

WATCHDOG

FROM PAGE 1

2. SANTA ANA'S 10-YEAR WAR ON PROSTITUTION

After thousands of arrests and millions spent, it remains unclear whether the Santa Ana Police Department's aggressive crackdown on street prostitution is effective. Experts argue the initiative focuses on the wrong people and provides only temporary relief.

Author: Keegan Kyle
kkyle@ocregister.com

3. THE BANK, THE SCHOOL AND THE 38-YEAR LOAN

The story of how George K. Baum & Co. pushed California schools into complex bond deals that charged payments to future taxpayers is one of naïve public officials, sophisticated financiers, and laws, rules and guidelines ignored. Just one \$22 million borrowing from 2011 will cost taxpayers nearly 13 times that amount – \$280 million – to repay.

Author: Melody Petersen
mpetersen@ocregister.com

4. HOW NEWPORT'S CITY HALL CAME TO COST \$135 MILLION

A review of the project's planning documents, contracts, invoices and change orders shows how the cost of the project tripled from an estimated \$46 million in 2005 to a final projected cost closer to \$139 million today.

Authors: Deepa Bharath
dbharath@ocregister.com
and Morgan Cook
mcook@ocregister.com

5. ANAHEIM REPORTS DRAMATIC DECLINE IN CRIME SOLVING

No Orange County law-enforcement agencies and no major police departments in the state have logged steeper declines than Anaheim's. Police are unsure exactly what factors may be responsible. They suggested that recent staffing cuts, more gang violence and even incorrect statistics might explain the changes.

Author: Keegan Kyle
kkyle@ocregister.com

6. SHORT-TERM LOANS PUT SCHOOLS AT RISK

As the economy hit bottom in 2009, dozens of California school districts took out risky, short-term loans that allowed them to keep building new classrooms when they could least afford it. A lucrative new source of fees for the school finance industry, the loans have created a house of cards for the schools and their students.

Author: Melody Petersen
mpetersen@ocregister.com

7. OVERUSE OF ANTIPSYCHOTIC MEDS RISKS LIVES OF THE ELDERLY

Federal authorities warn that antipsychotics should not be used on elderly people with dementia. Yet, medical experts and federal regulators say antipsychotic drugs are being used at an alarming rate by nursing homes to chemically restrain hard-to-handle seniors. More than 20 percent of the residents in nursing homes across the country receive antipsychotic drugs for reasons not approved by regulators.

Author: Tony Saavedra
tsaavedra@ocregister.com

8. HOW LOS ALAMITOS HORSE TRAINER GOT MIXED UP WITH ZETAS DRUG CARTEL

Adan Farias, a star horse trainer who once wanted to be an FBI agent, has been charged by federal prosecutors with laundering money for the Zetas drug cartel. After agreeing to testify in the federal court trial of the brother of Zeta 40 (Miguel Angel Treviño Morales), the cartel's top leader, his life is now at risk.

Author: Scott M. Reid
sreid@ocregister.com

9. USA SWIMMING WORKS TO CONTAIN SEX-ABUSE SCANDALS

Under mounting pressure from lawmakers in Washington and Sacramento for its handling of sexual abuse cases, USA Swimming is planning to launch an aggressive public relations campaign designed to distance itself from scandals that have sometimes overshadowed the success of American swimmers at the Olympic Games and World Championships.

Author: Scott M. Reid
sreid@ocregister.com

10. THE ECONOMICS OF THE FADING MIDDLE CLASS

Drawing on four decades of data, the Register examined how the California middle class is losing ground and what could solve the crisis. Although people are better educated and more productive than ever, incomes are stagnating.

Author: Ronald Campbell
rcampbell@ocregister.com

11. UCI DOCTORS DOWNPLAYED RISKS OF SURGICAL ROBOT

Two top UC Irvine surgeons have spent a decade working with a California company to promote a \$2 million surgical robot despite a lack of reliable scientific evidence showing that it is safe or gives patients better results. Federal regulators are looking into a sharp rise in injury and death reports. At least 71 people have died since 2000, according to a recent study.

Author: Melody Petersen
mpetersen@ocregister.com

12. RACIAL DISPARITY IN LONG BEACH POT ARRESTS

As Long Beach police notched an extraordinary number of marijuana arrests in the past decade, the pressure was particularly intense on black residents. Though they account for 13 percent of the city's population, crime data show blacks were arrested in 44 percent of the Police Department's pot cases.

Author: Keegan Kyle
kkyle@ocregister.com

13. SCIENTISTS: RULES ON LEAKING TANKS WORRISOME

Concerned local regulators say new state standards allow gas station owners and oil companies to walk away from contaminated sites without documenting how far and deep chemicals have spread from tanks that leaked, sometimes decades ago.

Author: Kellie Mejdric
kmejdric@ocregister.com

14. MEDICARE PART D: PROFIT TRUMPS PUBLIC INTEREST

The promise that free-market competition among insurance companies would result in the lowest drug prices for seniors and taxpayers has proven mostly false. For example: The elderly and disabled have unwittingly paid millions more than necessary because of the federal government's failure to control misleading sales pitches, profiteering, fraud and waste.

Author: Morgan Cook
mcook@ocregister.com

Let us know how we are doing! For more information on the Watchdog team, go to ocregister.com/investigations and scroll to the "Who We Are" section.



MARK EADES, ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Jeff Reitz and Tonya Mickesh stand in front of the Mad Tea Party ride on their 510th straight day of visiting Disneyland on May 24, 2013.

Half of Disneyland daily duo says 'Done!'

While Huntington Beach man will keep at it, Lake Forest woman says she needs to focus elsewhere.

ANAHEIM • Going to Disneyland every day is a thing of the past for Tonya Mickesh.

Mickesh, 46, and friend Jeff Reitz went to Disneyland every day in 2012, and continued their streak through 2013.

But after visiting the park on New Year's Day, Mickesh pulled the plug – Thursday was the first day she has not gone in more than two years.

"It's time for something else," she said. "I have a lot of family issues going on; my aunt is ill, and I'm taking turns caring for her."

In 2012, the pair vowed to make it the whole year – and just kept going.

When they started the streak, both were unemployed. Mickesh, who lives in Lake Forest, eventually got a job working for a decorating company, while Reitz found a job at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Long Beach. Reitz usually visits in the evenings during the week. Mickesh was laid off last January, and continues looking for work.

Reitz, 41, of Huntington Beach said he plans to continue to visit the park daily.

"September 25th would be 1,000 days, I might go for that," he said.

Suzi Brown, a Disneyland Resort spokeswoman, said park officials did not know of anyone else who has gone through the turnstiles every day for two years.

"We thank Jeff and Tonya for being among our most loyal fans and congratulate them on their achievement," she said.

The two were dating when they started the quest in 2012. Now, they are friends.

After reaching their goal of attending every day in 2012, park officials treated them to a night in the Dream Suite, above the Pirates of the Caribbean attraction.

It isn't like Mickesh is turning her back on Disneyland:

"I love the annual pass-holder events, so I will probably go to a lot of those. I also have a lot of cast member friends, so I will probably visit when they are working. Also, when close friends are in town and at the park. Besides, it's Disneyland, so how can I say no and not go? Just not every day any more."

CONTACT THE WRITER:
meades@ocregister.com or 949-202-6706



MARK EADES REGISTER WRITER

RECORDS: No public review

FROM PAGE 1

The video shows Thomas being tackled to the ground, struck with fists, batons and a Taser, and handcuffed and hobbled.

Thomas, 37, was unconscious when he was taken away by ambulance. He died five days later when life support was removed.

The Police Department terminated Ramos and Cicinelli in July 2012, a year after they were placed on administrative leave. City officials said they could not discuss the termination because of confidentiality laws pertaining to police officers.

Prosecutors sought records about Fullerton's internal investigation of the incident for potential rebuttal testimony of possible policy violations that led to the decision to dismiss Ramos and Cicinelli. Froberg and, this week, the Fourth District Court of Appeal, ordered the city to supply the personnel records.

Gregory Palmer, an attorney representing Fullerton, handed over the report Friday.

After an in-chambers discussion, prosecutors said they likely will have only one rebuttal witness on Monday: a doctor who they expect will testify that Thomas did not have an enlarged heart and did not suffer a heart attack.

Ramos, 39, is charged with second-degree murder and involuntary manslaughter in Thomas' death. He is the first person in Orange County history to be charged with murder for an on-duty incident while in uniform as an officer. Cicinelli, 41, is charged with involuntary manslaughter and assault under color of authority.

Attorneys spent the bulk of the hearing Friday hammering out proposed jury in-



FILE: MARK RIGHTMIRE, THE REGISTER

Jay Cicinelli, left, and Manuel Ramos were terminated in July 2012, a year after they went on administrative leave.

structions.

Among other issues, they discussed whether prosecutors can argue that Ramos had an obligation toward Thomas after he was detained, including the duty not to expose him to an unreasonable risk of injury.

Another proposed instruction would involve whether Ramos' actions were a substantial factor in causing Thomas' death, and whether it was foreseeable.

And a third issue was whether jurors can consider things Ramos did not do – acts of omission – when they deliberate on the murder count. Froberg is expected to finalize the instructions over the week-end and deliver them to jurors before final arguments sometime next week.

The trial, after four weeks of testimony, resumes Monday.

CONTACT THE WRITER:
lweiborn@ocregister.com
vjolly@ocregister.com

WEEKLY QUIZ

Test your knowledge of the news

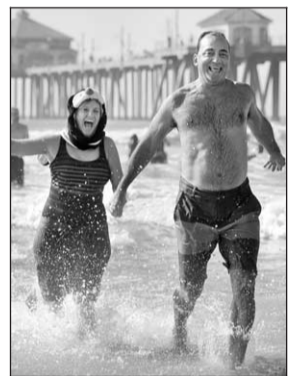
Five questions about people and events covered during the past week in the Orange County Register.

By MICHAEL DOSS
ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

1. Following a one-year hiatus, what city celebrated the new year with its First Night event?

2. With baseball still a few months away, what other sport will have three events at Angel Stadium over the next few weeks?

3. What Disneyland ride, closed for nearly a year for renovations, is being tested now and is set to reopen in the coming weeks?



4. More than 300 people braved chilly waters at what city's annual New Year's Day ocean splash event?

5. Amid a ban at other state campuses, UC Irvine will continue to allow the use of what products by students and staff?

ANSWERS

1. Fullerton. The event is among the country's largest New Year's Eve celebrations.

2. Supercross. The first, the Monster Energy AMA Supercross, takes place tonight.

3. Big Thunder Mountain Railroad. The renovation is one of the largest for the attraction since it opened in 1979.

4. Huntington Beach. The Surf City Splash also featured a pancake breakfast and costume contest.

5. Electronic cigarettes. Individual areas of the campus, such as an office or classroom, have the authority to ban e-cigarettes.



Corky Carroll's Surf's Up column is on Local 7

ABOUT YOUR REGISTER

CIRCULATION To subscribe or for Customer Service: 1-877-627-7009 toll-free (1-877-OCR-7009) ocregister.com/subscribe ocregister.com/customerservice

Delivery is guaranteed no later than 5:45 a.m. weekdays, and 7 a.m. Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

Monday-Sunday annual weekly rate: \$8.00*
Thursday-Sunday annual weekly rate: \$6.50*
+ Sunday annual weekly rate: \$2.70*
* Tax not included + Includes 11/28/13 issue

The Register can increase the price of your subscription at any time. For more information, visit ocregister.com/subscriberservice/faqs

TO ADVERTISE The Register reaches the most customers in the nation's top retail market.

Classified: 800-660-0865 Retail ads: 714-796-2302 National ads: 714-796-3845 Online: 714-796-6741 Excelsior: 714-796-4300 View our media kit at ocregister.com/advertise

TO REACH US Main number 1-877-4 MY REGISTER toll-free 1-877-469-7344 Main office: 625 N. Grand Ave., Santa Ana Mailing address: P.O. Box 11626, Santa Ana, CA 92711-1626 E-mail: customerservice@ocregister.com

NEWS: Editor Ken Brusis: 714-796-2226 E-mail: local@ocregister.com Main number: 714-796-7951 Front page: 714-796-5037 Local: 714-796-6825 Business: 714-796-6817 Features: 714-796-5010 Sports: 714-796-7804

North County: Jim Radcliffe, 714-704-3761, jradcliffe@ocregister.com (Anaheim, Brea, Buena Park, Fullerton, La Habra, La Palma, Placentia, Stanton and Yorba Linda)

Central County: Susan Gill Vardon, 714-796-7903, svardon@ocregister.com, or Paul Danison, 714-796-7936, pdanison@ocregister.com (Costa Mesa, Cypress, Fountain Valley, Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Irvine, Los Alamitos, Newport Beach, Orange, Santa Ana, Seal Beach, Tustin, Villa Park and Westminster)

South County: Chris Boucly, 949-454-7377, cboucly@ocregister.com (Coto de Caza, Ladera Ranch, Laguna Hills, Laguna Woods, Lake Forest, Mission Viejo and Rancho Santa Margarita)

Michael Coronado, 949-492-3943, mcoronado@ocregister.com (Aliso Viejo, Dana Point, Laguna Beach, Laguna Niguel, San Clemente, San Juan Capistrano)

OPINION: Deputy Editor Mike Tipping: 714-796-7784 Letters to the editor E-mail: letters@ocregister.com Call: 714-796-3631 Fax: 714-796-3657 Mail: P.O. Box 11626, Santa Ana, CA 92711-1626

CORRECTIONS We will correct factual errors promptly.

Call: 714-796-7951 E-mail: corrections@ocregister.com

Legal demands for corrections must be in writing and sent to the publisher at Box 11626, Santa Ana, CA 92711-1626.

To comment on our coverage, call Reader Innovation Editor Dennis Foley at 714-796-6011 E-mail: dfoley@ocregister.com