

END OF THE LINE FOR DUCKS



Teemu Selanne waves goodbye to the Honda Center fans after Anaheim's disappointing 6-2 loss in Game 7 to the Kings.

SPORTS

ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

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7 BURNING QUESTIONS



BRUCE CHAMBERS, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A Marines helicopter hauls a bucket of seawater suspended underneath while fighting one of the fires that erupted at Camp Pendleton, close to San Onofre State Beach. Conditions that typically bring fire danger in late summer have arrived early.

SMOKIN' HOT SUMMER AHEAD

The region gets an unwanted dry run well before fire season.



PAT BRENNAN STAFF WRITER

September has come early in 2014. That's the month when the fire season usually begins in Southern California, a tinderbox of high temperatures, Santa Ana winds and post-summer aridity. But, this year, May is September. This week, triple-digit temperatures, strong Santa Ana winds and drought conspired to create

conditions that led to nearly a dozen major fires from San Diego through Los Angeles counties.

And while a shift in air flow should bring a break in coming days, the prospects for the summer are sobering: at least four months of fire conditions that figure to look a lot like what we saw this week.

For those areas that manage to

SEE SUMMER • PAGE 22

MORE ON FIRES
A third blaze breaks out at Camp Pendleton. **News 22**

SMOKE WARNINGS
You could taste it, you could smell it, you could see it. The fine particles we inhale can worsen symptoms for asthmatics and anybody with heart disease or chronic lung disease. The region's smog agency put out an advisory Friday warning people with these conditions to avoid vigorous outdoor exercise.

COOLING TREND
The record-breaking triple digits of the past week ease back into the mid- to high 80s today for inland Orange County, and mid-70s on the coast, as low pressure replaces the high pressure and morning clouds and fog return.
• On Sunday it's 77 to 82 inland, Monday 72 to 77, Tuesday 68 to 73; we might even see some patchy drizzle Monday night and Tuesday morning.

Jobless rate drops to 5%

O.C. unemployment is lowest since May 2008. State figure down to 7.8 %.



MARNI USHEROFF STAFF WRITER

MORE ON JOBS
Jonathan Lansner sees robust growth. **Business 1**

Unemployment in Orange County sank to 5 percent in April, the lowest rate since May 2008. That seasonally unadjusted rate was down from a revised 5.8 percent in March 2014, and 5.9 percent in April 2013. The sharp drop was driven in part by job growth in areas such as leisure, professional services and construction. It also reflected a continued exodus of people from the work force.

California's unemployment rate decreased to 7.8 percent in April, down from 8.1 percent in March and 9.1 percent in April 2013 – all seasonally adjusted. State employers have added 340,200 jobs since April 2013, an increase of 2.3 percent, up slightly

SEE JOBLESS • PAGE 21

Funding could refill sands of San Clemente

A \$51 million beach renewal plan is included in a water resources bill.

BY ELIZABETH HELD AND CATHY TAYLOR WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON • San Clemente officials learned Friday that they are a big step closer to landing the millions of federal dollars – and tons of fresh sand – needed to widen and spruce up the city's eroding beaches and to protect the shoreline near the critical coastal railroad corridor.

Under a water infrastructure bill expected to win congressional approval next week, the city would be eligible for \$51 million in funding deemed essential for the beach replenishment project. State and local officials will need to match those funds to pay for the project's eventual \$99 million cost over 50 years.

SEE SAND • PAGE 23



FILE PHOTO: ASSOCIATED PRESS

ELLEN DEGENERES

Tulane University, 2009 "Life is like one big Mardi Gras. But instead of showing your boobs, show people your brain. If they like what they see, you'll have more beads than you know what to do with. And you'll be drunk most of the time."

Words (and sometimes more words) of wisdom

It's graduation season. Here are highlights of celebrity commencement speeches.



KEITH SHARON STAFF WRITER

Want to be inspired? Search YouTube and listen to the commencement speeches of Steve Jobs or Oprah Winfrey or Stephen Colbert or Ellen DeGeneres.

They'll tell you how to rise, how to fall, how to seize the moment and how to treat life like it's one big Mardi Gras (thanks, Ellen!) And if you want one of those hot commencement speakers at your school next year, you'd better start now. You still might not have enough time. "If we were doing a very popular, nationally important or otherwise 'hot' speaker, we'd have to plan at least one, preferably two or more, years in advance," said Susanna Branch, manager of academic events at

SEE SPEECH • PAGE 20

INSIDE

Q&A WITH TIM MCGRAW

He sings. He acts. He blurs genres. Tim McGraw talks with the Register about life as a multiple-threat star. **SHOW 1**



UNWELCOME INTRUDERS

Seniors in two Mission Viejo communities want permission to continue exterminating rabbits. **LOCAL 1**

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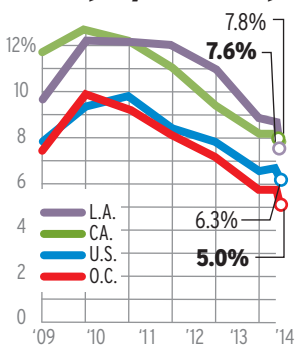
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JOBLESS: Improvement ahead

FROM PAGE 1

Unemployment drops



Note: CA and US rates are seasonally adjusted, OC rate is not

STAFF GRAPHIC

unemployment rate of around 5 percent as the “natural” rate, or the lowest rate an economy can sustain, that doesn’t necessarily apply locally, Adibi said.

“Five percent is not the magic number,” Adibi said. A natural rate becomes somewhat irrelevant at the local level because people move around so much. He pointed out that Orange County’s December 1999 unemployment rate was 2.2 percent.

There’s been a rapid shift in employees getting “untrenched,” according to Kim Shepherd, CEO of recruiter Decision Toolbox. In layman’s terms, that means people who have jobs are feeling more confident about looking for alternatives.

“They were afraid and dug in, but that’s shifting rapidly,” Shepherd explained.

That’s good news for anyone who has felt trapped in a miserable job they’d like to leave. It’s bad news, though, for those who have been out of work for months or years, who will face more competition, she said.

CONTACT THE WRITER: musheroff@ocregister.com

is slowing down,” Adibi explained.

But Adibi said he expects that pace to pick up. “Things will get stronger through the year,” he said.

Overall, Orange County saw weak performance in only two major private-sector areas: manufacturing and financial activities. This was in part due to the weaker economies of trading partners and a falloff in mortgage refinancing.

“If California gains 25,000 more jobs next month, we’ll be basically at the previous peak from July 2007,” Adibi said. Orange County is about 43,700 jobs short of its April peak, from 2007.

And although some economists consider a national

Chapman professor Esmael Adibi expects more job creation as the economy improves.



CINDY YAMANAKA, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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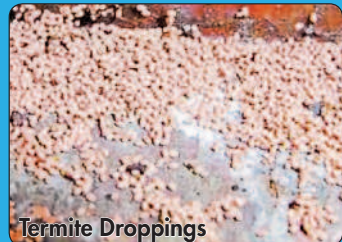
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