Daily Pilot Times OC

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A spring debut with cherry blossoms

OC Japan Fair plans a traditional/modern mix of cosplay, kimonos, sake tastings, anime and food at the fairgrounds.

BY SARA CARDINE

n annual fall favorite at the Orange County fair-grounds makes a rare spring debut next Friday as the OC Japan Fair kicks off a three-day celebration of food, fashion, pop culture and entertainment, during cherry blossom season.

In fact, sakura — or cherry trees, whose delicately crenulated flowers bloom in early spring and symbolize the beauty and impermanence of life — are the theme of this year's vernal festival, which kicks off the evening of Friday, April 19.

The small blossoms are likely to appear throughout several events at the Costa Mesa fairgrounds, including a live recreation of the traditional Oiran Dochu, a procession of courtesans from Japan's Edo Period (1615-1868) known for elaborately decorated kimonos, and other fashion-forward exhibits.

Returning will be the fair's

See **Spring**, page A2



Courtesy of OC Japan Fair

ORGANIZERS OF the annual OC Japan Fair are hosting a first-ever springtime festival at the county fairgrounds in Costa Mesa, April 19 through 21.



Coming soon to Irvine UCI Health

Laguna Beach to establish local housing trust fund

Move will allow the city to seek matching grant funding from the state to help with affordable housing projects.

BY ANDREW TURNER

Laguna Beach continues to work toward ways to drive the development of affordable housing in town, its latest move a decision to form a local housing trust fund.

The City Council adopted a resolution on Tuesday to establish the fund, which came at the recommendation of the housing and human services committee.

Council members approved up to \$2.5 million to go toward the fund, a pool of money to further support efforts to provide affordable housing. That includes a combined \$1.4 million from housing in-lieu fees and the housing

fund

The move authorized the remainder of the funding gap to be filled by the city's parking fund on the condition that a state matching grant is awarded. In his motion, Councilman Bob Whalen provided direction that the parking fund be replenished within the next fiscal year.

The state matching grants are for the "creation, rehabilitation or preservation of affordable housing, transitional housing and emergency shelters," according to the California Department of Housing and Community Development.

The populations given priority in Laguna Beach would be qualifying artists, seniors and members of the local workforce.

The Veterans and Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2018 allows

See **Fund,** page A4



Photos by Gabriel San Román

THE HUNT BRANCH Library in Fullerton is reopening to the public on April 13 after being shuttered for 11 years.

Historic Hunt library back after being checked out for a decade

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

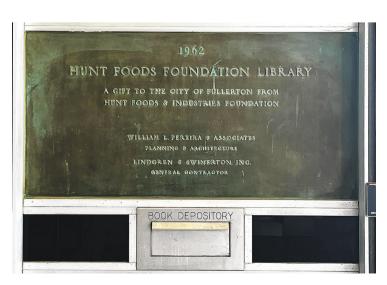
Days before its grand reopening, the Hunt Branch Library in Fullerton bustled with activity.

A crew from the Museum of Teaching and Learning set up an exhibit on the historic Mendez, et al. vs. Westminster School District, et al., school desegregation case.

Workers with power drills in hand put the final touches on the facility's multimillion-dollar renovation.

After being shuttered as a library for 11 years, the Hunt, with its grand T-shaped columns and windowed façade, is making an unlikely comeback, especially when past city officials once considered selling the property.

"I'm really glad to see it intact, functional, lit up and ready for people to use," said Councilman Bruce Whitaker from one of the library's atriums shaded by a jacaranda tree. "It's been more than a decade that we've been



A BOOK DEPOSITORY sits below a dedication plaque outside of the Hunt Branch Library in Fullerton.

battling to get to this point."

Last June, Fullerton City
Council voted unanimously to

reopen the Hunt.

Turning a page on its history, the Hunt's automatic sliding

doors reopened to the public yesterday with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and a celebration featuring music, live entertain-

See **Hunt**, page A2

ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



Katrina Frederick

HERITAGE BARBECUE LOOKS TO ADD BARN IN EXPANSION PAGE A4
MUSEUM TO FEATURE RESCUED ART OF SALVADOR DALÍ PAGE A9

Girls Inc. of Orange County marks its 70th year

BY MATT SZABO

Emily Olvera is the keynote speaker for the Girls Inc. of Orange County 70th anniversary gala, and she's well equipped to talk about the program and its

Olvera's mother first put her in Girls Inc. when she was a 7-yearold growing up in Costa Mesa. Matilde Olvera, an immigrant from Mexico, was a single mom and working three jobs to support Emily and her older brother.

Soon after that, Emily's dad left, and she said she briefly turned to harming herself.

From those dark days have come a bright future. Emily Olvera is now 24, an Oregon State graduate and headed to Colorado this summer to pursue her doc-

"Girls Inc. saved me," she said. "I say that in the realest sense. I was in a very dark place, and now I'm not. I'm so much of a happy person and have so many dreams and aspirations. The sisterhood is like a safe haven.'

The nonprofit's platinum birthday celebration will take place Saturday, April 20, at Balboa Bay Resort in Newport Beach, featuring a performance by local favorite band the Tijuana Dogs.

Girls Inc. of Orange County chief executive officer Lucy Santana is ready to party and celebrate the growth of an organization that started in the 1950s with programs on things like being a good homemaker, sewing and

Nowadays, its mission is more about self-empowerment and offering girls the skills they need to make their own decisions.

"We talk a lot about finding your voice with our girls, whether they're in kindergarten all the way through college or career," San-



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

PROGRAM ALUMNA Emily Olvera and Girls Inc. of Orange County CEO Lucy Santana, from left, will help celebrate the organization's 70th anniversary during its annual gala next weekend at Balboa Bay Resort in Newport Beach. The nonprofit's mission is to empower girls to be strong, smart and bold.

tana said. "We realize that everybody's going to be on their own journey, but I think what's important is to help girls understand that they have a right to speak up for themselves and to feel safe in the world. To me, that's always really critical, that we're ensuring that as girls come through our programs, that they're seeing what their opportunities are and that they have a choice."

Olvera said a program like Eureka!, which teaches middle school girls about STEM opportunities, was critical to her success. The Eureka! program, first offered on the Orange Coast College campus in 1999, turns 25 this year, and Santana said it will be offered at three sites this summer.

She ended up playing soccer and running cross country and track at Costa Mesa High before graduating in 2017. She participated in the College Bound program, and Girls Inc. helped her earn National Scholars and Angels Baseball Foundation scholarships that ended up sending her to Oregon State on a full ride. She's been working as a veterinary technician.

But she learned other skills that were also beneficial to her family. At age 12, she would ride her bike to go deposit checks for her mother's housecleaning business because she was the only one in the family who knew how to do

Matilde has now built her Emynesh Maids business — the name is a combination of her two children's names — to include more than a dozen employees and about 100 clients. She will be joining her daughter at the 70th anniversary gala. Both are proud of each other in different ways.

"Once my mom was more financially secure, things started changing a little bit for us," Emily Olvera said, adding that she and her mom are like best friends. "I feel like we grew up together, in a sense ... Now she's a big boss lady."

Girls Inc. of Orange County is well-positioned, but Santana said there's room for growth in the future. It has traditionally served girls in central Orange County, leaving more chances in north and south county as well.

The organization currently serves around 9,000 girls and wants to increase that number to 13,000 by 2027.

"We feel like for every girl that we serve, there's still about 50 more out there that aren't being reached by us," Santana said. "Our goal is to continue to partner with different school districts, different community centers and really be able to expand."

Olvera, for one, is glad that she's part of the family. Girls Inc. of Orange County recently hired one of her longtime friends in the program, Yvonne Padilla, as its staff accountant. Laura Chavez is another good friend and program alumna who now serves as a senior program success coordinator.

Olvera will be giving her speech to more than 300 people at the platinum anniversary gala, and admits she's a bit nervous. She's a dynamic speaker, though, and her story of her time in the program also speaks for itself.

"I thought I was the only one, but there's a lot of girls out there who are [first-generation Americans] and navigating life in a country that they're not used to," Olvera said. "A lot of the girls I was in my writing programs with were just my best friends because they were going through the same things. I wasn't alone anymore in my thoughts; I had women who supported me and loved

"These relationships are forever, really, these connections you build. At 24, I'm still involved, which is really special."

matthew.szabo@latimes.com Twitter: @mjszabo



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UCI Health

SPRING

Continued from page A1

signature tribute to Tokyo's Nakamise-dori, a famous shopping street. It will be packed with booths selling souvenirs, gifts and other items with a Far East feel, alongside street food vendors serving up okonomiyaki, takoyaki, yakisoba, yakitori, shaved ice, ramen, pork cutlet sandwiches, taiyaki and more.

"We want people to fully experience the Japanese culture and food and see all that Japan has to offer in terms of hospitality," said Stephanie Yoshida, a spokeswoman for the fair, now in its 14th year. "Hopefully, they'll want to visit Japan one day and see the culture for themselves."

In addition to food and fashion, visitors to the OC Japan Fair can enjoy cultural exhibits, including taiko drum performances, calligraphy (Shodo) sessions, flower arrangement (Kado), traditional tea ceremonies (Sado), sake tastings and



Courtesy of OC Japan Fair

VISITORS TO the OC Japan Fair, at the county fairgrounds April 19 through 21, can enjoy taiko drum performances.

activities centered around anime and pop culture sensations.

On Saturday and Sunday, visitors to the event's Main Stage can get an up-close look at a live tuna cutting performed by a chef from a famed Japanese tuna company and see cosplay in a pop-up inspired by Tokyo's Akihabara neighborhood.

Yoshida said the event is made possible by the participation of a number of

local and regional organizations that aim to promote and celebrate Japanese culture and lend authenticity to the threeday festival.

We hope to bring as much as possible to the table, so people can experience a real Japan festival," she added. "We also want to build a bridge between the Japanese and American cultures and to celebrate [that] friendship.'



File Photo

JANDY PONVANIT, 9, enjoys the OC Japan Fair at OC Fair & Event Center in 2021. This year, a springtime event has been added. It opens April 19 at the fairgrounds in Costa Mesa.

OC Japan Fair runs April 19 through 21 at the Orange County fairgrounds, 88 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa. Hours are Friday, from 5 to 11 p.m., from noon to 10 p.m.

on Saturday and Sunday, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Parking is \$12 and general admission costs \$10. Children 6 and under and seniors over 65 get in free. Tickets

may be purchased online at oc-japanfair.com/info *or* with cash only at the event.

sara.cardine@latimes.com Twitter: @SaraCardine

HUNT

Continued from page A1

ment, vendors and food trucks.

The event hinted at how the historic library is going to be reimagined for its second act.

"It's a lot more than just a library," said Daisy Perez, Fullerton's deputy city manager. "Part of it is a library, part of it is going to function like a community center."

To that end, the Hunt's center row, where shelves full of books once stood, is now open space for arts and culture programming. The remaining library services are housed in a large conference room off to the side. An old computer lab has also been repurposed as a mini-museum of the Midcentury Modern library, complete with original furniture from its opening in 1962.

The Hunt will be open as a library Tuesdays through Thursdays every week between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Its improbable return stands as a victory for concerned residents who have fought for years to salvage

"We wanted the library to stay in public hands, and we wanted it to be used for public purposes," said Matt Leslie, who cofounded Save the Hunt in 2018. "We didn't want it to be sold off, and we didn't want the city to lease it to somebody for some other use."

Nestled by train tracks on the city's southwest side, the Hunt first opened in 1962 as a gift from Norton Simon, an industrialist and art collector. Simon loaned works from Pablo Picasso, Paul Cézanne and Arshile Gorky that he collected to exhibit at the Hunt during its more storied days.

Acclaimed architect William Pereira designed the building in Midcentury Modern fashion.

The library joined the Disneyland Hotel, Laguna Playhouse, UC Irvine campus buildings and the former Los Ängeles Times newsroom in Costa Mesa among Pereira's notable architectural accomplishments in Orange County.

But by 2013, the Hunt's library hours had already been significantly cut due to lack of funding when an encampment of unhoused people in pitched tents swelled along the railroad tracks behind it.

"A library employee said that they had felt threatened by the actions of someone from the encampment," Leslie recalled. "That was the rationale the city manager back then used to close the

Following its closure, Fullerton leased the property to Grace Ministries International, a neighboring evangelical church with the stipulation that it couldn't be used as a library.

"It was only supposed to be closed for 18 months," Whitaker said. "And then 18 months stretched into years. The city manager and the administration at the time was doing it as a cost-saving measure.'

Concerned that the Hunt later appeared in the city's listings of surplus properties up for sale, Jane Reifer, a preservationist activist, joined Leslie to found Save the Hunt alongside other Fullerton residents. The listing eventually

came down.

In 2018, council members designated the library as a local historical landmark. A year later, it was added to the National Reg-

istry of Historic Places. "There was a struggle all the way through this entire project," Reifer said. "We're having to start with what is available now and grow it as we go.'

In another boost to the Hunt's revival, Assemblywoman Sharon Quirk-Silva helped secure \$2.5 million from a California State Library grant in 2019 to renovate the building.

Two years later, Quirk-Silva, a former Fullerton mayor, and state Sen. Josh Newman (D-29), pushed for an additional \$2.75 million in state funding to further the library's revitaliza-

tion, with \$250,000 earmarked for programming.

"A lot of the arts and culture programs will actually be taught in house," Perez said. "The Fullerton School District is our biggest partner. We're also partnering with a lot of local nonprofits that are based in the area.'

Upcoming cultural events at the Hunt include a Día del Niño festival on April 27, a "May the Fourth" Star Wars day and Cinco de Mayo celebration.

The Hunt, as Fullerton's hidden historical gem, is ready to shine again.

"It's been a long time," Whitaker said. "This is needed, especially here on the southwest side of town."

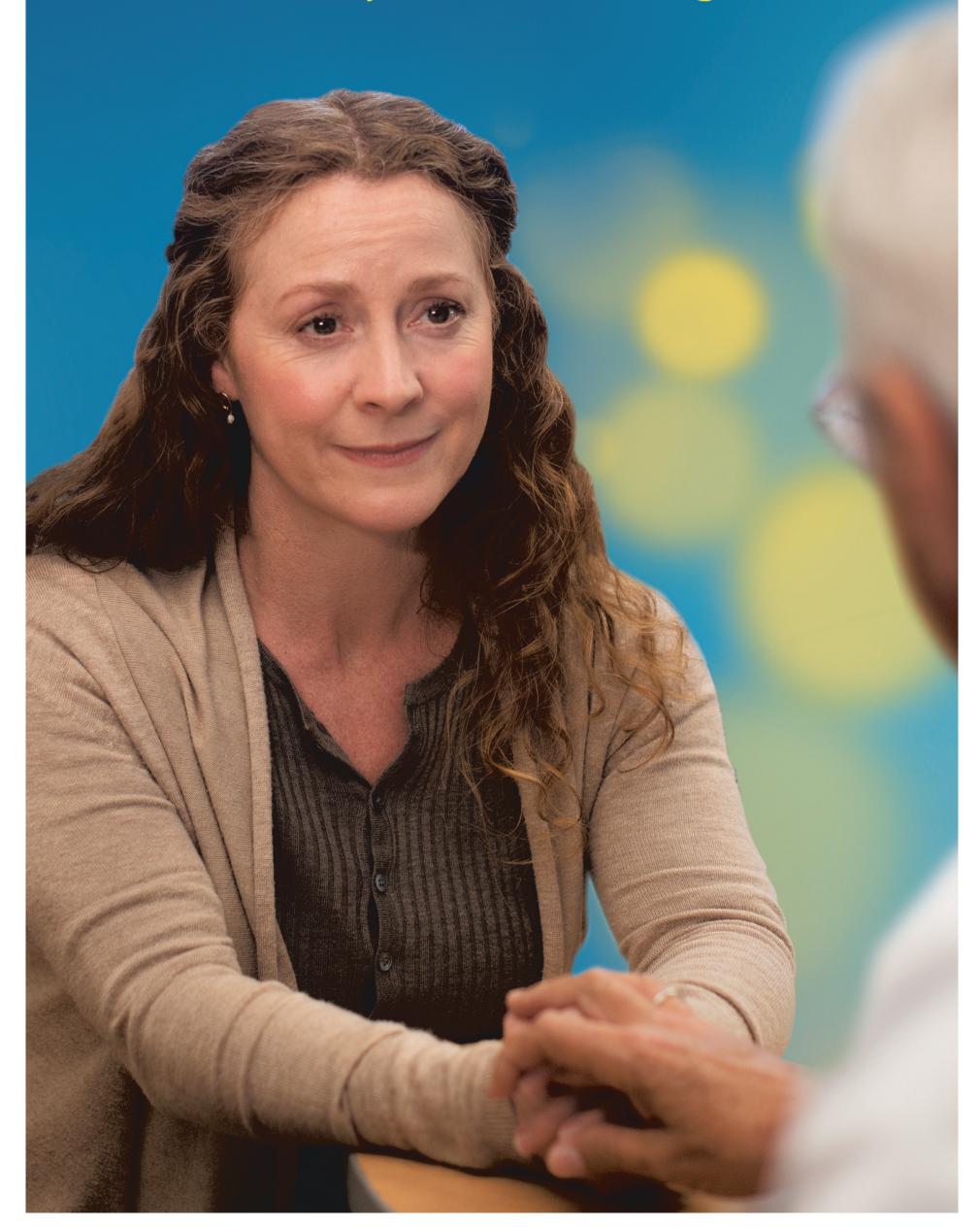
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Heritage Barbecue cooks up expansion

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

A historic barn and six covered smokers took a step closer this month to becoming part of Heritage Barbecue's bid to expand in San Juan Capistrano.

The city's planning commission met on April 10 and voted unanimously to recommend the changes be approved by the City Council at a future meeting.

Paul Garcia, San Juan Capistrano's principal planner, told commissioners the roughly 2,000-squarefoot barn would move from the nearby Casa Manuel Garcia historical site to Heritage Barbecue to be repurposed as a new dining area.

The Michelin-honored restaurant revered for its central Texas-style barbecue and its 1,000-gallon offset smokers hopes the picnic dining barn will allow it to better accommodate its patrons, especially during crowded weekends.

"We need to make these changes because we're always busting at the seams," said Brenda Castillo, Heritage Barbecue's co-owner. "Since day one, it's always been supply and demand. We're trying to meet the demands of the people that come."

Last year, the restaurant's operators opened a second location in Oceanside.
Castillo and her husband, Daniel, are also planning to open Les Brisket Hut, a taco wine bar in Santa Ana this summer.

In full disclosure, the husband of a Times Community News reporter is a chef at Heritage Barbecue.

In San Juan Capistrano, the proposed barn expansion will allow for Heritage Barbecue, which first opened in 2020, to offer longer hours and seated dinner service while adding a little historical charm to its share of the city's down-

According to National Register of Historic Places documentation, Casa Ma-



Katrina Frederick

PITMASTER AND co-owner Daniel Castilla mans the grill at Heritage Barbecue & Brewery in San Juan Capistrano, which is looking to expand.



nuel Garcia's two barns were originally built in 1880 with wood planks and a wood shingle roof.

Both barns were altered in the 1930s with corru-

gated metal — only the original wood front remains.

"San Juan Capistrano has its particular historical styles," Castillo added. "We want to keep that going, but with everything we do, we want to give it a little face-lift."

In addition to the barn, Heritage Barbecue is also

A looking to add an area to park six covered smokers and build a new bathroom.

Heritage During the planning

Barbecue in

Capistrano.

Edwin Goei

San Juan

During the planning commission meeting, some questions arose about the restaurant wanting to clear its sole handicap parking spot as part of the proposed changes.

An earlier approved addition allowed for an ADA-compliant ramp to be built at the restaurant.

"When we're looking at handicap access, not all handicap issues have to do with ramps," said Commissioner Tami Wilhelm. "Some of it is distance."

Wilhelm mentioned her own bad leg when asking if the city's zoning codes accounted for distance from a handicap parking

space to a business. Garcia assured her the proposed changes, which include two handicap parking spots in the lot behind the restaurant, complies with the Americans With Disabilities Act.

Commissioners voted 4-0 to recommend the changes be approved after about half an hour of discussion.

With the first hurdle cleared, Castillo hopes construction can begin as early as this summer and be completed in time for the holidays.

"We're excited to see what our chefs can create for their night service," she said. "This is another exciting phase for our restaurant."

gabriel.sanroman @latimes.com Twitter: @gsanroman2

California Restaurant Foundation takes students on learning tour of Wienerschnitzel headquarters

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

A group of about 20 students from Fullerton Union High school headed into Wienerschnitzel headquarters in Tustin on Wednesday afternoon, led by chief executive officer J.R. Galardi of the Galardi Group, the parent company of the Southern California hot dog chain as well as Tastee-Freez and Hamburger Stand.

"We have a communal work space with a few offices on the perimeter so we can have a collaborative environment," Galardi explained as the students followed him through the office.

The Fullerton teens were just a fraction of the 500 students across California joining in Experience Hospitality Week, a career-building experience



Sarah Mosqueda

WIENERSCHNITZEL CHIEF executive officer J.R. Galardi leads students on a tour of Wienerschnitzel headquarters in Tustin.

giving students the chance to explore the business side of food service. All participating stu-

dents are part of the California Restaurant Foundation's statewide ProStart program, a two-year culinary arts and restaurant management program offered at 140 California high schools.

See **Tour,** page A6

THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS1 Allergic reaction
5 Knock

8 Fend off 13 Car or truck 14 Performance for one 15 Newspapers and TV, e.g. 16 Exuberance 17 Solid fossil fuel 18 Getting older 19 Game with

22 Brain scans: Abbr. 23 Type

counters and dice

23 Type 24 Criminal who burns

26 That guy's
27 Chafes
31 Plotting group
34 Baked treat
with a swirl: 2 wds.
36 Loads: 2 wds.
37 Camera from
Canon
38 "Casablanca"

heroine
39 Baked treat
with a hole: 2 wds.
42 Witch trials city
43 Veteran sailor:
2 wds.

44 Enthusiast 45 Pants 48 DOT agency: Abbr.

51 Carbonated

drink
54 Pregnancy
parts
56 Maytag
competitor
58 Genealogy
chart
59 Taproom
choices

60 Air gusts 61 Loan 62 Second to _ 63 Stockpile 64 Finish up 65 Pesky insect

DOWN

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 14 15 15 15 16 17 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 19 10 11 12 12 12 18 12 18

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 *sudokuorauk*.

Sudoku, visit <i>sudoku.org.uk.</i>										
3 5					4		6	7		
5			6							
	7	1					8			
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For answers to the crossword and Sudoku puzzles, see page A10.

1 Jewish theologian 2 Sound-related 3 Adhere 4 Boxing punch 5 Hotel units 6 Car rental chain 7 Chopin composition 8 Doc's org.
9 Meat-free
10 Falco of "The Sopranos"
11 Token of engagement
12 Garment labels
14 Signs of past surgeries

20 Author Sheehy 21 Pen tips 25 Grads-to-be: Abbr. 26 Upside-down poses 28 Barbie, for example 29 If not 30 Close loudly 31 San Lucas 32 "Being Mortal" author Gawande 33 Connection 34 Coastal animal with a shell 35 Lo mein cooker 40 _ and feather 41 Coagulate 42 Be rude to 44 Set at liberty 46 Ambulance sound

to
48 Certain
criminal
49 Sports venue
50 Worthwhile
thing
51 Toothy tools
52 Leave out

47 Make revisions

thing
51 Toothy tools
52 Leave out
53 Comic Carvey
55 NASA beverage
57 Hardwood tree

Tribune Media Services

FUND

Continued from page A1

for local housing trust funds to apply for the matching funds from the state, according to a staff report. Laguna Beach has certified its housing element and submitted its annual progress report to the state, making it eligible to apply.

"This is the last year of a five-year cycle for the funding for the Local Housing Trust Fund Grant Program," said Jennifer Savage, the city's housing program coordinator. "We don't know at this time if it would continue. There are regional and state advocacy efforts, but we don't know whether that will move forward in years to come."

Savage added the city would have to commit its grant funding to a specific household income target and issue a notice of avail-

able funding to make its application competitive. Laguna Beach's housing trust fund will be required to allocate a third of the funding to households that fall into the extremely-low income tier.

The Orange County Housing Finance Trust puts all of its funding toward extremely low-income housing, Savage said.

Council members balked at the idea of including city-owned property in the notice of available funds. The Ti Amo property at 31727 Coast Highway, which the city purchased in 2021 for civic purposes, was up for consideration.

Joe Hanauer, Cody Engle, Barbara McMurray and Jacquie Schaefgen, all members of the city's housing and human services committee, addressed the council ahead of its

decision.
"As you know, we've

done next to nothing for well over two decades in terms of expanding housing options in our city, which has boxed out people of modest means," Mc-Murray said.

Multiple members touted the local housing trust fund as an opportunity to get a "free look" at the state grant program.

"The city's not committed to do anything if it gets the match," Hanauer said. "It could look at the conditions of the match, and it could determine if there are adequate places to put this match, and if so, it can move forward. It could decide, 'We don't like the terms, we don't like the conditions.' It could leave."

Laguna Beach also approved the establishment of a community land trust geared toward addressing the need for artist housing and work spaces in March.

andrew.turner@latimes.com Twitter: @AndrewTurnerTCN

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UCI Health

Comedian Chris Estrada is still that fool ahead of Irvine shows

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

or comedian Chris Estrada, there's life after "This Fool."
Estrada, who grew up in Inglewood and South L.A., worked warehouse jobs while doing stand-up comedy at night when he got a call that turned into "This Fool," a hit comedy show on Hulu that he co-created and starred in.

Set in South L.A., the show followed the exploits of Julio Lopez, a self-deprecating counselor working at a gang intervention nonprofit, and Luis, his ex-gang member cousin just released from prison.

A quick-witted, acerbic comedy that got Latino L.A. right without overstuffing it with corny cultural references, "This Fool" reigned for two hilarious seasons before Hulu canceled the show in February.

Since then, Estrada has gone on to release a short comedy film "5th of July" about two friends on the quest for illegal fireworks that howls like a lost episode. The comedian is also touring across the country with his stand-up act, which makes a headlining stop this weekend at the Irvine Improv.

The following interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Q: Back in the day, you worked at warehouses while trying to break through as a comedian. What role did humor play for you before and after you clocked out? Did you test any material on coworkers?

A: I was irreverently funny with them. I don't think I ever tested any material because it's hard to go into a stand-up bit in the middle of unloading trucks. As much as the working class likes comedy, they also like to hurry up and get the job done. But there were some gigs where I was able to bust balls and be funny. I took a lot of comedic inspiration from all the jobs I worked at.

And it was during a lunch break in 2019 that

you got a call about "This Fool," right?

Yeah, it was crazy. I was working at this warehouse in Mid City or Culver City in L.A. I had been doing stand-up for six or seven years. Randomly one day, I get a text from Jake Wiseman, and he said, "Would you be interested in working with us?" We made arrangements to meet. That's really how it started. Fred Armisen showed some interest in being an executive producer. The first time we talked to him was during one of my lunch breaks.

I'll always regard the episode about Julio's mom Esperanza taking office toilet paper home from her janitor job as an instant classic. It resonated a little *too* much. What was the inspiration behind that episode?

My mom is a retired janitor. She would bring toilet paper from her job back home. It was s—ty toilet paper. She'd get mad if you would buy any.

I take it there was no toilet paper panic during the pandemic for you?

My mom would send me a bag of toilet paper, hand sanitizer, soap and disinfecting wipes. We were pretty locked down on all of that!

Was the "5th of July" a short film you had in mind before "This Fool" got canceled? Or was it something that creatively came about afterward?

I made that before I started writing season two of "This Fool." Steven Feinartz, my buddy who I made that with, directs a lot of comedy specials and does documentaries. We always wanted to work on something. In between season one and season two of "This Fool," I had this idea about fireworks, almost like "Friday." I just didn't put it out because we were submitting to film festivals. But now that "This Fool" was canceled and we had already gotten into like two or three film festivals, there wasn't much more to do with it and I



Mandee Johnson

CHRIS ESTRADA jokes that he will perform at the Irvine Improv with his shirt off, but here he is (thankfully) with his shirt on.

wanted people to see it publicly.

As an L.A. comic, how

do you like or dislike O.C.?

I actually like Orange
County! My girlfriend is
from Fullerton. I like Fullerton a lot. Santa Ana feels
like home. Irvine cracks me
up! It reminds me of an
episode of "Arrested Development" because it's a
corporate city. Being an
L.A. comic, and I've been a

comic for about 11 years now, Orange County is a place that I was constantly performing at. Orange County has a great comedy scene.

Speaking of Fullerton, we just had Mike Ness Day there earlier this month, which brought a lot of white and Chicano Social Distortion punk fans together. Here's a hardhitting question for a rocker fool like yourself. Do you prefer "Greaser" Mike or "Punk" Mike?

I celebrate all of Social Distortion, from "Another State of Mind" to their last album. They're a great band! My exposure to them was seeing the "Another State of Mind" documentary and watching punk Mike Ness putting on eyeliner and spiking up his hair.

Now, on Twitter, which

is always what I refer to it as, not X ...

I joke around with that. I know Elon Musk bought Twitter and it's called X, but it's the only time I feel like an old person that doesn't respect pronouns. I'm like, "You were born Twitter and you will die Twitter. I will not call you X!"

On Twitter, you posted about how standing at 5'11" makes you a tall Mexican. What are some of the advantages of being a giant among your people?

Definitely going to Northgate and reaching things other Latinos can't! I joke around about that because 5'11" is not tall, but around a lot of Latinos that I grew up with, sometimes I was the taller one. I always joke around that if you're over 5'11" you're tall, but if you're over 5'11" as a Latino you have Andre the Giant disease.

Well, I'm 6'6" and Mexican, so I'll consider you my brethren!

You have Andre the Giant disease! Did you grow up by a f—ing nuclear plant?

Last question: Aside from your appearance at the Irvine Improv this weekend, what can we expect next for Chris Estrada?

More stand-up comedy. In my heart of hearts, I'm a stand-up comedian. With me, it all started with stand-up. I'm going to be touring a lot more. I want to keep making short films like "5th of July" and putting stuff out. Hopefully, I'll get to pitch another TV show or write a movie. I like doing stand-up and I like making things, whether it's a TV show or a short film or films.

Chris Estrada performs at the Irvine Improv Friday at 7:30 and 9:45 p.m., Saturday at 7 and 9:30 p.m. and Sunday at 7 p.m.

Tickets are available at improv.com/irvine/.

gabriel.sanroman @latimes.com Twitter: @gsanroman2

TOUR

Continued from page A4

"The students are able to gain experience in the culinary field and through ProStart they are able to go to competitions and gain scholarship money," said Mario Schwarz-Cole, a chef and culinary instructor at Fullerton Union High. "These are once-in-a-lifetime experiences."

Last year's ProStart Cup at the Long Beach Convention Center brought together 250 California high school students for a twoday competition to compete for \$500,000 in scholarships.

In addition to scholarship opportunities, ProStart brings experts in the restaurant industry into the classroom.

"We have had quite a few guest speakers come out and speak to our students about what it is like to work in the industry in various

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Licensed & Bonded C-33-#967860 jobs that could be available for them post-high school," said Islah Shinault, culinary instructor at Fullerton Union High.

Presented by U.S. Bank, Experience Hospitality Week is another one of ProStart's many careerfocused learning opportunities. Guided tours and mentor discussions are also happening at Pacifica Hotels, Sysco L.A. and the Toyota Arena, giving students time with real executives and business owners.

Students heard from Galardi as well as the Galardi Group's chief financial officer, Michael Nishi, and other members of the leadership team about distribution, sales and what goes into launching a new menu item. Representatives from U.S. Bank were also on hand to talk about the process of applying for a business loan.

"You can only learn so much from a book, but what you see here and hear from the CEOs and CFO and the executives and bank managers, those are skills you cannot really teach in the classroom," said Schwarz-Cole.

Fullerton Union High 12th-grader Leilani Manzo



Sarah Mosqueda

FULLERTON UNION High School students take turns taking pictures inside Wienerschnitzel headquarters in Tustin.

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said she has learned a lot from the program both from her teachers inside the classroom and from opportunities like the one they had with Galardi

Group.

"My teachers have taught me nothing but perseverance," said Manzo.

"But today I saw step by step how everything works. Everybody knows there is an office, but nobody knows how many people it actually takes."

actually takes."
Galardi said demystifying

the inner workings of a chain restaurant business is part of why the company participates in events like Experience Hospitality Week.

"I think it is important for any business to invite the younger generation to see what goes on behind the scenes," said Galardi. "Everyone understands you go to a restaurant, you order food, you get food. But they don't really understands everything that goes behind that and all of the

elements of the restaurant business."

The students enjoyed a lunch of chili dogs and corn dogs provided by Wienerschnitzel but they also had the chance to create their own business plan. In fact, all 23 schools participating in Experience Hospitality Week will end the week by taking the knowledge they have gained to create a food service business concept to submit to the California Restaurant Foundation.

lected for a prize of \$500 for their school from U.S. Bank.

Five winners will be se-

It is real life experience Manzo said she knows she will use in the future.

"Something I have always been interested in is starting my own business," said Manzo, "I have learned a lot here today about the roles everyone has."

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H.B. library issues frustrate readers

he recent attempt to privatize the esteemed and awardwinning public library in Huntington Beach stands as yet another testament to the divisive and detrimental leadership plaguing our community. This forgottenfour majority seems intent on tearing apart the very fabric of our local institutions, exhibiting a blatant disregard for the well-being of our citizens. Shame on their attempt to establish a review committee comprised of untrained and opinionated residents to override professional librarians, without the option of appeal.

The library already has a system in place to challenge a book. We don't need any changes! Instead, will Mayor Gracey Van Der Mark

ban books on the Holocaust Huntington Beach Library, and favor books on Nazis? Will she ban books about

the Jan. 6 insurrection? It is nothing short of disgraceful that our city finds itself embroiled in negative publicity, facing lawsuits, state penalties and other avoidable issues. Instead of exacerbating divisive culture wars, our focus should be directed toward effectively addressing the genuine challenges our city faces.

Andrew Einhorn Huntington Beach

Since last June when Mayor Gracey Van Der Mark claimed there are hundreds of pornographic books in our public library, volunteers, such as myself, who are part of the 1,175member Friends of the

have been called groomers, perverts and pedophiles by her ardent supporters. Just last Saturday, one of Van Der Mark's biggest defenders used a megaphone to berate us as we held a peaceful "Read In" in front of Huntington Beach's Central Library, to oppose turning the award-winning, well-run library over to a profit-driven corporation for privatization.

The disrupter toned down his vulgar speech after the police confronted him, and it made me realize how pathetic our city looked to the nonresidents who were patronizing the library. In fact, a realtor I know who sells residential property in Orange County

See Mailbag, page A10



SHANNA RICKER and her service dog leave the Huntington Beach Public Library in May 2023. Daily Pilot readers have a lot to say about City Council decisions regarding the library.

A WORD, PLEASE | JUNE CASAGRANDE

To him? To he? Even experts can get this tricky issue wrong

f you ever feel bad about your grammar or embarrassed you don't know more, here's a story that might make you feel better.

Recently, I reread something I wrote years ago about "good things come to he who waits" vs. "good things come to him who waits" and then, when I tried to summarize the lesson, I got it exactly wrong. Not only did I misunderstand the grammar, but I misunderstood what my 2016 self was trying to teach me. I just didn't get it. But I'll forgive myself because it's a tricky issue.

The grammatically correct form is "him who

waits," with the object pronoun "him." That may seem pretty obvious to anyone who understands that "to" is a

preposition and that prepositions take object pronouns and not subject pronouns.

Give it to him, not give it to he.

Show it to us, not show it to we.

Tell it to her, not tell it to

You know this intuitively. But folks who pay very close attention know that sometimes, there's an exception. When the object of a preposition or verb is not a single word but a whole clause, that clause needs a subject. In those cases, you

can have a subject pronoun sitting right where an object pronoun normally

Give the job to whoever wants it, not give it to whomever wants it.

Whoever is a subject pronoun. Yet here it sits where an object pronoun would normally go because it's the subject of its own verb: wants.

It's kind of like "I know he lied." The whole clause "he lied" is the object of the verb, "know." The point is, whole clauses can be ob-

In "Good things come to him who waits," there's a verb right there, "waits." And it's pretty clear who's doing the waiting: he is. So it seems like the whole

clause "he waits" should be the object of the preposition, which would make it "Good things come to he who waits." But actually that's wrong because "who"
— not "he" — is the subject
of the verb "waits."

"Who" is a relative pronoun in our sentence. Relative pronouns — that, which, who and whom head up relative clauses.

The cat, which was meowing, was gray.

The dress that caught my eye didn't come in my size. There's the man whom I love

There's the man who loves me.

Relative clauses have a surprising job. They modify nouns. They're basically adjectives.

In "the cat, which was meowing," the "which" clause modifies the noun "cat." That makes the whole clause an adjective. In "the dress that caught my eye," the "that" clause modifies the noun "dress." Again, an adjective.

In "good things come to him who waits," the relative clause "who waits" is also an adjective. So what is it modifying? The pronoun "him."

In our sentence, the true object of the preposition is in fact the object pronoun "him." The verb that comes after "him," "waits," already has its own subject, "who," and together "who waits" is working as an adjective.

This isn't just my analysis. Experts agree. Fowler's

Modern English Usage, for example, cites the following sentence as an error: "Any contact with Flora would have to include he who was keeping an eye on her." That's wrong, Fowler's says. It should be "include him" because "him" is the true object of the verb "include."

Of course, when a grammar rule is this complicated, no one's expected to get it right. So I'll forgive myself when I forget it all over again in the near fu-

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

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Exhibit at the Muck to feature rescued Salvador Dalí works

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

month, Muckenthaler Cultural Center in Fullerton filmed a special video of staff carefully pulling sculptures from cardboard boxes. Packing peanuts tumbled out as precariously bubbled-wrapped bundles were removed. The protective material was pulled back to reveal curious figures, like the cast of a gold goat and a headless female form. The works were by renowned Spanish surrealist artist Salvador Dalí, part of the latest exhibit at the Muck.

Curated by Annabella Pritchard, the exhibit, opening to the public on April 25, includes 50 signed pieces by Dalí, best known for his instantly recognizable and often parodied paintings, such as "The Persistence of Memory.'

The works on display at the Muck, including "Woman Aflame," "Space Elephant" and "The Pantagruel Suite," come from the personal collection of Benjamin Feldman, whose serendipitous discovery of the pieces saved them from a dumpster fate.

"The rescue of this collection is a story unto itself and worthy of the surrealist bent of the artist," said Farrell Hirsch, chief executive officer of the Muckenthaler.

Feldman is a Washingtonian and no stranger to treasure hunting. Most weekends he can be found exploring the hollers of Appalachia. It was through his excursions that he came upon the collection, which had



Callie Prendiville Johnson

PRINTS FROM Salvador Dalí's "The Pantagruel Suite" at the Muckenthaler Cultural Center in Fullerton, where an exhibit of the surrealist's works opens April 25.

been in storage for nearly 20 years.

"There was man who had passed away who had these in his shed," said Callie Prendiville Johnson, communications director at the Muckenthaler. "One of Ben's friends in Appalachia said, 'I found these things and I am going to throw them away unless you want them."

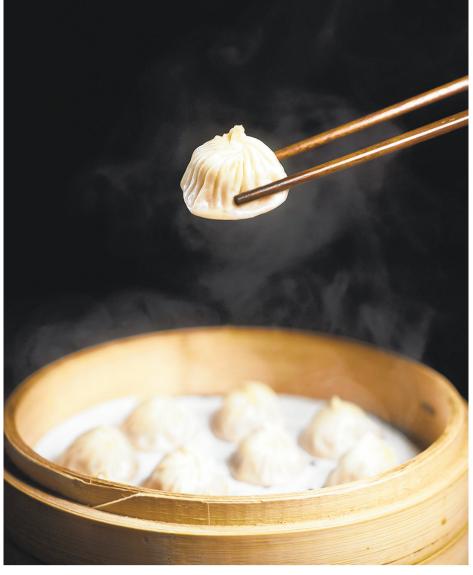
Feldman discovered a trove of signed, lesser known works from Dalí. Once he realized what he had on his hands, he reached out to Pritchard, a Fullerton art curator

with connections to the Muckenthaler.

"Woman Aflame" and "Space Elephant" are the most recognized 3-dimensional works in the collection, while the lithographs of "The Pantagruel Suite" depict father and son Gargantua and Pantagruel, inspired from a series of novels drafted in 16th-century France by François Rabelais.

Besides painting, Dalí was known for graphic arts, film, sculpture, photography and poetry.

See **Dalí,** page A10



Courtesy of Din Tai Fung

XIAO LONG BAO at Chinese restaurant Din Tai Fung are broth-filled dumplings steamed in bamboo baskets. The restaurant will open at Downtown Disney this summer.

Din Tai Fung opens in Anaheim this summer

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

Last week Disneyland Resort announced the timing of the highly anticipated opening of Din Tai Fung at the Downtown Disney District in Anaheim.

The Taiwanese brand known for xiao long bao, or soup dumplings, will open its Anaheim location this summer, joining several other new restaurant concepts set to open at the outdoor entertainment area this year.

"There's so much to be excited for as we prepare to open our doors in Anaheim," said Danielle Alcock, director of marketing and communications for Din Tai Fung USA.

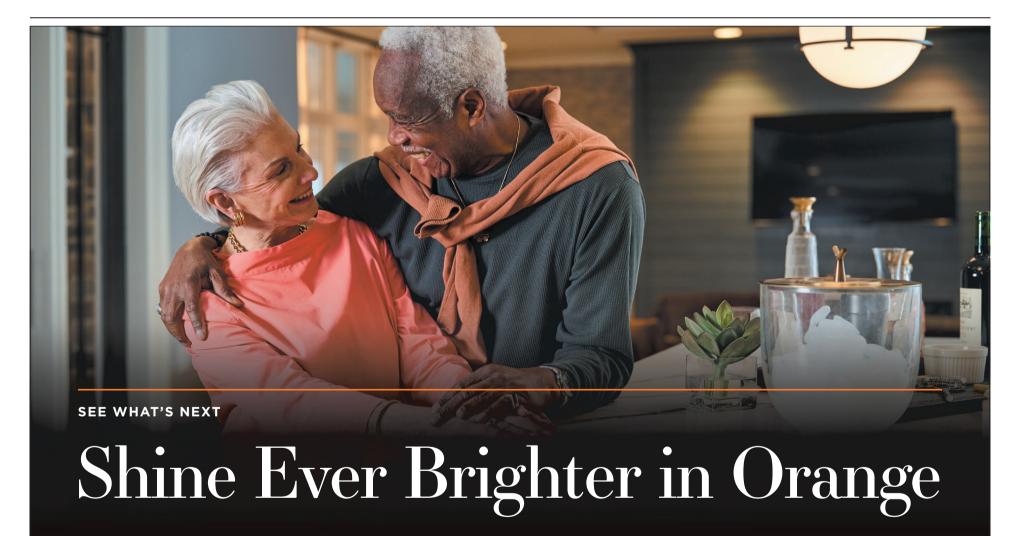
Din Tai Fung opened its first U.S. location in 2000 in Arcadia and now has several locations in Southern California, including one at South Coast Plaza in Costa Mesa that continues to

draw long lines.

The brand also boasts locations in Nevada, Oregon and Washington as well as international locations in Taiwan, China, Japan, Singapore and South Korea. Its Hong Kong location has the distinction of being a five-time awarded one Michelin Star restaurant.

"This location marks a milestone for our brand, as it will be the first stand-

See Opens, page A10



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MAILBAG

Continued from page A8

told me that Surf City has lost much of its appeal to many clients seeking a peaceful community to raise their family. We might as well give up trying to attract the U.S. Olympics here in 2028 for their surfing events.

Ironically, Van Der Mark has never produced a list of these pornographic books nor has she removed them — probably because they don't exist! This is all MAGA political theater, and it's tearing our community apart and tarnishing our image.

Carol Daus

Huntington Beach

I attended and spoke at the April meeting of the Huntington Beach Community & Library Services Commission, and the main topic of the study session was naturally the Huntington Beach Library. Chair Austin Edsell appeared bewildered by the lack of details on moves already taken by

the City Council majority on the issues (Resolution 2023-41, Ordinance No. 4318, and the RFP for Managed Library Services) and city staff was unable to provide even routine specificity on commission inquiries. Needless to say, the commission members, with one exception (council majority appointee Ceason Baker) were nonplussed by the "summary." Two commission members were openly indignant and sided with speakers during public comments who railed against the council majority decisions by at least a 10-to-1 margin. It was noted in this "cart before the horse" meeting, whereby the commission is tasked to provide "advice" to the City Council on library issues, that this rogue council majority no longer accepts input from even its own controlled boards and commissions. This is misgovernance at its most glaring level.

Tim Geddes Huntington Beach



Callie Prendiville Johnson

SALVADOR DALÍ'S "Woman Aflame" on exhibit at the Muckenthaler Cultural Center in Fullerton.

OPENS

Continued from page A9

alone Din Tai Fung built

from the ground up," Al-

cock said of the new Ana-

heim branch, "We're hard at

work getting ready for the

opening and we have a few

surprises in store we can't

sometime between June

and September 2024, the

location next door to Dis-

neyland and Disney Cali-

fornia Adventure will serve

wait to share soon."

Anticipated to

DALÍ

Continued from page A9

When he began his art career, he was influenced by Impressionism and the Renaissance masters but began to dabble in Cubism before joining the Surrealist group in 1929. The Surrealist movement began in Europe after World War I, with artists exploring the unconscious mind as a form of expression. Dalí's work often plumbed subconscious and the dreams as well as sexuality, religion and science. "The Persistence of Memory," completed in 1931, is among the most famous surrealist paintings in the world.

"Dalí is a name that is instantly recognizable to even the casual art fan. In terms of 20th-century artists, this is a household

name." said Johnson. "The fact that these works were almost destroyed makes them all the more pre-

The exhibit comes at the start of the centennial of Surrealism. The show will run from April 25 until June 28, with a live musical performance from Elvis Schoenberg and Orchestre Surreal on June 27, closing the show's last week.

Multiple points of serendipity landed this collection at the Muck, Hirsch said, and staff hopes the Orange County community will come take advantage of this special exhibit.

"It's one of those rare moments when the story behind a great art show rivals the art itself."

sarah.mosqueda @latimes.com Twitter: @SarahNMos

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CONTACT US

Carol Cormaci Executive Editor

carol.cormaci@latimes.com **Beth Raff**

Advertising Manager

(424) 225-9928 beth.raff@latimes.com

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

> Reporters: Sara Cardine,

Costa Mesa sara.cardine@latimes.com Sarah Mosqueda, TimesOC

sarah.mosqueda @latimes.com Lilly Nguyen,

Newport Beach lilly.nguyen@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

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its signature soup dumplings along with other popular family-style dishes like shrimp and Kurobuta pork pot stickers, braised beef noodle soup shrimp fried noodles. Disneyland Resort also announced three new concepts from Mexico's first Michelin-starred chef, Carlos Gaytán, will open at the Downtown Disney District

DIN TAI FUNG is known for xiao long bao or soup dumplings as

dishes.

well as other

Taiwanese

Courtesy of Din Tai Fung

barbacoa, while Céntrico will be a courtyard bar and restaurant offering tequilabased cocktails and Mexi-

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

this May.

Paseo will be a full-serv-

ice dining room and bar

where guest can look for-

ward to dishes like lamb

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can cuisine. At Tiendita, guests will find a self-ordering kiosk with a menu of street-food staples like esquites and fish tacos.

Din Tai Fung and Paseo are just two of the new dining concepts coming to Downtown Disney in the near future. Additionally, Disneyland Resort's announcement hinted at plans for the recently shuttered Tortilla Jo's. A steakhouse restaurant and an adjacent barbecue eatery are in the works for the former Mexican restaurant that closed its doors on March 31, after 20 years of operation at the Downtown Disney District.

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