

# Daily Pilot & Times OC

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Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

**HUNTINGTON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL** sixth-grader Miller Ruiz recently won a contest to name Caltrans' new mascot. His submission, Safety Sam, was one of more than 1,800 entries for the statewide naming contest that was open to students ages 5 to 18.

## H.B. student wins contest to name Caltrans mascot

BY SARA CARDINE

Traffic cones do a lot of heavy lifting for California's Department of Transportation, guiding motorists toward safe passage, while protecting work crews from the perils of unintended collisions.

And now the humble object has been selected to perform another important role. Officials recently introduced to the public a larger-than-life traffic cone mascot designed to help teach the drivers of tomorrow important safety lessons today.

Caroline Moreno explained Caltrans often partners with the state's Office of Traffic Safety to unroll awareness efforts, such as the "Be Work Zone Alert," to warn motorists of the risk work crews face, and "Move Over," which educates drivers about a law requiring vehicles to change lanes when they see amber lights.

"It's a safety message to get people to understand there is a law in place and also for safety, that it's the right thing to do to move over a lane," Moreno said.

A bright orange mascot wearing a seat belt and a Caltrans cap topped with flashing lights, Moreno and her colleagues figured, would be a fun addition to public events and appeal to all ages.

See [Mascot](#), page A4



**SAFETY SAM**, a mascot created by Caltrans, will make appearances at public events and be an icon for traffic safety.

Courtesy of Office of Traffic Safety

## Creators reflect on 'The Great Picture'

31-foot-by-111-foot photo of a former Marine Corps air station is the subject of an exhibit at the Great Park in Irvine.

BY ANDREW TURNER

A photographic marvel has returned home, as a monumental project known as "The Great Picture" will be a featured exhibition at the Great Park in Irvine for a third time.

Following the decommissioning of Marine Corps Air Station El Toro in 1999, a group of six artists and photographers came together to form a collaboration they would call the Legacy Project.

Jerry Burchfield, Mark Chamberlain, Jacques Garnier, Rob Johnson, Douglas McCulloh and Clayton Spada set out to document as much as they could of the 4,800-acre military base.

Four of the Legacy Project members taught in the photo department at Cypress College, including the late Burchfield, who lobbied to give students access to the base and document it as it went through a transition.

See [Reflect](#), page A8

### ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



Courtesy of Segerstrom Center for the Arts

**'BROADWAY DIVAS' SERVE OFF-BROADWAY REALNESS AT SEGERSTROM** PAGE A5

**NEW SCULPTURES APPROVED FOR REFRESH OF CIVIC CENTER PARK EXHIBITION** PAGE A3

## Cookout series returns to the Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel brings back its Culinary Cookout series this year, with today's beachside beer festival its first event of 2023.

Brews & Bites is bringing a lineup of brewers to the Dana Point resort. Set on the resort's Dana Lawn overlooking the Pacific Ocean, the event will feature well-known local breweries like the Bruery, based in Placentia, and Anaheim's Bottle Logic Brewery. Beer lovers can also look forward to tasting brews from more far-flung innovators, like New Mexico's Bow & Arrow Brewing Co., the nation's first Native American and women-owned brewery, and Peoples' Republic of South Central, the

first Black-owned craft brewery in South Los Angeles.

"We are not just a brewery but a beverage company," said People's Republic co-founder and director of production, Samuel Chawinga. "We are mostly doing beer, but we are also doing product development. We have a winery license, I've got a cider line coming out, we are doing some wine blending and making some mead, so we are doing a bunch of different projects."

Chawinga has been brewing beer professionally for 23 years, inspired by a brother who worked for Gallo to get into the industry. He started People's Republic with Craig Bowers in 2021, as a Qualified Opportunity

See [Cookout](#), page A6



**LOCAL BREWERIES**, like the Bruery based in Placentia, will be pouring today at the Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel's beachside beer festival, called Brews & Bites.

Courtesy of Treat Day Creative

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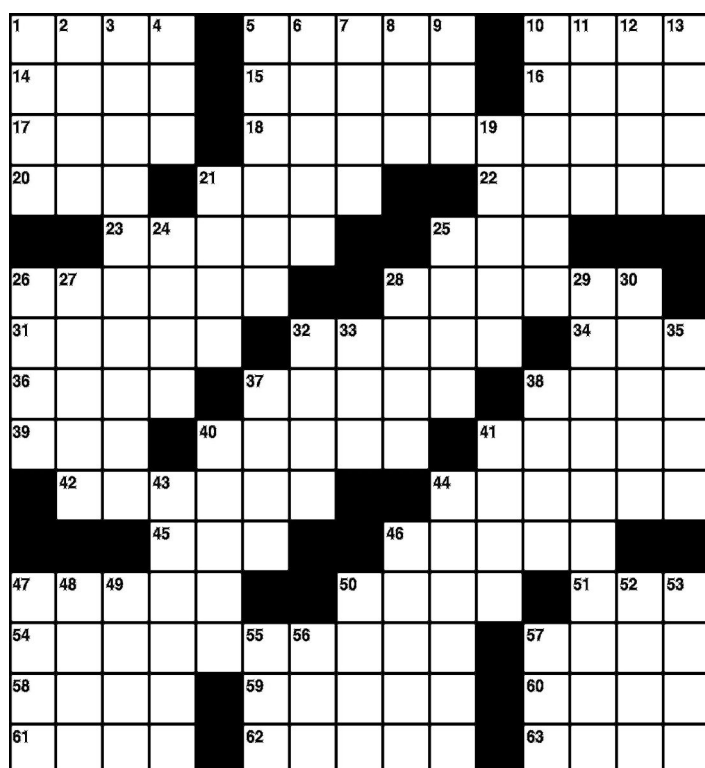
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**THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE**

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

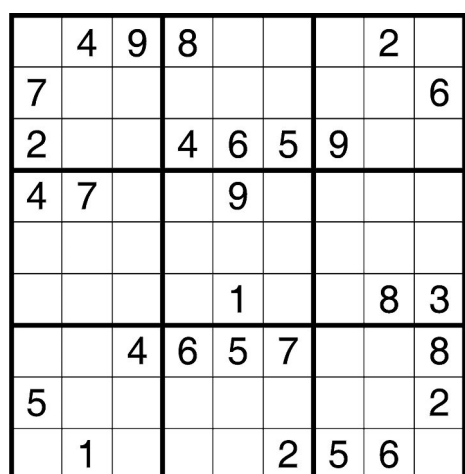
- ACROSS**  
 1 "Auntie \_"; film for Roz Russell  
 5 Daybreaks  
 10 Geologic periods  
 14 TV's "American \_"  
 15 Dutch island in the Caribbean  
 16 Give a pink slip to  
 17 Pantry stackables  
 18 Waif  
 20 Bird that runs  
 21 Wire measures  
 22 Parakeet's lunch  
 23 Complains  
 25 Pen name  
 26 Make happy  
 28 Soup bean  
 31 Pig cries  
 32 Word attached to some or any abbr.  
 36 Plenty  
 37 Wide  
 38 Part of the alphabet  
 39 "Cat \_ Hot Tin Roof"  
 40 Pilot  
 41 Occupy the throne  
 42 Zigzag skiing  
 44 Having antlers  
 45 Near the ground  
 46 Baton \_  
 47 21st-century president  
 50 Be a sore loser  
 51 Actor Reiner  
 54 Boring  
 57 Haleakala volcano's island  
 58 Hotels  
 59 Incorrect  
 60 "\_ Wonderful Life"  
 61 Student's ordeal  
 62 Toddlers  
 63 Gels
- DOWN**  
 1 Household pests  
 2 Eden evictee  
 3 Tremendous  
 4 Golfer Ernie  
 5 Many a



**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](http://sudoku.org.uk).



**For answers to the crossword and Sudoku puzzles, see page A8.**

- |                               |                          |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Guadalcanal hero              | 11 Plentiful             |
| 6 Face-to-face exams          | 12 Withered              |
| 7 Floor coverings             | 13 French cathedral town |
| 8 Org. for Heat & Hawks       | 19 Exploiting            |
| 9 Actor Elliott               | 21 Church service        |
| 10 Cause's partner, in phrase | 24 Thousand _ , CA       |
|                               | 25 Be flexible           |

- 26 Explorer Marco  
 27 "\_ and tigers and bears! Oh my!"  
 28 Fibber  
 29 Burn to ashes  
 30 Get stuck  
 32 Brief haircut  
 33 Weeding tool  
 35 Peddle from a cart  
 37 "Edinah, won't you \_ your horn?"  
 38 North Sea ship danger  
 40 Waft  
 41 Disastrous defeat  
 43 Nearly  
 44 Monopoly purchases  
 46 Awaken  
 47 Leave out  
 48 Humerus or fibula  
 49 Landers & others  
 50 19th-century U.S. president  
 52 Remove from office  
 53 Civil rights concern  
 55 Lots of times, to a poet  
 56 Anti's vote  
 57 Prefix for print or place

Tribune Media Services

**New sculptures approved for Civic Center Park exhibition**

BY LILLY NGUYEN

New sculptures will arrive in Newport Beach's Civic Center Park this summer — the majority from artists all over the country — after having gained the approvals Tuesday of the City Council.

The installations comprise Phase VIII of the city's revolving sculpture exhibition, which began in 2013 after the completion of Civic Center Park. About 10 sculptures are included in this wave, out of 33 first selected by a curatorial panel before a vote went out to the public in late December. This phase is expected to be installed in June 2023.

According to a city staff report, 253 people in Newport Beach voted on three of their favorite sculptures out of those proposed, casting 702 votes in total. It's the second year residents were asked for their input, the first being last year, according to Richard Stein, president and chief executive officer of Arts Orange County.

One of the sculptures among the public's top 10 — artist Matthew Hoffman's "Be Kind" — had to be replaced by an alternate after it became unavailable.

The 10 sculptures selected for display are "Tulip the Rockfish" by Peter Hazel, "Pearl Infinity" by Plamen Yordanov, "Efram" by James Burnes, "The Memory of Sailing" by Zan Knecht, "Kissing Bench" by Matt Cartwright, "The Goddess Sol" by Jackie Braitman, "Newport Glider" by Ilya Idelchick, "Confluence #102" by Catherine Daley, "Got Juice" by Stephen Landis and "Inchoate" by Luke Achterberg.

Arts commission chair Arlene Greer said the most recent group of sculptures joins the city's "museum



Courtesy of the city of Newport Beach

**THE SCULPTURE** "Got Juice," by Colorado artist Stephen Landis, will be featured in the newest phase of Newport Beach's ongoing rotating exhibition at Civic Center Park.

without walls."

"With a glance from 'Efram' the bison, [it reminds] us of our history as a ranch with miles of open space. Moving through the garden exhibition, you will encounter the brilliant orange 'Tulip the Rockfish,' the chimp 'Newport Glider' and the 'Kissing Bench,' reminding us we are a city with a fun and adventurous side," Greer said.

"On a more serious note, you will encounter 'The Goddess Sol,' who presides over the 14-acre site, and 'Pearl Infinity,' which reminds us of the more sophisticated fine arts strain that is part of our community," she added. "The remaining Phase VII five

sculptures fill in the middle, showing us how we can reimagine our city while enjoying what we already achieved in our community."

Greer noted a tour of the new installations will be held at the Civic Center on June 24, in conjunction with the 56th annual Newport Beach Art Exhibition.

The sculptors are granted a small honorarium for loaning their works for the two-year display. City staff are installing the art, but the artists are asked to maintain their respective works and tend to any necessary repairs.

About \$119,000 went into

See *Exhibition*, page A4

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## forum

**COMMENTARY | FORMER HUNTINGTON BEACH CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS CONNIE BOARDMAN, KIM CARR, DEBBIE COOK, BARBARA DELGLEIZE, SHIRLEY DETTLOFF, JILL HARDY, VIC LEIPZIG, LINDA MOULTON-PATTERSON, JOE SHAW, RON SHENKMAN, AND GRACE WINCHELL**

# Restoring Pride in Surf City

As former City Council members and mayors of Huntington Beach, we lend our collective voice today to discuss the recent flag policy change by the new City Council majority.

The newly elected majority is preparing to eliminate the flying of all nongovernmental and nonmilitary flags on city property. This would include flags of our sister city, the Olympics and local sports teams to com-

memorate a significant achievement. Regrettably, the true reason behind the proposed ban is in response to the flying of the LGBTQ Pride flag during Pride Month.

At its Feb. 7 meeting, the City Council voted 4-3 to direct staff to draft an ordinance to replace the current flag policy, which requires a vote of the council to fly any kind of commemorative flag on city property.

The current council

majority will likely turn deaf ears to this commentary. Nonetheless, we are compelled to express our support for our fellow residents and visitors who are members of the LGBTQ community at a time when hate and extremism are on the rise.

Let's examine a few of the arguments the new majority used to justify their vote.

We will begin with the assertion that the current flag policy presents a slip-

pery slope. One speaker at the Feb. 7 meeting contended that if the Pride flag was allowed, then the Christian flag should be too. The City Council currently has the authority to determine what, if any, commemorative flags fly on city property. The decision of what flag to fly sits with them, as it should.

Another argument presented was that the Pride flag was not representative

See *Pride*, page A5



File Photo

THE LGBTQ Pride flag flies at Huntington Beach City Hall during Pride month in 2021.

## MAILBAG

## New council members are drawing the wrong kind of attention to Huntington Beach

As a resident of Orange County I'm deeply saddened by the Huntington Beach City Council's decision to limit the flying of the LGBTQ Pride flag. In essence, the council has sent the message that inclusion is not important, and some groups are not worth recognition. Orange County is home to individuals from all walks of life, and this decision sends a message which is entirely contrary to such diversity. This cannot stand, and I am confident that the love and perseverance of this community will shine through as we work to rectify this issue.

Diego Ortega  
Tustin

Watching the latest Huntington Beach City Council meeting, I'm reminded of the traveling carnivals that would come to town. For a small fee, one could be entertained and amused with carnival barkers promising merri-ment, games of chance, etc. While carnivals welcomed publicity, the city is now welcoming an unwanted and unneeded brand of attention finding itself in the headlines for all the wrong reasons.

The latest show centered on flags. Specifically, banning flying of the Pride flag. Regardless of where you're positioned on the political spectrum, treating one another with respect and a little empathy is never a bad course. However, the new council, city attorney and their worshipers seem to come at the flag issue, homelessness/housing and other issues from a darker place.

Intolerance, fear and division are instruments of the weak. Ironically, from a position of strength, the council wields these instruments like a paper sword. Fear has now turned to anger and hate, which if left unchecked becomes metastasized. What are people afraid of? Change? I suspect people think that something is being taken away from them; their piece of the pie will somehow disappear. For example, mention affordable housing and people start to have convulsions. Terms like "local control" have become code for we don't want people living here who don't look or think like us. Keep in mind this land was once inhabited by the Tongva and other Indigenous peoples long before we arrived. The same things that gave us all the opportunity to live here we're now denying to others.

Families and small businesses are the lifeblood of any community. Do we think they will want to place roots here given the environment? To the business community who supported the new council, be careful what you ask for. Vans pulling its sponsorship of the U.S. Open of Surfing is no coincidence. The 2028 Olympics? Good luck!

Unlike the carnival, sadly, this sideshow will be here for the next four years. For taxpayers living here, the price of admission will be no small fee, either.

Amicus Payne  
Huntington Beach

See *Mailbag*, page A5

## UCI Health

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Models used for illustrative purposes.

## EXHIBITION

Continued from page A3

this current phase, which includes project coordination, management fees, installation and uninstallation fees.

"I hold this project very dear," Councilwoman Robyn Grant said during Tuesday's meeting. "I was the chair of the Arts Commission when this project was conceived at the request of the then-City Council when they were envisioning what was going to happen at City Hall here and having the park, and I'm very proud to be part of a community that supports this kind of art; it's only grown better and better over the years."

She thanked the arts commissioners and the Newport Arts Foundation for continuing their work.

"I think it's really valuable that we now have so much community input into what sculptures go into the collection," Grant continued. "That wasn't something that was necessarily in the original sculptures, but it seems to have grown ... and it really shows through in the art that is picked. So much of it is repre-



Courtesy of the city of Newport Beach

A RENDERING of a proposed location for 'Tulip the Rockfish,' part of Newport Beach's revolving sculpture exhibition in Civic Center Park.

sentative of what we here hold dear in Newport Beach. It's not just about dolphins and that kind of thing.

"Having the buffalo and the sails and the orange and just things like that invoke so much pride in our community and what we stand for and what we value, and it's really nice to see it

represented in our Civic Center, and that's the beauty of actually where we're sitting right now. We didn't have a civic center of this caliber in the past, and the park and the sculptures really completes that loop."

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## MASCOT

Continued from page A1

"Everybody knows what the cone is and to watch out for it," she said. "You kind of identify it with a work zone — it was much better than a hard hat."

To name the new conical character, they enlisted the help of students, hosting a statewide naming contest for young people ages 5 to 18 that drew more than 1,800 entries and nearly as many suggestions over a two-month period. Submissions ranged from Hugo Safely and Work Zone Willy to Safety Cone Cal and Stay Alert Bert, according to Moreno.

The winning entry, Safety Sam, was submitted by Huntington Beach sixth-grader Miller Ruiz, who attends Huntington Christian School.

Miller's mom, Jenna Ruiz, who teaches in another grade at the school, heard about the contest and immediately encouraged students in her class, along with her own three children, to come up with names for the contest.

"I was like, oh man, I love a good contest. Let's do it," Ruiz recalled Wednesday, speaking for Miller, 11, who was sick from

school that day and sleeping it off.

"We were coming up with alliterative names, like Caution Carl or Carla," she continued. "[My sons] Eli and Miller were talking about Sam or Sammy, and they said, 'Safety Sam.' I thought that's a great one, it's so perfect."

The Ruizes went online, filled out a few fields on the contest entry page, then promptly forgot about it. On Jan. 31, they learned Miller's entry had been picked.

In fact, 27 kids submitted the name Safety Sam, but Miller's name was randomly selected to receive the contest award of \$500, a laptop and \$500 for his teacher to use in the classroom.

Provided by iHeartMedia, Miller's prizes will be distributed in a special presentation at Huntington Christian School, during which Safety Sam will make an appearance, and kids in Miller's class will get to receive free T-shirts.

Jenna Ruiz said her son is going to get a kick out of the festivities.

"He's a great kid to win it because he's super excited and funny and silly," she said. "I'm excited for the cone to come to campus because he'll think, this is the best."

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# 'Broadway Divas' serve off-Broadway realness

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

There is "off Broadway" and then there is "off off off Broadway."

Seegerstrom Center for the Arts presents its first drag brunch today, starting at 10:30 a.m. "Broadway Divas" is hosted by Miss Clair Voyance, who bills herself as "everyone's favorite off off off off Broadway star."

With a bachelor of fine arts in musical theater, Voyance is no stranger to the arts. She is also no stranger to Seegerstrom for that matter.

"This is my third year now doing events at Seegerstrom," said Voyance. "We've been doing Halloween shows there alongside their 'Rocky Horror Picture Show' screening the last two years."

Voyance is an Orange County-based drag queen who has performed as Elphaba from "Wicked" and Elsa from "Frozen" and was featured in Rolling Stone for her role as Winifred Sanderson in a "Hocus Pocus" drag show.

"I have always been drawn to the arts, especially Broadway," said Voyance. "Drag has always been something that was there for me, but I never really grasped that it was something that I could do and that I could use as another expression of my love for theater and as an outlet."

As a child, Voyance was enchanted by Bette Midler as Winifred Sanderson, particularly Midler's performance of "I Put A Spell On You." Then while in college, Voyance

did a production of "La Cage aux Folles," the Jean Poiret play eventually adapted into the film "The Birdcage."

"I went into drag, officially, for the first time," said Voyance. "It was kind of another moment like 'Hocus Pocus' where it was game over for me."

Voyance said the experience made her fall in love with theater all over again.

"Broadway Divas" at the Samueli Theater in Costa Mesa features an all-star drag cast that includes Leeko Rae, April Showers, Big Deelish, Mama St. Merman and Penny Dreadful who will all perform songs from the Broadway songbook in full cabaret style.

"We have an incredible

See **Broadway**, page A6



**MISS CLAIR VOYANCE** hosts Seegerstrom Center for the Arts' first drag brunch this morning, with songs from Broadway.

Courtesy of Seegerstrom Center for the Arts



## PRIDE

Continued from page A4

of the entire community. We agree with Councilman Burns' assertion that Surf City should be a united community. However, healthy communities uplift those members who are most in need. The LGBTQ community has historically been marginalized and discriminated against.

It is important to note the unintended consequences of the proposed ordinance. The proposal prohibits other flags, such as those of our sister city, Anjo, Japan, the Huntington Beach Junior Lifeguards program, Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts, and, if Huntington Beach is fortunate enough to host the surfing portion in 2028, the Olympic flags on city property.

Flags communicate a message. For instance, the U.S. flag represents the unwavering American commitment to freedom and liberty. The POW/MIA flag at City Hall is a constant reminder of the ultimate sacrifice that many soldiers have made to protect our freedom. The Pride flag similarly serves as a symbol. It welcomes our LGBTQ neighbors to freely be themselves and rebukes hatred festering in our community.

The impact of the council's action does more than

eliminate a symbol of inclusion; it sends a message to the world that this is a community of intolerance rather than one that stands in solidarity with diverse communities and equal rights.

The Pride flag above City Hall during Pride Month illustrates Surf City welcomes all residents, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. In addition, research shows LGBTQ youth die by suicide at significantly higher rates due to a lack of feeling of belonging. If the sight of the Pride flag can provide even one young person their first sense of belonging in our community, then we believe flying the Pride flag is worth it. It is a flag of unity, not of divisiveness.

With their vote, this council majority generated national negative publicity for Surf City. The decision, if finalized, will have continued repercussions on the city's reputation and possible future opportunities. If the majority thinks their action ties the hands of future councils, they are wrong. We ask the council to reverse course.

We hold onto hope and ask that you do, too. The City Council will need to approve the new ordinance at the Feb. 21 and March 7 meetings. We encourage you to email the City Council at [City.Council@surfcity-hb.org](mailto:City.Council@surfcity-hb.org).

**CONNIE BOARDMAN** served on the City Council from 2000 to 2004 and from 2010 to 2014 and as mayor in 2002-03 and 2012-13.

**DEBBIE COOK** served on the City Council from 2000 to 2008 and as mayor in 2001 and 2007-08.

**KIM CARR** served on the City Council from 2018 to 2022 and as mayor in 2020-21.

**BARBARA DELGLEIZE** served on the City Council from 2014 to 2022 and as mayor in 2016-17 and 2021-22.

**SHIRLEY DETTLOFF** served on the City Council from 1994 to 2000 and as mayor in 1997-98.

**JILL HARDY** served on the City Council from 2002 to 2010 and from 2012 to 2020 and as mayor in 2004-05 and 2014-15.

**VIC LEIPZIG** served on the City Council from 1993 to 1996 and as mayor in 1994-95.

**LINDA MOULTON-PATTERSON** served on the City Council from 1990 to 1994 and as mayor in 1993-94.

**JOE SHAW** served on the City Council from 2010 to 2014.

**RON SHENKMAN** served on the City Council from 1976 to 1978 and as mayor in 1978-79.

**GRACE WINCHELL** served on the City Council from 1986 to 1994 and as mayor in 1992-93.

## MAILBAG

Continued from page A4

Far be it from me to throw shade on the new right-wing Huntington Beach City Council majority for wanting local control in land use and housing issues, but the fact is that developer-backed conservatives have dominated city elections this entire century and produced decisions that have led to our current affordable housing crisis. The push to put in profitable luxury condos instead of housing for moderate- to low-income buyers prevented average residents from attaining home ownership and skewed the rental market as well. Between 2000 and 2018, only five so-called "liberals" were elected to the City Council (Debbie Cook, Connie Boardman, Jill Hardy, Joe Shaw and Kim Carr). The rest (some 15 or so) have been varying shades of conservatives whose majorities have made the bulk

of land use and housing decisions over the previous 20 years. And yet, the reckless and feckless current council majority has tried to blame the most recent council majority, even to the point of recall actions, for our housing woes. Worse, they have stoked their ideological fires to rail against Sacramento for the dilemma we are facing. This has caused us to lose court cases, millions of dollars and suffer blows to our city's reputation. From the governor's remarks on down, Surf City has become the affordable housing punching bag for the entire state.

I am reminded of the famous quote from Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar" that the fault lies not in our stars, but in ourselves, meaning we are responsible for our own actions, not fate (or the state). For council majority members, especially a developer, to double down on the fear that developers will misuse any newfound power imposed on us to further

scramble our housing market is both gratuitous and insulting. High-density fear-mongering has run rampant through our community although the fear-mongers refuse to admit their past culpability for our plight (let alone act responsibly to deal with it). Conservatives in power screwed up our affordable housing market in the first place and are letting the rest of us take the fall. Failing to come to grips with what must be done and "unleashing" the city attorney to further add insult to injury is not the prudent course to take. Working with the rest of the City Council to fashion a workable and acceptable plan is the only way out to spare us from further embarrassment and penalties. Our citizenry should not be further ill-served.

**Tim Geddes**  
Huntington Beach

The Huntington Beach City Council majority says it wants "the free market to dictate" housing in Hunt-



Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

**HUNTINGTON BEACH** City Council member Casey McKeon speaks during Tuesday's press conference held at City Hall addressing housing law.

ington Beach. The "free market" wants affordable housing, including duplexes, quadplexes, apartments and townhomes, as well as detached modest single-family homes. Our employers want their workers housed in the community. McMansions that sell to the wealthy will not sustain the housing needs

of our community. The Builders Remedy only comes into play if the council fails to approve a legally compliant housing plan. It is not true that environmental concerns cannot be addressed if Builders' Remedy is invoked. The law specifically allows for environmental issues to be addressed on a

case by case basis. Suing the state will only result in the taxpayers again paying millions of dollars in penalties, fines and legal fees that would be best used providing city services to Huntington Beach residents.

**Linda Sapiro Moon**  
Huntington Beach



## BROADWAY

Continued from page A5

cast," said Voyance. "We have five dancers, we have costumes and sets, quick changes and props and videos ... the whole thing."

The audience can look forward to songs from "Funny Girl," "Hello, Dolly!" "Into the Woods," "Sweeney Todd," "Mary Poppins," "Moulin Rouge" and "Frozen."

The latter musical is currently playing at the center, and "Let it Go" is a specialty of Voyance, who said "Broadway Divas" will open with an homage to the Broadway production and national tour.

"I have always been drawn to feminine characters, especially female voices. It feels like an honor when I get to do these roles, or these songs or recreate these production numbers," Voyance said. "I feel like I get to have a little piece of that strength."

Each ticket includes a complimentary glass of champagne for guests 21 and older and a meet and greet with the performers after the show. Floor seat

tickets include access to a catered brunch buffet spread that includes assorted pastries, mini quiche Lorraine, roasted breakfast potatoes and applewood smoked bacon.

The first drag brunch at Segerstrom comes at a time when legislators in a handful of states are pushing bills that would restrict or in some cases criminalize drag shows. The Segerstrom's boldness isn't a surprise to Voyance.

"I have to tell you, I have felt more cared for and safe and open and able to express myself and my craft at Segerstrom than I have at a lot of places," said Voyance.

Voyance said Segerstrom invited her in and made sure she had a seat at the table every step of the way, which as an artist, she said, is a dream come true.

"It does come at an important time, because Segerstrom is a Broadway national touring production venue and a lot of the audience that they have is not going to be going to the nightclubs on Saturday night to see a drag show," Voyance said. "Something that was



Courtesy of Segerstrom Center for the Arts

**SEGERSTROM CENTER** for the Arts presents its first drag brunch, with Broadway songs from "Moulin Rouge," "Wicked" and "Into the Woods," today starting at 10:30 a.m.

important to me and why we named it and themed it as 'Broadway Divas' was to be able to bridge that gap. I wanted to be able to reach out my hand to an audience of people that may not go to a drag show on their own and have them come into my world and have fun."

Voyance said she is most excited for the

"Wicked" medley at the show's end, which she says will be worth the price of admission.

"Come for the costumes alone," she exclaimed. "Come to see if I can paint myself green in eight minutes!"

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## COOKOUT

Continued from page A1

Zone Business, a social enterprise that employs and works to empower South Central residents.

"We are committed to hiring 75% of our employees locally, we are paying living wages, and if you are full time you are getting health insurance," said Chawinga.

The beverage incubator also has pending B Corp status, a certification that a business is meeting high standards of verified performance, accountability and transparency on things like employee benefits and charitable giving.

For Brews & Bites, People's Republic has teamed up with the Bruery's Offshoot Brewing for a collaboration beer.

"They are friends of mine, and they reached out to us, and we are so happy to be coming out with nice American-style lager with nice, fruity hops on it," said Chawinga. "It is super crisp, clean and light. We also have a fruitier version with apricot that we are releasing at the same time. The beer is called 'Like, Wow.'"

People's Republic will be joined by breweries like JuneShine, a hard kombucha and canned cocktails producer out of San Diego, Baja Brewing Co., pouring Mexican beer, and Laguna Niguel's OC Local Taproom that features craft independent breweries from Orange County, San Diego and the Inland Empire.

Each \$150 ticket to the event includes an afternoon of unlimited beer tastings with a keepsake glass and access to global street food stations that will be serving snacks like wood-fire Bavarian pret-



Courtesy of Treat Day Creative

**CRAIG BOWERS**, left, and Samuel Chawinga, founders of Peoples' Republic of South Central.

zels, Korean corn dogs, New Delhi fish and chips and tacos. It is a spread that Chawinga said will pair perfectly with beer.

"There is going to be a lot of nice tapas food, and beer has almost 40 times more flavor profiles than wine can have because of the materials used in it," said Chawinga. "So it should be fun for people to grab different kinds of foods and pair them with different kinds of beer."

Moreover, the festival will have Chawinga's favorite part of beer-making: the community.

"I love beer. I love drinking it. I love making it," said Chawinga. "But beer for me is really a social beverage. It is bubbly, it's vivacious ... but in general, when we go to a beer hall there are loud voices, people laughing, and it is not the same feel as wine, not the same feel as liquor."

Chawinga hopes beer lovers will come out to the event to find a new favorite brewery or new friends.

"I enjoy bringing people together to have a good time," said Chawinga. "Bringing the community together is the most important thing, bringing all kinds of communities together around beer."

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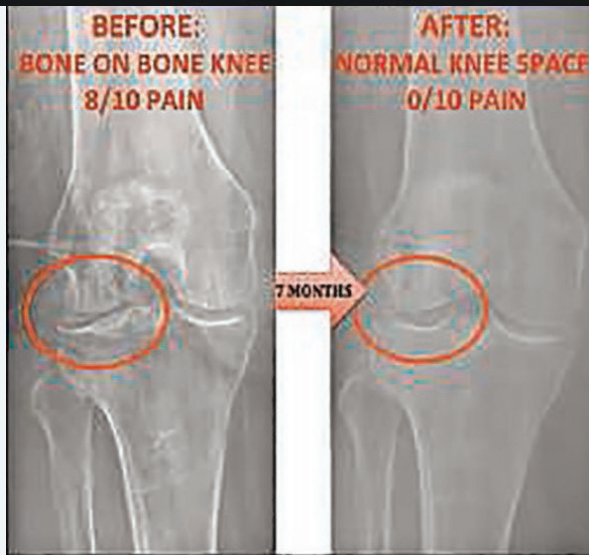


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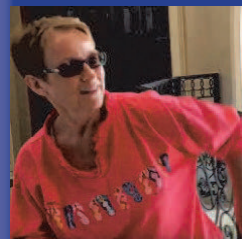
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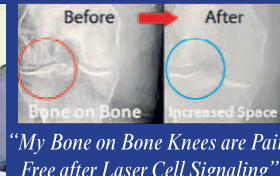
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-Linda L., R.N., Newport Beach, CA(Registered Nurse & Zumba Instructor)

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-lasted-Rosemary, Huntington Beach

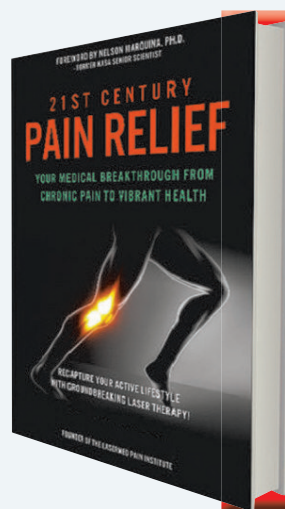


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-The late Dr. William Gutch, MD., Palm Desert, California



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# 13 couples say 'I do' at the Anaheim Marketplace

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

Thomas Schamber and Magda Sellon-Schamber met in 2009. "He was my neighbor," said Magda. "After being neighbors and being good friends, we decided to start a relationship."

They planned to get married, but timing, COVID-19, retirement and other obstacles kept forcing the couple to put their wedding nuptials on hold.

Then Magda heard about the Anaheim Marketplace sponsoring community weddings through local radio station, KLVE 107.5 FM.

"I said, 'Well, what are the odds of us winning?'" said Magda. "Because I know there was a lot of people."

Magda submitted their application at midnight on Feb. 5, just before the deadline.

The couple found out they were among the lucky few chosen, and Magda and Thomas joined a dozen other couples to wed at the Anaheim Marketplace on Feb. 12.

"In the name of love and Valentine's Day we wanted to sponsor 20 weddings for the community," said Giselle Lopez, marketing coordinator for the Anaheim Marketplace. "Sometimes, unfortunately, a wedding can be very costly, especially with the hit of COVID. A lot of couples had to put their wedding plans on pause."

Couples walked down a red-carpeted aisle, flanked by ample seating and potted white birch trees, leading to an arch with red

and white flowers.

Some of the 20 couples chosen got cold feet, so 13 in total participated in ceremonies both religious and civil, with a priest presiding as brides and grooms all stood on stage together in front of friends and family.

Besides the ceremony, Anaheim Marketplace provided a wedding celebration experience for each couple along with eight additional guests. The celebration included live mariachi, a private appetizer party and wedding cake for each couple and professional photography.

After the ceremony, couples headed outside for photos while Lopez and her team broke down the ceremony seating and flipped the space with appetizer tables and wedding cakes.

"The last time we did this was a couple years back, and it was a big project to take on," said Lopez. "You can just imagine the stress of planning one wedding, let alone 13 at the same time."

Champagne flowed and mariachi played as each couple cut their wedding cake and took to the dance floor for their first dance.

An after-party with live music in Anaheim Marketplace's Placita, decked out in wedding decorations, followed until 6 p.m.

Anaheim's Indoor Marketplace is Orange County's largest indoor swap meet and one of the county's most vibrant cultural hubs, with more than 200 Latino vendors and small businesses from the community ranging from food to clothing, retail, party

supplies, jewelry and more. It is a popular destination for Latino families planning a wedding, and many vendors offered discounts and promotions to the 13 couples for wedding items.

"The Anaheim Marketplace takes pride in bringing community events because we are such a central focal point in Orange County, especially in the Latino community," said Lopez.

Lopez said Anaheim Marketplace plans to continue the event annually.

"If you are looking to get married in the following year, please contact us now," Lopez said. "We will start our list now so you can start wedding prepping."

The newlyweds expressed gratitude to the venue for helping their wedding bells ring.

"Thank you to everybody that put this together," said Magda. "Thank you to Anaheim Marketplace for giving us the opportunity to do this amazing event. Anything and everything is possible when you believe God is with you."

As the couples exited the ceremony, Magda pumped her bouquet in the air with an excited "who-hoo!" as Thomas clasped her hand.

"We feel fabulous," said Thomas. "It's like a gigantic relief right now!"

For more information of Community Weddings at the Anaheim Marketplace, call (714) 999-0888.

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Sarah Mosqueda

**THOMAS SCHAMBER** and Magda Sellon-Schamber were among the 13 couples married on Feb. 12 at the Anaheim Marketplace's community wedding event. The marketplace plans to continue the event annually.



Giselle Lopez

**THE ANAHEIM MARKETPLACE** sponsored 13 weddings on Feb. 12.

## CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

M	A	M	M	O	R	N	S	E	R	A	S
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Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**A PHOTO** of an earlier photo taken of "The Great Picture" shows the size of the project on display at the Great Park in Irvine. An exhibit about the photo will run until May 7.

## REFLECT

Continued from page A1

"Very quickly, it became apparent to us that this shouldn't be a one-off thing," Spada, who along with Chamberlain and Johnson had joined Burchfield in the initial exercise of taking students onto the base, said. "There was a significance to this base. It was so much a part of Orange County history that we felt that we had to document this thing."

"We wanted to do a long-term, basically open-ended project to document this space as it was then, and as it would change to whatever it became — whether it was Great Park or another airport or whatever."

The Great Park and housing developments now dominate the site. Largely unrecognizable from what it once was, Marine Corps Air Station El Toro was captured in extensive photo sessions over the course of 15 years.

Several projects came into being during this work. At one point, the six shot a picture in each of the cardinal directions every 60 feet they walked together. They also took pictures of the approximately 1,800 buildings on the base.

"The Great Picture," a 31-foot-by-111-foot shot overlooking a control tower and twin runways, was just one project in the larger collaboration, but it was an undertaking like no other that required the help of many.

"We pulled it off through the help of probably 400 volunteers, at one time or another, who came to help," Garnier, president of the Legacy Project, said. "To me, that was one of the really exciting things about this project was the collaboration. People would find out about this project, and they'd get really enthused by it and wanted to



**CREATORS AND** photographers Clayton Spada, left, and Jacques Garnier lean on the crate holding one of the world's largest processed photos, "The Great Picture."

be part of something that was larger than all of us."

Taken on July 6, 2006, the photo was shot from a jet hangar that was converted into a camera obscura. Spada had been working with camera obscura images in China when he brought the idea to the others over some drinks.

"There was a row of former jet hangars, helicopter squadron hangars that were facing the control towers that would have just made beautiful camera obscuras, so we picked one and went from there," Spada said. "After that, for the year from the time of inception to the time we actually did it, we were fundraisers, we were politicians, we were construction workers, anything but artists."

"It was fortunate that we had beer because if we had any inkling of what we would have gotten ourselves into, we would have easily talked our way out of it, just the logistics of this. I'd do it again in a heartbeat. It's one of the most insane things we've ever done."

To create the image, the hangar had to be made dark. Using a 400-pound piece of muslin, it became the world's largest pinhole camera. A 6-millimeter pinhole was placed in the doors of the hangar, and it

was exposed for 35 minutes, before the image was processed within the building.

"The Great Picture" plays a part in the memory of the base, as well as a transition period in photography.

"The piece that we created was almost right at that perfect transition point as photography migrated from analog to digital," Garnier said. "We created something in an analog manner. Within 24 hours, digital reproductions of what we had created were floating around the internet, in newspapers, all around the world. It's kind of interesting how something made analog became digital almost instantaneously."

The exhibit, "The Great Picture: Making the World's Largest Photograph," will be open to the public until May 7 at Palm Court Arts Complex in Irvine. "The Great Picture" is on site in a crate with literature and pictures about its creation available for viewing.

The exceptional photograph has been shown around the world, including at the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum and the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing, China.

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