Mobile App Creates Problems for NMUSD Schools

By Sara Hall | NB Indy

The Newport-Mesa Unified School District warned parents and community members about a mobile app that has become an avenue for cyber-bullying, harassment, violence, and other issues. Officials noted in a message this week.

"The "problematic" app, called Qbly, is designed and marketed for students to post videos and pictures of themselves, other students, and their school campuses. The application also allows users to submit photos, make comments, and post without censorship in total anonymity.

"There is no practical use for this app and it is largely being used to spread harmful, hurtful, and negative messages," district officials wrote in a message.

"These are offensive, intimidating, and even threatening posts on the Qbly app.

Many schools in the district are being affected by it. District officials urged parents to carefully monitor their students' online presence and use of this app and any other social media. They also recommended that the app be removed if found on a student's phone.

"The best way to be unaffected by Qbly is to be disconnected from it," NMUSD officials explained. "We do not believe it adds any value nor does it deliver any positive benefits for our students."

NSMUSD has partnered with local police departments to ensure the validity and integrity of threatening claims.

Tensions High During Discussion of CdM Sports Field Project

Sara Hall | NB Indy

Tensions were high during a community meeting this week about the proposed Corona del Mar High School sports field project.

About 100 people packed into the CdM HHS student union Monday for the Newport-Mesa Unified School District's public meeting to discuss the estimated $15 million project. Notice of CDMS SPORTS FIELD Page 23

Schedule of Films Announced for the Newport Beach Film Fest

Thousands of film fans and hundreds of filmmakers will be descending on Newport Beach April 21-28 to enter the 17th annual Newport Beach Film Festival, which has grown to become one of the most respected and popular film festivals in the country.

This year's Newport Beach Film Festival features more than 500 films from 50 countries, a new record that affirms the fest's growing popularity.

The festival opens with the world premiere of "The Art of the Reality," a documentary staring Marcella Morricone (who was raised in Orange County and attended the OC School of the Arts), and closes with "The Finer," starring James Franco.

In between are features films, shorts, documentaries, action sports films, and music videos, plus filmmaker interviews, special tours, and awards to veteran actors, a virtual reality experience, tributes to John Wayne and Henry Fonda, and an expo with industry experts.

Newport Beach Indy editor Christopher Todd will be on hand with Festival co-founders Gregg Schwerz and Todd Quarternos, as well as programmers Max Taylor and Cole Robinson, for an inside look at the annual aspect of this year's festival.

Read the complete article on the 2016 Newport Beach Film Festival in the Arts section on page 6.
BY CHRISTOPHER TRELA

There were several exciting "firsts" at the annual Alzheimer's Orange County's "Creating Hope" gala, held March 18.

Although the event was the organization's 18th annual gala, it was the first since Alzheimer's OC split from the national Alzheimer's Association and became an independent organization last December.

It was also the first time Alzheimer's OC used the AV Irvine special event center, the newest and most technologically-advanced special event facility in Orange County.

Another first: the gala was attended by nearly 350 supporters and raised a record $378,770 for local programs and services.

"This year's gala celebrates the transformation we've undergone as an organization and the direction we are heading," said Jim McAleer, president and CEO of AOG. "We've been an Orange County institution since 1982, and knowing for the first time that all the money we raise will go back to the community that's been our home for more than 30 years was truly magical."

The theme for this year's gala was Broadway Memories, and featured several musical theater performers belting out familiar show tunes.

Presented by The Argyros Family Foundation, the "Creating Hope" gala began with a festive reception featuring a silent auction, live music, and a champagne tower topped with a live "Wicked" witch.

Once in the ballroom, guests were treated to a variety of entertainment, and inspirational video tributes to the evening's four honorees: Diane Mondini, CEO of Caring Companions at Home in Newport Beach; Farmers & Merchants Trust Company; Volunteer Pat Seldano; and Community Partner The Sanchez Family.

During dinner, guests participated in live and fund-a-need auctions. The evening ended with music and dancing to The ChickBand.

The gala was chaired by Jacqueline Dupont and Marc Carlson, and Eydie and Dave MacInnis.

For more information, visit alzoc.org.