

Breaking culinary boundaries at the Plot

Husband and wife owners Jessica and Davin Waite let nothing go to waste at their plant-forward restaurant in Costa Mesa.

BY SARA CARDINE

On most American dinner plates vegetables play a supporting role, propping up or fringing meat-based entrees; other times they are an afterthought, unseasoned, undercooked or steamed beyond all recognition.

But at the plant-forward the Plot in Costa Mesa, leafy greens, legumes, roots and stems take center

stage, whether they're replicating carnivore fan favorites, such as carrotfish and chips and red lentil Spam, or are the stars of boundary-pushing plates like broccoli-stem sushi and tacos made from slow-cooked banana peels.

Nothing goes to waste under the watchful eye of Oceanside executive chef Devin Waite who, with wife and partner Jessica, wel-

See **Plot**, page A2



James Carbone

OWNERS OF the Plot in Costa Mesa, husband and wife duo Jessica and Davin Waite, pose outside their restaurant at the CAMP. The Plot recently hosted a "Plantscape" dinner series at the location.



Coming soon to Irvine

UCI Health

Sheriff's cooperation with ICE sees spike in inmate transfers

Immigrant advocates call on Orange County supervisors to end sheriff's transfers after one-year, 1,200% increase.

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

The Orange County Sheriff's Department handed about 220 people over to Immigration and Customs Enforcement custody last year after they finished serving jail time.

A stark departure from 2022, when only 17 inmates were handed over to ICE for potential deportation, the tally fueled an ongoing a debate over Orange County Sheriff Don Barnes' voluntary cooperation with immigration authorities.

Barnes defended his department's policy during Tuesday's Orange County Board of Supervisors meeting, where an annual forum required by the Trust Act was held on the issue.

"A change in the numbers is not reflective of more or less action by law enforcement," he said. "Our policy remains unchanged. We simply do what the law allows."

Since taking effect in 2018, the California Values Act, commonly known as the "Sanctuary State" law, has prohibited ICE transfers, save for inmates convicted of serious or violent offenses. Barnes has publicly opposed the law while otherwise claiming to abide by it.

Before filing into the forum, a coalition of immigrant rights groups held a Tuesday morning press conference to denounce what amounted to a 1,200% increase in



Gary Coronado | Los Angeles Times

ORANGE COUNTY Sheriff Don Barnes gives a tour of the new Housing Unit for Military Veterans at the Theo Lacy Facility in Orange in December 2019.

ICE transfers between 2022 and 2023.

Activists also demanded a halt to any future such transfers.

Jonathan Bremen, a staff attorney with Public Law Center, deemed the data "alarming" in comments to supervisors during the forum.

"The overwhelming majority of community members transferred by the sher-

See **Transfers**, page A7



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

IN TRYING TO find solutions for the need of affordable living and work spaces for local artists, the Laguna Beach City Council has directed city staff to issue a request for proposal for a consultant who would facilitate the establishment of a community land trust.

Laguna aims to find ways to help artists live in town

BY ANDREW TURNER

Looking to address a need for affordable housing and workspace for its artists, Laguna Beach plans to establish a community land trust to work toward that goal.

An artist work-live ad hoc committee was tasked with identifying a funding mechanism that could make headway on the issue as among its top priorities.

"The committee found that the community land trust would have the greatest impact for the city of Laguna Beach," said Jennifer Savage, the city's housing program coordinator. "Their considerations in finding this included that the community land trust could maintain affordable housing in perpetuity, utilize donations — not only monetary but also real property, take those resources and blend housing

units into the fabric of Laguna Beach, and focus on artists.

"It would also be able to, through the community land trust, focus on seniors and the local workforce."

The City Council on Tuesday directed staff to issue a request for proposal for a consultant to facilitate the establishment of a community land trust. The

See **Artists**, page A4



Courtesy of Foster Love

ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:

NONPROFIT SUPPORTING FOSTER CARE CHILDREN OPENS NEW BOUTIQUE FOR TEENS

As it continues programs like Disney Days, Foster Love has introduced a store where foster teens and young women can find clothing and other supplies. [Page A4](#)

MAILBAG: PLANNED BUMP IN MOORING COSTS WOULD EQUATE TO EVICTION FOR OFFSHORE NEWPORT RESIDENTS [PAGE A6](#)

ALL-VEGAN SOY CONCHA BAKERY IS CLOSING ITS DOORS IN SANTA ANA [PAGE A7](#)



Gabriel San Román

Garden Grove OKs \$152M civic center revamp

New police station, parking structure and community park are slated to be completed by 2027.

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

Garden Grove's civic center is set to receive a multi-million-dollar facelift with plans for new police station, parking garage and park edging closer to breaking ground.

Hailed as a "historic" moment, the Garden Grove City Council unanimously approved the \$152-million revamp during its March 26 meeting.

"I can't wait to see a shovel in the ground and see this come to fruition," Councilwoman Stephanie Klopfenstein said. "From the police station to a brand-new park, I know the community is excited. I'm excited."

The groundbreaking is now slated for May 14 after council members approved a project agreement with Edgemoor, a Virginia-based developer, to work on the civic center site on the corner of Euclid Street and Acacia Parkway.

In November, council members also issued \$140 million in lease revenue bonds to fund the majority of the project. The remaining costs will be covered by \$12 million from the city's civic center fund.

The cornerstone of the



Courtesy of the city of Garden Grove

AN ARTISTIC RENDERING of the revitalized Garden Grove Civic Center, which is expected to be completed by mid-2027.

revitalization plan will be the new Garden Grove Police Department headquarters with an attached four-level parking garage, both of which will be built atop Community Center Park.

"The new police facility will be a landmark in our community of safety and security," Garden Grove Police Chief Amir El-Farra told council members.

He called the existing police headquarters, which

was built in 1972, "anti-quoted."

The revamp will displace the Community Center Park's duck pond, which has become a haven for wild animals and unwanted pets in recent years.

But some residents see the duck pond — slated to be drained and removed — as an asset to the community's identity and want to see the concept carried over.

"The duck pond is bring-

ing us more beauty than we realize," said Claire Bischoff, a Garden Grove resident. "I see it as a place of beauty and tranquility. We don't know what we have until it's gone."

Once the police station is completed and ready for move-in by March 2026, the old department headquarters will be demolished to make way for a new 2.7-acre Civic Center Park with a memorial grove, event space and exercise equip-

ment.

Current conceptual plans do not include a duck pond, but some council members suggested a water feature be considered in the future.

"It would be a nice touch," said Councilman George Brietigam. "If the ducks can use it? Better off, right?"

Civic Center construction will enlist local and veteran union hires thanks to a project labor agree-

ment negotiated as part of the deal.

The entire project is expected to be completed by mid-2027.

"I'm just excited to see this happen for our community," said Councilwoman Kim Nguyen-Peñaloza. "Hopefully, one day, it translates across the street to City Hall."

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PLOT

Continued from page A1

comed diners to their first Orange County-based restaurant inside the eco-friendly retail complex the CAMP in January.

Since then, the pair have been building a fan base comprising devotees of their San Diego County-based enterprises — Wrench & Rodent Seabastropub, Shoots Fish & Beer, Brine Box and the Plot's flagship restaurant in Oceanside — and newcomers alike.

Davin is a self-professed omnivore whose culinary career began at a sushi-making station at an Ichiban in Santa Barbara, where he attended college, while Jessica is a lifelong herbivore who went vegan as a teen in Seattle in the '90s and never looked back.

Despite that difference, the pair are united in their desire to restore vegetables to a place of prominence in the minds, and on the palates, of all who enter the Plot.

"Vegetables have lost a lot of their flavor because of the way we're farming them. There's depleted soil, they're transported around the country, monocrop farming, it all really depletes the flavor," Jessica said.

"Unfortunately, your average diner is not always getting a vegetable that is as delicious and as nutritious as it should be — maybe that's been part of the problem."

"I think diversity is also important," said Davin. "In Southern California we're in a bubble where things are a lot better. Still, it's a numbers game. You've got people basically eating the same four fish, the same four land animals and the same four vegetables. That's mostly because that's what's easy to distribute. It's that and it's a little bit of a comfort zone."

Hoping to afflict the gastronomically comfortable, the Waites last year created a "Plantscape" dinner series at the Plot in Oceanside, a zero-waste tasting menu showcasing seasonal offerings selected from raised-box gardens outside the restaurant as well as local farms and eco-collaborators.

The vegan feast is designed not to necessarily push people outside their comfort zones but to entice them with out-of-the-box creations that exemplify the concept of "total utilization," using



Kimberly Motos

THE PLOT, a plant-based, zero-waste restaurant, opened inside Costa Mesa's the CAMP in January.



Israel Palacio

CHEF LYDIA ORNELAS selects fresh herbs and vegetables from a regenerative garden in the backyard of the Plot in Oceanside.

every part of a plant or vegetable, from leaf to stem to root.

Although the items selected for the series are intended to convey both a passion for, and a point about, food preparation, "Plantscape" is not about preaching, according to Davin.

"People get enough voices in their ear in this day and age," he said. "If you just make something so cool people are excited about it, then you just get this attraction going."

On Thursday, "Plantscape" took

over the menu at the Plot in Costa Mesa, as diners were treated to a six-course celebration of locally sourced and regeneratively grown dishes conceived by Davin working together with Plot head chef Travis Roe, and master fermenter and baker Chef Bryan Balzer.

The lineup was the end result of weeks of planning, experimenting and back-and-forth messages between creators when moments of inspiration hit out of the blue. Davin said one key



James Carbone

A SOY-CURED daikon with purple daikon scrap sauce and leek oil, topped with daikon skin crisp, presented during "Plantscape."

concept is to try to create a through line between dishes, such as the byproduct of one dish being a component in another.

"One thing I love doing is taking something apart and messing intentionally with every part — giving every part the same attention somebody would give a piece of meat — then putting it back together again," he said.

Take, for example, the ever-seasonal daikon radish. For Plantscape, the giant root vegetable was marinated in a Japanese-style barbecue sauce, dried out and cooked in daikon skins and an oil derived from the tops and bottoms of leeks.

The result is accompanied on the plate by daikon scraps marinated in beet juice and a creamy radish puree with a crispy daikon-skin chicharron on top.

"None of this is waste," Jessica clarified of the zero-waste nature of the series. "We call it waste, but it's really just this beautiful resource that comes from the farm. We just haven't [as a culture] figured out what to do with it yet."

The same leek oil is seen in the next course, appearing in a soup made of stinging nettles with pickled walnuts rubbed with tangerine oil. Typically used to treat muscle aches, eczema and arthritis, the common backyard weed is nutritionally packed with protein, iron, calcium, magnesium, potassium and zinc.

Other items on Thursday's menu included a black beet salad with a coconut yogurt and pear skin honey, a celery root schnitzel served atop spaetzle with diluted horseradish and cress creme fraiche and a spent-beer grain sourdough toast flight featuring a tomato jam with fava leaf shreds, cashew bechamel with black truffle caviar and a marmite crema.

More than mere novelty, the tasting menu is designed to spark conversations around food and get people thinking about its manufacture, consumption and how cuisine is the cornerstone of health, wellness and culture.

"It's about getting people talking, showing what's possible and getting ideas going," Davin said, sharing the couple's plan to add more "Plantscape" dinners in the near future.

While all of the Waites' restaurants focus on fun, exciting offerings, the husband-and-wife duo is very intentional about maintaining menus and business practices — from compostable packaging to regenerative gardening to paying employees a living wage — that speak to a more conscious form of capitalism.

That desire is encapsulated in the Plot's motto: "Feeding an Evolution."

"I want [people] to feel more excited about eating plants. There are so many opportunities to live a life that is so much more full of depth and experience and enjoyment," Jessica said.

"We're just opening up the realm of possibilities in food."

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Nonprofit opens shop for foster teens

BY JESSICA PERALTA

Alicia Brorman clearly remembers when she and her siblings were first taken from their home in Oklahoma and moved into foster care.

"I remember so pure and simple, the day that we were taken from our home the first time — me and my siblings," said Brorman, who is 26. "And I had police officers there and social workers there and all they cared about was shoving this trash bag in my face saying that I had 15 minutes and I could pack three shirts, two pairs of pants and a personal item and we needed to go. And I'm like, I need answers. Where are my siblings? What is happening? Where are we going? And they just want to hand me this trash bag. And it was so dehumanizing to be handed a trash bag in a time when you have no idea what's going on, it's chaotic, they don't want to tell you anything, because you're the child."

Brorman understands firsthand the very basic supplies that children in foster care must often go without — such as suitcases. Many years into her time in foster care, she received a college scholarship through Brea-based Foster Love, a nonprofit that helps children in foster care with many of their greatest needs, including Sweet Cases — which are duffel bags including a cozy blanket, hygiene kit and teddy bear, as an alternative to the standard trash bag. Founded in 2008, Foster Love's latest program is Rise Boutique, which recently opened in Brea as a retail experience where teens and young women in foster care can shop for new clothes and accessories from popular name brands.

"Kids in foster care suffer from post-traumatic stress syndrome at almost twice the rate of U.S. veterans. Being removed from your family, your home is highly traumatic," said Foster Love Executive Director Gianna Dahlia Mulkey. "So, when they're transitioning and going through that scary time, they now have those comfort items and those



FOUNDER DANNY MENDOZA joins Foster Love Executive Director Gianna Dahlia Mulkey at the ribbon-cutting of Rise Boutique, which offers clothing and other products for foster teens and young women.



CUSTOMERS SHOP at Foster Love's Rise Boutique, which offers teens in foster care a place to shop for new clothes, shoes, accessories and personal hygiene items from popular brands.

basic necessities to make the experience a little bit more dignified and supported. By creating comfort, delivering support during this time, we can create better outcomes."

According to their website, Danny Mendoza founded Foster Love after

discovering his 9-year-old cousin, Roger, living in a car. Mendoza was not able to become a foster parent because of his age, but it gave him the idea of developing alternative support for children in foster care. In addition to Sweet Cases, Foster Love's programs also

include Birthday Boxes, Superhero Boxes, STEM Boxes, Shopping Sprees, the Family Fellowship Scholarship and sibling reunification via Disney Days at Disneyland in Anaheim and Walt Disney World in Florida.

"Siblings in foster care

are often separated through placement, due to lack of foster families available," Mulkey said. "Every year, we reunite at least 350 siblings who have been separated in placement. They spend a day at Disneyland and forget about their worries, what they're going through and just experience this magical moment."

Mulkey said that volunteers come out to chaperon the children on Disney Days, and one year, a young couple came out to help. They didn't have kids of their own and they'd never really considered adoption or foster care.

"At the end of the evening, the kids were crying, the young couple was crying, they had just bonded so much. The next day, they called me and shared, 'Gianna, we want to adopt all three,'" Mulkey said. "I responded, 'You might just be feeling the high. That's great. But let's wait two weeks. If you're still serious about this conversation, give me a call back.'"

"Sure enough, they called me in two weeks, and I was

able to connect them with the kids' social worker and the agency. Two years later, they adopted all three of the siblings."

Brorman, who now does some contract work for Foster Love assisting with special events, attended recent Disney Days, one in California and the other in Florida. She understands what it feels like to be separated from siblings in foster care.

"I did my first Disney Days last September," she said. "It was amazing because I was also separated from my siblings while I was in the foster system. And so getting to see all of these children and knowing that ... not only knowing that they were feeling in that moment, being able to be reunited, but then also getting to see them have a moment of a childhood back to them. No trauma, no turmoil. Just pure fun, imagination and exploration of this beautiful park. It was so impactful."

"And then also leaving it was difficult because at the end of the day, you see the siblings separated. You see them going to their respective homes or their foster homes. And seeing that oldest — and as I was the oldest taking care of my siblings — knowing the impact, knowing what they were feeling. ... It keeps me motivated to continue on my work of advocacy and reform and policy reform."

Mulkey said Foster Love opened Rise Boutique because teenagers are one of the most vulnerable groups in foster care.

"We wake up every day and are able to pick what we're going to wear," she said. "What we wear is a huge part of our identity. It helps us establish who we are and who we want to be. ... Being a teenager is already challenging. Throw being in foster care on top of that. You're just thrown clothes. 'This is what you have to wear.' It curbs their sense of identity."

She said they saw Rise as a way to help transform what it's like for teenagers to enter foster care for that first, second or maybe even

See **Shop**, page A8

Hoag expands young adult mental health program

BY MATT SZABO

Jackson Johansen has a lot to look forward to in life.

The 19-year-old Fountain Valley native is a freshman at Orange Coast College, where he's studying music. He's also the lead singer in a rock and reggae band called 74odd.

Johansen recently completed Hoag's eight-week young adult mental health program.

"I'm still an anxious person," he said. "That doesn't go away ever, I don't think. But the intrusive thoughts are easier to deal with and they're not scary, which is probably the biggest part. They're just not as scary, and now that I have these skills, I'm not as scared that I'm ever going to get to that point again. I know how to stop myself from getting there, which is very, very nice."

"That point" is a suicide attempt last November, a few months after Johansen graduated from Fountain Valley High. Hoag is now doubling down to help more young adults like Johansen.

The Hoag young adult mental health program expanded from Irvine to Newport Beach this month. The first Newport Beach cohort started treatment on Monday, March 25, at the Melinda Hoag Smith Center for Healthy Living, program clinical manager Dave Cook said.

Since the young adult program started in Irvine three years ago, it has helped about 125 people.

Cook said there are numerous substance use programs in the area, but not a lot of outpatient programs that focus on mental health.

"Being able to reach more young adults at this awesome stage of life and making sure their quality of life is improving, that's a really great feeling," said Cook, a licensed marriage and family therapist with a master's degree in clinical psychology. "We're also able to offer scholarships for young adults moving forward, with scholarship funds through the Hoag Foundation for young adults who may not have insurance or access to

funds."

The young adult mental health program is a sister to Hoag's After-School Program Interventions and Resiliency Education program, better known as ASPIRE, which serves the younger population of teenagers. The young adult program helps 18- to 26-year-olds and meets three times a week, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Patients can be referred from several different medical sources or parents themselves, Cook said, with a rolling admission system.

Each two weeks of the program is a distinct module that uses evidence-based treatment called Dialectical Behavior Therapy, or DBT, said program director Dr. Sina Safahieh.

He said the young adult population is one of the most under-served when it comes to mental health, adding that suicide is the No. 2 killer in these age groups, second only to car accidents.

"These are, from our perspective, still kids until the age of 25 when the brain



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

CLINICAL MANAGER Dave Cook, left, program alumnus Jackson Johansen and Dr. Sina Safahieh, of the Hoag Young Adult Mental Health Program that expanded to Newport Beach.

fully develops," Safahieh said. "But then they're given adult responsibilities and they have the whole world on their shoulders, the burdens of economic difficulties and social difficulties. These are things that, especially if you're

having depression and anxiety, can lead to a lot of impairment without the support you would have as a teenager."

Nobody ever gets discharged from the program unless they willingly want to leave, he said.

"Pretty much every other program outside of the Hoag system doesn't have that kind of funding," he said. "Let's say, midway through treatment, insurance decides to pull the

See **Program**, page A8

ARTISTS

Continued from page A1

housing and human services committee would provide oversight.

Savage described the proposed trust as a nonprofit organization that would be able to acquire and hold onto land, keeping the housing affordable by cutting out the cost of land. It would have the ability to acquire a variety of properties, including single- and multifamily housing, mixed-use and commercial.

"I'm looking forward to getting a group of commu-

nity members to participate in a nonprofit that will help lead the way with this trust and start to actually get some housing created," said Councilman Mark Orgill, who worked on the artist work-live ad hoc committee with Mayor Pro Tem Alex Rounaghi.

A board of directors would govern the land trust. A model referenced in the staff report suggested that a six-member board would include two community members at large, two residents of the community land trust and two stakeholders.

Resident Ann Christoph, who addressed the City

Council during its meeting this week, appeared uneasy about the land trust being in the hands of a nonprofit. She was concerned about whether acquired property would permanently serve the intended purpose of adding to the affordable housing stock.

"It seems to me that the city should be running these trusts because the city is the most stable organization that we have," Christoph said. "If people are going to donate land or donate houses or apartment buildings or whatever, they want to make sure that it is really going to be that way forever."

In a 2019 arts market study, 48% of respondents expressed an interest in affordable artist housing, according to a staff report. The most desired locations were in the downtown area and along Laguna Canyon Road, sections of Laguna Beach that possess art galleries and the city's signature festivals — Art-A-Fair, the Festival of Arts and the Sawdust Art Festival.

About a third of the study's participants expressed interest in private studio space and shared creative space, respectively.

The Laguna Beach Community and Recreation Center has four connected

classrooms that could be put to use to meet some of the demand for artist work space, city officials said, although it would not be equipped to handle large projects.

"We looked at large fabrication equipment, industrial equipment, would the [Community and Recreation Center] be a good site for that," Assistant City Manager Jeremy Frimond said. "The preliminary feedback is maybe not. There might be a corner that could facilitate sculptures, but by and large, that's a smaller individual working space, and the city should keep its eyes open

for opportunities for a larger industrial space for woodworking and industrial equipment use for maker space."

Council members asked city staff to engage directly with the arts community to help formulate ideas on how best to utilize the available classrooms at the Community and Recreation Center.

The panel also directed city staff to return with an ordinance to eliminate the discretionary hearing requirement for artist work-live occupancy.

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Grant would help nature center restore lost trail

BY LILLY NGUYEN

Thanks to a grant from the California Department of Parks and Recreation, a trail that's gone underwater at Huntington Beach's Shipley Nature Center is a step closer to being restored.

The department announced earlier this month a total of \$6.7 million will be distributed in grants to agencies up and down the coast for projects that aim to protect, restore or enhance existing wildlife habitat. The city of Huntington Beach will receive \$383,309 in grant funding for the local nature center, which accounts for about half the estimated cost of the total project.

"Protecting California's biodiversity is critical as approximately 40% of the estimated 5,500 plant species found in this state are found nowhere else on Earth," said state parks director Armando Quintero in a statement. "With funding from the California Habitat Conservation Fund, local, state and nonprofit organizations can work toward California's 30x30 initiative that seeks to protect and restore biodiversity, expand public access to nature, and mitigate and build resilience to climate change."

Chau Vu, director of public works for Huntington Beach, said the application was submitted in partnership with the Friends of the Shipley Nature Center, the organization that operates the center's day-to-day activities in an agreement with the city.

Shipley Nature Center opened in 1974 and was named after former Huntington Beach Mayor Donald Shipley. John Scandura, president of the Friends of the Shipley Nature Center, said the city operated it until about 2002. It eventually had to close because of what Scandura said were budget cuts until the Friends of the Shipley Nature Center were able to reopen it in 2005.



VICE PRESIDENT Melanie Bergland and president John Scandura of the Friends of Shipley Nature Center board stand in the flood-damaged, overgrown acres of park in line for a \$383,309 California Habitat Conservation grant.



A BURIED trail marker on the overgrown area of the Shipley Nature Center. New signage and markers are also expected to be installed as part of the restoration project.

"At the time we reopened it, one was able to take a trail that followed very close to the perimeter of the nature center. But what happened in the late 2000s, the Orange County Water District extended their line of injection wells. Those wells inject freshwater into the

ground to keep the salt-water out. It's a very critical system, but an unintended consequence of that was that it raised our water table," Scandura said.

Scandura said Blackbird Pond grew to triple its size and flooded the northeast corner of the nature center.



THE NORTHEASTERN corner of the nature center has been overgrown for some time. Because of trail flooding, maintenance crews have not been able to address the issue.

To make matters worse, there was no way to access it to abate the eventual overgrowth that exists there now. He said the center and city have tried to lower the water level with a drainage pipe, but it didn't perform as well as they hoped.

Scandura said the non-

profit first heard about state grants for trail restoration in 2021 and decided to reach out to the city to pursue the funds for the necessary work. The team applied that year for the grant but was not successful.

"[The Friends of the Shipley Nature Center] do tours,

field trips and try to educate the public about the history of the trails and all the natural aspects that this hidden gem has to offer. You'd have no idea that it would exist in a community like Huntington Beach. But they came out, and they asked us for help to reinvigorate a trail that was flooded by Blackbird Pond over time," Vu said.

Vu said city engineers estimate the project will cost about \$760,000. The city is on the hook to augment the state grant with the remaining \$376,691, but the nonprofit has volunteered its support and is in the process of work-shopping possible fundraising avenues to help.

Vu said the city is waiting on receipt of a draft letter from the state to bring to the City Council to decide on whether or not they should accept the award, which leaves the timeline for work still up in the air.

The project will involve realigning close to 800 feet of trail that have gone underwater and raising the area above that water level through the addition of trail surface such as wood chips and decomposed granite. Some clearing and replacement of trees in the area also need to be done. Vu said that assuming the grant is accepted, the project will need to be designed before it can go out to bid.

"Restoring those trails is not only going to reopen this closed trail and allow the access we had before but also allow us to create new habitats that had been damaged. These habitats are essential to our education and recreational activities. In addition, because we specialize in native plants, we've been working with the Native American communities to give them more access to the center, too," Scandura said. "This is going to create huge opportunities for us."

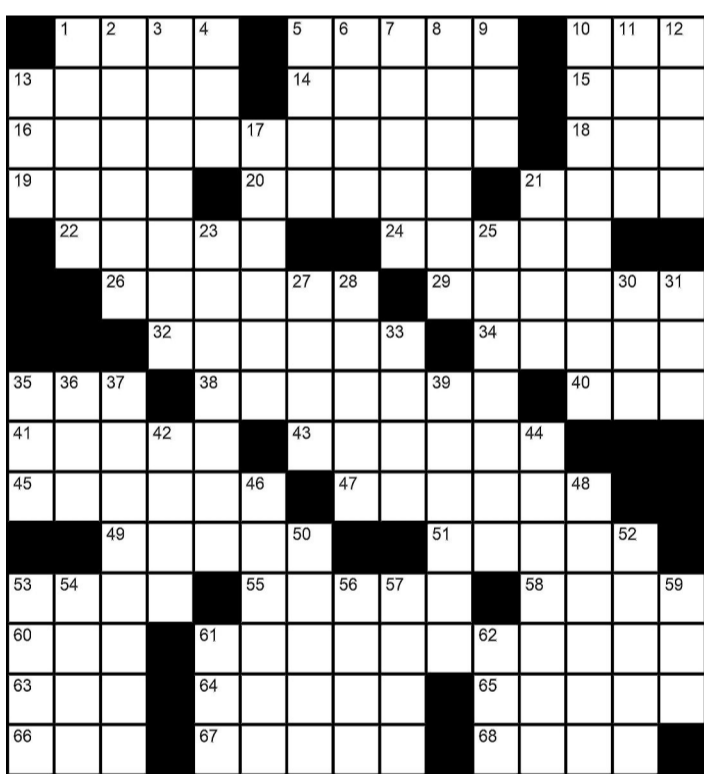
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THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS

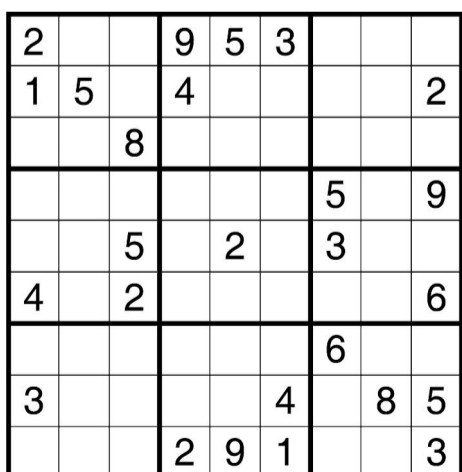
- 1 Musical Puente
- 5 Frat letter
- 10 Businesses: Abbr.
- 13 Raga instrument
- 14 Atlantic or Pacific
- 15 Tailless primate
- 16 Seasonal hopper: 2 wds.
- 18 Affleck of "Argo"
- 19 Work without _: 2 wds.
- 20 Good thing
- 21 Generous-hearted
- 22 Medicinal plants
- 24 "Paradise Lost" tempter
- 26 U.S. Armed _
- 29 Glossy fabric
- 32 Add flavor to
- 34 "That's a lie!": 2 wds.
- 35 Snapshot, for short
- 38 Music genre: Abbr.
- 40 Boar's mate
- 41 Comprehensive
- 43 Viral or bacterial lineage
- 45 Transaction party
- 47 One urged to repent
- 49 Tempts
- 51 Prop for Groucho Marx
- 53 Fraudulent scheme
- 55 Sip or bite
- 58 Keds competitor
- 60 Server's reward
- 61 Continuously flowing
- 63 @ @ @
- 64 Edible bulb
- 65 On edge
- 66 Pumpernickel grain
- 67 "Haste makes



SUDOKU

By the Mephram Group

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit sudoku.org.uk.



For answers to the crossword and Sudoku puzzles, see page A6.

- 7 Chromosome parts
- 8 Rays in the water
- 9 " _ objections?"
- 10 Kitchen storage spots
- 11 Ready for customers
- 12 Put in the mail
- 13 Bering or

- Barents
- 17 Roguish sort
- 21 Bruce Lee role
- 23 Amazon's Kindle, for one
- 25 Two-piece suit
- 27 Guesses: Abbr.
- 28 Types
- 30 That, in Spanish
- 31 "At once!"
- 33 Sushi seaweed
- 35 "Frontline" network
- 36 Extreme anger
- 37 Cave in
- 39 Call off
- 42 Grad
- 44 Nullified
- 46 Layer of the eye
- 48 Stark _ mad
- 50 Draped wedding garments
- 52 Get the suds out of
- 53 Celebrity
- 54 Big dot on a map
- 56 Inverness native
- 57 Melody
- 59 Birthday candle count
- 61 Farm animal
- 62 Fed on

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forum

A WORD, PLEASE | JUNE CASAGRANDE

A lot of crimes against grammar get posted on Nextdoor

"My partner and I's bikes were stolen," a woman posted on my local Nextdoor.com recently.



neighbors about crimes, coyote sightings and whatnot and, when they do, they don't always use perfect grammar.

Nothing wrong with that. These aren't doctoral dissertations. But sometimes the grammar is surprising. Revealing. Like "my partner and I's."

As kids, we got it drilled into our heads that "me" is often improper. "Kim and me are going to the park" was swiftly corrected by a parent or teacher saying, "It's Kim and I, not Kim and me."

The result: Sentences like "The manager saw him and I" and "This is between you and I" and other "and I" structures that miss the mark of perfect grammar

precisely because the speaker was trying too hard to be proper.

A lot of experts point out that these sentence structures are acceptable in casual speech. But that's the problem. The folks using "I" this way are aiming for proper speech.

Whenever it's the object of a verb, like "saw," or a preposition, like "between" or "with" or "to," the most grammatical choice is "me," not "I."

The manager saw him and me. Thanks for meeting with her and me.

Usually you can find the right pronoun just by trying the sentence without the other person: The manager saw I, or the manager saw me? Thanks for meeting with I, or thanks for meeting with me? Adding an extra person or people doesn't change the fact that "me" is better in these sentences.

"My partner and I's bikes" is more complicated because now we're talking about possessives. If you're convinced that "I" is always proper with another per-



"MY PARTNER and I's bikes were stolen" is an example of a writer trying to sound proper by using the wrong pronoun, writes grammar expert June Casagrande.

Howard Lipin The San Diego Union-Tribune

and my bikes," or perhaps "my partner and my bikes"? Honestly, it doesn't matter. This is advanced stuff that your reader most certainly will not know.

The simple rule for "shared possessives" is that if both people share a thing, add the apostrophe and S to only the final person: Hal and Betty's house. But if each person separately owns one of the things, each gets their own apostrophe and S: Hal's and Betty's bikes.

bikes" is correct. But so is "my partner and my house," which sounds bad to my ear. That "partner" screams for an apostrophe and S, simply because it seems weird without one.

Choose the one you prefer. As long as it's not "I's," you'll do fine.

JUNE CASAGRANDE is the author of "The Joy of Syntax: A Simple Guide to All the Grammar You Know You Should Know." She can be reached at JuneTCN@aol.com.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Design Review Board / Board of Adjustment

Council Chambers, 505 Forest Avenue Laguna Beach, CA 92651 Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 5:00 PM The CITY OF LAGUNA BEACH will hold a public hearing on the request below. You may participate in-person at City Hall.

Legal Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Design Review Board / Board of Adjustment

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Legal Notices

Daily Pilot A Times Community News publication. CONTACT US Carol Cormaci Executive Editor matt.szabo, Andrew Turner, Beth Raff Advertising Manager

Ross Boyce Canon December 17, 1930 - October 22, 2023 Newport Beach, CA

Ross Canon was an amazing man and father. His family was always his priority as he raised his children and had a wonderful wife, Marian Leigh Canon, the love of his life.

MAILBAG Increased mooring costs would equate to eviction for offshore Newport residents

Being a retired biomedical engineer who has brought over 100 products to market from surgical clips and clamps to heart valves to radiosurgical robots, I am trying to hang onto my dream of living aboard my boat in Newport Beach.

The disparity is even worse when you compare a homeowner dock tidal space at \$400 per year for 40-foot dock which enjoys all the benefits of a home — and even now we pay three times that.

James Bentson Newport Beach

A new proverb for the times

By 2025, the Beek family, who own the famed Balboa Island Ferry that traverses the Newport Bay every day,

See Mailbag, page A8

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

Crossword grid with answers: TITO, SIGMA, COS, SITAR, OCEAN, APE, EASTERBUNNY, BEN, ANET, ASSET, KIND, ALOES, SATAN, FORCES, SATEEN, SEASON, NOTSO, PICALTROCK, SOW, BROADSTRAIN, SELLER, SINNER, LURES, CIGAR, SCAM, TASTE, AVIA, TIP, CIRCULATING, ATS, ONION, TENSE, RYE, WASTE, EDGE

Sudoku grid with numbers 1-9 in a 9x9 grid.

All-vegan bakery closes in Santa Ana

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

Like any other day in the kitchen, Kathy Lopez readied ingredients to bake sweet treats like Gansito tres leches and chocoflan cakes at Soy Concha Bakery in Santa Ana.

A wafting saccharine aroma from a row of freshly baked pan dulce greeted customers walking through the doors.

But a month ago, the vegan panadería announced that it would not be renewing its lease at Bristol Civic Plaza, where it had made its home since 2017.

"It was a hard decision," said Lopez, the bakery's co-owner and cake decorator. "But I think it's the best decision for my family. And I don't feel as sad because I know we're not fully stepping away."

Before serving Mexican sweet bread free of eggs, milk or lard, Lopez and Ross Mazariegos, her husband, originally opened up Victoria's Bakery in the same location in 2011. It served pupusas, tortas and birria along with traditional pan dulce.

The panadería converted to vegan food after Lopez's brother Earvin, who helped open Victoria's Bakery, made the dietary change for himself.

Lopez admitted she hadn't heard of veganism before that. Mazariegos, as the head baker, and his brother-in-law began experimenting with different recipes to remake cultural staples free of animal-derived ingredients.

"They tried to 'veganize' pan dulce without eggs or milk," Lopez said. "After many trials, they eventually got it right."

The bakery fully transitioned to animal-free fare, changed its name to Vegan by Victoria and made a successful pop-up appearance at SoCal VegFest, a vegan food festival at the OC Fair & Event Center in Costa Mesa, before rebranding as Soy Concha Bakery.

At first bite, customers couldn't even tell that the conchas, orejas, cuernitos and other sweet treats



Photos by Gabriel San Román

SOY CONCHA Bakery employee Don Adolfo Farias shelves a tray maize-shaped bread known as elotes. The vegan panadería in Santa Ana has closed.

KATHY LOPEZ holds a tray of "vegansitos," a play on words for their vegan version of the popular Mexican Gansito snack cakes.



were vegan unless they were told. "We try to keep the closest possible authenticity to the culture," Lopez said. "We use almond, soy and coconut milk substitutes, but the flavor is still

there. The *sazón* of how the recipes were originally taught to us is there. We're keeping the family traditions in all the recipes that we make, even as they're vegan." The bakery even made vegan

Rosca de Reyes, an oval-shaped crown-decorated cake traditionally eaten to celebrate El Día de los Reyes Magos, or Three Kings Day, on Jan. 6.

Once informed of the swap, the Latino community kept coming back, especially during the difficult days of the pandemic.

"The older generation didn't know much about veganism," Lopez said. "It is a healthier option, and they have taken a liking to it. Apart from that, we have a lot of support from the vegan community itself."

News of Soy Concha Bakery's closing struck both communities as bittersweet as it stands as a rarity in being a fully vegan panadería in Southern California.

Its last day of business was Saturday.

The location is already being

remodeled by new tenants set to move in on Monday.

The family-owned bakery still maintains a second location in East Los Angeles off of the famed Whittier Boulevard thoroughfare, but Earvin is looking to shop the "Soy Concha" brand altogether.

Until then, the bakery will take delivery orders from around Orange County through its website, business phone and social media accounts. Soy Concha will also announce pop-up appearances from time to time.

"We are really grateful to the vegan and Orange County communities," Lopez said. "We're here to keep serving them the best that we can."

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Robyn Beck | AFP via Getty Images

AN IMMIGRATION DETAINEE stands near a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) grievance box in the high security unit at the Theo Lacy Facility in 2017.

TRANSFERS

Continued from page A1

iff ICE were born in Mexico or Vietnam," he said. "This data is way out of proportion with the county's overall demographics."

According to an analysis of last year's data by the Harbor Institute for Immigrant and Economic Justice, 43% of transferred inmates were born in Mexico and 40% were born in Vietnam.

The police departments of Garden Grove, Westminster and Santa Ana were noted as the top three arresting agencies for people who were incarcerated and then handed over to ICE by sheriff's officials.

"I do not determine the demographics," said Barnes in response to the criticism. "I do not determine the race or the gender or sex of individuals, or any other factor. They either objectively meet the criteria, or they objectively do not meet it. If they meet it, we make them available. If they don't meet it, we do not make them available."

Vincent Tran, organizing director for VietRise, urged supervisors to end ICE transfers in Little Saigon, a hub for the largest Vietnamese American population in the nation, and

throughout the rest of the county.

"With the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War [next year], we should be concerned that our families are continuing to be separated," Tran said. "These harmful acts of ICE are ... tearing our communities apart."

Kelvin Roman shared his experience of being transferred to ICE from Theo Lacy Jail after being stopped by Tustin PD in 2019 for having tinted windows. He was arrested on suspicion of auto theft and possessing forged documents, crimes he was never charged with.

The ACLU has since filed a lawsuit alleging that Tustin police and the O.C. Sheriff's Dept. violated the California Values Act.

"I spent nine months at Adelanto Detention Center," Roman said. "Right now I'm facing my deportation because of the illegal transfer they made. In my future, I don't know what's going to happen with my family, my kids."

Immigrant rights advocates are also concerned that last year's spike may signal a return to pre-pandemic transfer rates.

Sheriff's officials transferred 717 inmates into ICE custody in 2018, the first year under the California Values Act. But the number

of transfers steadily declined to just 17 in 2022.

Last year, 547 inmates released from Orange County Jail had ICE detainers. Under the California Values Act, 302 were eligible for ICE transfers. Immigration authorities took 221 into custody.

In past forums, sitting supervisors declined to make any comments or ask questions. This time around, Supervisor Vicente Sarmiento took the opportunity to raise issues about potential violations of constitutional protections by way of faulty databases and the cost of processing transfers during the forum, which he suggested would better serve the community outside of a discussion held at 10 a.m.

Barnes noted that the only costs associated with processing transfers were associated with training sessions for his deputies to ensure compliance with state law.

Three of Sarmiento's supervisor colleagues had no questions or comments.

"I think that this county should reconsider its position," Sarmiento said before the forum ended. "I certainly see that it's unlikely, at best."

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Share your input to shape the future of Newport Beach!



Newport Beach is launching an update to its General Plan to reflect the needs and desires of the community. As part of this effort, the City wants to hear from residents like you! Check out the website for upcoming events and ways to get involved.

Newport, Together.



SHOP

Continued from page A4

third time. "Rise was created not just to provide essential clothing but to provide an experience that allows these teens to feel seen and that someone sees who they are and who they want to be," Mulkey said. "It's inclusive, it's welcoming. It has a cafe-slash-Nordstrom boutique type vibe. We wanted it to be casual, but more than a Goodwill or thrift store experience. These aren't hand-me-downs."

Mulkey said Foster Love partnered with several local brands that are popular with teens, including Vans, Hurley, Macy's and Thrive for hygiene items.

Broman said the impacts of a boutique like



Courtesy of Foster Love

RISE BOUTIQUE held its grand opening on Feb. 16 at nonprofit Foster Love's headquarters in Brea.

this go beyond fashion. "Instances like the Rise Boutique, it gives them a second to say, 'Someone believes in me,'" Broman said. "It empowers them in a way that I can say from firsthand experience just keeps them going, it keeps

them pushing forward. And they can leave the Rise Boutique saying, 'Hey, I matter, I feel good.' And whenever you feel good, you look good."

Jessica Peralta is a contributor to TimesOC.

PROGRAM

Continued from page A4

plug ... these patients don't get discharged. As clinicians, we don't have to worry about begging the insurance company to keep the program going."

Johansen has definitely seen marked improvements. He said depression steadily grew during his high school years, which aligned with the coronavirus pandemic. His father died in May 2022 after battling alcoholism, leaving Jackson to feel responsible for providing for his mother, Kimberly, and two older sisters. A few months later, his grandmother died of pancreatic cancer.

"I kept going, put a smile on my face and realized that I had to be the bigger man for my family," Johansen said. "And I was

wrong. I was very, very wrong. Instead of dealing with it with my family, I just tried to deal with it myself and push my emotions under so they didn't see me struggling."

After feeling intense anxiety for several days last November, he tried to take his own life. A couple of weeks later, he enrolled in the Hoag program.

"For me, a huge part of the young adult mental health program was just having a place to be, a place away from home and a support group," Johansen said. "As much of an education space that it is, anyone can also just talk about stuff that's on their mind. If there's a topic that relates to something they want to share, they're more than welcome."

Johansen got a tattoo that reads "ASPIRE" on his right leg during his last

week in the young adult program.

Cook laughed when he said that's the first ASPIRE tattoo a patient has gotten, at least to his knowledge. But he also knows that expanding the young adult program to Newport Beach will allow for more success stories like Jackson Johansen.

"It's all coping skills based, so it's very tangible skills that young adults can implement almost immediately in their life to make lasting changes," Cook said. "We're really working with young adults to find life direction. How do we move forward in a direction that feels good, instead of maybe feeling stagnant or just — for lack of a better term — stuck a little bit?"

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MAILBAG

Continued from page A6

will need to make some drastic changes that merit doing away with the gasoline engines for all three of their ferries making way to electrification. As it stands right now, the family hasn't the funds to do that. An \$8.3-million grant from the California Air Resources Board will get them closer, but they have a ways to go.

Not being a religious person, I don't usually pay attention to items of a church-type nature or sayings or interpretations of a religious nature. But I'm reminded of a long ago saying that goes, "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth."

With a little luck and a more contemporary way of looking at things that saying could be: "Dressed are the Beek, for they will inhabit the bay."

Hey, you never know, as stranger things have happened.

Bill Spitalnick
Newport Beach

Ignoring public will draw disdain

As the saying goes, "if you can't stand the heat, stay out of the kitchen." so if Huntington Beach City Councilman Tony Strickland did not want to put up with the crowd shouting "shame" after the vote to start the bid process for privatization of the public library, after hearing 108 speakers and more than 600 emails almost all against it, he should step down.

Strickland and his right-wing colleagues also voted to withdraw from the league of California Cities, with Councilman Casey McKeon stating that the organization advocates for the state's agenda instead of individual cities, in the same way that the majority right-wing city council members advocate for themselves, instead of the majority of the electorate who voiced their opinion in opposition to privatization.

It is truly a shameful city council majority who re-

fuses to listen to the voice of the people.

Richard C. Armendariz
Huntington Beach

At what point will the Huntington Beach City Council majority quit lying to themselves and the community about challenging greater authorities over issues like Voter ID and housing?! They can't and won't win against the county and state no matter how much they delude themselves over their grievances.

These autocratic amateurs are bound to be slapped down once more for their abject failure to adopt a new housing element. It will not only cost us in lawsuits, but it will cost us in decision-making power to plan our own future. The defiance of City Atty. Michael Gates is going to ruin our city, and the fact that his ideological slip is showing impresses nobody but the MAGA base he plays to.

This poor excuse for representative local government has done nothing constructive since taking

power. All its members can do is tear down our norms and institutions and leave civic wreckage behind. Already, they are about to trash one of the greatest library systems in the county in a puritanical pique over bogus biblio blasphemy. There is a reason for this. It is that the majority has no clue about governing properly and serving the true best interests of the citizenry. The public is finally waking up to this sad realization.

As Abraham Lincoln is said to have expounded, "You can fool all of the people some of the time and some of the people all of the time, but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time."

Tim Geddes
Huntington Beach

Commissioners can learn from disagreement

Re: "Gaza war threatens peace on O.C. Human Relations Commission," Daily Pilot & Times OC, March 24.

It is appalling that a "Human Relations Commission" would even remotely consider removing a member because he has a dissenting opinion. Human relations is about listening, understanding, learning and then assimilating differences — and suggesting solutions.

The facts are fairly straightforward as long as all the facts are included. 1) Hamas has fired rockets at civilian populations, taken hostages and brutally killed men, women and children. They did this knowing full well that Israel would declare war and hiding behind Palestinian civilians would result in civilian deaths. 2) Hamas has been investing Gaza's funds into weapons, rockets and tunnels rather than infrastructure. Gaza was an independent Palestinian state, but the Palestinian leadership failed to manage a Palestinian state which could co-exist with Israel. 3) After 75 years of wars, attacks, suicide bombers and terrorist attacks by Arab states and Palestinians, it is understandable

that Israel might be skeptical that a Palestinian state can peacefully co-exist with a Jewish one. There was a two-state solution in 1948 until Arab countries declared war. 4) Regretfully, Israeli leadership seems to believe that there can be a long-term peace by taking land from Palestinians and refusing to consider a two-state solution. 5) What is missing from the debate so far is the assurance that two-state solution means peace and security long term for both parties.

Ceasefires have come and ceasefires have gone over 75 years. Long-term peace and security awaits the world leaders of all countries to be willing to stop taking sides and instead guarantee peaceful co-existence of a Palestinian state and a Jewish state.

Maybe the O.C. Human Relations Commission can be a spark for a solution. Protest less and problem-solve more. It's about human relations, not winning and losing.

Marvin J. Gordon
Laguna Beach

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Los Angeles Times

TimesOC

California State Parks seasonal lifeguard Sierra Fockler discovered a 14-inch Pacific football fish around 2:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 13, near the lifeguard station located at Crystal Cove State Park in Orange County. It's the second such case of the fish washing ashore over the last three years. (Courtesy of California State Parks)

Good morning. It's Wednesday, Oct. 25. I'm Carol Cormaci, bringing you this week's [TimesOC newsletter](#) with a look at the latest local news and events.

Watch where you're stepping on O.C.'s famed sands, because you may encounter a rare specimen of marine life. One, in fact, that has very sharp teeth.

That's what happened on a recent afternoon to lifeguard Sierra Fockler, who found a spooky-looking black angler fish, specifically a Pacific football fish, while she was walking near the lifeguard headquarters building on Moro Beach, located within Crystal Cove State Park.