

Laguna Woods Globe

THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2026 | OCREGISTER.COM/LAGUNAWOODS | AN EDITION OF THE REGISTER

ESSAY

Ode to Quincy, a faithful friend lost forever

Editor's note: Globe reporter Daniella Walsh has spent years writing about the coyote issue in the Village and the precautions experts advise to safeguard pets, and she followed them precisely. Still, as many have learned, all that proved to be no match for coyotes.

By Daniella Walsh
CORRESPONDENT

It was one of those flawless California spring days when we did not have to wish each other a nice day since it already was one.

Little did I know what was to come in the middle of the day April 14 when I leashed up my beloved little Quincy for his walk around the Sevilla and Via Los Altos neighborhood.

"Walkies, little snuffly, walkies! Stick close to Mom and no shenanigans," I admonished my 9-pound, 15-year-old gray terrier Chihuahua mix.

No shenanigans? Yes, that meant for Quincy no trying to pull away from me more than 2 feet, no lingering in one spot too long no matter how good it smelled.

For me, it meant no gabbing with neighbors or passers-by without keeping Quincy close, and making

See **QUINCY** on Page A12

GARDEN CLUB



Susie Vanderlip, a monarch butterfly conservation specialist with the national Monarch Watch organization, will address the Garden Club on Wednesday, May 27. She will talk about life cycle, habitat and threats to monarchs. **COURTESY OF SUSIE VANDERLIP**

Life cycle of the royal and famous

Conservation specialist to talk about monarch butterflies

By Penny E. Schwartz
CORRESPONDENT

Some people are inspired by a beautiful sunset; others find spiritual meaning in a poem or a song.

Susie Vanderlip finds her bliss in a caterpillar.

Not just any caterpillar, but one that turns into a

monarch butterfly.

"They are different from the others in their coloring, which is banded black, white and yellow," Vanderlip said. "They are also very energetic and eat voraciously while growing to 2 1/2 inches in size."

Vanderlip, a monarch conservation specialist

with the national Monarch Watch organization, will address the Garden Club at 2 p.m. Wednesday, May 27, in Clubhouse 1.

She will discuss ways of cultivating one's garden to attract monarchs and dispel myths about their feeding

See **MONARCH** on Page A13

BOARD MEETING

Tap-to-pay options may be coming to United laundry rooms

Pilot program to test prepaid cards, smartphone payment

By Anita Gosch
GLOBE EDITOR

Laundry rooms in United Mutual may be going digital.

Users will no longer have to fish out quarters for the machines if a 12-month pilot program is successful.

Ian Barnette, deputy director of maintenance and construction for Village Management Services, outlined the program at the United board's meeting May 12.

The board is in discussions with a company called Wash, a multifamily laundry room service, which will be running the pilot program in 14 laundry rooms in the Gate 3 area, specifically in Cul-de-sacs 9 and 62-67, Barnette said.

The goal is to eventu-

ally transition all laundry rooms in United to electronic payment, getting rid of coin payment entirely.

Residents will have two options to pay: with a smartphone app or with a prepaid card that can be purchased and loaded at kiosks in the laundry rooms.

The cost of doing laundry will rise slightly, Barnette said: 75 cents to wash a load (currently \$1) and 75 cents to dry a load (currently free). So the total cost to wash and dry a load of laundry would be \$1.50 (instead of the current \$1). The amount of time for the dryer is still being discussed.

Barnette pointed out some benefits to paying

See **UNITED** on Page A12

CREMATORY MORTUARY PRE-PLANNING

MCCORMICK & SON
Mortuaries

CELEBRATE A LIFE.
CHERISH A MEMORY.
PLAN FOR THE FUTURE.

WWW.MCCORMICKANDSON.COM
LAGUNA BEACH | 949-494-9415 (CAFPD 1212)
LAGUNA WOODS | 949-768-0933 (CAFPD 1312)

MONARCH

From Page 1

and habits.

As a volunteer with the organization, Vanderlip helps educate the public about planting for monarchs, their migrations and their precarious position in today's changing environment. She addressed the Garden Club several years ago with basic information about the butterflies she finds so captivating.

Vanderlip, who lives in Orange, said she was "predestined" to fall in love with the winged creatures.

Recovering from a ruptured appendix 15 years ago, she was puttering about her garden when she noticed a "vivacious and energetic" caterpillar. Also an avid photographer, she started capturing the creature and its buddies every day for a year, learning all about monarchs along the way.

She turned these activities into a children's book

titled "The Story of Chester" and in so doing became a monarch aficionado.

"Anyone who raises them finds them inspirational," she said.

The caterpillars are unlike any others, spending two weeks as bugs before entering their chrysalis to eventually emerge as beautiful butterflies.

Vanderlip was a professional speaker for 25 years, dealing with such heavy topics as drugs and teen suicide. Her proficiency earned her a spot in the Speakers Hall of Fame.

"But nobody wanted me to talk to them," she recalled with a laugh.

Now "repurposed" to align with her passions, she is a popular and desired speaker on the lifestyles of butterfly royalty.

"I fell in love with talking to garden clubs, where people are as nutty and passionate about gardening as I am and where there are grandparents to introduce their grandkids to my book,"

she said.

Through her work with Monarch Watch, she has met a "who's who" of professionals in the field.

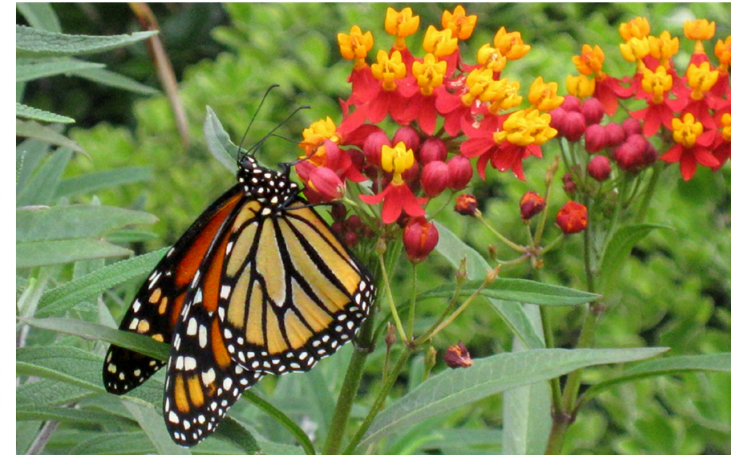
"In the past few years, many myths about the monarchs have been dispelled," she said. "The caterpillars need only milkweed to feed on and do not eat other plants in the garden."

Monarchs that breed east of the Rockies migrate some 3,000 miles to Michoacan, Mexico, in the winter, while western monarchs, such as the ones in California, do not leave the central part of the state.

As climate change warms the environment, the population of monarchs has declined by 98%, placing them on the cusp of being declared endangered, Vanderlip said.

Asked what these colorful winged creatures that seem to float through the air mean to most people, she said many find them transformational.

"Many people see monarchs at significant moments in their lives,



A monarch butterfly drinks nectar from tropical milkweed flowers. Monarch expert Susie Vanderlip of Orange will speak to the Garden Club at 2 p.m. Wednesday, May 27. **PHOTOS COURTESY OF SUSIE VANDERLIP**

representing the most beautiful thing you can become," she said.

Ancient cultures believe they carry the spirits of the dead and bring messages from someone in the beyond.

"They are the most complex insect on the planet, as they are not born with wings," she said.

Vanderlip wants people to understand how "complex and fragile" they are and how arduous their journey from caterpillar to butterfly and beyond is.

"They face an enormous number of challenges and so many predators, along with their habitats being destroyed by pesticides and global warming," she said.

With her talk, she hopes to encourage people to plant specifically for monarchs in their gardens.

"I want people to experience the amazement and joy that monarchs can bring to their lives."

Susie Vanderlip will talk to the Garden Club at 2 p.m. Wednesday, May 27, in Clubhouse 1, Main Lounge. Doors open at 1:30 p.m. Admission is free for Garden Club members; nonmembers pay \$5 at the door. Refreshments and a free raffle follow the presentation.



Monarch caterpillars feed on tropical milkweed.



A monarch butterfly chrysalis. Caterpillars inside the chrysalis eventually emerge as butterflies.



A female monarch butterfly rests on a nectar plant. Monarch butterflies are known for their distinctive coloring: bright orange wings laced with black veins and bordered by a black edge with white dots.