

# H.B. artist using ‘homeless’ moment to spread awareness

Chapman Hamborg, who made a viral Instagram video after his neighbor called the police on him, is using the incident to raise money for United Way.

BY MATT SZABO

Huntington Beach artist Chapman Hamborg is still dealing with the circumstances around his viral Instagram reel in his own unique way. A neighbor called the police on Hamborg as he went on a morning walk around the neighborhood with his infant daughter last month, trying to give his wife Hannah some time to relax. His long hair was in a bun, his clothes were worn and one of his slippers had a hole in it. The neighbor thought Hamborg was homeless. A police officer did come to his home near Sowers Middle School on that Good Friday morning to investigate. “When he explained what happened, that someone had

See **Artist**, page A10



**CHAPMAN HAMBORG**, with his self-portrait at left, at the Hamborg Academy of Art studio in Huntington Beach on Tuesday.

Don Leach  
Staff Photographer

## At the forefront of digestive health

**UCI Health**  
Chao Digestive Health Institute



# Corki’s Embroidery closing after almost 60 years

**BARBARA “CORKI” RAWLINGS** peers over her workbench and favorite sewing machine Tuesday at her embroidery shop in Newport Beach. The store is closing at the end of June after 59 years in business.



Eric Licas

BY ERIC LICAS

Corki’s Embroidery took on a lot of custom jobs the other half-dozen or so other shops in the Newport Beach area wouldn’t, which meant that over the years the business had many clients approach them with special orders carrying deep sentimental value. Employees recall one woman who came in carrying the wedding tuxedo of her husband, who had died at a young age. “She wanted this inscription that we made inside the coat so he would be buried with her thoughts, that they would meet again. Stuff like that comes through the door, and you just sort of, ‘Oof!’” seamstress Linda Pierce exclaimed. “Yes, of course

we’ll do it!” Other memorable jobs were blankets customized with the names of children cared for by an orphanage and the sewing of American flags onto the gear of beach volleyball pros April Ross and Jen Kessy ahead of their silver medal finish in the 2012 Olympics. Their work has helped people commemorate weddings, graduations, as well as countless other special moments and people over the course of their decades in business. Owner Barbara “Corki” Rawlings told the Daily Pilot she has reveled in her role in the Newport Beach community. After celebrating her 90th birthday in 2024 and

See **Closing**, page A5

## San Clemente looks to form Olympic committees ahead of being a host city

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

With the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games three years away, San Clemente is starting to plan for its role as a host city with surf competitions set to take place at Lower Trestles. San Clemente City Council on Tuesday discussed the merits of forming a local Olympic committee to work on logistics, economic opportunity and host city duties ahead of the games. San Clemente is one of two Olympic host cities in Orange County with Anaheim as the other, thanks to indoor volleyball coming to the Honda Center. An April 15 Olympics news release praised the selection of Lower Trestles for surfing. “The venue is synonymous with surfing culture, playing host to numerous World Surf League competitions and earn-

ing a mention in the Beach Boys’ 1963 hit ‘Surfin’ U.S.A.,” it read. Ahead of surfing competitions, Olympic committee duties outlined in a San Clemente staff report included coordinating logistics with the Orange County Transportation Authority, Metrolink, LA28, law enforcement and other agencies. Members would also work with the San Clemente Chamber of Commerce, local businesses and the media to expand economic opportunities that come with being a host city. Helping to organize Olympic watch parties and medal ceremonies as the games commence rounded out the list of future responsibilities. With San Clemente’s world-renowned surf at Lower Trestles set to be showcased on such a

See **Olympic**, page A9

### ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF ORANGE COUNTY GOES BIG WITH A NEW MURAL** PAGE A8  
**PROJECT KINSHIP EXPANDS TO LARGER SPACE IN SANTA ANA** PAGE A4  
**EDGAR ALLAN POE SPEAKEASY SERVES UP LAUGHS, DRINKS AND CHILLS AT FAIRHAVEN CEMETERY** PAGE A7



**THE FULLERTON 99S** is one of the organizations housed at Fullerton Airport who will also be part of Airport Day.

Dennis Umeda

## Fullerton Airport welcomes the public for Airport Day

BY JESSICA PERALTA

Brendan J. O’Reilly grew up in Whittier and first visited Fullerton Airport when he was 6 years old, with his dad. Soon after, they returned for Airport Day and O’Reilly’s passion for airplanes grew. Today, he oversees Airport Day in his capacity as manager of Fullerton Airport, operated under the city’s Public Works

Department. “I credit this airport with starting my passion for aviation, so [I] definitely want to share that with others and especially with the kids,” O’Reilly said. “There’s so many things to get kids into trouble these days. They got to have something to look forward to and to learn about or to aspire to.”

See **Airport**, page A7



# UC Irvine neurosurgeon wins \$5.8M in his retaliation case, on top of earlier \$2M verdict

BY SARA CARDINE

An Orange County jury has awarded \$5.8 million in damages to a UC Irvine neurosurgeon who claimed in a whistleblower lawsuit university officials retaliated against him for filing a grievance regarding risks to patient safety, abuse of power and economic waste.

Dr. Mark Linskey, a board-certified neurosurgeon and former chair of the Department of Neurological Surgery at UC Irvine, has been embroiled in litigation since 2016 over actions taken by former UCI School of Medicine Dean Ralph Clayman and former department chair Johnny Delashaw.

The May 9 verdict covers retaliatory acts from November 2015 to the present date, a second phase of litigation. Linskey was previously awarded \$2 million in 2019 for actions that occurred prior to the conclusion of a university-level investigation.

“Having two sequential, unanimous jury verdicts is a very good feeling,” the 64-year-old Newport Beach resident said Wednesday. “It’s vindication that good, honest people on a jury can see through to the truth and that our system works.”

John Murray, a spokesman for UCI Health, said Friday the institution would not comment on the matter.

Linskey said Wednesday his troubles began in 2013, after he claimed in a griev-



Courtesy of Ivan Puchalt

**DR. MARK LINSKEY**, a neurosurgeon and tenured professor at UC Irvine’s Department of Neurological Surgery, was recently awarded \$5.8 million in a case against the UC Board of Regents.

ance Delashaw and another physician he’d brought to UCI, Dr. Frank Hsu, had removed certain patients from a general neurosurgery on-call service, reserving them for their own care and depriving them from the skills, knowledge and expertise of other practicing physicians.

“It was pretty clear when Dr. Delashaw arrived with his team, he wasn’t really happy with me being there,” Linskey said. “There was a whole series of actions that occurred to try and make it pretty miserable for me to stay.”

Linskey’s relocation from the department deprived him of the opportunity to train and mentor new neurosurgeons in a medical residency program he built from the ground up shortly after arriving at the campus in 2004.

According to Linskey, retaliatory acts by Clayman and Delashaw continued to escalate throughout the UC Irvine-level investigation, causing the neurosurgeon to file a whistleblower retaliation complaint through the UC system in 2014.

At the conclusion of the grievance process, a com-

**“Having two sequential, unanimous jury verdicts is a very good feeling. It’s vindication that good, honest people on a jury can see through to the truth and that our system works.”**

— Dr. Mark Linskey

mittee of the UC Irvine Academic Senate determined the neurosurgeon’s removal from the department had the “appearance of retaliation.”

Linskey was able to return to neurosurgery but was repeatedly denied access to residents who could have assisted in patient care. Consequently, he worked from 80 to 100 hours per week without backup or relief. That prevented the professor from completing valuable research that, once published, could benefit the field and overall patient care.

Believing he would not receive full remediation from the UC Board of Regents, Linskey in 2016 filed a lawsuit through the Orange County Superior Court and won.

In addition to \$2 million in damages for loss of income and emotional distress, Judge Glenn Salter ordered the neurosurgeon be allowed to resume his participation in the residency program and be returned to the neurosurgical on-call schedule.

Those two actions did not occur, says attorney

Ivan Puchalt, who’s been representing Linskey with colleague Mark T. Quigley through the El Segundo-based firm Greene Broillet & Wheeler.

The second phase of litigation has focused on fulfilling Salter’s previous orders and addressing ongoing retaliatory acts that continued after November 2015.

“The central issue in this second trial was whether he should have been reinstated in the residency program in 2019,” Puchalt said. “We got a unanimous jury, so it was really debunked.”

A second complaint zeroes in on Linskey’s continued separation from resident physicians, which he says was exacerbated by administrators’ attempts to coerce young physicians into filing written letters of complaint against the beleaguered neurosurgeon.

“We had current residents who didn’t know him, but just saw him as a pariah of the department. But before [the dispute] he’d had nothing but glowing comments. They loved him — it couldn’t have been a starker contrast,” Puchalt said Wednesday. “I think

that was the tension point of the whole trial.”

The jury ultimately awarded Linskey \$5,880,458 for past and future economic loss, along with past and future non-economic loss, including mental suffering, anxiety, worry, shame, humiliation and emotional distress.

Delashaw, who arrived at UC Irvine in April 2013 after being recruited by Clayman, left that September for a position with Swedish Health in Seattle. Clayman stepped down as the dean of the School of Medicine in 2014, taking a sabbatical before returning in 2015 to UCI’s department of urology, the Orange County Register reported.

Hsu, the physician brought to UC Irvine by Delashaw, currently serves as the chair of Neurological Surgery at UC Irvine, but in 2022 was investigated in an audit that found he’d inappropriately spent \$400,000 in school funds on camera equipment, according to the Los Angeles Times.

Reflecting on the long legal dispute, and the nearly decade-long litigation, Linskey said Wednesday, verdicts aside, the battle has been worthwhile.

“I’m the sort of person who can live with doing my very best and focusing on what’s right and then losing something,” he said. “But walking away from this and not standing up for what’s right, I would not be able to live with myself.”

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## Cypress deadlocks on seeking info related to allegations against its city manager

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

The Cypress City Council held a special meeting on Monday in the wake of misconduct allegations that have hounded City Manager Peter Grant for the past month.

The panel discussed whether to direct City Atty. Fred Galante to turn over any documents related to possible complaints made by Doug Dancs, a former Public Works director who called for Grant’s firing during an April 28 council meeting after he accused him of unspecified “unlawful acts.” Galante interrupted Dancs when he spoke out on April 28 and called his brief comments “inappropriate” while cautioning that they should not be made in a public setting.

The agenda item Monday also called for the full report of any investigation and other related documents.

“We’ve got a very simple choice today,” said Mayor David Burke, who called the special meeting. “We can choose to bury our heads in the sand, engage in willful ignorance about alleged misconduct and put even more of our residents’ tax dollars at risk. Or we can take the other path, and choose to be responsible leaders who handle accusations and misconduct appropriately.”

After less than 30 minutes of deliberation, the council deadlocked on a 2-2 vote.

Mayor Pro Tem Leo Medrano was not in attendance. Several people TimesOC spoke with saw Medrano attend a Hubert H. Humphrey Democratic Club meeting at a Cerritos IHOP at the same time as the special meeting.

Medrano did not return a TimesOC request for comment by press time.

Burke considered continuing the discussion to a future meeting when Medrano could participate, but his council colleagues Bonnie Peat and Scott Minikus wanted to press forward.

Questions surrounding Dancs’ allegations, separation agreement and what may have preceded his departure continued to be made by concerned residents at the special meeting.

Peat asked speakers addressing the City Council to identify whether they lived in Cypress or not, a request Burke did not endorse.

Most of the speakers, like Paul Kokkinos, noted themselves as Cypress residents anyway.

“Our city is a wonderful place to live, and, overall, the city operates in a solid way,” said Kokkinos, who is a Republican supporter of the mayor. “Mr. Grant has a significant amount of supporters. But none of this matters. What matters is a previously secret \$183,000 separation agreement with Doug Dancs that has now been surrounded by a serious — and let’s call it for what it is — cover up.”



**CYPRESS CITY MANAGER**  
Peter Grant during an April council meeting where he was honored for his 10 years of service in Cypress.

James Carbone

Minikus, when serving as mayor, signed Dancs’ separation agreement in October.

The document, which is a public record, included a confidentiality and non-disparagement agreement but also allowed Dancs to discuss “information about unlawful acts in the workplace.”

David Loy, executive director of the First Amendment Coalition, reviewed a copy of the agreement provided to him by TimesOC.

“Nothing prevents Dancs from talking about allegedly unlawful acts in the workplace in any form that he wishes, be it at a city council meeting, on social media, in a newspaper or to law enforcement,” he said. “If it turned out that he was wrong and the facts that he shared were absolutely false, the city could potentially say that he breached the contract, but that’s not grounds, as I see it, for prior restraint.”

During the special meeting, Minikus claimed that

Burke, like others on council last year, was privy to the circumstances surrounding Dancs’ agreement and criticized his fact-finding push as political theater.

“Your only intention here is to get the information and then leak it out to your friends at the L.A. Times,” Minikus told Burke. “You’re so incredibly unethical in pulling this forward when it’s already been settled and done.”

Despite the fact she was serving on the panel at the same time as the separation agreement with Dancs was made, Frances Marquez, who left the City Council in December, stated after Dancs’ made the allegations on April 28 that she had no knowledge of his separation agreement. That Minikus and others apparently did, she argued, only serves to bolster her legal claims against the city for being singled out and retaliated against during her term of office.

“As I stated in my pend-

ing lawsuit in federal court, I have been very clear that I have been unlawfully treated differently than my colleagues,” she said in a statement to TimesOC.

Prior to the special meeting, TimesOC filed a public records request for any documents related to misconduct or harassment claims involving Dancs and Grant.

Cypress cited “unusual circumstances” in needing an extension before responding whether the documents can be disclosed.

Dancs could not be reached for comment.

Peat spoke against directing Galante to provide the council with any documents related to the matter.

“If you feel that everything that’s been done was appropriate and handled the right way, why wouldn’t you want the council and our residents to have proof of that?” Burke asked Peat.

Peat acknowledged that Cypress should have put out a public statement at

the time the agreement was signed, but that was as far as she was willing to go.

“I think our attorneys, I’ll just say, gave us the information that we need to understand the issue and to move forward,” Peat said. “Do I think [these documents] would go out to the public? Absolutely not.”

Burke quipped that the vote would resemble the satirical headline of an On-ion article.

“City Council votes to keep information hidden from itself,” he said.

Peat disagreed with that framing of the discussion before voting with Minikus against directing Galante to disclose documents.

Burke and Councilmember Kyle Chang voted to do so in the deadlock. If they want to continue the discussion they will have to put it on a future council meeting agenda.

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**UCI Health**

Chao Digestive Health Institute

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# Project Kinship expands to larger space

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

When April Acuna looks at the people who come into Project Kinship, she can't help but see herself.

The Orange County sister agency to L.A.-based Homeboy Industries, Project Kinship is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization providing services and training to those whose lives have been impacted by incarceration, gangs and violence.

"I come from this kind of background. I would say that I would have been a perfect candidate," said Acuna, who started at Homeboy Industries as a trainee in the 18-month program. "I was a drug addict, I was a Mom who lost custody of her children and I felt like there was no light at the end of the tunnel."

Project Kinship opened its the doors on May 20 at a new Santa Ana facility, where Acuna works as a peer navigator for tier one case management, assisting those who need basic, non-medical services.

"Say if they're looking for an ID voucher so they can get a job, or if they need to get a replacement social security card or birth certificate so they can apply for a job, we can help them," Acuna said.

At tier one, people also have access to employment and education specialists, help with resumes and more.

"We are here to recommend and encourage," said Acuna.

Project Kinship was founded by Steve Kim, who began his own path to recovery in 1999. After battling drug addiction and incarceration, Kim found himself facing a new battle when met with numerous barriers to re-entry back into society. Kim worked hard to obtain his Criminology, Law & Society degree from the University of California, Irvine and a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Southern California.

When Father Greg Boyle, founder of Homeboy Industries came to speak to one of his classes, Kim felt compelled to use his experience and knowledge to follow in Boyle's footsteps by serving his community.

"We know that we can't incarcerate our way out of trauma, pain and violence," said Kim. "We have found a way to heal the cycle of that through community and partnerships and Orange County is leading the way."

Kim started Project Kinship in Orange County,



Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**A MURAL DEPICTING** sisterhood during the grand opening ceremony of the Project Kinship facility in Santa Ana on Monday.



**CHIEF EXECUTIVE** Steven Kim thanks supporters during grand opening ceremony of the Project Kinship facility.

which is part of the Global Homeboy Network. The new building at 1833 E. 17th Street is 17,503 square feet, dwarfing the former headquarters; a 8,000-square-foot warehouse on Broadway. In the new space, the organization plans to continue the work of its five core programs; youth programming, adult reentry success services, education and employment pathways, group and recovery services and safety net assistance, as well introduce other new services.

The space is home to the new Kinship Youth Center, a drop-in after-school center that provides youth programming four days a

week and bi-weekly social recreation events for at-risk youth. Additionally, Project Kinship offers laser tattoo removal in the new facility. Later this year the organization will launch Kinship Grinds Coffee, a mobile coffee cart that will provide job training and employment to participants while also generating revenue for the nonprofit.

Local politicians and community leaders turned out for the grand opening, which included food, music and remarks from OC Supervisor Vicente Sarmiento, OC Health Care Agency director Dr. Veronica Kelley and Santa Ana Mayor Valerie Amezcuca.

"It takes a collective



**EMILY CHAPA** and April Acuna, from left, at the new Project Kinship facility in Santa Ana.

effort, but we know we can heal the cycle together," said Kim.

Attendees also included others like Acuna who learned about Project Kinship through Homeboy Industries. Emily Chapa has been with Homeboy Industries for 14 years and currently works as a work readiness trainer with the Los Angeles organization. Chapa posed for a picture outside the new facility with Kim, who she sees as an inspiration.

"Getting out of prison and being in rehab, I got introduced to Homeboy

Industries and I went through the process of getting in and I have been there ever since," said Chapa. "My whole life is giving back exactly what has been given to me like what Steve speaks about."

For her part, Acuna is looking forward to serving the Orange County community and believes people can be transformed with the right support and help. Mostly, it's because she's done it herself. And she got her life and daughter — who was at the event — back.

"By the grace of God, I

am able to have my oldest, my first born here with me to experience my new life," said Acuna. "Helping people that I know are like myself, that is really where my true calling is."

*Project Kinship is located at 1833 E. 17th St. in Santa Ana and open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. To learn more about services, resources and donation opportunities visit [projectkinship.com](http://projectkinship.com).*

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# Santa Ana Unified trustees approve 262 layoffs

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

After months of special meetings, negotiations and hearings, the Santa Ana Unified School District Board of Trustees voted to shed 262 jobs amid declining enrollment and a \$154-million budget deficit.

Trustees approved the mass layoffs on Monday during a special school board meeting.

Sonta Garner-Marcelo, president of the Santa Ana Educators Assn., asked the board to rescind the layoffs and argued that the district has \$70 million in unrestricted funds it could use to save jobs.

"These layoffs are more than just numbers," she said. "They are our colleagues, friends and essential school community members. Their loss will directly impact our students, education, safety and future."

A majority of trustees described the mass layoffs, which were first discussed in November, as a difficult but necessary move, one that they worked collaboratively to mitigate.

Trustee Katelyn Brazier Aceves choked up with emotion during her prepared remarks on the layoffs.

"It is my ethical obligation to ensure that we maintain a positive budget," she said, fighting



James Carbone

**LIKE OTHER** school districts across the county and state, Santa Ana Unified faces declining enrollment, which is tied to funding. Above, educators lined up to protest layoffs at the local district during a January school board meeting.

back tears, "so that we can continue to provide a full, robust and competitive scope of services to our students as well as pay our employees on time."

Like other school districts across the county and state, Santa Ana Unified faces declining enrollment, which is tied to funding.

Last year, Anaheim Union High School District trustees approved a plan to lay off more than 100 teachers amid plummeting enrollment before scrap-

ping it in favor of making alternative cuts to its budget.

A presentation by Santa Ana Unified's chief business official charted an expected 7% drop in the district's enrollment within the next two school years.

The district released a statement on Tuesday that noted enrollment has already receded 28% over the past decade.

Additionally, \$400 million in pandemic relief funds that created a temporary

surplus are drying up.

"The end of temporary federal and state relief grants has left us navigating a significant funding shortfall," Supt. Jerry Almdendarez said in a statement. "Since the onset of the pandemic, these one-time funds enabled us to achieve an unprecedented counselor-to-student ratio and to expand mental health services."

At Monday's meeting, Brazier Aceves said that the number of school counselors noticed for layoffs

dropped from 90 to 39, which will allow the district to maintain a ratio of 315 students for every counselor.

Trustees also tried to allay concerns that teacher layoffs would translate into overcrowded classrooms.

The district acknowledged that its elementary school class sizes are expected to grow, but will still be below the 31 student threshold allowable under its contract with the teachers' union.

Brenda Lebsack, a trustee and Santa Ana Unified teacher, was the sole dissenting vote against the mass layoffs.

"In spite of a pattern of declining enrollment for at least 15 years, the board still increased counselors and teachers," she said. "The board knew the COVID relief funds were not ongoing. The decision to increase positions was obviously unsustainable. Three board members on this board currently made that decision — and we all make mistakes and miscalculations — but this is just one of many."

Lebsack blasted progressive board members for getting entangled in a lawsuit with Jewish advocacy groups over ethnic studies classes and for passing gender identity policies that have led parents to "vote with their feet" in pulling

children out of the district.

Board President Hector Bustos said that the layoffs reflected a difficult reality.

"We are no longer a school district of over 50,000 students," he said. "We are a school district of 34,000 students. We are no longer the second largest school district in Orange County. We are now the fourth [largest]."

Before Bustos closed his remarks, he cautioned people against being "fooled" by Lebsack's "no" vote.

"She will try to convince you that her vote was in defense of educators," he said. "But her record, her words, her actions and her ideology tell a very different story. This is someone who has consistently opposed our unions, who has aligned herself with anti-public education interests, and who has repeatedly championed charter expansion at the expense of our public schools."

Lebsack took offense to Bustos' comments stretching longer than an allotted five minutes.

"She's not here for solutions, she's here for spectacle," Bustos responded.

At the end of the special school board meeting, a 4-1 vote approved the mass layoffs.

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THE DAILY  
COMMUTER  
PUZZLE

By Stella  
Zawistowski

**ACROSS**  
1 Puts on  
5 Open-handed hits  
10 "The Lion King" bad guy  
14 Indonesian dyeing technique  
15 Wreak \_\_ on  
16 Spanish "hello"  
17 Voice part above tenor  
18 Sponge brand  
19 Prepare for publication  
20 Area for washing clothes: 2 wds.  
23 "Tambourine" rapper  
24 Take a breather  
25 \_\_ and turned  
27 Restful resort  
29 Sport with sticks  
33 Nothing  
34 Courage  
35 Comes by honestly  
39 Georgia's capital: Abbr.  
40 Very heavy  
42 \_\_ and aah  
43 "Hahaha! Not!"  
45 The Mets' former stadium  
46 \_\_ of a kind  
47 Takeoff location  
50 Roll of turf  
51 Small French restaurant  
54 Misplace  
56 Author Patchett  
57 Train engines  
63 Slender  
65 Skincare routine step  
66 Transaction  
67 Cassette  
68 Privileged group  
69 If not  
70 Closely observed  
71 Passé  
72 Hearty dinner entrée

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
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39				40					41			42		
43			44			45						46		
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51	52	53							54		55			
56				57		58	59	60				61	62	
63			64		65						66			
67					68						69			
70					71						72			

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).

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

For answers to the crossword and Sudoku puzzles, see page A7.

**DOWN**  
1 "Don't touch that \_\_!"  
2 Tulsa's state: Abbr.  
3 Not artificially  
4 Boulder or pebble  
5 Dearth  
6 Like a doily  
7 Positively assert  
8 Ralph Lauren brand  
9 Moves over  
10 "That's all \_\_ wrote"  
11 Writes computer programs  
12 Still in the race  
13 Evaluated

21 Internet connection option: Abbr.  
22 Saunter  
26 Caribbean \_\_  
27 Break sharply  
28 Peach centers  
30 \_\_-cross applesauce  
31 Correct  
32 In \_\_ words  
36 The R in FDR  
37 Taboo action  
38 Tool storage site  
40 Give it a \_\_  
41 Customized  
44 Feline pet  
48 Cheered (for)  
49 Cooking vessel  
51 Moisten, as a turkey  
52 Dental filling  
53 Make catty remarks  
55 A square has four  
58 Pepsi \_\_  
59 "I've got this, boss!": 2 wds.  
60 Dole (out)  
61 Lack of difficulty  
62 Did in  
64 Drug, for short

Tribune Media  
Services



Eric Licas

**BARBARA "CORKI"** Rawlings stands in front of a thread rack at her embroidery shop in Newport Beach Tuesday. It will close at the end of June after 59 years in business.

CLOSING

Continued from page A1

running her shop for 59 years, she's decided to close it at the end of June and settle into retirement. But that doesn't mean she's done sewing. She'll move her favorite vintage Singer 401A Slant-O-Matic from the store workshop to her desk at home alongside three other similar machines, she said. Rawlings has sold the building tucked away on Old Newport Boulevard she had been doing business out of. The commercial sized machine they used for high-volume orders will pass into the ownership of another local seamstress. "I thought maybe somebody would buy the property and allow me to stay for a couple years while they're getting permits for tearing it down," Rawlings said. "And when I turned 90, I guess I just thought, 'Why?' And for me it was the right decision. No regrets."

**LONG RUNNING THREAD**  
Sewing is something threaded into the core of

the business owner's upbringing. Some of Rawlings' earliest memories involved making garments "at my mother's knee." "I worked the pedals on her sewing machine," she said. "She made all our kids' clothes. I made all my kids' clothes, drapes, everything." Her mother was a teacher who eventually settled in Santa Ana. Through sewing and living in Orange County, Rawlings became involved in the boating community. She used to help the original owner of Nikki's Flags with orders for many of the yacht clubs in the Newport Beach area, and eventually bought that business in 1966. Rawlings sold the flag shop in 1994, but continued the embroidery store under her own name. "The nautical part of it, I won't say came naturally; I had to learn it" Rawlings said. "But it was easy. I loved the water. I loved the boating. And then it kind of turned into coaching." She moved to a home at the Newport Sea Base in 1974, and became a scout leader for the Sea Scouts. She was also a volunteer for the Coast Guard, and

has been a referee for NCAA rowing events for 26 years. She'll be in New Jersey as a guest referee for the Division I Women's championship in June. Two of her sons, Billy Rawlings and Bob Rawlings, help run the Newport Aquatic Center and the Sacramento State Aquatic Center, respectively. Another, Brian Rawlings, helped design Icebreaker Argus, a 68.5 meter long vessel built to explore polar waters.

**"NOT VERY MUCH OF A BUSINESSWOMAN"**  
Yacht clubs have remained some of Rawlings' most loyal customers. Other longtime clients include local fire and police departments, as well as rowing teams and other athletics programs at practically every high school in Coastal Orange County. So it's not unusual for Rawlings, Pierce and a third seamstress who has also been working with them for decades, Joyce Brownell, to find garments they personally stitched while they're out and about in the community. "With the Junior life-

See **Closing**, page A8



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COLUMN | PATRICE APODACA

# Remembering those who didn't make it home

Vietnam, 1969. Wallace “Wally” Ziegler was on his first patrol as an Army medic when his platoon was ambushed. Two soldiers were grievously wounded. Ziegler didn't hesitate. As he worked to stabilize a soldier with a sucking chest wound from a bullet to the lungs, and a jaw that was broken in half, he recalled his extensive medical training. The cricothyrotomy procedure he had practiced on goats restored the soldier's breathing, and he stanchd the profuse bleeding from the jaw with bandages. The injured soldier was picked up by a helicopter and Ziegler never saw him again or learned his fate. The young man was the first of many with gruesome injuries that Ziegler treated during the year he spent “in country.” Many lives were spared due to his cool expertise. A few he could not save.

Yet, even as he lugged 80 pounds of medical gear through the jungle on daily patrols, or was awakened by emergency calls from night patrols, he never complained. And in spite of knowing that his platoon could come under fire at any moment and booby traps set by the Viet Cong were everywhere, he never wavered. One more thing he never did: carry a weapon. Ziegler was a conscientious objector. He knew he didn't have it in him to



Courtesy of Wallace “Wally” Ziegler

**WALLACE “WALLY”** Ziegler, who served as a medic in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War, speaks to students ahead of Memorial Day.

harm another human being, no matter the reason. But he wanted to do his part. While many COs, as they were known, served in far less dangerous assignments, he had no second thoughts about his deployment to a combat zone with a high casualty rate. His fellow soldiers were supportive of his choice. They were all in it together, he said. “We were all dedicated soldiers. They took great care of me because I took great care of them.”

This Memorial Day, as we fire up our grills and enjoy a day of peace and comfort, we should also recognize the holiday's true purpose, to honor and mourn the U.S. military personnel who died in service. Ziegler is one of those who survived to tell us their stories — the ones who can truly understand and appreciate the sacrifices made. “I think back on the ones we lost,” he said, “the ones we should honor and remember their loss, which

also affected thousands of family members of the fallen.” The chaotic guerrilla warfare in Vietnam was a brutal coming of age for Ziegler after what he describes an almost idyllic childhood in Altadena, with a close-knit family and ice cream trucks rolling down the streets. He loved math and science, and would often help out at his father's veterinary office along with his younger brother. When he was grounded his puni-

shment included cleaning cages. But this picture of suburban contentment changed when he was a sophomore in high school and his mother died. The loss compelled him to assume the role of “the stoic heart of the family.” A few years later, Ziegler headed to college at Washington State University. But his life took another turn in his second semester when he received his draft notice. During an interview that was part of the CO application process, Ziegler made it clear that he wasn't asking to be kept out of the war. “I said, ‘I will go. I want to go.’” He applied for the U.S. Army Special Forces medical training, which was far more comprehensive than the medical education available in other branches. For the next year-and-a-half he crisscrossed the country to complete all the necessary courses, then he received his orders. He was deployed to Vietnam and assigned to the 173rd Airborne Unit. Ziegler has a multitude of stories from his service there. The time in a rice paddy when a Viet Cong jumped up and started firing down the line of his patrol. The Playboy magazines that someone handed him to use as a makeshift splint for a broken leg. Blown-off limbs. The aftermath of an exploded grenade. A bullet whizzing by his head as he chatted with a guard on night duty. Although he became adept at keeping panic at

bay, one unfortunate remnant of his wartime service remains. To this day, he can't sleep more than five or six hours a night. After he left the army, Ziegler traveled for awhile, got married — although the marriage didn't last — and attended medical school in Guadalajara, Mexico, where he stayed for several years. But Southern California beckoned, and eventually he returned and settled in Laguna Beach. He left medicine behind and rekindled his lifelong love of theater. Today, at 77, Ziegler's peaceful life is far removed from his wartime service. As the Artistic and Audience Services Manager at the Laguna Playhouse, where he has held various positions for the past 35 years, his work allows him to split his time between Laguna and his other home in Lake Arrowhead. Playhouse visitors will find him tending bar and greeting guests with a smile; his open, friendly demeanor a fixture at the popular theater. But make no mistake, the tenacious medic who once fought to save lives under the most horrific conditions is still there, still remembering those who didn't make it home. May we all join him in remembrance.

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

## A WORD, PLEASE JUNE CASAGRANDE

# Agonizing over verbs and dictionary gaslighting

The dictionary is gaslighting me. I know I sound crazy, but that's just proof of gaslighting, right? Let me explain. For years I've been telling people that they never have to agonize over whether to use “swam” or “swum,” “laid” or “lain,” “drank” or “drunk,” or “dreamed” or “dreamt” because the answers are in the dictionary. But only if you know how to find them. Most dictionaries contain instructions on how to use the dictionary. Of course, no one ever reads this section because they think they already know how to use a dictionary: Look up the word you want. Ignore those weird little schwas and other stuff after the word. Read its definition. Then continue to wonder what mysterious corner of the universe contains the answers to the “laid” vs. “lain” mystery. Not so fast, I say. Turn to the front of a physical dictionary or look under the “Help” section of an online dictionary, and you'll find information about “inflected forms.” That term means the different forms of a word for different situations, like past tense. “Thought,” for example, is an inflected form of “think.” Merriam-Webster's online dictionary tells you inflected forms “are covered explicitly or by implication at the main entry for the base form. These are the plurals of nouns, the principal parts of verbs (the past tense, the past participle when it differs from the

past tense, and the present participle), and the comparative and superlative forms of adjectives and adverbs. In general, it may be said that when these inflected forms are created in a manner considered regular in English (as by adding -s or -es to nouns, -ed and -ing to verbs, and -er and -est to adjectives and adverbs) and when it seems that there is nothing about the formation likely to give the dictionary user doubts, the inflected form is not shown in order to save space.” Catch that? For regular verbs, past forms are not shown. So an irregular verb like “swim” will have after it “swam,” indicating the simple past tense, then “swum,” the past participle. But a regular verb like “walk,” which takes -ed for both its past tense forms, doesn't mention it. The dictionary tells you this “by implication” — if nothing's there, you know to use -ed. Over the years, I've noticed this multiple times. When I look up regular verbs like “walk,” there are no past tense forms listed. At least, there weren't. But suddenly, in Merriam-Webster's online dictionary, under “walk” it says “walked.” After “talk” it says “talked.” After “call” it says “called.” After “realize” it says “realized.” Those weren't there before. That's all the evidence I need to prove that Merriam's is trying to drive me crazy by making me think I'm crazy. But I am not a

See **A Word**, page A7

## MAILBAG

# Huntington Beach City Council instigating political agenda, not solving city problems

Cathy Ryder got it right in her letter (Daily Pilot, May 18), that Measures A and B in Huntington Beach are about control. Vote “no” on both if you think the City Council or a committee appointed by the council — *not parents* — should decide what is appropriate for children. Vote “yes,” if you feel parents should retain the right to decide what is appropriate for their own children. The council has brought this costly and unnecessary election upon the city by voting to establish a committee to censor or ban books from the children's section of the library before they had even considered what qualified one to be a committee member, how members of said committee would be chosen and what guidelines would be used to determine unsuitable books or material. Isn't voting to establish a committee without knowing how it will be appointed, and how it will function tantamount to deciding to build a house without blueprints? It seems our current council does not know how to govern the city or try to solve its problems. So they choose to be busy fomenting a political agenda, to make it seem as if they are actually doing something. By the way, one wonders what the committee would do with the Bible and its stories of violent murder, adultery, rape and incest.

**Mark Wimbish**  
Huntington Beach

The opponents of Measures A and B would have you believe that their opposition is about protecting children and being fiscally responsible. Nothing could be further from the truth.

To scare voters about Measure A, they cite passages from books that are not even in our library and books that are in the adult section to try to make people believe children are being exposed to inappropriate materials. They fly in a book banning agitator from out of state. They claim their opposition to Measure B is about fiscal responsibility. These are the same council members who gave away millions of taxpayers' dollars to the promoter of the Pacific Airshow for a cancellation that was not the city's doing. And then tried to hide the settlement from the public. They are the same council members who voted to spend an extra \$1M of taxpayers' money to have this special election for these two ballot measures. This election is not about protecting children and it's not about fiscal responsibility. It's about control. They want to control what books are in our library and they want to stifle resistance from our library staff. They want book selection in the hands of political appointees and library operations in the hands of a company where they control the terms of the contract. Does this sound familiar? It should. We all learned about this when studying the world history of the early 20th century. We all saw it happen in real time in Turkey and Hungary in the last several decades. They are running the authoritarian playbook and we're seeing this happen across our country at all levels of government. It's death by a thousand



Scott Smeltzer | Los Angeles Times

**PEOPLE COME** and go from the H.B. Public Library.

## HOW TO GET PUBLISHED

Send an email to [nicole.charkychami@latimes.com](mailto:nicole.charkychami@latimes.com) and include your full name, hometown and phone number (for verification purposes). All letters should be kept to 350 words or less and address local issues and events. The Daily Pilot reserves the right to limit the frequency of publication and edit accepted submissions for clarity, accuracy and length.

paper cuts. You've probably heard the story of how to boil a frog: you don't put the frog in boiling water — it will immediately hop out. You put the frog in tepid water and slowly raise the temperature, bit by bit, so the frog doesn't notice until it's too late. Don't be a frog. Let's stop this right now: Vote “yes” on Measure A and vote “yes” on Measure B.

**David Rynerson**  
Huntington Beach

I am a longtime resident of Huntington Beach and I'm also proud to say a retired public school teacher. Please vote “yes” on Measures A and B in the current special election. A “yes” vote on Measure A protects parents' rights by letting them decide what their children read instead of a politically appointed committee. It also protects against government overreach by maintaining the current system of educated and trained library staff managing and curating our book selection. Measure B protects public operation of our libraries by requiring a vote by the electorate to make a change to our current system which has operated effectively and freely for over 100 years! “Yes” on A and B is what is best for our H.B. community and parents' rights while also protecting our children. Thank you to the “yes” on A and B voters in H.B. who have helped to preserve our freedoms!

**Laura Sire**  
Huntington Beach



# Edgar Allan Poe Speakeasy serves up cocktails and chills at Fairhaven cemetery in Santa Ana

BY JESSICA PERALTA

A red glow fills the chapel as narrator Patrick O’Sullivan introduces the main attraction: Edgar Allan Poe.

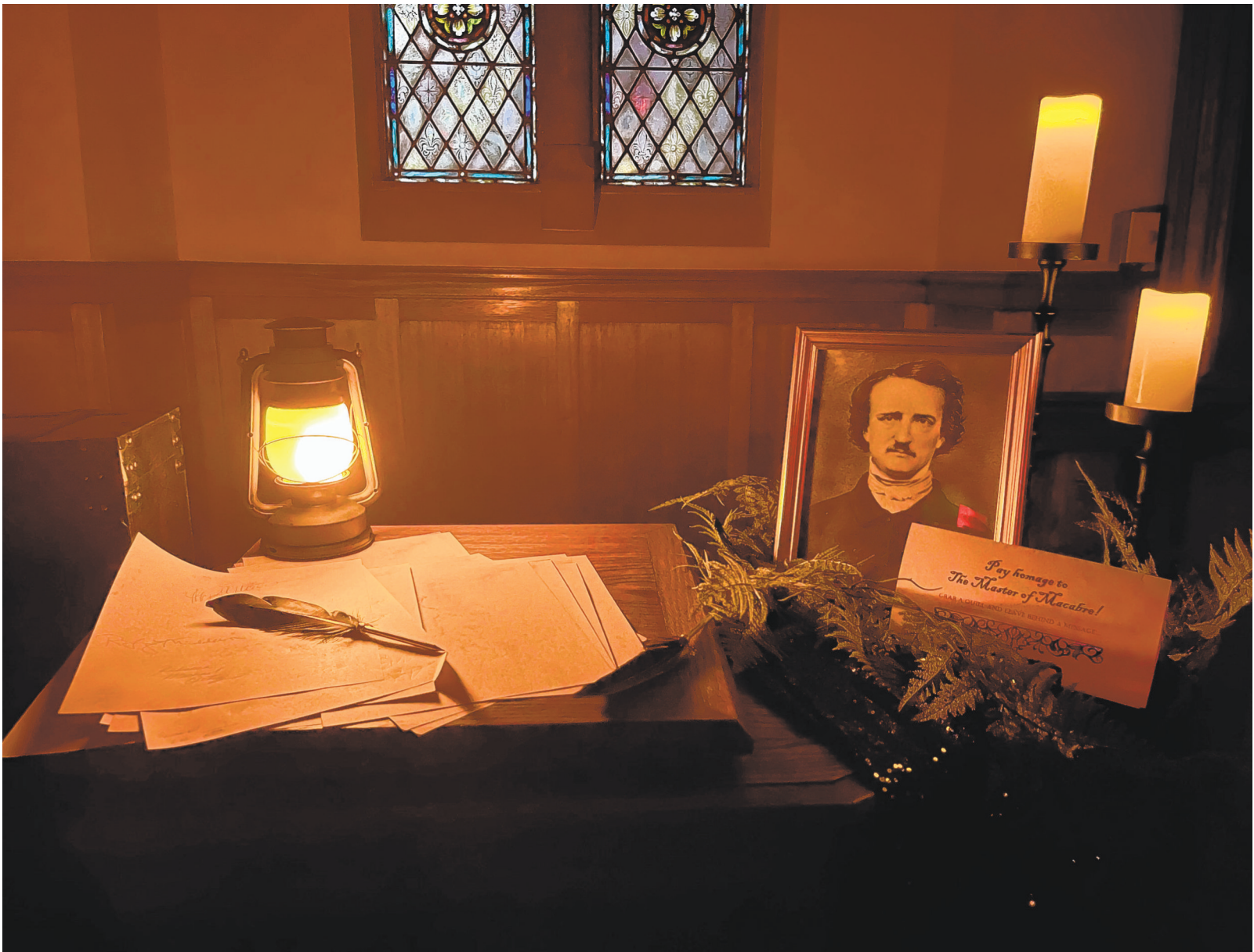
“Over a century and a half since his death in 1849, no one remains as synonymous with mystery and macabre and literature as he — a true master of his words,” O’Sullivan intones. “EAP, as he’s known on the streets, is often attributed with being the first American author to make a living exclusively through writing. So much like writers today, he didn’t make any money.”

Laughter, cocktails and a whole lot of Poe makes up 90 minutes of the Edgar Allan Poe Speakeasy. This unique theatrical reading of four of Poe’s works pairs up literature with alcoholic beverages designed to match each story.

Launched in January 2023, the Edgar Allan Poe Speakeasy is a national tour that first came to Orange County’s Fairhaven Memorial Park & Mortuary in Santa Ana in February 2024. After making a one-day stop at the Huntington Beach Central Library in Huntington Beach on May 24 this year, the speakeasy returns to the cemetery June 5-7 with new stories and fresh cocktails for Chapter Two.

“As a lifelong Poe enthusiast, I’ve always wanted to create a unique experience that combines libations with literature. These are two of my favorite things. I’ve felt for a long time that there is a void for an event like this,” said Julia Tirinnanzi, creator of the Edgar Allan Poe Speakeasy. “It just seemed like such a natural pairing. It’s no secret that Poe loved literature and libations alike. This is why the event really comes to life — as you walk through his life and watch his work being performed, you also sip on his personal favorite drinks and classic beverages of the 1800s.”

Last year’s Poe story lineup included “The Tell-Tale Heart,” “The Raven,” “The Masque of the Red Death” and “The Black Cat.” The accompanying cocktails included Pale Blue Eye (a twist on the Tom Collins) with citrus- and blueberry-infused vodka, fresh lemon juice, simple syrup and soda water topped with blue-



Photos by Jessica Peralta

**THE EDGAR** Allan Poe Speakeasy returns to Fairhaven Memorial Park & Mortuary in Santa Ana June 5-7.

berry, and Nevermore with fresh lime juice, peach and orange blossom-infused vodka, simple syrup and dehydrated lime. The Cocktail of Red Death was rosemary-infused watermelon juice, 100-proof vodka, citrus vodka and fresh lime juice. The Cat’s Meow — a twist on Poe’s favorite, brandy milk punch — included aged bourbon, apple brandy, vanilla milk, sweet cream and maple syrup.

“Each cocktail is served just before each monologue is performed,” Tirinnanzi said. “As you are sipping on a classic 1800s-style cocktail, you instantly feel transported into the Victorian era. It’s a huge part of the experience.”

This year’s Poe stories are “The Cask of Amontillado,” “Annabel Lee,” “The Pit and the Pendulum” and “The Fall of the House of Usher.”

The cocktails for this year are still under wraps until the event opens.

Though this is now the speakeasy’s second time at the Santa Ana cemetery, it usually takes place at theaters, museums and even estates that have a Victorian-era vibe.

“A few years back, I attended an event at Hollywood Forever, and the setting of a cemetery was surprisingly so peaceful at night,” Tirinnanzi said. “Once we started looking for the perfect venue home for the show in OC, Fairhaven fit the bill and we knew it would be a great venue. It’s beautiful and chilling at the same time, just like Poe’s work.”

O’Sullivan said he joined the Edgar Allan Poe Speakeasy tour in 2024.

“This is the sequel to our first EAP Speakeasy that we brought to Fairhaven last

year,” he said. “It’s a selection of four new stories from Poe that weren’t in the first tour. So if you came last year, you are in for a different experience but with the same dark, mysterious tone and atmosphere that is a staple of Poe. There will be four new themed drinks, too.”

He said he will likely serve as narrator of the show again as well as perform “The Fall of the House of Usher.”

“A lot of what [Poe] represents, or what the idea of him represents has influenced and continues to influence modern fashion, music, television and more,” O’Sullivan said. “He’s a whole vibe, as they say. Regarding only his work though, it covers so much. There are love stories, tales of those drunk with power and many spirals into madness. His



**THE EDGAR** Allan Poe Speakeasy offers a unique combination of storytelling and cocktails.

writing explores dark thoughts that are fascinating to many people. There is definitely an angst to it too, which I think keeps Poe influencing younger generations.”

*The Edgar Allan Poe*

*Speakeasy is for guests 21 years and up. For more information, including tickets, visit [edgarallanpoe-bar.com](http://edgarallanpoe-bar.com).*

JESSICA PERALTA is a contributor to the Daily Pilot.

## AIRPORT

Continued from page A1

Fullerton’s Airport Day is a free, open house designed to let local families and individuals see the workings of the municipal airport and possibly inspire future careers in aviation, along with educating about other city departments. This year’s event takes place Saturday, May 31, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and is slated to offer exhibits, displays, plus food available for purchase. Airplane and helicopter rides will also be available for a fee.

“It’s an opportunity to showcase all the other departments in the city that do vital stuff, like Public Works fixing streets and sewers, and they take care of all the water systems, landscaping,” O’Reilly said. “They bring out trucks, like those big vector trucks that clean out rain gutters. And the kids ... absolutely love that stuff.”

He said the Fullerton Police Department also at-

tends with SWAT demonstrations and often with their K9 unit too. The Fullerton Fire Department brings out a large fire truck and opens it up for children to tour.

“It’s just a very good, little family event,” he said. “We love to see kids out here, so we market to all the local schools. ... Last year, we had tons of families with kids, running around and very excited — so it’s a lot of fun.”

O’Reilly said Fullerton College’s Drone Lab will also attend Airport Day with drones on display as well as demos with their robotic dogs. The International Plastic Modelers’ Society will have model airplanes on hand to teach children how to put them together.

“I built a lot of models as a kid because I was fascinated with airplanes and helicopters,” O’Reilly said. “That’s always a really cool thing, too.”

The airport, which was officially founded in 1928 — but dates back to as early as 1913 when crop

dusters used the site as a landing strip — houses various organizations, flight schools, public safety agencies and private aircraft owners that fly out of there. Orange County Fire Authority, California Highway Patrol, Anaheim Police Department and Mercy Air ambulance all fly out of Fullerton Airport.

“We have two chapters of Civil Air Patrol here on the field, so the cadets meet every Tuesday night here at 6 p.m.,” O’Reilly said.

“Mostly Airport Day is just a chance for the public to come in and see all the stuff that goes on here really because just the layout of this airport, you don’t really get to see much from outside the fence.”

**FULLERTON 99S**

Cameron LaFont, chairman of the Fullerton 99s, part of the larger Ninety-Nines nonprofit, said their local chapter was founded in 1974 at the Fullerton Airport.

“The Ninety-Nines were

See **Airport**, page A8

## CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

D	O	N	S	S	L	A	P	S	S	C	A	R
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## A WORD

Continued from page A6

crackpot.

Confronted with this puzzling information, I did what any former reporter who lacked the chops to cut it as a long-term reporter would do: I contacted the source through social media asking what’s up with that? I got no answer and, true to my didn’t-cut-it-as-a-long-term-reporter skills, I gave up.

But Merriam made one fatal error. They left that

stuff in the Help section about inflected forms of regular verbs being covered “by implication” — evidence of a hasty cover-up of their gaslighting campaign. Busted.

What does all this mean for you? Two things.

First, you can easily find out that the simple past tense of “swim” is “swam,” and the past participle (the one that goes after a form of “have”) is “swum.”

“Laid” is the past tense and past participle of the transitive verb “lay,” while “lain” is the past participle

of the intransitive verb “lie.” It’s correct to say “yesterday he drank” but “in the past he has drunk.” Also, “dreamed” is correct but “dreamt” is also an option.

And second, your humble grammar columnist is not crazy (in any way relevant to this column).

**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](mailto:JuneTCN@aol.com).



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# Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County goes big with a new mural

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County & Inland Empire unveiled a new mural outside its Edinger Avenue building in Santa Ana on Tuesday.

The new billboard-sized artwork is meant to catch the eye of the more than 100,000 drivers motoring past the organization's building each day. Sloane Keane, chief executive officer at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County & Inland Empire, hopes the work will not only touch the young people the organization serves, but also highlight the life-changing impact mentorship can have and inspire people to volunteer.

"We wanted this mural to be two things: a piece of art and also a call to action to the community," Keane said to the crowd at the mural unveiling ceremony.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County & Inland Empire is a mentorship program serving at-risk youth, especially those from low-income households who are in need of positive role models. The organization works to match young boys and girls with a mentor through multiple professionally-supported programs the nonprofit offers. According to BBBS, nearly 65% of the population they serve live below the poverty line and low-income youth are nearly 10 times more likely to drop out of school.

By partnering youth (or "Littles") with a positive role model who provides a mentoring relationship (a "Big"), BBBS increases the chance of a successful academic career for the child. "Littles" who participate in Big Brothers Big Sisters have a 98% success rate of graduating from high school and almost 67% go on to be the first to graduate from college in their family.

For the mural, the organization tapped local artist, Carla Roque.

"I love to create murals that bring a little bit of joy to the communities that they are created in," Roque said.

Against the BBBS logo, a Latino child, or a "Little," wearing glasses looks up at his "Big" mentor, whose face isn't visible to the viewer. Viewers can infer from the wide smile and shining eyes of the youngster that he feels the adult is someone he can look up to and admire. Yellow rays emphasize the boy's line of vision toward his mentor



Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**ARTIST CARLA ROQUE**, on ladder, helps reveal the new "Diversity of the Community" mural during an unveiling ceremony at the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County headquarters in Santa Ana on Wednesday.



**SLOANE KEANE**, chief executive officer, makes comments during an unveiling ceremony on Wednesday.

and more details around the man's hand on the boy's shoulder demonstrate the powerful connection between the two of them. "It takes little to be BIG," the mural reads.

Roque said she worked hard to include culturally specific features that would help members of the community feel represented in the work.

"We were really looking to make sure the community saw themselves in the mural, that was something that fit within this space of who they are, especially

calling out male mentors for young Hispanic males. There is a huge need for that in this area," said Roque. "The little things like the gold chain were details that people in the community would notice and feel seen."

The Fullerton-based artist has been working in the community for 25 years, primarily creating murals. For this recent work she employed the help of seven pairs of "Bigs" and "Littles," giving mentors and mentees the opportunity to take part in the



**ARTIST CARLA ROQUE** stands in front of the new mural on Wednesday.

creative process.

Keane said it was also important for the organization to show two males in the mural.

"This is a reminder to the community to get involved, particularly men. We are looking for men," said Keane. "We have over 100 little boys today waiting for a positive male role model

to be introduced into their life."

Keane said the two words on the bottom of the mural, "Volunteer" and "Donate," are meant to inspire action.

"Those are the two most important resources this organization needs. Everybody needs funding but in equal measure we need

volunteers to walk through the door and stand up and mentor," said Keane.

For donation and volunteer opportunities with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County & Inland Empire visit [ocbigs.org](http://ocbigs.org).

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Twitter: @SarahNMos



Eric Licas

**BOBBINS OF** thread in a variety of colors sit on the workbench of Barbara "Corki" Rawlings Tuesday at her shop in Newport Beach.

## AIRPORT

Continued from page A7

founded in 1929 when a group of women pilots desired to convene in order to support each other and the advancement of aviation, and to create a central office to keep files on women in aviation," she said. "They struggled to establish themselves and grow but in 1931, Amelia Earhart was elected the first president and the group selected the name Ninety-

Nines to represent the 99 charter members. It has been a growing organization ever since."

LaFont said this year at Airport Day, the Fullerton 99s will be offering short intro plane flights in General Aviation Aircraft for a donation of \$50 per person. The funds raised go to support their scholarship fund. They offer two aviation training scholarships totaling \$3,974 that they award each year.

"We will have four to six aircraft that will make

many flights that day, introducing young and old to the amazing thrill of flight in a small aircraft," LaFont said. "All pilots start off in small aircraft and it's our hope that we will ignite the passion for aviation in a young person or two that day. We will also be at our booth educating the visitors about our organization."

### AVIATION EXPLORER POST 445

The Aviation Explorer Program is also housed at

## CLOSING

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guard backpacks — I live on the Peninsula, so I can see [junior lifeguards] riding by on their bicycles, and I can go, 'Hey! I did that one!'" Pierce said.

Pierce, Rawlings and Brownell take pride in their work, and have personally sacrificed to ensure everything that leaves their shop meets their standards. They've eaten the cost to replace garments inadvertently damaged by equipment malfunctions. And even when a swimming or rowing team shows up with a couple hundred blankets and polo shirts that need to be finished in a week or so, it's hard for them to say no and disappoint their clients.

"I spent many a night here, locked the doors and kept sewing," Rawlings said. "And I still love sewing. It's my own fault when that happens because I've said yes to something that was overwhelming or too much, and had to get it done."

"But look at this! And look at these!" she continued while proudly holding up backpacks customized for the Newport Beach Junior Lifeguards and a folder of elaborately stitched designs in blue, gray, gold and practically every possible color of thread.

Rawlings said their personal investment into each piece they make, and the relationships she built with the people she serves have been the key to her shop's longevity. She considers most of them her friends.

"I am obviously, and still,

not very much of a businesswoman," the founder of a store that has lasted almost six decades said.

"Friends brought in business, and it just expanded from there."

Humble beginnings founded on meaningful connections led Rawlings to a finale in a career she can bow out of proudly. In some ways, her decades in business mirrored the process of crafting a fine garment.

"A lot of the finished project depends on how you start; how you hoop, the backing you use, the overlay you use, whatever the material you're embroidering on requires," she said. "... No puckering, you don't want pucker."

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a pilot, aircraft mechanic, flight engineer or air traffic controller," Lloyd said. "They learn about the educational requirements for a career in aviation and receive tangible advice on steps they can take to prepare and position themselves for a successful career in the field of aviation."

Aviation Explorer Post 445 members will be answering questions about aircraft on display during Airport Day.

"This event is important because it showcases a

wide variety of aviation career opportunities, as well as having aviation as a hobby," he said. "We'll have private pilots giving rides as well as police and fire aircraft and pilots. The Aviation Explorers are experienced young people who know their way around an airplane and can ensure people enjoy the airplanes and at the same time protect the airplanes from damage."

JESSICA PERALTA is a contributor to the Daily Pilot.



# Locals slide into summer

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

Clouds loomed in the gray sky over Wild Rivers in Irvine on May 17; the waterpark's first day of the season. While the gloomy weather wasn't ideal, the Currier family didn't let the clouds ruin their day.

"I don't really care if it's overcast, it just means there won't be as much people here," said Troy Currier.

Troy and his siblings Kendall, Brock and Jake Currier all visited the park on opening day, excited to ride water slides like Pelican Plunge and Bora Bora Boomerango.

"I am excited to ride Boomerango, if I am tall enough," Brock hedged about the raft ride that boomerangs riders up and then down a steep wall.

Jake, the youngest of the Currier's was visiting for the first time.

"Are the pools heated?" he asked his older siblings with a nervous smile.

This is Wild Rivers water park's third summer at the Great Park in Irvine, where it has resided since closing its former location at Irvine Meadows in 2011. The original park opened in 1987 on the former Lion Country Safari grounds.

The newly designed park is nearly double the size of the original, sitting on 20 acres and boasting 30 wet and wild rides. Among them are the Shaka Bay Wave pool, Castaway River, one of the longest lazy rivers in California, and five family raft rides that allow groups to ride together. The opening kicked off with Live Island Style Caribbean music at the Wave Pool, with more DJ sets and live entertainment planned for weekends throughout the summer.

"We're so excited to welcome guests back to Wild Rivers for our third full season of thrilling water attractions, family-friendly amenities and top-tier guest service," said Steve Mayer, general manager of Wild Rivers. "Wild Rivers offers a fun, safe, clean and exciting destination for families, thrill-seekers and groups looking to make the most of summer."

The lack of sun didn't bring down the excitement of the Wild Rivers staff either as they bustled around the park on opening day. Chaise lounges were readied in the private

cabanas. Lifeguards stood at their posts on the landing at Bombay Blasters. At the Mustang Bar & Grill, bartenders rimmed cups with chamoy and Tajin for micheladas.

Susan Kruizinga, director of sales and marketing at Wild Rivers, walked the park not long after rope drop, checking in with employees and guests.

"We do get a lot of young adults that come without kids to have a day with cocktails and fun food and to relax in the sun," said Kruizinga.

Lorenzo Poto and Nathan Hallauer came out to the park from the Los Angeles area with friends and made sure to grab cocktails first.

"Our group of friends wanted to come out because that had been last year; I have never been," said Poto. "Even though it is a little colder we thought opening day was good time come out here."

"We are pretty excited to start hitting the rides and that there are no lines today," said Hallauer.

While young adults come to the park to enjoy the thrill rides Wild Rivers is designed for all ages, with two children areas; Cook's Cove and Kontiki Cove. This year the park is also introducing Mermaid Cove, an immersive mermaid makeover that was previewed at the recent 2025 "State of the Great Park" event. A mermaid in a giant clamshell throne will offer braiding, glitter tattoos, shimmer freckles, photo ops and more beginning in June.

Kids also make up part of the Wild Rivers team, since it is one Orange County's largest youth employers.

On opening day Corbyn Mix, who many might recognize from Wild Rivers social media, filmed a quick video for Instagram. When 14-year-old Mix came in for a job interview with his Mom, he wasn't old enough do any of the other jobs at Wild Rivers, so Kruizinga pulled him on to her marketing team to capture content around the park.

"We like to highlight the rides, give some tours and give some challenges for guests to win free Dippin' Dots or something from the accessory shop," said Mix.

Like many of the employ-



Photos courtesy of Wild Rivers

**LOCAL FAMILIES** make a splash at Wild Rivers water park in Irvine, which opened for the season on May 17.



**WILD RIVERS** features water thrill rides like Typhoon, Tiki's Revenge, Pelican Plunge and Bora Bora Boomerango.

ees at Wild Rivers, the water park is Mix's first job.

"We have a team of seven kids, all different ages, and we try to see where they can fit, whether it's YouTube, TikTok, Instagram or Facebook," said Kruizinga.

Many people checking in on opening day are activating season passes, a process Kruizinga said they streamlined this year.

"Last year, your first time here no matter if it was opening day or throughout the season, you had to stand in line to process your pass," said Kruizinga. "This year we sent everyone an email with instructions so they could do it from the comfort of their own home."

Those small changes make sure families have a fun and memorable experience at Wild Rivers, no matter the weather.

"Even if the sun isn't out, you're still happy because everybody is super happy you are here," said Kruizinga.

*Wild Rivers is located at 1000 Great Park Blvd. in Irvine. General admission starts at \$79.99 and junior admission (under 48 inches tall) starts at \$54.99. Children age 2 and under are admitted free. Private cabanas, discounted tickets and season passes are available at willdrivers.com*

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**WILD RIVERS** water park in Irvine features two children's areas with mega water play structures.

## OLYMPIC

Continued from page A1

grand stage, the City Council wrestled with the decision of forming one Olympic committee or several subcommittees, as everyone on the dais displayed enthusiasm about being a host city.

Councilmember Victor Cabral favored creating just one ad hoc committee with two of his council colleagues appointed to it, which would streamline its activities outside of the state's open meeting laws.

"All of us will be involved in some way or another," he said. "Just having one committee is the right approach. The question for me is, who's on that committee?"

Councilmember Mark Enmeier supported forming three subcommittees so that everyone interested would have a meaningful chance to participate.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," he said. "I would hate for any one of us to be sidelined with this process."

Mayor Steve Knoblock wanted to appoint Cabral to a single Olympic committee alongside a permanent seat for the city's mayor, a position electorally up for a two-year term next year, until the games conclude.

Even though Cabral supported forming one committee, he appeared hesitant to accept Knoblock's appointment with three other colleagues on the dais looking on.

Knoblock argued that a majority of the council are



Allen J. Schaben | Los Angeles Times

**A SURFER DOES** a slashing turn on a wave at Lower Trestles near San Clemente in 2024.

ultimately going to vote on Olympic-related initiatives that arise from a committee.

"There's just too many things [for] two council members [to] handle," Councilmember Zhen Wu said. "Some of you will run a campaign next year."

"That's the nice thing about having two people on every subcommittee," Enmeier echoed in agreement. "If one can't make it [to a meeting], then there is a second person there to fill that spot."

Councilmember Rick Loeffler has past experience with the Olympics. When Los Angeles last hosted the games in 1984, he received a medal for working security and surveillance.

Cabral moved to appoint the mayor and Loeffler, giv-

en his credentials, to a single committee, but his colleague's deference defined the dynamics of the evening's discussion.

Loeffler wanted to postpone a vote to a future council meeting until after council members have had a chance to converse with staff on how best to move

forward, which they unanimously agreed to do.

"This city is going to have an opportunity to shine," Knoblock reassured. "We're all going to have an opportunity to shine."

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ARTIST

Continued from page A1

called the cops on me thinking I was a homeless person then had followed me back to my house, I was shocked,” Hamborg said. “I couldn’t believe it at first. I was trying to laugh it off, I guess, and then he asked for my ID. I came inside, and that’s when I started recording the video, when I was looking for my ID and telling my wife what was going on.”

Hamborg is still carrying the youngest of his four children in a baby sling in the video, which immediately exploded in popularity. As of Friday, it had nearly two million likes and more than 32,000 comments.

Hamborg, 32, is trying to turn the misunderstanding into a positive. He’s selling limited edition prints of his original painting, “Unseen Paths,” with 20% of the proceeds going to support Orange County United Way’s homelessness efforts. The prints are available at Hamborg’s website, *chapmanhamborg.com*.

The painting was made before the incident but depicts Hamborg similarly, with two of his children. He explained that the flowers in the background are actually invasive yellow mustard flowers.

“It looks like this beautiful scene, but there’s kind of this darker undertone to it, at least to me personally,” he said. “When this whole experience happened, I thought that painting and those aspects about it are even more true for unhoused families, which I was mistaken for being. The imagery and the meaning behind the painting already lined up, and I wanted to connect it to the story and the conversation that was already happening from the video around people experiencing homelessness.”

A mutual friend introduced Hamborg to Becks Heyhoe-Khalil, executive director of Orange County United Way’s United to

End Homelessness initiative.

Hamborg and Heyhoe-Khalil will be guests at an Orange County Museum of Art “Conversations with Artists” event on June 4 at 4 p.m., hosted by Heidi Zuckerman, OCMA’s chief executive and director. No registration is needed.

They will also host a special livestream event titled “Art and Advocacy: A Studio Conversation with Chapman Hamborg,” on June 21 at 9 a.m., from his Hamborg Academy of Art studio in Huntington Beach.

“Chapman’s curiosity around homelessness has been something so wonderful to engage with,” Heyhoe-Khalil said. “Getting to know Chapman and just the beautiful heart that he has and the compassion that he has, the desire to use this for the greater good, it fit beautifully with the mission we have at United to End Homelessness at United Way. It’s been a really natural way to collaborate.”

According to a 2023 UCI-OC poll, 71% of O.C. residents see homelessness as a “serious problem,” with affordable housing close behind at 69%.

As of March, there were 410 families experiencing homelessness in Orange County registered with its family Coordinated Entry System, Heyhoe-Khalil said. That total included 715 children, with 244 of those under the age of 5.

“They’ve provided all of their documentation, they’ve done everything that the homelessness system has asked them to do to help them get connected to housing,” she said.

Things are not exactly getting easier for them. Emergency housing vouchers that have been available since 2021 are reportedly set to run out of funding next year. Additionally, President Trump has proposed cuts to federal rental assistance.

“One of the things I love about what Chapman is doing is helping open



Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

CHAPMAN HAMBORG with his recent portraits at the Hamborg Academy of Art studio in Huntington Beach on Tuesday.



BECKS HEYHOE-KHALIL, executive director of the United Way of Orange County’s United to End Homelessness Initiative, and Hamborg, from left, at the Hamborg Academy of Art studio in Huntington Beach on Tuesday.

people’s eyes, ask questions and challenging assumptions,” Heyhoe-Khalil said. “Many of the people who have watched the video online have said, ‘You do look like you’re homeless.’ The flip side of that is that they’re walking past people, driving past people every day who don’t look

like they’re experiencing homelessness but who are, and they have no idea.”

Hamborg realizes the circumstances around that April morning were complicated, not black and white. He said he thinks he knows the identity of his neighbor who called the police, but he’s not exactly

sure. He wants to talk to her, not to scold her but partially to thank her for her vigilance.

“She’s a neighbor concerned for the safety of the baby and the neighborhood, but also, it’s crazy for people who are dealing with homelessness to have to deal with this kind of stuff,” he said. “What if it was a great parent who is trying to get their baby to sleep but they happen to be unhoused? Why should the cops be called on them? Just because they’re experiencing homelessness doesn’t mean that the baby is in danger, or that the mom is a bad mom or the dad is a bad dad.”

Hamborg said his father instilled in him compassion for the homeless. Now he’s using that compassion to try and spark a bigger conversation.

In his viral Instagram video, he asked, “If you saw me would you have thought I was homeless?”

About two-thirds of the more than 500,000 poll respondents have voted, “No.”

Of course, his association with the video also has to be considered. A People Magazine article has also heightened his celebrity.

“I went to the grocery store [Monday] and got stopped a few times by people asking if I was the homeless guy,” Hamborg said. “They were very excited to meet me, which was interesting. It was funny. I’m like, ‘Yeah, that’s me.’”

“I’m just glad that this whole conversation is taking place. It’s cool to see fruit come from it already, whether it’s me selling paintings and the business growing, and then people having conversations about this important topic.”

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