



Photos by James Carbone

GUESTS OBSERVE artworks at "Moments of Youth," organized by the Assn. of Designers and Artists at the Center Gallery in Anaheim. The exhibit features pieces by students from several Orange County high schools.

Spotlight shines on teen artists at Center Gallery

BY LILLY NGUYEN

The Assn. of Designers and Artists started with one idea: to provide and connect local teenage artists with the chance to sell or feature their art in the public eye.

Sage Hill senior Jennifer Huang said she knew opportunities had to exist for artists like her, but she didn't know where to look. That's when Huang decided to start an organization to help locate, identify and provide those resources to young artists. She herded a few of her friends from different local high schools, co-founders Julianna Hsu and Coco Wen, to help her make it happen.

Members of the Assn. of Designers and Artists pride themselves on operating an independent group, though they have a small branch on campus at Sage Hill.

Hsu, who goes to Arnold O. Beckman High School in Irvine, said all the artists in the organization join via an application process during which they are asked to submit a small portfolio and are evaluated for quality by the group's four-person board. The only requirement is that the artists are still in high

See **Artists**, page A2



SHIVANI ATLURI, 14, from the Orange County School of Arts, smiles as she poses next to her painting, titled "Tea Time" and inspired by her recent trip to India.

Seeding clouds to help make it rain

A new pilot program from a joint powers authority hopes to boost precipitation in Santa Ana River watershed.

BY SARA CARDINE

Using meteorology and chemistry to help prod Mother Nature, water officials have begun seeding storm clouds throughout the Santa Ana Watershed to boost regional water supplies by enhancing the rain and snowfall produced during storms.

Started in November as a four-year pilot under the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority — a joint powers authority comprising five public agencies, including Orange County Water District and others in the Inland Empire, San Bernardino and Riverside — the project aims to increase precipitation levels anywhere from 5% to 15%.

Officials estimated in a 2020 feasibility study that, on the southwest end of the watershed in Orange County, cloud seeding could add .59 inches of seasonal rainfall, amounting to nearly 450 additional acre-feet of natural streamflow, or a 9.7% increase.

Cloud seeding involves re-

See **Clouds**, page A4

ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

VANGUARD TEAMS WITH ARTS & LEARNING CONSERVATORY FOR 'THE LION KING' PAGE A3

Casting call offers a sneak peek, chance to volunteer

BY ANDREW TURNER

A stage production put on before a few thousand people every night in the summer has long captured the hearts of Laguna Beach and surrounding communities.

The Pageant of the Masters, a name as grand as the spectacle itself, has captivated audiences with its ability to replicate celebrated works of art in the form of the living picture.

Scores of admirers have pictured themselves contributing to the show — even being in it.

While there are no guarantees of landing a part in the cast, the surest way to get involved is to volunteer. The annual casting call took place over three days the first weekend of January, a meeting that has marked the beginning for many a proud participant in the Pageant.

WILL NIGHS-WONGER, who has appeared in the show before, is measured during the casting call for the Pageant of the Masters.



Pageant director Diane Challis Davy said there were 724 attendees who filled out cards to volunteer for the upcoming show, which will be "À La Mode: The Art of Fashion."

Beyond the possibility of bolstering their modeling career in a tableaux vivant, as long as the volunteers can stand still for 90 sec-

onds, other offerings included the headdress, make-up and wardrobe departments, as well as backstage roles.

For those who missed the casting call, the window to volunteer has not passed. Challis Davy said those interested can still stop by to

See **Casting**, page A3



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

JUDY FLANDERS and Brian Kendrick, from left, measure a prospective cast member from head to toe during the casting call for the 2024 Pageant of the Masters show at the Festival of Arts grounds on Jan. 5. This summer's show is themed "À La Mode: The Art of Fashion."

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Santa Ana historical museum plans a spooky fundraiser

BY JESSICA PERALTA

History and horror enthusiasts have a place to do some shopping, listen to live music and watch cosplayers do their thing while helping raise funds for the nonprofit Heritage Museum of Orange County on Feb. 10.

A circus-themed, all-ages event, Sideshow of Horrors, running from noon to 6 p.m., promises about 50 vendors selling both horror and Valentine's Day-themed items ranging from handmade candles to jewelry and creepy dolls. While admission is free, money raised through vendor fees will go toward fundraising goals for the restoration of one of the historic homes at Heritage Museum, the Maag Farmhouse.

"We feel that the history of the property should be preserved for generations to come," said Louise Arnold, event organizer with Maag Marketplace, which launched in 2022 to raise funds for Maag Farmhouse's extensive renovation costs.

Completed in 1899, the Maag Farmhouse was the home of citrus and nut grower John Anton Maag and his family, according to museum records. Saved from demolition, the farmhouse and two of its structures were disassembled and moved across town to Heritage Museum of Orange County in Santa Ana in 1981. HMOC projects costs to renovate and restore Maag Farmhouse at \$1.28 million. HMOC's goals for the farmhouse include for it to become a lecture and meeting room space where community members can share their research and stories, a public research center and a platform for community members to share creative works.

"It's a free event for the community to attend so the hard work and continued drive of the Maag Marketplace admins who really believe in this project and bring in all of the vendors and entertainment keep the event building and growing, which adds some much needed

money to the extensive building renovation needs and some much needed attention to the Maag Farmhouse," said HMOC Marketing Director Shandra Wilson. "The historic Kellogg House has, deservedly, been such a central part of the museum and its field trips for so long that it sometimes overshadows the other buildings and history, so this event helps remind and even introduces the community to all the other aspects of historical value that HMOC offers."

Other plans for Sideshow of Horrors include performances by Southern California bands the Sea Tease, Violette Rain and Generations Collide, tarot and oracle card readers, cosplay, food trucks and photos ops.

Coulrophobics be warned: There will be clowns. "We have almost 60 clowns confirmed," Arnold said.

Spooky Baby — a classic horror-themed baby/toddler clothing store — will host a Bloody Valentine Craft area where families can make horror-themed Valentine's Day cards. Face-painting will also be available. (Each of these activities have a \$5 fee.)

"This is a free, outdoor, pet- and family-friendly event. There will be vendors, food trucks, mocktails, live entertainment, live music, museum tours, cosplayers, photo ops and a horde of clowns brought to you by Bone Yard Effects," said April Metcalf, who is part of the Maag Marketplace admin team and owns Spooky Baby.

Sideshow of Horrors is Maag Marketplace's second fundraising event. Last year's Bloody Valentine, also held in February, raised about \$3,000.

Arnold, who owns horror-themed design and fashion business Dreadfully Cute Designs, said "American Horror Story: Freak Show" was a big inspiration for this year's event.

"I believe that there's a great respect for historical locations within the com-

munity," Arnold said. "There's an intriguing air about a historical location. ... The possibility of a location is always a draw to the horror/paranormal community."

Kathy Toledo, who is also part of the Maag Marketplace team, said she's enjoyed spooky things since childhood.

"Halloween and all things mystical and spooky have always been my favorite since I was a little girl," Toledo said. "I'm also a certified psychic and medium, so the human/spirit connection at sites with historical significance are of special interest to me personally."

She said she loves history and the preservation of historic landmarks and buildings like the Maag Farmhouse.

"My father was an elementary school teacher, so history was always some-



Jessica Peralta

HERITAGE MUSEUM of Orange County will host Sideshow of Horrors, with vendors, music, tours of the museum and more as a fundraiser for the museum on Feb. 10.

thing important in our house," she said. "I think we watch more historical TV than anything. When we travel, museums and

historical sites are always on the agenda. We learn from history, whether it's something to be celebrated or something to avoid.

Preservation is extremely important to me."

Jessica Peralta is a contributor to Daily Pilot & TimesOC.



Photos by James Carbone

GUESTS BROWSE through the exhibition "Moments of Youth" organized by the Assn. of Designers and Artists at the Center Gallery in Anaheim on Thursday.

ARTISTS

Continued from page A1

school.

Finding opportunities to stage an exhibit is a matter of scouring every inch of the internet, according to Hsu, who said she, Huang, Wen and board member Joy Qu spend much of their time after school calling and emailing every fair or exhibition they can find.

"Even if it's a one-in-a-million chance," she said. "A lot of the time, we don't get responses because we started out as a high school organization, but if we persevere and persist in these advances there are organizations and city councils that are willing and eager to help us spread these resources."

The group started last January. Now, one year later, the Assn. of Designers and Artists is hosting its first official exhibition themed "Moments of Youth," at the Center Gallery in downtown Anaheim. The exhibition opened on Jan. 5 and will run until Feb. 8. Their official reception was held Thursday night.

"This was a great chance to showcase and encourage young artists. Center Gallery is a boutique gallery in our Downtown Anaheim

Community Center, near the Anaheim Packing House, Center Street Promenade, City Hall and Museo Museum and Cultural Center, our city's largest gallery," Anaheim spokesman Mike Lyster said Thursday.

"The young artists of 'Moments in Youth' are part of gallery space that has hosted some notable local artists," Lyster continued. "We've been fortunate to recently host Hayden Evans, an Irvine artist known for his work with Disney, and Gustavo Jaime, an Anaheim resident who has worked with the Anaheim Ducks, as part of a Halloween exhibit. That's inspiring for young artists to know they're on the same stage as more established working artists and encourages them in their works and art careers. We encourage everyone to come check it out. The exhibit is a mix of paintings, sketches, watercolors, portraits, sculptures and digital works, including some inspired by graphic novels, anime and pop art."

Hsu said the theme of the exhibition came from wanting to convey that youth, including those who are artists, can't be conveyed by a single brushstroke.

"It's not a singular art

style. It's varied and that variety describes your youth. Childhood isn't a singular stretch, but phases of time. Each artist and work experiences that differently," Hsu said. "But, honestly, it also has a separate meaning: All these artists are young and are experiencing all different kinds of things. Yes, we are high schoolers, but we can and are still doing amazing things."

About 30 to 40 pieces are being displayed from the association's 30-plus members, including pieces from Huang, and member Sissi Ly.

Huang, who works in several media, said her favorite piece of the artworks she had on display is a sculpture she made of cigarette butts that she calls "Termites."

The piece was constructed from cigarette butts that she collected as part of beach cleanups with the Surfrider Foundation and sawdust from her school's theater depart-

ment as a warning to her father, who she said has been smoking for years.

"Termites can destroy a home," Huang said. "When you smoke, it doesn't just affect you, but it affects your family members too."

Ly said the set of acrylic paintings she created is called "Greed." They were inspired by an image she saw in a film, though she can't recall what the film was now.

"This character had an eating disorder and kept eating inedible things. I thought that was a really powerful image and I wanted to use that concept to convey how people always want to consume things that are out of their reach or always needing more," Ly said. "Consuming it, literally, conveys that same message."

Ly said she joined the association because she knew Huang. She said she was glad to have her work exhibited at the Center Gallery so it could be viewed by a wide audience.



JOY QU, 17, a Sage Hill High School student, poses next to her art piece titled "Underwater City," during the "Moments of Youth" exhibition at the Center Gallery in Anaheim.

"It's difficult to get exposure in terms of being a teenage artist, especially. It's a super nice platform for other people to see what I've been working on outside of school and [for them to] get to know me more," said Ly, who hopes to pursue art in college. "I'm excited for the public to see my art. It's not something that happens all the

time. I'm glad I could have it on display for people to come check it out."

Center Gallery is located at 250 E. Center Street, Anaheim. Hours for the "Moments in Youth" exhibit are from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

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College Corps helps make 'Lion King' roar

BY MATT SZABO

The familiar tune "Hakuna Matata" wafted out of the multipurpose room at Lincoln Elementary School in Corona del Mar on Thursday afternoon.

Vanguard University sophomore Montana Leyva paused and smiled as she heard the children singing. "I love hearing their little voices," she said.

Since October, Leyva has been working with more than 35 Lincoln students on their production of "The Lion King." The show time of Tuesday afternoon is almost here, and the kids can't wait to bring the production to life.

Neither can Leyva, who's a double major in technical theater and business at

Vanguard. Director Lizzy McCabe has asked her to help direct and choreograph the show, a welcome addition to her love of the behind-the-curtain aspect of being a stage manager.

Leyva is making the most of a unique opportunity she's been given through the College Corps program.

She's one of Vanguard's first two College Corps fellows participating in a partnership with Costa Mesa-based nonprofit Arts & Learning Conservatory. She will complete 450 hours of community service work this school year through ALC-provided opportunities.

With \$700 in monthly payments, plus a \$3,000 grant from the state of California when she finishes, it adds up to a total of

\$10,000 for Leyva for the 450 hours.

The #CaliforniansForAll College Corps grant program places student fellows with nonprofits working to overcome societal challenges related to food insecurity, climate action or, in this case, K-12 education. It spoke to her, as she said her mom and dad are both first responders.

"They made a life through service," Leyva said. "That was something that was emphasized, and one of the pillars of Vanguard is truth, virtue, service. If anything, I felt a call from my heart and a call from my school to just test it, try out for College Corps."

Arts & Learning Conservatory director of education Katie Hennen said the



Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

COLLEGE CORPS fellow Montana Leyva, a sophomore at Vanguard University, looks for costumes for cast members in a musical production of "The Lion King" at Lincoln Elementary in Corona del Mar on Thursday.

nonprofit has had a good relationship with Vanguard in the past; ALC founder and CEO Debora Wondercheck is a Vanguard alumna. But the partnership with College Corps also presents a new opportunity.

"This partnership is really special," Hennen said. "We find ourselves at

this unique convergence. Our kids are meeting creativity with confidence. On the administrative level, we're able to connect the classroom to the community. It's a win to the fourth power. Everybody benefits from it — the school, the community, the families, the kids, the organization and of course Montana, as well."

According to a 2022 report from SRI Education, nearly 90% of schools in California don't meet the state funding requirements for arts education. Hennen cited further statistics from the Orange County Department of Education that students who have access and are able to interact with the arts are five times less likely to drop out of school, and four times more likely to earn a bachelor's degree.

"We had a student who was playing Dorothy in 'The Wizard of Oz' at one of our other elementary schools in the Newport-Mesa district," Hennen said. "She was often late to class and had attendance

issues. The second she was cast, she hasn't missed a day of school since. We talked to the principal, and she confirmed that for us. It really does make a difference. It may not be super-visible to everyone, but it makes a difference to the students in their academic careers."

Leyva has been having a blast with "The Lion King," which she said she's loved ever since she saw the production on Broadway with her mom while in seventh grade. The Lincoln student performers enjoy her upbeat personality.

"She's really nice," said Ava Keiser, a fourth-grader who is playing the African red-billed hornbill Zazu in the production. "She loves everybody. She'll be strict when she has to be strict, and she'll be nice, too."

Ava wants to be an actor when she grows up. Leyva will continue working with the next generation as the spring semester at Vanguard begins.

Her next assignment coordinated by ALC is for a production of "The Little Mermaid" at Title I school Whittier Elementary in Costa Mesa.

"I have an opportunity to practice what I love and to grow in my passions here," Leyva said. "I'm just so thankful because I couldn't get this at any other job. I would have never heard of Arts & Learning if not for College Corps. I wouldn't get to sing 'Hakuna Matata' with kids for a job. Not a lot of people can say that they sing and dance for a job, and that wouldn't have happened without College Corps."

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Dr. Daniela A. Bota, a neuro-oncologist at UCI Health



DIRECTOR LIZZY MCCABE instructs cast members Jacob Keiser, Milla Hamilton and Ava Keiser, from left.

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CASTING

Continued from page A1

get measured and photographed. To make an appointment, call the casting office at (949) 494-3663.

"I always love the casting call," Challis Davy said. "It is so much fun, to me, because it draws in people who have seen the show, but they've never been backstage. Yes, they're signing up and volunteering and getting measured and photographed, but they're also getting a sneak peek downstairs in all the dressing rooms, they look at our working storyboard, they get to be up on stage to have some refreshments and look around and see some of our sets."

"I had a couple people who were new who told me, 'Everyone around here is so nice. You people are just so nice,' and I felt very proud of that because it just shows that, from the very first when a volunteer shows up, we welcome them, and we



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

PROSPECTIVE CAST members line up during the casting call for the Pageant of the Masters in Laguna Beach.

demonstrate that their summer is going to be fun. It won't seem like a chore."

It was a busy afternoon on the Festival of Arts grounds last Sunday, as hopeful volunteers lined up to get measured from head to toe. While some of the measurements apply to costuming, casting director Nancy Martin revealed the most important measurements to her.

"The most important measurement to me is the height, and the head size needs to be pretty close because the headpiece needs to be shared, and then shoe size," said Martin, who is in her 40th year as casting director. "Those are the sizes I look at most closely when I'm picking people."

Finding two people similar in measurement is essential because there are

two casts, meaning that they will have to share a costume and a headpiece.

Volunteers of all sizes are needed, and that often includes young children.

"We do find the audience always enjoys watching the kids move, but we have to put a stop to it," Martin chuckled. "We have come to the point where we even bribe them not to move. Sometimes, when the audience laughs, they get to like it, so then they do it on purpose."

Asked what a bribe might look like, Martin said that little toys have done the trick, at times.

Twin sisters Teagan and Molly Mahoney, who are in fourth grade at El Morro Elementary in Laguna Beach, are both hoping to be recast in the show after appearing as substitutes last year.

"I was kind of shivering a little bit," Molly recalled of last summer's appearance. "I don't know why, though. ... When I went out there, you just have to stand there, and I really want to see the

audience this time."

The casting call can be a fun time for parents, too, who get an opportunity to see how much their kids have grown.

"I was like, 'How tall are you?'" said Laura Sewell, the mother of Teagan and Molly. "They're twins, and [Teagan] is 4 inches taller, so that's always kind of interesting to see."

While the Mahoney twins can only guess what piece they might be considered for, longtime volunteer Richard Cassiere is quite certain that he will be back in "The Last Supper." The traditional finale of the Pageant, Cassiere, who is volunteering for a 42nd season, first appeared in it in 1974 as St. James the Lesser.

Cassiere said the volunteers in "The Last Supper" have gone unchanged for a decade, referring to the Pageant as a "special summer community." With his time in service, Cassiere has gained an appreciation for the work that goes on backstage.

"You'd be surprised how skilled the stage manager and the people behind the scenes, how they move all those large props and stuff, how smoothly they move it," Cassiere said. "One of the most amazing things that always has shocked me is you have a stage crew of so many people that have drilled over and over again to move all these props in a certain order in a very small, small space. They've got to do it quickly. They've got to set up quickly or the audience will get bored."

Should others decide to throw their hat in the ring for a part, there is a question that might give some pause. Some roles call on a volunteer to pose in the nude.

"With my gut, I'm a chunky monkey, dude," Cassiere said with a laugh. "... Frankly, I'm not hung up with nudity at all, but with my body in front of an audience of 3,000 people, I don't want to get them sick."

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CLOUDS

Continued from page A1

leasing particles of silver iodide into the air during a storm event — in this case, not from airplanes but from about 15 ground-based seeding systems installed on high ridges to the north and south of the watershed's natural basin.

Issued from flares, in which acetone combusts to help the particles take flight, the floating silver iodide acts as a nucleus or form, to which super-cooled water molecules in the air can attach. Its snowflake-like structure encourages molecules to condense into water droplets or ice inside a cloud system.

Two such installations in remote but protected locations in Lake Forest and the city of Orange make up the southwest component of the project, operated by Utah-based contractor North American Weather Consultants. Particles from these stations will ride air patterns that jet from the Pacific toward the northeast rim of the watershed.

SAWPA General Manager Jeff Mosher said the basic idea is to augment the naturally occurring precipitation flowing into the 2,650-square-mile watershed's dams and basins, replenishing the overall supply, which serves 6 million residents across four counties.

"This doesn't create clouds," he said Wednesday. "What it does is help ice and snow formation in the existing storm clouds. It enhances that process, so more precipitation falls."

The Nevada-based Desert Research Institute will compile rainfall data and mathematically determine the increase in precipitation in four target areas around the watershed during each rainy season of the project's four-year span to see where the water ended up. Seeding would be paused, via remote control, during



Courtesy of SAWPA

A GROUND-BASED seeding system mixes silver iodide particles and acetone, which is vaporized and released into the atmosphere, helping clouds produce rain.

high rain events to prevent flooding.

Although the idea of releasing chemicals into the atmosphere sounds environmentally questionable, data compiled from areas where cloud seeding has long been employed indicate the process produces minute amounts of silver iodide and carbon dioxide, the latter being a by-product of vaporized acetone.

"Because silver iodide is so inert, it doesn't have much of an impact on the ecology or on public health," he said. "In Santa Barbara, where it's gone on for 30 or 40 years, there's been no increase in silver iodide backup in the soil where they cloud seed."

The cost of SAWPA's four-year pilot is roughly \$1.2 million, roughly half of which was funded by a grant from the California Department of Water Resources, according to Mosher. The remainder was split evenly between the agency's five member districts.

Once the program is complete and the numbers have been crunched, districts may choose to extend or expand their participation and financial involvement or opt out altogether.

Bruce Whitaker, who serves on the Orange County Water District Board of Directors and chairs SAWPA's Board of Commissioners, said the prospect of enhancing local water recovery is ap-

pealing.

"In most years our potential for rain is limited to several weeks, at most, so our ability to maximize the potential capture during that short rainy season is very significant," he said Thursday.

If cloud seeding brings more water in the county's groundwater basin, agencies who use those resources may eventually be able to rely less on imported water from regional Metropolitan Water District stores — obtained from Northern California's diminishing sources — at a fraction of the cost.

"The potential cost savings are really very large," Whitaker said. "Northern California doesn't like to ship their water to us in Southern California. In years of drought they keep reducing the amount they give us. To be resilient, we have to create more water sources."

Mosher said making more rain and snow would not only increase regional water reliability today but help build better climate resilience in the years ahead.

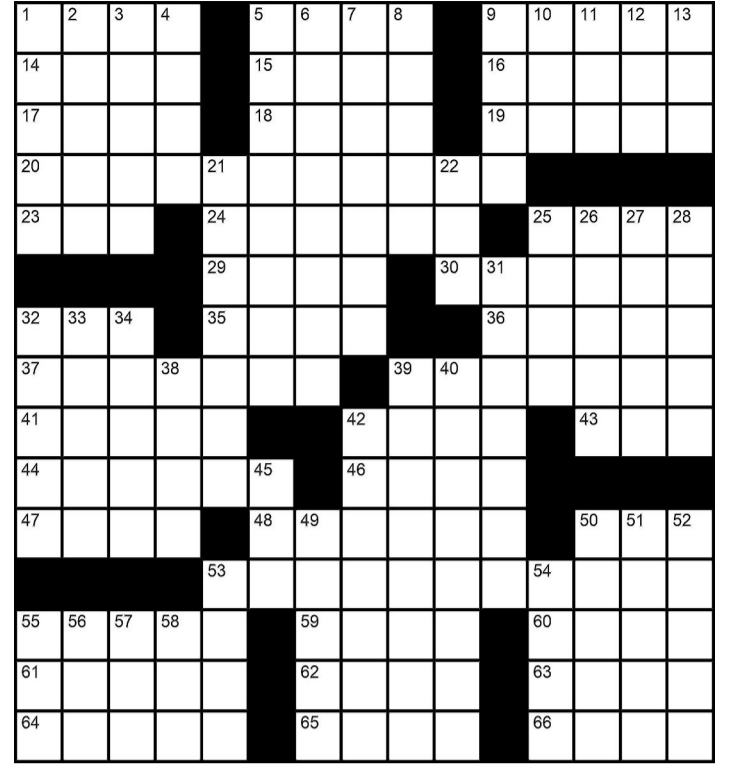
"The main objective is reduced reliance on imported water and becoming more reliant on locally produced water," he added. "If it provides us with a 5%, 10% or 15% [increase] that's more water to store in aquifers — it's a hedge against climate change."

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THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

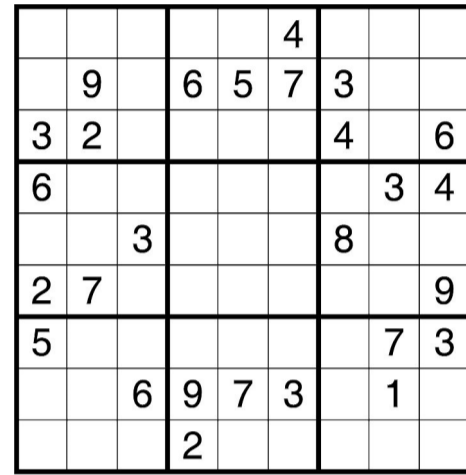
- ACROSS**
 1 Small amount of salt
 5 Repeat
 9 Closest to nothing
 14 Neighborhood
 15 ___ hurry (not rushing)
 16 New Delhi's land
 17 Slanted for emphasis: Abbr.
 18 Advertising award
 19 Get a rescue dog
 20 1994 Olympics host city
 23 "Absolutely!"
 24 Found new actors for
 25 Uses an axe
 29 Landed
 30 Join a teleconference
 32 Opposite of nothing
 35 Trig function
 36 Fine dinnerware
 37 Word before "door" or "scale"
 39 Amazon's Kindle, for example
 41 Shiny fabric
 42 Savagely attack
 43 Night school subject: Abbr.
 44 Come to the surface
 46 Humorist Bombeck
 47 Sour-tasting
 48 Vitamin B3
 50 Compete like Mikaela Shiffrin
 53 Have a sleepless night
 55 Artistic representation
 59 Energy bar with a moon logo
 60 Apple tablet
 61 Sum
 62 Ireland's ___ Islands
 63 Get a lower mortgage rate, for short
 64 Odor
 65 Turn to liquid
 66 Noted Deco designer
- DOWN**
 1 Every 24 hours



SUDOKU

By the Mepham 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 A7.

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2 Bandleader Shaw | 7 Give life to machines |
| 3 Closes tightly | 8 Weaving machines |
| 4 Building passageway | 9 Teller of falsehoods |
| 5 Restaurant-rating brand | 10 ___ of an era |
| 6 Weaving together | 11 Big fuss |
| | 12 Taste a drink |
| | 13 Bit of skin art, for short |

- 21 Removing data from
 22 LAX posting: Abbr.
 25 "Oh, very funny!"
 26 Omit in pronunciation
 27 Sommelier's drinks
 28 Traffic jam
 31 Björk's country
 32 Good thing to have
 33 Andean animal unit
 34 Soda bottle
 38 Schmutz
 39 Passage in the head
 40 Cud-chewing animal
 42 Gauge the size of
 45 Brian of ambient music
 49 Mullah's religion
 50 Opposite of sub-
 51 Cheez Whiz brand
 52 Sundance film, for example
 53 Narrate
 54 Grow fatigued
 55 "___ like I told you..."
 56 May honoree
 57 Had a snack
 58 ___ pal (rhyming friend)
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Bungalow Salad Greens, hearts of palm, olives, feta, red onion, bay shrimp, tarragon vinaigrette	Classic Caesar Salad Chopped hearts of romaine, herb croutons, tomato, shaved Manchego
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ENTRÉE SELECTIONS
select one

Prime Filet Mignon 8 oz. prime filet mignon, Yukon Gold mashed potatoes, fried shallots	Bone-In Rib Eye 16 oz. prime bone-in rib eye, Yukon Gold mashed potatoes, fried onion strings (Twenty-Five Dollar Supplement)
California Chicken Breast Pan-seared chicken breast, oven-roasted tomatoes, avocado, Yukon Gold mashed potatoes	King & Blue Crab-Crusted Scottish Salmon Herb-roasted red potatoes, broccolini, Meyer lemon beurre blanc
Miso-Marinated Chilean Sea Bass Soy glaze, coconut rice, stir-fried vegetables, mushrooms, lemongrass ginger beurre blanc	Double Pork Chop Thick-cut grilled all natural pork chop, creamy caramelized onion barley risotto, creamed kale, sherry sauce

Australian Lobster Tail
10 oz. drawn butter, grilled lemon, Yukon Gold mashed potatoes
(Twenty Dollar Supplement)

DESSERT
select one

New York-Style Cheesecake
Fresh whipped cream, raspberry coulis

Vanilla Crème Brûlée Vanilla custard, fresh raspberries	Berries & Ice Cream Fresh seasonal berries, vanilla bean ice cream
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20% Gratuity will be added to parties of eight or more.
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T.S. NO.: 2023-00032-CA A.P.N.:144-531-54 PROPERTY ADDRESS: 12127 BERG RIVER CIRCLE, FOUNTAIN VALLEY, CA 92708

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

PURSUANT TO CIVIL CODE § 2923.3(A) AND (D), THE SUMMARY OF INFORMATION REFERRED TO BELOW IS NOT ATTACHED TO THE RECORDED COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT BUT ONLY TO THE COPIES PROVIDED TO THE TRUSTOR.

NOTE: THERE IS A SUMMARY OF THE INFORMATION IN THIS DOCUMENT ATTACHED

注: 本文件包含一个信息摘要 참고사항: 본 첨부 문서에 정보 요약서가 있습니다 NOTA: SE ADJUNTA UN RESUMEN DE LA INFORMACIÓN DE ESTE DOCUMENTO TALA: MAYROONG BUOD NG IMPORMASYON SA DOKUMENTONG ITO NA NAKALAKIP LƯU Ý: KÈM THEO Đ Y LÃ BÀN TRÌNH BÀY TÓM LƯỢC VỀ THÔNG TIN TRONG TÀI LIỆU NÀY

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 05/12/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER.

Trustor: GLADYS A NAJARRO, a single woman Duly Appointed Trustee: Western Progressive, LLC Deed of trust recorded 05/19/2006 as Instrument No. 2006000340242 In book ---, page--- and of Official Records in the office of the recorder of Orange County, California, Date of sale: 03/04/2024 at 09:00 AM Place of sale: AUCTION.COM ROOM DOUBLETREE BY HILTON HOTEL ANAHEIM - ORANGE COUNTY, 100 THE CITY DRIVE, ORANGE, CA 92868 Estimated amount of unpaid balance, reasonably estimated costs and other charges: \$896,441.58

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

LEGAL NOTICE

THE TRUSTEE WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK DRAWN ON A STATE OR NATIONAL BANK, A CHECK DRAWN BY A STATE OR FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, OR A CHECK DRAWN BY A STATE OR FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION, A SAVINGS ASSOCIATION OR SAVINGS BANK SPECIFIED IN SECTION 5102 OF THE FINANCIAL CODE AND AUTHORIZED TO DO BUSINESS IN THIS STATE:

All right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described as:

More fully described in said Deed of Trust.

Street Address or other common designation of real property: 12127 BERG RIVER CIRCLE, FOUNTAIN VALLEY, CA 92708 A.P.N.: 144-531-54

The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above.

The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, under the terms of said Deed of Trust, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is: \$ 896,441.58.

Note: Because the Beneficiary reserves the right to bid less than the total debt owed, it is possible that at the time of the sale the opening bid may be less than the total debt.

If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse.

The beneficiary of the Deed of Trust has executed and delivered to the undersigned a written request to commence foreclosure, and the undersigned caused a Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located.

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on this property.

NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (866)-960-8299 or visit this Internet Web site https://www.altisource.com/loginpage.aspx using the file number assigned to this case 2023-00032-CA. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale.

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

NOTICE TO TENANT: You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction, if conducted after January 1, 2021, pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (855)-976-3916, or visit this internet website https://tracker.auction.com/sb1079, using the file number assigned to this case 2023-00032-CA to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid, by remitting the funds and affidavit described in Section 2924m(c) of the Civil Code, so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase.

Western Progressive, LLC, as Trustee for beneficiary C/o 1500 Palma Drive, Suite 238 Ventura, CA 93003 Sale Information Line: (866) 960-8299 https://www.altisource.com/loginpage.aspx

Trustee Sale Assistant

WESTERN PROGRESSIVE, LLC MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED MAY BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

COLUMN | PATRICE APODACA



File Photo

A PAIR of women play pickleball at Courtside Superstores in Irvine in September 2021.

An upstart game challenges a more traditional sport

I am spending the first few weeks of the new year recovering from hip replacement surgery. It's my second trip to this rodeo, so I was acquainted with the pre-op protocol and the need to provide excruciating detail about my life circumstances and health history before my date with the surgeon.



At one point during a screening call with a nurse, however, I was taken aback. "What activity are you most looking forward

to resuming after you've recovered?" she asked. I stumbled over my answer, mumbling something about there being so many things I'd like to get back to doing. "Pick just one," she ordered, in a tone that suggested she had been through this list of questions countless times and just needed an answer, any answer, and quickly, so she could wrap up this call and get on to the next. "Tennis," I blurted out. And there it was. The

truth. I prefer tennis over pickleball. There, I said it. Not that I don't enjoy pickleball. I very much like to play the trendy tennis-badminton-ping-pong hybrid, as do millions of other Americans. But there's trouble brewing on the courts, and the tension is impossible to ignore. In case you haven't heard by now, pickleball is the nation's newest obsession, the fastest-growing sport by a mile, enjoyed by kids and septuagenarians alike. Yet, despite its recent image as the insanely popular

new kid on the block, pickleball has actually been around for a while. It was developed by a trio of dads on Bainbridge Island in Washington state in 1965. There are many versions of the origin of the weird name they gave it; suffice it to say that it's doubtful they envisioned a global phenomenon at the time. But phenomenon it now is. By late last year a commonly cited statistic was that there were 36.5 million pickleball players in the

See Apodaca, page A7

MAILBAG

Completed library lecture hall will support all of Newport Beach

The Newport Beach City Council approved the construction of Witte Hall on Tuesday, and as time has passed the cost has risen. We shouldn't delay the construction any longer. It will be the completion of our beautiful civic center and a source of pride for the city's citizens. There is a fundamental misunderstanding concerning Witte Hall. Bill Witte and Keiko Sakamoto very generously gave a substantial commitment of \$4 million toward the building of the hall and

were given naming rights. It's because of their gift — and not because of one of the Foundation's many programs, the Witte Lecture Series, that it is called Witte Hall. They gave their donation in support of a community hall that will service many performances given by the Newport Beach Public Library Foundation and by various other groups who wish to make use of the hall's facilities. That is key — the hall isn't being built to service one of the Foundation's lecture series, nor only Foundation programs, but will be used by civic and arts organizations as well as private businesses in Newport Beach. The people of Newport Beach deserve a gathering place where they may share

group experiences in business, the arts and sciences. Lisa Edwards Newport Beach

Why leashing dogs is important

I am writing this letter in support of the letter by Kasey Konkel of Laguna Beach concerning the importance of leashing our dogs (Mailbag: Let's educate the public on dog behavior, Daily Pilot, Jan. 7). This letter couldn't have come at a more sensitive time for us, as our precious 3-year old Havanese dog, Teddy, was savagely attacked by two small dogs off leash at a nearby community park in Huntington Beach on Jan. 2. Teddy suffered dog bites that

required emergency surgery as the punctures went into his abdominal wall. It was touch and go for a while, but he is recuperating now, and his doctors feel he will make a good recovery. The owner of the two dogs admitted that one of them, a year-old mix, was "aggressive." When I asked why she knew this and yet still brought him to a park where there are many dog walkers and children also present and did not take measures to be certain he was leashed, she did not have a good answer. She also is not answering/responding to my phone calls, but a report has been made to O.C. Animal Control, and I have also discussed this matter with the Huntington Beach Police Department.

Of course, signs are clearly posted at the park about the requirement for leashing dogs at all times. My husband also received small cuts to his right arm when he tried to separate the dogs, but these are minor compared to Teddy's injuries. If more people were vigilant about leashing their dogs as this letter recommends, this terrible incident with Teddy could have been avoided. We feel like we have been through hell and back, and just leashing her dogs would have avoided all of this trauma.

Kathleen Bunge Huntington Beach

Suggestions for the hall of fame

The inaugural class of Orange County Hall of Fame members is a stellar group for sure. What I don't understand is how Max Von Strobel, Donald Bren, Richard Nixon and Richard O'Neill were not included. Von Strobel wasn't just Anaheim's first mayor. He was the first person to ask the Legislature to carve out O.C. from Los Angeles County. Bren isn't just the largest landowner in the county, his charitable donations dot much of the

See Mailbag, page A7

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APODACA

Continued from page A6

U.S., and the organization USA Pickleball has counted 50,000 courts nationwide to date — numbers that are on a continual upward trajectory. There's constant talk about ways to boost access and to enhance pickleball's legitimacy as the real deal in the sports world. Olympics here it comes.

There's nothing wrong with that. Pickleball is a terrific activity. It's fun for all age groups, the entry bar is relatively low, it gets people moving and it's endearingly social. Light-hearted stories abound of 70-something grandmas wiping the court with the likes of buff 30-year-olds.

Unfortunately, pickleball's growth so far has come in large measure at the expense of tennis. Just look at how this has played out here in Orange County. Pickleball courts are appearing all over the place — in parks, private communities and sports facilities. Tennis courts, which eat up four times as much space, are being converted to pickleball courts at a breathtaking pace, and many clubs once devoted solely to tennis are now increasingly dominated by the newer rival.

My former racquet club in Newport Beach is a case in point. It once boasted about two dozen tennis

courts. Fewer than half have survived; they've been swallowed by more than 30 pickleball courts. The ratio will likely continue to grow more lopsided in pickleball's favor.

There have been other factors that have added to the pickleball controversy. For one, it's noisy. Not everyone is charmed by the constant paddle-whacking sound reverberating through their neighborhoods.

What's more, there have been complaints that some players are borderline obsessed, and their friends wish they'd stop talking about pickleball all the time. Also — this point matters a lot to me — tennis outfits are cute, whereas I'm not sure pickleball has landed on its own distinct look quite yet. Hats that say "Dink Responsibly" don't count as a unique fashion statement.

But amid the negative buzz, it's the tennis rivalry that has stirred the most resentment.

It's paddle vs. racket. Fuzz vs. whiffle. Thwack vs. thwump. One puzzling scoring system vs. another. A centuries-old pastime steeped in tradition vs. a goofy-sounding upstart.

I have tried to present myself as the equivalent of Switzerland when it comes to the tennis-pickleball clash. Even though I consider tennis my first and most enduring love, I don't care to take sides, and have

repeatedly professed my affection for both sports. Can't we all just get along and figure out a way to coexist peacefully without one sport destined to be the conqueror and the other doomed to eventual extinction?

After all, tennis has enough problems on its own. U.S. participation in tennis has suffered over the decades. Although it has bounced back a little in recent years, it remains vulnerable. It's fair to ask whether pickleball will be the final blow that puts tennis in a permanent coma.

I don't think anyone who plays pickleball sees themselves as a barbarian at the gate, on the verge of bringing down the tennis empire in all its faded glory. After all, picklers—that slang word has emerged as the preferred nomenclature for pickleball players—just want to have fun. The only victory they are after is on the court.

So I hope that someone smarter than me figures out how both sports can survive and thrive. Pickleball is great, I won't argue that. But there's no way I'm giving up on my first true love.

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

Continued from page A6

O.C. landscape. Nixon of course was born in Yorba Linda and lived in San Clemente after leaving the White House. And O'Neill? If you live anywhere in or near Mission Viejo, then you have "Uncle Dick" to thank. I'm thrilled there is an O.C. Hall of Fame now. My hope is the next round of inductees will include Von Strobel, Bren, Nixon and O'Neill.

Denny Freidenrich
Laguna Beach

Dismayed about H.B.'s future

It is a new year, a time to feel hopeful about the future. But I don't. As a nearly 40-year resident of Huntington Beach, all I feel is despair. Our city coffers are draining. Taxpayer money is being diverted to fund a foolish crusade by our right-wing extremist council majority in the way

of three charter amendments. The amendments would force our city to conduct its own municipal elections with outrageous costs they have not even assessed. With so many city services and infrastructure projects threatened by severe cuts, this is irresponsible and frankly, stupid public policy. Vote no to save our city from insolvency.

Topping off the farcical proposed charter amendments, this council majority has a plan to replace competent professional librarians with untrained ideologues to decide how our public libraries will serve our community. The four have usurped the freedom of parents and readers to make their own choices. An Orwellian New Year is upon us in Huntington Beach.

Nora Pedersen
Huntington Beach

Kudos to Daily Pilot reporter Matt Szabo for writing about the grand opening of Robyne's Nest, a

transitional living house for abandoned and severely neglected students. There is definitely a place for this type of housing and for the nonprofit that established it.

What was outstanding about the article is that this is an anathema to what this is an anathema to what the conservative four City Council members usually support.

While liberal Councilwoman Natalie Moser was also present, none of the other City Council members were. The Con Four have previously represented themselves as being in favor of book banning, anti-LGBTQ+ and anti-liberal policies and have proposed charter amendments to make it more difficult to vote, in effect depriving voters of their voice. It appears from her story in the article that the Mayor Gracey Van Der Mark may have had a troubled childhood, and that may explain her present philosophy.

Richard C. Armendariz
Huntington Beach

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'Resolutions' captures fresh perspectives at Showcase Gallery

BY SUSAN HOFFMAN

Instead of hanging and framing his art, Lawrence Sherwin of Newport Beach put on a slideshow at the Showcase Gallery in Santa Ana. The bright, eye-level monitor parading Sherwin's images across the screen drew attention deeper into the gallery space at the opening reception on Jan. 6 of "Resolutions," the group's first exhibit this year of the Orange County Fine Arts Assn. of Artists.

"I have no interest in developing and printing," said Sherwin about his unique way of presenting his photographs. "So I have no inventory of individual images, which also saves garage space."

Sherwin joined the OCFA over a year ago, after retiring from his medical practice to focus full time on photography. He credits his 40-plus-year career as a doctor of dermatology as an important contribution to his photography training.

"Dermatology is a visual specialty," explained Sherwin. "We had to learn how to take pictures of the skin issues as a means to track the progress of patients."

Sherwin emphasized that he is drawn to a variety of subject matter, including shooting events of his choice for the Newport Beach Independent as an unpaid staff volunteer. It's the excitement of exploring the environment rather than being driven by the monetary rewards that pique his curiosity.

"I enjoy putting together photo-themed books and slides and sharing images and my vision with people," said Sherwin. "I want to bring joy to people."

OCFA is a nonprofit cooperative that operates the Showcase Gallery, the exhibit space for the group's members, located on Bear Street in South Coast Plaza Village. The first Saturday of each month has been designated as the opening of all shows at the Showcase Gallery, where every member is required to participate and contribute to the day-to-day running of the gallery. The gallery offers a way to meet and connect

with other artists and welcomes visitors wanting to experience works from local artists like sculpture, painting, photography, glass work and mixed media.

Irvine artist and gallery director Maureen MacDonald first learned about OCFA and the gallery 10 years ago. "I used to sell my clay pieces at the Lido Farmers Market, when one of my customers came up and suggested I should try the Bear Street Gallery and the Showcase Gallery," said MacDonald, who has been working with mixed media, using paper, paint and cardboard to create collages that include photographs of the building construction of the Orange County Museum of Art. "We are celebrating 60 years of supporting visual arts in Orange County where our home has been during the last 15 years as a gift, per se, through the graces of Henry Segerstrom."

Among the exhibitors Saturday night was Costa Mesa resident Robert Bucci, director of instruction at the Artist Loft Studio in Costa Mesa. Bucci has been painting for 25 years.

"I'm a bit of a realist and I'm trying to loosen up a little bit," Bucci said about the contemporary style of his multicolored "Umbrellas" painting. "I had more fun painting the red and white umbrella than the rest."

Irvine artist Young Sook Shin was describing her acrylic painting "Quail Hill Walk" to two young men who were in the process of conducting a video interview. As it turns out, they were her grandsons, Justin and James Koga, who traveled from New York to spend time with their grandmother and support her art in the exhibit.

"We grew up being close to our grandmother and even living on the same street," said Justin Koga, who held the camera steady.

OCFA's Showcase Gallery is located at 3851 Bear St., Suite B-15, in Santa Ana. The gallery is open to the public Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Susan Hoffman is a contributor to the Daily Pilot & TimesOC.



Photos by Susan Hoffman

ARTIST ROBERT BUCCI'S acrylic "Umbrellas" is on exhibit at the South Coast Plaza Village Showcase Gallery.

PHOTOGRAPHER LAWRENCE SHERWIN exhibits his slideshow images while holding a book of his selected photos during the Showcase Gallery opening reception on Jan. 6 at South Coast Plaza Village in Santa Ana.



ARTIST YOUNG SOOK SHIN talks about her "Quail Hill Walk" painting as grandsons James, left, and Justin Koga record the moment on video during the Showcase Gallery's exhibit opening on Jan. 6.

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