

Daily Pilot & Times OC

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Deal to buy garden park blossoms

South Laguna group says \$2M purchase of lot used by 400 gardeners is in escrow; fundraising efforts are underway.

BY ANDREW TURNER

Fourteen years ago, a group of volunteers began the transformation of an empty lot in South Laguna into what has become a beloved spot for gardening enthusiasts and residents alike.

The South Laguna Community Garden Park, located between Coast Highway and Virginia Way on Eagle Rock Way, was the result. A local treasure, it has grown to see more than 400 gardeners planting over 50 beds throughout its history.

People associated with the garden park have hoped that the land on which it sits would become available for purchase for years. The South Laguna Community Garden Park organization recently got its wish.

"This is the moment we've



Spencer Grant

See **Garden**, page A10 **SOUTH LAGUNA** Community Garden Park project director Ann Christoph, Ruben Flores and Sally Coffey look toward the garden's upper level.

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Firefighter reflects on lifetime of service

Bob Baker, now 86, was key to getting paramedic services established in Orange County.

BY MATT SZABO

The museum in Bob Baker's Huntington Beach home has decades of memorabilia relating to the fire service.

There's an old speaking trumpet, a leather fire helmet and axe from the 1890s and an aluminum helmet from the 1930s and 1940s. The use of the latter item was short-lived.

"It eventually got outlawed because guys were walking into electrical wires and getting electrocuted," Baker said.

His favorite piece in the museum, though, is probably one of the earliest examples of fire hose. It's leather, with copper rivets and washers.

"Very heavy," Baker said matter-of-factly. "They didn't have 50-foot cows, so they had to splice it."

While the collection is impressive, there are decades more experience in the mind of the 86-year-old.



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

BOB BAKER, a retired Huntington Beach fire captain, shares his home museum dedicated to his fire service in Santa Ana and Huntington Beach.

See **Reflects**, page A2

ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



Spencer Grant

TIFFANY HADDISH READS HER CHILDREN'S BOOK AT TUSTIN LIBRARY PAGE A4

DISNEY'S TIANA'S PALACE IS 'ALMOST THERE' PAGE A6

MAILBAG: HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE STILL RELEVANT PAGE A8

Newport Beach reaches across the Pacific to offer a hand



Robert Gauthier | Los Angeles Times

WATERCRAFT BEAR the scars of the wildfire near downtown Lahaina in Hawaii earlier this month.

BY LILLY NGUYEN

As recovery efforts continue on the island of Maui after the deadliest U.S. wildfire in a century, those on the mainland are looking for ways to help. People in Orange County have already started collecting item donations, while others have reoriented existing events or organized new ones for community aid to the survivors.

Newport Beach Mayor Noah Blom hopes his city will join them.

Blom announced at a regular City Council meeting Tuesday that he would be visiting Lahaina this week to offer his condolences, see the damage on the ground, meet with residents and see where financial aid could potentially be rendered through the Newport Beach Foundation, a local nonprofit that aims to strengthen current and future leadership in the city through education, research and advocacy.

About \$10,000 has been collected through the organization for Maui as of earlier this week,

"I was asking if there was anything that we could do in Newport Beach. We feel akin to Maui."

— Newport Beach Mayor Noah Blom

though Newport Beach Foundation co-founder and Councilman Joe Stapleton said he expects that total to grow.

Interested readers can donate directly at nb-foundation.org/checkout/donate?donatePageId=5e44d32b7a6edf3b611f85f0. Stapleton confirmed anything collected by the foundation at this time will be going toward Maui.

Blom said he has mutual friends on the island, fellow restaurateurs who have businesses in Hawaii, who have talked with him about the overwhelming need for resources and help as Maui faces the aftermath of the unprecedented wild-

See **Offer**, page A2

County's first breast milk collection site opens

MOMS O.C. partners with Mothers' Milk Bank during Breast Feeding Awareness Month.

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

On Aug. 18, MOMS Orange County partnered with Mothers' Milk Bank to open the county's first human milk collection center during National Breastfeeding Awareness Month.

"Our first milk drive with Mothers' Milk Bank was back in 2019," said MOMS Orange County's chief executive officer, Dave Lugo. "We had 14 donors attend, and we collected an estimated 1,000 ounces of precious breast milk — or gold as it is often referred to — equal to over 4,000 feedings for medically fragile babies."

Since that first drive, it has been a goal of MOMS to open a permanent collection site for human milk donations in Orange County.

"Today is the day that we realize that dream and officially celebrate the opening of Orange County's first and only human milk collection center," Lugo said to a room full of parents and their babies at the group's Santa Ana headquarters.

MOMS Orange County was founded 31 years ago to provide prenatal healthcare for low-income, at-risk women. The organization serves 2,500 families annually.

"MOMS Orange County has served the community with a couple of core programs," said Lugo, "a home visitation program as well as health education classes. Over the last couple of years we have also introduced



Spencer Grant

JUBILANT MOMS leave the lactation workshop at the MOMS Orange County building in Santa Ana during a breast milk collection drive on Aug. 18.

some maternal mental health programs, and today, we are so proud to be opening our milk bank."

Mothers' Milk Bank of San Jose is a charter member of the Hu-

man Milk Banking Assn. of North America, dedicated to enhancing the availability and use of breast milk for all babies. Mothers' Milk Bank's American Academy of Pediatrics proved approach to ob-

taining, pasteurizing and dispensing human milk for use in neonatal intensive care units and other settings makes the organization the gold standard in processing donated breast milk and a natural

partner for MOMS Orange County.

"[Mothers' Milk Bank] hosts all the screening processes, the dis-

See **Milk**, page A10

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REFLECTS

Continued from page A1

This month, Baker celebrates an anniversary. It's been 50 years since he helped bring the first paramedic program to Orange County.

Baker was part of the first class of students, with 24 members from Huntington Beach, Orange, La Habra and the County of Orange. After graduation, the program launched on Aug. 4, 1973.

Baker, who grew up in South Central Los Angeles as the second-oldest of 10 children, was instrumental in making it happen. After working for the fire departments in San Gabriel and West Covina, he joined the Huntington Beach department as an engineer in 1966.

Just months later, 5-year-old Troy Chad Golithy drowned in an Huntington Beach pool.

"We thought we could have saved this kid, but he was lost in the ambulance trip to the hospital because they wouldn't let us go with him," Baker said.

The chairman of the First Aid Committee at the time, Baker asked long-time Huntington Beach Fire Chief Ray Picard if an ambulance service could be started. At the time, the paramedic program was new in Los Angeles County, but hadn't made its way south yet.

The "Emergency!" television show, about two paramedics and firefighters who work in Los Angeles, was popular throughout much of the 1970s. Baker, who became fire captain in 1970, helped make it happen in real life in Orange County.

"I did the research and wrote a paper, turned it in to the fire chief," he said. "All of the fire chiefs in the county had their monthly meeting, and decided to get a committee going."

Brett Morehead, who worked for HBFD for 33 years and had Baker as his first captain, still remembers this time well.



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

RETIRED FIRE CAPT. Bob Baker shows the newspaper story he saved from an incident he was involved with that inspired his need to establish emergency response programs in Huntington Beach and the county.

"Bob loved the fire service," Morehead said. "He worked extremely hard. Even before the medics, he was involved in training, whether it was officially or coming up with different programs. He just loved the fire department."

Baker became a staff officer in charge of the paramedic program until he was injured in a freak elevator accident at City Hall in 1977, one that led to four back surgeries and a stimulator implant. But even after his consequential retirement from HBFD, he made a difference.

He was a Santa Ana College Fire Academy commander for a few years before becoming a civilian training officer for the Santa Ana city fire department.

Baker retired in 2001. In recent years he joined "Angel's Army," led by Viet-

nam War veteran Angel Cortez out of Calvary Chapel Beachside church in Huntington Beach. The group went to feed the military at different events, until Baker said it was slowed — but not stopped entirely — when Cortez passed away due to COVID-19 during the pandemic.

The giving nature comes naturally to Baker, who gets around his home off Newland Street with a walker. He has experienced still more loss on a personal level.

Though some of Baker's siblings remain alive, he lost his wife of 51 years, Linda, about a decade into retirement. Two of his three children have also died.

Rob, his son, currently lives with Baker and helps take care of him.

"He's just pretty much a good guy," Rob said. "Very

humble, though."

Martha Danell, 82, met Baker at a fellowship gathering in his backyard. He was once known for those, inviting people over on Sunday afternoons after church.

When Danell's husband died in 2016, Baker was there to help with the grief.

"Bob is a first responder at heart," she said. "He has a gift for recognizing people that are hurting and need help, and that's very highly developed in him ... He supported me through one of the hardest times of my life. He and his home were a sanctuary for me. I value his friendship more than I can say."

Baker doesn't get overly sentimental about his life, but he realizes how full it has been. He wrote a manuscript for his children and three grandchildren detailing some of his

experiences and how he believes God led him through them.

Shortly after the paramedic van was put into service in 1973, a 7-year-old girl named Tracy also nearly died via drowning. She was actually clinically dead when paramedics arrived on the scene, Baker said, but they successfully resuscitated and stabilized her.

Baker didn't think it was a coincidence that both Troy and Tracy's cases involved drowning.

The progress was tangible, but he has continued to work in the decades that have followed.

"He'll never change," Danell said. "Bob is going to be helping people with his last breath because that's who he is. He can't be anything else."

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OFFER

Continued from page A1

fires. "I was asking if there was anything that we could do in Newport Beach. We feel akin to Maui; we have some crossover. There's a lot of homes there, our residents go down there or have holdings down there. It's a quick trip that doesn't take much from us but shows the support and lets people know that they have friends all over in government that they can reach out to," Blom said.

"I think there is a big role for government in this kind of situation," he continued. "My heart breaks, because it's such a tragedy for a place that doesn't deserve tragedy not that anyone ever does. We didn't want to just walk down there with a proclamation and a letter. Those are nice, but the Newport Beach Foundation ... is going to be sending what they raised down to a nonprofit in Lahaina, 100%. There's grassroots organizations out there, but we want to make sure it's going to the right one."

Blom said it does have to be a registered nonprofit but the organization has yet to be identified. Hawaii Gov. Josh Green has asked for money to be sent to the Hawaii Community Foundation. The Los Angeles Times has curated a list of other organizations that can be donated to.

Once an organization has been identified, the Newport Beach Foundation will cut a check and send it off. All proceeds will go to Maui.

Stapleton said the idea was Blom's, and he agreed there was a connection between Newport Beach and the Aloha state. Other council members and the foundation agreed that extending a hand to the community was a positive gesture and necessary for a community now struggling without resources.

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'She ready': Tiffany Haddish reads her children's book at Tustin Library

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

Comedian, actress and author Tiffany Haddish is best known for her catch phrase: "She ready."

About 994 of her fans were ready too, as they gathered at Tustin Library on Aug. 19 for storytime with the Emmy and Grammy award winner. Haddish stopped at the public library ahead of her comedy show at the Irvine Improv to read from her children's book, "Layla, the Last Black Unicorn."

"This is a way bigger deal than having two sold-out shows," Haddish remarked to the audience that included infants, young children and their parents and grandparents.

Haddish's storytime included a fun preshow with Razzle Dazzle the Unicorn and some unicorn jokes. OC Public Libraries' public information officer, David Lopez, said the library system's free author events are meant to inspire reluctant readers.

"For many, these events are the community's first opportunity to hear directly from an author or celebrity. These events connect children and families to literary experiences at OCPL," said Lopez. "They transcend literacy as families enjoy interaction and space, making the library the premiere place to be and not just a place to read."

"Layla, the Last Black Unicorn" is the first of a three children's book deal Haddish has with Harper Collins and features a young unicorn who is teased by the other unicorns at school for being "woody."

"Now 'woody' is my way of saying 'ghetto,'" Haddish quipped.

The title borrows from the name of Haddish's 2018 memoir, "The Last Black Unicorn," which made the New York Times best-seller list. Haddish also narrated the companion audio book, which was nominated for a 2019 Grammy Award for "Spoken

Word Album." The nomination itself was a win for Haddish, who has openly shared her struggles with reading and touched on the subject on Saturday.

"I am not the most perfect reader," said Haddish. "I didn't really learn how to read until I was 16, so for me to read out loud is a little bit stressful."

Haddish said it was her drama teacher who realized she couldn't read and helped her practice reading out loud each day.

"I wish my drama teacher was here right now," Haddish said before she began. "She would be really proud."

Haddish did go on to win a Grammy for Best Comedy Album in 2021 for "Black Mitzvah," making her the second Black woman to ever win a Grammy for Best Comedy Album as well as the first to win since Whoopi Goldberg won in 1986. She previously took home an Emmy in 2018 for Outstanding Guest Actress in a Comedy Series for her appearance as a guest host on Saturday Night Live.

Some children followed along in their own copies of the book while Haddish read aloud. The theme of the book deals with identity and self-acceptance. Although being the last black unicorn makes her stand out, Layla also discovers it is among the things that make her unique and special.

"Layla is a representation of who I was as a little girl," said Haddish. "I always felt like an outsider, like I didn't fit in. Kids used to pick on me and make fun of me all the time. I didn't realize until I got older that being different is a good thing. Your difference makes a difference."

Haddish is African American and a member of the Jewish community and her perspective as an author is an important part of the public library mission.

"Young readers benefit from diversity in literature," said Lopez. "Books can be portals into



Photos by Spencer Grant

TIFFANY HADDISH reads her book "Layla, the Last Black Unicorn" to fans at the Tustin Library.

a new time and place but can also be mirrors into or of the familiar. Characters like Layla welcome imagination, but most importantly, possibility for young readers — and big kids, too."

Lopez said it is also important for kids to see themselves in stories.

"Representation matters to readers," said Lopez. "It is as necessary in the authors we include as with the characters that appear in the books. We all want to find validation and to know that our voice is important."

Haddish signed books and took questions after the reading. Bridget L. McCullough and her husband, Derrick McCullough, traveled from San Diego to bring their grandson to the event.

"I wanted bring our grandson because we are fans of Tiffany," said McCullough. "We know her as a comedian and an actor but to see her as an author is great."

McCullough also said she appreciated Haddish sharing about her personal struggles and how she has overcome them.

"A lot of times we see celebrities as one way, but I love that she has different sides," said McCullough. "It is important to let the children know that is not all just glitz and glamour. It is important to see that some ce-



MANY FANS in the audience brought their own copies of "Layla, the Last Black Unicorn" to her reading at the Tustin Library.

lebrities do take time to encourage children to read."

Lopez agrees that reading can be a powerful tool, particularly for children.

"For young readers especially, navigating youth can be complex, and it could be a simple book that changes someone's life or saves it," Lopez said.

OC Public Libraries has a full calendar of literacy and enrichment programming for all ages year around. For more information on all programs and special events, visit ocpl.org.

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Tiana's Palace at Disneyland is 'almost there'

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

Tiana's Palace restaurant at Disneyland Park is "almost there." As the song from Walt Disney Animation Studios' "The Princess and the Frog" goes, the new eatery inspired by the 2009 movie is "getting closer and closer every day." The reimagined quick-service location is set to open on Sept. 7 in the space formerly known as French Market Restaurant.

"As you all know, Walt Disney said Disneyland will never be complete as long as there is imagination left in the world," said Kim Irvine, executive creative director of Walt Disney Imagineering. "We take that very seriously."

Irvine said her team works hard to ensure the park continues to evolve. "My role at Disneyland for almost the last 50 years is to make sure we keep adding to Disneyland and recreating and telling the new stories that film industry gives us," Irvine said.

The Disneyland Resort culinary team performed extensive research on cuisine in the Crescent City in order to create the new menu, which features classics like gumbo and beignets. Media were invited to sample the new menu ahead of the opening at Disneyland Hotel last week.

"We have done several trips to New Orleans and tasted a lot of food," said Michele Gendreau, director of food and beverage at Disneyland. "I made these guys do 18 restaurants in 2½ days," she said, motioning to her team.

The food was also influenced by Lindell Skinner, operations manager of food and beverage at Disneyland

and a New Orleans native. Skinner is also co-chair of PULSE, which stands for People United to Lead, Serve and Excel.

"Our mission is to enhance the experience for our cast and our guests of African and Caribbean descent," said Skinner. "PULSE had the opportunity to come in and work with the chefs and work with the team, to really give them feedback."

Tiana helps her father make gumbo in a special pot in the movie, and at Tiana's Palace there are a couple different gumbo options. A plant-based seven-greens gumbo features white beans, okra, yams, sweet potatoes and Carolina Gold rice, a yellow-hued heirloom rice grown in South Carolina.

"Carolina Gold is a very specific rice that has this certain texture," said John State, executive chef at Disneyland. "The rice itself is traced back to West Africa. We are trying to find those ingredients that help tell the story but also add a unique flavor to the dish."

The plant-based gumbo utilizes a plant-based butter for the roux, which makes for a thinner but still delicious broth. Chicken and andouille sausage can be added as well, although that makes the dish no longer vegan. The house gumbo, however, is a little thicker and spicier, combining braised chicken, andouille sausage and the same heirloom rice, all in one comforting bowl.

"We had nice debate about what type of hot sauce to use here," said Skinner. "Some people are Crystal fans, some people are Tabasco fans."

In a diplomatic compro-



Christian Thompson | Disneyland Resort

GUESTS WILL FIND a blue skylight inside Tiana's Palace, which will open in New Orleans Square at Disneyland Park in Anaheim, Calif., on Sept. 7, 2023. Inspired by the Walt Disney Animation Studios film "The Princess and the Frog," the reimagined quick service restaurant will serve authentic New Orleans flavors inspired by Tiana's friends and adventures. While Tiana's Palace is not a character dining location, guests may find Tiana in New Orleans Square.



David Nguyen | Disneyland Resort

A MUFFULETTA SANDWICH at Tiana's Palace has mortadella, salami, rosemary ham, cheddar, provolone and house-made olive relish on toasted New Orleans sesame seed bread, with red beans and rice and house-made pickles.

mise, chef State said the house gumbo uses both.

The menu offers additional entrees, like Cajun-spice half chicken, brushed with a house-made chicory barbecue sauce served with baked macaroni and cheese and coleslaw. The Gulf shrimp and grits contain plump, grilled shrimp

tossed in a creole sauce served over creamy, cheesy grits.

Handheld options include a muffuletta sandwich piled high with mortadella, salami, rosemary ham, cheddar, provolone and a house-made olive relish on toasted New Orleans sesame-seed bread and



David Nguyen | Disneyland Resort

HOUSE GUMBO in Anaheim with braised chicken, andouille sausage and heirloom rice.

a beef po-boy sandwich, stuffed with slow-cooked beef in gravy and dressed with lettuce, tomato and mayonnaise atop a toasted New Orleans French bread. The bread is one of the most important parts of a true po'boy or muffuletta, so the bread is being sourced from New Orleans.

"The ingredients are critical to tell the story.

Sourcing this bread was not an easy task," said chef State. "We tried to duplicate the bread here and make it ourselves. We also worked with someone local to make it for us, and we just couldn't get there."

The bread for the po'boy is light and airy, letting the ingredients on the inside

See **Palace**, page A9

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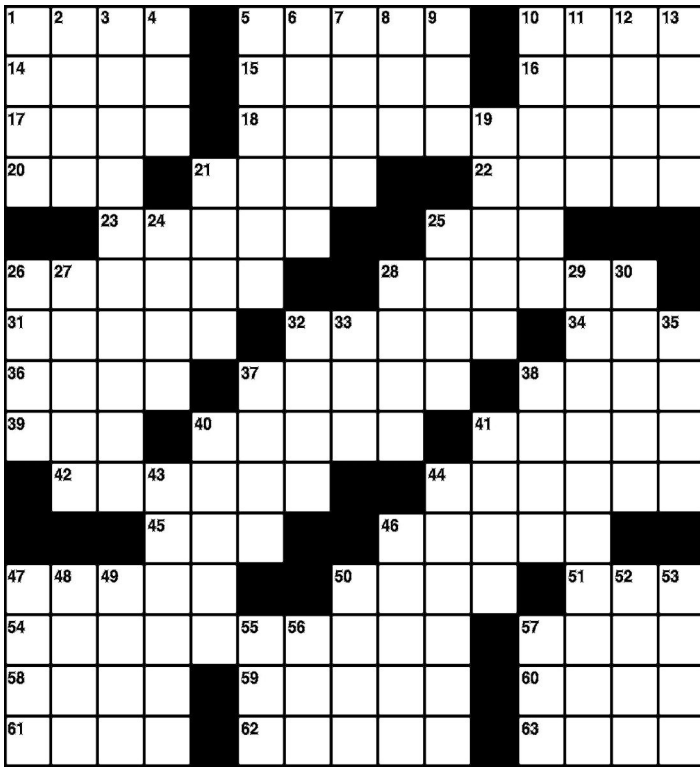


THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

- ACROSS**
 1 Child's cry
 5 Big group of people
 10 Ready, willing and _
 14 Surrounded by
 15 Sound portion of a telecast
 16 _-back; relaxed
 17 Place for a swing set
 18 Making fun of
 20 Santa __, CA
 21 Still & Savage
 22 In a funk
 23 Remedies
 25 Mongrel
 26 Penniless person
 28 Take into custody
 31 Permit
 32 Side road
 34 Buddy
 36 Time for a meal
 37 Fantasize
 38 Greek salad topper
 39 Wildebeest
 40 Hard on the ears
 41 Walked the floor
 42 Regard highly
 44 Measly
 45 "_ All That"; 2021 film
 46 Part of a screwdriver
 47 Knight's weapon
 50 Bakery display
 51 Trophy, often
 54 Author's typed draft
 57 Choir member
 58 Takes advantage of
 59 External
 60 Bluish green
 61 Knife wound
 62 Emotional
 63 Pale-faced

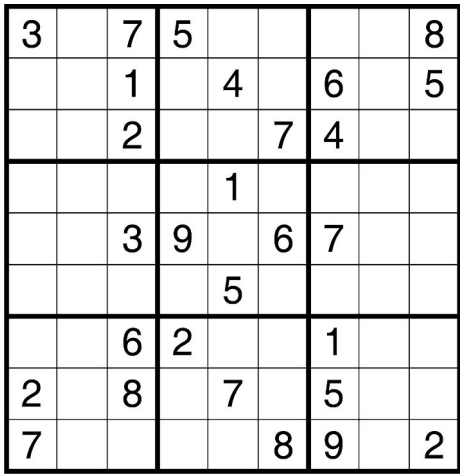
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 1 Poet Angelou



SUDOKU

By the Mephram Group

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



For answers to the crossword and Sudoku puzzles, see page A9.

- 2 "_ for All Seasons"; Oscar winner
 3 Unexplainable by science
 4 Use a plus sign
 5 Profession
 6 Wrecks
 7 Chances
 8 Nintendo game console
 9 Trumpeter
 10 Charm; appeal
 11 Pretrial payment
 12 Piece of a chain
 13 Nervous
 19 Loan shark's

- crime
 21 Make beer
 24 Come _; find
 25 Stuff
 26 Hunger pain
 27 Unaccompanied
 28 Out of town
 29 Glasses
 30 Idaho export
 32 Teacup's edge
 33 "Certainly!"
 35 Godiva or Gaga
 37 Forest femmes
 38 Actor Peter
 40 Essentials
 41 Cushions
 43 Songbird
 44 Wordsworth's specialty
 46 Venomous snake
 47 Too self-satisfied
 48 "He _ Quiet Man"; 2007 film
 49 Snake eyes, in craps
 50 Pocket bread
 52 Ogden's state
 53 Roly-_
 55 Fold-up bed
 56 Kick oneself for
 57 TV's "One Day _ Time"

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MAILBAG



James Carbone

SHIRLEY DETTOFF, left, speaks to the Huntington Beach City Council as Elaine Bauer-Keeley listens. Dettloff and Bauer's father, Ralph, helped form the Huntington Beach Declaration of Policy on Human Dignity as council members in the mid-1990s.

Human Relations Committee is just as relevant today

The Huntington Beach City Council majority's move to do away with the Human Relations Committee in Surf City is counter-intuitive. With hate crimes ascending and Huntington Beach's history of skinhead violence against people of color, now is a particularly peculiar time to disband this important committee. What could possibly be the motive behind such a regressive proposal?

Ben Miles
Huntington Beach

While letter writer Mike Aguilar and Costa Mesa may have gone through their own "red tide" experience (Daily Pilot Mailbag: "A note to H.B. residents unhappy with their council", Aug. 17), it is "Barbieland" compared to the assault on our local government and civic norms being waged by the reactionaries in Huntington Beach who are seeking a complete teardown. It is "glaringly obvious" that the conservatives haunting Costa Mesa's past (and I campaigned for some of

those who replaced them) bear little resemblance to the "MAGA maniacs" who are looking to build a "Kendom" in the image of their multi-indicted hero. While I do indeed "despair" for my city, Aguilar did point out one solution for salvation: voter turnout. If voters are dissatisfied enough to prop up the council minority in 2024 and then retake the City Council in 2026, then the civic nightmare many of us have been living since 2022 may finally result in our citizenry waking up to a better future for the remainder of the decade. We have already gone through a four-year period of turmoil nationally, and we will need to weather this period of turmoil locally, now that we know what we are facing. I am hoping for the eventual tranquility Aguilar claims his city is experiencing. We don't need the "Mojo Dojo Casa House" scene being pushed on Surf City right now.

Tim Geddes
Huntington Beach

COMMENTARY | SUPERVISOR KATRINA FOLEY

Urgent action needed to remove spent nuclear fuel for a safer future

After decades of failed federal nuclear policy, I commend Department of Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm and Rep. Mike Levin (CA-49) for their leadership and progress in relocating spent nuclear fuel. As co-chair of the Spent Fuel Solutions Coalition, a member of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) Decommissioning Community Engagement Panel, and as the Orange County Supervisor representing communities near SONGS, removing the stranded fuel from our coast is a top priority.

Temporary on-site spent fuel storage, like at SONGS, costs taxpayers approximately \$2 million per day, totaling over \$9 billion spent to date. Storing spent nuclear fuel on an earthquake fault, vulnerable to sea level rise, along a rail corridor, near a military base, and close to nearly 9 million residents perpetuates past inaction. While the canisters are safe for now, we cannot wait for continued decades of delays.

International case studies and past mistakes offer a clear road map to success. Collaboration from the Department of Energy, congressional leaders and local communities is crucial. Orange and San Diego counties have worked closely together to coordinate emergency services and with SONGS plant owners. My co-chair for the Spent Fuel Solutions coalition is San Diego Supervisor Jim Desmond, highlighting our levels of collaboration.

In June, Secretary Granholm, Rep. Levin and members of the Spent Fuel Solutions coalition announced progress in removing spent nuclear fuel



Don Bartletti | Los Angeles Times

THE TWIN DOMES of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station on the Pacific Coast by Camp Pendleton. The plant contains on-site storage of spent nuclear fuel.

from our coastline. The Department of Energy invested \$26 million in grants to engage regions in potentially hosting Consolidated Interim Storage (CIS) facilities. Host communities would receive federal investments in infrastructure and jobs. Community consent is vital, and we modeled community consent-based siting processes from Finland, Sweden and Canada.

To move forward as a nation, we need to take three steps:

Funding. First, reliable funding for federal CIS sites is crucial. These sites will willingly host spent fuel relieving communities unable to store it. DOE's funding announcement is important, but consistent funding is necessary for steady progress. Inconsistent allocation of financial resources has hindered our spent fuel management program in the past.

Identification of permanent sites. Concurrently, progress toward deep underground geo-

logical repositories for permanent disposal is necessary. A permanent repository assures interim host communities they won't become permanent hosts by default. This requires a change to federal law, allowing exploration of alternatives to the Yucca Mountain facility.

Legislative action. While taking these steps, our coalition plans to lobby for amendments to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act to provide flexibility between CIS and a permanent repository, and the Orange County Board of Supervisors unanimously supported Rep. Levin's Spent Fuel Prioritization Act. This action by Washington D.C. would expedite CIS while assuring host communities they truly have informed consent.

I urge everyone who wants the removal of spent nuclear fuel from SONGS to raise their voices at the local, state and federal levels. Take action by encouraging your congressional representative to

join Rep. Levin's Bipartisan Spent Nuclear Fuel Solutions Caucus. Request your state assembly members and senators to sign onto Assemblywoman Laurie Davies' Spent Fuel Solutions letter. Become a supporting member of our coalition through our website. Petition your city councils to join the Spent Fuel Solutions coalition. As always, the public is encouraged to join our SONGS Decommissioning Community Engagement Panel meetings, details of which can be found at songscommunity.com. Act today to secure spent fuel solutions for tomorrow.

KATRINA FOLEY is an Orange County Supervisor and a co-chair of Spent Nuclear Fuel Solutions, a group of local governments, elected officials, utilities, environmental groups, labor leaders, Native American leaders, business organizations, and other community members who support the relocation of spent nuclear fuel to a federally licensed facility.

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A WORD, PLEASE | JUNE CASAGRANDE

Semicolons aren't as important as you think

When you're learning to type, the first lesson is the home-row position — the keys where your fingers rest: a s d f j k l ;.

Learning this, you might naturally assume that the semicolon is pretty important — it must be to earn a spot there, right? You might even be a little embarrassed that you're not well versed in how to use a punctuation mark placed so prominently on every English language keyboard.

Then, if you're like me, you spend years embarrassed that you don't use semicolons more and, worse, you aren't quite sure how.



Well, good news. Semicolons aren't as important as you think. In fact, in my unscientific observation, many of the best writers avoid them entirely. Some have openly condemned them.

"Do not use semicolons," Kurt Vonnegut advises aspiring writers in "A Man Without a Country." "All they do is show you've been to college."

This tracks with my experience as an editor. Most of the semicolons I see do nothing to help the reader. On the contrary, they're harmful, splicing clear, simple, bite-size ideas into long, cumbersome, hard-to-follow sentences. So why are they there? Often, the only explanation is that the writer wanted to show off that he knows how to use them.

Why do semicolons exist, then? Because sometimes — rarely — they serve a purpose. So it's a

good idea to understand how to use them even as you resolve not to.

Semicolons have two functions. They connect independent clauses, and they work like commas in situations where a comma isn't strong enough, for example in a list of items that already contain their own commas.

An independent clause is a unit that can stand alone as a sentence because it contains both a subject and a verb: Steve quit. So if independent clauses can stand alone as sentences, why bother connecting them with semicolons? Why not just punctuate them as individual sentences instead? Good question.

Sometimes writers want to show that two independent clauses are closely related; they go together. That's what semicolons do; they tell you that two units that could stand alone as sentences are so important to each other that they should be in the same sentence. But is that really a good reason to force two short, tidy sentences into one long, unwieldy unit?

In my opinion, no. Longer sentences put greater demands on your

reader — the mental equivalent of holding your breath till you get to the end. Shorter sentences are more easily digestible. A writer's job is to deliver information or ideas to readers in the manner most useful to them. So when you start showing off your comma prowess at the reader's expense, you've lost sight of the writer's purpose.

The worst abuse of semicolons occurs when writers use them to create single-sentence paragraphs. Think about it: If you have a paragraph with just two sentences, it's obvious those sentences are closely related. So there's no reason to connect them with a semicolon, creating a single-sentence paragraph.

The other job of semicolons — stringing together items that commas can't handle — is more practical, sometimes. For example, imagine you're listing cities where you've lived: Burbank, California; Shreveport, Louisiana; Venice, Florida; and Albany, New York. Each of these places contains its own comma. So without semicolons, these four places would be punctuated in a way that suggests they're actually eight places.

But writers abuse semicolons in this function, too. The punctuation marks make it easy to stuff a bunch of nouns, ideas or actions into a single sentence when shorter sentences would work better. So anytime you're tempted to lean on semicolons to make sense of your sentence, try breaking it up into shorter sentences instead.

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Culinary event to raise a glass for charity

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

The Pacific Wine & Food Classic invites guests to eat, drink and be merry as the fifth annual culinary event returns to Newport Beach on Sept. 30.

Presented by the O.C. Restaurant Assn. and hosted by Newport Dunes Waterfront Resort, the 21-and-over event will take place at the open-air venue with a seaside landscape from 2 to 5 p.m. with proceeds benefiting Golden Rule Charity.

"We are so excited to delight guests with a tremendous world-class culinary experience," said Pamela Waitt, president of the O.C. Restaurant Assn. and founder of Pacific Wine & Food Classic. "This event has incredible food, wine and people."

Golden Rule Charity is a non-profit founded in 2015 by hospitality industry native Judy Walker. The organization works to provide timely relief to hospitality companies and employees in need by assisting with medical, food, shelter and transportation.

Since its inception, Golden Rule Charity has granted over \$100,000 in funds directly to hundreds of restaurant, bar, hotel and winery workers facing crisis. In the past, the charity has partnered with organizations like the Napa Valley Community Foundation, Sonoma Valley Community Foundation and Caterina's Club.

While the Pacific Wine & Food Classic has scaled down its footprint compared to previous years, Waitt, who is also among the founders of TacoTuesday.com, assures guests the food and wine festival is "larger in greatness." The smaller event means less sand, while limited tickets ensure a quality experience that includes bites, drinks and a silent disco.

A big tent will house wineries from the San Luis Obispo Coast Wine Collective and food from Newport Coast Catering and Sweetgreen. Local gourmet grocery store Gelson's will provide a cheese, charcuterie and wine experience, with vino from winemakers Julien Fayard of Napa Valley and Doug Margerum of Santa Barbara



PACIFIC WINE & Food Classic takes place on Sept. 30.

County.

TacoTuesday.com will present a Taco Garden, where guests can find taco creations from Orange County restaurants like Chela's, Descanso, Rodrigo's and Puesto. The San Simeon Wine Beach Lounge will feature six of its wines and a giant paella, prepared by Leo Razo, co-founder/executive chef of Villa Roma Argentine & Italian Restaurant in Laguna Hills.

Libations will include beer from Stella Artois and Estrella, craft cocktails by Ketel One, Maker's Mark, El Tesoro Tequila, Ron Zacapa Rum and 100 premium wines. Top participating wineries include Austin Hope Winery, San Simeon Winery, Copper Cane Wines & Provisions, Diniz Cellars, Biddle Ranch Vineyard, Talley Vineyards, Rancho Capistrano Winery, Summit Lake Vineyards & Winery and more. Hi-Time Wine Cellars will host a Bubbly Bar featuring a selection of popular sparkling wines too.

Bites will be provided by a lineup of more than 30 local restaurants and food purveyors. Guests can look forward to Orange County chefs like Blue-Gold's Jorge Valines, Descanso Restaurant's Jose Angulo, Farmhouse at Roger's Gardens' Rich Mead, Palenque's Roland Rubalcava, Sushi Roku's Hiroshi Shima, Xacalli Kitchen's Vincent Espinoza and more. Other participating restaurants include Gus's Fried Chicken, SET Sushi & Steak and Red O.

After the Pacific Wine & Food Classic event ends, guests are encouraged to visit VEA Newport Beach, which will host a live concert as part of its summer concert series. The complimentary performance will fea-



Photos courtesy of Pacific Wine & Food Classic

PACIFIC WINE & Food Classic will return for its fifth year in Newport Beach with a long lineup of offerings.

ture country artist Dani Rose from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on the new Sunset Lawn.

VIP early entrance tickets for the Pacific Wine & Food Classic,

which allow entrance at 1 p.m., are priced at \$240, while VIP tickets for 2 p.m. entry are priced at \$195. Visit pacificwineandfood.com for more

information.

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PALACE

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shine, and the muffuletta bread is a round roll resembling a mushroom topped with sesame seeds. Besides the bread, the andouille sausage, sugar cane syrup, gulf shrimp and heirloom rice are all sourced from New Orleans.

Sandwiches are served with red beans and rice and house-made pickles. Other classic sides on the menu include buttermilk cornbread, baked macaroni and cheese, red beans and heirloom rice, coleslaw, cheesy grits and heirloom rice.

Of course, no trip to New Orleans would be complete without beignets. Tiana's signature "man-catching beignets," as her friend Lottie call them, get a fun twist at Tiana's Palace. The house-filled beignets feature a sweet and tart lemon icebox pie filling and are topped with lemon glaze.

"A lemon icebox pie is not something in New Orleans that you are going to find in a commercial restaurant," said Skinner. "You really have to go into the neighborhoods to find this pie. We are paying homage to that by creating a filling that part of this beignet."

Guests can wash down dessert with Joffrey's coffee chicory cold brew, a tradition in New Orleans that is believed to have originated during a coffee shortage when chicory plants were



Sarah Mosqueda

CAJUN SPICE half chicken served with baked macaroni and cheese and coleslaw available at Tiana's Palace.

roasted and ground along with coffee beans to stretch the coffee.

The research trips to New Orleans the staff took were similar to the trips Walt Disney took himself when designing New Orleans Square at Disneyland.

"Frontierland and Adventureland actually took up a lot of the space that is now New Orleans," said Irvine. "He decided he would love to add a New Orleans Square to that part of the park."

Disney and his art directors, who were also animators, went on a tour of New Orleans. New Orleans Square at Disneyland opened in 1966, modeled after 19th-century New Orleans. Then-mayor of New Orleans Victor H. Schiro attended the dedication ceremony and made

Disney an honorary citizen of New Orleans.

"Research is 100% of our job," said Irvine.

Beside the new menu, the restaurant will have new features like lily-pad-inspired lighting fixtures and, most notably, smoke stacks that emulate the river boat in the movie. Live New Orleans jazz music will be a staple at the new restaurant, as it was at the old one. And there are some other things Gendreau assures won't change.

"We can't get rid of the Mickey-shaped beignets," Gendreau said, "and Tiana's recognizes that. She is not going to come in and disrupt the mint julep bar."

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GARDEN

Continued from page A1

been waiting for for 14 years,” Ann Christoph, project director of the garden park said at the Laguna Beach City Council meeting on Tuesday. “It dropped out of the sky, basically. We had a surprise contact from a real estate agent, who we didn’t know, who said, ‘I’ve got a new listing on the garden park, and it’s much less than it was before.’

“We met with him a week and a half ago. Mark Christy came, and he is serving as our buyer’s representative. He said, ‘We’ll have an offer for you tomorrow,’ which was the following Tuesday, and by Friday, we had a confirmation of our offer.”

Christoph said the garden park became available for \$2 million with a 30-day escrow period. It had been listed for \$5 million last summer.

The City Council appropriated \$500,000 from the open space fund to go toward the purchase of the garden park. The panel has made that commitment for several years, with the contingency that the South Laguna Community Garden Park organization raise the balance of the negotiat-



KOA AND and Mahina Watson play in front of a topiary “Garden Elf” at the South Laguna Community Garden Park.

ed purchase price.

“We are in a very tight timeframe,” Christoph added. “So grateful that the council has provided for this particular item, to make your commitment that you’ve made for many years, always thinking, ‘This will never happen. Why are we doing this again? You guys haven’t produced anything.’ But now, here we are.”

The \$2-million offer was accepted on Aug. 11, beginning the 30-day escrow period. As of Tuesday’s meeting, there had been more than \$1 million in donations and pledges toward the acquisition of

the property.

The Laguna Beach Community Foundation has partnered with the South Laguna Community Garden Park organization to help close the deal. The foundation will be accepting contributions via check. For more information on the garden park and how to donate, visit southlagunagarden.org.

“We believe we will be able to be the vehicle through which the funds flow,” said Tom Davis, chairman of the Laguna Beach Community Foundation. “We will pool the funds together. When the time comes, deliver the



Photos by Spencer Grant

LOCAL GARDENERS and residents hold a meeting at the South Laguna Community Garden Park on Thursday. Purchase of the property for \$2 million is in escrow.

funds into escrow to close the escrow.

“There is a 501(c)(3) in process right now, being formed, to be the owner and operator of the garden. It’s not in place yet. ... We will serve at the foundation as the owner of that property until such time as the 501(c)(3) is in place.”

South Laguna Community Garden Park representatives are prepared to

take out a loan, if necessary, to cover a potential funding gap.

The garden park is open to the public daily and has come to host a variety of events, including educational programs, live music performances and potlucks.

Laguna Beach Mayor Bob Whalen said the purchase of the property would mean a great deal to

the community.

“It’s peace of mind. Now, you own it. It’s not going to get sold out from under you, and you can have a long-term community garden down there,” he said. “I think it’s great for them, and I really hope they’re able to close the escrow and make it real.”

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MILK

Continued from page A2

tribution, everything operational,” said Lugo. “We serve as the depository site.”

Donating mothers undergo the screening through Mothers’ Milk Bank’s website that includes an initial questionnaire, a phone screening, completion of donor paperwork and blood work. Once approved, mothers can donate their milk to MOMS Orange County, which will store, freeze and ship it to Mothers’ Milk Bank, who then distributes it.

Human breast milk is the preferred feeding for medically fragile infants in



Spencer Grant

ANGELICA ROSA and Jasmine Rivera of Mothers’ Milk Bank pack up containers of milk for Estela Argueta.

NICUs because of the optimal nutrition for babies.

“For our premature babies of very low birth

weight who are hospitalized in the neonatal intensive care unit, human milk provides a decreased risk of a

very serious complication called necrotizing enterocolitis,” said Dr. Michele Cheung from the O.C. Heath Care Agency, “as well as decreased risk of infections, chronic lung disorders and also developmental issues. So it is really important that we are able to provide this human milk for the babies, especially if the mother is not able to provide enough milk or any milk.”

The donated human milk may also benefit infants of foster, adoptive and surrogate mothers or mothers whose medical condition prevents breastfeeding.

Fourteen donating mothers gathered at MOMS Orange County to donate. Stephen and Dunaa Ruhl of

Mission Viejo arrived with a cooler full of frozen breast milk.

“I have an oversupply. I have been pumping to feed him,” Dunaa said, motioning to her 3-month-old son, Silas, in a stroller. “I am pumping about 50 ounces a day, and he only drinks about 28 ounces a day.”

Jade Wong and her 4-month old son, Tadeo, were also at the event, donating breast milk. Although Wong said she doesn’t have much extra, she wanted to give what she could.

“It is an important cause, and I figure he has access to me so I can feed him anytime,” said Wong. “The frozen milk is for bottles, but I can always replenish.”

The opening of the milk

bank coincided with a lactation workshop and MOMS Orange County’s annual celebration of breastfeeding moms.

“It is an appreciation of their accomplishments of their being able to serve their babies with these vital nutrients, via breast feeding,” said Lugo.

The breast milk donations, as Lugo said, are like gold to the mothers and babies who need it.

“We are just grateful to be able to do this and provide this service,” said Lugo.

Those interested in donating can visit mothersmilk.org/donate-milk.

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