

50 trees to be planted in park's honor

Group seeks donations to help add more native trees to Huntington Beach Central Park as it marks 50 years in 2024.

BY MATT SZABO

At about 350 acres, Huntington Central Park is the largest municipally owned park in Orange County.

It's about to get a bit greener in 2024.

In correlation with Central Park's 50th anniversary, Huntington Beach Tree Society volunteers are seeking to plant 50 new trees in three groves of the park.

"We thought, 'What better birthday present can you give a park than new trees?'" said Steve Engel, who largely works in the park as part of the Secret Garden team and is spearheading the campaign.

The trees are relatively pricey — Engel said they will run about \$1,000 each, including planting — so the nonprofit is looking for donations to help complete the project.

The new trees are expected to be California natives, such as sycamores and oaks. Engel said he's close to procuring the first group to be planted, 10 endangered Torrey pine trees, from a local nursery.

"We have some in Central Park already," he said. "They seem to do very well here, and we need more native trees and plants to help the birds and the butterflies, the wildlife."

Those pines will go in the first

See *Trees*, page A2

Laguna Beach set to update records system

Council agrees to spend \$1M to modernize city's public safety records management system, last upgraded in 2006.

BY ANDREW TURNER

The Laguna Beach City Council this month authorized an emergency expenditure in excess of \$1 million to modernize the city's public safety records management system.

City officials noted the current records management system had not been updated since 2006 and contended it was on the verge of becoming obsolete.

The potential interruption of an essential city service constituted the emergency, according to staff. The city manager could approve emergency purchases up to \$500,000, but council approval was needed during the Dec. 12 meeting with the agreement exceeding that threshold.

Council members approved the \$1 million agreement with Hexagon to upgrade the records management system, along with an additional \$94,200 for mobile field reporting software. Funding for the upgrade was included in the current fiscal year budget, according to a staff report.

The city had previously put out a request for proposals to update the system and in 2020 a contract was awarded to Soma Global, but the city terminated that agreement in March due to significant

See *Records*, page A5



Photos by James Carbone

VOLUNTEERS WEDNESDAY work to put the final touches on Newport Beach's float for the upcoming Rose Parade, "Jingle on the Waves," at the Phoenix Decorating Co. in Irwindale. Four former Rose Queens will ride along on the float tomorrow morning.

Reunion of Rose Queens set for New Year's Day parade

BY LILLY NGUYEN

At 89 years old, Nancy Thorne Skinner thinks this will probably be the last time she rides in the Rose Parade.

Skinner said there had only been the early beginnings of television when she was named Rose Queen in 1952. Now, she and three other former Rose Queens who live in Newport Beach will be broadcast into homes all over the country.

This will not be the first time that the four of them have ridden together on a float, according to Anne Martin Wortmann, who was Rose Queen in 1976.

Wortmann said the foursome, which includes Skinner, Ann Mossberg Hall, named in 1957, and the 1975 queen, Robin Carr Sanders, rode on the Newport Beach float together in 2006 when the city last participated in the Rose Parade for the city's centennial.

Wortmann said she remembered the rain and the plastic suits that they had to wear that year, adding that she's hopeful

See *Queens*, page A5



Courtesy of Don Webb

IN FRONT of the 2006 Newport Beach float, from left, are former Mayor Don Webb, an unnamed donor, former Rose Queens Anne Wortmann, Ann Hall, Nancy Skinner and Robin Sanders, and Steve Rosansky.

Royal Philharmonic to return for a week in O.C.

BY SARA CARDINE

The new year is looking especially promising for the Philharmonic Society of Orange County, as members prepare to kick off their 70th season with a week-long residency of London's Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

In a series of concerts, workshops and social gatherings slated to take place Jan. 14 through 20, members of the internationally renowned orchestra will collaborate with area schools, teachers and the broader public to demonstrate the power of music.

"There's more to a residency than purely concerts," said Jean Hsu, chief operating officer for the nonprofit Philharmonic Society. "It's about how we can show people music can make a difference even beyond the stage."

As such, members of the international ensemble will perform a Jan. 15 family concert at Santa Ana High School's Bill Medley Auditorium. The morning concert features interactive audience participation and on-the-spot written compositions under the theme "Heroes and Villains."

The following day, musicians will host workshops and trainings with members of UC Irvine's Claire Trevor School of the Arts



Mark McNulty

CONDUCTOR VASILY PETRENKO directs London's Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, which will take part in a weeklong residency presented by the Philharmonic Society of Orange County.

and UCI Health on the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra's STROKESTRA Initiative, which explores the impact of music on the stroke recovery process.

In addition to school visits Thursday, including Estancia and Fountain Valley high schools, a professional development workshop on Jan. 19 will impart teach-

ing techniques for local high school music directors to foster creative and collaborative music-

See *Return*, page A3

The job of building houses is a family affair

BY SUSAN HOFFMAN

The kids wanted an elevator, Mom wanted efficiency, Dad wanted a see-through garage — contributions that were all taken seriously in building a new luxury home at Cameo Shores in Corona del Mar.

Including his family in the decision-making process bolstered a new enthusiasm for Roger Hogan when he began his profession about seven years ago. “It started when I was building a house for my wife and three daughters,” Hogan said. “I really enjoyed this process so much that I transitioned into residential development as my sole income after working 22 years in the automobile industry.”

“Everything I do, my family is involved, my wife and daughters, brother and his wife and kids,” Hogan said. “My brother and partner, Stephen, and his wife, Jennifer, offer different perspectives in design, finishes and colors that can only help.”

The company is even named MRMP Developers after Hogan’s wife, Marie, and their daughters, Reagan, McKenzie and Palmer.

“I know the area very well and wanted to specialize in new construction in Cameo Shores,” said Hogan, who lives there in a home he’s renovating. “I don’t know of a better neighborhood in the country, I think Cameo Shores is number one.”

The Corona del Mar residential neighborhood that sits on the ocean side of Pacific Coast Highway known as Cameo Shores became a coastal community in 1959. The neighborhood with 170 homesites was designed to be terraced so that the homes maintain an ocean view with the exception of its uppermost streets.

The proximity to four



Photos by Susan Hoffman

THE HOGAN FAMILY, seated from left, Marie, Palmer, Reagan, McKenzie and Roger inside the newly built spec home in Cameo Shores, Corona del Mar.



MARIE HOGAN shows an innovative drop-down multiple-plug feature in a new home in Corona del Mar.

private beaches, 24-hour security patrol, central location and walking distance to conveniences are among the reasons Hogan said he loves where he lives and works. The lot sizes of over a quarter acre with 180-degree ocean views

with a restricted maximum height of 14½ feet add to the desirable location.

As a way to increase living space, new homes take advantage of the allowance to dig down, creating a subterranean dual entrance, with an upper or



COORITALIA TERRACOTTA architectural elements enhance Cameo Shores’ new home at 4539 Fairfield Drive in Corona del Mar.

top-side entrance combined with a lower street-level garage entrance. Currently only about 75% are upper top-side entrance homes, including the original 3,000-square-foot homes, none of which are subterranean.

With his third spec home completed after five years of delays due to supply-chain shortages, the nearly 7,500-square-foot residence on Fairfield Drive, listed at \$19,888,000, is one

of the newer homes with dual entry.

“Many of the newer constructions since 2018 are going to have that lower garage or dual entry,” explained Hogan. “We want to be ahead of the curve — it’s not a safe design, it’s something different. It’s for someone who has a taste for architecture and can look at this and appreciate it for being different than anything else, almost like an art piece.”

Even the kitchen plugs are unique, being aesthetically pleasing. With a press of a button they float up and down beneath a cabinet, a contribution suggested by Marie Hogan. She added, “I try to put myself in there and imagine what works and what doesn’t.”

Architect Geoff Sumich, who operates a boutique design firm in San Juan Capistrano, came on board to design the home.

A trained modernist, Sumich understood the defining aspect of the Hogan build was that of a beach house with shingles similar to those in the Hamptons. “The beach environment can be harsh with the sea air and moisture,” said Sumich. “We used a terra cotta version of a wood shingle, called Cooritalia, which is the first time to be used on the West Coast.”

“This is maintenance free, highly durable, fire resistant, no painting needed and looks like new in a 100 years time,” explained Sumich. “The other aspect is the rain screen application that maintains an air gap around the house, which allows it to breathe, contributing a health benefit to construction of the house.”

In addition, Sumich said the firm created a glassed-off “garage museum.”

“We strategically designed it so that the glass area engages the car museum, leaving a garage area not visible from the house,” Sumich said.

“Nothing is alike, every project is unique and special and not a copy,” said Hogan, about his company’s projects. “More than making money I’d like to leave my mark on the industry, where people say, ‘That looks like an MRMP house.’”

Susan Hoffman is a contributor to TimesOC.

Los Angeles Times

This must be the place

HYPERLOCAL GUIDES TO NEIGHBORHOOD GEMS.

“This must be the place” is a subscriber-exclusive series of guides to the many cities, neighborhoods and communities that make L.A., L.A.

Times writers spent months chatting with residents and immersing themselves in the past, present and future of these areas. The result? Your own personal tour guide to what makes these communities great.

Check out our guides to Los Feliz, Silver Lake, Boyle Heights, Fairfax, Inglewood, Koreatown, Monterey Park and Manhattan Beach at the link below — we’ll be adding new neighborhoods all the time, so keep coming back!

Scan the code or visit latimes.com/the-place to start exploring.



File Photo

TO CELEBRATE the park’s 50th anniversary a volunteer group, HB Trees, hopes to plant 50 more trees in three groves at Huntington Beach Central Park. Above, a couple walks their dog along a path near a blooming cherry tree in the park in 2022.

TREES

Continued from page A1

grove, in an area he calls the Nature Plateau. Two other groves of 20 trees each have yet to be planted at the other sites, all of which are in Central Park East and approved by the city’s parks and recreation department.

The other sites are a big meadow area, often used for the city’s Civil War reenactments each year, where the plan is for oaks and sycamores to be planted. The third area, toward the Slater Avenue parking lot, would have flowering trees that would add color to the park.

“We’ve lost probably hundreds of trees over the years,” Engel said. “As of right now, West Coast Arborists do the big-tree trimming for us, and they said there’s a vacancy of over 500 trees in the park right now, in their estimation.”

The new year is shaping up to be a big one for Central Park overall, as the city is planning a “Huntington Beach Jubilee” where each month different areas of Central Park will be celebrated. There will also be

celebrations for City Hall and Edison Park, which also turn 50 in 2024, as well as the Boy Scout log cabin at Lake Park that’s turning 100.

Huntington Beach community and library services director Ashley Wysocki said facilities and events manager Chris Cole and his team are developing the schedule for the Jubilee. As for the 50 Trees for 50 Years, those will factor into a California Arbor Week celebration in March.

“The city obviously supports more trees in the park,” Wysocki said. “We know that Central Park is a serene space in Huntington where you kind of forget that you’re in a beach town. With this being the city’s largest regional park, we know just how valuable that space is for people to get away and use it in all of the different capacities that they would use a park. Trees are inherent to the park space, so we’re really excited to see this vision for 50 trees come to life.”

Huntington Beach Tree Society President Jean Nagy said procuring the trees will be important in addition to making sure they have proper irriga-

tion.

“A tree takes about two years of care before it can really go out on its own when you plant it in a new spot,” she said. “Please call us if you’re willing to hand-water trees in the park.”

Engel said those interested can donate or sponsor the 50 Trees project by visiting HBTrees.org, and there is a QR code available online. Checks can also be mailed to P.O. Box 1269, Sunset Beach, CA, 90742.

He said he hopes to have all 50 trees planted by the end of 2024, calling it a good goal.

“We’ve all been working to get more trees in the park,” Engel said. “We’ve kind of reached the point where there’s not a lot of financing for it. We consider trees our infrastructure, but there’s so many other things that are vying for city dollars that trees get pushed down on the list. We’re trying to think of ways that we can come up with funding, through sponsorship and donations, to be able to bring more trees and plants in.”

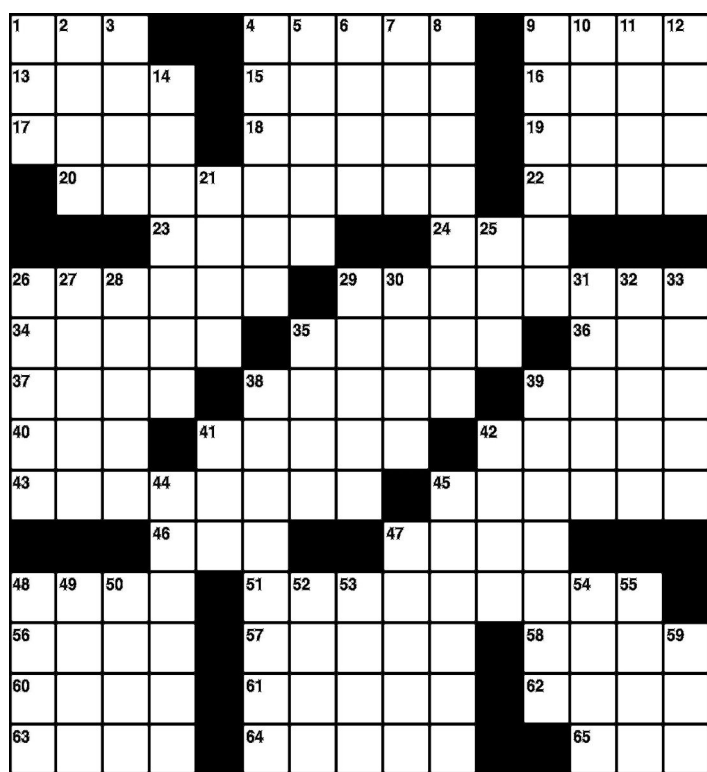
matthew.szabo@latimes.com
Twitter: @mjszabo

THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS

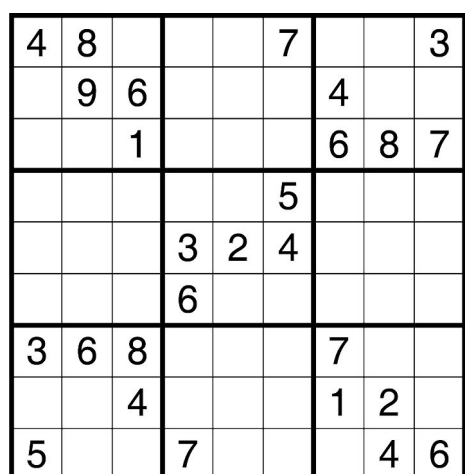
- 1 Record speed letters
- 4 Passion
- 9 Slaughter
- 13 "Woe is me!"
- 15 Depart
- 16 Bee colony
- 17 Shower with stones
- 18 Husband & wife
- 19 Harness strap
- 20 Secret or Right Guard
- 22 Stops
- 23 Sign of affection
- 24 Altercation
- 26 Tolerating no nonsense
- 29 How a pendulum moves
- 34 Place for a spare
- 35 Excessive enthusiasm
- 36 Uncooked
- 37 Chimed
- 38 Compare
- 39 Bring together
- 40 Ring king, once
- 41 _ Peak; Colorado summit
- 42 Wash off shampoo
- 43 Breakfast order
- 45 Played miniature golf
- 46 Part of a blackjack
- 47 Mettle; determination
- 48 Q-tip, e.g.
- 51 Fatigue
- 56 Desert gully
- 57 Wall-climbing vines
- 58 Grooves
- 60 As slippery _ eel
- 61 Epsom _; foot bath additive
- 62 Pants part
- 63 Caps with pom-poms
- 64 Prose writing
- 65 Help with the



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 A5.

DOWN

- 1 Eminent's music
- 2 Implored
- 3 Gender
- 4 Just about
- 5 Raises, as kids
- 6 Numerical info
- 7 Kiln
- 8 Hold back

- 9 Clever
- 10 Claim against property
- 11 Enthusiastic
- 12 Strong desires
- 14 Feeding a fire
- 21 Van Dyke or Van Patten
- 25 "Put _ Happy Face"

- 26 Saddle fastener
- 27 Refrain syllables
- 28 Confrontation
- 29 _ apart; disassembles
- 30 Change for a five
- 31 _ page; part of a newspaper
- 32 Elevate
- 33 Had the deed to
- 35 Wallace of TV
- 38 Similarly
- 39 Nervousness
- 41 Lobbying group, for short
- 42 Destroy
- 44 Forest homes
- 45 Persnickety
- 47 Actress Garbo
- 48 TV series for Kenny Johnson
- 49 "Fuzzy Wuzzy _ bear..."
- 50 West, for one
- 52 Longoria & Mendes
- 53 Has a bug
- 54 Took legal action
- 55 Asterisk
- 59 Animal enclosure

Tribune Media Services

RETURN

Continued from page A1

making environments. The residency will be capped off by three evening performances at the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall.

On Jan. 18, violinist Anne Akiko Meyers will perform Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto with the orchestra, conducted by Vasily Petrenko, in a program that includes "Danse" by Debussy and Rimsky-Korsakov's "Scheherazade." Pianist and RPO's own Artist-in-Residence Isata Kanneh-Mason will perform Clara Schumann's piano concerto the following evening.

On Jan. 20, members of the orchestra will perform Brahms' Symphony No. 2 and the world premiere of "Prologue for Bass and Percussion" by Brendan McBrien side by side with the Orange County Youth Symphony.

Since its founding in 1954, the Philharmonic Society of Orange County has striven to broaden and deepen music appreciation through its partnerships with national and international music ensembles, bringing performances and music education programs to people of all ages.

But the orchestral residency is a bold and daring first for the nonprofit, as its programs will involve local schools and music directors, UC Irvine Health students and educators and scores of young players.

"We've had orchestras come through and go out to schools for master classes and presentations, but nothing to this extent," Hsu said. "This is the start of a template we hope to be able to replicate in future residencies."

Katherine Yang, vice president of education and community engagement for the Philharmonic Society of Orange County, said RPO's existing programs, particularly those that involve local learning institutions, made it an ideal partner for the residency. "We actually try to do this



Josep Molina

VIOLINIST ANNE AKIKO Meyers will perform with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra Jan. 18 at the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall.



Robin Clewley

ISATA KANNEH-MASON performs with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra Jan. 19 at the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall.

throughout the year with visiting artists we have who are available to go out to schools. [But] the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra is really big on its outreach and connections, so we're really excited about this — we're going to be everywhere."

For a listing of events, in-

cluding ticket prices and packages, visit philharmonicsociety.org or call (949) 553-2422.

The Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall is located at 615 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa.

sara.cardine@latimes.com
Twitter: @SaraCardine

HEY SOCAL!

Join **UNIFY** today and start earning up to **\$250!**¹

- **24/7 Online Account Access**²
- **24/7 Contact Center** staffed with real people
- **A nationwide branch network**
- **Over 100,000 Surcharge-Free ATMs** in our partner network

UNIFY'S GOT YOU!

Open Your Account Today:

BRANCH: UnifyFCU.com/Locator for locations
PHONE: 877.254.9328, available 24/7



¹Promotion available as of 11/1/2023, is subject to change without notice and may end at any time. New members who open a qualifying UNIFY checking account with a Visa® Debit Card receive a \$150 bonus to the checking account following the first statement cycle. Earn a \$50 bonus by establishing a recurring ACH Direct Deposit of at least \$500 aggregate each month, which must be posted within 60 days of account opening. Receive up to \$50 by earning \$1 for each purchase made with new UNIFY Visa Debit Card that exceeds \$5 within 60 days of account opening. Direct Deposit and Debit Card usage bonus credited to the checking account in the statement cycle following the 60th day. All bonuses limited to one per member and account. Members with multiple accounts or accounts with multiple owners will not receive multiple bonuses. Member responsible for applicable taxes and must be in good standing to receive any bonus. Membership eligibility and qualification requirements apply, which include opening a membership savings of at least \$5. Minimum of \$25 required to open most checking accounts. Members cannot have had a UNIFY Account within the last three (3) years. To be eligible for this offer, you must reside in Orange, Ventura, or Los Angeles County, CA. Not valid with any other offers. UNIFY employees, volunteers, and family members not eligible. Visa® is a registered trademark of VISA U.S.A. Inc.
²Enrollment in eBanking required.
Insured by NCUA.

(11/23)



PAGEANT of the MASTERS
WHERE ART COMES TO LIFE

OPEN CASTING CALL
FOR VOLUNTEERS OF ALL AGES!

Be part of the magic of "living pictures" by being in next summer's Pageant of the Masters production of **À La Mode: The Art of Fashion.**

JANUARY 5
Friday, 7-9pm

JANUARY 6
Saturday, 7-9pm

JANUARY 7
Sunday, 2-5pm

- No theater previous experience necessary
- Earn community service hours
- A great summer family fun activity!

Signups located at the Festival of Arts
650 Laguna Canyon Road, Laguna Beach

BRING A FRIEND TO SIGN UP!

Sign up to be a volunteer at Casting Call and you'll be entered into a **drawing for 2 tickets to Disneyland® Park!**

LEARN MORE AT FOAPOM.COM/VOLUNTEER
For more information, contact (949) 494-3663 or casting@foapom.com

forum

COLUMN | **PATRICE APODACA**

Let 2024 be the year we take seriously the world's most perilous threat

The dawn of a new year is traditionally a time of reflection, stock-taking and goal-setting. This year I suggest we all focus on one big objective: Let 2024 be the year that we finally treat climate change with the heart-attack urgency that is desperately needed.

Let's be clear about a few points. The first is that there should no longer be any doubt by anyone that human-caused climate change is happening, and that it is already changing the world we inhabit. In many ways, the pace of that change is matching, or even outstripping, the most dire projections made in years passed.

This year was the hottest ever recorded. That's just a fact. And 2024 will likely be hotter because we're also burning fossil fuels at record levels.

That means that at this very moment, we are perilously close to the 1.5 degrees Celsius global warming threshold that scientists have long warned us about. The planet will keep heating, causing extreme weather events, like the ones we've seen during the past few years, to continue getting worse.

Hurricanes, droughts, floods and wildfires will grow ever more intense and destructive. Homes will be destroyed. Businesses will suffer. Some parts of Earth will become uninhabitable. Famine and disease will spread. And many, many people will die.

So the second-guessing, excuse-making and shade-throwing must stop now. The denigration of climate science and ridiculing of those who have devoted themselves to protecting and restoring the environment must no longer be tolerated. This is real, folks, and we need to go all in on finding solutions.

The second point is that we should understand and appreciate



AN AERIAL VIEW of apartment buildings evacuated and red-tagged after heavy rains brought a landslide that left the rear of the buildings in danger of tumbling down the cliff on Buena Vista in San Clemente in March 2023.

Allen J. Schaben | Los Angeles Times

ate that the impact of climate change will be felt differently depending on who you are and where you live.

Here in Orange County, one of the most visible manifestations of the changing climate is that our spectacular coastline, the source of so much pride and enjoyment among county residents, is crumbling.

Coastal erosion has disrupted rail service in San Clemente and destroyed Capistrano Beach's boardwalk. Sandy beaches are being clawed back into the sea. Ocean acidification is harming fish and shellfish, threatening the livelihood of local businesses.

There's worse to come. According to the research group First Street Foundation, the number of Orange County's extreme heat days is expected to rise by 214.3%

by 2053 — the biggest increase in the state. The number of days that temperatures will reach or exceed 90 degrees Fahrenheit will go from seven in 2023 to 22.

Like most of the state, Orange County also has a high risk of drought, wildfires and flooding. People will lose their homes. The air will more frequently be unhealthy to breathe. Those with underlying health conditions or unstable housing situations will face growing danger.

Some local elected officials and business executives — even those who acknowledge that climate change is real — tend to focus on criticizing any and all efforts to end our reliance on climate-warming fossil fuels as too expensive, impractical and rushed. Rarely do these naysayers offer any constructive suggestions of

their own; rather, they seem more interested in taking down their rivals, which only adds to the crisis.

I would apologize for the somber tone of this column at a time of year when it is customary to celebrate. But there's no time for that.

What I will do, however, is end on a hopeful note. Consider this my third point.

We can still forestall the worst outcome. It's possible if we work together — each and every one of us — to act immediately and aggressively. There won't be one solution. There will be many. None will be perfect, and there will be costs and trade offs.

But there will also be opportunities, along with the knowledge that we are doing what we can, not just for ourselves but for our

children and our children's children. They deserve nothing less than our best efforts to prevent climate change's most catastrophic consequences.

I'll mention just one initiative that's underway, and which could be realized in 2024: Orange County might finally have a long-overdue climate action plan.

A climate action plan is a blueprint for collecting data on greenhouse gas emissions, setting targets for reducing those emissions and adopting measures to reduce those emissions. It is also a plan for helping communities mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.

Last August Orange County Supervisors Katrina Foley and Vicente Sarmiento spearheaded a hearing to address climate change and to create a comprehensive countywide climate action plan, similar to those which some other jurisdictions — including a handful of cities within the county — have already formed.

The committee charged with developing Orange County's plan is currently seeking federal funding. Hopefully, I'll have more to report on this in the coming months.

While the climate action plan would be a welcome development, there's so much more that is required of us, and we will all have a part to play, whether it's researching steps we can take as individuals, joining in collective efforts that include fighting for robust policy prescriptions or supporting leaders who understand the importance of immediate action.

We need to throw everything we've got at this. Let 2024 be the year that we resolve to do just that.

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.

MAILBAG

Readers look forward to a new year, saying goodbye to the politics of '23

In recent weeks, the conservative Huntington Beach City Council majority and their supporters have spouted off on social media that only a small minority of residents oppose their policy changes. They would like to think so, but that's not the case at all. After breaking ties with the Greater H.B. Interfaith Council, restricting public library materials, banning the Pride flag, dissolving the Human Relations Committee, rewriting the city's Human Dignity Statement, pushing for an overhaul of city elections (costing H.B. taxpayers millions), and attempting to end the city's observation of heritage months like Black History Month and Women's History Month, a growing mass of a residents has teamed up to oppose the conservative majority's unpopular, draconian policies. Hundreds have pooled time and resources

in a grassroots movement to defeat the March 5 charter amendments, which are costly and divisive. As Huntington Beach continues to draw bad publicity from both within and outside the community for its MAGA-inspired, misguided direction, support for a rational approach to city governance will grow even more forcefully in 2024. Rather than fomenting a culture war to attract attention from FOX News, Breitbart and other right-wing outlets for their political careers, the majority should be working on making our city stronger, not weaker!

Carol Daus
Huntington Beach

I have great hopes that 2024 will bring the Huntington Beach City Council majority new wisdom and the ability to work together for what is best for the city so many of us love.

I was disappointed to watch the first council meeting under our new mayor, Gracy Van der Mark, and its outcome. Once again, a divisive and chaotic issue was brought forward. As proposed, it

would determine the way in which the city would honor various groups and events. It became apparent that many of the tributes and recognition of important events in our history would not be among those recognized, including Pride, Women's History and Black History months. Next day, the majority, realizing that possibly this would be a very controversial issue, tried to restate what they really meant and explained that some of those issues they had been left out would now be represented. However it was too late.

We also lost the chair of the Historic Resources Committee who had never been consulted about the proposed changes. This is the committee who could have given the council, as experts in their field, good advice as to why certain groups should be recognized.

During 2023 hundreds of citizens have expressed their opposition and rarely were they heard. Each meeting under Mayor Tony Strickland saw our citizens speak out against issues such as how the mayor is selected, a long held protocol of selection of someone with time and experience. The majority then determined what flags could be flown on city property, eliminated some long-standing committees and boards, and rewrote the Human Dignity Statement.

During 2023, the city lost of five department heads including our city manager, and hopefully this exodus will not continue through 2024.

I was personally disappointed with what the council majority did to the Human Dignity Statement as I, along with Ralph Bauer, and former Police Chief Ron Lowenberg, wrote this statement. This

statement set Huntington Beach apart from many other cities, as the city promised that all of our citizens would be protected and respected regardless of their racial background, the nation of origin, their religion, gender, their sexual orientation or disability status. The new statement has been rewritten and a number of those previously included have now been deleted so the new statement has lost a lot of its inclusiveness meaning.

As a former mayor from 1993 to '94, I pray that 2024 can be better, and the city always first in the decision-making process.

Shirley Dettloff
Huntington Beach

"But you know, that old Grinch was so smart, and he was so slick, he thought up a lie, and he thought it up quick," is a favorite line of mine from a time-honored holiday classic, and apropos of Daily Pilot reporting on the council decision to eradicate Black History Month, Women's History Month and others from the city's official observances. Councilman Casey McKeon claims the resolution was "misinterpreted in a way."

Indeed. It is difficult to understand how his plain language on the night of Dec. 19 could be misinterpreted in any way. But he apparently thought up this lie, and he thought it up quick.

We are not living in the city of Oceana Beach, and McKeon cannot simply change the historical record as easily as the proles working in Big Brother's Ministry of Truth. Clearly, he is neither as smart nor as slick as the adversary of Whoville in imagining that this simple assertion does

See **Mailbag**, page A5

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

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.

Albert Perelstein

February 2, 1933 - December 2, 2023

Albert (Al, Albie) was born in Antwerp, Belgium on February 2nd, 1933 and passed on December 2, 2023. He is survived by his wife, Frankie, his son David and wife Jennifer, grandson Dakota; his stepsons Jake and Alex and wife Danielle, grandchildren Mack and Noa; his nephews David, Steve, and Brian. He is preceded in death by his brothers Ronald and Joseph.

Please visit legacy.com for his story.



Hortense Sue Gale

September 3, 1925 - December 12, 2023

Born in St. Louis, MO to Sam and Birdy Roberts, Sue spent most of her life in L.A. and her heart was always in California. She died at the age of 98 in Hartford, CT. Known for her conversational skills, humor, fierce independence and fabulous fashion sense, Sue will be remembered for her zeal for life. She is survived by her daughters, Sheri Ellis and Denise Gale, and predeceased by her youngest daughter, Stephanie Tehrani. Sue's also survived by her son-in-law, 5 grandchildren, 1 great-grand child & her beloved dog, Charlie.

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

MARKETPLACE

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

EMPLOYMENT
1500

Employment

Purchasing Coordinator:
Bachelor's Degree
in Business Admin,
Economics, or Related.
\$49,733/yr, F/T, Resume
to Soowan Kim, E-Mart
America, Inc., 975 W.
Imperial Hwy Ste 110,
Brea, CA 92821

Call Classified Today
(714) 966-4600

Call Classified Today
(714) 966-4600

CLASSIFIED

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

QUEENS

Continued from page A1

the weather will be clear on New Year's Day tomorrow.

Sanders said the hope was always that it wouldn't rain, but the unfortunate timing made it one of the most memorable parades that she'd participated in — five, this year by her count. She remembers the streets still being lined with people, though it poured all throughout that day.

"Not this year, no rain!" Wortmann said, laughing.

With storms in the forecast this weekend but not tomorrow, it looks like Wortmann and the other former queens will be in luck as it isn't expected to rain on their parade.

Sanders said it seemed that Visit Newport Beach was pulling out all the stops to treat them to a memorable event. The four met with the tourist bureau, discussed the outfits they'll wear and were told they'll be chauffeured to and from the parade in style.

"It's so much fun because these women are just magnificent. It's real camaraderie," Sanders said.

The Newport Beach float is themed "Jingle on the Waves" and is reportedly the longest in the Tournament of Roses' history. The float links together some of the city's most iconic fea-



James Carbone

CHAD GLOETZNER of Mission Viejo volunteers his time to work on Newport Beach's first float since 2006 for tomorrow's Rose Parade in Irwindale on Dec. 16.

tures, including the Balboa Fun Zone, the Balboa Pavilion and the recently featured Christmas Boat Parade.

Decorating started earlier this month, and waves of volunteers have come into the Irwindale warehouse of the Phoenix Decorating Co. for eight-hour shifts to make sure the float is ship-

shape. "It looks great and everything is on schedule," said Gary Sherwin, the chief executive officer and president of Visit Newport Beach. "We've had a wonderful turnout from the community on decorating. There is a real sense of civic pride."

Plans for the float started

in March when the Tournament of Roses first reached out to gauge the city's interest in participating. Everything came together quickly afterward. Phoenix Decorating Co. was contracted to build the float, and dry structures went in at the start of December. It was only in the last week, just before the judging

stage, that the floral decorations started being applied to the structures.

The local Rose Queens said Visit Newport Beach reached out to them in September.

"To be able to do this one more time and, this will definitely be the last," Skinner said, laughing, "is really kind of a treat. It's fun, so

my family's enjoying it too. Both my daughters and son-in-law and a lot of relatives ... will be watching. My sister still lives in Pasadena, so she is going to have us all at her house. It should be fun.

"We're going to wear a nautical outfit and we'll all look the same. We're on a float ... that is hoping we'll attract people to this wonderful community of ours."

Wortmann said she and the others haven't seen the float yet, but they'll be having a dress rehearsal Sunday. As for why they agreed to ride the float?

"I think because we're Newport Beach," Wortmann said. "We've been part of the community for a long time and are active in the community. Gary Sherwin is such a good guy. It's just one of those times that you know, somebody asks you and maybe no one will ever ask you again. So, it's nice to take advantage of the opportunity and it should be the longest float in the parade in the history of the Rose Parade."

Of the float and the city's participation, Mayor Will O'Neill said this week, "Newport Beach has been a beacon of hope and quality of life in this state for years. Now, we are shining a light on the national stage, inviting folks to join us."

lilly.nguyen@latimes.com
Twitter: @lillibirds

MAILBAG

Continued from page A4

anything other than solidify the damage he has done to his hometown.

As for the gang of four who stood up forthrightly and voted to delete Women's History Month and African American History month, I am still trying to come up with any characteristic which I can use to tell any one of them apart.

Perhaps when the armed forces of this great country refuse to provide a precision flying team for the Pacific Airshow headquartered in a city straying

so far from American values — perhaps then we will see how smart and how slick the gang of four really is.

Galen Pickett
Huntington Beach

O'Neill's pledge has promise

An article recently in the Daily Pilot reported how Newport Beach's latest City Council-selected mayor, Will O'Neill, wants to accomplish one goal that eluded him during his first stint as mayor, and that is to recognize people who have contributed to the

betterment of not just the city but society as a whole. It is a lofty undertaking that could certainly go towards helping O'Neill's last year on the council end on a high note.

Since I became a more active observer of city government when I retired 15 years ago, I was a bit surprised to learn just how political local government can be. The division does not really run along political party lines because despite the fact that Orange County as a whole is becoming more moderately Democratic, the same thing cannot be said about Newport Beach. There has

never been more than a handful of Democrats on the City Council, if that, and running as a Democrat on that body, as little as 10 years ago, meant sure defeat. That is noteworthy considering that most of the issues that come before the council are of local rather than national interest. So in reality, the residents of Newport, despite their political party, work side by side in trying to solve those issues that come before council such as land use, finance and general governance.

What does drive city politics then? As an outsider, it is difficult to say.

Perhaps it is as simple as what determines the "in" crowd versus the "out" crowd, as in high school. Maybe it is the perception that not all the participants play fairly, that favoritism is prevalent. During the last council election, the political gamesmanship of some of the participants soured many of the people in Newport Beach on participation in future elections.

That is why Mayor O'Neill's announcement that he is going to reward the "helpers" in society by recognizing their accomplishments is so important. This is the opportuni-

ty for him to repair some of the schisms in the city brought about by recent elections. It is also his opportunity to rise above politics and to seek out those who have made valuable contributions to all aspects of society, those who have made the city a better place to live. Hopefully, he will be "digging deep" for recipients of recognition not just on a superficial level. His choices could help to improve the attitude of the city toward local government.

Lynn Lorenz
Newport Beach



Andrew Turner

AN UPGRADED public safety records management system would ensure data integrity, while also promoting efficiency that would benefit public safety personnel and residents, according to Laguna Beach Police Department Capt. David Dereszynski.

RECORDS

Continued from page A1

delays in implementation, Assistant City Manager Gavin Curran said.

"Some of the key modules ... that come with the system are property and evidence, jail booking and processing, alarms and permits, report writing, calls for service, case management, traffic collision reporting, tracking chronic offenders, and statistical reporting," Laguna Beach Police Capt. David Dereszynski said.

Dereszynski added the proposed records management system upgrade would ensure data integrity while also promoting efficiency that would benefit public safety personnel and

residents.

Mayor Sue Kempf inquired as to what the city could expect for its \$1 million investment.

"The \$1 million includes the implementation costs and the software costs, and then there's an ongoing maintenance of \$50,000," said Curran, who said the new equipment should be in place by September.

Laguna Beach's requirements of a public safety records management system have increased since the current equipment was put to use in 2006.

"In that [prior request for proposals], we allowed for people to bid just on a police component," Curran said. "This year, we were looking at police, fire and marine safety. You had to

have all three pieces."

Councilman Bob Whalen asked about the impact of the mobile field reporting software.

"Currently, our officers write their reports in the station, and a lot of that is because even with our new ... computers, the signal, the software, the hardware doesn't support it, so it crashes," said Dereszynski, indicating that the benefit would be in eliminating delays.

The Hexagon equipment will be installed on the premises, city officials said, although the city will have the ability to transition to a cloud-based option down the line.

andrew.turner@latimes.com
Twitter: @AndrewTurnerTCN

Spark the Success of Your Business in 2024 with Wow 5 Stars!



Lock in a full year of premium bookkeeping services now and enjoy an exclusive **10% discount**. Limited time offer - make this the perfect opportunity investing in the Financial Health of Your Business and Personal Finances.

Let me take care of your bookkeeping, so you can focus on what really matters most to you in 2024!

Why Choose Wow 5 Stars?

Hello, I'm Jolida Shriver, owner and founder of Wow 5 Stars I am a Small Business Specialist and Quickbooks Pro Advanced Certified. If you choose me, you will gain more than just financial expertise. You'll also reclaim precious time back in your day.

I know that one size does not fit all.

My commitment to tailored bookkeeping solutions means that I craft a unique plan for each client. Your success is also my success.

Accuracy is the cornerstone of my service.

I take pride in maintaining precise, error-free financial records to give you peace of mind and reliable financial insights.

Unlock Savings, Prevent Mistakes, Optimize Strategies.

Let me free up your valuable time and save you money by preventing costly financial mistakes, identifying tax deductions, and optimizing your financial strategies.

Call or email to schedule a time to meet:

📞 949-508-1978 | ✉ info@wowfivestars.com

May the coming year bring new opportunities and continued growth to your endeavors.



CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

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

Get the **FREE** TimesOC newsletter.

Orange County's most essential stories
in your inbox.

Every Wednesday, get the news that matters most to your community in the TimesOC newsletter, with the latest on issues from business and immigration to food and what to do this weekend. It's the top local stories from the Daily Pilot, the L.A. Times and TimesOC — all delivered straight to you.



Scan the code or visit
latimes.com/timesOCnewsletter
to sign up now.