

A family's medical mission in Peru

JESSIE, CASSIE and Alexis Ross, from left, organize dozens of various toys at their home in Huntington Beach on Thursday. The Ross family plans to hand-deliver the toys to a small town in Peru as part of a medical mission.



Don Leach
Staff
Photographer

Dr. Timothy Ross and 2 teenage daughters are headed to Peru for their latest adventure and are bringing plenty of toys.

BY MATT SZABO

Have toys. Will travel. Jessie and Alexis Ross left on an airplane from Los Angeles International Airport on Friday night with their father, Dr. Timothy Ross.

The Huntington Beach residents headed to Ayaviri, Peru for a two-week trip. But this was much more than just a vacation to see the sights for Jessie and Alexis — a sophomore and freshman respectively at Huntington Beach High School — and their dad.

The Rosses are part of a medical missions trip of about 20 people, a joint effort of Solidaridad en March (SEM) and the Christian Life Movement. They will set up shop in Ayaviri, a small town in a mountainous

See **Mission**, page A2

UCI Health

You're more than a patient.

Learn more at ucihealth.org



Coma to comeback: Laguna Beach teen 'on top of the world' with surfing success

BY ANDREW TURNER

For better or worse, life can change in an instant.

As a young boy, life used to happen one wave at a time for Laguna Beach resident Brayden Belden, who was an up-and-comer in the surf scene.

He was highly competitive in local contests, winning the boys' 13-and-under division of the Brooks Street Surfing Classic the summer after the fourth grade at the age of 11.

Only months down the road, he thought he might never surf again. A snowboarding accident during a ski week trip to Mt. Bachelor in Bend, Ore. resulted in a life-threatening brain injury, one that left him with right-side hemiplegia.

"He had to relearn how to walk, talk, eat, breathe, I mean everything," Matt Belden, Brayden's father, said. "It was like full-blown 2.0. He had to relearn how to walk before he could relearn how to surf, but then once he learned how to walk, he

started getting his body back."

The injury occurred to the basal ganglia, Matt said, compromising Brayden's motor skills. He was in a coma for more than three weeks. The initial four or five months of treatment took place at Randall Children's Hospital in Portland after sustaining the injury in 2018, and then he went to Johns Hopkins in Baltimore for comprehensive support. The Belden family lived life on the road for about a year before they could come home.

"He's just stayed committed to working hard and doing physical therapy and doing yoga, going to all the cognitive and behavioral therapy things he has to do," Matt added. "He works out, he just does everything, and with the surfing, he's always been very committed and a fighter. He put his head down and just kept working at it. He always has a really good attitude about it."

More than five years after the incident, Brayden, now a 17-year-

See **Success**, page A2



Photos by Sarah Mosqueda

MARIACHI DIVAS perform in Dia de los Muertos makeup at the Paradise Garden Bandstand at Disney California Adventure Park, part of the Anaheim resort's annual Halloween Time.

Plenty of new tricks and treats at Disneyland's Halloween Time

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

Halloween Time has returned to the Disneyland resort with new tricks as well as some old traditions.

At Disney California Adventure, Plaza de la Familia, based on the 2018 Disney Pixar film "Coco," returns with food, fun and music inspired by the spirit of Día de los Muertos.

"In this plaza we are celebrating family," said Esteban Valerio, guest relations host at Disneyland resort during a recent media preview. "We are celebrating Día de los Muertos, which is the Day of the Dead. This celebration is happening now until Nov. 2."

While Miguel's Abuelita demands no music in the "Coco" film, there is plenty of music to be found at the Paradise Garden Bandstand where Marachi performances have become a mainstay this time of year.

"At Plaza de la Familia, you



POISON SKULL apples made of green Granny Smith apples dipped in caramel and white chocolate at Disneyland Resort.

can find incredible music from mariachi bands, like the one right behind me," Valerio said in front of the bandstand.

The Grammy-award-winning Marachi Divas are among those guests can catch at Plaza de la Familia, with performers in sugar skull makeup for the occasion. The tradition of music is continued with "A Musical Celebration of Coco," with the Story-

tellers of Plaza de la Familia retelling the story of "Coco" using song, dance and puppetry.

"You have a live band, with a live singer, a live storyteller that is reliving the story of Coco and Miguel's journey through the land of the dead," said Valerio. "You can even meet Miguel after the show."

See **Treats**, page A8



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

BRAYDEN BELDEN, of Laguna Beach, stands at Brooks Street after a surf session. Belden, previously an age group winner in the Brooks Street Surfing Classic before a brain injury, made his first final at the contest last weekend since his accident in the junior men's division.

Fairhaven Memorial Park remembers 9/11 first responders

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

At the top of Orange County Fire Authority Engine 71's raised ladder, an American flag unfurled Sunday while bugler Damon Machado played "Taps." The haunting notes echoed through Fairhaven Memorial Park as local police and fire department staff stood solemnly underneath the flag flapping in the humid morning air.

"Today, we gather to remember and pay tribute to the events of Sept. 11, 2001, a day etched in our collective memory of unthinkable tragedy and immense courage," said Orange County Fire Authority Division Chief Jim Henery. "On that fateful morning, our world was forever changed as the fabric of our nation was tested and the strength of our spirit was revealed."

The flag ceremony was part of Fairhaven Memorial Park's second annual Walk to Remember, designed to commemorate the first responders who lost their lives on Sept. 11. Held on Sept. 10, Patriot's Day, the event was the result of a partnership with Diamond & Shannon Mortuary, McAulay & Wallace and Fairhaven Memorial Services.

The Walk to Remember event includes a 2,200-step walk around the park meant to symbolize the 110 flights of stairs first responders climbed at the World Trade Center on the day of the attacks.

It has been 22 years since the terrorist attacks at the Twin Towers unfolded in New York City, followed closely by an attack on the Pentagon in Virginia. An attempted attack thought to target the U.S. Capitol building was thwarted when the passengers

and crew of Flight 93 overtook the plane, forcing a crash landing in a Pennsylvania field instead.

Henery spoke of the many stories of heroism that would rise from the rubble of that day.

"In a world today where we use the word 'hero' very freely and without due regard, that day showed us what heroism truly is. To me, the heroes of that day were the people who kissed their family and loved ones goodbye not knowing they would never return," said Henery. "The heroes of that day were the people on Flight 93 that once they knew the plane was hijacked, chose to fight back by charging the cockpit and preventing another disaster, because later we discovered the plane was heading for the Capitol in Washington, D.C. The heroes of that day were the military and professional staff that went to work that day at the Pentagon, and after the plane impacted the Pentagon, led their people out of the building through blinding smoke and searing heat to save countless lives."

Henery went on to name the first responders as heroes, highlighting the police, fire and emergency medical personnel at ground zero the day of the attacks and those who remained at the site in the days and weeks that followed.

"Lastly, the real heroes of that day and the days after were families that have an empty seat at their table, in their homes and in their hearts," said Henery.

Santa Ana Police Department Chaplain Bob Keller led the opening prayer after sharing a story about his recent visit to the 9/11 Memorial Museum.

"My wife and I had the oppor-



James Carbone

ABOUT 50 PEOPLE take part in walking 2,200 steps around Fairhaven Memorial Park for the second annual Walk to Remember Memorial service Sunday, honoring first responders who lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001.

tunity to go to the 9/11 Museum in New York City back in February," said Keller, "and I must say, it was life changing."

Emily Alvarez, a Fairhaven employee who also leads nature walks through the Santa Ana cemetery on the second Saturday of every month, sang an a capella version of the patriotic song "America," and invited the audience to sing along.

The ceremony also included remarks from Santa Ana Mayor Valerie Amezcua.

"The 2,200 steps symbolizes the heroism displayed by these fire-

fighters who worked to ascend 110 flights to save innocent lives," said Amezcua. "I thank first responders from the bottom of my heart, because from New York to Santa Ana, our firefighters and our police run in when we are all trying to run out."

After a moment of silence, the crowd embarked on the walk while small U.S. flags were handed out.

Young children, born long after the attacks, joined the walk too. A small boy with a pacifier pulled a wagon on the walk with his mother at his side. A young girl in

a ponytail raced ahead of her older brothers with a flag in hand.

"Every year that goes by, there is less and less of these opportunities to have these remembrances," said Henery. "I think it is important, not only for us to remember but for our youth to remember ... as successful generations go on and on those memories tend to fade, and it is only through oral history that we can really capture the memories and their lessons."

sarah.mosqueda@latimes.com
Twitter: @SarahNMos

UCI Health

You're more than a patient.

Learn more at ucihealth.org



MISSION

Continued from page A1

area that has an elevation of nearly 13,000 feet, to treat locals who need help.

Timothy Ross, an orthopedic surgeon, made the decision to take his daughters with him on medical missions to South America many years ago. His oldest daughter Cassie, now a 26-year-old lawyer who lives in San Diego, has also been on several of them but isn't making the trip this time due to work constraints.

The case for having Jessie and Alexis along on the trips is simple. Their mother, Luisa, is originally from Mexico, so the whole family is fluent in Spanish.

"Being in high school, we can't necessarily do surgery or prescribe medications or anything along those lines," Jessie Ross said. "But we can translate for doctors, we can transport patients from triage to different sections where they need to go, we can play with the kids and give them toys. Even adults sometimes tend to enjoy these gifts that we have."

The girls organized a toy drive at Huntington Beach High leading up to the trip. Boxes were placed in the classrooms of three teachers, and the girls collected dozens of used but loved toys. At their home on Thursday, they started packing the toys in duffel bags for the trip.

The idea is that they will gift the toys to the Peruvian children and post the pictures on social media, so their friends back home can see where their former favorite teddy bear ended up. The teenagers make a difference in this way and others.

"They're so helpful, they're constantly running around doing things for people and they bring everyone so much happiness," Cassie Ross said. "They're just happy kids that are spreading joy basically. When they went on their first trip, I was like, 'Are we sure about this?'"



Courtesy of Cassie Ross

DR. TIMOTHY ROSS and Cassie Ross wrap a patient's arm during a mission trip to Ecuador in May 2022. Cassie's sisters, Jessie and Alexis, have joined their dad on a similar trip to Peru.

But by the end of the trip, everyone's coming up and complimenting them and how great they are."

This is the third and fourth medical missions trip to South America, respectively, for Alexis and Jessie, though their first one to Peru. They both started participating in the missions when they were 8 or 9, similar to their older sister.

The coronavirus pandemic slowed things down a bit, but the girls did go to Mindo, Ecuador in May 2022, a place the family has been several times through a nonprofit called Mindo Futures. They've also been to Guatemala.

Patients typically line up outside of the school or orphanage or church where the missions team is staying. More than a decade ago, when Cassie was about 14, she met her friend Mayra in Ecuador.

"The first time I saw her, she was limping toward the clinic area in Ecuador," Cassie Ross said. "I think I went up to her asking where she was going. She said she was looking for the orthopedic doctor."

When Mayra was younger, an animal fell on her leg and she had to get it amputated just below the knee. She was given a pros-

thetic leg, but it fit poorly and she grew out of it. Her bone started to protrude from her skin.

After Timothy Ross did a procedure to cut the bone down a bit, Mayra got fitted for a better prosthetic.

"When she was being put under the anesthesia, I was holding her hand in the operating room," Cassie Ross said. "She was extremely scared."

Mayra now has a phone, so she communicates with Cassie via WhatsApp or Instagram when she can.

The clinic typically has "rooms" put up via curtains. Jessie Ross remembers the time on her second mission when an elderly Ecuadorian woman came in who didn't know her birthday or even her current age. So the group made the impromptu decision to grab some candy and toys and throw her a birthday party.

The next time that the Ross clan came back to Ecuador, her son had researched when her birthday actually was.

"Her son got a tattoo of her birthday on his neck," Jessie Ross said. "It was very sentimental to them. They really appreciate what the doctors in the medical missions have done, which

is the goal.

"When you start doing it, you get that feeling where it's like, 'I can't imagine my life without it.' I feel as though they have that same sensation ... It's nice to see people who care."

Cassie, the oldest daughter, went to Duke University for law school after graduating from Huntington Beach High and going to UC Davis for her undergraduate studies. She didn't end up with a career in medicine.

Still, she said her favorite law work is the pro bono work she does involving refugee asylum cases.

"Once I got into the legal field I realized how many legal topics are cross-border issues," she said. "I've gone to the border in Laredo, Texas. I think these type of medical mission trips, even though I didn't become a doctor, have still influenced what I decided to do."

The younger sisters also hope to continue making a difference.

"When I tell my friends about it, I just feel happy that I got to help out in a way that really not that many people can," Alexis Ross said.

matthew.szabo@latimes.com
Twitter: @mjszabo



Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

LAGUNA BEACH resident Brayden Belden rides a wave.

SUCCESS

Continued from page A1

old junior at Laguna Beach High, is doing all he can to live a normal life. He has dreams like his peers.

This past weekend, Brayden was with his friends again, in his happy place — the shallows off Brooks Street Beach. He had tempered expectations, hoping to make a head in the contest he had once won.

Brayden accomplished that goal and then some, advancing to the final of the junior men's division — for competitors between the ages of 14 to 17 — in the 57th annual Brooks Street Surfing Classic. The field was filled with friends, including division champion Hudson Saunders, runner-up Hunter Harrington, Ryder Weatherley (fourth) and Felix Hayes (fifth).

After the event, it was Brayden who was being celebrated like a champion. Contest director Brandy Faber, who referred to Brayden's comeback story as one of the special moments of the event, handed him the microphone for a brief speech, after which a crowded bar erupted in chanting his name.

"I felt like I was on top of the world," Brayden said. "I felt like I had accomplished it all. It was just an amazing feeling. I don't think I've ever had a feeling like that. To final in one of the local contests, I never thought that would ever happen."

Brayden expressed immense gratitude to his parents, Matt and Denise, for standing by him through his journey of recovery. He believes he can go further with surfing.

"I maybe kind of want

See **Success**, page A7



BRAYDEN BELDEN stands with his father, Matt, at Brooks Street in Laguna Beach on Thursday.

UCI Health

You're more than a patient.

We see beyond your health care needs — we see you, who you are and what you need. Our expert team will always deliver the compassionate, evidence-based care you deserve.

So whatever you're facing, know that with us, you will be heard.

Learn more at ucihealth.org



forum

COLUMN | **PATRICE APODACA**

The loss of local news reporting is a tragedy in the making

I am frequently asked why the Daily Pilot is smaller and published less frequently than in times past.



profession has a death rate so alarming some researchers have labeled it an "extinction-level" threat.

I confess that such questions get my hackles up. The outstanding staff of this publication — and of its parent, the Los Angeles Times — consistently mount a remarkable effort, amid difficult conditions, to produce quality news reports. The implied criticism hits a raw nerve.

Newspapers in the U.S. are closing at the rate of two a week; if that pace holds, one-third will have vanished by 2025. The survivors are, with rare exception, severely diminished.

I usually respond by asking if they are a subscriber, and if the answer is no I tell them that this is part of the problem. News organizations — particularly local news outlets — are desperate for revenue from the advertisers and readers that they have long relied upon to remain financially viable, but who have largely migrated to social media.

We now have "news deserts" — places where local coverage no longer exists — in thousands of communities across the nation. They are bone dry when it comes to coverage of city council meetings, police activity, schools, businesses, philanthropy and sports.

For more than two centuries, print journalism existed as a linchpin of our democracy and a vital conveyor of information about our world and communities. Now this once-esteemed

Alas, many people still seem unaware of or unconcerned about this devastating trend. Perhaps they haven't yet realized that we are all paying a terrible price for the decline of legitimate journalism.

It's no coincidence that as the traditional news model suffers a slow and agonizing death, the information vacuum is filled by

online platforms that capture advertising dollars by leveraging targeted user data.

This is the really scary part. People are increasingly getting their information from social media: the social media that know you so well they bombarded you with ads that are eerily well-attuned to your preferences.

We're not just talking basic demographics. No, this is a creepy level of knowledge. They know what kind of shoes you like, if you color your hair or you're considering traveling to Fiji; what you like to eat, what you look like, who your friends are, and if you have high blood pressure. And they know a lot about your political and cultural leanings.

All that discrete information is then used to engage and manipulate you. The "news" you receive through these platforms has been crafted specifically for you based on what you are already inclined to believe. They hook you by giving you what you want, and then they give you more. Down



Allen J. Schaben | Los Angeles Times

THE FORMER Los Angeles Times' Costa Mesa building, which consisted of a newsroom and a printing plant, has received a revamp courtesy of EYRC, which have punctured the utilitarian building with lots of windows and an airy atrium. They have also unearthed bits of the building's past: such as The Times' signage on the building's facade.

the rabbit hole you go.

This reliance on social media has made our society far more vulnerable to the spread of mis-

formation and disinformation, and it has exacerbated political

See **Apodaca**, page A8



File Photo

MAYOR PRO TEM Gracey Van Der Mark, center, listens to public comments during a Huntington Beach City Council meeting in June.

MAILBAG

Did Van Der Mark miss an opportunity?

At the Huntington Beach City Council meeting last month, Mayor Pro Tem Gracey Van Der Mark clearly missed an opportunity to exhibit grace when questioned by Councilwoman Natalie Moser about her unbiased suitability to serve on the ad hoc Human Relations committee given allegations that she is a Holocaust denier and affiliated with white supremacists. Instead, she lashed out at Moser in a most unprofessional manner. Van der Mark could have seized this opening to coolly squelch any misconceptions the public may still harbor. The manner in which

she responded did her no favors and makes one question her veracity.

Subsequently, and incredibly, the conservative four approved an agenda item to censure Moser for this exchange at the Sept. 5 council meeting. If there was a perceived breach in decorum, it seems more appropriate to be applied to the responder, not the council member asking a question. This is very disturbing, to witness a council member being censured for asking a salient question, which leads me to ask, why weren't Moser and Councilwoman Rhonda Bolton assigned

to the Human Relations Committee, given their experiences on this topic, rather than Van der Mark, Pat Burns and Casey McKeon? Perhaps the answer is obvious — the conservative four had already determined to eliminate the Human Relations Committee as well as revise the Human Dignity declaration to reflect their limiting views that negate the very intention of this document. This was merely an exercise of going through the motions.

Margaret OBrien
Huntington Beach

See **Mailbag**, page A6

NOW OPEN IN ORANGE

Extraordinary Senior Living Has Arrived

Call **714-409-9363** to schedule your personal tour.

We're excited to welcome you to Sunrise of Orange, conveniently located in the heart of Orange County next to Old Town Orange. Come tour our model suites and community amenities, meet our team, and learn more about the truly exceptional living experience we tailor to you. We can't wait to meet you.

- Elegant studio, one-bedroom, and two-bedroom suites
- Beautifully landscaped outdoor spaces, patios, and a walking path with benches
- Seasonal menus with daily specials crafted by our talented culinary team



Visit SunriseOrangeCA.com/Times to view our floor plans and photo gallery.

Assisted Living | Memory Care | 1301 E. Lincoln Avenue, Orange, CA 92865

© 2023 Sunrise Senior Living

THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

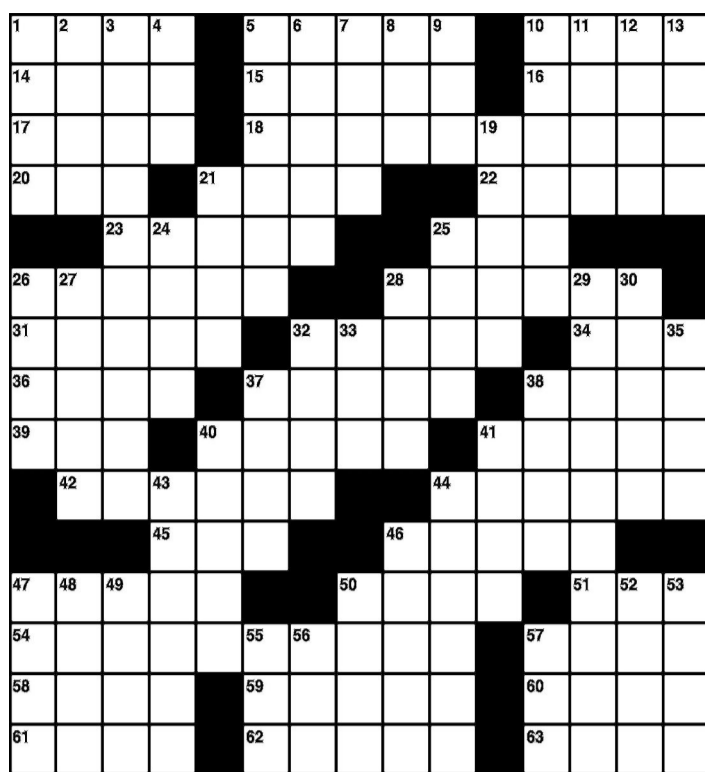
By Jacqueline E. Matthews

ACROSS

- 1 Gloomy; somber
- 5 _ these days; eventually
- 10 "What's gotten _ you?"
- 14 "The _ Ranger"
- 15 Grand or upright
- 16 Egghead
- 17 As wise _ owl
- 18 Not indifferent
- 20 Calendar abbr.
- 21 Lodges
- 22 Flower holders
- 23 Drew, for one
- 25 Actress Ming-Na _
- 26 "Aw, gee!"
- 28 Aboveboard
- 31 Sections
- 32 "Beat it!"
- 34 Split _ soup
- 36 Per-nOs namesakes
- 37 Angry look
- 38 Boast
- 39 One of the Seven Dwarfs
- 40 Milkmaid's seat
- 41 Coolness; aplomb
- 42 Young swan
- 44 Verizon store display
- 45 Statute
- 46 _ up; mention
- 47 Thief
- 50 Word attached to spin or bone
- 51 Luggage attachment
- 54 Insincere talk
- 57 1960s pay phone call price
- 58 Big clubs
- 59 Sty cries
- 60 Leave out
- 61 Declare untrue
- 62 "Beauty and the _"
- 63 Prescriptions, for short

DOWN

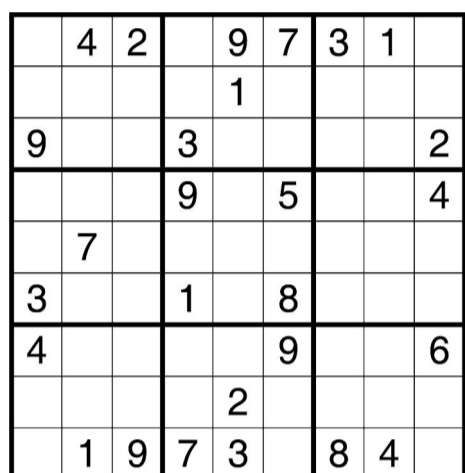
- 1 Pleased



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 A8.

- 2 Stood up
- 3 Error
- 4 Fellows
- 5 Gives one's views
- 6 Airhead
- 7 Devours
- 8 A little after noon
- 9 In favor of
- 10 Nuts
- 11 Brooklyn team
- 12 Beech or birch
- 13 _-on favorite; likely winner
- 19 Happening
- 21 Provokes
- 24 _ up; causes
- problems for Mom
- 25 Shearer's collection
- 26 Ran fast
- 27 Chaos
- 28 Wolf's cry
- 29 Planting season
- 30 Rib
- 32 Highlander
- 33 Cry of a dove
- 35 Middle _; historical period
- 37 Goulash
- 38 Godsend
- 40 Plumber's tool
- 41 Donahue or Hartman
- 43 Shiny photo
- 44 Man of the cloth
- 46 Supports
- 47 Not indecent
- 48 Jambalaya ingredient
- 49 Many a golf tournament
- 50 Turner or Fey
- 52 In the center of
- 53 Obtains
- 55 Rip off
- 56 Compete
- 57 Mr. DeLuise

Tribune Media Services

#SavingsGoals

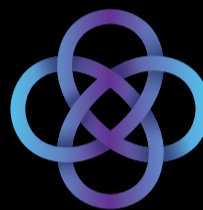
11-MONTH CERTIFICATE
5.25% APY*

Limited Time Offer!

LEARN MORE ABOUT JOINING UNIFY AND THIS OFFER AT:

UnifyFCU.com/Save

Or visit your local UNIFY branch.



UNIFY
FINANCIAL CREDIT UNION

UnifyFCU.com | 877.254.9328

*APY = Annual Percentage Yield. Rate effective as of September 5, 2023. Must be funded with a minimum of \$100. 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. Insured by NCUA.

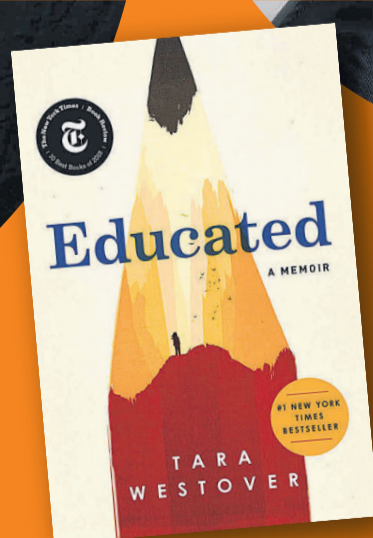
Segerstrom Center Presents

Terence Blanchard
featuring the **E-Collective & Turtle Island Quartet**

A Conversation with **Tara Westover**

Sept 23 • 7 & 9 pm

Sept 30 • 8 pm



"Her book, *Educated...* is a heartbreaking, heartwarming, best-in-years memoir about striding beyond the limitations of birth and environment into a better life."

USA Today

Two titans of their genre come together for what is sure to be one of Southern California's biggest events for music lovers!



Segerstrom Center for the Arts®

scfta.org



MAILBAG

Continued from page A4

It is the role of a city's government to safeguard the welfare and rights of all its citizens, fostering unity and equality. When I moved to Huntington Beach over two decades ago, our City Council was

successful in fulfilling this role. Unfortunately, this has changed as the council majority has enacted measures that ultimately will make our city unsafe, weaken the rights of its residents and tarnish its image to tourists, businesses and home buyers.

Sadly, our city is becoming known as an anti-

LGBTQ+ city. This current council has banned the Pride flag on city property, has dissolved the 25-year-old Human Relations Committee that fostered inclusion and is considering restricting books to teens that have a LGBTQ+ theme. And this past week we had one more dangerous example of their bigotry: They

have inserted anti-LGBTQ+ language in their rewrite of the Statement on Human Dignity. (It's ironic that they use divisive language in something that's called a Human Dignity statement!) We all know that the newly revised statement, which no longer states that the city condemns hate incidents and hate crimes, has nothing to do with human dignity; *it's all about a dangerous political agenda.*

Carol Daus
Huntington Beach

The definition of a "tin-pot dictator" is an autocratic ruler with little political credibility and typically having delusions of grandeur. We have four of them in Huntington Beach, constituting the City Council majority. The arrogance and intolerance of these amateur authoritarians was on full display at the Sept. 5 City Council meeting following hours of public comments where critical remarks towards the council majority had at least a 5-to-1 advantage over supportive ones. Citing recommendations from so-called "ad hoc" committees composed solely of council majority members, a whole raft of decisions was passed on 4-to-3 votes, which were so anti-community even the tin pots were rattling.

It was a sad day for democracy in Surf City, which may have been exactly the intended outcome of the "Fascist Four." There was no pretense of representation for constituents who raised concerns over the high-handed dismissal of civic norms and protections. The meeting lasted until the wee hours of the morning, with much of the dirty work done in the dead of night after many dissenters in the audience had understandably departed. It was disgraceful.

The responsible residents of Huntington Beach now know what they're in for over the next two years, the dismantling of our democracy which will take years to reverse and the efforts of many tinkers to repair.

Tim Geddes
Huntington Beach

Paying attention and voting in accordance with what's good for our beloved Surf City — clean, safe streets, a responsive (not reactive city government) and efforts to humanely mitigate homelessness, along with continued support for our senior citizens and continued and diverse educational opportunities for our community members at all ages and stages of life — ought to be the focus of our municipal representatives and city residents, not expensive, narrowly focused and largely unnecessary charter amendments or a dubious new Policy on Human Dignity, which is much less dignified than the original.

Ben Miles
Huntington Beach

Which is it, Huntington Beach City Council conservative majority? You don't want the government to tell you what to do with your body when it comes to masks and vaccinations, yet you support a political party that would force a woman to carry an unwanted pregnancy to term under any circumstance. You don't want the schools to teach children acceptance and diversity, yet you support a party that is making laws to prevent families who have transgender children to make medical decisions on their behalf. You make a statement about sex differences in the new policy for Human Dignity but make no comment referring to the difference between biological sex and gender. Gender, by the way, refers to the continuum of complex psychosocial self-perceptions, attitudes and expectations people have about members of both sexes, which can vary greatly in different cultures. I know

HOW TO GET PUBLISHED

Send an email to erik.haugli@latimes.com and include your full name, hometown and phone number (for verification purposes) with your submission. All letters should be kept to 350 words or less and address local issues and events. The Daily Pilot reserves the right to edit all accepted submissions for clarity, accuracy and length.

complexity can be scary, but I believe you would benefit from removing your tin foil hats and maybe expanding your knowledge.

Lisa Shook
Huntington Beach

While I read so many letters about the disdainful and attention-seeking antics of the majority members of the Huntington Beach City Council, I am reminded of some of the embarrassing behavior of Newport Beach's former council during the pandemic.

I think that was when city politics were at their worst. I now ask myself, is it because the newly elected council in Newport Beach is focusing on real issues in the city rather than political ones or because so many of us in Newport Beach grew weary of council-watching due to the despicable behavior of some candidates during the last election?

Has the infusion of new candidates made the council more professional than political? Or am I just unaware due to the fact that my attention has been focused lately on another city of my former professional life, where the politics are presently even more circus like than those of both Huntington Beach and Newport Beach during the pandemic? Again, I would like to think that it is the more the former than the latter.

Lynn Lorenz
Newport Beach

MARKETPLACE

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

MERCHANDISE 800

Miscellaneous Merchandise

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

EMPLOYMENT 1500

Employment

Office Assistant - High school Diploma Req. \$36,816/yr, F/T, Resume to Yohan Lee Law Offices of Yohan Lee, 5681 Beach Blvd, Ste 200, Buena Park, CA 90621

FIND an apartment through classified!

Classified is CONVENIENT whether you're buying, selling, or just looking, classified has what you need!
CLASSIFIED (714) 966-4600

Classified is CONVENIENT whether you're buying, selling, or just looking, classified has what you need!
CLASSIFIED (949) 494-4321

FIND
an
apartment
through
classified

Call Classified Today (714) 966-4600

Legal Notices

Notice of Public Sale
Pursuant to the California Self Service Storage Facility Act (B&P Code 21700 ET seq.) The undersigned will sell at public auction on Tuesday September 26, 2023 at 1:00 pm. Personal property including but not limited to furniture, clothing, tools and/or other household items located at: The sale will take place online at www.selfstorageauction.com.
Christopher J Ponzillo Business Intelligence Group
Stephanie Adams Soukup
David Emanuel Burnham
Judith M Clapp
Timothy G McFarlin
All sales are subject to prior cancellation. All terms, rules and regulations are available online at www.selfstorageauction.com. Dated this September 10, 2023 and September 17, 2023 by Irvine Self Storage, 2960 Main St, Irvine, CA, 92614 (949) 851-7900
9/10, 9/17/23
CNS-3736410#
DAILY PILOT

Legal Notices

Notice of Public Sale
Pursuant to the California Self Service Storage Facility Act (B&P Code 21700 ET seq.) The undersigned will sell at public auction on Tuesday September 26, 2023 at 1:30 pm. Personal property including but not limited to furniture, clothing, tools and/or other household items located at: The sale will take place online at www.selfstorageauction.com.
Melissa M Schmand
Lauren E Payne
Joseph D Morgan
Melissa M Schmand
James M Dickerson
All sales are subject to prior cancellation. All terms, rules and regulations are available online at www.selfstorageauction.com. Dated this September 10, 2023 and September 17, 2023 by Costa Mesa Self Storage, 3180 Red Hill Ave, Costa Mesa, CA, 91745 (714) 966-9901
9/10, 9/17/23
CNS-3736411#
DAILY PILOT

Legal Notices

Legal Notices

Notice of Public Sale
Pursuant to the California Self Service Storage Facility Act (B&P Code 21700 ET seq.) The undersigned will sell at public auction on Tuesday September 26, 2023 at 2:30 pm. Personal property including but not limited to furniture, clothing, tools and/or other household items located at: The sale will take place online at www.selfstorageauction.com.
Rekha Aggarwal
Rekha Aggarwal
Collette Parker
Rekha Aggarwal
Deyanira Nevarez Martinez
Leonard Anthony Bardere Jr
Elham Alavi
Martin W Gentry
Shengyang Li
Betty Lynn Rigdon
All sales are subject to prior cancellation. All terms, rules and regulations are available online at www.selfstorageauction.com. Dated this September 10, 2023 and September 17, 2023 by Woodbridge Self Storage, 5020 Barranca Pkwy., Irvine, CA, 92604 (949) 857-4900
9/10, 9/17/23
CNS-3736412#
DAILY PILOT

Legal Notices

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

ESTATE JEWELRY BUYING EVENT

Blackman Ltd. Jewelers cordially invites you to an exclusive 2 day event

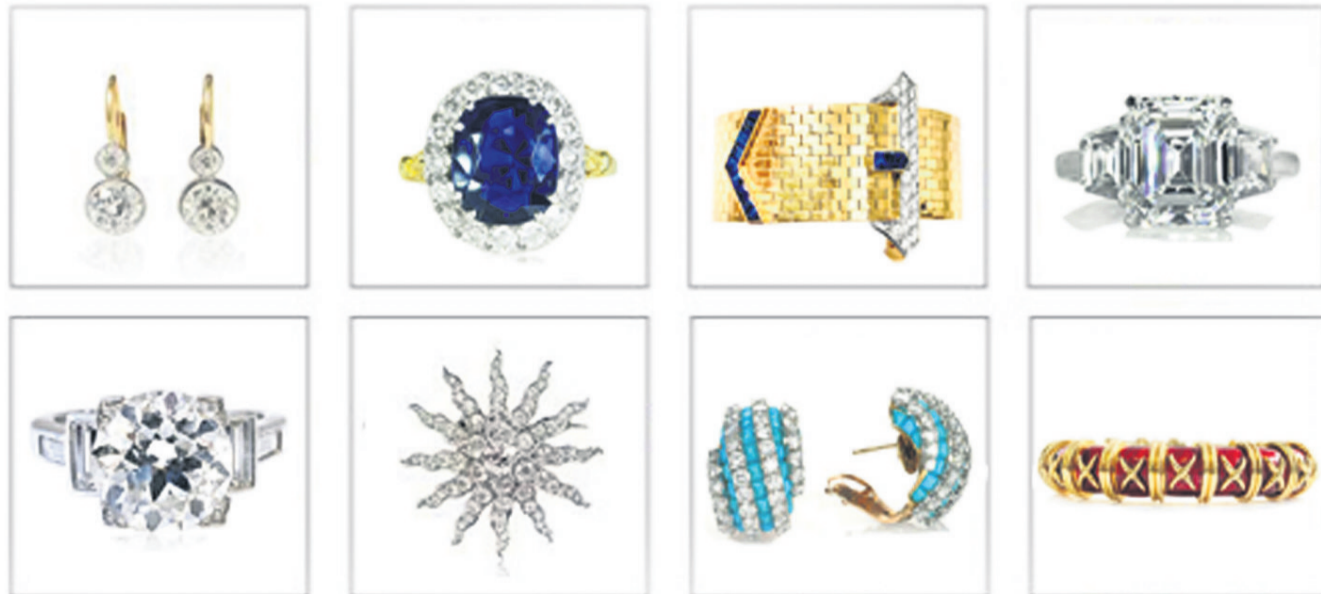
Sell your fine gold & platinum jewelry, fine diamonds & colored stones for immediate payment

Actively seeking estate/inherited jewelry, pieces by Cartier, Van Cleef & Arpels, Tiffany and other fine makers

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY | PLEASE CALL 949.673.9334

September 19th - 20th

10:00 AM - 5:00 PM



BLACKMAN LTD.

3388 VIA LIDO #101B, NEWPORT BEACH, CA 92663 | 949.673.9334 | INFO@BLACKMANLTD.COM

Westminster pairs its Fall Festival with first-ever Taste of Westminster

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

Calling all foodies: The city of Westminster will host the first-ever Taste of Westminster on Sept. 22 in collaboration with the city's second annual Fall Festival.

"The city is excited to bring a new feel and experience to our Fall Festival," said Westminster City Manager Christine Cordon.

The festival will run the weekend of Sept. 22 through Sept. 24, with the community-driven evening of food, hosted by Westminster's Civic Center, taking place from 5 to 9 p.m. on Friday. A few thousand visitors are expected to attend the event over the three days.

"We are proud to host the Taste of Westminster on Friday evening to kick off the weekend, which will feature local eateries that really exemplify the uniqueness of the diverse Westminster community," said Westminster City Manager Christine Cordon.

Both admission and specialty food items will be free, thanks to Orange County grant funds. Westminster residents will receive 10 tasting tickets (up to six per address), and a cash bar will serve beverages for those 21 and over. Residents will also have the opportunity to vote for their favorite restaurant.

Participating restaurants include bubble tea concept Meet Fresh Westminster, local pizza shop Calixto's Pizzeria, halal restaurant Mr. Shawarma, hot pot restaurant TastyPot, boba tea house Aiyu Cha and more.

Westminster joins other Orange County cities that host similar events highlighting local restaurants and small businesses, like



Courtesy of the city of Westminster

WESTMINSTER'S FALL FESTIVAL expands this year with the first-ever Taste of Westminster on Friday night.

Laguna Beach's Taste of Laguna Beach, taking place on Oct. 5 at the Festival of Arts grounds and Santa Ana's Taste of Santa Ana at Main Place Mall on Oct. 14.

A Southern California event production company, Soundkilz, has been tapped to organize the Westminster event, and founder Steve Clayton said he is looking forward to showcasing all Westminster has to offer.

"Soundkilz is thrilled to bring the first-ever Taste of Westminster to the city," said Clayton. "This event

will highlight various food concepts and restaurants in Westminster and why it is such a great place to shop and eat."

One such Taste of Westminster vendor representing Vietnamese culture that has recently helped shaped the Westminster community is Banh Khot Lady. Owner Tony Dang began Banh Khot Lady in 2020, when his mother, Xi Phan, was forced to shut down her nail salon business because of the pandemic. Phan came to the U.S. as a refugee in 1982, like many Westminster

residents, and had worked in the nail salon industry for 35 years when COVID-19 hit.

Banh khot, a crispy, savory Vietnamese pancake made from a rice-flour and coconut-milk batter and topped with shrimp and minced meat, was Dang's favorite dish his mother cooked, and he encouraged her to cook and sell the delicious bites via Facebook to make ends meet. Since then, Banh Khot Lady evolved into a popular pop-up concept and now has a brick-and-mortar shop at

10032 McFadden Ave. in Westminster. Foodies can look forward to bites from Banh Khot Lady at this year's event.

Besides the inaugural Taste of Westminster, the Fall Festival will feature a family-friendly carnival and live local entertainment.

A schedule of events can be found at westminster-ca.gov/departments/community-services/fall-festival.

sarah.mosqueda@latimes.com
Twitter: @SarahNMos

"Because of my brain injury, I can't really compete with normal kids, so the Paralympics would be something that I'd be really looking forward to."

— Brayden Belden

SUCCESS

Continued from page A2

to do USA Paralympics," Brayden added. "Because of my brain injury, I can't really compete with normal kids, so the Paralympics would be something that I'd be really looking forward to."

Away from the water, Brayden is doing quite well. Denise said her eldest child is now going to school full time, attending regular classes, sometimes with the assistance of an aide.

Moya Mitchell, an education specialist, taught English and geometry to Brayden last year. She said Brayden is an inspiration to the campus community who is positive and makes everybody laugh. Although she no longer works with Brayden directly, the two of them exchange greetings every chance they get.

"One thing about Brayden that's really important, I think, from a teacher's perspective is that he's really aware of the struggles he has academically as a result of his accident," Mitchell said. "Honestly, [that] is the first and most important step for him to be good in life. He's going to be OK because he's got such a strong grip on where his deficit areas are."

"We're just so proud of him. He's maturing every day. He's just growing into this strong and responsible young man right before our eyes."

andrew.turner@latimes.com
Twitter: @AndrewTurnerTCN

A comforting community with a guarantee to match.



The 60-Day Merrill Family Guarantee

We are so confident you'll love living here, we guarantee it. If you are not completely satisfied with your new home, we will refund your rent for up to 60 days of your stay. Please call or visit our website for more information. And feel an extra layer of comfort — even before you move in.



Visit And Enjoy A Meal On Us!

(714) 656-2698 • merrillgardenshuntingtonbeach.com
17200 Goldenwest St, Huntington Beach, CA 92647

TREATS

Continued from page A1

Paradise Garden Grill rotates its menu options seasonally, and besides the favored carnitas burrito and spicy elote, guests can look forward to new dishes, like chile verde chicken flautas.

"The chile verde chicken flautas are new this year, and they are delicious, and I keep telling everyone they taste just like my Mom's flautas," Valerio said.

Guests visiting Plaza de la Familia will also get to check out the recently opened San Fransokyo Square, where new food items are served across the San Fransokyo Gate bridge.

Over at Disneyland, Halloween Time is underway with many holiday traditions Mousketeers have come to expect at the park, happening now through Oct. 31.

Mickey Mouse and friends get a ghostly glow up with new costumes for the season made with luminescent fabrics and bat details. Jack Skellington



Sarah Mosqueda

MICKEY AND friends, including Pluto and Goofy, have new Halloween costumes this year at Disneyland.

from "The Nightmare Before Christmas" returns to "wreck the halls" of the Haunted Mansion with special decorations and details from the movie, a tradition that began in 2001.

The Halloween Screams Nighttime Spectacular also returns to summon the spirits of Disney's most popular villains in a pyrotechnic and projection show hosted by "Master of

Scare-omnies" Jack Skellington and his dog, Zero. The show is visible not only in front of Sleeping Beauty's castle, the centerpiece of most fireworks shows, but at multiple places throughout the park, like Rivers of America, Main Street U.S.A and "it's a small world."

Along with old tricks are new treats, like a poison apple macaroon predicted to be a hit this year.

"Our new poison apple macaroon has salted caramel filling," said Disneyland Resort Pastry Sous Chef Gracie Gomez. "It looks beautiful, it tastes amazing, and if you like caramel apples you cannot go wrong with that one."

The are a variety of candy apples as well, including a poison apple

made of Granny Smith apples dipped in caramel and white chocolate and similarly modeled after Snow White's poison apple, which Gomez said are always a favorite.

"We always like to have our returning favorites for our guests that like to come and enjoy those items," said Gomez, "but we also want to give them something new to try as well."

Parkgoers who don't get their fill of Halloween candy and treats can head over to New Orleans square to dine at the recently opened Tiana's Palace for gumbo and beignets inspired by Walt Disney Animation Studios' "The Princess and the Frog."

This year, there are even treats that don't require a ticket to Disneyland. For the first time ever, the Halloween spirit is extending to Disneyland Hotel's Goofy's Kitchen, where characters will wear special Halloween outfits and themed desserts will be offered from Sept. 21 through Oct. 31. In the lobby of the Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa, a new confectionery sculpture inspired by "Coco" is also on view.

"This giant dessert display has Miguel entering the land of the dead, and anyone can see this amazing display," said Valerio.

sarah.mosqueda@latimes.com
Twitter: @SarahNMos

APODACA

Continued from page A4

and social polarization. To put it bluntly, it is tearing us apart.

I am, by nature, not a confrontational person. But I have lost track of the arguments I've engaged in with friends and family — people I care about — who are like the proverbial frogs that are unaware they are slowly being boiled. The stew they are immersed in is one of misleading reports, unsubstantiated assumptions, conspiracy theories, and, oh yes, outright lies.

Too many times I have winced at pronouncements such as "I've done my homework," or "I consult multiple sources and form my own opinions." These are typically code for someone going online and finding ideas that comport with their preconceived biases.

The reliance on social media, coupled with the decline of traditional news organizations, has also fed into a growing distrust of "the media" generally, as if reputable news organizations and sources of misinformation should be lumped together into one giant pot of deception and hypocrisy.

But there's a huge difference between genuine journalism and the garbage that often masquerades as such.

Credible journalists

make no claims to perfection, but they abide by standards, reporting on findings only after they have conducted research, consulted many sources, examined data and explored various viewpoints. They seek to learn, and to pass on what they learn, even if it runs counter to what they previously might have been inclined to think, and they are fact-checked and scrupulously edited.

Readers might not always feel comfortable with what journalists write, and certainly advertisers often don't. But trained, experienced journalists are committed to reporting the news, even when it doesn't sit easily.

That rigor is the polar opposite of the methods employed by those who disseminate propaganda, junk science and conspiratorial rumors — those who start with a conclusion and work backwards, buttressing their claims with dubious or fabricated evidence. Adding to the damage is the sad reality that real journalists must now spend much of their valuable time and resources correcting misinformation.

Solutions have been proposed, including government funding to prop up news organizations, and legislation that would curb online platforms' use of user data and anti-competitive practices. Some news outlets are adapting by experimenting with new models. And increasingly there are calls for schools to step up and teach students how to identify and analyze misinformation on social media.

Will any of this help? Some, maybe, hopefully. We have no choice but to try. The disease that's killing the news business has sickened our nation. It's up to us to save it.

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.

Daily Pilot

A Times Community News publication.

CONTACT US

Carol Cormaci
Executive Editor
carol.cormaci@latimes.com

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

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

Sarah Mosqueda, TimesOC
sarah.mosqueda@latimes.com

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

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

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

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.

Lilly Nguyen, Newport Beach
lilly.nguyen@latimes.com
Matt Szabo, Huntington Beach and Sports
matthew.szabo@latimes.com

© 2023 Times Community News. All rights reserved.

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

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

SHOP. SUPPORT. SAVE 20%
at your favorite boutiques & restaurants with your Angelitos Card

One Week Only
SEPTEMBER 21-27, 2023

Buy your Angelitos Card for \$60 and enjoy **20% off at over 70 participating South Coast Plaza boutiques and restaurants, including:**

- | | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| AIX | Furla | Lacoste | Reiss London |
| Armani Exchange | Gap | Lululemon | SC Trojan Town |
| Allen Edmonds | Gap Kids & Baby | MAC Cosmetics | Steve Madden |
| AllSaints | Gianvito Rossi* | Madewell | Stuart Weitzman* |
| Anne Fontaine | Giorgio Armani* | Max Mara | Sugarfina |
| Antonello Ristorante | Hallmark | Mezzet | Sur La Table |
| Aveda Richard | Hamamori | Mediterranean | Ted Baker |
| Michael Salon | Restaurant & Sushi Bar | Cuisine | London |
| Baccarat | Hugo Boss | Michael Kors | Terrace |
| Bally* | Isabel Marant* | Collection | by Mix Mix |
| Camilla | J.Crew | Missoni | The Webster* |
| Chico's | Jacadi Paris | Monique Lhuillier | Tory Burch |
| Coach | Jimmy Choo | Nathan Alan | Tumi* |
| Cole Haan | Jo Malone London | Jewelers | Untuckit |
| Cos | Joe's Jeans | Nécter Juice Bar | Vaca |
| Diptyque | John Varvatos* | Oliver Peoples | Weekend |
| Ecco | Kate Spade | Oscar de la Renta* | Max Mara |
| Eileen Fisher | New York | Populaire | Wolford* |
| Fossil | Kiehl's Since 1851 | Porsche Design | Z Gallerie |
| Fresh | La Perla | Quattro Caffé | Zimmermann |
| | | Ralph Lauren | |

partial listing

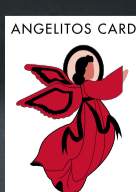
To purchase an Angelitos Card, please visit angelitosdeoro.org

Angelitos Card sales benefit **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County.**

For a full list of participating boutiques and more information, visit southcoastplaza.com/angelitos

*Purchase Angelitos Cards at any of these boutiques

Max Mara ©2023 South Coast Plaza



Big Brothers Big Sisters
OF ORANGE COUNTY & THE INLAND EMPIRE