Martin Gets to Core of Community in Orange County, Inc.

UC-Irvine Librarian Lordei Tanji left upon a point that would likely find under the Business Journal's front-page banner during her opening remarks to a crowd of about 300 people gathered at the Beckman Center last week to celebrate the debut of Chuck Martin's coffee-table tome, "Orange County: Inc. —The Evolution of an Economic Powerhouse." The event, Tanji said, was "at its core about community." Martin is best known as a fellow who climbed from modest beginnings in small-town Ohio to make a fortune as an investor, entrepreneur. He chose the community of fellow entrepreneurs, innovators and business leaders who have played key roles in shaping the community. Martin gave everyone a taste of his own entrepreneurial abilities during a talk with the Business Journal's Rick Reiff and Eric Spangenberg, dean of UCI's Merage School of Business —a pathway before sales of the book kicked off. Did you know Martin asked the crowd, that there were orange groves in these parts back in 1869, when Orange County split off from Los Angeles? "No way!" one of the audience members exclaimed. "I've been coming here for 50 years and I've never heard of that before!"

Martin is the name of one of the most prominent personalities featured in the book to find out," Martin insisted. "You gotta read the book to find out!" The location of the event was chosen to remind one of the most prominent personalities featured in the book. The Beckman Center —UTI Chancellor Howard Gillman a chance to highlight the special status the Beckman Center brings as a neighbor of the school. It's the West Coast headquarters of the National Academy of Sciences, created by a charter issued by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863. The academy is charged with advising the federal government "when ever called upon" in any area of science and technology. It's also a beehive of innovation, with nearly 500 members who have won Nobel Prizes over the course of the century. The Irvine location is one of five for the National Academy and one of only two outside Washington, D.C. Martin took the opportunity to emphasize another point of the book: the circle of entrepreneurship, commercial success and philanthropy that's been crucial to OC's development. The Beckman Center, meanwhile, offers a clear illustration—Beckman and his wife, Mabel, donated $20 million to build and endow the center, which sits on 7 acres donated by Irvine Company. Looking for the future generation of entrepreneurs? Check ValCo, the YouTube-fueled media conflagration and fanfare, which seems to have dug in to build a home base in OC even as it lays plans for a global expansion, with shows expected in Amsterdam and Melbourne next year. "ValCo is in Anheuser-Busch as well, and I don't want to lose that," Co-founder Hank Green told the L.A. Times just before the annual event started its recent three-day run at the Anaheim Convention Center. Estimates put this year's attendance at around 25,000 up nearly 20-fold since the show started at a hotel in L.A. in 2010. "Separated at Birth? Mike Murschel, CEO of Irvine-based medical device maker Edwards Lifesciences and one of the business leaders profiled in "Orange County, Inc." (top) and celebrity chef Mabel Syman on TV personality 3

Creative-Office Makeover Draws SpaceX Outpost

REAL ESTATE: Would-be pioneer seeks engineers here

By MARK MUELLER

Elon Musk's SpaceX has touched down in Irvine. The Hawthorne-based rocket maker and spacecraft company—which also operates under the name Space Exploration Technologies Corp.—this month opened a location at 96 Corporate Park, a three-story office in Irvine that fronts Jamboree Road. The building is a block from the District at Tustin Legacy shopping center and about 3 miles from John Wayne Airport. It's the company's first location in Orange County. SpaceX is leasing nearly 8,000 square feet at the building for 63 months, according to Kelemen Caamaño, a business-building's Irvine-based owner. Kelemen Caamaño bought the 41,545-square-foot building last year for a reported $7.8 million, and recently completed a major renovation that turned the property into creative-office space.

"We are very pleased with this opportunity to welcome SpaceX to Orange County," said

FINANCE: Some of $14M infusion to pay off TARP

By MICHAEL DE LOS REYES

Irvine-based CalWest Bancorp, the holding company for South County Bank N.A., has six new directors and $14 million in new capital as it looks to get back on a growth track. "The new board members add significant business acumen that we will tap into for our customers and investors," said Glenn Gray, president and chief executive of CalWest Bancorp and South County Bank. Gray retains one of eight seats on the board. Fadi Chehka, president of FootHill Ranch-based service provider Electronic Cash Systems, is the other carveroy.

Reconciliation, New Board for CalWest Bancorp

By MEDIHA DIMARTINO

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Younger McKnight Wants Own Niche

APPAREL: Curator seeks new status for belts in men's fashion

By MEDHA DIMARTINO

The son of Quiksilver founder Bob McKnight has launched an upscale belt maker targeting wearers of surf apparel. Curator, a Huntington Beach-based firm, wants to invigorate a product category that's been overlooked by big players in the surf apparel industry, making men's belts "a staple fashion piece rather than an afterthought," according to the company's founder, Robbie McKnight. It's a strategy borrowed from Stance Inc. The San Clementes-based company is well-known for its array of themed socks that recently added the designation of official on-court sock of the National Basketball Association to its growing list of achievements as a notable newcomer in the apparel business.

"We definitely see the niche where we can be the Stance of belts—that's our goal," Robbie McKnight said, adding that his father, who founded Quiksilver Inc. in 1976, will serve as an adviser to Curator. The accessories brand boasts another established name in the apparel game as an adviser: Travis Brashier, founder and chief

Members of hedge fund JMG Capital Management LLC in New York; Richard Man del, founder and president at real estate investor Ramfield Hospitality Finance in New York; Clifford W. Lord Jr., managing partner at real estate investment firm PIRG Investment and Management in Los Angeles; and Jeremy Zhu, managing director at Wedbush Opportunity Capital LLC, a private equity fund in Los Angeles. Gray said the bank will use about $5 million from the $14 million raised to repay the Troub le Asset Relief Program funds it received in 2009. The repayment and several changes to bank policy should release the institution from government oversight that restricted its ability to pay dividends. The rest of the capital will be used to grow bank assets.

Tibor Kelemen, president of Kelemen Caamaño Investments, in a statement. "This was our vision when we acquired this property, to transform it into a modern workspace environment for the most innovative, thriving companies." Job postings on the company’s website show that SpaceX is seeking engineers with wireless and broadband experience for the Irvine location.

The company was sued this year by Broad -

SpaceX denies the allegations and said "Broad com" —which is now based in Singa-

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