



Photos by Susan Hoffman

**MISS PEPA DODGE** teaches a senior 55 and over class Monday afternoon at Huntington Academy of Dance in Huntington Beach.

## Advice from a 96-year-old instructor: 'Keep moving'

BY SUSAN HOFFMAN

**A**dored by her students, a 5-foot-2-inch dynamo instructor of classical ballet and Spanish dance, Miss Pepa Dodge never misses a day of work — even at 96 years old. “Her continued dedication to her art and her students is an absolute inspiration,” said Director Kimberly McEachern of Huntington Academy of Dance, where the nonagenarian teaches classes in partnership with the Huntington Beach Senior Center in Central Park, and with quite a loyal following. “What is most remarkable is her work ethic, energy level and enthusiasm, especially considering her age. She always arrives at the studio dressed in full ballet attire with a huge smile on her face.” According to McEachern,



See *Advice*, page A4 **LONGTIME DANCER** Miss Pepa Dodge holds a photo of herself during the early days of her career.

## Doctor joins float to promote visibility

Kaiser Permanente physician, instructor living in Newport Beach is 1 of 2 trans people on company's float.

BY LILLY NGUYEN

Dr. Alison Taur isn't one for much attention. Taur, who asks her friends call her Allie, is thoughtful and humble when she considers answers to questions from a reporter. She introduces her long career with Kaiser Permanente as one that started in Fontana in 2005 but waits until much later in the conversation to mention that she is the regional coordinating chair of nuclear medicine for Kaiser Permanente in Southern California and a clinical assistant professor for the Kaiser Permanente Bernard J. Tyson School of Medicine. Taur jokes she's the biggest nerd that you'll meet in a hospital and adds she doesn't really have any aspirations to be on television. But when she thinks of her

See *Doctor*, page A2



Courtesy of Alison Taur

**DR. ALISON TAUR** practices her wave for the Rose Parade on an early version of Kaiser Permanente's float, "Symphony of You."

## Jurassic Quest set to make 'jaws drop' for local dinosaur fans

BY ANDREW TURNER

If your love of dinosaurs burns like that of the fictional paleontologist Ross Geller of “Friends,” the chance to walk among some of nature's most awe-inspiring reptiles may not have passed you by millions of years ago. A grand scientific adventure awaits those who seek it at Jurassic Quest, a touring dinosaur exhibit that will migrate to Orange County next week. Jurassic Quest will take over the Anaheim Convention Center from Dec. 28 to Jan. 1, ushering in a new year — if not a new age — for budding scientists in the area. Those interested can view a full schedule and tickets at [jurassicquest.com](http://jurassicquest.com). Admission is free

for children under age 2. Anaheim, of course, is no stranger to the dinosaur scene, as the Disneyland Railroad that transports guests around the park notably gives guests a glimpse of the Primeval World before pulling into Main Street Station. While discussion topics such as the breaking up of Pangea and when dinosaurs roamed the Earth are far from an exact science, the whereabouts of the Jurassic Quest tour are known down to the time and place. It will appear locally at the OC Fair & Event Center in Costa Mesa from Feb. 23 through 25. Other stops in Southern California include the Del Mar Fairgrounds



Courtesy of Jurassic Quest

See *Quest*, page A2 **A CLOSE-UP LOOK** at a dinosaur exhibit on a Jurassic Quest tour. The show will open in Anaheim on Dec. 28.

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# Reputed Orange County Mexican Mafia boss cleared of 1994 murder

BY CITY NEWS SERVICE

Reputed Orange County Mexican Mafia chief Johnny Martinez won a major legal battle when a Superior Court judge vacated his second-degree murder conviction from the 1990s, his attorney said Wednesday.

Orange County Superior Court Judge Sheila Hanson ruled Monday in favor of Martinez in his bid to have his murder conviction tossed based on a new state law that redefined murder.

Martinez was convicted in the fatal stabbing of 18-year-old Ricky Michaels of Placentia in March 1994 based on a legal theory at the time that any defendant involved in a murder would face the same charge as the killer.

Lawmakers have changed the law to require more culpability on behalf of a co-defendant such as knowledge of the killer's intent and some sort of direct involvement in helping the

killer.

Martinez's attorney, Orly Ahrony, has been working on Martinez's habeas case for the past 10 years. But the new law gave her attempts to exonerate Martinez new life.

"For me to get to this point and it come to fruition was absolutely incredible," Ahrony told City News Service. "I'm very happy for him because he truly didn't do anything."

Martinez and his friends got into a dispute during a pickup basketball game in which one teen said something insulting to another one of the boys, Ahrony said. The group decided to get together later to try to smooth things over when a series of brawls broke out and Juan Villanueva pulled out a knife and stabbed Michaels, Ahrony said.

"It was literally some type of 'yo mama' joke," that began the dispute, she said.

"And when the apology went sour, Rene Castro, the eldest of the group at 26, threw the first punch, and then it went into chaos and everyone broke up into mini fights."

Martinez was standing to the side away from the fight at the time and had his back to the group when the first punch was thrown, Ahrony said.

Villanueva carried a knife with him because had had been shot at before that and wanted to protect himself, the attorney said.

Ahrony said Villanueva's statements about what happened that day during his parole hearings helped bolster Martinez's defense. Villanueva was granted parole in 2016, she said.

Ahrony said that when the group got into the car to drive away from the melee that there was "stunned silence."

"The parole board asked [Villanueva] specifically

what happened when they were in the car and he said everyone was quiet and shocked and asked, 'Why did you do that?'" she said. "He took responsibility for all three stabbings."

His statements at the parole hearing bolstered the defense that Martinez and the others had no idea what Villanueva intended to do before the stabbings, Ahrony said.

Hansen vacated the murder conviction and instead found Martinez guilty of three misdemeanor counts of assault and sentenced him to 18 months in jail. Martinez had more than enough time already served behind bars to cover the sentence.

This leaves Martinez now free of all of the state court cases against him.

Martinez was charged in a case accusing him and others in the January 2017 killing of 35-year-old Robert Rios in Placentia and then a

later attempted murder of Greg Munoz, who was a co-defendant in the Rios killing.

However, the case was beset by legal problems, prompting prosecutors to get an indictment from a grand jury in 2018. That indictment was thrown out for procedural errors in the presentation of evidence, so prosecutors charged Martinez and the other defendants again were ordered to stand trial following a preliminary hearing.

But O.C. Superior Court Judge Patrick Donahue granted a motion preventing prosecutors from mentioning Johnny Martinez or the conspiracy to order the hit on Rios because the judge determined that a gang expert from the O.C. Sheriff's Department lied about his training as part of an evidence-booking scandal in the department.

Later, Donahue threw out the murder case against

Martinez for lack of evidence.

## FEDERAL CASE AGAINST MARTINEZ IS PENDING

Federal prosecutors then stepped in last year with a racketeering case alleging murder, attempted murder, drug dealing and weapons charges.

Local authorities say Martinez ascended to power following the 2018 death of Peter Ojeda in prison, where he was serving a 15-year sentence. Like Ojeda, Martinez is accused of running the gang from jail and prison.

Kevin Trejo, James Mendez and Mike Escobar were the first on trial in the RICO case and were convicted this year of killing a Costa Mesa-based drug dealer in Orange, allegedly at the behest of Martinez, awaits trial in the federal case.

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Courtesy of Alison Taur

**DR. ALISON TAUR**, a Newport Beach resident, poses in front of an early version of Kaiser Permanente's Rose Parade float, "Symphony of You," last weekend. Taur will be riding on the float with nine others on New Year's Day.

## DOCTOR

Continued from page A1

community — the transgender and gender-diverse community — it's enough to propel her onto the Kaiser Permanente Rose Parade float.

"I don't want to think about how many people are watching," she said, laughing.

The 2024 Rose Parade on Jan. 1 is themed "Celebrating a World of Music: The Universal Language." In keeping with the spirit of the theme, Kaiser Permanente's float is called "Symphony of You." The healthcare company said it will represent the ways its many branches come together to care for its patients. It will feature a number of its care teams, including Taur, and members.

Taur is one of two trans people who will ride on the float, with Joshua Irving Gershick being the other. Gershick is a member of the Kaiser Permanente Trans Cultural Competency Team and is a playwright, filmmaker and author who works to highlight those in the queer community he believes were erased from history.

Taur, who lives in Newport Beach but works in San Bernardino County, said she first was asked to ride the parade float at the end of November.

"They said, 'Hey, would you be interested in this?' and I said, 'Well, tell me more.' I think, based on my own predilections, I'd rather hang out with my family most of the time," Taur said. "I've never really had a desire to be on TV or anything like that, but my wife, Joyce, who's also a physician [at Kaiser Permanente Riverside], said, 'Allie, you've got to do this. This is once in a lifetime.'"

"But what convinced me was that she said it would mean a lot to the transgender and gender-diverse community," Taur continued. "She was the one who reminded me how important it was. When she said

that, I felt like it was all I needed to hear."

Taur, who transitioned in 2014, said she felt it was important to be visibly trans because of recent efforts across the country, including in North Carolina, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas and other states, to restrict or remove gender-affirming care for minors.

"What it feels like is a coordinated attack on the gender diverse-community. The aim of it is erasure. It's essentially to make us disappear ... and I've felt it myself. It just feels like you're more vulnerable than ever," Taur said. "Last year, I did a lot of stuff within Kaiser and ... did an interview, but wouldn't you know it? As soon as that came out, I immediately got trolled."

"People were saying some really horrible things. I said, 'This is the price,' but the fact is that I feel like I'm in a safe place. I recognize my privilege and the fact is this: If we back down from public spaces, what message is that sending and are we letting them win? More now than ever, it's about making space, taking space and not yielding the space that this community deserves."

Taur said the denial of gender-affirming care for minors is "wanton cruelty," as studies have shown that having medical intervention is associated with lower odds of depression and suicidality in trans adolescents.

"Wow, we're a country of bullies punching down, making [trans teens] a wedge issue. The whole point as a parent, as a human being — isn't the whole point why we're here is to fight for those who can't fight for themselves? It's breaking my heart on a day-to-day basis," she said. "The fact is this: I want, especially to the parents of trans kids, to let them know there's hope. You can be trans."

"Every dream they've had can come true. I've had the family I've always wanted.

See **Doctor**, page A3

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## QUEST

Continued from page A1

from Jan. 19 through 21, the Ventura County Fairgrounds from Feb. 2 through 4 and the Pomona Fairplex from Feb. 9 through 11.

Jurassic Quest promises to provide a closer look at the prehistoric favorites, with hands-on activities such as fossil digs and the ability for children of a certain age to ride on the back of an animatronic dinosaur.

"The exhibit, obviously, every family spends a lot of time there," said Amanda Gableman, vice president of brand and experience for Family Quest Entertainment. "Depending on the degree of passion for dinosaurs, we have families that might spend an hour in the exhibit. We have families that might race through the exhibit to get to something that is more interactive like our fossil experience, like our



Courtesy of Jurassic Quest

**JURASSIC QUEST** dinosaur trainer Prehistoric Nick holds up a dinosaur skull.

raptor training experience.

"New to the tour this year, we've added a raptor run where you can race and see what your speed is, as compared to what a dinosaur's speed might be. We have meet-and-greets with our baby dinosaurs."

An informational video tour featuring Jurassic Quest dinosaur trainers Dino Dustin, Park Ranger Marty, Prehistoric Nick and

Safari Sarah will also provide new content for guests as they navigate through the exhibit.

Now celebrating its 10th year, Jurassic Quest has expanded since its inception to have three touring exhibits throughout North America. It has braved all threats to its extinction, including the coronavirus pandemic, which forced the show to adapt to a

drive-through format.

It was necessary back then, but there is no replacement for the immersive, up-close experience that being back indoors brings, Gableman said.

"That dedication to reality is that difference-maker, and especially with extremely small children, you want to give them the opportunity to feel like they're really there," Gableman said. "We were thrilled to be able to share the experience with families at a time where nobody knew if they would be able to attend events like this anymore, but there was definitely something missing without the lights and the sounds and the movement, and [with] that degree of separation that the car window provides."

Marty Hoffman, otherwise known as the personality Park Ranger Marty on the tour, is not so unlike the dinosaur enthusiasts

See **Quest**, page A3

# Head of Huntington Beach Art Center set to retire

BY MATT SZABO

Kate Hoffman was gifted a box of watercolor paints some months ago.

She hasn't touched it yet, but just the thought brings a smile to her face.

"I can't wait," she said. "It's Christmas over and over again with that little box of paints."

Hoffman will soon have more time for her own artistic endeavors. As the holiday season hit this year, she had some news to share.

After nearly 23 years, she will be retiring as the executive director of the Huntington Beach Art Center at the end of the year.

Hoffman, who turned 76 this year, said she felt that it was time. She and her partner eventually plan to move back to Arizona, she said, where her daughter and grandchildren await.

"I love the ocean, there's

no question about it," said Hoffman, who lives in Lakewood. "California is lovely. As I'm aging, I'm recognizing the need for family and the opportunity to move again. I do like moving. There's a certain amount of fun that goes with exploring new territory. Now I feel as if I'm going to be going back to Arizona, but with new eyes and a new attitude."

Hoffman is proud of her tenure at the Huntington Beach Art Center. The walls of the center on Main Street were bare this week after the "Inspired" exhibition recently closed, but not for long.

In late January, the "Centered on the Center" exhibition will begin, which Hoffman calls the iconic show of the year.

She will miss the exhibition opening nights, which typically draw several hundred people or more.

"I don't know how I'm going to leave people," she said. "You know, we all are here because we love art, and art comes through people. It doesn't exist on its own. As we embrace the people who come through here, make friends with them and bond with them, we've created a family of artists of all stripes."

The Huntington Beach Art Center Artist Council, more than 200 members strong, is one primary way that happens. A Costa Mesa man who asked to be called by his artist name, "Destructo," is a member of the council.

It's given him a community after he moved from England to California in the 1990s, originally to form a skateboard company.

"Kate's always got good energy," Destructo said. "I enjoy the way that the Artist Council combines and unifies everybody. The whole



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**KATE HOFFMAN**, executive director of the Huntington Beach Art Center, will be retiring at the end of the year. Above, she stands near a work by artist Susan Stone after a show.

Artist Council has been an interesting exercise in 'don't read a book by its cover.' They're people that if you saw them at the grocery

store, you probably wouldn't even give them the time of the day. The diversity and the opportunity to meet like minds that you may have otherwise passed by is pretty exciting and cool."

Though the gallery has standards, Hoffman wants artists and visitors to feel welcome and have fun.

In the front lobby is a neon piece by the late artist James McDemas, who passed away in 2012 after a battle with leukemia.

McDemas' mother, Carolyn, said she met Hoffman some time later. Now her son's sculpture — three pale green letters that spell out "A-R-T" — is on display for all to see.

"She told me that she was not going to leave the job until the sculpture purchase was seen to," said Carolyn McDemas, who lives in Huntington Beach and is another member of the Artist Council. "I think that's an interesting aspect of her diligence and caring."

After moving to Southern California in the early 1990s following a divorce, Hoffman worked at the Long Beach Museum of Art for several years before taking the position at the Huntington Beach Art Center in 2001. She said over time, the center has evolved to become a very strong community gallery.

She likened her job to a cat herder, making the ana-

logy between artists and the furry felines.

"If you put them all together, every one of them approaches it differently, every one of them has an edge of some sort or another," Hoffman said. "They seduce you with colors and vibrant styles and imagery that really knocks your socks off from time to time. Who would have thought that art could be so enriching and dynamic and exciting? All of these wonderful words that don't do it justice. Not quite."

"I've watched dentists and scientists become incredible photographers. I have a few doctors in here that have gotten lost in the demands of oil painting. People escape through art, and people also engage through art. Art becomes a vehicle for us to find our higher selves, and I really think that this group of people and this institution are doing that."

Now perhaps it is Hoffman's time to dive further into her own art career. She said she has no say in her replacement at the center, though she's talked to her supervisor and other higher-ups about the kinds of personalities needed.

"I'm just excited," she said. "I was terrified, now I'm excited. It's just the right time ... that makes it all exciting and not too scary."

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## UCI Health



## QUEST

Continued from page A2

who had their obsession nurtured through cinema selections such as "Jurassic Park," "The Land Before Time" and "Godzilla." Hoffman said he grew up on "Land of the Lost," the 1970s sci-fi television series.

"When I was in second grade, it wasn't my homeroom teacher, but the teacher right next door for one six-week period would have her room decorated in dinosaur eggs, so I would always sneak over to that room so that she and I could talk about dinosaurs," Hoffman recalled. "When I got into sixth grade, she actually had me come back and do a presentation about dinosaurs for her second-grade class."

Hoffman explained that he has been "nerding out and talking about dinosaurs for a long time," and he shared some

thoughts on the value of entertainment in education. He described dinosaurs as a point of entry into science for kids.

"That's the great thing about dinosaurs because, yeah, they're cool, and they are entertaining, but they also are what I call a gateway science," Hoffman said. "If your kid is into dinosaurs, whether they realize it or not, all of a sudden they're learning about geology, they're learning about biology, they're even learning about astronomy, all these different things just because they think dinosaurs are cool."

Between offerings like the informational video tour of the dinosaurs in its exhibit and the fossil experience, Hoffman indicated that Jurassic Quest can contribute to that interest. He added that a communication line is available to text questions to the dinosaur trainers that is monitored on show days. People have continued to message for months after



**DINOSAUR FANS** interact with a raptor at a Jurassic Quest show.

Courtesy of Jurassic Quest

attending the show, he said.

The Children's Museum Houston has collaborated with Jurassic Quest in a programming partnership in providing a host site. With the tour's use of life-sized dinosaurs in its installations, museum personnel feared that the gargantuan figures might not fit inside its halls.

"They brought this giant, almost life-sized T-Rex," said Henry Yau, the director of communications for the museum. "It was very, very big."

Yau referred to the activities provided by Jurassic Quest as an interaction

that can "spark interest and curiosity in a child."

Having watched families' encounters with the dinosaurs, Yau added that the experience can provide jaw-dropping moments for its viewers.

"It's like this 'oh wow' moment, because kids' jaws drop, like, 'Wow, this is intense,'" Yau said. "Of course, there are some kids that are a lot smaller who might be a little intimidated because of the size of these things, but it is a very, very authentic, I would say, experience."

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## DOCTOR

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The marriage, the career ... the chosen family I've always wanted. I want to basically let, especially teens, know that it's going to be OK. I'm fighting for you. I am here. I see you and I want to make it better."

Taur has asked that the trans flag be stitched onto the lapels of her white coat for the float, saying that she did not want it to be subtle. As the date approaches, she said she's filled with anxious anticipation but that there is an eagerness at the same time.

She said some of her friends plan on planting themselves along the Rose Parade route for her to wave to them. A bass player herself, she said she felt this year's float theme was wholly representative of what she felt diversity and inclusion looked like.

"I don't know if anyone knew I was a musician when they asked me, but ... this resonates deeply with me in many ways. I see our lives weaving together like little melodies. Instruments that come in for a section but are gone the next. There's the moments we all play at the same time and the moment where one instrument plays solo. I love that. I think that's kind of how it is our entire lives."

"Medical practice, patients' lives being woven into that ... a little musical phrase, a passage. I love that and the beautiful part about it is they all come back at the very end at the last movement [of a symphony]. It's beautiful that way. It felt like it was meant to be. If there was any year [to be on a float], this would be the one. In many ways, I think of life as being a musical journey."

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## Daily Pilot

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# Feed holiday crowds with beef or salmon

BY CHRISTOPHER KIMBALL

Holiday parties often call for feeding crowds all at once, so this year we offer two impressive main courses that make that easy. They are as good at room temperature as they are hot from the oven.

For a beef option, we challenged ourselves to transform a thrifty, low-cost cut of beef into a lush, celebratory meal. The answer was eye round, a roast often deemed too lean to be tender. To roast this tough cut and get succulent, perfectly cooked results, we marinated the meat in ingredients that would do the work for us — starting with a sticky, sweet puree of prunes. That may sound unusual, but prunes are high in hygroscopic sorbitol and fructose, which — along with salt and soy sauce — amplify the way the meat absorbs flavor.

The sugars in the prunes and ketchup create a nicely caramelized crust, while the salt and soy sauce provide seasoning that flavors the meat. Anchovies also may be unexpected, but

they add rich umami notes.

A whole side of salmon also is an excellent choice — and relatively hands off. A quick marinade in soy sauce infuses the fish with earthy dimension, but be sure to not marinate for more than 20 minutes or its saltiness will become overpowering.

The salmon is drizzled with dry vermouth, then roasts in a foil-wrapped baking dish with shallot, carrot, celery and thyme. The vermouth's herbal elements add dimension to the dish. Once the fish is cooked, the drippings are transformed into a delicious sauce enriched with butter and fresh dill. A squeeze of lemon enlivens the flavors.

## PRUNE, PEPPERCORN AND FRESH HERB-RUBBED ROAST BEEF

Start to finish: 2¾ hours, plus 48 hours to marinate  
Servings: 10

A prune-based marinade helped us transform an economical eye round into a tender and juicy roast. To boost the marinade's effect, we trim the silver skin and also poke the meat repeatedly with a fork. The roast

beef tasted best after marinating for 48 hours, but 24 will work, too. Serve thinly sliced with fresh horseradish sauce for a clean, contrasting bite.

Don't check the roast too frequently. A succulent roast relied on even cooking at a low temperature; opening the oven door interrupts the process. Instead, use an oven-safe thermometer (the type that can be left in the roast as it cooks) to monitor the meat's temperature during cooking.

- 8 ounces pitted prunes (about 1½ cups)
- ½ cup soy sauce
- ¼ cup ketchup
- 2 tablespoons black peppercorns
- 2 tablespoons roughly chopped fresh rosemary
- 2 tablespoons fresh thyme
- 3 oil-packed anchovy fillets

Kosher salt  
5- to 6-pound beef eye round roast, trimmed of silver skin  
Fresh horseradish sauce, to serve (optional)

In a food processor, blend the prunes, soy sauce, ketchup, peppercorns, rosemary, thyme, anchovies and 4 teaspoons salt until smooth, about 1 minute. Transfer to a 2-gallon zip-close bag. Poke the roast all over with a fork, then place in the bag and refrigerate for 48 hours.

Heat the oven to 275°F with a rack in the middle position. Set a wire rack in a rimmed baking sheet. Remove the roast from the bag and transfer to the rack. Discard the marinade in the bag and brush any marinade clinging to the roast's surface into an even



Photos courtesy of Milk Street via AP

## PRUNE, PEPPERCORN and fresh herb-rubbed roast beef.

coating. Roast until the center of the meat registers 125°F, 1¾ hours to 2 hours.

Transfer the roast to a carving board, tent with foil and let rest for 30 minutes. Thinly slice and serve with the horseradish sauce, if desired.

## OVEN-POACHED SALMON WITH THYME, DILL AND VERMOUTH

Start to finish: 1½ hours  
Servings: 8

When shopping for the side of salmon, ask for a fillet between 1½ and 1¾ inches thick for the best results. We found temperature was a better indicator for doneness than cooking time. To test the salmon's temperature, carefully peel back the foil just enough to insert an instant thermometer at the thickest end. The best way to perfectly cook this dish was to remove it from the oven a bit before the salmon was

fully cooked. The residual heat gently finishes the cooking.

- ½ cup soy sauce
- ¾- to 4-pound salmon fillet, skin on, pin bones removed
- 2 medium carrots, finely chopped
- 1 celery stalk, finely chopped
- 1 shallot, thinly sliced
- 8 sprigs fresh thyme
- 8 sprigs fresh dill, plus 3 teaspoons minced, divided
- Kosher salt
- 1 cup dry vermouth
- Ground black pepper
- 2 tablespoons salted butter
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- Lemon wedges, to serve

Heat the oven to 500°F with a rack in the middle position. Pour the soy sauce into a baking dish large enough to fit the salmon. Add the fish, flesh side down. Marinate for 15 to 20 minutes.

Meanwhile, in a bowl

toss the carrots, celery, shallot, thyme, dill sprigs and 1 teaspoon salt. Set aside. Fold an 18-inch-long sheet of foil lengthwise into a strip wide enough for the salmon to fit on. Lightly coat the foil with oil, then place it, oiled side up, in the center of a rimmed baking sheet. Arrange the carrot-celery mixture around the outside edges of the foil. Drizzle the vegetables with the vermouth. Place the salmon on the foil, flesh side up. Season with pepper.

Cover the entire pan tightly with foil, allowing it to dome over the salmon. Roast until the salmon registers 120°F, 20 to 25 minutes. Remove the pan from the oven, keeping the foil in place, and let the salmon rest until it is between 125°F and 130°F, 5 to 8 minutes. Remove the top foil, then use the foil under the salmon to lift and transfer it to a serving platter. Let cool for 5 minutes.

Meanwhile, strain the liquid and solids on the baking sheet into a saucepan. Discard the solids and all but ¾ cup of the liquid. Over medium heat, bring the liquid to a simmer. Off heat, stir in the butter, lemon juice and 1 teaspoon of the minced dill. Season with salt and pepper. Pour 3 tablespoons of the sauce over the salmon. Sprinkle the remaining 2 teaspoons dill over the salmon. Serve with lemon wedges and the remaining sauce.

For more recipes, go to Christopher Kimball's Milk Street at [177milkstreet.com/ap](http://177milkstreet.com/ap).

Christopher Kimball is the founder of Milk Street.

## CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

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



OVEN-POACHED salmon with thyme, dill and vermouth.



Susan Hoffman

MEMBERS OF the 55-and-older class practice ballet poses with Miss Pepa Dodge at Huntington Academy of Dance.

## ADVICE

Continued from page A1

nothing stops this woman. "Miss Pepa," as she is affectionately known, even taught a day after eye surgery, and during the pandemic her husband set up a camera so she could teach her classes on Zoom while her students were in their homes.

"She is so totally devoted to classical ballet and Spanish dance and is such a delightful person, we all adore her," McEachern said.

Miss Pepa was 19 years old when she first experienced ballet. "I was taking

care of a child and was asked to take her to her ballet class," Miss Pepa said. "I saw 5-, 6- and 7-year-olds in the class, and within a day I joined the class and then the director got me a scholarship to study in New York."

She trained directly with Vincenzo Celli in New York, once a performer and choreographer in Italy. As a teacher of the world-renowned Cecchetti method of ballet training in the U.S., Miss Pepa enjoyed a career in which she developed into a respected performing artist with tours in the United States and all over Europe, referred to as a "living legend" among her peers.

Miss Pepa was born in Reggio Calabria, Catona, Italy in 1927 and at 5 years old moved to the U.S., where she lived on a coal barge with her father. After the health department got wind of the inappropriate

living conditions for a child, she moved with her father to a friend's attic in Brooklyn. Her mother passed away around that time, and Miss Pepa said she spent some time in foster care.

Terry Lee of Huntington Beach has a 43-year history with her ballet instructor since beginning ballet lessons with Miss Pepa in 1980.

"She's the most amazing woman I've ever met in my life," said Lee. "Her work ethic is like none other I've ever seen. She truly cares about her students."

Miss Pepa says she wants everybody in the class to do their best. She stresses the importance of maintaining correct body alignment and isn't shy about making the individual necessary corrections. "She's hands on, coming over and pulling our shoulders back to be as close as possible to body alignment," said Lee. "She just never stops and

stresses to keep that body moving and continually be active. She's a true inspiration to me, and it's been an honor for me to have known her all these years."

Miss Pepa, who hopes to inspire others, believes the secret to a long life is to "stop eating, keep moving." She attributes living a long life only with "God's help."

"Live a clean life and accept whatever you can and work it through," she said. "I want people to understand that they have to stop and be grateful for what they have and turn everything around and say, 'I have been blessed.'"

As if she's not busy enough, Miss Peppa has also taught water aerobics at the YMCA for 47 years and maintains a current schedule of seven classes a week.

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

### Christmas Eve Worship

Sunday, December 24th

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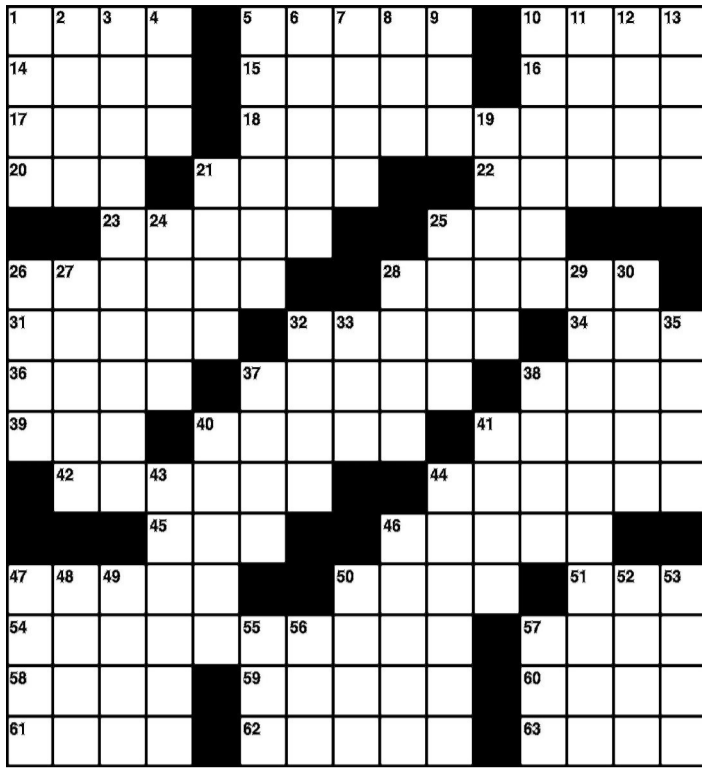
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**THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE**

By Jacqueline E. Mathews



- ACROSS**  
 1 Cornfield invader's cries  
 5 Doesn't mention  
 10 As easy as falling \_ log  
 14 Druggie  
 15 Daddy Warbucks' charge  
 16 Large hospital room  
 17 Unfair slant  
 18 Talkative  
 20 Red \_; stinging insect  
 21 "Fiddlesticks!"  
 22 Actions  
 23 Doesn't ignore  
 25 Part of RPM  
 26 Takes an extra base  
 28 Explosions  
 31 Laurel's partner  
 32 Iron alloy  
 34 Have a snack  
 36 Poor box offering  
 37 Singer Ross  
 38 Short note  
 39 "Cry \_ River"  
 40 Speaks to the deaf  
 41 Grand home  
 42 Grab  
 44 India's national tree  
 45 Reason for a 10th inning  
 46 Tendon  
 47 " \_ and his money are soon parted"  
 50 \_ up; admit guilt  
 51 Napoleon's title: abbr.  
 54 Bicycle part  
 57 Letter opener  
 58 Scored 100% on  
 59 Forgo voluntarily  
 60 "What's gotten \_ you?"  
 61 Mrs. Truman  
 62 Long-legged bird  
 63 Recolors
- DOWN**

**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](http://sudoku.org.uk).

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

**For answers to the crossword and Sudoku puzzles, see page A4.**

- |                               |                     |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Gloria Estefan's birthplace | 7 Traveler's stops  |
| 2 Z _ zebra                   | 8 Farm animal       |
| 3 Meteorologist               | 9 Make clothes      |
| 4 High school VIPs            | 10 Proprietors      |
| 5 Waldorf & Caesar            | 11 Become dimmer    |
| 6 Macrame formations          | 12 Pebbles' pop     |
|                               | 13 Finds a total    |
|                               | 19 Perfect          |
|                               | 21 _ on; have faith |

- in  
 24 Actor George  
 25 "Not guilty," for one  
 26 Pillow cover  
 27 "The Canterbury \_"  
 28 Gazzara & Affleck  
 29 Very small  
 30 Pacific island group  
 32 Sound of relief  
 33 Light brown  
 35 Raggedy  
 37 Casino cubes  
 38 Horse's hair  
 40 Not moving  
 41 Le \_; car race city  
 43 Not speaking to each other  
 44 Actress Jacqueline  
 46 Begin a tennis game  
 47 "Moby-Dick" captain  
 48 Meet head-on  
 49 Dollar bills  
 50 Equitable  
 52 Spouse  
 53 Paid athletes  
 55 Female animal  
 56 Sack  
 57 "The butler \_ it"
- Tribune Media Services

**MAILBAG**

**Coverage on H.B. council praised, maligned**

Opponents of the Huntington Beach City Council majority are melting down (again) about the annual selection of mayor. In the past we had a formality that the mayor's seat rotated to the longest serving member and/or recipient of the largest number of votes. That was before the actions of the previous council. Kim Carr and Co. proved time and again that they were too ideological and immature to wield authority in H.B. When the new majority took power I suspect that the left-over council and their appointees were essentially given a "timeout" from positions of authority.

This has enraged the small number of supporters that only care about wielding power to shape our town to their will. Their childish anger proves that the decision to change the "norms" was a solid one. Based on their current rhetoric they appear to have learned nothing from their time away. Until these folks can moderate their radical views, beliefs that only a small sliver of Huntington Beach hold, then it's imperative they be kept as far away from the levers of power as possible.

And one of the main complaints about the modern GOP is its reluctance to use the power voters gave its elected officials to tip the scales back to the center after years of leftist abuse of power. I'm thankful to have a council majority that understands the proper use, and allocation to responsible parties, of political



James Carbone

**GRACEY VAN** Der Mark takes the reins after being appointed the 87th mayor of Huntington Beach on Dec. 5.

power ... to the ultimate benefit of H.B. citizens.  
**Michael Hoskinson**  
 Huntington Beach

As we close out the year 2023, I would like to commend the Daily Pilot and its excellent reporters for the straight forward, factual reporting on the machinations of the Huntington Beach City Council. Whether we agree or disagree with their actions, knowing their political maneuvering helps the general public comprehend their intentions and keeps us aware of what is taking place. The Daily Pilot is truly the beacon of light that is needed by our community.

**Richard C. Armendariz**  
 Huntington Beach

"You're totally over-complicating it," City Councilman Casey McKeon said during the Dec. 19 Huntington Beach City Council meeting. Perhaps during "We Love our Libraries" Month, McKeon would care to check out a copy

of a little-known work by George Orwell published in 1948. The overwhelming need for authoritarian and totalitarian powers to control our understanding of history is accomplished by "simplifying" it. I am assuming that this slim volume will still be available in the library by then.

The "over-complications" of history are exactly what a vibrant and free democracy needs to understand the present.

All McKeon has accomplished is to add one more blemish to the complex history of his three-generation hometown. This blemish will be remembered and recorded in archives untouched by the "right think" council majority.

For the moment, at any rate.

We need not wait for history to make its inevitable judgment: Double-Plus Un-Good. Double-Plus Un-Good, Mr. McKeon.

**Galen T. Pickett**  
 Huntington Beach

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