

Daily Pilot & Times OC

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2023 /// Serving the coastal cities of Orange County and beyond /// dailypilot.com

Charter school clashes with district

Academy wins county approval for Costa Mesa campus after telling NMUSD it has no plans to operate inside district.

BY SARA CARDINE

When leaders of Vista Charter Public Schools set out to open a new high school in Costa Mesa that would offer an innovative career-focused curriculum with small class sizes to some 500 students, it seemed they'd done their homework.

They located a 37,455-square-foot, two-story office building at 1620 Sunflower Ave. in an industrial part of town where large-scale cannabis manufacturing and distribution is allowable by law but kept behind closed doors.

The site has ample parking, more than enough for the 51 staff members who'd be employed at the new site of Vista Meridian Global Academy, and is near the Santa Ana River bike trail, on which students could bicycle to and from school each day.

Having a high school campus would allow the nonprofit charter to serve freshman, sophomore and junior students, currently taking classes in temporary digs at a Vista-owned elementary and middle school campus in Santa Ana, and add senior-level classes.

It appeared to be a perfect fit. And so, school officials set about introducing themselves to neighboring businesses and institutions. They reached out to retail complex South Coast Collection, aka SoCo, to the south and nearby St. Barnabas Orthodox Church and FedEx. They even joined the Costa Mesa

See *Charter*, page A2



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

BARISTA DELANEY HAYES brings out the Campesino "taste the farm" plate for two, which includes two blue corn tamales, at the Ecology Center cafe in San Juan Capistrano, which is celebrating its 15th anniversary this year.

'Traditional and radical'

The Ecology Center celebrates 15 years in San Juan Capistrano



A VARIETY OF apples on display at the Farm Stand market at the Ecology Center in San Juan Capistrano.

BY LILLY NGUYEN

Back when the Ecology Center started in 2008, the nonprofit had no more than a 140-year-old farmhouse and an acre of land in San Juan Capistrano.

"We were looking to create a common gathering place — a community center where creativity and problem solving was present, such that we could embody our stewardship values as a community caring for the earth and the people," said founder Evan Marks in a recent interview. "What is needed for our community to build rela-

tionship to one another and, ultimately, to our natural environment? We started with those big ideas and brought them to the ground, then thought about how we could create relationships between the community and the center."

That led to the creation of the center's education programs to connect children with where and how their food is grown, which expanded into teaching people how to retrofit their gardens, how to establish school gardens and do-it-yourself workshops on basic fer-

See *Center*, page A3

L.B. aims to win support for undergrounding project

City Council votes to decrease minimum age to be eligible for the city's underground utility assessment deferral loan program from 62 to 55.

BY ANDREW TURNER

As utility undergrounding projects continue to be a leading

topic in wildfire mitigation efforts in Laguna Beach, the city is prepared to make changes to its deferral loan program to provide

relief for property owners who meet certain criteria.

Laguna Beach has had a deferral loan program for underground utility assessments since 2016, although city staff said no applications had been filed to participate in the program since its inception.

"I think this is going to be so helpful for passage of this in the [underground utility assessment] district and for people who really want to do it and can't afford it," Mayor Pro Tem Sue Kempf said.

Revisions backed by a unanimous vote of the City Council on Nov. 21 made access to the pro-

gram less restrictive. The age limit to qualify for the loan deferral program dropped from 62 to 55.

Council members also raised the household income ceiling to 20% above the Orange County moderate income limit. The

See *Support*, page A3

ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



Susan Hoffman

JULIETTE'S CAFE & COFFEE CULTURE ELEVATES A 60-YEAR-OLD BUILDING IN NEWPORT BEACH PAGE A4

Students focus of leadership summit

BY MATT SZABO

Wing Lam looks at Duran Morley as a success story, the way two business owners might despite a considerable difference in age.

Morley, now 23, started his Vanspeed van conversion shop in 2017, a year after graduating early from Edison High School.

He's expanded the business to its current 30 employees, and it currently operates out of a 30,000-square-foot warehouse facility in Westminster just off the 405 Freeway. A stone's throw away, there's another 10,000-square-foot space for shipping and receiving.

Wing Lam is the well-known personality who co-founded Wa-



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

WING LAM, founder of Wahoo's Fish Taco, left, and Duran Morley, owner and founder of Vanspeed van conversion shop, stand in the workshop in Westminster. Both will speak at Vital Link Wednesday.

See *Focus*, page A3



5 POINTS PLAZA



donate

WARM COATS GLOVES & HATS FOR KIDS

PET FOOD & SUPPLIES FOR ANIMALS

share the warmth

COATS FOR KIDS

& SUPPLIES FOR SHELTER ANIMALS

SAT, DEC. 9TH 11AM TO 3PM

18681 Main Street, Huntington Beach
Main Street @ Beach Blvd



celebrate

FREE PHOTOS WITH SANTA

LIVE MUSIC & FAMILY FUN

Canceled by hangar fire, makers market returns to Tustin

BY SARA CARDINE

Nearly one month after a massive fire devastated a World War II-era blimp hangar in Tustin, causing air-quality concerns that caused the cancellation of numerous outdoor events in the area, regular activities are beginning to resume.

Among them is Patchwork Show Makers Market, a semiannual community bazaar of artisan and handmade goods started in Orange County, which counts Old Town Tustin among its regular venues.

Originally scheduled for Nov. 12 — just five days after a blaze first erupted at the now-defunct Marine Corps Air Station — the event is now set to take place on Dec. 16, organizers announced this week.

The free festival will feature shopping from more than 100 vendors, showcasing local emerging artists, crafters, junior entrepreneurs and designers alongside artisan food, DIY crafting and music.

It was founded in 2008 by area crafter Nicole Stevenson, who was looking to inject a modern twist into Orange County's arts and craft scene, and 15 years later has expanded to include shows and workshops in multiple cities throughout the state.

The Dec. 16 event takes place from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 245 El Camino Real, in Old Town Tustin. For more information, visit dearhandmadelife.com/patchwork-show.

sara.cardine@latimes.com
Twitter: @SaraCardine



Courtesy of Dear Handmade Life

ORIGINALLY SET to take place in Old Town Tustin on Nov. 12, the Patchwork Show has been rescheduled for Dec. 16.

Daily Pilot

A Times Community News publication.

CONTACT US

Carol Cormaci
Executive Editor
carol.cormaci@latimes.com

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

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

Reporters:
Sara Cardine, Costa Mesa
sara.cardine@latimes.com
Lilly Nguyen,
Newport Beach
lilly.nguyen@latimes.com

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

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

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

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

© 2023 Times Community News.
All rights reserved.

CHARTER

Continued from page A1

Chamber of Commerce.

"We really want to focus on getting started on the right foot, building strong, lasting, mutually beneficial partnerships with our neighbors," Vista Meridian Principal Trent Speier told city planning commissioners Monday in a hearing for a conditional use permit to operate at the site.

There was just one entity the charter school seemed to have left out of its many rounds of introductions to the Costa Mesa community — Newport-Mesa Unified School District.

The public district, which serves students in Costa Mesa and Newport Beach, not only stands to lose enrollment to the charter high school but also the funding for each district student who attends.

COMMISSION

The issue of whether and how Vista leaders informed NMUSD of its plans came to a head at Monday's planning commission meeting, where panelists were tasked with determining whether to issue a use permit for the school.

During the hearing, commissioners asked whether charter leaders had sought out a partnership with Newport-Mesa Unified.

Scott Drapkin, the city's assistant director of Developmental Services, explained Vista Meridian Global Academy had obtained approval from the Orange County Board of Education through a process that legally supersedes local district approval.

"This school actually already has permission to operate from the county school district," Drapkin told commissioners.

California education code allows charter operators to obtain approval from a board of education in counties in which they hope to do business. It requires petitioners to give public school districts where they plan to operate a facility 30 days' notice of their intent to seek a countywide charter.

Vista Meridian Global Academy — created through a material revision

of an earlier countywide charter obtained by Vista Charter Public Schools for a campus in Santa Ana — was granted its own countywide status in a 4-0 vote by the Board of Education on June 1, 2022.

Prior to that, in January, Vista Charter Public Schools Supt. Don Wilson sent Newport-Mesa Unified Supt. Wes Smith the required notification letter indicating, "The countywide petition would allow Vista Meridian Global Academy to operate a new school within the boundaries of the Newport-Mesa Unified School District."

However, in an email to Smith provided by NMUSD and dated March 23, 2022, Wilson indicated otherwise.

"Firstly, I want to reassure you that we do not have any current or future plans to expand into your district," Wilson said, stating the countywide charter would serve only students of Vista's current TK-12 system in Santa Ana.

He explained the only reason for the countywide charter was to allow Vista Meridian Global Academy to collaborate with Costa Mesa's Orange Coast College on a career technical education program that would allow students to earn dual enrollment credits.

"We have included Newport-Mesa in our countywide petition because of a growing relationship with Orange Coast College and a future CTE collaboration and for no other reason," Wilson continued in the email. "We believe that there will be zero impact for the Newport Mesa district and schools."

COMPETING

NARRATIVES

NMUSD Assistant Supt. Jeff Trader, however, holds a different view.

Speaking in public comment at Monday's planning commission meeting, the chief business officer claimed Vista Meridian violated the state's charter school regulations by not informing the district of its intentions, nor identifying the Sunflower Avenue high school in its countywide charter petition.

"Vista Meridian did not provide notice to NMUSD of the intent to locate in the

See a primary care doctor today

Access quality primary care services when and where you need them. With UCI Health, you can instantly schedule a primary care appointment online and have access to same-day care, including at-home and virtual visits.

Whether you have an illness, need an annual physical exam or are due for vaccinations, UCI Health primary care physicians offer exceptional care to keep you and your family healthy. As part of Orange County's only academic health system, our primary care doctors work seamlessly with more than 500 world-renowned UCI Health specialists to treat a wide variety of conditions.

Choose a UCI Health primary care doctor today.

Learn more at ucihealth.org/choose or call 844-310-9750.



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

VISTA PUBLIC Charter Schools seeks to open a high school at 1620 Sunflower Ave., in Costa Mesa. Public school officials claim the charter operators violated the law by not notifying them of their intent to open inside district boundaries.

district," Trader said. "Contrary to that, Vista Meridian expressly informed the district it would not locate in the district's boundaries."

Trader further rebutted claims made by Vista officials that the new charter high school would not be taking any money from the public school district, as it

would be paid for by per-pupil funding from the state.

He maintained Newport-Mesa Unified — as a community funded district that operates from its property taxes and other local funds rather than state funding — would have to forfeit money for each NMUSD student

that attended Vista Meridian.

"I assure you the charter will invoice the district for almost \$6 million for both residents and nonresident attendants," he said, clarifying the district could seek reimbursement for those students coming to Vista Meridian from outside Costa Mesa and Newport Beach.

Although commissioners were advised their role in the matter was only to consider whether the project was in line with Costa Mesa's land use and zoning regulations, several panelists expressed their own concerns about the placement of a school at the Sunflower Avenue site.

Commissioner Jon Zich said he could not find the school use compatible with surrounding cannabis distribution and manufacturing businesses in the city's "Green Zone."

Chair Adam Ereth took issue with traffic queuing sce-

narios that seemed implausible and with Vista Meridian's plan to keep its 500 students entirely indoors during the school day.

"Keeping children inside with no outdoor play is not good," he said. "So when you talk about having programs that meet or exceed the current standards we have here in the school district, I find that it fails miserably in that category."

Charter officials anticipated moving into the Costa Mesa building in April 2024, after the Santa Ana school's spring break. It's unclear how the denial might affect that timeline, but officials have until Monday to appeal the commission's decision to the Costa Mesa City Council.

Vista Charter Public Schools leaders did not respond to attempts to reach them by phone and email by press time.

sara.cardine@latimes.com
Twitter: @SaraCardine

CENTER*Continued from page A1*

mentation and rainwater collection.

Then, in about 2018, the Ecology Center went from its 1-acre lot to 28 acres through an agreement with the city to steward the land for the next four decades. This year, it opened its own farm-to-table Campesino Café with a seasonal menu.

The center also has a fermentation lab, where it creates products for the in-house farm stand; a grain lab, to produce masa and sourdough; a seed and soil lab, for education and processing; and an “Eco-Tots” lab for a children’s workshop series. The center also has a “Nourishing Neighbors” program, which matches each dollar a financially insecure family spends using EBT funds at the farm stand, and a “community table” program to connect chefs with local farmers.

“That 1-acre dirt lot

transformed into an ecological oasis filled with native trees, fruit trees, vegetable gardens, various demonstrations for children and homeowners,” said Marks. “The 28 acres is now a demonstration of our values and our early ideas but through agriculture — growing food ecologically for the community.”

With the additional land, Marks said the Ecology Center is now able to expand past the academic and educational spaces and also work to get locally grown food into people’s hands. The Ecology Center sees around 100,000 visitors annually, which Marks estimates comes down to about a couple thousand a week, depending on whether or not it’s hosting a festival or other event.

“If we don’t have a relationship to our homes and backyards, our oceans become polluted because of run-off. It’s simple ideas like that. If we don’t know where our food comes from, we don’t know what

we’re eating,” Marks said. “Agriculture is [a significant contributor to greenhouse gases] and these simple solutions of getting back in touch with our basic needs in our neighborhoods allows us to start building a healthy community. All of this, I like to frame as culture.

“What is the future we want? We mostly dispose of everything. We’re going against the grain of ‘consuming at all costs’ and slowing things down to having relationships to each other and the things that are worth cherishing in life. The core is ... this is all very traditional and radical in the context of our consumerism.”

As the Ecology Center heads into what Marks hopes is its next 15 years, Marks said the center is hoping to continue building on its current momentum to create a “world class” destination that reflects its values, in addition to mentoring the next generation of students and chefs. It also hopes to continue growing the



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

POSTER ARTWORK celebrating 15 years of programs and events on display in the education center to honor the Ecology Center’s anniversary in San Juan Capistrano.

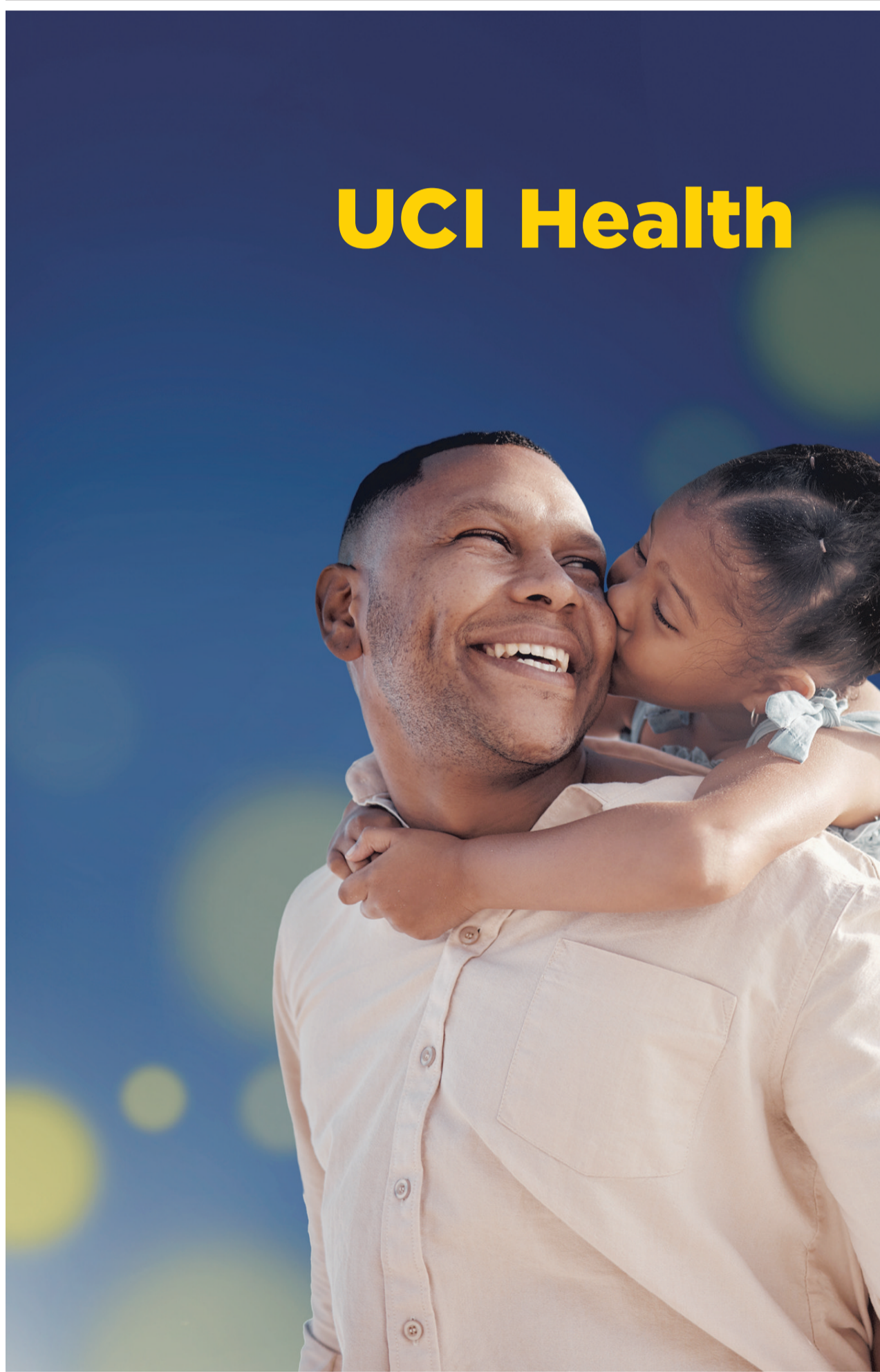
farm’s capacity to raise and distribute food to places in the community, like schools.

“This is so in 15 years, the landscape of Orange

County looks and feels different. There might be farms in neighborhoods, markets with local food, and our children will have relationship to that, and

our health as a community will increase along with our culture,” Marks said.

lilly.nguyen@latimes.com
Twitter: @lillibirds

UCI Health

Don Leach | Staff Photographer

POWER POLES line Glenneyre Street and Agate Street in the underground utility district near Fire Station No. 2 in the neighborhood of Woods Cove in Laguna Beach.

SUPPORT*Continued from page A1*

agenda item brought to the council had called for an increase in the household income threshold from the moderate income limit to 15% above it.

The income requirement will be based on data provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development for the year in which a property owner applies.

City staffers noted that there are three underground utility assessments being formed that would affect approximately 580 parcels. A proposed assessment district for Woods Cove will come to a vote of impacted residents later this month.

Resident Tom Gibbs described the expansion of the loan deferral program as a proactive measure that eases financial hardship that might get some to vote against undergrounding projects.

“It’s the most important safety measure that the city can do to protect us from a devastating wildfire that threatens property and people’s lives,” Gibbs said of undergrounding. “It’s not just where the undergrounding takes place because fire spreads. Undergrounding in one area benefits the whole city.

“In that connection, I think it’s incumbent on the City Council to do everything reasonable to facilitate undergrounding. This brings us to the Woods Cove program. The last

hump to get over is the vote, and it would be a tragedy if it does not pass because some of the owners cannot afford the bond and hook-up payments.”

Recent public communications led city staffers to believe that demand had grown for the deferral loan program. The budget for the program has been expanded to \$700,000. A \$500,000 reduction in the current year’s transfer from the street lighting and utility fund to the wildfire mitigation and fire safety fund was reappropriated to add to the program’s budget.

“Several assumptions were built into that increase,” senior project manager Pierre Sawaya said. “We’re looking at 40 parcels that would qualify for the program, and that would be roughly 10% of the Woods Cove district, which is nearly 400 parcels. Assuming an average annual assessment of \$3,500 per parcel would create a \$140,000 a year obligation toward those assessments. These are assuming 6% bond rates and a 20-year bond term.

“Lastly, it is also including the private connection costs, which is assumed at \$10,000 per property, so for 40 parcels, that would be a \$400,000 one-time payment for those connections.”

The amendments discussed and approved by the council will be agendaized on the consent calendar for a second reading at an upcoming meeting.

andrew.turner@latimes.com
Twitter: @AndrewTurnerTCN

FOCUS*Continued from page A1*

hoo’s Fish Taco with his brothers in Costa Mesa in 1988, more than a decade before Morley was born. He’s proud of his mentorship with Morley.

Both are involved with the Vital Link student leadership summit, which takes place Wednesday at the Orange County Fairgrounds in the Anaheim and Los Alamitos buildings.

Lam is the keynote speaker, while Morley will be leading a career skills workshop.

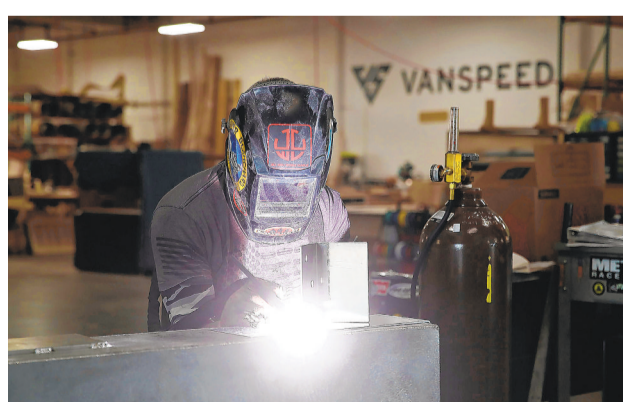
“At his age, having 30 employees, to me, that’s pretty amazing,” Lam said. “Especially for a kid who didn’t go to college, but there’s more to it. If you don’t know accounting, find somebody who does and make sure that you understand enough. We see a lot of people who lost their fortunes because somebody in their

business took it. You’ve got to know how to surround yourself with good people, but also know enough to know when there’s something not right here.”

Lam likes giving back to the community, particularly the youth. Vital Link is an O.C. nonprofit that tries to make sure students have the resources to explore all possible career paths.

Morley will be helping high school students not too much younger than him. He built his business with support from his parents Eric and Evelyn. Eric Morley and Lam are longtime friends who met through off-road racing; Eric Morley owns an advertising company for a lot of the action sports.

“It seems like I was always supporting everybody’s activities ... and somehow this off-roading just kind of became an extension,” Lam said. “Before I knew it, [Morley] is like, ‘Wing, you should get into



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

A WELDER works on a metal roof rack at the Vanspeed van conversion shop in Westminster.

this thing.’ And I’m like, ‘Are you crazy? I have no desire and I have no idea how to drive an off-road vehicle.’

“He goes, ‘Well, there’s this thing called the pilot, right. You’ve got to do the navigating.’ But the thing they forget to tell you, when the car is moving ... you can’t look at the screen for more than 30 seconds. You get completely carsick.

Luckily for me, all the guys that raced, they knew the course.”

Lam also spent time interviewing racers at the finish line. Meanwhile, Morley’s youngest son forged his own road through the business world.

“The first three or four years, even though I didn’t go to college, I compare that time to my college,”

Duran Morley said. “It was nonstop educating and learning, trying to get resources. Really, it comes down to figuring stuff out, that’s the biggest thing. It’s problem solving.

“Something that I respect, and a lot of it came from Wing, is just make it happen. Say yes, figure it out and make it happen.”

Though they have different life experiences, Vital Link senior program director Neda Arab said she’s excited to have both Lam and Duran on board for the student leadership summit.

Besides workshops on subjects like building your credit and data analytics, there will also be an opportunity for the students to mingle with industry professionals serving as exhibitors.

“The biggest thing we want to tell them is that they can do it,” Arab said. “You have skills, you just need to fine-tune your skills a bit. That’s why we have

this summit, to help them fine-tune their skills ... They have to be able to be able to problem solve. You don’t have to be Elon Musk, but you do have to be able to problem-solve.”

Lam is excited to meet this next generation of students. After all, who knows? His words may inspire the next Duran Morley.

“Whether you become a doctor, an attorney, a pharmacist, or whatever, there is still something called business,” Lam said. “You still need to know just enough to realize that no restaurant goes out of business because they make bad food. They go out of business because they don’t know how to do the back of the house, they don’t know how to do payroll, accounting. There’s a piece of the business that they don’t know how to do, and ultimately that’s why they fail.”

matthew.szabo@latimes.com
Twitter: @mjszabo

Coffee shop owners bank on new location

BY SUSAN HOFFMAN

Rounding the corner of Dover and Westcliff drives in Newport Beach, it's hard not to notice the recent activity taking place in front of the 1964 commercial mid-century modern office building anchored by US Bank. Behind a newly planted privacy wall of greenery is a cluster of ivory umbrellas attached to tables where people are seated eating on the outdoor patio of Juliette's Cafe & Coffee Culture.

He handles the coffee, she handles the baked goods. Together Newport Beach married couple Juliette Chung and John Hughes opened shop last August inside the old bank building.

"The space had always been Union Bank for years, and never a food facility," said Hughes, explaining the change-of-use issue that prompted the delay. "It took almost two years to open, not only with construction delays, but the parking study and conditional-use permit each took six months to get approved."

Inside the 3,500-square-foot cafe are high ceilings and a wall of windows that create a light and airy open environment.

"We wanted to create a nice atmosphere in the cafe different from other cafes in the area," said Chung. "I love this neighborhood, and the city ambiance is great. I'm happy to be in this location."

Chung immigrated to the United States in 1996 from Seoul, Korea. She became a self-taught baker when she took over a small bakery in Laguna Beach in 1997, where she perfected her pastry skills. In 2000 she and Hughes opened the Filling Station Cafe in Old Town Orange, which he designed and built as a '20s style cafe and diner inside the original 1913 gas station.

Chung and Hughes sold the establishment in 2010 and took some time off to travel.

In 2012 they opened Juliette's Kitchen and Bar, a casual fine-dining restaurant located on Bristol Street in Newport Beach until the pandemic shut it down in the fall of 2020.

Juliette's Cafe & Coffee Culture is open seven days a week for breakfast and lunch only.

"Everything is done in house, baked goods and coffee roasting,"



Photos by Susan Hoffman

JULIETTE CHUNG, who opened Juliette's Cafe & Coffee Culture in Newport Beach with her husband, prepares dough for her handmade pastries.

said Hughes. "It's a culmination of everything we've done in the past."

Contributing to the elevated presentation of the third-wave coffee is the dedication to flavor quality. The state-of-the-art roaster, called Bellwether, creates a small-batch artisan-quality coffee on the world's lowest-carbon roaster for the most sustainable coffee available, Hughes said. "It's unique, no exhaust since it's all electric, since most others are gas," he explained. "Roasting all electric in small batches gives our coffee peak freshness and flavor while cutting the carbon footprint of roasting by 87%."

Blending of the coffee culture and cafe culture elevates the ambiance, a number one priority for Chung. "It's important to provide to the customer great food, drinks and service," said Chung. "We bring the best quality

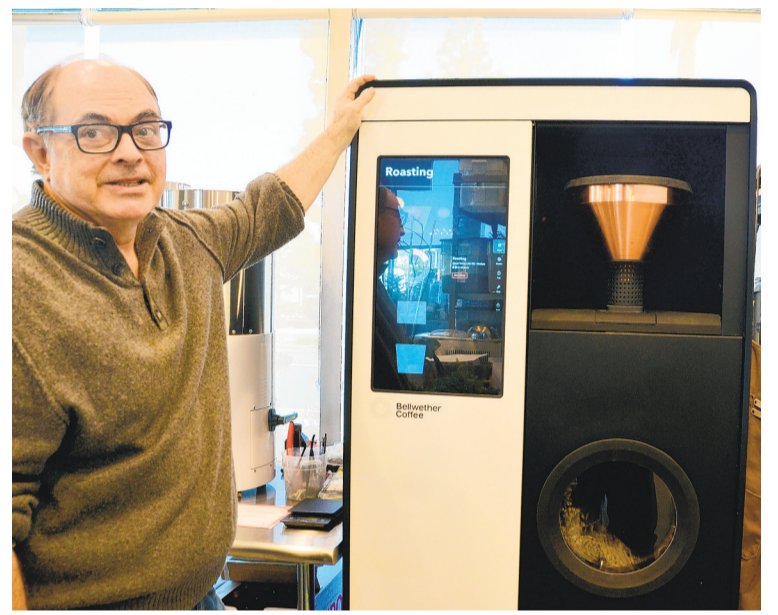
we can."

Head chef Daniel Hyatt has been with Chung and Hughes since 2012 at the Bristol Street location. "We pretty much do everything ourselves," added Hyatt. "We're trying to do a simple menu taking more care for a better quality product."

First-time customers enjoying dining on the 1,200-square-foot patio, Sierra Tolis of Costa Mesa and Michelle Upton of Huntington Beach, couldn't stop raving about the food and vowed to make it a point to be back. "It's amazing, everything is super high quality and fresh, the flavors are outstanding," said Upton. "The eggs Benedict are phenomenal."

Tolis added, "And the almond croissant, I haven't tried one as good as that."

Susan Hoffman is a contributor to the Daily Pilot & TimesOC.



JOHN HUGHES, the co-owner of Juliette's Cafe, operates a unique Bellwether electric coffee roaster to ensure peak freshness.

Ritzy Lunch Is Back!

Traditional Holiday Fare | Mon - Fri 11:30am - 3pm

December 1st - 22nd



This Holiday Season, The Bungalow Restaurant Family is continuing the tradition of the Ritzy-style lunch that locals and visitors alike enjoy year after year!

RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED
949-673-6585
TheBungalowRestaurant.com
 2441 East Coast Hwy | Corona del Mar, CA



Scan To Make Your Reservation!

RITZY HOLIDAY MENU

TRADITIONAL HOLIDAY FARE

Served Monday - Friday 11:30am - 3pm Dec 1st - Dec 22nd

The Bungalow restaurant family would like to thank you for joining us this holiday season to continue the tradition of the Ritzy-style lunch that locals and visitors alike enjoy year after year.

APPETIZERS

THE BUNGALOW EGG
Chive smoked salmon scrambled egg topped with caviar. Served with a shot of Grey Goose Vodka 20

COLOSSAL PRAWN COCKTAIL
Spicy cocktail sauce with fresh horseradish & Tabasco then mixed with diced celery 24

BUTTERNUT SQUASH RAVIOLI
Sage brown butter, shaved Manchego, pistachios 18

SWEET CHILI CALAMARI
Tender calamari fried golden brown, sweet chili, bean sprouts, daikon sprouts, peanuts, carrots, Japanese dressing 18

GRILLED ARTICHOKE
Quarters of grilled artichoke, garlic olive oil marinade, ginger aioli 18

SOUPS & SALADS

CORN CHOWDER
Fresh corn, Applewood smoked bacon 13

MEATBALL SOUP
Pork & beef meatballs, beef stock, sautéed spinach, penne pasta 13

HOLIDAY SALAD
Cut romaine, Belgian endive, chives, watercress, Canadian coral bay shrimp, hard-boiled egg, tomato, ciabatta crostons, tossed in an olive oil, tarragon apple cider vinaigrette & a touch of Dijon mustard 20

DUNGENESS CRAB & BAY SHRIMP LOUIE
Julienend iceberg lettuce, sliced egg, asparagus spears, roasted red pepper, 1000 island dressing 28

LIME-MARINATED CHICKEN SALAD
Mixed greens, lime marinated grilled chicken, avocado, chopped grilled vegetables, tarragon vinaigrette 20

BUNGALOW COBB SALAD
Diced chicken, bacon, hard-boiled egg, avocado, tomato, scallions, bleu cheese, red wine vinaigrette 20

SEARED AHI SALAD
Seared rare, field greens, sweet peppers, Portobello mushrooms, toasted sesame seeds, wasabi-ginger vinaigrette 28

SANDWICHES

STEAK SANDWICH
Six ounce sliced filet mignon, onion strings, French baguette, French fries 29

BEEF DIP SANDWICH
Sliced thin, au jus, Swiss cheese, caramelized onions on a French roll. Served with creamy horseradish & French fries 22

FILET MIGNON BURGER
Ground filet mignon, cheddar cheese, lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, caramelized onions, 1000 island dressing & French fries 21.

HOLIDAY FARE

TRADITIONAL ROAST GOOSE WITH LINGONBERRY SAUCE
Celery root mashed potatoes, warm gala apple compote & sweet sour red cabbage 46

DI BELLA PASTA
Penne pasta, marinara sauce, meatballs 25

PEPPERED MEDALLIONS OF FILET
Two medallions of pan-seared & pepper crusted filet mignon, topped with Diane sauce, seasonal vegetables 35

MISO-MARINATED CHILEAN SEA BASS
Soy glaze, coconut rice, stir fried vegetables, mushrooms, lemongrass ginger beurre blanc 37

BLACKENED KING SALMON
Yukon Gold mashed potatoes, avocado relish, honey jalapeño beurre blanc 31

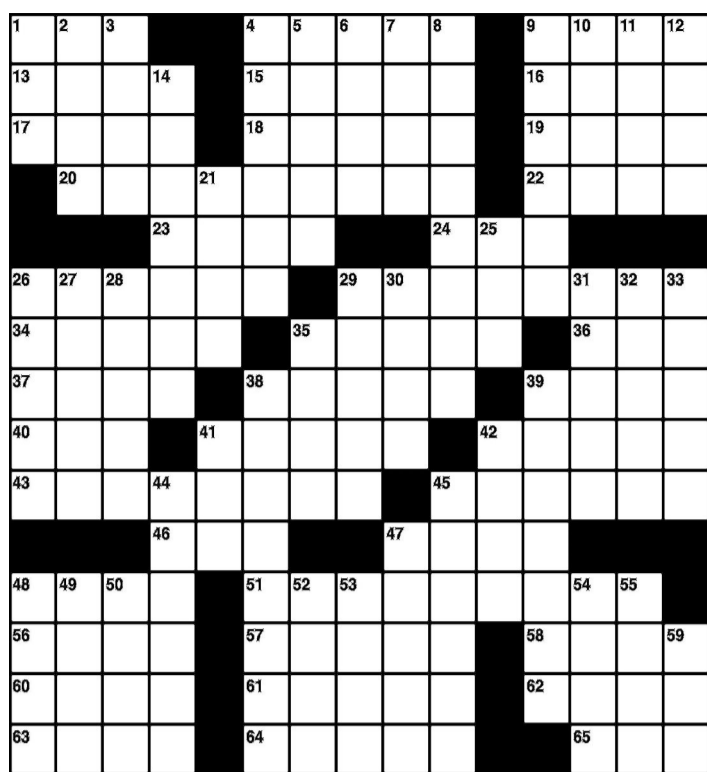
CALIFORNIA CHICKEN BREAST
Pan-seared chicken breast, oven roasted tomatoes, avocado, Yukon Gold mashed potatoes 31

Split plate charge of five dollars for all entrees. Consuming raw or undercooked meats, poultry, seafood, shellfish or eggs may increase your risk of food-borne illness, especially if you have certain medical conditions. We have the right to refuse service to anyone. No more than two forms of payment per table, please. 20% Gratuity will be added to parties of eight or more. A 3% processing fee will be added to all credit card transactions. For guests that choose to pay with cash, the 3% fee will be waived.



THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

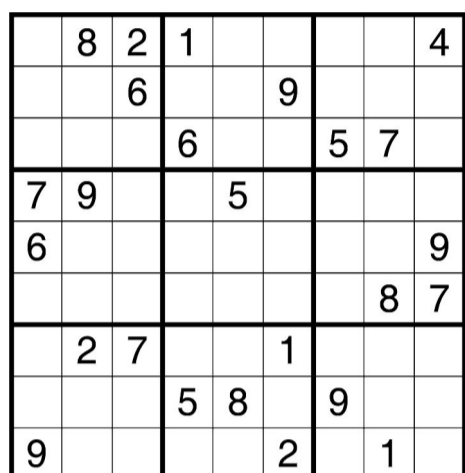


- ACROSS**
 1 Old Testament book
 4 Had sore muscles
 9 "Spider-Man: the Spider-Verse"; 2018 film
 13 Kicks oneself for
 15 Weather forecast
 16 When both hands are straight up
 17 Hold back; stop
 18 Razz
 19 Entice
 20 Forte
 22 Actress Paquin
 23 Plunder
 24 Aficionado
 26 Former teen idol Frankie
 29 Thumping
 34 _ Castro
 35 Brag
 36 Mr. Mineo
 37 Like eclairs
 38 Throws
 39 "_ Las Vegas"; Elvis film
 40 House member: abbr.
 41 Foot parts
 42 Longed
 43 Highly regarded
 45 Mutilate
 46 Brylcreem amount
 47 Lacks the ability to
 48 Shine
 51 Vital
 56 Bossa _; Brazilian dance
 57 One of the Judds
 58 Equipment
 60 Consumer
 61 Actress Pompeo
 62 Notice
 63 Transmit
 64 Major airline
 65 English letter
- DOWN**
 1 Sammy Davis &

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.

- Ed Begley: abbr.
 2 Time-_; game pauses
 3 Tap the horn
 4 "Lights, camera, _!"
 5 Athletic shoe feature
 6 Get well
- 7 Compass direction
 8 Actor Richard
 9 Away from the shore
 10 Person, place or thing
 11 _ up; very upset
 12 _ Day

- multivitamins
 14 Stunk
 21 "Groovy!" to today's kids
 25 Word attached to eater or hill
 26 Blazing
 27 Evil habits
 28 Skilled
 29 _ a question; asked
 30 Dobbin's dinner
 31 "...land of liberty, of thee _..."
 32 Belly button
 33 Forest clearing
 35 Actor Christian
 38 Mixed together
 39 Wine label info
 41 _ of Cortez; Gulf of California
 42 Keep gasping
 44 Newsmen _ R. Murrow
 45 Yacht spot
 47 Sky stalker
 48 Large antelopes
 49 Misplace
 50 Microwave
 52 Guy
 53 Voter survey
 54 Home in a tree
 55 Sticky strip
 59 Salinger's "Catcher in the _"
- Tribune Media Services

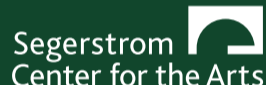


CONCORDIA CHRISTMAS

Navidad: A Journey to Bethlehem

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9
4:00 PM & 7:30 PM
Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall

Celebrate the Christmas season with the voices and instruments of Concordia University Irvine. Concordia's critically-acclaimed choirs, handbells, and orchestra share a sojourn to the birth of the world's long-awaited Savior! This year showcases more than 200 performers from eight vocal and instrumental performing ensembles under the masterful direction of Dr. Michael Busch, Dr. Jeff Held, Dr. Clarissa Shan, and Erik Der. Enjoy festive carols and Christmas favorites, old and new. Concordia's Christmas concerts are a highlight of the holiday season, so get your tickets today!



CUI.EDU/CHRISTMAS

HANDCRAFTED GIFTS & HOLIDAY MAGIC



WINTER FANTASY
SAWDUST
 Art & Craft Festival
LAGUNA BEACH

TWO MORE WEEKENDS!

FRI, SAT, SUN thru DECEMBER 17, 10AM-7PM

Handcrafted Gifts by 168 Local Artists
 Holiday Entertainment & Complimentary Art Classes
 Free Photos with Santa • And More!

SAWDUSTARTFESTIVAL.ORG

*Laguna Beach residents receive free entry every Friday, with valid ID.



Sawdust Art Festival
 935 Laguna Canyon Road
 Laguna Beach, CA 92651
 (949) 494-3030



forum

COLUMN | PATRICE APODACA

MAILBAG

Surf City leadership raises readers' ire

The conservative four Huntington Beach City Council members have no qualms about excluding members of the public such as the LGBTQ+ and library users and balked at supporting a proposal to make the city a Certified Autism Destination primarily because it was sponsored and supported by more liberal members of the City Council.

The four did not even have the guts or courage to formally vote no on the agenda item and instead abstained from voting on the lame excuse that it was too costly for the budget. On the contrary, signing on to the program would welcome more tourists to Surf City and increase the occupancy of hotels and restaurants.

It is sad and disappointing for the conservative four to see everything as being political. The remaining three members of the council, although disheartened by the small-minded thinking of their colleagues, should remain steadfast in continuing to sponsor agenda items beneficial to the city. The majority's influence is limited.

Richard C. Armendariz
Huntington Beach

Reporter Matt Szabo continues to hit the nail on the head in describing the civic chasm on the City Council which threatens to bring things to a standstill in moving governance forward. From my 40-year resident viewpoint, half of that directly involved in

See *Mailbag*, page A8



Christina House | Los Angeles Times

VISITORS WATCH a film at the Museum of Tolerance in March 2023. Columnist Patrice Apodaca advocates teaching kids to be kind to one another.

It's not a perfect world, but we can guide students toward a better one

It can often feel as if a familiar pattern plays out when hate incidents involving our local schools hit the news.

A shocking episode prompts community outrage and calls for measures to be taken. School leaders vow to respond in a thoughtful but robust manner. Those efforts are criticized by a vocal minority who see



conspiracies and hidden agendas in attempts to promote kindness and inclusivity.

After a while the whole thing fades into the background of public consciousness. Until the next time.

Take the infamous 2019 episode involving a photo shared on social media showing students from Newport-Mesa Unified high

schools at an off-campus party performing a Nazi salute in front of red plastic cups arranged in the shape of a swastika. The incident made national news and community members were justifiably horrified. The district responded by forming a human relations task force to make recommendations on how to react to such occurrences and to offer proactive solutions such as anti-

bias education and staff development.

It didn't take long for the backlash to ensue. Critics — again, a small but noisy bunch — accused the district and the task force of promoting critical race theory, which they mistakenly believe is being used to teach students that all white people are oppressors.

See *Apodaca*, page A8

COMMENTARY | BECKS HEYHOE

Hearing from those experiencing homelessness lights the best path forward

While there is no shortage of opinions about homelessness, often the voices that are left out in the debate are of those who are experiencing homelessness themselves.

For the first time, the county of Orange — through their advisory Commission to End Homelessness — sought first-hand information from the people surviving on the streets.

In the 2023 Orange County Homeless Survey, recently administered by the Office of Care Coordination and City Net, more than 640 people shared their experiences

navigating systems and roadblocks encountered.

The methodology was a bold pivot from previous surveys, and a credit to the leadership of Doug Becht at the County of Orange. While data is invaluable, what speaks to me are the needs for dignity, safety, and health.

DIGNITY

This survey goes a long way to debunking many of the stereotypes maintained about homelessness and highlights disconnects between the services provided and the ones desired.

As an example, respondents said their number one

need was for hygiene, followed by housing and storage. In rankings of services being discussed by providers, hygiene ranked fifth and providing storage wasn't even on the list.

Far from being service resistant, the survey shows that the vast majority of those experiencing homelessness want help, but that help isn't getting to them or is not readily available. More than half of those interviewed have not had any contact from outreach personnel or case managers in the last three months. Of those who did

See *Path*, page A10

A WORD, PLEASE | JUNE CASAGRANDE

A language book gift guide for every type of word nerd

For certain nerdy types (you know the ones), language books make great gifts. Unlike mysteries and memoirs that are quickly devoured in e-book form — then forgotten — informative, fun grammar and writing guides double as reference books. You can wrap one up and put it under the tree knowing your recipient will reach for it again and again for years to come.

Here's my 2023 language book gift guide for every type of word nerd.

For the rule follower: Most people, even grammar-savvy types, don't know about usage guides. These reference books look like dictionaries, with alphabetized entries for

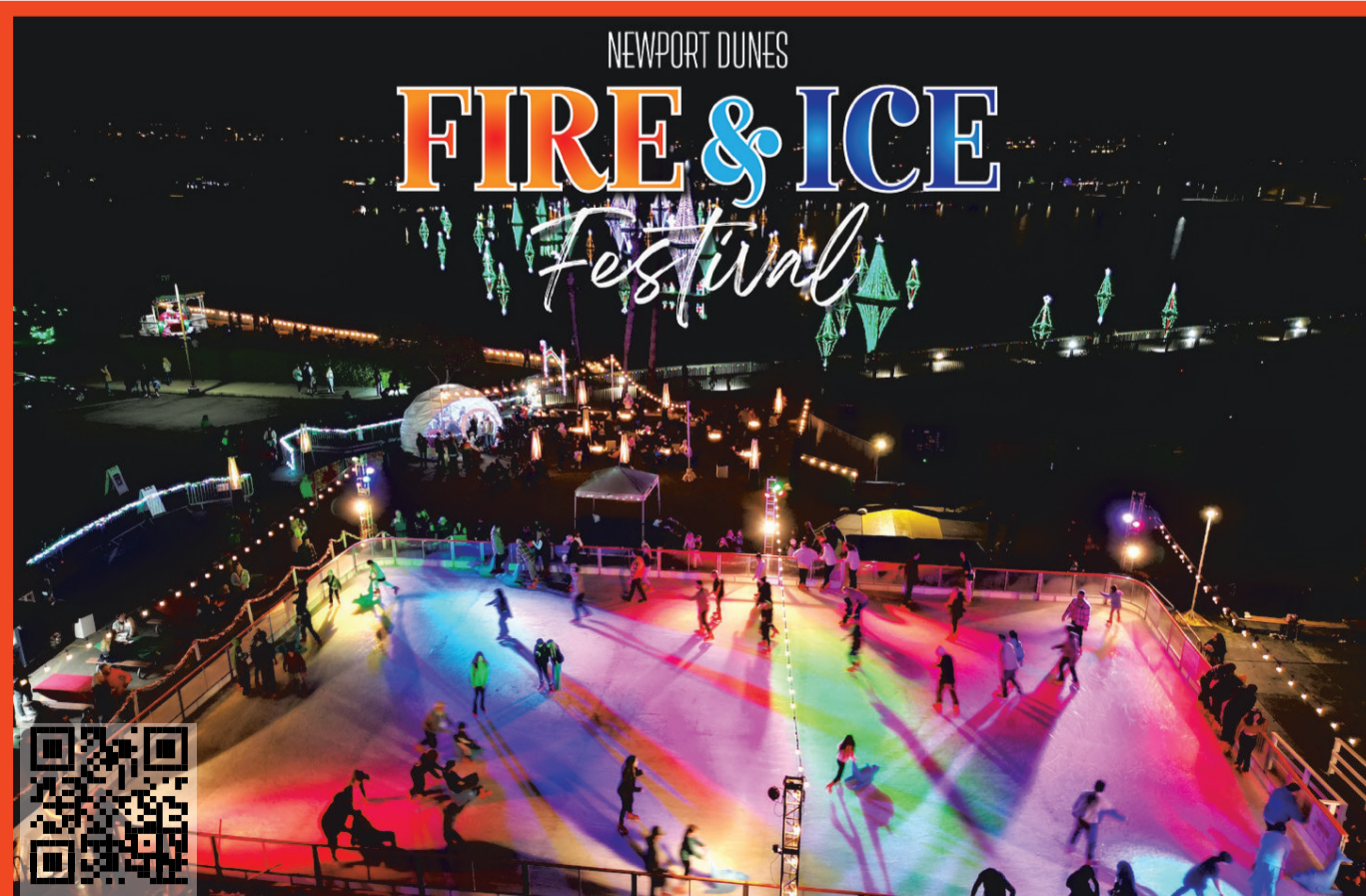
words and language concepts. But instead of listing definitions, they offer expert insights on usage matters. Look under E to find a discussion of when "everyone" takes a singular or plural verb. Look under D to learn that a "double genitive" like "a friend of Joe's" is not an error even though it doubles up on the possessives. Look under C to learn about "compose" and "comprise." Two great usage guides for the grammar buff on your list: "Merriam-Webster's Dictionary of English Usage" and "Garner's Modern English Usage."

For the Grammar Girl fan: The most beloved grammar podcaster of all time, Mignon Fogarty has

a new book out just in time for Secret Santas. In "The Grammar Daily: 365 Quick Tips for Successful Writing from Grammar Girl," Fogarty delivers one easy, practical writing tip per day, every day for a year. On Day One, you'll learn that the possessive of McDonald's is McDonald's. A few weeks later, you'll learn that even though "anxious" usually carries a negative connotation, you can use it to mean "eager."

For the smart stickler: You may have never heard his name, but you're probably already a Benjamin Dreyer fan. As the longtime copy chief at Penguin Random House, Dreyer is

See *Word*, page A9



Get Lit Get Festive
Experience the OC's first Fire & Ice Festival

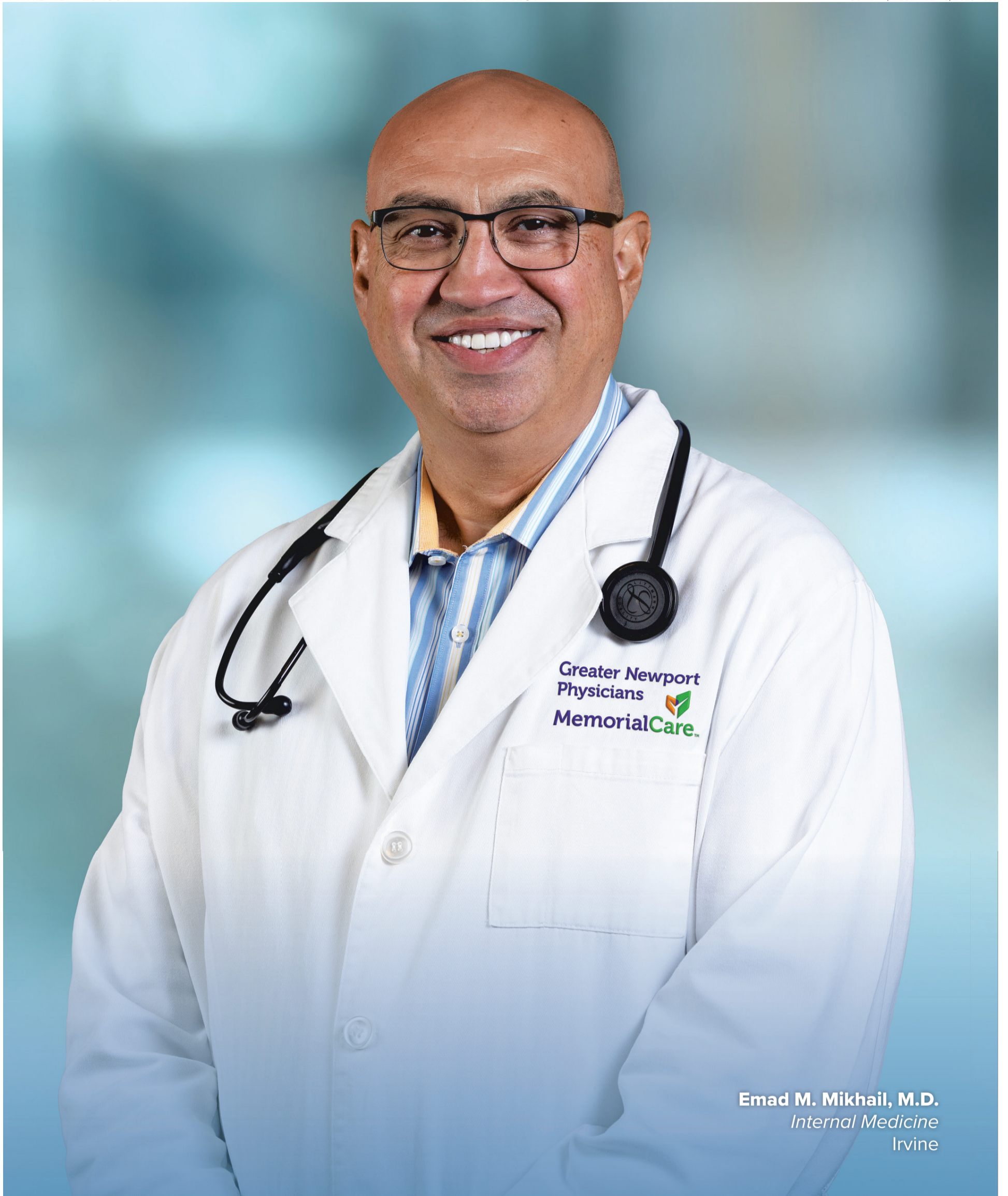
- Ice Skating - ages 3 & up.
 - Fire Pits and S'more kits
 - Rink side Igloo Bar
 - Holiday Inflatable Garden
 - Lighting of the Bay
 - Fire Dancing - weekends only
- Learn more at NewportDunes.com



Open Daily 10 am - 9 pm til sold out.

- Weekly deliveries direct from Oregon!
- Some of the freshest trees in the OC.

1131 Back Bay Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660 • NewportDunes.com • (949) 729 - 3863



Emad M. Mikhail, M.D.
Internal Medicine
Irvine

Primary care you can trust.

150+ primary care doctors. 1,100+ specialists.

When you choose a primary care physician with Greater Newport Physicians MemorialCare (GNPM), you receive personalized care and direct access to your doctor to help you maintain your best health. For nearly four decades, GNPM has remained one of the most highly acclaimed, independent physician organizations in Southern California. With leading specialists and nationally recognized hospitals, GNPM patients receive premier, high-quality care.



Choose Greater Newport
Physicians MemorialCare.
gnpweb.com/ChooseGNPM

**Greater Newport
Physicians** 
MemorialCare[™]

APODACA

Continued from page A6

Some argued that the district should stick to the basics — such as math, science and English — and not devote resources to anti-bias teaching.

The district took another look at the task force and made a few minor changes but essentially stuck to its plan — until the pandemic took a wrecking ball to education, and finding ways to recover from the resulting learning deficits became the overriding focus.

But the unfortunate reality is that racism, anti-Semitism and all forms of bigotry didn't take a break.

The pandemic unleashed a wave of anti-Asian hatred. A new poll found that about one-third of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders experienced racially based abuse in the past year, including verbal harassment, slurs, physical threats and cyberbullying.

And since the Oct. 7 Hamas attack on Israel, the U.S. has reportedly experienced a surge in anti-Muslim and anti-Arab hate incidents, and a similar increase in such incidents directed at Jewish people.

Just recently, two incidents have been reported at Corona del Mar High School. Last month, swastikas were drawn on a student locker. And earlier this month, a student was suspended after reportedly saying "Free Palestine" to a classmate, although various parties have suggested that the suspension arose from other threatening remarks.

The district indicated there was more to the incident than reported by some news organizations and on social media, but it declined to reveal details, citing student privacy.

Yet these are only the incidents that have made

it to the public sphere. It's fair to say that there are far more that go unreported or overlooked. The comments I have heard from both students and school staff suggest that bigoted remarks and actions are a common occurrence on local campuses.

In a perfect world, schools would be sanctuaries of learning, free to focus exclusively on core academic subjects, and it would not be necessary for administration and staff to deal with hateful speech and attitudes. But that is not the world we live in.

In this world, schools are microcosms of society at large. They are where kids spend hours each day crammed into communal spaces with each other, and where students become socialized and, if all goes well, learn how to become responsible citizens.

"Schools play an essential role in the fight against hate and bigotry and bullying, because that is where socialization happens, where lots of values and working cooperatively in diverse spaces (are learned), where youth grow up in this world," said Peter Levi, regional director of the Anti-Defamation League in Orange County and Long Beach.

"We have the opportunity to disrupt the pattern that leads to discriminatory behavior."

(The ADL initially worked with Newport-Mesa Unified after the red solo cup incident, but it hasn't been involved in district anti-discrimination efforts for the past two years.)

District officials acknowledge that anti-bias education must be a fundamental piece of what they provide.

"We spend a lot of time with students," said Sarah Coley, Newport-Mesa Unified's director of student services. "Our cam-

See **Apodaca**, page A9

Bear witness to this display



A DIVERSE COLLECTION of teddy bears fills a window and lines the rooftop of the holiday-decorated "Have a Beary Christmas" home along the Balboa Island Bayfront walk in Newport Beach, as witnessed Thursday afternoon.

Don Leach | Staff Photographer

MAILBAG

Continued from page A6

civic affairs, I have seen this council majority completely uproot the political and social norms that have underpinned democracy here for decades. It has been replaced with right-wing rule that has not only been autocratic and counterproductive but has endangered our city's future.

The controversy over Surf City becoming a Certified Autism Destination is a case in point. Councilwoman Natalie Moser, who introduced the item, pointed to the many benefits and opportunities pursuing such status would bring us. The council majority chose to abstain in voting, not wishing to risk

opposing a sure winner, and doomed the effort. Councilman Pat Burns claimed without evidence that it would be too complex and costly to explore. This from a councilman who voted in favor of a voter ID amendment to go on the March primary ballot and who voted to demand a special council-appointed committee to oversee city library purchases. Talk about increased bureaucracy and big government! Coupled with potentially ruinous lawsuits and forced expenditures, city finances face a far greater threat from this supposedly conservative majority than has ever been proposed by the progressive council minority.

Tim Geddes
Huntington Beach

For Huntington Beach residents, last week's City Council agenda item No. 20 provided yet another painfully illuminating moment.

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.

While this item was aimed at exploring the feasibility of Surf City becoming a Certified Autism Destination, it was the accompanying City Council discussion and vote that was defining. For in that moment, our circumstance was exposed and laid bare for all to see.

Four City Council members, using a cheap political dodge, killed off a proposal that would have allowed our city staff to look into making our community more welcoming to those with autism. This was "in essence" — just a quick nod to Councilman Pat Burns' — an action of

political cravenness. While these same City Council members have blindly supported dedicating an endless amount of time, emotion and city resources to pursuing culture war causes and fictional issues, they've done nothing to improve the quality of life for residents or make Huntington Beach more appealing as a tourist destination.

This is our reality as Huntington Beach residents, but we may maintain hope in the old adage, "It's always darkest just before the dawn." For it is hard to imagine a darker performance than that of our coalition of cowards on display last Tuesday night.

Given the performance put on by our coalition of cowards, it is difficult to imagine things getting any darker.

Steve Shepherd
Huntington Beach

Over the years, Huntington Beach has been a politically conservative city with elected officials who crow about the virtues of limited government spending. Those days are gone! Today's conservative City Council members are more concerned about culture issues than a fiscally well-managed budget. Thankfully, a local citizen has taken on the city by challenging their proposed (yet poorly executed and costly!) voter ID charter amendment that will be on March's primary ballot (Huntington Beach resident files suit in attempt to stop possible Voter ID requirement, Daily Pilot, Nov. 28). According to the lawsuit, it would violate both California's Constitution's right to vote and the California Elections Code. State Atty. Gen. Rob Bonta and Secretary of State Shirley Weber have warned our city against the proposed voting changes. The conservative majority's attempt to control what books our public library acquires with a politician-appointed review committee will also result in expensive litigation. Could this level of legal activity be the explanation for our city attorney's salary hike and increase in legal staff? True conservatives should be concerned about the lawsuits that are piling up in our city.

Carol Daus
Huntington Beach

Mark's Painting & Handyman Service
714-222-3055
Wood Restoration Specialist
Licensed & Bonded
C-33-#967860

PAGEANT of the MASTERS
WHERE ART COMES TO LIFE

Give the Gift of Living Pictures!

This holiday season give tickets to the world-famous **Pageant of the Masters** in Laguna Beach and share the magic of living pictures. Watch art come to life right before your eyes in next summer's performance of "**À La Mode: The Art of Fashion.**"

Performances Nightly
JULY 6 - AUGUST 30, 2024

Tickets on Sale Now!
Tickets start at \$45
800-487-3378 / PageantTickets.com

Joseph Viera
March 19, 1951 - November 14, 2023

Joseph Cruz Viera was called home to the Lord on Tuesday, November 14, 2023. He was born on March 19, 1951 in Whittier, CA.

Joe is survived by Corrie, his beloved wife of 44 years, his Mother Irene, sister Sylvia Macias (Francisco), brother Tom, daughter Jacqueline Simmons (Chris), and two grandchildren, Betty and Zander. He was preceded in death by his father, Joseph. The full obituary is located on Legacy.com.

MARKETPLACE

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

MERCHANDISE 800	EMPLOYMENT 1500
Miscellaneous Merchandise	Employment
Vinyl Records Wanted \$\$\$ Top cash paid 4 all or part of collection. Jazz, Classical, Psychedelic, Blues 949-933-6777 Mike	Civil Drafter Studioplus Architecture Corp. seeks one full time civil drafter in Newport Beach. Duties include performing architectural drafting and using Building Information Modeling (BIM) technologies to generate 3D building models. Produce drawings, using computer-assisted drafting systems (AutoCad and Enscape). Must be proficient in Revit, Microsoft Office Suite and ProCore. Must have 36 mo exp in healthcare design, tenant improvement/redevelopment commercial projects, & projects requiring Cal Div of State Architectural approval for K-12 educational facilities. Min. salary \$74,422/yr. E-mail resume, cover letter, and salary req. studioplusjobs@gmail.com
Classified is CONVENIENT whether you're buying, selling, or just looking, classified has what you need! To advertise in CLASSIFIED go to timescommunityadvertising.com	Classified is CONVENIENT whether you're buying, selling, or just looking, classified has what you need! CLASSIFIED (714) 966-4600

CLASSIFIED

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

APODACA

Continued from page A8

pus are a diverse representation of the community. It becomes our obligation to support a safe community and safe campus for students.”

Coley stressed that the district doesn't see itself as an isolated player in this mission, but as a partner with parents, the community and organizations that can provide expert guid-

ance. And although specific incidents must be addressed retroactively, the district's larger role encompasses proactive education beginning when students are still at the primary level.

“The more we can be proactive, the better our outcomes will be,” she said.

It's unrealistic to expect schools to do everything perfectly every time, and certainly there's room for ongoing discussions about

what anti-bias education should encompass.

But there's no question that schools provide a critical role in countering hate and bigotry. We should insist that they step up and support their efforts when they do.

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

WORD

Continued from page A6

the reason that so many books you've read over the years were, in fact, readable. In “Dreyer's English: An Utterly Correct Guide to Clarity and Style,” he uses his ice-pick wit and a brainy bent to deliver lessons on how to use English like a pro. Your giftee will read it cover to cover, laughing out loud, then keep coming back for refreshers.

For the introvert: Imagine your favorite word nerd sitting in a public park behind a sign that says, “Grammar Table. Vent! Ask a question! Capitalization complaints.” Unfathomable, right? So let your language buff live vicariously through Ellen Jovin, who's been setting up her Grammar Table in parks across the USA since 2018.

Jovin weaves her fun, frightening and sometimes uplifting encounters into practical grammar lessons in her book “Rebel With a Clause: Tales and Tips from a Roving Grammarian.”

For the language sleuth: “The Curious Case of the Misplaced Modifier,” by Bonnie Trenga should have made a much bigger splash when it came out in 2008. In it, Trenga constructs mini mysteries to investigate common causes of bad writing in chapters like “The Peculiar Puzzle of the Vague -ing Word” and “The Delicious Drama of the Weak Verb.” But don't let the cute and cozy tone fool you. Though this book is accessible to high school and even middle school students, Trenga's deep expertise guarantees some eye-opening writing lessons for adults of every experience level.

For the dirty-worder:

“You're at the zoo checking out some exotic-looking little horseish animals, wild asses of some sort, likely from somewhere in Asia. When your child asks what that horsey is you stifle a giggle as you tell them. It's an ass! An ass you might ride, no less.” For that smutty-yet-studious someone on your list who delights in stuff like this, grab some unmarked brown paper and wrap up a copy of “Nine Nasty Words: English in the Gutter: Then, Now, and Forever” by John McWhorter, a funny, fascinating and surprisingly highbrow examination of the naughtiest terms in English.

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

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

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

HEY SOCAL!

Join UNIFY today and start earning up to \$250!¹

- **24/7 Online Account Access²**
- **24/7 Contact Center** staffed with real people
- **A nationwide branch network**
- **Over 100,000 Surcharge-Fee Free ATMs** in our partner network

UNIFY'S GOT YOU!
Open Your Account Today:

BRANCH: [UnifyFCU.com/Locator](https://www.unifyfcu.com/locator) for locations
PHONE: 877.254.9328, available 24/7





¹Promotion available as of 11/1/2023, is subject to change without notice and may end at any time. New members who open a qualifying UNIFY checking account with a Visa® Debit Card receive a \$150 bonus to the checking account following the first statement cycle. Earn a \$50 bonus by establishing a recurring ACH Direct Deposit of at least \$500 aggregate each month, which must be posted within 60 days of account opening. Receive up to \$50 by earning \$1 for each purchase made with new UNIFY Visa Debit Card that exceeds \$5 within 60 days of account opening. Direct Deposit and Debit Card usage bonus credited to the checking account in the statement cycle following the 60th day. All bonuses limited to one per member and account. Members with multiple accounts or accounts with multiple owners will not receive multiple bonuses. Member responsible for applicable taxes and must be in good standing to receive any bonus. Membership eligibility and qualification requirements apply, which include opening a membership savings of at least \$5. Minimum of \$25 required to open most checking accounts. Members cannot have had a UNIFY Account within the last three (3) years. To be eligible for this offer, you must reside in Orange, Ventura, or Los Angeles County, CA. Not valid with any other offers. UNIFY employees, volunteers, and family members not eligible. Visa® is a registered trademark of VISA U.S.A. Inc.
²Enrollment in eBanking required.
Insured by NCUA.



The 115th NEWPORT BEACH CHRISTMAS BOAT PARADE

HOSTED BY THE COMMODORES CLUB OF THE NEWPORT BEACH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



the Most Festive Coastal Destination in America

Dec. 13 -17
6:30pm EACH NIGHT



ChristmasBoatParade.com

PRESENTING SPONSORS




COMMUNITY SPONSORS




PARADE SPONSOR





HOSTED BY




 [christmasboatparade](https://www.facebook.com/christmasboatparade) |
  [@nbboatparade](https://twitter.com/nbboatparade) |
  [@christmasboatparade](https://www.instagram.com/christmasboatparade)

PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY presents **70 YEARS** Est. 1954

This concert will sell out! Tickets from \$38



THE HOLIDAYS WITH CANADIAN BRASS

DEC 18 @ 8PM IRVINE BARCLAY THEATRE

Enjoy holiday favorites like "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year," "Carol of the Bells," "The Christmas Song" and more!

Tickets from \$45 Buy 3 concerts from \$140



CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY OF LINCOLN CENTER

THE COMPLETE BRANDENBURG CONCERTI

Co-presented with Soka Performing Arts Center

DEC 9 @ 8PM SOKA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Widely regarded as some of the best orchestral compositions of the Baroque era, hear **Bach's Brandenburg Concerti**. Each work features a unique blend of instruments, crafting diverse textures and moods that showcase the brilliance of Bach's musical artistry.

VASILY PETRENKO, MUSIC DIRECTOR

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

JAN 18 w/ Anne Akiko Meyers JAN 20 w/ Orange County Youth Symphony
 JAN 19 w/ Isata Kanneh-Mason

JAN 18-20 RENÉE AND HENRY SEGERSTROM CONCERT HALL

Join us for three extraordinary concerts with Royal Philharmonic Orchestra featuring music by **Rimsky-Korsakov, Rachmaninoff, Brahms and Clara Schumann**.

DONNA L. KENDALL —classical series SEGERSTROM FOUNDATION SELECT SERIES

Additional support from The Segerstrom Foundation, the Colburn Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts.

949.553.2422 PHILHARMONICSOCIETY.ORG

PRESENTING AT the Barclay Irvine Barclay Theatre CHINA HALL

SEGERSTROM Center for the Arts Soka Performing Arts Center



File Photo

TONY YIM, a homeless liaison officer with the Newport Beach Police Department, speaks with homeless people staying at the Balboa Pier in 2019.

PATH

Continued from page A6

have contact, less than half were connected to services.

Clearly, we are not reaching people where they are, and we need to become more effective when connections are made. We must redouble efforts to evaluate strategic outreach strategies to maximize engagement and ensure services are accessible and are addressing both immediate needs such as hygiene along with longer term needs like permanent housing.

SAFETY

Despite the picture some may try to paint, the prevalence of homeless encampments and tent cities are largely overstated. More than 80% of respondents said they did not live in encampments, with three-quarters sleeping with only a blanket or sleeping bag.

When asked about reasons for not utilizing shelter, concerns about safety and privacy were primary concerns, as well as the professionalism of shelter operators. The survey validates that our system needs to be trauma-in-

formed, accessible and available to all in need.

HEALTH

The significant health issues that many people living outside are experiencing are deeply concerning. About 85% reported having a disabling condition with almost half saying they have three or more, such as mental health, physical disability, substance abuse or developmental disability. Homelessness is a health crisis, too.

It appears that overall health has declined since the 2022 Point in Time count. The survey found that 22% of people with substance abuse issues want treatment yet can't access it, while 24% in need of mental health care lack access. The death rate among people without a home has been rising every year, and 2023 is on track to be the highest number of deaths per year to date. We simply must prioritize the health of our unhoused neighbors as an urgent part of our community response.

Efforts like CalOptima Health's street medicine program, which launched earlier this year in partner-

ship with the city of Garden Grove and Healthcare in Action to offer comprehensive healthcare to individuals experiencing homelessness, are to be commended. We must encourage our leaders to create more of these innovative models.

THE PATH FORWARD

With the information provided to us by the people who are experiencing this firsthand, we need to ask ourselves: "Are we willing to listen? Are we going to pay attention? And, most importantly, how will we respond?"

These are tough questions and the survey is a big step forward for us as a community. The findings should propel us forward in finding solutions.

We know that housing solves homelessness and that people need to be supported to regain access to housing and with opportunities to thrive once housed. This is the only way to provide our neighbors with dignity, safety and health.

BECKS HEYHOE is the executive director of United to End Homelessness, Orange County United Way.



Focused on whole person care

- ◆ Food Security
- ◆ Mental Health
- ◆ A Roof Over Head

As the largest health plan in Orange County, we know life circumstances can affect health more than medical care alone. So we support our members with housing services, food assistance, behavioral health, access to care and more. We remove barriers to health so everyone can get the kind of all-around care they deserve.