

Vigil protests anti-Asian violence



Photos by Raul Roa | Staff Photographer

LOCAL RESIDENTS come out to a candlelight vigil in Garden Grove on Tuesday night to honor those killed in recent mass shootings in Atlanta and Boulder, Colo.

The Tuesday night gathering in Garden Grove also honors the Atlanta and Boulder shooting victims.

BY VERA CASTANEDA

Kim Nguyen, a 64-year-old Westminster resident, enrolled into classes at the Vietnam Martial Art Center a few months ago.

"I had nothing to do. I wanted to exercise and learn to protect myself," the retiree said.

On Tuesday, she was one of a handful of the center's students and instructors teaching personal safety and self-defense tips in front of Advance Beauty College in Garden Grove.

Nailing it for America, an all-volunteer initiative, made up of local beauty and spa industry figures led Tuesday's event in honor of Atlanta and Boulder shooting victims. It started with personal safety tips and closed with a candlelight vigil.

To get out of a wrist hold in a self-defense scenario, Kim said you might want to try breaking the assailant's fingers. Twist the wrist being held by the assailant and grab one of their fingers. Any finger will do. Then pull it toward



HEADBANDS SAY "Stop Asian Hate" at Tuesday's candlelight vigil.

the back of their hand.

Kim put her white Crocs to the side as she displayed another scenario where she is lying on her back, and 62-year-old Don Ludolph, a martial art center instructor, stood over her playing the assailant role.

A mix of beauty school students and volunteers from local organizations stood in clusters learning the basic techniques.

"It was important for us to have this because the people that got

killed that day were part of the spa and health industry where our students, who are primarily Asian females, are going into," said Linh Nguyen, vice president of Advance Beauty College. "We wanted to empower them, so that they can learn some skills to be able to feel a little bit better."

These self-defense scenarios aren't outlandish.

Asian American residents in Or-

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Irvine announces new hate crime reporting portal

It comes as the city's police department releases footage of the alleged assault of a 69-year-old Asian man.

BY BEN BRAZIL

The Irvine Police Department released footage this week of a young man allegedly assaulting a 69-year-old Asian man following a skirmish between their dogs.

The department released the footage of the alleged crime, which occurred last Friday at Sierra Vista Middle School, with the hopes the public will be able to identify the young man.

One anonymous tip of several led police on Thursday to the Tustin apartment of Keven Quiroz, who was arrested on suspicion of committing the assault.

Evidence linking Quiroz, 23, to the incident was recovered at his apartment, and an unloaded rifle was found in his vehicle, a press release said. Detectives are investigating whether he owned the rifle legally.

"Based on the totality of the investigation, IPD detectives believe the assault followed a dispute over the suspect's dog being off leash," the press release said. "It does not appear the ethnicity of the victim was a factor in the assault."

The alleged assault comes amid an increase in anti-Asian hate crimes and racism throughout the country. Last week, eight people were gunned down in At-

lanta, including six Asian women. The suspect cited sex addiction as his motive.

Some have linked the racializing of the coronavirus with the increase in hate incidents. Former President Donald Trump referred to it as the "China virus," citing the country of its origin.

Earlier this month, neighbors of an Asian family in Ladera Ranch started taking night-watch shifts after teenagers repeatedly harassed the family at night, ringing their doorbell, yelling racial insults and pounding on the door.

The Seal Beach police this week are investigating a racist letter sent to a Korean American woman.

Orange County has the third-largest Asian American population in the country, and Irvine has the county's largest Asian American population.

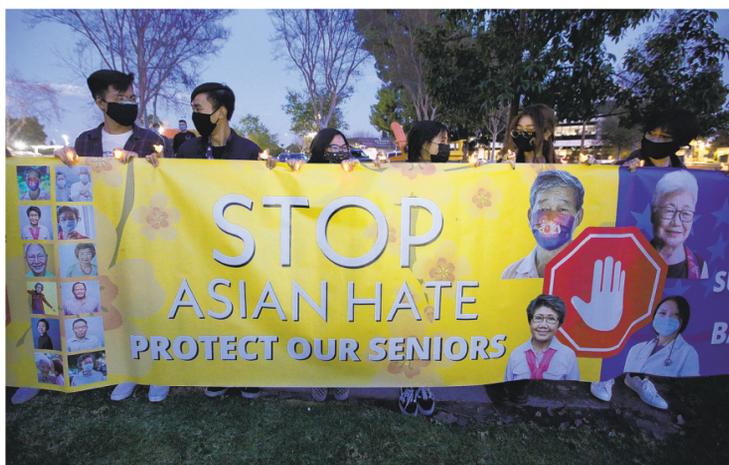
Just days following the mass shooting in Atlanta, Irvine announced it's launching a new multilingual hate crime reporting portal through the police department.

The effort is part of the city's aim to encourage diversity and discourage racism. In late January, the council voted to reaffirm its commitment to diversity and equity with a "We Are Irvine" campaign.

Irvine police spokeswoman Karie Davies said Wednesday the portal provides an option, or "safe space," for people who don't feel comfortable speaking with an officer or if there's a lan-

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DEMONSTRATORS hold a banner at the vigil calling for a stop to Asian hate.



O.C.-based National Guard soldiers assist at Cal State L.A.

They have been assigned with managing thousands of vaccine recipients.

BY DANIEL LANGHORNE

When the California National Guard was tasked with staffing a large-scale COVID-19 vaccine site at Cal State Los Angeles in February, the Los Alamitos-based 40th Infantry Division was among the units that answered the call.

Capt. Jaime Chiem, 37, of Cypress is among the soldiers who have been assigned with managing thousands of vaccine recipients who either drive through or walk into the vaccine site at a university parking lot. Chiem's job is to tweak the operation so visitors have to spend as little time on campus as possible.

The vaccine recipients he meets are usually joining the walk-in line.

"It seems like there's a weight lifted off their shoulders and there's a possibility of them getting back to something of what was before the pandemic," Chiem said. "They really just want to see their family."

Like most soldiers and airmen serving in the California National Guard, Chiem and many other service members working at Cal State Los Angeles are on leave from their full-time jobs to help their state. When he's not wearing fatigues, Chiem works as a public interest attorney advocating for indigent parents at risk of losing their children to the foster care system.

Other attorneys have stepped in to help cover his cases during the mission, which is currently set

to last until the end of April but will likely be extended.

"It's just one of those times that's a unique opportunity that would never have presented itself [outside of the pandemic]; you can make circumstances a little bit better for people," Chiem said.

In 2017, Chiem deployed with elements of the 40th Infantry Division to Kandahar Air Force Base in Afghanistan for a little less than a year. He was also activated with an air defense unit that detected low-flying aircraft used by drug traffickers on the U.S.-Mexico border.

The Cal State Los Angeles site is jointly run by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and

See **Soldiers**, page R7



U.S. Army National Guard photos by Spc. Simone Lara

CAPT. JAIME CHIEM, 37, of Cypress is serving with Operations Company, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion of the 40th Infantry Division at the Cal State Los Angeles vaccine site.

Activists hold car rally in front of Rep. Young Kim's office

They advocate for legal status for 11 million immigrants.

BY BEN BRAZIL

Immigration-rights activists held a car rally outside of Rep. Young Kim's (R-Fullerton) office on Wednesday as part of a national effort to advocate for legal status for 11 million immigrants.

The event was part of Relay Across America, which was launched by immigrant-rights groups CHIRLA and FIRM Action Network.

The effort was aimed at drawing attention and support for the U.S. Citizenship Act, an immigration reform bill that President Joe Biden sent to Congress in late January. The bill would provide a pathway to citizenship for an estimated 11 million immigrants who lack legal status in the country, including people who are temporarily protected under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program.

About 20 cars drove by Kim's office in Placentia in the early afternoon. The caravan was followed by a short news conference.

"The U.S. Citizenship Act is important to me because I've made a promise to my



A MAN CONFRONTS Victor Valladares and Janeth Bucio with the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights during a car rally and news conference in front of the office of Rep. Young Kim in Placentia to encourage her to support immigration reform on Wednesday.

parents," said Karen Osorio, a DACA recipient with CHIRLA. "We shouldn't conform to DACA, we need an immigration reform for all 11 million undocumented people living in the U.S."

"I am a mother to a 3-year-old, Sophia. And I've made a promise to her. I can't imagine being deported and separated from her. I am fighting for her. We demand Representative Young Kim to stand with

immigrants and support the U.S. Citizenship Act." As they spoke, activists honked their horns in support.

At one point, a man who would not identify himself got into a screaming argument with the activists.

Kim's spokeswoman did not respond to requests for comment regarding the rally.

During a phone interview prior to the rally, Janeth Bucio, Orange County

regional organizer for CHIRLA, said that events will be held in other states, but the group has particularly focused on California because of the undocumented population.

Bucio said they chose to bring the rally to Kim's office to let her know that she's in a congressional district that has a very significant amount of undocumented constituents.

The House approved two immigration reform bills



DAVID JAMES, with CLUE, Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice, holds a sign during Wednesday's rally.



CARS WITH immigration reform advocates line up.

last week that Kim voted against.

"Young Kim hasn't really done anything so far to let us know that she supports the immigrant community," Bucio said.

Bucio said CHIRLA also

partnered with St. Philip Benizi Church in Fullerton, the LGBTQ Orange County center and OCCCO for the event.

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OUTSIDE THE U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. A panel appeared to endorse the Central District of California's pandemic prohibition on jury trials in a recent hearing.

Marcio Jose Sanchez
Associated Press

U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals considers O.C. federal judge's first pandemic-related case dismissal

BY MEGHANN M. CUNIFF

A U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals panel appeared to endorse the Central District of California's pandemic prohibition on jury trials during a recent hearing, with one justice saying an Orange County trial judge's constitutional stance against the ban was his way of "sending a message to his colleagues."

Judge Mary Murguia didn't indicate how she and her two colleagues will rule, but their questions showed deep skepticism over U.S. District Judge Cormac Carney's decision to dismiss a 35-count criminal indictment against a Newport Beach physician accused of illegally supplying his clients with prescription drugs.

"He repeatedly referred to his colleagues and sending a message to them. But I'm not sure he did a wholesome review of all the factors that other judges would do," Murguia said during the March 18 hearing.

Still, justices also questioned how state guidelines for business during the pandemic can apply to federal courts, and Murguia wondered if indefinitely delaying

trials violates the court's directive that continuances "must be limited in time."

Murguia, Judge Morgan Christen and Judge Barbara Lynn, a federal judge from Texas, must decide whether to reverse Carney's decision and reinstate the charges against Jeffrey Olsen, who has been out on bail since his arrest in 2017.

Olsen is accused of prescribing opioids to drug-addicted patients, including four who died.

His case is the first of five criminal cases Carney has dismissed because of the Central District of California's indefinite suspension of jury trials, which the judge believes violates the Constitution's guarantee of a speedy trial.

One day after the 9th Circuit panel heard oral arguments via video, the Central District announced all courthouses would reopen effective March 22. In-person hearings in criminal cases and emergency civil cases can proceed at the discretion of judges, but nonemergency civil cases must continue to proceed by video or phone.

See **Court**, page R7

California Love Drop meal delivery donations turn into a forever project

BY VERA CASTANEDA

The combined rolodexes of Wing Lam, Eric Morley and Wendy Ellis made California Love Drop what it is today.

When the coronavirus pandemic began taking a toll on Wahoo's Fish Taco franchise locations spread across California and the U.S., Lam was determined to not let the food in storage spoil.

The business had to furlough or lay off about 80% of staff. Lam gave away as much perishable inventory as possible to employees but still had leftover food that had to be cooked.

"Can you help me deliver some tacos?" Lam asked Morley over the phone.

Morley, whose company Blue C is behind Wahoo's social media, ads and marketing, said, "You never say no to Wing because it's always an adventure and you never know where it's going to go."

On April 12, 2020, California Love Drop made its first delivery to Hoag Hospital in Irvine. Volunteers served about 300 Wahoo's



Courtesy of California Love Drop

THE CALIFORNIA Love Drop crew makes a delivery to healthcare workers at Hoag Hospital in Irvine in July 2020.

Fish Taco meals to healthcare workers.

The crew called their event and brand contacts like Monster Energy, Clif Bar and Antis Roofing & Waterproofing to donate items and help make more deliveries.

Ellis, who worked in events like Coachella and Stagecoach under Golden Voice before moving to KLOS, was one of the contacts who participated early on.

She helped bring in

Drake's Organic Spirits, which produces vodka, to start making hand sanitizers and KLOS's Heidi and Frank radio hosts to donate plastic bottles, which were delivered to hospitals and residential houses. Every week, Lam goes on the Heidi and Frank Show to talk about California Love Drop happenings.

People started calling asking to deliver food to

See **Meal**, page R7



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Construction in Huntington Beach



Raul Roa | Staff Photographer

A GREAT BLUE HERON carries nesting materials at the Sunset Aquatic Marina in Huntington Beach on Wednesday. A number of these large birds are making nests in the nearby trees.

Digital map created in hopes of furthering public awareness of O.C. historic places

BY BEN BRAZIL

Historic places in Orange County could be destroyed or replaced without support from the public. Yet many county residents are unaware of the history that surrounds them.

To educate the public on these places, Preserve Orange County, a historic preservation group, is releasing the county's first interactive, digital map of historic places.

Preserve O.C. has been hoping to develop the map since it formed in 2017. The county's historical commission created a paper map a few years ago.

"It's something that we've wanted to do from the beginning, which is part of educating the public about what is architecturally and culturally significant in Orange County," said Alan Hess, architect and chair of the nonprofit's board. "Unfortunately, people just don't think there's anything historic here."

The map will be online starting Friday. It was developed for the nonprofit over a two-year span by Juan Thomassie, who teaches visual communication at Ohio University.

The map currently includes 292 sites, though the nonprofit will continue to update the map with other historic areas in the county. Preserve O.C. is also asking for the public to recom-

mend sites or buildings for addition to the map.

Of those 292 sites, Hess said 127 are on the National Register of Historic Places and 143 on California's Register of Historical Resources. If a place is on the state register, it's usually on the national register, he said.

Many of the places are not officially designated, which puts them more at risk of being destroyed or modified.

"We started with official, recognized landmarks in the county, but then we realized that wasn't enough," Hess said. "So we have added, by talking to different historians, a number of buildings which are undesignated. Unfortunately, there are a lot of important buildings here that are not designated officially, and that threatens them."

"If somebody wants to save a building but they can't say that the building is recognized on such and such a list, that can often be the death warrant for an otherwise great building."

Hess and his colleagues at Preserve O.C. have been fighting to keep historic places intact. But it can be much easier to convince a city to preserve a building with support from the public, he said.

He hopes that the map will spark interest from the public and will lead to more engagement with the county's historic resources.

One of the most revered historic places that will be on the map that may not be known to the general populace is the Lovell house in Newport Beach.

The building was constructed in 1926 and was designed by famed architect Rudolph Schindler. Hess said it's recognized as one of the most important early examples of modern architecture.

"Schindler, of course, is in the architectural world a very well-known name, but people don't realize that this masterpiece of his is in Orange County," Hess said. "Most of his work is up in Los Angeles. So we're very proud of that."

The list also includes the "Eichler neighborhoods" in Orange, which are part of the style that came to be known as "California Modern."

"Joseph Eichler was a builder who developed mass-produced trap housing, but in a modern style from the early 1960s, and those are on the National Register as well," Hess said. "So it's a whole neighborhood with these really beautiful modern houses."

Hess hopes that the map will help spread his passion for historic preservation.

"People often just think of historic preservation as saving an old Victorian house that's quaint and beautiful, and it may have a house museum in it," Hess said. "But preservation is

about so much more."

Hess said there are economic impacts to preserving historic buildings.

Old Towne Orange, with its Craftsman-designed and Victorian-era buildings, has remained a vibrant destination for locals and tourists.

"Because those buildings were saved, downtown Orange has an economic life," Hess said. "... In contrast, Anaheim virtually wiped out all of its older buildings in the downtown area, and it has been struggling."

There are also lessons stored in these historic places. Like the former Lydia D. Killefer School in Orange, the first school to voluntarily desegregate in Orange County in 1944. The building, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is being renovated by Chapman University.

Hess said that places can still be modified or demolished even if they're on a historic register. He said the county has lost several buildings designed by Richard Neutra, one of the most famous architects of Southern California.

Hess said that sets a precedent.

"No building is safe," Hess said. "Which is why we started Preserve Orange County. We have lost so much over the years."

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How to get the vaccine when you're eligible

BY LUKE MONEY,
HAYLEY SMITH

California officials announced Thursday that by mid-April, all residents 16 and older will be eligible to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

Here's what you need to know as the state dramatically increases the number of those who qualify to get a shot:

THE BASICS

April 1: Residents who are at least 50 years old can get vaccines.

April 15: All California residents 16 and older will be eligible.

The move brings California in line with other states in expanding eligibility. California has lagged behind other states. Alaska, West Virginia and Mississippi already are vaccinating everyone 16 and older. Georgia, Arizona and Texas are following suit this month. Everyone 50 and above is eligible in Florida and New York, and Indiana and Ohio are now vaccinating residents in their 40s.

Nearly half of all Californians are already eligible for the vaccine. That includes adults 65 and older, healthcare workers, educators, people who are incarcerated or living in homeless shelters, essential workers such as those in the food industry or emergency services, public transit workers and janitors, and residents 16 and older who have disabilities or underlying health conditions.

Officials said the state would continue to administer vaccines with a special focus on underserved communities.

SUPPLIES

Until now, there has been much more demand than supply. That will continue to be a problem for the coming weeks. But officials expect to get significantly more doses soon.

State officials said the dramatic move was based on expected increases in vaccine supply.

"Based on the current estimates," state officials said, "California expects to be allocated approximately 2.5 million first and second doses per week in the first half of April, and more than 3 million doses in the second half of April."

California currently receives about 1.8 million doses per week. The state has the capacity to administer more than 3 million

vaccines per week, and is building the capacity to administer 4 million vaccines weekly by the end of April, officials said.

President Biden said last week restrictions on who could make a COVID-19 vaccine appointment would be lifted nationwide by May 1, as supply is expected to be sufficient to meet demand.

California has administered more than 15 million doses of vaccine.

HOW TO GET IT

Options include pharmacies, health departments, your health provider or doctor, community pop-up clinics or by using the My Turn website. Details can be found:

- Online at [My Turn.ca.gov](https://myturn.ca.gov). The My Turn website is accessible to people with disabilities and in eight languages: English, Spanish, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Cantonese, Korean and Japanese.

- By calling the state's COVID-19 hotline at (833) 422-4255 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, or 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Other information and options:

- Californians with disabilities or underlying health conditions that qualify do not need to present documentation of their condition to join the vaccination queue. Instead, all will be required to self-attest that they meet the criteria.

- Earlier this month, the state launched a volunteer page on its My Turn website that enables Californians to assist with vaccination efforts in exchange for a chance at a shot. You don't have to be a doctor or nurse to take part in the program: Nonmedical volunteers can sign up to assist with vaccine registration and administration support or as a site greeter.

- Another option is to seek out standby lists for leftover doses, which could go to waste if not administered within a certain time frame. Websites such as Dr.B are matching people to local providers, who notify them via text message when they have unused supply at the end of the day. Unused doses can become available when people cancel or fail to show up for their appointments.

LUKE MONEY and HAYLEY SMITH write for the Los Angeles Times.

As COVID-19 cases decrease, hunger still looms in Orange County

BY BEN BRAZIL

Though COVID-19 cases continue to decline, a potential hunger crisis still looms in Orange County.

The county's two major food banks — Second Harvest Food Bank and the OC Food Bank — are expecting to deliver millions of pounds of food this year, but they will need to raise millions of dollars in order to fill the county's needs.

"We've still got a food marathon ahead," said Harald Herrmann, chief executive of Second Harvest. "People are going back to work and vaccines are happening. There's a general optimism and confidence that we're starting to turn the corner. But there are still many people that have been economically impacted by COVID, and we're going to be living with that for a while."

"There's a lot of debt, there's a lot of back rent, utilities, there's lost income, lost savings. The need for a food bank and pantry network, not just in Orange County but really throughout the country in every market, will be very, very much needed, because there are many newly vulnerable families."

Herrmann said during a phone interview that they will need to raise \$3.9 million in donations in order to have enough food to meet the increased need. However, the nonprofit's food plan is tied to unem-

ployment, so if those rates improve, then they may not need as much food to fill the county's needs.

The OC Food Bank, which is run by the Community Action Partnership of Orange County, projects that it will need to deliver 45 million pounds of food this year and will need \$5 million worth of funding. CAP President and Chief Executive Gregory Scott said they delivered about 63 million pounds of food last year. The food bank delivered about 23 million pounds of food in 2019.

Scott said the group will get some of the funding from government contracts but will likely have to raise about \$3 million.

"Recovery from COVID-19 is going to be long and hard for a lot of families, so even though we are getting less COVID cases, the unemployment rate is still 2½ higher than it was a year ago," Scott said. "And so along with that comes people taking on more debt or going deeper into debt."

Unemployment could improve as vaccines continue to be administered and the economy opens back up. Orange County is now able to reopen gyms, movie theaters, museums and indoor dining at reduced capacities after entering the less-restrictive red tier of the state's reopening system.

Orange County's unem-



Photos by Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

EMPLOYEES UNLOAD food in November at Second Harvest's distribution facility in Irvine.

ployment rate was at 7.4% in January, according to the most recently published numbers from the state's Employment Development Department. The county's jobless rate was 7.4% in December and 6.4% in November.

Herrmann said Second Harvest is moving about a million pounds of food a week. Before the pandemic, the nonprofit was administering half that amount of food. Second Harvest delivered about 54.4-million pounds of food between March 2020 to January 2021, about an 82% increase in food served compared to 2019.

Second Harvest and the

OC Food Bank will need donations to meet their funding needs.

Scott said that the OC Food Bank had several corporate sponsors and donors step up last year to provide donations. He's hoping those sponsors return this year. Scott said that 60% of the donors from last year were new. They'll also utilize food drives and online donations.

Scott said there is a risk that the OC Food Bank can't secure the necessary funding.

"Many corporate partners came out to help during COVID, and we have to count on those partners to

duplicate what they did," Scott said.

"Some of them are in a position to do so, many of them can't. And so, it is a risk ... And then still shaking every tree and talking to the county about additional Cares Act funding to be able to supply more food is also on our strategy."

Herrmann said his organization hopes to get grant funding. The nonprofit also takes online donations.

The food banks work with community organizations — churches, senior centers and schools, among others — to distribute food to 34 cities in the

county.

But some of these smaller organizations have become strained by the increased need. Herrmann said about 17% of Second Harvest's partners remain closed.

"We're just delivering that now to the partners that have been able to remain open, they've picked up the additional demand," Herrmann said. "So still a full-court press for the county."

In November, Second Harvest, CAP and Waste Not OC formed the OC Hunger Alliance. Among other objectives, the partnership is meant to foster collaboration between the groups by leveraging purchasing power and strategizing distribution efforts.

Scott said it's important for the food banks to work together to end hunger in the county.

"We are really strategizing around where we see the potential hunger gaps are—how are we distributing the food, how do we share resources and make sure we are able to get the food out to the right people," Scott said. "We really show up together as collaborative partners to address the issue."

To donate to Second Harvest, visit feedoc.org/donate-now/. To donate to OC Food Bank, visit capoc.org/food-bank/.

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Photos by Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

DIocese of Orange County Bishop Kevin Vann, right, assisted by Sacristan Vicky Dinh, offers blessings for the Rose River Memorial during the opening day ceremony on Tuesday at the Cultural Center of the Christ Cathedral campus. The memorial, featuring 4,600 roses, will be on display until June 30.

Memorial makes way to Garden Grove



ABOVE: Artist Marcos Lutyens speaks after being recognized with the city of Garden Grove Proclamation, held up by Julie Diep, left, director of the OC Autism Foundation.



RIGHT: The Rose River Memorial, a traveling art exhibit commemorating Orange County's collective loss of life due to the COVID-19 pandemic, is set up at the world-famous Christ Cathedral from March 23 to June 30.

The traveling art installation commemorating hundreds of thousands of lives lost to COVID-19 made its way into Garden Grove.

Last year artist Marcos Lutyens had an idea for a tribute to victims of the pandemic in the form of red felt roses. The result was the Rose River Memorial. It's one of many memorial exhibits of the same installation that have appeared at the Orange County Museum of Art, Santa Monica, East Los Angeles and the Hollywood Forever Cemetery.

"There was a lot of fear and anxiety and this kind of feeling Western civilization was collapsing," Lutyens told the Daily Pilot at the OCMA installation opening. "It started dawning on me that this wasn't going away and that we need to memorialize this."

Julie Diep, director of the Orange County Autism Foundation, saw the installation and thought it would be a great idea to bring it into Garden Grove.

"There's so much division in our community with our belief systems, politics or whatever the reason may be, but we are so united in our grief and more importantly we need to be united in the healing," Diep said.

The foundation sponsored the installation, which was blessed by Bishop Kevin Vann at the opening on Tuesday afternoon at Christ Cathedral Cultural Center. The memorial will be on display at the church's Small Gallery until June 30. It features 4,600 roses along with stories and photos of those who died from COVID-19.

"When people heal, they go to medical professionals or their counselors," said Diep. "But their spiritual guides are also a huge part of the process. That's why we decided to partner up with the Christ Cathedral."

The installation is scheduled to make its way to Washington D.C. to be part of a larger display for National COVID Memorial Day in March 2022.

— From staff reports



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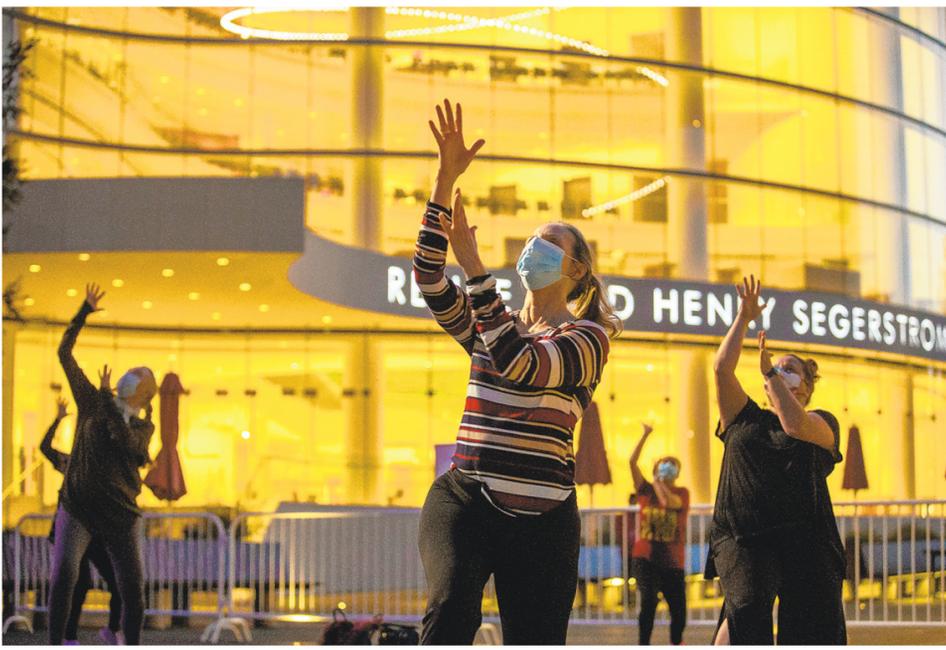
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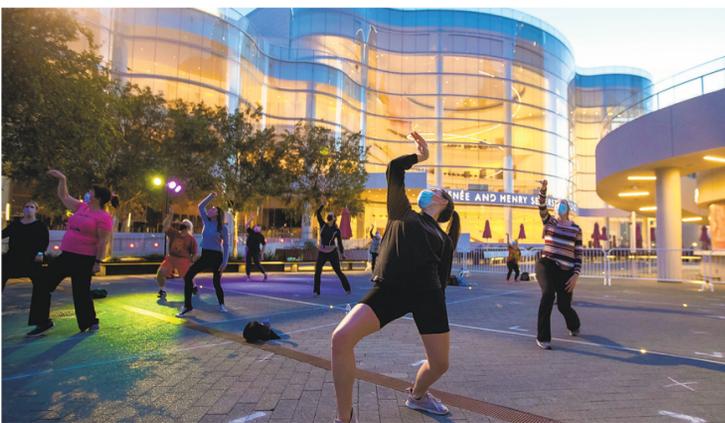
Photos by Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

JEANNE FRANCO, center, and other participants work on choreography from "Chicago" during a Tuesday night dance class at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts Argyros Plaza. The classes are offered every Tuesday in March.



DANCERS participate in a Tuesday night dance class at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts.

BAILEY FRANCO, center, and other participants work on choreography from "Chicago" at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts Argyros Plaza in Costa Mesa.



Segerstrom Center springs back to life with outdoor classes, events

Argyros Plaza outside Costa Mesa's Segerstrom Center for the Arts is awakening from a yearlong pandemic slumber, as residents eager for fresh air and exercise participate in a series of outdoor classes designed to shake the dust off.

Locals lined up Tuesday evening in chalk-marked areas, drawn out to ensure social distancing, for an hour-long movie-themed dance class.

Masked dancers shook and shimmed to cinema classic tunes, as Broadway actress Lauren Lim Jackson taught choreography moves from films like "Chicago," "Motown the Musical" and "Pretty Woman."

Raised in Orange County, and with several film and TV credits to her name, Lim Jackson is currently the director of musical theater at the Orange County School of the Arts.

Tuesday's event was the third installment in a series of dance classes led by Lim Jackson and just one of several new outdoor in-person programs being introduced as Orange County coronavirus cases continue to decline and more people receive COVID-19 vaccines daily.

A similar Tuesday night dance series runs through April, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., where partici-

pants can enjoy some high-energy salsa dancing with Latin dance expert Lyrik Cruz. In May, the weekly classes will take on a Bollywood theme.

In addition to dance classes, Argyros Plaza has also played host to Friday night family movie nights, with "Crazy Rich Asians" appearing April 9.

On Wednesday nights, from April 14 through May 5 at 6:30 p.m., the center will feature "Improv on the Plaza," a partnership between Segerstrom Center for the Arts and South Coast Repertory.

Led by SCR Theatre Conservatory teaching artist Greg Atkins, the workshops promise to help "hone lapsed social skills in preparation for your long-awaited reentry into public situations," according to an event release.

Tuesday night dance classes and Improv on the Plaza classes cost \$10 each, though space may be limited. Movie night tickets may be reserved for up to six people in a "pod" at the cost of \$40.

For more information, visit scfta.org/events/calendar.aspx or call the ticket line from Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at (714) 556-2787. Face masks are required at all events.

— Sara Cardine



HILARY LEIERER dances during a Tuesday night class at Segerstrom.

HATE

Continued from page R1

guage barrier issue.

The portal is currently in English but will eventually be available in Farsi, Korean, Mandarin and Spanish. The department hopes to add other languages in the near future.

Davies said there were seven hate crimes reported in Irvine in both 2020 and 2019, and two hate crimes reported in 2018. There was one Asian-targeted hate crime reported in 2020, one in 2019 and none reported in 2018.

Davies said there were 18 hate incidents reported in 2020 and 11 in 2019. There were three Asian-targeted hate incidents reported in 2020 and none in 2019.

Hate crimes and incidents could be occurring at higher rates than those numbers reflect, as victims of hate crimes can be reluctant to report them to a distrust of police.

A 2018 national investigation produced by the Carnegie-Knight News21 initiative at Arizona State University found that Latinos may not report hate crimes for fear of deportation. It also found that the members of the LGBTQ community were hesitant to report hate crimes due to a distrust of police.

Irvine's hate crime reporting portal is meant to provide a comfortable option for people who may be hesitant to contact the police.

"The reason for the portal is, you see a lot of the comments online that suggest that there's a rise in hate crime and Irvine's not mentioned specifically, but it certainly gives the impression that there may be some underreported information," Davies said.

Those who use the portal have the option to remain anonymous, though Davies said this makes it difficult for police to find the perpetrator of the alleged crime.

When asked whether there's an increasing amount of hate crimes and incidents in Irvine, Davies said there is a "perception" that there's an in-

crease.

"And while that may be true in the county, we aren't seeing the data to support that in Irvine," Davies said.

Mayor Farrah Khan, who has taken a vocal stance against hate crimes and racism in the community, wrote on Twitter last week in support of the portal. She also circulated the news of the assault on her Twitter account this week.

"To our API community members, please know that you are not alone," Khan said on Twitter. "I understand that in these challenging times you may not feel safe or protected, please know that you have friends and supporters here that are ready to help. Do not be afraid to speak up or report incidents."

At a City Council meeting this week, a few residents spoke out in favor of the portal.

"I'm proud that the city of Irvine is taking a proactive stance," Jenn Cho said.

"It is critical that our community has an easy, clear way to report and see the data of hate crimes and incidents, and it is so critical that the voices and stories from the AAPI community are heard. For far too long we have been made invisible, treated as forever foreigners and overlooked in conversations about race. These actions by the City Council get us one step closer and helping the Asian American community feel safe, seen and valued."

"I'm very heartened to see that, Irvine has gone beyond mere tolerance to inclusion, the public commitment to stand up for our minority residents and make sure that they are fully included and have access to the city website is super important," said Melisa Masri. "... It has been disheartening to see the increase in hate crimes and demagoguery nationwide in recent years. Hopefully, with these changes by the City Council it will be clear to residents that hate crimes will not be tolerated here."

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Raul Roa | Staff Photographer

ANNE CHUA LEE, left, and Pablo Bert, both from Long Beach, attend the candlelight vigil in Garden Grove on Tuesday.

VIGIL

Continued from page R1

ange County and across the United States have dealt with a significant uptick of hate speech, harassment and violence since the coronavirus pandemic began.

Although final statistics are still in the works, OC Human Relations Chief Executive Alison Edwards has said preliminary numbers indicate a tenfold increase in hate incidents during the past year.

Two Bolsa Grande High School students recorded themselves screaming "coronavirus" at Asian American students during a school assembly in a YouTube video that went viral.

In the Ladera Ranch neighborhood, teens harassed a family by throwing rocks and yelling racial slurs. A 49-year-old reported hate speech she'd heard in both English and Spanish while walking in La Habra.

In Seal Beach, an 82-year-old widow received a racist letter that said her husband's recent death "makes it one less Asian to put up with in Leisure World." A 70-year-old was physically attacked while walking his dog in Irvine.

For Tam Nguyen, Nailing it for America organizer and president of Advance

Beauty College in Garden Grove and Laguna Hills, the Tuesday event is the third of the same ilk this month.

On March 8, a vigil was held in Fountain Valley to honor victims of COVID-19 and to bring attention to the surge of anti-Asian hate crimes. Then another vigil was immediately held after the Atlanta spa shootings, where a white man killed eight people including six Asian women at three different spas.

"We've seen this over and over again," Tam said. "There is a shooting, there's coverage, there's people rallying and coming together. Then the story just peters out. We didn't want that to happen. We wanted to continue highlighting this ongoing issue of hate that goes back many many decades."

Linh and Tam are siblings and second generation owners of the small family business started by their Vietnamese American refugee parents. Their 76-year-old mother, Kien Nguyen, donated money to skywrite "No Hate" above the business for the Tuesday event. Due to high winds, the skywriting was postponed to next week.

"They say I have COVID, stay away and go back to your home, and I said my home is here. I've been here for almost 50 years," Kien said. "If I need to go some-

where, I'm very careful because I'm scared. I don't feel comfortable and I don't feel safe."

Nailing it for America came together to help prepare strategies to reopen salons and spas safely last year. The grass-roots group also organized a number of drives donating thousands of masks and gloves to healthcare workers as well as meals to medical centers, grocery store workers, senior facilities, shelters and others in need.

The drives, vigils and rallies have brought local organizations and businesses together throughout the year to work for the same cause.

Bolsa Grande High School chapter of Project Vietnam, a service and medical based club working to better the Vietnamese community through healthcare, provided on-site COVID-19 testing during the Tuesday event.

"The majority around here are Vietnamese American, and I feel safe in this bubble, but I know it's not always going to be this way outside. It's better to be safe than sorry," said Pauline Vuong, co-president of the club, as she watched a self-defense demonstration.

About an hour later, Bolsa Grande students also held a banner reading "Stop Asian Hate," at the candlelight vigil near the pond at

Community Center Park where Buddhist leader Ni Su Thich Nu Nhu guided a multi-faith gathering.

A 25-year-old Garden Grove resident wasn't aware of the vigil beforehand, but decided to stop by and pay her respects when she saw volunteers set up an altar and luminaries on the grass. "I wanted to hear what the community was feeling," said Allison, who only wanted to be identified by her first name. "My perspective on what's happening is that it's rooted in systems and structures rather than a few isolated incidents."

Peter Villafañe, 24, and Kaitlyn Rowell, 19, drove to the vigil from Long Beach.

"I wanted to be able to grieve with people in person and listen to my community — to connect," Villafañe said.

Villafañe was holding a sign in a Tagalog phrase translating to "one fall," a reference to a rallying cry during the farmworkers movement of the mid-20th century meaning "when one falls, we all fall."

Attendees, which included Orange County Dist. Atty. Todd Spitzer, stood around the park's pond holding luminaries well past 8 p.m.

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U.S. Army National Guard photos by Spc. Simone Lara

PFC. ROBERT GAVIA, 25, of Oxnard is serving with Intelligence and Sustainment Company, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion of the 40th Infantry Division at the Cal State Los Angeles vaccine site.

SOLDIERS

Continued from page R1

the governor's Office of Emergency Services.

In February, more than 200 active duty soldiers, mostly from Fort Carson, Colo., including medics, physician assistants, nurses, doctors, and non-medical support staff arrived in Southern California, said Capt. Dan Parker, a spokesperson for 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division. The contingent includes many active duty medics who are injecting vaccine doses into people's arms.

Many Californians have seen the National Guard responses to natural disasters and civil unrest in recent years but the U.S. Army's deployment of active-duty soldiers to Southern California is an unusual step, said Shirley Feldmann-Jensen, program coordinator and lecturer for the Emergency Services Administration Master's Program at Cal State Long Beach.

"So much on the system relies on volunteer help and when even the volunteers are tapped they have to ask for additional resources," Feldmann-Jensen said. "Part of the issue is that California has a very large



SGT. HANNAH FORS, 28, of Northridge shows a challenge coin awarded by U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III during her visit to Cal State L.A. on Feb. 24.

population to immunize." She also noted that public health agencies have been woefully underfunded since the Great Recession in 2008.

Sgt. Hannah Fors, 28, of Northridge is attached to the Los Alamitos-based Intelligence and Sustainment Company with the 40th Infantry Division. When the vaccine site first opened, Fors sometimes worked 12-hour days helping guide motorists through lanes.

"Some say, 'it's crazy' and are asking 'why is the National Guard here?' Once they start talking with us they see we're just people," she said. Although Fors is trained

as a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear specialist, she's studying to become a marine biologist. In her 10 years of service, she's been activated for two other missions.

Fors deployed to assist law enforcement with traffic control and security presence during the 2017 wildfires in Northern California. Last summer, Fors was deployed to the Los Angeles Convention Center to prepare for civil unrest following the murder of George Floyd.

She prefers helping with humanitarian missions like the one that's ongoing at Cal State Los Angeles. "Even on the busiest

days, 97% of the people who come through they say this is so organized," Fors said. "Most of the time they're happy to see us and happy to get their vaccine."

Senior citizens were majority of the vaccine recipients in the early days of the Cal State LA site but people of all ages with underlying conditions are now getting in line, Fors said.

Pfc. Robert Gavia, 25, traveled from his hometown of Oxnard to assist with traffic control at Cal State Los Angeles vaccine site. He's taking time off from his job as a banking associate with a JPMorgan Chase retail branch.

Gavia and other soldiers who cannot reasonably commute home are provided temporary housing.

A desire to help his community, mainly instilled by his Catholic education, motivated Gavia to enlist a year and a half ago. He's also following the military service of his grandfather and great grandfather. Gavia has already seen the impact on vaccine recipients.

"I have seen people crying tears of joy," Gavia said. "They say, 'we appreciate everything you're doing.'"

DANIEL LANGHORNE is a contributor to TimesOC.

COURT

Continued from page R2

Jury trials are set to return May 10, but the previous indefinite ban is the key issue the 9th Circuit is considering when deciding whether Carney is correct it violates criminal defendants' right to a speedy trial.

"We don't have an end in sight. Shouldn't we be concerned?" Christen said at the time.

"We don't have an end in sight. Shouldn't we be concerned?" Christen said.

Carney has repeatedly cited the ongoing jury trials in Orange County Superior Court as a reason the Central District should resume trials.

Christen said the difference between federal and state court approaches to trials is a "disturbing hole in the record, if you will."

But she also questioned whether state court trials are safe. "I'm not trying to disparage anybody, but it is a deadly virus — a very deadly virus — in California. Do we have any evidence the state courts

have conducted jury trials safely?" Christen asked.

"There's certainly no evidence to the contrary, despite the government's citation of a few newspaper articles," answered Olsen's lawyer, Deputy Public Defender James Locklin.

The articles include a Feb. 3 TimesOC article in which Carney's colleague at the federal courthouse in Santa Ana, U.S. District Judge Josephine Staton, defended the Central District's trial ban and said Orange County Superior Court isn't properly tracking possible COVID-19 infections after trials end.

She questioned whether "grandmothers could have died as a result" of the trials, which Carney later criticized as irresponsible rhetoric.

Staton is among the majority of Central District judges who support the ongoing ban; U.S. District Judge David O. Carter has previously stated his support for Carney and the minority position of resuming trials immediately.

MEGHANN M. CUNIFF is a contributor to TimesOC.

MEAL

Continued from page R2

variety of groups — first responders, essential workers, seniors and students. The crew, made up of about 60 volunteers, has delivered more than 11,000 meals at 61 locations. The group has expanded its offerings to include face masks, backpacks and toys in addition to meals.

"California Love Drop is one of those things that wasn't built because of a business objective," Morley said. "It was built to take care of people and put that smile on people's face."

The group's operation model has also spread out past the state to Texas, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Nevada.

"The beginning of this year, we talked about how we're doing this much longer than we thought

but there's a need for this," Ellis said. "It's not just a COVID thing. We think of it as making it an indefinite, permanent project."

Lam said even if the volunteers, some of whom are furloughed, go back to full-time jobs, he can still see everybody dedicating a day or so to California Love Drop.

Many potential volunteers have reached out to ask about helping, but the crew has been careful about not having too many people show up for deliveries. Ellis said she hopes after the pandemic is over that the group will be able to open up more opportunities for volunteers.

The crew plans to commemorate its one-year anniversary in April with a delivery to its first location at Hoag Hospital.

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