

# Saddleback Valley News

The Orange County Register

Lake Forest / Laguna Hills Edition

Friday, Dec. 10, 2004

**Sports:** Two teams in CIF football finals this week/14  
**Calendar:** Laguna Niguel Holiday Parade Saturday/25  
**Valley People:** Elks Lodge aids local youngsters/23



**< Pearl Harbor:** Survivors of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor included Ruben Hanson, Paul Weisenberger and John Olivus. See more on p. 3.

**On the web:**  
[www.ocregister.com/lagunahills](http://www.ocregister.com/lagunahills)  
[www.ocregister.com/lakeforest](http://www.ocregister.com/lakeforest)

## Lake Forest bird shop finds a new nest

By SUSAN GILL VARDON  
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

The deal that could save San Juan Capistrano's landmark Jones Mini-Farm is for the birds.

Literally. Scarlet macaws, umbrella cockatoos and assorted cockatiels could soon be within squawking distance of the farm's emus, horses, goats and rabbits.

Omar and Carolyn Gonzales,

owners of Omar's Exotic Birds in Lake Forest, have made a \$2.1 million offer for the farm, with its 300 animal petting zoo and miniature train in San Juan's historic Los Rios District.

They envision a destination spot evoking the look of a late-1800s country fair, with a museum, gift shop, walking paths and aviary where children can ride the train surrounded by colorful birds.

It's a blessing for longtime owner Gil Jones and his wife, Millic, whose retirement plans seemed to crumble when a prior sale fell through in late

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## Herzog earns mayoral term

By RITA FREEMAN  
THE NEWS

Peter Herzog will continue as the Lake Forest mayor for another year.

The City Council, in a 3-2 vote, reappointed Herzog as mayor for 2005. This is his fourth term as mayor, having served in 1998, 1999 and 2004.

Councilman Richard Dixon was selected as mayor pro tem. He has been on the council since 1991, serving four other times as mayor pro tem and five times as mayor.

Councilwomen Marcia Rudolph and Kathryn McCullough supported McCullough for mayor.

The mayoral appointment came after Rudolph and Councilman-elect Mark Tetterer were sworn in. Tetterer is the first new councilman in a decade. Helen Wilson retired after 13 years on the council.



ROD VEAL, THE NEWS

**FIRE AND ICE:** Rabbi Zalma Marcus, far left above crowd, prepares to light a candle on a 600-pound ice-sculpted menorah during the celebration of the first day of Hanukkah at the Four Corners display at Chrisanta Drive and La Paz Road in Mission Viejo.

## Seasonal opener

By JENNIFER MUIR  
THE NEWS

They huddled together on the corner Tuesday to watch an artist chip away at a block of ice and see a menorah emerge.

Despite the light rain, the congregation of Chabad Jewish Center and Hebrew School celebrated the first day of Hanukkah on the corner of La Paz Road and Chrisanta

Drive in Mission Viejo.

They passed out gelt, spun dreidels and sang Hebrew songs to celebrate the holiday, which commemorates the rededication of the holy Temple in Jerusalem after the Jews' 165 B.C. victory against the Hellenist Syrians.

**MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 11**

Jews celebrate Hanukkah, which began Tuesday, with a variety of customs.

- Each night, a new candle is lit on the menorah.
- Fried foods are eaten in remembrance of ancient lamp oil.
- It is customary to give children Hanukkah gelt - savings bonds, checks and small chocolate coins wrapped in gold foil. ("Gelt" is a Yiddish term for "money.") The children in turn give it to charity.
- Children also receive gifts of dreidels, the top-like toy that dates back to the time of the Hanukkah story. In that time, Jews were forbidden to study but did so secretly. Often when they were gathered together, soldiers came to disperse them. The students pretended to be playing with dreidels instead of attending school.

Sources: Chabad.org, www.joi.org

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