



Photos by James Carbone

THE FAMILY of Huntington Beach Police Officer Nicholas Vella embraces as Vella's name is added to the Orange County Peace Officers' Memorial Wall at the Orange County Sheriff's Training Academy in Tustin during a ceremony presented by the Orange County Sheriff's Advisory Council.

Lost HBPD officer's name added to memorial wall

Nicholas Vella, who died last year in a helicopter crash, is the 54th Orange County officer killed in the line of duty to be placed on the memorial wall.

BY MATT SZABO

Huntington Beach Police Department Officer Nicholas Vella has been described by those who knew him best as a giving man.

He gave his all to his job, and ultimately his life, after the HB1 helicopter he was in crashed off the coast of Newport Beach on Feb. 19, 2022, while responding to a call for service.

Vella was honored Thursday night as he was added to the Orange County Peace Officers' Memorial Wall, located at the Orange County Sheriff's Training Academy in Tustin.

The wall honors and remembers the county's fallen peace of-

cers. Vella's name will be the 54th and the first one added since 2014, the year after Laguna Beach Police Officer Jon Coutchie was killed in the line of duty.

Vella, who was 44, was survived by his wife, Kristi, daughter, Dylan, parents, John and Marcella, and brother, John Jr. All were present at Thursday night's ceremony, which was put on by the Orange County Sheriff's Advisory Council and concluded with a candlelight vigil next to the memorial wall.

Kristi has made a circuit of sorts, as she attended events honoring her late husband in

See **Memorial**, page A2



HUNTINGTON BEACH Police Chief Eric Parra escorts Kristi Vella, the wife of Huntington Beach Police Officer Nick Vella, to place a single red rose on a wreath for her husband at Thursday's ceremony.

A buzz grows among C.M. bee fanatics

Backyard beehives are not allowed in the city, but talk about drafting a law to legalize the practice is taking wing.

BY SARA CARDINE

Costa Mesa resident Alberta Mirisciotti has a thing for bees.

Her fascination began 13 years ago, when she saw a swarm on her property and had to call someone out to rescue them. Soon after she started learning more about the practice, then became a rescuer herself.

"We need the bees," she says of the prolific pollinators. "Every three bites of food we eat has been touched by a bee."

Today, Mirisciotti runs Hey Honey, a rescue and relocation business that offers raw, natural honey and education about the essential role bees play in the production of flowers and food crops.

The bottom of her business card reads: "Give Bees a Chance." It's a relevant message, she says, because, despite the fanfare the humble insect receives from farmers, science teachers and conservationists, many still view them as potentially harmful due to their capacity to sting.

This includes the city of Costa Mesa, where it is illegal to keep bees outside of educational or scientific settings. Any errant bee-keeping is a code violation that could incur penalties, including costly fines.

Despite Orange County's historic ties to agriculture, fewer

See **Bee**, page A3

Irvine breaks ground on park project

City officials estimate construction for the Great Park will cost \$1B and add 300 acres of new development.

BY ANDREW TURNER

The next phase in the development of the Great Park in Irvine got underway this week, as city officials gathered to mark the beginning of construction for 300 acres of new amenities and features.

A groundbreaking ceremony for the "Great Park Framework Plan" was held in the shadow of an air traffic control tower at the ARDA site on the former Marine Corps Air Station El Toro on Tuesday.

Before its conclusion, the well-

See **Project**, page A3



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

SOPHIA RABIN, a senior at Corona del Mar High School, recently won the U.S. Presidential Scholar of Arts for 2023. Rabin played a show at the Campus Jax singer-songwriter showcase in Newport Beach on May 16, and will perform at the Corona del Mar graduation ceremony in June.

'Make music every day'

Corona del Mar High senior Sophia Rabin named a U.S. Presidential Scholar of Arts.

BY LILLY NGUYEN

Sophia Rabin is always thinking about song lyrics, and she has thousands of voice notes and written memos in her phone to prove it.

Her bedroom walls are covered with album vinyl covers from artists like Lorde, Phoebe Bridgers and Paramore. Shelves are filled with more. A drum set sits in the corner, her guitar is never too far away from reach, and there's a keyboard just waiting for her to tickle a key or two when a melody creeps into her head.

At one point during an interview about her most recent award, Rabin stopped to write

See **Music**, page A3

A Surf City Favorite Since 1961

AFFINITY & CO. JEWELERS • BANK OF AMERICA • BATH & BODY WORKS • BIG 5 SPORTING GOODS • CHASE BANK • CHICO'S • CLAIRE'S • CLOUDMOVER DAY SPA
DISCOVERY SHOP • DUCK DONUTS • GAP, GAPKIDS & BABYGAP • GLITZ NAIL BAR • GLOBAL VISION OPTOMETRY • HASHIGO SUSHI • KAHOOVS PET STORE
LEMON THAI CUISINE • LOFT • MARIO'S MEXICAN FOOD & CANTINA • OMAHA STEAKS • PHENIX SALON SUITES • QUINN'S APOTHECARY PHARMACY • R&B TEA HOUSE
RED EFFECT INFRARED FITNESS • SALON CHAMPAGNE • TILLYS • TITANIUM TICKETS • TORRID • TRADER JOE'S • THE UPS STORE • VANS • YOGURTLAND • ZUMIEZ

NOW OPEN: 5 POINTS COMPANION ANIMAL HOSPITAL • CLAIRE'S • LANE BRYANT • LOFT • TORRID
OPENING IN JUNE: BIG BLUE SWIM SCHOOL

 5 POINTS PLAZA

MAIN @ BEACH BLVD • HUNTINGTON BEACH • 5POINTSPLAZA.COM



Casa Romantica plans fundraiser as parts reopen

Partial reopening comes nearly a month after a landslide beneath the Ocean Terrace.

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

Nearly a month after a landslide forced Casa Romantica Cultural Center and Gardens to close, the San Clemente landmark announced plans for a partial reopening starting Memorial Day weekend.

"The city of San Clemente has identified the locations on the estate that are safe from the damage caused by the landslide and present no danger to the staff or public. We believe that opening our doors, even partially, brings us one step closer to rejuvenating the spirit of Casa Romantica," executive director Amy Behrens said in a statement.

A soft opening for the general public took place Thursday, and an official grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony followed on Friday.

"The soft opening on Thursday will allow us to share progress of the grounds and highlight the undamaged spaces with our cherished visitors," Behrens said. "The grand-opening celebration on Friday will be a momentous occasion symbolizing the strength and resilience of Casa Romantica."

Landslides in San Clemente in late April damaged the center's ocean terrace, suspended passenger and freight rail service along the coast and forced four oceanfront apartment buildings to evacuate. This year's unusually heavy rains contributed to the coastline crumbling.

The weeks of closure have put Casa Romantica in a vulnerable financial situa-

tion, with uncertainty surrounding the center's planned programs, private events and activities.

Casa Romantica is the historic home of Ole Hanson, the founder of San Clemente. Built in 1927, many of the structures in the rest of the city are patterned after the Spanish Colonial Revival architectural movement of the early 20th century. In the late 1980s, Hanson's home was registered as a historic landmark and has since become a cultural arts center, a botanical destination and popular wedding venue.

In order to continue its programming and recoup a loss of revenue from private event sales and cultural event cancellations, Casa Romantica has launched an online fundraiser called "Building Hope, Preserving History."

Various donor levels for businesses and individuals are available, with each offering a specially curated memento. Supporters who donate \$50 will receive a special postcard from Casa Romantica accompanied by a heartfelt, handwritten letter from a dedicated volunteer. Donation of \$250 will be rewarded with a commemorative Casa Romantica tile coaster, indicative of the intricate tiles found on the center's grounds. Naming opportunities are also available for significant donations.

The fundraiser aims to raise \$250,000 by June 30.

"Casa Romantica is immensely grateful for the outpouring of support received thus far," said Behrens. "We look forward to embracing the future together as we restore and preserve this treasured cultural landmark."

sarah.mosqueda

@latimes.com

Twitter: @SarahNMos



Cameron Cosgrove

CASA ROMANTICA Cultural Center and Gardens held a grand-opening event on Saturday after a landslide damaged the property and forced its closure in April. The closure has put the San Clemente landmark in a vulnerable financial situation.

UCI Health

Choosing UCI Health for cancer care gave us mom back.

There's no greater feeling than knowing you've chosen the best place to help you beat cancer. At UCI Health, we treat more patients with cancer and more complex cases than any other hospital in the region. And with **world-class comprehensive cancer care** within your reach, the words "cancer-free" are even closer.



Visit ucihealth.org/cancer or call 714-500-7891 to schedule a next-day consultation.

Models used for illustrative purposes.

Daily Pilot

A Times Community News publication.

CONTACT US

Carol Cormaci
Executive Editor
carol.cormaci@latimes.com

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

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

Reporters:
Sara Cardine, Costa Mesa
sara.cardine@latimes.com

Lilly Nguyen,
Newport Beach
lilly.nguyen@latimes.com

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

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

Eric Licas, Public Safety
eric.licas@latimes.com

Sarah Mosqueda, TimesOC
sarah.mosqueda@latimes.com

Send Letters to the Editor
to erik.haugli@latimes.com.
See Mailbag for guidelines.

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

© 2023 Times Community News.
All rights reserved.

MEMORIAL

Continued from page A1

Washington, D.C. and Sacramento. Nick Vella's name was inscribed on the California Peace Officers Memorial at the state capitol in a ceremony earlier this month.

"This one is closest to my heart because it's local," Kristi Vella said Thursday night. "I appreciate all the agencies. It's heavy. It doesn't get any easier ... [but] the support, and the fact that he is honored continually in anything, tells me he will not be forgotten."

Kristi Vella and Huntington Beach Police Chief Eric Parra placed a red rose on the memorial wreath in honor of Nick. Parra and Dylan Vella, who is now a high school senior, lit the memorial candle.

Parra was the keynote speaker at the event, which included police chiefs and officers from all over Orange County, as well as survivors of those previously killed in the line of duty. He said he only met Nick Vella

CANDLES

SURROUND the plaque of fallen Huntington Beach Police Officer Nicholas Joseph Vella during Thursday's ceremony.

James Carbone

once, but he has been impressed getting to know his family over the last handful of months since the tragedy.

He said he has drawn from the strength that Kristi Vella has shown.

"If you have the opportunity to receive a hug from Dylan Vella, and you don't take it, you're missing out on the opportunity of a lifetime," Parra said during his remarks. "She gives hugs like nobody else. I got one tonight, it almost knocked



me over by the way, but it was beautiful. I will never forget it, and I'm going to get some more later. I love you, and more importantly, your dad does. He's going to be there in your heart forever, and we're going to help you never forget that."

The annual Peace Officers' Memorial also included an honor roll bell, a three-volley salute and the traditional playing of the "Taps," as well as "Amazing Grace" on the bagpipes. Helicopters from the O.C.

Sheriff's Department, California Highway Patrol, Huntington Beach and Anaheim police departments conducted a flyover in the missing man formation in honor of the fallen heroes.

Dignitaries present also included Huntington Beach Mayor Pro Tem Gracey Van Der Mark and City Manager Al Zelinka. Orange County Sheriff Don Barnes and O.C. Sheriff's Advisory Council past president Wayne Pinell gave their remarks. Vella, a 14-year veteran of

the HBPD, is the third HBPD officer on the wall, joining Leo Roy Darst (1928) and Leslie J. Prince (1974). A roll call was taken Thursday, with representatives of each agency standing when their fallen officer's name was called.

Parra talked about all of the human decency he has seen in the wake of Vella's passing, from civilian responders on a boat who attempted to rescue him to the people of Lido Isle and the mobile home community where the helicopter went down.

"From this tragedy I've seen so much human decency, and I've seen so much human decency over my career in law enforcement," Parra said. "Everybody on the wall, and Nick, do this job because they love it. They don't do it to get rich, they don't do it for recognition, they don't do it for a lot of other reasons. They do it because it's what they want to do, and it's what they believe in their hearts ... They're all heroes in my mind."

Rey Ortiz, who came to the event in a blue T-shirt

honoring Vella, wouldn't argue. Ortiz said he and Vella were neighbors in Anaheim Hills and became good friends for more than 12 years.

Both had a wife named Kristi — spelled the same way — and a daughter the same age, and they quickly hit it off.

"He was an amazing person," Ortiz said. "A lot of people here know him from law enforcement, but we only know him as our friend and neighbor. He was amazing. He was fun to be around, always uplifting, always helpful. We had a really good relationship."

"Even in this line of work, he was never bringing stuff home. I can just imagine him at work because as a person in our neighborhood, I've never seen Nick frustrated or mad. He was always that person who was more concerned about how you felt, than about sharing his own personal feelings."

The service closed with a prayer from HBPD Chief Chaplain Roger Wing.

matthew.szabo@latimes.com
Twitter: @mjszabo

MUSIC*Continued from page A1*

down a line. It's not the first time it's happened, she joked, and it wouldn't be the last either: She once stepped away from an AP exam to write down a lyric that popped into her head.

The Corona del Mar High School senior was recently named a U.S. Presidential Scholar of the Arts for 2023, making her one of 20 students to be honored this year. She joins 160 other high school seniors selected nationally for their exceptional performance in the categories of academics, arts and career and technical education this year and is part of the 59th class of U.S. Presidential Scholars.

For Rabin, this is another feather in her cap of achievements over the past year, which include being named a national finalist for YoungArts and receiving

notice of a full scholarship to attend USC this fall.

"I'm so lucky recently," Rabin said, with a laugh. "I've been getting recognized. Songwriting is a really isolated thing, but I'm getting recognition from YoungArts; I'm going to USC next year, which is pretty unbelievable. I'm getting recognized at this caliber, and now nationally — it's hard to even fathom that this is happening to me because it's been radio silence for so long. Right now, I'm just so excited it's happening and people are finding me, and new opportunities are opening up."

Rabin said she's been playing the guitar since she was 4. Her father is a musician and was in a band in college, writing songs and performing. She said she was surrounded by music growing up and, after noticing a creative spark in her, her parents decided to

*Don Leach | Staff Photographer*

SOPHIA RABIN performing in Newport Beach on May 16. The CdM High senior will be heading to USC in the fall.

enroll her in music classes.

When she was attending Harbor View Elementary she started a band, the Galvantics, with some classmates. They performed at the House of Blues and open houses, anywhere that would take them.

"It was just a really fun

way to start doing music," she said of the band. "Doing that showed me how much fun playing with your friends and [playing] live can be."

The Galvantics later dissolved as the girls went their separate ways to different middle and high schools, but Rabin kept

writing and playing music.

Adding to her initial repertoire of guitar, she learned the piano, drums and bass and became a vocalist. She went to GRAMMY Camp for songwriting, networked, played shows and eventually entered the YoungArts competition. She was able to attend National YoungArts Week in Miami this year, which she said is what led her to being nominated for the U.S. Presidential Scholar of Arts award.

"It was like heaven," Rabin said of National YoungArts Week. "I got to play my song that I actually wrote about my mom and that was the one that got me selected. It's a really special song to me. That performance went really, really well. It was one of the biggest rooms I'd ever played to ... and then I got word I won first place in my discipline [voice, with an emphasis in being a

singer-songwriter], and then I was interviewed and selected as a candidate in January."

Flash-forward to April when she found out while getting ready to go to school that she'd won the U.S. Presidential Scholar of the Arts competition.

"I came barging up the stairs, yelling, 'Mom! I did it!' and my parents were both asleep because it was so early," she said, laughing.

The song that captured her first place in Miami, "Shadows of Airplanes," was written last June. Rabin's mother, Allison, had just had knee surgery and was facing complications that caused her excruciating pain. With her father out of town on a business trip and her brother unable to drive, Rabin drove her mother to the hospital, where her mom joked through the pain that the

See Music, page A5

*Don Leach | Staff Photographer*

CORRINE POWELL of the Orange County Beekeepers Assn. prepares to enter a beehive Wednesday.

BEE*Continued from page A1*

than half of its cities permit residential beekeeping, including Huntington Beach, Laguna Beach, Santa Ana and Irvine. That's something Mirisciotti and other apiarists would like to see change in Costa Mesa.

And perhaps it may. For the past year, there's been a growing buzz around crafting an ordinance to allow residents to legally keep bees.

In 2022, the city's Animal Services Committee — an advisory panel that promotes pet licensing and animal-related events and services — included among its annual goals exploring existing Orange County beekeeping ordinances.

Members Wednesday reviewed a report from an ad hoc subcommittee on how cities regulate the practice through permitting, zoning and distancing requirements, inspections and limiting hive numbers.

"Beekeeping is of particular importance now, as there has been a worldwide decline in domesticated honeybee populations," reads the report, describing a trend of Colony Collapse Disorder due, in part, to a rise in deadly mites and parasites.

"Backyard beehives contribute to the bee population, help address the adverse effects of CCD and contribute to making the city greener."

Subcommittee member Jenn Tanaka noted in 2010,

New York City allowed residents to maintain hives, even on apartment balconies.

"It can be done, even in an incredibly dense area," she said. "We've been having a lot of trouble in Southern California with maintaining our pollinator population. I think it would be good to keep the conversation open."

Some committee members seemed hesitant to move forward with an ordinance. Chair Becca Walls maintained it falls outside the group's purview, which should focus primarily on pets. Vice Chair Angela Minjares agreed.

"I just think our effort could be put to better use on other things," Minjares said. "I'm a little concerned about how it would be maintained. It's easy to call about a barking dog, but how do you maintain this?"

Costa Mesa Deputy Police Chief Joyce LaPointe said although some residents have shared concerns about the safety of children and animals, allowances might be made for open spaces.

"We do have some areas in town with pretty large properties. Maybe there are certain areas that would allow for it," she said. "But at this time we have no information to really even speak to how that would work."

Most beekeepers distinguish between European honeybees and feral colonies of "Africanized" bees, known to attack animal and

See Bee, page A5

PROJECT*Continued from page A1*

attended event had witnessed the demolition of an old, blue hangar, part of the military base being transformed into a 1,300-acre park, a project now expected to cost \$1 billion.

Councilman Mike Carroll, chairman of the Great Park board, said the scope of the development will place it among the largest municipal parks in the nation, making the Great Park larger than Central Park in New York, Golden Gate Park in San Francisco and Balboa Park in San Diego.

"Through 2023 and 2024, the next thing up will be the project of demolishing everything," Carroll said. "We will be tearing down buildings, removing infrastructure and preparing the site for its grand transformation. These demolition activities make an important milestone in the project's progress, and they signify the beginning of an exciting new chapter in the arc of Irvine's history."

"On the numbers, 77



A CROWD gathers around Irvine Mayor Farrah Khan and City Council members Larry Agran, Mike Carroll, Tammy Kim and Kathleen Treseder, from left, during a ceremony for the next phase of construction at the Great Park in Irvine Tuesday.

Don Leach

structures and approximately 180,000 square feet of total building area will be removed from the northern section of this park."

Carroll also touched on the history of the land, including the debate over its future after the military base closed in 1999.

"One of the great developments in the history of the city of Irvine ensued," Carroll said. "Should this land be a community municipal park for the benefit of the community, or should it be an interna-

tional airport like LAX?

"Some of you here ... may recall the intense grassroots campaign to block the plan for an international airport like LAX, and through the efforts of many in Irvine, ... we're here to enjoy what we have. Measure W was placed, based on their efforts, on the ballot in the year 2002, and the residents of Orange County ... voted that a vision of a great metropolitan park would prevail over an international airport by a trouncing margin of 58% to 42%."

Councilman Larry Agran, the vice chairman of the Great Park board, thanked citizens who have publicly supported the idea of honoring veterans with a memorial park and gardens at the ARDA site.

"We began this effort in 2013, in real earnest, and there have been a lot of ups and downs since then," Agran said. "But it was really the work of unsung heroes, citizens, many of whom are here, who circulated an all-important initiative petition that declared and made as a mat-

ter of law the reality that this land, these 125 acres, the so-called ARDA site, would be the site of a wonderful veterans memorial park, gardens and cemetery.

"The cemetery issue is now being decided elsewhere in Sacramento, but for now, we are about the business of building this wonderful, 125-acre veterans memorial park, including a wonderful perimeter park with trees and trails, a memorial forest, memorial gardens, [and] installations commemorating the service and sacrifice of so many that have served on this former Marine Corps air station base."

A large crowd of veterans and supporters showed up to Tuesday's ceremony, including Evin Planto, the commander for American Legion Newport Harbor Post 291 in Newport Beach.

Planto, a 30-year Army veteran, said Tuesday was his first visit to the airbase, adding, "It's great to see what's going on and what they're doing, not only for the park, but also for the veterans."

A public library, botanical gardens and a 14,000-seat permanent amphitheater that will replace the temporary FivePoint Amphitheatre are among the projects included in the Great Park Framework plan.

Two new lakes, an arboretum and additional open space in the form of a meadow will be created for the public's enjoyment. There will also be new food and beverage options coming to the area.

The Great Park already features a sports complex, which is set to see the addition of an aquatic center, Great Park Ice, Palm Court Arts Complex, the iconic Great Park Balloon and a Wild Rivers Water Park that opened last year.

"What we do in parks is we bring communities together," Khan said. "We offer opportunity for families, individuals, seniors [and] children to build memories, and what a great place to build a memory right here at the Great Park."

andrew.turner@latimes.com
Twitter: @AndrewTurnerTCN

forum

COLUMN | PATRICE APODACA

Living local heroes remember those who didn't make it

In many ways, Billy Hall and Dwight Hanson are very different people.



They are separated in age by more than four decades. Hanson, 54, is a college graduate; Hall, 97, left high school early and years later earned a GED credential. Hanson, a father of three grown children, lives in Irvine with his wife. Hall, whose only surviving relative is a daughter in Arizona, resides in an assisted living facility in Orange. Hanson is passionate; Hall is light-hearted.

But the pair are bound by one essential fact: They are both veterans, proud former Marines — or, as Hanson says, “You’re always a Marine” — who know deep in their bones what it means to put their lives on the line for their country. That bond is immovable, unshakable and serves as impetus for their current mission to share their backgrounds and knowledge with whoever might be interested in listening.

Together they venture around the county and beyond, talking to students and active military members, appearing at recruit-

ing stations and various events, where they discuss their experiences in vivid detail. Hall was part of a group of veterans Hanson organized to travel to Hawaii in 2021 to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Soon they will leave for Normandy, France, to mark the anniversary of the D-Day invasion.

I met up with them recently at Corona del Mar High School, where they and other veterans spoke to students as part of Newport-Mesa Unified School District’s Living History program, which is coordinated with the Freedom Committee of Orange County.

And what a history they have.

Hall, as Hanson frequently emphasizes, is believed to be the last living veteran to enlist before World War II and to engage in combat in that war, and in Korea and Vietnam. He enlisted in the Marines when he was just 15½ years old — he didn’t lie about his age, he says with a twinkle in his eyes, the recruitment officer did — and by age 16 he was flying on aerial combat missions

in the Pacific and took part in the months-long Battle of Guadalcanal, the first major land offensive by Allied forces against Japan.

He tells harrowing stories about the dive bombers on which he served as rear gunner and radio gunner. Those planes would plummet from 10,000 feet in altitude to 500 feet, often upside down, the pilot lapsing in and out of consciousness, while under fire to drop a single bomb.

Hall participated in more than 150 missions; later he returned stateside, and after a short stint in civilian life he joined the Army National Guard and learned to fly planes and helicopters. He retired from the military in 1967.

Still active and mentally sharp — he works out regularly and takes walks to the local mall — Hall regaled the students with as many tales as he could fit in during his allotted time. He told them about a training exercise in Alaska when a bear chased a pilot atop his helicopter, and of the hair-raising, tightly orchestrated drop-offs of troops into combat zones in Vietnam.

Many times he cheated death. He recounted one such time when he realized



Denise Weiland

BILLY HALL, yellow shirt, and **Dwight Hanson**, in red, share veteran stories with students at Corona del Mar High.

that the gas tank on the dive bomber on which he was flying had been hit and he braced for an explosion. But the round that hit turned out to be a rare dud, and after an emergency refueling, the plane made it safely back to base.

Hanson, who served as a rifleman and aviation electrician in the Persian Gulf War, calls Hall “a living legend.” Hall says of Hanson, “I like him. We think like each other.”

But in one respect, their thinking subtly diverges.

With Memorial Day approaching, I asked the pair to share their thoughts about those who didn’t

make it back. The holiday, after all, is intended to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice while defending their country.

After serving in three wars, Hall said he doesn’t dwell on those who died, preferring to think of them as having transferred or just gone away somewhere.

Hanson, however, is dedicated to honoring the fallen and keeping memories of them alive. He mentioned a Marine named Kevin Balduf, a father of two young children from Tennessee who served in Afghanistan and helped rescue other Marines and Afghanis only to be felled

by an insurgent’s bullet. He stops by Balduf’s grave at Arlington National Cemetery whenever he’s there to visit his father’s grave.

He also told me of another Marine, Abraham Simpson, a one-time Eagle Scout from Chino, Calif., who was just 19 when he died in Iraq in 2004. His mother speaks frequently to troops.

“There’s still young men and women willing to stand in the gap, willing to give their lives,” he said.

It’s easy to be cynical in these divisive times. Distrust of institutions, and each other, runs high. Perhaps on Memorial Day we’d prefer to shop the sales, grill burgers and abstain from the holiday’s true intent.

But it would be fitting and right if we all took a moment to remember that our military is comprised of individuals who vow to put everything on the line. Many, like Hall and Hanson, make it back. Some do not, and they should never be forgotten.

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.

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

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

MAILBAG

Abortion response was mistaken

The letter in response to the Planned Parenthood commentary “Share your abortion story” authored by Bill and Jann Dunlap (Daily Pilot Mailbag, May 19) serves to show how many don’t understand the complexity of an unwanted pregnancy. Throwing around false morality and debasing women is less than helpful.

There are myriad reasons for unwanted pregnancies and why decisions are made to end them. The road from conception to a newborn child is long and fraught with uncertainty for both the mother and the embryo/fetus. The government, the state and whatever your religious beliefs are cannot change that only the woman can decide for herself whether to carry a pregnancy to term. Regardless of what laws are enacted, women will go to great lengths to retain their humanity, which includes bodily autonomy.

Lisa Shook
Huntington Beach

A couple from Newport Beach recently opined in the Daily Pilot on the Mother’s Day commentary regarding the erosion of abortion rights in America. The editorial was not about abortion somehow being a gift for Mother’s Day at all, but leave it to anti-choice conservatives to shift the narrative. This is an annoying tactic they often use, but what really gripes me the most about conservatives is that they are always railing about individual rights and freedoms but only when it suits them (guns). My take on the whole abortion issue here is to stay out of a woman’s reproductive business. If you don’t like abortion, don’t have one.

But don’t block a woman that needs one from having one! Alas for conservatives it’s always: Do as I say, only what I say.

Mike Aguilar
Costa Mesa

Convene at Camp David over guns

Kudos to Moms Demand Action and their support for National Gun Violence Awareness Day June 2 as reported in the Daily Pilot on May 18. With mass shootings happening virtually every day now, I have to ask: Who isn’t aware of the problem? What’s not so obvious is how to solve it. With this thought in mind, here’s what I recently asked President Biden to do: Take a page out of Jimmy Carter’s 1978 playbook and convene a Camp David gun summit.

Recall that when the former president brought together old warriors Anwar Sadat of Egypt and Menachem Begin of Israel, it took nearly two weeks of intense negotiations before they forged a peace agreement. Today, Biden needs to bring representatives of the NRA, 2nd Amendment, law enforcement and grieving relatives together to find common ground on gun safety measures.

It won’t be easy, but I’m sure they can do it. Once that happens, the group’s next step would be to hold hands and visit lawmakers in Washington who oppose new gun laws. Having worked on Capitol Hill, I believe their new Camp David agreement will give members of Congress the political coverage they need to support new initiatives.

This won’t be easy, but I’m convinced all roads to gun safety laws lead to Camp David. I hope Moms Demand Action will agree.

Denny Freidenrich
Laguna Beach

tentional secret is Suzanne Forster’s modesty regarding her first career. Most people know her as the member of a three-person team who brought Banning Ranch to fruition after more than a decade of exceedingly hard work. Few would guess that one person would have two such distinguished careers.

The story about how she became a writer is quite interesting. She was pursuing a degree in clinical psychology when she was involved in a serious car accident and had to drop out of grad school. The recovery took longer than expected, and by the time that she was well enough to return, she had published a book and launched a new career.

Perhaps the most crucial role Suzanne played in addition to being chief writer for the group was educating the community by giving talks in private homes and other larger venues about the importance of Banning Ranch, the last unprotected open space in coastal Orange County. Accompanying her in these talks was Dorothy Kraus who formerly worked in leadership positions at major health services, including UC San Diego and UC Irvine and is an equally important community leader. I was so impressed with Suzanne and Dorothy’s presentation that I joined the Banning Ranch effort on the spot.

One would be remiss not to mention the president of Banning Ranch who spearheaded the group, Terry Welsh managed this endeavor while working full time as a pathologist.

It doesn’t seem this triumvirate ever got the full credit that they deserved for their incredible success with the Banning Ranch project — their gift to the community.

Lynn Lorenz
Newport Beach

The trio behind Banning Ranch

Few people know that Newport Beach is the home of a bestselling author who has dozens of books to her credit. Part of the reason for this unin-

H.B. leadership is too partisan

It’s time the Huntington Beach City Council majority gives up the pretense of giving “local control” and representation to most of

its constituents. Mayor Tony Strickland, backed by his cronies Pat Burns, Casey McKeon and Gracey Van Der Mark, have launched a crusade to strip away the norms that have governed the city well this century and that threatens to plunge it into the “bad old days” of the previous one.

The Daily Pilot article (“Huntington Beach mayor will select who gives invocation at City Council meetings,” May 18) states that Strickland “drew on his experience in state government in pitching the idea [for the invocation].” Just like he “drew on his experience” in raising the campaign contribution limits for local offices to “state limits” or his outside experience in dismantling our local social and governmental norms to further advance his agenda. Messing with the invocation and our boards and commissions structure, effectively muzzling the council minority members intent on actually providing solutions to our dilemmas, trashing civic diversity we have cultivated as somehow being “woke” or smacking of socialism, and on and on.

In dealing with state housing requirements, Strickland has become the partisan warrior his “experience in state government” taught him to be, much to the distress of the community being victimized. The vast majority of Surf City residents do not want to see us hit by a tsunami of penalties from the state just to preserve the partisan tough guy image the council majority is trying to project. This, in the place of being constructive and achieving real progress with our problems and issues. While some may be reluctant to claim “the emperor wears no clothes” in providing real leadership, an increasing percentage of our citizenry is leaning in that direction.

It seems the only way for Huntington Beach to truly regain local control is to toss out those council members who are making us lose it.

Tim Geddes
Huntington Beach

MARKETPLACE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ENTERTAINMENT
500

Religious Announcements

Thank you St Jude & Sacred Heart of Jesus for prayers answered-CM

HOMES FOR SALE
1100

HOMES FOR SALE VACATION PROPERTIES

Panama City Beach, Fl 3 bdrm w/loft, 2.5bth townhome located in Palmetto Trace SD Panama City Beach, FL <1.5miles from beach. \$364.9K, MLS#919996.

COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE
1000

Real Estate Services

HOMEOWNER'S!
? Looking to Sell? Great Results!
Gus Bonilla-Agt. VASTREE
R.E 626-236-2195
Lic:01144658

MARKETPLACE
800

Miscellaneous Merchandise

Vinyl Records Wanted
\$\$\$ Top cash paid
4 all or part of collection.
Jazz, Classical,
Psychedelic, Blues
949-933-6777 Mike

FIND
an apartment through classified

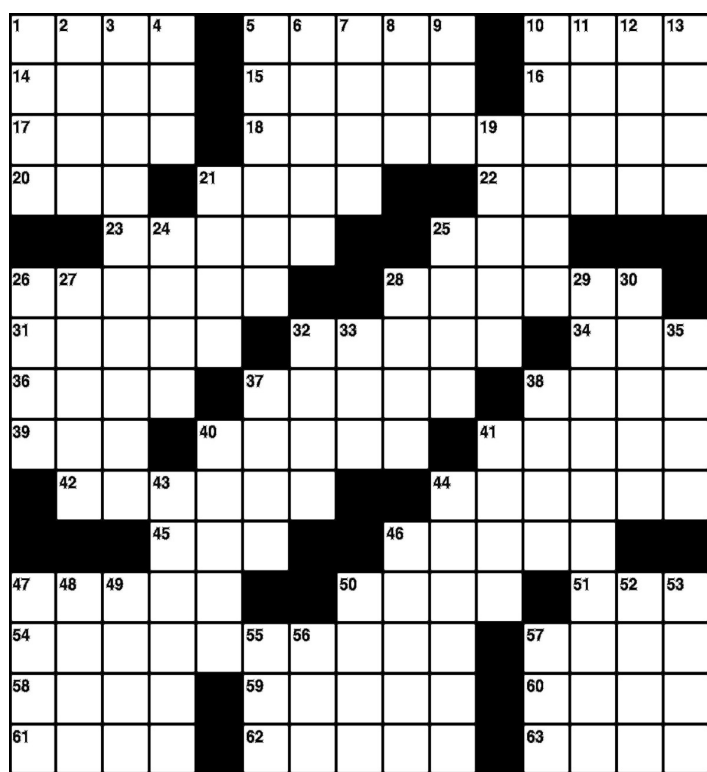
Classified is CONVENIENT whether you're buying, selling, or just looking, classified has what you need! To advertise in CLASSIFIED go to timescommunityadvertising.com

Mark's Painting & Handyman Service
714-222-3055
Wood Restoration Specialist
Licensed & Bonded
C-33-#967860

GC-Commercial
Qualifying Projects, Joint Ventures, Retail Stores, Supervision, Punch Lists, B License 1064764 in CA, Other States and Travel Available.
ARA Contractors Inc
702-858-1228
www.aracontractor.com

THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews



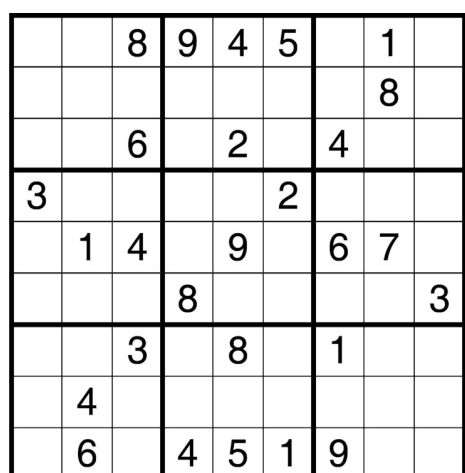
ACROSS

- 1 Holier-than-thou
- 5 "Trees" & "The Raven"
- 10 Cabbage dish
- 14 TV remote button
- 15 Butt heads
- 16 Chicken of the Sea product
- 17 Take out
- 18 Classic doll
- 20 DeSantis or Newsom: abbr.
- 21 Floor pads
- 22 Make laugh
- 23 Steer clear of
- 25 Nintendo game console
- 26 Once and again and again
- 28 Inborn ability
- 31 Goes higher
- 32 Like the area under an awning
- 34 Have debts
- 36 Rarin' to go
- 37 Sphere of the world
- 38 Songbird
- 39 Greyhound or gerbil
- 40 Victoria's Secret display
- 41 Obsolete
- 42 Circulatory or respiratory
- 44 Tourist attractions
- 45 Jamie _ Curtis
- 46 Smooth & glossy
- 47 Scarecrow stuffing
- 50 Rosary piece
- 51 Weird
- 54 Temporary; passing
- 57 On the house
- 58 Mom's sister
- 59 Dig
- 60 Unable to hear
- 61 Implores
- 62 Dangerous critter
- 63 Make a scene

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 A4.

DOWN

- 1 Bad air
- 2 Office note
- 3 Duke or Rice
- 4 Abdomen
- 5 Rose _; New Year's Day event
- 6 Get up on a soapbox
- 7 Custard ingredients

- 8 Coffee cup
- 9 _ red; get angry
- 10 Thwart; hinder
- 11 Lanai feast
- 12 Curry & Jillian
- 13 Dwindle
- 19 The New York Times, e.g.
- 21 Big _; fast-food burgers
- 24 Competed

- 25 Get your feet wet
- 26 Mouse's downfall
- 27 Allergic disorder
- 28 Keep _ on; follow closely
- 29 Asian nation
- 30 Twitter post
- 32 Svelte
- 33 Bunny's movement
- 35 Split _; hair problem
- 37 Delight
- 38 _ war; go to battle
- 40 Goulash & ragout
- 41 Succumbed to illness
- 43 Inclines
- 44 Assassin
- 46 Do a waiter's job
- 47 Take a _ at; try
- 48 _ or false test
- 49 Pealed
- 50 Courageous
- 52 College official
- 53 Skillful
- 55 Neighbor of Nev.
- 56 Senator Cruz
- 57 Presidential monogram

Tribune Media Services

BEE

Continued from page A3

human intruders with great force.

Looking to increase honey yields in the 1850s, Brazilian farmers bred the two species together, not knowing African bees, which faced more natural predators, were also more aggressive in defending hives.

Hybrid strains eventually reached the U.S. and are now thought to be behind reports of "killer bee" attacks, in which unwitting victims receive hundreds of stings.

Corrine Powell is treasurer of the Orange County Beekeepers Assn., a volunteer organization focused on education and best practices that maintains a permitted beehive at Centennial Farm at Costa Mesa's Orange County fairgrounds. She attested to the gentleness of colonies bred in Northern California, where harmful hybrids do not live.

"I've been beekeeping for six years. I've been stung maybe three or four times," Powell said. "I don't suit up when I'm just walking around in my backyard, and the bees don't bother



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

A FRAME of honeybees from a hive on display at the O.C. fairgrounds, one of the few places in Costa Mesa where apiaries are allowed.

me at all."

OCBA President Liz Savage said consuming local honey reduces allergic reactions to stings. She claimed breeding honeybees could ameliorate the prevalence of feral colonies.

"We want to have more common bees than Africanized bees, so we can tone down the genetics," she said. "If we don't have backyard beekeepers managing colonies, then all that's going to be out there is feral bees."

Mirisciotti, who came under the scrutiny of city code enforcers after a neighbor reported being

stung by a bee from a hive she'd been relocating, urged some kind of compromise.

"We just want them to thrive in our communities because we need them. So why don't we educate and do things to keep them in safe environments, for them and for our communities?" she reasoned.

Committee members agreed to allow for the continued study of an ordinance. Any recommendations would have to be approved by the Costa Mesa City Council.

sara.cardine@latimes.com
Twitter: @SaraCardine

MUSIC

Continued from page A3

experience could be used to create her daughter's next hit single.

"As a mom, you try to shield your children," Allison Rabin said. "I was in such a tremendous amount of pain. I couldn't do anything. I couldn't even hold a pen to fill out the paperwork, and my 17-year-old has never seen me like this, so I was trying to keep her distracted. I don't remember exactly what I said, but I said something like, 'It's going to be OK,' to try and turn the tragedy into something that she could focus on so she wasn't focusing on my pain."

Once Allison Rabin got put into the hands of the

doctors, Sophia drove home in the shadows of the airplanes from John Wayne Airport.

"All those people on that plane have no idea that I just went through the three most traumatic hours of my life," Rabin recalled. "So, I held my phone up, started a voice memo and just started singing. But also crying. I came up with the chorus melody."

Rabin plans on pursuing her craft professionally and will be double-majoring in popular music performance and business when she arrives at USC's campus. She'll also be singing at Corona del Mar's graduation ceremony this June.

It's a nice bookend to her high school career, she said.

To other young, aspiring

songwriters, she said, "You should just write something. If it's terrible, no one has to see it. I've written some bad songs in my time. But if you write every day, it'll get better. You may not be able to see it, but the people around you will. Now that I can reflect back on years and years, I realized ... this was 12 years in the making. You just have to be fearless, as Taylor Swift says.

"It's not that I wanted to write. I had to. It was in me so deeply to start making things, and that's why it was always certain that this was what I'm going to do. If you feel that anywhere inside of you, make music every day."

lilly.nguyen@latimes.com
Twitter: @lillibirds

Segerstrom Center Presents

Ballet BC

"Cultivating a new landscape of ballet." - *The New Yorker*

Bold and innovative, this Canadian contemporary ballet company is known for their distinctive style and collaborative approach.

June 3 • 7:30 pm

NEXT SATURDAY!

scfta.org

2 WAYS TO SAVE.

JOIN UNIFY FINANCIAL CREDIT UNION!

9-MONTH CERTIFICATE

5.00%^{APY}¹

(IRA Certificate option available)²

UnifyFCU.com/StashMoreCash

HY CHECKING

4.00%^{APY}³

Earn up to UnifyFCU.com/HY

Earn 4.00% APY³ on average daily balances of \$2,000 - \$15,000. Earn .05% APY on average daily balances from \$0-\$1,999.99 and over \$15,000.

UnifyFCU.com

877.254.9328

¹APY = Annual Percentage Yield. 9-month promotional rate effective April 4, 2023. Promotional Share Certificates must be funded with a minimum of \$500. Fees or withdrawals may reduce earnings on account and penalty may be imposed for early withdrawal. UNIFY membership required, which includes opening a membership share savings of at least \$5. Offer subject to change without notice and may end at any time. Share Certificates opened online have a maximum deposit of \$54,000. One additional deposit is permitted within the first 30 days of account opening, but deposit must be made in a branch or by mail. Opening a Share Certificate in online banking may not be available for some members. Call 877.254.9328 to get started.

²IRA = Individual Retirement Account. Substantial penalty for early withdrawal. Fees may reduce earnings on account. IRAs may have IRS-imposed contribution limits and tax implications, especially for premature distributions. Consult a tax advisor to determine what applies to your individual situation. Additional paperwork may be required to open the IRA certificate. Open at a branch or by phone.

³APY = Annual Percentage Yield. As of February 1, 2023, HY Checking earns 4.00% APY on average daily balances between \$2,000-\$15,000. Average daily balances between \$0-\$1,999.99 and over \$15,000 earn .05% APY. Minimum opening deposit is \$25. Dividends earned and ATM fees reimbursed each month you meet the following qualifications: have recurring direct deposit or conduct eDeposits of at least \$500 aggregate for the month and conduct at least eight (8) purchase transactions with your UNIFY debit card.

Insured by NCUA.



Our research today creates the cures of tomorrow.



Recognized leaders. Life-saving care.

By participating in breakthrough research studies and clinical trials, MemorialCare offers many of the newest and best treatment opportunities and technologies for our patients throughout Los Angeles and Orange Counties. Providing medications, devices, and patient therapies to our communities long before they become available elsewhere, the MemorialCare Research Program a recognized leader in providing innovative, life-saving care.

[memorialcare.org/Research](https://www.memorialcare.org/Research)



LONG BEACH MEDICAL CENTER | ORANGE COAST MEDICAL CENTER | SADDLEBACK MEDICAL CENTER

