

**SOUTH REGIONAL REPORT**

## El Toro Road ready to roll

Starting this week, drivers will get a street free of cones, open trenches and lane closures.

By ERIKA I. RITCHIE  
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

**LAKE FOREST** • Diane Gove avoided driving on El Toro Road. But last week she chose that route and stopped twice to eat at Pei Wei Asian Diner, a new restaurant in The Orchard at Saddleback.

"I usually took Los Alisos even if it was out of the way," said the 45-year-old Trabuco Canyon resident who regularly drives her son to music theater in Laguna Hills. "Now I come down here more often. I notice traffic isn't as heavy. The centers were looking old and tired. Now it's much more like south Orange County. They've done a good job."

Starting this week, motorists will experience free-flowing traffic along the highly traveled road. There will be no more orange cones, open

trenches or planned lane closures on El Toro. The final touches at the city's gateway - two large, 25-foot-high arbors at Rockfield Boulevard and El Toro - include metal-sculpture leaves and large pots with roses placed on the structures' columns. The hanging leaves will be installed in a ceremony in September.

For 2½ years, the El Toro Landscaping Improvement Project - meant to relieve traffic snarls and revitalize a dying business corridor - turned a segment of the road between the freeway and Muirlands Boulevard into an obstacle course.

The project, once estimated at \$27 million, cost \$32 million. Budget overruns came from a higher cost of right-of-way acquisitions, new pavement from Muirlands to Trabuco Road and the addition of the gateway structures not in the original bid. Weather delays stalled the project from its original projected completion in December 2005.

The road - a stagecoach trail in 1888 - now carries 40,000 cars a day between Rockfield and Muirlands and almost 70,000 at the San Diego (I-5) Freeway. In 2025, traffic engineers predict 80,000 vehicles will use it.

The El Toro project includes not only widening the roadway

SEE ROAD • PAGE 4

Mass said among the grave sites of Mission cemetery draws descendants of San Juan Capistrano's founders.



**GRAVE:** A wooden cross marks a barren burial site at the cemetery.



CHRISTINA EILER, THE REGISTER

**REMEMBERING THOSE LOST:** Jackie Nuñez, who has a family member buried in the Mission San Juan Capistrano cemetery, becomes emotional on Saturday during Mass, which was held in honor of the dead buried there.

# PRESENT REVELS IN CITY PAST

By TOM BERG  
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

**SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO** • The procession led through town and up to a cemetery so old it has no grass. So overlooked it has no name. And so forgotten it's unclear where everyone is buried.

In some ways, like the people it claimed.

Which is why Saturday meant so much to the 300 descendants who attended the first Catholic Mass held here in almost 50 years.

"Today, we are going to be one family," said Jerry Nieblas, 54, before lighting sage for the ceremonious, half-mile walk to the cemetery.

At 9:30 a.m., the bells of Mission San Juan Capistrano clanged and the procession began. For those in line it signaled a new beginning, an acknowledgment of their ancestors: the Juaneño Indians who lived here even before the Mission was founded in 1776. Many would go on to be community leaders.

Their grave markers read like the street names, cities and districts named after them: Yorba, Rios, Sepulveda, Olivares.

For many, this nameless cemetery is their strongest tie to the past - evoking memories of funerals and families coming together. A place where they are not forgotten. Where their heritage can never be marginalized. It binds some tighter than the Mission itself.

"It's like part of your being," said Wick Lobo, 72, who looks after more than 50 relatives buried among the California pepper trees and white

SEE MASS • PAGE 8



**AT THE SERVICE:** The Rev. Arthur Holquin, left, blesses people Saturday at the Mission San Juan Capistrano cemetery.

## Rallies square off at labor center

Critics, supporters kept apart during contentious but peaceful protests at Laguna site that serves illegal immigrants.

By JOHN GITTELSOHN  
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

**LAGUNA BEACH** • The first protest since the city decided to keep open its day labor center, which helps many illegal immigrants find work, ended mostly peacefully Saturday.

A bicyclist suffered minor road burn when he bumped a car driven by an anti-illegal-immigration demonstrator who was trying to park. A distracted driver rear-ended another car, injuring its driver, who was taken away by ambulance.

And a counterdemonstrator,

SEE CENTER • PAGE 6



KEVIN SULLIVAN, THE REGISTER

**ALL SIGNS:** A counterprotester gestures to several Minute-men at demonstrations at the Laguna labor center Saturday.

### REGISTER CAMPSHIP

## Boy with limited means adept at finding adventure

Weeklong camp in the mountains a high point for intrepid David Reicher.

By MARK GARCIA  
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

If there's any fun happening near his home, David Reicher will be there.

David, 12, has become infamous among his family members for finding entertainment at a cheap price. He peruses the pamphlets at the local YMCA and at school, looking - and usually finding - ways to have fun. On Tuesday, David attended a free



David Reicher

bowling night sponsored by the YMCA.

"If there's a free program anywhere, he'll find it. He's very smart about that," said David's mother, Leticia Serrano. "I would love to pay for a lot of things he wants to do. ... I just can't afford it."

Serrano lives in a two-bedroom Tustin apartment with

SEE FUND • PAGE 8

## Heat wave pushes cities to new highs

### RECORD HEAT

Two cities reached record high temperatures Saturday, as this heat wave continues to scorch much of Orange County.

**Santa Ana** hit a high of 98 degrees, breaking the previous high of 97 degrees for that date set in 1978.

**Yorba Linda** tied a record high of 103 degrees, also set in 1978.

### SLIGHT REPRIEVE TODAY

Temperatures should fall by 1 to 3 degrees across the county today, but some inland cities will still have highs around the 100 degree mark, says the National Weather Service.

### REGIONS

#### NORTH

**Summer fun** • Adventure Playground in Yorba Linda teaches kids how to build teamwork - and fun forts. LOCAL 2

#### CENTRAL

**Pageant** • Miss Universe 2005 visits South Coast Plaza, along with 80 women competing for the tiara this year. LOCAL 3

### ALSO INSIDE



**Orange Slices** • The Walking Tree Man is an unusual new attraction at the Orange County Fair this summer. LOCAL 5

**DEATHS LOCAL 9**  
**COUNTY LINE POLL LOCAL 8**

### LOTTERY

**MEGA MILLIONS July 14**  
**13, 25 26, 28, 56; Mega 39**  
No winner. Tuesday's jackpot is \$49 million.

**SUPER LOTTO PLUS July 15**  
**15, 27, 33, 34, 44; Mega 20**  
Winners would split \$11 million.

**FANTASY 5**  
**July 15:** 6, 21, 23, 27, 32

**DAILY 3 July 15**  
Midday: 8, 9, 4 Evening: 9, 2, 8

**DAILY DERBY July 15**  
1st Place: 3, Hot Shot  
2nd Place: 12, Lucky Charms  
3rd Place: 11, Money Bags  
Time: 1:46.00

Call Register InfoLine at 714-550-4636, x.5500, for the Super Lotto payout and 2 past Super Lotto, Mega Millions drawings. 24-hour Calif. lottery 800-568-8379 Past results: [www.calottery.com](http://www.calottery.com)

### HOW TO REACH US

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COUNTY LINE POLL

**Today:** Should the Laguna Beach day labor center be allowed to stay open permanently?

**STORY ON LOCAL 1**

**TO RESPOND:** Call 714-550-4636, ext. 7261 (6 a.m.-6:30 p.m.) or go to [www.ocregister.com](http://www.ocregister.com)

**Yesterday:** Should Capistrano Unified School District Superintendent James Fleming resign?

**Yes** 48% **No** 52%  
661 respondents

County line is not a scientific sampling of county opinion

# MASS: Attendees hope for respect they say is overdue

FROM PAGE 1

wooden crosses. "It's like asking, 'How important is your heart?' It's just part of you."

Ask why the church held Mass here, and you hear different reasons: To celebrate a new wall built by the industrial park next door. Or to celebrate the Feast of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, patron saint of all Native Americans. But many of those who prayed and sang and cried Saturday said they hoped it was more than that. They hoped it was recognition of them and what they've meant to San Juan Capistrano.

"We'll get a little respect now," said Thomas "Happy" Hunn, 73, standing beside two wooden crosses bearing his grandparents' names. "Before, there was no respect."

More than 25 family members stood beside him at Mass. Grateful for the beginning, and praying for more.

"They should have one day a month to come up and help clean up in here," Hunn said.

Like the cemetery itself, the Mass was not just for descendants of the Juaneño Indians – but for all of the town's founding families who've long used the cemetery.

Pat Forster, 61, whose family once owned everything from El Toro to Oceanside, stood beside the family crypt and said he hoped to someday be buried here among the dust and even the weeds.

"This is heaven," he said. "Why would you want to leave?"

The many Juaneño descendants agreed – saying this forgotten piece of land is the only place left they're not forgotten.

"It used to be Los Rios Street," said Rosalind Koscak, 67. "But most have grown up (and left). Now this is the one spot in town where you always get recognition."



CHRISTINA EILER, THE REGISTER

**PREPARATIONS:** Jerry Nieblas, right, the artifacts coordinator at the Mission San Juan Capistrano, helps the Rev. Arthur Holquin put on his vestments before the procession from the Mission San Juan Capistrano to the Mission's cemetery on Saturday.



**PATHWAY:** Matias Belardes, carries the crucifix ahead of a procession that began at the Mission San Juan Capistrano and ended at the cemetery.



**ENGAGED IN SERVICE:** Jerry Nieblas, 54, left, and Kathy Sandoval, 53, perform a blessing before Saturday morning Mass in the Mission San Juan Capistrano cemetery.

**CONTACT THE WRITER:**  
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## URGENT! HOST FAMILIES NEEDED!

EF Educational Homestay Programs is bringing German students into the Orange area for an English language/ educational travel program. The dates for the program are July 17th through August 13th. Classes are being held at the First Presbyterian Church of Orange. There is a full schedule of activities and trips and English lessons Monday through Friday of each week.



All students are fully insured and come with their own spending money. Host families are asked to provide a plate at the table, a bed but not necessarily in a private room and a place in the heart of the family. The experience with the family is what makes this program so much richer for the students in terms of meaningful memories. Families gain by the exposure to another culture and language. Friendships, made one at a time, can change the world. Open your family up to this experience and share your USA with these young people. Show them the face of friendship by letting them be a member of your family for four short weeks.

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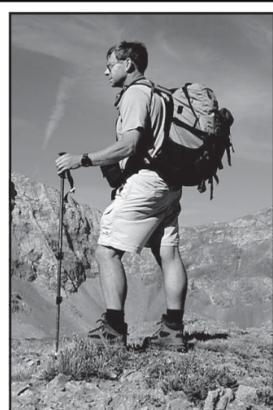
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# FUND: Mom glad son got camping exposure

FROM PAGE 1

David and her three other sons – Brian Monter, 21; Christian Monter, 20; and Richard Monter, 18. She's separated from her husband, Richard, who lives in San Francisco, and works as a temp, making just enough to pay the \$1,200 rent.

"It's hard," said Serrano. "I have a lot of bills, and these kids love to eat. Rent in California is too expensive, but I do what I can."

With the financial help of the Campfire USA Council of Orange County and the Register Campership Fund, Serrano was able to send David to a weeklong camp – Camp Ta Ta Pochan near Big Bear – last month.

The Register fund helps nonprofit groups offer scholarships for camp programs. Camp Fire USA is an organization that aims to build caring, confident youths and future leaders through participation in small-group activities. The organization serves nearly 750,000 children and youths annually.

"He was so excited to go. He even packed his own bag. He never does that," Serrano said.

"It was a lot of fun," said David, a seventh-grader at A.G. Currie Middle School in Tustin.

David couldn't single out a certain activity he liked, saying: "I liked them all."

David's group went hiking, canoeing, played Ultimate Frisbee and took archery lessons. David even went swimming in a pool that was a second home for lizards and frogs.

He said he really loved watching the sun's rays at sunset shine through the forest, and making marshmallows with chocolate and graham crackers over a campfire.

"We learned a lot of songs, too. And the food was the best," he said.

David said the most exciting thing that happened at camp was accidentally walking within a few feet of a baby brown bear. "That was a little scary," he said.

Despite the good times, David said he did get homesick.

"I missed being around my friends, but I made a lot of new friends," he said.

That doesn't surprise his mother.

The Campership Fund program "is great," Serrano said. "It gives an opportunity for kids who normally couldn't afford it to have some fun. It's awesome."

**CONTACT THE WRITER:**  
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