



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

**NEWPORT BEACH** native Brooke Kenerson, 22, has been battling acute promyelocytic leukemia since last fall. Friends and family have committed to run or walk the New York City Half-Marathon in March in honor of the 2018 Corona del Mar High graduate.

## ‘Platelet Princess’ hopeful amid battle with leukemia

BY MATT SZABO

**B**rooke Kenerson sat in the City of Hope Newport Beach infusion bay on Tuesday morning, a coffee in her hand and a smile on her face that couldn't be obscured by her face mask.

She was getting ready to literally put poison in her body, an arsenic trioxide drip, as part of her chemotherapy for acute promyelocytic leukemia. The 2018 Corona del Mar

High graduate was diagnosed with that form of cancer, which affects about one in 250,000 United States residents, last November while living in New York City.

That sounds like an unlucky lottery to win. Yet Kenerson was upbeat on this day. Her leukemia is in remission, and this was her penultimate morning of treatment for this round of chemotherapy. She remarked on the hospital room's ocean view.

"I don't feel like [the diagnosis] changed

me," said Kenerson, 22. "I feel like I changed how you can look at this process, just being super-positive about it. That's how I am as a person, so it didn't make me feel differently. I made something like this feel manageable and like a positive thing.

"The timing couldn't have been better. I got to be home for Christmas. There's a lot of things that lined up, for me to feel like this

See **Princess**, page A8

## E-bike battery blamed for H.B. blaze

Fire that began after an e-bike had been left charging for days inside an apartment displaces family, nearby residents.

BY ERIC LICAS

An e-bike had been charging for days in the first-floor apartment of a family of three in Huntington Beach when it exploded late one night this month. Flames spread rapidly and blocked their front door, forcing them to escape through a window.

Nobody was hurt, Fire Marshal Janice Van Mullema said. But the fire chewed through the outer wall of the apartment and scorched its interior, leaving its residents and several neighbors without a place to stay.

It may have started when the cells of the e-bike's lithium-ion battery ruptured. That would allow chemicals normally kept separate inside of it to mix, resulting in a violent reaction.

"Batteries this size can go up like a rocket off of some of these e-bikes. This one could well have launched across their living room," she said, later noting that the fire remained under investigation. "And you can't put them out with water."

But e-bikes aren't inherently dangerous, Van Mullema said. She acknowledged they can be a convenient, environmentally conscious alternative to driving

See **Battery**, page A2

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UCI Health

## Freshman showcases project at Paris event

BY LILLY NGUYEN

When 15-year-old Ryan Honary said he would travel to Paris this week to make a presentation at UNESCO's Learning Planet Festival, he announced he would use his platform there to launch an effort geared toward engaging others in his age group to create solutions for environmental problems.

He's calling it the Climate Solu-

tions Society.

"It's focused on encouraging the youth to create solutions for environmental problems they care about rather than just talk about it," said Honary, who has already embarked on providing solutions through SensoRy AI, the start-up he launched in 2021.

Spurred by the damage brought on by the devastating 2018 Camp

See **Paris**, page A2

### ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



James Carbone

WESTMINSTER TET PARADE MARCHES ON PAGE A5



**CELL DOGS** founder Janette Thomas speaks during a visit to Orange County Animal Care in 2009. The nonprofit has connected unhoused canines with incarcerated adults and youth tasked with preparing them for new lives and loving families.

Courtesy of Cell Dogs

## Nonprofit's rescue dogs provide life lessons to Juvenile Hall youth

BY SARA CARDINE

Anyone who's loved a rescue dog knows a second chance can mean the difference between happiness and peril or life and death. That's just as true for humans, who can fall or be lifted by the hand of another.

For the last 15 years, local nonprofit Cell Dogs has connected unhoused canines in need of love and obedience training with incarcerated adults and youth

tasked with preparing them for new lives with loving families.

In a small Jan. 17 graduation ceremony at the Orange County Probation Department's Juvenile Hall, a handful of wards held fast to the leashes of three pooches — Polly, Rocky and Wiggles — who'd been living with them for the previous 2½ months.

The youths were responsible for training the dogs, rescued from dire straits and often of unknown origin, and for providing

the socialization and discipline necessary for their transition to a home environment.

Janette Thomas, a Tustin retiree and dog lover, founded the organization in 2008 to help dogs that might not fare well in traditional shelters or adoption environments, while creating a sense of purpose in the lives of inmates and youth in need of their own form of rehabilitation.

See **Lessons**, page A6



# Space dedicated to teen wellness debuts

The Boys & Girls Club of Laguna Beach adds a new area for its middle school students.

**BY ANDREW TURNER**

The Boys & Girls Club of Laguna Beach has a new dedicated space for its middle schoolers, as the club recently debuted its teen well space and recreation area.

Looking to address what club officials have referred to as an “epidemic of loneliness,” the organization partnered with the non-profit Design With Purpose to convert two of its upstairs rooms into a stimulating hangout for its teens.

“We used to have a separate wing of the building for teens, for middle-schoolers,” Pam Estes, chief executive of the Boys & Girls Club of Laguna Beach, said. “When the pandemic hit and we reopened to serve kids, we had to rearrange things, so we repurposed that space for our younger kinders, and we moved our middle-schoolers upstairs to our community room. It had a very institutional feel to it.”

The \$40,000 conversion was largely funded by individual donors, Estes said. Known to its members as “The Loft,” the recreation area includes gaming tables for ping-pong, billiards and Foosball. It also has an arts corner where kids can paint, and for those interested in practicing a different kind of art, there are also guitars and a piano. They are expected to be accompanied by an area for e-sports soon.

Estes indicated that the club currently serves between 20 and 30 middle school students daily. She hopes the new additions to the club lead to a rise in social skills, which she said she feels have been hampered by the pandemic and a device-centric society.

“Across the board with kids, social skills and self-regulation are the biggest things that we’ve seen a



Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**CHLOE HAJALI** plays guitar in the new well space room at the Boys & Girls Club of Laguna Beach on Thursday. Nonprofit group Design With Purpose designed the space to foster socialization among the older kids in the program. Known as “The Loft,” the area includes a variety of gaming tables.

little bit of a regression in,” Estes added. “I think it’s from being isolated, as well as the world we live in. There’s so much conflict today. They’re like sponges.”

Aaron Crosby, 14, an eighth-grade student at Thurston Middle School, has had fun utilizing the new facility, even if he squandered a seven-ball lead in a game of billiards against his friend during Thursday’s open-house event. Most of the time, he has adhered to a steady diet of ping-pong and video games, taking on all comers.

“My mom works in Anaheim, so she can’t pick me up until later,” Aaron said. “It’s perfect that I get to come here and have fun every day after school.”

Aaron added that he

joined the club last summer and has seen marked improvement with the renovations, especially coming out of the pandemic.

“It means a lot [to] finally have a space where we can play with our friends after two or so years of not being around them at all,” Aaron said. “It’s just nice.”

Deana Duffek, the founder of Design With Purpose, said the organization formed with a mission to provide healing environments for kids that had been in the hospital. The nonprofit has since partnered with Children’s Hospital of Orange County and the Orange County Department of Education to bring well spaces to middle and high schools across the county.

“What we’re doing in these well spaces is creating kind of a boho-type zen vibe that gives the kids a safe space to go and to be,” Duffek said. “We’re using trauma-informed design techniques, as well as the biophilic design approach, and giving them all the tools that they need to really learn how to self-soothe and self-regulate.”

“Some of those might be three minutes of mindful movement or breathwork or different fidgets within the space to help them calm their central nervous system.”

The well space is outfitted with yoga mats and QR codes that give the kids and staff access to mindful movement exercises. The cushions and seats are arranged in a circle to help facilitate discussions.



**CHRIS HOLMES** of the Boys & Girls Club plays a game with a member of the club as part of the new well space room.

“You’re not going to a place because you have an issue,” Duffek said. “We’re creating a space that encourages mindfulness and mental health. What we’re trying to do is normalize

mental health. Just like every school has a cafeteria, we’d like every school to have a well space.”

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## UCI Health

## BATTERY

Continued from page A1

and said she had one parked in her garage as she spoke to the Daily Pilot on Thursday.

Lithium-ion batteries power laptops, cellphones, electric toothbrushes and a long list of consumer devices. Catastrophic failures under normal use are generally uncommon.

“We want people to be able to have them,” the fire marshal said. “We just want to make sure they do so safely.”

It’s not entirely clear why, but firefighters in New York City have seen a dramatic rise in e-bike related fires in recent years. More than 200 such incidents resulting in six deaths were recorded there in 2022, as reported by the Associated Press.

Huntington Beach Fire officials don’t keep a tally of fires caused by lithium-ion batteries, but Van Mullema was aware of three reported in the city in 2022. Of those, two involved e-bikes.

Van Mullema said she and firefighters are closely examining fires related to the devices, especially as they grow in use as a mode of transportation.

She said most of the fire risk associated with e-bikes involves overcharging and faulty or mismatched elec-



**FIRE** investigators believe the battery of an e-bike that had been left charging for days exploded, resulting in a fire.

Courtesy of the H.B. Police Department

trical equipment. Explosive malfunctions like the one that wrecked the Huntington Beach apartment this month are mostly avoidable.

“We have a lot more say with residences and fixed structures,” the fire marshal said. “But when it comes to consumer products, including ones you’re going to ride all over town, a lot is going to depend on how an individual uses them.”

Batteries that are plugged in for too long generate heat that can damage them over time, potentially resulting in a leak between cells. That’s why it’s important to keep track of how long e-bikes charge and disconnect them from power shortly after they’ve been juiced up.

Van Mullema advised placing e-bikes that are charging in a garage or somewhere that isn’t occupied by people. If one has

to be in a living area, owners should keep it away from sources of heat, potential fire hazards and any place where it might block an exit during an emergency.

Any piece of equipment that appears defective should be replaced with the same part provided by the manufacturer, Van Mullema said. And the brand of e-bike people purchase also makes a difference because not every company subjects their products to the same level of quality testing. She advised people to look for models that have been certified by Underwriters Laboratories.

“That’s probably the best way to make sure you’re getting something that should be safe to operate,” Van Mullema said.

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## PARIS

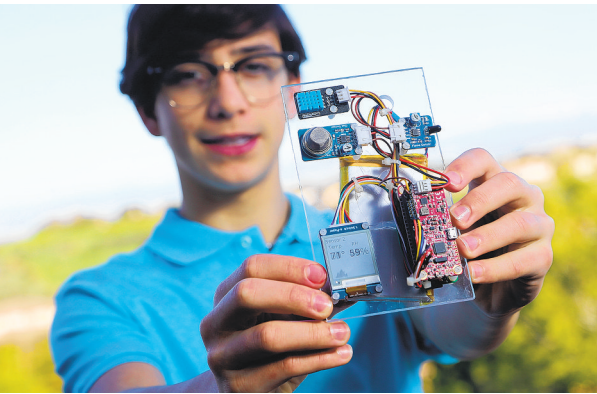
Continued from page A1

fire, Honary, at the age of 12, created a network of sensors with wireless mesh networking to allow for early detection of wildfires or leaks and won awards for his concept. He said in a recent interview he wondered at the time why humans were thinking about going to other planets when they were on this one, which needs care.

His project has since evolved, and his next steps are to create a permanent test bed for his network with the Irvine Ranch Conservancy and the Orange County Fire Authority.

But first he headed to Paris to present his project and moderate a panel organized by UNESCO, the United Nation’s cultural agency, and the Learning Planet Institute. The Learning Planet Festival brings together minds from all disciplines to share ideas to “take care of oneself, others and the planet.”

“Presenting at a UNESCO youth conference is a prestigious opportunity, and I couldn’t be more excited for Ryan,” said Newport Harbor High School principal Sean Boulton in a statement.



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

**RYAN HONARY**, a freshman at Newport Harbor, holds up a fire detector inspired by the Camp fire in 2018.

Honary was invited to participate in “The Future of Artificial Intelligence-Driven Environmental Solutions” panel, demonstrating his project in addition to officially announcing the Climate Solutions Society on Friday alongside fellow speaker Ryan Ruien Zhang, the founder of PEDS-AI, which focuses on sustainable agriculture and monitoring epidemic disease.

“I was super excited because going to Paris to present my network ... I feel like a very important person obviously because I’m going to another country to speak about what I’ve invented,” said Honary, laughing as he added he found out about a month ago he’d be par-

ticipating.

Honary said he felt it was his and other youth’s responsibility to take care of the environment.

“It’s been destroyed over time, and as climate change rises and our Earth becomes more polluted, so does the risk of wildfires,” he continued. “I feel like it’s important to me to act on wildfires and important to address environmental solutions as a whole. That’s also why I created the Climate Solutions Society to encourage the youth to create solutions.”

“If we don’t, our planet’s going to become unlivable pretty soon.”

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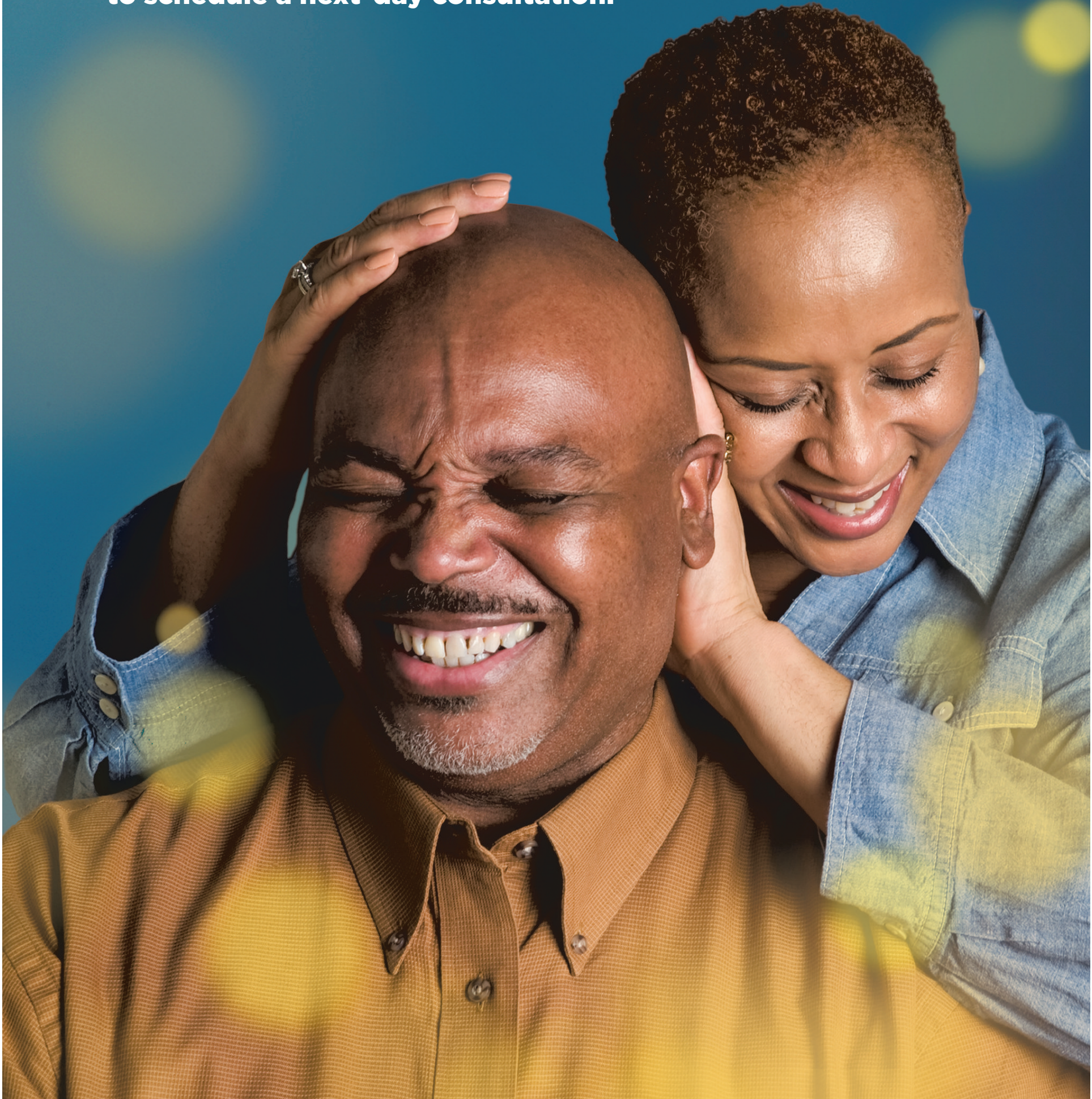
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forum

COLUMN | PATRICE APODACA

Things are looking about the same in 2023

As 2022 drew to a close many people were publicly expressing a sense of weariness. Instead of celebrating they seemed to be simply relieved that they made it through the year. Whew, maybe 2023 will be better. Sure enough, as the first month of the new year draws to a close there are some signs that things have taken a turn. For the worse.

To be sure, there are many positive indicators. Inflation appears to be easing. COVID-19, though still a serious public health threat, no longer dominates our lives. Science continues to make mind-boggling progress toward the development of clean technologies and even, one day, a cancer vaccine.

Plus, in a little more than a month comes a new season of "The Mandalorian," which means more Baby Yoda. I just love that little guy.

But this month has also brought us more of the same divisiveness, disinforma-



tion and dangerous nonsense that caused so much gloominess and stressed-out nerves last year.

Take the fighting over schools, which continues to escalate across the country and throughout Orange County.

To recap, for the past few years school boards have become unlikely battlegrounds in our nation's increasingly vitriolic culture wars. Often incited by, and sometimes even supported by, outside organizations, some critics of school policies and practices have turned once staid board meetings into attack zones.

There have been show-downs over pandemic measures such as masking and school closures, shouting matches and overheated rhetoric aimed at attempts to make campuses more inclusive for LGBTQ students, and conflict over the teaching of any curriculum that critics slap with the misunderstood Critical Race Theory label.

This turn of events has made life exceedingly difficult for those trying to run our schools. Also for those who are merely attempting to teach. Indeed, the hostility increasingly directed at educators has been identified as a contributing factor behind teacher shortages in some communities.

If anyone thought that the new year would bring some relief to this trend, they have now been shown otherwise.

Consider the drama playing out at Orange Unified School District. A few days into the new year, the new conservative majority on the school board abruptly fired the district's well-regarded superintendent, Gunn Marie Hansen, with no explanation after a closed-door meeting. The dismissal came despite impassioned pleas from many parents, teachers and community members to retain Hansen.

The controversial move — similar to one taken by Capistrano Unified's board shortly before Christmas — reflected sharp divisions in the community that con-



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

**THE RATE OF** childhood vaccines dropped below 94% in 2021, and authorities blame the pandemic, when parents were concerned about bringing children in for doctor's visits.

tinue to widen. As the vote was being taken by the Orange Unified board, parents were already circulating recall petitions.

So no, the animosity isn't abating.

More worrisome news came to us this month from government data showing that the U.S. vaccination rate for kindergartners dropped again last year. This is the rate for the standard roster of vaccines required by public schools, such as those that prevent polio, measles and hepatitis B.

Before the pandemic, the rate for these childhood vaccines typically held at about 94 percent to 95 percent nationwide. In the 2020-21 school year, it

See **Apodaca**, page A5

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

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MAILBAG

Huntington Beach's Main Street should be allowed to breathe

The residents of Huntington Beach, like millions of people worldwide, suffered greatly during the COVID-19 pandemic. We lost many lives and livelihoods. However, one rare bright spot brought about by the pandemic was the partial closure of Main Street in downtown Huntington

Beach. While attempting to assist our downtown businesses, the City Council offered a lifeline, and surprisingly, our community learned a valuable lesson about how to create desirable public space. Before the pandemic, there had been many dis-

cussions about the state of downtown, and the numerous challenges associated with simultaneously serving the needs of residents, tourists and businesses. Among the concerns were public safety, numerous vacant storefronts, vehicle noise and pollution and a fading sense of a once distinct downtown identity.

Simply closing off sections of Main Street to vehicular traffic and allowing businesses to extend into the public right-of-way elevated this area from what felt like a glorified strip mall to a vibrant public space. In effect, Main Street was transformed from a space one passed through to a new public plaza where people could meet, pedestrians could stroll and residents could casually linger.

From the wreckage of COVID-19 emerged a new heartbeat in downtown, and locals took notice!

So when our new City Council sought to end expanded outdoor dining and retail downtown, Huntington Beach residents responded with collective exasperation. Dozens of supplemental emails rolled in, and public commenters both praised the pedestrianized Main Street and pleaded to maintain the second block closure. Others sought to have the closure of the third block reinstated, and still, others questioned why Main Street wasn't completely vehicle-free. Perhaps most remarkable was the wide variety of residents who supported the idea of Main Street as a permanent pedestrian plaza. From 20-somethings to those who had lived in H.B. for decades, the majority opinion was clear: let Main Street breathe; keep Main Street vehicle-free!

Unfortunately, the new Huntington Beach City Council saw things differently and voted to end this vastly successful and popular venture downtown. Like so many of my fellow residents, I believe downtown Huntington Beach is at its best when we act to prioritize people. It is hard to see how rescinding this revitalizing initiative is anything other than incredibly shortsighted and a tremendous step backward. The only thing more disappointing than being forced to dodge cars on Main Street again is seeing our newly elected public servants ignore the will of constituents and then offer up ham-handed fact-free rationalizations for doing so.

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Jane Woodward

July 13, 1951 - September 6, 2022

Jane Woodward passed away peacefully, surrounded by family. She was 71 years old.

Jane met her husband Chris at South Hills High School in Covina, where she was Homecoming Queen and head cheerleader. They were married for 51 years, all of which spent in Newport Beach, where they raised their two children. Jane was a natural mother and skilled homemaker. Jane worked as an instructional assistant for 17 years at Corona del Mar High School, supporting struggling students. She enjoyed spending time with her children and grandchildren, traveling to Maui and Big Sur, and gardening. She will be remembered as a loving wife, mother, and grandmother, for her needlework, and for her beautiful garden.

Jane is survived by her son Christopher, daughter Paige, and grandchildren Sophia, Oliver, Matthew, and Norah. Jane was preceded in death by her mother Joan, father James, and brother James Alan. Always inseparable, Jane was joined by Chris one month following her own passing.

James Woodward

October 5, 1951 - October 6, 2022

James (Chris) Woodward passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by family. He was 71 years old.

Chris met his wife Jane at South Hills High School in Covina. Chris served as his senior class ASB president, and played football, basketball, and baseball. Chris and Jane were married for 51 years, all of which spent in Newport Beach, where they raised their two children.

After graduating from Pepperdine Law School in 1976, he began his own successful law firm, where he acted as a defense trial attorney. Always seeking justice, he often worked pro bono. Later in his career, Chris became a mediator and trial consultant. He was passionate about his work.

Chris will be remembered by his love of baseball and running, for his devotion to Jane, as a loving father and grandfather, and for his sweet tooth. He loved watching his grandchildren play sports, was always ready for an adventure, and made friends everywhere he went.

Chris is survived by his son Christopher, daughter Paige, and grandchildren Sophia, Oliver, Matthew, and Norah. Chris was preceded in death by his parents Guy and Bette, and brother Woody. Always inseparable, Chris joined Jane one month after her passing.

Sandra Manning

February 16, 1938 - December 28, 2022

Our beloved mother Sandra Manning, also known as Sassy Luby, passed away at the age of 84. We are blessed to have been able to care for her at our home in Inverness, CA where she passed peacefully. Born in Peoria, Illinois, Sassy lived in Orange County, CA, for most of her life as a successful Real Estate Broker and socialite, starting her own Real Estate Company in Costa Mesa in 1972 called 'Southlanders' with her friend. Sassy lived a fabulous life on the Orange Coast and was well-loved by her friends and family.

Sassy was preceded in death by her beloved daughters Joleen Hart and Christina Fiori. Sassy is survived by her children Janelle and Casey, her son-in-law Jim, and daughter-in-law Jane, her grandchildren Sierra, Geo, Max, Alexandra, Marco, Miles, and Alana, and her great-grandchildren LaVetta, Joleen, and Isabella.

When asked by Judy Chamberlain of the Daily Pilot in 1990 how she got the name Sassy, she responded, "I earned it." Sassy's ashes will be put out to sea at Crystal Cove, in Corona Del Mar, as per her wishes.



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# ‘We are united and strong’

One day after the mass shooting in Monterey Park, the Westminster School District and Little Saigon community came together to celebrate the Lunar New Year with the 2023 Westminster Tet Parade.

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

The Westminster Tet parade has been held in the city for nearly 20 years, and on Jan. 22 the parade marched on, in spite of a tragic shooting in Monterey Park on the eve of Lunar New Year. “There was an atrocity that happened in Monterey Park, and our city, our police force and our school district decided to move forward because we are united and strong in that way,” said David M. Johnson, Westminster School District Board of Trustees president. Tet Nguyen Dan, or Tet for short, celebrates the arrival of spring and a new year for the Vietnamese community. Westminster

is home to Little Saigon, the unofficial Vietnamese capital of the United States. Westminster and surrounding cities contain the largest community of Vietnamese descendants outside of Vietnam. The Westminster Tet parade is the largest event held in the city, and each year, Vietnamese around the world tune in to watch the event broadcast by local TV stations. Approximately 60 entries participated in this year’s parade that took place on Bolsa Avenue, beginning on Magnolia Street and heading eastbound on Bushard Street. “Our school district participates in the parade annually,” said Johnson. “We also have our own parades

and festivals at each of our 17 schools. “The Lunar New Year is a big deal to us because we live in the center of Little Saigon.” The 2021 census reported nearly 40% of Westminster’s population is Vietnamese, and Johnson estimated more than 100 families within the Westminster School District participated in the event. “It was not just our Vietnamese American families,” Johnson said. “It was people of all ethnicity that live in our school district who wanted to participate and celebrate.” Many families living in Westminster were forced to flee their country as a result of the communist

takeover at the end of the Vietnam War, and their culture has shaped the community and the schools. “We were the first school district in California that implemented dual-immersion language [instruction] of both English and Vietnamese,” said Johnson. The Vietnamese Lunar calendar celebrates the Year of the Cat, rather than the rabbit, and depictions of felines were prevalent at the event, along with traditional lion dances. The opening ceremony began with a performance of the National Anthem of the Republic of Vietnam and the National Anthem of the United States of

America performed by the La Quinta High School marching band. Firecrackers were also lit, a tradition meant to ward off evil spirits in the new year, and continued throughout the day as surrounding Vietnamese-owned businesses also set them off. The parade featured floats, marching bands, color guards, veterans and youth organizations, martial arts and local elected officials. Lunar New Year continues through the week, and Johnson said the school district will be part of other events happening in the county, including UVSA Tet Festival at the Orange County fairgrounds in Costa Mesa, where Westminster stu-

dents will perform on Jan. 29. “Demille Elementary School will be showcased at the Tet Festival,” said Johnson. “We will be demonstrating what we are doing with our dual-language program.” Students will also perform traditional Vietnamese dances at the three-day event. Johnson said celebrations like the Tet parade and the upcoming festival are important for Westminster students and the city as a whole. “It is important for them to keep their culture and their identity,” he said.

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Photos by James Carbone

**THE DRAGON** dance symbolizing “power and nobility” starts the 2023 Westminster Tet Parade along Bolsa Avenue on Jan. 22. Community members commemorated the parade to victims of the mass shooting in Monterey Park.



**YOUTHS CARRY** colored fans while marching down Bolsa Avenue during the 2023 Westminster Tet Parade. It is the largest event held in the city.



**PEOPLE OF** all ages watch the 2023 Westminster Tet Parade on Jan. 22. About 60 entries participated in this year’s parade, which featured martial arts, floats and marching bands.

## APODACA

Continued from page A4

dropped below 94 percent, and now we know that last year it declined again, to 93 percent. That might not seem like much of a difference, but every percentage point loss in vaccination rates weakens our ability to contain the spread of terrible diseases. A closer look at the data reveals sharp differences in

vaccination rates from district to district, and school to school. Indeed, some campuses in Orange County have rates at levels considered unsafe and vulnerable to outbreak. Authorities have cited the pandemic as a key reason for the declining childhood vaccination rates, as families fell behind with medical checkups during the past few years. The conspiracy theories regarding COVID-19 immunizations

may have also fueled greater skepticism over vaccines generally. Before the start of the current school year, more than one in eight California students age 4 to 6 did not have the full slate of vaccinations required by the state. In Orange County, some parents reportedly submitted homeopathic “vaccine records” to schools as proof of vaccination, although such treatments don’t meet the state’s

standards. Will this year see vaccination rates rebound? I certainly hope so. But the forces behind the disinformation regarding the safety and efficacy of vaccines remain strong, vocal and adept at utilizing the media to promote their agenda. Public health officials and school administrators aren’t likely to get a much needed respite in the coming months. I hate to start off the year in such a depressive state

of mind. But if the recent hysteria over gas ranges is any indication, there’s good reason to be concerned that even the smallest issue can turn into a giant controversy. It’s telling that some among us are so easily triggered they actually fear that government agents are going to confiscate their household appliances. I would suggest that we all need to calm down, stop shouting, start listening and look for ways to heal

the divisiveness and distrust that permeates our society. But that would probably feel like trying to reason with an atmospheric river. Welcome to 2023. The deluge still threatens to submerge us.

**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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LESSONS

Continued from page A1

Aside from providing trainers with life and career skills, she said, the program lets participants experience the feeling of doing something good for another.

“They’re taking a dog that knows nothing, then they teach it a list of 20-plus commands,” she explained Thursday. “The dog does it because it loves them (and they’re getting treats) and because a kid is being kind to them.”

Juvenile Hall director Sanford Rose attended the Jan. 17 graduation and said trainers were full of emotions as they handed off their four-legged charges to their new families.

“It’s just an amazing program,” he said. “It really is teaching these young men and women responsibility.”

After a two-week crash course on canine care and

behavior, the trainers guide dogs through eight to 10 weeks of weekly training sessions. Each trainee will have three of four caretakers, so it doesn’t become too attached to one individual.

Aside from teaching basic commands — sit, stay, heel — the sessions teach trainers to use positive reinforcement to mitigate bad behavior and read body language to determine the animals’ needs.

The experience is educational and could potentially set trainers on a path toward a career in training or animal handling. But it also exposes participants to some larger, perhaps less tangible, benefits, according to Rose.

“A lot of times these teenagers we have, they have never been shown unconditional love and acceptance and have probably never given unconditional love,” he said. “And with the



Courtesy of Cell Dogs

CELL DOGS pairs shelter dogs with inmates, who train them for adoption.

dogs, it just happens as part of the process.

“They’re learning when they put forth a positive effort, they can change something.”

For as much as Cell Dogs has meant to the hundreds

of trainers who’ve helped care for more than 400 canines in a 15-year period, its efforts have made an equal impact on the families who take in dogs that may have otherwise faced an uncertain destiny.

Some graduates continue training and become service dogs. In other cases, graduates end up in the homes of the corrections officers who supervise the

program. Out of 64 canines trained at the facility in Orange, 13 have so far gone to employees. Polly, a Novia Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever mix and Jan. 17 grad, went home with a probation staff member who attended the ceremony.

Rocky, a French bulldog-Cocker spaniel-poodle mix, was adopted by a couple from Redondo Beach.

Wiggles, a miniature

Doberman Pinscher mix rescued from a hoarding situation in Arizona, was taken in by Mary and John O’Connor. The San Diego couple adopted a lab-mix named Frosty from Cell Dogs in 2009 and had her for several years before she passed.

When they were considering another pet, Cell Dogs was an appealing option because of its mission and because families meet potential adoptees before completing the program and are carefully matched so there are no surprises down the road.

“When I saw Wiggles, I was like, ‘Right there, that’s the dog,’” said Mary O’Connor, who attended the juvenile hall graduation.

The ceremony was emotional, as families affixed new leashes to collars and trainers, in the unclipping of their own leashes, learned part of love is letting go.

One youth gave the O’Connors his T-shirt, so Wiggles would have a familiar scent in her new environment. She cuddled up on it the whole ride home.

“You’re not only saving a dog, but you’re helping to save the inmates who trained them,” Mary O’Connor said. “You’re giving them a second chance.”

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# Visitors make Lunar New Year wishes at Disney California Adventure Park

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

There are many ways to celebrate Lunar New Year. The holiday is observed within multiple Asian and Pacific Islander cultures, each bringing their own traditions to the annual event.

“We light firecrackers when the New Year comes,” said Anaheim resident, Stephen Tran. “We go to the temple, we dance and sing and enjoy lots of traditional food.”

Tran was among the guests at Disney California Adventure Park on Jan. 20 for the opening day of the park’s Lunar New Year celebration, running through Feb. 15.

Tran visited the Lucky Wishes Wall in Paradise Gardens, where guests are invited to write their hopes for health and happiness on a small, red, Mickey Mouse-shaped piece of paper to add to the streamers of wishes.

“We make a wish,” said Tran. “It is a tradition that we have to do every year.”

The wishes are anonymous, and many are silly, like a YouTuber wishing for more followers to their channel. Others are more personal, like a wish to get pregnant in the new year.

The Lunar New Year celebration at California Adventure has many traditions parkgoers can participate, however they choose to celebrate.

The Vietnamese Lunar calendar marks 2023 as the year of the cat, while the Chinese calendar celebrates the year of the rabbit. Both animals can be found in Lunar New Year decor throughout the park, along with bamboo, paper lanterns and lucky red envelopes.

Mulan’s Lunar New Year Procession features Mulan

and her sidekick dragon, Mushu, as they march through Pixar Pier to Hollywood Land each afternoon and evening. The Procession features a Chinese dragon puppet, costumed warriors, drummers and dancers.

A collection of Asian-inspired dishes returns to the Festival Marketplace too.

“Disney California Adventure Park features six marketplaces, including two new ones — Bamboo Blessings and Wrapped with Love,” wrote Nicole Cantore, a digital integration specialist for Disney Global Food & Beverage, on the Disney Parks Blog.

The menu features flavors from Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese cultures, like pork and shrimp wontons served with a black garlic sauce and char siu BBQ pork bao served with pickled red onions and jalapeño. Other offerings blend Southern California flavors with traditional Asian cuisine, like the quesabirria egg roll with guajillo pepper consommé or the gochujang elote, which adds the spicy red chili paste found in Korean cooking to the popular Mexican street corn served with cotija cheese.

Local breweries are also spotlighted, with featured brews. Gingerine, a ginger wheat ale with tangerine from Placentia’s Stereo Brewing Co., is available along with a green tea rice lager from Anaheim’s Brewery X and Lunar New Year citrus IPA from Four Sons Brewing in Huntington Beach.

Sip and Savor passes are available for purchase, with six coupons that can be redeemed for food and nonalcoholic drinks at participating marketplaces and dining loca-



Photos by Sarah Mosqueda

**STEPHEN TRAN** makes a wish at the Lucky Wishes Wall at Paradise Gardens Park at Disney California Adventure.

tions within the park.

“From sweet indulgences to savory snacks, there’s something for everyone to enjoy,” wrote Cantore. “All the Lunar New Year items will help you and your stomach start off the new year on a happy (and full) note.”

Live musical performances can be found throughout the park, including Melody of China at the Paradise Garden Bandstand and Korean American a cappella group Vocal Seoul at the Sonoma Terrace. Besides singing popular K-Pop songs from BTS, the latter group has been known to include a 4\*TOWN song from “Turning Red” in their set list.

Nights at California Adventure usually end with a performance of “World of Color,” the water fountain show that features LED lights and high-definition projections on mist screens. For Lunar New Year a special preshow has been added to the nightly tradition. Hurry Home Lunar New Year Celebration features a score from the Academy Award-winning Tan Dun, originally created for the opening ceremony of Shanghai Disney Resort. The story follows Little Lantern’s journey home for New Year’s Day and also includes Mulan and Mushu.

Whether park guests are celebrating the year of the



**MUSHROOM DUMPLINGS** and bok choy are served in California Adventure’s Festival Marketplace.

cat, the year of the rabbit or just looking for a tasty dumpling, they will have lots of luck at California Adventure’s Lunar New

Year celebration.

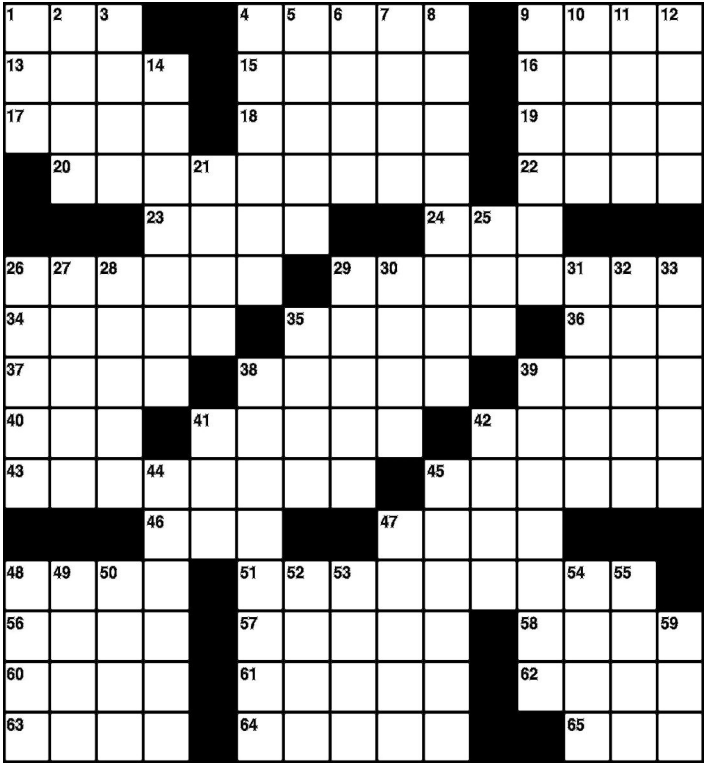
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By Jacqueline E. Mathews

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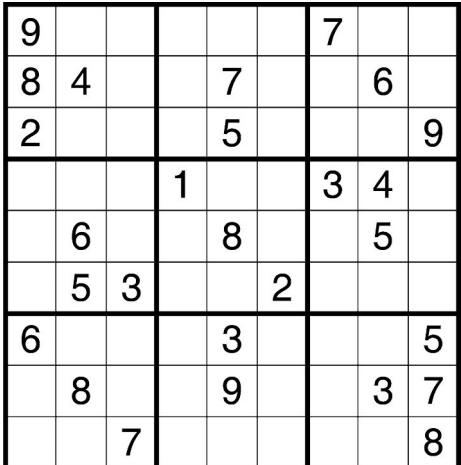
- 1 Energy
- 4 Febreze targets
- 9 Moreover
- 13 Baker’s need
- 15 Ike’s love
- 16 Vittles
- 17 At \_; relaxed
- 18 Actress Verdugo
- 19 Chimney channel
- 20 Dark songbirds
- 22 Troubles
- 23 On one’s \_; alert
- 24 Lincoln or Ford
- 26 Humble; unassuming
- 29 Child’s chum
- 34 Uneven
- 35 Feel about blindly
- 36 1 and 2 and 3 and 4
- 37 Lie alongside
- 38 Wonderland visitor
- 39 Hair coloring
- 40 Poet’s contraction
- 41 Like an afghan hound’s coat
- 42 Inaccurate
- 43 Church toppers
- 45 Sheen
- 46 Word with Buren or Gogh
- 47 Has to
- 48 Entreaty
- 51 Hugeness
- 56 Highway
- 57 “\_ My Way”; film for Bing
- 58 Requirement
- 60 Monster
- 61 Massive crowd
- 62 Equipment
- 63 Unite metals by heating
- 64 Lock of hair
- 65 Introverted



### 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).



**For answers to the crossword and Sudoku puzzles, see page A4.**

- |                                 |                         |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 “The Tell-Tale Heart” author  | 7 Piece of jewelry      |
| 2 Per-n & Longoria              | 8 Ocean resort artwork  |
| 3 Nuisance                      | 9 Swear to              |
| 4 Egg dish                      | 10 Lounge about         |
| 5 Pricey surrealistic paintings | 11 Aretha’s music works |
| 6 Foreboding sign               | 12 Some of Keats’ works |
|                                 | 14 Least messy          |
|                                 | 21 Jack’s love in       |

“Titanic”

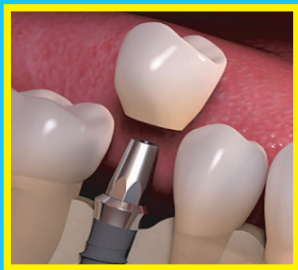
- 25 Thumbs-up vote
- 26 Vegan no-nos
- 27 Encircle
- 28 Throw water on
- 29 Is nosy
- 30 Door securer
- 31 Like Pisa’s tower
- 32 Uptight
- 33 Go into
- 35 Joyfulness
- 38 From dusk to dawn
- 39 Sampling
- 41 Swirling bath
- 42 Complain childishly
- 44 Didn’t get caught by
- 45 Forward thrusts
- 47 Fixes
- 48 Ship’s bow
- 49 Theater box
- 50 Pres. Carter’s middle name
- 52 Secure a boat
- 53 Marshy ground
- 54 Golfing items
- 55 Slangy reply
- 59 As \_ as a bone

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Dr. Mark Kramer



# PRINCESS

Continued from page A1

was the best situation I could be in for how sick I was.” Friends and family have watched her change into the “Platelet Princess,” or TPP for short, a fun nickname that she created with friends as she has shared every step of her journey on an Instagram page. Her platelet count when she entered NYC’s Mount Sinai hospital was about 3,000; the normal range is 150,000 to 450,000. She was in the intensive care unit for five days before transferring to a long-term room.

Kenerson was holed up there for more than a month after her Nov. 8 diagnosis. The room grew to resemble her apartment, with a Christmas tree and a TV console that featured both a snack drawer and game drawer.

She watched the World Cup with family and friends. During one match, her older sister Paige made a “Platelet Pub” in the room, complete with snack mix and Arnold Palmers to drink.

“She really made it her own space,” said Brooke’s best friend, Izzy Deckey, a 2018 Sage Hill School graduate who has been close with her since they were fifth-graders at Harbor Day School. “All of the nurses were in awe. In general, she just took this whole experience and was like, ‘I’m making this something I can tackle.’ She took this terrible time and made it something enjoyable.”

Kenerson went to Duke University and Deckey attended Brown University, each graduating last spring. They moved to New York and somehow got apartments across the street from each other in the Nolita neighborhood of Lower Manhattan.

That weekend in early November was supposed to be a joyful one, with Deckey running the New York City Marathon — her first full marathon — on



Courtesy of Brooke Kenerson

**BROOKE KENERSON** decorated her hospital room at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York, making it her own. Kenerson was diagnosed with acute promyelocytic leukemia last fall.

Sunday. Christina Davenport, another CdM graduate who lives in the city, was also there to cheer her on, and former Sea King Raleigh Garner flew in from Denver.

Kenerson wasn’t feeling well but she still showed up on race day, despite testing positive for strep throat the day before. She also had bleeding gums, which she now knows is a common symptom of leukemia. “Looking back at it, I cannot believe she ran around Manhattan for me to cheer me on while all of this was happening,” Deckey said.

But when her condition wasn’t better by the following Monday, Kenerson went to urgent care. The doctor there told her she needed to go to the emergency room immediately. She was unable to speak

due to her throat condition, but Deckey was there by her side, despite being immunosuppressed following the marathon.

Kenerson was transferred from Mount Sinai’s downtown location to the main location on the upper east side of Manhattan. Another Newport friend who went to Duke, Brooke Neushul, went with her.

The next day brought a bone marrow biopsy, and the news that Brooke had acute promyelocytic leukemia. Her aunt, Jennifer Kenerson, had flown in to be by her side. Deckey, a pre-med student whose father is a doctor, was able to communicate information to Kenerson’s family.

“Honestly, it was kind of a relief in some ways,” Brooke Kenerson said. “There’s so many different kinds of leukemia, and I

was prepared for the worst kind. It was great news.”

A couple of days later, Kenerson’s mother, Marcy and aunt, Cindy Walters, who lives in Newport Coast, also flew to New York.

The weeks around Thanksgiving would bring oldest sister Paige, 24, and her boyfriend from the Bay Area, as well as Kenerson’s father, Whit. Kenerson also has a younger sister, Reece, who attends Cal Poly San Luis Obispo; all three played on the CdM girls’ tennis team.

Whit Kenerson, who coaches tennis at Sage Hill, was getting ready for the Lightning girls’ CIF playoff semifinal match against rival St. Margaret’s when he heard his middle daughter’s diagnosis.

“All I heard was, ‘leukemia,’” he said. “Of



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**KENERSON**, shown in 2017, was a standout doubles player for the Corona del Mar High girls’ tennis team.

course, as a dad, I assumed the worst. It was good to have tennis as a fallback, because I would have freaked out.”

Indeed, the Platelet Princess has stayed maybe the calmest person throughout this process. Others have helped in their own ways. Another Newport Beach friend, Cole Friedman, designed sweat-shirts to support Kenerson and benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

The hoodie reads, “Tough times don’t last, tough cookies do.” Another of Kenerson’s nicknames is “Brookie Cookie.”

Friends and family, including Kenerson’s roommates, twins Claire and Nora Woodruff, have also committed to run or walk the New York City Half-Marathon in March in honor of Kenerson. Team “The Tough Cookies” has already raised more than \$15,000 for the LLS cause.

“It was supposed to be a surprise, but now I know about it,” Brooke Kenerson said with a smile. “So far, the fundraising has been going awesome. A lot of my close friends, I think their network now follows my story. The amount of people that I don’t know who have reached out or ordered hoodies is amazing.”

Kenerson is doing well. She restarted remote work with her Amazon Web Services job a couple of weeks ago. She flies back to the East Coast on Tuesday, and plans to continue her

chemotherapy — which also includes four pills that she takes twice a day — at Mount Sinai in New York.

City of Hope Newport Beach nurse manager Kerry O’Neil has enjoyed interacting with Kenerson, as she visited every week-day for nearly a month for this round of her outpatient treatment.

“We love seeing her come in every morning, because she’s just always smiling,” O’Neil said. “She’s really just been a pleasure to have. Some people would not be able to handle it, but she’s brought her fighting spirit with her.”

She hopes to do outpatient treatment at the Chelsea branch, which is much closer to her apartment. The arsenic is four weeks on, four weeks off, and four rounds would be complete by July if that remains on schedule.

Next month she turns 23. It’s her golden birthday, as it falls on Feb. 23.

Golden is how Brooke Kenerson continues to feel.

“I genuinely feel like the luckiest person ever because of the friends I have and my family,” she said, starting to tear up. “When 915 people follow you on Instagram and comment on your pictures, text you on the side and call you and visit you in the hospital ... I didn’t know that many people cared about me.”

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