

Reports of hate in O.C. increased again in 2021

The Orange County Human Relations Commission logged 398 reported hate-motivated crimes and incidents in 2021, compared to 87 in 2015.

BY ERIC LICAS

Reported hate crimes and incidents in Orange County rose for the seventh year in a row but at a slower pace than in the recent past, officials with the O.C. Human Relations Commission said this week.

There were 398 reports of hate

crimes and incidents in Orange County in 2021, the commission said Wednesday in a statement issued ahead of the Sept. 15 release of its full report. That's a 6% increase over the 375 such reported crimes that law enforcement, educational institutions and community organizations were notified of in 2020.

"The continued rise in hate activity across the nation shows we can do more to create an all-inclusive environment, which is why my fellow Board members and I strongly support expanding the County's anti-hate efforts," the commission's chairman, Or-

See **Hate**, page A2



A GROUP in April 2021 holds a large banner as an airplane skywrites "No Hate" at the end of a news conference in Huntington Beach.

Kevin Chang



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

A REAR VIEW of "Good as Hell," a mixed-media sculpture of Kristine Schomaker created by artist Debbie Korbelt, for the performance exhibit "Perceive Me," at Coastline College through Oct. 15. Schomaker posed nude for 60 artists to understand how others perceived her image.

Plus-size artist questions identity, value in exhibit

BY SARA CARDINE

When you look in a mirror, what do you see? Is the image looking back at you beautiful and inspiring, or do you see flaws? Can you not help but notice signs of aging or fatigue? Could you stand to lose a few pounds? Are these attributes apparent to others?

"Perceive Me," a new performance exhibit at the art gallery at Newport Beach's Coastline College poses questions about identity and value and explores how our thoughts about ourselves are often colored by how we believe others see us.

Los Angeles artist Kristine Schomaker — a plus-sized woman with an eating disorder who'd spent decades evaluating her self-worth based on how she believed she was

perceived by others — set out to find answers by doing what some might consider unthinkable.

She agreed to pose nude for 60 artists, in positions and locations of their choosing, to understand how others regarded her and, in the process, reconcile those perceptions with her own beliefs about her body, its

See **Exhibit**, page A7

Bivalent vaccines available to O.C. residents

County health officials say they have begun distributing doses of the updated boosters that fight COVID-19 variants.

BY LILLY NGUYEN

The Orange County Health Care Agency began distributing doses of the bivalent vaccine this week to target the dominant Omicron strains — BA.4 and BA.5 — in addition to the original coronavirus strain that began the pandemic in early 2020.

The BA.5 Omicron subvariant is currently the most common strain reported in Orange County, according to data from the agency.

The boosters are to be distributed in a single dose at least two months after the completion of a primary vaccination series or the most recent booster dose. The Centers for Disease Control has updated their online tool to help the public learn whether or not they are eligible to receive a COVID-19 booster and what type.

The Pfizer-BioNTech booster is recommended for those ages 12 and over while the Moderna bivalent booster is recommended for those 18 and older. The new boosters can be administered alongside other vaccines, including annual flu shots, according to health experts.

"It's really important to consider getting the bivalent vaccine

See **Vaccines**, page A7

Disney parks favor treats over tricks



Sarah Mosqueda

CANDY MAKER Candy Pruitt works on spooky treats at Disneyland Park on Sept. 2, 2022, as part of the theme park's Halloween celebration.

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

In Disney's 1993 film "Hocus Pocus," the cynical protagonist, Max, quips that everyone knows Halloween was invented by the candy companies. While that isn't exactly an accurate description of the holiday's origins, candy still plays a significant role during the season. In fact, it's the time of year Disneyland candy maker Candy Pruitt most looks forward to.

"Halloween time is such a magical time here," said Pruitt. "It starts off with Halloween time and that just extends to the next holiday season."

Pruitt has worked at the resort for almost 10 years and said she has always had a sweet tooth.

See **Parks**, page A7

ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



Courtesy of Ritz-Carlton

RITZ-CARLTON CULINARY COOKOUT SERIES TO HOST SUPPERS AT SUNSET PAGE A6

RESIDENT INPUT SOUGHT AS HUNTINGTON BEACH DREAMS ABOUT VISIONS OF DOWNTOWN PAGE A2

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H.B. seeks input on downtown makeover

BY MATT SZABO

Downtown Huntington Beach features one of the longest piers in North America, almost as long as the love letter to surfing the downtown area writes.

The Surfers' Walk of Fame and Surfing Hall of Fame are nestled at the beginning of Main Street. Go a couple of blocks further inland, and there is the International Surfing Museum. A statue of surfing pioneer Duke Kahanamoku is displayed prominently in Pierside Pavilion.

"I think we're the Times Square of surfing, downtown Huntington Beach," said Kelly Miller, president and chief executive of Visit Huntington Beach. "I've lived in a variety of small cities and there is soul-soothing feeling one gets when you're in downtown Huntington Beach, particularly early in the morning or when the sun is setting.

"It's a calmness, and very



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

A COUPLE walks on Main Street in downtown Huntington Beach on Thursday. The city looks to renovate the area.

few places can promise that and deliver on that. I think as the world gets busier, it seems a little upside down right now, and I think downtown Huntington Beach gives people a respite from what's happening around the world."

But what other elements are people looking for downtown? As the city seeks to renovate Main Street and the surrounding blocks, how do residents want the hub of Surf City

to look?

Those are the questions the city is seeking to answer this month, with community engagement sessions it is dubbing "Downtown Dreamin.'" Three sessions where residents are invited to share their downtown stories are scheduled for the next three Mondays — Sept. 12, 19 and 26 — at Main Street Library.

There will also be a pop-up booth at Surf City

Nights on Tuesday, and two Main Street walkabouts scheduled for Wednesday. Preregistration is required for the sessions and walkabout.

Huntington Beach city manager Al Zelinka has seen this work for cities before. He gave the example of Enumclaw, Wash., which had a streetscape program based on storytelling. As examples, the structural part of the benches was designed by a local welder to emulate the structure of the flumes that carried the logs to the mills. Wind-driven bird whistles were attached to the lights.

The stories were captured on pieces of concrete inlay and inserted into the sidewalk.

When he worked in the private sector as a design consultant, Zelinka co-authored a report called "Placemaking on a Budget: Improving Small Towns, Neighborhoods and Downtowns Without

Spending a Lot of Money." He said the initial Downtown Dreamin' session for Huntington Beach, which took place Aug. 29, was very productive.

"The community talked about things like, how can the tools that have been used over time to shape surfboards, how can they be incorporated into the design of fencing that goes around outdoor dining?" Zelinka said. "Or the tools that were used on oil derricks back in the day, how can those be incorporated? Can we figure out a design for the benches, so that the base of the benches reflects the old pier structure that used to exist before it collapsed? There were just so many examples.

"What the Downtown Dreamin' is allowing to happen, naturally and authentically, is for the community to tell stories and then work together to figure out how those sto-

See **Downtown**, page A4

HATE

Continued from page A1

ange County Supervisor Doug Chaffee wrote in the statement.

The report distinguishes between hate crimes and hate incidents, the latter of which are instances in which a person's actions or statements are motivated by bias toward someone's race, religion, gender or sexual orientation but do not rise to the level of legal wrongdoing.

Last year was the seventh in a row that the commission documented an increase in reports of hate in the county. The commission logged 87 bias-motivated crimes and incidents in 2015.

Prior to that year, the number of reports had been on the decline for about a decade. During that period, Black Americans were the most targeted group.

The county saw a 35% spike in hate crimes and incidents in 2020, the report said, marking the largest increase in recent years. Antisemitism was the most frequently reported motive in those cases.

The commission also recorded a 40% increase in reported hate crimes and an 1,800% rise in hate incidents against Asian Americans in 2020. That year's report came in the wake of the emergence of COVID-19 from China, prompting the reported scapegoating of people of Asian and Pacific Islander descent.

The Orange County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a \$1-million proposal submitted by the commission to bolster efforts to combat hate, according to the commission's statement. Some of those include multilingual awareness campaigns, expanded services to victims of hate and improvements in methods to report bias-motivated events.

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F.V. allows some developments 75 dwelling units per acre

BY ANDREW TURNER

As cities across the state grapple with how to satisfy their mandated Regional Housing Needs Assessment numbers, local communities are divided on how to best approach the issue.

The Fountain Valley City Council passed an ordinance Tuesday allowing for some development projects to include up to 75 dwelling units per acre, provided those projects meet certain conditions.

A project may be built up to 75 units per acre when the nearest property line of the perimeter of a mixed-use zone is separated by the 405 Freeway, or if it is at least 400 feet away from a single-family residential zone.

Council members

landed on 75 units per acre after the General Plan Advisory Committee and the Planning Commission did not agree on whether to eliminate a variation that allowed for up to 100 residential units per acre under those specific circumstances.

The committee voted 7-1 to keep the 100-units-per-acre base zoning density, while the Planning Commission earlier this summer recommended its removal by a 3-2 vote.

In responding to critics of the ordinance, Councilman Glenn Grandis called attention to the city's housing allocation numbers, including the requirement to plan for 2,093 low-income units.

"I feel your frustration, and we're doing what we think is best for the city,

and we're not doing what we think is best for the developers," Grandis said. "We're doing what we think we have to do to motivate the developers to do affordable housing, and that's the bottom line."

Fountain Valley has been tasked with adding 4,839 dwelling units. The city had appealed its sixth cycle (2021-2029) Regional Housing Needs Assessment number in October 2020.

Eleven opportunity sites have been identified by city staff to add housing. Only two of those — the former Boomer's location and Warner Square — would meet the requirements to be built out to 75 units per acre.

Mayor Patrick Harper said he appreciated the re-

duction from 100 to 75 units per acre, but he said he felt the number should have been dropped down to 65. The council passed the ordinance by a 3-2 vote, with Mayor Pro Tem Kim Constantine and Harper dissenting.

"If we were to take this down to 65, we would still present a housing element that's in compliance with what the state requires," Harper said. "That's the bottom line, to me. What the developers might or might not do changes from day to day."


Council members Michael Vo, Ted Bui and Grandis voted for the ordinance. Vo said his vote was motivated by wanting to keep options available to the city, indicating that he felt it would be "irresponsible" not to do so.

"I was part of the [General Plan Advisory Committee], and we met over the years, and my vote was yes so that we can entertain each proposal, because every single housing unit that comes into the city will have to go through planning entirely," Vo said. "The planning commissioners will study and issue recommendations, so that's still a long process.

"But for the city to blankly say, 'OK, we only do 65, we only do 100, or we only do 75,' we basically limit ourselves. Why don't we give them an open field, so that they can give us different proposals that we can entertain?"

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THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS

- 1 Hole-making tool
- 4 Book of maps
- 9 Diamond officials
- 13 Manual or tome
- 15 Embarrassment
- 16 Trevor of "The Daily Show"
- 17 Central part
- 18 Provide party food
- 19 Nat King _
- 20 Benumbing
- 22 Preowned
- 23 Military vehicle
- 24 Word attached to drum or mark
- 26 Honda sedan
- 29 Perfect
- 34 Wrinkled fruit
- 35 Actor Michael
- 36 Wanted poster letters
- 37 Feels ill
- 38 Academy student
- 39 Toot one's own horn
- 40 Elected official: abbr.
- 41 Certain Scandinavians
- 42 _ Davis
- 43 Took a trip
- 45 Hurries
- 46 Once _ blue moon
- 47 Shrewd
- 48 Croquet game setting
- 51 Abbot's home
- 56 Meanie
- 57 Saying
- 58 Layer of paint
- 60 Smokey, for one
- 61 Revolving machine part
- 62 Circle dance
- 63 Notice
- 64 Small appliances
- 65 Presidential monogram

DOWN

- 1 "Grey's Anatomy"

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SUDOKU

By The Mepham Group

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

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

For answers to the crossword and Sudoku puzzles, see page A4.

- network
- 2 Lumber
- 3 Traditional knowledge
- 4 Rise
- 5 Express gratitude to
- 6 Part of the musical scale
- 7 Prayer ending
- 8 Corporal's
- superior
- 9 Straighten, as hair
- 10 Pasture cries
- 11 Sickly-looking
- 12 Lean-to
- 14 Michael & Diane
- 21 Show courage
- 25 Amazement
- 26 Fall _; suffer a breakdown

- 27 Town _; announcer of old
 - 28 Mea _
 - 29 No longer colorful
 - 30 Commits perjury
 - 31 Home to 7.75 billion people
 - 32 Go rollerblading
 - 33 Wise men
 - 35 Oldster's support
 - 38 Squid dish
 - 39 Implore
 - 41 Lion's lair
 - 42 Arrest
 - 44 Grape-growing field
 - 45 Stair step separators
 - 47 " _ Train" of old TV
 - 48 Lung section
 - 49 Middle _; historical period
 - 50 Cape or shawl
 - 52 Aroma
 - 53 Intl. military alliance
 - 54 Spot for solar panels
 - 55 Linear measure
 - 59 Paving substance
- Tribune Media Services

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forum

COLUMN | **PATRICE APODACA**

Teachers are starting to question the rewards of their profession

It would be easy to assume that Patrick Gordon became a teacher because it's in his blood. His army vet dad was a teacher, and his stepmother, stepsisters and stepfather also pursued careers in education.



wager that many consider Gordon an important influence behind their achievements.

Gordon, who lives in Huntington Beach and teaches Advanced Placement U.S. History at Gahr High School in Cerritos, is, by any measure, extremely good at his job. A natural, you might say.

Indeed, Gordon's performance has been so impressive that in 2012 he was named a Jaime Escalante Teacher of the Year, a prestigious award named after the famous educator who inspired the film "Stand and Deliver."

Despite all that, Gordon knows well that choosing to become a teacher — or to recommit to teaching year after year — is no easy decision. Unfortunately, that's more true now than ever.

When speaking with Gordon recently, I was struck by how often this exceptional educator used the word "sad" to describe the state of teaching today. The disrespect, he said, is "depressing on a deep level."

"I don't need praise," he emphasized. "I just don't

think that I'm being valued or that we are being valued anymore."

(Full disclosure: Gordon's wife Tracy is my longtime hairstylist and a dear friend.)

No doubt, teaching has always been a demanding job. But educators like Gordon once believed that, for the most part, the frustrations — as well as the lower pay compared with other professions requiring a similar level of education — were outweighed by the rewards.

Even at schools so underfunded that teachers routinely resorted to buying their own classroom supplies, many remained devoted to their careers because they loved what they did and believed in the positive impact they could have on young lives. Many took on second jobs so they could afford to keep teaching and still pay the bills.

But increasingly teach-



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

THIRD- THROUGH fifth-grade students participate in class at Village View Elementary in Huntington Beach in 2021.

ers are questioning whether it's worth it anymore. Many report being worn out by years of top-down measures that have sapped their autonomy and sucked creativity from the learning process. Meanwhile, our fixation with standardized testing

has drained more of the joy from teaching, and the growing politicization of education has teachers constantly on the defensive regarding what they say, how they plan their lessons and which books to assign.

As bad as it's been,

when COVID-19 emerged the situation grew exponentially worse. Indeed, after an initial burst of public appreciation during the early days of the pandemic, the gratitude quickly evaporated and teachers went from rock stars to villains.

They were branded as selfish if they were reluctant to return to in-person teaching out of fear of infection, blamed for student learning losses after months of remote studies and expected to miraculously overcome the myriad of societal ills that plague our youth.

Add to that teachers' daily worries about school safety and the now-standard training in how to respond during an active-shooter attack. And they've been on the receiving end of increasingly vitriolic and dangerous rhetoric aimed at stifling

See **Teacher**, page A6

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

A	W	L		A	T	L	A	S		U	M	P	S				
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7	9	5	4	6	3	8	1	2
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MAILBAG

More election thoughts from readers

I met Lisa Pearson back in those blissful days of volunteering in the kindergarten classroom of our first-born children. We were wide-eyed and happy to help. We quickly bonded over our shared hopes for our kids, and our love of Lincoln Elementary School. Soon we were attending PTA meetings and signing up for even more opportunities to serve. It is with complete confidence and unbridled enthusiasm that I recommend my friend for Newport-Mesa Unified school board zone 4.

Over the years I've watched Lisa apply her classroom teaching experience, her motherly instincts, her fine-tuned organizational skills and her endless generosity to huge jobs like school play producer and PTA president. Under her leadership at both Lincoln and Corona del Mar High School, there have been great successes, much needed funds raised and educational goals achieved — all with a refreshing lack of controversy. Our kids have grown, but Lisa has never left the educational environment. As she shepherded her youngest through school choices based on specific learning needs, she even developed a special program at a local private school that has helped others as well.

Everyone in our community knows that our schools are some of the highest ranked

in the nation, but recently there has been a politically motivated effort to denigrate those who work diligently to maintain that excellence we expect. The NMUSD school board position is nonpartisan, and I can attest after 20 years of lively conversations spanning countless election seasons, that Lisa respects political differences and always leads with a listener's ear and a peacemaker's heart; she will never let politics guide her decisions. Lisa Pearson cares about the mental health and well being of the children, high standards in the classroom, respect for parental involvement, and attention to keeping our schools safe.

Summer Bailey-Bress
Newport Beach

Brenner finds balance

One of the more sensitive jobs of a council member is negotiating labor agreements with city staff. The union's role is to push for as much as it can get. The council's role is to provide compensation packages that ensure we attract and retain the best people and at the same time keep in mind the long-term financial health of the city, which can mean saying no to some

See **Mailbag**, page A6

DOWNTOWN

Continued from page A2

ries can be manifested in the downtown streetscape that will ultimately come to City Council for direction."

In September 2021, the City Council received a presentation from staff regarding spending for downtown revitalization, using American Rescue Plan Act funds. About \$1.75 million was identified for proposed funding.

Huntington Beach's community development department is working with Studio One Eleven to explore different design elements for Main Street and the downtown area.

The city likely wants to build on its outdoor dining program that was necessitated during the coronavirus pandemic. The second block of Main Street remains closed to vehicular traffic, and the program has largely been lauded as a success.

The third block was also closed for a few months, but had complaints from owners as the businesses there are more mixed. It reopened in January 2021.

Ron Newman is an owner of Killarney's, Baja Sharkeez and the recently opened Sandbar Cocina Y Tequila. All three establishments are located on the second block of Huntington Beach, where 18 of the 21 businesses are either restaurants or bars.

"Back from the early days, I think downtown has changed a lot," Newman said. "You know, it was a little out of control back then. The great thing today is that between the Downtown Business Improve-

ment District, the police and all of the businesses, everyone's working very close together. If there's a problem, we have meetings and come up with solutions. It's much, much better."

Newman said the outdoor dining has been positive for his businesses as well.

"People just love to sit outside," he said. "It's healthier, it's fresher, it's better to people-watch. I'd say about 20% of the people now won't eat inside."

Stuart Goldberg is the office manager for Innocean, an advertising agency which has been located at 5th Street and Pacific Coast Highway for about a decade. He's also the vice president of the Downtown BID.

Innocean employees and clients alike are frequent visitors of the restaurants on Main Street and in the surrounding area.

"I think it would be nice if the downtown had a more consistent look," said

Goldberg, who lives within walking distance at Pacific City, the upscale mall and entertainment center south of Main Street. "It's a little hodge-podge right now, as different businesses pitched their temporary tents and did what they needed to do to stay in business. But we know that the city's going through the process of seeking input from the businesses and the public."

"Personally, or for Innocean, the walkability is important to us. Most of our employees park in the morning, and they're walking to get lunch or enjoy the downtown area. They're going to walk across the street for Happy Hour ... so for us

walkability is something I'd like to see continue or even go further in the future."

Sandy Taylor, who owns the Model Citizen and Dash of Sass clothing boutiques on the third block of Main Street, said she has signed up for one of Wednesday's walkabouts.

"I like this approach much better than the direction it was taking," said Taylor, who has been a business owner downtown since 2006. "At least you feel like you have some input ... We felt like we were out of the loop, so at least with this they're bringing the businesses and community in."

Taylor said she would like improved lighting downtown, as well as something in the post office area located at Main Street and Olive Avenue.

"It's such a dead zone," she said. "I'm hoping there's some sort of activation that they can come up with that will drive people further down Main Street."

Whatever changes and upgrades are made, Miller said that Huntington Beach's history, from the surfing to the old Golden Bear nightclub, tells a compelling story.

"I think it's really smart to have people tell their stories about downtown Huntington Beach, to capture those stories and find those nuggets of truth and opportunity that can then be used in design elements," he said. "Downtown can then organically grow so that both residents and visitors find compelling reasons to go and hang out."

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Ritz-Carlton cookout series to host suppers at sunset

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

In Orange County, there are many opportunities to dine alfresco. Beachside barbecues and coastal restaurants are many, but the Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel combines the two experiences for its Culinary Cookout series.

The outdoor dining series is set on the edge of a bluff overlooking the ocean with specialty offerings from the local food and beverage industry and from concepts within the Dana Point resort. Live music accompanies the lawn seating with patio umbrellas, making the whole event feel like a backyard barbecue.

The series kicked off on Aug. 26 with pitmaster Daniel Castillo of Heritage Barbecue serving his signature smoked meats, and desserts like peach cobbler provided by the resort.

The series continues on Sept. 14 with a Pacific Northwest clambake presented by Quy Trinh that will include a raw bar, salmon candy, albacore crudo and more. The dinner will also include wine pairings from regional producers.

On Oct. 6 the series will present Brews and Bites, with a pop-up appearance from the Bruery, the Placentia-based beer maker and one of Orange County's first craft beer innovators. The brewery, which celebrates its 14th anniversary this year, will serve a selection of its signature beer-wine hybrids and barrel-aged stouts while the resort will provide dishes like wild boar bratwurst and duck cassoulet flatbread.

The remaining events will be centered around two upcoming cultural holidays.

On Oct. 28 the Ritz's chef de cuisine, Sanjay Rawat,



Photos courtesy of Ritz-Carlton

DINNER AT the Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel's Culinary Cookout. The series continues on Sept. 14 with various seafood dishes and local wine pairings.

will prepare a spread of traditional regional Indian cuisine for the Diwali holiday, India's Festival of Lights. Rawat earned his culinary degree in Malaysia and gained experience cooking at places like the five-star Taj Hotel and the Clay Oven. The New Delhi native also heads up the resort's chef-driven culinary program dedicated to Indian weddings, with dishes that put a modern spin on traditional Indian cuisine.

The series closes on Nov. 3 with a Dia de los Muertos celebration at RAYA, the re-

sort's signature restaurant and bar, by Richard Sandoval. The Latin-inspired concept at the hotel comes from the renowned Sandoval, who is known for his contemporary Latin cuisine that incorporates flavors of Asia and those native to California.

The James Beard nominated Sandoval grew up in Mexico City and has restaurants in more than 10 countries over four continents. For the resort's Day of the Dead celebration, Sandoval creates a four-course prix-fixe menu accompanied

with specialty tequila cocktails. Live music from a Latin band and professional face painting for the sugar-skull face-paint look that has become synonymous with the holiday will also be available.

Tickets for the events start at \$150 and include dinner and two drinks. The events are timed just before sunset, giving diners an optimal view by the time they get to their entrees.

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SUNSET DINING at the Culinary Cookout. Tickets for the event start at \$150 and include dinner and two drinks.

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MAILBAG
Continued from page A4
requests. In her tenure, Joy

Brenner has done a good job of finding this balance. For example, she has called for new police hires to provide better coverage in the city, but she has been firm in rejecting some union demands that she felt were both unnecessary and not fiscally responsible. In other words, she has said no to some labor requests in order to protect the city's taxpayers. Supporting the safety of our city while keeping a firm hand on financial controls — this is just one of the reasons I am supporting her reelection.

Nancy Gardner
former Newport Beach council member/mayor

A few facts about Y and K

Costa Mesa's Measure Y by its own terms exempts all affordable housing projects required by law. It does not prohibit any housing projects but only requires a public vote for certain major projects. Measure Y applies only to projects (residential or

nonresidential) that require exceeding the limits of the existing general plan and zoning law. The measure passed by more than a 2-to-1 vote of the people in 2016.

There is no requirement in Measure K, on the Costa Mesa ballot this November, that any new housing be affordable or that would limit the sales price or rent that could be charged for houses, condominiums or apartments.

There is nothing in Measure K that would mitigate the effects of high-density projects on increased vehicular traffic, noise, air pollution and other adverse effects.

Any project the City Council approves under the terms of Measure K would be immune from referendum; the public would have no way to reverse the council's decision.

Although a new housing project may increase net property tax revenue for the first five years or so, the cost to Costa Mesa taxpayers of providing services to the project every year after that is substantially greater

than the revenue.

The people of Costa Mesa must continue to have a say in their city's future by voting against Measure K.

Eleanor Egan
Costa Mesa

A look at N.B. campaign disclosures

One way to gauge the support of our City Council candidates is to look at their campaign disclosure forms.

Newport Beach newcomer Tom Miller has threatened to spend up to \$400,000 to win a seat on the council, and he has so far given himself \$125,000 to buy the seat.

What is unusual is that of the most recent disclosures, Miller only has \$49,100 cash on hand to start the campaign. This is far behind Joe Stapleton, Robyn Grant, Erik Wiegand and even Joy Brenner. Miller's consultants must have kids in college given how they are spending his money. If he spends the

taxpayers' dollars like he is spending his campaign cash, the city will be broke by Easter.

The disclosure also shows that Miller has limited support except from himself. He raised only \$27,529 from other donors. This is far less than all the other candidates. Even worse for Miller is that over 56% of his donations are from people who do not live in Newport Beach. He does appear to be the preferred Newport Beach candidate of people living in Anaheim and Las Vegas.

Like a lot of other rich, entitled candidates, my prediction is that Tom Miller will find Newport Beach voters cannot be bought. Residents want candidates who reflect our values, history and unique quality of life. Voters respect those who put in the time over the years to make this a better community. Perhaps Miller should have picked another city to move into if he wants to be an elected official.

Kerry Sabo
Newport Beach

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TEACHER
Continued from page A4

any classroom discussion that touches on racism or LGBTQ issues.

It should hardly come as a surprise that many teachers are now fed up.

Across the nation, concerns are mounting over potentially catastrophic teacher shortages. Some

districts report hundreds, even thousands of vacancies; the National Education Assn. estimates that U.S. schools are currently in need of another 300,000 teachers and staff.

Some observers downplay the crisis. They note that teacher shortages aren't new and that some districts have had no problems attracting and retaining personnel. There's no comprehensive national data, so a complete picture remains elusive.

But we can't ignore the fact that many campuses — often those that serve the most distressed communities — are losing teachers at alarming rates and can't find enough replacements to fill the gaps.

The problem is so severe in some areas that certain districts have resorted to desperate measures — lessening requirements for entry-level teachers, boosting reliance on long-term subs, hiring students with incomplete training, increasing the burden on remaining teachers and even shortening workweeks to four days.

Veteran teachers like Gordon know that the deflating environment exacts a heavy toll.

"Some people can't wait to get out, and they haven't been there 30 years," he said. "They've been there three."

Many won't even get that far. There are indications that young people are increasingly giving teaching a hard pass.

Gordon's own daughter could be one of them. Now a college freshman, she has been discouraged from considering a future career in teaching by some family members — the same family with a proud heritage in education.

Their warnings should speak volumes about how badly we've lost our way. Teaching is arguably the most important job, but you'd never know it by our contemptible treatment of this honorable profession. That's not merely sad. It's tragic.

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.

Daily Pilot
A Times Community News publication incorporating the Huntington Beach Independent, Coastline Pilot, Orange Coast Daily Pilot and the Newport Harbor News Press combined with Daily Pilot

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COMPANY INFO
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.

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VACCINES

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because this vaccine has the original strain as well as an Omicron variant that will help protect you in the upcoming weeks and months," said county health officer Dr. Regina Chinsio-Kwong in a briefing Tuesday.

"We want everybody to

have a good holiday season, but that means protecting yourself against the variants that are circulating," said Chinsio-Kwong. "Again, just remember the strong recommendation to still wear a mask, to still utilize all those preventive measures that we've been talking about and to get vaccinated especially when you're eligible."

In a statement announc-

ing the distribution of the booster doses, the Orange County Health Care Agency encouraged eligible residents and visitors to visit [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) to find a nearby clinic that offers the bivalent vaccine. Additionally, COVID-19 vaccine appointments are available through the county agency at [athena.com](https://www.athena.com).

Chinsio-Kwong suggests residents also reach out to

their local care providers or pharmacies to see if the bivalent boosters are available, as there may be some delay of notice online.

CVS, Walgreens and Rite Aid websites were reporting Friday that the updated boosters were available.

Chinsio-Kwong confirmed the county agency received about 1,000 doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech booster and about 1,000

doses of the Moderna booster. The state of California reportedly has received over 1 million doses, according to the Los Angeles Times.

"We've been told from the California Department of Public Health and CDC that there may initially be a ramping up period but that the vaccine will be available widely in the community in the coming

weeks," Chinsio-Kwong said.

About 2.3 million people have been fully vaccinated against the coronavirus and an estimated 1.4 million have received boosters or additional doses in Orange County, according to data reported by the agency on Sept. 6.

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EXHIBIT

Continued from page A1

beauty and value.

"I love this idea of seeing myself through other people's eyes, trying to shift this perspective and trying to love myself through that," Schomaker, 49, said in an interview Tuesday. "Putting myself out there nude is a way of facing myself, facing my fears."

The result is an assemblage of artwork rendered in charcoal, ink, wood, clay or mixed and even digital media, each one showing a different side of its subject.

One larger-than-life sculpture titled "Good as Hell" portrays Schomaker as a kind of angel, suspended from the ceiling and framed by a majestic metal wingspan.

Another, a painting, shows her confidently seated, naked but for a gold chain and top hat, a cigarette in one hand and an ice cream sundae in another.

Created largely in 2019, the exhibit debuted at Cal State Los Angeles in February 2020 but was placed on hiatus due to the coronavirus pandemic. It runs at Coastline College through Oct. 15, with an opening reception scheduled for Sept. 23, before heading to San Diego Mesa College.

"It's about being comfortable with who you are," said Coastline Art Gallery director and curator David Lee. "You can't be more vulnerable than putting yourself out there to 60 different artists and having them present you in your entirety. I wouldn't do it,



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

AN OIL PAINTING called "Where Does the Truth Lie" by Bradford J Salamon, is part of "Perceive Me" at Coastline Art Gallery in Newport Beach. The exhibit runs through Oct. 15.

not even if you paid me."

Although Schomaker had disrobed in the name of art before, sitting for sketches or being photographed behind frosted glass or some other abstracting surface, ceding control of how she might appear was a departure from her normal mode of attempting to hide her figure in (mostly black) clothing.

But in the process of posing — in hats, wigs or assembled crowns, reclining amid rose petals, lying flat against a rock outcropping or with arms crossed below ample breasts in a beatific manner — the artist began to notice a shift in the way she felt about herself.

"I felt glamorous, classy, beautiful and seen," Schomaker wrote in an artist's statement that

LOS ANGELES artist Susan Amorde poses Wednesday with her sculpture "Ta-Dah!"



Kevin Chang

accompanies the works at the Coastline gallery. "The poses came naturally, and I was having fun. I soon realized my inner feelings are much different than the physicality of my body."

Los Angeles artist Susan Amorde created a sculpture and mixed media piece titled "Ta-Dah!" which shows Schomaker, arms raised above her head

in a posture of triumph, standing atop an antique scale balanced by a cake, a reference to 2018 show curated by Schomaker titled "Let Me Eat Cake."

"Most people have this little skinny model image of an ideal body weight. I think [Kristine] is proving that wrong," said Amorde, who came to the Coastline Art Gallery Wednesday to host a lunchtime lecture.



Courtesy of Kristine Schomaker

ARTIST KRISTINE SCHOMAKER poses in front of a photograph displayed in the exhibit "Perceive Me."

"This is how I see her—she's quirky, she's daring, she's feminine and funny. There are a lot of different sides to her."

Schomaker said the feedback she's gotten from "Perceive Me" has been largely positive as audiences describe how much the work and the concepts undergirding them resonated deeply. She hopes to help people love their bodies, to give themselves permission to think about things differently or, ultimately, not care what other people think.

As for herself, she said she's learned things are not as black and white as she

once believed. She sees now there is no one ideal body shape and character also weighs in on how others perceive us.

"I'm still a work in progress, as far as learning to love my body," she said. "But I'm getting closer."

"Perceive Me" runs at Coastline Art Gallery, through Oct. 15 with an opening reception scheduled Sept. 23 at 5 p.m. Located at 1515 Monrovia Ave., Newport Beach, the gallery is open Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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PARKS

Continued from page A1

"My name says it all," laughs Pruitt.

On Sept. 2, at Candy Palace on Main Street, U.S.A. at Disneyland, Pruitt dipped caramel apples into orange-colored white chocolate to create Mickey pumpkin candy apples. The pumpkin-shaped treat with marshmallow ears resembles the giant Mickey pumpkin at Main Street's Pumpkin Festival.

Other confections at Candy Palace include Mickey spiderweb rice cereal treats, Minnie witch candy apples and a Halloween marshmallow wand dipped in caramel and dark chocolate.

Of course, pumpkin spice abounds too. Pumpkin spice churros are available at the Buena Vista Churro Cart, pumpkin-spiced Mickey-shaped beignets rolled in pumpkin-spiced sugar can be found at the Mint Julep Bar, and Red Rose Taverne features a pumpkin cold-brew coffee flavored with pumpkin and vanilla and topped with whipped cream.

Over at Paradise Gardens in Disney California Adventure, the park celebrates the season a different way, with Plaza de la Familia. Guests are invited to explore traditions associated with Dia De Los Muertos by visiting the Mexican Arbol de la Vida (Tree of Life) and writing messages to loved ones on the memory wall.

"Plaza de la Familia really represents the Hispanic and Latino culture you can see all around the world," said resort ambassador Mark Everett King Jr. "That resonates with so many different families. It is nice to be able to see stories that you can relate to."

The storytellers of Plaza de la Familia perform "A Musical Celebration of Coco," telling the story of Coco in a compact performance that includes Mariachi music and traditional folklorico dancers.

California Adventure is also where parkgoers can



Photos by Sarah Mosqueda

THE STORYTELLERS of Plaza de la Familia perform at Disney California Adventure Park earlier this month.



CHEF KAMILAH ROBINSON presents Mexican food at Paradise Garden Grill at Disney California Adventure Park.

find food and drinks that accompany the performance and celebrate Hispanic and Latin American Heritage Month, which begins Sept. 15.

"I would say the whole menu is pretty exciting," said Chef Kamilah Robinson of the offerings at Paradise Garden Grill. "One of my personal favorites, though, would be the carnitas burrito."

The hefty burrito is stuffed with pork carnitas, Spanish rice, pinto beans and salsa verde and comes with house-made tortilla chips. Other traditional plates include green chile chicken tamales, a chorizo quesadilla and sirloin beef tacos served as a trio with escabeche, rice and beans.

Robinson said the team sourced recipes from cast members in order to capture truly authentic flavors.

"With this menu, we did take feedback and recipes from cast members that they would cook with their families at home and let them have that chance to

bring it here. Then, to see it on the menu board is super exciting."

There are also many nontraditional dishes that Robinson anticipates will become new favorites.

"I think our twist on mole wings are going to be popular, and our carnitas pizza is something different too," said Robinson.

The mole chicken wings are served in a spicy ancho and guajillo mole sauce, and the carnitas pizza is topped with pork carnitas, chorizo refried beans, mozzarella and citrus cabbage slaw with salsa verde.

This year it seems spooky season at Disney Parks features more treats than tricks, and that isn't just a lot of hocus pocus.

Halloween Time runs now through Oct. 31 at Disneyland Park, and Plaza de Familia runs now through Nov. 2 at Disney California Adventure Park.

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