

Creswell

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Creswell, who has been superintendent in Ventura for about 16 months, was an associate superintendent in the Fontana Unified School District and an elder in the church at the time of the sermon.

Since the school board was made aware of the sermon earlier this month, Creswell has issued an apology stating he is "not a hater, a homophobe, or a person with a hidden agenda."

School board trustee Mary Haffner told The Star last week that Creswell should resign. She said at Tuesday's gathering that the past few weeks have been the most difficult she's faced in her tenure on the board and said the community is "deeply divided" because of his words.

"We would never have hired him if we had known this," Haffner said. At a special meeting earlier this month, the board no decision about the superintendent's future.

In the sermon, Creswell said he was flipping through a yearbook when on the superlative page under "Best Couple" he saw a gay couple embracing. He said, "Oh, boy. Here we go. Here's our world."

Under "Most Changed" was a transgender woman who was pictured in makeup and a dress, holding a photo of

the male she was born as.

"This is the definition of most changed? This is the definition?" he said, according to the audio, which has since been removed from the church's website at Creswell's request. "There's a growing sector of our culture, of our society, that says that's good and that's normal, and not only do they embrace it, we're now celebrating it."

Steve Bailey, a former Ventura Unified administrator, said during the panel portion Tuesday that he found Creswell's sermon to be offensive.

"I was upset, but most of all I felt betrayed, betrayed by the superintendent," Bailey said, adding that there had been a large culture shift when he was at the district to promote inclusivity among all people. "One four-minute section of that sermon took the school district back 20 years."

Parents, students, teachers and members of the LGBTQ community also spoke during the two-hour meeting. The thoughts were recorded and will be shared with the school board at an upcoming meeting.

Former superintendent speaks out

Arriaga, longtime superintendent of Ventura Unified, spoke, in her own words, as "Grandma Trudy" and not as a former superintendent.

"I was alarmed, I was shocked, I was saddened, I was mad to hear the comments of our current superintendent," Arriaga said. "The words are divisive,

and it is very clear that we have become a divided community right now, all you have to do is go on Facebook and see the division of comments that are attributed to one person's words. How much it matters in terms of what one person can say."

She said she believes Creswell's comments were "reckless" and "reprehensible" and are of the same rhetoric that children are hearing on a national level.

"Let that not be what our children hear on a local level," Arriaga said. "Not in this school district, not in this community."

She said a superintendent is held to the highest of standards at all times — not just during business hours. She cited Maya Angelou's words, "When people show you who they are, believe them."

"And so I believe, I believe the first time," Arriaga said. "I don't believe after people get caught. I believe the first time. If that is indeed the case, I respectfully request that this not be what the leader of the Ventura Unified School District is able to have in his or her heart."

She said she is a forgiving person, who forgives those who make mistakes.

"But in this case, I encourage our superintendent to carry on in his journey of understanding and seeing the marginalization of communities, but not on the backs of our children," Arriaga said. "Not on our time, not on our dime."

The sentiments Arriaga expressed

were echoed by many in attendance Tuesday, including two students from Ventura High School.

But others disagreed. Doug Halter, a longtime advocate on LGBTQ issues in Ventura, said he had met with Creswell and after that meeting, he had a change of heart and felt the superintendent should be allowed to remain in his current role.

"I believe that people can change," Halter said. "Instead of forcing him out, make him an ally."

A chance to change and grow

The Ventura Unified Education Association committee for LGBTQ rights approved a resolution on Nov. 23 that states, in part, "Creswell's comments were inexcusable, but he deserves a chance to change and grow."

"There are some VUEA members who feel this is the wrong direction for VUEA to take," the resolution letter states. "There are community members who feel the same. We are hoping our fledgling faith in Creswell and the board is well placed. The future of every student depends on it."

The resolution letter states that some union members feel the "damage has been done" and Creswell needs to resign.

Others respect Creswell for his leadership during the Thomas Fire and for his work with racial and social justice and ethnic studies in the district.

Death Notices

Andrew Biezins 90, of Newbury Park, Retail Manager, died 11/24/2018. Arrangements by Conejo Mountain Funeral Home, Memorial Park & Crematory

Bonnie Minear 66, of Santa Barbara, Quality Assurance Technician 2, died 11/15/2018. Arrangements by Charles Carroll Funeral Home, Ventura

Daniel Valdez Gagua, 42, of Camarillo, died 11/24/2018. Arrangements by Griffin Family Funeral Chapels, Camarillo (805) 482-1166.

John Warner Kerr, 94, of Ventura, died 11/19/2018. Arrangements by Ivy Lawn Memorial Park & Funeral Home (805) 642-1055.

Obituaries

Thomas E. Mallory II

OXNARD, CA

Tom passed away on November 18, 2018 after a long illness, with his family by his side. Tom was survived by his wife, children, grandchildren, a great grandchild and extended family. He was preceded in death by his father, mother and son. He will be greatly missed.

Services will be held at 2:00pm on December 1, 2018 at Gold Coast Fellowship located at 831 West 7th Street, Oxnard, CA 93030.



Nicholas Alexander Shelton

CAMARILLO, CA

The parents of Nicholas "Nick" Shelton announce the sudden and unexpected death of their youngest son on Monday, November 19, 2018.

Nicholas was born on June 14, 1988, in Thousand Oaks, CA. The youngest child of Gary and Donna Shelton, he grew up and attended local schools. He also attended a summer semester at Fishburne Military School in Waynesboro, VA, prior to his senior year at Camarillo High School.

His first job was at the Camarillo Premium Outlets, working at Balboa Beach Company and then at Eddie Bauer. From there he worked at Jersey Mike's sandwich shop both in Camarillo and in Westlake Village. Since August 2012 until the present, he worked at Channel Islands Logistics in the Oxnard industrial area performing a multitude of tasks such as lot security, shipping/receiving of imported containers and IT support.

Always an avid reader, Nick's part time attendance at Ventura Community College and especially taking classes in world history fostered his interest further in military history, religion, and society - so much so that he worked over the course of several years on a historical novel of his own. Other interests included poetry, music, Xbox gaming with a network that spans far and wide, but most near and dear to his heart were his family and lifelong friends. His school friends, his work friends, his neighbors, his martial arts instructor Master Eddie, his U.S. Army recruiter, his regular fast-food favorite stops crews, his siblings, his niece, his aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents - all played a part in enriching his life, challenging him, inspiring him and sharing so many good times and everyday kindnesses with him - we, his family, are ever so grateful to each and every one of you.

He was welcomed into Heaven by his great-grandmother "Honey", his great aunt Alma, his great uncle Howard "H.D. the ex-PFC", his aunt Joann and his fraternal grandfather "Papa Earl".

He is survived by his parents, Gary and Donna Shelton of Camarillo, CA, his sister, Kristin Shelton (Naro Hewitt) of Stephenson, VA, his niece/little buddy Olivia Hewitt of Stephenson, VA, his brother, Nathan Shelton (Alyssa Mikut) of San Diego, CA, his cat, Oliver, who is despondent without him, and his dog, Sheila. He also leaves behind aunts, uncles, two grandmothers and one grandfather, his cousins and the shared enjoyment of salmon fishing on the mouth of the Columbia River in Oregon.

A celebration of Nicholas's life will be held Friday, November 30, at 10:00 a.m. at Padre Serra Parish located at 5205 Upland Road in Camarillo. Arrangements are under the direction of Griffin Family Funeral Chapels (805)482-1166.

Griffin Family
Funeral Chapels

~Est. 1951~

Obituaries

Louis 'Coach C' Cvijanovich Jr.

OXNARD, CA

Louis "Luka" Cvijanovich Jr., 92, passed away on Saturday, November 24, 2018 at home in Oxnard, CA surrounded by his loving family.

Louis was born on September 7, 1926 in Jerome, AZ to his Yugoslavian immigrant parents, Luka and Anica Stelian Cvijanovich. He had four older siblings: Joe, Millie, Sam and Mary. He was an All-State Athlete at Jerome High School. Louis served in the United States Navy from 1944-1946. He graduated in 1952 from Arizona State College, Tempe, AZ. Louis and his beloved wife, Martha Sue, then moved to Oxnard, CA, where they established their family and he began his lifelong passion of teaching and coaching. He started his career at Wilson Junior High School (1952-1956); then Haydock Junior High School (1956-1957); next at Camarillo High School (1957-1958) and finally at Santa Clara High School (1958-2001).

Coach C instilled in his players a hard work ethic, a sense of community, the tenacity to persevere during difficult times and the importance of traditions. His teams' accomplishments ensured his many years of success as a coach. Whether he was coaching basketball, baseball or football; his teams won state championships, southern section championships, league championships, as well as, numerous city titles. Coach C received many accolades both locally and nationally for his professional accomplishments. However, Coach C always credited his players first and foremost. He forever stated, "It's not about me, it's all about these kids and seeing them develop into men, winning and losing is secondary." One of his motto throughout his career was Pressure + Poise + Pride = Success.

As a Serbian-Orthodox, Coach C received a rarity, the Apostolic Blessing from His Holiness, John Paul II, a truly overwhelming honor he said and called it another great moment in his life.

Coach C is survived by his wife of 70 years, Martha Sue Stanley; his eight children: Sam (Kathryn), Stefan (Suzy), Stan (Debbie), Stuart, Sue, Scott, Sherri and Stacey (Michelle); his seven grandchildren: Jasmine Grissom, Brandon Frazier, Samantha Cvijanovich-Martinez, Mikala Cvijanovich, Samuel Cvijanovich, Madison Cvijanovich and Bennett Cvijanovich; his four great-grandchildren: Justus Sampson, Emery Sampson, Winter Sampson and Jazel Garin; his sister in law, Betty Lou Young; his ten nieces: Margaret Elvey, Sammie Lou Rothrock, Dorothy (Chuck Call) Galovich, Charlotte (Ken) Causey, Leslie MacDonald, Donna (Jim) DeFecce, Sandy Young, Diane (Tim) Milby, Susan (Keith) Yamasaki and Cyndi (Rich) Feydo. His seven nephews: Stanley (Charlene) Shavonis, Richard Williamson, Harry (Ginny) Williamson, Scott (Diana) Young, Bruce (Lydia) Young, Todd (Chello) Rothrock and Trevor Rothrock. He also leaves behind numerous grand nieces and nephews along with great grand nieces and nephews.

Upon his passing, Papa Lou, as he was also known within the family, was greeted with open arms by his first grandson, Stefan Scott. Along with his parents, Louis joins Joe Cvijanovich, Millie and Lazo Galovich, Sam Cvijanovich, Mary and Howard "Mac" MacDonald, Robert Rothrock, William Clinton Stanley, Sarah Hunter Stanley, Michael and Helen Shavonis, Ruth and Forest "Smokey" Williamson, Donald Young and Sonee Frazier.

There will be a public viewing of Louis Cvijanovich, Jr. on Friday, November 30, 2018 from 12:00-9:00 p.m. at Reardon Funeral Home, located at 511 N A Street, Oxnard, CA 93030. Santa Clara High School will host Coach C's Celebration of Life on Saturday, December 15, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, Coach requested for donations be made to the Coach C Scholarship Fund at Santa Clara High School, 2121 S. Saviers Road, Oxnard, CA 93030.



Warren Carl Jenkins

OAK PARK, CA

Warren Carl Jenkins passed away in his home on November 3, 2018. He was born February 26, 1932 in Melrose, MA the son of Carl Winchell Jenkins and Bernice Marion (Hayes) Jenkins. He is survived by his 5 children: David, Donald, Gary, Brenda and Eric his 4 grandchildren: Ryan, Eryn, Elizabeth and Sarah; and his 2 great-grandchildren: Autumn and Andrew.

Obituaries

Olav Erling Selle

CAMARILLO, CA

It is with a heavy heart to announce the passing of O. E. Selle. Erling was born April 15, 1929 in Bismark North Dakota. He passed away on November 21, 2018 after a brief illness at St. John's Hospital in Camarillo, Ca. Erling grew up in North Dakota, Minnesota and Vancouver Washington.

Erling was 17 when he enlisted in the Navy in 1946. His father signed a waiver allowing him to join at 17. Dad did two tours of Vietnam, first in 1963 and witnessed the South Vietnamese military's coup of the government. His second tour, after being promoted to Senior Chief, was sent to Dong Ha, 10 miles south of the DMZ, a support base for Khe Sanh and other strategic outposts. Erling retired after his return in 1968.

Dad went on and became a Snap-On Tool distributor for the entire Oxnard Plain. His territory covered, the north boundary, the Santa Clara river, to the east, the Canejo Grade, to the west, the ocean. He met many struggling and expert mechanics along with shop owners and helped them better their careers and businesses by giving them credit to buy the best mechanic tools in the world. He was highly respected and trusted.

Dad retired to help with his wife's care. Mom died of cancer in 1988 after almost 34 years of marriage. After mom's passing, Erling was able to spend time with his family in Washington, his daughter Linda, his son George, and his grand kids.

Erling is preceded in death by his wife, Gloria, his brother, Harry, sisters, Mildred, Christina, Jewel and his daughter Linda.

He is survived by his brother John, (wife Karen), his son George, (wife Laura), four grand children, four great grand children and many nephews and nieces .

A burial service will be on Nov. 29, 2018, Ivy Lawn Memorial Park, Ventura, Ca. at 1:00 PM.

Arrangements are under the direction of Griffin Family Funeral Chapels, Camarillo, Ca.

Richard Plowman

SIMI VALLEY, CA

Richard "Dick" Plowman, 81, passed away Friday, November 23rd, 2018. Dick was the son of Raymond and Lillian Plowman born in 1937 in Freeport, IL. He married Judy in 1959 in Freeport, and in 1978 they moved their family to Simi Valley. Dick and Judy were married for 58 years until her death this past January. Dick was also preceded in death by his brother Robert, and sisters Carol and Lois. Dick is survived by his sons, Jeff (Lizzie), Jim (Erin), and Tom, his daughter Paula (Jeff), and his grandchildren Julia, Emily, Tim, Ben, Joseph, Katy, John, and Ryan, and several nieces and nephews. A very special thank you to Johnny, who has been a wonderful caregiver to Dick for the past few years. Private services will be held.

ROSE FAMILY
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION

Roy Elmer Hacker

CAMARILLO, CA

In living memory of Roy Elmer Hacker who passed away on Wednesday, November 21, 2018 at the age of 86 in Camarillo, California. Roy was born July 24, 1932 and is preceded in death by his parents Elmer and Mildred Hacker of Des Plaines, Illinois. Roy is survived by Marilyn, his wife of 60 years; his three children: Jeff Hacker (Debbie), Leslie McMurray (Bill), and Randy Hacker (Tricia); his six grandchildren: Haley Simon (Nate), Drew Hacker (CJ), Alexandria Hacker, William McMurray IV, Cory Freeborn (Andrea), and Chris Freeborn; and his two great-grandchildren: Ellie Simon and Cooper Simon.

Roy served four years in the Air Force as a staff sergeant. While on leave, he met Marilyn and her twin sister as they played basketball in their back yard just two doors down from Roy's parents' home in Illinois. Roy returned to school after the military and received his degree in Finance Management and went to work for Pure Oil and Chicago Aerial Industries (Bourns, Inc.) in Barrington, Illinois.

Roy was later transferred to California as General Manager of Pacific Optical. After settling in California, Roy became active with Los Alamitos sports teams and coached his son's in basketball, football, and baseball. He was also a member of the Masonic Lodge. In 1991, Roy became Founder and CEO of Optimum Optical Systems which designed and manufactured Infrared Optics in Camarillo, California. Roy sold his company after nineteen years to Teledyne and retired to enjoy his passions of sports, travel and life.

Interment at Miramar Veterans Memorial and Celebration of Life to be announced at later date.

