

Daily Pilot & Times OC

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Expanded museum wows crowd



Admission is free at the two-wing Hilbert Museum of California Art, which reopened Feb. 23 to more than 3,300 art enthusiasts.

BY LILLY NGUYEN

In the warm light of the newly expanded Hilbert Museum of California Art on a recent Wednesday afternoon, Mark Hilbert smiled with quiet pride as patrons passed by. Discussions came and went in hushed whispers as some talked about what they were most excited to see while others spoke of pieces they'd marveled at moments before.

Hilbert said his wife, Janet, was curious about what kinds of things people were saying since the re-opening of the museum last weekend, and he took to writing down things he heard: "flabbergasted," "inspirational," "comprehensive," "easy to navigate, move through," "not intimidating."

Hilbert read off the descriptors as he sat in the north wing, which houses the "Same Place, Another Time: Views of Orange County" exhibition featuring Hilbert collection pieces that depict Orange County in the 20th century.

More than 5,000 pieces exist in the Hilberts' collection, and museum director Mary Platt said the intention is to cycle the exhibits every three months.

The Hilbert Museum of California Art first opened in 2016 with a major gift from the Hilberts to Chapman University in 2014. The museum later closed for its expansion, which tripled the museum's footprint from about 7,500 square feet to 22,000 square feet. The redesign was the

See **Museum**, page A8

ANA TAVARES and her daughter, Tahlia, examine a painting by Emigdio Vasquez on display at the Hilbert Museum of California Art in Orange. The "Same Place, Another Time: Views of Orange County" exhibit depicts the 20th century in O.C.

Eric Licas



Coming soon to Irvine

UCI Health

In San Clemente, good beach sand is hard to find

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

A brisk January morning in San Clemente might have seemed like another postcard portrait from the self-styled "Spanish village by the sea."

Surfers bobbed in the ocean while waiting to catch the next wave. Joggers glistened with sweat along the city's popular beach trail. Couples strolled hand in hand down a lengthy, wooden pier.

But a sight south of the pier hinted at trouble in paradise.

Two large dozers backed into crashing waves, shoveled pipe-

pumped sand and dumped it onto the beach.

The scene offered a brief glimpse into the first phase of a long-awaited sand replenishment project, a \$14-million effort to repair a coastline crumbled by urban development, drought and climate change, which had gotten off to a rocky start.

The dredge site off the coast of Oceanside, which was selected after decades of study and sampling, plagued the project with gravely sediment that damaged equipment.

See **Sand**, page A2



Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

CENTENNIAL FARM Supervisor Allen Mesick holds a pet rabbit at Centennial Farms at the OC Fair & Events Center in Costa Mesa. On March 16, Mesick will host a two-hour Centennial Farm Workshop: Urban Hops – Rabbits as a Diverse Agricultural Journey at the fairgrounds.

'Urban Hops' course explores the benefits of rabbit keeping

BY SARA CARDINE

With spring on the horizon, there is perhaps no better symbol of the season than the rabbit. The animal ambassadors of fertility, gentleness and new life, their likeness tends to pop up more and more as the Easter holiday approaches.

But there's so much more to the tiny herbivores who, with the proper care and feeding, can make ideal pets for both farm and city dwellers and who amply contribute to agriculture through their meat, manure and wool.

Rabbits can also be kept and bred for the purpose of being shown in fairs and competitions, where they may be judged and awarded for their healthiness, fur and physique.

For the perque curious or the unconvinced, a new two-hour workshop at the Orange County fairgrounds' Centennial Farm on March 16 aims to educate attend-



RABBITS MAY be a solution for young people who may want to raise a rabbit for a 4-H or Future Farmers of America project instead of navigating the logistics of raising much larger cows, sheep or goats.

See **Rabbit**, page A4

TARPS COVER the collapsed bluff at Casa Romantica in San Clemente. The landslide in April shut down passenger rail service.



Francine Orr
Los Angeles Times

ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



Photos by Jessica Peralta

A NEW BUSINESS HITS THE MARK WITH THEMED, HORROR ENTERTAINMENT, AXES AND BEER PAGE A5



Spencer Grant

THE PRIDE FLAG will wave from Santa Ana Unified's office in June and October to mark Pride month and LGBTQ+ history.

Santa Ana Unified votes to fly the Pride flag at district office

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

For Santa Ana Unified School District trustee Hector Bustos, the Pride flag is personal.

During the Feb. 27 school board meeting, Bustos wore a pin on his shirt depicting the flag while recounting how he came out as gay to his friends only after graduating high school.

Bustos said he felt safe enough to do so in San Francisco where he found his community.

A product of Santa Ana

public schools, he moved back to the city and came out to his family much later, at 23, less than a year before he decided to run for school board in 2022.

Unopposed, Bustos assumed office as the youngest and first openly gay elected official in Santa Ana history.

He became emotional when speaking before a vote to have Santa Ana Unified fly the Pride flag at the district's office during Pride Month in June and again in October to commemorate LGBTQ History

Month.

"It's been a really, really difficult journey and so this resolution today means a lot to me," Bustos said. "I know that it means a lot to our students right now at our school district but also to students who graduated from this school district, whether they were out or not."

Bustos thanked community members who spoke out in support of the Pride flag during the meeting.

"It doesn't cost anything

See **Flag**, page A7

Anaheim Councilwoman Natalie Rubalcava faces recall election in June

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

An effort to recall Anaheim City Councilwoman Natalie Rubalcava will go before voters in June.

The Anaheim City Council voted to schedule the recall election during its Feb. 27 meeting after Rubalcava's opponents submitted enough qualifying signatures.

Unite Here Local 11, a union representing hotel and convention center workers in Anaheim, backed the recall and welcomed the upcoming June 4 election.

"Our members are fighting to clean up Anaheim's politics," said Kurt Petersen, co-president of Unite Here Local 11. "Council member Rubalcava is connected to a corrupt cabal and has been criticized by the city's corruption investigators. The recall process exists to remedy this exact kind of situation."

Rubalcava soundly won election in November 2022 and represents District 3, a central area of the city with the highest proportion of Latino voters.

Support Our Anaheim Resort, a political action committee powered by Disney contributions, spent roughly \$380,000 in



Screenshot by Gabriel San Román

COUNCILWOMAN NATALIE RUBALCAVA speaks during a Feb. 27, 2024, meeting of the Anaheim City Council

favor of her election.

"Serving on my hometown city council over the past year has been an honor," Rubalcava said in a written statement. "Although I don't agree with the arguments made by the recall proponents, I respect the process, and I'm looking forward to making my case to voters in the weeks and months ahead."

Rubalcava claimed her seat in the wake of an explosive FBI political corruption probe that surfaced in Anaheim in May 2022. The probe halted the city's sale of Angel Stadium that same month and led former Anaheim Mayor Harry Sidhu to plead guilty

to corruption related charges.

As part of early reform efforts, Anaheim hired the JL Group to conduct an independent investigation.

In a 353-page report released to the public last July, investigators accused Rubalcava of making an unsolicited campaign call to a voter in her district by using contact information from a binder for Anaheim First, a nonprofit founded, in part, by the Anaheim Chamber of Commerce.

The probe also alleged that she improperly directed city staff to work with her former employer

See **Recall**, page A7



Joe C. Wen & Family Center for Advanced Care

ucihealth.org/wencenter

UCI Health

SAND

Continued from page A1

A series of storms and king tides added to the challenges.

On Jan. 15, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which is overseeing the project, agreed to an initial 70-day delay to address the poor quality of sand. In the meantime, the contractor working in San Clemente moved on to a federally supported sand replenishment project at Solana Beach in San Diego County.

San Clemente officials had hoped that the half-mile of remediated beach would be 50 feet wider in February thanks to 251,000 cubic yards of pumped sand.

Rep. Mike Levin and San Clemente Mayor Victor Cabral issued a joint statement in January expressing disappointment with the delay.

"While this is a setback, we will continue to fight for the completion of this project in the coming months," they said. "Longer term delay is unacceptable."

The mood was more triumphant on Dec. 18 when local and federal officials gathered in San Clemente's "Pier Bowl," a topographical curve dotted with boutique hotels and restaurants, to boost sand replenishment, a project that finally began after being on the table for nearly 25 years.

Before a scheduled press conference, Levin, a Democrat, sat at a park bench next to the historic Beachcomber Inn overlooking construction. The congressman secured \$9.3 million in federal funding to spearhead the project, which is expected to pump 2 million cubic yards of sand over 50 years.

"You can't have a beach town without a beach," Levin said. "Candidly, we have to do more. There are other areas of our district that need sand as well. But getting these projects underway is really important."

San Clemente was the first of three federally supported efforts to remediate



LARGE PIPES rest near San Clemente's pier. City officials hope that beach nourishment can be completed soon.

sand-starved beaches in the 49th Congressional District he represents, which spans the coastlines of southern Orange County and northern San Diego County.

Levin secured \$30.5 million for the Solana Beach and Encinitas projects.

He cited 140,000 jobs related to coastal tourism in his district in underscoring the necessity while also touting beach nourishment as another way to protect the vital Lossan (short for Los Angeles-San Diego-San Luis Obispo) corridor, a busy passenger and freight line that connects San Diego to Los Angeles through scenic shore-side routes increasingly imperiled by erosion.

"We do know that we see consistent erosion," he said. "That's been the case for a number of years, and I have no reason to believe it's going to change anytime soon."

Pumping sand onto beaches isn't a novel concept. The practice dates back at least a century with an effort to widen the sands along Coney Island in New York City.

On the West Coast, an ongoing beach nourishment project in Seal Beach and Huntington Beach dates back to the 1960s. In other similar projects, deposited sand helped create a modern mirage of California's vast beaches.

"There's a misconception that still seems to be prevalent that beaches were all very wide and that somehow development made

them narrower," said Ron Flick, a research associate at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. "The widest beaches in California are essentially manmade."

The oceanographer points to Santa Monica Bay as a prime example.

But with climate change poised to bring dramatic sea level rise by mid-century, officials are now turning to sand replenishment out of a greater sense of urgency to build coastal resiliency.

Flick said that San Clemente is a preview of tough, costly decisions that will have to be made up and down California's coastlines.

Not all are convinced that sand replenishment is the best way to combat beach erosion.

Stefanie Sekich, senior manager for the Surfrider Foundation's coasts and climate initiative, remains doubtful about its long-term prospects.

"There's no way to make sand stay, unless you have a terrestrial source refeeding that beach," Sekich said. "We don't have that in this area because we have either [rock] revetments or development blocking that natural flow of sand."

The Surfrider Foundation, a nationwide nonprofit that works to protect oceans, beaches and waves, favors living shoreline and managed retreat strategies to deal with San Clemente's eroding beaches.

Though San Clemente's beach nourishment project



Photos by Francine Orr | Los Angeles Times

A DOZER SHOVELS dredged sediment onto San Clemente's beach before the beach nourishment project faced delays.

is smaller than its San Diego County counterparts, the city's seashore is visibly bruised and has come to symbolize the costly conundrums of preparing for climate change along California's coast.

On the north side of San Clemente's pier, \$8.5 million has gone to repairing the bluff at the Casa Romantica historical landmark, which crumbled in April and shut down the train tracks below it for months. A temporary barrier was erected last year as part of a \$6-million effort to protect the railroad from becoming the weakest link in the Lossan corridor once again on account of another devastating landslide.

Two miles south of the pier, experts believe tidal erosion at the toe of another bluff helped activate a landslide in 2021. The following year, heavy rain and high surf shifted the ground beneath the train tracks at the landslide site, which prompted a \$13.7-million effort to stabilize the area.

More recently, the Mariposa Bridge, which hovered over a critically eroded stretch of beach, closed indefinitely in late January after a landslide damaged the structure. Passenger train service remains suspended as Metrolink and the Orange County Transporta-

tion Authority began work on a \$7.2-million wall last week to protect the railroad tracks.

While San Clemente waits for the resumption of its beach nourishment project, city officials are looking for other ways to find sand.

On Feb. 20, the San Clemente City Council directed staff to apply for a Sand Compatibility and Opportunistic Use Program (SCOUP) permit to transport sediment by truck or rail from possible sites like the Prado Dam or even landslide areas in the city.

"I would contrast this with the Army Corps project, which a planned project with a borrow site — the issues with the borrow site notwithstanding," Leslea Meyerhoff, the city's coastal administrator, told council members.

"It is another important tool to have in the toolbox," she added.

In the meantime, the Army Corps is exploring alternate borrow sites and hopes to speed up the permitting process to resume work in San Clemente as soon as possible.

The agency expects to complete the Solana Beach sand replenishment project by mid-March. After that, work will begin in Encinitas, which is slated to take

45 days. Under that timeline, the earliest crews could return to San Clemente would be in May, which typically kicks off the summer season on Memorial Day weekend.

Whenever the Army Corps resumes work, heavy machinery and large pipelines will become familiar, reoccurring sights in San Clemente as sand replenishment is slated every six years through the life of the project.

For now, none of the initial sediment pumped onto the beach before the project's delay will count towards the total cubic yards of sand promised by it.

San Clemente Councilman Chris Duncan called that determination an "important step" in hitting a reset button on the project, but as summer draws nearer, he doesn't expect work to resume anytime soon.

"It's a long shot to imagine that the project will be completed this year," Duncan said, soberly. "But we're not going to stand until we get all of the sand promised by it. We're going to make it happen."

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CENTENNIAL FARM

Supervisor Allen Mesick holds two rabbits at the O.C. fairgrounds in Costa Mesa.



Don Leach Staff Photographer

RABBIT

Continued from page A1

ees about the versatility of the species, not only in springtime but all year round.

“Urban Hops — Rabbits as a Diverse Agricultural Journey” will provide a brief history of rabbit domestication, which has so far spawned 52 unique breeds, along with tips on the many ways the animals may be kept, used and shown.

The workshop will be led by Centennial Farm Supervisor Allen Mesick, a licensed rabbit judge who’s traveled the world judging competitions and teaching others about the sustainability benefits of rabbit keeping.

While the farm has been hosting farm and garden classes for years, focusing on all things agricultural, from planting and pruning to cooking and livestock keeping, this is the first time rabbits have taken a spotlight.

“Selfishly, I wanted to do this topic because rabbits have been a big part of my life since I was a little kid,” Mesick said Wednesday. “I don’t think rabbits are commonly thought of as a commodity or a possibility, but that’s part of what we’re trying to do with our farm and garden classes — we want people to think about things they may not have considered.”

Mesick’s lecture, which will feature an appearance from a mother rabbit and

her bunny offspring, coincides with a rabbit show hosted by the Riverside County Rabbit Breeders Assn., from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., during which hundreds of rabbits will be on display.

The talk aims to impart lessons for people who may be considering keeping a rabbit as a pet — a good option since the critters are quiet, easily kept and don’t require as much socialization as cats and dogs — and words of caution for those thinking of rabbits as simply an Easter-time thrill.

Rabbits may also be a solution for young people who may want to raise a rabbit for a 4-H or Future Farmers of America project without the complex logistics of raising much larger cows, sheep or goats.

As an added bonus, rabbits do not need to be sold for slaughter once such a project has ended, Mesick said, and can be kept for competition or for wool harvesting.

“If you take really good care of your rabbit, they’re probably going to compete very well. And they can live for a long time,” he added. “It’s not easy for kids to raise a steer or a market lamb or hog. [Rabbits are] a project that can continue long after the fair, and they don’t have to use them for meat.”

Evy Young oversees Centennial Farm as the director of agricultural programs for the Orange County Fair & Event Center. She said the site

opened in 1989 as a way to provide year-round ag-based learning opportunities for those outside of the normal O.C. Fair schedule.

In the first few months, attendance rosters logged around 1,250 guests. Today, with help from the classes, more than 40,000 people visit Centennial Farm each year, in addition to the more than 1 million trips generated during the annual fair.

“It’s definitely an educational experience. There is a lot of hands-on learning involved,” Young said Thursday.

Established in 2013 through \$350,000 in funding through the California Department of Food and Agriculture’s Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, the farm and garden classes initially had a plant-forward focus but have expanded to include culinary and livestock offerings, according to Young.

“Agriculture encompasses so many things,” she added. “It’s not just produce, it’s the animals as well, and animals can be part of regenerative farming. So these classes are like full-circle agriculture, if you will.”

“Urban Hops” takes place March 16, from 10 a.m. to noon. A \$7 fee covers materials and handouts, and parking is free.

To reserve a space by March 13, visit ocfair.com/centennial-farm/garden-classes/.

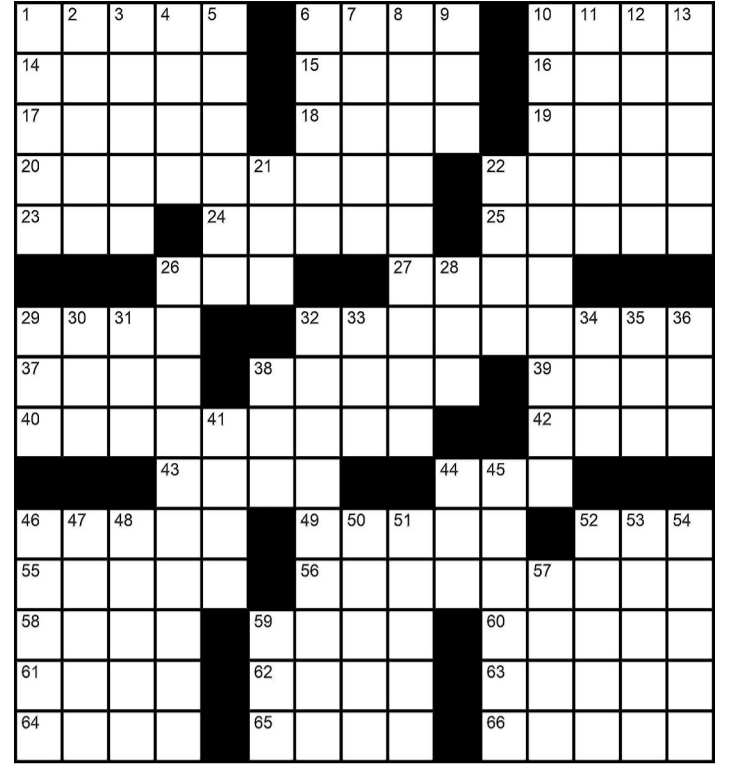
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THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS

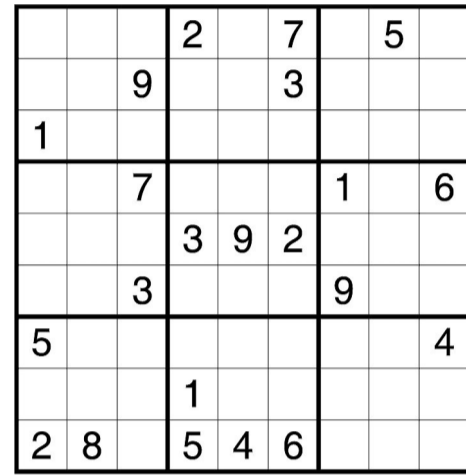
- 1 Intense anger
- 6 Sense
- 10 Mountains of Europe
- 14 _ the Riveter
- 15 Thereabouts
- 16 Board game with suspects
- 17 Flared dress style
- 18 Knocks firmly
- 19 What a babysitter provides
- 20 Venue with a stage
- 22 Packing heat
- 23 ID with two hyphens
- 24 Gantry or Fudd
- 25 Chicago team
- 26 Notice
- 27 Elderly
- 29 Mexican resort, for short
- 32 Participants who get to the last round
- 37 Taken by mouth
- 38 Pub pastime
- 39 Use a stopwatch
- 40 Fodder storage site: 2 wds.
- 42 Grand tale
- 43 Big name in fashion
- 44 _Atlantic states
- 46 Water balloon’s sound
- 49 Some community gyms: Abbr.
- 52 ‘50s school dance
- 55 Over yonder
- 56 Use a keyboard without looking: 2 wds.
- 58 _ canai (Malaysian dish)
- 59 Villain’s hideout
- 60 Issue to discuss
- 61 Butting heads
- 62 “Or _ what?!”
- 63 Sports venue
- 64 Petting zoo horse
- 65 Obtains



SUDOKU

By the Mepham Group

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit sudoku.org.uk.



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

DOWN

- 1 Tubular sandwiches
- 2 Sushi orders
- 3 From China
- 4 Wee
- 5 Giggling sounds
- 6 Place to

- exchange views
- 7 Delete data from
- 8 Language invented in 1887
- 9 _ Angeles, California
- 10 Officially recognized
- 11 Peruvian grazer
- 12 Less corrupted

- 13 Tournament rankings
- 21 Fútbol cheer
- 22 Cain’s victim
- 26 Comradeship with a common cause
- 28 Car’s fuel
- 29 Gear with teeth
- 30 Pirate’s grunt
- 31 Sheep’s bleat
- 32 Story that begins “Once upon a time...”
- 33 Not online, for short
- 34 Taste of a drink
- 35 “Eww, stop talking!”
- 36 “Gimme a _!”
- 38 British mil. award
- 41 Nick at _
- 44 PC alternative
- 45 1987 Beatty bomb
- 46 Sandal part
- 47 Snapshot
- 48 Admit: 2 wds.
- 50 Dampened
- 51 Restores to health
- 52 Talks up
- 53 Give one’s two cents
- 54 Pie nut
- 57 “90210” actress
- 59 Tibia’s location

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FIRST COURSE SELECTIONS

Corn Chowder
Fresh corn, Applewood smoked bacon

Bungalow Salad
Greens, hearts of palm, olives, feta, red onion, bay shrimp, tarragon vinaigrette

Classic Caesar Salad
Chopped hearts of romaine, herb croutons, tomato, shaved Manchego

ENTRÉE SELECTIONS
select one

Prime Filet Mignon
8 oz. prime filet mignon, Yukon Gold mashed potatoes, fried shallots

Bone-In Rib Eye
16 oz. prime bone-in rib eye, Yukon Gold mashed potatoes, fried onion strings
(Twenty-Five Dollar Supplement)

Wild Shrimp
Panko breaded wild shrimp, whipped mashed potatoes, broccolini, fresh tomato, capers, lemon butter sauce

Lobster Pot Pie
Ten ounce sautéed Maine lobster, carrots, celery, potatoes, sherry lobster cream sauce.

Miso-Marinated Chilean Sea Bass
Soy glaze, coconut rice, stir-fried vegetables, mushrooms, lemongrass ginger beurre blanc

Double Pork Chop
Thick-cut grilled all natural pork chop, creamy caramelized onion barley risotto, creamed kale, sherry sauce

Australian Lobster Tail
10 oz. drawn butter, grilled lemon, Yukon Gold mashed potatoes
(Twenty Dollar Supplement)

DESSERT
select one

New York-Style Cheesecake
Fresh whipped cream, raspberry coulis

Chocolate Bread Pudding
Crème anglaise, vanilla bean ice cream, whipped cream, chocolate sauce

Vanilla Crème Brûlée
Vanilla custard, fresh raspberries

Berries & Ice Cream
Fresh seasonal berries, vanilla bean ice cream

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A new ax-throwing spot hits the mark

BY JESSICA PERALTA

On the hour, the head of a large, stuffed deer fixed on the bar wall begins moving and laughing maniacally with eyes lit up bright red. Bar staff also suddenly join in with creepy laughter, and then, just as quickly, resume their tasks when everything returns to normal.

Horror movie fans will likely recognize the reference to the 1987 Sam Raimi-directed cult classic, "Evil Dead 2," a sequel that follows protagonist Ash Williams' comedy-filled battle against demons. But even non-horror movie fans will get plenty of entertainment from this and other theatrical elements that are becoming a calling card for Anaheim residents and local business owners Madison and Luke Rhoades. They opened Slashers Axe Throwing & Ales in Costa Mesa on Dec. 1.

"My favorite movie of all time is probably 'Evil Dead 2,'" said Madison Rhoades. "So when we came up with this Slashers idea ... a cabin in the woods is like the best place for ax throwing and horror movies. So I'm like well if we're gonna have the cabin in the woods, then I have to pay homage to 'Evil Dead 2.' So I wanted to make this really cool looking cabin with a taxidermy deer head, which comes alive and laughs at you just like in the movie — that's like my favorite scene."

This isn't the couple's first Orange County venture into themed entertainment. They opened Cross Roads Escape Games in Anaheim with their flagship horror-themed Hex Room escape game in January 2016. While the activities are different, both businesses share a common vision of creating a theatrical experience for guests.

"My husband and I are really big theater people,"



Photos by Jessica Peralta

CUSTOMERS THROW axes in lanes with horror-character themes at Slashers Axe Throwing & Ales in Costa Mesa.

she said. "We both have a degree in theater and we loved ax throwing. But we felt that every time we went, the venues were kind of basic, maybe like just white with particle boards and fluorescent lights. ... So we just felt that with our theater degree, we can add that theming and immersive atmosphere to it. And we just felt that horror movies was the obvious choice to go with ax throwing."

Slashers Axe Throwing & Ales has 18 lanes — each named with a different horror movie character, including Chucky from "Child's Play," Ghostface from "Scream," Norman Bates from "Psycho" and Pearl from "Pearl." In addition to the deer head, the bar's cabin-in-the-woods backdrop features shelving with an assortment of horror-themed products and decor.



OWNERS MADISON and Luke Rhoades are fans of horror and theater and combined the two passions at Slashers.

"We have horror movies playing and then we also have a bunch of props from different horror movies scattered around on the shelves that I like to think is like a little bit of an 'I spy' for people to sit there and be like, 'Oh, I recognize that' or 'Oh, that's from that,'" said Rhoades. "And

people do that, and it's really fun."

They're also planning regular, seasonal themed events, like the Krampus vs. Santa photo op/ax-throwing competition between the two characters in December and the Axe Your Ex (bring a photo of your ex and throw some axes at it)

event in February. Rhoades said they're planning something for St. Patrick's Day in March but haven't fine-tuned the details yet.

Of course, the bar also sells alcohol (beer, hard ciders and hard seltzers) — and that's themed too. February's menu consists of horror-inspired cocktails like Killer Klowns Cocktail (with Ogopogo's mango wheat ale, blue Curacao, strawberry cotton candy and a Crazy Straw) and What We Drink in the Shadows (with Brewery X's Huckleberry hard seltzer, lemonade, a bloody rim and vampire teeth). Other drinks include Re-animator Honeydew Lime hard seltzer, Poltergeist pineapple cider, La Llorona Mexican lager and more. There are also some snacks, including Riff's bacon, S'Mores Pop-Tarts and scorpion — dried, salted scorpion, that is.

There's a maximum of three alcoholic drinks per person during a session (whether it's for one or two hours). Guests can get more drinks at the bar after their session is over.

"I would say most people don't spend more than two hours here," Rhoades said. "Three drinks in two hours ... that's a lot of beer."

The cabin-in-the-woods story line continues throughout the experience, including calling staff "camp counselors" and guests "campers."

"The story is that your camp counselors here at Camp Slashers ... we're out in the woods one day and we came across this spooky-looking book and we read a couple passages from it, and now the camp is plagued by monsters and killers and villains of all kinds," Rhoades said. "So we need to teach you campers how to defend yourself here during your summer camp stay. So that's the reason why we're camp counselors, why you're in the woods, why you're learning how to throw axes, why you have these villains as targets."

There are three throwing axes guests can use and each lane is equipped with software to play 11 different games using the axes, including "Battle Stations," "Alien Attack" and "Around the World." Theming and targets are projected onto the wood in each lane. Classic horror characters like Michael Myers, Ghostface, Chucky, Leatherface and Jason Voorhees can also be projected as targets through the software. Safety was also a big part of the Rhoades' lane design.

"When we fell into love with like ax throwing ... we just felt like they could be safer," Rhoades said. "I mean not that anyone's ever gotten hurt at other places, but we just felt that the safety precautions that

See **Mark**, page A7

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COMMENTARY | THY BUI



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

PROTESTERS DEMONSTRATE the decision by the Supreme Court to overturn the Roe vs. Wade ruling during a Planned Parenthood protest at Main Beach in Laguna Beach in 2022.

How to tell if your elected official is really pro-woman

When the Supreme Court made its deeply unpopular decision to overturn Roe vs. Wade in June 2022 — which upended decades of precedent protecting the right to make personal health decisions without government interference — many elected officials in California knew they would be in trouble if they appeared to support abortion bans. Those politicians scrambled to create an illusion that they were still “pro-woman” and “pro-women’s health,” even as they silently supported cruel anti-choice legislation in other parts of the country that have resulted in maternal deaths, pregnant women being denied care for miscarriages, more unplanned pregnancies from rape and worse outcomes for babies.

Some of these secretly anti-choice and anti-woman elected officials are among us in Orange County. Until there is a spotlight on their actions, they will continue to conveniently claim that they are “pro-women’s health” but in reality, are actually pushing for extreme, hurtful policies that block people from accessing critical health care, including birth control and abortion care. We must all pay attention, as our Congress representatives have the most relevant local influence over these national policies that affect our day-to-day lives and our private relationships with our doctors.

Once you get past the carefully styled talking points on social media, TV and online ads, it’s surprisingly simple to tell who’s faking it. To help you make your own judgments about your elected officials on the issues

that matter to you, here are the two surprisingly easy ways to tell if your elected official is not actually pro-woman by looking at their voting record.

1. They oppose efforts to make access to birth control and family planning services easier, and are selectively okay with only some forms of birth control.

Rep. Michelle Steel, who represents Orange County cities from Fountain Valley to Fullerton in the 45th Congressional District, has a history of packaging herself as a moderate. However, she co-sponsored the Life at Conception Act, a bill that would enact a national ban on all abortions, even in instances of rape or when the woman’s life is at risk. The bill would also ban certain types of birth control, such as IUDs.

Meanwhile, Rep. Young Kim, who represents another wide swath of Orange County cities, including Mission Viejo and Tustin in the 40th Congressional District, has adopted the politically expedient badge of being “pro-women’s health.” To do so, she even sponsored a redundant piece of legislation called the Orally Taken Contraception Act of 2023, that she claims protects women by “streamlining the process for accessing over-the-counter contraceptives.” Sounds good, right?

The Orally Taken Contraception Act, however, does nothing to expand any protections for women and essentially directs the FDA to continue what it is already doing. Showing her true colors, Kim voted against the Right to Contraception Act, which would enshrine women’s and fam-

Those politicians scrambled to create an illusion that they were still “pro-woman” and “pro-women’s health,” even as they silently supported cruel anti-choice legislation in other parts of the country.

ilies’ right to access contraception into federal law. That’s not exactly supportive of birth control.

2. They want a national abortion ban — no exceptions.

Steel has claimed that she is “pro-life with exceptions for rape” and if the woman’s life is at risk. However, she also unequivocally supports a national ban on all abortions with no exceptions for rape, incest or if the woman’s life is at risk. As a co-sponsor of the Life at Conception Act, Steel clearly aligned with this unpopular position, despite pretending she does not. Furthermore, she has twice voted against the Women’s Health Protection Act, which would protect a woman’s right to abortion. Kim, who also claims to be pro-women’s health, has voted against this legislation as well.

More alarmingly, both Kim and

See *Elected*, page A8

MAILBAG



File Photo

“I VOTED” stickers at the Civic Center polling location in Huntington Beach in November 2020.

Readers join in rejection of H.B. charter amendments

There was once a joke about a sleazy auto mechanic trying to sell you a “muffler bearing” repair. Time and wiser consumers have made that ploy a relic of the past.

Reminiscing about the good old days, the Huntington Beach City Council conservative majority has revived that shell game. Instead of selling us non-existent, unnecessary car parts, they are selling us expensive, unnecessary city services.

The Huntington Beach Library delivered millions of books to its over 100,000 pleased readers in the decade before Gracey Van der Mark and Tony Strickland showed up. Last year, the pair sold the city an expensive, illegal book-banning process to save us from problems that only exist in their twisted imaginations.

This year, the council majority has spent an estimated 400,000 citizen dollars rushing an election to get voters to fix an unbroken county system. Charter amendments A, B and C are the latest expensive “muffler bearing” that the City Council is selling us. On March 5, just say no to sleazy sales pitches.

Buzz McCord
Huntington Beach

I am outraged at the majority Huntington Beach Council Charter amendments on our March 5 ballot. A, B, and C propose changes that are repugnant moves to increase their personal power. H.B. residents are not in favor of voter suppression, limiting access to library books and banning Pride flags and those of visiting dignitaries. Our City Charter does not

need to be changed. It is fine. It functions for all of us. The proposed changes denigrate freedom and democracy in our city. Charter changes are very expensive, and they welcome a new array of lawsuits. The majority squashes descent by not responding to and ignoring public comments and denying transparency. Their behavior is invasive, abrasive and destructive. They are an insidious threat to our city. Beware of Gracey Van der Mark, Pat Burns, Tony Strickland and Casey McKeon. I urge Huntington Beach voters to vote no on the charter amendments.

Nora Pedersen
Huntington Beach

Measures A, B and C would mean changes in Huntington Beach including the requirement of voter identification for in-person voting.

The council members and people in favor of this idea should work at an election before attempting to change voter laws. They would gain valuable perspective.

In the Nov. 6, 2018, Election, I worked as an ROV Clerk for the first time. We closed the polls at 8 p.m. and had voters casting ballots up until 9:30 p.m. It was inspiring to see the care taken to ensure each person could cast a ballot. I also gained an understanding of why California doesn’t ask for IDs at the polling place.

Identity gets confirmed by the Registrar as part of counting ballots, eliminating potential conflict for clerks during the voting process. They don’t have to debate with people whether their ID

See *Mailbag*, page A8

A WORD, PLEASE | JUNE CASAGRANDE

The dog-eating lobster and other hyphenated tales

“Are the hyphens in this sentence correct?” a colleague asked me recently: “The couple moved in to the beautiful 175-luxury apartment-home community just two weeks after it opened.”



Hyphens are often intuitive. People who’ve spent exactly zero

minutes of their lives reading about hyphen rules tend to get right terms like “a good-looking car” or “a cloud-filled sky” without even thinking about them.

Other times, hyphens aren’t so clear. That’s especially true for compounds with more than two words, for example when you have “175” and “luxury” and “apartment” and “home” all modifying a single noun: “community.”

Luckily, with some hyphenation basics under your belt, you can make good choices in every



Robert F. Bukaty | Associated Press

A LOBSTER REARS its claws in Spruce Head, Maine, in 2021. A hyphen makes all the difference between “I saw a dog eating lobster” and “I saw a dog-eating lobster.”

situation.

The basic principle: Hyphenate words that work together to modify another word that follows. That is, words that team up to form an adjective, describing a noun. Or words that work together to form an adverb, describing a verb or an adjective.

Compare: “I saw a dog

eating lobster” and “I saw a dog-eating lobster.” In the first one, “dog” isn’t part of an adjective. It’s the object of the verb “saw,” working as a plain-old noun. What did you see? A dog, and it was eating lobster.

But in “I saw a dog-eating lobster,” you didn’t see a dog at all. You saw a crustacean. Its tendency to

eat canines is merely descriptive.

This is what hyphens do: prevent confusion. They help make it clear which part of a word cluster is the object or subject by sort of sequestering all the other words that could be mistaken for the object or subject.

In the jargon, we say hyphens connect “compound modifiers.” Adjectives and adverbs modify other words, so they’re modifiers, and when you string words together with hyphens, the result is a compound.

Most editing styles say you should not hyphenate adverbs that end in *ly*. There’s no chance “I saw a doggedly determined lobster” could be construed to mean that you saw a doggedly. There’s no such thing as a doggedly. The instant you see the “*ly*,” you know there’s a noun coming up soon that will be the thing that was seen.

Hyphens also link to-

gether certain nouns, like “mock-up,” “merry-go-round” and “kilowatt-hour.” Any dictionary will show you whether to hyphenate multiword nouns.

Hyphens sometimes attach prefixes and suffixes to words, like “co-worker,” “pre-eminent” and “re-create” when you want to distinguish it from “recreate.” Those rules are complicated, so just apply your best judgment.

But good instincts may not be enough when you’re looking at compounds of more than two words. For those, you have to put on your thinking cap. Even then, you may not get a clear answer.

For my 2014 book, “The Best Punctuation Book, Period,” I asked a panel of professional copy editors how many hyphens they would put in “30 day dry aged beef.” They disagreed. Some said they’d write it “30-day dry-aged beef,” others said it’s “30-day-dry-aged beef,” which is my preference because I

see it as one adjective that tells you how many days it was dry-aged.

But there’s no right answer here.

In a “175-luxury-apartment-home community,” I vote for three hyphens. And unlike in the dry-aged-beef example, I feel pretty strongly that this is right and not a matter of taste. Why? Because “175-luxury” doesn’t make sense standing alone. Instead, 175 refers to the number of apartment-homes — all of which can be described as “luxury” units.

The rules for compound modifiers say to hyphenate them when doing so prevents confusion. That leaves a lot of room for interpretation. So just toss in a hyphen every time you think it’ll help the reader understand you.

JUNE CASAGRANDE is the author of “The Joy of Syntax: A Simple Guide to All the Grammar You Know You Should Know.” Reach her at JuneTCN@aol.com.

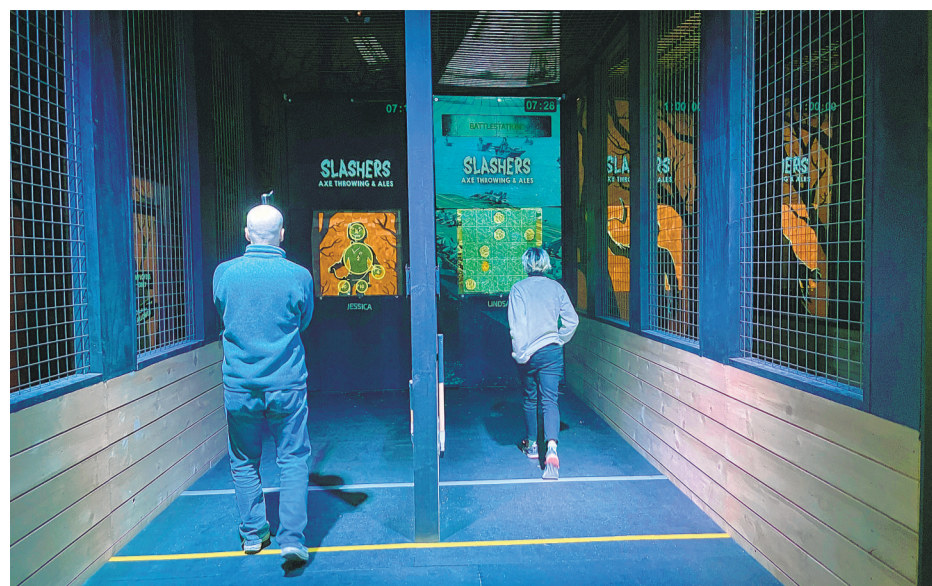
MARK

Continued from page A5

other people were taking could be improved upon. So that's one thing that was important to us. So for our axes, we have three different types to choose from. We have two hatchets and one big ax and all of our axes are specifically throwing axes. Other venues might just use an ax that you find at a hardware store that's made for chopping, which is not necessarily designed for throwing. So ours are throwing axes."

She said since they have the big ax, they have a designated safe area to throw at the big-ax length. They also have no-bounce mats that surround the targets on the wall. So if your ax doesn't stick to wood, the mat itself is designed to absorb the energy from the ax so it can fall straight to the ground instead of potentially coming back at you.

"And then for our targets, we have end-grain targets, which just allows the axes to stick easier versus a traditional board that's put like a vertical grain," she said. "The end-grain target just allows axes to stick better, which just means there's less



Jessica Peralta

DIFFERENT THEMES and targets are projected onto the wood target wall in each lane at Slashers Axe Throwing & Ales in Costa Mesa.

chances of it kind of doing weird things, bouncing and not sticking. I think it also makes for a better experience too. You're here to stick axes. Right? That's what makes it fun."

Jose Mendoza works at Slashers as a camp leader. He said his duties include a bit of everything — bartending, running the front desk, training the camp counselors and coming up with horror-themed cocktail and mocktail recipes.

"I knew very little about ax throwing before work-

ing at Slashers, but training helped change that," he said. "Training was a lot of fun, we spent a good amount of time playing all of the games we offer at Slashers. We would coach each other, work on our rules speech, but most importantly we learned what it takes to have a safe yet exhilarating time at Slashers."

He said working with guests and teaching them to throw is very rewarding. Camp counselor training with campers starts with

going over safety rules, which types of throws are acceptable at Slashers and how to make those throws. He said they train campers on two overhead throws, either single-handed or double-handed for the hatchets or a two-handed over-the-head throw for the big ax. After watching a camper take their first few throws, camp counselors offer coaching if needed by adjusting form and the ax.

"Sharing a celebratory high-five with a camper

who, after a little training, hits a bulls-eye, is one of the best feelings out there," he said.

Nate Javier, of Fullerton, who works as an escape room builder, said he learned about Slashers through some escape room owners.

"I was deeply intrigued and shortly after the official opening, I was hooked," he said. "They've been open for a few months now, and I've been going ever since."

He said he tries to go at least twice a month, but lately it's been a bit more frequent.

"I keep coming back for the immersion, projected games, atmosphere, amazing guest interactions [and] customer service, and overall cleanliness of the facility," he said. "I enjoy the balance of skill and physicality that comes with ax throwing. There's something cathartic about understanding how to make an ax stick to a target properly and which type of hatchet or long ax may fit your capabilities the best. Plus, just getting the satisfying thump of the blade sticking to the target definitely spikes my dopamine."

Jessica Peralta is a contributor to TimesOC.

FLAG

Continued from page A2

to be an ally," Uyen Hoang, executive director of Viet Rainbow of Orange County, told the school board. "In order for LGBTQ students [and] educators here to believe that they can be safe, they first have to be able to see it. Seeing a Pride flag is a small but important first step."

School Board President Carolyn Torres recounted how, as a teacher, the Pride flag displayed in her classroom served as a cue to LGBTQ+ students that they found themselves in a safe space.

"If there's teachers in our district who want to display a flag in their classroom, [we need] to make sure administrators are ready to support those teachers," she said. "Sometimes, folks might self-censor in fear of there being pushback."

Trustees unanimously approved the resolution.

The Pride flag has proved a contentious issue at other Orange County school districts.

Last year, the Orange Unified School District Board of Education banned displaying the flag on district and school flag poles by a majority vote.

Bustos noted the Pride flag is more than just a piece of cloth, and he didn't want to bring the resolution before Santa Ana Unified until commitments to LGBTQ+ students were firmly in place.

In May, the district adopted a policy in support of transgender, gender non-binary and gender-nonconforming students. The policy provided district staff with guidance on how to affirm students' preferred names, pronouns, bathroom access and right to privacy while transitioning.

"We can't just celebrate our LGBTQ+ community during the month of June," Bustos said. "We need to do more."

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RECALL

Continued from page A2

on a small business loan program.

Rubalcava denied any wrongdoing following the report's release and criticized its accusations against her as "inaccurate."

Alongside Anaheim Mayor Ashleigh Aitken, she has since pushed for a number of reforms over the past few months to tighten up transparency and campaign finance rules in the city.

But recall proponents seized on the report's earlier claims in making their case against Rubalcava.

Canvassers began gathering signatures in Sep-

tember after the councilwoman also did not support Measure A, a ballot initiative backed by Unite Here Local 11 that sought to raise the minimum wage for Anaheim hotel and event center workers to \$25 an hour.

Ahead of an October special election on the issue, Rubalcava supported a law requiring panic buttons for housekeepers experiencing violent or threatening harassment on the job, which was similar to a key component of the ballot measure.

Anaheim voters rejected Measure A at the ballot. The panic button law took effect this year.

During the Feb. 27 council meeting, four council

members expressed disappointment with having to set a date for the Rubalcava recall.

"This is very distasteful," said Councilman Stephen Faessel. "We'll just have to get through this."

The Rubalcava recall is the first in Anaheim since an effort to oust two council members in 1980 failed by wide margins.

It will also be the first in the city since state law reformed local recall election rules.

In September 2022, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a bill into law that bars replacement candidates from appearing on the ballot of such elections.

"There's no perfect system," said Jodi Balma, a

political science professor at Fullerton College. "Not having replacement candidates on the ballot eliminates one of the incentives for funding a recall. It also eliminates the chance that historic low turnout in a special election would open the door for a candidate who would never win a regular council election."

With the Anaheim election set for June, Balma is concerned with how many voters will show up at the polls — recall candidates or not.

"We're already seeing record low turnout for the March primary, which is statewide with millions of dollars being spent by U.S. Senate candidates," she said. "For a small district-

based recall of one council member, turnout is going to be pathetically low."

Recall proponents submitted more than 9,100 signatures to the Anaheim City Clerk in January. The Orange County Registrar of Voters verified more than 5,100 signatures as valid, which surpassed the required threshold.

Anaheim estimates that the recall election will cost \$700,000. If voters recall Rubalcava, remaining council members would have 60 days to decide whether to appoint someone to her vacant seat or call for a special election.

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CHAMPIONS

Tackling Sports a passion for monthly O.C. group

BY MATT SZABO

It's a rainy Tuesday afternoon, but the weather can't keep nearly 50 people from packing into a room at the OASIS Senior Center in Corona del Mar.

On this day, CdM resident Scott Daruty is holding court on all things horse racing.

Daruty is the president of Monarch Content Management and Elite Turf Club. He also serves as senior vice president for Los Angeles Turf Club Inc., which operates historic Santa Anita Park racetrack.

Tom Johnson smiles as he introduces Daruty.

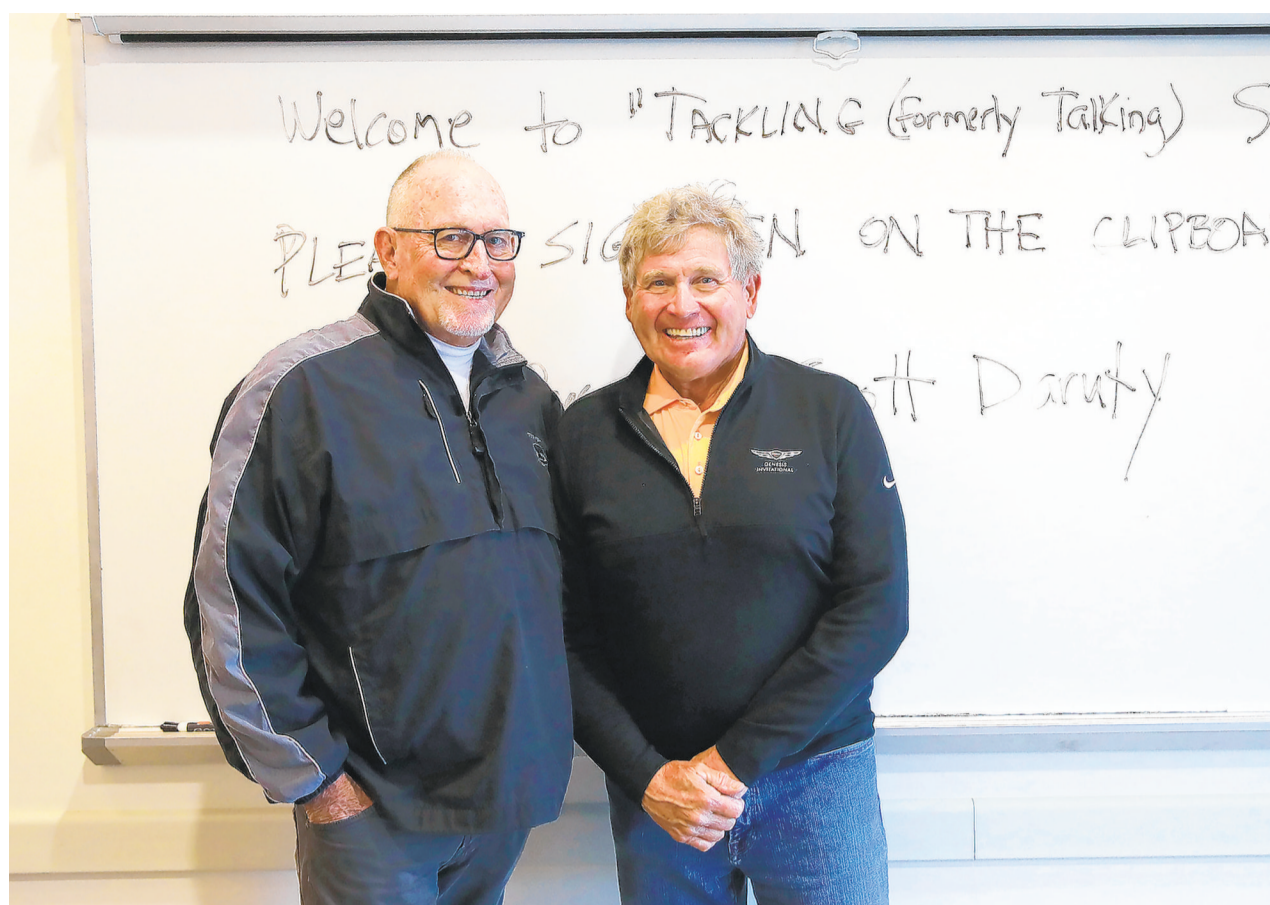
"We're going to pass a bucket and everybody put the money in," Johnson quipped. "You put it on a horse you think is going to win."

It wouldn't be a Tackling Sports meeting without information, questions and laughs.

The sports group is open to the public and typically meets the third Tuesday of each month at Oasis. It has grown quickly since it was started last July by former NFL referee Laird Hayes and Johnson, a former Daily Pilot publisher who now publishes the online newspaper and community forum Stu News.

The group has just three rules: No dues, no politics (unless it's talking about a sports-related issue like LIV Golf) and everyone will be given the chance to be heard.

Hayes said he got the



TOM JOHNSON, left, and retired NFL referee Laird Hayes lead the monthly Tackling Sports group at the OASIS Senior Center in Corona del Mar. The group brings in guest speakers and is open to the public.

idea for Tackling Sports after reading a Los Angeles Times column by Bill Plaschke that details a similar group that meets weekly at Birch College in Woodland Hills.

Tackling Sports is the third name for the group, which started as Just Sports. It now has a logo courtesy of Hayes' buddy Thom McElroy, the former

surf coach at Orange Coast College.

"The name will probably stay the same, at least for another month," Hayes said with a laugh.

The attendees of this February meeting include former OCC President Gene Farrell — Hayes is a former OCC professor and men's soccer coach himself — as well as longtime Edi-

son High football coach Dave White.

Hayes has plenty of connections in the community and has already planned guest speakers months in advance. He was formerly Newport Beach's Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission, of which Daruty's wife, Diane, is currently a member. Diane Daruty is the race director

for the annual Newport Mesa Spirit Run.

Johnson serves as moderator for the monthly Tackling Sports meeting. Last fall, the group brought in Corona del Mar and Newport Harbor high school principals Jake Haley and Sean Boulton, respectively, during the week of the Battle of the Bay rivalry game. Costa Mesa native Brett

Mayne, who played as a Major League Baseball catcher for 15 years, has been another guest speaker.

"Someone asked if he was with the Royals when George Brett had his famous pine tar incident," Johnson said. "He goes, 'I was his roommate. Let me tell you how I got to be his roommate.' He's a young guy, and he goes back there and Brett takes him under his wing. I mean, it was crazy."

Future Tackling Sports guest speakers include former Anaheim Ducks general manager Bob Murray on March 19. On April 16, the group will welcome former Dallas Cowboys cheerleader Julie Jacobs.

Hayes said one Tackling Sports attendee is a former competitive figure skater.

"At some point, I'd like her to maybe bring her coach or something like that," he said. "Let's talk about figure skating. How do they judge that stuff? What's the training like? How do you make an Olympic team? I'd also love to get a race car driver in here. I know some people who know some people."

Keeping it light is key for the group, which definitely skews older — it meets on a weekday afternoon, after all. "[Politics] can splinter people, and that's not what we're here for," Hayes said. "We're here to have fun."

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Don Leach | Staff Photographer

MAILBAG

Continued from page A6

works or not. For voters, providing an ID during registration eliminates potential conflict and hard feelings in line, i.e. "His ID doesn't look right."

Laura Curran
Newport Beach

I took a tour of the Orange County Registrar of Voters on Feb. 24 and found it to be educational and impressive. My take-aways: Someone would have to jump through many hoops to affect even one vote, and the several hundred people who are employed there on Election Day are united to prevent just that.

I wonder if any members of the Huntington Beach City Council cabal have availed themselves of this opportunity? If so, how could they not realize that Measure A's success would cost the city untold mil-

lions of dollars in hardware, software and personnel — not to mention the costs of defending against a promised lawsuit from the state?

Supporters of this ill-considered measure say it's based on election security. I suspect it's actually intended to make it easier for them to futz with the numbers when it's time for them to be reelected.

Al Bonowitz
Huntington Beach

As I researched candidates and measures before voting, I spent special effort to review the Huntington Beach Charter amendments A, B, and C put forward by the majority City Council members. It was clear to me that the amendments are a slam dunk "no."

Measure A seeks to require voter ID but the language is fuzzy by saying the three changes "may" be enforced. May? Or may not? Who decides on asking for ID? A volunteer poll

worker? What's the criteria: age, skin color, clothing?

We are already required to provide ADA access by state law, so there is no reason to add a "may" (or may not!) amendment. The analysis provided by the city attorney (who is absolutely not impartial), says the measure would authorize but not require the measure be implemented, so what's the point? He also states the costs to the city are unknown, so he's asking residents to write a blank check. And get sued.

Regarding Measure B: When our Japanese sister city visited us, we couldn't fly their flag, insulting our very special guests, making us a spectacle, and putting a new dent in our fragile Huntington Beach democracy. Because of closed-minded flag policies, we refused to fly their flag in honor of our relationship. It seemed to be more important to the majority four to limit our flag flying so we can avoid flying the Pride

flag supporting the LGBTQ+ people in our community. And the arrogance of the majority has put into jeopardy the economic opportunity to host skateboarding and surfing in the 2028 Olympic Games.

Regarding Measure C: The current council prefers to work in the darkness avoiding public scrutiny. Canceling meetings or having closed-door ad hoc meetings does not make the city run better. We need transparency.

I just learned that the culling, banning and hiding of public library books is a very expensive endeavor. It leads to costly lawsuits. A city in Florida spent \$40,000 per book to "protect" its citizens from certain library books that had previously been approved by their professional librarians. Then as the lawsuits built up, their city council tried to defund, close and privatize public libraries. This is not what we want.

Do not mimic Florida. I support freedom to read.

I strongly encourage a no vote on A, B and C. They are costly and completely unnecessary.

Mary Ann Celinder
Huntington Beach

Huntington Beach librarians are being thrown under the bus (Huntington Beach Public Library begins children's book recataloging process, Daily Pilot, Feb. 7). How are librarians supposed to judge which books contain content of a sexual nature? Apparently they have been told to use the bathing suit rule to determine what photographs or illustrations are not appropriate. By whose standards? Every single children's book in the library has been positively reviewed by accredited review sources as being suitable for children. The council majority has not provided written lists of the titles they want relocated. If going by the bathing suit

rule, any book with a photo or drawing of Michelangelo's David would have to be relocated. Goodbye children's art history section and most books on Italy. Books showing ancient Greek statues would have to be removed. Different volumes of the World Encyclopedia would have to go as well as any book mentioning HIV or AIDS. Goodbye standard dictionaries, books on diseases and biographies on Magic Johnson. What about Valentine's Day books that talk about kissing and hugging? That implies a sexual nature, doesn't it? Disney princess books? They kiss a lot. If a mother is pregnant in a story, does that imply sexual content? Do those have to go? You can see how broad and vague these instructions are. Currently they are as clear as mud. There is no transparency and detailed reporting. It's as though the City Council

See **Mailbag**, page A9

MUSEUM

Continued from page A1

work of Johnston Marklee Associates of Los Angeles.

The museum's north wing houses five exhibitions while the south wing hosts four. A crowd of about 3,350 visitors turned out for the Feb. 23 reopening, according to Platt. They found not only additional gallery space, but a cafe, community room, an outdoor courtyard and a research library.

Exhibitions run the gamut of California's artistic history, spanning the late 1800s to the present. It includes the work of Hollywood studio artists like Mary Blair, who was a concept artist on Disney's "Alice in Wonderland," "Peter Pan," "Song of the South" and "Cinderella." It also showcases works from Orange County artists, including muralist Emigdio Vasquez, who was known as the "godfather of Chicano art."

Visitors are greeted by a Murano glass mosaic mural by Millard Sheets titled "Pleasures Along the Beach." Inside they can see works by well-known artists, intricate Navajo weavings and more. One of the surprise favorites has been the exhibit of antique radios the Hilberts collected over the years.

"When I was a kid, my parents had an appliance store in Pasadena," said Hilbert, now a Newport Coast resident. "And one of my first jobs was just to take [radios] out of a box



Photos by Eric Licas

MARK HILBERT, the donor largely responsible for financing the Hilbert Museum of California Art, poses in front of a collection of vintage radios.



VICTORIA GUSTAFSON, left, a docent for the Hilbert Museum of California Art in Orange, chats with a guest.

and put a price tag on them to put them on the shelf. And I started to look at these radios and started

thinking, 'Gee, these are some really interesting designs.' And later, we come and find out that

these radio companies hired some of the greatest designers available to design the cabinets and create special plastics for these radios."

Nick Gulan, an illustration student at Fullerton College who was visiting the museum said he'd come to study the radios for a few hours. He said he drew what he saw for an industrial design class.

"A lot of it comes down to the overall shape language, the style of it and how things are pushed in. You don't see it a lot too much in such a creative and stylized way anymore. It's very Art Deco in a way too. It's just good design," Gulan said. "The colors are fantastic, but at the end of

the day it just comes down to good design."

Hilbert said he started collecting narrative art after his wife remarked that a landscape painting he'd brought home would have been more interesting if people were included in the scene. Since that time the pair have collected more artwork that includes human figures because, he said, they tell a story.

"I think the expansion really gives us an opportunity to have a wider diversity of shows that will appeal to more age groups," Platt said. "Virtually, everyone will find something here to like. One of the reasons for our museum is that we want to emphasize how very unique California was and the 20th century art, especially. We had the movie industry right here and nobody else in the world had that."

"So, during the Great Depression, the movie studios were attracting artists from all over the world to come and work for them because it was a way for them to earn money while continuing to ply their trade. And then in their spare time, they'd go out into the hills and the wilderness and the shorelines or the cities in California and paint their fine art. We had so many people doing that ... and so we can bring to the attention of the world these great names in California art."

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ELECTED

Continued from page A6

Steel voted against the Ensuring Access to Abortion Act, which would safeguard a woman's right to travel to another state to receive an abortion if their state bans the medical procedure. This bill would stop states from putting a bounty on women, families and doctors who assist in obtaining the abortion — a drastic overreach from the government on everyone's freedom to get the healthcare they need.

In sum, it can be hard to tell which elected officials are only saying they're pro-woman to court more constituents and which ones truly are pro-woman. Look at their voting record to learn the truth. California is a reproductive freedom state, but access to reproductive healthcare is still not guaranteed. Even in Orange County, we are not immune to a national abortion ban.

This election cycle, do your research on issues that are important to you and take a hard look at your representative's voting record to make sure your elected officials wholeheartedly support important freedoms like reproductive freedom and choice for all — no exceptions.

THY BUI is an attorney and a board member of Planned Parenthood of Orange and San Bernardino Counties. She is a resident of Newport Beach.

MAILBAG

Continued from page A8

majority is purposely setting the librarians up to fail, and one has to wonder why.

Barbara Richardson
Huntington Beach

A positive spin on biking in C.M.

As an avid cyclist and proud Costa Mesa resident and business owner, I would like to express my gratitude for the folks who have striven to reshape the city's corridors into a safer haven for nonmotorists. Special recognition should be given to the prior and present Costa Mesa City Council members, the Bikeway and Walkability Committee, Public Works, OCTA and the nonprofit Costa Mesa Alliance for Better Streets.

To celebrate bicycling and the competitive spirit, today the Costa Mesa Grand Prix cycling race will once again commence on the streets of Costa Mesa! In 1990 this exciting cycling competition brought internationally recognized athletes to beautiful Costa Mesa. As it was in 1990, the Start/Finish area will be located at Harbor Boulevard and Sunflower Avenue. The 1-mile closed-circuit course guarantees fast and furious racing all day for both participants and spectators. There will be music, colorful bikes, podium presentations and food trucks; or grab lunch at the OC Mix across the street.

Find a cozy spot on the green grass along the tree-lined streets of Costa Mesa and enjoy the resurgence of the Costa Mesa Grand Prix, sanctioned by the governing body for competitive cycling, USA Cycling, and brought to you by Majestic Cycling.

Come on out and revel at the team tactics, the blistering speed and cornering skills of athletes sprinting on skinny tires at 40-plus mph. Celebrate the outdoors, a healthy lifestyle and unity in the Costa Mesa community!

The first race rolls out at 8 a.m. The Pro Races commence at 2:20 p.m. Live streaming of the day's action will be broadcast on LAcrits.com.

Though there is much work to be done, bike and pedestrian transportation has greatly improved since I landed here in 1990, an enormous improvement in terms of retrofitting the grid into a more bike-friendly network. Please continue to support funding, design and construction for the betterment of bike flow and bike safety.

David Worthington
Costa Mesa

Recall turmoil in Orange

The Orange Unified School District is in turmoil. Thankfully we have an opportunity to make school board meetings boring again by recalling two of our school board members.

On our primary election ballot due by March 5, voters in the OUSD boundaries (Orange, Villa Park, Anaheim Hills, and parts of Santa Ana and Garden Grove) can vote to recall Trustee Madison Miner and Trustee Rick Ledesma. They do not even have their kids in schools run by the OUSD, they opted to send their children to privately run schools instead. This recall is about removing them to restore stability and fiscal responsibility to our district.

Elections can be hard fought, but this fear mongering and these blatant lies being spread are a new low for these trustees. In a recent video interview, Trustee Madison Miner claimed that the Children's Hospital of Orange County is sending buses to OUSD schools to pick up girls for abortions. CHOC has re-

HOW TO GET PUBLISHED

Send an email to erik.haugli@latimes.com and include your full name, hometown and phone number (for verification purposes) with your submission. All letters should be kept to 350 words or less and address local issues and events. The Daily Pilot reserves the right to edit all accepted submissions for clarity, accuracy and length.

sponded saying that these allegations are patently false. The no on the recall campaign took out ads on social media stating, "Vote NO on the OUSD recall and say NO to a whopping ONE BILLION DOLLAR bond that will drive up property taxes."

There is no bond attached to the recall vote. There is no talk of a bond. School board members cannot impose bonds and higher taxes on taxpayers, they don't have that power. Beyond the false claims, there is also divisive rhetoric. In a video interview, Trustee Madison Miner referred to people who don't like her policies as "the opposers of myself" and "the enemy." A school board trustee is literally referring to students, parents, and teachers as "the enemy."

This is the language of a "parental rights" and "school choice" culture warrior. Privately run charter schools want district property, and the board majority has given them sweetheart deals on a mortgage option and on

the rent they pay to the school district.

Your vote matters. Please vote to support public schools.

Carol LaBounty
Orange

Extolling the right of a free press

Although we may take it for granted, we are fortunate to have a newspaper that offers its subscribers the opportunity to present their views about events taking place in their communities. The Daily Pilot represents the free press, which is one of our most important rights, on equal footing with freedom of speech because it conveys individual views to the public.

Thus, we have the opportunity to talk about politicians who represent our areas, the city councils that frustrate some of us with their right-leaning tendencies, as in the case of the Huntington Beach council with its far right agenda, or Newport Beach with its subtle conservative

slant (with the exception of one member, they recently endorsed Scott Baugh for the 47th Congressional District).

Because of the free press, I have one last chance to make my plea to urge people to vote for Rep. Katie Porter for U.S. senator and state Sen. Dave Min for the 47th District, who will fight to defend our precious rights that are sorely being tested on the local as well as national level. Millions of dollars are being spent to keep these candidates from representing Orange County and California.

But the Daily Pilot has not only been there to allow us the opportunity to talk about what grieves us but also to talk about what pleases us such as special events or happenings in our communities, the peace demonstrations for Ukraine which took place in Laguna Beach two years ago, the aerial shows which entertain our cities, the opening of the O.C. Museum of Art, or the simple visit to Balboa Island to get a frozen banana.

I will never forget when I first retired from teaching over a decade ago and discovered how exciting it was to be able to express personal views in the Daily Pilot. We must never let anyone take that right away from us.

Lynn Lorenz
Newport Beach

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

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JoAnn Stone (Hertel, Briney)

May 11, 1933 - February 23, 2024

Jo Ann "JoJo" Carlyle Stone (Hertel, Briney) passed away peacefully on February 23, 2024 at the age of 90. Born on May 11, 1933 in Pasadena, California, she was the daughter of Earl and Charlotte Clayton.

JoJo touched the lives of many with her unwavering sense of right and wrong, kindness, warmth, and unconditional love. She went to high school in Burbank and attended classes at Orange Coast College. She dedicated her life to her family. She supported her first husband, David Stone's, growing development business in its early years.

JoJo was a beloved mother, grandmother, friend, and aunt. Her memory will forever be cherished by her children, Jeff Stone (Stacy), Susan Burt (Ed), and Sandy Larkin, along with their extended families.

She is survived by her twin sister, Patricia Green, and was predeceased by her brother, Buzz Clayton.

Family was the true joy of JoJo's life, and she was adored by her seven grandsons: Clayton Stone (Julie), Bradley Stone (Allison), Gregory Stone (Jaimee), Scott Stone, James Bohan (Alexandria), Joseph Bohan, and Jack Larkin. She also had six great-grandchildren, whom she cherished dearly...Charlotte, Elizabeth, Theodore, Margaret, Grayson, and Dallas. JoJo enjoyed the company of her extended family on "Fun Fridays", which included her sister's children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren as well.

JoJo was a longtime member of Big Canyon Country Club and enjoyed the camaraderie and many friends she made through the Women's Golf Association.

In her final days, JoJo spent time thinking about the ultimate game of golf. She shared a passion for the sport with her daughter, Suzy, and together they played in numerous golf tournaments. JoJo always ensured that their team outfits matched the theme, right down to the socks they wore.

In accordance with JoJo's wishes, there will be no formal memorial service. Instead, her family invites you to remember her fondly as someone who never wavered from her sense of right and wrong.

JoJo's family would especially like to acknowledge her caregiver, Emi, who provided loving and compassionate care to JoJo for many years. They also kindly ask that you honor JoJo's memory by imagining her simply going out the back door to go shopping, one of her favorite hobbies. May her spirit live on in the hearts of those she loved.

MARKETPLACE

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

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Supply Management Specialist:
Bachelor's in Logistics or related req'd.\$56,368/yr, F/T, Resume to Jake Oh, Linkone, Inc., 5681 Beach Blvd, Ste 100, Buena Park, CA 90621

Legal Notices

Legal Notices

CITY OF COSTA MESA NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the Costa Mesa City Council at its regular meeting at City Hall Council Chambers, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, California and virtual locations on **Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.**, or as soon as possible thereafter as the matter shall be heard, to consider:

A resolution establishing and adopting fees related to the affordable housing in-lieu fees for the proposed Affordable Housing Ordinance (Ordinance No. 2024-XX). Pursuant to Government Code Section 66016, data and analysis indicating the estimated fees required to comply with the Affordable Housing Ordinance will be made available on or before March 4, 2024. Copies of the in-lieu fees data and analysis can be obtained during normal business hours at City Hall, 1st Floor, City Clerk's Office, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa and on the City's website at: <https://www.costamesaca.gov/trending/affordable-housing-ordinance>.

Public Comments: Members of the public wishing to participate in the meeting may find instructions to participate on the agenda. Members of the public may also submit written comments via email to the City Clerk at cityclerk@costamesaca.gov and they will be provided to the City Council, made available to the public, and will be part of the meeting record. Any written communications, photos, or other materials for copying and distribution to the City Council that are 10 pages or less, can be e-mailed to cityclerk@costamesaca.gov, submitted to the City Clerk's Office on a flash drive, or mailed to the City Clerk's Office. Kindly submit materials to the City Clerk **AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE, BUT NO LATER THAN 12:00 p.m.** on the day of the hearing, **March 19, 2024**. All materials, pictures, PowerPoints, and videos submitted for display at a public meeting must be previously reviewed by staff to verify appropriateness for general audiences. No links to YouTube videos or other streaming services will be accepted, a direct video file will need to be emailed to staff prior to each meeting in order to minimize complications and to play the video without delay. The video must be one of the following formats, .mp4, .mov or .wmv. Only one file may be included per speaker for public comments. Please note that materials submitted by the public that are deemed appropriate for general audiences will not be redacted in any way and will be posted online as submitted, including any personal contact information. For further assistance, contact the City Clerk's Office at (714) 754-5225. The City Council agenda and related documents may also be viewed on the City's website at <http://costamesaca.gov>, 72 hours prior to the public hearing date. **IF THE AFOREMENTIONED ACTION IS CHALLENGED IN COURT**, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in the notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City Council at, or prior to, the public hearing. Brenda Green, City Clerk, City of Costa Mesa
Published March 3, 2024

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Symphony No. 1

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Don't rain on their parade

Junior Citizens of the Year shine in Laguna Beach

BY ANDREW TURNER

When he was younger, Tyler Palino spent a handful of years preparing for and marching in the Laguna Beach Patriots Day Parade.

Palino played trumpet through middle school, and it was his chance to play in the professional that his grandmother loved and that annually takes over the downtown streets on the first Saturday of March.

This year would have been different. While Palino traded in his instrument for other pursuits beginning in high school, he would have been back in the parade as an honoree.

"I think Laguna Beach does an amazing job of supporting and promoting community service and a feeling of togetherness," Palino said of the local celebration. "There's always someone willing to support you or help you achieve your dreams."

The Patriots Day Parade was canceled Thursday, just ahead of the event, after forecasters said there would be rain on Saturday. The parade will not be rescheduled.

Junior Citizens of the Year have been featured in the event since 1977, and the recognition went to Laguna Beach High seniors Elaina Seybold and Palino this year.

Parade entry chairwoman Sandi Werthe said the honor was first bestowed upon the Laguna Beach girls' volleyball team after they won the CIF Southern Section Division 4-A championship under then coach George Carey for the program's first title in 1976.

Palino took up coding in his youth, and his interest in cybersecurity intensified when his grandfather was targeted in an online scam.

"He lost a great deal of money, and it was really difficult to recover all his accounts," Palino said. "There was somebody posing as Yahoo support, and they got his bank details and log-ins from that. I started working with cybersecurity. I've taken a cybersecurity class through [College Career Advantage] here. I have a club on campus called Connect Tech Laguna, where we're working to educate seniors on scams to help, because it's a really big issue."

Palino would like to create user interfaces that make it easier for aging populations to navigate life that is increasingly moving online.

"Growing up, we saw all the computer icons, so we know what the back button means, what the red circle means on Apple, but for older adults, it's really hard to understand these symbols and icons because they didn't grow up with that type of user interface," Palino said. "I want to make it very clear [and] easier to utilize for older adults and people with motor and visual impairments."

Seybold comes from a multigenerational military family, which made the Laguna Beach Patriots Day celebration particularly special to her.

Military service and the associated family sacrifice was present in her life from her first breaths. Seybold became one of the first babies to have their birth filmed live on a webcam, which made it possible for her father — deployed in Kuwait at the time — to witness her coming into the world.

"It was in the news because they were able to talk to each other," Seybold said of the moment her parents



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

LAGUNA BEACH High seniors Tyler Palino and Elaina Seybold are the Junior Citizens of the Year, an honor handed out for the Patriots Day Parade since 1977. Both students have gravitated toward math and science in their academic pursuits.

shared. "... There's so much sacrifice involved with that, people who have dedicated themselves to that idea of making a better place for their community."

Seybold now dreams of following an entrepreneurial path in biomedical engineering. Her goals have been shaped by her own struggles with autoimmune disorders, which she described as "crippling" liver and gut problems.

"It's weird because [with] the invisible disease, you can consider the pros," Seybold said. "There are obviously people who have a lot more visible impairments. That's really difficult to not fit in, but also, when you're struggling with something but it's not

visible, and you just have to act like you're fine when you're not. ...

"There's sort of a feeling of isolation that stems from that, which is why I was so empowered to go do the community service and go talk to the kids and show them remission is possible. You can get through high school. You can play a sport."

Seybold has been a key player for the Laguna Beach girls' basketball team. She averaged six points and 5.9 rebounds as a junior for the Breakers, when the team advanced to the CIF Division 4A semifinals and the CIF State Southern California Regional Division V quarterfinals.

The Junior Citizens of the Year are selected by Laguna Beach High staff. The award is given based on students' achievements in athletics, community service, leadership and scholarship. Plaques commemorating the honor are distributed, and the honorees ride in the parade. The recognition is also recorded in the parade program.

Laguna Beach High junior Brayden Belden was also named the Athlete of the Year after overcoming a brain injury to find surfing success in the local contest at Brooks Street.

Students often volunteer in the parade for community service hours.

Laguna Beach High Principal Jason Allemann

said conversations are had among the administration, counselors and teachers when considering who the nominees should be.

"The nice thing about the school is it's got such a strong community feel among the student body that we're really always in touch," Allemann said. "I think it's really, truly due to the class size. Being smaller, we're able to be more intimately involved in students' high school experience, and then we have organic conversations around that and what is the best representative of that for a community event like the Patriots Day Parade."

andrew.turner@latimes.com
Twitter: @AndrewTurnerTCN

— CELEBRATE —

SPRING

Easter Events
March 8–30

Celebrate Spring and visit the Easter Bunny for keepsake photos, the Bunny Carousel featuring larger-than-life bunnies and floral carriages. Springtime crafts, special activities and Easter balloons are sure to delight.

34th Annual Spring Garden Show
April 25–28

The 34th annual Southern California Spring Garden Show is a four-day garden event showcasing the latest innovations, display gardens and more.

Fleurs de Villes
April 25–28

Discover this unique exhibit and experience fresh floral installations inspired by accomplished artists integral to Southern California's vibrant art scene.

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