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Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

ERMA ZINS and Ron Goble are two of at least five nurses that work in the ER department at Placentia-Linda Hospital.

How Placentia-Linda Hospital nurses forge through a night shift

BY VERA CASTANEDA

A nurse's role in a hospital is tough and, in one of the nation's hot spots, the coronavirus made it tougher. Late last month, state health officials removed Orange County from the coronavirus watch list when the county's number of newly infected people fell below 100 per 100,000 residents over a two-week period. But the current demand for medical workers is high nationwide, so much so that some hospital officials requested local public health departments and the state to help bolster their staffing. A shortage of medical workers existed before the pandemic, and a surge in cases made it worse. In July, active-duty military doctors, nurses and other providers were sent to eight California hospitals to assist with coronavirus cases in Lodi,

Fresno, Stockton, Rancho Mirage and Visalia. If you ask registered nurses what it's like to work nowadays, the common answer is what you would imagine. Busy and exhausting. Those are the adjectives that four Placentia-Linda Hospital nurses agreed on to describe working in the emergency department. The group of nurses, who come from military backgrounds, found their calling and have been at it for more than a decade. "Sometimes I get lucky on my shift and we do a team approach where the charge nurse or a co-worker of mine will gown up with me, and we'll knock everything out. And that really does help a lot," said Erma Zins, who served in the U.S. Air Force for 16 years and as a nurse for 20 years.

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"I tell them up front that I will be coming back when we have results and when it's time for discharge so they're not wondering, 'Where are my nurses?' We don't have the resources, the PPE or the time to just go in and say, 'Hi, how are you doing?' "

— Ron Goble

Nurse at Placentia-Linda Hospital

See *Homeless*, page R7

County homeless deaths raise concern

A local pastor believes the rise in fatalities could be due to COVID-19, sometimes in indirect ways.

BY BEN BRAZIL

Homelessness advocates are concerned about the increase of homeless deaths since the pandemic took hold of Orange County. According to data from the coroner's office, 146 homeless people died between April and August. During the same period last year, there were 82 deaths among the homeless.

The Rev. Dennis Kriz believes the rising deaths could be due to COVID-19, the illness caused by the novel coronavirus. The coroner's data doesn't list a cause of death if it's from natural causes. More than 90 of the causes are left blank in the coroner's data.

Kriz has been documenting the deaths of the homeless monthly for the Voice of OC.

The pastor is a vocal advocate for the homeless in Orange County. He supported dozens of homeless people by allowing an encampment on his church's grounds. Now he works with Housing is a Human Right OC.

"Any one death is one too many and the Health Care Agency, in collaboration with our community partners, continues to work on solutions focused on linking individuals experiencing homelessness to the physical and behavioral health and housing resources they need," said Jason Austin, director of the Orange County agency's office of care coordination.

Kriz also believes that the virus may be causing homeless deaths in indirect ways, such as a lack of



Christie's Images Limited 2020

"TAUREAU ATTAQUANT UN CHEVAL," 1921, by Pablo Picasso, priced at \$6,000 to \$8,000.

Picasso's 'The Frugal Meal' among the prints up for auction to help feed O.C.

BY VERA CASTANEDA

At the center of an auction aiming to rake in about \$600,000 is a signature piece by 20th-century artist Pablo Picasso that speaks to the times. A monochromatic man and woman sit side by side. Their fingers are bony and elongated, cheeks hollow and elbows resting on a table with empty plates. The man is blind, and the woman stares directly at the viewer with tired eyes. Picasso's work, "Le Repas Frugal" translated to "The Frugal Meal," is said to depict two acrobats. A struggling artist himself at the time, Picasso had limited

art supplies and refurbished a zinc plate to create the etching. The piece dates to 1904 when Picasso moved to France and settled into a low-rent tenement building. It is part of the Spanish artist's Blue Period, dominated by blue hues and depictions of the poor, sick and outcast. Out of more than 30 Picasso prints in the auction, it's the only work that was displayed for a short time in the home of its once-private owner, Harald Herrmann, CEO of Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County. The rest of Herrmann's collection remained either on public display in museums or in

See *Auction*, page R6

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Survey shows desire to invest in health, social services over law enforcement

BY BEN BRAZIL

As the Orange County Board of Supervisors considers the approval of a new budget, a community coalition released a report this week showing that survey respondents living in the county favor greater investment in public health and social services, while supervisors favor investment in law enforcement.

The report, compiled by the People's Budget Orange County Coalition, was based on the survey responses of more than 1,000 residents.

The coalition is made up of various community groups, including the ACLU of Southern California, Housing is a Human Right OC, Chispa and the Orange County Equality Coalition, among others.

"Orange County's leadership has for many budget cycles denied the very existence of our most diverse communities and their needs while building wealth on the backs of that very workforce," said Pat Davis, a founding member of the coalition.

County spokeswoman Molly Nichelson declined



Photo by Ferin Kidd

PROTESTERS CALL for defunding law enforcement outside of the Orange County Board of Supervisors meeting in June. A new survey by a community coalition shows respondents favor investment in public health and social services over law enforcement.

to comment on the report.

The findings of the report are in line with a nationwide movement to defund police and reinvest in community programs.

The Board of Supervisors had an initial meeting on the budget on Tuesday. The board is expected to take a final vote on the budget at its Sept. 15 meeting.

The report says that residents who replied to the survey support investment of 77% of the discretionary budget to community services like public and mental health, afford-

able housing, rent relief and other social programs, while the Board of Supervisors' preliminary discretionary budget calls for a 17% allocation towards community serv-

ices.

The report also calls for a 10% discretionary budget allocation toward public safety, while the supervisors' budget aims to devote 55% of the budget toward law enforcement agencies like the Sheriff's Department, district attorney's office and jails.

The group said it focused on the nearly \$1-billion discretionary budget, rather than the \$7.5-billion total budget because the board has "total control" over that portion of the budget and local taxpayers fund most of it.

"Adopting a People's Budget will be the first step toward creating an infrastructure and social safety net that has long been lacking," Davis said in a news release. "It will change lives and build a stronger more inclusive system to address the unmet needs of many."

The coalition circulated the survey through its website, social media and the organizations of the coalition. The survey will stay open online for people to fill out.

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Watchdog to probe into use-of-force policies, evidence tampering

Sergio Perez, the head of the Office of Independent Review in Orange County, announces he will be investigating a number of local law enforcement practices, including the mishandling of evidence and the use of psychological evaluations in hiring.

BY BEN BRAZIL

Orange County's independent watchdog recently announced he will be probing into a number of local law enforcement practices, including use-of-force policies, evidence mishandling and the use of psychological evaluations in hiring.

These investigations will be the first for Sergio Perez since he took over as the executive director of the Office of Independent Review in May.

Prior to his hiring, the OIR position sat dormant after being mired in controversy for many years. Some called the position ineffective and claimed it

maintained a too-close relationship to the Orange County Sheriff's Department.

Perez is hoping to restore public confidence in the position with these investigations.

"I'm hoping to show folks what the Office of In-

See **Watchdog**, page R4



SERGIO PEREZ is the executive director of the Orange County Office of Independent Review.

Scott Smeltzer
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Ceramicists take on loss of communication at Muckenthaler exhibit

Muckenthaler Cultural Center

“RHYTHM OF LANGUAGE,” 2020, and “Fellowship of Language,” 2020, installation by contemporary ceramicist Young Shin Kim at the Muckenthaler Cultural Center.

A CLOSE-UP shot of “Poetic DNA,” 2016-2017, by Yoon Chung Kim.



Courtesy of Yoon Chung Kim

BY VERA CASTANEDA

Earlier this year, artist Young Shin Kim reckoned with how the pandemic was taking a toll on how she communicates. She missed conversation, and it reflected in her artwork. She started making bowls using American and Korean alphabets as a symbol to restore communication. Although they may appear jumbled, each bowl contains words with meaning. “I like to use the words that I’d like to have during these difficult times, like hope, family, joy, peace. There are 14 different words — not in order, but it’s like a puzzle,”

Young Shin said. In the installation, the bowls are propped on top of pedestals and corresponding pieces with the alphabet from both languages hanging directly above, casting double shadows on Muckenthaler Cultural Center gallery’s white walls. She primarily uses *buncheong*, a traditional Korean decoration technique for pottery. She’s also taught the technique in the Fullerton center for more than a decade. Muckenthaler’s latest exhibit highlights the work of eight Korean contemporary artists who immigrated to the United States at different points in their lives. And the ceramic pieces featured from

two artists, including Young Shin, address a loss of communication. “Nestle into Nature: Movements Seeking Balance” is Muckenthaler’s first limited-viewing exhibit since the pandemic led to the closure of the gallery. Groups of four at a time, who have made reservations prior to arriving, will be allowed to view the work. Since access is somewhat limited, the curator Sunook Park also put together a virtual show through a video and web page in both English and Korean. The idea for the exhibit was developed last year before the pandemic.

See **Exhibit**, page R7

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AUCTION

Continued from page R1

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“He was a young man trying to find his way, and hunger was prevalent all around him at the time,” said Herrmann. “This print is something that moved me, and I’ve been a merchant of food my whole life. I’ve made a living selling food. Now I don’t sell it. We give it away. But this piece just kinda connects all those dots.”

Herrmann spent 40 years in the restaurant business. He started as a dishwasher at a Marie Callender’s in Orange County at 17 years old. He worked his way up to the point of co-founding Yard House out of Long Beach. He spent 20 years with the brand and eventually took a CEO position with Mendocino Farms. Wanting to dive into the nonprofit world, he joined Second Harvest in March 2019.

When he began acquiring the prints about 20 years ago with the help of local curator Reilly Rhodes, he had planned to eventually sell the collection to fund a portion of his retirement keeping his name anonymous. But this month Herrmann is collaborating with Christie’s, a global auction house, to publicly sell the artwork.

He plans to donate 10% of gross proceeds to Second Harvest. Christie’s will donate half of their commission to Feeding America. The rest of the proceeds will be reinvested in other assets yet to be determined by Herrmann.

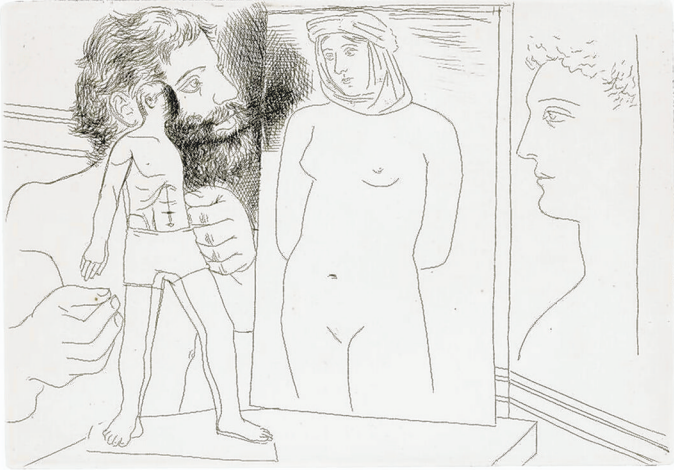
The conversations to launch the online auction, titled “Nourishment for the Soul,” started at the end of the spring.

“It’s such a fantastic collection to offer specifically online but also because of the COVID moment that we are all in,” said Lindsay Griffith, who manages Christie’s prints and multiples auctions. “It really felt like being able to sell this and to have a dialogue was a conver-



Images courtesy of Christie's Images Limited 2020

“**LE REPAS FRUGAL**” or translated to “The Frugal Meal”, 1904, by Pablo Picasso.



“**SCULPTEUR MODELANT**, from Le Chef-d’œuvre Inconnu” by Pablo Picasso, priced at \$1,000.

gence of those narratives during this time of such extraordinary need.”

The auction house is global with sites in Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York, London, Paris

and Hong Kong. Most of the auctions in the U.S. have been modified as phone bids or online auctions.

“We’ve seen a lot of bidding activity globally. I

think there is still quite a bit of interest in the art market,” Griffith said.

Pricing for prints is determined by the amount it most recently sold for in the market as well as the

rarity and condition of the artwork.

Griffith describes Herrmann’s collection as thoughtful and classic. It ranges from etchings, drypoints and prints that span from 1904 to 1937, covering cubism, classicism and surrealism.

There are a wide range of price points in the auction. “The Frugal Meal” is the most expensive piece estimated at \$100,000 to \$150,000. The least expensive pieces, like “Sculpteur modelant, from Le Chef-d’œuvre Inconnu,” are expected to sell at \$1,000.

“[Picasso] was quite a prolific printmaker. So there are a number of them in each auction. I would say, together with Warhol, they account for quite a significant portion of the works offered in our sales,” said Griffith.

The online auction began Sept. 2 and is scheduled to run through Sept. 18.

Although Christie’s clients have sold collections to benefit charities, Griffith said the department donating half of their commission is an unusual circumstance.

Herrmann said he hopes going public will inspire advocacy and hunger awareness to an audience in the art community as the demand for food tripled while about 34% of Second Harvest’s network, such as houses of worship, schools and soup kitchens, closed their doors at the start of the pandemic.

The food bank prepared for COVID-19 in late February with its first order of face masks. By the first week of March, it had a crisis plan for its donors and pantry network including an expected high amount of unemployment through the June of next year.

Previously, the nonprofit relied on about 26,000 annual volunteer visits to help process food. Now, it had to figure out how to move food without volunteers.

Traditional canned food drives turned into virtual drives collecting monetary donations rather than

physical food. Distribution plans accommodated a two-week supplemental food box through the Kids Cafe program, pop-up drive-throughs, food-box drop-offs at homes and senior living centers and a continual push out to pantry centers across 34 cities equipped to build and staff pickup areas.

Second Harvest partnered with Goodwill to use additional trucks and drivers. It brought in 120 team members, who were recently laid off or furloughed, as part-time employees.

Herrmann described the changes at Second Harvest as successful and thriving but also said it’s ironic.

“We’re not in the business of wanting to serve more people that need our support. We’d like to have that line decreased and put ourselves out of business. That would be success. So it’s a strange paradigm,” Herrmann said.

He notes that although the news isn’t covering cars lining up for food as often as the beginning of the pandemic, there is still a food crisis, and it’s far from over.

In February, Second Harvest moved 2.2 million pounds of food to about 249,000 O.C. residents. At the highest point during the pandemic, 7.4 million pounds of food were distributed. They are currently moving about 6 million pounds of food a month to over 500,000 residents.

“It is a marathon, and we have lots of work ahead of us. There’s a newly vulnerable population of families that were several paychecks away from needing to get in a food line, which has really revealed a risk in our community, especially with lower-middle-class families without paychecks for several weeks,” said Herrmann.

“Children being home-schooled, daycare issues — just all the things that are being thrown at families right now, there’s a lot that we still have to figure out as a community.”

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