

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2024 /// Serving the coastal cities of Orange County and beyond /// dailypilot.com

## Marking a century of spooky fun

As Anaheim Halloween Parade turns 100, event organizers are preparing for enthusiastic crowds at the milestone.

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

In a warehouse behind Boysen Park, Jody Daily painted a coffin for a “Spider Hearse” float that will debut at the Anaheim Halloween Parade. Volunteers, giving up another Sunday afternoon, affixed lights to it.

The following day, Kevin Kidney built a little dead fly to rest peacefully inside the hearse as part of a creepy caravan that will snake its way down Center Street Promenade in downtown Anaheim.

“We want the parade to be so unique that it doesn’t look like it came from a store,” Kidney said. “The floats are handmade and are all built with wood, paper and fabric.”

The Anaheim Halloween Parade, which takes place on Oct. 26, is also set to be unlike any other as it prepares for a centennial celebration this fall.

City leaders, in wanting to give youth an alternative to a night of mischievous Halloween pranks, first organized the downtown



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

See **Spooky**, page A2 **KEVIN KIDNEY** puts the finishing touches on a revamped haunted house float at an Anaheim warehouse.

## Elevating digestive health in Orange County

**UCI Health**  
Chao Digestive Health Institute



## Walking vigil shines a light on domestic violence

BY ERIC LICAS

Civic leaders and about two dozen community members reflected on the stories of domestic violence survivors as they followed a lavender-lit path at Lions Park in Costa Mesa Wednesday evening during the Shine the Light walking vigil.

To kick off the event, Mayor John Stephens, Councilwoman Arlis Reynolds and Police Chief Ron Lawrence issued a procla-

mation marking October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month alongside Maricela Rios-Faust, chief executive officer of Human Options. The nonprofit began hosting the vigil in 2022 and provides financial and legal aid, access to shelter and other forms of support to people who have endured domestic violence.

They joined attendees bearing purple LED candles as they

See **Vigil**, page A2

**ATTENDEES**

OF the Shine the Light walking vigil at Lions Park Wednesday take in the stories of domestic violence survivors.



Photos by Eric Licas

**VOLUNTEERS HAND** candles to attendees of the Shine the Light walking vigil to mark Domestic Violence Awareness Month.



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**LOCAL ARTIST** Christiana Lewis Ulwelling stands next to her painting, “Elevate,” which was stolen from an underground parking garage after a show at the Laguna Gallery of Contemporary Art in 2014 in Laguna Beach.

## Artist hopes to ‘elevate’ others after her stolen painting returns

BY ANDREW TURNER

The sudden disappearance of an enormous painting roughly a decade ago had both its creator and police speculating on what might have happened to it.

Christiana Lewis Ulwelling, then the art director and event

coordinator at the Laguna Gallery of Contemporary Art, had developed theories about how “Elevate” — a 14-foot-by-6-foot piece weighing approximately 40 pounds — could go missing from a garage beneath the gallery.

A police report of the theft was filed in February 2014. The paint-

ing, which had been wrapped in plastic, had been stationed in the garage for five months, placed against a wall among parked vehicles.

There was no surveillance footage available, but Lewis Ul-

See **Artist**, page A6

### ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:

**HAUNTING ORCHESTRAL MUSIC TO BE PLAYED BY CANDLELIGHT IN YORBA LINDA** PAGE A4

**FULLERTON TO EXPLORE MAKING A STREET CLOSURE FOR OUTDOOR DINING PERMANENT** PAGE A2

**FILM HIGHLIGHTS FAMILY’S PHILANTHROPY THROUGH SERVINGS OF ‘ROCK SOUP’** PAGE A7



Photos courtesy of Fever





Colorectal surgeon Dr. Skandan Shanmugan and gastroenterologist Dr. John G. Lee lead the UCI Health Chao Digestive Health Institute.

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**UCI Health**  
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# Haunting music comes to Yorba Linda



Photos courtesy of Fever

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

Is there an cinematic instrumental song more iconic — or more unsettling — than the theme to John Carpenter's 1978 horror classic "Halloween?" The synthesizers pulse in five-quarter time rather than the more common three-quarter time, letting the listener know that something is amiss. The piercing notes of the theme from "Psycho" are similarly unnerving, the sharp string sounds calling to mind the plunging knife in the 1960 Alfred Hitchcock film. The haunting "Danse Macabre," by French composer Camille Saint-Saëns, is a classical take on the spooky song, inspired by a poem from Henri Cazalis about an ancient superstition involving Death playing a fiddle to inspire the dead to dance up from their graves.

Those recognizable horror anthems are part of the program macabre music lovers will hear at "Candlelight Yorba Linda: A Haunted Evening of Halloween Classics." Hosted at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum in Yorba Linda, the event from global entertainment company Fever will present a live musical performance of Halloween-themed music in a candlelit setting on Oct. 30 and 31. The show is part of a series of Candlelight Concerts Fever is bringing Orange County.

"Candlelight reimagines the orchestral concert experience to attract a broader audience, including those new to classical music," said Wyatt McNeil, project manager at Fever.

In November, Fever will bring a "Tribute to Metallica," a "Tribute to Coldplay" and "the Best of the Beatles" to the same venue. The concerts are designed to make orchestral music more accessible to wider audiences, which McNeil

said the company achieves with a few accommodations.

"We shorten performances to a more accessible 60 minutes, host them in unique venues beyond traditional concert halls and offer a diverse repertoire, from classical masterpieces to themed shows like Halloween and tributes to contemporary artists," McNeil said. "There's a show for everyone."

The added element of candlelight isn't just for the spooky season. The soft lighting makes the cinematic music even more moving and sets the mood for a variety of music types. A show planned for early November at the Neighborhood Congregational Church in Laguna Beach will highlight the compositions of German film score composer and music producer Hans Zimmer.

"The ambiance of Candlelight, coupled with our talented local musicians who engage directly with the audience and share insights about the music, creates an intimate and immersive experience," said McNeil.

The performance will include the aforementioned tunes as well as "Funeral March of a Marionette" by Charles Gounod, the theme from Netflix's "Stranger Things" and a medley from "The Nightmare Before Christmas."

The Oct. 30 performance of the show is already sold out, but tickets for two Oct. 31 performances, one at 6:30 p.m. and another at 9 p.m., are still available. Attendees must be 8 years old or older, and anyone under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Tickets are priced between \$42 and \$76 and can be found at [feverup.com](http://feverup.com).

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**FEVER'S CANDLELIGHT** concert series will come to the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum for Halloween.

**A HALLOWEEN-THEMED**

classical music performance at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum will feature songs like "Funeral March of a Marionette" and Danny Elfman's theme from "Beetlejuice."



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**THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE**

By Stella Zawistowski

**ACROSS**

- 1 Church table
- 6 '90s music media: Abbr.
- 9 Gets ready
- 14 "Cool!"
- 15 Very popular
- 16 Caramel candies
- 17 Atlanta-based airline
- 18 Santa \_ winds
- 19 "Challenge accepted!": 2 wds.
- 20 Checkout counter machine: 2 wds.
- 23 Bit of skin art, for short
- 24 Edgar Allan \_
- 25 Was disrespectful to
- 29 Datebooks
- 34 For all to hear
- 35 DEA busts
- 36 \_ and vigor
- 37 Cultural legends
- 38 "\_ you for real?"
- 39 Scotch mixer
- 40 "Soldier" insect
- 41 Flaws in fenders
- 43 Cake maker
- 44 Cakes and pies
- 46 Short version of a book
- 47 Charitable ad: Abbr.
- 48 Sibling nickname
- 49 December 25 entree: 2 wds.
- 55 Church singers
- 56 Beanie or boater
- 57 Atlantic or Pacific
- 60 Moisten, as a turkey
- 61 Pub serving
- 62 Snapshot
- 63 Go very fast
- 64 Actor Danson
- 65 Drainage system part

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14						15				16				
17						18				19				
		20				21				22				
				23						24				
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34							35				36			
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44			45							46				
				47						48				
	49	50				51	52				53	54		
55							56				57		58	59
60							61				62			
63							64				65			

**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](http://sudoku.org.uk).

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

**For answers to the crossword and Sudoku puzzles, see page A8.**

**DOWN**

- 1 "Also..."
- 2 Gymnast Sunisa
- 3 Soft mineral
- 4 "\_ boy!" ("Great job!")
- 5 Cooked in an oven
- 6 Map out
- 7 Finished
- 8 Deer with antlers
- 9 Jails
- 10 Gone bad
- 11 "What \_ is new?"
- 12 Financially needy
- 13 ID since 1936: Abbr.
- 21 Owned
- 22 Apple tablet
- 25 Leafy dish

- 26 Solo
- 27 Alphabetizes, e.g.
- 28 Take to court
- 29 Sections
- 30 Bears false witness
- 31 Call forth, as memories
- 32 Car trips
- 33 Brainy
- 35 Angry tirade
- 39 Droop down
- 41 Had a craving for
- 42 Taylor Swift's \_ Tour
- 43 Chess pieces that move diagonally
- 45 Lemon-lime soda brand
- 46 Trash-talk
- 48 Fully filled
- 49 Gentleman
- 50 Stockings or tights
- 51 "\_ does it!"
- 52 Drake or tom
- 53 Feel sore
- 54 Cat's sound
- 55 "Big Brother" network
- 58 Had some food
- 59 Neither here \_ there

Tribune Media Services

# A 'Monument' to presidential hopefuls who came in second

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

As the upcoming election nears, TV viewers are being inundated with campaign ads. The carousel of ads for congressional candidates cycles through every commercial break to make sure people know their names, and nearly every lawn has a sign firmly planted in the soil with a candidate's name and slogan. In the city of Orange though, one yard displays signs for candidates passersby may not have heard of.

Winfield Scott. Rufus King. Barry Goldwater.

These names, unfamiliar to many modern-day voters, will not appear on the ballot this election season, but they can be found in artist Nina Katchadourian's free public art installation "Monument to the Unelected."

Presented by the Grand Central Art Center, in collaboration with Community Engagement, Katchadourian's temporary installation at 896 S. Oakwood St. through Nov. 17 consists of 59 signs bearing the names of losing candidates from every presidential election in American history.

The project began during the 2008 presidential election when Katchadourian was commissioned by the Scottsdale Museum of Art to create new work for the museum's 10th anniversary under the theme of humor.

"Although I think I am known as an artist who works with a lot of humor, who uses humor as a strategy, it was actually the first time I had ever been asked to make something funny purposely," said Katchadourian, "which is of

course a great way to make sure you are not going to have a funny idea at all."

Katchadourian said she spent time exploring many unfunny ideas, but the narratives around that year's presidential election got her asking some serious questions about American history.

"I stood looking at a vacant lot on a street corner seeing all these campaign signs for all these people and thinking, this is history about to be made, and some of these names will continue forward in our knowledge of our country's history and other will just kind of disappear," said Katchadourian.

She was inspired to create a work that would use election signs to help viewers think about the past and the roads not taken. The result is a thought-provoking public artwork that as a bonus is a bit of a home owners association nightmare. The signs are not historically accurate in terms of style, but Katchadourian consulted with a couple historians to create a list of losing candidates. She worked with graphic designer Evan Gaffney to design signs that would adopt a contemporary style to make it look as if all the candidates were running for office today.

"I based these designs on actual signs that I had seen, sort of cribbing from the feel and the look of those real election signs," said Katchadourian. "They are all corrugated plastic with commercial inks on top."

Of course, elections didn't always work the way they work now, and before the 12th amendment in



Photos courtesy of Grand Central Art Center

THE NAMES of "unelected candidates" appear in Nina Katchadourian's public art installation.

1804 the person who got the most votes became president, and the person who came in second became vice president. For the purposes of this project, Katchadourian said she thinks of the "losers" as whoever came in second.

"No matter what the system might of been, for this project it was whoever wasn't quite president," said Katchadourian.

There are also some candidates who were president but who maybe didn't win a bid for a second term like Jimmy Carter, who lost the 1980 presidential race to Ronald Reagan.

Katchadourian never thought she would show "Monument to the Unelected" beyond 2008 but has shown it in every presidential election since, adding the latest loser each time.

This election cycle, the work is also being shown in Scottsdale, Ariz., as well as in Oakland, Napa, San

Francisco, Madison, Wis., and Northfield, Minn., simultaneously. "Monument to the Unelected" was featured on a segment on Spectrum News 1 and included in Forbes Magazine as one of "6 Exceptional Art Exhibits to Redeem 2020."

In the time since she first showed the work, Katchadourian said she learned that "Monument to the Unelected" can be a measuring stick for our current culture. She finds she can gauge the nation's mood based on how people react to the piece each election.

"Some elections in recent years have been so tense, and I think we are up against another nail-biter this time, and people's mindset is very attuned to questions of politics," said Katchadourian.

One point Katchadourian is careful to make is that while the subject matter in this artwork is politics, the piece isn't political.



"The piece, although about politics, it is actually apolitical. It is curiously neutral, and people often look to the piece to display a kind of politics, to take a side, and it doesn't do that," said Katchadourian. "Sometimes I think that is surprising and even confusing for people."

This year, when election results are official, a 60th sign with the name of the losing candidate for the

2024 Presidential Election will be added, giving the loser, so to speak, a chance to be considered, which Katchadourian said is part of her intention.

"I am eager to make something that makes people look twice, think twice and consider what they are seeing."

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## forum

## MAILBAG

## Sunset Bridge was worth the wait

When I walked across the new Sunset Bridge in Newport Beach connecting a brand-new 129 space parking lot with Sunset Ridge Park, I was reminded of the old TV series, "Fantasy Island" where Tattoo, Mr. Roarke's right-hand man, yells to everyone within ear shot, "The plane ... the plane." Well now we can make our own shouts with, "The bridge ... the bridge."

I live near the intersection of Superior Avenue and Hospital Road so it's a short walk to the new bridge. It's been a while since they first started building the bridge followed by the huge parking area with landscaping consisting of bushes, small trees and of course the latest high-tech machines to gently relieve us of our money for parking. Hey, it's worth a few bucks to park and make the very short trek across Superior Avenue to an open area especially made for having fun.

There were only a few cars in the new parking lot today when I saw it, but I suspect that soon there will be a plethora of cars, people, picnic baskets and anything else that requires an open air venue to unwind and enjoy. My son and his 6- and 9-year-old daughters will no doubt put this place to good use in short order now that there is ample parking and safe passage across a very busy Superior Avenue.

**Bill Spitalnick**  
Newport Beach



Susan Hoffman

A DAILY PILOT reader praises the new Sunset Bridge at Superior Avenue and Pacific Coast Highway.

## A new face brings excitement

Several of my neighbors and I could not be more optimistic about the candidacy of a young man named Miles Patricola who would bring new vitality to a city council that could benefit from some idealistic approaches to old and new issues. A local who was born in Laguna Beach and grew up in Newport Beach with a desire to enter public service, Patricola is

a product of local schools and Orange Coast College. He worked in his family's famous local restaurant Rothschild's, doing public relations for the restaurant as he grew older. He has also worked for nonprofits. Patricola has a desire to go into politics as a career and likes to quote one of his local role models, Keith Curry, who has been known to say, "There is no Democratic or Republican way to pave a road." Patricola's campaign focuses on local issues expressed in detail

on his website.

Patricola is brave to run alone for his first foray into politics. It shows character and independence, something the Newport Beach City Council could use an infusion of. Hopefully, the community will appreciate his positive attributes and idealism.

Also running independently, rather than on a slate, are the two stellar candidates, Jeff Herdman and Nancy Scarborough, whose many contributions to the city of Newport Beach were discussed in last week's

Daily Pilot Mailbag.

**Lynn Lorenz**  
Newport Beach

## Measure U is bad for H.B.

Huntington Beach voters must say no to Measure U. It pretends to give the voters control over changes to zoning regulations in an attempt to bypass state housing mandates but it will actually result in less citizen participation. Here is the reason; it's called the Builder's

Remedy and it is a legal weapon that allows developers to build certain housing projects without complying with local zoning or general plan requirements if a city lacks an approved Housing Element.

Huntington Beach does not have an approved Housing Element, so if Measure U passes, voters will have to approve this complicated document. If voters deny the Housing Element, then developers will invoke the Builder's Remedy. This "tool" is being used by developers against communities like Huntington Beach up and down the state. The Builder's Remedy will not only bypass local zoning rules like height restrictions and density, but it will bypass your participation.

Measure U does not protect our beaches, libraries or parks. The people of the city already placed protections for our beaches and parks into our Charter in 1990. Residents are gathering signatures on petitions right now to protect our libraries, but that issue is not on the November ballot.

Measure U will significantly increase costs to the city of approving development projects that require votes. For example, the election in March of 2024, with three ballot measures cost the city \$395,047. These costs are borne by all of us.

Measure U is a misguided attempt at local control. It risks hindering

See **Mailbag**, page A8

## COMMENTARY | MATTHEW ARMSTRONG, ET AL

## Beware of 'parental rights' candidates

In 2014, a student's father contacted me with a concern about "In Cold Blood," a book in the Newport Harbor AP Language curriculum. Dad recognized the merit of the Pulitzer-nominated novel but expressed dismay that his daughter had to read a harrowing scene describing the murders at the heart of the story.

The AP Lang teachers worked in collaboration with this parent on a common-sense revision to how we teach the book: Give the students a heads-up about the content of that chapter and make it optional. A decade later, this is still our practice at Newport Harbor. Now, that very parent's wife is campaigning for a

seat on the NMUSD school board with a promise "to restore the partnership between parents and educators."

That partnership still exists. There's nothing to restore here.

We understand that it's fashionable in some circles to criticize public institutions and vilify teachers. With that in mind, the undersigned teachers and I want to make clear that proclaiming "parental rights" is code for two goals: to lord over our community's teachers and to censor materials available to students.

A campaign pledge to "protect parental rights" sounds good on the stump. After all, who argues

against the right to raise one's own child? Certainly no candidate, parent or educator. But those who make "parental rights"

## Teachers and school staff are part of the village it takes to raise a child.

central to their platforms are not to be trusted.

Here's why: Parents have not been deprived of any rights. The partnership between schools and parents is strong.

As evidence, look no further than our 2024 state tests scores. Last year, administration at NHHS made a simple appeal to

the parent community: Please encourage your children to do their best on state tests. This message went out through direct

communication, the PTA, school site council, ELAC, and other school-connected organizations. Without any academic intervention, test scores shot up 16%, and are now above pre-pandemic levels — our second-best performance ever on this test.

Now these candidates claim some crisis of trust?

They're either uninformed or disingenuous, each of which is a red flag for a candidate.

Teachers and school staff are part of the village it takes to raise a child. This push to protect "parental rights" is nothing more than the manufactured drama of politicians. Don't elect such candidates to local office.

Educators who have dedicated their professional lives to our community youth should be trusted to manage our schools and classrooms, period. Those educators should listen to parents with open ears and respond with open minds, period. By and large, this describes Newport-Mesa

Unified under its current leadership.

No one's rights have been violated by our schools.

Still, if we take the bait and engage the debate (say, for argument's sake), then sure ... Let's talk about "parental rights."

For these candidates, pandemic restrictions destroyed their trust in schools. Like many baseless arguments, it's a seductive one: *Parents wanted schools to reopen, but they didn't. Thus, teachers can't be trusted. Parents must take over.* Simple as that.

Only one problem: That's not what happened.

Here's the truth. NMUSD elementary campuses were

See **Commentary**, page A8

## ARTIST

Continued from page A1

welling was sure that more than one person would have had to contribute to the theft, given the scale of the painting. She surmised at the time that a vehicle capable of transporting the piece would have had to wait outside the garage for it to be carried out.

The mystery still piqued her curiosity, but for all intents and purposes, Lewis Ulwelling had resigned herself to the probability the artwork would be lost to

her forever. The large-scale painting, once a commissioned piece for a spec home in Beverly Hills that didn't wind up there, had become a memory she was ready to leave behind.

"I thought that something would happen a lot sooner, and when it didn't, I was just kind of like, 'Well, I could put my effort into doing good works and doing good things, or I can put my effort in like revenge and obsession over this painting of what happened,'" Lewis Ulwelling said. "I chose to go the other route."

Lewis Ulwelling had also begun to see the irony in the situation.

"The piece is about elevating as a human, becoming the best version of yourself that you can by basically checking in with yourself every day, several times

a day," Lewis Ulwelling said. "The funny thing about this piece is because it was stolen, which is definitely not elevating. ... I was kind of like, 'Well, whoever has this, I guess they need to have it because maybe they need to elevate themselves.'"

"Elevate" was brought back into her life a couple months ago after she received an unexpected call from a man in the neighboring city of Laguna Niguel. When she told him that the painting had been stolen several years ago, she was able to arrange to get it back.

Lewis Ulwelling told the Daily Pilot shortly after the artwork first disappeared that the painting was valued at \$60,000. She described the undertone of how she views it now as "disturbing" that someone would steal it.

This week she said she is considering painting over the work.

"Honestly, I was looking at it in a practical way, going, 'Well, I am a very curious person,' so to find out the mystery of 'who done it,' if you will, is really interesting to me and fascinating," Lewis Ulwelling said when asked why she took it back if she was ready to move on. "The other part of



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

CHRISTIANA LEWIS Ulwelling stands with three of her paintings in her home studio.

it is [that] it's a very expensive frame and canvas. I can turn this around and make it something really great. Why not? It's several thousand dollars for this frame and the canvas alone, so let's do something with it."

Lewis Ulwelling, who said she has struggled with alcoholism, is now sober after a stay at a Newport Beach rehab facility.

Her latest series is focused on facilitating conversations around addictive behaviors and mental health to help others im-

prove themselves. Many of the works include silhouettes of the body, with various elements within their interior, representing the various thoughts and feelings individuals carry with them and often choose to keep to themselves.

"What I'm working on is a series that really talks about [substance abuse] out in the open," Lewis Ulwelling said. "Let's talk about it, because if we can talk about it, then we can start to fix it. If we don't talk about it, we can't fix it, and

so I'm talking about it through my art."

She pointed out one of her artworks titled "Ruminantion," in which she incorporated equations.

"It's about standing there in yourself and not talking to anybody, and ruminating thoughts over and over. ... If we don't talk about it, and we stand there and ruminate, then we want to mask it with substances, so let's talk about it."

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# 'Rock Soup' highlights family's generosity

BY MATT SZABO

Leo and Teresa Razo have always tried to give back.

In his early days of being a restaurant owner, Leo would go down to the Santa Ana River near Angel Stadium and give food to homeless people there.

One night several years ago, he was returning from catering a wedding party in Yorba Linda. His truck broke down and he got off at the Katella Avenue exit, eventually getting stuck in the middle of the street.

"Two homeless [people] come walking to the side, like, 'What's going on?'" Razo remembered. "I told them that the transition broke down. One of them is like, 'Oh, you're the guy who gives us food. Hold on.'"

Razo started to tear up with emotion as he continued the story.

"They run down to the river, and they come back with a bunch of guys to push the truck," he said. "They take care of me. You can't forget those things. I give you something, and you give me something. That's the way the world can grow."

The philanthropy of the Razo family is the subject of a new documentary, "Rock Soup." The family held a viewing party Oct. 13 at Villa Roma market and restaurant in Laguna Hills, which they own along with Cambalache Grill in Fountain Valley.

The event also had a meet-and-greet and a panel discussion featuring Leo, Teresa and filmmaker Tony Marino, as well as the couple's son, niece and a cook.

"Rock Soup" is a 29-minute documentary that debuted earlier this month at the Awareness Film Festival in Los Angeles.

Marino went the extra mile, actually thousands of them, traveling with the family to Leo Razo's home-



Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**TERESA AND** Leo Razo stand inside their restaurant and market, Villa Roma in Laguna Hills.

## EMPENADAS

**MADE** by hand are among the offerings at Leo and Teresa Razo's Villa Roma restaurant and market.



town in Jalisco, Mexico, to feed and help the people there.

The name of the documentary refers to the old Stone Soup folktale, in which everyone chips in something to make a meal. Rocks are powerful in the life of the family, which lives in Laguna Hills. Teresa Razo said their sons Luis, 17, and Emiliano, 13, like to collect them.

"We truly feel that rocks

have energy, and they have meaning," Teresa Razo said. "I go a little bit beyond. I always feel that life throws rocks at you, but it's what you build with it."

The Razos started "Paella With a Purpose" in 2017 to support community and nonprofit organizations with the gift of food — namely paella, the popular rice dish that is one of the most famous in Spanish cuisine.



**IMPORTED PASTAS** and fine wine are in stock at Leo and Teresa Razo's Villa Roma in Laguna Hills.

To date, they have raised more than \$1.5 million for nonprofits and helped feed more than 2.5 million people in need worldwide.

They built a water well in Uganda to provide clean water to more than 1,000 people, also providing more than 200 food boxes a week to neighbors during the coronavirus pandemic along with other philanthropic endeavors.

Leo sits on the board of

directors of the Illumination Foundation, which seeks to disrupt the cycle of homelessness in Southern California by providing housing and healthcare. Teresa is a past board member.

Illumination Foundation chief executive Pooja Bhalla said that both Teresa and Leo have made it their mission to serve the community at large.

She saw this firsthand

during the pandemic, when Illumination Foundation had to open sites and bring services online for COVID-19 patients county-wide.

"We needed someone to help us with delivering food, bringing the food in for people that were sick," Bhalla said. "Without even being asked, Teresa and Leo stepped up and started to deliver meals to our clients at all our sites in Orange County. Not just us, they also brought these services to many others who needed them. I see them out in the community helping anybody and everybody who needs the help. They use their experience and their restaurants as a vehicle to make that happen."

A quote from civil rights activist Cesar Chavez begins the documentary: "If you really want to make a friend, go to someone's house and eat with him. The people who give you their food give you their heart."

Leo and Teresa Razo, who first met at her *quinceañera* in Mexico and have been married for 25 years, have always found that to be true.

Teresa said that things got tough for them during the pandemic, like many restaurant owners. They even considered closing one of their eateries.

Then she remembered something.

"The reason why we opened up the restaurant was not to serve food," she said. "The reason was to feed the soul. The pandemic just threw us to the floor and back to the beginning. I'm the type of person that when I'm in a situation that's not very favorable, I go back to my roots. Why did I start this?"

"We just started giving, and God took care of the rest."

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## ADVERTISEMENT

# Orange Coast Medical Center Recently Participated in a Clinical Trial for Metastatic Prostate Cancer

**Amol Rao, M.D.,**  
medical director,  
Cancer Research,  
MemorialCare Cancer Institute



Prostate cancer is a common disease that affects men, usually in middle age or later.

Prostate cancer is a common disease that affects men, usually in middle age or later. If cancer becomes metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer—meaning it has spread beyond the prostate gland—and hormone therapy is no longer effective, it poses a particularly challenging medical issue.

However, researchers are hoping that with the recent completion of the ECLIPSE study, a ground breaking clinical trial that took a novel approach to treating metastatic prostate cancer, will prove to be a viable treatment option in the future. Metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer (mCRPC) is a formidable adversary in the realm of oncology. This study addressed the challenge head-on by using a targeted treatment approach. Prostate-specific membrane antigen (PSMA) is a biomarker that sits on the outside of prostate cancer cells. If the prostate cancer cells have an abundance of PSMA, it means your mCRPC is PSMA+. PLUVICTO, or 177Lu-PSMA-I&T, is a form of radiation treatment specifically targeting the PSMA+ marker.

"To administer the treatment, we first located the PSMA+ markers using a PET scan," says Amol Rao, M.D., medical director, Cancer Research, MemorialCare Cancer Institute. "If the patient had plenty of PSMA+ markers, they were considered a good candidate for this treatment. The PLUVICTO treatment then gets absorbed into the PSMA biomarkers, and emits radiation that effectively breaks apart cancerous cells, limiting damage to surrounding healthy cells."

The findings that are to come from ECLIPSE Study hold great promise in advancing the treatment of metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer by potentially limiting side-effects and ultimately, not just improving the quality of life for patients, but potentially extending it.

"This precise approach can potentially offer for more effective and less harmful treatment for patients with metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer," said Dr. Rao. "As the study progresses, it brings us one step closer to more effective and less harmful treatments for this challenging disease."

The MemorialCare Research team, in partnership with the MemorialCare Cancer Institute at Orange Coast Medical Center, is committed to sustained investment in clinical research to continue improving the community's quality of life. By offering advanced technologies and innovative treatments in cancer screenings, targeted treatments, radiation therapy and surgery, the future of cancer care can be found at Orange Coast Medical Center.

Visit [memorialcare.org/research](http://memorialcare.org/research) to learn more about the 300+ research projects being conducted at MemorialCare.



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