

Newport grad has Broadway wish granted

Gabriella Earnhart, who received her Make-A-Wish dream, has enrolled at Pepperdine University to study musical theater and marketing.

BY MATT SZABO

Gabriella Earnhart attacks life with vibrancy. She describes herself well in a single sentence: “I’m constantly creating something in whatever capacity I can.” Her home in Costa Mesa is close to her alma mater, Newport Harbor High School, where Earnhart works as a brand and community coordinator for the performing arts program she participated in before graduating in 2023. Earnhart faces a threat that’s not always outwardly apparent, Marfan syndrome, a genetic disorder that affects the connective tissue all over her body. The 6-foot-1 Earnhart has an enlarged aorta, and the syndrome leaves her at increased risk for emergencies such as her lungs collapsing or retinas detaching. She sometimes needs to use a wheelchair to get around. “I’d say that probably the most pervasive aspect of the illness is



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

See **Wish**, page A4 **COSTA MESA** resident Gabriella Earnhart was granted her New York trip through the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

At the forefront of digestive health

UCI Health
Chao Digestive Health Institute



Historic home approved over Klan objection

Fullerton City Council voted to historically designate Louis E. Plummer’s home despite KKK association.

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

Overlooking Fullerton Stadium, a pistachio-hued Craftsman bungalow first built in 1917 now finds itself at the center of a Klan controversy more than a century later. A narrow Fullerton City Council majority voted on Tuesday to designate the former Hillcrest Drive home of Louis E. Plummer a historical landmark, but not without overriding a dispute over how to do so. An education pioneer, Plummer served as a longtime superintendent of Fullerton High School and Fullerton College. According to a membership list gone missing from the Library of Congress in Washington D.C., he also belonged to the Ku Klux Klan in Orange County during the 1920s. Plummer’s name has been the subject of controversy in Fullerton before. In 2020, the Fullerton Joint Union High School District board of trustees voted to remove his name from a Fullerton High School auditorium after an online petition gathered more than 25,000 signatures in support. The year before, President’s Advisory Council of Fullerton College decided to take Plummer’s portrait down from the campus li-



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

TWO GUESTS wearing luxurious flower hats arrive at a home on Catalina Street dubbed the “Ethereal Charm” during the Laguna Beach Garden Club’s 20th gate and garden walking tour on May 3.

Laguna Beach Garden Club tour an exhibit of collaboration and culture

BY ANDREW TURNER

Boundless beauty awaited hundreds who wanted to take a peek at the properties included on a gate and garden tour in Laguna Beach. Enchanting fairy gardens and fountains, lush green backyards with side entrances through

towering hedges, and an exotic ceramic scarecrow draped in vegetation were just some of the sights on the walking tour. The Laguna Beach Garden Club organizes the tour, holding it annually on the first Saturday in May. As a primary fundraiser, the event allows the club to support several causes,

including educational school gardens, local scholarships and community projects. “We give scholarships to Saddleback College, to horticulture students, or college-bound seniors from Laguna Beach High who are interested in

See **Garden**, page A10

Progress at the Great Park in Irvine

Immersive exhibits, words from city leaders highlight what’s next at the 2025 “State of the Great Park” event.

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

Despite a light drizzle Tuesday, many Irvine community members spent the afternoon at the Great Park for the 2025 “State of the Great Park” event. The City of Irvine and the Great Park Board invited neighbors for a first look at the progress being made at the Great Park through immersive partner exhibits and a presentation from Great Park leadership. “You are the reason that Irvine leads the nation in building a city and community that we can all be proud of,” said Great Park Board chairman and Irvine City Councilmember, Mike Carroll, in an address to the crowd. “Twenty years ago, this place was on track to be a massive international airport and 20 years ago community leaders fought back to preserve this place as a park for all of us to enjoy.” The lawn of Great Park Live resembled a carnival — a rainy one — with games, mini golf, bounce houses and food from Chick-fil-A, Wetzel’s Pretzels and more. The program began with a performance by the Pacific Symphony, which makes the temporary live music venue its summer home, followed by remarks from Irvine Mayor and Great Park Board director Larry Agran and

See **Progress**, page A7



Sarah Mosqueda

ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:
POPULAR FILIPINO DESSERT CONCEPT OPENS AT THE DISTRICT AT TUSTIN LEGACY PAGE A9
FULLERTON REVISITS, UPHOLDS NEWSPAPER BAN AT CITY HALL AND OTHER PUBLIC BUILDINGS PAGE A2
VARIOUS SMALL FIRES OC PULLS BACK THE ORANGE CURTAIN IN TUSTIN PAGE A8

See **Historic**, page A10

Fullerton revisits, upholds newspaper ban at City Hall and other public buildings

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

A new policy that prohibits the distribution of community newspapers at Fullerton City Hall has been in place for a month — and continues to spark debate over free speech.

Fullerton Councilwoman Shana Charles initially voted in support of the policy on April 1, but only after pushing to make the city's public library a "community news space" where publications like the Fullerton Observer continue to be distributed.

At Tuesday's meeting of the City Council, Charles sought to reverse course and have the overall policy rescinded in light of what she called "new information."

During the initial debate, the city attorney's office suggested that similar policies existed in Newport Beach and Irvine. After Charles later scrutinized the claim, she felt compelled to revisit the news rack ban.

"I went to Irvine City Hall, myself, and found out that, while they had a resolution that was considered to be content neutral, it was not actually, in effect," Charles said. "They weren't actually implementing it. Community newspapers were allowed to be there."

She added that in Newport Beach, a public library policy deals with material acquisitions and argued that it didn't have much, if anything, in common with Fullerton's policy.

"We would be enacting a new policy, something that nobody else in this county is doing, possibly nationwide," Charles said. "I just don't think it makes any sense for us to try and suppress community newspapers."

When asked by TimesOC, Newport Beach spokesperson John Pope noted that the city allows

newspapers to be distributed as the Daily Pilot and NB Independent stacks are commonly found at its facilities.

Irvine spokesperson Melissa Haley told TimesOC that the city's policy is very much in effect.

"We are aware that unsolicited deliveries sometimes occur, such as the Irvine World News," she said. "When that happens, staff remove the papers. They are not placed on display."

The policy debate in Fullerton traces back to an email sent by attorney Kelly Aviles to city officials on Jan. 13 requesting a news rack at City Hall for a forthcoming print edition of the Friends for Fullerton's Future Blog. (Aviles also provides outside counsel to the Los Angeles Times.)

Over the years, the Observer and the Daily Titan, a Cal State Fullerton student newspaper, have been distributed in the lobby at City Hall.

Instead of granting Fullerton's Future a future news rack, the Fullerton City Council voted 4-1 to ban all community newspapers from public facilities except the public library.

The policy change continued to spark criticism at Tuesday's council meeting.

"The answer to speech you don't like is more speech, and the answer to press you don't like is more press," said Jodi Balma, a Fullerton College political science professor. "I don't know why we would limit access. Fullerton is blessed to be one of the only communities that has local journalism."

Josh Ferguson, a former Fullerton's Future blogger Fullerton unsuccessfully sued in 2019 over the publication of secret files it disclosed, countered that the policy was soundly in accordance with the 1st Amendment.



FULLERTON CITY HALL no longer distributes community newspapers after a policy change initiated last month.

Gabriel San Román

"Whether or not the city attorney or city manager...was correct about something that happened in Irvine is irrelevant to the case at hand," he said. "Is the policy content neutral? Yes, it is."

In the past, news rack bans at public buildings in Orange County have been subject to legal challenges.

Community Common Sense sued San Juan Capistrano in 2013 when council members secretly voted to bar all newspapers from racks in front of its city hall and other public buildings.

The closed session vote came just days after Community Common Sense began distributing its newspaper at public facilities.

A settlement the following year allowed Community Common Sense to distribute its newspaper inside the city's Community Center reading room and on public sidewalk racks.

In 2017, Irvine settled a lawsuit for \$350,000 over Irvine Community News & Views, which was banned by city officials from distribution at its city hall as a "politi-

cal" publication that many have linked to politician Larry Agran.

David Loy, the First Amendment Coalition's legal director, opposes Fullerton's policy change, even if it is allowed to regulate what is distributed inside its buildings in a content neutral manner.

"It's not clear to me that what the city did is unconstitutional as a matter of 1st Amendment doctrine and case law," he said. "As a matter of public policy, I wish they had kept their previous practice of allowing the public access to a diversity of community viewpoints and community news."

Ahead of Tuesday's council meeting, the First Amendment Coalition sent a letter to city officials that argued the news rack ban sends the message, whether intended or not, that Fullerton is hostile to the free press and "discourages criticism of its policies." It cited the Ferguson case as a chief reason not to restrict access.

The letter warned the city could be exposed to litigation if the ban was motivated by dislike of news

coverage by any outlet or reporter.

Councilmember Ahmad Zahra, who was the sole vote against the policy last month, believed the ban to be retaliatory against the Observer by the council majority comprised of Mayor Fred Jung, Councilmember Jaime Valencia and Councilmember Nick Dunlap.

"If we are sued, [the] truth could come out in all kinds of subpoenas and discoveries," he said. "I hope that we can avoid all this by rescinding this order tonight."

A vote to do so failed by a 3-2 vote with Zahra and Charles supporting the move.

Only Valencia spoke on the issue in support of keeping the ban in place.

"Our city did not have an ordinance," she said. "Anybody and everybody could publish whatever they wanted to and put whatever they wanted to within our city hall, which is a non-partisan building."

gabriel.sanroman@latimes.com
Twitter: @gsanroman2

The Chao Digestive Health Institute delivers advanced care for the region.

ucihealth.org/ChaoDHI



Costa Mesa Arts Commission tests its power, as authority of similar citizen-led groups is disputed

BY SARA CARDINE

When a city appoints citizens to serve on municipal commissions and committees, what rights and responsibilities do those individuals have to inform policy, make recommendations to city leaders and to generally get things done?

That point is being pondered in Costa Mesa, the self-proclaimed City of the Arts, where some council members this week sought further clarity after learning about a dispute on the subject between arts commissioners and staff.

Upon reviewing the city's arts budget during a May 1 meeting, commissioners recommended shifting \$160,000 from a large-scale art installation fund to a public-private mural initiative that would support the painting of historical scenes on participating local businesses.

Vice Chair Fisher Derderian, who proposed the motion, explained it would be a more immediate way of getting eye-catching art into public places, particularly if businesses chipped in to cover a portion of the expense.

Historical murals would also be a fitting way to celebrate Costa Mesa's rich and storied past, while positioning the city for federal arts grants aimed at honoring America250, the nation's bisesquicentennial, in 2026, Derderian reasoned.

"We have to be ambitious. We have to have a vi-

sion that says let's get art out there tomorrow, if at all possible," he said at the meeting. "I don't think there's any reason we couldn't at least propose this as part of the budget and then, if it gets approved, really flesh out what the idea would be."

The move, which passed in a 4-2 vote, is more than a mere recommendation. It's a test of the civic reach of the Arts Commission, established in 2022 to function as its own legislative body, compared to the erstwhile advisory-only Cultural Arts Committee.

The vote followed a discussion between commissioners and Director of Parks & Community Services Brian Gruner, who oversees the panel, regarding the roles and responsibilities of the group and its power to seek new funding sources and create public art programs.

Derderian asked Gruner to clarify whether the commission could form a subcommittee to discuss incorporating art in future public works projects or displaying it on city-owned buildings. Or maybe the commission could call a study session or make a motion to the City Council to hold a discussion at a higher level?

The answer was, essentially, no.

"We'd have to have a discussion and dialogue, and connect with [then-City Manager Lori Ann Farrell Harrison] first and see what



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

SHEPARD FAIREY'S "Welcome Home" mural on the Baker Block apartments in Costa Mesa.

the recommendation would be from her," Gruner responded.

Costa Mesa municipal code seems to state otherwise, specifying the commission shall:

"...by its own motion, conduct studies and investigations and hold public hearings as it may deem necessary for the formulation of policies, plans and procedures relating to arts, or to determine the wisdom and efficacy of such policies, plans and procedures, or to determine an action plan to pursue in implementing the city's arts and culture master plan and report its findings and recommendations."

When asked about the rights described in the legislation, Gruner said he could request the city clerk hold a training session for

commissioners on how to properly interpret the law.

Instead, Derderian took a different course. During a discussion on the city's arts budget later on, he made a motion recommending \$100,000 in a previously approved art-installation fund, and an additional \$60,000 in the new budget cycle, be repurposed for the historical mural initiative.

The motion carried on a 4-2 vote. And, just like that, the Costa Mesa Arts Commission took a first tentative step toward independence.

Derderian said in a follow-up interview he reviewed the city's municipal code after hearing public comments — particularly from Jim Fitzpatrick, a former planning commissioner-turned-cannabis consultant and vocal City

Hall critic — indicating the commission had more power than it was being allowed to exercise.

"There's a real question as to what we're supposed to be doing and how we fulfill that purpose," Derderian said Wednesday. "We're developing precedent in trying to understand what our role is."

Although it's unknown whether the Costa Mesa City Council will approve the commission's recommendation, it seems city leaders are open to exploring the power of citizen-led municipal groups.

Councilman Jeff Pettis said during a regular council meeting Tuesday commissioners should feel empowered to carry out the duties defined in the municipal code.

"I do not believe the Arts

Commission is functioning to its full capacity," Pettis said. "I'm going to be watching every minute of every Arts Commission meeting going forward to ensure they are being able to function within their role as commissioners to their highest level of authority."

Councilman Mike Buley asked whether a council study session might be convened to clarify the responsibilities of the groups.

"We've got citizens donating an extensive amount of their time," he said. "A lot of them are very skilled and knowledgeable in their specific areas, and it's a resource we should rely upon. They should be given a citizen voice in what we do in this community."

sara.cardine@latimes.com
Twitter: @SaraCardine

UCI Health

Chao Digestive Health Institute

Elevating digestive health in Orange County

The Chao Digestive Health Institute — the first of its kind in Orange County to develop a fully integrated medical and surgical team — offers advanced techniques delivered by nationally recognized, board-certified physicians who, for decades, have propelled digestive health to new heights of innovation.

As part of one of the largest academic health systems in California, and the only one in Orange County, we bring a multispecialty, comprehensive and patient-focused approach to prevent, diagnose and treat the most complex digestive disorders and cancers.

Powered by UC Irvine, no other health system in the region combines scientific discovery and clinical research to improve the lives of people living with digestive diseases.

To learn more, visit ucihealth.org/ChaoDHI





RANCHITO VILLASEÑOR in Oceanside, the family home of Victor Villaseñor.

Finding joy

Victor Villaseñor to share his wisdom at Santa Ana book reading

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

Best-selling author Victor Villaseñor lives on a ranch in Oceanside where the presence of his Mexican family can be felt throughout it.

“My mother was very proud of these,” he said of the antique doorbell chimes at the main entrance to his home. The long tubes ring enchantingly, alerting the household that company has arrived.

Beneath his fleece vest Villaseñor wears a blue T-shirt with the colorful cover art of his latest book, “Gathering StarDust,” inspired by his relationship with his grandmother, “Mamagrande.”

At Ranchito Villaseñor, family is present not only in artifacts and photographs, but also in memory and spirit.

Villaseñor is the award-winning author of many books, including the 1991 national bestseller “Rain of Gold,” which tells the story of his immigrant family. He went on to write titles such as “Thirteen Senses,” a loving portrait of his parents, Juan Salvador Villaseñor and Lupe Gomez, and “Burro Genius,” his personal memoir.

The 160 acres of Ranchito Villaseñor have been in the author's family for years. His parents bought the original ranch at a bargain price not long after the attack on Pearl Harbor, when the seaside land was considered undesirable, vulnerable to enemies. Villaseñor grew up on the property and still lives there today with his partner Carmen Blum, and loyal dog, Paco.

“Gathering StarDust” is set on the ranch and is written to engage both children and adults with illustrations by Jack Wiens and a story that begins with an invitation: “Come, and take my hand, and let us be children once again, and this time be raised up together by my Yaqui Native American grandmother.”

Some of the sites mentioned in the book have been lost to development. On a short drive of the original property lines with a visitor, Villaseñor points out where the little garden and leaky faucet in the book once stood. Another stop is at his beloved grandmother's grave, about a mile away at Oceanview Cemetery. The new book is filled with her wisdom, such as the practice of making an effort to bring joy to at least 10 people each day.

“Every time you leave your house, you do something to make 10 people smile and laugh, at least 10 people,” said Villaseñor. “If we all did that, we'd have a happy world.”

Villaseñor said the book is not meant to solve all the world's problems, but rather help readers find joy in even life's most challenging times. It is an ideology Villaseñor saw modeled by everyone in his family throughout his upbringing. “I grew up with this brilliant philosophy. When they stole my father's car, he was going crazy and his mother said, ‘*gracias a Dios*,’ thank God you finally had a car nice enough that somebody wanted to steal it,” recalls Villaseñor. “This book makes me indestructible inside my heart.”



VICTOR VILLASEÑOR at his family home, Ranchito Villaseñor, in Oceanside.

On May 24, Villaseñor will celebrate “Gathering StarDust” at LibroMobile in Santa Ana with a special reading and signing.

“I want to back [the bookstore] and I'd like to come not just once but several times. I am really looking forward to it,” said Villaseñor.

LibroMobile's founder, Sarah Rafael Garcia said she first encountered Villaseñor at an event at Libreria Martinez, Santa Ana's long-shuttered Latino bookstore. Then Garcia connected with him again at the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books, around the time she published her first book, “Las Niñas.”

LibroMobile has faced challenges in staying open since the nonprofit lost arts grant funding it has depended on to remain operational. Garcia is grateful Villaseñor agreed to make an appearance.

“I'm a huge fan and I look forward to hosting this event,” Garcia said. “Plus, the book sales will help us stay open.”

LibroMobile has the distinction of being the only bookstore in Santa Ana. And with the city's Main Library closed for construction until 2026, losing LibroMobile would leave residents with virtually no access to literature.

Reading is a fundamental that Villaseñor struggled with himself. He didn't learn to read until he was into adulthood, spending



VICTOR VILLASEÑOR'S loyal dog, Paco, poses near the grave of the author's grandmother at Oceanview Cemetery.

most of his childhood struggling with undiagnosed dyslexia.

“Reading is very important in education and if you can't read, it's horrible, it's embarrassing,” said Villaseñor. “I didn't learn to read until the age of 20, when I became a writer.”

Once he conquered the written word, Villaseñor felt compelled to record his own history, particularly after reading James Joyce's “Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man.” Sharing his family story gave him purpose and he often credits

writing with saving his life.

“Every tribe has it's own bible, every family, every person,” said Villaseñor. “And once you write your personal story, it connects you to God.”

Villaseñor's writing also keeps him connected to his family. “Gathering StarDust” is a way Mamagrande and her wisdom continues to live on at Ranchito Villaseñor and beyond. At Oceanview Cemetery, in front of her grave marker, Paco and Villaseñor bow their heads.

“My grandmother would

say, for every person that is falling apart and says they can't go further, there is somebody that had it worse, way worse,” said Villaseñor. “And they went further.”

Join Victor Villaseñor from 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 24 at LibroMobile, 1150 S. Bristol St. #A3, in Santa Ana for a special reading and book-signing event. For details visit [libromobile.com](#).

[sarah.mosqueda@latimes.com](#)
Twitter: @SarahNMos

WISH

Continued from page A1

just chronic pain and chronic fatigue,” said Earnhart, 20, who had spinal surgery in 2018 for scoliosis that is often associated with Marfan syndrome patients. “Something always hurts all the time.”

Still, Earnhart tends to look on the positive side of life. She has met some of her best friends through nonprofit the Marfan Foundation.

Her family moved from Chicago to Orange County when her father, David, got a new job while Gabriella was in high school. Settling into her new surroundings, Earnhart started seeing David Liang, a Hoag Hospital doctor who specializes in treating Marfan syndrome.

Liang recommended her for Make-A-Wish Orange County and the Inland Empire.

Her wish itself wasn't very specific.

“I wanted something where I could travel to a cool place, and I wanted something that is theater related,” Earnhart said. “Something that I can dress up and enjoy the fun things.”

The theater kid's wish was granted by Make-A-Wish in June 2024. Earnhart and her mother, Heather, were treated to a trip to Broadway.

The reveal was special to her, as it happened in front of the bell tower on campus as she was preparing to



GABRIELLA EARNHART underwent spinal fusion surgery in 2018.

direct junior actors in a production of “Alice In Wonderland.” Her mom, coworkers, high school students and theater camp kids were all present.

“That was the first time in my life that I've ever actually been surprised by something,” she said. “I was not expecting it all. It was a beautiful moment. Sometimes the kids will run into me at the grocery store and they're like, ‘Miss Gabriella! I remember when we had cupcakes for your wish!’ It's fun to have those memories in that place.”

She saw two musicals on the New York trip, “Merrily We Roll Along” and “The Great Gatsby.” Earnhart also got to attend a theater awards show, plus the after-party.

“We just had the best

time going to the Met, trying new restaurants [and] shopping for jewelry for the awards show at midnight in Times Square,” she said.

She remains involved with Make-A-Wish. Earnhart spoke at the foundation's “It's In The Bag” fashion show and luncheon, held April 27 at the Waterfront Resort in Huntington Beach.

“It really is inspiring to see how our wish kids take so many challenges and turn them into positives, and to see how the wishes that we grant really have an impact on the trajectory of where their future takes them,” said Anne Grey, Make-A-Wish Orange County and the Inland Empire's president and chief executive. “It gives

them the feeling that anything is possible. It's so wonderful, and Gabby really embodies that, which I think is amazing.”

Though Make-A-Wish is often associated with children with terminal illnesses, Grey said about 70% of the organization's kids live on to adulthood.

“What can be so deceiving is that they can look healthy on the outside by all appearances, but the highs and lows of dealing with a critical illness throughout your life do have those valleys where it's really a struggle,” she said. “Having the ability to look forward to a wish or look back on your wish, how that was a great time, getting through the hard times and staying strong is something that a wish makes



Photos courtesy of Make-A-Wish Foundation

GABRIELLA EARNHART and her mother Heather at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.

possible.”

Earnhart, who has taken two gap years since graduating from high school, has focused on working both at Newport Harbor and the Sunflower Design Co., a hand-lettering and painting business.

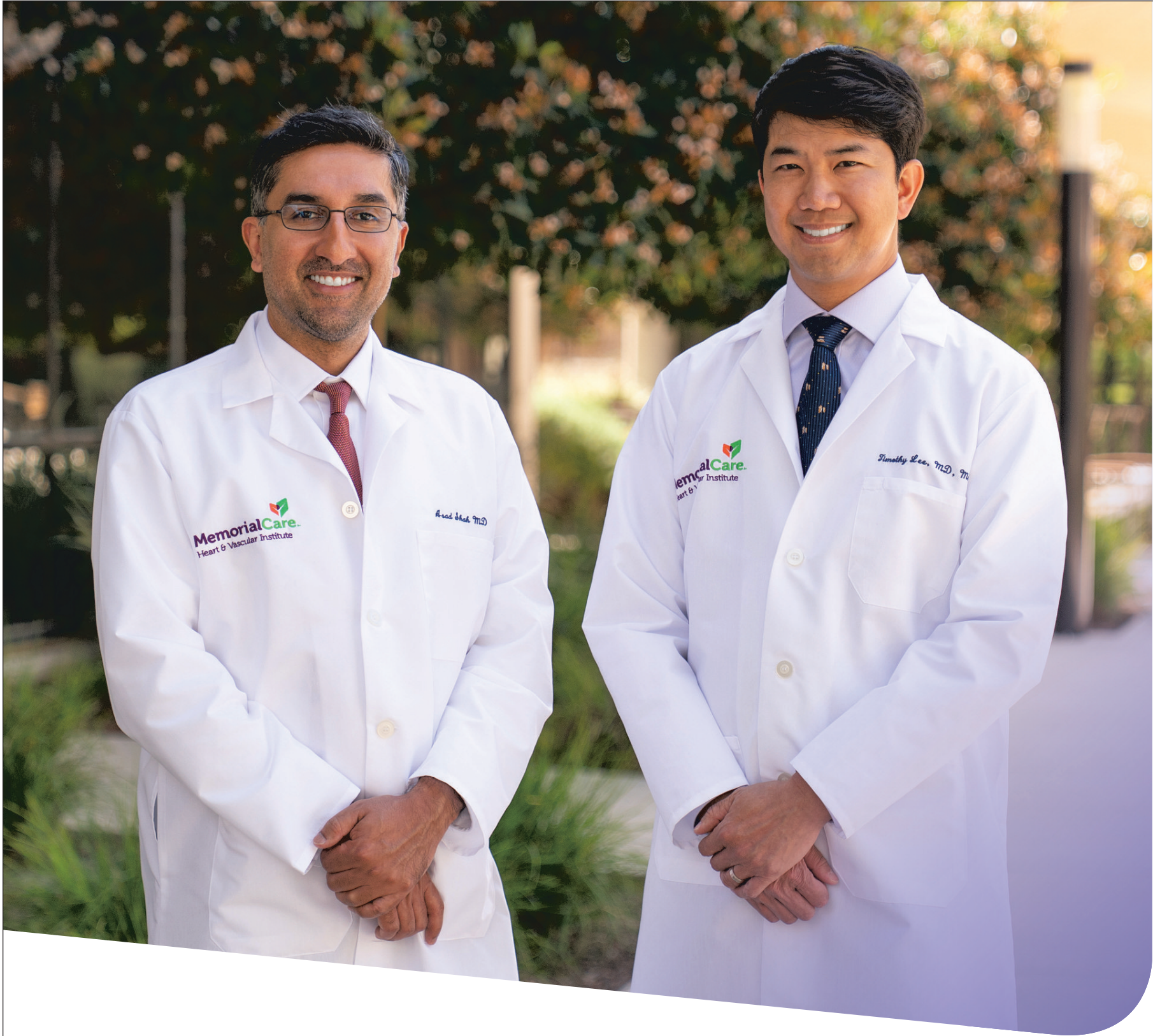
She is now taking the next step, leaving Newport Harbor and enrolling at Pepperdine University, where she'll start studying musical theater and marketing in the fall.

She knows that her Mar-

fan syndrome will likely affect her life in the performing space, but she's still making that choice to pursue the arts. Experiencing her Broadway wish came true no doubt gave her inspiration.

“It was just really lovely to be able to combine the arts and this wish,” Earnhart said. “It felt like a very culminating moment for me.”

[matthew.szabo@latimes.com](#)
Twitter: @mjszabo



Advancing Cardiac Care in Southern California

MemorialCare doesn’t just provide health care – it transforms it.

It is world-class expertise, innovation that anticipates your needs, and a human connection that is as powerful as the treatment itself. No barriers, no compromises – just seamless, extraordinary experiences designed around you.

Our experienced cardiovascular teams ensure you receive the highest level of care that’s not just exceptional – but truly transformative. Such as minimally invasive surgical approaches with three keyhole incisions that replace open-heart surgeries.

We are excited to announce the addition of distinguished cardiothoracic surgeons, Dr. Asad Shah and Dr. Tim Lee, to our team at MemorialCare Saddleback Medical Center. With their arrival, MemorialCare continues to set the standard for superior medical care and treatments.

Learn More:



Asad A. Shah, M.D.
memorialcare.org/AsadShah



Tim M. Lee, M.D.
memorialcare.org/TimLee



forum

COLUMN | PATRICE APODACA

What inclusivity looks like in O.C.

By all accounts it was a happy day at San Miguel Park in Newport Beach when, late last month, the city dedicated its first playground designed to be accessible to people of all ability levels.

As reported by the Daily Pilot, the completion of the 5,500-square-foot play area was the culmination of a six-year effort inspired by a young resident, Alexis Portillo, who envisioned a facility that her nonverbal sister, Alanis, could safely use.

The renovated playground includes such features as a long tube slide that visitors with mobility issues can reach via a spiraling belt of suspended play mats, instead of stairs or ladders. It also has a wee-saw, a reimagined version of a see-saw that has seats with back support.

City leaders, speaking at the dedication, heaped praise on the Portillo family and others who worked on the project.

“This is a place where children and all of those who play can grow and



Courtesy of the city of Newport Beach

NEWPORT BEACH Mayor Joe Stapleton (center left) and Alexis Portillo (center right) cut the ribbon to the newly renovated playground at San Miguel Park. It now features equipment designed for people with or without disabilities.

See Apodaca, page A7

MAILBAG

Beware of the ‘wolves in sheep’s clothing’

If you are a Huntington Beach resident who believes in unrestricted access to knowledge and protecting your freedom to make decisions for your own family, then vote “yes” on Measure A to repeal the ordinance creating a children’s book review board, and “yes” on Measure B to ensure that any future efforts to outsource library operations to for-profit companies will require voter approval *and* a majority vote from City Council. This is a critical safeguard to maintain public oversight and the integrity of community libraries.

The City Council believes that a 21-person politically appointed, children’s book review board is more qualified than you to choose appropriate reading materials for your children. They are not.

Accusations that there are “pornographic” materials in the children’s library section have served to divide the community and undermine public opinion about libraries, librarians and their supporters. The mayor handed out images from what they believe to be inappropriate library materials from a booth at this year’s Easter celebration.

Every accusation is a



James Carbone

HUNTINGTON BEACH Public Library supporters hold signs during the Huntington Beach City Council meeting where the council discussed taking the first step in privatizing its public library operations at the Huntington Beach City Council Chambers in Huntington Beach on March 19, 2024.

confession. These people are wolves in sheep’s clothing. Do not let them deceive you.

The review board, whose decisions are unappealable, has the authority to decide which materials belong in the library based on “community standards” that have not yet been

defined. Materials that enter or remain in the children’s book section could eventually align with the review boards’ political and religious beliefs. Will no votes ultimately enable indoctrination of young minds under the guise of “protecting children?” Whatever happened with that MAGA commemorative library plaque? Is this nuclear “attack on porn” simply helping City Council complete a MAGA agenda item designed to stifle 1st Amendment rights at taxpayer expense?

A “no” vote for either measure is a slippery slope toward government control of thought and information. Vote “yes” on Measure A to protect parents’ rights to maintain control of what their OWN

children read, and “yes” on Measure B to help ensure public libraries stay free and open to everyone.

Judy Morris
Huntington Beach

Monday I attended my first Huntington Beach City Council meeting, appropriately at the city library. It was quite an eye-opener, as more than 90 people signed up to address the council at the podium regarding Measures A and B. In a nutshell, a “no” vote advocates for increasing the council’s authority in deciding what books to have reviewed by the peer review board within the children’s section, and to privatize the library altogether.

Once upon a time such notions would only appear

HOW TO GET PUBLISHED

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

in dystopian novels or movies such as Ray Bradbury’s “Fahrenheit 451” or George Orwell’s “1984.” Yes, interesting ideas to conjecture and be entertained by, but surely not something that could really happen here. Do we not live within a democracy with constitutional rights guaranteeing freedom for the people to make their own choices regarding what to write, speak and read? The irony is that not that long ago, these values were most adamantly defended by American conservatives, the same people who bore a flag with a coiled snake emblazoned on the cloth, and the warning, “Don’t tread on me.” Do the advocates against Measures A and B, most of whom identify as conservatives, simply not know what they are doing?

Ron Terranova
Huntington Beach

As a former Orange County “Teacher of the Year,” I taught for 40 years, addressing my school board many times. I advocated for school nurses, librarians and lower class sizes. I hoped my school board understood the reality of transmitting a crowded curriculum to more than 30 students every day, all day.

In January 2025, Newport-Mesa School Board had the luxury of picking a qualified new board member and they looked forward to working with her. On merit, they selected Kirstin Walsh who has children in NMUSD, has volunteered in the schools for 13 years, is PTA President at Newport Harbor High, has held offices at the elementary and intermediate school PTAs. After carefully vetting four candidates, board members added Walsh to their ranks. DONE! Now, let’s get to work, solving school problems.

I’m sorry to say that members of our community collected signatures,

forcing an election for NMUSD School Board, thus taking about \$500,000 from Newport-Mesa’s school budget. Their candidate was on the original list of those considered for the school board position, but was not selected.

Walsh is the kind of board member I want on the dais when I speak. Parent volunteers, like Walsh, who spend years in our school halls and classrooms, understand the challenges and strengths of school life.

I am saddened by the loss of half-a-million dollars from our slim school budget, used to fund an unnecessary election. I hope voters will make it right, and ensure that Kirstin Walsh continues in the position for which she was chosen, on merit.

Carrie Luger Slayback
Newport Beach

As the June 10 NMUSD Area 5 Special Election approaches, the saying, “You are the company you keep,” rings true. Claims that Kirstin Walsh, Andrea McElroy’s opponent, is a conservative or a non-partisan, don’t align with her affiliations.

In 2023, NMUSD’s progressive majority voted to block schools from notifying parents about their child’s gender dysphoria, risking student well-being. Conservative trustees, prioritizing safety, supported notification, but the majority prevailed. School board votes-on academics, safety and fiscal management reflect trustees’ values, and the 2023 decision clearly revealed the progressive majority’s values. Andrea McElroy champions parental rights and transparency. Walsh claims non-partisanship, yet her Instagram shows her campaigning with Democrats Carol Crane, Ashley Anderson (NMUSD Trustee) and Katrina Foley, vice chair of the Orange County Board of Supervisors. Her cam-

See Mailbag, page A10

Dorothy Lazier

March 18, 1936 - April 6, 2025

Dorothy C. Lazier, a vibrant and beloved presence in the lives of all who knew her, passed away peacefully at the age of 89 on April 6, 2025, at her home in Menlo Park.

Born in Germany on March 18, 1936, Dorothy Carola Albers grew up in Seattle, Washington. She was a proud alumna of Stanford University, Class of 1957 (BA). It was on campus that she met Bill Lazier (MBA, 1957). Their love was very special, a true partnership. They shared 47 years of marriage before Bill’s passing in 2004.

In 2006, Dorothy was fortunate to meet Paul Reimer, who became a treasured friend to her and the entire family. They shared many of the same interests and cared deeply for each other.

Dorothy carried a lifelong love of learning, culture, and exploration. She was an accomplished painter, whose artistic spirit was matched only by her love of live theater, her green thumb in the garden, and her joy in the outdoors. Whether walking wooded trails, swimming in the ocean, or tending to her blooming flowers, Dorothy found beauty and meaning in the world around her.

She is survived by her three devoted children, nine cherished grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Dorothy lived a rich and full life—one marked by curiosity, kindness, and creativity. She will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by all whose lives she touched.

A celebration of her life will be held at Sherman Gardens in Corona del Mar on July 9, 2025, at 5:00 pm. She will be laid to rest peacefully at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church alongside her husband, William Charles Lazier.

MARKETPLACE

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

MERCHANDISE
800

Miscellaneous Merchandise

Vinyl Records Wanted
\$\$\$ Top cash paid
4 all or part of collection.
Jazz, Classical,
Psychedelic, Blues
949-933-6777 Mike

Call Classified Today
(714) 966-4600

EMPLOYMENT
1500

Employment

Aquilogic, Inc. is seeking a Water Resources Engineer (Civil Engineer) in Costa Mesa, CA; Req: Master's Deg. in Civil Engineering + 0 yrs exp. \$98,238.00/yr. OR Bach. Deg. in Civil Engineering + 3 yrs exp. \$73,986.00/yr. Email resume to HR@aquilogic.com

PUT A FEW WORDS TO WORK FOR YOU!

(714) 966-4600

PROGRESS

Continued from page A1

Great Park Board vice chairman and Irvine City Councilmember William Go.

The ambitious public park in Irvine has been in various stages of development since Orange County voters passed Measure W, authorizing the former air station's use as a park, nature preserve and multi-use development in 2002. The park rivals New York's Central Park in size at nearly 1,347 acres and with a budget of over \$1.2 billion, it is currently the largest municipal park under development in the United States.

Detailed plans for several attractions coming to the park were revealed Tuesday at the event.

The "Heart of the Park" will feature a grand promenade with tree-top walks, a rotunda and a picnic garden. Museum pads will soon be ready for construction, building what will become "Cultural Terrace" where guests will find Pretend City, Orange County Music and Dance and the Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum. A trail system with new bridges and shade structures that will connect the different areas of the



Courtesy of the Great Park

MEMBERS OF the Irvine community at the 2025 "State of the Great Park" event sit outside, despite the drizzle.

park called Bosque is also planned.

The Great Park's retired military base past will be honored with Veterans Memorial Park and Garden, which will include the Great Park Central Library in ad-

dition to a botanical garden. The El Toro air traffic control tower will live on as an interactive museum, where residents can experience what it's like in a real air traffic control tower.

Carroll also detailed the aerial

transport system planned for the park known as "Whoosh."

"We believe aerial transportation will ease traffic and provide accessibility for people of all ages and all mobility levels," said Carroll. "So everybody can enjoy the

Great Park from end to end."

The fully electric-powered, autonomous "Whoosh" system will have elevated vehicles that travel on a fixed cableway and can accommodate up to 10,000 passengers per hour. A simulation of "Whoosh" set up in the park for the event allowed families to imagine what it might look like riding the aerial transport system over the Great Park in the future.

"The Great Park is a living reflection of Irvine's past and a bold investment in its future," said Irvine Mayor Larry Agran. "With every new addition, we're honoring our history, engaging our community and building something truly extraordinary."

The "State of the Great Park" event follows the groundbreaking of The Canopy at Great Park, a dining and retail center by local development company Almquist that will also welcome the first SoCal T&T Supermarket.

Carroll said the ongoing development of the Great Park continues the vision started back in 2002.

"We're not just building a park, we're building a legacy," said Carroll.

sarahmosqueda@latimes.com
Twitter: @SarahNMos

APODACA

Continued from page A6

connect together," Mayor Joe Stapleton said. "On behalf of the entire city of Newport Beach and our entire City Council, I would like to thank the families, advocates and city staff who helped bring this dream to life. You've made Newport Beach a more inclusive, joyful place for everyone."

Perla Portillo, mother to Alexis and Alanis, was equally effusive. She called the playground "a blessing," and said she pictured her daughter using it every day.

"There's very limited parks that have an all inclusive feel, that are accessible for children to go on ramps or feel safe on playgrounds, very few in all of Orange County," she said.

Newport Beach's Director of Recreation and Senior Services Sean Levin shared

a statement.

"Today's grand opening is a celebration of community collaboration, vision, and the guiding principle that every child deserves a place to play," Levin said.

"We are proud to open this space and set a new standard for inclusive play."

And there it was again. That word. "Inclusive."

It's gotten a bad rap lately due to the efforts by many politicians, including President Trump, to end initiatives aimed at improving inclusivity. I'm referring, of course, to the anti-DEI hysteria that is pressuring schools, workplaces, government agencies, states, and municipalities to abandon programs and policies that have helped their organizations operate more fairly.

DEI stands for diversity, equity and inclusion. The term refers to measures used to prevent discrimination, comply with civil rights laws and foster envi-

ronments more welcoming to those from marginalized backgrounds — including people with disabilities.

Proponents of DEI maintain that efforts undertaken to value diverse viewpoints and experiences benefit all of society by creating opportunities that lead to safer, healthier, happier, more robust communities.

But DEI has become, in the minds of some, a means of discrimination itself, by subverting merit-based systems and putting white people — particularly white men — at a disadvantage.

The irony is that — absent the negative connotations attached to DEI — diversity, equity and inclusion are widely viewed as worthy goals.

Consider the above quotes, which all reference the opening of a more inclusive public space as a positive development. Whether they realized it or not, the people involved in

the playground redesign gave credence to one of the primary objectives of DEI.

It's also ironic that the demonization of DEI means that all such efforts are being painted with the same broad brush. Rather than conducting a careful and meaningful examination of what is working well among such initiatives — as well as which programs have missed the mark or would benefit from revisions — many organizations are capitulating and rolling back anything and everything viewed as DEI.

One more ironic twist is worth mentioning.

The \$900,000 cost of the San Miguel Park renovation was paid for in part through federal Community Development Block Grant allocations.

Would such support be forthcoming in our climate today, where even the mention of the word "inclusive" can doom a project's major source of fund-

ing?

Some companies, universities and other organizations are fighting back against the pressure to purge DEI, while many others are adopting a strategy involving changing the language they use and going quiet on their efforts to foster more diversity, equity and inclusion.

Amid this push and pull, it remains unclear how extensive and long-lasting the anti-DEI movement will prove to be. But the damage is already occurring. That's why it's imperative that we understand what it actually means to promote diversity, equity and inclusion.

I visited San Miguel Park on a recent afternoon.

Several children were cheerfully climbing, sliding and running about. As far as I could tell, they were all able-bodied and perfectly content with the play structures. I suspect they were unaware, or unbothered,

that modifications were made so the playground is more accessible to kids who otherwise might not be able to join in.

That's inclusivity. No one lost anything because someone else had an opportunity to participate.

A few days later I attended a performance of the wildly successful musical "Hamilton" at Segerstrom Hall in Costa Mesa. The racially diverse cast performed before an enthusiastic audience, while a few people to the side of the stage translated into sign language.

That's inclusivity, too. And we'd do well to recognize what it would cost us if we stop trying to achieve it.

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.

NEWPORT BEACH
TV FEST

PRESENTED BY
NEWPORT BEACH FILM FESTIVAL

SEE THE STARS FROM YOUR
FAVORITE SHOWS, INCLUDING:

SHRINKING

NOBODY WANTS THIS.

Abbott Elementary

RUNNING POINT

THE WHITE LOTUS

COBRA KAI

HACKS

THE STUDIO

THE PITT

1923

Yellowjackets

PARADISE

JUNE 5-8, 2025

Tickets on sale at NBTVFest.com

Various Small Fires OC pulls back the Orange Curtain

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

According to Esther Kim Varet, founder of Various Small Fires, it is hard to tell how many people will show up to an art exhibition opening.

“When you have your first show and a gallery opens for the first time, you don’t know what’s going to happen. Five people could show up or 500 people can show up,” said Varet. “Fortunately, we had the latter.”

Varet has extensive experience when it comes to opening art spaces. She began Various Small Fires as an informal artist project space in 2012, before opening the first permanent VSF in Hollywood in 2015. Locations in Seoul, South Korea and Dallas, Texas have since followed.

“We are an international gallery. We have always built communities where ever we build,” said Varet. “They are always community safe spaces for every kind of person, including undocumented individuals and people of the LGBTQ+ community.”

In April, Varet brought Various Small Fires to Orange County, opening VSF OC in a converted space at 119 N. Prospect Ave in Tustin. The grand opening featured an art activation for children with many local art leaders, like chief executive at the Orange County Museum of Art Heidi Zuckerman, in attendance. Collectors, artists and families from nearby residential neighborhoods rounded out the opening audience.

The inaugural exhibition, “The Orange Curtain” features the work of Southern California contemporary artists Edwin Arzeta, Jackie Castillo and Marcel Alcalá.

“They are all artists who were born and raised in Orange County but have an increasing national and international presence,” said Varet.



Courtesy of the artists | Various Small Fires

THE WORK of artists Edwin Arzeta, Jackie Castillo and Marcel Alcalá featured in “The Orange Curtain” at Various Small Fires in Tustin.

Curated by Varet and on view now through May 31, the exhibition examines the political and cultural connotations of “the orange curtain,” and the perception of the divide between Orange County and the greater Southern California area, particularly Los Angeles. The show is also a commitment to the diverse communities Varet supports as a candidate in the 2026 election for California’s 40th U.S. Congressional district.

“I was important for me start with an exhibition and commit to a show schedule that would highlight the cultural legacy of Orange County over the last 30 years and the cultural influence of Orange County over the last 40 years, that we might not always as a community remember about ourselves,” said Varet.

Castillo, for example, is an up-and-coming artist with her first institutional solo exhibition, “Through the Descent, Like the Return” currently on view at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles. Born in city of Orange, Castillo’s work shines a light on the unseen labor of immigrants using industrial materials associated with the working class. In pieces like “Of the garden just risen from darkness” and “And once more I remember,” photographs of beautifully landscaped doorways and staircases are depicted on cement blocks. The lonely entry ways are a juxtaposition of the beautification of everyday life and the unnoticed work that goes into making it so.

“She forces us to think about the unseen labor of all these sites we experience everyday,” said Varet. “It is critical to push the narrative that unseen labor is foundational.”

The work of Santa Anaborn Marcel Alcalá incorporates his Mexican American heritage and queer identity into paintings rich with symbolism. In “First Strike” two roosters fight violently against a clouded violet sky, while a small yellow chick in the foreground looks on.

“There are a lot of images of multiplicity. In the cockfight, there are a lot of layers in that, two entries fighting against each other, there is always this push and pull between forces,” Varet notes.

“Their Coronation” features a man in full make up and an elaborate quinceañera-style dress riding in the back of convertible, eyes piercing the viewer.

“Marcel talks a lot about different transitional states, a butterfly as a symbol of metamorphosis... the female form, the male form, cut flowers, these things come up in his work often,” said Varet.

Edwin Arzeta, also from the city of Orange, draws layered cakes, confections that are in many ways studies of pattern. Rows of ribbon, primly tied bows and white daisies line a checkered cake in “Luceros de la Primavera,” a title that translates to “Stars of Spring.” All the cakes emulate a warm glow, not just from the rows of burning birthday candles but from



Olympia Shannon

MARCEL ALCALÁ, Their Coronation, (2023.) Courtesy of the artist and Night Gallery, Los Angeles



VSF FOUNDER/OWNER Esther Kim Varet poses with Heidi Zuckerman, chief executive at the OCMA, at VSF OC’s opening.

Courtesy of Various Small Fires

the layers of the cake themselves. Each piece references the evolution of celebrations within Arzeta’s own community.

“I love his work because it feels really celebratory in a time when we are not celebrating all the time,” said Varet.

Based on the encouraging turn out of VSF OC’s opening exhibition, Varet is confident the new space can enhance the local community the way VSF has in all of its locations. She also believes the show can push back on the notion of Orange County as a

limited place, lacking in diversity and confined to suburb issues compared to L.A.

“That orange curtain is more of an illusion than we realize. The orange curtain isn’t a divide anymore, it’s artifice,” said Varet. “The artists here are testament to that.”

VSF OC is open to the public Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 119 N. Prospect Ave. in Tustin.

sarah.mosqueda
@latimes.com
Twitter: @SarahNMos

Get the FREE TimesOC newsletter.

Orange County's most essential stories in your inbox.

Every Wednesday, get the news that matters most to your community in the TimesOC newsletter, with the latest on issues from business and immigration to food and what to do this weekend. It’s the top local stories from the Daily Pilot, the L.A. Times and TimesOC — all delivered straight to you.



Scan the code or visit latimes.com/timesOCnewsletter to sign up now.

12:59

Los Angeles Times TimesOC



California State Parks seasonal lifeguard Sierra Fockler discovered a 14-inch Pacific football fish around 2:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 13, near the lifeguard station located at Crystal Cove State Park in Orange County. It’s the second such case of the fish washing ashore over the last three years. (Courtesy of California State Parks)

Good morning. It’s Wednesday, Oct. 25. I’m Carol Cormaci, bringing you this week’s [TimesOC newsletter](#) with a look at the latest local news and events.

Watch where you’re stepping on O.C.’s famed sands, because you may encounter a rare specimen of marine life. One, in fact, that has very sharp teeth.

That’s what happened on a recent afternoon to lifeguard Sierra Fockler, who found a spooky-looking black angler fish, specifically a Pacific football fish, while she was walking near the lifeguard headquarters building on Moro Beach, located within Crystal Cove State Park.

Popular Filipino dessert concept opens at the District at Tustin Legacy

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

The District at Tustin Legacy is already home to a few Asian and South East Asian inspired eateries, like Rakkan Ramen, Prime Hot Pot and Curry Pizza House. Now Filipino flavors are included in the food line up at the Tustin shopping center with the opening of Cafe 86.

"Cafe 86 is built around ube, the Filipino purple yam indigenous to the Philippines," said franchise owner Derrick Gavilan.

Ube, pronounced "ooh beh," is a root vegetable with a subtle flavor and bold purple color, making it popular with chefs. It has enjoyed a more mainstream presence in the last few years, thanks in part to viral desserts and drinks found at Cafe 86, founded by Ginger and James Dimapa-sok. Open since March, the shop at the District is the first Orange County location for the cafe which boast nearly 20 stores in Southern California, as well as some in San Diego and Las Vegas. Orange County locations are also planned for Anaheim, Fullerton and Placentia but for now Tustin is the only place in O.C. to get the purple pastries Cafe 86 is known for.

"There are a lot of people that come in and are surprised there is a Cafe 86 in Orange County," said Gavilan.

Cafe 86 has gained traction in the greater Los Angeles area, particularly in regions with large Filipino American populations like Cerritos and Carson, and Gavilan said he is happy to bring Filipino flavors to O.C. "A lot of people are happy they don't have to drive out to another area for Cafe 86," said Gavilan.

Among the most popular items are the ube leech flan, a moist ube cupcake

topped with custardy leach flan and ube cookie butter bars, a take on a Southern dessert with a buttery crust filled with an indulgent mix of cream cheese, ube and butter. Gavilan said about 90% of the treats on the menu are ube based but there are also other Filipino flavors featured, like drinks made with calamansi, a Filipino citrus about the size of a Kumquat with the sweetness of an orange and the tart taste of lemon and pop-tart style pastries filled with jackfruit and banana inspired by turon, a sweet spring roll that usually contains the same fruit filling. Halo halo, a Filipino shaved ice dessert with different topping mixed in, and the upside down halo halo, an inverted version, are the most popular drinks.

"The regular halo halo has red and green coconut jellies, boba, brown sugar base blended with ice and is topped with frosted flakes, ube ice cream and flan," said Gavilan. "The upside down version is reversed. The base is ube and vanilla ice cream is on top with flan."

This isn't the first time the District has welcomed an ube focused concept. In 2022, the Filipino-owned Baked Dessert Bar opened up shop but since shuttering, Cafe 86 is now serving the areas ube needs. Other new food options include the recently opened District Eatery, a build-your-own bowl concept offering Asian comfort food and the soon-to-open Le Macaron, which will feature authentic, handcrafted macarons, French gelato and more.

Despite the viral sensation surround the purple yam, there are still some who are unfamiliar with the flavor and Gavilan said he and his staff often find themselves answering ques-



Photos by Sarah Mosqueda

ABOVE: Cafe 86 is now open at the District at Tustin Legacy. **BELOW:** The signature Halo Halo at Cafe 86 features coconut jellies, jack fruit, boba, frosted flakes, flan and scoop of ube ice cream.

tions about it, which he said they are happy to do.

"There are two types of people come in. The first type know what they want; they don't even look at the menu," said Gavilan. "The second type are the ones that don't know ube, and our staff is ready to answer that question."

Gavilan hopes people will taste the purple yam for themselves.

"It's a dessert, even though it is a root vegetable," said Gavilan. "It is a culturally themed dessert. Give it a try."

Cafe 86 is located at the District at Tustin Legacy at 2423 Park Ave. in Tustin.

sarah.mosqueda@latimes.com
Twitter: @SarahNMos



THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Stella Zawistowski

- ACROSS**
- 1 Chicago singer Cetera
 - 6 _ and ends
 - 10 Sonic the Hedgehog's company
 - 14 Rock concert venue
 - 15 Comedian Trevor
 - 16 All tied up
 - 17 Civil rights group: Abbr.
 - 18 Arrive
 - 19 Penny
 - 20 The great outdoors personified: 2 wds.
 - 23 Fish eggs
 - 24 Christmas tree type
 - 25 Gave rise to
 - 31 Copier paper size
 - 35 Wide street: Abbr.
 - 36 Allowed by law
 - 38 Myths and traditions
 - 39 Dwell
 - 41 Steakhouse cut
 - 42 Southwest Arizona city
 - 43 Got 100% on
 - 44 _ of Troy
 - 45 Author John _ Passos
 - 46 Walk with swagger
 - 48 Uber's business
 - 51 "Homeland" bureau: Abbr.
 - 53 Number in a duo
 - 54 Car's gearbox
 - 60 Owl's sound
 - 61 Diplomacy
 - 62 "Survivor" team
 - 65 Ctrl-Z
 - 66 Swedish furniture chain
 - 67 "Shut up!": 2 wds.
 - 68 Budweiser product
 - 69 Musical silence
 - 70 Doglike mammal

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14							15				16			
17							18				19			
		20			21					22				
			23					24						
25	26	27				28	29	30		31		32	33	34
35					36				37		38			
39			40		41						42			
43					44							45		
46				47		48				49	50			
				51		52			53					
	54	55				56	57	58				59		
60					61					62		63	64	
65					66					67				
68					69					70				

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.

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

For answers to the crossword and Sudoku puzzles, see page A10.

- DOWN**
- 1 Terrible review
 - 2 Timeline section
 - 3 Lions, Tigers, or Bears
 - 4 Bonus performance
 - 5 Toronto NBA player
 - 6 A single time
 - 7 Entry area
 - 8 _ Yankees

- (supergroup)
- 9 Bundle of papers
- 10 In a risk-free way
- 11 Happily _ after
- 12 Tap dancer Kelly
- 13 Industrious insect
- 21 Well-being
- 22 _ death do us

- part
- 25 Swanky parties
- 26 Kick out
- 27 At no time
- 28 Rome's river
- 29 Gut bacteria: 2 wds.
- 30 Had a meal
- 32 Dutch cheese
- 33 Knight's protection
- 34 Tenant's document
- 37 Core beliefs
- 40 Teacher or professor
- 47 Breath mint holder
- 49 Nintendo game console
- 50 "Yay!"
- 52 In motion
- 54 Vocal quality
- 55 Traveled on horseback
- 56 Create
- 57 Covers in frosting
- 58 Numerical info
- 59 Three squared
- 60 Center of activity
- 63 Recycling container
- 64 GPS guess: Abbr.

Tribune Media Services

Segerstrom Center Presents

"Gut-bustingly funny!"
—New York Post

FORBIDDEN BROADWAY

MERRILY WE STOLE A SONG

WES FORTY

VOTE for FORBIDDEN BROADWAY

The hilarious Tony-winning smash hit and NYC institution arrives with a brand new show poking fun at your favorite musicals and stars!

May 15-17

Photo by Carol Rosegg

scfta.org

Segerstrom Center for the Arts®

WASHER PERMANENTE
OFFICIAL WASH STATE PARTNER

CASAMIGOS
Vignola

PACE
WASH PARTNER

HISTORIC

Continued from page A1

brary.

Jose Trinidad Castañeda, a former Buena Park City Councilmember, raised questions about the designation at Tuesday's council meeting in light of the Klan connection.

"Plummer was a notable figure in Fullerton, but also an active member of the KKK," he said. "I'm not sure if we're designating the Plummer house with that name ... into the historic preservation code. I would want to caution [against] memorializing the name, though I do want to credit the architectural features."

The application for the historical designation lists the property as the "Louis E. Plummer House" while lauding its Craftsman architecture with Victorian and Revival elements. Plummer lived in the house, built by William Campbell, for a few years before moving to a bigger Fullerton home to accommodate his growing family.

Fullerton Councilwoman Shana Charles sought to



Gabriel San Roman

THE HISTORIC home of Louis Plummer in Fullerton will bear a plaque with his name despite criticisms over his association with the Ku Klux Klan.

designate the Hillcrest house without naming it after its controversial first resident.

"I'm glad that we're designating historic landmarks, and it's based on the architecture, but I would like to have a motion where we would approve this petition, but maybe not call that the 'Louis Plummer home,' because that would be what was on the plaque," she said.

Councilmember Nick Dunlap, who had earlier

called for a vote to approve the historical designation of the home alongside two others, called Charles' proposal "unnecessary."

Ernie Kelsey, president of Fullerton Heritage, was invited to speak as council members disagreed on how to designate the house.

Kelsey noted that the nonprofit has tried to "clear Mr. Plummer's name," especially amid the auditorium debate years prior, though he acknowledged that Plummer associated

with Rev. Leon Myers, the Exalted Cyclops of the Orange County Klan at the time, on prohibition raids.

"There's nothing that shows that he was in [the Klan]," Kelsey claimed. "Nobody can really see this supposed list of his name. We feel that his name has been sullied over the years."

The Fullerton Joint Union High School District disagreed five years ago. It cited a 1979 doctoral dissertation on the Orange County Klan by UCLA history student Christopher Cocoltchos in an agenda item regarding renaming the auditorium.

As noted in his research, Cocoltchos used a Klan membership list housed at the Library of Congress, which he called a "valid and complete catalog" of Klansmen through August 1924.

Cocoltchos, who taught history at Western Oregon University, not only identified Plummer as a Klansman using the list, but called him "a leader in the Myers-led Klan" who joined in 1923.

But the list, which fueled the recall of four Klansmen from Anaheim City Council

a century ago, went missing in 1982 and hasn't been found since.

A list donated to the Anaheim Heritage Center by former Anaheim City Atty. Leo Friis is believed to be a derivative by Library of Congress historians, but is missing a page where Plummer's name would appear alphabetically.

In the application to historically designate the Hillcrest house, Fullerton Heritage claimed that "the accuracy of the list is difficult to ascertain" and later cited an oral history interview where Albert Launer, a former Fullerton city attorney, lauded Plummer as "one of the finest citizens Fullerton ever had."

TimesOC reviewed the 1968 Launer interview transcript that Cocoltchos also cited in placing Plummer in the Hooded Order.

Although there were names, like Plummer's, that Launer did not "directly associate" with the Klan, he said Plummer "fit in" as someone preoccupied with protecting youth from vice.

Despite Kelsey's comments, some Fullerton council members remained

uncomfortable with a plaque that could be construed as a Plummer memorial.

"[Plummer] didn't build the house," Councilmember Ahmad Zahra said. "He was the first resident, right? "Could the plaque just state that? It will be more historically accurate."

Zahra asked if council members could vote on the historical designation for each of three houses separately.

The first two historical homes — the William N. Rollo House on Whiting Avenue and the Suters House on North Richmond Avenue — passed unanimously.

The council split 3-2, as is often the case on contentious issues, on the Hillcrest house.

Charles and Zahra voted to designate the house without the Plummer name. Mayor Fred Jung, Councilmember Jaime Valencia and Dunlap voted to keep the name on the forthcoming plaque.

[gabriel.sanroman](#)
[@latimes.com](#)
Twitter: [@gsanroman2](#)

GARDEN

Continued from page A1

horticulture," said Karen Nelson, the club's director of media publicity. "We've donated and built the educational gardens at El Morro and Top of the World elementary schools and Thurston [Middle School]. ... If you can get kids to grow stuff, they'll eat the stuff that they grow, and so there's a whole other way to teach them how to eat properly."

More than 600 people joined the gate and garden walking tour in its 20th year, which featured eight homes in the Lower Bluebird Canyon neighborhood. It's a chance for the horticulturists to appreciate gardening efforts in the community.

For those less familiar with the subject, it presents an opportunity to be exposed to and learn about different types of plants. The garden club supplies a team to identify various species and genera of plants by placing labels in the flower beds, said Susan Denton, the tour director.

Anemone, calla lily, cymbidium, euphorbia, heliobore, lithops, lobelia, Mexican mint, Santa Barbara daisy and veltheimia were among the plants pointed out to the patrons.

The event was put on in collaboration with multiple groups, including local beekeepers, the Laguna Plain Air Painters Assn. (LPAPA) and the Laguna Beach County Water District.

Those partnerships have become increasingly visible. In March 2024, Matt Willey's "The Good of the Hive" bee mural went up on a wall outside the water district, a project that came together after the artist was a guest speaker for the club.

Laguna Beach will celebrate its centennial year since it was incorporated as a city on June 29, 2027. The garden club was around in its infancy, and the water district is currently celebrating its 100th anniversary.

"In 1928, there were 275 actual full-time residents in Laguna Beach, and 205 of them were members of the garden club," Nelson said, noting the history of the club.

More recent history has brought forth the gate and garden tour, and now a hat contest, which has happened around other notable events known to put fashion in the spotlight.

"The first year we did, it coincided with [King Charles III] being coronated in England," Nelson said. "This year, it coincides with the Kentucky Derby, as it did last year, so kind of a double theme there. The hat contest kind of just keeps rolling."

Ally Cook, owner of the Lucky Cowboy hat bar in Laguna Beach, chaired the committee for the hat contest, which sported competitors in the categories of "Best in Bloom," "Pollinator's Paradise" and "Garden Party Glam."

The activities take place



ARTIST JONI EMILY paints a rare blooming aloe plant at the "La Hacienda" home during the Garden Club tour.

at the water district property, where tour participants also board buses to be transported to the featured properties in a given year.

"It also gives people the ability to come and see our demonstration garden," said Christopher Regan, assistant general manager at the water district. "The synergy between the right way to do gardening in Laguna and also our district being part of the fabric of this community — we are one of the oldest government agencies in Laguna — so having that ability to partner with other established organizations in town that have the same message that we do, it just fit together."

"We actually help each other. They get a great venue with us as name recognition, and we get the ability to reach 600 to 800 on that tour date that wouldn't normally come to our garden, wouldn't nor-

mally come to our district and hear about our message."

A property on the tour received recognition as the "Most Watertwise and Fire Safe Gate and Garden."

"[The homeowner's] water usage was low for the amount of plant material that he had, for how beautiful it was," Regan said. "It was a perfect representation. It was drought-tolerant plants, it was low irrigation, it was beautiful, which is one of the huge things that we try to point out to people. You can have a beautiful landscape that is water-efficient."

"Their landscape personalized that. ... It still had some really cool things. It had a treasure chest in there. It was funky. It was Laguna."

Throughout the tour, participants gazed upon more than plants, also watching the painters who replicated the natural



Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

VARIOUS SUCCULENTS below an outdoor art piece adorn the "Oaks" home during the Laguna Beach Garden Club gate and garden tour.

beauty in their midst. On a dreary, cloud-covered day, the artists stationed at the respective properties had more time than usual to capture their surroundings.

"The idea is for them to just be into the creative process, so when people are walking by, they can see the progress of the painting," said Bonnie Langner, executive director of LPAPA. "'En plein air,' which means outside, is usually a painting has to be done within a couple hours because the light changes. That was kind of a little different this weekend because we were drizzling the whole time, so the light didn't really change."

LPAPA artists seen on tour included Carole Boller, Denise Bradley, Tim Bush,

Joni Emily, Mark Jacobucci, Kelley Mogilka, Lisa Mozzini-McDill, Nadalena Radis-Cobbs, Diane Snyder, Renae Wang, Kathleen Williams and Mason Williams.

The painters acted as ambassadors for the local arts organization, and some sold the pieces they were working on to the owners of the homes, Langner said.

"The collaboration is a match made in heaven," Langner added. "Many of our artists paint flowers. That's what they do. They make a living painting flowers. ... Our painters come in and love the exposure."

[andrew.turner@latimes.com](#)
Twitter: [@AndrewTurnerTCN](#)

MAILBAG

Continued from page A6

paign is heavily funded by the teacher's union, which endorsed Kamala Harris and the Women in Leadership PAC who advocate for "leading the fight against conservatives." This does not reflect conservative values.

This election demands leadership for quality education and parental involvement.

Walsh's "non-partisan" label masks her affiliations. Voters deserve transparency. I'm voting for Andrea McElroy, whose values I trust.

Lisa Ruggieri Hines
Newport Beach

As 17-year Newport-Mesa Unified School District (NMUSD) Area 5 residents and parents, we've raised our children in Newport Beach, where they've thrived in our public schools. Area 5 has long elected conservative trustees who prioritize fiscal responsibility, parental rights and transparency.

Taxpayers deserve a voice in this special election and we're voting for Andrea McElroy.

Andrea, a business owner and mother, brings proven fiscal accountability and champions parental rights, demanding transparency between families and schools. She and her husband actively serve our community, earning trust from neighbors, educators and leaders like Newport Beach Mayor Joe Stapleton. Her platform supports every child's unique path — arts, CTE, college — ensuring success in a safe, high-quality environment.

Andrea, endorsed by the Orange County Republican Party and local police and fire associations, aligns with Area 5's conservative values.

On June 10, vote Andrea McElroy — the only conservative in this election. She's a principled leader who will stand for our children and represent our community's values.

Kate and Logan Malouf
Newport Beach

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

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

Daily Pilot

A Times Community News publication.

CONTACT US

Carol Cormaci
Executive Editor
[carol.cormaci@latimes.com](#)

Nicole Charky-Chami
Deputy Editor
[nicole.charkychami@latimes.com](#)

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

Reporters:
Sara Cardine,
Costa Mesa
[sara.cardine@latimes.com](#)

Eric Licas,
Newport Beach
[eric.licas@latimes.com](#)
Sarah Mosqueda, TimesOC
[sarah.mosqueda@latimes.com](#)

Gabriel San Román,
TimesOC

[gabriel.sanroman@latimes.com](#)

Matt Szabo,
Huntington Beach and Sports
[matthew.szabo@latimes.com](#)

Andrew Turner,
Laguna Beach and Sports
[andrew.turner@latimes.com](#)

10540 Talbert Ave.,
Suite 260 West,
Fountain Valley, CA 92708

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

© 2025 Times Community News. All rights reserved.

Jim Jennings Custom Masonry Inc.

Serving Newport Beach, Costa Mesa for 55 years.

SPECIALIZING IN:

- New Patios & Entries
- Drainage Expert: New or Repair
- Masonry & Concrete Repair.
- Grind High-spots caused by tree roots, etc.
- Remove & Replace sections of concrete, brick or stone.

714-796-9144

State License# 827800

[www.jimjenningsmasonry.com](#)