Happy Fourth of July!
‘Dial-A-Ride’ is in service

Dial-A-Ride is in service in the Saddleback Valley.

Seven Orange County Transit District passenger sedans are providing curb-to-curb service from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Residents may ride anywhere in Laguna Hills, Mission Viejo, El Toro, Lake Forest and to the Leisure World Gates.

One-way fare on Dial-A-Ride is 50 cents and seniors over 65 pay only 25 cents. Up to three children, age six and under, may ride free of charge with a paying passenger. OCTD drivers don’t carry change, so the exact fare must be given.

In order to use Dial-A-Ride the passenger should call 540-6215 and give the operator the address of where to be picked up, the destination, and the time they’d like to arrive.

Within 20 to 30 minutes the OCTD sedan will arrive at the front door. Passengers should be ready to leave when it arrives: scheduling allows only a 60 second wait.

Youngsters compete in ‘soap’ derby

The public is invited to watch more than 30 boys and girls compete in the Mission Viejo Soap Box Derby slated for July 23.

The race, sponsored by the Orange County Soap Box Derby Association and the Mission Viejo Company, is the qualifying event for the National’s competition scheduled for Aug. 12 in Akron, Ohio.

The Mission Viejo race will begin at 9 a.m. on the Oso Parkway course.

The race has been divided into two divisions, junior and senior. The junior division is open to boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 12 while the senior division is open to children 12-15 years-old.

First place winners in both categories will be sent to Akron with expenses paid by the Mission Viejo Soap Box Derby.

Valley YMCA offers day, resident camp

Registration is underway for the Saddleback Valley YMCA day camp and resident camp.

Day camp begins July 17 and runs for seven-one week sessions. Transportation and extended day care are offered for an additional fee.

During day camp, children will visit San Diego Zoo, Universal Studios, Magic Mountain, Sea World, Disneyland and Knott’s Berry Farm.

Resident camp is designed to meet the needs of third through sixth graders. Three one-week sessions will be held at Camp Bluff in the San Bernardino Mountains.

For more information regarding YMCA summer camps call 830-9622.

For the adult audience, the season opens with “Little Foxes.” Written by Lillian Hellman, author of “Julia,” the timely classic will run from June 30 through July 2 and July 6-9.

The second production is the Alan Ayckbourn comedy, “How the Other Half Loves.” Performances will show July 14-16 and 21-23.

The season will close with the lively musical, “Cabaret,” Aug. 4-6 and 10-12, with the final matinee performance on Aug. 13.

British stage and screen star Delphi Lawrence will perform in all three Company productions.

All tickets are available in a package— the Customer’s Choice Summer Season. Patrons buying the package will not be restricted to selecting series tickets that limit attendance to a specific night of each run. They will be able to choose any evening or matinee performance of each play as long as seats are available.

The “Customers Choice” package is now on sale at the Fine Arts Box Office at $12 for general admission and $9 for students and Gold Card holders, and 20 percent savings over the regular general admission price. Hours are Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call 831-7414 or 495-2790.

Children don’t need tickets or reservations. According to Plays for Children coordinator, Don Rickner, “They only need imagination.”

“The children’s shows will be timed so parents can attend the Summer Theatre and their children can gain a meaningful and educational experience at the same time,” explains Rickner.

The subject matter of the children’s theatre is as diverse and entertaining as that which the parents will enjoy.

The three different programs to be presented include Magic Theatre II, a series of skits, music, dance and theatre; The Miriam Tait-Vicki Silva Mime Theatre and the Five Sense Story.

“All the shows require imagination and solicit response and involvement from the audience,” says the coordinator.

“So the experience will be total.”

For a brochure with complete information about Plays for Children, call 831-7532.

Tickets on sale for Cabrillo’s ‘The Boyfriend’

Tickets are on sale for “The Boyfriend,” San Clemente Community Theatre’s summer show playing at Cabrillo Playhouse.

Sandy Wilson’s musical, directed by Eileen Fishbach, will run through July 15. Tickets are sold at $4 for adults and $3 for students. The play runs Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

For ticket information call the box office at 492-0465. The playhouse is located at 202 Avenida Cabrillo, San Clemente.

MV Company grants scholarships to nine south county students

Nine south county students have been awarded scholarships by the Mission Viejo Company.

The scholarships were awarded to students who were continuing their education in civil engineering, construction technology, architecture, landscape architecture or urban planning.

Awarded $500 scholarships were: Larry Devore of Saddleback Community College and Andy Ivers of Capistrano Valley High School.

Garnering $250 scholarships were: Greg Hammond and Mike Wittenberg of El Toro High School, John Dicken of San Clemente High School, Jim Flynn and Mark Daly of Mission Viejo High School.

Dana Point High School students: Steve Spelman and Jerry Johnson were both awarded $125 scholarships.
Mission Viejo photographer recalls career in Asia

Fred Braitsch has a memory like a computer. The newsman talks about the Invasion of Normandy like it happened yesterday. But unlike a computer, Braitsch is interesting. And each story gets better, especially when it’s favored with his animated style.

The Mission Viejo resident’s tales are endless, and rightfully so. As a reporter/photographer he covered World War II, the Korean and Vietnam wars, the Indonesian Rebellion and the war against Communism in Malaya. He also was assigned to a major earthquake and a disastrous plane crash in Japan.

On the lighter side, he photographed the 1964 summer and 1972 winter Olympic Games. He won a “Look Magazine” award for his picture of Billy Mills crossing the finish line during the 5,000-meter dash.

He has spent half his life in Japan working for the USMC’s “Leatherneck Magazine,” United Press and “Pacific Stars and Stripes Newspaper.” On the more local level, he spent a year at the Santa Ana Register.

His career in Journalism didn’t happen overnight. Braitsch worked hard and started at an early age. In fact, he claims his career in the newspaper field began 43 years ago when he sold papers on a Boston street corner. He even remembers the first headline he yelled: “Belgian Queen Dies in King’s Arms.” From the street corner he got a delivery route and later worked on the truck that dumped the newspapers to the carriers.

His career began in news photography when the Boston Herald published his picture of the 1938 hurricane which swept through the east coast up into New England.

“In 1937 I really got the bug for photography in high school when I made my first print. It was fascinating watching the image develop,” he recalled.

At 18, Braitsch landed a job as a stringer/photographer with the Associated Press and roamed all over New England shooting pictures. He eventually enlisted in the Marine Corps and studied at the Naval Photography School in Penscola, Fla.

During part of World War II Braitsch was stationed in El Centro and was the official photographer for “Project X-Ray/ Bat Bomb Project.”

According to his close friend Forest Kimler, another Mission Viejo resident, “the project was one of the most secret missions during World War II.”

“While the war was going on Braitsch was tramping through hundreds of caves collecting bats for a project that never got off the ground,” Kimler quipped.

After the war Braitsch went to work in an art studio in the east. But it was just too “blooming quiet” for him so he drove across country to Albuquerque, N.M., to re-enlist.

Following a stint at the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station, Braitsch became the first aviation man to be assigned to the Naval School of Journalism.

The instructors soon realized Braitsch was a better photographer than they, so he became a part-time photography teacher. Following graduation Braitsch went to work at “Leatherneck Magazine” where he became the chief of the Far East Staff in Tokyo. He remembers commuting from Tokyo to Korea to file a story in order to go through only one censor.

“The censor in Seoul was just terrible,” he said.

After 13 years in the Marines Braitsch turned in his uniform and began selling pictures and stories to any publication he could. He sold pictures and stories to any publication he could find.

“Tokyo is the best city as far as news is concerned,” Braitsch said. “Not only is it the largest city in the world, but it’s also that ice merged, creating United Press International. The city editors’ slot and Braitsch became photo editor with nine photographers on his staff.

“Stars and Stripes” where he stayed for 13 years.

It was at “Stars and Stripes” that Kimler and Braitsch developed their “partnership.”

When UP and International News Service merged, creating United Press International, Braitsch went to work for “Stars and Stripes,” where he stayed for 13 years.

He said Kimler, he saved every cent he earned. “He’s the last of the mad dog city editors,” said Kimler. Twice Braitsch received war correspondent wings for his combat photography.

At “Stars and Stripes” Braitsch and Kimler covered nearly 4½ million square miles a month hitting Japan, Okinawa, Korea, Vietnam and the Philippines.

“My new camera worked harder and produce better pictures than Braitsch. And I don’t think he ever saw anything in Asia except through a camera lens,” he added.

When President Nixon began pulling the troops out of Vietnam he now owns and operates Custom Color, photography and processing studio at Laguna Niguel.

Braithsch was a cable editor at UP and was responsible for all the news out of Communist China. Their motto, he said, was “get it first, but get it right.”

“When President Nixon began pulling the troops out of Vietnam,” he added. “I don’t think he ever saw anything in Asia except through a camera lens,” he added.

“Tokyo is the best city as far as news is concerned,” Braitsch said. “Not only is it the largest city in the world, but it’s also a capital.”

Snow, What Snow?—Braitsch found nothing but snow when he covered the winter Olympics for Stars and Stripes in Sapporo, Japan.

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“When President Nixon began pulling the troops out of Vietnam," he added. "You should have seen him hanging out of airplanes shooting battle scenes," said Kimler. Twice Braitsch received war correspondent wings for his combat photography.

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When President Nixon began pulling the troops out of Vietnam, Braitsch moved back to the States and established a home in Mission Viejo for his wife and three boys.

He owns and operates Custom Color, a photography and processing studio. Operating the walls are pictures he shot in Asia. Right now, these prints serve as a reminder for Braitsch’s future, because he’s getting the Asian bug again.
Ron O’Brien predicts good year for Nadadores Diving Squad

"There are two things, basically, which make Ron a great coach," explains Besozzi, who dove with O’Brien in Ohio for 11 years before re-joining him in Mission Viejo. "He has the best understanding of physics, or diving mechanics, of anybody I know. And he’s very good with people.

For example, he knows how to push a person that really needs to be pushed. Also, he knows when to let up and give somebody a break. He’s a team person but he works with the divers individually. In one practice he may be pushing someone to extremes while at the same time being very gentle with another diver.


"I knew when I left high school that I wanted to spend my whole life coaching diving," he says. "I never really wanted to do anything else."

A single-minded purpose, to be sure, but one rewarded with indisputable results.

Ron O’Brien

Ron O’Brien "one-and-a-half second coach" finds niche in MV

It takes only one-and-a-half seconds to travel the 33-foot distance from the top of the Mission Viejo diving platform, one-and-a-half seconds to execute a complex aerial routine, one-and-a-half seconds to get everything just right.

With one gold, a silver and one bronze medal between them Olympic stars Jenni Chandler, Greg Louganis and Debbie Wilson have already impressed their share of diving judges and so has Ron O’Brien, the Nadadores’ new "one-and-a-half second coach."

At 40 O’Brien is considered by some to be the world’s pre-eminent diving mentor. Before assuming charge of the Nadadores diving squad his athletes won a total of 52 individual championships in AAU, Big Ten, Pan American and Olympic competition as well as 13 AAU team titles.

"Diving is extremely thrilling. It’s sort of in your blood," explains O’Brien, who served as coach of the Ohio State University diving team and as headmaster of the Ron O’Brien Diving School for seven years before moving West.

"The most exciting thing about it is that you’re a free-floating body in the air, you’re spinning, twisting and moving at great speed. Diving can be appreciated with the eye by spectators. People like to watch diving because they’re awed by what divers can do. But you can really appreciate what it’s like you have to have done it yourself."

And that’s exactly what O’Brien did before he became a coach. He began diving in high school, where he described his performance as “lousy,” then moved to Ohio State where he collected several NCAA and AAU championships, and narrowly missed (by two points) qualifying for the U.S. Olympic Team in 1960.

“I believe that in order to coach on the national and international level you must have had some experience of diving yourself. I still draw on my experience of 15 years ago when I corrected a dive for someone,” O’Brien points out.

Over the years he has developed unique ways of communicating corrections to his divers, often contorting his sinewy body into bizarre shapes, flailing his arms through the air bouncing up and down on his feet, as he instructs from the pool’s deck twice daily.

With the AAU Nationals scheduled for Mission Viejo this August, the pressure is clearly on. O’Brien wants to build the Nadadores into the finest diving team in the country and winning the outdoor team title is the first step.

"With the caliber of people we have on our team we could very well win with the women’s and men’s team titles," he predicts. "It would be a very good way to start things off."

And that may not just be a lot of gung-ho talk according to international diving observers. Out of the five divers who won medals in Montreal three — Chandler, Louganis and Wilson — are now on the Mission Viejo team. And with the addition of nationally ranked divers Jane Wird, Dave Burgarling, Billy Day and Greg Hook winning the AAU title may not just be a case of first-time luck.

As the pre-Nationals tension mounts, Mission Viejo divers will be practicing from early morning to sundown, learning new routines and refining others.

In addition to platform and springboard workouts the Nadadores practice new dives on a special trampoline under the guidance of Jeff Besozzi, the 24-year-old assistant coach. Divers working on the trampoline are fitted with a body harness to which are linked ropes and pulleys that allow Besozzi to make minute mid-air corrections.

A foam rubber-lined diving pit, now under construction, will further add to their dry-land training capabilities. Both of these devices are designed to take the risk out of learning new dives.

However, the most important safety device is an expensive bubble machine, positioned in the bottom of the pool, which cushions the shock of entry. The bubble machine is used only during practice but is claimed by O’Brien to reduce the hazard of diving injury.

The “wet” coaching is pretty much physics, or diving mechanics, of anybody I know. And he’s very good with people.

For example, he knows how to push a person that really needs to be pushed. But he also knows when to let up and give somebody a break. He’s a team person but he works with the divers individually. In one practice he may be pushing someone to extremes while at the same time being very gentle with another diver.


"I knew when I left high school that I wanted to spend my whole life coaching diving," he says. "I never really wanted to do anything else."

A single-minded purpose, to be sure, but one rewarded with indisputable results.

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Ron O’Brien
For your convenience

Emergency and frequently-called Telephone numbers

Mission Viejo Company 837-6050
Casta del Sol "Fiesta" Homes 586-7500
Casta del Sol Recreation Center 837-6921
Cordova Homes 831-2530
Felipe Recreation Center 495-1484
Lake Mission Viejo Information 837-3172
MVC Escrow Corporation 837-6050
Madrid del Lago Homes 830-8320
Marguerite Recreation Center 837-4084
Mission Viejo Company Security 586-7090
Mission Viejo Home Decorator Center 837-6050
Mission Viejo Realty 837-4084
Mission Viejo Country Club 831-1550
Mission Viejo Equestrian Center 495-1571
Mission Viejo Municipal Advisory Council 581-7610
Mission Viejo Skateway 586-4674
Moulton Niguel Water District 831-2500
Orange County Fire Dept. 538-3501
Orange County Sheriff’s Dept. 834-3000
Pacific Telephone 642-1161
San Diego Gas & Electric 498-7043
Santa Margarita Water Dist. 586-1973
Southern California Edison 835-5200
Southern California Gas Co. 634-0251
U.S. Post Office 495-5020

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CALENDAR ITEMS WANTED
Send details on your August activities to The Reporter at the address below. They will be published on a first-come, first-served basis.

1  American B-Day Party (S)
   MVTA Member Guest Tourney (MR)
2  MVTA Member Guest Tourney (MR)
   Master Swim (MR)
   Table Tennis (M)
3  Independence Day Community Picnic (MVCC)
4  Early Bird Club (MR)
   Bridge (S)
   Mix and Make It (M)
5  Scavenger Hunt (S)
6  Magic Mountain
7  Early Bird Club (MR)
   Teen Las Vegas Night (M)
8  Adult Luau (MR)
   Skateboard Contest (F)
   Maladores Rec Meet (S)
9  Family barbecue (S)
10  Tiny Tots (M)
    Aerobic Dance (MR)
    Ballet and Tap (M)
    Skin Dive (S)
11  Women's Golf
    Aerobic Dance (M)
    Tiny Tots (M)
12  Poignant of the Masters
    Ladies RB (MR)
13  Bridge (S)
    Water BB (S)
14  Father/Son Overnight
    Srs. Mtg. (MR)
    Teen Night (MR)
    MVI
15  Nature Walk O'Neill Park
16  MVCC
17  Gymnastics (MR)
    Scuba (S)
18  "Movies in the Moonlight" (F)
    Gymnastics (MR)
19  Youth Tennis (S)
    Gynmastics (MR)
20  Adult Day Tennis (MR)
    Gvng Kids (M)
    Catalina Trip
21  Teen Disco (MR)
    Srs. Dine Out
    Condgers vs. St. Louis
22  Treasure Hunt (S)
23  Diving (MR)
24  Fantasy Film (S)
25  Women's Golf/ Shorecliff
26  Inner Tube Water Polo (S)
27  Disneyland
28  Teen Night (M)
29  Nature Craft (S)
30  Del Mar Race Track and Little Bavaria
31  Sandbox Club (S)

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