

# Daily Pilot & Times OC

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Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**GALLERY DIRECTOR** Tyler Stallings comments on Douglas McCulloh's photo collage print, a piece made from Google search photos from the Spirit Mountain area on display at the "Spirit of the Land: Artists Honor Avi Kwa Ame" group exhibition at Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa.

## 'Spirit of the Land' celebrates Nevada landscape, heritage

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

On the southernmost tip of Nevada, south of Las Vegas, sits Avi Kwa Ame, the Mojave name for Spirit Mountain. The surrounding land is the place of origin for 10 Yuman-speaking tribes of the Mojave: the Hualapai, Yavapai, Havasupai, Quechan, Maricopa, Pai Pai, Halchidhoma, Cocopah and Kumeyaay, which all consider the land a source of life. The area is also sacred to the Hopi and Chemehuevi Paiute people.

Avi Kwa Ame is celebrated in Frank M. Doyle Arts Pavilion's current exhibition, "Spirit of the Land: Artists Honor Avi Kwa Ame," at Orange Coast College. The traveling group exhibition is organized by the Barrick Museum of Art at the University of Nevada Las Vegas and curated by Kim Garrison, Checko Salgado and Mikayla Whitmore.

"Spirit of the Land" is an exhibition that over 50 artists, writers, musicians and dancers have participated in four-plus different venues at this point," said Garrison, who is also a faculty resident at Orange Coast College. "All of them are creating a love letter in their own way to place that we all care about."

The show also celebrates a recent bill introduced in Congress that would permanently protect 443,000 acres of the Avi Kwa Ame area as Nevada's fourth national monument. Garrison and the other two curators are key activists, and their advocacy through the arts is partly responsible for bringing the proposal forward.

"As the national monument was developing and progressing, Kim wanted to make



**A LIFE-SIZED** character, Mx. Burlap, appears in "I am Them, They is I," by artist Jynx Prado, on display at the Frank M. Doyle Arts Pavilion at Orange Coast College through Dec. 1.

sure to keep it in people's thoughts, and so she organized several exhibitions in the Southern Nevada area in the spring," said Tyler Stallings, director at the Frank M. Doyle Arts Pavilion. "Part of the idea was not only to have it in people's thoughts but also to encourage community members to engage."

One way the exhibition cultivates engage-

ment is through an interactive postcard campaign.

"I really like that art has the power to engage us ... and I really like that it is a safe and welcoming environment to talk about this. This exhibition gave not just artists but members of the communities involved of all kinds

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## Billboard project receives approval from F.V.

An electronic message center installed on private property could generate more than \$31 million for the city.

BY ANDREW TURNER

A nearly eight-story-high electronic billboard proposal submitted to the city more than three years ago got the go-ahead from the Fountain Valley City Council Tuesday, as the panel moved to adopt an ordinance that would allow it to be installed on private property.

The Becker Boards project, which seeks to build a 73-foot-tall electronic message center with two displays at 18375 Euclid St., required a code amendment for the Fountain Valley Crossings Specific Plan. Fountain Valley could see more than \$31 million in revenue from the billboard over 40 years.

Council members passed the

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## HBPD honors officer for lifesaving action

Officer Meghan Haney talked a woman out of jumping off a building.

BY ERIC LICAS

Units working patrol on the graveyard shift for the Huntington Beach Police Department have to be ready for anything. That was especially true on June 15, 2021, Officer Meghan Haney said.

"We see people when things are coming at their lives unexpectedly because things are happening when they're asleep or at 2 or 3 a.m.," Haney said. "We get people on their bad nights and their good nights, but we just go our

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*Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer*

**POSTCARDS FROM** art on display at the “Spirit of the Land: Artists Honor Avi Kwa Ame” group exhibition.

## **SPIRIT**

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the opportunity to participate in telling stories about this place through a community call for postcard art.”

Garrison said they received over 200 entries of postcard art, which are included in the show at the Doyle in a slide show.

The postcards also served another purpose.

“In every venue, those postcards have been made available to the public along with the addresses of all the various representatives for this landscape, and people can write what they want at the postcard station and we will mail it for them,” Garrison said.

Existing alongside Spirit Mountain is a local place known as Christmas Tree Pass, a holdover from the mining era of the nearby rural town of Searchlight. The work of artist and

co-curator Mikayla Whitmore, titled “Sunrise Sunset,” focuses on a tradition that has evolved at the pass.

“Christmas Tree Pass traverses the west side of Spirit Mountain over to the east side. At one time, there used to be a lot of pine trees and people would go cut them down for Christmas trees. This is how it got its name,” said Stallings. “Now there are not many pine trees left there, but the tradition of people going up and decorating the smaller plant life is there, but the thing is they often leave the Christmas stuff there.”

Whitmore photographs the western tradition of decorating the juniper and pinyons with one photo showing a naked shrub in the light of day and the same shrub covered in a tangle of red, silver and gold tinsel garland as the sky darkens.

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**A COLLECTION** of discarded Christmas decorations made in the impression of Spirit Mountain in southern Nevada.