

Daily Pilot & Times OC

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2024 // Serving the coastal cities of Orange County and beyond // dailypilot.com

Club's cars travel to 'Future' show

Southern California DeLorean Club joins opening of 'Back to the Future: the Musical' at Segerstrom Center.

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

Edwin Pineda's first love was the 1982 Pontiac Firebird Trans Am, featured in the television show "Nightrider." Then the car enthusiast saw the 1985 film "Back to the Future," and the DeLorean stole his heart.

"When I watched the movie and saw the car rolling down the street, I knew that is the car I want," Pineda recalled.

In the film, Michael J. Fox as Marty McFly and Christopher Lloyd as Doc Brown use a time-traveling DeLorean to go back to the 1950s, where McFly must help his parents fall in love to ensure his existence in the future. The film inspired Pineda to buy his 1981 DeLorean DMC-12 and fix it up to look like the modified car in the movie, with wires, blinking buttons and lights. The car has even been autographed by creators from the movie, including Lloyd.

The sci-fi classic is also the inspiration for "Back to the Future: the Musical," which is on its



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

See **Travel**, page A4 MEMBERS OF THE Southern California DeLorean Club brought cars to the opening night of "Back to the Future: the Musical" at Segerstrom Center.

Elevating digestive health in Orange County

UCI Health

Chao Digestive Health Institute



Irvine Co. proposes 800 luxury apartments in 2 projects at Fashion Island

BY ERIC LICAS

Developers want to build as many as 800 new market-rate apartments at Fashion Island, according to initial proposals submitted to Newport Beach planning officials earlier this year.

The new residential units would be part of two projects proposed by Irvine Co. in letters submitted to Newport Beach's Community Development Department in September. The Planning Commission may consider the plans for possible recommendation to the City Council as early as the first quarter of 2025, a company representative said in an email Thursday.

"Both communities would provide quality housing to meet the needs of employees, including young professionals, of the hundreds of businesses within Newport Center," Kevin Martin, Irvine Co.'s vice president of development, wrote in a letter to planning officials.

The larger of the two projects would replace over 141,000 square feet of office space at 100-190 Newport Center Drive with 600 luxury homes. Those would be contained in four podium-style buildings with five stories each. The new housing complex would feature two levels of underground parking and a fitness area. It would also offer convenient access to restaurants

and other amenities.

The proposed structures on Newport Center Drive would rise to about 75 feet, exceeding a 50-foot height limit the proposed site is currently zoned for. Developers would need to request an exception from the city in order to move forward.

The other project up for consideration would be an extension of the existing Villas of Fashion Island community, which currently includes 524 units. Crews would demolish an unused parking structure at 800 San Clemente Drive to make room for 200 additional apartments.

An Irvine Co. representative

See **Proposes**, page A2

ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



James Carbone

MATTY MATHESON MEETS FANS AT NEW BURGER JOINT PAGE A4

SIX MONTHS AFTER OPENING, CENTRAL CITIES NAVIGATION CENTER NEARS FULL CAPACITY PAGE A2

THE FUTURE OF O.C. LATINO POLITICS IS ON THE BALLOT AS 2026 RACES SHAPE UP IN CENTRAL O.C. PAGE A2

Mysterious alumnus gifts \$9.44M to OCC arts programs

BY SARA CARDINE

Orange Coast College's visual and performing arts program will soon get a transformative boost, after officials announced the recent gift of \$9.44 million — the largest donation ever received in the community college's 77-year history.

Made by a philanthropist described only as an alumnus of the Costa Mesa campus, the contribution allows for the creation of the OCC Endowment for the Arts, which will provide scholarships for students continuing their education or transferring to other institutions.

The funds will also support performances and exhibitions that provide opportunities for students to showcase their art, music, dance and drama before public audiences at the college's



OFFICIALS AT Orange Coast College say an anonymous alumnus has gifted \$9.44 million to the school's arts programs.

Sara Cardine

Frank M. Doyle Arts Pavilion and Roger B. Moore Theatre.

President Angelica Suarez expressed appreciation for the gift, which she said will have a profound impact on the institution and its ability to serve a wide segment of the populace.

"Donors are recognizing that their investment in our community college can benefit a greater

number of students compared to other sectors of higher education," Suarez said in a Dec. 18 statement announcing the donor.

While the identity of the donor is being kept under wraps, Orange Coast College has seen a number of enrollees go on to rise to prominence and even fame.

See **Gifts**, page A2



File Photo

A STUDENT VISITS the Frank M. Doyle Arts Pavilion at Orange Coast College in 2023. Officials recently announced a \$9.44-million donation had been made to the school's visual and performing arts programs.

Central Cities Navigation Center nears full house

BY ANDREW TURNER

Approximately six months ago, Fountain Valley gained access to its first dedicated shelter beds, providing additional means of addressing its unhoused situation, and the effort is seeing success, the City Council learned during a meeting this month.

The Central Cities Navigation Center, a partnership between the cities of Fountain Valley, Garden Grove and Westminster, opened on June 12 in an industrial area at 13871 West St. in Garden Grove.

An 18,166-square-foot facility with 85 beds, the center has the capacity to expand to 100 beds. Fountain Valley has access to 13 beds for its homeless population. Garden Grove has 50 beds for its use, while Westminster has an allocation of 22 beds.

Fountain Valley has seen an intake of 24 individuals at the navigation center since it opened, with a dozen people currently residing at the facility, the City Council learned Dec. 17 from representatives from Volunteers of America, Los Angeles, the organization that manages the shelter, and City Net, Fountain Valley's contracted homeless outreach and engagement service provider.

The current inhabitants of the Fountain Valley's allocated beds include seven single men, two single women, and two couples. Overall, there were 82 individuals from the three collaborating cities staying at the shelter as of mid-December.

The center is equipped with dorms to accommo-



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

THE CENTRAL CITIES Navigation Center, which includes 13 shelter beds for Fountain Valley, 50 for Garden Grove and 22 for Westminster, opened on June 12 in Garden Grove.

date 55 men, 22 women, six couples, and two flex rooms. It is a referral-only facility restricted to adults. Those taken in by the shelter can stay for up to four months.

Vice Mayor Jim Cunneen called the shelter a "phenomenal place" in describing the amenities and wondered how it might be marketed to those deciding whether they were willing to go.

"Shelters live in a strange world, because on one hand, you want individuals to [say], 'That looks good. I want to go there,'" said Eric

Richardson, director of housing for Volunteers of America. "On the other hand, [we're thinking], 'We don't want you to stay there.' We want you to like it, but not quite like it that much."

Cunneen asked the providers how the neighboring community had received the shelter.

"Nobody wants a shelter in their area," said Daniel Torres, the center's program manager. "For us, it's always the no walk-off policy that has made the shelter a lot better, not allowing people to hang around and

loiter around the shelter.

"Most of the time, when you walk by the shelter, unless you know that it's a shelter, you don't know what it is. It has no signage. ... It just has a glass door, so for the most part, we've been pretty good with the neighbors. They all have my phone number."

Torres added that many of the services offered are coming onto the site, including physical and mental health services and local faith groups.

"For us, we want the services to come onto the site because sometimes if

we send out the clients out to the field, they might not make it to the destination," Torres said. "One of the biggest goals that we have in the site is trying to get them connected to more income."

Between Oct. 23 and Dec. 6, City Net helped facilitate getting 13 unhoused people off the street in Fountain Valley, with referrals being placed in the Central Cities Navigation Center and the Yale Navigation Center, which is based in Santa Ana.

A collaborative effort between City Net and local

law enforcement is seeing the latter refer potential clients for services. If services are refused, police are being notified so that applicable ordinances and laws can be upheld.

Andres Hernandez, City Net's program supervisor for Orange County, added that the outreach service and law enforcement began working more closely together after the U.S. Supreme Court's Grants Pass ruling that allowed cities to enforce laws against homeless encampments.

"Overall, a lot of clients have been really receptive to this partnership," Hernandez said. "Those that haven't, well, they've been assisted by Fountain Valley [police] to make a better decision on their current whereabouts or activities."

From July through November, City Net carried out 425 client interactions in Fountain Valley, leading to 37 street exits to a shelter and two into permanent housing, according to data presented to the City Council.

"I know that when we first started, we got off to a bit of a rough start, and I think that over the last 90 days or so, we've seen some real traction and some improvements," Councilman Glenn Grandis said in addressing City Net. "... It took a while for us to really get going, but we're doing it now. Definitely improvements, and we see it out on the street, and the most important thing is that we're providing services to people in need."

andrew.turner@latimes.com
Twitter: @AndrewTurnerTCN

The Chao Digestive Health Institute delivers advanced care for the region.

ucihealth.org/ChaoDHI



The future of O.C. Latino politics heads to ballots as 2026 races shape up

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

A few days after the Orange County Registrar of Voters certified the November elections earlier this month, a flurry of Democratic politicians were already turning their attention toward 2026 races.

The state Senate and Assembly contests that are quickly heating up are centered in Anaheim and Santa Ana, where the electorate is largely Latino and Democrat.



Allen J. Schaben | Los Angeles Times

CAMPAIGNS FOR the state Legislature seats in 2026 are heating up, particularly in Anaheim and Santa Ana, where the electorate is largely Latino and Democrat.

Valencia commented on his reasons for running, which include a desire to improve schools and build housing.

"Serving in the state Senate will give me an opportunity to make an even bigger impact on our Orange County communities," Valencia told TimesOC. "This senate district shouldn't be viewed as a consolation prize or a stepping stone. Our district is home to nearly one million Orange County residents, and we deserve to have a responsive, committed and effective advocate."

Valencia bested Bulmaro "Boomer" Vicente, a progressive Democrat, during a primary election in 2022 on his way to winning the 68th Assembly District. As an incumbent, he handily won reelection this November.

Through legislation, he has gained a reputation as a "good government" reformer, which has softened the edge of some of his

most ardent progressive critics.

Valencia, who previously served on Anaheim City Council, pushed for a state audit of Visit Anaheim, the city's tourism bureau, following allegations of a grafting scheme detailed in an independent corruption report he voted to commission as a councilman.

Prompted by the Andrew Do scandal, he also backed legislation requiring a majority vote from the Orange County Board of Supervisors before any discretionary funds are allocated to a nonprofit or community group.

He also championed legislation that disallows campaign funds to be used for legal defense, if a politician is convicted of certain felony crimes.

Fresh off of his narrow defeat to Republican Steve Choi in the 37th Senate District, former state Sen. Josh

See *Politics*, page A6

PROPOSES

Continued from page A1

reiterated Thursday that city officials were in the earliest phases of considering both plans. If approved, it was unclear how much the projects would cost or how long they might take to build.

The real estate development company headquartered in Newport Beach planned on making all 800 units of housing available at market rates, with none set aside for low-income tenants at either development. Rent at apartments with between one to three bedrooms at Villas of Fashion Island ranged from \$5,100 to \$8,300, according to the company's website.

Newport Beach officials planned to allow for the addition of as many 2,439 new units of housing in the Newport Center area, according to the city's housing element. The document lays out how the city aims to reach state mandates to drastically



Courtesy of the Irvine Co.

A PRELIMINARY SITE plan shows the layout of a 600-unit housing development proposed by the Irvine Co. for construction on Newport Center Drive.

plan for an increase of homes by 2029.

State officials had called on the city to plan for an additional 4,485 homes in the most recent Regional Housing Needs Assessment. A certain portion of those are supposed to be allocated for low-income and very low-income tenants.

But identifying suitable sites and developers willing to take on more units

of affordable housing in Newport Beach's lucrative coastal real estate market poses a challenge, according to city officials. In order to compensate for that, the housing element plans for 8,175 new homes, far exceeding the RHNA requirement and allowing for significantly more market-rate units.

eric.licas@latimes.com
Twitter: @EricLicas

GIFTS

Continued from page A1

Cartoonist-turned-designer Paul Frank, creator of the iconic Julius the Monkey and a colorful cast of mythical and animalian cohorts, in 2010 sold his company's licensing and retail operation to the Saban Capital Group, led by billionaire Haim Saban, for an estimated \$50 million, the L.A. Times reported that August.

Frank, now 57, attended Goldenwest College in Huntington Beach in the 1990s before enrolling in various courses, including sewing, at OCC. In 2015, the designer returned to his Costa Mesa stomping grounds to teach a Design

Careers and Lifestyle course, according to an article in the campus newspaper Coast Report.

Other arts-forward alumni include actress Diane Keaton, who reportedly attended one semester taking acting lessons at OCC after graduating from Santa Ana High School in 1963 and performed as Maria in an on-campus production of "The Sound of Music."

Adam DeVine, an actor and comedian known for roles on the TV shows "Modern Family" and "Workaholics," and Patrick Warburton, aka David Puddy on "Seinfeld," are two more well-recognized Pirates who've notched Hollywood successes.

But for now the Orange

Coast College Foundation — the fundraising arm of the campus since 1985 that oversees some \$60 million in assets — is keeping mum about the mysterious benefactor, while thanking the alumnus for his donation and the difference it will make in the lives of current and future students.

"Gifts like these are transformational, for the student beneficiaries and for the College," Foundation Chairman Jeff Hyder stated. "We hope this gift will inspire other philanthropically motivated alumni and community members to support OCC."

sara.cardine@latimes.com
Twitter: @SaraCardine



Colorectal surgeon Dr. Skandan Shanmugan and gastroenterologist Dr. John G. Lee lead the UCI Health Chao Digestive Health Institute.

At the forefront of digestive health

The Chao Digestive Health Institute — the first of its kind in Orange County to develop a fully integrated medical and surgical team — offers advanced techniques delivered by nationally recognized, board-certified physicians who, for decades, have propelled digestive health to new heights of innovation.

As part of one of the largest academic health systems in California, and the only one in Orange County, we bring a multispecialty, comprehensive and patient-focused approach to prevent, diagnose and treat the most complex digestive disorders and cancers.

No other health system in the region combines scientific discovery and clinical research to improve the lives of people living with digestive diseases.

To learn more, visit ucihealth.org/ChaoDHI

UCI Health
Chao Digestive Health Institute

A WORD, PLEASE | JUNE CASAGRANDE

5 language resolutions for the new year

Even if you know a lot about grammar, there's always more to learn. And what better time than the start of a new year? Here are some language resolutions to consider for 2025.

1. Challenge a long-standing language belief by checking a dictionary.



Unless you have a Ph.D. in linguistics, chances are you've fallen victim to some misperceptions. Think "since" can't mean "because"? Think "between" is never for groups of three or more? Think a university can't "graduate" a student? A quick check of a dictionary will dispel all these beliefs.

2. Learn one new grammar term.

Up your grammar game with a bit of advanced jargon. I suggest "modal auxiliary verb." You use them every day, anyway, so why not? The most common modal auxiliary verbs are "must," "can," "should," "would," "may" and "might." They're similar to the two regular auxiliary verbs — "be" and "have" — in that they team up with other verbs (think: "I have walked" and "I am walking"). But modal auxiliaries express possibility (may, might), necessity (must), permission (may), ability (can), etc. Congratulations. You just learned a new grammar term. Did you already know about modals? Try looking up predicate nominatives, copular verbs or subordinating conjunctions.

3. Learn to conjugate one verb in a new language.

I've talked to a lot of people over the years who've tried and

failed to pick up a foreign language. When I ask how they studied, the answer is often some app or language software marketed to adults with the promise of "easy, practical" learning. That is, handy phrases that go in one ear and out the other. In my humble opinion, there's a better way: grammar. At least in the Latin-based languages I've studied, if you can't say "I am," "you are," "he/she/it is," "we are" and "they are," you don't have a foundation to build on. Start with just one verb and you'll be well on your way to forming your first sentences.

4. Learn an irregular past form.

Not sure if it's right to say, "I have swam" or "I have swum"? Do "drank" and "drunk" or "hanged" and "hung" or "woke," "awoke" and "awakened" trip you up? Resolve to learn just one. Check the main form of the

word — "swim," "drink," "hang," "wake" — in a dictionary, then look at the bolded forms that immediately follow. Under "drink," for example, you'll see "drank," which you know is the simple past tense because those are always listed first, after which you'll see the past participles indicated with "drunk or drank," meaning both are acceptable with the auxiliary "have": I have drank and I have drunk. If that's not advanced enough for you, memorize the past forms of both "lie" and "lay." For the most proper use of "lie," the simple past is "lay" (yesterday I lay), and the past participle is "lain" (in the past I have lain). For "lay," both past forms are the same (yesterday I laid, in the past I have laid).

5. Use "me" in a compound object.

You'd never say, "Thanks for visiting I" or "Send the memo to

I," so why do you say, "Thanks for visiting Beth and I" and "Send the memo to Tom and I"? Somewhere along the line, too many of us got it into our heads that "me" is wrong anytime another person is involved. But that's not true. The object of a verb (like "visit") or a preposition (like "to") doesn't change form just because it's more than one person: Try dropping the other person from your sentence to see whether "I" or "me" works alone. Then add the other person back in. Between you and me (not I), it's not exactly wrong to use "I" in an object position. But it's a shame if you do so because you were trying (and failing) to use proper English.

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

TRAVEL

Continued from page A1

inaugural North American tour and opened at Segerstrom Center for the Arts on Thursday. Pineda and other members of the Southern California DeLorean Club parked their cars in the Julianne and George Argyros Plaza for the show's local opening.

"Southern California has one the largest concentrations of this car in the world," said Ronald Ferguson, head of the Southern California DeLorean Club. The car club has about a dozen events a year and aims to connect DeLorean owners with one another. Ferguson, also a board member of the DeLorean Owners Assn., said the 1985 movie reaffirmed his interest in the marque, and he remains passionate about the history of the stainless-steel sports car.



INSPIRED BY the film "Back to the Future," this DeLorean sports a "time machine" dashboard.

car that defines a story line that is undeniable," Ferguson said.

The lead producers on the musicals include Colin Ingram, Robert Zemeckis and Bob Gale, the creators of the "Back to the Future" film trilogy. On stage in Costa Mesa until Jan. 5, the production includes songs from the movie like "The Power of Love" and "Johnny B. Goode."

"If Bob Zemeckis and I time traveled back to 1980

and told our younger selves that the script they were struggling to write would become a Broadway musical 43 years later, they'd kick us out of their office and call us crazy," Gale said in a statement. "Well, sometimes, crazy ideas give birth to great entertainment."

After the matinee showing on Dec. 26 the audience flooded the plaza to pose for pictures with Pineda's time-machine



MEMBERS OF THE Southern California DeLorean Club including Edwin and Rosa Pineda, above, park their cars for opening night of "Back to the Future: the Musical" at Segerstrom Center for the Arts on Thursday.

Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

DeLorean and others, with "hoverboards" propped up in the driver seat.

Fans that missed the car show at the opening have another chance to see a DeLorean time machine up close.

The "Back to the Future" trilogy was made using two hero cars, known as "A-car" and "B-car." Although "B-car" was damaged at the end of the trilogy, B-car

parts were recovered and put on another DeLorean, which will be on display at Segerstrom Hall for one night only on Friday, Jan. 3 from 5 to 10:30 p.m. The restoration of the vehicle by Gale and Terry Matalas was made possible by local Segerstrom Center donor Dave Tabb, who also shares a love of the iconic vehicle.

The "A-car" is on display at the Petersen Museum in

Los Angeles. Pineda urges other movie fans go see it and feel some of the joy he feels sharing his car with others.

"I got into this because I am big fan of the movie, and it is a dream come true having this car," said Pineda.

sarah.mosqueda@latimes.com
Twitter: @SarahNMos

Get the FREE TimesOC newsletter.

Orange County's most essential stories in your inbox.

Every Wednesday, get the news that matters most to your community in the TimesOC newsletter, with the latest on issues from business and immigration to food and what to do this weekend. It's the top local stories from the Daily Pilot, the L.A. Times and TimesOC — all delivered straight to you.



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

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

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

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



Scan the code or visit latimes.com/timesocnewsletter to sign up now.

THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Stella Zawistowski

ACROSS

- 1 Sweater size
- 6 African snake
- 11 Scientist's workplace
- 14 Flood barrier
- 15 Starting players
- 16 Frozen water
- 17 Once more
- 18 Explosive liquid
- 19 Service charge
- 20 McCartney's instrument: 2 wds.
- 22 Top-ranked
- 23 Oklahoma city
- 24 Important times
- 26 _ room (play space)
- 27 Well-read
- 31 Verge
- 34 _ Claus
- 35 Lively energy
- 36 Summer zodiac sign
- 37 Degas or da Vinci
- 39 Shade tree
- 40 Maglie of baseball
- 41 Perform better than
- 42 Card above a deuce
- 43 Article postscripts
- 45 "Sort of"
- 47 Greek sandwich
- 48 Side with a burger
- 50 Soft mineral
- 52 Balcony railing
- 57 A long time _
- 58 Charity balls
- 59 Cruz of Cuban music
- 60 Gun the engine
- 61 Call
- 62 Blender brand
- 63 Poem of praise
- 64 Poker payments
- 65 Sail supports

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13
14						15						16		
17						18						19		
20					21						22			
	23								24	25				
		26				27	28					29	30	
31	32	33				34						35		
36					37	38						39		
40					41							42		
43			44							45	46			
		47							48				49	
50	51					52	53	54					55	56
57						58						59		
60						61						62		
63						64						65		

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.

	5			7				
7	2							5
			4					
		3		1			9	
2			7	5				3
	4	9		8			7	
				3				
1							8	6
			5	8			4	

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

DOWN

- 1 Thick hunk of cheese
- 2 _ Millions (lottery)
- 3 Pirate's "stop!"
- 4 Free time
- 5 Author Madeleine
- 6 Craze
- 7 Working hard: 2 wds.
- 8 Facebook's company
- 9 Hair holder
- 10 "I love": Spanish
- 11 Donut-shaped candy: 2 wds.
- 12 Pitching stars
- 13 Borscht veggie
- 21 The Trojans: Abbr.
- 22 Jail cell part
- 25 Caboose's

- place
 - 27 Nations
 - 28 Fascinated by
 - 29 Scrabble piece
 - 30 TV award
 - 31 "What _ is new?"
 - 32 College official
 - 33 Fielder's award: 2 wds.
 - 34 Location
 - 37 Having little money
 - 38 German highway
 - 42 Former UK PM May
 - 44 The Big Apple: Abbr.
 - 45 Tax-collecting agency: Abbr.
 - 46 Show like "Seinfeld"
 - 48 Joins together
 - 49 Adds seasoning to
 - 50 Hawaiian tuber
 - 51 Grey older
 - 53 Very much: 2 wds.
 - 54 Actress Diane
 - 55 Eating plan
 - 56 "I'm all _!"
 - 58 Transcript figure: Abbr.
- Tribune Media Services

Matty's Patty's beefs up O.C. burger scene

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

Chef, author and actor Matty Matheson beefed up the local smash burger scene by opening Matty's Patty's Burger Club in Costa Mesa, the eatery's second location. The celebrity chef made an appearance at the restaurant on Friday, Dec. 20, posing for pictures and greeting fans who queued up well before the 11 a.m. grand opening.

Costa Mesa residents Jacob and Kelly Slaughter were the first in line at the restaurant at 1734 Newport Blvd. (the former site of Oh Those Donuts) at 6 a.m.

"I pushed for midnight, but she walked me back to 6 a.m.," said Jacob.

The smash burger concept began as a pop-up before opening as a brick and mortar in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Business partner and Orange County native Pat Tenore, the "Patty" in Matty's Patty's and the designer, entrepreneur and former owner of surf and sportswear company RVCA, is part of the reason the burger club chose Costa Mesa for its first U.S. location.

"Pat Tenore is a foundational person down here in Costa Mesa and Orange County, and being able to bring it home here is an amazing thing," said Matheson. "I am from Toronto, Pat's Costa Mesa so it only made sense."

The well-known Matheson recently became even more beloved for his role on FX's Emmy-award-winning television series, "The Bear," as lovable handyman Neil Fak. But Matheson, who also serves as a producer and consultant on the show, was famous long before his TV debut as a chef, restaurateur and internet personality.

"We are huge fans of Matty Matheson, and we have been watching his YouTube cooking videos for years and years," said Kelly Slaughter.

Joshua Price became a fan after watching Matheson's popular YouTube cooking channel. The Anaheim resident got in line at 9 a.m. with a copy of one of



Photos by James Carbone

MATTY MATHESON shakes hands with fans outside Matty's Patty's Burger Club in Costa Mesa at its opening.

Matheson's cookbooks, hoping to get it autographed.

"My grandma and I always watch his videos," said Price. "I brought his 'Home Style Cookery' cookbook, which is his second one and my favorite."

The first YouTube video the Slaughters saw of Matheson featured the chef making a cheeseburger, and they were excited to try one in real life.

"We want to try as much as we can fit in our stomachs," Kelly laughed.

The menu features smash burgers with 3-ounce beef patties smashed thin on the flattop for a

juicy center and crispy edges, available as a single patty, double or triple.

"The staple is the double with yellow sauce, that is the original," said Coulson Armstrong, culinary director for Our House Hospitality Co., which includes Matty's Patty's. "In California we are adding the Tenore-style burger, which is a grass-fed beef burger at more of a premium price."

There is also a Matty burger, thicker than the smash with a 7-ounce beef patty served pink and topped with mustard sauce, a slice of white onion and pickles. "Today we have really seen

that one pop off, and I think there is huge excitement around Matty and him coming to California and opening up something for the first time," said Armstrong.

Besides burgers, fans ordered chili cheese fries, onion rings, chocolate shakes and pineapple and vanilla soft serve ice cream. The menu also has vegetarian burger patty options and a classic Canadian poutine — French fries topped with savory gravy and cheese curds.

The long line stayed steady throughout the afternoon, with tables full both inside and on

the outdoor patio where Matheson sat with friends. Fans approached him for photos or just to say hello, and he shared the gratitude he feels to local community.

"I love Costa Mesa so much and I have been coming here for years, I have got a lot of really good friends here, and it's nice to be able to serve cheeseburger to people," said Matheson. "I am happy to be here."

sarah.mosqueda
@latimes.com
Twitter: @SarahNMs



PEOPLE WAIT in line for the grand opening of Matty's Patty's Burger Club on Dec. 20.



MATTY MATHESON, chef, author and actor, smiles inside his new restaurant in Costa Mesa.

Decadent dinners for New Year's Eve in Orange County

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

Why not celebrate the last day of the year with a decadent dinner from one of Orange County's lauded restaurants? As 2024 winds down, there is no better time to visit a favorite local haunt like Newport Beach's Fable & Spirit or a new addition like Darkroom in Santa Ana or La Vaquera in San Juan Capistrano. All three restaurants are offering indulgent menus that are sure to send you into 2025 with a full belly. Reservations recommended.

LA VAQUERA

31904 Paseo Adelanto, San Juan Capistrano (949) 749-4200 lavaquerasjc.com

La Vaquera is one of the many dining options at the recently opened River Street Marketplace in San Juan Capistrano. Drawing inspiration from California's rancho lifestyle, the restaurant from Santa Barbara-based Acme Hospitality Group focuses on live-fire cooking, and executive chef Aaron Zimmer has prepared an especially festive menu for New Year's Eve.

Choice of starters includes crispy pork belly with winter-spiced apple, a root vegetable barbacoa consommé with blue corn masa dumplings or Spanish octopus, served with salt crusted potatoes and



Taylor Mosby

WOOD-FIRED SPANISH octopus at La Vaquera Restaurant & Bar in San Juan Capistrano.



Wales Communications

DARKROOM'S 14-course Chrysalis menu will be served on New Year's Eve.

mojo verde. For entrees, the menu features lamb shank birria, achiote-glazed back cod, a surf 'n' turf of

Angus beef tenderloin with prawns and Jerusalem artichokes in salsa verde or a vegetable dish of winter squash with rainbow chard and aged Monterey Jack cheese. A classic poached pear dessert with eggnog ice cream finishes off the meal.

The New Year's Eve menu is served a la carte from 4 until close at 10 p.m.

CHRYSLIS AT DARKROOM

3751 S. Harbor Blvd. Suite C, Santa Ana (657) 777-3275 wearedarkroom.com

Chrysalis is the chef's tasting menu experience at Darkroom in Santa Ana, which opened earlier this year. It began as a pop-up and has continued to live on in a private dining room

at Darkroom. Chef/partners Zach Scherer and Drew Adams have decided "to blow the doors off in 2025" with a new 14-course menu of mainly seafood focused small bites that will launch on New Year's Eve. Seating begins at 7 p.m., with tickets priced at \$325 and including a premium wine pairing.

Separately, in the main dining room, Darkroom will offer a six-course wine dinner designed around some of the favorites poured this year. Guests can look forward smoked mushroom tarts with sunchoke sausage paired with a 2022 Julien Cruchandeau Ladoix Pinot Noir and dry aged beef, black garlic fudge and Amaro cola sauce served with a smoked potato paired with a 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon from Aperture Cellars Soil Specific. Tickets for this experience are priced at \$175 with the first seating at 6:30 and the second at 8:15 p.m.

FABLE & SPIRIT

3441 Via Lido, Newport Beach (949) 409-9913 fableandspirit.com

This sophisticated Irish pub in Newport Beach is favored for its updated classics, like fish and chips with crushed peas and warm Guinness brown bread, as it is for its thoughtful wine list.

For New Year's Eve, the Michelin-recognized restaurant has put together a three-course feast. For the first course, diners choose from Maine lobster agnolotti, served in a sweet corn emulsion with English peas, pancetta and truffle air or white Peking duck confit, over beluga lentils with lardons, rocket and glaze de veau. The second course offers a choice between Chilean sea bass in beurre noisette, served with roasted sprouting cauliflower and charred onion soubise or Mishima Reserve wagyu barrel-cut ribeye with fondant potatoes and butter-poached asparagus.

All dinners end on a sweet note of warm butter cake with strawberry champagne compote and vanilla bean butter cream. The New Year's Eve menu is priced at \$130 per person



Anne Watson

FABLE & SPIRIT in Newport Beach has a New Year's Eve menu planned.

and available alongside the regular dinner menu from 5 to 9:30 p.m.

sarah.mosqueda
@latimes.com
Twitter: @SarahNMs

MARKETPLACE

To place an ad, go to
<http://timescommunityadvertising.com/>

**ANNOUNCEMENTS
/ENTERTAINMENT**

500

Religious
Announcements

Thank you St Jude & Sacred Heart of Jesus for prayers answered-CM

CLASSIFIED

It's the solution you're searching for-whether you're seeking a home, apartment, pet or new occupation!

This flourless chocolate torta is rich, dense and light

BY CHRISTOPHER KIMBALL

Pasticceria Gollini in Vignola, Italy, not far from Modena, is home to the sumptuous flourless chocolate cake known as torta Barozzi.

Created in 1886 by pastry chef Eugenio Gollini and named for Jacopo Barozzi da Vignola, a 16th-century architect, the much-loved sweet continues today to be produced according to a closely guarded secret recipe.

Professional and home bakers alike have attempted to recreate the dessert, and we set out to devise a formula. It's well known that torta Barozzi is made without wheat flour and is therefore gluten-free. Instead, a combination of ground peanuts and almonds — along with whipped egg whites — delivers a structure that's somehow rich and dense yet remarkably light.

When developing this recipe from our cookbook, "Milk Street Bakes," we found that we could skip the peanuts, as almond flour alone worked well. To achieve a complex chocolatiness, we use both cocoa powder and bittersweet chocolate. For best results, look for chocolate with

about 70 percent cocoa solids. And don't use natural cocoa. The recipe will still work, but the cake will be lighter in color and not quite as deep in flavor as when made with Dutch-processed cocoa.

Instant espresso powder accentuates the deep, roasty, bitter notes, and a dose of dark rum lifts the flavors with its fieriness.

Take care not to overbake the cake. Remove it from the oven when a toothpick inserted at the center comes out with a few sticky crumbs clinging to it. After 30 to 45 minutes of cooling, the cake is inverted out of the pan; don't worry about reinverting it. True torta Barozzi is left upside down for cutting and serving. Serve with lightly sweetened mascarpone, whipped cream or with vanilla gelato.

INGREDIENTS

141 grams (10 tablespoons) salted butter, cut into 10 pieces, plus more for the pan

6 ounces bittersweet chocolate, chopped

21 grams (¼ cup) Dutch-processed cocoa powder, plus more for dusting

1 tablespoon instant espresso powder

4 large eggs, separated,



THIS IMAGE released by Milk Street shows a recipe for Italian flourless chocolate torta.

Milk Street via AP

room temperature

161 grams (¾ cup) white sugar, divided

100 grams (1 cup) almond flour

½ teaspoon table salt

3 tablespoons dark rum

DIRECTIONS

Heat the oven to 350 degrees with a rack in the

middle position. Butter an 8-inch square pan, line the bottom with a parchment square and butter the parchment.

In a medium saucepan over medium, melt the butter. Remove from the heat and add the chocolate, cocoa and espresso powder. Let stand for a few minutes to allow the chocolate to soften, then whisk until the mixture is smooth; cool until barely warm to the touch.

In a large bowl, vigorously whisk the egg yolks and 107 grams (½ cup) of the sugar until lightened and creamy, about 30 seconds. Add the chocolate mixture and whisk until homogeneous. Add the almond flour and salt, then

whisk until fully incorporated. Whisk in the rum; set aside.

In a stand mixer with the whisk attachment or in a large bowl with a hand mixer, whip the egg whites on medium-high until frothy, 1 to 2 minutes. With the mixer running, gradually add the remaining 54 grams (¼ cup) sugar, then beat until the whites hold soft peaks, about 2 minutes. Add about a third of the whipped whites to the yolk-chocolate mixture and fold with a silicone spatula to lighten and loosen the base. Scrape on the remaining whites and gently fold in until well combined. Transfer to the prepared pan and gently shake or tilt the pan to level the batter.

Bake until the cake is slightly domed and a toothpick inserted at the center comes out with a few crumbs attached, 30 to 35 minutes. Cool in the pan on a wire rack for 30 to 45 minutes; the cake will deflate slightly as it cools.

Run a paring knife around the inside edge of the pan to loosen the cake, then invert onto a platter; if needed, peel off and discard the parchment. Cool completely. Dust with cocoa before serving.

Editor's note: For more recipes, go to Christopher Kimball's Milk Street at 177milkstreet.com/ap.

dailypilot@latimes.com
Twitter: @TheDailyPilot

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

S	M	A	L	L	M	A	M	B	A	L	A	B
L	E	V	E	E	A	T	E	A	M	I	C	E
A	G	A	I	N	N	I	T	R	O	F	E	E
B	A	S	S	G	U	I	T	A	R	B	E	S
T	U	L	S	A	E	R	A	S				
R	E	C	L	I	T	E	R	A	T	E		
E	D	G	E		S	A	N	T	A	V	I	M
L	E	O		P	A	I	N	T	E	R	E	L
S	A	L		O	U	T	D	O		T	R	E
E	N	D		N	O	T	E	S		I	S	H
G	Y	R	O		F	R	I	E	S			
T	A	L	C		B	A	L	U	S	T	R	A
A	G	O		G	A	L	A	S		C	E	L
R	E	V		P	H	O	N	E		O	S	T
O	D	E		A	N	T	E	S		M	A	S

8	5	1	6	2	7	9	3	4
7	2	4	8	3	9	6	1	5
3	9	6	4	5	1	8	2	7
6	7	3	2	1	4	5	9	8
2	1	8	7	9	5	4	6	3
5	4	9	3	8	6	1	7	2
4	8	7	1	6	3	2	5	9
1	3	5	9	4	2	7	8	6
9	6	2	5	7	8	3	4	1

POLITICS

Continued from page A2

Newman is eyeing a return to Sacramento through the 34th Senate District.

He is proud of his existing record — from revamping textile recycling programs to chairing the Senate Committee on Education to securing funds for groups like Access California Services, which is based in Anaheim.

There are still plenty of outstanding issues, in Newman's estimation.

"California is facing some substantial challenges around housing affordability, access to care and access to higher education," Newman told TimesOC. "There is important work to be done, including transitioning to clean energy sources in the face of climate change."

In order to run for the district, which is centered in Anaheim but stretches

from South Whittier to Santa Ana, Newman would have to move, which has already triggered criticisms from those who see him as opposing Valencia as the Anaheim-raised "home-grown" candidate.

Newman reminds voters that he has represented areas of Anaheim before, when the old 29th Senate District overlapped with the currently drawn boundaries of the 34th Senate District.

"I've represented that area longer than anybody who is in the Legislature right now," he said.

Valencia's state Senate candidacy opened up another race for his 68th Assembly District seat that is already heating up and could prove to be more of a pitched battle over the future of O.C. Latino politics.

"There is overwhelming evidence that there is a Latino shift towards more populist politics," Madrid said. "The question is which strain of populism will be a

definitive feature of Latino politics. Orange County may be the first place we start to really see it in a way where it's going to be contestable."

On Thursday, Santa Ana Councilman David Peñaloza announced his campaign for Valencia's Assembly seat. He already counts the backing of Valencia, Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas and Santa Ana Mayor Valerie Amezcua.

His campaign has started off with an economically focused message.

"We've seen how many Californians are fleeing the state for economic reasons," Peñaloza told TimesOC. "The quality of life has also declined in the last 10 years. A sense of safety is just not there. That's broken for many working families in the state."

In the past six years on Santa Ana City Council, Peñaloza has taken a moderate tract on issues concerning development, police, homelessness and crime in the city.

"My focus has been how can we, at the same time, make life less expensive for residents in Santa Ana but also safe," he said. "I'm a big proponent of parks and libraries. At the same time, people are upset that we are opening up these new amenities because of safety concerns. It's a revolving circle of issues that our community has to deal with."

Peñaloza may face off with his Santa Ana City Council colleague Jessie Lopez, who is said to be a potential candidate in the race.

When reached by phone, Lopez stated that she is taking a "strong look" at the Assembly district, but hasn't announced any run.

As a councilwoman, Lopez has a record of backing progressive policies geared toward Santa Ana's working class residents, from rent control to eviction protections to supporting direct economic assistance to residents during the pandemic.

Lopez beat a recall election last year, in which she was outspent 8-1 by her opponents.

She also won reelection to Santa Ana City Council in November, edging out a victory in Ward 3, the city's most moderate electorate.

gabriel.sanroman@latimes.com
Twitter: @gsanroman2

Los Angeles Times

The Times of Troy

AN L.A. TIMES SPORTS NEWSLETTER



Essential Trojan news, analysis and more.

Keep up with USC sports — from football to basketball and beyond — in **The Times of Troy** newsletter. Times USC beat writer Ryan Kartje brings you expert insights and analysis on everything from USC's move to the Big Ten to its emerging star athletes and more.

Don't miss out on Trojans coverage you won't find anywhere else. No subscription necessary.

Sign up FREE. Scan the code or visit latimes.com/newsletters/times-of-troy



Daily Pilot

A Times Community News publication.

CONTACT US

Carol Cormaci
Executive Editor
carol.cormaci@latimes.com

Beth Raff
Advertising Manager
(424) 225-9928
beth.raff@latimes.com

10540 Talbert Ave., Suite 300 West, Fountain Valley, CA 92708

Reporters:
Sara Cardine, Costa Mesa
sara.cardine@latimes.com
Eric Licas, Newport Beach
eric.licas@latimes.com
Sarah Mosqueda, TimesOC
sarah.mosqueda@latimes.com

Gabriel San Román, TimesOC
gabriel.sanroman@latimes.com

Matt Szabo, Huntington Beach and Sports
matthew.szabo@latimes.com

Andrew Turner, Laguna Beach and Sports
andrew.turner@latimes.com

Send Letters to the Editor to erik.haugli@latimes.com. See Mailbag for guidelines.

The Daily Pilot, established in 1907, is published Thursday through Sunday by Times Community News, a division of the Los Angeles Times. Subscriptions are available only by subscribing to The Times, Orange County.

© 2024 Times Community News. All rights reserved.

Jim Jennings Custom Masonry Inc.

Serving Newport Beach, Costa Mesa for 55 years.

NOW SPECIALIZING IN:

- Masonry & Concrete Repair.
- Grind High-spots caused by tree roots, etc.
- Remove & Replace sections of concrete, brick or stone.

State License# 827800

714-796-9144