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Mission Viejo unites for girl who needs prosthetic leg

A look at South County people and groups in the news.



Valley People

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The Mission Viejo/Saddleback Valley Elks Lodge has donated \$1,000 to 24-year-old Maya Oliver, who is in a need of a prosthesis leg. Oliver got injured in a car accident last January and had to amputate her left leg from the knee down. She has no medical

insurance.

Rod Cuervo from Mission Prosthesis is donating his time to help Oliver with her prosthesis.

Oliver's mom, Janelle James, is asking for more donations. She has set up "The Help Maya account" at the Washington Mutual Bank at 27752 Vista Del Lago, Mission Viejo.

TALENTED STUDENTS

A team of six seventh-graders from Foothill Ranch will compete in Destination ImagiNation's Global Finals in Tennessee on May 21-24. The team, called Twice Removed, includes Bailey Bosworth, Amanda Wong, Henry Yin, Jade Brazil and Hannah Jacobson and Bailey Miller. All team members are students at Rancho Santa Margarita Intermediate, however the team is not school-sponsored but instead driven by volunteer parents. Destination ImagiNation is a creative problem-solving competition where teams solve challenges of engineering, structural design, creative arts, science and international studies.

The team needs to raise a minimum of \$6,000 to cover the costs of travel, housing and meals, event fees, and transporting their props and supplies to the competition. The team is looking for sponsorships. To contribute, contact team co-manager Angel



Brazil at A7Brazil@cox.net.

NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Janel Ozar and Cynthia Statsmann of Lake Forest are new board members for the Orange County Chapter of the Association of Legal Administrators. Ozar, who is president of the board, works as the director of administration for Morrison & Foerster LLP in Irvine. Statsmann, who serves as the director of membership, is a legal administrator at the litigation firm Dechert LLP in Newport Beach.

TALENTED DOCTOR

George Sarka of Laguna Hills is the new governor of the Southern California Region II Chapter of the American College of Physicians, a national non-profit organization of internal medicine physicians.

Sarka works as the Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine at UCLA and is a staff physician and headache specialist at the Klotz Student Health Center at the California State University, Northridge. He also serves as an attending physician of Medicine/Rheumatology at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and is an active affiliate in neurology at Saddleback Memorial Medical Center.

HOT FUNDRAISER

Heritage Pointe, a non-profit retirement and assisted-living community in Mission Viejo, raised more than \$15,000 during its annual luncheon and boutique. More than 460 supporters attended the event. As a surprise, Heritage Pointe President and CEO, Michael Halpern, called 20 community leaders and major patrons to the stage and to honor their support in helping to pay off the mortgage in full, he performed a ceremonial burning of the mortgage by setting documents on fire with the help of the Irvine Fire Department. "The fact that we paid off our mortgage after 18 years of existence is a real milestone for us," he said. "We now can concentrate on the refurbishment, updating and expanding our facility."

MOMS REACH OUT

The MOMS Clubs of Mission Viejo will create cards for soldiers while hosting a membership drive at 10 a.m. on May 21 at Starlight Ridge Park in Las Flores. All mothers interested in joining one of the three Mission Viejo MOMS Clubs are welcome to attend this free event. For more information, contact Lisa Briggs, who is the President of the MOMS Club Mission Viejo South, at 949-582-2957 or momsclubmvs@yahoo.com.

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