

Making sure every breed has its day

The nonprofit OC Pom Rescue celebrates its five-year anniversary today with a carnival-themed adoption event in Anaheim.

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

Karley List, has yet to “foster fail,” a difficult feat considering the type of dog she fosters are the tiny, adorable Pomeranian breed.

Temporarily taking in a pet and accidentally falling in love with it is a common occurrence, but List’s goal as a founding board member and director of marketing at OC Pom Rescue is to help each Pomeranian find its forever home. “They just need your love,” said List.

Based in Huntington Beach, OC Pom Rescue focuses specifically on rescuing Pomeranians. List’s mother, Jasmine List, founded the nonprofit in 2020, with the goal of making the adoption process enjoyable and accessible while educating pet owners on responsible dog ownership and the Pomeranian breed. “In our first year, we adopted out 212 dogs,”



Courtesy of OC Pom Rescue

See *Breed*, page A2 **KARLEY LIST**, right, of OC Pom Rescue joins fellow Pomeranian enthusiast Snehal Chitalia, a marketing volunteer for the nonprofit.



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Pro-Palestinian student group stripped of award

Chapman University President Daniele Struppa sends campus-wide email condemning Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Award given to Students for Justice in Palestine last month.

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

A pro-Palestinian student group that organized a Gaza solidarity encampment at Chapman University last year faced criticism from administration after being honored with an award.

Chapman University President Daniele Struppa took the rare step of sending a campus-wide email the day after Students for Justice in Palestine was recognized during the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Awards on Jan. 21.

“There is a significant distinction between a significant distinction between fostering free speech and bestowing an award,” he wrote. “I want to make it crystal clear that the award does not represent the official position of Chapman University.”

Struppa ended his email with an apology to Jewish students and all offended by Students for Justice in Palestine’s award, which has since been rescinded.

“We’re not surprised [Struppa] sent out a statement, but there

See *Award*, page A9



Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

THE ENTRANCE to Fairview Park from Placentia Boulevard in Costa Mesa. The city is beginning to roll out its master plan for the 200-acre park, after several years of study and analysis of its ecological resources.

Officials wrestle with competing views, uses in Fairview Park plan

Costa Mesa leaders consider how hobbyist uses might coexist with environmental, cultural preservation efforts.

BY SARA CARDINE

On a sprawling landscape east of the Santa Ana River, Costa Mesa’s Fairview Park encompasses numerous habitat ecosystems, from wetlands and riparian grasslands to coastal sage scrub areas and vernal pools in which dormant life awakens with adequate rainfall.

Yet despite that vastness, city leaders undergoing a master plan process for the 200-acre park are finding the visions for and uses of the space present a crowded playing field of competing and conflicting interests.



A FAMILY WALK a path toward the footbridge in Fairview Park.

Does a park belong to the people who recreate there or the tribal cultures whose ancestors for centuries called it home? Does it belong to the biodiverse

species documented there and their caretakers, or should it be subject to the shifting priorities

See *Park*, page A2

ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



Brian Newell

‘SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE’ ARRIVES AT FULLERTON’S MAVERICK THEATER IN TIME FOR VALENTINE’S DAY PAGE A7

O.C. SUPERVISORS TIGHTEN GRIP ON PUBLIC CONTRACTS FOLLOWING BRIBERY SCANDAL PAGE A4

Surfing instructor sues Newport Beach, citing 'monopoly'

Federal lawsuit says city's policies stifle fair competition in denying majority of license applications.

BY ERIC LICAS

A former Navy diver who has taught thousands of clients to surf despite not having a business license to do so in Newport Beach accused the city of promoting a monopoly in a federal lawsuit filed Tuesday.

Since 2012, Newport Beach's municipal code has required surf and stand up paddle board instructors to obtain written permission from the city's Recreation and Senior Services Department in order to hold classes at a park, beach or other public facility. This is to make sure that teachers offering their services to the public are insured, properly qualified and have clean backgrounds, city officials said in a statement.

"The city takes seriously its responsibility to assess and investigate those who are teaching courses to residents and visitors under the city's recreational programs," Newport Beach spokesman John Pope wrote to the Daily Pilot in an email. "Additionally, by enforcing provisions of the Municipal Code, the city governs how public resources (in this case, public beaches) are used by pri-



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

JASON MURCHISON has filed a federal lawsuit challenging a Newport Beach policy that inhibits paid surfing lessons at public beaches. He stands at Blackies Beach near the Newport Pier on Thursday.

vate companies for the benefit of the public."

The suit was filed in the U.S. District Court, Central Court, by Pacific Legal Foundation attorneys on behalf of Jason Murchison, who advertises his services under the business name Learn to Surf - Southern California.

Murchison lived in Newport Beach before moving to Huntington Beach in 2018. He has been surfing since childhood, according to the lawsuit.

He is CPR certified and had passed Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL training before going on to become a diver in the Navy. He contracts about eight other instructors he has personally trained.

"I've never found another surf instructor to even have that kind of background," Murchison told the Daily Pilot during an interview near Blackies on Thursday. "Most of the surf instructors here ... are hiring high school kids. They're seasonal part-time workers. How is a 16-year-old going to have the training that I have?"

Murchison added that he maintains a \$1-million insurance policy in case any unexpected injury or issue occurs during his classes. He has been teaching since about 2014, and, he said, so far none of his students have had any problems.

He has applied for a li-

See *Sues*, page A10



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

INFORMATIONAL SIGNS at Costa Mesa's Fairview Park point out the area's rich ecological and cultural treasures and recent preservation efforts.

PARK

Continued from page A1

of the leaders of its city of ownership?

Such questions came to a head in a special meeting Tuesday, where officials lifted the lid on years of planning and analysis that have continued at the site, despite a recent shift in parks department heads and Fairview Park administrators.

Consultant representatives from MIG, Inc., overseeing the master plan process, along with restoration ecologist Travis Brooks of Land IQ and biologist Robb Hamilton, who participated in Fairview's first master plan in 1998, provided an overview of the park's many resources.

Some 220 different types of birds have been spotted living, nesting or resting in Fairview Park, a biodiver-

sity hot spot that plays host to 197 varieties of plants, including 10 rare species, according to Brooks.

"There are many, many plants and animals that occur here, and that is not because it has open space, but because it has the diversity of habitat types and vegetation communities that provide a home for all these different species," Brooks said Tuesday.

"Some of these are so special or have been so impacted by urbanization that people have gone to the effort of putting them under some kind of conservation status under the state or federal level," Brooks said.

A rare complex of vernal pools, which spring to life during sustained periods of rain, provide home to federally protected fairy shrimp, who serve as a food source to multiple migrating birds and a food

chain of critters.

Artifacts from indigenous tribes, whose presence dates back to at least 1500 B.C., are still preserved in Fairview's soil, and the space is regarded as a sacred home to the Tongva and the Acjachemen tribes and their descendants.

But for all the rich ecological and archaeological activity recorded at the Costa Mesa site, Fairview is just as popular among current human users, serving not only recreationalists but model train and aircraft enthusiasts who've enjoyed the property for decades under historic city-approved use agreements.

Members of model aircraft hobbyist group the Harbor Soaring Society have flown remote-control planes and gliders on Fairview's environmen-

See *Park*, page A10



UCI Health Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center & Ambulatory Care

UCI Health

Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center



BREED

Continued from page A1

said List. "That doesn't even account for the hospice dogs we took in. There was such a great demand for resources and help taking care of dogs."

List has her own pet Pomeranians, River and Lennon, who were fostered in other homes, and she has always been a fan of the breed. Named for the region of Northern Europe where they are thought to have originated, the toy dog breed has distinct characteristics and needs that List said the team at OC Pom Rescue specializes in.

"We know Poms so well and we are Pom owners," List said. "We know the specific type of ailments and problems that are found with Pomeranians. We know their personalities and we know how to train them."

Pomeranians descend from the German Spitz and range in size from 3 to 7 pounds with fluffy fur and plumed tails. Historically, the breed was popular with royals, particularly Queen Victoria. Pomeranians are also more susceptible to ailments like tracheal collapse and seizures.

Armed with this knowledge, List said they are sure to monitor those sensitive areas as soon as they get a new rescue.

"You need to be sure to check out their lungs, their hearts and their tracheas because those are the most common areas where Pomeranians have issues," said List.

Despite such challenges, Pomeranians are also known for their playful and affectionate personalities and are regarded for their intelligence. They are a popular choice for pet owners, but sometimes circumstances change and owners are no longer able to properly care for their pets. OC Pom Rescue takes in dogs that are suffering from neglect, abandonment and even abuse.

In the years since the organization began, it has handled two hoarding situations, including one in which 56 dogs were surrendered that the rescue team

"We know Poms so well and we are Pom owners. We know the specific type of ailments and problems that are found with Pomeranians. We know their personalities and we know how to train them."

— **Karley List**
founding board member and director of marketing at OC Pom Rescue

dubbed the road-trip pack.

"We spent over \$50,000 on those dogs because every single one of them needed vaccines, microchips. They all needed dental work," said List.

At one point she had 12 dogs in her home herself, but helping the pups find their forever home made it worth it.

"The most rewarding thing is now I have all these friends and family members that have these little dogs that I saw in the most vulnerable and challenging part of their life and now they are in the best part of their life."

OC Pom Rescue celebrates its five-year anniversary today with a carnival-themed adoption and fundraising event at Golden Road Brewing in Anaheim. From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. guests can enjoy face painting, pet portraits, raffle baskets and a food fair from Just Food for Dogs, a fresh dog food brand. There will also be plenty of adoptable Pomeranians.

"All of our beautiful Pomeranians will be there, and it is a chance for everyone to come meet our poms," said List.

The event is designed to raise funds to help OC Pom Rescue continue its important work and as an outreach effort to the community.

"A big challenge for us on a day-to-day basis is having a



Courtesy of OC Pom Rescue

OC POM RESCUE'S leadership team, from left, Karley, Jasmine, Jia and Adriana.

regular foster group," said List. While the rescue has roughly 20 homes in its current network, sometimes foster families go on vacation or need a two-week break between fosters.

"Our need for fosters never falls," said List. Eventually, List said, OC Pom

Rescue would like to operate a brick-and-mortar facility that would allow the organization to take in more dogs and better care for the ones they get. For now, she said the team will continue to advocate for the responsible ownership of poms.

"We are so passionate about

what we do," said List. "We go above and beyond for our dogs."

For more information on adopting or becoming a foster visit ocpomrescue.com.

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O.C. Supervisors tighten grip on public contracts after bribery scandal

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

The Orange County Board of Supervisors moved to bring all purchasing agents under the chief executive's office in the wake of former Supervisor Andrew Do's bribery conviction last year.

Supervisor Janet Nguyen, who was elected after Do's resignation from the board, alluded to her predecessor in supporting the move as one that could curb corruption and improve efficiency.

"We know why we are here today," Nguyen said. "As we move forward, we're identifying — from this board and from the CEO's office — best practices to prevent any future corruptions or any future manipulation of a board member or county staff."

In October, Do pleaded guilty to steering more than \$10 million in federal pandemic relief funds for personal gain through a nonprofit connected to his daughter. He admitted to receiving more than \$550,000 in bribes from money approved to provide pandemic meals to the elderly.

Supervisors ordered an external audit of select public contracts in the aftermath.

Putting the county's 189 purchasing agents under one umbrella instead of them being spread out over several departments is seen as a means of tightening its grip over public contracts, including monitoring contract compliance — all with improved efficiency.

The board delegates the authority to procure goods and services to the county's procurement officer.

But a supplemental agenda noted that County



Allen J. Schaben | Los Angeles Times

SUPERVISORS LOOK to improve monitoring of public contracts after Andrew Do's conviction on bribery charges.

Procurement Officer Maria Argusa "lacks supervisory authority over staff which creates operational challenges."

The approved revamp was overshadowed by confusion about President Donald Trump's executive order freezing federal funds and how it could impact the county.

But during the discussion over the midyear budget report, supervisors still managed to signal support for reorganizing the county's procurement process.

"That's warranted," said Supervisor Vicente Sarmiento. "That's a good step, given where we've been."

Centralizing purchasing agents under the chief executive's office will take a phased approach over 12 months starting on Feb. 7.

It comes after a Jan. 3 memo from interim chief executive Michelle Aguirre warned department heads to freeze hiring and tighten spending in anticipation of a possible budget shortfall.

Supervisor Katrina Foley had clarifying questions for

Aguirre about the restructuring.

"We have different positions that have been in different departments that are now going to be centralized," she said. "I just want to make sure we're not going to be eliminating those positions. What happens to those individuals?"

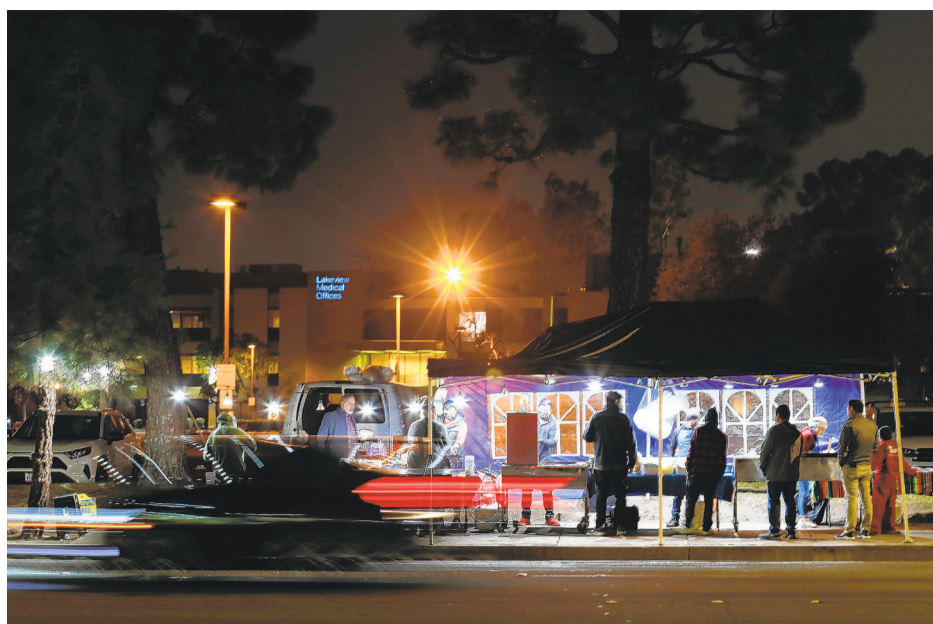
Aguirre mentioned that centralizing has been a work in progress between her and Argusa for the past three years.

"It'll be a phase-in approach where the positions will move from the department budget to the CEO's budget," she added. "The individual employees themselves, they stay put. They'll stay at the department that they are currently supporting."

Aguirre also noted that there would be "minimal" to "no impact" for the current roster of purchasing agents.

Supervisors unanimously approved the adjustment.

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Robert Gauthier | Los Angeles Times

A TACO STAND in Anaheim serves customers. Buena Park has followed Anaheim's lead on enforcement against street food vendors.

2 Orange County cities beef up street food enforcement

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

Two Orange County cities took additional measures to strengthen enforcement efforts against street food vendors.

On Tuesday, the Buena Park City Council voted to give code enforcement officers the ability to impound street food vending equipment.

The vote came at the same time that the Anaheim City Council approved two \$250,000 contracts for third-party consultants that will, in a small part, assist its code officers with cracking down on taco stands, fruit carts and other vendors that set up on sidewalks without required permits.

Buena Park originally took limited measures in 2021 to ban street food vending in areas around Knott's Berry Farm and the city's auto center, two years after the California Safe Sidewalk Vending Act became state law.

But a pair of study sessions last year claimed that

street food vendors continued to set up on sidewalks throughout the city — and that flies and maggots were even found in the meat of one street taco stand.

Former City Councilman Jose Trinidad Castañeda balked at the notion while wanting to keep the 2021 laws in place.

"You're not seeing maggots on all the tacos from every street vendor in the city," he said during the Feb. 27 meeting. "Let's be a little bit real here."

A majority of council members, though, directed city staff to explore granting code enforcement with impounding authority, which came back on Tuesday for discussion.

Matt Foulkes, the city's community and economic development director, noted that one part-time code officer is currently tasked with street vending enforcement.

Orange County Health Care Agency officers, who have impound authorities, have teamed with Buena Park for enforcement ef-

orts but have been limited to one to three actions per month, according to the city.

A change in city law will give code enforcement the power to confiscate tents, tables and grilling equipment for 90 days, while also dumping food.

The approach takes a page out of Anaheim's playbook.

"What Anaheim was experiencing was very similar to us, but of course, on a larger scale," Foulkes said.

"This is a tool in our toolbox," he later added. "But in cases where we have repeated offenders ... this impoundment would allow us to, ultimately, take their equipment, which we have found to be the most effective method."

City staff estimated that up to as many as a dozen street vendors operate in Buena Park on any given weekday. During Halloween Haunt season at Knott's Berry Farm, that number balloons up to 40.

See *Street*, page A10



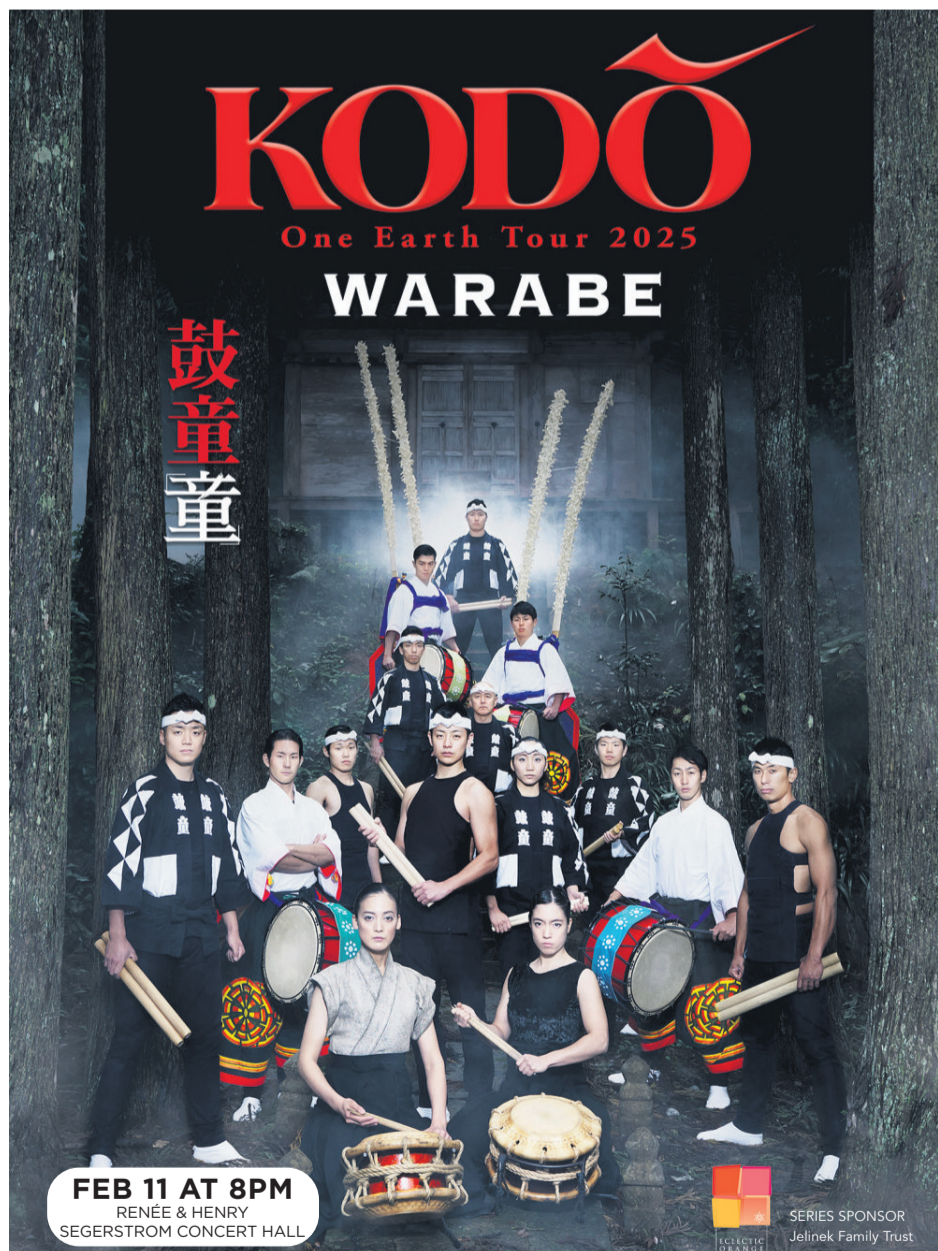
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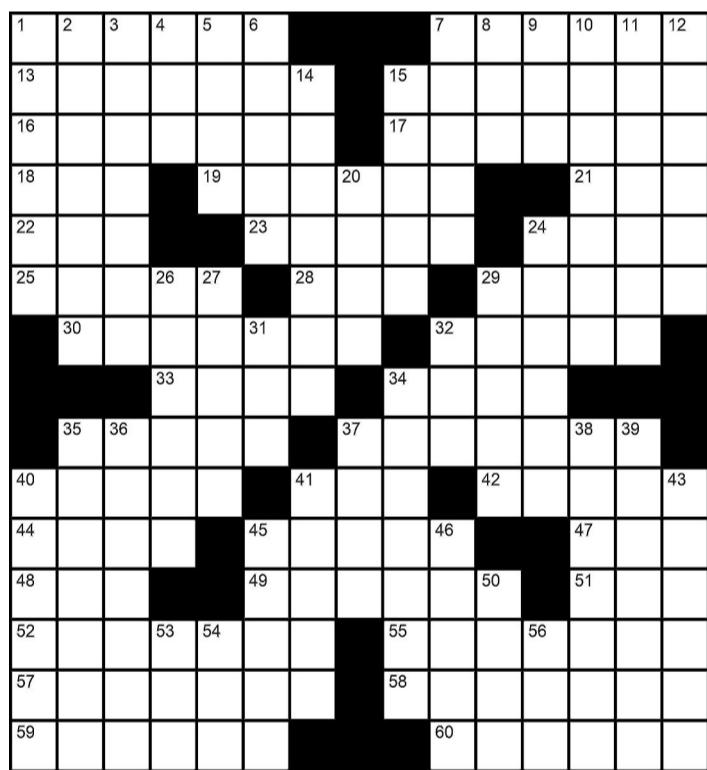
All dates, times, artists, programs, and prices are subject to change.

THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Stella Zawistowski

ACROSS

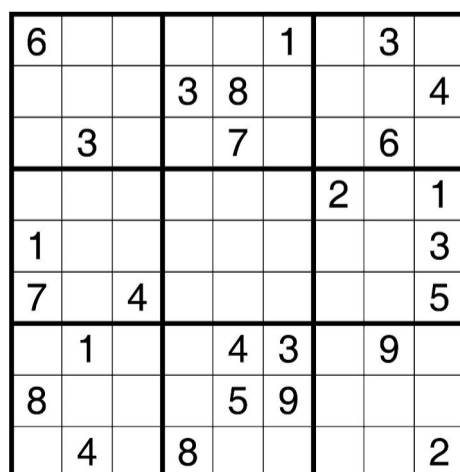
- 1 Caffeinated beverage
- 7 Rudely awakens
- 13 Doing very well: 3 wds.
- 15 London cafe: 2 wds.
- 16 Actress Griffith
- 17 Journalist Walters
- 18 Pro in an ambulance: Abbr.
- 19 "Delicious!": 2 wds.
- 21 Actor Danson
- 22 Sock part
- 23 _ port (dessert wine)
- 24 Great Plains people
- 25 Fragrant root used in perfumes
- 28 Casual top
- 29 Music staff symbols
- 30 Broke free
- 32 Docking area
- 33 Actress Falco
- 34 _ your appetite
- 35 Symbol of Canada
- 37 Came to a party uninvited
- 40 Cabbage type
- 41 Feathery accessory
- 42 Pre-finals round
- 44 Voyage
- 45 Mouse catchers
- 47 Group with a "tour": Abbr.
- 48 Greek vowel
- 49 Productivity
- 51 Edge of a glass
- 52 Pathetic
- 55 Lifesaving anti-allergy devices
- 57 Dig up
- 58 Has as a tenant: 2 wds.



SUDOKU

By the Mephram Group

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



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

- 59 Kids' adhesives
- 60 Motive
- DOWN**
- 1 Attend: 2 wds.
- 2 Another: 2 wds.
- 3 Hesitates
- 4 Lobster _ diavolo
- 5 Very long periods
- 6 "Middlemarch" author
- 7 Good to go
- 8 Rowing tool
- 9 Computer port: Abbr.
- 10 Smash to bits
- 11 Ran away: 2 wds.
- 12 Black card suit
- 14 Beneficiary
- 15 Steak type

- 20 Needed to repay
- 24 Kansas city
- 26 Summer treat: 2 wds.
- 27 Unfortunately
- 29 Game with pawns and queens
- 31 Whole pizza
- 32 "Huh?"
- 34 Candy bar packaging
- 35 Hingis of tennis
- 36 Pilots a plane
- 37 Winter outerwear
- 38 Catherine the Great, e.g.
- 39 Investigate: 2 wds.
- 40 Rise to the occasion: 2 wds.
- 41 Painter's tool
- 43 _ and Delilah
- 45 Hypes up
- 46 Apartment complex manager
- 50 Fork part
- 53 Consume
- 54 Smelted material
- 56 School support group: Abbr.

Tribune Media Services

Contemporary art served sunny side up in Irvine

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

At the Great Park Gallery in Irvine, visitors have the chance to walk on eggshells.

The surface in question is part of an installation from Seattle-based artist Eriko Kobayashi called "Sunny Side Up." Two sculptures made of glass eggs, sunny side up, float in front of an orange and blue sky painted on the wall. Below, glass-blown "eggplants," green stems with white eggs perched on top like a tulip bulb, sprout from the eggshell-covered ground.

The work is featured in the gallery's latest exhibit, "More Than You Can Chew."

"It is designed for the audience to walk through the eggshells," said Adam Sabolick, arts program coordinator for the city of Irvine. "It is a very specific sensation."

"More Than You Can Chew," on view through April 20, showcases contemporary artworks that use food as a way to examine culture and politics. Co-curated by Sabolick with Andrea Chavez, the group exhibition features 17 artists from around the world who use a multitude of techniques to express their viewpoints.

For Kobayashi's meditation on eggs, she worked with a bakery to collect the shells and cleaned them by hand for the installation.

"For me, a sunny-side-up egg is an icon that celebrates the morning," Kobayashi's artist statement reads. "Each morning, when I crack an egg and drop it into a hot pan, a unique shape emerges in white with a sizzling sound. Every day, the egg white appears to repeat itself, yet it never takes the same shape. To me, it seems like a cloud, the shape of the clouds in the sky is never the same."

The delicate shells crumble beneath the feet of



Courtesy of the Great Park Gallery

CRUSHED EGGSHHELLS feature in Eriko Kobayashi's "Sunny Side Up" installation.

gallery visitors with a satisfying crunch. The details of the work, like a glass raw egg sliding through the shells, are a testimony to Kobayashi's ability as an artist.

"There is this lightheartedness to the work but also the skill set of producing glass work like this is somebody who is clearly well experienced," said Sabolick.

Other exhibiting artists include Paola de la Calle, Edward Givis, Jody Joyner, Amy S. Kauffman, Alicja Kozłowska, Thomas Linder, Dustin Metz, Baby Mueller, Andrew Orloski, Kristopher Raos, Colin Roberts, Luke Rogers, Kim Rugg, Henrik Munk Soerensen, Michael The Khoi Tran and Sarah Anne Ward, each using different media and processes.

"With this exhibition, there are a lot of different forms of painting represented and forms of sculpture represented," said Sabolick.

Colin Roberts, a Los Angeles-based artist, commissioned a sculpture spe-

cifically for the show, "Big Banana," a large-scale realistic sculpture of the ripe fruit, complete with spotting.

"It is kind of a reflection on the process of aging and the psychology of going through life experiencing things that kind of leave a mark on you," said Sabolick.

Nearby, sculptures of a smaller scale from Alicja Kozłowska include a can of Heinz baked beans, bottles of Coca-Cola and a can of sardines that look familiar. But upon closer examination, it becomes clear the unassuming objects are soft sculptures fashioned from art quilt, a creative textile, and finished with embroidery to appear realistic. A cluster of figs made of deep purple patterned fabrics and adorned with glass beads and Lego pieces for the seeds, stems and flesh, sparkle like freshly cut fruit.

The skills of the culinary and fine arts worlds collide in the work of Henrik Munk Soerensen, whose pieces are carved from wood using

only hand tools.

"What is also important to note about Henrik's work is he studied gastronomy, so he is a chef in his own right and has this insane understanding of food through a culture lens, and a chemical lens and dietary lens," said Sabolick.

After studying food, Soerensen earned his master of fine arts, and Sabolick said it is easy to see the artist's eclectic background present in the work.

A block of wood is chipped away at, peeled almost, to reveal a ceramic dish filled with the messy remnants of a lasagna dinner. The peaks and valleys of the leftovers reveal stratification not unlike a raised-relief map. The detailed painting on the wood emulates the look of a ceramic baking dish complete with a poppy design underneath the slick of red-orange grease.

"He uses the oil paint in so many different ways. The flowers that are a decorative part of the dish are oil painted, and all of the parts



Courtesy of the Great Park Gallery

"FIGS?" BY Alicja Kozłowska, made from art quilt and finished with embroidery and glass beads.



"PIE SLICE," oil stick on linen, 2024, by Edward Givis.

Courtesy of Edward Givis

that represent the juices of the dish are also oil painted," said Sabolick.

Paintings from Orange County-based artist Edward Givis focus on the beauty of everyday objects and fleeting moments so often overlooked: a perfect slice of cherry pie, for instance.

"He calls his work 'the most beautifully generic moment,'" said Sabolick. "You can take something as simple as a slice of pie or strawberry cake and elevate it through the process of how it is painted and the attention to detail you put into the colors describing a shadow."

The paintings are comforting in their familiarity, and up close the deep precision used to blend together the colors that make up a graham cracker crust deserve the viewer's admiration.

Despite the rain on opening day, Jan. 26, nearly 300 visitors showed up for the

exhibition, a testament Sabolick said, to local interest in food as well as a connection to art.

"Everybody has different taste and everybody wants something different out of art, and I like being able to tell a story through a range of approaches," he said.

In conjunction with the exhibition, the Great Park is hosting art activities, including DIY button-making on Feb. 1 and an Origami for Breakfast event on April 19, in which visitors can learn to fold a paper breakfast. Live Jazz is scheduled for the Palm Court on Feb. 14, March 15 and April 19.

The Great Park Gallery is located at 8000 Great Park Blvd. in Irvine, and admission is free. For more details on art activities and hours of operation, visit cityofirvine.org.

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Caroline Shaw Artistic Director
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Jake Tribus dancer, Laguna Dance Festival

The opening night concert features a captivating performance by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Caroline Shaw, joined by musical friends. Shaw will showcase her genre-blending works, from lush choral pieces to innovative chamber music. Don't miss this stunning evening of music and artistry.

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Caroline Shaw Artistic Director
Sō Percussion
Ringdown
Mark DeChiazza staging/design

The evening-length performance is a band-generated theatrical experience! The musicians gradually place lights and reveal novel instruments as the show builds from a lone spotlight on Shaw singing "I'll Fly Away" to the ecstatic full ensemble performing thrilling up-tempo songs like "Sing On" and "To the Sky," as films by Sō Percussion member Jason Treuting splash across canvases throughout the stage. This production melds DIY design with dazzling original songs, to sensational effect.

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isn't like it
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There's a llama in my laundry room. And why not?

Nine months into my first grandparent gig, I'm still in that phase when I'm constantly amazed by the awesomeness of the whole deal, which apparently includes stuffed animals turning up in unexpected places. A giant plush llama standing sentry



world. As I gaze at my granddaughter asleep in my arms or watch her sweet face light up in smiles my heart fills to bursting with pure, perfect love.

Yet I am also keenly aware that the very notion of grandparenthood — how we should or should not contribute to our grandchildren's upbringing, and who even qualifies as a grandparent — is evolving. The stereotype of gray-haired old folks sitting on a porch swing dispensing bromides is outdated and possibly never resembled reality anyway.

Either way, we are not our grandparents' grandparents.

For one, today's grandparents tend to consider themselves more youthful. Not younger, mind you, because the average age of first-time grandparents has grown steadily older, but more active. All those Pilates classes and gym workouts are not for nothing.

Modern grand-folks also resist fitting into a particular mold. As attitudes about what constitutes a family evolve and society becomes more open to varying lifestyles, ideas about what a grandparent should look or act like are changing too. Grandma or Grandpa might be single or gay, multiracial or multicultural. Modern life is complex; the expanding vision of today's grandparent reflects that.

While I negotiate my

See *Apodaca*, page A9

atop the washing machine should be no surprise.

As a recently initiated member of one of the largest clubs on Earth, I am still learning and figuring out how I fit in amid the toys, sleeping and eating regimen, and abundant playtime. So far I can state this much with absolute certainty: Being a grandparent is every bit as rewarding and life-altering as I was led to believe.

My aging back hurts from all the lifting, bouncing and crawling on all fours, but I don't mind. I wouldn't relinquish my membership card for the

MAILBAG



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

RESERVE WATCH team member Martin Hardlund watches a group of white pelicans at the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve.

Reserve Watch at wetlands is
an encouraging development

It was heartening to read about the success that the Reserve Watch program is achieving (Reserve Watch volunteers provide education at Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve, Daily Pilot, Jan. 25).

For more than 30 years the differences between the Amigos de Bolsa Chica, Bolsa Chica Conservancy and the Bolsa Chica Land Trust have been highlighted instead of the many contributions each group has made to sustaining the wetlands and educating the public. Hopefully this new template can focus our city council on initiating similar endeavors. Local, face-to-face efforts build community.

Thank you, Reserve Watch.

Jerry Donohue
Huntington Beach

H.B. studies
library initiatives

Regarding the Daily Pilot article by Matt Szabo, "Huntington Beach City Council orders studies on library initiatives," Jan. 23: Residents better get ready for the delays, lies, and intimidation by the City Council members to paint the picture that this effort was run by a bunch of deviants.

I am actually involved in the campaign, run by grassroots folks made up of homeowners, renters, working people and a lot of retirees.

What this team of volunteers have in common is that we care deeply about keeping the library operations public, having trained public employee librarians

HOW TO GET PUBLISHED

Send an email to erik.haugli@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.

manage the operations that safeguards the collection against censorship and reflect the needs of the community. The current management of the library allows parents to parent, and the community to express their recommendations for additions or deletions to the collection.

As I write this afternoon, Jan. 24, residents received an "Urgent Notification" from surfcity-hb.org with questions regarding the two library petitions. A few concerning issues about this email are:

1. There is no attribution as to who authored these questions.
2. There will be no verification that a person who replies actually signed the petitions.
3. There is no way to verify that their signature was accepted as far as the certified signatures.

Is it possible that a volunteer signature gatherer misspoke, of course. Was it intentional? No. Was it condoned by the committee? No. Was it systemic to the campaign? No.

Volunteers collected about 17,000 signatures on both petitions from May to November 2024. Signers had every opportunity to read the petitions including a summary statement, go home and read them and

come back to the many sites offered throughout the city to sign them. If they signed a petition inadvertently, the campaign instructed them on how to rescind their signature by contacting the H.B. City Clerk's offices to withdraw their signatures.

Efforts of government overreach by this council into the lives of people who use the library is not something Huntington Beach citizens value.

Pat Goodman
Huntington Beach

The day the article about the library petitions was published, a city email was sent questioning residents about the information they were given when signing the petitions. It seems to me our Council is doing everything in its power to question the legality of the petitions and cast doubt on them.

Banning books? Our council says restricting book access and having a review committee is not banning books. However, if the politically appointed book review committee is formed, they will have the ability to refuse to order books requested by the librarians or from being reordered if damaged or lost, should the committee personally not like the

books. They would be *banning* these books from being in the library. It would not be a parent's choice. It would be the politically appointed committee's choice.

Privatization? Councilman Casey McKeon stated the point was moot as Library Systems & Services pulled its bid. If that is the case, why not accept the petition as written? All this petition does is require resident approval before outsourcing library management can happen. Unless council is hoping the petition fails and then there will be nothing to stop LS&S from signing a contract with them.

With the city email questioning the petitions, it is clear the council will not be accepting them as written. In 2023, charges were made by our former mayor that the library children's department was filled with pornographic and obscene books. Librarians were ordered to move scores of children's books to the "restricted book section." As of December 2024, only seven titles remain. They deal with puberty and sex education. One had been in the children's library for 30 years before it was moved. The other books have all been put back in their rightful sections.

All this fuss. All this drama. All because of seven books our council doesn't like.

Barbara Richardson
Huntington Beach

The recent actions of our City Council show a blatant disregard for the voices of

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Benjamin Brown, *Autumn Glory*, circa 1920. Oil on canvas, 28 x 36 1/8 in. UC Irvine Jack and Shanaz Langson Institute and Museum of California Art. Gift of The Irvine Museum.

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'Love' staged in time for Valentine's Day

Real-life couple play leads in adaptation of 'Shakespeare in Love' at Maverick Theater in Fullerton.

BY JESSICA PERALTA

Local actors Samantha Green and Justyn Franco Gonzalez are co-starring in Maverick Theater's upcoming stage production of the Academy Award-winning 1998 romantic-comedy "Shakespeare in Love."

Gonzalez plays a young William Shakespeare and Green plays Viola De Lesseps — the young Bard's love interest.

Gonzalez and Green, who have been a couple for seven years this March, first met in an acting class while attending Fullerton College. Though it wasn't their plan to star in a romantic comedy opposite each other during the Valentine's season, they're happy with the result.

"These characters, Viola and Will, fall in love and have this whirlwind romance in the length of time it takes to rehearse a show and put it up onstage," Gonzalez said. "So for us to have that deep intimacy with each other going into this, I feel that we're ahead of the game. We don't need to spend the time to create natural intimacy onstage because it is natural. As far as falling in love goes, every year I fall in love with Samantha again, so Will's love for Viola is as deep as my love for Sam."

Maverick Theater founder/co-owner and director Brian Newell said he first saw the stage adaptation of "Shakespeare in Love" while on a family vacation in London in 2015. He knew he wanted to produce it on his stage, but it took some time for all the pieces to come together. This is the Fullerton theater's first time presenting the production. It opens Feb. 7 and runs through



Brian Newell

TRISTAN LUND, from left, as Peter, Samantha Green as Viola (masquerading as Thomas Kent), Samuel Hanke as Nol and Justyn Gonzalez as Will Shakespeare in "Shakespeare in Love" at the Maverick Theater in Fullerton.

March 16.

"It's been a long time coming, 10 years ... so it's overdue for the Maverick stage," Newell said.

The production will take place in the black box theater of the two housed inside the Maverick because of its capacity to accommodate a two-story set for the balcony scene in "Romeo and Juliet," the play performed within the play.

The story line isn't without its comedic twists and mischief. In fact, Viola

pretends to be a male actor, Thomas Kent, in order to perform in Shakespeare's play.

"I don't consider Thomas Kent to be a character. Thomas Kent is a name and a mustache," Green said. "Viola longs to be an actor but lives in a time when only men were afforded the opportunity. Most of the time when Viola is in disguise she is performing as Romeo. So the way I see it, the two characters I play in this

show are Viola, and then Romeo in the play within the play. Except when I am playing Viola performing in 'Romeo and Juliet,' I am always only Viola, just with a mustache. I actually play another character but I won't tell you which. You have to watch and find out."

Gonzalez said his inspiration for performing Shakespeare, played by Joseph Fiennes in the film, comes from connecting with the playwright as an

artist.

"Shakespeare is this larger-than-life figure, and his work is still being performed today because of its profundity," Gonzalez said. "He was able to create stories that captured the human condition — our desire for love, revenge, servitude, vengeance, power and our political and social ambitions — which are still very relevant today. All that being said, he was a man. He was a writer trying to achieve some worthy

pages so that he might live well and continue his life in the theater. That is what inspires me. He was an artist trying to make a living and make art that fulfilled his creative desires. From that place, he is much more accessible and easier to connect to."

Green, who considers "Shakespeare in Love" one of her favorite films, said she loves "anytime we speak Shakespeare's

See **Love**, page A9

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Chapman lifts next generation of entrepreneurs

BY MATT SZABO

The Leatherby Center for Entrepreneurship and Business Ethics, located near the southwest corner of Chapman University's campus, looks like an old red warehouse.

That's exactly what it is, explained Leatherby Center director Cynthia West, but orange is another very relevant color in the 7,000-square-foot space.

This makes sense once one learns that Charles Chapman, the school's namesake and the first mayor of the city of Fullerton, was an innovator in the citrus industry in the early 1900s.

"He was a citrus entrepreneur," said West, fully aware that the university also resides in the city of Orange. "This is all a citrus packing district. We've got a lot of orange themes here."

Chapman would appreciate the entrepreneurial spirit that appears to be bubbling over at the Leatherby Center. It was full of students and community members even on Wednesday, days before the spring semester starts.

"This is an awesome place for us entrepreneurs from Orange County," said Irvine resident Oscar Garcia, who created an app called Need 2 Say designed to remove language barriers in the construction industry. "We've been coming here for more than a month now. They give us this office space that we badly need that we need to grow and scale our business. Also, they have a lot of events, a lot of support."

The center, part of Chapman's Argyros College of Business and Economics, got some exciting news recently as it was renewed for a second round of funding from the California Office of the Small Business Advocate.

The \$1-million grant will



Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

ENTREPRENEURS KAJAL and Payal Vitha, from left, stand in the Leatherby Center for Entrepreneurship and Business Ethics.

be awarded over four years through the Accelerate California: Inclusive Innovation Hubs program. The goal is to enable the center to continue to support entrepreneurship as a path for economic empowerment in underserved communities.

As the only Inclusive Innovation Hub in Orange County, the Leatherby Center also received an additional \$500,000 innovation grant to be used as seed money for its startup clients.

"Anybody who's a client can vie for these dollars, anywhere from \$25,000 to \$100,000," West said. "Maybe you come from a poorer background and you don't have friends and family who can lend you \$10,000. These funds are designed to help you get to that next level."

Jen Chiou, an Irvine resident, said she will be applying for a part of the grant.

She is also part of a women's entrepreneur group that meets regularly at the Leatherby Center.

As a woman and an Asian American, Chiou faces both gender and race biases, said West, whose background was in technology startups before joining the Leatherby Center in 2023. Women only get 3% of all venture capital dollars, West said, and people of color receive less than 2%.

"It's a problem that everybody knows about in this little space of entrepreneurship, and it's something that this grant is designed to help fix," West said.

Chiou, who co-founded an online role-playing game for elementary- and middle-school students called Quest Craft with her 10-year-old son, completed a hyper-accelerated version of the Leatherby Center's startup incubator program last summer.



CHAPMAN STUDENTS

Jordan Allain, Landon Gregg and Sean Von Kaenel, from left, work during a meeting at the Leatherby Center.

said. "So why would we want to impair the startups by doing that? Let's give the founders as many as options as possible to grow, instead of handicapping them."

Payal and Kajal Vitha, sisters who co-founded the Sonu Company jewelry business, were at Chapman while they took the accelerator program on Fridays last year.

Payal, 30, is a Chapman alumna who majored in business and minored in entrepreneurship. She has found success in the industry with her younger sister Kajal, 27. Third-generation jewelers, they operate their engagement ring business out of the corner of their parents' shop in Artesia.

They made the engagement ring for Season 3 of the Netflix show "Indian Matching." The Vitha sisters are Indian Americans.

"We got connected with Kevin and we were able to get a feel for what it could offer us," said Payal Vitha, who lives in Orange. "We were already in business, so it was 'How do we grow, how do we scale, how do we pitch? How do we go and ask for money?' because that was something that we were not familiar with at all. If you've never had to raise money before, that entire process is very intimidating."

"It was great to have people to bounce those ideas off, or folks to vent to. Having that community of

other women founders has been really helpful."

The sisters recently branched out into fine jewelry more broadly and are now considering getting their own space.

West said Chapman currently has nearly 700 students who are minoring in entrepreneurship, and the program offers about 100 mentors. A Chapman Entrepreneurship Organization club, started by two students in September 2023, is up to about 130 members.

West said with a smile that the building is the coolest space on Chapman's campus, in her humble opinion.

"This was kind of a start-up when I got here, just because the pandemic had taken the wind out of the sails of a lot of things," she said. "We're getting some life back into the place."

The Leatherby Center for Entrepreneurship and Business Ethics is currently accepting rolling applications for the innovation grant seed funding, with the first round scheduled for March 30 and the second round of funding on June 30. Qualified startups that have participated in a Leatherby Center program are eligible to apply.

For eligibility details and an application form, write to entrepreneurs@chapman.edu.

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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.

PARK

Continued from page A2

tally sensitive west side since 1964, while the Orange County Model Engineers since 1989 have operated 5 miles of miniature train tracks on a 40-acre lot just across Placentia Avenue.

Environmentalists and hobbyists have clashed in recent years, with representatives from both sides clamoring for consideration in the emergent Fairview Park Master Plan.

Their viewpoints were refreshed Tuesday in nearly 50 public comments, primarily provided by members of the plane and train hobbyist groups, as well as from elementary school students to retirees and the environmentally focused nonprofit Fairview Park Alliance.

Hobbyists described their role in protecting the park and introducing its plant and animal life to residents and visitors alike.

"Newport has a Back Bay, Huntington has a beach, and we have a jewel of a nature park, so let's make sure it retains its natural beauty for our citizens to enjoy and recreate in for generations to come," said Orange County Model Engineers treasurer Hank Castignetti. "I love trains, yes, but

without native plants and animals we have nothing to show you from our trains but dirt, and you can see that in your own backyard."

Environmentalists said recreational use, particularly the operations of Harbor Soaring Society's, interrupts birds' flight path and threatens sensitive nearby vernal pool activity.

"I'm not against glider planes or flying but they shouldn't be happening in Fairview Park because they are destroying the habitat," said Fairview Park Alliance board member Kim Hendricks. "So, maybe you can just move them somewhere else."

Members of the model plane group countered that their meet-ups are places where people connect out of a passion for aviation, engineering and the natural environment, fostering new generations of interest in STEM-related endeavors.

"For the past 60 years, Harbor Soaring Society has called Fairview Park our home," said member John Rittenhouse. "If you don't have another generation of children who appreciate it, they will not protect it when their time comes."

Model flyers have been forced to curtail operations in recent years, limiting allowable aircraft to nonmotorized gliders and flying only on the first and third



ORANGE COUNTY
Model Engineers have offered free mini train rides in Fairview Park for more than three decades.

File Photo

Saturdays of each month.

Councilman Loren Gameros said Tuesday he favored a master plan that would allow current uses to continue, even if that required some kind of concessions or modifications.

"If we cannot come to that, we're going to be backed into a corner to make some very hard decisions, and I'm not going to just push the smallest dog off the cliff," he said. "So let's figure this out and work up a solution where everybody gets a little bit of what they want. I want everyone to be pissed off, that way no one feels cheated."

Tuesday's discussion was the first public unveiling of the Fairview Park Master Plan. In a second presenta-

tion that could take place sometime later this month, consultants will share their initial findings and recommendations ahead of submitting a draft of the plan to the council, which could happen as soon as May 31 and would kick off a long environmental review period.

After hearing nearly two hours of public testimony, council members affirmed their desire for a plan that preserved the park's cultural resources, while incorporating the goals of environmental stewards as well as hobbyist uses.

"I think there's definitely an opportunity for us to come together as a city and make it happen for HSS and the [Model Engi-

neers]," said new District 6 Councilman Jeff Pettis. "I also want to see us preserve the wildlife, the vernal pools and the ecosystem. I think we can do both."

Mayor Pro Tem Manuel Chavez said he was heartened to hear everyone speak about Fairview from a place of love.

"Fairview Park has needed to be defined for a long time — everyone's passionate responses today demonstrates the need for that," he said. "If all of us come forth in a common sense way, where we are trying to be collaborative and not confrontational, we can solve this problem."

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STREET

Continued from page A4

"I would like to see somewhat of a pathway for these people to conduct business legally," Councilman Carlos Franco said. "In addition, if there was no demand for it, then they wouldn't be here."

Council members approved the changes to the law in a 4-1 vote, with Franco being the lone vote against it. A second, unanimous vote set the impound fees at \$265.

Under the amended law, code enforcement can directly impound equipment if a street vendor appears to have abandoned it or if it poses an imminent safety

or environmental hazard. In most cases, a code officer will approach vendors and allow them to pack up their equipment within 30 minutes or risk impoundment.

Code officers will begin notifying street food vendors of the changes 30 days before they take effect.

Councilman Connor Traut voted in favor of the beefed up measures.

"We've kind of hit our limits," he said. "We need this extra stick. It's a necessary step and I think we should still work towards encouraging legal street vending and amending rules, because the demand is there for folks in our community."

It's a strategy that Ana-

heim added to on Tuesday when it contracted with two private companies for supplemental staff to help with an array of code enforcement tasks.

Before Anaheim, 4Leaf Inc. gained a \$600,000 contract with Fontana to assist code officers with street vendor crackdowns.

Where it concerns street food vending, 4Leaf's contract in Anaheim allows it to provide up to 15 staffers for enforcement efforts at large sporting events at Angel Stadium, Honda Center and the Anaheim Resort around Disneyland.

More staffers could be made available if multiple events occur on the same day.

The hiring of support staff comes after Angels Baseball President John Carpino railed against hot dog vendors setting up outside of Angel Stadium last season.

Carpino sounded the alarm about a guest getting "severely sick or even dying due to food poisoning" in an April email to city officials.

By June, Anaheim solicited bids for code enforcement support staff.

As an independent contractor, 4Leaf workers will have the same ability to "seize, transport and book" vendor equipment as city code officers.

The terms and services offered by the Willdan Engi-

neering contract are the same.

"Neither is being hired just for street vending," Mike Lyster, a city spokesman, added. "We've actually had tremendous success with street vending enforcement on our own. We still have issues at the stadium, at Honda Center and along Harbor Boulevard. These contracts will give us more flexibility."

Former Anaheim Mayor Curt Pringle lobbied city officials in December 2023 on Willdan's behalf, according to Anaheim's lobbyist registry.

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SUES

Continued from page A2

ence in Newport Beach on at least two occasions. He was told both attempts were denied because the city already has enough surf instructors, Murchison said. However, the still unlicensed teacher said he is constantly finding new clients, suggesting that there is a demand for more surf instructors.

About 13 others have applied for licenses to teach surfing in Newport Beach since 2012. Of those, three businesses have been approved, and two operate only during the summer months. Murchison and his Pacific Legal Foundation attorneys say that constitutes a monopoly.

"The city's monopoly and market power over surfing and SUP lessons offered in the city harms instructors like Mr. Murchison, as well as members of the public seeking to hire instructors," they allege in their suit.

Other coastal cities, like Huntington Beach, maintain similar ordinances that Murchison claims stifle competition among surf instructors. But he described Newport Beach as the most aggressive in enforcing those laws.

In 2016 the city cited and also sued Murchison for teaching classes. The resulting settlement included an order for Murchison to stop holding classes and has required him to pay the city about \$40,000 so far in penalties and legal fees.

"I'm doing everything, above and beyond I would argue, that these other permanent surf schools are doing too, Murchison said. "So that's just the guise, that it's public safety. It's really all about money."

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