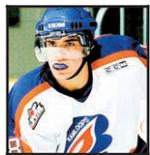


YORBALINDA STAR

► **ON THE STICK:** Yorba teen Nathan Grochmal, right, has gone north for icy pursuit / **Page 36**



► **MARKET LIST:** We talk with shoppers and workers about effects of strike on other stores / **Page 6**



► **SPOOKY SCENES:** A Haunted Party in a Yorba Linda rustic barn Saturday is designed to thrill guests at benefit for newly formed musical theater company / **Page 38**

The Orange County Register

www.ocregister.com/yorbalinda

Thursday, Oct. 23, 2003

STARWATCH

Study under way for private high school

The City Council has approved the preparation of an in-depth environmental study on the proposed Friends Christian High School, which might one day stand at Bastanchury Road and Casa Loma Avenue.

The Friends Church will pay about \$132,000 for the report, to be drafted by Templeton Planning Group.

Wedaa saluted for clean-air efforts

The South Coast Air Quality Management District recognized former City Councilman Hank Wedaa with its 2003 Clean Air Award on Oct. 15.

Wedaa is a former member of the district's governing board and currently directs Hydrogen 2000, a nonprofit corporation encouraging the use of hydrogen fuel.

INDEX

Automotion Inside
Classified Page 39
E-Quest Page 30
On Campus Page 28
Sports..... Page 35
Real Estate Inside
Viewpoints Page 19

A diary of growing woes

By Amanda Beck
Yorba Linda Star

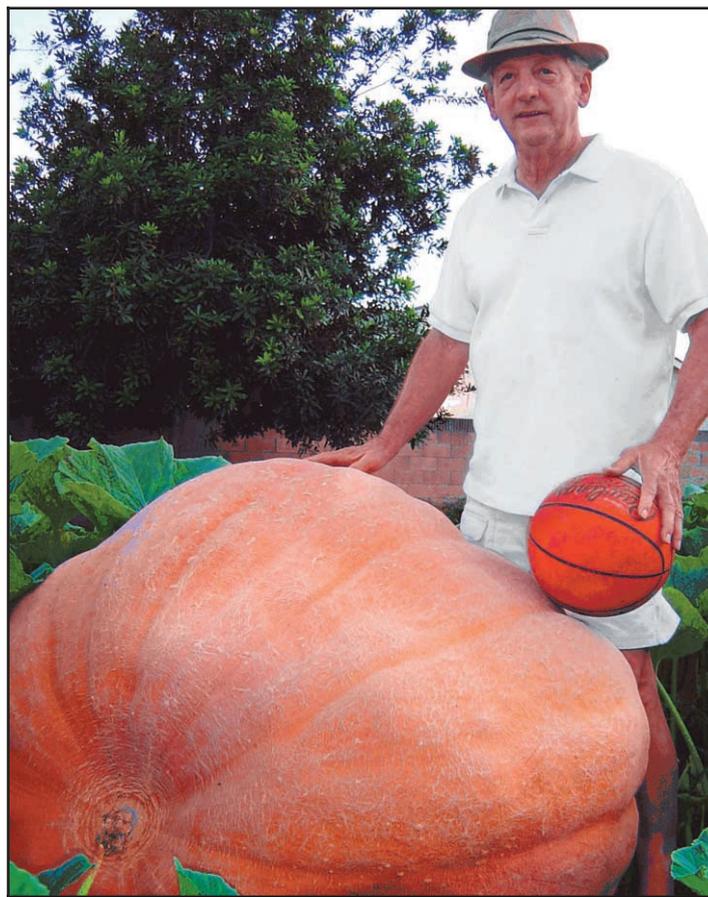
SEPTEMBER 2003

A pumpkin grows in Yorba Linda. And grows. And grows.

Truly worthy of the spirit of Halloween sprites and goblins, it's approaching 750 pounds and practically bursting from its tiny patch, only three vines wide.

"It's worse than having a pet. You can't leave it at the kennel when you go on vacation. It's time-consuming to raise a giant pumpkin," said 59 year-old Ethel Rausche, who has watched husband Raymond nurse this project since March.

Rausche, 69, said he was first inspired to tackle raising



Courtesy of Raymond Rausch

A MONTH AGO, Raymond Rausch wondered how to weigh his 800-plus pound pumpkin. What a difference a few weeks makes.

Please see **WOES Page 4**

Council hears Metrolink concerns

By Amanda Beck
Yorba Linda Star

City Council members spent much of their time Tuesday addressing an issue that did not appear on the meeting agenda: the Yorba Linda Metrolink station, proposed for the corner of Esperanza and New River roads.

Though an in-depth environment report on the planned station is still being reviewed by the city's Traffic and Planning commissioners, about 100 residents filled the council chambers on Tuesday to protest the station's construction.

Three residents spoke on behalf of the larger group and emphasized several concerns, which range from increases in

Please see **COUNCIL Page 8**

New look for traditional celebration

By Amanda Blake
Yorba Linda Star

COMMUNITY: Yorba Linda Service League deals with challenges to present its 36th Fiesta Days.

A gift. A celebration. A labor of love. This is how the women of Yorba Linda Service League describe the annual Fiesta Days celebration, which they coordinate for the city every year.

For 35 seasons, it has been the event that brings more than 10,000 spectators to the streets to mark the anniversary of Yorba Linda's incorporation.

Marching bands have glided alongside equestrian riders in a traditional parade that has swelled to 7,000 participants. Afterward, townspeople

have milled about at the Street Faire, where local organizations raise funds by selling pizza, cotton candy and other snacks.

This is the legacy of Fiesta Days, an event designed to gather Yorba Linda residents in a celebration of all that is local.

And though the event will be held again Saturday, this year things are different. Area construction required canceling the parade.

And though about 10 Service League women have worked to

plan a festival under difficult circumstances, a quiet weariness also mingles with the excitement.

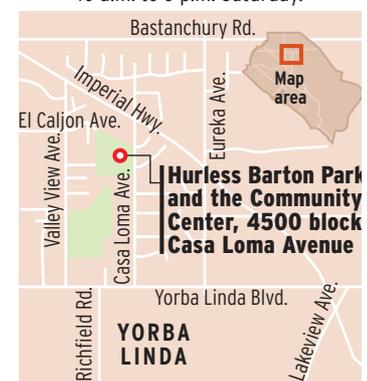
"Some of this has become so large and so consuming that, for a small organization like us, it's difficult to handle all the details," said Bobbie Bosley, one of the organization's past presidents.

She and others are beginning to wonder how the Service League women will do it again next year.

Please see **NEW Page 3**

Fiesta time

Yorba Linda's 36th annual Fiesta Days is moving to a new site this year. The party - complete with game and food booths, a car show and entertainment - will be held in Hurless Barton Park and the Community Center from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.



Yorba Linda Star

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YWCA events mark Week Without Violence

COMMUNITY: Film focuses on two 14-year-old girls – from Fullerton and Placentia – abducted a year apart.

Their terrifying situations were eerily similar, though a year apart.

Wendy Osborn of Placentia and Kelly St. John of Fullerton were both 14 when they disappeared while walking to school. Both were abducted by Raymond J. Barthlett, who raped them and left them in a remote area of Carbon Canyon in Chino Hills.

The difference is that St. John lived.

Barthlett killed Osborn in 1987 but let St. John go after capturing her a year later.

In honor of Osborn's memory, St. John has produced a documentary called "Forever Fourteen," which chronicles the connection between her and Osborn and explores how each family dealt with the tragedies.

The film was shown to high school students as part of the

North Orange County YWCA's annual Week Without Violence events, which end Saturday.

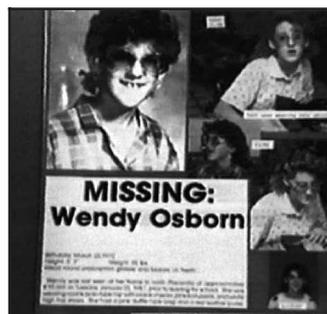
St. John's attacker was caught the day he assaulted the teen, because she wrote down his car's license plate number.

He was in prison for raping and kidnapping St. John when DNA evidence emerged that linked him to Osborn's murder.

In 1996, he was convicted of the murder in San Bernardino County Superior Court and is serving a life sentence for Osborn's slaying.

In addition to screening the documentary, YWCA Executive Director Diane Maseth-Jones has arranged programs and classes to raise awareness and provide a call to action to prevent violence in lives and in the community.

The observance also features self-defense classes co-sponsored by the Oxygen



FROM 'FOREVER FOURTEEN,' Kelly St. John's documentary.

Network and Adelphia Communications Corp. The training – offered only to girls and women – covers basic physical and verbal techniques to prevent and thwart a physical attack.

And each girl will receive a T-shirt sporting the message "Fight Like a Girl" and a chance to win a \$100 American Express gift check.

A workshop titled "Teenage Dating Violence," presented by Cal State Fullerton, will meet at 6:30 p.m. today Oct. 23 in the Fullerton Main Library, 353 W.

Commonwealth Ave. Parents, sons, daughters and young-adults are encouraged to attend.

To wrap up the week, a Candlelight Festival will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the Fullerton Downtown Plaza, on Wilshire Avenue between Pomona Avenue and Harbor Boulevard.

Fullerton Police Chief Pat McKinley, YWCA leaders, Erin Runyon, mother of violence victim Samantha Runyon; the Joyful Child Foundation and the Orange County Human Relations Commission will join the celebration of the county's effort to make communities safe.

Also, artwork by Orange County children – depicting peace and nonviolence – will be displayed in the plaza, with prizes awarded for the best creations.

For more information on programs and self-defense classes, call the YWCA of North Orange County at (714) 871-4488.

WOES

FROM 1

an Atlantic giant pumpkin, as his variety is known, when he read about another Orange County resident who had raised a 500-pounder of his own.

Afterward, he and his green thumb thought it sounded like a neat thing to do, so he ordered the patented \$2 seeds from Nova Scotia and began sowing 3-foot holes in the front yard.

"I just like to dig in the dirt sometimes, you know. Sometimes, I just get that spring fever," said Rausche, whose home also seems to double as a Yorba Linda orchard.

Tended trees bear everything from macadamia nuts and lemons to limes, peaches, plums, and persimmons.

Now that a 90-foot vine is snaking its way around his front yard, Rausche thinks he might like to enter his pumpkin in a contest, just to see if he can win.

He figures he's got a shot at the Peltzer Pines Pumpkinmania! contest, to be held in late October.

A crane will be donated, so

Pumpkinmania! will begin at 11 a.m. Saturday at Peltzer's Farm, 8415 E. Chapman Ave. in Orange. For information on Rausche's seeds for the next growing season, contact the Star at (714) 704-3795.

GIANT PUMPKIN FACTS

- ▶ World record for the heaviest pumpkin grown is 1,337 pounds and was set by Charles Houghton of New Hampshire on Oct. 5, 2002.
- ▶ Giant pumpkin vines grow between 12 and 20 inches per day in the spring and can achieve lengths of 70 to 100 feet.
- ▶ Giant pumpkins gain one pound per hour at their growing peak in late summer through early fall.
- ▶ Giant pumpkins are the largest edible fruits in the world.
- ▶ With the exception of certain bamboo species, giant pumpkins are the fastest growing plant in the world.

"I just like to dig in the dirt sometimes, you know. Sometimes, I just get that spring fever."

RAYMOND RAUSCHE
Yorba Linda green-thumber

the pumpkin can be transported to the site, and Pumpkinmania! judge Stuart Shim thinks that Rausche has the contest sewn up.

"That (weight) is still very, very respectable," said Shim, who has also only managed to raise runts of the 500-pound variety.

OCTOBER 2003

But something is wrong. Early in the month, the pumpkin behaves strangely. It swells, it squats down, it cracks.

Perhaps falling victim to humid weather and the hot sun, Rausche's pumpkin is rotting – at least 10 days before the competition.

"It's a pile of orange out in my front yard. ... I don't think they want a heap of garbage at the contest," Ethel Rausche said, mourning their squash.

"It's all just memories now," added Raymond, still the loyal gardener who rescues seeds from inside the gourd.

These are for other gardeners, however, because Rausche does not think he'll try again next year. The watering schedule is too demanding, he said.

"We couldn't go (on vacation) because we couldn't trust anyone to water it every day as diligently as I did. It takes an hour," Rausche said.

But Shim added consolation. "It's gone to that big patch in the sky."

GIANT PUMPKIN PIE

(Just multiply by 2,000)

Ingredients:
1 cup whole milk
2 eggs
3/4 cup baked pumpkin
3/4 cup baked yam
2/3 cup brown sugar
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon ginger
1/2 teaspoon allspice or cloves
1 unbaked 9-inch pie crust

Preparation:
1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees.
2. Gather ingredients.
3. Toss everything into the blender (not the pie crust, of course)
4. Blend until homogenous.
5. Pour into the pie crust.
6. Bake for 20 minutes.

7. Lower heat to 300 and bake for another 30-40 minutes, or until a knife inserted near the center of the pie comes out clean.

YORBA LINDA
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