

TimesOC

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Love & marriage & THE CORONAVIRUS



DESPITE THE PANDEMIC, ORANGE COUNTY IS BUSY ISSUING MARRIAGE LICENSES.

BY LORI BASHEDA

You may now kiss the bride, the clerk behind the glass announced after a young masked couple exchanged vows the other day at the Old Orange County Courthouse in Santa Ana.

"Like, actually kiss her?" asked Alonso de la Torre Vega, prompting guests watching the ceremony on a Zoom call to laugh out loud. Yes, the clerk confirmed.

So Torres tore off his mask and planted one on his new bride Viridiana Tapia Diosdado.

Then they strapped their masks back on and turned to a computer that the bride's brother was holding up so that they could wave to their friends and family members watching the nuptials from the safety of their own homes.

"Thank you for logging on," Torres told the Zoom crowd, laughing and waving.

See *Marriage*, page R5

ABOVE: Paulina Cruz, a county clerk, marries Alonso De La Torre and Viridiana Tapia Diosdado at the Old Orange County Courthouse in Santa Ana on Feb. 5, as online guests observe the ceremony.

Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer



Irvine OKs pay raise for grocery workers

The O.C. city says the employees face hazards during the pandemic and deserve \$4 more an hour for 120 days.

BY BEN BRAZIL

Irvine on Tuesday night became the first city in Orange County to approve "hero pay" for grocery workers.

The council voted 3-2 in favor of an ordinance requiring grocery store employees in the city to be paid an extra \$4 an hour for 120 days. Council members Anthony Kuo and Mike Carroll dissented.

The ordinance is set to be finalized at its second reading later this month. Irvine City Atty. Jeff Melching said the ordinance will come into effect in about 45 days.

"From the onset of this pandemic, our grocery workers have come to work, interacted with the public, sanitized our carts, kept the stores clean, jeopardized their health and the health of their families and continue to do so today," said Mayor Farrah Khan, who proposed the item.

"Just in Irvine we have had over 83 workers contract the virus at work, including one death. Yet, we have seen grocery store profits substantially rise throughout this pandemic. In addition, many if not all of these same stores have received federal and state funding to help them through this pandemic. Therefore, this ordinance will not affect their financial stability."

The council joins several cities across the state that are looking into requiring hazard pay for grocery workers.

Last week, Santa Ana moved one step closer to approving hero pay for grocery employees and the Los Angeles City Council supported a \$5-per-hour boost to grocery and drugstore workers.

The grocery chain, Kroger, said last week that it would close two of its Long Beach stores if the city mandates the premium pay. The California Grocers Assn. has sued Long Beach in federal court and has a hearing set for Feb. 19.

Vice Mayor Tammy Kim pointed out that grocery stores have seen rising profits since the beginning of the pandemic, yet

See *Raise*, page R4

Dixie Longate wants you to find the happy hours you might be missing

BY VERA CASTANEDA

Fast-talking Alabama belle Dixie Longate wants to be in your Orange County living room once again. This time it's for happy hour, but also to raise funds for arts organizations.

Segerstrom Center for the Arts is one of 20 arts venues set to stream the new show "Dixie's Happy Hour." Participating theater locations range from California, Texas, Illinois, Ohio and North Carolina to New York.

In the 95-minute show, available from Feb. 9 to 21 through

Segerstrom, Dixie tells new stories as she mixes up cocktails. She'll post cocktail recipes before the show on social media so that viewers can start making them ahead of time.

Kris Andersson, the performer and creator of Dixie, prefers to stick to the drag queen persona during interviews.

"Everybody's life is a little bit upended right now," Dixie said in a Southern drawl over the phone. "I wanted to inspire everybody to find the happy hours that they might be missing right in front of them."

Last summer, Segerstrom announced a staff reduction of 63%, with the majority placed on furlough and 20 people laid off. Those furloughed were mostly part-time employees including ushers, box office workers, security and dance school teachers.

"I've been really lucky with so many great art centers and theaters opening their doors to me for so long," Dixie said. "I've gotten to meet all these people that work there and a lot of these people have become friends of mine be-

See *Dixie*, page R5



Courtesy of Segerstrom Center for the Arts

DIXIE LONGATE'S third solo show "Dixie's Happy Hour" will premiere online with proceeds going toward participating arts venues such as the Segerstrom Center for the Arts in Costa Mesa.

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CULINARY COUPLES

BY LORI BASHEDA

Is there anything hotter than a culinary power couple? Orange County has a bunch, but to mark Valentine's Day, we decided to ask three about their romance and what it's like when your work partner is also your home partner.

We talked with Amelia and Florent Marneau, who own Marche, the award-winning French restaurant in Newport, Brian and Robin Christenson, who own the distillery/kitchen Blinking Owl in Santa Ana, and Candace and Allan Tea, who founded Hello Kitty Cafe and Cali Dumpling Delivery in Irvine.

Candace and Allan Tea

Hello Kitty Cafe at Irvine Spectrum, Cali Dumpling Delivery

Q Relationship status?

Allan: We met in 2015 on a blind date. We got married March 14, 2020, on her birthday. A big Chinese wedding. I think we were the last non-COVID wedding of the year.

Q Did COVID spike the honeymoon?

Allan: Yeah. We were supposed to do a little trip. After about two weeks of staying home and not working, we started a little side hustle, delivering restaurant-quality dumplings to your house. In the beginning, in addition to employing our staff, we donated all the profits. We've transitioned to a business but we still donate 300 dumpling meals a month.

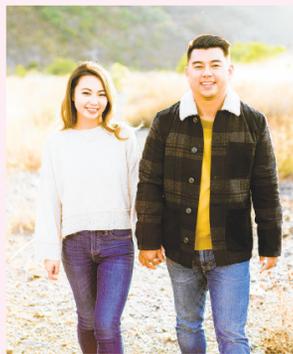
Q Favorite date spot?

Candace: We really like going to the Langham Huntington Hotel in Pasadena. They used to have live music on the weekends.

Allan: It's a late-night date spot to get drinks and dance.

Q Best part of working together?

Allan: I would say we're complete opposites so everything I'm really bad at she's really good at. **Candace:** It definitely helps



Love & You Studios

Candace and Allan Tea



Photo by Dylan + Jeni

Amelia and Florent Marneau



K. Gennaro Photography

Brian and Robin Christenson

to work with someone you're a partner with in life. You have the same goals.

Q Is there a worst part of working together? [Both laugh].

Allan: You're literally in each other's face 24/7.

Q How have you weathered the past year?

Allan: It's definitely been rough. We just got married and we're gonna start our lives together and then boom — we had to close down. We closed three times.

Candace: It's like being on a yo-yo. But we pivoted. We got creative.

Q What do Hello Kitty fans have to look forward to now that you're back open?

Candace: We just started our afternoon tea back up. And for Valentine's, we're doing cute tea boxes for people who still don't feel comfortable going out. It has a bottle of our signature rose, fingerling sandwiches, tea of your choice and bite-size goodies.

Q What are you doing for Valentine's Day?

Allan: I'm making dinner, some type of seafood. I have to start thinking about that.

Amelia and Florent Marneau

Marche Moderne on Newport Coast

Q How did you meet?

Amelia: He was the chef at Aubergine [in Newport Beach]. He interviewed me to be the pastry chef. I had just come back from Paris [where she studied at Cordon Bleu]. I was very interested in French men. I'd look into his beautiful eyes, and I was very taken. He was very driven and that was very attractive.

Q Favorite date spot?

Florent: We take our camper to San Diego for the day and stop at the little towns along the coast. We try and make it feel like a vacation. We take our bathing suits. We bring cheese and bread and start at the Rancho Santa Fe Farmers Market for veg and fruit. It's a beautiful day.

Q Best part of working together?

Amelia: We work as a team. We trust each other's advice.

Florent: We don't bring our personal life to work.

Q Worst part of working together?

Amelia: We do not know how to turn it off at home. We have tried for years.

Q Do you spend time together at home?

Amelia: Every morning (at 6:30 a.m.) we make a drip coffee, a French roast. Over coffee (3 to 4 cups each) we talk for about an hour.

Florent: We talk about everything; we dream.

Q Is there anything you fight about?

Amelia: Plates! He steals my plates.

Q Who cooks at home?

Florent: She makes amazing dinners. She cooks the really good countryside French food that my mom makes.

Amelia: I love to do the Sundays. I make fresh bread. I just want my house to smell like that.

Q Did you lean on each other more this past year?

Amelia: The first nine months were a challenge, but we like a challenge. It made us creative. We did takeout for the first time. It became a game — like how good can we become at this?

Q What's your favorite dish made by each other?

Amelia: That's like asking who your favorite child is. I love his sole. And his pommes Dauphine. Those are my favorites.

Florent: I love her Paris Brest (a cream puff).

Q Any regrets?

Amelia: No, it's a beautiful life. It's exciting. It's for people who enjoy energy. It's a crazy life.

Brian and Robin Christenson

Blinking Owl Distillery tasting room in Santa Ana

Q How long have you been

3 Valentine's Day pairs share their successes and challenges serving food and drink to OC.

together?
Robin: We got married 20 years ago, so together 21.

Q How did you meet?

Robin: On a blind date. We went to dinner at a cute little place in Salt Lake City. He said if he didn't make it in art he'd be perfectly happy living on a beach in Mexico and drinking beer and I was like, "We are not cut from the same cloth." That's not a good life goal for me. But after dinner I ordered a porter.

Brian: We started talking beer and we just hit it off.

Q Favorite date spot?

Robin: Camping. Being out in nature somewhere and opening a bottle of wine. We tricked out an old Range Rover with a rooftop tent and a kitchen in the back.

Q Best part of working together?

Brian: You get to see your best friend all day long.

Robin: Seeing him get creative, seeing him rise up — it's really really fun to watch him thrive.

Q Worst part of working together?

Brian: You never go home. **Robin:** You take every employee and all their hard stuff and you bring it into your marriage.

Q Who's the boss?

Robin: Brian's the CEO, but I'm the boss.

Q How did you guys weather 2020?

Brian: We're on the same team. It's us against all the outside forces, not fighting each other. **Robin:** All the hardship has brought us so close. This is our whole life.

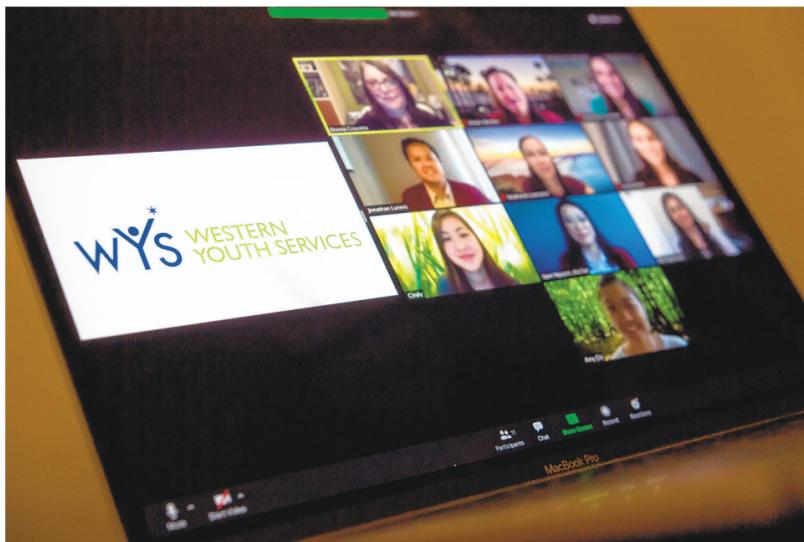
Q What's on the horizon?

Brian: We're opening our own kitchen next month. It's London tea meets the bar. High-low gourmet snack bar food. Caviar hotdogs.

LORI BASHEDA is a contributor to TimesOC.

Pandemic-fed childhood mental health issues on the rise

WESTERN YOUTH SERVICES is providing virtual services to help with child mental health issues caused by the pandemic.



John Demato Productions

BY BEN BRAZIL

As the pandemic has progressed, children have suffered from increased rates of depression, anxiety and other mental health problems, health officials say.

However, kids are often not able to receive the care they need in a timely manner as COVID-19 patients fill hospitals and require the majority of medical resources.

Western Youth Services, a Laguna Hills-based nonprofit, has been developing an online resource for teachers and parents to proactively engage with children to treat the secondary effects of the pandemic that are responsible

for childhood trauma — housing and food insecurity, disrupted education and lack of socializing.

"Kids were sent home, people were isolated in their homes and there was physical distancing and lots of loss of their social system," said Lorry Belhumeur, chief executive of Western Youth Services. "... So we started looking at and anticipating the grief response. So we put our heads together and said, 'OK, what are the resources that are available out there?' which is why we developed the RESET Toolbox."

The nonprofit rolled out the RESET Toolbox about a

See **Issues**, page R4

Husband of Seal Beach massacre victim claims defamation in suit

BY BEN BRAZIL

A man whose wife was killed in the deadliest shooting in Orange County history has filed a defamation claim against District Atty. Todd Spitzer and his spokeswoman Kimberly Edds.

Paul Wilson is seeking \$250,000 from the county for "defamation and slanderous accusations ... that were given to the press and released to the public."

The information released to the public was an Aug. 12 press release from Edds that was in response to a rally held outside of the district attorney's office building. Wilson gathered with other families of victims of the Seal Beach massacre in criticism of Spitzer.

Wilson said he held the rally in response to a video from December 2019 that had surfaced showing Spitzer praising two prosecutors at a retirement party even though they were part of an illegal jailhouse snitch scandal. Because of the scandal, Scott Dekraai,

the man who killed Wilson's wife and seven others, was spared the death penalty.

"We can't explain Mr. Wilson's behavior or why he's become best friends with the attorney who defended his wife's killer," the press release reads.

"The prosecutors in Orange County's worst mass murder committed prosecutorial misconduct and prevented the victims' families from having the killer sentenced to death," the release says. "Mr. Wilson has every right to be upset about that. But that frustration has morphed into an unrelenting scorched earth campaign against the Orange County district attorney's office and demands to fire people who have already left the office or were never even involved in that prosecution."

The press release references Wilson's friendship with Assistant Public Defender Scott Sanders.

Wilson became friends with Sanders after he discovered the illegal use of

jailhouse informants. Sanders was counsel for Dekraai in the case.

"Mr. Wilson and the man who defended his wife's killer have not been shy about their campaign to turn Orange County into the next San Francisco by putting the rights of criminals over the rights of victims and replacing prosecutors with anti-incarceration advocates," the press release says.

Wilson said the claims in the press release are not true.

"Every newspaper, every media that was there [at the rally] was told this is about Todd Spitzer's video and his flip-flopping on the Dekraai case and the attorneys," Wilson said. "... Come on, they didn't have to go out and make a press release against that ... You can't write that stuff about me. None of that's true. Not one word of that's true."

Edds responded to Wilson's claim by email earlier this week.

"When you make yourself a self-appointed public



Allen J. Schaben | Los Angeles Times

O.C. DISTRICT ATTY. Todd Spitzer has been named in a claim seeking \$250,000 in damages.

figure and continually involve yourself in political discussions, you make yourself fair game for anyone to have an opinion about you," Edds said. "There is no doubt that Paul Wilson has appointed himself a public figure and he stands shoulder to shoulder with an assistant public defender and his progressive ideas. Paul Wilson put himself in the political arena and anyone is

free to express their opinions about what he says or does."

The press release also claims that Sanders wants to run for district attorney.

"No one in the DA's office had any reason to believe I was running for DA," Sanders said Thursday. "All of it including my supposed agenda was completely made up. I asked them for evidence and suddenly cat's got their tongue. It

was all completely fabricated in order to convince people we aren't really fighting for what we believe in and instead have ulterior motives. Of course, this type of behavior doesn't exactly square with an office that issues a press release every few days trumpeting its commitment to truth and integrity."

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“My daughter’s breast cancer saved my life.”

AMY & KENN’S STORY



Orange County’s leader in the fight against cancer.

Hoag Family Cancer Institute is one of few hospitals in the United States to offer a surveillance program for pancreatic cancer. Amy’s aggressive breast cancer helped her and her family discover they are BRCA 1 carriers, an inherited genetic mutation. Kenn was immediately enrolled in Hoag’s pancreatic cancer surveillance program which detected an early tumor on his pancreas. **Hoag’s relentless drive to provide leading cancer care, saved both Amy and Kenn’s lives.**



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Hoag Family
Cancer Institute

hoag.org/cancer-risk

Bowers Museum receives \$110,000 grant

BY VERA CASTANEDA

The Bowers Museum has received a \$110,000 grant from the Nicholas Endowment to expand its Art Access program — including its ongoing virtual museum school tours and family festivals.

Victoria Gerard, vice president of programs and collections at the Bowers, said the facility typically serves at least 12,000 local students on site every year.

Through donations and grants, the museum is able to offer museum activities free of charge to Title 1 public schools in Orange County. Now, the museum offers students and teachers virtual school tours for pre-K through 12th-grade students and online resources that have been downloaded as far away as Denmark.

“What we’ve learned is that every school is different in terms of their distance-learning setup or if they’re doing hybrid,” Gerard said. “We don’t have a one-stop shop. We have more of a concierge plat-



Courtesy of Bowers Museum

A BOWERS MUSEUM docent talks about Acjachemen and Tongva tribe history in a video about California. The facility has received a grant to expand its Art Access program.

form.”

Some teachers prefer prerecorded content, others want a live Zoom presentation. Last year, museum docents were able to record tours inside the galleries.

Gerard said the Bowers

has a robust guild of more than 100 docents, who are volunteers primarily responsible for school tours.

Ingrid Bowers (no relation) has worked in the Magnolia School District 21 years. Over the last five years, she’s built the dis-

trict’s arts plan by working with arts organizations to bring theater, dance, visual art and music to all students.

“We built this partnership where our fourth-

See **Bowers**, page R5



Luis Sinco | Los Angeles Times

A CASHIER wearing a mask helps a customer at the checkout stand in a Vons grocery store in Long Beach.

RAISE

Continued from page R1

grocery workers have seen no personal benefit.

“I know we’ve talked about sort of government reach, but if this is what we have to do to get these publicly traded big box retailers to do what’s right, then we just have to do what we have to do because it is not fair for the workers,” Kim said.

The hero pay will only apply to grocery and retail stores that employ at least 20 employees at the specific establishment and 500 or more employees nationwide.

Initially, Khan proposed the item as an “urgency” ordinance. If approved, the ordinance would have been effective immediately. However, the urgency ordinance would have needed at least four votes in favor in order to pass.

Following council discussion, Khan modified the item to a regular ordinance after Kuo and Carroll showed dissatisfaction with it.

Both made reference to the Long Beach lawsuit and said they were concerned with potential litigation.

Kuo said the lawsuit gives him “a lot of discomfort.” Carroll, an attorney, said it’s still up for debate whether it’s permissible for a city to pass an ordinance exercising this kind of regulatory authority.

“This appears to be something, the legality of which is still up for discussion,” Carroll said. “You

know just putting on my day job hat, we have a phrase called ‘setting up a date to litigate,’ and this is clearly that.

“I see no path by which we could carry this resolution and provide these benefits, or mandate these benefits, and not end up being part of a similar lawsuit and a costly one at that.”

During the meeting, Khan also referenced that each council member had received a petition signed by nearly 700 grocery workers in the city.

Residents and grocery union representatives spoke in favor of the item during public comments.

“My previous job was actually in healthcare and honestly I feel that I am at more risk in my current position as a grocery worker,” said Marissa Marcus, who works at the Pavilions in the Orchard Hills shopping center. “The necessary steps to protect ourselves from COVID-19 sometimes aren’t taken seriously by the public and it puts everyone at risk. Sadly, we lost one of our team members to COVID last month and that was difficult to deal with for a lot of people.”

A few spoke against the item.

“Is it the council’s responsibility to determine winners and losers and change the basic principles of a free market competitive economy?” said Irvine resident John Park. “I believe the answer is no.”

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ISSUES

Continued from page R2

year ago and it is available to anyone online.

The toolbox is a work in progress. It includes audio trainings, books, applications and other resources geared towards helping children cope with the emotional hurdles of the pandemic in Orange County.

Western Youth Services is collaborating with the Children’s Hospital of Orange County and the Orange County Department of Education for the RESET Toolbox. The effort is partly funded by CARES Act money.

“We surveyed teachers, parents, community members and community-based organizations on what it is that they need, and then we found resources to provide them in the RESET Toolbox,” Bel-

humeur said.

UCI psychology professor Jessica Borelli described the increasing rate of mental health problems in kids as “pretty dramatic.” Borelli is studying the impact of the pandemic on the mental health of children.

“We are seeing a pretty significant increase in things like depression, anxiety and also aggression, impulsivity, irritability and all kinds of behavioral problems in kids,” Borelli said.

Borelli said many of the mental health problems can be traced to the structure lacking in children’s lives. The format of their schooling has changed, and they no longer have access to their peers.

Children are also affected by the stress of their parents, Borelli said.

“We know that parents are shouldering a lot more responsibility as well and

a lot more stress,” Borelli said. “And then when parents are stressed or anxious or down, then that also has cascading impacts on their children. Those affects vary as a function of children’s age, too. So, younger kids are more impacted by their parent’s mental health than older kids.

“They’re really tuned into their parents, and they’re looking to their parents for information about the world and how worried they should be. If their parents are really stressed out, or depressed about the future, that tells kids a lot about how worried they should be.”

Borelli said some of the best treatments for children is for parents to get their own mental health under control. If parents are less stressed, then their children will reciprocate.

Children will also bene-

fit from learning how to regulate their emotions and cope with anxiety.

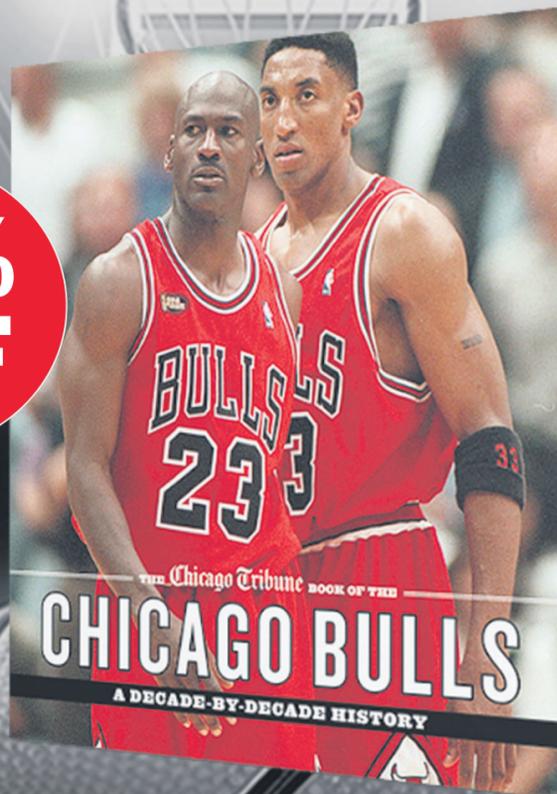
“Things like mindfulness and deep breathing ... basic principles of cognitive behavioral therapy,” Borelli said.

Borelli said the pandemic could inflict long-term mental health damage on some children, though most will bounce back.

“A lot of psychologists who work with kids like to think about development as being a series of branching pathways, and you know certain life events can kind of take you on different pathways,” Borelli said. “And the pandemic, for many families, has led to many hard events ... And so those are going to be really hard things to recover from.”

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MARRIAGE

Continued from page R1

Welcome to love in the time of COVID. The pandemic has shut down all sorts of life events but it is no match for *amour*.

In fact courthouse ceremonies jumped from roughly 11,000 in 2019 to 14,000 in 2020, according to county Clerk-Recorder Hugh Nguyen.

"My god, our numbers are crazy," he says. "We were busier last year than any year in a long time."

Total marriage licenses issued, whether the ceremony was at the courthouse or somewhere else, rose from 22,230 in 2019 to 2020 27,816.

Nguyen said he was forced to shut down courthouse weddings for several weeks last spring when the pandemic first hit and it unnerved him.

Then one day while driving down the road a brilliant idea popped into his head. What if he borrowed some ticket booths from the Orange County Fairgrounds? That way his clerks could be protected behind glass while they performed marriages.

Fair officials were happy to help. So he asked the Honda Center in Anaheim, where the Ducks play hockey, if he could put three ticket booths in their ghost-town parking lot to perform marriages.

On April 9 Hitched at Honda Center went public. By day's end, Nguyen says, 10,000 phone calls had poured in, crashing the county line. Turns out many neighboring counties were still closed for wedding business or at least super limited.

Nguyen borrowed three more fair ticket booths (for a total of six) to meet the demand. Over the next three months, couples from across California — and eventually 36 states — drove to the Anaheim parking lot to tie the knot.

"It was huge," Nguyen says, adding they wound up doing up to 160 marriages a day, double the pre-COVID number. "We were jamming. It was



Photos by Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

ANGELA RUGELIO, left, photographs the wedding of her daughter, Gabriela Gutierrez, to Diego Gonzalez at the Old Orange County Courthouse in Santa Ana on Friday, Feb. 5. In addition to thousands of in-person wedding, the county did 1,560 virtual marriages in the second half of 2020.

crazy."

With brides floating across the asphalt in flowing white gowns and grooms popping champagne on the hoods of their car, it became one of the bright spots in an anxious summer, making headlines as far as Dubai, London and Argentina.

Weddings are back at the courthouse now, but by appointment only. Couples must wait outside until they are called. And bride and groom are allowed only one guest — as opposed to up to 100 allowed prior to the pandemic.

When Gov. Gavin Newsom announced in May an order permitting virtual weddings, Nguyen jumped on it, so that's another option.

"A lot of military people use the virtual weddings,

first responders who can't get away from their job, and people who are sick," he says.

The county did 1,560 virtual marriages in (the second half of) 2020. Usually weddings are not performed on Sundays, but Nguyen booked two dozen virtual ceremonies for today, since it is Valentine's Day.

"People are in love and they're just so happy they are able to get married," Nguyen says.

That describes Alonso and Viridiana. After exchanging vows, the high school sweethearts drove back to their Santa Ana house, sipped tequila, ate cake and danced around their living room.

Take that, COVID.

LORI BASHEDA is a contributor to TimesOC.



ALONSO DE LA TORRE and Viridiana Tapia celebrate on the steps of the Old Orange County Courthouse in Santa Ana after getting married on Friday, Feb. 5.

BOWERS

Continued from page R4

grade students have the opportunity — many of whom have never been to a museum before — and see the artifacts firsthand and then follow up with an art activity," Bowers said. The district's fourth-graders who are studying California history take a virtual tour starting with the Acjachemen and Tongva tribe history, then complete different art projects like basket-weaving and creating a mural. The museum mails out art kits with corresponding how-to videos to schools.

The grant will also be used to fund the Family Festival program through-

out the year. The latest virtual festival took place in January and highlighted chocolate. The next festival will celebrate the Lunar New Year on Feb. 28.

"The name of the game for this pandemic is trying to adapt and continuing to try to find new ways to serve the community," Gerard said.

The Bowers altered its after-school program, which has been in place since the 1990s for the Santa Ana community. The focus of the program shifted to art kit, groceries and hot meal curbside pickups. Soon, the museum plans to launch a prerecorded monthly Latinx parenting series.

"We're in a time right now where kids need arts more than they've ever

needed them," Bowers said. "Our kids need to connect with people and sometimes they don't have the words to express the ideas. Arts connects people, and it has also given them a whole different way to express how they're feeling. For our students, this is really helping to provide joy, support and helping increase engagement in school."

The Nicholas Endowment is an Irvine-based private foundation whose mission includes support for the performing and visual arts, advancement of science and education and partnership with area charities.

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DIXIE

Continued from page R1

cause I've been able to come back to certain theaters again, again, again. At least the one thing that I can do is make people laugh, but I can do it in a way that's going to give money right back to the art center."

Andersson, who has performed as Dixie at Segerstrom in the past, began appearing in drag in local living rooms to sell Tupperware in 2001. According to a Los Angeles Times write-up, Dixie sold \$219,000 of Tupperware earning 25% commission plus bonuses.

IF YOU WATCH

What: Dixie's Happy Hour
When: Feb. 9 to 21 at 7 p.m.
Where: Online
Cost: \$35 general admission
Info: scfta.org

As word-of-mouth spread about Dixie's unique sales approach, she started booking party gigs in living rooms.

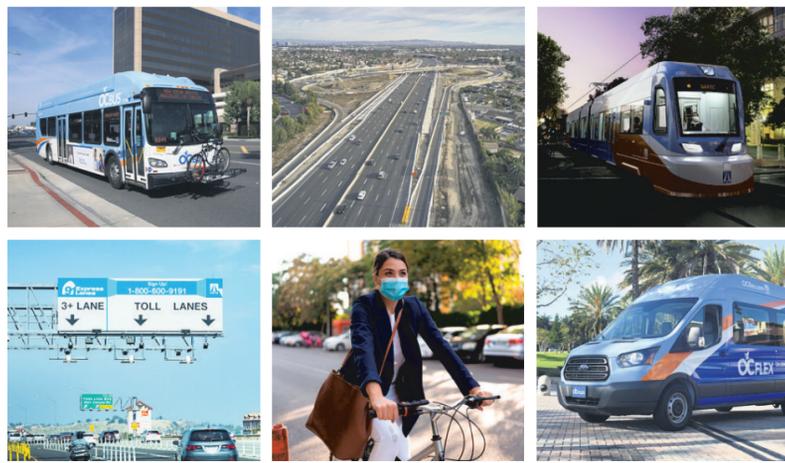
"Everybody thinks the parties were little old ladies sitting in the living room," Dixie said. "I had the most raucous fun. Every kind of lady you can imagine was

having a Tupperware party."

In 2004, "Dixie's Tupperware Party" show debuted at the New York Fringe Festival and eventually developed into a long-running tour. In fact, Dixie was still performing in March 2020 and about to fly to her next gig in Denver when the coronavirus pandemic canceled her performances.

Dixie, who still has a Tupperware consultant page, says she's crossing her fingers in hopes that she can get 50 theaters to participate in total.

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Apply for the Orange County Transportation Authority Board of Directors

Make a difference in Orange County transportation by representing the public as a member of the Orange County Transportation Authority Board of Directors.

Candidates should have knowledge of transportation, finance, and OCTA priorities; other requirements apply. Documents required for application are due no later than **Friday, February 26th, 2021 at 5pm.**

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To Our Healthcare Heroes

A Heartfelt Thank You from All of Us

We've witnessed your courage. We've witnessed your unwavering strength. For nearly a year, you have put the needs of the community above your own. Thank you for showing up day in and day out to make a difference in the lives of others that need you now more than ever. Thanks to you and your families for your bravery and your sacrifice. Thank you for choosing to be our heroes.

We encourage the community to continue doing your part by practicing physical distancing, wearing a mask, washing your hands frequently and getting vaccinated once the vaccine becomes available to you .

As our frontline staff has worked tirelessly to battle this disease, they have been awarded with Special Recognition for Heroism for their continued commitment to patient safety during the COVID-19 pandemic by the Leapfrog Group.*

*Independent organization focused on healthcare safety and quality.

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