

Daily Pilot & Times OC

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Don Leach | Staff Photographer

LAGUNA BEACH resident Holly Morrell's nonprofit Heartfelt Screenings is dedicated to saving lives from sudden cardiac arrest, through early detection, education and increased public awareness. Heartfelt has provided screenings to more than 55,000 student-athletes, children and adults.

On a Heartfelt mission

Holly Morrell is the mastermind behind a nonprofit that has provided thousands of cardiac screenings.

BY MATT SZABO

Steven "Scotty" Lang was just 16 years old when he collapsed and died at a football practice in the fall of 1999.

Lang was a junior at Fountain Valley High, and a lineman on the football team. At the time, the reason for his death was

considered unknown.

But the Morrell family, which has lost several members due to sudden cardiac arrest, had a good idea what had happened to Scotty. Although they were not related to him, Chuck Morrell, a former football player-turned-actor who lived across the street

from the high school at the time of the teen's death, phoned his daughter Holly.

Lang died on Nov. 15, 1999 — Holly Morrell's birthday. But that wasn't the only reason she felt called to action.

See *Heartfelt*, page A9

Funding ending for youth diversion program

The nonprofit serving 6 O.C. cities gives young first-time offenders of minor crimes an alternative to jail time.

BY ERIC LICAS


Grant funding for a program that serves as an alternative to incarceration for young first-time offenders of minor crimes in Costa Mesa, Irvine, Newport Beach, Westminster, Orange and La Habra ends Feb. 28.

A Youth Reinvestment Grant from the Board of State and Community Corrections had allowed the cities to contract with the nonprofit Waymakers for the past 3½ years. The organization runs initiatives to benefit victims of crimes and other campaigns in addition to youth diversion programs.

Costa Mesa Police Lt. Ed Everett said the "services Waymakers offer are evidence based, community based, trauma informed and culturally relevant."

The programs give kids and teens charged with misdemeanors like shoplifting, trespassing, vandalism, simple assault, theft or drug and alcohol use an opportu-

See *Program*, page A8



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Passion steers C.M. Ford dealership into 100th year

BY SARA CARDINE

Theodore Robins was working in a small auto repair shop on the Balboa Peninsula in 1923, when two men walked in and pitched him on a job opportunity.

Ford Motor Co. which had begun producing Model T vehicles for the American market some 15 years earlier, was seeking to expand by offering franchise agreements. The two entrepreneurs were looking to open a dealership and needed a mechanic.

Robins, who'd served as a pilot during World War I,

flew planes as a fire spotter up north and later transferred his skills with a wrench to the still-nascent automobile, seemed like a perfect candidate.

But he himself envisioned a different future.

"He packed up his shop, drove to L.A. and came back with the Ford franchise," grandson Dave recalled in a recent interview.

"Those gentlemen came back around and said, 'Hey, we understand you already got the franchise.' Grandpa's response was, 'If it was going to be a good deal for you, it's going to be a better deal for me.'"

Truer words had never been spoken. The franchise agreement was signed Feb. 7, 1923, and one week later, Robins sold his first Model T for \$637.10 — it would be the first deal brokered in a century of sales that would follow.

From that transaction Theodore Robins Ford grew by leaps and bounds, keeping pace with a national fascination with automobiles and the opportunities for expansion and adventure they afforded.

Robins moved the business in 1928 to a larger

See *Year*, page A4



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

JIM AND DAVID ROBINS, from left, celebrated the 100th anniversary of Theodore Robins Ford in Costa Mesa in a Feb. 7 celebration that included members of Ford Motor Co.



Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

GUESTS LINE up outside the Frida Cinema during the theater's ninth anniversary celebration on Tuesday, Feb. 21 in Santa Ana.

The Frida Cinema abides as it approaches its first decade

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

White Russian cocktails flowed and bathrobe-wearing moviegoers milled around the lobby of the Frida Cinema on Feb. 21 for a 7:30 p.m. showing of "The Big Lebowski." The themed movie party celebrated the theater's nine-year anniversary.

Located on 4th Street in Downtown Santa Ana, the Frida Cinema is Orange County's only 501(c)(3) nonprofit art house theater.

"Our mission is to enrich, connect and educate communities through the art of cinema," said Logan

Crow, executive director for the Frida Cinema. "We are basically a safe space and cultural center."

The Frida Cinema is a humble theater, with two screens and a small snack bar where popcorn and a soda are still priced under \$10. While it may not have the plush reclining seats found at some of Orange County's larger multiplex theaters, patrons say the Frida has something more.

"The movies that they play are classics that you can't see anywhere else," said Holly Marshall, standing in line with her friend Chris Ciscanada.

The Frida screens more

than two dozen curated films monthly, ranging from award-winning classics to audience-favorite cult films. On any given night, you might find a foreign film, an under-the-radar independent short or a buzz-generating analog horror film like 2022's "Skinamarink." Screening the Coen brothers' film about the Dude and his bowling buddies seeking compensation for a rug that really tied the room together from a bunch of nihilists is an example of the cult favorites with a fan base the theater is partial

See *Decade*, page A2

Laguna Beach set to manage South Laguna beaches

BY ANDREW TURNER

Laguna Beach will assume control of the beaches in South Laguna from the county of Orange on Wednesday, and city officials recently provided an update on the preparations and set some ground rules for the impending takeover.

The city plans to keep the hours of the newly acquired beaches consistent with the prior determinations of the county. Aliso, Camel Point, Laguna Royale, Table Rock and West Street beaches will be closed from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. nightly. Thousand Steps Beach will close an hour earlier, at 9 p.m.

Aside from Thousand Steps Beach, dogs will be allowed at all times, except during the summer. Dogs will be prohibited on those South Laguna beaches from June 15 to Sept. 10 between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.

With Aliso Beach coming under city control, the council opted to allow residents with shoppers parking permits to use both the coastal and inland lots. The parking lots at Aliso Beach total 290 spaces, 172 of which are on the coastal side of South Coast Highway.

The council appropriated \$108,000 from the South Laguna fund for the installation of six new pay stations and parking signage in the Aliso Beach parking area. Rates will be \$2.50 per hour and \$20 per day from Labor Day to late June. During the summer, the parking cost will be \$3 per hour and \$24 for the day.

"I think we initiated this over two years ago, began this process of trying to make this happen, and everybody said it would never happen," Mayor Bob Whalen said of the transfer of South Laguna beaches to the city. "... We kept at it, and it happened, and it happened on great terms for the city. I'm a firm believer this is the best move we've made with respect to these beaches in a long



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

A VIEW from the bluff in South Laguna on Sept. 22. Laguna Beach will assume ownership of South Laguna beaches from the county of Orange on March 1.

time. We got a good amount of money from the county to address the needs."

Whalen thanked the city departments that assisted in bringing the South Laguna beaches under local control.

"I think it's the right thing for our community to provide this level of service, uniformly, up and down the city to all our residents, including the residents of South Laguna. ... There's going to be some bumps along the way. This thing is not going to be seamless. I just ask everybody to recognize that, be patient, ... give us feedback, let us hear the concerns, and then we got a great staff here that can work on solutions to make things work. ... Let's have a

good summer."

A March 14 meeting is being planned between city staff and South Laguna residents to learn more about operational issues at the acquired beaches.

The council approved the cooperative transfer agreement with the county on Nov. 15. The county agreed to pay \$22 million to the city for the assumption of capital improvement, maintenance and operations costs related to properties and services in South Laguna.

Laguna Beach will conduct marine safety operations at South Laguna beaches. Marine Safety Chief Kevin Snow said the city has recruited 25 new ocean lifeguards to achieve base level staffing, while

that number will need to increase to 50 additional seasonal lifeguards to meet peak staffing needs for the summer.

Six additional lifeguard towers have been ordered, including the Pride Tower to be installed at West Street.

Council members also set aside \$78,000 from the South Laguna fund for additional marine safety equipment, including an automated external defibrillator, a navigation system for rescue vessels and a drone.

The panel also approved the addition of an equipment operator and a maintenance worker, with those two positions expected to carry a combined cost \$225,000 annually.

SKIMBOARDING CONSIDERATIONS

The South Laguna beaches discussion drew a contingent of skimboarders. An urgency ordinance passed by the council Tuesday designated areas where surfing could occur in South Laguna, but the skimboarding community wished to be more flexible with the areas for skimboarding.

"The ask has been not to create rigid zones where ... the skimboarding is going to occur, but to take into account the changing topography of the beach, sand shift, flow direction and everything else," Snow said. "It's obviously going to take a little more staff time, but clearly skimboarding is very important to the communi-

ty in South Laguna and the community as a whole.

"We have partnered with who we believe is representing the skimboarding community to come up with a process for the summer that will allow us to do just that. What's been happening over the course of time is these areas, they exist organically, so people come, they figure out where the best place to skim is, and then they just start skimboarding. Aliso has a marked area, but some of the other beaches don't, so what's going to happen is once those areas are designated, signage will be put out so that everybody knows where the skimboarding area is."

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DECADE

Continued from page A1

to. The Frida Cinema abides.

Besides regular showings, the theater hosts multiday film festivals, supports filmmakers and partners with fellow cultural, nonprofit and educational organizations in Santa Ana and beyond.

"We take a curatorial and mission-based approach to arts programming," said Crow.

It isn't uncommon for the Frida to accompany cinematic offerings with other arts programming, like discussions, live music, art shows and other interactive activities.

Tuesday night's white Russian cocktails, the preferred beverage of the Dude, were provided by Santa Ana's local Blinking Owl Distillery for 21 and over guests, while a free soda was offered to underage audience members.

Outside in front of the theater, local artist Roger Reyes led an activity featuring coloring sheets drawn by Reyes depicting the Dude, Walter and Donny, other characters in the movie.

Allen and Valerie Schiano, dressed as the Stranger and the Dude from the movie, were happy to be at the Frida theater on Tuesday night, even though Allen quipped they don't really care for white Russians.

"This is something, now that we are retired, we have time to do," said Valerie.



Photos by Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

ALLEN AND Valerie Schiano, as the Stranger and the Dude from "The Big Lebowski," attend the ninth anniversary of the Frida Cinema, where the movie was shown Feb. 21.

"We can explore the Frida theater and all the offerings they have."

The almost decade-long run for the theater hasn't been without its challenges.

"It has been an incredibly hard time for arts venues in general, but certainly movie theaters," Crow said.

The rise of streaming platforms has made it harder for any movie theater, art house or otherwise, to survive, and the pandemic left theaters seats empty for nearly two years.

"We have a lot of work to do to climb out of the hole that was left by COVID, in terms of our plans for growth and our expansion of programming," Crow

said. Crow is encouraged on nights like the anniversary party, however, when tickets sell out and patrons who are visiting for the first time or the 100th come to see a film.

"I am insanely grateful to the community," Crow said.

During the pandemic, the Frida hosted drive-in movies for a year and half. Getting the program together in one month is among the feats Crow said he is most proud of in the theater's history.

"We worked really quickly to make that happen," Crow said of the outdoor movie screenings, where the audiences watched from their vehi-

cles. "I wanted to keep the mission going and keep the staff engaged."

"I think what was the most rewarding for me was when we would hear back from people, saying this is the first time me and my family have gone out since March, this is the first time I saw my neighbor since March, or my family all came out in different cars so we could see each other, or even this is the first drive-in my kids have been to ... all the feedback meant an incredible deal to us."

The Frida runs mainly on a staff of young volunteers, and Crow said he also feels a sense of pride when he learns that those young

volunteers have gone on to film school.

"I have a lot of volunteers that started here during their first or second year of high school, who we still keep in touch with, who are in London and San Francisco and working in film or working in movie theaters," Crow said. "I always love hearing that."

Creating experiences that lead to a life-long love of film is part of why independent theaters are so important, Crow said. The sense of community when audience members take in a film together can't always be replicated by watching a movie on a phone.

"I have a love/hate relationship with streaming cinema," said Crow. "When I say love, it's because you now have access at home to incredible films and TV shows from around the world that once upon a time would have been struggling to find a way to make it to a Western audience. Now it's at the touch of your fingers."

Crow admits there is value to that accessibility, but he worries about what gets lost when films are consumed in a ways that are

less focused.

"Being in a community and taking in the arts, in this case a film, allows you to be immersed and give yourself over to the artist," said Crow. "You can't get up and do dishes or answer the phone ... you take that journey without distraction."

When you take in a film fully, the impact has a better chance of landing, Crow said. When you take in a film with others who are feeling that same impact with you, it can land even more powerfully.

"The shared experience of everyone laughing together, everyone crying together, everyone being scared together ... there is an energy in the room that is very specifically only found by being around other people."

Protecting that feeling is why Crow hopes the Frida Cinema will be here for more years to come.

"I am just grateful to be able to celebrate nine years with optimism towards year 10," Crow said.

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KAY MOHAMMAD, left, and Cody Ree drink white Russians in honor of the movie "The Big Lebowski" at the Frida Cinema.

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YEAR

Continued from page A1

building in Newport Beach, across from what is today the Crab Cooker, then upgraded to a larger property on Coast Highway in 1955.

In 1966, the family purchased a 10-acre parcel in Costa Mesa surrounded by bean fields. The area was largely vacant, aside from another dealership down the road, but quickly filled in as more commercial businesses cropped up on Harbor Boulevard.

By then, Theo was working alongside his son Theodore Jr., who went by "Bob" to eliminate confusion. The younger Robins worked on weekends and during summer breaks from school, ferrying parts and eventually working in the lube shop, parts department, body shop, then in sales.

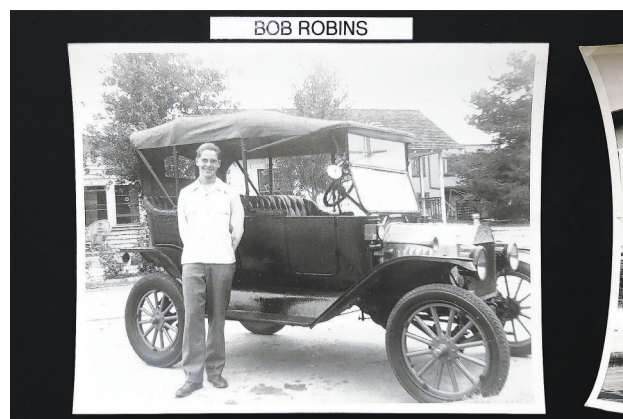
When Bob was a teenager in the 1940s and looking for a set of wheels, he talked his dad into selling him a 1914 Model T. He drove it to class at Newport Harbor High School and, as promised, sold it back to his father at cost when he was done. Bob ran the dealership right up until his passing in 2016.

Today, the vintage vehicle — lovingly restored to its original condition by his own sons, Jim and Dave, just in time for the dealership's 75th anniversary in 1998 — still stands on display inside the showroom.

"So the story goes, Grandpa sold it to him for what we were in it for, so he bought it and it's been here ever since," Jim said in a recent tour of the Costa Mesa dealership, which played host to a 100th anniversary celebration on Feb. 7.

More than 200 people turned out for the centennial celebration, including corporate officers from Ford Motor Co. who made the trip from Dearborn, Mich. Attendees enjoyed a display of family and Ford artifacts laid out for the occasion.

The party was organized by elder brother Jim, 62, who serves as president of the dealership and 60-year-old Dave, vice president.



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

AN UNDATED photo shows Theodore "Bob" Robins Jr. standing next to a Model-T Ford in Newport Beach.

Like their father, the brothers began doing odd jobs at the company as children and moved up through every department on the way to administration.

In addition to a strong work ethic, Dave and Jim acknowledge their forebears taught them the importance of treating customers and employees with respect and volunteering locally.

"One thing they've instilled in me is just being part of the community," Dave said. "The other thing is giving back."

Collectively, members of the Robins family have been involved in Hoag Hospitals' 552 Club support group, the Newport Harbor and Costa Mesa chambers of commerce, the American Legion, the YMCA and Boys and Girls Club, the Exchange Club of Newport Harbor, the Orange County Auto Dealers Assn. and numerous other organizations.

"We'd decided a year ago, when we started planning this, that we wanted to give back to the community," Jim said. "So, we decided for every car we sold we would put \$100 in a pot, in the hopes we'd be able to put together \$100,000 by our 100th anniversary — we blew right past that and had \$125,000 that were able to give 10 charities."

The recent milestone was also recognized Tuesday by Costa Mesa City Council members, who offered a proclamation and shared a brief history of the family-owned business, which pre-

dates the city's incorporation in 1953.

"It's wonderful to have a business that lasts 100 years. It's another thing to have a family business that lasts 100 years," said Mayor John Stephens. "You stand on the shoulders of family who, I'm sure, are very proud at this moment and looking down on you with great pride at the legacy they've created."

That legacy may continue through a fourth generation. Dave's daughter, Ashley Farrell, works as a compliance manager for the company, while oldest daughter Nicole Boukather, who sold cars before having kids, has expressed a desire to return to the showroom.

Today, the Robins brothers are steering the dealership as the industry evolves. California has vowed to sell only 100% emission free vehicles by 2035, which could signal the end of the combustion engine's long reign in the industry.

To an extent, the brothers embrace change (Dave drives an electric Ford F-150). But some things, they say, will never change, like their father and grandfather's belief that if you take care of your customers and employees, they'll take care of your business.

"I can't think of anything I'd do differently," Jim said. "If it's been successful all these years," Dave agreed. "Don't fix something that's not broken."

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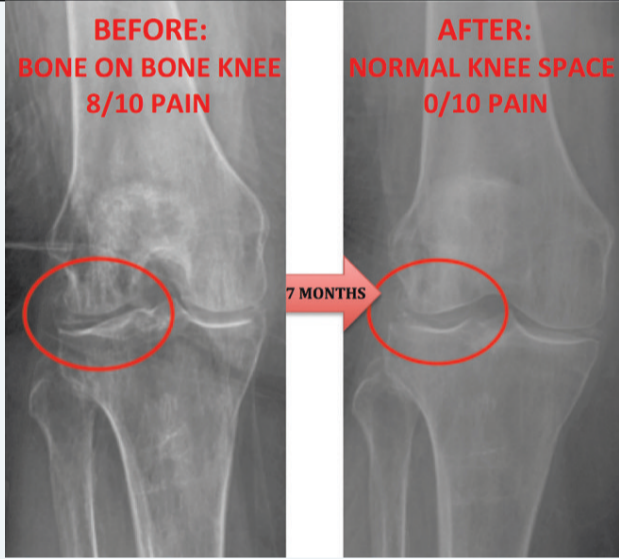


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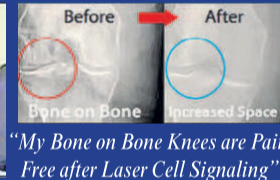
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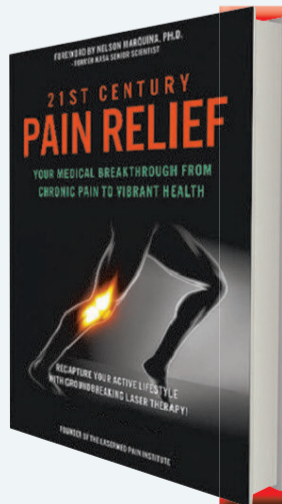


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COLUMN | PATRICE APODACA

H.B. move to narrow flag rules is about exclusion

Projection is the mental process by which people attribute to others what is in their own minds.

Huntington Beach might just have provided us with a spot-on example of how projection works when the City Council this month voted to forge ahead with a plan that would, in effect, prevent the city from flying the rainbow LGBTQ Pride flag.

The reason given for the divisive move was to avoid divisiveness. Which sounds a lot like: We're not dividing and excluding people, you are, with your emblem celebrating qualities of love, acceptance and inclusion. Classic projection.

Not surprisingly, the news was picked up by media outlets across the



Nelvin C. Cepeda | The San Diego Union-Tribune

DAILY PILOT columnist Patrice Apodaca believes a new Huntington Beach City Council rule that effectively prohibits flying the LGBTQ Pride flag outside City Hall is discriminatory.

country and even, at least in one instance that I found, by foreign press, in this case a publication in the United Kingdom. So more controversy and bad publicity for a city that covets tourist dollars. Smart move, Huntington Beach.

This episode marks a sad step backward for the city, which has, in recent years, made halting progress toward shaking off the shadow of its troubled history and reputation for intolerance. That progress was exemplified when, in 2021, then-Mayor Kim Carr spearheaded a resolution, along with Councilman Dan Kalmick, to fly the Pride flag from May 22 — Harvey Milk Day, the birthday of the slain civil rights activist who was the first openly gay man elected to public office in California — through the month of June, which is LGBTQ Pride Month.

It's also an unnecessary use of valuable city government time and resources. The City Council chose to pass a measure that accomplished nothing, other than insulting and degrading many of its residents. Meanwhile, there are real — as in not imaginary — problems that require its full attention, such as homelessness and creating a plan to add more affordable housing.

The new ordinance that would prohibit the Pride flag from being flown on city property was proposed by Councilman Pat Burns, and supported by a one-vote majority. Mayor Tony Strickland, Mayor Pro Tem Gracey Van Der Mark and Casey McKeon also voted in favor.

Council members Kalmick, Natalie Moser and

Rhonda Bolton dissented.

The Pride flag was designed in 1978 by artist Gilbert Baker, who was encouraged to develop the symbol by Milk. The design has undergone changes over the years, but its original intent — to serve as a positive representation of LGBTQ pride, unity and empowerment — endures.

Burns didn't explicitly refer to the Pride flag in his statement. Instead the ordinance limits the city from displaying any flags other than those on a narrow list.

"As a municipal organization, the city of Huntington Beach should avoid actions that could easily or mistakenly be perceived as divisive," he stated. "In keeping with the proper role of municipal government and in the spirit of true unity, the city of Huntington Beach should only fly or display on city-owned property the American, POW/MIA, state of California, and the Huntington Beach city flags."

He defended the proposal, arguing that it wasn't discriminatory and not specifically aimed at the Pride flag — even though it was the only previously approved flag that didn't make the new list.

"It has nothing to do with segregating or being anything else to another group," he said. "It has nothing to do with that. It's recognizing we are one."

Burns implied that his love for his gay relatives is evidence that the measure wasn't meant to be discriminatory. That hollow argument calls to mind the widely ridiculed "I have Black friends, therefore I couldn't possibly be racist" claim.

He might not have been

intentionally obtuse, but make no mistake, his plan will understandably be viewed as a ploy to ban the Pride flag. Worse, it will be seen as a clear signal that the city is pulling up the welcome mat for segments of the population that have long been targets for bigotry, hate and violence.

That dissenting council members and public commenters delivered impassioned pleas to rethink the proposal clearly demonstrates that they consider it to be exactly what Burns denies: divisive and discriminatory.

For too long, people identifying as LGBTQ have been misunderstood and ostracized. They have often been forced to live in hiding. That's changing, but some among us — a minority, I trust — continue to cling to a flawed vision of what is worthy of acceptance.

Perhaps at some point they will realize that it does no good to project their own fears, unkind judgments and discriminatory instincts onto others or to use their projection as rationale for bad policy. The rest of us see through the tired excuses.

Let's hope that one day they'll open their hearts and minds enough to listen and begin to understand that we humans come in a variety of stripes and colors — a rainbow, if you will. All should be welcome.

I can think of a good place to start: Let the Pride flag fly.

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

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MAILBAG

Readers respond to H.B. council majority's push against the state

The conservative four newly elected City Council members should realize and understand that they do not represent the majority of Huntington Beach residents, and their election was a concerted effort on their part to get out the right-wing vote. The bottom line of this issue is that a housing element in compliance with state law, a law that requires all California cities to provide a specific number of housing units, has to take place.

The prior council had created a housing plan in compliance with the state plan, but this present council decided not to vote on this plan and instead to file a lawsuit against the state to contest the allocation of 13,368 units, even though

legal challenges by other cities have been unsuccessful. The city attorney does not have the experience to file a lawsuit to challenge the state law. To file a lawsuit against the state, especially since the state attorney general has sent a letter warning the city that it's out of compliance, will lead to sanctions against the city borne by its residents.

This City Council should focus its efforts to fight and provide affordable housing instead of wasting the community's assets fighting windmills.

Richard C. Armendariz
Huntington Beach

As evidenced by what I see on the streets everyday — that is, people pushing shopping carts loaded with their sleeping bags and other ragged belongings, as others panhandle on street corners — homelessness is abundant and problematic in my hometown of Huntington Beach.

Provisions that require

developers to devote 20% of new housing units to "affordable housing" or "100% to moderate-income housing" is not an effort to "urbanize" Huntington Beach, as one newly elected City Council member suggested, rather it's a positive step toward addressing the issue of homelessness in Huntington Beach. By mitigating the problem, we will also reduce the need for police intervention and increase safety and sanitation on the streets of Surf City.

Ben Miles
Huntington Beach

It was amateur hour (five of them, actually) at the Feb. 21 Huntington Beach City Council meeting as the new four-member majority struggled to justify their brash moves to reshape our local government in their image. While it was to Mayor Tony Strickland's credit that he had previously insisted that all

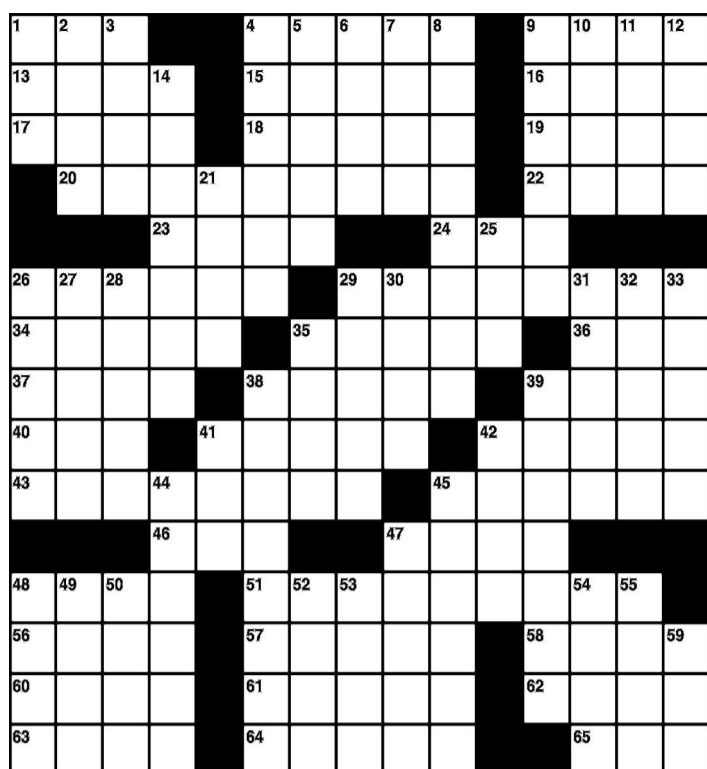
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THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Matthews

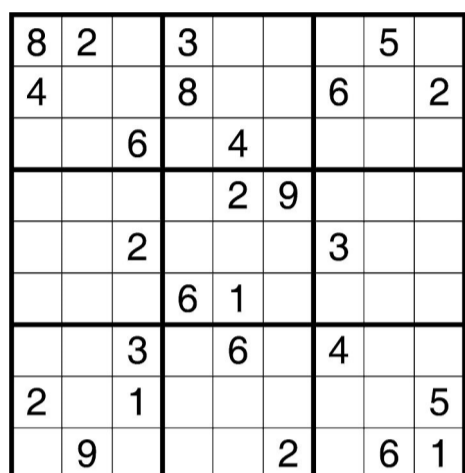
- ACROSS**
 1 "Says _?"; skeptic's query
 4 Up and about
 9 Post-WWII alliance
 13 Swine
 15 Part of NASA
 16 Still snoozing
 17 Days of _; olden times
 18 Tough fiber
 19 Not indecent
 20 Act of _; bold feat
 22 _ and haws; hesitates
 23 "Driving _ Daisy"; 1989 film
 24 Greek letter
 26 Maximum
 29 Statue base
 34 Practical joke
 35 Check issuer
 36 Rush
 37 Cookware pieces
 38 Walked the floor
 39 Central part
 40 Whitney or Wallach
 41 Judge's orders
 42 Challenged
 43 Stripy-tailed animals
 45 Coconut candy bar
 46 Gun the engine
 47 Huff and puff
 48 Thirst quencher
 51 Unhealthy fixation
 56 "You could have heard _ drop"
 57 English poet John _
 58 Middle East nation
 60 Not wacko
 61 Spooky
 62 Forbidden thing
 63 BPOE folks
 64 Sulky moods
 65 Crew member



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.

- DOWN**
 1 "How come?"
 2 Head covering
 3 Bogeyman
 4 Lend a hand
 5 Twirls
 6 Powdered drink
 7 Coated a cake
 8 Phrased
- differently
 9 Cheese-topped tortilla chips
 10 Qualified
 11 Lions or Tigers or Bears
 12 At _ with; opposing
 14 Pulpit talks

- 21 Danger
 25 That girl
 26 Higher berth
 27 Refrain opening
 28 _-depressive; bipolar
 29 Treaties
 30 "Bright _"; Shirley Temple film
 31 Prickle
 32 Showed on TV
 33 Important U.K. city
 35 Arthritis symptom
 38 Angers
 39 Vigilance
 41 Misery
 42 Ho & Johnson
 44 Wading birds
 45 Chapel services
 47 _ four; tasty morsel
 48 In _; lest
 49 October birthstone
 50 Chain piece
 52 " _ there, done that"
 53 Mumbai dress
 54 Melville novel
 55 Mom's mom
 59 And not

Tribune Media Services

MAILBAG

Continued from page A6

speakers in public comments could have up to three minutes each, it backfired when almost six dozen signed up to speak. Had all of them done so for their allotted time, it would have taken 3½ hours before getting to the reports and consent calendar. Then, the rookie mayor struggled further to control a boisterous audience pitting his MAGA-style base against proponents of flying the Pride flag on city property. While there were catcalls on both sides, the bulk of the disruptive clamoring came from the majority's right-wing supporters. Strickland seemed powerless to rein his people in even when it resulted in outright "f-bomb" profanity.

The new conservative majority so doggedly pursued their agenda objectives in the face of powerful and incisive criticism from opposing council members Dan Kalmick, Natalie Moser and Rhonda Bolton that several audience members wondered if the majority was simply being remote-controlled by the powerful special interests who had engineered their election. Despite having their arguments and reasoning effectively rebuffed, the majority members stuck to their unloaded guns and set us on a collision course not only with the state but the community at large as well.

As I stated during the public comments, I have never seen such an openly and nakedly authoritarian council majority in over 20 years of participating in Huntington Beach civic affairs. I further stated "If all you are pushing is performative partisanship, then that is not what I would call egalitarian representation" and concluded, "It is you who are being divisive, and you claiming to the contrary simply doesn't make it so."

The City Council meeting ended with all of the majority members' ordinances and Councilmem-

ber ("H") Items passing despite dire warnings of deleterious consequences, legal entanglements and community unrest. It promises to be a bumpy year at City Hall.

Tim Geddes
Huntington Beach

Decision offends this Christian

The Pride flag controversy (Huntington Beach City Council moves ahead with ordinance to stop flying Pride flag on city property, Daily Pilot, Feb. 22) misses a singularly important point. As a white male Christian property owner in Huntington Beach, when I look up at the Pride flag, I do not see the "divisive" symbol Councilman Burns sees (as depicted in Patrice Apodaca's recent Daily Pilot column, Huntington Beach move to narrow flag rules is about exclusion). When I look up and see those rainbow stripes, I recall the original covenant that the rainbow symbolizes in Christianity. That we all — all of us, from the poor and the least and the despised up through those of us living in mansions in the Harbour and Edwards Hill — have a claim upon the mercy of the creator. When I look up at that flag, proud and free over our city, I see a stripe for me, and for my children and for each of us altogether. Not raising the flag — and this flag in particular — is a grave offense against my sense of what it means to be a politically engaged Christian.

The sense of shame I feel in this regard on behalf of my beloved city is overwhelming.

Galen T. Pickett
Huntington Beach

Education in chaos in Orange

It is unfortunate that one of the most important and vulnerable institutions in American society, our educational system, did not go unscathed during the divisive political environment of the last decade, particu-

larly during the pandemic. Teachers and students became victimized by the fractionalization of society. However, in a recent NPR poll, a large majority of parents expressed satisfaction with their children's school and what they are being taught. The title of the article by NPR sums up the present situation as follows: "The education culture war is raging. But for most parents it is background noise."

Not so in the Orange Unified School District, which recently surprised almost everyone except the players when four of the school board members in a private meeting recently fired the highest officer in the district, the superintendent, and put the assistant superintendent on leave. People were hired by a minority of the district personnel to replace these positions; yet those replacements were totally unprepared to lead, and ultimately they quit too. The leadership atmosphere is chaotic with no reprieve in sight, and contract buy-outs are depriving the students' educational budget of \$1.5 million.

The four members who conducted the secret meeting are part of a conservative majority on the school board, the fourth new member of the coalition whose election barely squeaked by. Orange Unified is not a stranger to controversy with board clashes leading to a recall of three conservative candidates in 2001.

State Sen. Dave Min called the present personnel changes "a reckless decision" and was pursuing the possibility that the conservative board members privately discussed the firing in violation of the Brown Act, a state open-meetings law.

District parents outraged by what they consider chaotic challenges to their children's education and irresponsible spending by the conservative majority of the school board are organizing a recall.

Lynn Lorenz
Newport Beach



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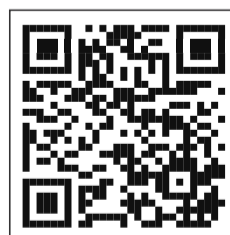
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Santa Ana butcher shop moves online

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

Earlier this month, Santa Ana's Electric City Butcher shop announced it was making the decision to permanently close its doors at its 4th Street Market location on Feb. 25. But chef Michael Puglisi and chief executive officer Steve Sabicer promise the chef-driven, whole animal butcher shop isn't being put out to pasture.

"Electric City Butcher will continue sales with our online partners, and will continue to operate our sister store, Graze and Gather Meats in Claremont, CA," reads a statement from the ECB leadership team.

Committed to quality, transparency and the responsible sourcing of meat, Electric City Butcher opened in 2014. The shop sources grass-fed, pasture-raised, hormone and antibiotic-free proteins like beef, pork, poultry and lamb.

"If we are going to use a buzzword to identify who we are and what we do, it is responsible sourcing. Everything we do is about our responsibility to the community, the farmers and to ourselves," Puglisi told TimesOC in 2021.

The shop makes a conscious effort to go beyond certified or-



File Photo

ELECTRIC CITY BUTCHER, located in Downtown Santa Ana's 4th Street Market, closed Saturday.

ganic meat and support farms utilizing what ECB identifies as the three legs to responsible sourcing: environmental responsibility, social responsibility and

respect for the animal.

Since opening, the shop has offered handcrafted charcuterie, sausages and cut-to-order meats and hosted more than 100

butcher classes with hands-on demonstration. The shop earned a spot on Food & Wine Magazine's list of the 100 Best Butcher Shops in America.

"We're proud to say we've helped responsible farmers and ranchers gain greater access to Southern California dinner plates," ECB's statement read.

Many of Electric City's meats and grocery items will still be offered on the e-commerce website, Locale Market, and available for delivery throughout Southern California.

"We've got some of our favorites already on the site, and plan to add your favorites as well," a post on Electric City's social media reads.

The Claremont location, which opened in 2021, will also continue to serve the community. Like the Santa Ana location, Graze and Gather Meats offers a selection of responsibly sourced proteins, house-made sausage and specialty items like compound butter, chicken liver mousse and ECB's own meat rub.

The shop operated on regular hours until its final day of service Saturday. It also hosted butcher classes, Lamb 101 and Pork 101, until its closure, providing opportunities to anyone to visit the store one last time.

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Twitter: @SarahNMos

Shake Shack to shake things up in Orange County

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

Shake Shack began as more of a hot dog hut, really. In 2001, the concept started as a New York City hot dog cart in Madison Square Park with the goal of raising funds for a public art project. Restaurateur Danny Meyer had a hand in founding the Madison Square Park Conservancy to organize the improvement of the park, and the cart was run out of the kitchen of his fine dining restaurant, Eleven Madison Park.

The success of the temporary cart grew into plans for a more permanent kiosk, which was established in 2004 with an expanded menu in addition to hot dogs that included burgers, fries and, of course, shakes.

Since then, the concept has expanded globally and now has more than 400 locations from Las Vegas to Tokyo. The first Southern California location opened in West Hollywood in 2016. Now, Shake Shack has arrived to shake up Orange County.

"We see Orange County as a huge opportunity for the company, and we can't wait to serve our delicious burgers and shakes to the community," Andrew McCaughan, chief development officer at Shake Shack, said in a press release.

Shake Shack's first O.C. location is set to debut this summer at Irvine Spectrum near the Regal movie theater.

The company is unrelated to the Crystal Cove Shake Shack, a traditional diner on the Newport Coast.

Shake Shack is known for elevated takes on American burgers and fries, using a never-frozen 100% Angus beef blend with no hormones or antibiotics. More epicurean offerings include a 'shroom burger made with a crispy-fried portobello mushroom filled with Munster and cheddar

cheese topped with lettuce and tomato or the newly added white truffle burger made with Fontina cheese, crispy shallots and white truffle sauce. The menu also features milkshakes hand-spun from house-made frozen custard in flavors like chocolate, vanilla, peanut butter and caramel.

The altruistic spirit of the original location is still a main ingredient for Shake Shack. It is present in menu items, like the "fair shake," a coffee milkshake made with 100% certified organic Arabica fair trade coffee beans. It is present in Shake Shack's HUG (Help Us Give) Fund, a 501(c) (3) organization established in 2017 to provide financial assistance to team members impacted by emergencies.

It is also present in its "Stand for Something Good" mission.

The culture of "Stand for Something Good," according to the company's website, means Shake Shack is committed to taking care of its staff, sourcing premium ingredients from partners with the same values, dedicated to designing each Shake Shack location responsibly and supporting the communities they operate in with donations, events and volunteering.

Shake Shack has two other Orange County locations planned besides Irvine.

"Irvine Spectrum has been a great partner for our first O.C. Shack, and we are looking forward to growing our presence in the market with further planned Shacks in Costa Mesa and Huntington Beach," McCaughan said in the release.

The Huntington Beach Shack will be located on Brookhurst Street and Adams Avenue and will feature a drive through.

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Photos courtesy of Shake Shack

SHACKBURGERS and crispy crinkle cut fries, with ketchup, at Shake Shack.



SHAKE SHACK makes hand-spun shakes from house-made frozen custard. The eatery's first Orange County location will debut this summer at Irvine Spectrum.

PROGRAM

Continued from page A1

nity to avoid the correctional system, the nonprofit's chief program officer for youth development, Hether Benjamin, said.

Some of those minor offenses would be punishable by fines. Those ultimately shift the burden of responsibility to a teen's guardians and teach practically nothing to a young offender, Benjamin said.

"Almost every youth that we work with doesn't understand the impact of their crime, the negative impact their crime has on that person, that local business, that community," she said.

Other cases might result in terms at juvenile hall. Benjamin said research shows kids who have been locked up are more likely to perform another crime in the future.

Recent laws protecting the privacy of minors with criminal records prevented her from sharing recent data on recidivism in youth who go through Waymakers' diversion program. However, past studies showed that 85% of those teens did not commit fu-



Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

THE ENTRANCE to the old visiting room in a bungalow at the Orange County Juvenile Hall. A program providing an alternative to jail time will lose funding in six O.C. cities.

ture offenses.

"They get into more trouble, the more they are exposed," Benjamin said. "They do need to be held accountable, but a lot of it is attached to poor decision making, getting in with certain crowds, and brain development."

Waymakers' approach is based on the concept of restorative justice and getting

at the root of what might be causing a young person to turn to unlawful behavior, Benjamin said. Most are taken to a "peer court" where an actual judge presides over a jury of other teens who will go on to sentence an offender to counseling, community service or some other form of retribution and rehabilitation.

The diversion program

also invites the victims of their crimes to come together face to face with youth for mediation. Not everyone who has been wronged may be open to those meetings, but when they happen they become a way to humanize the consequences of a young person's actions and, sometimes, a chance for them to find forgiveness, Benjamin

said.

"There are the times when we really can't intervene because there's something going on in the home, whether it's child abuse, domestic violence, financial issues, bullying, unmanaged emerging mental health issues ..." she added. "Whatever that may be, this is an opportunity for us to change that direction, stop it before it gets too serious."

The organization provides similar services to several other communities throughout Orange County. They had taken on between 1,000 to 1,200 kids each year in the past, Benjamin said. The number of cases they were managing dropped sharply during the COVID-19 pandemic and have been on a steady decline since then.

"It's just slowly gone down over the years as the police departments have to put their attention to funding other things like specialty teams or paying overtime for officers or hiring new officers," she said. "And the community programs seem to always be the first to get cut."

Benjamin said most police departments have been supportive of the youth diversion program but have

had varied success in finding money to keep it running. As of mid-February, Waymakers was in communication with the Costa Mesa and Westminster police departments about continuing the service. Officials in Irvine had also shown interest.

"We believe strongly in positive juvenile diversion programs that foster healthy, fair and balanced opportunities for juvenile offenders to discover a better path in life," Costa Mesa Police Chief Ron Lawrence said. "We value all of our youth and strive to help them find a bright future."

Benjamin noted that it can cost a family around \$300,000 a year to have a child go through court, incarceration or probation. She said a full-time diversion team costs around \$150,000 annually to fund.

Kids currently enrolled in the program will be able to complete it even after the grant dries up, Benjamin and Everett said. There are other organizations that offer youth diversion programs, but many of those require families to cover the cost.

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Mobile exhibit honoring veterans to visit O.C.

BY LILLY NGUYEN

Wreaths Across America is coming to Newport Beach on Monday for a one-day stop in Orange County.

The nonprofit, which coordinates efforts to place wreaths on the graves of American servicemen, will be trucking out a mobile exhibition to the parking lot of Our Lady Queen of Angels on Mar Vista Drive at the invitation of the local Daughters of the American Revolution chapter and the church itself.

The exhibition, which is located inside a 48-foot-long trailer, highlights different wars and includes several displays and visual representations, along with a small theater that can seat up to 20. People of all ages are welcome to attend.

Christy La Barthe, a member of the Col. William Cabell chapter of DAR, said the local group has long supported Wreaths Across America in purchasing wreaths, but the organization is not affiliated with the nonprofit. The chapter's Veterans Services chair, Anne Pellegrini, reached out to Wreaths Across America and coordinated with Our Lady Queen of Angels to host the display.

"This mobile exhibition unit is to promote the Wreaths Across America project, but it also serves a couple of different purposes. Those are very important," La Barthe said. "We just really want to continue to honor our veterans, but also tell the community and educate the community what a veteran actually is and what



Courtesy of Wreaths Across America

THE MOBILE EXHIBITION will be staged at the parking lot of Our Lady Queen of Angels Church in Newport Beach on Monday.

they do for us so we can have our privileges and our rights that we're so accustomed to."

After leaving Newport Beach, the exhibition will make stops in Carlsbad, San Diego and El Centro before continuing on its national tour to Arizona. A number of other stops nationally are also sponsored by local Daughters of the American Revolution chapters.

"The mission of Wreaths Across America is to remember the fallen, honor those who have served and their families, and teach the

next generation the value of freedom," Karen Worcester, executive director of Wreaths Across America, said in a statement.

"The mobile education exhibit provides the unique opportunity for communities, like Newport Beach, to come together and share the stories of those who served and sacrificed," Worcester said. "Through our partnership with the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration, the exhibit also serves as an official mobile 'Welcome Home' location for Newport Beach's Viet-

nam veterans."

Vietnam War veterans who stop by this Monday will receive a special pin, ceremony and proclamation to welcome them home officially.

The exhibition is free and will be open to the public from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

La Barthe noted that there will be cards with QR codes available for those interested in sponsoring a wreath, which can be purchased throughout the year.

"We are excited to welcome Wreaths Across America's Mobile

Education Exhibit to Newport Beach on their national tour," Row Briggs, Regent of the Col. William Cabell chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, said in an email Thursday. "This unique museum on wheels honors local veterans and teaches the next generation about their service and sacrifice. We encourage all community members to learn about Wreaths Across America."

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HEARTFELT

Continued from page A1

"We knew why they were dying, and the public didn't understand because they were still stuck on heart attack [versus cardiac arrest]," said Holly, now 56. "About a month later, we screened 500 kids at Fountain Valley High School."

Chuck Morrell has since passed away, but Holly, a Laguna Beach resident turned it into her life's mission to screen as many people as possible for the risks of cardiac arrest through her nonprofit Heartfelt Cardiac Projects.

She has a special interest in young student-athletes, who remain at risk despite generally being in good shape. That's because cardiac arrest is an electrical issue in the heart and often asymptomatic, unlike a heart attack.

The numbers can be grim. Morrell said that cardiac arrest, when it occurs outside of a hospital, has a less than 10% survival rate. It's the No. 1 cause of death on school campuses, and it's the No. 1 cause of death in young athletes.

"Once the heart goes into that deadly rhythm, if you will, you typically have to have access to defibrillation in order to save their lives," she said. "If people did understand the difference between cardiac arrest and a heart attack, they would realize why the athlete on the playing field — an otherwise seemingly healthy, active individual — can be at risk. [Lack of awareness] is one reason why it will remain the No. 1 killer in the United States, as well as the fact that these pre-sports participation physical exams are completely inadequate in terms of cardiac evaluation."

It remains personal for Morrell. She was diagnosed with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM) in 2002 and has undergone seven related surgeries since then. She said her team has screened more 55,000 people in the last two-plus decades, resulting in more than 1,000 lives being saved.

Heartfelt typically screens in school gymnasiums around Orange County or community venues, and the next screening is coming up April 1 at Hills Church OC in Laguna Hills. Online preregistration is recommended at heartfeltscreeing.org.

These community screenings cost a nominal fee of \$85 for an echocardiogram and electrocardiogram (EKG), though there are also other options. Children and adults can be screened in an office, through a partnership with Laguna Beach-based cardiologist Dr. Dawn Atwal. Corporate screenings are



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

HEARTFELT FOUNDER and executive director Holly Morrell at her home in Laguna Beach.

also available, and last month "Heartfelt at Home" was launched as well to provide home visits.

Atwal has been part of the Heartfelt team for nearly a decade, providing readings of the screening results. She said sudden cardiac arrest awareness has come a long way since Hank Gathers collapsed and died during a Loyola Marymount men's basketball game in 1990. His autopsy confirmed that he had HCM.

"That was more than 30 years ago, but my whole purpose now is to have these defibrillators in all arenas," Atwal said. "My kids play soccer on fields that are not even at schools, but if you have one at soccer fields, basketball fields ... at any arena they should be available. And I think every home should have one. You never know what can happen."

The April 1 Heartfelt screening will be in partnership with the Hall family, who lost their son Logan to a sudden cardiac arrest death in 2018. Logan was a senior baseball pitcher in Capistrano Valley Christian High.

"I am in awe of parents that, in the midst of their grief and heartache, they want to prevent another family from experiencing what they have gone through in losing a child," Morrell said. "They usually come to learn that it's a preventable tragedy."

With Heartfelt's help, that is true.

Ali Aga, a dedicated tournament tennis player at the time, was going into her freshman year at Dana Hills High in June 2018 when she had a screening through Heartfelt.

Two weeks later, Ali's mom Tina received a phone call from Children's Hospital of Orange County. Ali had a condition called Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome, where an extra signaling pathway between the heart's upper and lower chambers causes a fast heartbeat.

Aga's first surgery was unsuccessful but she had a corrective one about six months later. She started a club at Dana Hills called

the Heroic Hearts Club, which deploys volunteers at Heartfelt screenings.

"After I was diagnosed I never played tennis competitively again," said Aga, now a freshman at Southern Methodist University. "That was very hard at first ... but I realized I was super-creative and loved art. My new path in life is very exciting. Something good came out of this."

"We're not survivors, we're thrivers. I think that's something that's really important about Holly's organization. Every life she's saved, not only have we survived conditions, but a lot of us feel the need to give back. So not only are we surviving, we're thriving."

In 2019, Morrell teamed with Scotty Lang's family for another screening day at Fountain Valley High, 20 years after his death. That was an emotional day, she said, before COVID-19 presented her organization with challenges. But she keeps going.

Last weekend, she took a trip to Kansas to watch the Kansas State men's basketball team play. Senior forward Keyontae Johnson is excelling for the Wildcats, ranked No. 18 in the country.

Johnson collapsed on the sidelines in December 2020, while playing with Florida, but he has returned better than ever. Earlier this month he signed a NIL deal with Heartfelt, which allows the nonprofit to use his name, image and likeness.

Buffalo Bills defensive back Damar Hamlin, who has since recovered after collapsing mid-game on Jan. 2, also has brought awareness to the dangers of sudden cardiac arrest.

As for Morrell, she has two nephews and a niece who volunteer with her. She could see them taking over Heartfelt someday.

"I want to keep going as long as I can," she said. "You can live a long, happy, healthy life with heart disease. You just have to know that you have it. Early detection is absolutely life-saving."

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CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

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2023 Sweetheart Screening

Thursday, March 30 from 3-8 p.m.

Join MemorialCare Orange Coast Medical Center's Sweetheart Screening event where you and your loved ones can learn how to be heart smart and get a complimentary cardiovascular screening. Meet with MemorialCare Heart & Vascular Institute experts and attend physician-led discussions on the latest treatments for common heart and vascular conditions.

Cardiovascular screenings are available by appointment only from 3-7:30 p.m. for adults 18 and older. The event will be held at the MemorialCare Orange Coast Medical Center Health & Wellness Pavilion, 18035 Brookhurst Street, Fountain Valley, CA 92708.



Register today.
[memorialcare.org/Sweetheart2023](https://www.memorialcare.org/Sweetheart2023)
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