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Fullerton residents gather to collect trash from the channel that runs through town. Photo courtesy of Karla Reinhardt

Fullerton Residents Rally to Tackle Pollution

Karla Reinhardt partnered with (ODA) to help improve water quality

RESIDENT OR CURRENT

RST AND THIRD AND AUGUST MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH EXCEPT ONLY ONCE IN PUBLISHED THE FI JANUARY, JULY,

FULLERTON CA 92834 ULLERTON OBSERVER

Orange County's Adopt A Channel flowing to the ocean. Even though program in January 2018, enabling Fullerton is about 20 miles inland, the Ocean Defenders Alliance trash from local channels like Brea Creek can easily reach coastal waters.

> "We go out every 2-3 months, or when needed. It's not a regular set date due to my schedule. The goal is to keep it clean before the rainy season starts," said Reinhardt.

> "We also do a cleanup during Earth Month in April and Coastal Cleanup month in September."

> At a recent cleanup, volunteers collected 350 pounds of trash in just one

hour. They sorted items to gather crucial data, with statistics revealing 442 food wrappers, 102 beverage containers, and numerous other litter items, including plastic bags and face masks.

This flood control channel directs stormwater to Coyote Creek, which flows into the San Gabriel River and Alamitos Bay, often carrying debris along the way.

To join ODA in its mission for cleaner waterways, email volunteer@oceandefenders.org or krreinhardt@gmail.com. Every effort counts in protecting our environment!

PLANE CRASH IN FULLERTON **RESULTS IN TWO** FATALITIES

Fullerton Police Department

The Fullerton Police and Fullerton Fire Departments responded to the 2300 block of Raymer Avenue on January 2, 2025, at 2:09 p.m. regarding a small aircraft that reportedly crashed onto the rooftop of a commercial building near the Fullerton

Upon arrival, police and fire personnel immediately began evacuating the surrounding businesses due to an active fire in the building. Fullerton Fire, Brea Fire, the Orange County Fire Authority, Huntington Beach Fire, Fountain Valley Fire, and Anaheim Fire quickly initiated fire suppression and rescue efforts.

A Vans RV-10 experimental aircraft was found inside the commercial building, engulfed in flames.

Nineteen individuals working inside the building at the time of the crash were injured. Eleven individuals were transported to local hospitals, while eight were treated and released at the scene. There are two confirmed fatalities: both believed to be occupants of the aircraft.

The identities of the deceased will be released by the Orange County Coroner's Office pending notification of the next of

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) are on the scene investigating the crash.



On Vacation

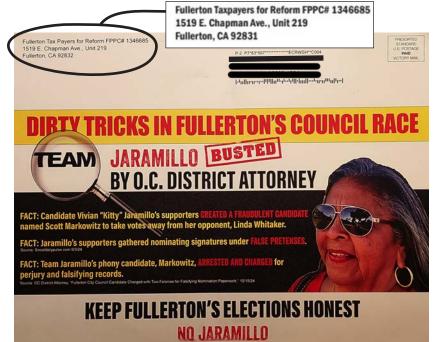
Movie reviewer Joyce Mason is on Vacation. Hits & Misses review will be written by Phil Mayfield until her return.

Fullerton Taxpayers for Reform Demand Retraction

Fullerton Taxpayers for Reform (F.T.F.R.) has formally requested a retraction and public apology from The Fullerton Observer regarding information published in the paper. The political action organization which includes contributors Tony, Sylvia, and George Bushala, and David Jerome, contends that false and defamatory assertions were made in the "Editor's Note" section on page 16 of the Mid-December 2024 edition. (see online at www.fullertonobserver.com)

In correspondence drafted by legal representative Leon Alexander, "Your publication has falsely suggested that these individuals were involved in spreading lies about Fullerton candidate Kitty Jaramillo. This is a blatant lie and cannot be tolerated. Therefore, you are hereby demanded to publish a full retraction and a public apology in the next issue of The Fullerton Observer. This retraction must be prominently displayed on the front page and specifically address the false statements made about the individuals named above."

The legal counsel has indicated a willingness to pursue defamation claims should the *Observer* fail to comply within a ten-business-day timeframe according to an email received on January 3, 2025.



Atleft one sample of the many mailers paid for by F.T.F.R.

In response, current editor Saskia Kennedy defended the editorial content, asserting that the information regarding F.T.F.R. was derived directly from the mandatory 460 & 497 filings, which are public records accessible on the City of Fullerton website under Election.

Kennedy acknowledged that the misleading mailers sent by F.T.F.R. may reflect poorly on the organization due to their slanderous and defaming content, but stated that there was no intention to harm the reputations of its contributors.

She remarked, "Any F.T.F.R. contributor unaware of how their contribution was spent may contact the Fullerton Observer with that information. This paper is always interested in making any corrections brought to its attention."

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

This venture is a not-for-profit one.

Revenues are plowed back into main-

taining and improving our independent,

non-partisan, non-sectarian community

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 con-

structive 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 diver-

sity with which our country is so

throughout our community.

newspaper.

blessed.

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

McLaughlin, Superintendent, John Caffrey, Principal, Audrina Gomez, ASB President, Kimberley Harris, Tribe Tribune Adviser, and Fullerton Observer:

State law (AB 3074) now requires all Native American nicknames be dropped by public school athletic teams by July 1, 2026. The law bans "Indians" and even the word "Tribe." It's time to look at best options for Fullerton High School. As a secondgeneration alumnus, former ASB president, athlete and wall of fame member at FUHS, I propose a new nickname: The Fullerton Fenders.

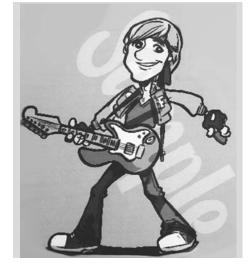
Fullerton Fenders would honor the technological and cultural contributions of alumnus Leo Fender, class of 1928. It would recognize his namesake invention, the Fender Guitar and its role in the development of rock music

School Mascot

To: FJUHSD Board Members, Steve and ongoing impact on international culture. Just one block from campus is the permanent Fender Exhibition at the Fullerton Museum Center. It could also lead to corporate sponsorships and a beneficial relationship with the Fender Musical Instruments Corporation, now headquartered in Corona, CA.

> Fullerton Fenders is unique — we would be the only high school in the country with this nickname. It is an alliteration and easy to say. Our mascot could be the Fender guitar itself, or someone playing a guitar on the sideline. The word fender itself is defined as one who "fends off, repels." It could mean an athlete defending a goal, or a car fender. It would allow future pep squads to use their imagination on how its portrayal.

> Enclosed are some examples of how our new mascot could be portrayed. There is plenty of time for a compre-



hensive process involving students, coaches, faculty, administration and alumni in the new nickname selection process. It should be deliberate and thoughtful. We need to take advantage of this opportunity to select something creative, unique and reflective of Fullerton's heritage.

The Fullerton Fenders does all this. Fight On, Fenders!

Sincerely, Chris Norby '68

• STAFF•

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- CWO: Mehul Desai
- COPY EDITOR: Stephen O'Connor
- COUNCIL REPORT: Staff
- Crossword: Valerie Brickey
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- AND OTHER FULLERTON RESIDENTS
- · Advertising: Saskia Kennedy

VOLUNTEERS WANTED:

- CALENDAR LAYOUT EDITOR
- CITY PLANNING REPORTER
- OCPA REPORTER
- OC Supervisors Reporter

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NEXT DEADLINE FOR WRITERS THE EARLY FEBRUARY ISSUE

& ADVERTISERS IS JANUARY 27. WILL BE DISTRIBUTED ON FEBRUARY 03.

Dear Editor:

In the mid-December issue, you made a rather interesting comment in response to a letter concerning the need to change the name of the Fullerton High School mascot. When the reader suggested using the Fullerton Fenders, complete with a drawing of a person playing a guitar, you objected and said "nor do I agree with a white individual representing a school". I'm confident that had someone dared to say that he or she does not want a person of color representing FHS your paper would have called out the person for being racist. Apparently racism is only a one way street these days and all is fine so long as only whites are being criticized or maligned. Paul Breen Fullerton

REPLY

Dear Paul Breen:

I do not believe any person with any skin tone or ethnicity should represent a school.

I feel very strongly that mascots should be neutral such as waves, animals, plants, etc.

I will take to heart and mind and examine if I am racist. Thank you for bringing it to my attention.

I think you are correct that I should not have written such a statement. Saskia Kennedy, Editor

RESPONSE

Dear Editor:

Thank you for your thoughtful response to my email. I agree with your belief that mascots should not be peo-**Paul Breen** Fullerton ple.

The idea of having high schoolers voting/submitting mascot ideas is cool... perhaps townfolk could also have a say also?

Regarding possible Fullerton HS mascot suggestions, I actually would like to second Chris Norby's suggestion of the "Fullerton Fenders" permitting that the Fender company is on

It is unfortunate Phyllis Fender is no longer with us, we could get her input on the matter. While I only met Phyllis a few times, what I gathered from her is that she and Leo both loved Fullerton as a community (and as their community).

Music is also really important in our town, so why not "Fullerton Fenders"? *M. Chapman* Fullerton Saskia,

You criticized the mascot cartoon (see above) for being "white," but the whole point of AB 3074 was to ban minority mascots as demeaning. Fullerton H.S. currently has a nonwhite mascot, but is being forced to

Obviously, the ASB can choose whatever it wants and the "Fender" nickname is neither race nor gender

Again, I'd ask that you print my letter before you rebut it. (see above printed letter) It says nothing about how "Fender" should be portrayed, only how it could be portrayed. This should ultimately be up to the students, but as an alumnus ('68) I wanted to offer a suggestion.

Chris Norby Fullerton

What is Happening at the HOPE center?

I would like HOPE Center to give a public update on what they are doing and data on progress.

I would also like to know why the center is closed at 5pm and on weekends. And who is running it and what happened to former director Kelley

A lot of money went into the HOPE Center. Has it been working?

Sharon Kennedy Fullerton

RE: Controversial Mayor Selection

I don't understand how the council can again go "out of turn" and against their own rules, procedures and rotation policies. I assume they were in place to be fair to representatives of the various areas of the city. It is very disappointing to see this favoritism happen again, in favor of repeated 'appointments" of past leaders who seem to be unfair and against representation of an underserved area of our city again this go around.

Carl Jones Fullerton

Clearing Up the **Confusion**

At the League of Women Voters candidate forum, Jan Flory stated that she didn't favor mandatory rotation.

"I believe it is important for the council to have the discretion to exclude someone unfit to represent our city as mayor. Specifically, I had Steve Rocco, a former Orange Unified School District board member, in mind," Flory said, "During his four years on the school board, he routinely created chaos on the board by theatrically spouting out conspiracy theories concerning The Partnership (a group of politicians and other leaders), which he claimed was trying to kill him and control the United States to boot. The board eventually censured Rocco for his disruptive behavior, and he responded by suing the board. He lost in court."

I have nothing but the deepest regard for Ahmad Zahra and his work on the council. During my 14 years on the Fullerton City Council, I never observed a harder working councilmember. His diligence in representing District 5 has activated and given voice to a part of our community that heretofore has not had a voice. That work has also activated District 4 which is demographically much like District 5.

It has been heartbreaking to see Ahmad passed over for the past four years by councilmembers whose work ethic and experience doesn't hold a candle to that of Ahmad's. Since Fred Jung has higher political aspirations, I'll bet that tomorrow's reorganization will see Dunlap appointed mayor again with Jung tagged as the pro tem. That means that next year, Jung will be designated mayor just in time for his run for O. C. supervisor to fill Doug Chaffee's seat. Anyone want to take that bet?

Jan Flory Fullerton

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

The First Night celebration in Fullerton welcomed the New Year









The First Night in Fullerton ushered in the new year with vibrant festivities, drawing together a joyful crowd of residents. The downtown area buzzed with energy as families and friends enjoyed various thrilling rides, captivating concerts, and a fireworks display that lit up the night sky, creating a magical atmosphere for all attendees. Photos courtesy of the city of fullerton

Finding the Silver Lining: JEANETH KHAMVONG

by Bryan Lee, contributing writer for Troy Preparedness Club

Jeaneth Khamvong is a world history teacher at Parks Junior High School. Alongside many others, she never would have anticipated that such a virus would come along and drastically change daily life. As Khamvong explains, "I watched the news and I understood what was happening in China, but I never thought that the United States was going to shut down. I thought people were overreacting. I wasn't ready.'

COVID-19 is a disease that temporarily disrupted the lives of everyone around the world. For several years, it caused major problems in almost every aspect of society. Companies were forced to halt business operations, people could not go out regularly, and masks became mandatory in most places. Despite the chaos, Khamvong and others knew they had to prepare for this abrupt disaster as best they could. She managed to prepare for the unexpected by getting emergency supplies and basic necessities.

Her biggest struggle during the pan-



Jeaneth Khamvong Photograph from Personal collection.

life. As a teacher, she had never expected the need to shift to teaching her students virtually. She explains that she had never taught online or through the various phone apps that were popularized during this time. Despite all the struggles of trying to maintain some semblance of normalcy while adapting to a completely new teaching style, she emphasizes that there is always something positive to be found, even in difficult times – a silver lining, as she put

"It also taught me the human aspect of students, and it really taught me I feel that there are some students that really are go-getters. I remember just for an entire year, having kids sign on to Zoom on time every single day and working from their bedrooms and producing beautiful work from their homes, kids that I'd never even met did such great work for me." Even though Khamvong had never seen her students in person, they gave their best effort to learn. For her, the hard work and dedication of the students became the silver lining amid the hardships that everyone faced.

Regardless of how sudden and disastrous a situation may be, it is possible to overcome an obstacle - provided that one is prepared. She believes that if she had been more aware of the circumstances, she could've been able to adapt more fluidly to the situation. As

she advises, "Be prepared people. Be prepared. Have yourself a plan. No one is above Mother Nature. No one is above really anything that could possibly happen," truly emphasizing the importance of being ready for emergencies.

Her story is one that countless individuals can relate to. And while many chose to see the situation negatively, Khamvong decided to look upon the issue with a positive point of view that allowed her to manage through the arduous time more effectively. Emergency preparedness does not just come with having the necessary supplies; it is also about the ability to adapt to new events. Khamvong demonstrated that perfectly.

"I think everything that happens in our lives teaches us a lesson, right? If we live through catastrophes or natural disasters, I feel that all of these events give you life lessons and prepare you

for things in the future." Do you have an experience where disaster preparedness came or could have come into use? Tell



us your story! Use this QR code to answer a few questions.

demic, however, was her professional

FULLERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES PROMOTION OF LIEUTENANT

The Fullerton Police Department has announced the promotion of Lt. Emmanuel Pulido, recognizing his extensive contributions since joining as a police cadet in 2006 and becoming a police officer in 2008.

EMMANUEL PULIDO

He has served in various roles,

including detective and sergeant in the Narcotics and Vice Unit, Field Training Officer, and member of the North County SWAT team. Currently, he is part of the Mounted Unit.

In his new role as Zone 3 Area Commander, he will oversee an area defined by the 91 Freeway to the south, Raymond Avenue to the west, Imperial Highway and the City of Brea to the north, and Placentia Avenue

Pulido's experience and commitment to the community make him wellsuited to lead in this capacity.

Statement on behalf of the Fullerton City Council regarding the experimental aircraft crash

Our community faced a tragic incident on Thursday, January 2, when an experimental aircraft crashed into an industrial building near the Fullerton Airport.

During this solemn tragedy, we are profoundly grateful to the first responders who acted with courage and unwavering dedication to protect lives and assist those in need. We deeply acknowledge the efforts of the Fullerton Police and Fire Departments, along with the Buena Park Police, La Habra Police, BNSF Police, Cal State Fullerton University Police, Brea Fire, Anaheim Fire, Huntington Beach Fire, and the Orange County Fire Authority.

"Your extraordinary efforts remind us of the strength and resilience of our community. As we come together in the wake of this tragedy, the City of Fullerton is committed to providing support for all those affected and working with the agencies involved to uncover the details of this incident," stated Mayor Fred Jung. "We are grateful for the strength of our community and the compassion we show one another in times of crisis. Together, we will move forward with resolve, care and unity."

While the full extent of the injuries is still being evaluated, we can confirm that 10 individuals were transported to area hospitals for treatment, and eight others were treated and released at the scene. Tragically, two lives were lost. Our deepest condolences go to their family and loved ones during this difficult time.

Editor's NOTE: The Van's Aircraft RV-10 is a single-engine, four-seat, low-wing aircraft that is sold as a kit for amateur homebuilders. The FAA categorizes the RV-10 as an experimental aircraft.

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

Fullerton Council Celebrates New Member and Honors Bruce Whitaker's Legacy

The Fullerton City Council recently welcomed new and returning members. Fred Jung was elected for District 1, Nick Dunlap for District 2, and Jamie Valencia for District 4. The council adopted a resolution to highlight these transitions.

Judge Shawn Nelson officiated the swearing-in of Jung, who then administered the oath to Valencia. Notably, Dunlap's children swore in their father.

Mayor Dunlap celebrated the evening, stating, "We are here to honor the re-election of several council members and welcome a new member while acknowledging the retirement of Bruce Whitaker." He expressed gratitude for Whitaker's service and presented him

with a service plaque, while also giving a bouquet to his wife, Linda, humorously adding, "Happy wife, happy life."

Former Mayor Chris Norby paid tribute to Whitaker, saying, "On behalf of the voters and residents, thank you for your service."

In his farewell address, Whitaker reflected on his 21 years in public service, humorously noting how his two-year term turned into 14 years. He emphasized the need for affordable municipal services, acknowledged challenges faced during his tenure and thanked the community for their engagement.

Fullerton Sister City Association

Fullerton Sister City Association announced that it is seeking to select Junior Ambassador delegates for an upcoming delegation trip to Tolo this summer from June 20 to July 1, 2025. Current 8th graders through high school seniors are encouraged to apply.

Applications are now open. The Fullerton Sister City Association will have an informational meeting on January 8th at the Fullerton Public Library. If you have questions or need more information, you can reach out via email to Leah Yamamoto at fscayamamoto@gmail.com.

City Council Meeting Sees Heated Debate Over Mayoral Reappointment

At the City Council meeting on December 17, 2024, tensions ran high as residents gathered to witness a contentious discussion surrounding the reappointment of Fred Jung as mayor.

The meeting marked the first appearance of Jamie Valencia, the newly elected council member from District 4, and served as a farewell tribute to retiring member Bruce Whitaker.

Central to the debate was the city's Fair Rotation Policy (Policy No. 226), which mandates that the mayor pro tem automatically ascends to the role of mayor after one year, thereby limiting any mayor's term to just one year. Seniority within the council is determined by the number of consecutive years served without serving as mayor or mayor pro tem.

District 5 Councilmember Dr. Ahmad Zahra's exclusion from the nomination process drew significant scrutiny, with residents expressing concerns over fairness. Critics labeled the selection system as "rigged," favoring certain council members in their pursuit of leadership roles.

Tensions escalated when Mayor Nick Dunlap nominated Councilmember Shana Charles for mayor, bypassing the Fair Rotation Policy established in 2010. Many residents believed that Zahra, the first councilmember from District 5 in a century, deserved the appointment.

In a surprising twist, Charles declined the nomination and instead threw her support behind Zahra, signaling a strong commitment to fairness.

The dynamics shifted further when Jung self-nominated as mayor, creating divides among council members. The ensuing vote resulted in a deadlock of 2-2-1, with Charles and Zahra backing

Zahra's candidacy, while Dunlap supported Charles. Newcomer Valencia sided with Jung, citing their close working relationship, which had developed during her narrow victory over Kitty Jaramillo in the recent election, aided by Jung's mentorship.

In a dramatic late-game flip, Dunlap switched his support to Jung, ensuring the votes for reappointment were secured amid considerable public backlash. The meeting underscored persistent concerns about equity and transparency within city governance, prompting residents to call for a review of the council's decision-making processes.

The nomination for mayor pro tem also sparked debate when Jung suggested Dunlap for the role. However, Dunlap opted to support Charles instead. While Charles re-nominated Zahra, the majority eventually selected Charles for the position.

Both Zahra and Charles delivered impassioned speeches that underscored the necessity for representation for districts 3 and 5 in both the mayoral and mayor pro tem roles.

Charles noted the historic implications of Zahra's election (and subsequent re-election) as the first representative in 100 years for Fullerton's South side and advocating for the need to prioritize constituent interests above personal disputes.

Jung and Dunlap along with outgoing council member Whitaker have publically demonstrated animosity toward Zahra prompting speculation and many rumors. The council members continue to evade answering questions as to what is behind their disrespectful behavior.

During public comment, the majority of attendees voiced their support for



Orange Empire Chorus Sings the National Anthem

The Orange Empire Chorus opened the end of the year city council meeting with the National Anthem and a Christmas song. Men who enjoy singing are invited to join their rehearsals every Tuesday at 7pm at Fullerton Presbyterian Church. For more details, visit, *oechorus.org*.

City Council Considers Appointment of Retired Officer as Interim Range Master

During a recent meeting, Mr. Manfro proposed a resolution to appoint David Benedict, a retired Police Services representative, as the interim range master for the police department. This appointment will ensure operational continuity while a permanent replacement is sought.

Benedict will train current staff and the future range master, utilizing his specialized skills as a retired annuitant. Under California law, he can work without reinstatement, provided he does not exceed 960 hours annually. A typical 180-day waiting period before hiring a retired annuitant can be waived by council action.

Council member Charles thanked the current range master for his years of service. Council approved the appointment unanimously

maintaining the Fair Rotation Policy and endorsing Zahra's nomination. Nevertheless, the atmosphere shifted dramatically when George Bushala Jr. criticized Zahra, repeating previously circulated disinformation.

This prompted an emotional response from audience members, with current and former *Fullerton Observer* editors shouting "disinformation" and "lies" before leaving the meeting.

Despite Zahra's attempts to respond, he was interrupted by Dunlap, who escalated the meeting's tensions by banging his gavel and shouting for everyone to allow Bushala Jr. to continue speaking.

Zahra was eventually allowed to responded to allegations made by Bushala Jr., asserting his commitment to representing marginalized neighborhoods rather than pursuing personal gain. He expressed disappointment over slander regarding his voting record and personal life. He called for the community to reflect on shared values, urging respect and unity.

Charles, representative of District 3, echoed the need for inclusive leadership while reaffirming her support for Zahra's mayoral candidacy. As a professor at California State University, Fullerton, she emphasized the ongoing inequities faced by District 5.

"District 5 has been excluded from the mayor and the Mayor Pro Tem position," Charles stated. "This lack of representation is unjust for our poorest district."

Charles further criticized the influence of wealthier District 1 and District 2 and noted the absence of a mayor from District 5 for the past century. She expressed concern over attempts by some District 1 representatives to stifle dissenting voices.

As the council looks towards a new leadership era, Charles underscored the importance of equity and representation. "This is a fresh start, and we must prioritize fairness and inclusivity moving forward," she concluded.

Zahra echoed this sentiment in his address saying, "This is about our city coming together to ensure everyone has direct representation from the mayor," Zahra said urging both council members and residents to prioritize communal interests over personal grievances.

He cautioned against any biases directed towards District 5, stating, "I urge everyone not to penalize District 5 simply because you dislike me."

Zahra acknowledged the council's history of unity on many issues despite past disagreements on specific projects.

How to contact your District Representative

• District 1: Fred Jung
- Mayor/ Chair
(714) 738-6311

(714) 738-6311 fred.jung@cityoffullerton.com

• District 3: Dr. Shana Charles

Mayor Pro tem

(714) 738-6311

shana.charles@cityoffullerton.com

• District 2: Nicholas Dunlap (714) 738-6311 nicholas.dunlap@cityoffullerton.com

• District 4: Jamie Valencia (714) 738-6311 jamie.valencia@cityoffullerton.com

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

City Council Cuts Raise Concerns Over Transparency and Engagement

notably the continuation of the 6th Cycle Housing Element and a controversial reorganization of the city's policy and advisory bodies.

The second agenda item has raised alarm among citizens concerned about transparency and public engagement. The proposed changes, affecting six of the city's twelve policy and advisory bodies, aim to enhance resource efficiencies and legislative effectiveness. Yet, critics argue that these changes will lead to diminished citizen input in crucial policy decisions.

Key among the proposed shifts is a significant reduction in the frequency of meetings. The Active Transportation Committee (ATC) will be reduced from monthly gatherings to quarterly ones, along with the loss of two at-Similarly, seats. the Transportation & Circulation Commission (T&CC) and the Parks and Recreation Commission will shift to bi-monthly meetings. While the Planning Commission will expand by

Two significant agenda items, two seats, it will continue to meet every two weeks. Other changes include the Investment Advisory Committee transitioning from five large seats to direct appointments and the disbandment of the Cultural Arts Subcommittee, with its responsibilities shifting to Parks and Recreation.

Critics have raised concerns about the lack of public discussion prior to these sweeping changes, noting that there has been no community input, press releases, or committees formed to address the reorganization. Council members explained that up to eleven committee meetings, in addition to Planning and Council sessions, could overwhelm city employees and limit the availability of the Council Chamber for other events. However, details regarding what these other events entail remain vague.

"It seems counter-intuitive to reduce the number of meetings and members when more engagement tends to lead to greater effectiveness," said one community advocate.

Recent data suggests that the cuts could undermine important discussions around active transportation, given that the ATC had already seen seven of its scheduled monthly meetings canceled in 2024. With pressing issues regarding the safety of bicyclists and pedestrians left largely unaddressed, the community feels that diminishing opportunities for dialogue will further stifle necessary progress.

As the city continues to evolve, many

residents are questioning whether these changes — predicated on the promise of efficiency — will instead erode accountability and responsiveness, which are vital components in fostering effective governance.

The call for increased public engagement and transparency grows louder, emphasizing that fewer meetings may ultimately diminish, rather than enhance, the city's legislative effectiveness.

On the January 7 City Council Agenda

MEETING IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS - 303 W. COMMONWEALTH

- Board Apppointments
- Regional Advisory Body and Workgroup Appointments
- 6th Cycle Housing Element

continued from December 10 Meeting City Council directed staff to remove parcels between Raymond and Euclid along Chapman Avenue and Commonwealth Avenue from the Housing Sites Inventory. Staff adjusted the Housing Element document to reflect the change.

- Reorganization
- 1. Active Transportation Committee
- 2. Cultural Arts Subcommittee
- 3. Investment Advisory Committee
- 4. Planning Commission
- 5. Parks and Recreation Commission
- 6. Transportation Commission

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

- CLIMATE ACTION PLAN
- SAFETY ELEMENT
- ORDINANCE UPDATES
- STREET SWEEPING WALK ON WILSHIRE

APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL WELL AT FORMER CHICAGO MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, 350 SOUTH RAYMOND AVE, FULLERTON The Department of Toxics Substances Control

Toxics Department Substances Control (DTSC) has officially approved a report detailing the installation of two deep groundwater monitoring wells at the former Chicago Musical Instruments (CMI) site, a location with a complex environmental history. The report, prepared by TRC Solutions, Inc. on behalf of Pitney Bowes Inc. and Novitex Enterprises Solutions Inc., marks a significant step in ongoing efforts to monitor volatile organic compounds (VOCs) at the approximately 7.5-acre site California.

CMI operated on the property from 1964 to 1979, during which time several concrete sumps were constructed site was subsequently acquired by United Duralume Products, Inc. (UDP) in November 1979.

UDP's manufacturing processes, involving aluminum sheeting, raised concerns as environmental investigations uncovered VOC contamination in soil and groundwater starting in 2010. This spurred DTSC to issue an **Imminent** and/or Substantial Endangerment Determination and Remedial Action Order.

In 2015, DTSC approved a Feasibility Study and Remedial Action Plan that outlined a comprehensive approach for cleanup, including institutional and engineering controls, soil

within its manufacturing facility. The vapor extraction (SVE), and in-situ treatment methods.

> An Agreement to Perform Response Actions with Novitex and Pitney Bowes followed in 2016, leading to the implementation of various remediation systems. Between 2017 and 2021, the expansion of SVE and the approval for in-situ air sparging operations aimed to significantly reduce VOC levels in the groundwater.

> DTSC greenlighted the installation of additional groundwater wells on November 23, 2021, to better assess the extent of VOCs, culminating in the recent approval of two deep monitoring wells, MW-10 and MW-11. These wells, situated in Zone 5, aim to

enhance ongoing assessments of contamination around the main sump area.

The report emphasizes the necessity for quarterly monitoring of these new wells, ensuring that DTSC remains vigilant in tracking the environmental stability of the site.

In a statement accompanying the approval, DTSC requested that the agency be notified at least ten days before any fieldwork commences to allow for oversight during the operations. As the remediation efforts continue, the collaboration between the DTSC and the involved companies will be critical to ensuring the safety and health of the surrounding community and the environment.

Suspect Charged with Killing 67-Year-Old **During High-Speed Pursuit After Stealing** LEGO Sets in Fullerton OC District Attorney

Anthony Michael Hanzal, 43, of Anaheim, has been charged with one felony count of evading a peace officer causing death, and one felony count of petty theft with two prior convictions. He faces a maximum sentence of 26 years and four months if convicted on all counts. Hanzal is currently being held without bail. He is scheduled to be arraigned on January 6, 2025, at the North Justice Center in Fullerton in Department N12.

An undercover Fullerton police officer saw a man, later identified as Hanzal, grabbing boxes of Legos and stuffing them in a bag at a Fullerton Albertsons grocery store and then leaving the store without paying on Wednesday, December 18, 2024.

The plainclothes officer followed the man's car in an unmarked police car and called for a marked vehicle to make a traffic stop. When the uniformed police officer tried to pull over the suspected thief, he made a quick right turn onto Brookhurst and sped

Hanzal rear-ended a vehicle stopped at a red light and fled the scene, getting on the 91 freeway westbound, before exiting at Knott Avenue in the City of Buena Park. At that point Buena Park police officers took over the pursuit. The high-speed chase continued through the City of La Palma, where La Palma police officers took over the pursuit, reaching speeds of approximately 90 miles per hour on La Palma Avenue.

At the intersection of La Palma Avenue and Moody Street, Hanzal is accused of running a red light and colliding with the driver's side of a vehicle, instantly killing 67-year-old Marianne Mildred Casey who was behind the wheel.

The impact of the crash pushed both vehicles into other cars, injuring other bystanders. Hanzal is accused of being under the influence of drugs at the

"Enough is enough. Actions have consequences and I am mad as hell that an elderly woman is dead because a drug-addicted repeat thief decided to steal Legos from a grocery store and then lead multiple police agencies on a high-speed chase through Orange County in the middle of the day," said Orange County District Attorney Todd Spitzer.

"Marianne Casey's family should be planning their holiday celebrations and instead they are planning a funeral because California's soft-on-crime policies have created an environment where there is no accountability. Those days are over, and while may be of little comfort to Marianne Casey's loved ones, if you commit crimes in Orange County, there will be consequences for your actions and there will be justice for victims."

Responding to an inquiry by the Fullerton Observer, Fullerton Police Departments Public Information Officer Kristy Wells wrote, "The undercover officer was on-duty at the time and working in his police officer capacity. He was alone at the time of the incident in his police department issued undercover vehicle.

"As with any pursuit, the Fullerton Police Department will conduct a pursuit review and internal affairs investigation to make sure policies were fol-

Deputy District Attorney Devin Campbell of the Homicide Unit is prosecuting this case.

KIDNAPPING AND SEXUAL ASSAULT SUSPECT ARRESTED Fullerton Police Department

An adult female reported on December 11, 2024, to the Fullerton Police Department that she had been a victim of aggravated assault, sexual assault and kidnapping that began in Fullerton. The victim informed officers that she had met the suspect a few days earlier through mutual acquaintances. The suspect was alleged to be armed with several firearms during the commission of these crimes.

Detectives immediately launched an investigation and identified the suspect as Arturo Urbina, a 30-year-old Los Angeles resident. Fullerton Police Detectives obtained an arrest warrant.

The ATF Orange County Violent Crime Task Force located Urbina On the evening of December 16, 2024, in the LA County area. They requested assistance from the LA County

Sheriff's Aero Bureau and the California Highway Patrol to apprehend the wanted suspect.

Urbina fled from officers, leading them on a vehicle pursuit that ended in Torrance when his vehicle struck a pole. After the crash, Urbina fled from his vehicle but was apprehended.

No other vehicles were involved in the traffic collision. At the time of his arrest, Urbina was found in possession of several firearms.

The investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information about this incident is encouraged to contact FPD Crimes Persons Detective M. Saenz at msaenz@fullertonpd.org or (714) 738-5361. To provide information anonymously call the OC Crime Stoppers at 1(855) TIP-OCCS or go to www.p3tips.com/913.





Bikes

Hopefully, it has been noted that this page is as light-hearted as possible, and we do our best to point out the many good things that are not news but information that we hope will be a bit on the fun side. This time, however, a quick note to see if something positive can come from a tragedy.

The photo is of a "Ghost Bike," and when we see it, perhaps we will all be reminded that bicycle riders are exposed to dangers that we in our vehicles are not. Please be careful when you see riders on our streets, be kind, be safe.



Downtown Morning Life

Do we mean downtown nightlife? Not this time. KLOS brought the morning team of Mark & Brian downtown back in 2001 for the nighttime Halloween parade, and this year, Heidi & Frank showed up at 6am on December 20 to celebrate the holiday season in our berg. morning radio shows have taken place at the Slidebar. The half-awake crowd was ready to cheer and beer, with contests to match the zany atmosphere of a morning Rock radio show. As you can see, a very mixed crowd showed up to kick off the weekend before Christmas, as we assume nobody went to work after the show. Instant threeday weekend warm up for the upcoming three-day weekends.



The Day of Music 2024 crew

TWTYTW

That was the year that was, and since y'all clamored for a look back, here goes. 2024 began with Saskia Kennedy taking the reins of this publication, and she has endured last-minute additions to this page many times without complaint. Potential legal action over the closure of West Wilshire and a full year of back and forth has not resolved the issue, but we shall soon find out if there is one.

The "Fair rotation policy" for selecting mayor and mayor pro tem was challenged early on, and there are some words about the latest action on that policy here on page 4.

The bricks came tumbling down at 129 W Commonwealth, making way for the Ostrich Egg Distillery, and workers soon had to contend with torrential downpours. Mike Ness was given the keys to the City, and all Social Distortion fans were as amazed and grateful as Mike was that the honor was bestowed on this Fullerton musical icon after so many years of lessthan-favorable treatment of our favorite guitar-wielding rebel.

McClains Coffeehouse at 817 N Harbor began a transformation into a Pho Restaurant, and work seems to have really picked up there recently, so we hope they will soon open their doors in that active part of our down-

The Fullerton College Chapman Newell building headed upwards as the second-floor structure was hoisted up via crane, and the third annual Pride Fest was celebrated with a parade down Wilshire from Raymond Avenue to where else? Downtown of course.



Mike Ness and his wife accept the keys to the city from Mayor Dunlap

Day of Music once again kicked off the summer, this time with well over a hundred performances and 40 venues, bringing the sound of music to Leo Fender's town. Venues included a return to the Hillcrest Park Bowl, which is still under consideration for more frequent music events, the Fox Fullerton, and, of course, the Downtown Plaza, along with many mom and pop shops, parking lots, and even front porches. We celebrated Leo and gave a big nod to Phyllis, his wife, who was a friend to all, sadly, she has been gone for over four years now.

1500 plus citizens signed a petition to keep Walk on Wilshire, and the first Chalk on Wilshire took place, as did many Halloween events, which foreshadowed the upcoming election. A number of local businesses celebrated anniversaries, from one year to 50 years and many in between, and a Joshua Tree took root at the Arboretum.

That wraps it up, and as we did this review, we discovered a lot more went on downtown than we remembered, so



This Is New

What is new, the year? Yes, or so it is said by those who invent these things. How strange that we spend months quivering in anticipation of "The Holiday Season," and then, the day after Christmas, we quickly move on, clearing out the leftover bits of wrapping paper that made their way under and behind the couch, having one last nog and a plate of leftovers, giving the boot to the last relative who spent one day too many hanging around, desperately trying to find space for all the new stuff we have, and relaxing, knowing that soon the next big day is simply about blowing off steam, imbibing, wearing funny hats and making funny noises, all within the bounds of normalcy for the day.

Now that that too is over, we down-

town goers can spend a week keeping our resolutions intact before we settle in and begin to think about what this year will bring. Will the new businesses that just popped up be successful? Will the new stuff we heard about come to fruition?

Whenever there is a "New In Town" paragraph here, that usually means someone moved on and someone moved in. We poked around a bit to see how our merchants and restaurant folks fared in the last month of 2024, and as expected, it was mixed. Some had a year that was good or better than last year, and others are struggling to grow their businesses. It's hard to imagine that 2024 is gone, and we are getting close to burning up a full one-fourth of this century already. Let's hope we did something good with it and will continue to do so.

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





This time: Where is this, and what is happening?

Last time:

It looks like we are the only ones who have had a tour of the Fullerton Police Department clock tower and saw the vintage striped jail uniforms in storage, the secluded room with direct contact to the cells below, and secrets we will not reveal.

OUR TOWN CROSSWORD © 2024

"HAPPY 2025!" by Valerie Brickey (answer key on page 19)

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62	\vdash	\vdash	\vdash		63	\vdash	\vdash	\vdash	T	64		\vdash	\vdash	\vdash
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68	\vdash	\vdash			69	\vdash	\vdash	\vdash		70	\vdash	\vdash	\vdash	\vdash

ACROSS

- 1. Model wood
- 6. ___ monster
- 10. LAX info.
- 13. "Let me buy you
- 14. Whitaker's Oscar-winning role
- 15. Bordeaux bestie
- 16. Football team to root for in 2025
- 18. Archaeological sites
- 19. No-frills grocery chain that collects a deposit for a shopping cart
- 20. Cagney's TV partner
- 21. Plains native
- 22. Confidentiality contract, briefly
- 24. Beach to visit in 2025
- 26. TV show to stream in 2025
- 30. Jackson 5 member

1. "Munich" star Eric

5. Prince Valiant's son

9. "In spite of all that "

12. Turn back to zero

23. Graduate's document

28. Cry over spilled milk?

27. Millions of years

25. Microsoft operating system

26. Cancelled at Cape Canaveral

29. "Leather and ____" (1981 Stevie Nicks/Don Henley hit)

10. "Did they leave without me?"

2. Biblical brother

4. Going out with

6. Apple variety

7. Apple variety

8. Kind of closet

11. mortis

17. Harsh light

15. Early

- 31. Cry at fireworks
- 32. ___ Corps
- 35. Woman's name backward or forward
- 38. Knot

3. Blue

- 40. Subway alternative
- 41. Deplete
- 42. Bone: Prefix
- 43. The gold, in Guatemala
- 45. General with a Chinese dish named for him
- 46. "Look ____, I'm Sandra Dee"
- 48. FDR's plan to review in 2025
- 50. Music to listen to in 2025
- 53. PreCheck org.
- 54. "Dies ____" (hymn)
- 55. W.W. II torpedo vessel
- 58. Wisc. neighbor
- 62. Where Southwest Airlines is LUV
- 63. Sneaker to wear in 2025
- 65. Rock's Joan & the Blackhearts
- 66. "Magic House": kid-lit series
- 67. Once more
- 68. Enzyme ending
- 69. Benchmarks: Abbr.
- 70. Thick

Down

- 33. Berkeley, briefly
- 34. "The Bear" Emmy winner ___ Moss-Bachrach
- 36. Middle Simpson kid
- 37. Carbon compound
- 39. Share socially
- 44. She played Donna on "Parks and Rec"
- 47. Current and blessed
- 49. Kind of control
- 50. "Teenage Mutant ____ Turtles"
- 51. "Uh...ok"
- 52. Film critic Roger
- 56. Overdue
- 57. Lincoln and Vigoda
- 59. ___ instant (right away)
- 60. Popular CBS drama
- 61. Hawaiian goose
- 64. Fellow

Sign up today for free emergency alerts!

www.AlertOC.org

City of Fullerton Plans Limited Cold Weather Shelters for Unhoused by Saskia Kennedy

The City of Fullerton is working to establish limited inclement weather shelter options for families and seniors (62+) as temperatures drop below 40 degrees or during heavy rainfall. According to City Manager Eric Levitt, efforts have been made to collaborate with various agencies, but securing a provider to operate a dedicated shelter for this winter has proven challenging.

"Unfortunately, there are no similar shelters in Orange County due to the high costs and complexities involved," Levitt stated. In response to these difficulties, Levitt and his colleague Housing Manager Daniel Valdez have developed alternative options following directives from recent City Council meetings.

The city plans to work with two local hotels to offer shelter specifically for families and individuals aged 62 and older when weather conditions reach critical levels. However, Levitt acknowledged that the initiative will have limited scope due to resource constraints. "We currently have approximately \$5,000 allocated from the Housing Fund to assess the effectiveness of this program," he added.

Council Member Ahmad Zahra sent an email thanking Levitt and Valdez for the update on cold weather shelter for the unhoused and agreed that this is a good alternative option. He wrote, "How would families or individuals over 62 know about this program? Also curious, why 62 specifically?"

In response to Zahra's inquiry, Valdez emphasized the importance of prioritizing seniors, who are often among the most vulnerable populations. Citing federal guidelines, Valdez explained that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines seniors as those aged 62 and over. "While we will continue to utilize our local shelter whenever available, this initiative offers an additional option for those in need," he said.

To facilitate outreach, the city will rely on the efforts of Community Outreach Specialists, HOPE Center personnel, and Homeless Liaison Officers, all of whom maintain ongoing communication with unsheltered residents.

As the winter months approach, Fullerton's initiative aims to address the urgent needs of its most vulnerable citizens despite the limitations presented by funding and provider availability

Contact your district representative to support this effort.

- District 1: Fred Jung (714) 738-6311 fred.jung@cityoffullerton.com
- District 3: Dr. Shana Charles (714) 738-6311 shana.charles@cityoffullerton.com

• **District 2: Nicholas Dunlap** (714) 738-6311

nicholas.dunlap@cityoffullerton.com
• District 4: Jamie Valencia
(714) 738-6311

jamie.valencia@cityoffullerton.com

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



For retirees and near-retirees who want to remain fully engaged in life after retirement.

Become one of over 1,100 seniors having fun while enjoying everything OLLI-CSUF has to offer!

OLLI Spring Preview

Saturday January 11, 2025 9 AM to Noon

Ruby Gerontology Center California State University, Fullerton

> Olli.fullerton.edu. (657) 278-2446





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 December 16 Meeting

The December 16 FSD Board meeting began with two new trustees, James Cho (District 2), and Vanesa Estrella (District 5) confirmed by their families and welcomed to the FSD Board. The board voted Trustee Beverly Berryman board president, Trustee Ruthi Hanchett vice president, and Trustee Aruni Thakkur as clerk.

Digital Education Update

Assistant Superintendent of Innovation and Instructional Support, Jeremy Davis updated progress on FSD Board goal 5.4 "promote digital citizenship, ... media literacy and online safety both in and out of school to ensure students use technology in safe and productive ways."

Davis provided a review for the new board members and expressed gratitude for designating this goal, so administration has a clear directive to support students and their families in areas of technology and internet use.

FSD uses "Common Sense Media," "Second Step," with in house created content to educate students, staff and parents about digital citizenship and safe practices while utilizing technology including AI platforms.

The district increased cybersecurity with the 2-step verification for all staff completed and additional firewalls in place for all Google Docs.

In the spring, the district plans to upload additional parent technology use education videos in English, Korean, and Spanish, which covers monitoring of student technology use at home and on private devices. They are experimenting with a new AI app translating involved video transcriptions then utilizing the Korean and Spanish translators to proofread the generated material. It is faster and allows for greater in-depth content.

The district conducted surveys to students and staff concerning new personal device policies and digital safety. Students are negatively resigned to the cell phone ban, "I hate this, but I get it." 70% of staff surveys say the policy improved overall school culture. 94% of students know not to share information or pictures online, but only 54% know that once uploaded, they lose permanent control over images or posts. 88% of students have a trusted adult to go to with media issues and 80% of the students surveyed knew how to report cyber bullying.

The district offers the "Say Something" anonymous reporting system connecting students to a live person when they report a bullying incident, is adapting social media safety lessons. The district has plans for a new escape room adventure at the Hunt Library for older students who use the digital information they learn from these lessons to get out of the puzzle room.

The district is testing upgraded "Safe Share" access programs for grades TK-3 on Seesaw and on Google Docs for older grades. Teachers can share YouTube videos with a new link that removes all comments and ads associated with the video. Parents and teach-

ers still need to watch upper grade students accessing YouTube for research for the associated ads and comments. Parents can watch tutorials on the district website to activate additional controls for personal devices.

The district is exploring a parent feature allowing easier access to a student's browsing history. The district can currently access any school device's browsing history for 90 days, even if the history is erased by the student. There are also a few purchasable programs that alert parents on their own devices when certain subjects and words show up on their children's devices.

The district provides safety information discussions concerning parent control of student technology use including translations in Korean and Spanish. Interested parents need to contact a school's principal or PTA to schedule a session.

The district continues upgrading and testing new educational and safety features in connection with technology and media use at school and home. FSD teachers use technology to accelerate and enhance learning. Students are educated to responsibly use AI and other technology at all grade levels and the district provides support for parents reaching out for help.

Personal Safety Lessons

Deputy Superintendent of Human Resources, Dr Chad Hammett reported FSD is incorporating "No Go" age appropriate, student-based lessons on interactions between adults and youth. The program reviews "go" and "no go" activities including welcome versus unwelcome surprises, keeping secrets, and what behavior children should expect from adults in person and through technology.

First Interim Report

Dr. Rob Coghlan, assistant superintendent of business services, explained the first interim report compares the adopted budget from July 1 to the actual district spending ending October 31. FSD 2024-25 revenue increased from \$146.6 million to \$147.7 million due to lottery and interest revenue.

Expenditures went down \$1.3 million from July's proposed \$148.28 million to \$146.98 million due to health benefit savings.

Currently, the district's healthy reserve of \$26.2 million places FSD in a positive position to pay ongoing bills even with ongoing concerns of declining enrollment, rising healthcare costs, state deficits and federal government responses to inflation.

The board approved the first interim report 5-0.

The board approved the new social studies curriculum, "Studies Weekly" 5-0.

Estrella was excited to vote for a social studies curriculum which presents multiple points of view embedded in the main historical narrative.

Next regular scheduled FSD board meeting is 6 pm January 14.

Fullerton Joint Union High School District November 12 Board Meeting

FJUHSD board meeting on December 10 celebrated girl's flag football teams, covered the first interim report, and announced the retirement of Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Dr. Ed Atkinson in June 2025.

Girl's Flag Football

In FJUHSD's first year participating in CIF girl's flag football, every comprehensive high school team played with two of the school teams placing in the CIF championship rounds. Fullerton Union HS won third place in the Empire League CIF Division 4 and Troy HS won its North Hills League Division 3 championship.

Budget Update

Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, Ruben Hernandez presented the first interim report comparing the June 30 approved budget to the reality of spending up to October 31. Differences in state and federal funding amounts coupled with real FJUHSD expenditures creates budget adjustment. The initial district budget projected \$227.4 million in revenue with a projected \$240.5 million in expenses changing to \$231.8 million in revenue with \$246.3 million in expenses (revenue and expenses are much closer once the books close in September, last year the district spent \$5 million less than projected).

Revenues increased due to greater property tax income and interest rates. The district is budgeting \$2.5 million increased expenses in capital outlay for facilities projects, and \$2.8 million for ongoing mental health services, and increased sports transportation costs.

The district currently has healthy capital reserves and the trustees voted 5-0 approving the first interim report with a positive review stating the district will be able to cover the capital outlay for the next school year.

Administration

Atkinson retires in June 2025, and trustees voted to move Human Resources (HR) Director Mark Miller into the assistant superintendent of HR position beginning in July 1, 2025 with a 3-year contract. Superintendent Dr. Steve McLaughlin called it a "seamless transition" since Miller experienced a "virtual 2-year intensive interview for the position." McLaughlin spoke fondly of Atkinson's 15 years of tireless dedication to the district and promised a transparent job interview process for the new HR Director and HR Manager positions, since FJUHSD HR Manager, Melinda Rodriguez left FJUHSD after 28 years for a new position with the City of La Habra.

At the December 17 FJUHSD Board meeting, incumbent trustees Dr. Vicki Calhoun and Joanne Fawley were sworn in by Dr. McLaughlin. The board approved Dr. Calhoun as new board president for 2025 and named Marilyn Buchi as clerk.

The next FJUHSD Board meeting scheduled is January 14 at 6 pm.

Open Enrollment

Every January, FJUHSD offers students the opportunity to choose their school, if you wish to attend your home school there is nothing to do. This is open to all 2025-26 incoming 9th graders to incoming 12th graders living inside the FJUHSD boundaries. There are rules that must be followed precisely, but if families are interested, please go to FJUHSD home page, and look under "Prospective Students." The opportunity opens January 13 and ends with out exceptions January 31 at 3pm. Interested families can look on the www.fjuhsd.org website or contact elopez@fjuhsd.org with any questions. For all incoming students, high school open houses begin on January 9 and run through January 23 (for details go to the *fjuhsd.org* website).



FULLERTON JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

1051 W. Bastanchury Road, Fullerton, CA 92833 www.fjuhsd.org

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.

Traditions by Tegan, 7th grade

New Years

Every January, as the world bids farewell to the old and welcomes the new, people across the globe partake in traditions that are varied throughout cultures. While festivities universally mark New Year's Eve, how different countries embrace this date tells us as much about their culture as they do about the collective human desire for celebration.

The United States: The clock striking midnight signals more than just the passage of time; it signals a "go ahead" for partying. New Year's Eve parties are an institution filled with glittering gowns, tuxedos and clinking glasses of champagne. But the fireworks steal the show. Cities like New York, Los Angeles and Chicago boast stunning displays that light up the sky.

The highlight of the evening for many Americans is the Times Square Ball Drop in New York City – broadcast on T.V. nationwide – where millions countdown the final seconds before the iconic crystal ball descends at midnight. The chaotic optimism of the countdown, with its chorus of voices chanting "Ten, nine, eight..." often carries quite personal promises of change.

Japan: New Year's is a time of quiet reflection and spiritual renewal in Japan. Known as Shogatsu, the celebration focuses on cleansing and preparation for the year ahead. Leading up to New Year's, families engage in osoji, or deep cleaning, to purify their homes and rid them of bad luck. At midnight, many individuals visit shrines for hatsumode, where they pray for health, prosperity and happiness.

The emphasis is on family, gratitude and starting the year with a clean and sparkling slate, making it a peaceful occasion.

Spain: New Year's Eve – Nochevieja – is a time for feasting, dancing and a peculiar but

beloved tradition: eating 12 grapes at the stroke of midnight.

Each grape represents one of the 12 months, and with every chime of the bell, celebrants pop a grape into their mouth. They wish for good luck in the year to come. It is a lighthearted ritual that carries the weight of centuries of tradition.

In addition to the grape ritual, the evening is also marked with massive parties where music, dancing and laughter drown out the past year's worries. The sense of celebration is intense and palpable as if collectively celebrating can erase the previous year's misfortunes.

Denmark: New Year's Eve takes on an explosive, cathartic tone in Denmark. As the year ends, Danes gather with friends and family to smash old plates against the doors of loved ones' homes.

The larger the pile of broken dishes, the better the year ahead is said to be. This playful custom symbolizes casting away the old and welcoming the new year with a loud, unapologetic bang. It is a loud act of optimism and an outlet for pent-up energy.

The Danes also take part in a tradition of jumping off chairs at midnight – a leap into the new year. This jump is meant to literally "jump over" any bad luck or misfortune.

India: An effigy representing an old man, symbolizing the past year, is burned at midnight. This ritual signifies the release of grievances from the previous year and creates space for the new year. This celebration unites individuals of different ages and beliefs.



New Year by Alicia, 7th grade

Setting New Goals

New Year's is the perfect time for students to set fresh goals and look forward to the opportunities a new year brings. As January begins, there's excitement in leaving old habits behind and striving to become the best version of yourself. Whether it's improving grades, picking up a new hobby, or staying organized, setting goals can motivate you for the year ahead.

One of the most important steps to setting New Year's goals is to make them realistic. It is easy to aim too high and end up disappointed if things do not work out. Instead of deciding to change everything completely, students can start small.

For example, instead of saying, "I will never procrastinate again," a better goal might be, "I will work on starting my homework earlier each day." Small, achievable goals build confidence and set the foundation for bigger successes later on.

Another key to setting goals is to focus on specific areas. Instead of trying to do everything at once, students can pick a few domains where they would like to improve. Maybe one goal is to enhance their abilities in a certain subject in school, while another might be to try a new sport or join a club.

Having goals covering academics and personal growth makes life more balanced and fun. It is also important to remember that not all goals have to be serious
— goals like making more time for hobbies

or spending more time with friends are just as valuable.

Writing down goals is a great way to stay committed. Putting them on paper or in a planner makes them feel more real, and it is easier to keep track of progress.

Some students like to keep their goals somewhere they'll see every day, like on a bulletin board or a widget on a phone. Checking in on those goals regularly, like once a month, can also help to see how things are going and whether any adjustments need to be made.

Lastly, it is important to celebrate progress along the way. Even small victories are worth recognizing because they show growth and effort. If students reach a goal, they can reward themselves with something fun, like a day off from studying or a treat. If a goal takes longer to achieve, that is okay too — what matters is continuing to work at it.

The new year is full of possibilities, and setting goals is an exciting way to start fresh. By staying realistic, focused and consistent, students can accomplish amazing things and make 2024 a year to remember.

National Observance by Mateo, 11th grade

World Day for War Orphans

Far too many children around the world face the unbearable challenge of living their daily lives and growing up without their parents. In truth, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund predicts that roughly 150 million children are orphaned at this very moment. Although there is a wide variety of reasons for this disturbingly high number, one seems to stand out above the rest as of late: war.

Ongoing wars in Europe and the Middle East, among other parts of the world, have left many innocent families in ruin, resulting in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people and dislocating millions more from their homes. Unfortunately, these impacts of war make around 5,700 more children orphans daily, depriving them of the

opportunity to live a safe and prosperous life. World Day for War Orphans, celebrated

annually on January 6, works to combat the increasing number of war orphans by spreading public awareness of the effects of warfare on children while simultaneously creating opportunities for these children to move past their horrid experiences and lead prosperous lives.

World Day for War Orphans was introduced by the French organization SOS Enfants En Détresse, translating to SOS Children in Need. Founded in 1982, their primary goal is to inspire a newfound sense of hope and opportunity in the hearts of orphans worldwide who have endured the miseries and hardships of war and its effects. In

doing this, the organization hopes to establish a foundation for these children to surmount their struggles and build a better future for themselves and their successors.

To fulfill their mission, SOS Enfants En Détresse collaborates with over 60 partner organizations and hundreds of members and volunteers in education, health, and environmental studies to give war orphans the best chances at long-term prosperity.

You can contribute to these efforts during this year's World Day for War Orphans in many ways. One of the simplest ways is by spreading awareness to those around you. By informing others of the dreadfulness of war and its impact on young children, you can encourage them to take part in the effort as well. Additionally, feel free to donate to an organization that helps rehabilitate grief-stricken war orphans and aid in their recovery process.

You can donate directly to SOS

Enfants En Détresse, but there are many other options for you to choose from as well, such as the Children and War Foundation and War Child. Many organizations like these depend on donations from people like you to fund their efforts, so they would undoubtedly benefit from even a small contribution.

With social media exposing the harrowing terrors of war to millions of onlookers and advanced technology making combat increasingly more costly on both social and economic fronts, the impacts of modern warfare on innocent families and young children are more drastic and visible than ever.

World Day for War Orphans serves as a gateway for the community to aid helpless and hopeless children struck down by war in attaining the amenities, education, and support they need to rekindle their hope and experience success and flourishment in the future.



FAST High School Prep Program Prepare for your high school swim season Technique and skills focus Begins January 6th

Scan code for information and enrollment

HITS & MISSES

by Phil Mayfield © 2025





LIKE A COMPLETE UNKNOWN: Two Hits

Like a Complete Unknown is a pretty conventional bio-pic about the real life musician Bob Dylan. Based on Elijah Wald's 2015 nonfiction book Dylan Goes Electric!: Newport, Seeger, Dylan, and the Night That Split the Sixties, it covers just four years between 1961, when 19 year-old Dylan first arrives in New York and joins the Greenwich Village folk scene, and the now legendary 1965 Newport Folk Festival when the "folk singer" "goes electric."

It takes several significant liberties with the facts of those real events, but overall the film feels true to that history. It has a grainy, desaturated documentary look in many scenes and includes actual footage of some historical events – the Cuban missile crisis, Walter Cronkite announcing the death of J.F.K., the march on Washington – usually shown on T.V. as background.

It doesn't hurt that Timothée Chalamet is a dead ringer for the young Dylan. He gets the mannerisms right, the mumbling voice – the sly indirect way Dylan has of dropping often profound comments into the conversation. The movie makes no attempt to sugar coat Dylan's prickly personality.

In one scene, Joan Baez says to him: "You know, Bob, you're kind of an asshole." He shrugs and says, "Yeah, I guess." Chalamet also does an excellent job of showing us the transition in Dylan from the awkward, sometimes insecure 19 year-old in 1961 to the rock star persona he had become by 1965. And the kid can sing.

As can Monica Barbaro who plays Joan Baez. It is a good thing, too, since something like a third of the film's running time is Chalamet or Barbaro or both singing some of Dylan's greatest early hits. Ed Norton as Pete Seeger is also impressive with a nuanced performance that captures both the earnest and suffocating folk purist, but also the open minded person trying to help Dylan follow his own muse.

The film's climax focuses on the dramatic events at the 1965 Newport Folk Festival. Dylan is scheduled as the closing act and the folk purists behind the festival fear he will play a set of his newer "electric" songs. Dead set against it, they see his act as a betrayal of the folk community that nurtured him (someone in the audience yells out "Judas" during the set). But Dylan has made it clear from the start that he is not just one kind of musician or one kind of anything.

A significant scene shows Dylan composing the song "It's Alright, Ma." He's stuck on the phrasing of a particular line, and after several attempts, out comes: "He not busy being born is busy dying."

Dylan spent his whole career "being born" into new things. Early in the film, we are reminded of this theme with a shot of a package Dylan receives from his family back home showing his original name, Robert Zimmerman.

This film is likely to appeal to fans who already know the music and the myth of Dylan (full disclosure, I am a HUGE fan!), but will it appeal to younger audiences who might be unfamiliar with the songs? I hope so. Whichever iteration of the perpetually evolving Dylan you sample, he wrote so many incredibly great songs.

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

Mulberry Street

DINNER: 7 days a week! 5pm to 10pm • Fri & Sat to 11pm

LUNCH: Mon through Sat 11am to 3pm

HAPPY HOUR

Monday through Friday from 4pm to 6pm

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SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE

February 7 - March 16

MAVERICK THEATER

110 E Walnut Ave, Unit B, Fullerton (714) 526-7070 | mavericktheater.com

THE ACADEMY AWARD WINNING BEST PICTURE ON STAGE.

Young playwright William Shakespeare struggles with writer's block on his latest comedy "Romeo and Ethel the Pirate's Daughter". Hope is lost until his greatest fan, the young wealthy Viola De Lesseps, dresses up as a boy and auditions for the part of Romeo.

Viola constantly dreams of becoming an actress but the law forbids women from performing in plays. When Viola is told she will be married to the cold-hearted Lord Wessex she hatches her plan. Shakespeare soon sees through her disguise and they begin a love affair, one they know cannot end happily. Their romance provides rich inspiration for Shakespeare and ultimately turns his comedy into the romantic tragedy, Romeo and Juilet. Adapted to the stage by Lee Hall. From the screenplay by Marc Norman and Tom Stoppard. Produced & Directed by Brian Newell



Recently experienced a loss? Having a hard time trying to cope?

In our grief group, your'll be able to share your feelings in a safe space. Surround yourself and commect with others who have similar experiences and will understand your grief.

SATURDAYS, starting January 4th • 9am - 10am 118 N. State College Blvd., Unit B Fullerton.





For more information:

(c) (657) 200-5533

www.highhopescounseling.org

@HighHopesCounseling

Spirit Circle Divination

January 12 at 6:30 pm Ipso Facto 517 N Harbor Blvd, Fullerton -Person Psychic Event

In-Person Psychic Event with Seance, Spirit Circle, Spirit Board, Ouija, Pendulum Divination, Tarot Reading with Carl Young and Terri Kennedy at Ipso Facto.

Experience a group psychic circle, receive messages via spirit board (ouija), pendulum divination, divining rods, and tarot readings!

Not appropriate for small children. \$15 www.eventbrite.com/e/1112375046709 Limited tickets and capacity available.

Invoke:

January 23, 7:30 – 9:30pm. Muckenthaler Cultural Center 1201 W. Malvern Ave, Fullerton The multi-instrumental quartet encompasses traditions from across America. themuck.org

Western Night

Chili Cook-Off & Dancing February 8, 5:30 – 9pm. Temple Beth Tikvah

1600 N Acacia Ave, Fullerton This is a family friendly event. RSVP by Monday, February 3. https://tinyurl.com/WesternNight Fullerton College Art Department Presents

EVOKE: Focused Perspectives

January 6 - 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 23 from 5:30pm - 8:30pm

Day Trip Out of Town

Jane Austen Day:

January 26, 11am – 5 pm.
The Huntington Library,
Art Museum and Botanical Gardens
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino

Go back in time, and in style, for a Jane Austen-style day at the lovely grounds of The Huntington Gardens.

Though costumes are not required they are part of the fun!

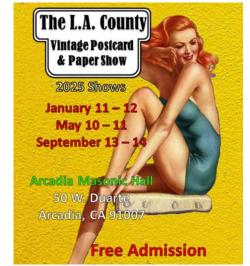
A group photo will be planned for 1pm (approx) on the side porch of the Huntington Art Gallery (Building K on the map).

No tickets are sold for this event. Simply purchase directly from the Huntington Library Art Museum and Botanical Gardens \$29

Plein Air Workshop:

January 24, 4 – 8pm.
4825 Main Street, Yorba Linda
Start the new year with a focus on your health and well-being.

Vendors, Yoga and meditation garden, Nutritional advice, Special discounts on wellness packages. Make 2025 your healthiest year yet! RSVP today (714)3120210



Los Angeles County Vintage Postcard & Paper Show:

January 11, 10am - 4pm Arcadia Masonic

50 West Duarte Road, Arcadia Thirty Dealers will be showing post-cards, paper collectibles, photo images, and ephemera for display and sale! There will be advertising trade cards, valentines, travel brochures, posters, prints, aviation, auto, railroad, and more.

Fullerton Community Center Fitness:

340 W. Commonwealth Ave, Fullerton *all minors must be accompanied by an adult for fitness activities

Fitness Room

Mon - Fri, 7:30am - 8pm & Sat, 8am - 3pm \$5 drop in or Purchase a pass for \$15 (\$5/mo for senior club members).

Open Gym Basketball (12+)

Tues 1 - 3pm, Sat 1 -3pm \$5 drop in or included with the \$15 fitness pass for the month!

Table Tennis

Mon, 11am - 4pm & Thurs. 11am - 3pm \$3 resident drop in fee \$4 non-resident

Pickleball

Tuesday 7:30am - 12:30pm Friday 7:30am - 11:30am \$3 resident drop in fee \$4 non-resident

Billiards Room

Monday through Thursday Open to the public 1:30pm - 6pm Friday & Saturday 8am - 12pm only

*Hours may change due to private events.





FREE Art Workshop Every First Friday

Come by an create with us. Every first Friday 5pm-8pm. Open to all ages. If you're interested, please sign up here:

https://www.artxzbt.com/workshop 151 E Commonwealth AveFullerton



UNVEILING The Wilshire Room

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VIP OPENING RECEPTION

JANUARY 25TH 5:00PM

CATERING BY COLETTE'S, PHOTO BOOTH, CURATED COCKTAILS, EARLY GALLERY ACCESS

January Plant Sale

Event Details: Saturday, January 11 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

Save the Date: Don't miss Veggiepalooza, happening April 17-19



Fullerton Friends of Music presents

Park Brothers Guitar Duo

Saturday, January 18, 2025 at 3:30pm



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.

All concerts are free. Fullerton First United Methodist Church

For more information, visit our website: FullertonFriendsofMusic.org, or call (714) 447-8364





Entrance Gate to Horse Alley off Juanita Cooke Greenbelt Trail and Hot Rod and Pepper on Horse Alley

Horse Alley

is roughly

maintained by

the Fullerton

Parks and

Recreation

Department,

and listed

on the city's

website as a

"Backbone"

recreational

trail.





VIDEO OBSERVER

by Emerson Little © 2025

See videos on YouTube @emersonlittle1901

Hiking Fullerton's Horse Alley

Branching off the Juanita Cooke Greenbelt Trail (in the section between Euclid and Valencia Mesa) is a lesserknown pathway called Horse Alley.

I recently stumbled upon this short trail when I was hiking with my family during the holiday break. Horse Alley is roughly 0.61 miles long, maintained by the Fullerton Parks and Recreation Department, and listed on the city's website as a "Backbone" recreational trail.

It's a dirt passageway that varies in size. Horse Alley is both wide and narrow at different spots along its length, and it stretches between and behind large backyards, therefore fitting the very definition of the word "alley."

As for the horse part of its name, the path is an extension of the Juanita Cooke Trail, which was named after an influential leader of the Fullerton Recreation Riders, a local equestrian group that made this extensive trail system possible.

Parking on the side of the road along Valencia Mesa by a concrete bridge that crosses over the Juanita Cooke Trail, my family followed a dirt walkway that eventually sloped down a somewhat steep hill to the Juanita Cooke Trail.

The entry point was on the northeast corner of the bridge. A brown "Trail Head Notice" sign and a wooden post with a small trail courtesy sign at the top of the incline were indicators that this was part of the greenbelt.

At the bottom of the hill, a flat stretch

of the Juanita Cooke Trail ran straight behind St. Jude medical buildings. We continued walking until we reached an open metal gate next to a wooden fence. I have followed this part of the

Juanita Cooke Trail many times, but I always thought that this gate was an entrance into somebody's yard. However, it turns out that this is a part of the 0.61 miles long, trail system managed by Fullerton's Parks and Recreation Department.

There is no marker at the entrance indicating that this is Horse Alley, but there really should be. After stepping through the entrance gate, the trail turns a corner and is surrounded on both sides by white stable fences. An older sign for Horse Alley can be found further

The trailhead opening is wide enough for both horses

and bicyclists. This section of the path appears to end a narrow street marked by a white "Private Drive" sign.

When we saw this sign, we turned right on the road, crossed the street, and continued along the next segment of Horse Alley, which was marked with a row of tree stumps behind drought resistant plants. There was a corral to the left side of the trail with a green covering over the fence.



Continuing onward, the dirt path curved around the corral and sloped uphill. Following a chain-link fence (over which a thriving orchard with orange trees could be seen in a large backyard), the pathway turned a corner. In this corner was an old wooden sign indicating that this was indeed Horse Alley.

The words, "Horse Alley: C.O.F -Speed Does Not Equal Right of Way" had been carved into the wood along with silhouettes of a horse rider and a hiker.

Other than this wooden sign, there is no other marker indicating what trail you are on, which is why it would be more helpful if the city's Parks and Recreation Department installed another sign marking this trail as "Horse closer entrance gate.

As Walter Clark wrote on the Horse Alley page of his Fullerton Walks website, this "is a quiet, very hidden trail and somewhat disconcerting in that you constantly feel like you shouldn't be there. All about you are backyards; no streets, not even a driveway with cars.'

I mostly agree with this sentiment, especially in a very narrow section of the trail where 24-hour video surveillance signs, armed response signs, beware of dog signs, and private property signs have been posted along a curving wooden fence. Wood fences line either side of a narrow turn in the trail before opening out onto Greenacre Road.

My family followed it a short distance to the intersection of Green-acre and Richman Knoll, where we crossed the street, turned left toward a white fence, and continued on Horse Alley.

Within this last section, we finally encountered horses. After stepping over tree roots and passing more rustic wooden fences and chain-link fences, we encountered another backyard stable with pens housing two horses named Pepper and Hot Rod.

The horses' nameplates could be seen beneath two window openings where the animals could stick their heads out of the stable. Further along, I could smell the odor of horse and goat manure before even encountering them.

One horse was very alert and appeared to be hungry for food, sticking its head over metal fencing as we and other hikers along the trail passed by. There were muddy spots in the path here where I spotted horse hoof prints, tire tracks and paw prints from dogs.

Behind a wire fence with metal posts a distance away, my family saw a grouping of goats resting in their yard, watching us as we walked. Past this point, we followed Horse Alley uphill and emerged on Euclid.

Even though Horse Alley runs through the middle of suburban neighborhoods, it feels as though you're hiking in a more rural part of Southern California since you encounter lush vegetation, relative silence underscored by the sounds of different types of birds chirping (as compared to the sounds you might hear while walking along major streets in Fullerton), and goats and horses resting in pens sticking their heads over fences along stretches of the alleyway. While Fullerton's Horse Alley is hidden on Google Maps, it is well worth



LEGAL INSIGHTS by Kathryn, 8th grade

The Legacy of Dred Scott:

A Landmark Case in the Fight for Citizenship

right to become U.S. citizens, but this right was hard-won. A major obstacle was the Dred Scott v. Sandford ruling in 1857, in which the Supreme Court upheld slavery in U.S. territories, denied Black citizenship, and ruled the Missouri Compromise unconstitution-

The Dred Scott case began in 1846 when Dred Scott, an enslaved African American, claimed his freedom based on his residence in the free territories of Illinois and the Wisconsin Territory with his owner, John F.A. Sandford. He argued that living in these areas, where slavery was prohibited, justified his claim to freedom.

Scott first filed his case in Missouri after being taken from free territories. He moved through state and federal courts, and after losing in Missouri, he filed a new suit and brought his case to the U.S. Supreme Court. As the case moved through the courts, it gained importance as slavery became the nation's most controversial political

By the time it reached the Supreme Court, it symbolized the growing tensions over slavery and its expansion into new territories. On March 6, 1857, Chief Justice Roger B. Taney announced the court's decision against Dred Scott. The court ruled that African Americans could not be citizens and had no right to sue. The court also stated that Congress lacked the authority to ban slavery in the United States.

The Dred Scott decision is widely regarded as one of the worst rulings made by the United States Supreme

Today, people of all races have the Court due to its significant implications for the legality and morality of the nation. The decision was ultimately rendered irrelevant by the 13th and 14th Amendments, which abolished slavery and established that all persons born in the United States, regardless of race, are considered citizens. This ruling, along with the continued denial of basic human rights to African Americans, contributed significantly to the escalating tensions that led to the Civil War.

> Blaming the justices for the unjust ruling misses the mark. The court's role is to interpret the law, not create it, and it doesn't determine the fairness of laws — that's up to the political and legislative authorities who drafted the Constitution. The court must apply the Constitution as originally intended, using the best available information. Thus, a mere act of Congress was insufficient to grant citizenship.

> The Dred Scott decision was overturned by the 13th and 14th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution, passed in 1865 and 1868 after the Civil War. The 14th Amendment granted citizenship to all individuals born in the United States, regardless of race, nullifying the earlier ruling that denied citizenship to African Americans.

> Although it was overturned, and Black citizenship is legally recognized in America today, the case of Dred Scott remains a significant historical example of how legal interpretations can impact social structures and perpetuate injustices. It also contributes to the broader history of racial inequality that the U.S. continues to contend with today.

Fullerton's MOTAL Set to Relocate to New Nonprofit Hub by Anna Emerald

A ribbon-cutting

announced near

Valentine's Day.

The new location

across from

Monkey Business

(a nonprofit

restaurant).

Learning (MOTAL) is relocating to a new nonprofit hub at Amerige and Lemon Street, marking an exciting opportunity for growth in "The Education City." A ribbon-cutting celebration will be announced near Valentine's Day. The new location is near Fullerton's historic downtown, across from Monkey Business (a nonprofit restaurant). MOTAL is one of three nonprofits leasing space from First Lutheran Church, with more tenants anticipated.

MOTAL has been known for its traveling exhibitions in various venues throughout the west for twenty years. The new location will allow MOTAL by funding from the California State

to showcase its fascinating collection of artifacts and engage with the local community. MOTAL President and CEO Greta Nagel expressed a desire for greater awareness of its offerings. MOTAL collaborates with curator Debbie Schaefer-Jacobs from the Smithsonian History and aims to build relationships with local museums and schools. The new site is conveniently located near Fullerton College and other cultural institutions.

MOTAL will continue recruiting volunteers and providing training for college students,

including paid internships, to prepare future museum professionals. The nonprofit is eager to welcome new scholars and visitors, as explained by Nagel, who emphasizes the excitement of sharing special objects and historical documents with researchers and stu-

The museum's collection features educational items from over 100 years ago to the present, including typewriters, original Dick and Jane books, vintage school desks, stereoscopes, View-Masters with reels, a disciplinary paddle, and slide rules. Some objects and publications are similar to those at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History.

Growing its collection has been a collaborative effort for MOTAL, which has received donations from retiring educators, administrators, and community members. Generous contributions include school prizes, photographs, and teaching tools. The larger space will allow more items to be displayed, and plans are in place to acquire new cases and regularly update artifacts.

MOTAL can host more visitors in the

Fullerton's Museum of Teaching and new space but on a limited basis. Events like "Celeb Salons" will still require reservations, and museum visits will be by appointment only to manage attendance and ensure safety.

Since 2004, MOTAL has aimed to engage lifelong learners from ages 9 to 109 through exhibitions, articles, and podcasts highlighting influential educational figures and events. The museum's innovative scholarship and teaching methods have earned it several grants, awards, and accolades for engaging content and interactive exhibits.

MOTAL was conceived by Nagel, Founding Director in 2002, supported

University, Long Beach Foundation, Edison International, and over a hundred individuals. Nagel received an award celebration will be for her concept and a sabbatical for further research, during which she conducted field observations and gathered ideas National is near Fullerton's from museums nation-Museum of American historic downtown, wide. She ultimately prepared a manuscript outlining a vision for an interactive museum.

> In 2006, California State University students and faculty launched the MOTAL exhibit "Horace Mann: Uncommon Visionary for the Common

American," promoting equitable education. This was followed by "Maria Montessori: Honoring the Individual" in 2007 and the development of exhibits focused on the Mendez et al. v. Westminster School District case, including "Memories of Mexican Schools," now housed in the Ninth Circuit Library in Fresno.

The exhibit "A Class Action" highlighted the lawsuit that led to desegregation of California public schools, impacting Brown v. Board of Education. Since 2011, MOTAL has raised awareness about civil rights, receiving a national award in 2013. In 2023, they celebrated California AB 1805, mandating education about the Mendez case, and established a mini museum in Fullerton. They also created the exhibit "Two Roads, One Journey" and launched a mobile exhibition, "Your Baby's Amazing Brain," focusing on early brain development, supported by a \$500,000 state grant.

For more information. visit yourbabysamazingbrain.com. For more about MOTAL, visit http://www.motal.org or contact info@motal.org.



one inspiring day! Call us at 714.738.6575 to pre-register!

The first 150 parties will receive a swag bag at the door.

Looking to be a vendor? https://www.cityoffullerton.com/home/

showpublisheddocument/9375/638676950788470000

MLK Jr. **Family Shabbat**

Join us to craft Kindness Rocks after service to share positity throughout our local community. Pre-Service Snack @5:45 pm Shabbat Service @ 6 pm Dinner & Mitzvah Project @ 7 pm

RSVP by Monday, January 13th https://tinyurl.com/TBTMLKShabbat







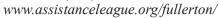
Assistance League of Fullerton

has several groups to choose from. Assistance **ALPHA:** League

Professional Humanitarian Auxiliary is the professional women's auxiliary of Assistance League of Fullerton. This is a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to serve the immediate community and to raise funds.

Contact alpha.fullerton@yahoo.com **Assisteens:** This auxiliary is a group of 7th through 12th graders involved in philanthropic and social events. Offering support for many of the philanthropic projects of Assistance League of Fullerton, such as working in the Bargain Box Thrift Shop on Saturdays, helping with Operation School Bell®, A Day of Authors (Assistance League Professional Humanitarian Auxiliary's fundraiser), Santa's Closet and The Taste of the Town® annual fundraiser.

Contact Assisteens@alfullerton.org (714) 526-5124





The All the Arts for All the Kids Foundation is dedicated to providing skilled Artist/Educators at all of our Programs. They bring a wealth of talent, creativity, and passion to our student artists.

Lend a hand. Thousands of volunteer hours are needed and tasks are available for any skill level.

Please submit the volunteer form to let us know how you can help.

(714) 447-7484 www.allthearts.org



Boys & Girls Club of Fullerton

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Fullerton provide a fun, safe and constructive environment for kids and teens during out-of-school hours. Communitybased and led by professional staff, Clubs across America serve small towns, large metropolitan areas, public housing communities, and Native populations, as well as those who live on U.S. military installations worldwide. We offer programs and services to help young people succeed in school, develop leadership skills, and maintain healthy lifestyles.

(714) 871-1391 www.boysgirlsfullerton.com

Fullerton Friends of Music



Fullerton Friends of Music

Fullerton Friends of Music continues to foster in the Fullerton community a greater appreciation and support of chamber music performances. This "music for smaller spaces" is the genre in which the great composers have expressed their most intimate and profound feelings. As always, our music spans the centuries from the Baroque to the contemporary.

(714) 993-0326 or (562) 691-7437 www.fullertonfriendsofmusic.org

Friends of the Fullerton **Public Library**

A volunteer organization dedicated to supporting Fullerton Public Library. The Friends primarily raise funds from three sources: (1) book sales throughout the year, (2) Friends memberships, and (3) the Friends Bookstore.

> (714) 738-6333 fullertonlibrary.org/ adult-volunteering



Meals On Wheels

Volunteering to deliver meals is just as easy. Call or come in to the office near downtown Fullerton to find out. You will need to show a valid driver's license and proof of insurance for your car. After filling out an application you will be assigned to go out with an experienced driver until you are ready to go on your own or with a partner.

(714) 871-2200. mowfullerton.org



We lead a community effort to provide access to food, shelter, and housing to those experiencing hunger and homelessness in North Orange County. (714) 680-3691 www.pohoc.org



St. Jude Memorial Foundation

Volunteers are a critical part of our success as a nationally recognized medical center. They help to create a healing and welcoming environment, provide non-clinical assistance to patients, families and staff, and support an overall seamless and coordinated experience for all who walk through our doors.

From our hospital's beginnings, Providence St. Jude volunteers have also played a key role in supporting the philanthropic efforts of the hospital helping to raise awareness and funds for the programs, technology and initiatives that have elevated Providence St. Jude.

For more information contact Carolyn Clingan, Manager Services. Volunteer Carolyn.Clingan@providence.org or call 714-992-3000 ext. 2878.



OC United wraps around those who find themselves alone during some of their darkest times. We step into the gap for those who have experienced the breakdown of their most fundamental relationships by providing services and programs for individuals, families and the community. This develops core protective systems which empowers individuals' personal capabilities, interpersonal attachment & belonging, the development of spirituality / faith community, and culture.

(714) 515-3085 ocunited.org



Women's Club of Fullerton

The Woman's Club of Fullerton is truly committed to making a significant difference in the lives of members of our community. We are strong believers that to get more out of life, you must put more into the lives of others. With that in mind, we are proud to serve our community in any way they have need. From raising money and awareness to getting our hands dirty and helping a family in need, the WCOF looks for substantial ways we can be of service. For more information on getting involved or submitting an opportunity for us to help in any WCOF contact the way, Info@WCOF.club

(714) 872-9669 wcof.club



Fullerton Dog Park Foundation

The Fullerton Dog Park Foundation maintains Fullerton's Pooch Park. The Foundation is a 100% volunteer organization. Volunteers are needed with opening and/or closing the park, passing out fliers for fundraising events, and help with fundraising events.

We need volunteers! Contact PoochPark411@gmail.com if you are interested.





Self-improvement by Declan, 9th grade

Properly Washing Your Hands

The CDC

recommends

wetting your

In the flu season, colds and virus containing germs and infections are more common and have affected many schools, families, and individuals around Fullerton, including

One significant method to prevent

and repel illness during these cold months is to wash hands with soap. Although many wash their hands daily, they do not thoroughly lather their skin parts that interact with most *them with soap*, bacteria.

Most people and children song like "Happy Birthday" when washing their hands.

Emphasizing the duration of washing hands causes individuals to focus on repeatedly scrubbing their palms and fingers while ignoring their fingertips, wrists, thumbs, and other parts of the hand. With fingertips and fingernails

often touching other objects, including the

face, unknowing people are the most likely to experience sickness.

The CDC recommends wetting your

hands, lathering them with soap, scrubbing for 20 seconds, rinsing, and then drying. When lathering, it is necessary to reach under the nails, between the fingers, and disregard crucial body hands, lathering palms, back of the hand, and thumbs by surrounding scrubbing for 20 a thumb with one hand and then twisting that thumb. at school are taught to refer seconds, rinsing, Washing hands or applying to a duration of time or a *and then drying*. hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol is necessary when handling waste, food,

wounds, animals, coughs, sneezes, and caring for an ill person.

Cleaning the most exposed segment of our body is essential to stay healthy and eliminate the spread of uncomfortable illnesses.







There is so much talk about Artificial Intelligence (AI). One of the largest AI companies, Open AI, has its headquarters in San Francisco. Wanting to get up to date with AI, I read the book, The Coming Wave, 2023, by Mustafa Suleyman. In it, Suleyman states that, "AI will be operating businesses, producing unlimited digital content, running core government services, and maintaining infrastructure.

"This will be a world of DNA printers and quantum computers, engineered pathogens and autonomous weapons, robot assistants and abundant energy. It represents nothing less than a step or change in human capability. We are not prepared."

What does it do? Just to mention a few. "From our phones, computers, homes, credit cards, and even the tires underneath our cars to reveal our habits and behavior" (Byron Tau, Means of Control, 2024).

AI excels at collecting and processing vast amounts of data from various sources, such as our phones and credit cards, to analyze our habits (Byron

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Tau, "Means of Control," 2024). It can recognize complex patterns quickly and integrate large-scale data from different fields (Amber Fitzsimmons, Ph.D., UCSF Medical School).

In healthcare, robotic surgeries in various specialties have shown fewer complications, less pain, and faster recovery times. Hoag Hospital has performed over 30,000 robotic-assisted surgeries, highlighting the effectiveness of this technology.

AI is also transforming transportation, with companies like Google's Waymo offering driverless cars and Tesla cars featuring autopilot capabilities. Streaming services and retail companies use AI algorithms to suggest content and products based on our previous choices, while cell phone navigation apps like Google Maps and Waze rely on AI for guidance.

On and on I could go for it is just about everywhere. It "blows my mind" of what we can do with Artificial Intelligence. For my next issue I will get into the dangers and moral issues of







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Many people associate cosmetic dentistry mainly with porcelain veneers. However, these treatments can be expensive and may not suit everyone. Fortunately, there are affordable alternatives to enhance your smile without straining your budget.

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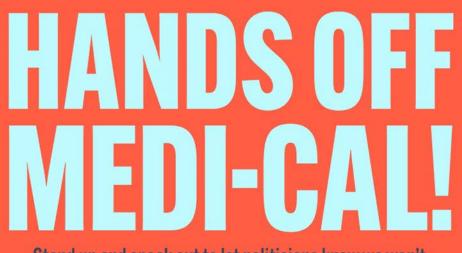
2. Selective Trimming and Reshaping: Provides a quick and affordable solution for mildly chipped or uneven teeth, enhancing their appearance and creating a more harmonious smile.

3. Thorough Cleaning: A professional cleaning can reduce plaque and tartar buildup and improve gum health, leading to a brighter, healthier smile.

These accessible alternatives offer effective ways to enhance one's smile with confidence. Our dental professionals are ready to assist you.

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LABOR UNIONS

Is OCPA Doing its Job? Part 2

California has 25 not-for-profit Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) programs serving over 200 cities and counties. These programs aim to provide greener electricity at competitive or lower rates than investor-owned utilities (IOUs) like Southern California Edison. CCAs handle electricity purchasing for customers, while IOUs manage metering, billing, and distribution.

The Orange County Power Authority serves 290,000 customers - including in Fullerton - and was recognized last September by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory as one of the top green power providers in the U.S. for the second year in a row. In 2023 OCPA purchased about 86% of its energy from renewable sources, but, this will change for the next few years until new sources come online in 2027.

Electric Power Generation Mix*	SCE Power Mix	OCPA Basic Choice	OCPA Smart Choice	OCPA 100% Renewable Choice	
Renewable Procurements	37.6%	10.1%**	58.0%**	100.0%	
Biomass & Biowaste	0.1%	0.0%	17.4%	8.8%	
Geothermal	5.2%	0.0%	9.2%	17.1%	
Eligible Hydroelectric	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	3.9%	
Solar	19.8%	0.6%	4.3%	43.9%	
Wind	11.7%	9.5%	27.1%	26.2%	
Coal	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	
Large Hydroelectric	4.5%	0.0%	24.0%	0.0%	
Natural gas	20.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	
Nuclear	9.1%	27.5%	18.0%	0.0%	
Other	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	
Unspecified Power	28.8%	62.4%	0.0%	0.0%	
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

Above: SCE and OCPA Power Mix Compared
Note: The SCE Green Rate program is not currently available. sce.com/greenrate

OCPA Lowers Renewable Mix to Preserve Cheaper Customer Rates

At the November 25, 2024 OCPA Special Board Meeting the choice of either making changes to the percentage of renewables provided for a few years, dipping into reserves, or increasing customer rates was discussed. The risk of not taking action could bankrupt the agency. According to staff the cost of renewables has surged by nearly 400% since 2022 due to a lag in production and increased demand for clean energy expected to continue through 2026 throughout California.

This situation is expected to improve as more renewable sources, storage, and transmission come online by 2027 and renewable costs are expected to come down. The OCPA Team is collaborating with member agencies to develop local generation projects.

In addition a 0.6 cents/kWh reduction in SCE Generation rates and a 0.5 cents/kWh increase in the PCIA are expected to put pressure on OCPA's ability to offer lower rates. PCIA (Power Charge Indifference Adjustment) is a fee added by SCE to an electric bill for customers who choose to buy electricity from a CCA. (https://californiachoiceenergyauthority.com/pcia-fee/)

According to OCPA CFO Tiffany Law, the ideal plan to deal with these factors without raising customer rates, and allowing retention of credit rating without draining the reserve fund is to temporarily opt-down Irvine and Buena Park from current 100% to Smart Choice at 55% for 2025 & 2026. Individual customers can still opt down to Basic Choice at 3% discount rate or opt up to 100% Renewable. The OCPA plan is to reinstate levels in 2027.

OCPA's Basic Choice at 44% renewable and Smart Choice at 55%-60% both with 40% carbon-free (Large Hydro and Nuclear) will continue offering a higher amount of renewables compared to SCE's 37.6%.

Boardmember Treseder made a motion to direct staff to continue with the "Ideal Plan" option and everyone agreed.

New OCPA Member City

The City of Fountain Valley joined OCPA on Nov 5 and is expected to begin service in 2026 after amendment to the Joint Powers Agreement is approved by the CA Public Utilities Commission and the year-long onboarding process is complete.

The next OCPA Board meeting 10am, Tuesday Jan 21, 2025 OCPA Boardroom, 15310 Barranca Parkway, Suite 250, Irvine CA 92618.

(See board meeting videos for full info at https://www.ocpower.org/boardand-committee-meetings/)

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Description	Pr	Proposed		oposed	Change	Proposed		Change	Proposed		Change
Non-CARE Residential Bill	\$	187.88	\$	193.02	2.7%	\$	198.13	2.6%	\$	203.39	2.7%
CARE Residential Bill	\$	127.18	\$	130.66	2.7%	\$	134.11	2.6%	\$	137.67	2.7%

*These bill impacts exclude greenhouse gas (GHG) revenues.

Above: SoCal Edison Proposed rates 2025-2028

Below: SCE & OCPA Rate Comparison

Domestic	SCE	OCPA Basic Choice (44% Renewable)	OCPA Smart Choice (72% Renewable)	OCPA 100% Renewable Choice (100% Renewable)
Generation Rate	\$0.12282	\$0.11766	\$0.12766	\$0.13266
SCE Delivery Rate	\$0.24013	\$0.23264	\$0.23264	\$0.23264
Surcharges	\$0.00000	\$0.00901	\$0.00901	\$0.00901
Total Costs	\$0.36295	\$0.35931	\$0.36931	\$0.37431
Average Monthly Bill (\$)	\$188.73	\$186.84	\$192.04	\$194.64

Monthly Usage: 520 kWh SCE rates are current as of October 1, 2024. OCPA rates are current as of November 1, 2024.

IRVINE VOTES TO DROP OUT OF OCPA Pending Reforms

Irvine City Council considered issuing a notice of intent to withdraw from OCPA at its December 12 Special Meeting. Irvine spearheaded the formation of OCPA and provided a \$7.5 million loan to launch the agency. In return, Irvine received two board positions. Currently 65% of OCPA customers live in Irvine (21% in Fullerton; 14% in Buena Park).

At the meeting current problems with the Irvine/OCPA relationship were brought up including "lack of critical electric power cost details," lack of timely information to board members by staff, and a recent policy change proposal that would have given too much power to the board majority over member agencies.

Irvine staff recommended either insisting on reforms of the issues identified, keeping Irvine's two board seats regardless of whether loan was repaid early (in consideration of Irvine's larger number of customers), and working with other member agencies to improve OCPA - or consider withdrawing from the agency.

Discussion & Public Comments

Councilmember Kathleen Treseder, who sits on the OCPA board, commented that OCPA is crucial to Irvine's climate adaptation plan. She said that switching Irvine residents from 100% Renewable to Basic for a few years - though regrettable - would still allow for decarbonized energy from large hydroelectric so would still be a benefit as it does not add to climate change. "In general I think OCPA is one of the better run agencies in the county and is financially viable. We do need to make some improvements - but it does help us meet our goals..."

Buena Park Councilmember Susan Sonne, also OCPA board chair, asked that the council talk with OCPA to work any issues out. Mayor Agran said the OCPA is requesting that Irvine opt down from 100% renewable to Smart Choice or Basic Choice for a few years due to several factors in a volatile energy market. Sonne said that the move would be temporary.

Of the 69 Public Commentors, 53 said they wanted to stay in OCPA citing community choice and a cheaper and carbon free basic rate necessary to meet city climate goals; SCE's increasing rates; saving the planet for young generation; having a choice to opt in at any OCPA level or to go with SCE; the importance of transitioning from overpriced fossil fuels; and more.

16 people pushed for withdrawal saying that it would be better for Irvine to spend money directly on solar; OCPA is not transparent and can't be

fixed; and OCPA is just an attempt by government to make you buy more expensive energy.

•Councilmember Mike Carol, one of the people who brought OCPA to the county, said he had given up on the agency and no longer supports it.

•Councilmember Kathleen Treseder said OCPA is in great financial shape with \$71 million in reserves and that all changes suggested in previous audits of the agency had been made. However, she said she has had a hard time getting information from OCPA staff. "I did get the sense from one of the board members that Irvine wasn't given some information because it "over-reacts." So it may be good to have the notification issued."

•Councilmember James Mai moved that Irvine: 1) opt for the Basic Choice Level; 2) withdraw from OCPA in 2025; and 3) direct Irvine's board representatives to keep residents and council informed. The motion was seconded by Carol.

•Councilmember Melinda Liu asked for and received clarification that though the motion was to opt for the Basic Rate citywide - individuals could still choose the 100% rate if desired. City Manager Oliver Chi also said regular reports on OCPA reform progress would be made to the full city council - then in upcoming months council could make the decision to follow through and terminate or continue.

•Mayor Larry Agran said that "By investing in OCPA - we have shorted investment in other efforts like solar rooftops, public vehicle electrification, tree planting. We are environmental leaders and must make a course correction. We saved the city \$70,000 a month by reducing to Basic Choice Level. It seems logical to extend that reduced rate to all residents and businesses. A vote tonight does not require immediate withdrawal but gives notice for sometime in 2025. There exists the possibility of a different outcome if reforms are made," he said.

•Councilmember William Go said he attended a recent OCPA meeting and asked if reforms were made could the stated withdrawal be rescinded? The City Manager said that would be an option.

After four hours of public comments and discussion the council voted unanimously to accept the motion to opt for the Basic Rate citywide, withdraw from OCPA in 2025, and for Irvine's representatives on the board to keep the council and residents informed on any reforms made.



Out of My Mind

by Jon Dobrer © 2025 • JonDobrer@mac.com

History Does Repeat Itself

We are repeating the Gilded Age, the time of Robber Barons and income inequality without precedent. Today's Gilded Age redux is giving me reflux as we exceed the excesses of the last quarter of the 19th century.

Then as now the ultra-rich made and maintained their fortunes by owning transportation networks, ships, trains, canal barges, and most critically the railroads. They owned and controlled energy from coal mines to electricity. They also defended and expanded their fiefdoms by owning or influencing communications from telegraphs to telephones to newspapers. Using their influence and control they could create and exploit xenophobia, racism, patriotism and religious ferver. They could and did, push us into isolationism or

into war, whichever served their immediate interests.

OPINION

The great

plutocrats

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Today a century and a quarter later, little has changed. Our current crop of

billionaires also own newspapers, media corporations e.g. Fox and Sinclair. They own our modern version of the telegraph i.e. satellite communications systems. They control space exploration companies. They dominate Big Agriculture and even own genetic resistance but patents on our food. Then there's Big Pharma controlled by families and

closely held corporations. They create a destructive synergy that identifies problems, spreads fear of them, feeds

our insecurities and then pushed drugs to cure the conditions they helped to

The Gilded Age burned itself out with the political realization that Freemarket Capitalism and Monopolies were contradictions. Monopolies kill the freedom of the market. It took a Republican, and sometimes Bull Moose, Teddy Roosevelt, to begin to protect capitalism from its self-destruc-

> tive excesses Antitrust legislation.

The great plutocrats didn't surrender their perks without resistance but they did adjust. Diamond Jim Brady didn't starve. Rockefellers weren't reduced to begging on the streets. The Morgans and Carnegies somehow sur-And Anderson Cooper, a Vanderbilt legacy,

while still very wealthy, doesn't dominate through his fortune. He barely makes a ripple in the shrinking cable ratings. Still, these legacy descendants of the Robber Barons of the Gilded Age are economically comfortable.

Today's Robber Baron redux may not go quite so easily. A few potential oligarchs have turned towards the light. Bill Gates of Microsoft and Warren Buffet of Berkshire Hathaway have gone from accumulating fortunes to de-acquisition and philanthropy. They are a minority. The Musks and Bezos of the world keep on accumulating wealth and inevitably turn their mania for money into lust for power. How will we cope with America as an oligarchy with Musk, Bezos, Zuckerberg, Ellison, the Koch brothers, the Walton family, Bloomberg, Dell and Ballmer?

Some will do good. Some will not. Most will be seduced by their own power. However, the great question is if we will also get seduced by their power and their means of conveying that power, disguised in anodyne form, to a credulous population? The choice is clear: Surrender to bullies or standup for our democracy.

AT HOME WITH THE HOMELESS

by Andrew Williams © 2025

Needle Exchanges Work

Anyone who says otherwise is ignorant of facts

When I saw this headline on the *Voice of OC* website, "Orange County's Needle Exchange Program is Finished,"1 my mind jumped back in time to the fall of 1991. That's when some brave volunteers, myself included, spent over two years, every Saturday, at the corner of 9th and N Streets NW, offering IV drug users clean needles in exchange for used

The program had been started that year by fellow ACT UP DC member Margaret Cantrell; when she was forced to leave it a year later, I agreed to take over. I had been reading about the success of needle exchanges in Europe and was eager to do whatever could be done to ameliorate the HIV crisis among IV drug users. I coordinated with some friends and my primary care physician to garner supplies of clean needles and sharps containers and, along with Michael Singerman and a few other hardy souls whose names are lost to memory, went out every Saturday morning without fail.

We also had help from ACT UP DC itself, especially its director, Steve Michael. And, most importantly and effectively, we had a friend in the DC Council: Jack Evans, chairman of Ward 2 from 1991-2020 (where our table was set up) who kept the DCPD and the Feds off our backs for the next 18 months, when we ran out of money, resources and luck.2

Memories of this time in my life make this *Voice of OC* headline all the

more infuriating, because it means we're still fighting the same battles from three decades ago. I literally shouldn't have to tell anyone that exchanges work. The evidence is there in a standard Google search. Not only do the rates of HIV and other infectious diseases (like Hepatitis C) decrease among transient and IV drug populations when clean needles are readily available, there is also evidence that these programs can lead to significant decreases in IV drug use overall.

If you don't want to take my word, feel free to do your own

research. You can start with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, who wrote back in 2019 that "participants in syringe exchange programs are five times more likely to enter drug treatment programs. They're 3.5 times more likely to stop injecting drugs.

Research also shows that more than

90 percent of syringes distributed are returned." And if for some reason you don't trust the CDC, you should know that the National Institutes of Health, the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the Georgetown Medical Review and the Veterans' Administration concur with that finding.

Anyone who thinks that ending this program "is a win" for Santa Ana, much less Orange County, like SA Councilman David Penaloza apparent-

ly does, is not using their brain.

And while I applaud Orange County Supervisor Vicente Sarmiento for saying that "I don't want to speak ill of the program – I think it has merit. I think it has good goals, good intentions," in light of current circumstances, it reads like damning with faint praise.

I do agree with Councilman Penaloza that "other cities have to step up to the plate" and that providing needle exchanges "doesn't solve the problem" of IV drug use. But the latter statement is a specious argument: exchanges were never intended to be the

whole solution, but one stretcher of an umbrella approach to dealing with IV drug use, and Penaloza is being disingenuous when he says this because he should damn well know by now that no societal problems yield to a single, simple solution. That's taking Occam's Razor to an utterly absurd extreme.

So, yes, I believe the Harm Reduction Institute should be allowed to set up shop – not just in Santa Ana, but in cities throughout the county. And it should be teamed with other proven approaches to reduce opiate and opioid addiction, such as Ibogaine (there's another search for you all). For those envisioning piles of dirty needles in trash-strewn alleys, you've been watching too many movies or Fox "News" ad nauseum.

Besides, if addicts have nice, clean Sharps containers to put their used works in, why would they bother discarding them randomly? And no, I am not naive enough to think there won't still be random discards of syringesthere was such a spot one block from our little table. But I can tell you that as the weeks went by, the piles of used works decreased in number to virtually

So when it comes to syringe services programs - a rose by any other name -I know they will work, from first-hand experience to decades of data proving their robust efficacy.

And I'll put my personal experience and research up against anyone's drug war hysteria.

1.(https://voiceofoc.org/2024/12/ora nge-countys-needle-exchange-program-is-finished/)

2.(https://www.washingtonpost.com/ archive/local/1992/08/23/activiststake-to-streets-to-fight-spread-ofaids/dfc9908e-d175-48e2-be8c*cefc46f4d9a6/)*

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Deborah Osen Hancock 1935-2024

Debbie Hancock was born on October 19, 1935, in Bakersfield. She passed away on September 17, 2024, in Fullerton.

Debbie graduated from Long Beach State College and earned her Masters and Ph.D. from USC. Debbie taught for ten years at public schools in Bakersfield and Orange County.

While teaching high school in Bakersfield, she was encouraged by a USC professor to pursue a graduate degree at USC. As a single mom, she completed her Masters and Ph.D. in Education and continued to be a avid lifelong fan of the Trojans. She then joined California State University, Fullerton, where she created the '9-90' reading tutoring program.

In 1979, she became the first woman Dean of Education at CSU, Bakersfield, and later directed the California Academic Partnership Program.

After retirement, she returned to CSU, Fullerton, and was active in her church, developing curricula with her husband, Pastor Lewis



Hancock. Debbie was married to Lambert O. Osen from 1954 to 1964 and then to Lewis McClellan Hancock until his death in 1998

Debbie left a lasting impact on her students and community. She led a vibrant life filled with a love for nature, music, and philanthropy.

She cherished summers at Seeley Lake, MT and family reunions in Carmel, and in the 1960s served as Director of a Camp Fire Girls summer camp. She was a skilled pianist and opera lover. She supported various causes throughout her life.

She is survived by her son Lawrence, siblings, a stepdaughter, grandchildren, and nieces and nephews.

Donations in her memory can be made to the Lewis and Deborah Hancock Scholarship in Reading Education Fund: CSFPF Attn: College of Education, PO Box 843730, Los Angeles, CA 90084-3730. Or donate through this portal: https://give.fullerton.edu/deborah-hancock



Happy 100th Birthday!

Margaret Louise Giles is celebrating 100 years with family, her daughter, two sons, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and friends.

Margaret was born on January 9, 1925, in Buffalo, New York. She moved to LA at age 21.

Margaret now lives independently (except for driving) with her daughter, son-in-law and her dog in Fullerton. Happy Birthday Margaret!

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-Fern Bork

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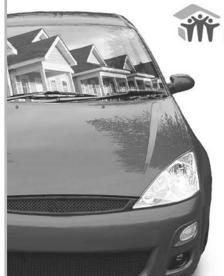
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As you already know, law enforcement is a noble and honorable calling that requires integrity, honesty, dedication, and a commitment to serving our community. With a complement of approximately 192 employees, 130 sworn and 62 civilian positions, our department is made up of men and women who encompass these qualities.

We pride ourselves on our family environment, where you aren't just another number, but an integral part of our mission.

Community Services Leader Series - Park and Trail

Salary: \$16 - \$16.50 Hourly Job Type: Non-Regular (At Will/Non-Benefited)

Job Number: CSL-PT-2023

Department: Parks and Recreation
Applications will be accepted or

Applications will be accepted on a continuous basis and will remain on file for three months from the date received and are reviewed when there is a need to fill a vacancy. After the three-month period, applicants are encouraged to re-apply for Community Services Leader Series.

Economic Development Manager

Salary: \$119,816 - \$152,919 Annually Job Type: Regular Full-Time Job Number: 2024 - Econ Dev Mgr Department: Community & Economic Development

Closing Date: 1/5/2025

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Community Services Leader Series - Community Center

Salary: \$16 - \$16.50 Hourly

Job Type: Non-Regular (At Will/Non-

Benefited)

Job Number: CSL-CC-2023

Department: Parks and Recreation Applicants selected for Fullerton Community Center positions will deliver the highest quality customer service. The Community Center houses the Fullerton Senior Club, Boys & Girls Club of Fullerton, and Fullerton Aquatics Sports Team's indoor aquatics facility.

OUR TOWN CROSSWORD © 2024

ANSWER KEY TO PUZZLE "HAPPY 2025!" on pg 7:



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

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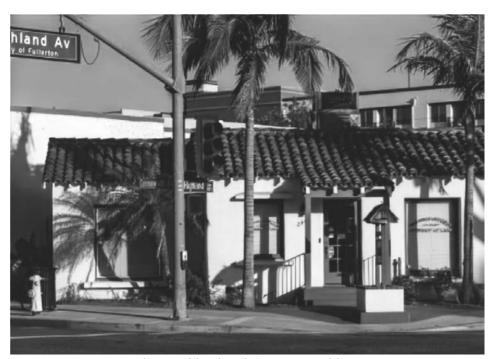


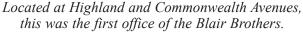
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Crowds packed the Rose Bowl Stadium in 1923.
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FULLERTON HERITAGE PRESENT

Horace Blair Honored at Rose Bowl Kickoff Banquet

After World War II, the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce annually selected as honored guests two members from the two football teams – USC and Penn State – who played at the first Tournament of Roses game held in the newly constructed Rose Bowl Stadium on January 1, 1923. In 1947, notable local contractor Horace R. Blair (1899-1976) was selected as one of the two celebrated football players. Blair was feted at the Rose Bowl kickoff banquet at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium and attended a reunion banquet of Penn State and USC players at the Pasadena Athletic Club in the evening. Blair's teammates on the winning 1923 USC team included Roy "Bullet" Baker, Howard "Hobo" Kincaid, Norman "Swede" Anderson, and Johnny Hawkins, who, like Blair, was also a Fullerton Union High School (FUHS) graduate. In an interview, Blair recalled that the coaches from the two teams almost got into a fist fight when the Penn State team arrived an hour after the game was expected to start, then demanded additional warm-up time. The game ended at night.

During World War I, Blair enlisted in the United States Navy, serving from 1918-1919. In 1920, he graduated from FUHS where he excelled at sports – football, baseball, and basketball – but was a serious student, with his classmates noting in the 1920 year-book: "He works when he works, and plays when he plays, though quiet, he is always busy".

After his graduation from USC, Blair worked for the Union Oil Company before moving into real estate. He established the H. R. Blair Construction Company, and later with his younger brother, Melvin (1912-1983), formed the Blair Brothers. Both brothers were handsome blue-eyed blondes. Separately and with his brother, Horace Blair constructed homes around Fullerton for forty years. Both brothers maintained separate contractor licenses, and the *Fullerton News Tribune* noted that while one brother would be working on a project, the other one would be building another home in a different part of town.

The two brothers listed both their names when advertising new subdivisions. Their first office was located in the angled Spanish Colonial Revival build-

ing opposite the Fullerton Police Station.

The brothers initially designed and built individual homes but later formed the Sunny Hills Investment Company to concentrate on subdivision developments. Examples of multiple Blair Brothers homes will be found on Glenwood, Riedel, Sudene, Oakdale, and Ferndale avenues and Hollydale Drive.

When designing and building homes around Fullerton, the brothers turned away from period revival styles – Tudor Revival, Spanish Colonial Revival, English Cottage, etc. – so popular in the 1920s and 1930s. Their first dwellings were Minimal Traditional homes (e.g., 501 East Virginia Road, 740 West Amerige Avenue), but by the 1950s, the firm was constructing Ranch-styled homes that rambled across large lots.

Horace and Melvin Blair's major competitors were William and Richard Jewett (the Jewett Bros.), who were their cousins, but the Blair Brothers homes were significantly larger (three to five bedrooms), pricier, and located in more desirable areas of Fullerton.



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