



April 5, 2024

# THE WEEK THAT WAS



MISSION VIEJO

## IN THIS ISSUE

TUESDAY ON THE TERRACE - P2

MAMA DOG FINDS A HOME - P3 - 4

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FAIR - P5

WALK THROUGH THE SOLAR

SYSTEM - P6

WONDERCON - P7

NASA ROLE MODEL VISIT - P8 -9

## MS. SENIOR CALIFORNIA CROWNED AT THE NORMAN P. MURRAY CENTER

Last Saturday, the Norman P. Murray Community and Senior Center hosted the Age of Elegance Ms. Senior California Beauty Pageant. Six senior women aged 60 and older competed for the coveted title of Ms. Senior California. The contestants were judged on their interview, philosophy of life, evening attire and talent. Liz Palmer, a California native who resides in Rancho Mirage, took the title and will represent California as she competes in the fall for Ms. Senior USA in Atlantic City. She is the State Executive Director for the National Senior Games, a marvelous pianist, and currently holds the age group record in the 60-meter hurdles for women older than 50. Commissioner Josh Vecchione and Community Services Supervisor Melanie McGrane were judges for the competition and they wish Liz luck as she represents California!



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## SPRINGTIME WEATHER FOR A LIVE JAZZ PERFORMANCE

Tuesday on the Terrace resumed this week at the Norman P. Murray Center with a live jazz concert by Dean Grech. More than 100 attendees enjoyed listening music on the terrace during the beautiful spring evening. The Senior Leadership Committee provided a snack bar and the Mission Viejo Rotary Club provided beverages for purchase. The next Tuesday on the Terrace takes place on May 7 with a duo performance by Sonic Gold from 4:30 to 6:30 pm.





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## MAMA DOG SHOT MULTIPLE TIMES WITH A BB-GUN HAS FOUND HER FOREVER HOME

You may have heard about a dog a few weeks ago — shot multiple times by a BB-gun — and her puppies were rescued from the desert by Mission Viejo Animal Services (MVAS). Since 15 puppies are a lot to house, staff asked the San Clemente-Dana Point Animal Shelter to assist, and six puppies were transferred there. The remaining nine pups immediately received exams, vaccines, and dewormers, and mama Priscilla was sent to the vet for an exam and X-ray. The X-rays revealed mama - named by staff as Priscilla - had more than 25 BBs lodged under her skin from being shot multiple times. MVAS and the incredibly proactive Community Relations Department quickly jumped into action to get the word out about this sweet mama and pups. The story was quickly picked up by several news outlets, and KNBC Channel 4 News even interviewed Animal Control Officer Adrian Enriquez. KCAL 9, CBS 2, KTLA 5 and the Patch ran stories as well.

After Danae - a Mission Viejo Animal Services Center volunteer dog walker - saw the story about [Priscilla](#) (now named Ginger) on the City's social media and TV news stations - including [KNBC 4](#) and [KCAL 9](#) - she knew she had to adopt her. Danae recently purchased her first home and she and her boyfriend Kurt had been looking for the perfect dog to adopt. Danae met Ginger while on her dog walking shift and went home to consider adopting. She then saw Ginger's story and knew the coverage would attract a host of potential adopters, so she immediately drove back to the center and filled out an application to give this sweet dog a forever home.

Cont. page 4



DAWG paid for Ginger's spay and to remove her fractured K9 teeth (probably from trying to eat random things in the desert). They also removed two BBs from her abdomen. The final pup of Ginger's nine puppies in Mission Viejo Animal Services' care was adopted last week. Getting pets adopted takes a village, and we couldn't achieve it without the invaluable support of all our partners; there is no better ending to a horrible story.





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## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FAIR

On March 28, Teen Services Librarian Olivia Howard represented the library at the Capistrano Valley Unified School District's Engage Volunteer Fair. Engage is a student-run organization that connects CUSD students with volunteer opportunities throughout the county. This year there were more than 20 organizations at the event, including the Mission Viejo Activities Committee, Ronald McDonald House of OC, YMCA of Orange County, and the LGBTQ Center OC.

Students learned about current library volunteer opportunities like the Teen Voice Blog, Summer Reading Program, and the upcoming Youth Narcan Training. Several students left with applications so you may see them around the library soon! For more information about volunteering at the library, visit [this link](#).



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## WALK THROUGH THE SOLAR SYSTEM EXHIBIT AND SOLAR ECLIPSE PRESENTATION

It was a busy day of STEM activities for the Mission Viejo Library on March 30 when NASA Solar System Ambassador Richard Stember and members of local nonprofit Science Heads visited Mission Viejo with their “Walk through the Solar System” immersive experience. The exhibit - a scale model of the planets - was installed in the Storytime Room (due to the rain) and more than 200 patrons of all ages strolled through our solar system and participated in hands-on activities related to size, mass, and atmosphere. Later that evening, Richard discussed the upcoming April 8 solar eclipse in the Council Chamber at City Hall. An engaged crowd of 45 learned all about the science of solar eclipses, as well as the best and safest ways to view them.





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## CHILDREN’S BOOK COUNCIL AT WONDERCON

The Children’s Book Council hosted a panel at this year’s WonderCon in Anaheim, and Senior Librarian Lauren Regenhardt had the pleasure of moderating. The panel, entitled “Keep Bans Off Our Books,” featured a panel of four unique graphic novel creators. Meggie Ramm, Richard Ashley Hamilton, Jasmine Walls, and Gabriel Valentin all spoke about their graphic novels and the challenges received from readers, why graphic novels are important, and how they’re great for improving literacy. They also spoke about how important libraries are for the future of books and literacy. They each signed a copy of their book to add to our collection! It was a great experience, and there were several aspiring librarians in the audience who might just consider Mission Viejo Library in their future career endeavors!

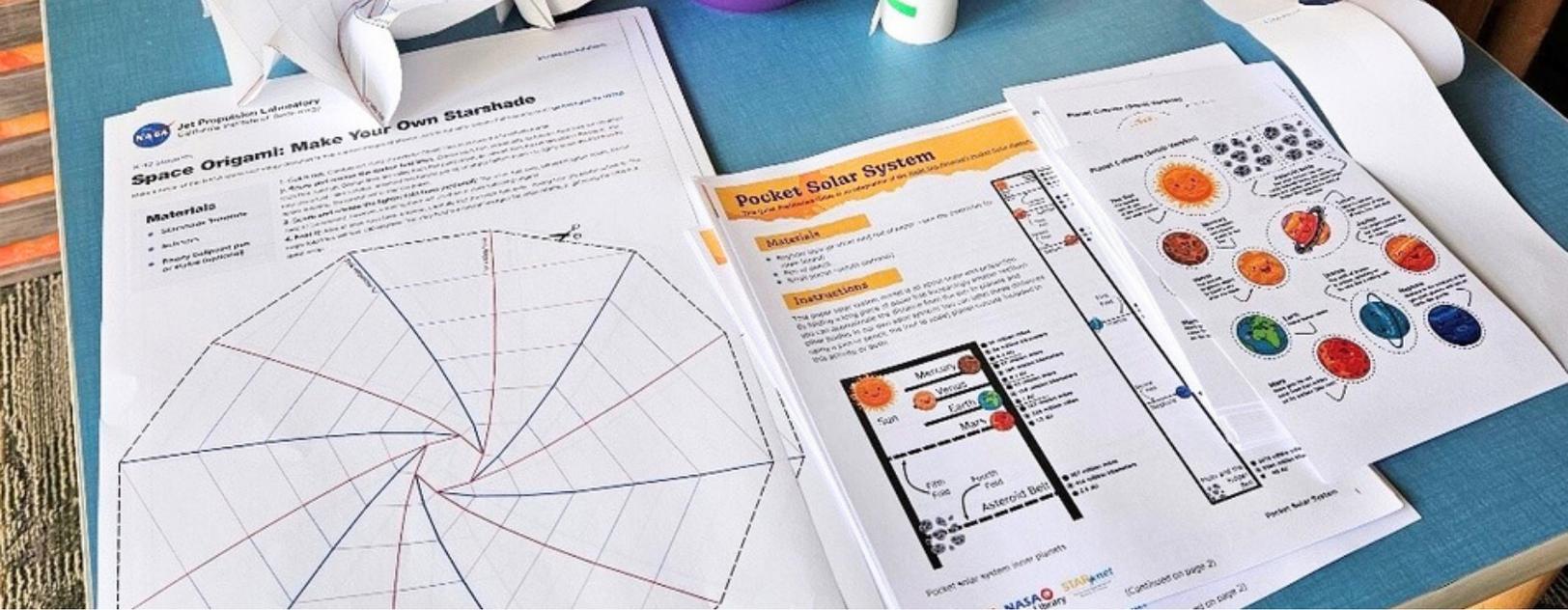


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## VIRTUAL VISIT WITH NASA ROLE MODEL ROSSINA MILLER

On Monday, the library hosted a virtual visit with NASA Role Model Rossina Miller. 22 families joined and learned about how Rossina came to work at NASA as part of the Astromaterials Research & Exploration Science (ARES) Science Engagement Team at NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. Everyone enjoyed learning about her work with asteroids, pulsars, and giant telescopes as well as the many interesting places she's visited during her career.

Following Rossina's visit, kids got to partake in a number of fun space-related activities. They had the opportunity to do space origami to create a starshade inspired by the ones developed at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. There was an activity to create a pocket solar system so kids could get an idea of the distance between the sun and planets. They also made bracelets using UV beads that change color when exposed to UV light. The most popular (and messiest) activity was stretchy universe slime. Kids used glue, water, food coloring, borax, and glitter to make their own slimy concoction. Participants took home NASA stickers, constellation coloring books, solar viewing glasses, and information about the upcoming eclipse.



This program is made possible through the support of NASA, SciGirls, PBS Twin Cities, and Starnet Libraries. The “NASA Inspires Futures of Tomorrow’s Youth” (NIFTY) project goal is to connect NASA STEM role models with youth-serving STEM programs for underrepresented youth (ages 9-14), with a critical focus on girls and other historically excluded genders in STEM, which includes cis girls, trans youth, gender non-conforming, and/or non-binary youth, youth of color, and their families.

