 and 50 degrees are at risk of death from hypothermia. Last year, in Fullerton alone, 28 unhoused individuals lost their lives — a grim statistic that advocates argue should be a wake-up call for local officials.

Adding to the urgency, rain is forecasted for next Monday, potentially increasing the risk of exposure-related fatalities by 40%. "This is not just a number; these are lives lost, stories untold," the volunteer asserts, echoing the sentiments of many advocates who feel the city and county are neglecting their duty to protect the most vulnerable citizens.

Despite having the necessary funding available and several approved SB2 zones ready for temporary shelter locations, the process of establishing these necessary facilities continues to be stalled. Operators are eager to manage the shelters, leaving many wondering what is causing the delay.

What is the value of a homeless person's life in Orange County? As temperatures drop and rain approaches, the community is waiting for local officials to act and protect those without shelter. Immediate action is crucial; lives depend on it.

Final Thoughts from Jaramillo on the Recent Election

(Kitty Jaramillo lost the District 4 Council seat by 53 votes to Valencia)

My final word regarding this election is we must strive to be more informed voters. I've learned that it doesn't matter if you're born here, attended all Fullerton schools, raised your family here, or always supported police and fire; it just isn't meaningful anymore.

It amazes me that a person who has lived here for under three years and appears to know so little about the city could win. Will she be a good representative for District 4? We will not know until we see what kind of decisions she makes while on council and if District 4 sees improvement. Will she have her own opinions for the betterment of District 4, or will she just go along with the knuckleheads that put her there? Only time will tell. I'm hoping for the best.

The most disheartening thing is the dirty politics in Fullerton and all the false and negative TV commercials, digital and text ads that flooded District 4 households. Even while we were canvassing, residents were asking about lies after lies that were spread in the negative hit advertising. No wonder good people no longer want to run for office. This is what we now have to endure, but don't get me wrong, I knew what I was in for! But to spend an estimated \$80,000 on attack ads is beyond ridiculous! Let's see what all this money buys them. I dodged bullets throughout the entire campaign from inside and outside our city, including from a candidate for Mayor of Irvine (who also lost her election) to within our city. The well-informed Fullerton voter knows the ugly history of the deep-pocketed family here and their connection to our council majority. Unfortunately, with my loss, this might not change.

What I do know is that I still love Fullerton with all its warts and hope for the best. I have a lot to be thankful for, including a great husband who was hurt by all the hate more than I am, a beautiful family, my lifelong Maple friends, union support, and all the new friends I've made thanks to this campaign! I will always be grateful to all of them for sacrificing their time and money to support our campaign. And a special thanks to all of you who trusted me with your vote.

So, even though I lost, I have a lot to be grateful for, and I am.

Kitty Jaramillo

(Editor Note: False information on Jaramillo was spread to District 4 voters through robocalls, texts, digital and TV ads, and print advertising paid for by independent political action committee Fullerton Taxpayers for Reform ID#1346685 and funded by \$5,000 each from Tony Bushala, George Bushala Sr., Sylvia Bushala, David Jerome, John Saunders (predatory owner of mobile home parks), and the Apartment Association OC PAC; and \$15,000 from out-of-town trash vendor Valley Vista Services - figures according to 460 required pre-election filings. A post-election filing is due in January 2025).

Fair Rotation continued from front page

However, the selection process has come under scrutiny as District 5 representative Councilmember Ahmad Zahra, who has spent six years on the council, has faced repeated denials for the position from fellow council members Whitaker, Jung, and Dunlap, who have favored selecting themselves instead. This raises questions about adherence to the city's policy and fairness in the council's appointments.

There is growing support among residents for Zahra to be appointed as Mayor, with District 3 representative Dr. Shana Charles possibly stepping in as Mayor Pro Tem, given their seniority and the fact that others have had their turns at the helm. Residents hope the upcoming meeting will resolve this contentious issue, ensuring that council leadership reflects the community's values and commitment to equitable governance.

Below is a short history of the mayor rotation in recent years:

• 2018: MAYOR CHAFFEE; MAYOR PRO TEM SILVA

(ZAHRA ELECTED NOV 2018) • 2019: MAYOR SILVA;

MAYOR PRO TEM FITZGERALD

• 2020: MAYOR FITZGERALD;

MAYOR PRO TEM WHITAKER (DUNLAP AND JUNG ELECTED NOV. 2020)

• 2021: MAYOR WHITAKER;

MAYOR PRO TEM; DUNLAP

• 2022: MAYOR JUNG;

MAYOR PRO TEM WHITAKER; (DUNLAP DECLINED TO SERVE AS MAYOR)

• 2023: MAYOR JUNG;

MAYOR PRO TEM WHITAKER; (CHARLES ELECTED NOV 2022)

• 2024: MAYOR DUNLAP;

MAYOR PRO TEM JUNG

• 2025: TO BE DECIDED TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17 CITY COUNCIL MEETING.





Nonprofit Radiant Futures Receives \$15,000 **Grant From The Rosendin Foundation**

Nonprofit Radiant Futures, formerly Women's Transitional Living Center, Inc. (WTLC), has been awarded an annual grant of \$15,000 from The Rosendin Foundation for counseling services for survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking.

"We are honored to be among the nonprofits selected to receive this generous donation," said Radiant Futures Chief Executive Officer Mark Lee. "The funds will help support the mission of Radiant Futures to use survivor-driven, trauma-informed practices to build a safer community.

"This grant funding will allow us to explore expanding our counseling program capacity to become a mid-tolong-term mental health service provider for survivors. It will also allow us to expand our current therapeutic counseling program by incorporating innovative and evidence-based therapeutic approaches into ongoing individual and group counseling sessions.'

For more information about Radiant Futures, visit www.radiantfutures.org.

PUBLIC NOTICE AND COMMUNICATION PRACTICES UNDER SCRUTINY

The City of Fullerton's process for publishing public notices is facing criticism for its decision to allocate funds for advertisements in the "Tribune," a section of the *OC Register* newspaper. This choice is particularly notable given that the Fullerton Observer Newspaper has offered to publish these notices free of charge.

Community members expressed concerns about the city accountability. emails regarding agenda items are not consistently monitored, raising fears that important public input is being overlooked.

Although residents are encouraged to use a designated email address to submit their comments, many have found their correspondence often goes unacknowledged, resulting in their letters not being included in public records.

This lack of transparency and engagement in the public participation process raises questions about the city's commitment to inclusivity and

council's management of public correspondence. Reports indicate that their voices can be heard when their contributions seem to be disregarded and how to get notifications about meetings that need public input-meetings like the new Transit Village.

Fullerton Public Library Elevator Upgrades Coming Soon

The Fullerton Public Library is set to enhance its facilities thanks to a significant grant from the California State Library and generous matching funds from the Fullerton Public Library Foundation and the Friends of the Fullerton Public Library.

These funds will be allocated towards upgrading the library's elevators, which need modernization. Specific closure dates for the elevators will be announced early in the new year.

Library patrons are encouraged to stay informed by checking the library's website, social media, and newsletter for ongoing updates regarding the project.

https://fullertonlibrary.org

I observed

that Iran was

the big loser

in this chaos.

They, in fact,

really started

their own

enrolling Hamas

as their

military proxy.



Out of My Mind

by Jon Dobrer © 2024 • JonDobrer@mac.com

Hamas Brought Down Assad

American Jewish University and now privately, called The Currents in Current Events. Its central thesis is that events are connected—no, not by conspiracies or even well-laid plans, nor are the connections always direct and sequential. Still, they are connected more directly and discernably than the famous example of a butterfly in Asia flapping its wings and causing a hurricane in Florida.

The recently deposed regime of Bashar al-Assad, unexpectedly, yet in the logic of hindsight inevitably, came tumbling down because of Hamas. No, not the intent of Hamas or even in its calculations, but direct nonetheless.

The Hamas atrocity committed against Israel on October 7 of last year (2023) brought retaliation from Israel, which predictably provoked Hezbollah into attacking Northern Israel. This, in turn, led to Israel responding with military force against Hezbollah, which was Iran's direct agent and proxy against Israel.

Naturally, when Israel raised the ante against Hezbollah by employing booby-trapped pagers that took out much of Hezbollah's leadership and then directly assassinated their leader, Hassan Nasrallah, Iran had to respond. They sent hundreds of rockets, missiles, and drones against Israel.

This direct attack, without the plausible deniability of proxy agents, was spectacularly unsuccessful. With

I have taught a course, first at Israel's anti-missile defenses, David's Sling and Iron Dome, there was only one fatality on the ground—ironically, a Palestinian.

> The savage logic of war demanded that Israel strike back, and they However, America advocated a limited response so as not to escalate the situation further. Israel complied, but Iran retaliated with more dangerous rockets than they had employed in their first attack.

This time, Israel went diminishment by after Iran's eyes—knocking out their early warning radar and anti-aircraft batteries. They also proved that newly blinded Iran could not stop Israel from

attacking at will—anywhere and at any

As of last week, Iran was politically strategically humiliated. Hezbollah, their number one proxy, was effectively out of combat. Israel and Hezbollah were at the start of a shaky ceasefire, and Russia was busy in Ukraine and couldn't pay much attention to Iran or Syria.

Syria was beset by a pre-existing condition of chaos. It was ruled (really misruled) by Bashar al-Assad and his minority Alawite sect of Shiah Islam. The majority Sunni Arab population had been in revolt and cruelly repressed for more than a decade.

Îran supported Assad. Russia supported Iran and Assad. Turkey supported the Sunni rebel majority and also had (and has) territorial ambitions in Northern Syria, where there are both oil fields and the traditionally put upon Kurds.

In case this chaos seems too coherent, American soldiers are under bombardment by Shiahs, but we are there to

> go after the remnants of the Shiah's enemies, the Sunni radicals of ISIS and Al Qaeda.

Meanwhile, Israel, an enemy of Assad, is now bombing Assad's stockpiles of dirty weapons—gas, biologicals, and chemicalsand occupying some southern Syrian territory—temporarily, they claim.

The rebels now ruling, at least for the moment, claim to have left their pro-ISIS radicalism behind and are ready to have a pluralistic state including Shiahs,

Sunnis, former Assad supporters, and they promise to tolerate various Muslim sects, and even the small Christian minority. If so, it would be the first in 50 years of Middle Eastern history.

All of this was made possible by the Hamas attack on Israel, and so there is considerable irony, and not a little hypocrisy, that Hamas today sent congratulations to the Sunni victors, who won against the interests of Hamas' primary sponsor, Iran.

Iran is the big loser in this Sunni triumph and banishment of Assad. This completes the humiliation of losing

Hezbollah as a protective militia, being blinded by Israeli military strikes, and having their interests abandoned by Russia.

As to what happens next, the world does not know. Will the Sunni-led "former" Islamist radicals create a pluralistic society? Highly doubtful. More likely is a replay of the murderous chaos in Libya where tribe fought tribe, and Tripoli fought Benghazi.

Structurally, Libya should have been easier to tame. Almost all were a Sufi branch of Sunni Islam. There was an oil industry that could have maintained a stable society and Libya had a fairly high level of education. But the oil, instead of bringing stability, stimulated greed and a power struggle that led to murderous chaos and a most uncivil civil war.

This could, unfortunately, be the model for the conflicts in Syria between Shiah, Sunni, and Iranian interests. We must also consider Turkish ambitions in the north, Israel's defense needs, and Russia's desire to maintain Tartus, a warm water port it leased from Assad.

I observed that Iran was the big loser in this chaos. They, in fact, really started their own diminishment by enrolling Hamas as their military proxy. However, Iran's loss is political. The most tragic losers are the people of Syria, who seem destined by historic misfortune to live and die in a fractured state that may well never again be a whole state.

The current in this current event began with the tide receding from Iran to Gaza. Now the tide has turned and has become a Tsunami drenching Lebanon and Syria and devastating Iran, its place of origin.

AT HOME WITH THE HOMELESS

by Andrew Williams © 2024

What was SNAFU is now becoming FUBAR

"In a naive moment some time ago, I place: there's no guarantee that any once wondered whether, in all of the United States, a vicious government could find enough moral imbeciles to meet the personal requirements of a national system of death camps of the sort that were maintained in Germany. I am now beginning to think that the full complement could be recruited in New Haven."--Stanley Milgram

With the coronation of Resident Rump a month away, it is blindingly obvious that the problems of the unemployed, mentally disordered, and homeless are on the new administration's radar, and not in a good, productive, helpful way-more like the "Round 'em up and put 'em in cages" way. So on this front-if there is to be any real progress-the state of California is going to be on its own. And as far as California's unhoused population is concerned, the news is not encouraging.

Governor Gavin Newsom's edict to get the unhoused off the streets and sidewalks of California's cities is being taken very seriously, especially in Orange County. Stanton started its homeless cleanup last month, even though the city is woefully lacking in shelter and apartment space. And we are well into winter.

In San Francisco, Mayor London Breed has reinstituted the classic NIMBY approach of offering homeless people bus tickets to places where they might-heavy emphasis on might-have friends or family willing to take them in. There's no legislative oversight in

city official is going to contact the relatives and friends of those who accept the tickets to be sure they will be welcomed at the other end. It's true that those agencies contacting the homeless are supposed to offer shelter if it is available, but if it isn't, the push on transportation out of state becomes the de facto default option.

This is the business-as-usual litany of tired solutions with a few new wrinkles -"the same old thing in brand new drag," as David Bowie once sang. And it won't go. It'll work for a little while, but not long and not well. There are much more innovative solutions on the boards, such as Elizabeth Funk proposed in her San Francisco Chronicle Op-Ed, "Yes, there's a solution to unsheltered homelessness California. It's called interim housing." Has anyone thought to shove a copy of this commentary under Mayor Breed's nose? It would seem not.

Part of the blame lies with the Supreme Court in the Grants Pass decision, since it gave cities an out if they didn't have enough shelter space for the thousands of unhoused who would be displaced by street sweeps. But Newsom should have known that cities would be inclined to sweep the problem under the rug without having set up the resources to humanely house the unhoused. The simplest solution is usually supposed to be the best, as William of Occam (he of the famous Razor) once reasoned.

Apparently, we still haven't learned-

or our governments haven't-that there is no magic bullet solution to any problem, be it cancer, depression, unemployment, or homelessness. Truly solving problems is going to require different solutions for different people, because we are not computers that can be reprogrammed with a few keystrokes. For some, it might be interim housing; for others, supportive housing, with the addition of Universal Basic Income in some form.

The bottom line is, if any progressive reform is going to come in Californiaif we're going to continue to implement the Housing First program as established by former Governor Jerry Brown statewide, the impetus is going to have to come from inside the house. If not from Sacramento, then perhaps from Los Angeles, San Diego, or one of the other major metropolitan centers ous, folks-I'm not kidding around."

besieged by the unhoused. It will mean living up to the letter of the law, in this case Senate Bill 1380, which stipu-

- Accepting applicants regardless of their sobriety, use of substances, or criminal convictions;
- · Accepting referrals from shelters, street outreach, and drop-in centers;
- Emphasizing engagement and problem-solving over therapeutic goals.

What is the alternative? Leaving it up to the Resident and the untender machinations of Stephen Miller, that gray, slimy, shrill homunculus who never met a pogrom he didn't love. Which means my half-serious suggestion of renovating Japanese-American internment camps would become a very grim, very horrific reality. What was it Joe Biden used to say? "I'm seri-

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Joanne Norene Thompson 1934-2024

Joanne Norene Thompson, loving-

November 29, 2024, at the age of 90. She was born on August 8, 1934, in Los Banos, California, to Mary and John Castellucci.

Joanne was a devoted wife to her beloved husband, Ralph J. Thompson, and a cherished mother to her children: Cindy, David, Beth, and Jeff. She

took great pride in her role as a mother and grandmother, surrounded by the love and joy of her 6 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

A woman of warmth, laughter, and ly known as "JoJo," passed away on spirit, Joanne had a zest for life that

was contagious. She loved spending time with friends, often enjoying afternoons playing bridge or simply relishing the beauty of the beach. Her passion for travel took her to many places, creating lasting memories and friendships along the

Joanne's presence will

be deeply missed by all who knew her. She touched many lives with her kindness, her sense of humor, and her love for adventure.

Kay (Dempsey) Gladson 1944-2024

Kay (Dempsey) Gladson, 80, forof Emerickville, merly Pennsylvania, passed away peacefully from Alzheimer's disease near her home in Fullerton, California, on September 22, 2024.

Kay was the daughter of Alfred and Veda Dempsey. She graduated from the Bethesda School of Nursing in Cincinnati, Ohio, and moved to California in 1971. In September 1984, she married Donald Gladson, who sadly passed away in July 2013. Kay continued her education at Chapman College and pursued a career in nursing before becoming a real estate agent, retiring in 2003.

Kay was known for her caring and loving nature towards family and friends. She enjoyed doing crossword puzzles and was an excellent cook. She loved hosting dinners and celebrations at her home in Fullerton, especially during the holidays. When you visited Kay and Don, you were always treated not just as a guest, but as family.

Surviving her are step-daughters Adrienne Gladson, Andrea Gladson, and Reza Kavianian (son-in-law); grand-children Catherine and Reese Kimball; Elizabeth and Brent



Kavianian; great-grandchild Oliver Kimball; sisters Gail Lathrop of Emerickville, PA; Zola and Jack Reed of Altoona, PA; six nephews and four nieces of Pennsylvania.

Kay was preceded in death by her brother, Jack Dempsey; her niece, Pamela Reed Amrhein; and her brother-in-law, Harold Lathrop. She was also preceded in death by her beloved dogs: Fluffer, Spin, Mandy, and Maggie I. Maggie II, shown in the photograph above, passed away shortly after Kay's death in early October.

A celebration of life will be organized later by her family and friends in California.

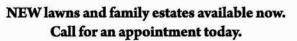
"People touch our lives if only for a moment, And yet we're not the same from that moment on, The time is not important, The moment is forever."

-Fern Bork

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Howard Bruce Hart 1937-2024

Howard Bruce Hart 87 went to our lord in November 2024. He died of natural causes.

Born in Fullerton to Henry and Virginia Hart.

Bruce was a proud Navy Veteran, husband, father, stepfather and grandfather.

He worked his whole career defending our country working as an aerospace engineer. As an avid nature lover he made everyone he knew laugh, cry and clap at all the stories he shared.

Our family is grateful to know "Bruce" is resting at

Services are still being planned at this time.



"Live simply, so others may simply live."

-Mahatma Gandhi

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: ... and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9) "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2)

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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Community Services Leader Series - Park and Trail

Full Time: \$16 Hourly Non-Regular (At Will/Non-Benefited) Category: Parks and Recreation Department: Parks and Recreation Job Number: CSL-PT-2023

Community Services Specialist Series - Community Center

Full Time: \$17 - \$18 Hourly Non-Regular (At Will/Non-Benefited) Category: Parks and Recreation Department: Parks and Recreation Job Number: 02 - Community Ctr.

Fiscal Operations Supervisor

Full Time: \$16 - \$17 Hourly Non-Regular (At Will/Non-Benefited) Data Category: Clerical & Entry/Accounting & Finance/Parks & Recreation

Department: Multiple Departments Job Number: 2024-SCSRS

Police Department Shooting Range Manager

The Fullerton Police Department is looking for a dynamic and experienced individual to manage the shooting range and armory. To apply for the Police Services Representative II (Range Master) position, visit:

https://www.governmentjobs.com /careers/Fullerton

Community Services Leader Series - Community Center

Full Time: \$16 Hourly Non-Regular (At Will/Non-Benefited) Category: Parks and Recreation Department: Parks and Recreation Job Number: CSL-CC-2023

Community Services Leader Series - Youth Services Division

Full Time: \$16 Hourly Non-Regular (At Will/Non-Benefited) Category: Parks and Recreation Department: Parks and Recreation Job Number: 01 - Youth Srvcs Div

Fire Department **Utility Worker I/II**

Full Time: \$89K - \$113K Annually Department: Administrative Services Location: City Hall Job Number: 2024-Fisc Oper Sup

Principal Civil Engineer - Water & Senior Civil **Engineer - Water**

Full Time: See Discription Department: Public Works Job Number: 2024-srengw/prcegw

Senior Planner

Salary: \$117K annually Full Time: See Discription

Department: Community & Economic

Development

Job Number: 2024-Sr Planner

OUR TOWN CROSSWORD © 2024

ANSWER KEY TO PUZZLE "HA-HA HOLIDAYS" on pg 7:



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

_							_							
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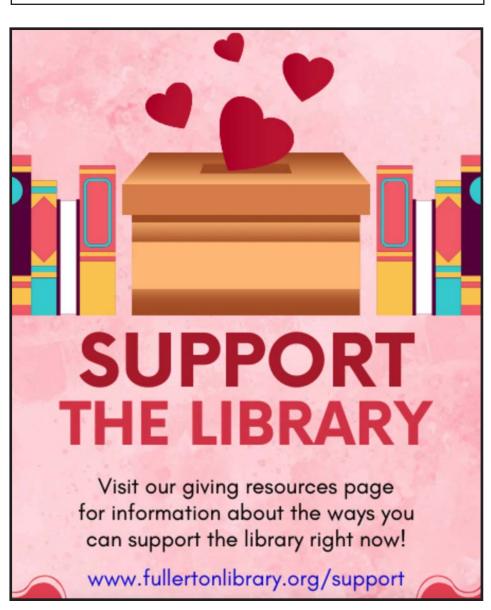
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Care Giver Wanted

95 year old seeks honest and reliable care giver. 30 to 40 hours week. Proof of clean driving record. Call after 3 pm and ask for Dorothy for interview.

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Above are the front page of each issue for 2024. Which is your favorite? Let us know by emailing contact@fullertonobserver.com

The Fullerton Observer Approaching 47 Years of Community Journalism and Engagement

As 2025 approaches, the *Fullerton Observer* is getting ready to celebrate its 47th anniversary in the heart of the community it serves. The newspaper, founded in 1978 by Ralph and Natalie Kennedy, along with a dedicated group of local citizens, has a rich history. After Ralph's passing, their eldest daughter, Sharon Kennedy, managed the publication for 22 years. After Sharon's retirement, her daughter, Saskia Kennedy, took over, ensuring its continuity and relevance.

Launched initially as a monthly publication, the *Observer* has significantly expanded its reach, now distributing bi-monthly to 10,000 households and maintaining a robust online presence. The newspaper focuses on local political and social issues while actively promoting community culture and events.

The *Observer* has championed social justice in a predominantly conservative

region, empowering residents to engage in civic responsibility and advocacy. Operated entirely by local volunteers and functioning as a not-for-profit organization, the *Observer* reinvests all its revenue into its operations, maintaining an independent, non-partisan platform for community voices.

The publication aims to empower community members to engage constructively, hold private and public entities accountable, foster community cohesion, and celebrate the area's diversity.

With an annual subscription rate of \$39 for 21 issues, the *Fullerton Observer* remains an essential resource for local information and advocacy, exemplifying the commitment to serve and uplift the community it has represented for nearly half a century.