



HANUKKAH

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A3

THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

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MEET THE PEOPLE WHO SHAPED OUR YEAR

Welcome to Day Four of the Register's 100 Most Influential People in Orange County. We are highlighting people who changed our lives in 2019. Some entertained, some educated. All, in some way, inspired. You may know their names, but others will be surprises.

JUDIE MANCUSO



JEFF GRITCHEN — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Judie Mancuso has initiated 36 state bills safeguarding animals. Nearly half have been approved and turned into legislation.

AN ADVOCATE FOR ANIMALS

On Jan. 1, three new laws will protect nonhumans. A Laguna Beach woman started them.

By Brooke Staggs
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It's been 16 years since Judie Mancuso walked away from a lucrative tech job so she could dedicate her life to the politics of saving animals.

Since that switch, the Laguna Beach resident has spearheaded 36 bills aimed at making life better for non-humans, including 17 bills that have been signed into state law. Three of those new laws will take effect Jan. 1, following a record-setting run of legislation that led some in Sacramento

MORE GAME CHANGERS

Each day of the series, more people will be profiled. Meet more influencers inside. **PAGE A8**

to dub 2019 the "Year of the Animals." "Judie Mancuso's hard work ... has brought issues regarding animal cruelty and animal welfare to the forefront of the legislative agenda statewide," said state Sen. Cathleen Galgiani, D-Stockton, who partnered with Mancuso on a bill that will end animal testing for cosmetics sold in California.

Some of the laws Mancuso has pushed are being considered, or en-

acted, in other states and nations.

Still, she insists, "We have a long way to go."

That's why the curly-haired, vegan mother of eight — three dogs and five cats, that is — shows no signs of slowing down.

Mancuso recently persuaded actresses Diane Keaton, Maggie Q and Louise Linton, wife of U.S. Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin, to join the board of her nonprofit, Social Compassion in Legislation. Through that group, the 56-year-old is gearing up to introduce new state and federal legis-

MANCUSO » PAGE 8

L.A. COUNTY

This race may be wildest one of all

Convict and conspiracy buff among over a dozen vying to replace Katie Hill in House

By Casey Tolan

Bay Area News Group

A former Trump adviser who spent 14 days in prison for lying to the FBI. A bombastic left-wing media icon with a long record of controversial statements. A right-wing activist known for promoting conspiracy theories.

And they're just a few of the politicians hoping to win enough votes to represent California's 25th Congressional District — a huge swath of north Los Angeles County that includes Lancaster and Palmdale — in Washington.

In all, the special election, which opened only after a sex scandal took down an ascending Democrat less than a year into her first term, has attracted more than a dozen candidates, ranging from nationally known figures to unconventional hopefuls with massive social media followings. And the strange brew of personalities, media interest and off-the-charts political stakes could turn the 25th into the wildest House contest of 2020.

Locals are bracing for a bruising campaign featuring a cast of outsiders and wondering, why us?

"Around here, we know our neighbors; there's a strong sense of community," said Chad Campbell, a Democratic activist in Stevenson Ranch. "It's surprising to see this district getting all this attention from people who are coming from outside to raise their own personal profile and personal brand. A lot of it feels like a publicity stunt."

The clown car of contenders was prompted by the shocking resignation of Rep. Katie Hill, a rising Democratic star elected in the 2018 midterms, who left office in October after being accused of an extramarital affair with a House staffer. Hill has denied the allegations and called them

HOUSE » PAGE 9

IMPEACHMENT

Emails: Ukraine aid on hold soon after call

By Edward Wong

The New York Times

WASHINGTON » About 90 minutes after President Donald Trump held a controversial telephone call with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine in July, the White House budget office ordered the Pentagon to suspend all military aid that Congress had allocated to Ukraine, according to emails released by the Pentagon late Friday.

A budget official, Michael Duffey, also told the Pentagon to keep quiet about the aid freeze because of the "sensitive nature of the request," according to a message dated July 25.

An earlier email that Duffey sent to the Pentagon comptroller suggested that Trump began ask-

EMAIL » PAGE 4

INSURANCE

A Band-aid for state's rising health care costs

New programs aim to help, but price remains highest hurdle

By Michael Finch II
USC Center for Health Journalism
News Collaborative

Even with access to health insurance at a historic high in the state, a growing share of uninsured Californians say they struggle to afford coverage, according to new survey results.

The new data shows the share of people in the state who say cost is their main reason for being uninsured inched upward for the third consecutive year in 2018, according to UCLA's

California Health Interview Survey.

Nearly 4 out of 10 uninsured residents, or 37%, said the price of insurance was the leading reason for not having coverage. The second most frequent reason, accounting for 19%, was confusion or being in the process of learning about and getting insurance.

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100 OC'S MOST INFLUENTIAL

2019's Game Changers in Orange County

Mancuso

FROM PAGE 1

lation in 2020 that will touch on everything from horse racing to climate change.

This version of her life — the one filled with courting politicians and fighting corporations — couldn't be further removed from the one Mancuso was living three decades ago.

In 1988, the St. Louis native was sharing a Hollywood apartment with a roommate. She was working in computers by day, dancing her nights away and, like a good Sicilian, eating plenty of meat.

Mancuso befriended an upstairs neighbor, who happened to be journalist and animal activist Keely Shaye Smith. Smith gave Mancuso the book "Diet for a New America," which laid bare the plight of factory farm animals. Smith, who would later marry actor Pierce Brosnan, also showed Mancuso an ABC News segment that she'd produced about euthanasia at animal shelters.

The book, and the news story, left Mancuso in tears — and changed the course of her life.

Mancuso stopped eating animals. She also began fostering pets and working with animal rights groups. Those efforts snowballed until, at 40, Mancuso decided to focus full time on animal welfare advocacy.

Her first foray into lawmaking came in the wake of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. While spending thousands of hours creating a computer program to help pet owners reunite with animals they lost during the storm, Mancuso heard Los Angeles Animal Services General Manager Ed Boks call for people to help clear Southern California shelters to make room for animals still homeless weeks after Katrina. She knew the only way to curb overcrowding was to reduce the population, so she asked Boks to help her develop a bill that would require Californian residents to spay and neuter their pets unless they paid



JEFF GRITCHEN — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Judie Mancuso walks her dogs Dinky, Petula and Twiggy at Alta Laguna Park in Laguna Beach this month. Mancuso is credited with helping advance major animal protection bills in California.

for an annual exemption.

While Mancuso was in Los Angeles to meet with Boks, she learned of a legal dilemma that was cruel to animals.

An animal control officer explained that he frequently was called by people reporting an animal being left in a car on a hot Southern California day — but that he usually couldn't help. By law, he said, only police were allowed to intervene.

"We have to stand by and watch dogs die of brain seizures in hot cars because we can't get in to free them and save their lives," Mancuso recalls the officer saying.

So, even as Mancuso continued work on the spay and neuter bill — hoping it would find support in Sacramento despite encountering stiff resistance from commercial pet breeders — she also helped rush through a bill that made it a crime to leave animals in hot cars. That 2006 proposal, Senate

Bill 1806, which also allowed animal control officers to use any means necessary to free endangered pets, was her first piece of legislation to become law. She was hooked.

In 2007, Mancuso launched Social Compassion in Legislation, a nonprofit that urges legislators to pass laws to help animals. A decade later, she celebrated passage of her biggest bill yet.

The Pet Rescue and Adoption Act, authored by Assemblyman Patrick O'Donnell, D-Long Beach, made California the first state that requires all pet stores to sell dogs, cats and rabbits that came from shelters and nonprofit rescues rather than from breeders. As reports emerge of puppy mills skirting that law, Mancuso said she's eyeing tweaks to the legislation aimed at helping local authorities go after bad players.

Mancuso's second landmark bill is the Cruelty Free Cosmetics Act, which will make it ille-

gal as of Jan. 1 for retailers to sell new makeup or personal hygiene products that have been tested on animals. The bill was signed into law by Gov. Jerry Brown in 2018, but it's been rolled out slowly to give companies time to comply.

"We will be saving millions and millions of animals' lives through this bill," Mancuso said.

Also kicking in on Jan. 1 is the Cruelty Free Circus Act, which prohibits wild animals, such as elephants and bears, from being used in any circus in California. A third bill bans trapping native animals such as foxes and beavers for fur.

A fourth bill sponsored by Mancuso was signed into law this year but won't take effect until 2022. The bill expands by seven the list of protected animal skins that can't be sold in California. One of the creatures to gain protection under the bill is the hippopotamus, which is listed as "vul-

nerable" by international wildlife organizations.

Despite those successes, Mancuso also had setbacks in 2019.

A couple of the 11 bills she introduced were turned into two-year bills, such as one that would require public schools to offer vegetarian meals for students. Others died in Sacramento, such as one bill that would have banned the state from using fish to test the toxicity of hazardous waste. And others were vetoed by Gov. Gavin Newsom, including a bill authored by state Sen. Ling Ling Chang, R-Diamond Bar, that would have required people to microchip their pets.

"Judie has been an outstanding partner," Chang said.

Mancuso hopes to reintroduce revised versions of some of those bills in 2020.

Another issue she hopes to tackle is the wave of horse deaths at Santa Anita Park in Arcadia and other racetracks. Mancuso hopes to ban the practice, common in horse racing, of drugging a horse so it can run with certain preexisting conditions.

She also wants to make it harder for people to get permits to shoot mountain lions, forcing them to try nonlethal methods to keep livestock or other property safe before getting out their guns.

Meanwhile, Mancuso's group has been quietly building a federal legislative presence in Washington, D.C.

In 2020, she hopes to pursue a federal law that would make it illegal for international puppy mills to send dogs to the U.S. And she's eyeing her most complex legislation yet — a law that would encourage struggling dairy and other animal farmers to convert into new businesses centered around plant-based proteins.

If Mancuso's legislative work in California is a sign of how she'll take on Washington, state Sen. Galgiani said she wouldn't want to be her opponent.

"She has the heart of an activist and the skill of a seasoned politician, which makes her doubly formidable," Galgiani said.

"Her success speaks for itself."

MOST INFLUENTIAL 2019

Doug Bauder

He is the vice president of decommissioning and chief nuclear officer at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station. Hauled in by Southern California Edison after a series of high-profile mishaps, Bauder's mandate is to restore public trust — perhaps an impossible task among a very vocal group of opponents — as well as shepherd the tear-down of the iconic twin domes.



Bauder

Darrell Johnson

As CEO of the Orange County Transportation Authority, Johnson is overseeing a \$1.9 billion expansion of the 405, including replacement or renovation of 18 bridges. He also helped resolve a multi-agency stalemate over plans for the 91 and 241, and launched construction of the OC Streetcar.



Johnson

Helen Nguyen

Nguyen is a wife, mother and nurse. But this past year, she's taken on another role, as an advocate for her husband Michael, imprisoned in Vietnam. Working with Democratic and Republican lawmakers, she flew to D.C. twice — once to testify before a Congressional subcommittee. A quiet, religious woman, she juggles two jobs while caring for her four daughters in Orange and continuing to bring attention to the plight of her husband.



Nguyen

Gerrit Cole

The Orange Lutheran High graduate was one of the most dominating pitchers in baseball and helped lead the Houston Astros to a World Series appearance. Cole, who led the American League in ERA and strikeouts, signed a huge contract with the New York Yankees rather than return home to pitch for the Angels.



Cole

Lou Correa

The second-term congressman from California's 46th district is a member of the House Judiciary Committee, which introduced articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump. He is one of three House members from Southern California on the committee but the only one from Orange County.



Correa

Sharon Quirk-Silva

The California assemblywoman has championed legislation on homelessness and affordable housing. She has been personally touched by the issue with the loss of her brother, a homeless man who struggled with alcoholism and died last year, and by the 2011 police beating and death of Kelly Thomas when she was mayor of Fullerton.



Quirk-Silva

Jon Reiser

Reiser (formerly of Detroit Bar in Costa Mesa and Observatory in Santa Ana), along with his partners Viet Tran and Angel Zaragoza, officially launched Garden Amp in downtown Garden Grove in 2019. The newly renovated concert venue has already seen a slew of successful concerts and festivals and will continue to be instrumental in the revitalization of the surrounding area.



Reiser

Emile Haddad

Haddad, the CEO and chairman of Five-Point, secured approval for USA Water Polo to move its headquarters to the Great Park, brought the StoryCorps project to record Orange County stories and donated \$1 million to USC to support real estate education and research on sustainable communities.



Haddad

Khloe Thompson

Thompson, the 12-year-old founder of Khloe Kares, was a recipient this year of the George H.W. Bush Points of Light Award. Khloe Kares, which she started when she was 8, has given out thousands of care packages to homeless people on L.A.'s Skid Row.



Thompson

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