

Daily Pilot & Times OC

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County appoints new agency leader

Robert Faigin, former attorney for San Diego County Sheriff's, is the new head of O.C.'s Office of Independent Review.

BY ERIC LICAS

The Orange County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday appointed Robert Faigin, an attorney who spent the past two decades representing the San Diego County Sheriff's Department, as the new head of the Office of Independent Review, an agency that investigates potential abuse or misconduct by law enforcement.

Faigin was a prosecutor in Solano and Lassen counties before he became the San Diego Sheriff's director of legal affairs. He had worked as a lawyer for that department since 2001.



"In the weeks and months to come, I look forward to meeting with the sheriff, district attorney and county department leaders to learn their processes and procedures in an effort to help the Office of Independent Review provide factual, unbiased, independent reviews of issues affecting their departments and of concern to the Board of Supervisors," Faigin wrote in a statement Tuesday.

SERVED AS SAN DIEGO JAIL SYSTEM'S ATTORNEY AMID SOARING CASES OF IN-CUSTODY DEATHS

In 2005, Faigin represented former San Diego Sheriff William Kolarik in a case involving Timothy Berry, a deputy who was fired after admitting he lied to cover up the 2002 beating of an inmate at the George Bailey Detention Center. Berry served as a lookout for another deputy who repeatedly slammed a prisoner's head against a wall.

"A 'code of silence' existed in the department," Fourth District Court of Appeals Judge Terry O'Rourke wrote in the panel's de-

See **Agency**, page A2



Edwin Goei

A FOREST mushroom Impossible Sausage pizza from Craftsman Grill at the Disneyland Resort.

It's a small world of food after all

BY EDWIN GOEI

If you had visited Disneyland a lot in the '90s, like I did as a young adult, you would've eaten a lot of corn dogs, popcorn and Dole Whips. Apart from the decadent Monte Cristo at Cafe Orleans and fried chicken at Plaza Inn, the food experience often felt secondary to the attractions.

This is not to say that the corn dogs at the Little Red Wagon on Main Street aren't the best darned corn dogs in the

Eight unexpected dishes at the Disneyland Resort draw inspirations from Japan to the galaxy's edge.

universe, but if you wanted something outside the norm of theme park food, you had to leave Disney property and explore the surrounding neighborhoods to get shawarma, Asian fare and carnitas tacos.

But the Disneyland Resort of today is not the Disneyland of 30 years ago. These days you can slurp on Japanese ramen with a perfectly set egg, sink

your teeth into a Vietnamese banh mi and choose from at least two versions of shawarma, all inside the resort's borders.

Disney's food team didn't make these evolutionary changes in its offerings over the years in a vacuum. As its culinary teams try out new recipes from a particular culture, they

See **Food**, page A4

Election season in full swing as ballots go out

The Orange County Registrar of Voters' office staff prepare to mail more than 1.8 million ballots by Monday.

BY SARA CARDINE

With Election Day just one month away, the Orange County Registrar of Voters Santa Ana office has been a hotbed of activity, as staff get ready to mail off more than 1.8 million voting ballots by a Monday deadline.

Employees Wednesday could be seen operating printing presses that discharged giant reams of paper ballots that would be rolled into spools and then cut, folded and inserted into orange and white mailing envelopes.

It's one enormous step in ensuring the process — which, thanks to recent state laws, allows for more mail-in ballots and in-person voting ahead of a Nov. 8 Election Day — goes smoothly, Registrar of Voters Bob Page said in a news conference Tuesday.

"Last week, we did start mailing our county voter information guides between Thursday and Saturday," he said. "Mail ballots will go out to all actively registered voters who don't require a military or overseas ballot."

Voting by mail kicks off on Oct. 10 and already registered voters have until Oct. 24 to update their registration information, if needed. One-fifth of the county's voting centers, approximately, 37 locations, will accept ballots starting Oct. 29, during business hours, while the remainder of the 181 sites will open on Nov. 5, operating from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

In the two weeks leading up to Election Day, citizens may register to vote at the Registrar's office, at any open vote centers or request a provisional ballot online for in-person pick up.

Because of that, the number of registered voters in Orange County is always fluctuating — as of Thursday, officials had counted 1,815,374 residents, a 16.5% increase from the 1,558,988 registered voters clocked during the last midterm election in 2018.

Page said although an increase in the number of registered voters

See **Ballots**, page A2

Newport Beach Film Festival returns with a new fall slate

BY LILLY NGUYEN

The 23rd annual Newport Beach Film Festival returns to the city's movie theaters this Thursday.

The festival will open Thursday night at the Edwards Big Newport on 300 Newport Center Drive with a screening of "WEIRD: The Al Yankovic Story," a musical biopic starring Daniel Radcliffe, Evan Rachel Wood, Rainn Wilson, Toby Huss, Julianne Nicholson and Quinta Brunson.

Throughout the festival's eight-day run, dozens of feature films and documentaries will hit the silver screen, along with scores of other films about music, food, the environment and art, architecture and sports.

It will close on Oct. 20 with a screening of "Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery," the much-anticipated sequel to Rian Johnson's successful comedic thriller "Knives Out," released in 2019.

Festival chief executive officer and executive director Gregg Schwenk said this year's festival has the strongest lineup ever — a far cry from the worry he and co-founder Todd Quartararo felt at the onset of the coronavirus pandemic in March 2020.

"If you take a step back and look at the success of the festival over the first 20 years, we are very proud of a number of awards titles that we were able to work with ... and [built] up an audience of nearly 60,000 people in 2019. We had become the largest film

festival in coastal Southern California and ... then COVID hit less than a month prior to our 2020 festival," Schwenk said. "It was devastating financially and psychologically."

Schwenk said organizers were able to scramble and pivot online that October after delaying the event in hopes pandemic restrictions would lighten, but the damage had already been done. Schwenk said the Newport Beach Film Festival as an organization would likely feel the ill effects of the setback for years to come.

Still, not all changes were wholly unwelcome.

The festival was held in person in October last year. It had tradi-

See **Film**, page A2



Courtesy of the Newport Beach Film Festival

THE NEWPORT BEACH Film Festival is running from Oct. 13 through Oct. 20, and organizers say the fall schedule is now permanent.

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BALLOTS

Continued from page A1

may result in lower turnout percentages, county voting trends have been increasing steadily.

"While the percentage is lower, for this last election there were about 1,000 more voters who cast ballots in the 2022 primary than did in the 2018 primary," he said.

Aside from registering, there are numerous ways for voters to engage in this election cycle, from signing up to track the status of individual ballots by email or text message (ocvote.org/track) to observing a calendar of election activities in person or via livestream (ocvote.org/observe).

"We're seeing a lot of interest," Page said of observation opportunities. "I'm expecting the interest in this election to be a little higher than it was in the (June) primary, especially from candidates and campaigns."

Page laid out the numerous internal processes, technological advancements and physical security measures that will be employed to ensure the integrity of ballot collection, transportation and counting.

Each of the county's 121 ballot drop boxes, for example, are bolted into concrete and contain unique

keys. Staff who collect ballots must first photograph a box's contents and be cleared to move onto the next location. Those who transport ballots are assigned randomized routes and tracked using GPS.

Voting system software monitors rosters on electronic poll books to guarantee individuals vote only once, given all the different means available to them.

"When somebody checks in at a vote center, we are able to see in real time whether we already received a mail ballot from them," Page said Tuesday. "And once they check in, that information is being provided, so if a mail ballot does come in from that voter (afterward), it is set aside and not counted."

This election cycle in Orange County features 186 candidates running for 73 city offices and 63 school and special district seats. With 20 local measures and seven statewide propositions, there will be a lot to convey when the Registrar of Voters begins reporting counts around 8:05 p.m. Nov. 8.

After the initial report, which will mostly include earlier in-person and mail ballots, officials will release a second count at around 9:30 p.m. and then provide 30-minute updates until all vote center ballots have been counted.

Following Election Day,



Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

EMPLOYEE JOHN RICE boxes ready-to-send ballot envelopes at the county's Registrar of Voters facility in Santa Ana Wednesday. Ballot materials will be mailed on Monday.

the Registrar of Voters will release weekday afternoon reports until every vote has been accounted for.

"We're very committed to make sure people have up-to-date information about the latest ballots we've counted," Page said.

For more, visit ocvote.org. For voting center locations and dates and hours of operation, visit ocvote.org/elections/2022-general-election/vote-center-locations.

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A WHEEL of printed ballot material is set to be processed at the Orange County Registrar of Voters Santa Ana office.

AGENCY

Continued from page A1

cision on the matter. "And Berry was assigned to a so-called, 'angry team' of 'rogue' deputies who told him to forget everything he learned at the Academy and 'to go along to get along.'"

The former deputy filed a petition contesting his firing with the San Diego Civil Service Commission and got his job back. Kolender, represented by Faigin, successfully appealed Berry's reinstatement, blocking his return to the Sheriff's Department.

"I am proud of the fact that the Court of Appeal agreed that truthfulness goes to the heart of being a public servant," Faigin said in his statement.

Faigin also sat on the San Diego Sheriff's Critical Incident Review Board, a body tasked with examining all uses of force by that county's deputies. The review board was criticized for invoking attorney-client privilege to prevent its findings from being disclosed in court by lawyers for the family of Paul Silva, an incarcerated man who was killed in the San Diego Men's Central Jail in 2018.

"The focus of the CIRB is to assess the department's civil exposure because of a given incident," Faigin wrote in an email Friday. "Similar to confidential doctor peer reviews, incidents are reviewed from multiple perspectives, including training, tactics, policies and procedures to identify problem areas and recommend remedial actions so that potential liability can also be avoided in the future. This process also promotes improved public safety for the residents of the county as a whole and has been in

See **Agency**, page A6

FILM

Continued from page A1

tionally been held in April, but Quartararo said the change in position from spring to fall puts the Newport Beach Film Festival in line with what is considered Oscar season. He noted a fall festival is a "hot spot for films on their award campaigns."

Planning for this year's event began shortly after the festival's 2021 run. In fact, organizers say they are already beginning to plan for the festivals in 2023 and 2024 — the latter of which will mark the event's 25th anniversary.

"It's really kind of exciting to see what happened to the festival post-COVID, and we're coming out with this giant spotlight on Newport Beach. What happened last year was that we were half in because people were still under COVID restrictions," Quartararo said.

"We did as much as we could outside and did test-

ing, but now we're fully back up and running," Quartararo said, nodding to support that the festival has received from Hollywood. "We joke that, 'Why we didn't do this sooner?'"

Schwenk said the festival provides a unique opportunity for the community to see films before they hit major theaters or streaming. It also allows film devotees to meet those both in front of and behind the camera throughout the festival's eight-day run.

"I think we had become a major event in the fabric of our community and obviously being hit so hard by the shutdown, we ques-

tioned whether we could move forward," said Shwenk. "Todd and I realized that we had put in over two decades of our lives in this, that the community had really embraced the Newport Beach Film Festival and we knew we had to continue moving forward."

Schwenk said the festival reflects the "caliber and quality of our community" and puts the fun back in seeing films in theaters the way they are meant to be seen in a way that is accessible to Newport Beach residents and visitors.

"There are film festivals out there that put a price point on general tickets

that make it impossible for anybody to go. They program films that the majority of people wouldn't want to see or they host events that really don't reflect the beauty of their community," Schwenk said. "The Newport Beach Film Festival has always tried to host events that are reflective of the natural beauty of Newport Beach and our surrounding community."

For more information on the festival's schedule or to buy tickets to screenings, visit newportbeachfilmfest.com.

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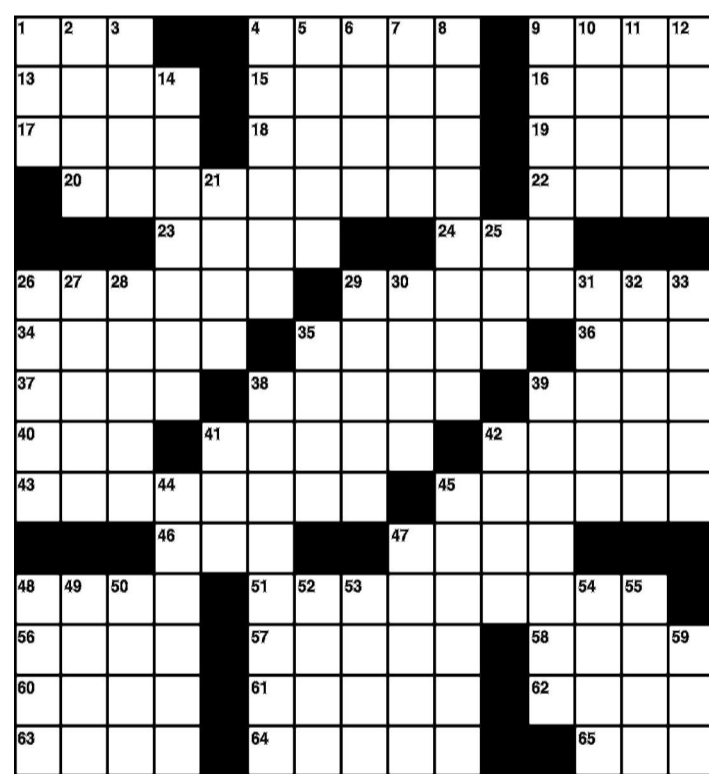
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THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS

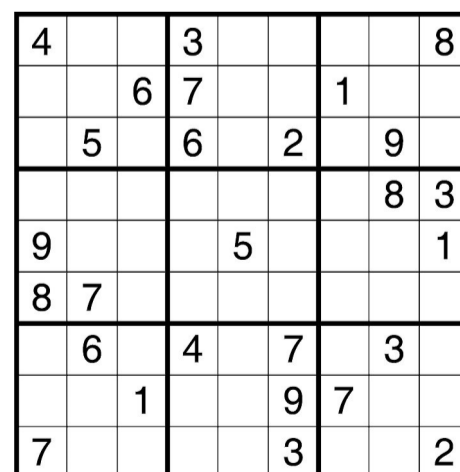
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- 13 Very eager
- 15 Over
- 16 Monster
- 17 Be a snitch
- 18 _ a resemblance to; looked like
- 19 "Not guilty," e.g.
- 20 Male horses
- 22 Facial features
- 23 Fishing line holder
- 24 Sturdy tree
- 26 Cease
- 29 Colorful kerchief
- 34 Happening
- 35 Shoestrings
- 36 Belonging to us
- 37 Gunshot sound
- 38 Beeper
- 39 Soap bubbles
- 40 Witness stand oath
- 41 Builds up a nest egg
- 42 Wild Australian dog
- 43 Bus station
- 45 Diminish
- 46 St. Joan of _
- 47 Cushy
- 48 Stepladder step
- 51 Building designer
- 56 As strong _ ox
- 57 24 _ gold
- 58 Dad's Old Fashioned _ Beer
- 60 Celebration
- 61 Wear away
- 62 Ticked off
- 63 Brisk pace
- 64 Seamstress
- 65 Boxer Norton



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 A4.

- DOWN**
- 1 Yoga pad
 - 2 Ripens
 - 3 Young animal
 - 4 Pill form
 - 5 Bubbling away on the stovetop
 - 6 Lawn mower brand
 - 7 Like 2, 4 and 6
 - 8 Late Harry of
 - "60 Minutes"
 - 9 U.S. state capital
 - 10 Unightly
 - 11 Liberated
 - 12 Leoni & others
 - 14 Painfully obvious
 - 21 In case
 - 25 Commercials
 - 26 Left-hand

- ledger entry
 - 27 Sidestep
 - 28 Man of the casa
 - 29 Starbucks edible
 - 30 Top clubs
 - 31 Parts of speech
 - 32 Prod gently
 - 33 Firebug's crime
 - 35 Danger from Vesuvius
 - 38 Flapjacks
 - 39 Close relatives
 - 41 Galahad or Lancelot
 - 42 Skillful
 - 44 Attractive metal
 - 45 Dillydally
 - 47 Protect from the sun
 - 48 Huck Finn's transport
 - 49 Drug addict
 - 50 Post WWII intl. alliance
 - 52 Seldom seen
 - 53 Brag
 - 54 Kitchen worker
 - 55 _ off; bolted
 - 59 Part of a royal flush
- Tribune Media Services



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FOOD

Continued from page A1

recruit input from a group of Cast Members from that culture (officially called “Business Employee Resource Groups”) who comment on the sensitivity, the context and, most of all, the flavor, before the dish is introduced to the public.

The results of these efforts are foods and delicacies that reflect the diverse communities that surround Disneyland.

Further proof that Disney is embracing a wider breadth of palates is the recent announcement that Taiwan-based Din Tai Fung and Cuban bakery behemoth Porto’s are both opening restaurants at Downtown Disney.

But you don’t have to wait until that happens to start exploring the diverse array of flavors now served at the Disneyland Resort. Here are eight of the best dishes, some of which you don’t even have to pay the theme park admission to sample.

THICK AND FLUFFY JAPANESE PANCAKES

A few years ago in Tokyo, the soufflé pancake craze reached its Cronut Phase. There were hourlong waits at popular pancake shops. YouTube and Instagram were inundated with recipes complete with overhead shots of mixing bowls. Everyone wanted to try one



Photos by Edwin Goei

THICK AND FLUFFY Japanese soufflé pancakes from Tangaroa Terrace at the Disneyland Resort.

because it was like no other pancake anyone had ever seen before.

A single soufflé pancake had the height of an entire stack at IHOP, forever nullifying the phrase “flat as a pancake.” But the whipped egg whites that are carefully folded into the batter impart the most compelling characteristic: cloud-like fluffiness.

I’ve sampled Japanese

soufflé pancakes all over Orange County, but Tangaroa Terrace’s rendition is, by far, the best executed. The texture exists in the sweet spot between angel food cake and a chocolate soufflé. It’s very airy and light but also still moist and substantial with a custard-like finish.

The chef at Tangaroa Terrace also ventures into unexplored soufflé pancake

territory by spooning a refreshing dragon fruit compote on top, garnishing with sliced star fruit and including crisp-tender bacon on the side — the most inspired pairing of the sweet and savory since Roscoe’s Chicken ‘N Waffles. These embellishments don’t just transform the dish into a full-fledged meal but also elevate it to become the greatest pancake breakfast in O.C. — Japanese or otherwise.

Where to find it: *Tangaroa Terrace Tropical Bar & Grill at Disneyland Hotel*
Theme park admission required? No

LOCO MOCO BURRITO

Invented in Hilo, Hawaii sometime in the 1950s, loco moco has since proliferated to every plate lunch joint on the islands but has also snuck into the menus of trendy mainland restaurants such as Bosscat in Irvine and Chapter One in Santa Ana. But if you’re unaware of its Hawaiian origins and saw the dish — which combines hamburger, gravy and fried egg with rice — it wouldn’t strike you as tropical. And you’d be right: it isn’t.

What it does, however, is tick every box on the comfort food checklist. It’s salty, it’s eggy, it’s beefy and it’s starchy.

At Tangaroa Terrace, you’ll find loco moco not on a plate but swaddled inside a warm flour tortilla. Yes, Disney has morphed it into a breakfast burrito. But it’s one that somehow improves the experience because now, between every toe-curling mouthful of loco moco, you can dribble on a salsa that adds a brightness and zing you never knew it needed.

Where to find it: *Tangaroa Terrace Tropical Bar & Grill at Disneyland Hotel*
Theme park admission required? No

QUESABIRRIA TACOS

Birria, the spicy, long-simmered goat meat stew from the Mexican state of Jalisco, has exploded in Southern California in recent years. Its popularity also meant the advent of quesabirria tacos, where the meat (typically beef in the U.S. and not goat) is folded with cheese inside a corn tortilla.

The whole taco is then pan-fried using the brick-red grease skimmed off the top of the stew. The grease stains the tortilla orange



SERVED WITH lime wedges, consommé and radish slices, the quesabirria taco is a delicacy at Cocina Cucamonga at the Disney’s California Adventure.

and hardens it into a crunchy cocoon. Meanwhile the cheese that oozes out from the edges gets lacy and crisp. If birria is Rocky Johnson, the quesabirria taco is Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson — the oil-slicked beefy offspring everyone is now a fan of.

Dunked into consommé — the intense soup in which the meat was cooked — the quesabirria now being served at Cocina Cucamonga at Disney’s California Adventure is a heavyweight contender that could go head-to-head against the best quesabirrias in O.C., such as the one from Santa Ana’s reigning champ, La Super Birria. In fact, Cocina Cucamonga’s quesabirria has proved such a hit that Disney has imposed a rule limiting guests to two orders at a time.

It was recently announced that the entire Pacific Wharf area, including Cocina Cucamonga and Lucky Fortune Cookery, will be rethemed to become San Fransokyo from “Big Hero 6.” So, get the quesabirria tacos while you still can. Can you smell them cooking?

Where to find it: *Cocina Cucamonga Mexican Grill at Disney’s California Adventure*
Theme park admission required? Yes

BEEF BULGOGI BURRITO

It’s been 13 years since Roy Choi’s Kogi food truck turned the food world upside down with the Korean taco — an invention that made Choi a millionaire food celebrity and the rest of the world thinking, “Why didn’t I think of that?”

The Korean Mexican

hybrid dish, of course, was kismet. Korean BBQ meats have never met a better friend than a tortilla. And like others inspired by Choi, Lucky Fortune Cookery at Disney’s California Adventure has taken his epiphany and developed a Korean Mexican mash-up of its own. It’s created a bulgogi burrito, which joins pork ramen and banh mi on an updated menu that used to feature only rice bowls.

These changes are significant upgrades not just on flavor but also practicality. Unlike the rice bowls Lucky Fortune used to serve, the bulgogi burrito is portable and can be eaten while you’re queueing up for a ride. Most importantly, it tastes as though it could have conceivably come from the Kogi food truck itself.

The flour tortilla has a nice elasticity. The rice is fluffy and the beef is sweet and sesame-scented from its marinade. But the most inspired add-ons are the garlic-flavored tapioca crackers served as chips and an Asian slaw that is so spicy, it’s disorienting. It had me asking, “Am I actually at a Disney theme park eating this right now?”

Where to find it: *Lucky Fortune Cookery at Disney’s California Adventure*
Theme park admission required? Yes

FOREST MUSHROOM IMPOSSIBLE SAUSAGE PIZZA

You’ve always been able to get pizzas inside Disney’s two parks, but historically most have tended toward pleasing younger palates. With thick doughy crusts overloaded with cheese, these were pies that had always reminded me of those served by a certain kid-friendly restaurant chain that has a rodent as a mascot.

Adults craving a more traditional slice can go to Downtown Disney’s Naples Ristorante, which has consistently produced pizzas that hew closer to the Neapolitan ideal. But there is another option.

In a rarely traversed corner of Disney’s Grand Californian Hotel, a quick-service counter called Craftsman Grill — which caters to pool guests — makes a great pizza in the California style popularized by Wolfgang Puck.

It’s a thin-crust pie that crackles between your teeth but with a soft inner crumb that’s just the right amount of chewy. The best choice for topping is the forest mushroom with Impossible Sausage where three cheeses — fresh mozzarella, Grana Padano, and aged Provolone — are melded with umami-loaded roasted mushrooms, mushroom spread, caramelized onions, green onions and a plant-based sausage that tastes so convincing, no unsuspecting carnivore would know the difference.

And it’s this quality that makes this pie better than the rest — it’s the rare “gourmet” pizza that can please everyone from the young, the old, the vegetarian and that dude who insists on meat in everything.

Where to find it: *Craftsman Grill at Disney’s Grand Californian Hotel*
Theme park admission required? No

HEARTHSTONE COBB SALAD

While the California theming is slowly being whittled away at Disney’s California Adventure to make way for Avengers,

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

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THE HEARTHSTONE COBB salad from Hearthstone Lounge at Disney’s Grand Californian Hotel.

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forum

COLUMN | PATRICE APODACA

Tiger, helicopter or unicorn? Regardless of parenting style, let's think of the children

Remember Tiger Mom? Vaguely? Well, I don't blame you if you're struggling to recall what that nonsense was all about. The Tiger Mom was so 2011, and since then we've been through such a vast assortment of nicknames for different parenting styles that it's hard to keep track.

The tigers were followed by a Noah's Ark-worth of other animals. There was a lengthy bear phase. At one time or another in the past decade some parents were said to resemble koalas, which hold their offspring close; pandas, which apparently prefer to let the youngsters do their own thing, and fierce, don't-mess-with-me grizzly parents.

Then we had the nurturing and protective elephant parents, dolphin parents who set firm rules but let their children make their own life choices, and — one of my favorites — jellyfish parents, who are considered even more permissive than those free-wheeling pandas.

Our extensive animal phase has even included some mythical creatures, the most memorable of which is the unicorn parent. The Urban Dictionary defines this as "a mother who's not perfect, enjoys alcohol, has a sense of humor and couldn't care less what you think." She might not care, but I think I like her.

Some designations just seem random. Lighthouse parents supposedly believe in the long game, favoring an approach that involves letting kids make mistakes so they learn from their failures. Velcro parents are so attached to their kids they make those cuddly koalas look positively hands-off, while silky parents are big on science and technology. Then we have so-called crunchy parents, which — actually never mind, I don't even want to know what they think.



From there we segued into mechanical themes, as in umbrellas, helicopters, snowplows, lawnmowers and bulldozers. We've gone from covering to hovering, sweeping to smoothing, and now we're on to earthmoving equipment. Who knew that parenting involved such intensive manual labor?

The point I'm getting to, in revisiting all these trends, is that the way we think about parenting has gotten out of whack.

There's nothing inherently wrong with reading books about parenting styles, seeking expert advice or looking for philosophies and methods that sync with someone's instincts about child-rearing.

It's also true that parents have much to worry about because of rampant pandemic-related learning losses, and the reality that no one knows for sure whether students will catch up over time.

But what is happening now goes beyond that. Some parents these days — ask any teacher who has to deal with them on a daily basis — have become aggressively fixated on the idea that if they do everything right, whatever their idea of "right" might be, their actions will pave the way for their kids to succeed.

And this thinking has led to a loud, inflexible minority making life miserable for anyone they see as standing in their way.

Consider the latest name that's getting attention thanks to an op-ed article written by an at-her-wits-end teacher. The "jackhammer parents" identified in the piece have taken extreme parenting to a scary new level, with their relentless, uncompromising attitudes and fear-driven demands.

Those demands run the gamut, from books parents want banned to history lessons they consider unsuitable. They insist that their students be moved to different classes, that grades be changed or



Mel Melcon | Los Angeles Times

SUMATRAN TIGER cubs, joined by their mother, make their official public debut at the Los Angeles Zoo on Dec. 9, 2011. The tiger cubs were born on Aug. 6 that year.

assignments ignored. Teachers are expected to instantly remove any obstacle perceived to be in students' paths.

Witness a few of these parents ranting misinformation at a school board meeting and you might notice a note of desperation. "Fighting for the children" becomes the rationalization for trying to give their kid an edge or for bludgeoning schools into making changes based on skewed ideas.

I don't for a second believe that this represents the vast majority of parents. Most are probably just feeling their way along, doing the best they can under trying circumstances. It's not their fault that a noisy, bullying minority gets all the attention.

They might also be forgiven if they get a bit infected by the mad-

ness.

I recently listened to a podcast by the brilliant writer Malcolm Gladwell, who was revisiting a chapter from his bestselling 2008 book, "Outliers: The Story of Success," in which he presented information on "relative age effect," a systemic bias that gives older students a huge advantage over younger ones in academics and sports.

When he wrote it, Gladwell likely thought he was highlighting a problem and hoping that solutions would follow. Instead he now wonders if he helped unleash a monster.

In the years since the book's publication, parents have increasingly held their kids back in school to benefit from the age advantage. Meanwhile, equality in education has worsened.

Are all these things related? Are parents ever justified in behaving like angry animals or destructive machines or crunchy breakfast cereal — or for just quietly choosing to give their kids a leg up, even if they're helping perpetuate an unfair system?

I'm not sure, but we should keep asking these questions. While we're at it, here's one more: Can everyone just calm down a bit? Don't forget, the kids are watching. We wouldn't want to give them the wrong idea about what it means to be an adult — the human variety.

PATRICE APODACA is a former Los Angeles Times staff writer and is coauthor of "A Boy Named Courage: A Surgeon's Memoir of Apartheid." She lives in Newport Beach.

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AGENCY

Continued from page A2

place since approximately 2007.”

Silva had suffered a mental health emergency and was taken to the San Diego Men's Central Jail instead of a treatment facility.

Video of events leading up to Silva's death recorded him saying, “Stop, sir, I didn't do anything,” to the six deputies attempting to move him out of a holding cell he had been kept in for 36 hours. The deputies were seen in the footage using stun guns to repeatedly shock him and a tactical body shield to press their weight down on him.

The then-39-year-old Silva, who had been diagnosed with schizophrenia, died as a result of injuries suffered during his struggle with deputies. He was one of 185 people killed while in law enforcement custody in San Diego County between 2006 and 2020.

“I don't know Mr. Faigin, and I don't have anything personal against him,” Gene Iredale, one of the lawyers who represented the Silva family, said. “But he was the attorney for the jail system, basically, under [Sheriff William] Gore. Gore just resigned in February, on the heels of an audit looking at the conditions in our jails, which were atrocious.”

San Diego County paid \$3.5 million to settle a lawsuit with the Silva family in April 2021. On Feb. 3, California State Auditor Michael Tilden released a report that stated the San Diego Sheriff's Department's “failure to consistently provide adequate medical and mental health care likely contributed to its high number of in-custody deaths.”

APPOINTED AMID DOUBTS ABOUT THE AUTONOMY OF THE OFFICE OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW

Faigin's first day on the job will be Nov. 4, Orange County spokeswoman Mechell Perez said. His appointment comes about three months after the release of an O.C. grand jury Report titled “How Independent is the Office of Independent Review?”

The document claimed the Orange County Sheriff's Department lobbied the Board of Supervisors and

succeeded in placing a hiring freeze on the Office of Independent Review after it released findings that were critical of the law enforcement agency's policies regarding deputies' use of force.

The Board of Supervisors disagreed with the grand jury's conclusions in a response submitted in August. County officials said they paused the recruitment of two positions at the OIR to hold discussions with the office about “general work practices,” and the hiring process resumed after those conversations took place. They deny any freeze was implemented.

The grand jury's report noted the OIR was either planning or actively engaged in nine different investigations on topics including the increased rate of suicide in Orange County's jails, reports of harassment and evidence-bookkeeping errors at the district attorney's office, psychological evaluations and hiring practices at police departments and a review of shootings by deputies.

Their report also recommended increasing the oversight agency's roster to 20 personnel, including staff attorneys, investigators and people specifically assigned to monitor conditions inside jails and juvenile halls in order to meet those tasks.

The county's budget for the upcoming fiscal year includes funding for a total of four staff at the OIR: the executive director role filled by Faigin, two attorneys and an investigations manager, Perez said. The latter position was vacant as of Wednesday.

In their response to the grand jury's report, county officials said they believe current staffing levels at the OIR are sufficient, but they are open to reviewing the matter if the office's workload changes.

“People are a very important part of the staffing equation, but to adequately assess staffing needs, things such as having the right technology and appropriate processes and procedures in place are also important to work efficiently and effectively,” Faigin stated Tuesday. “Without having had the opportunity to review these factors and the overall goals and objectives of the Board of Supervisors, I cannot speak to the current staffing

of the Office of Independent Review.”

OFFICE CREATED IN 2008 TO WIN BACK PUBLIC'S TRUST

The Office of Independent review was formed in response to the 2006 killing of John Chamberlain. He was held at the Theo Lacy Jail on suspicion of possessing child pornography and beaten to death by at least six other inmates, apparently unnoticed by guards who said they didn't learn about the attack until 30 minutes after it started.

High-profile cases of Orange County law enforcement have resulted in the retrial of numerous criminal defendants in the years since OIR began operation in 2008, and the office has been criticized for being ineffective in the past.

Its first director, Stephen Connolly, resigned in 2016, in the wake of a scandal involving the use of jailhouse informants.

The office's most recent leader was Sergio Perez, a former director of enforcement for the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission with an extensive background in investigating allegations of abuse. He left the OIR earlier this year to serve as the inspector general for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, an agency recently mired by the revelations of widespread corruption.

Now, command of the body tasked with oversight over the Orange County Sheriff's Department, district attorney's office, public defenders office, probation department and the social services agency falls into the hands of Faigin, a seasoned attorney who has spent the past 20 years in a position representing law enforcement.

“As a former prosecutor and current legal advisor, I have learned that objective facts are the key to accurately analyzing every incident,” Faigin wrote when asked to respond to potential doubts regarding his objectivity.

“During my legal career, I have become good at finding and presenting those facts in a clear, unbiased and precise manner,” he continued. “I intend to continue to do the same as the executive director for OIR.”

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FOOD

Continued from page A4

Pixar characters, and soon, “Big Hero 6,” the celebration of our state is still going strong at the Grand Californian Hotel. The hotel's lobby, with architecture inspired by the legendary Ahwahnee Hotel in Yosemite, hasn't stopped being jaw dropping. And at Napa Rose, chef Andrew Sutton and sous chef Gloria Tae continue their flawless execution of California wine country cuisine, still considered by many (including this writer) as the best restaurant in Orange County.

But you don't have to get a reservation there to experience a dish that manages to represent California on a single plate: the Cobb salad at Hearthstone Lounge. Not only is this Cobb the best update to a salad that was invented in California (at Hollywood's Brown Derby), it also features ingredients that are so iconic to California it borders on cliché: arugula, avocado, artichokes (the pride of Castroville) and blue cheese from Point Reyes.

With a perfectly cooked jammy egg, cider-glazed slab bacon cut into thick pieces, apples, cherry tomatoes, leaf lettuce, radish, a tangy vinaigrette and a healthy sprinkling of Aleppo pepper, it's a salad that should make any Californian, and maybe even Alice Waters, proud of our state's delectable bounty.

Where to find it: *Hearthstone Lounge at Disney's Grand Californian Hotel*

Theme park admission required? No

SULLUST GARLIC CHIPS

If you're walking around Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge



Edwin Goei

A COLD BREW BLACK CAF with Taro Topper is a featured seasonal item at Docking Bay 7 Food and Cargo inside Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge at Disneyland.

and encounter beverage carts offering what appear to be ear-shaped foam crackers covered in rust-colored powder, stop, get your money out and buy a bag. They're officially called “Sullust garlic chips,” but Indonesians like me recognize the snack as “krupuk,” oil-puffed tapioca crackers which we eat with nearly every meal.

Yet, while krupuk is as commonplace as French fries or Lay's in Indonesia, the fact that it's still undiscovered and unfamiliar to most Americans makes it an ideal snack for the Star Wars universe. The texture is unique. Bite into it and you get a noisy skull-rattling crunch that quickly subsides into mush in your mouth. The closest that any commercially made snack has come to resembling krupuk is Munchos by Frito-Lay.

But Disney's offering of krupuk is the real deal. And since it's dusted with a thick layer of Buffalo and white cheddar powder, it will make you think of another Frito-Lay in-

vention: Flamin' Hot seasoning, but with far less artificiality and more sweetness.

Where to find it: *Various Beverage Carts at Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge*

Theme park admission required? Yes

COLD BREW BLACK CAF WITH TARO TOPPER

You could channel Luke Skywalker and chug the blue milk at Milk Stand inside Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge, but for something that's more rooted in reality and involves less food coloring, head to Docking Bay 7 Food and Cargo for the “Cold Brew Black Caf With Taro Topper.”

The drink sports a meringue-like head that's colored purple from the Earth-found plant called taro, the tuber that millions of Asian milk tea drinkers already know is an essential dessert, drink and dessert-drink ingredient.

The taro topper has a consistency somewhere between melted ice cream and marshmallow fluff and is, at first sip, jarringly sweet. But then as the creamy concoction slowly dissolves into the black bitter depths of the coffee, the drink finally attains the long sought-after balance of the Dark Side and the Light.

Was the Star Wars metaphor intended by Disney's chefs? I don't know.

But since it's a seasonal item, does that mean the drink's availability is likely to be as ephemeral as ghosts of departed Jedis? Probably.

Where to find it: *Docking Bay 7 Food and Cargo at Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge*

Theme park admission required? Yes

Edwin Goei is a contributor to the Daily Pilot.