

Daily Pilot

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Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

STUDENT ARTIST Zoe Fong paints the shoreline of Rockpile Beach during the Next Generation Paint Out for scholarships as part of the 26th annual Laguna Plein Air Painters Assn. Invitational at Heisler Park on Thursday.

LCAD students show skills in Next Generation Paint Out

BY ANDREW TURNER

Laguna College of Art and Design may be tucked away in the canyon, but collaborations within the local arts community often give its students and their work a presence in town.

Dozens of students worked in the public eye around Heisler Park on Thursday, as participants in the Next Generation Paint Out, part of the 26th annual Laguna Plein Air Painters Assn. Invitational.

From Jon Seeman's "Breaching Whale" sculpture near the Laguna Beach Lawn Bowling Club to the north to Bird Rock beach to the south, the young creatives put paint to canvas to capture the sights of the outdoors.

Max Ratner, a junior and an entertainment design major, held up his work at the end of the three-hour session, a depiction of a wave crashing against a rock in the shallows.

"The intention behind it is to bring a lot more energy into the composition," Ratner said of the attention he gave the splash. "Also, it can be a really good way to kind of draw your eye because it's a lot of really



See *Paint*, page A4 **STUDENT ARTIST** Louisa Sugifan paints the rocks below Monument Point on Thursday.

C.M. Council hopefuls share civic priorities

Six candidates vying for three seats shared their thoughts on local issues in a Q&A discussion with the Pilot.

BY SARA CARDINE

In the absence of a nonpartisan forum for six candidates vying for three seats on the Costa Mesa City Council, including mayor, contenders shared their thoughts on civic issues in a Q&A discussion with the Daily Pilot.

Candidates were asked to weigh in on issues ranging from homelessness and housing to crime and safety and to give readers a glimpse at what their priorities would be if elected to office on Nov. 5.

Voters will select the city's next mayor, a two-year term, deciding between incumbent and business attorney John Stephens and challenger James Peters, a licensed financial planner and small business owner.

In Council District 1, which includes the Mesa Verde and State Streets neighborhoods, Planning Commissioner and environmental consultant Adam Ereth is running against business litigation attorney Mike Buley to replace outgoing Councilman Don Harper.

District 6, representing Costa Mesa's east side, features a contest between Mayor Pro Tem Jeffrey Harlan, a land use attorney and former planning commissioner,

See *Council*, page A2

ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:

LATE SCORE PUSHES NEWPORT HARBOR FOOTBALL TO SECOND STRAIGHT BATTLE OF THE BAY WIN PAGE A5



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

NOTED AUTHOR Priya Parker talks about the different types of ways people gather, with host Nate Brown, during the Orange County Grantmakers Summit at Orange Coast College on Thursday.

Orange County Grantmakers hosts summit in Costa Mesa

BY MATT SZABO

It took Orange County Grantmakers' executive director Taryn Palumbo just a couple of days to read "The Art of Gathering: How We Meet and Why it Matters," the renowned book by Priya Parker.

She read it after booking Parker for the OC Grantmakers Summit, which took place Thursday at Orange Coast College.

It took Palumbo even less time than that to pick up some jewels from the 2018 self-help offering, which gives advice on creating a human-centered approach to

gathering, rather than meeting just because it's on the calendar.

"I think we all could fall into the trend of just having meetings for meetings' sake," Palumbo said. "Her book was such a good reframe for why are you there, and how do you structure it? I actually reread my morning opening after I read her book. She was like, 'Don't start with thanking your sponsors.' I always do that, of course."

Instead, Thursday's all-day OC Grantmakers summit started with a drum circle, with attendees using instruments at their tables including tambourines, drums and

percussion tubes. A land acknowledgment followed, with the message of remembering to celebrate others' culture and way of life.

That began a day of learning, which ended with Parker's fireside chat moderated by OC Grantmakers Board of Directors member Nate Brown of PIMCO Foundation.

The event drew 436 nonprofit leaders and community members, which Palumbo said was a new high mark for the event that started in 2010 as a way to sup-

See *Summit*, page A5

Paddle boards, kayaks, more for sale at Newport Beach auction

BY ERIC LICAS

Newport Beach Harbor officials collect a lot of lost or abandoned kayaks, stand up paddle boards, dinghies and various pieces of boating equipment creating potential hazards in and around the bay, Harbormaster Paul Blank told the Daily Pilot Friday. On one occasion they fetched a small outboard motor out of the water.

"It had been dropped overboard, and whoever used to own it didn't have the wherewithal or equipment or want to admit to having dropped it overboard," Blank said. "So we, on a low tide and in clear water, we saw it. We

knew it didn't belong there, so we went and picked it out of the water and put it in our inventory."

City officials do their best to return the things they find to their owners. But they're hard to track down because found equipment and small vessels don't normally have any identification numbers registered to people's addresses, Blank said.

So, the Harbor Department sells anything held for 60 days or longer at auctions held twice a year, typically at steep discounts. The next happens Wednesday beginning 9:30 a.m. at Marina

See *Auction*, page A4



SOME OF the items up for grabs during Wednesday's small vessel auction in Newport Beach are almost brand new. Harbormaster Paul Blank said he has seen attendees walk away from past auctions with barely used boards that might cost \$1,000 at a store for half that price.

Allen J. Schaben
Los Angeles Times

COUNCIL

Continued from page A1

and Jeff Pettis, who works for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Councilman Loren Gameros, who serves Council District 2, is unopposed.

A SAFE PLACE TO LIVE?

Asked about whether the city is a safe place to live, responses were roughly divided between incumbent candidates — who highlighted numerous investments in police and fire department facilities, programs and budgets as well as street improvements — and challengers, who maintained many residents don't feel as protected from crime as they should.

Stephens and Harlan pointed out that overall incidents of crime decreased 13% compared to 2023, according to Costa Mesa Police Department statistics, and cited recent efforts to increase public safety staffing levels and fund upgrades at Fire Stations 2 and 4.

"The council provides our first responders with the funding, technology, equipment and facilities they need to keep us safe," Stephens, 61, said by email. "Police and fire departments are 53% of our city budget, demonstrating the council's commitment to public safety."

Peters and Buley, however, said the city has become less safe in recent years, a fact they attribute to a rise in homelessness and a soft-on-crime stance among city leaders.

"I personally do not feel safe going for a run or walk at night in almost any part of the city," wrote Peters, 54. "We need to have increased police presence in high crime areas of the city and get more police on the streets."

Pettis, also 54, said while he feels relatively safe, he is advocating for Proposition 36, a statewide ballot initiative to edit a 2014 state law that softened penalties for non-violent offenders, and would prioritize police funding if elected.

Ereth, 40, agreed with Harlan and Stephens about the city's investment in public safety, but acknowledged neighbors in his district have expressed safety concerns involving unhoused individuals.

"Many need medical attention, shelter, food, rehabilitation and a chance to reform and get back on their feet," he

wrote. "These are legitimate concerns. Luckily, we have programs that address the issue."

Although city officials have supported initiatives aimed at preventing and reducing homelessness — including a 2021 shelter opening, backing the conversion of underused motels into permanent supportive housing and transitioning nearly 400 citizens to permanent living situations — Costa Mesa's homeless population has increased, from 193 in 2019 to 208 in 2022 to 297 this year, according to the county's Point in Time count.

Buley, 58, said the city's efforts have helped to some degree, but said the city should go back to enacting and enforcing anti-encampment laws, a move recently upheld by a Supreme Court ruling and backed by mayoral candidate Peters as well.

"The focus has been more on building beds at exorbitant prices and less on helping those individuals struggling the most with mental disabilities and substance abuse addictions," he wrote. "That can be a valuable tool to direct those individuals who are unable or unwilling to get the help they need into the care facilities and case worker services."

SHORTAGE OF HOMES, HIGH RENTS

On the other end of the housing issue, candidates were asked how city leaders should approach providing and maintaining housing for Costa Mesa residents amid a statewide shortage and record high rents.

Stephens said he'd like to see unproductive commercial sites repurposed into housing and mixed-use development projects. Such a strategy will become more feasible once the city undergoes a comprehensive rezoning process, part of citizen-backed Measure K, a project strongly supported by Harlan.

"This will help incentivize new housing opportunities — including workforce housing for teachers, nurses, young professionals and families — which will be located close to transit and employment centers and also protect traditional residential neighborhoods," Harlan, 53, wrote.

The two council members lauded the recent passing of an affordable housing

See **Council**, page A5

THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

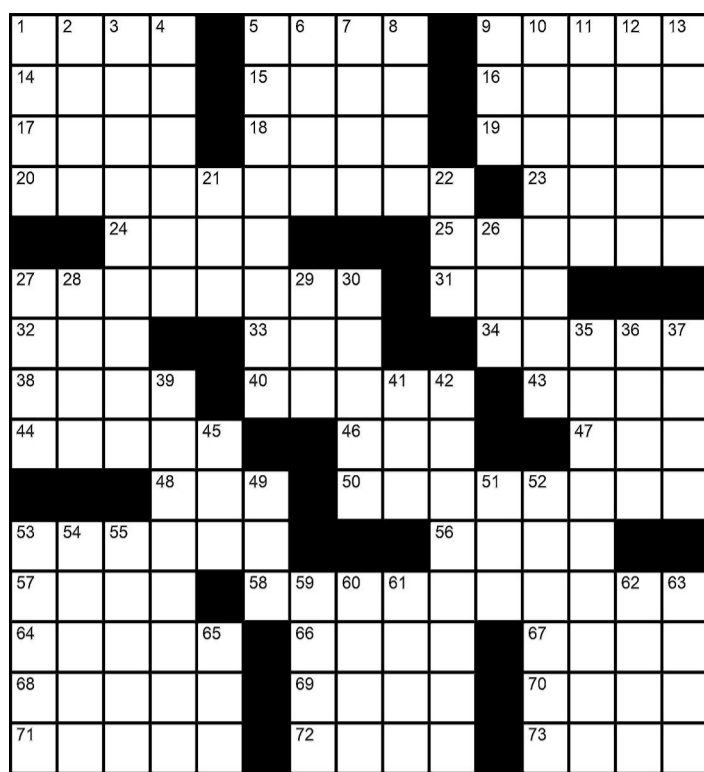
By Stella Zawistowski

ACROSS

- 1 Love-letter acronym: Abbr.
- 5 Do as told
- 9 Gem weight unit
- 14 Leafy green
- 15 Part
- 16 Garden statue
- 17 Archipelago part
- 18 Perseverance
- 19 "Let's do this!": 2 wds.
- 20 "Not so fast!": 2 wds.
- 23 German "one"
- 24 Enter: 2 wds.
- 25 "Navel" fruit
- 27 Going across
- 31 Mob informant
- 32 Not inside
- 33 Whale's home
- 34 City's subway system
- 38 Shapeless mass
- 40 Sheds feathers
- 43 Wet weather
- 44 Bender
- 46 Back muscle, for short
- 47 LP measurement: Abbr.
- 48 Boater or fedora
- 50 Traveling bag
- 53 Bonus performance
- 56 1982 sci-fi film
- 57 College official (with)
- 64 Nintendo fan, e.g.
- 66 Allergic reaction
- 67 Ancient letter
- 68 Renée — Goldsberry
- 69 Go out with
- 70 Messy person
- 71 Takes a breather
- 72 Slices of history
- 73 Compass direction

DOWN

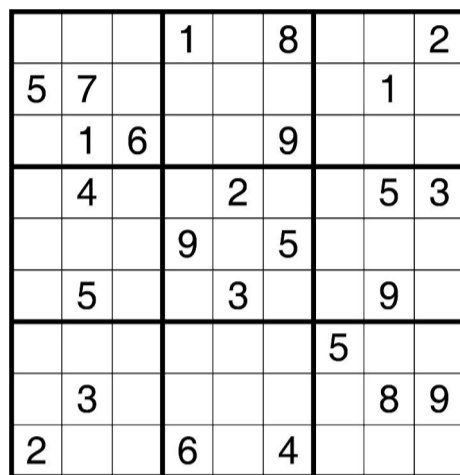
- 1 Comedy sketch



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.

- 2 Do laundry
- 3 Crocodile relative
- 4 Fond of: 2 wds.
- 5 Living being
- 6 Bjorn of tennis
- 7 Kazan of film
- 8 Himalayan legend
- 9 Visual film tech: Abbr.
- 10 Pointy-nosed mammal
- 11 Violin bow application
- 12 Surrounded by
- 13 On edge
- 21 Family

- 22 Neither here _ there
- 26 Male sheep
- 27 Cries loudly
- 28 Orange juice part
- 29 "The Matrix" hero
- 30 Really ticks off
- 35 Big hairy spider
- 36 Tears
- 37 "My treat!": 2 wds.
- 39 "Don't lie!": 2 wds.
- 41 Greek T
- 42 Parts of seams
- 45 Hearing organ
- 49 Hot beverage
- 51 Prefix with "angle"
- 52 Lacking refinement
- 53 Lawn trimming tool
- 54 Zora _ Hurston
- 55 Strappy tops, for short
- 59 Entree go-with
- 60 Constellation part
- 61 Prefix that means "eight"
- 62 Seth's son
- 63 Amount to repay
- 65 In medias _

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THE CROWD | B.W. COOK

Newport Beach's social calendar fills up with events geared to help others

The fall social calendar in Newport serves the community with style and substance. Major events entertain, inspire and benefit local causes uplifting the lives of many deserving a leg up.



LITERACY FOR CHILDREN FUNDRAISER

Newport Beach Country Club recently provided the magical early fall setting in its lush garden for the annual production of SAVOR 2024. A Napa-inspired evening under stars created by the dynamic Sue Grant attracted some 200 guests wearing their linen best attire. They enjoyed a lavish party that began with cocktails and exotic cars, followed by a dinner setting spread on long rustic wooden tables festooned with wildflowers and elaborate tableware under twinkling white lights. All of the charm was designed to bring attention to a cause close to the heart of founder Grant, the importance of literacy for children.

On Saturday Oct. 19, the 2nd annual Newport Beach Volleyball Invitational welcomes fans, free of charge, to Blackie's Beach at the Newport Pier for what promises to be stellar competition. And the best part is that this four-man volleyball invitational will give a leg up to the Orange County Youth Sports Foundation, a non-profit supported by local businesses, leaders and professionals assisting youths achieve their goals through education and athletics.

Many of the best athletes from the sport of volleyball including 20 Olympians, AVP superstars, and Hall of Famers will be on the sand. Standouts include Taylor Crabb, Taylor Sander, Kelly Cheng, Sara Hughes and Jake Gibb. Also playing will be Sean Rosenthal, Brandie Wilkerson and Phil Daulhausser.

Making this event open to the public are generous sponsor/donors Kevin Martin of Eagle Four Partners and Mario Marovic, owner of the Lounge Group of restaurants and pubs, along with AVP Hall of Famer Steve Obradovich. Additional support from many local Newport establishments in conjunction with efforts by Visit Newport Beach, will make the day in the sand a success. An after party at Stag Bar promises to draw the crowd post competition.

To learn more visit NBVolleyball.com

recognized were Gina Jaha, Georgeana Ireland, Nick Clemence and title sponsors Daniel Hales and the Plye family.

To learn more visit literacyproject.org.

COWBOY CARNIVAL NEARS

Shirley Pepys, founder and chief executive of the wonderful family-oriented Balboa Island Museum, which archives the broad history of Orange County, invites the public to celebrate its annual party on Oct. 18, at the Fun Zone on Balboa Peninsula. Billed as "Cowboy Carnival," museum executive director Tiffany Pepys Hoey has pulled out all stops delivering the best boot-stomping western night on the Pacific Rim. (Full disclosure: I am one of the sponsors of this event.)

Greet the horse at the entrance to a Wild West night created by Linda Young and her talented team from O.C. Elite Productions. The best barbecue on the coast by the Naples Rib Co. will come with line dancing, carnival auction games, a Western-style bar and cowboy band to keep everyone on their feet. Balboa Island Museum, a 501-c non-profit is supported by a volunteer board of directors led by John Connors with enthusiastic members.

This event is for guests 21 and above. Tickets are \$200. Proceeds will support the annual programs, exhibits, and events provided by Balboa Island Museum all year long at no charge to the public.

Go to BIMCowboyCarnival.org to reserve your spot. And, think about joining the museum family. Annual memberships are just \$50!

SPIN TO HOST DONOR EVENT AT RED BARN

The following Friday evening, Oct. 25, Costa Mesa-based Serving People In Need (SPIN) welcomes talented country artist and composer Steven Cade fronting its 2024 annual donor event to be held at the Red Barn, Strawberry Farms, Irvine.

Cade will receive the Jean Wegener Humanitarian Award named for the late Jean Wegener who led SPIN for more than 30 years, placing families with children in Orange County into permanent housing. Nashville based Cade blends his entertainment career with humanitarian purpose. He calls his outreach, Giving Guitars. Simply, Cade donates a guitar to a young person in order to foster a personal connection to music, but more to inspire a gift of perhaps discovering a life-long passion though that instrument.

SPIN guests will be welcomed by the smart and funny Chef Jamie Gwen, television and radio host and noted graduate of the Culinary Institute of America along with Le Corden Bleu. She will host the evening and raise funds for SPIN in the live auction.

SPIN board members and event chair Mary Lou Shattuck and committee say that as guests arrive, cocktails will be served and be given a silent auction preview, followed by dinner and the heartfelt program featuring Cade and band. Country dancing and dessert tops the evening in the barn.

Made possible by the generous contributions of dedicated SPIN advocates led by chairman Curtis L. Scheetz joined by board members Katie Domogala,



Ann Chatillon

GLENN STEARNS, Cindy Culpepper, Barclay Butera and Anne and John Wortmann were all honored at the SAVOR 2024 event raising funds for the Literacy Project.



THE NEWPORT BEACH Volleyball Invitational on Oct.19 will benefit the Orange County Youth Sports Foundation.

Courtesy of Visit Newport Beach

Rachel Owens, Al De-Grassi, and directors Richard Crawford, Maureen Flannagan, Michael Gilmore, Charlie Granville, Veronica Lopez and Gazal Pour-Moezzi, the annual event helps fund SPIN

housing programs for 2025. For ticket and information, visit spinoc.org.

B.W. COOK is editor of the Bay Window, the official publication of the Balboa Bay Club in Newport Beach.

10.17-24

NEWPORT BEACH FILM FEST 25th



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Los Angeles Times

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Photo Credit: Dana Hursey



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RECENT SALES



924 Via Lido Nord, Lido Isle
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2511 Bayshore Drive, Bayshores
Sold Price: \$13,000,000 / Rep. Buyer



235 Via Lido Soud, Lido Isle
Sold Price: \$12,500,000 / Rep. Buyer & Seller



908 Zurich Circle, Lido Isle
Sold Price: \$5,668,515 / Rep. Seller



621 West Bay Avenue, Newport Beach
Sold Price: \$5,250,000 / Rep. Seller



231 Via Firenze, Lido Isle
Sold Price: \$4,200,000 / Rep. Seller



223 Via Orvieto, Lido Isle
Sold Price: \$3,850,000 / Rep. Buyer & Seller



817 Via Lido Nord, Lido Isle
Sold Price: \$3,350,000 / Rep. Seller



218 Via Ithaca, Lido Isle
Sold Price: \$3,350,000 / Rep. Buyer & Seller



Alison McCormick
Broker Associate / The McCormick Group
949.355.4104
amccormick@arborrealestate.com
McCormickGroupOC.com
DRE No. 00607959

