

'Mobile Mama' finds her drive

Christina Branman, a former teacher turned influencer, uses fun TikTok videos to help families find the right car option.

BY MATT SZABO

Once an elementary school teacher, Christina Branman still educates, even if the topic has changed into questions like how to choose the right mid-sized SUV for your family of four, soon to be five.

"Mobile Mama" has an answer. She also has 1.1 million followers on TikTok, and nearly 400,000 on Instagram who enjoy her videos and advice on the right cars for moms everywhere. She also makes short YouTube videos on the subject.

Branman came up with a slogan to begin her videos early on — "Hey mamas!" — and things took off quickly after she posted her first video reviewing a 2021 Land Rover Discovery.

Within a year of starting on the social media platform in 2021, she said she made more money as a content creator than her annual salary as a teacher.

"I do love teaching," said Branman, 35, who lives in North Orange County. "I love helping people. I don't have students in front of me where I'm seeing their growth each day, but it helps when on social media people reach out and say, 'Hey, I chose this car because of your video.' Or, 'This helped me narrow it down, thank you.'"



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

CHRISTINA BRANMAN is the creator behind @mobile_mama on TikTok. She has built a devoted following producing videos on the subject of choosing the right family car.

See **Mobile**, page A6

At the forefront of digestive health

UCI Health

Chao Digestive Health Institute



Eric Licas

COSTA MESA-BASED author Sophie Stava holds her first published novel, "Count My Lies," at the Newport Beach Central Library Tuesday.

Costa Mesa author earns acclaim with 'Count My Lies'

BY ERIC LICAS

Costa Mesa-based author Sophie Stava beamed under bright lights and the gaze of a national television audience as she fielded questions about her first published novel, "Count My Lies," on its release day, Tuesday, March 4. The domestic thriller about a compulsive liar who becomes a nanny for a family with secrets of their own was featured as the book of the month by "Good Morning America."

"It was another fantasy come true, something you secretly wish for yourself but you don't say out loud because how crazy does that sound?" Stava told the Daily Pilot before knocking on a wooden table in the Newport Beach Public Library to ward off

bad luck during an interview Tuesday. "There've just been so many 'pinch me' moments."

Multiple publishers showed interest in "Count My Lies" before she inked a deal with Simon & Schuster last year on Valentine's Day. She said seeing it promoted alongside Stephen King's latest title and compared to one of her own favorite novels — Gillian Flynn's "Gone Girl" — has been nothing short of surreal.

She'll dive into the path that led to her novel's critically lauded debut, her inspirations and more during a meet-and-greet Tuesday evening, April 8 in Newport Beach. That event will be held at the Central Library on

See **Lies**, page A4

More than 50,000 fans turned out for this year's WonderCon

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

All manner of cosplayers, gamers, artists and comic book collectors made their way into the Anaheim Convention Center on March 29 for WonderCon, the annual comic, science fiction and film convention. Many stopped to take pictures near the fountain just outside the center, a popular meeting spot for those who dress up in elaborate costumes and makeup to emulate their favorite comic or film character.

Produced and operated by San Diego Comic Convention, which also hosts Comic-Con International in San Diego each year, WonderCon hosted more than 50,000 people, all with varying degrees of fandom, over the last weekend of March.

Bill Ponseti, owner of Fantastic Worlds Comics in Scottsdale,

See **Fans**, page A8



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

A GROUP OF cosplay characters including Alex Nicholson, center, as Seiko Ayase from the Dandadan manga series paraded the aisles during WonderCon at the Anaheim Convention March 28.

Local artist captures the spirit of Ducks fans

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

As hockey fans flooded into the Honda Center to watch the Anaheim Ducks face off against the New York Rangers, they grabbed an exclusive T-shirt at the door.

"Oh cool, I would actually wear this!" remarked one man, holding up his prize.

The T-shirts were given to the first 10,000 fans attending the March 28 game and were designed by local artist Gustavo "Gus" Jaimes, in collaboration with Visit Anaheim, which spon-



Courtesy of Visit Anaheim

LOCAL ARTIST Gus Jaimes, shown at center immediately behind the Ducks mascot Wild Wing, poses with Ducks players Drew Helleison, from left, Jackson LaCombe, Trevor Zegras and Olen Zellweger, all wearing Jaimes'-designed T-shirts.

See **Ducks**, page A6

Fullerton passes news rack ban at all city facilities except at its main library

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

At a time when many cities in Orange County are parched in an arid news desert, competing outlets in Fullerton found themselves at the center of a news rack ban debate.

Kelly Aviles, an attorney representing Friends of Fullerton's Future, an irreverent blog, sent a Jan. 13 email to city officials requesting permission to have a news rack installed in the lobby of Fullerton City Hall.

"My client has secured a financial commitment from a local businessman for a significant amount of private financing," the email stated, "to launch this new business endeavor committed to contributing to the local community by providing important local news, restaurant reviews, business advertisements, and information that reflects the diverse interests of our city's residents and their needs for alternative news sources."

If approved, Fullerton's Future would have joined the Fullerton Observer, a community newspaper that has enjoyed a rack at City Hall for decades.

The Daily Titan, a student newspaper at Cal State Fullerton, has also been distributed in the lobby in recent years, as well as at the library and the police department.

But Aviles, who also provides outside counsel for the Los Angeles Times, and her email prompted a review by city officials of what materials should be allowed to be distributed at city facilities, instead.

On Tuesday, the City Council considered a news rack ban that would limit approved materials to those published by city de-



Gabriel San Román

THE DAILY TITAN, pictured at a Cal State Fullerton rack last year, is one newspaper impacted by the policy change.

partments, government agencies and public utilities that serve Fullerton residents.

Saskia Kennedy, the Observer's current owner, protested the proposed policy, which would remove the paper from its City Hall rack, at Tuesday's council meeting.

"We try to make sure that we are as fair as possible to everybody, and sometimes we get it wrong, and you guys call us out on it, and the public calls us out on it, and we correct it," she told council members. "I feel like this is targeting the Fullerton Observer, mostly because of the letter that was given to the city and published on the blog."

Other Observer supporters speculated that the email was strategically aimed at removing the newspaper, which was

founded in 1978, from City Hall.

Over the years, Fullerton's Future and the Observer have often found themselves at bitter odds over civic affairs, like the recent fight for Walk on Wilshire, a closed-off street for outdoor dining in downtown that reopened in February.

The outlets often split along a libertarian and liberal-leaning readership.

Josh Ferguson, a former Fullerton's Future blogger who was unsuccessfully sued by the city in 2019 over the publication of police misconduct files, spoke out in favor of the policy.

He called the Observer Fullerton's "Pravda" and warned of potential litigation if the city carved out a caveat allowing only for established newspapers to stay.

"It's not a 1st Amendment is-

sue, it's a policy issue, and it's content neutral," Ferguson said. "That's the way to go, or you will get sued."

According to the city attorney's staff, Irvine and Newport Beach have adopted similar policies. In 2013, San Juan Capistrano walked back a news rack ban of its own in light of a legal fight with Community Common Sense, an outlet critical of its city council.

Fullerton council members mostly favored an overhaul of their current practice.

Councilwoman Shana Charles, who is frequently criticized by Fullerton's Future bloggers, proposed changing the policy to allow for a "community news space" at the main library.

"We don't want City Hall saying that we endorse one publication over another or not," she said. "But we also have a public that would like to be able to access public information in public spaces."

The library amendment did not sway Councilman Ahmad Zahra from his opposition to a news rack ban at City Hall.

"Weak people and weak politicians and those who have something to hide don't like the press," he said. "I'm not afraid, and [Fullerton's Future has] been after me for six years, and I know even the Observer has been critical of me in the past, so I'm not worried."

Zahra said that he found Fullerton's Future an "entertaining" read but called it out for body shaming and made other criticisms of its content.

"They should probably call it the 'We Hate Ahmad Blog,'" he quipped.

Zahra thought including a print edition of Fullerton's Future

in the lobby alongside the Observer and the Daily Titan would prod it to move away from anonymous bylines. Anything less, he opined, was a retaliation against the Observer and a free speech overreach.

Mayor Fred Jung offered a sharp rebuke of the notion.

"I think it's neutral," he said. "And again, the city attorney was pretty clear. It did not single out publications. Are you hard of hearing?"

After discussion wrapped up, council members voted 4-1 to approve the policy resolution.

Zahra was the lone vote against it.

Following the council meeting, the Daily Titan condemned the vote as an attack on press freedom in a joint statement by editor-in-chief Emily Wilson, managing editor Ruben Montoya and associate managing editor Bryan Jimenez.

"The Fullerton City Council will be going down a path of censorship that is deeply concerning," the statement read.

Aviles called the vote an "acceptable" compromise that seems to be in line with the 1st Amendment.

"While the city could have allowed other publications at Fullerton City Hall, the avenue they chose is also appropriate," she told TimesOC after the council meeting.

Aviles added that Fullerton's Future is still planning to reach an offline audience through a print edition, which would be distributed at the main library under the new policy.

gabriel.sanroman
@latimes.com
Twitter: @gsanroman2

The Chao Digestive Health Institute delivers advanced care for the region.

ucihealth.org/ChaoDHI



Tustin votes to refund developer \$290K in affordable housing opt-out fees

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

Across the street from Columbus Tustin Park's baseball diamond, construction crews hammered away at unfinished townhomes at the Jessup in Tustin.

The new 40-unit housing development is close to being completed with all townhomes already sold out.

But with the Jessup almost fully built, Intracorp, its developer, wanted to revisit its contract on Tuesday in seeking a refund of roughly \$290,000 affordable housing in-lieu fees already paid to Tustin.

According to staff report, Intracorp agreed to build two affordable housing units on-site while paying the Voluntary Workforce Housing Incentive Program in-lieu fees as a public benefit in exchange for the city rezoning the property as residential.

"The goal of the City Council and staff is to try to accelerate development," Councilman Ray Schnell said in support. "By removing impediments, fines and fees, that sends a clear message to builders, general contractors, [and] developers that we're looking for ways to accelerate the pace of building and not be punitive."

Intracorp originally sought the refund in September, but the City Council deadlocked on the move.

"What has changed since the council rejected this?" Councilman Lee

Fink asked. "I don't think anything has."

A year ago, Tustin waived affordable housing in-lieu fees for three years in its Old Town and Red Hill Avenue specific plan areas.

The Jessup stands outside of those areas, but after the policy change, Intracorp petitioned for a refund.

A city staff report argued that granting the refund met a strategic plan goal of "economic and neighborhood development" by establishing "parity" with the in-lieu fee waivers elsewhere in Tustin.

"I feel confident that an approval today of this item demonstrates that the city is fair, that we are equitable, that if there is a policy we're going to apply it to you," said Tustin Councilman Ryan Gallagher. "That would also [send] a message to the business community that Tustin is open for business."

Gallagher criticized affordable housing in-lieu fees approved in 2018 as part of the city's Voluntary Workforce Housing Incentive Program.

He claimed the policy hasn't led to a single unit being permitted and built in Old Town since that time.

"This council wants to build market rate and affordable housing, but we need to stop wasting our time and energy on programs that don't work," Gallagher said.

But Fink sounded the alarm about the Jessup's refund being a potential gift of public funds.



Photos by Gabriel San Román

THE JESSUP in Tustin. Council members voted to return nearly \$290,000 in affordable housing in-lieu fees.

"This isn't in the downtown core, this isn't Red Hill," he said. "This was already baked in when the when that change was made. Housing is built. I would think we need to look long and hard at the liability for that."

Cesar Covarrubias, executive director of the Kennedy Commission, called the refund "concerning" after the council meeting.

"It greatly impacts Tustin's ability to create new affordable housing," he said. "We don't know what authority the City Council has to retroactively undo community benefits that are supposed to address affordable housing."

The Jessup, which sold most of its townhomes for

more than \$1 million, built two townhomes at the very-low income level. At the council meeting, Schnell claimed the move amounted to roughly \$2 million in revenue the developer would have made if they had been sold at market rate.

Councilman John Nielsen claimed the Jessup suffered what amounted to "double taxation" by building the two affordable townhomes and paying nearly \$290,000 in affordable housing opt-out fees.

"That's a bit draconian," he said.

Nielsen dismissed Fink's concerns about the refund being a gift of public funds and moved to approve it.

The City Council voted



SEVERAL UNITS at the Jessup in Tustin are still under construction.

4-1 to give Intracorp the money back, with Fink voting against it.

"This doesn't help us build," Fink said. "This just takes away a pool of mon-

ey that we can use for affordable projects."

Gabriel San Román
@latimes.com
Twitter: @gsanroman2

UCI Health

Chao Digestive Health Institute

Elevating digestive health in Orange County

The Chao Digestive Health Institute — the first of its kind in Orange County to develop a fully integrated medical and surgical team — offers advanced techniques delivered by nationally recognized, board-certified physicians who, for decades, have propelled digestive health to new heights of innovation.

As part of one of the largest academic health systems in California, and the only one in Orange County, we bring a multispecialty, comprehensive and patient-focused approach to prevent, diagnose and treat the most complex digestive disorders and cancers.

Powered by UC Irvine, no other health system in the region combines scientific discovery and clinical research to improve the lives of people living with digestive diseases.

To learn more, visit ucihealth.org/ChaoDHI



forum

A WORD, PLEASE | JUNE CASAGRANDE

'Anemone' just one linguistic gaslighting word that falls under the term 'metathesis'

In the Netflix series "Umbrella Academy," Aidan Gallagher plays Number Five, a 58-year-old assassin and theoretical physicist trapped in a 13-year-old's body.



A naturally brainy teen and gifted actor, Gallagher has no trouble

convincing me Five is a late-middle-aged genius unlocking the mysteries of space-time to stop a world-ending apocalypse. In his performance, I believe every word — well, every word but one: nuclear. Five pronounces it "nuclear."

I know a lot of people share my feelings on this: There's no vowel between the C and the L — no U to make the second syllable sound like "cue." The spelling makes clear that the second syllable should be "clee."

Regular readers of this column know that language is seldom that simple. Just because one pronunciation is right doesn't mean another is wrong.

"Though disapproved of by many, pronunciations ending in (cue-lar) have been found in widespread use among educated speakers including scientists, lawyers, professors, congressmen, U.S. cabinet members, and at least two U.S. presidents and one vice president," Merriam-Webster's dictionary notes.



File Photo

PRONOUNCING (or even spelling) the word "anemone" challenges grammarian June Casagrande. And don't get her started on how people say "nuclear." But it's all good.

"While most common in the U.S., these pronunciations have also been heard from British and Canadian speakers."

If you're like me, you might find this rationale frustrating. That is, when you say, "It's annoying that so many people pronounce it that way," the experts reply, "Many people pronounce it that way." To which you reply, "I know. I just said that. That's the problem."

For this reason, linguists can seem at times like they're gaslighting. But in fact, they're just leaving out one crucial bit of information: In language, "many people do it" is the law of the land. Every word, every pronunciation and every rule of grammar was born

of how people use the language. If enough of us started using "shoobee-doo-bee" to mean "rest assured that we'll handle your funeral arrangements with the utmost dignity," eventually it would mean exactly that.

Besides, for a recent column, I was happy to discover that my two-syllable pronunciation of "caramel" is fine and possibly superior. So I'd be hypocritical to insist on a phonetic pronunciation of "nuclear."

If there's a silver lining, for me, it's that 20-odd years into writing about grammar, I learned a new term to describe this type of sound switch around:

See **A Word**, page A8

MAILBAG

Integrity missing in 2 O.C. city councils' actions

The members of the Huntington Beach City Council, in lockstep against the wishes of many constituents, are doing their darndest to hide the damage they are doing to our public libraries, beaches and parks.

Privatizing portions of Central Park without public input and legal environmental review is outrageous. The hush-hush concealment of the Pacific Airshow settlement reeks of corruption. The worst is restricting access to books under a specter of government protection and attempting to sell off control of our public libraries.

A simple sign posted in the library explicitly states children "should not be unattended." Given this simple warning, children should not access books without parental oversight. However Councilwoman Gracey Van Der Mark charges that the children's library has pornographic books. There are no pornographic books in the children's library. It is illegal for publishers to sell pornography to children and teens! Residents, go look for yourselves!

For decades, our parks, beaches and libraries have been funded by taxpayers and are free for the use of our residents. Our freedom has been choked by backroom deals, greed and a stealthy campaign of false information. The council has ignored the requirement for a legal, up-to-date environmental review before pushing a for-profit light show on

public property. The council members are fully aware that a permit for the show would never pass the review board. We have bald eagles, rare birds and butterflies nesting in the park.

Huntington Beach City Council is in a crisis of integrity.

Nora Pedersen
Huntington Beach

City's tactics unfair to spa

In regards to the recent TimesOC article on the La Palma City Council's decision to deny our conditional use permit at Starlight Day Spa, while I appreciate that my comments at the hearing were quoted, the article fails to provide critical context.

The city of La Palma never provided us with clear guidance on the CUP process or how massage services could be lawfully incorporated into a beauty salon. Instead of working with us, city staff approached the matter with suspicion, offering no clarification or collaborative intent. The CUP process was obscured by surprise inspections, retroactive fees and accusations, rather than open communication or good-faith support for a small business trying to operate legally.

We incurred over \$3,200 in nonrefundable CUP fees, only to be informed after the fact of additional charges totaling \$1,368 for staff time — fees we had no reason to expect. Combined with planning, licensing and marketing investments,

our losses exceeded \$15,000 — a devastating hit for any new business.

What was most disturbing, however, was the conduct of La Palma's code enforcement during their inspection. The approach — aggressive and unannounced — caused fear and panic among employees and customers, some of whom spoke little English and fled the premises, traumatized.

The city's reference during the meeting to RubMaps — an inappropriate and misleading massage parlor website — as "evidence" was reckless. RubMaps is not a platform on which businesses advertise; it is a user-generated "fan" site, over which we have no control. The implication this page was legitimate evidence raises serious concerns.

The cumulative effect of these tactics has been the public shaming and reputational destruction of our business. We acted in good faith, removed all massage references at the city's request and repeatedly offered to work under a probationary period. Instead, we were vilified.

I urge the public to consider how easily a small business can be crushed — not by misconduct, but by the very systems meant to support it. We deserve better. The truth is far more complex than what was presented in your article, and our community deserves the whole story.

Tom Scott
Owner, Starlight Day Spa
La Palma

LIES

Continued from page A1

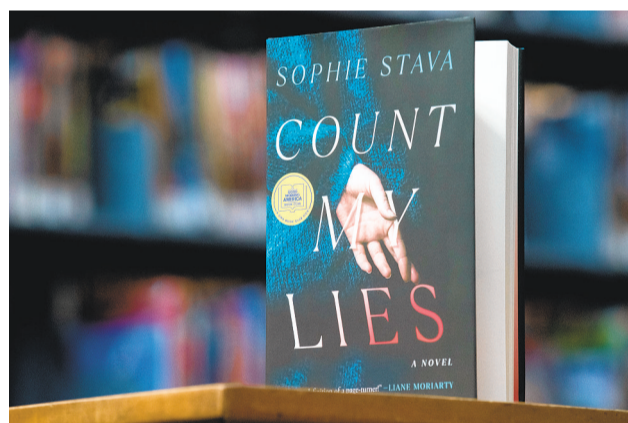
Avocado Avenue, where earlier this week 29 people were on a waiting list to check out the dozen or so copies on loan there.

Her recent success comes after well over a decade of rejection, soul-searching and perseverance.

"Having 15 years of 'no' or 'not now' and 'not yet, but your close,' I had a lot of time to fantasize about an editor saying 'I want to work with you; I see something special here,'" Stava said.

Stava studied literature at UC Santa Barbara before going into the marketing field after college. That paid the bills, but never felt like the right fit for her.

Things came to a head when a company that provides SAT training hired her to be their marketing director. But they wound up



Eric Licas

"**COUNT MY LIES**" by author Sophie Stava sits on a table in the Newport Beach Central Library on Tuesday.

having her cold-calling potential customers instead.

"Needless to say I wasn't great at it," Stava said. "I was let go, and I said to my husband, who I was dating at the time, 'I'm never going back to the corporate world.'"

She responded to a vague Craigslist post seeking a ghost writer around 2012,

as hype was growing over the erotic romance title "50 Shades of Grey." Her client gave her a rough outline of a love story and paid her \$6,000 to flesh out its characters and narrative.

Stava tried to follow that up by self-publishing a romance novel in her own name, but that effort failed to turn a profit. She man-

aged to maintain confidence in her talent thanks to the support of close family and friends, and eventually decided she needed to focus solely on writing.

"So much about selling is about timing, about what the market is looking for, what they think editors are looking for," Stava said. "It's sort of like timing the stock market."

She hired an agent to make up for her shortcomings as a marketer. And instead of trying to cash in on a waning trend of erotic fiction, Stava turned inward to her personal favorite genre of literature: thrillers.

Stava poured herself into creating her first mystery novel, refining it over numerous revisions. But after two years had passed, she was still unable to convince an editor to pick up the title.

"It was devastating," Stava said. "I thought with every revision I was gonna hear, 'It's ready. We're going

to send it to editors."

The writer said she wasn't sure if it was conviction or "delusion" that drove her to start over on her third book. But, unlike her previous efforts, the drafts that eventually became "Count My Lies" immediately caught the attention of publishers and editors.

Stava thinks the strength of her novel lies in its page-turning plot. She also believes the issues of identity, public perception and authenticity its characters navigate are deeply relatable to audiences in the era of social media.

"At its core, 'Count My Lies' is about the desperation for connection, to be seen, to be accepted," Stava said. "I think that really resonates with people, especially after the pandemic when a lot of us were really isolated and lonely, and we missed a lot of those connections."

Stava said she considers herself a reader first and a

writer second, so she's honored by the knowledge other bookworms are getting lost in a fantasy born of her imagination. It would never have come to life without her parents, who inspired her love of reading and served as her earliest critics, and the constant encouragement of her husband.

"He said, 'It won't happen if you stop writing; it can only happen if you keep writing,'" Stava recalled.

She's not resting on her breakthrough success and is already hard at work on the second draft of her next book. She described it as a domestic psychological thriller about a woman who moves to the East Coast with her family and "falls into a group of women who seem to be up to no good."

"My mind is spinning," Stava said. "Words are coming."

eric.licas@latimes.com
Twitter: @EricLicas



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

Common Ground: Early 20th-Century Artist Communities in Southern California

Open through May 17, 2025

Exhibition on view at:
18881 Von Karman Avenue, Suite 100, Irvine, CA 92612

Curated by graduate students from UC Irvine's Visual Studies Ph.D. program, this exhibition explores how the vibrant artistic communities of Los Angeles, Laguna Beach, and La Jolla shaped a unique aesthetic in response to Southern California's dynamic landscape and early 20th-century cultural shifts.

FREE admission and two-hour parking
Open Tuesday – Saturday, 10 am – 4 pm

April 26 | 11am | FREE Performance by UC Irvine Chamber Singers

May 3 | 10am-12pm | FREE Family Art Workshop

imca.uci.edu

UC Irvine Jack & Shanaz Langson
Institute & Museum of California Art



Brittany Finnegan

BOOTS & BREWS Country Music Festival will come to Irvine for the first time on April 11.

Boots & Brews boot scoots into Irvine

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

If you weren't able to rope tickets to Stagecoach this year, don't put your cowboy boots away just yet. Another country music festival is making its way to Orange County's backyard, as Boots & Brews comes to Great Park Live in Irvine on April 11.

The premier outdoor concert event brings live country music to venues across California and this year will be the first time the show has boot-scooted to Orange County.

"Boots & Brews was born in Ventura County in 2012," said Vincenzo Giammanco, chief executive officer at CBF Productions, which produces the event.

"Since then, we now travel and do it at a bunch of different cities. We still do it in Ventura, Morgan Hill, Santa Clarita and now Irvine."

Country music singer Jake Owen, who has had 10 hits make the No. 1 spot on the US country charts, including "Beachin'" and "Barefoot Blue Jean Night" will headline, with Jerrod Niemann and RaeLynn also on the bill. Locally produced beers will be on tap along with cocktails and mocktails and attendees can look forward to a Western-themed vendor market with gear like cowboy boots and cowboy hats. A honky-tonk area will be dedicated to line dancing too, for guests of

all abilities.

Giammanco said he has been hoping to bring the festival to Orange County since its inception and was thrilled when the opportunity finally presented itself.

"A lot of times when we produce this show, a majority of our attendees are from the O.C.," said Giammanco. "When I found Great Park Live, which is new pop-up amphitheater, it intrigued me and when I went out there and did a tour, I knew it was perfect. You have beautiful grass, a beautiful stage and great weather."

Great Park Live is a temporary live music venue that opened last summer

See **Boot**, page A8

FOR THE RECORD

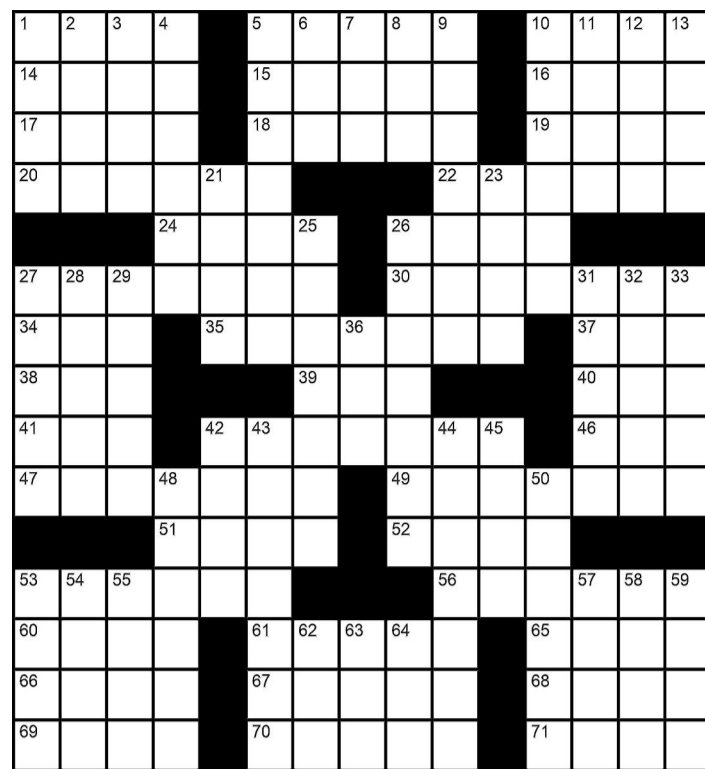
A March 30 story, "Some skeptical as fairgrounds officials vow a return of horses," indicated the O.C. fairgrounds' Equestrian Center maintained 100 stalls. A 2021 survey indicated the site comprised 188 stalls, including 20 used for other purposes, and housed 132 equines.

THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Stella Zawistowski

ACROSS

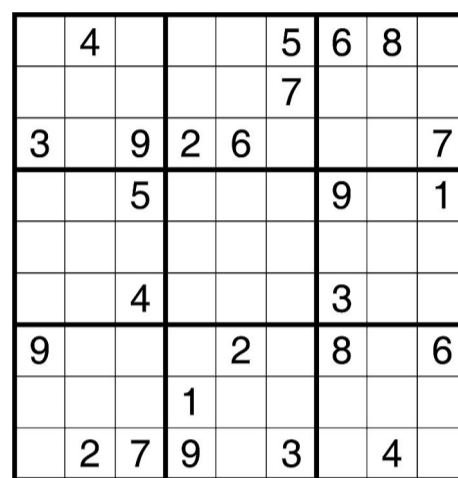
- 1 Fruit from a palm tree
- 5 Recipe experts
- 10 _ and sciences
- 14 Trebek of "Jeopardy!"
- 15 Certain belly button
- 16 Big jump
- 17 Soft mineral
- 18 Intended
- 19 Like tomcats and bulls
- 20 Taking a nap
- 22 Hand- _ leather
- 24 Urban air pollution
- 26 As well as
- 27 High school team level
- 30 Begin again
- 34 " _ moment please"
- 35 Violent storm
- 37 According to
- 38 Money for a waiter
- 39 Tuna catcher
- 40 Nonprofit ad: Abbr.
- 41 Brooding genre
- 42 Lunar features
- 46 Headed up
- 47 Quits working for good
- 49 Innocence
- 51 Disastrous defeat
- 52 T.Rex or Stegosaurus, for short
- 53 Illustrate
- 56 Parts of some suits
- 60 Limitates
- 61 Text-message symbol
- 65 Give a darn
- 66 Broad-ranging player
- 67 Baltimore NFL
- 68 "Are you _ listening?"
- 69 Mark Harmon CBS show
- 70 Sports numbers
- 71 Sesame- _ bun



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 A6.

DOWN

- 1 Research output
- 2 "Sadly..."
- 3 Blab a secret
- 4 Overage
- 5 Fruit cooked in syrup
- 6 Color
- 7 Airport posting:

Abbr.

- 8 Fish feature
- 9 Resolves out of court
- 10 Nearly
- 11 _ estate
- 12 Narrative
- 13 Traveled quickly
- 21 Give off

- 23 Boot out of office
- 25 Simone Biles or Laurie Hernandez
- 26 Make believe
- 27 Ballot caster
- 28 "Spirited Away" genre
- 29 Transplant, as a flower
- 31 iPhone maker
- 32 Copier button
- 33 Swap
- 36 Hamster or dog
- 42 Shoe with holes
- 43 Nated news agency
- 44 "Ants on a log" bits
- 45 Wash basin
- 48 Eye parts
- 50 Says out loud
- 53 Daybreak
- 54 Story of heroes
- 55 Mani- _
- 57 Gushing review
- 58 Redwood or dogwood
- 59 Email button
- 62 Wrestling surface
- 63 Eggs at a fertility clinic
- 64 Hot tub nozzle

Tribune Media Services

Join Us For Easter Champagne Brunch!

2 Courses + Bottomless Mimosas & Bloody Mary's

RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED

949-673-6585

TheBungalowRestaurant.com

2441 East Coast Hwy
Corona del Mar, CA

Scan To View Menu & Make Your Reservation!



MOBILE

Continued from page A1

That tells me that I am helping others. I'm educating them on which car would best suit their family, so it does have purpose and meaning."

Branman, who grew up in Brea, started teaching after graduating from UC Santa Barbara and earning her credential. She first taught in the Santa Barbara area, then in the Fullerton School District after moving back to Orange County.

In the early stages of the coronavirus pandemic, she was pregnant with her first daughter and teaching kindergarten to home-school students over Zoom. Her husband, Miles, is also a car reviewer, and she would help him produce videos for his YouTube channel, @milesperhr, which has more than 700,000 subscribers in its own right.

"I was thinking, my husband reviews cars, but why aren't there more women in the auto industry reviewing cars?" she said. "Why aren't there moms talking about which car would work? He would drive Lamborghinis, he would have Porsches, all of these cars that were not really family friendly. I thought we needed more women, we needed more moms in the auto industry."

After filming a few videos with her husband, her "Mobile Mama" TikTok account blew up quickly, and Branman has refined it over the years. Recently she began experimenting with videos like old school versus new school cars. She also often engages with the moms in the comments, enjoying the interaction with the community that she's built.

Sometimes she features her two



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

CHRISTINA BRANMAN and her husband, Miles, both review automobiles.

daughters, now 4 and 2 years old, in the videos, though their faces aren't shown. She and her husband don't show them the "Mobile Mama" videos, but they still join in saying "Hey mamas" around the house.

"They've been in way too many fancy cars," Branman said with a laugh. "My husband has a Lamborghini Urus right now. They're like, 'Oh, I love this blue color.' I'm like, 'Yep, it's nice for a week. We get this for a week.' But yeah, they think it's fun ... Maybe when they're older and they know what social media is, they'll have an opinion."

Like her husband, Branman

will typically be loaned a car per week from an automaker, via a press fleet. She also gets invited to press events such as the one Ford held earlier this week in the San Diego area.

Most recently, she's been checking out a red 2025 Chevrolet Traverse SUV to review. Clearing up a common misconception, she said the automotive companies don't pay her, though it's certainly a win-win as their cars get publicity and she gets content that TikTok does pay her for.

And of course, her friends know where to turn when they need car advice.

"I definitely shake her down,"

said Ava Ames, a good friend who has known Branman since high school, with a laugh. "I bought a Toyota RAV4 last October, and when I was figuring out what car to buy, I kind of wanted a smaller SUV. I was between this and the Honda, the Kia, the Mazda, and she really helped me narrow down exactly the car that I should get. She was super-quick about it. She knew all of the different cars in the market with the budget I wanted."

"She told me, here's a 'reach' car, here's a more affordable car, here's a family friendly car. She's a wealth of knowledge when it comes to anything car-related

now, and all of her friends take advantage of her, yes, without paying her."

Ames is not surprised that Branman's "Mobile Mama" videos have taken off.

"She knows how to talk fast and deliver information, and she also knows how to land a joke," Ames said. "She can pace well in a video. If you think about how fast she's moving through an entire car, she's hitting the car top to bottom in like a minute, and she's still finding a way to make it fun. People just feel relaxed watching her. It's almost like watching a baking show or something."

The upward trajectory of the videos hasn't been a straight line. After Branman had her second daughter in 2023, her motivation and content production waned temporarily, though now she's back up to posting three or four videos per week.

It's a family affair. Along with Max's support, Christina's father, Hector, has served as her videographer and still helps out. She also recently hired a female member at her church — who is in a moms group with her — to aid with video and production.

Branman said she never knew how much of an influencer she would become, but she's enjoying the ride of continuing to pump out content and be creative.

"It is really fun to see these new vehicles and be the first to share them with everyone, go to fun places," she said. "It's a family thing, which is really nice. They fly us to different places to check out these new cars, and I think that's a lot more fun than most jobs."

matthew.szabo@latimes.com
Twitter: @mjszabo

Jim Jennings Custom Masonry Inc.

Serving Newport Beach, Costa Mesa for 55 years.

SPECIALIZING IN:

- New Patios & Entries
- Drainage Expert: New or Repair
- Masonry & Concrete Repair.
- Grind High-spots caused by tree roots, etc.
- Remove & Replace sections of concrete, brick or stone.

714-796-9144

State License# 827800

www.jimjenningsmasonry.com

MARKETPLACE

To place an ad, go to <http://timescommunityadvertising.com/>

Legal Notices

Legal Notices

Call (714) 966-4600
Put a few words to work for you.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: ERNEST V. CASTRO

CASE NO. 30-2025-01466692-PR-PW-CMC

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of ERNEST V. CASTRO.

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by HARRI J. KETO in the Superior Court of California, County of ORANGE.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that HARRI J. KETO be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 05/07/25 at 1:30PM in Dept. CM08 located at 3390 HARBOR BLVD., COSTA MESA, CA 92626

NOTICE IN PROBATE CASES

The court is providing the convenience to appear for hearing by video using the court's designated video platform. This is a no cost service to the public. Go to the Court's website at The Superior Court of California - County of Orange (occourts.org) to appear remotely for Probate hearings and for remote hearing instructions. If you have difficulty connecting or are unable to connect to your remote hearing, call 657-622-8278 for assistance. If you prefer to appear in-person, you can appear in the department on the day/time set for your hearing.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner
BRAD N. BAKER - SBN 065106
BAKER, BURTON & LUNDY, P.C.
515 PIER AVENUE
HERMOSA BEACH CA 90254
Telephone (310) 376-9893
4/6, 4/10, 4/13/25
CNS-3912470#
NEWPORT HARBOR NEWS PRESS COMBINED WITH DAILY PILOT

CLASSIFIED

It's the solution you're searching for-whether you're seeking a home, apartment, pet or new occupation!

GOOD JOBS, RELIABLE SERVICES, INTERESTING THINGS TO BUY, IT'S ALL HERE EVERYDAY IN CLASSIFIED! (714) 966-4600

Tell Us About YOUR GARAGE SALE! In CLASSIFIED (714) 966-4600

DUCKS

Continued from page A1

sored the away jerseys for Ducks and hosted the game as an Anaheim Pride night.

When it comes to the city's pride, there isn't a better representative than Jaimes. A lifelong Anaheim resident and "neighbor of Disneyland," Jaimes is familiar with what makes Orange County's oldest city a spirited community.

"I feel very connected to Anaheim. As a kid, I got to know different parts of Anaheim very well from my whole family living in the area," Jaimes said.

His parents' business, La Herradura Western Wear on South Euclid Street, is an Anaheim institution that sells Stetson hats, Levis and cowboy boots influenced by the ranch his mother grew up on in Zacatecas. Jaimes remembers when the Ducks first came to Anaheim as an expansion team in the 1993-94 season and he grew up attending games. He also frequented Angels Stadium and Disneyland and had a formative experience working at Chain Reaction, a popular live music venue for all ages on Lincoln Avenue.

"Chain Reaction is where

I feel like I found myself; it was a coming of age place for me," said Jaimes. "I was fortunate enough to see so many great bands there and work there for eight years."

Today Jaimes is a tattoo artist at Anaheim's Torch Tattoo and a graphic illustrator whose art is inspired by his passions and hobbies. Hockey, coffee, music and his Mexican heritage are all found in his artworks. He explored the same sensibilities in his exclusive T-shirt design that reflects the artist's home-grown pride, retro tattoo style and Anaheim Duck fandom.

The "Welcome to Anaheim" design reads like a vintage postcard, with the Anaheim Packing House, the Ferris wheel at Disney's California Adventure and other landmarks visible in the thick block letters. A ripe orange sits at the top, the lettering is below it, and Ducks mascot Wild Wing waves an orange pennant cheering "Let's go Ducks!!!"

"There are a lot of historical buildings in Anaheim and I am a very nostalgic person, in general," said Jaimes. "I always love to pay tribute to the past with eyes on the future. The Ducks are taking the team and the city in an incredible direc-



LOCAL ARTIST

Gustavo "Gus" Jaimes and Anaheim Mayor Ashleigh Aitken hold a T-shirt that carries the design he created for the Ducks.

Sarah Mosqueda

tion and I feel lucky to be part of it."

Jaimes said he is looking forward to seeing fans wearing the shirt around town, but it won't be the first time he's seen residents sporting his work. He has participated in other collaborations on behalf of the city before, including the 100th anniversary of Anaheim's Halloween Parade in 2024 and partnering with the Anaheim Ducks for the team's Día de Muertos celebrations by designing merchandise for the occasion.

"Partnerships like this is what Visit Anaheim is all about — it's the local stories and the community members like Gus who make Anaheim such a vibrant place to be," said Mike Waterman, chief executive officer of Visit Anaheim.

The connections Jaimes has made in the community and his special understanding of the city make him a popular choice for collaboration.

"I have met almost everyone that is important in my life here — whether they are people in bands or they play hockey or work for the city or they have opened up records stores — I have had the chance to be a part of it or help in some way, especially if they needed art-

work," Jaimes said. "I have been fortunate that people ask me to help them design stuff, so this community means a lot to me."

At the game, Anaheim Mayor Ashleigh Aitken posed for a quick picture with Jaimes and the Ducks T-shirt she'd been given.

"When we promote local artists, we are promoting different voices within our community," said Aitken. "At a hockey game, like we are at today, you can see fans come from everywhere. Different cultures, different religions, different backgrounds. What better way to represent what hockey is than to have artists come out and share their interpretation about what it means to be an Anaheim Ducks fan?"

Another boon for Anaheim pride: Mason McTavish managed to score 59 seconds into overtime, giving the Ducks a 5-4 win over the Rangers.

With or without home team wins, Jaimes said he hopes people can recognize the good spirit he finds in the Anaheim community.

"I just want people to see what I see," he said.

sarah.mosqueda@latimes.com
Twitter: @SarahNMos

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

D	A	T	E	C	H	E	F	S	A	R	T	S
A	L	E	X	O	U	T	I	E	L	E	A	P
T	A	L	C	M	E	A	N	T	M	A	L	E
A	S	L	E	E	P	T	O	O	L	E	D	
				S	M	O	G	P	L	U	S	
V	A	R	S	I	T	Y	R	E	S	T	A	R
O	N	E	T	E	M	P	E	S	T	P	E	R
T	I	P			N	E	T			P	S	A
E	M	O		C	R	A	T	E	R	S	L	E
R	E	T	I	R	E	S		N	A	I	V	E
				R	O	U	T	D	I	N	O	
D	E	P	I	C	T			S	K	I	R	T
A	P	E	S			E	M	O	J	I	C	A
W	I	D	E			R	A	V	E	N	E	V
N	C	I	S			S	T	A	T	S	S	E

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

Daily Pilot

A Times Community News publication.

CONTACT US

Carol Cormaci
Executive Editor
carol.cormaci@latimes.com

Matt Szabo,
Huntington Beach and Sports
matthew.szabo@latimes.com

Beth Raff
Advertising Manager
(424) 225-9928
beth.raff@latimes.com

Andrew Turner,
Laguna Beach and Sports
andrew.turner@latimes.com

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

Reporters:
Sara Cardine,
Costa Mesa
sara.cardine@latimes.com
Eric Licas,
Newport Beach
eric.licas@latimes.com

Sarah Mosqueda, TimesOC
sarah.mosqueda@latimes.com

Gabriel San Román,
TimesOC
gabriel.sanroman@latimes.com

The Daily Pilot, established in 1907, is published Thursday through Sunday by Times Community News, a division of the Los Angeles Times. Subscriptions are available only by subscribing to The Times, Orange County.

© 2025 Times Community News. All rights reserved.

Even pets can pose for photos with Peter Cottontail

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

Nala was a little nervous about meeting the Easter Bunny at MainPlace mall. The German shepherd mix approached the big white rabbit seated in front of a pastel-colored cottage cautiously and barked when the bunny waved.

"I brought treats because she might be scared," said Christian Ayala, Nala's pet parent.

Nala was one of several animals who had an appointment for photos with floppy-eared rabbit at the Santa Ana shopping center on March 31. The cottontailed character, dressed in a purple jacket and festive bow tie, is available for meet-and-greets and photo opportunities at the mall through April 19.

While visiting the mall to have photos taken with the Easter Bunny — aka Peter Cottontail— is a tradition that has largely been reserved for young children, bringing four-legged companions in for the occasion has become popular too. In recent years, MainPlace has added days dedicated to pet photos as part of its annual Easter programming, with the next pet night scheduled for Monday, April 7, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

"Anyone who has a pet knows they have a real relationship with that furry friend," said Cory Sams, MainPlace general manager. "We want to give them a chance to be the best 'pet parents' they can be — and allowing them to share this experience with their pets is our way of helping our guests with that bonding process."

Any pets brought along to the shopping center for photos must be leashed or crated while inside the mall and although reservations are not required, they are recommended to streamline the process. Photos packages are printed on site through Cherry Hill Photo and are priced between



Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

CHRISTIAN AYALA'S dog, Nala, is nervous about meeting the Easter Bunny at MainPlace mall in Santa Ana.

\$39.99 and \$49.99. Some people dress up their pets for the photos and others use the opportunity to pose for a fun family photo that includes their pets.

"It's an enjoyable experience for the families that bring their pets to meet the Easter Bunny, but it's also equally enjoyable for on-lookers who just gather round to watch," Sams said.

While most people bring either dogs or cats, Sams said they have also seen some unconventional pets too, especially at Christmas when MainPlace also offers pet photos with Santa Claus.

"We have had a number of unusual pet photo ops at MainPlace, including bunnies and even a pet taran-

tula in past years," said Sams. "You never know what kind of pet someone will bring in for this fun-filled pet-centric experience."

Ayala and Nala looked on as two Chihuahua mixes climbed up on to the Easter Bunny's lap for their own photos. Nala did have her picture taken eventually, standing a comfortable distance away from the rabbit. Despite her initial skittishness, Ayala said it is important to him to include his dog in holiday traditions.

"To put it simply, she is part of the family," Ayala said.

sarah.mosqueda@latimes.com
Twitter: @SarahNMos



CRUZ CARILLO stands with his dog Ozzy, a shnoodle mix, as they have their picture taken.



Focused on giving health a lift

◆ Access to Care ◆ Mental Health Services ◆ Complex Care Coordination

As the largest health plan in Orange County, we know that access to care is essential. Yet health depends on more than medical care alone. Our team also coordinates care for complex health needs, mental health services and nutrition programs. We even connect members to housing and support services — all to lift everyone's whole health.

caloptima.org
CalOptima Health, A Public Agency



FANS

Continued from page A1

Ariz., was among the comic book vendors selling issues from the Silver and Bronze ages of the collectibles at the convention. While he negotiated over the price of a stack of comics one customer pulled, he talked about his early experience with comic conventions.

"I have been doing shows since about 1974," said Ponseti. "Early on, they were more than just comics. The first one I went to was a Star Trek science fiction and comic book convention."

Like most conventions, WonderCon has always attracted an eclectic mix of fans and vendors. Originally known as the Wonderful World of Comics Convention when it began in the late 1980s in the Bay Area, the convention came to Orange County in 2012, rebranded as WonderCon Anaheim, where it has become a highly anticipated event with an international following. This year's convention welcomed attendees from Afghanistan, Australia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Canada, Columbia, Costa Rica, Denmark, France, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Mexico, Netherlands, Philippines, Puerto Rico, the United Kingdom and Zimbabwe.

The 2025 convention featured speaker panels, autograph moments, original art, toys, games and even a masquerade. More than 900 exhibitors participated



Don Leach Daily Pilot

ARTIST MOLLY NEMECEK smiles while displaying some of their work to a visitor at WonderCon.

in the event.

Graphic artist Molly Nemecek, who uses they and their pronouns and goes by the name Mollinko, was working a booth on Artist Alley, where they offered a commissioned drawing for \$75.

"It is my first time at WonderCon, and so far everyone has been really nice," said Nemecek, who traveled from Canada for the event.

Nemecek has done illustrations for video games and comic books and loves to make stickers

for conventions because it gives the artist the chance to put their design skills to the test, drawing characters from video games and television shows.

"Some people call my style Lisa Frank, but with muscles," said Nemecek, referring to the design firm that was especially popular in the 1980s and '90s. "There are a lot of really bright colors and I love doing male pin-up work. You don't see a lot of people doing sexy dude pin-ups; it is usually women. I like to even the playing field a little

bit." Nemecek sketched on a pad in their lap, while cosplayers perused stickers and prints.

"I want people to come to my booth and see my art and see a safe space where they can be themselves," Nemecek said.

Sometimes being yourself means dressing like someone else. Alex Nicholson was one such cosplayer, dressed as Seiko Ayase from the manga series Dandadan, complete with a gray wig fluffed up to stand at attention like Seiko's trademark hairstyle.

"This is a store-bought wig that we literally teased and formed last night," Nicholson explained.

Some cosplayers worked on their costumes a little longer, like Vivienne Dubrock, who began putting together her Ah-soka costume in January. The Star Wars character, played by Rosario Dawson on the Disney+ show, has distinctive head features; two montrals and three head tails with blue and white coloring. Dubrock said she made most of her costume from scratch, including the headpiece.

"It is all, for the most part, 3D printed and then I sanded and hand-painted everything," said Dubrock. "The headpiece I made start to finish from silicone. We 3D printed a mold for it."

In the gaming area, attendees gather around tables for popular role playing games like Dungeons & Dragons, or to discover

a new favorite. Aric Lorton attend the convention promoting his new extraction style board game, Duelgeon.

"At a convention you get direct interaction with people that are probably going to be very invested in your game, that otherwise would not see it," Lorton said.

Orange County Public Libraries also set up a booth at the event, using the convention as an opportunity to call attention to the selection of graphic novels available to check out at local branches.

"We are promoting literacy," said Katherine Ramirez, a representative of OC Public Libraries. "Pictures with words is a great for kids who like to read, or are learning to read."

Ramirez offered library card membership and talked to attendees about Comic Orange, a family-friendly event celebrating comics and promoting literacy that will be held on May 10 at the Tustin Library.

Whether people were attending as fans of comics, gaming, cosplaying or art, they found a little bit of magic and wonder at the convention.

Ponseti said he is glad the conventions are still going strong and his booth remained busy throughout the weekend.

"There is a whole other generation we are passing the torch to and it is super fun to see," he said.

sarah.mosqueda@latimes.com
Twitter: @SarahNMos

BOOT

Continued from page A5

to replace the FivePoint Amphitheater, which closed in October 2023. Positioned in a corner of the Great Park Sports Complex,

the outdoor live entertainment space has served as a summer concert venue for Pacific Symphony concerts and other live events, while the city of Irvine works to develop a more permanent amphitheater facility.

Boots & Brews will be the

first big show of the season for Great Park Live and Giammanco hopes it won't be the last time the festival comes to Orange County. He is looking forward to providing a memorable experience for country fans.

"When the headliner hits

the stage and the lights go out and the place just goes absolutely nuts, you are seeing people singing the songs and you are seeing couples holding each other and sharing a moment; knowing that we helped create the atmosphere for

those moments they'll remember for the rest of their lives is amazing."

Tickets for Boots & Brews start at \$59.99 for general admission and \$149.99 for the VIP Lounge. There are also party packs that offer tickets at a discounted price

when you purchase four or more, and private cabana experiences too. For details on tickets visit bootsandbrews.com

sarah.mosqueda @latimes.com
Twitter: @SarahNMos

A WORD

Continued from page A4

metathesis.

In linguistics, "metathesis" means "the process whereby a sound hops out of its proper place, so to speak, and pops up elsewhere in the word, or switches places with another sound in the word,"

according to Merriam Webster's Dictionary of English Usage.

Wikipedia gives examples that may strike a nerve. My favorite, straight from the sea: anenome in place of anemone. This one drives me nuts — not because people who use it wrong annoy me, but because years ago I declared myself incapable of ever

using it right. Can't spell it. Can't pronounce it. I'll sign any petition that banishes it from the English language.

Then there's "cavalry" for "calvary." This one's more serious. If you get "anemone" wrong, the worst that can happen is people will think you're doing a musical number from Sesame Street. But if you get caval-

ry wrong, you change your meaning. Merriam-Webster's definition of calvary is "an open-air representation of the crucifixion of Jesus" or "an experience of usually intense mental suffering." A cavalry is a component of an army, especially one on horseback.

"Jewelry" in place of "jewelry" is another common metathesis. I doubt

I've ever pronounced this word the way it's spelled and don't plan to start anytime soon. "Asteriks" for "asterisk," "aks" for "ask," and "iorn" for "iron" are just a few more examples of common metatheses, and they all come with varying degrees of controversy. You can pick your likes and dislikes.

Me, I'm soft on almost all

these, except the incorrect pronunciation of "nuclear" and any pronunciation, right or wrong, of "anemone."

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

— CELEBRATE —

SPRING

EASTER
MARCH 28-APRIL 19

Celebrate Spring and visit the Easter Bunny for keepsake photos, the Bunny Carousel featuring larger-than-life bunnies and floral carriages. Springtime crafts, special activities and Easter balloons are sure to delight.

FLEURS DE VILLES
APRIL 23-27

Discover Fleurs de Villes, where floral artistry meets timeless design. This year, step into the world of *Downton Abbey* with a stunning collection of floral mannequins inspired by the series' most iconic characters and timeless fashion.

35TH ANNUAL
SPRING GARDEN SHOW
APRIL 24-27

The 35th annual Southern California Spring Garden Show is a four-day garden event showcasing the latest innovations, display gardens and more.

EXPLORE SPRING FASHION, HOME DECOR AND NEW STORES

Acne Studios • Alaïa • Baccarat • Chopard • Collegium • Crate & Barrel
Delvaux • Khaite • Santa Maria Novella • Swarovski • Victoria's Secret

partial listing

SOUTH
COAST
PLAZA

SOUTHCOASTPLAZA.COM

®

COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA