

Registrar of Voters debunks election fraud claim

Officials provide documentary evidence rebuking widely spread allegations that a video recording shows a poll worker triple-counting mail-in ballots.

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

A recent Orange County Grand Jury report that found no evidence of voter fraud did little to dissuade a false claim of election tampering from exploding on social media soon after.

On Jan. 16, Joe Hoff, a far-right television and radio host, posted a video clip on his website of an Orange County Registrar of Voters worker scanning a batch of ballots three times after the November 2024 elections.

"We don't know if there is a legitimate reason for the worker's

actions," Hoff wrote.

Building on suspicion, the video was reposted by "End Wokeness," an X account that commented Democrats "outperformed" on the ballot in O.C., as a poll worker was "caught" triple-scanning ballots.

The post has since amassed more than 2 million views.

In response, the Orange County Registrar of Voters issued a statement the following day and contended that the security camera footage only shows the worker properly doing her job.

"The employee scanned the batch of ballots twice and then

cleaned the scanner before scanning the batch of ballots a third time because during the first two scans some of the ballots were rejected by the scanner," the statement read. "Given the large number of vote-by-mail ballots we scan during an election, Registrar of Voters employees must regularly clean the scanners."

No padded votes were tallied in the election results.

The Registrar of Voters also provided documents in support of their statement, including copies

See *Election*, page A7



Irfan Khan | Los Angeles Times

ENVELOPES CONTAINING ballots are sorted at vote-by-mail ballot processing center at Orange County Registrar of Voters.



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

AFTER 35 YEARS the business, jeweler and watch repair specialist Todd Jost is closing his small out-of-the-way shop in South Coast Plaza with plans to reopen at a counter on Bristol Street. His popular Jostmar Jewelers had the reputation as "The best kept secret in South Coast Plaza."

Mall's renovation plans stir hidden gem to relocate

BY SARA CARDINE

Deep inside the bowels of Costa Mesa's South Coast Plaza, past dazzling storefront window displays showcasing the latest trends and down a hallway traversed mainly by shoppers seeking restrooms is one gem of a business — Jostmar Jewelers & Watch Repair.

A tenant of the shopping mecca for the past 35 years, jewelry repair craftsman Todd Jost has quietly served customers, some of them employees needing a quick repair or polish and others sent there by department store

salespeople who lack the training to fix what they sell.

"The stores really don't want to handle [repairs], they don't want to bother with it, they just want to sell. So the stores usually refer them to us," the 79-year-old Lake Forest resident said Thursday.

The latest Level 1 location, at the end of a hallway sandwiched between a Steve Madden accessories boutique and a LEGO store, is where Jostmar's shingle has hung for the last 22 years and where Jost and wife Pat have worked alongside a group of watch repair specialists, operating from a separate counter

inside the business.

"I've been in five different locations here, and we've always been down a long hallway by restrooms, always. I don't know why," Jost said. "But people end up finding us when they go to the restroom, and they come in."

And, boy, do they ever. In the course of an hour or two, the tiny shop sees 20 or more customers coming in with bracelets, necklaces or watches needing a tweak here or an extra link there. Many stop to admire or try on resale jewelry laid out in display cases.

See *Gem*, page A3

Aquatic program teaches safety in the water

Many Newport-Mesa students have never stepped into a pool or the ocean despite living so close to the coast.

BY ERIC LICAS

Rosa Pineda never learned how to swim, and that's something she has always been self-conscious about. It's a fact she hid from her friends, even as they teasingly encouraged her to jump into a pool with them at a party she attended in her youth.

"I was too embarrassed to share with them that I didn't know how to swim," Pineda, a Spanish speaker, told the Daily Pilot Thursday, as interpreted by Whittier Elementary School Community Facilitator Arely Martin. "Eventually, at some point they pushed me into the pool. And it wasn't until they saw that I was sinking that they realized I didn't know how to swim."

That traumatic experience reinforced the Costa Mesa resident's fear of drowning. And like the parents of many other Whittier students who emigrated from Mexico, Pineda grew up in a community where private and public pools were uncommon, so there weren't many opportunities to take swimming classes, she explained.

Years later, Pineda started a family in coastal Orange County and eventually saw an interest in aquatics stir in her 9-year-old son, Anthony Pineda. It wasn't long before she realized she wouldn't be able to help him if he ever got into trouble in the deep end.

Her son attends Whittier and is one of many young children in

See *Program*, page A2

NAMM Foundation's Day of Service returns to Anaheim elementary school

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

In a classroom at Westmont Elementary School in Anaheim, students sat in a circle, cradling ukuleles. Other students were seated on the floor in front of xylophones.

"Now to do what I call the island strum, you make your hand relaxed ... floppy like a fish," said the instructor.

The children began strumming, and those with xylophones played along too. After a few minutes, the entire class was playing a rough but recognizable version of "The Lion Sleeps Tonight (Wimoweh)."

Classrooms throughout the Anaheim campus were filled with Westmont Wildcats making music on Jan. 21 for the NAMM Foundation's Day of Service.

The National Assn. of Music Merchants is the largest not-for-profit music trade organization. Each year it comes to Anaheim to host the NAMM Show, which



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

MUSIC EDUCATOR Jolene Kaye helps youngsters find their place on ukulele guitars Tuesday during the National Assn. of Music Merchants Foundation's Day of Service at Westmont Elementary in Anaheim.

gathers music, sound and entertainment technology industries from over 120 countries.

Taking place at the Anaheim

See *Service*, page A7

ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



Sarah Mosqueda

OC FOOD BANK HOSTS VOLUNTEERS FOR MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY OF SERVICE PAGE A5

STEP BY STEP: LAGUNA DANCE FESTIVAL CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF SHOWCASING THE ART PAGE A3

LUNAR NEW YEAR 2025 RISES AT DISNEY CALIFORNIA ADVENTURE PARK PAGE A6

Phan West charged with bribing parking officer

Councilwoman from Westminster is accused of trying prevent towing of her husband's Jeep.

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

In the past, controversial Westminster City Councilwoman Amy Phan West called for a letter asking the Orange County district attorney's office to investigate her former council colleague for alleged corruption.

But on Jan. 23, Phan West found herself facing a misdemeanor charge from the D.A. after allegedly bribing a Westminster Police Department parking officer out of towing her husband's Jeep.

In April 2023, two parking officers arrived to the corner Dorothy Street and Melanie Lane in Westmin-

ster to check on an abandoned Jeep parked on the street.

According to a D.A. news release, the location is where Phan West is alleged to have been running a car rental business through the Turo app.

It's also where Westminster parking officers had responded to more than 20 calls for service about dirty, unregistered and abandoned vehicles that year, according to the news release.

The parking officers requested a tow truck to haul away the Jeep, which was found to have been registered to Phan West's husband.

D.A. prosecutors allege that Phan West identified herself as a councilwoman to the parking officers and told them not to tow the Jeep as she would move it herself.

She also stands accused of telling the parking officers that she loved the Westminster Police Department, knew the police chief and was working on getting police department staff a raise.

Phan West also allegedly showed the parking officers her Westminster Police Department keychain.

Westminster negotiated a contract with the Westminster Police Officers Assn. at the time she allegedly made her statements.

The parking officers called off the tow truck and left the Jeep parked on the street.

According to D.A. spokeswoman Kimberly Edds, Phan West is being charged in relation to bribing one parking officer.

She is not accused of offering money to either offi-

See **Charged**, page A5



James Carbone

WESTMINSTER COUNCILWOMAN Amy Phan West smiles during a September council meeting. She faces a misdemeanor charge from the district attorney after allegedly bribing a Westminster Police Department parking officer out of towing her husband's Jeep.



Gabriel San Román Gabriel San Roman

WALK ON WILSHIRE in Fullerton is set to end on Jan. 31.

Walk on Wilshire in downtown Fullerton set to expire this week

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

Hopes for the future of Walk on Wilshire, a popular outdoor dining street closure in downtown Fullerton, met a political dead end this week.

After extending a temporary lifeline in October for the 200-foot stretch of Wilshire Avenue, Fullerton City Council failed to make the pandemic-era pedestrian zone permanent, much less expand it.

On Tuesday, the council considered investing an initial \$50,000 to keep Walk on Wilshire going, with council members Ahmad Zahra and Shana Charles supporting the move.

"When I look at the wonderful businesses that we have on Walk on Wilshire, I don't see a lot of empty storefronts," Charles said. "It has done well; it has thrived."

Mayor Fred Jung and Councilwoman Jamie Valencia voted against the proposal.

Councilman Nick Dunlap recused himself, as he has in previous votes due to familial financial interests in the area.

The pedestrian zone is

home to several businesses, including cafes, restaurants and a brewery. Without a firm future for Walk on Wilshire in place, some businesses had been hesitant to fully commit to the concept.

Only Mulberry Street Ristorante had built a permitted parklet for outdoor dining since the street closure.

A city staff report noted that an analysis done after the temporary extension could not "definitively conclude" that the closed off segment of Wilshire Avenue was no longer needed for vehicle traffic.

Further review would be needed to address outstanding issues like emergency vehicle access and trash collection before such a conclusion could be reached.

"We've had swings at this," Jung said. "This is the third time that we've gotten this go around in a year."

The city estimated that the cost of permanently closing the thoroughfare would cost \$250,000.

Instead of keeping Walk on Wilshire permanent, city staff proposed reopening

See **Walk**, page A3

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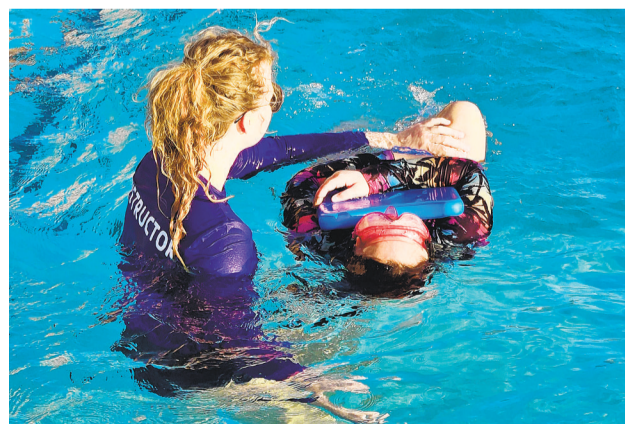
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PROGRAM

Continued from page A1

the Newport-Mesa Unified School District who have hardly ever stepped into a swimming pool or the ocean despite living within a short drive to the beach, according to Christy Flores, the district's director of engagement, partnership and expanded learning. That's why NMUSD started a pilot program to teach kids how to stay safe in the water and potentially save others in an emergency.

"I have heard countless kids share how not knowing how to swim has impacted their confidence and ability to fit in on campuses a mile from the beach," NMUSD Board of Education Trustee Ashley Anderson said in a statement. "As a former swim instructor and lifeguard at Halecrest, the only student I ever needed to jump in the pool and save was an NMUSD sixth-grader who had come over for an end-of-school-year event."



A YMCA INSTRUCTOR teaches a Whittier Elementary student how to swim in a pilot for an after-school program.

Anthony Pineda was among 45 Whittier Elementary students in grades two through five who filled every slot for the new after-school swim and water-safety classes just days after they were announced to families, Flores said. Many others have been added to a waiting list.

The program was wrapping up its second week of instruction Friday. And given the amount of interest shown this early in the pi-

lot, district officials were already considering starting similar after-school classes at other campuses, NMUSD spokeswoman Annette Franco said.

Whittier students in the program meet twice a week for eight weeks. Classes are held at the YMCA of Orange County's center on University Drive and taught by the facility's instructors. The curriculum opens with basic swim lessons and eventually covers an intro-



A YMCA INSTRUCTOR high-fives a Whittier Elementary student during a swim lesson. The Newport-Mesa Unified School District is testing a pilot program teaching swimming and water safety.

Photos courtesy of the Newport-Mesa Unified School District

duction to lifesaving techniques.

"He's learning what I cannot teach him," Pineda told the Daily Pilot via Martin. "I feel very confident with how the school will take care of him. I feel confident allowing him to leave the school to go to these swim classes. I trust everything will be OK."

Students who show ex-

ceptional talent in the water will be encouraged to explore further opportunities. Whittier is partnering with the Newport Harbor High School swim and water polo programs to identify budding athletes taking part in the program. And the Ben Carlson Foundation has offered to cover fees for those who show the potential to pass the New-

port Beach Junior Lifeguard test.

"I feel very proud, especially proud because he was the one most motivated to join the swim club," Pineda said of her son. "And he specified that his main motivation was being able to save other students."

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Cheryl Mann

JOFFREY BALLET dancers Jeraldine Mendoza and Dylan Gutierrez will perform as part of the Laguna Dance Festival.



Dr. David I. Lee is a nationally recognized fellowship-trained urologist who specializes in prostate cancer surgery.



Step by step: Laguna Dance Festival set to mark 20 years

BY ANDREW TURNER

It's not uncommon these days to hear the concern that Laguna Beach may reach an inflection point in which its artists simply can no longer afford to live there.

The community has expressed a desire to build new and preserve existing artist live-work housing, and that could be a step in the right direction, but two decades ago, the town was fortunate that a leader in dance decided to retire in the community.

Jodie Gates, who starred as a principal ballerina with the Joffrey, Frankfurt, Pennsylvania and Com-pexions Contemporary ballets, had come to town in 2005 just as her performing career was winding down.

The plan had been to visit a few friends and find her life bearings post-performing career, but Gates found opportunity right at her feet. That visit turned into what will now be two decades of the Laguna Dance Festival.

"I literally was walking

around Laguna because it's so walkable and enjoying seeing the visual art, hearing about music, hearing about theater, but there was no dance," said Gates, the founder and artistic director of the festival. "For me, it was finding a void and having the opportunity to fill it. That's what was the kernel to starting the festival. There was dance prior to us coming in 20 years ago, but it had left and gone to Irvine, so we are the only professional nonprofit dedicated to dance. ...

"I wanted to share with our community how wonderful dance is as an art form," Gates added. "After touring the world with the Joffrey Ballet, I would go to festivals in Edinburgh, Scotland, in Spoleto, Italy, in Australia, and I just thought, 'Wow, I want people to see what I see and experience that. Why not in Laguna Beach?'"

The 20th annual Laguna Dance Festival will take place Feb. 6 through 9 at the Laguna Playhouse.

See **Dance**, page A8

WALK

Continued from page A2

the street while encouraging downtown businesses to participate in a parklet program as a compromise.

Chris Presta, owner of the Back Alley Bar & Grill, claimed to the council that foot traffic is busy elsewhere in downtown Fullerton but comes to a drag on Wilshire Avenue west of Harbor Boulevard.

"The Walk on Wilshire's dark at night," he said. "It's unappealing. People don't want to walk there."

As in past council meetings, dozens of supporters of the street closure made impassioned pleas to preserve it as a beacon of walkability in the city.

Allison Ritto, a business owner near Walk on Wilshire, helped organize an art walk in December along the street closure and hoped to make it a monthly event.

She claimed that opponents have unfairly blamed the pedestrian street for economic woes.

"[Walk on Wilshire] has become a scapegoat," Ritto said. "Those who are most vocal against it have no tangible evidence that it is negative economically."

Another supporter accused Councilwoman Valencia of falling under the influence of pay to play politics in opposing Walk on Wilshire.

According to campaign finance documents, Wilshire Avenue property owner Tony Bushala contributed \$2,500 to Valencia's election campaign last year.

She also received \$500 from the 8 Eighty Cigar Lounge, a Wilshire Avenue business.

During his comments before council, Bushala mentioned 8 Eighty Cigar Lounge as one business being impacted by the street closure in arguing against it.

Valencia noted that she returned campaign contributions in order to discuss and vote on the issue.

According to Fullerton's city attorney, her actions were in complete accordance with a cure offered under the Levine Act, which was expanded by state law to cover city councils and aims to restrict the influence of pay-to-play politics.

The city is also considering a pedestrian zone within its plans to redevelop the Fox Theater area in downtown.

Walk on Wilshire supporters argued that their street closure community came about organically and that any other plans for pedestrian zones shouldn't come at the expense of it.

But that's what happened after council members debated its future.

The deadlock vote that followed was met with some applause from the audience. A louder chorus of boos echoed as Walk on Wilshire supporters walked out of the meeting in disappointment afterward.

Walk on Wilshire's temporary extension will expire on Jan. 31. The street will reopen to vehicle traffic in February.

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GEM

Continued from page A1

But all that is about to change. After 35 years, Jostmar Jewelers is winding down its South Coast Plaza operations on Jan. 31, before relocating in March to a counter at the Watch Connection down the way, at 3033 Bristol St.

The watch repair portion of Jostmar will fly solo, moving into a storefront at 2968 Randolph Ave. in Costa Mesa, under the name 9-High Watch Services.

Jost says South Coast Plaza officials are planning to renovate and reconfigure the area around the shop. Accommodating that work would require the temporary relocation of massive wooden counters and work tables, not to mention the many, many pieces of heavy equipment and tools used in his craft.

"They wanted us to move somewhere, but then we'd have to move again," he explains. "It was just the time to say we're done. The



Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

JEWELRY REPAIRER Todd Jost shows a necklace to a longtime customer at his shop in South Coast Plaza.

[9-High] boys wanted to do something different. The mall's been very good to us, but it's time."

Jostmar Jewelers' new footprint will be a little smaller. The goldsmith plans to work a reduced schedule at Watch Connection — working Thursday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. — after he and his wife take a much-needed vacation.

Pat met Todd in the mid-1980s, after a divorce

led her to Jostmar to have her diamond ring repurposed. She married the goldsmith six years later and eventually began working with him in the late '90s, after her work in the mortgage banking industry hit a snag due to economic conditions.

"I said, 'I think I'll come work with you, it'll be fun, we can have lunch together,'" she recalled Friday. "And all these years later, we've never once gone out



JOST'S WORK STATION in South Coast Plaza will soon relocate to a Watch Connection store on Bristol Street.

for lunch."

Today, she handles a lot of the business side of things, while her husband focuses on the trade and customer service. The couple work in slightly staggered shifts, so Jostmar can stay open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. six days a week, excluding Fridays. Pat, who turns 70 in March, is looking forward to finally taking a vacation.

"Since I don't even know how long I've been working

here, the late '90s, the most we've ever had is three days off, when a holiday falls on a Monday," she said.

Joe Dekermenjian, who began repairing watches with father Jack at age 17 and now, at 46, oversees watch repair services at Jostmar, acknowledges the upcoming move — which entails disentangling the two enterprises after decades of partnership — is bittersweet.

"We've seen each other

every day for the last three decades, but I think also both of us are ready for a different environment and perspective," he said. "Luckily we both do something that's unique and in demand. And being here this many years, we have loyal customers."

That is something to which Newport Beach resident Marie Perrone can personally attest. She's been going to Jostmar Jewelers for over 10 years, after a friend of hers who lives in Riverside recommended the business.

On Thursday, she came in to get some earring posts repaired and learned of the move. Will she make the move to Jost's new counter at the Bristol Street Watch Connection?

"Oh sure, definitely," she said. "I haven't found any other place that does nice repairs like him. Once he didn't even charge me. It's a very nice business. I'm sure people will follow him."

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forum

MAILBAG

Could Laguna Beach be the next Lahaina?

The Jan. 4 issue of the Washington Post has a valuable article quoting Los Angeles City Councilwoman from Pacific Palisades Traci Park: "About six years ago, she said an evacuation drill was held with the Los Angeles Fire Department in Mandeville Canyon, which has now got fires burning around it."

"What that revealed was people were not prepared. It was just on one road and they spotted all kinds of issues," she said. "So people in the Palisades have been asking, can we do one too? We only have three ways out of here. We ought to practice on all of them." But officials have not held such a drill, she said. "We also know where the choke points are when people are trying to evacuate because it happens every time. So another thing our residents have been asking for is a more managed evacuation plan," Park said.

"A known bottleneck was on Palisades Drive, where cars were abandoned this week as people

A NATIONAL GUARDSMAN patrols Nahale Street, where homes lay in ruins after a devastating wildfire swept through Lahaina in Hawaii in 2023.

A Daily Pilot reader fears the same fate could be in store for Laguna Beach.

Robert Gauthier
Los Angeles Times



million annual visitors are in town?

In Lahaina, Hawaii, people died in their cars as the fire overwhelmed the one road leading to the two ways into and out of town. See the "Frontline" documentary, which is available without cost on YouTube.

I've just learned that in 2023, wildfire evacuation drills were slated to take place in Laguna Beach, but for unknown reasons they never happened.

Evacuation drills — Laguna needs to do them now so that we know we have a plan that works.

Kiku Terasaki
Laguna Beach

Immigration is outside city remit

Re: "Huntington Beach City Council declares city nonsanctuary, friendly to Trump immigration policies," Daily Pilot,

See Mailbag, page A8

fled the Highlands neighborhood and bulldozers had to clear them so fire trucks could battle the blaze."

Far more than the Palisades, Laguna Beach has extreme lim-

its on escape routes: Coast Highway and Laguna Canyon Road. There are no alternate routes. It has steep canyons, narrow roads, a lot of on-street parking and much dry brush.

The fire department estimates that full evacuation would take at least four hours — or eight if one of the routes is blocked. I wonder if this would be on a summer day when some of our 6

A WORD, PLEASE | JUNE CASSAGRANDE

A period could be the cure to your dash addiction

Are you a dashaholic? It's a thing, apparently. I'm more of a colon abuser myself: as if everything I write is so important it requires the colon's drum-roll effect. I've known more than a few comma junkies, too.

No matter your punctuation position, there's an easy antidote. The period. Let's look at the role of each of these marks and how not to abuse them.

Dashes are widely misunderstood. A lot of people call hyphens dashes. Heck, even I call hyphens dashes when I'm reading

my insurance policy number over the phone: "Two, nine, three, dash, one, one, eight." But in text, dashes are something quite different. Unlike hyphens that connect a word with another word, prefix or suffix, as in "best-dressed," dashes work at the sentence level — like this.

Dashes have two main jobs. A dash can signify an abrupt change in sentence structure — a shift like this that doesn't fit with the grammar of the first part of the sentence. Or a dash can work like



parentheses — setting off lists, parenthetical information, etc. — when you feel parentheses won't cut it.

Rules for dashes do not say you can use them to join complete clauses — this clause is an example. This is one of the most common abuses of the dash I see — people use them to string together two things that could stand alone as sentences. I suppose a loose interpretation of that "abrupt change in sentence structure" rule makes this OK. But when

I'm editing, I make each clause into its own sentence, separating them with a period.

By the way, we're talking about em dashes, not en dashes, which are shorter, less widely used and have more in common with a hyphen than with a dash. En dashes are often seen in compounds like "post-World War II," connecting longer names and proper names with prefixes and other words. Dating back to days when news wires couldn't transmit certain marks, news media have

See Word, page A8



File Photo

WRITERS CAN misuse or overuse hyphens, em dashes, colons and, to some editors' disgust, semicolons. Using a period is a simple solution.

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Sarah Mosqueda

VOLUNTEERS OF packed food boxes at the OC Food Bank on Martin Luther King Jr. Day in Garden Grove in a day of service from Community Action Partnership of O.C.

Volunteers help at OC Food Bank on MLK Day

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

Community Action Partnership of Orange County's Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service began more than 20 years ago, when Mark Lowry, director of the OC Food Bank, realized many young people were unfamiliar with King's legacy.

In 1983, when King's birthday was declared a national holiday, Lowry and Robert V. "Bobby" McDonald, president of the Orange County Black Chamber of Commerce, went to speak at a local high school.

"When we first asked the students what they knew about Dr. King, one student said he started that religion, presumably

thinking about Martin Luther for who the Lutheran denomination is named, and another student said he freed the slaves," said Lowry. "We knew we needed an organized event to keep the story of Dr. King's life and accomplishments alive."

This year, Community

See **Help**, page A8

CHARGED

Continued from page A2

cer during the encounter. Phan West, who was not immediately available for comment, is set to be arraigned on Feb. 24 at the Stephen K. Tamura Justice Center in Westminster. She faces up to 364 days in jail if convicted.

Deputy Dist. Atty. Matthew Bradbury is prosecuting the case.

"The law applies equally to everyone, including

elected officials," O.C. Dist. Atty. Todd Spitzer stated in the news release. "Holding elective office does not entitle anyone to a separate set of rules and any attempt to engage in corruption, bribery, or any other crime under the shroud of elective office will be thoroughly investigated and any and all crimes that have been committed will be prosecuted by my office to the fullest extent of the law."

Phan West is also named in a civil suit filed

by Westminster alleging that she and her council colleague NamQuan Nguyen have disrupted City Council meetings in a manner amounting to a misdemeanor violation of city and state law.

The city is seeking a court order that would require Phan West and Nguyen to abide by the council's decorum rules in not speaking out of turn.

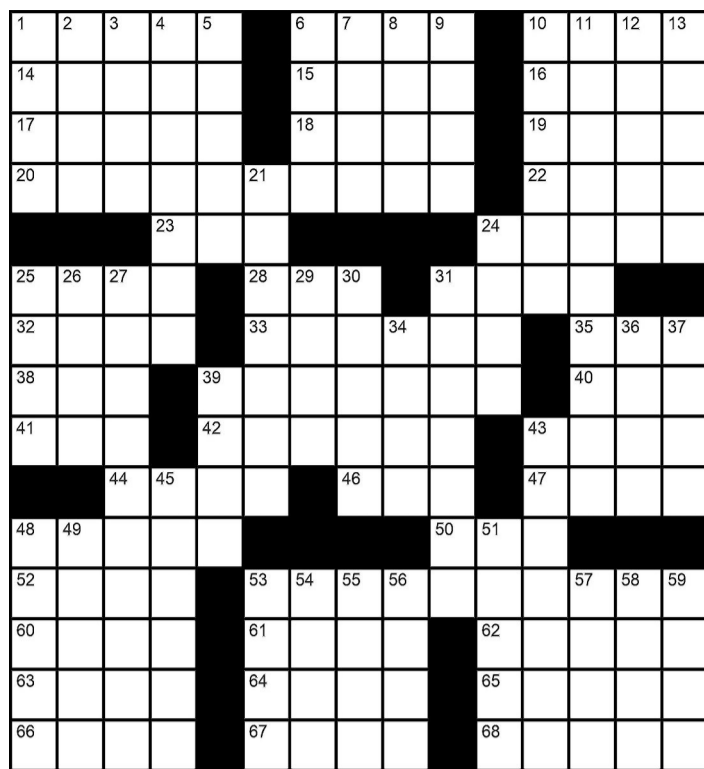
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THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Stella Zawistowski

ACROSS

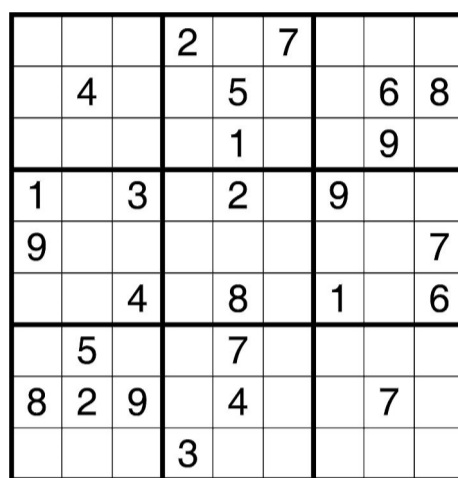
- 1 Numerical data
- 6 Very uncommon
- 10 "Puckered" body parts
- 14 Hooded snake
- 15 Software customer
- 16 2-D measurement
- 17 Bit the dust: 2 wds.
- 18 Fib teller
- 19 RuPaul's specialty
- 20 Classic stuffed animals: 2 wds.
- 22 Craps table equipment
- 23 End of an _
- 24 Doles (out)
- 25 Pottery oven
- 28 "Ice Age" sloth
- 31 Zeus's wife
- 32 Make changes to a document
- 33 Auto-injector brand
- 35 "Waterfalls" group
- 38 Family dog, e.g.
- 39 French mansion
- 40 Repayment letters: Abbr.
- 41 Tit for _
- 42 Plant sprayer
- 43 Win by a _
- 44 Show-biz awards quartet: Abbr.
- 46 Special _
- 47 Persons
- 48 Kitchen garment
- 50 Perform on stage
- 52 The Crimson Tide
- 53 Pirate's flag: 2 wds.
- 60 Little bit: 2 wds.
- 61 Opera song
- 62 "West Side Story" role
- 63 Location
- 64 Poet of old
- 65 Bit of paper
- 66 Turned the soil
- 67 Kill
- 68 Auctions off



SUDOKU

By the Mephram Group

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit sudoku.org.uk.



For answers to the crossword and Sudoku puzzles, see page A6.

DOWN

- 1 Nonsense singing style
- 2 Reusable bag
- 3 Not up yet
- 4 Poseidon's weapon
- 5 Mythical man-goat
- 6 Hold sway
- 7 China's continent
- 8 Hindmost
- 9 Makes a blunder
- 10 Hook and _
- 11 Annoyance
- 12 Conflict-free period

- 13 Wise people
- 21 Single or triple: 2 wds.
- 24 Restaurant handout
- 25 Retained
- 26 Creative thought
- 27 Kitten's sibling
- 29 Hoppy beers: Abbr.
- 30 "Me too!"
- 31 Courtroom objection
- 34 Marshmallowy Easter candy
- 36 Misplace
- 37 Social signals
- 39 "Let's go!"
- 43 Never ever: 2 wds.
- 45 Egged on
- 48 Embarrass
- 49 Outdoor dining spot
- 51 Ill-mannered
- 53 Quick punches
- 54 Taken by mouth
- 55 Old Italian money
- 56 Noblewoman's title
- 57 _ Scout cookies
- 58 And others: Abbr.
- 59 Performs

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Lunar New Year rises at California Adventure

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

The sweet and savory bulgogi beef that tops the scallion pancake tostada on the menu at Studio Catering Co. in Anaheim at Disney's California Adventure is inspired by Disneyland Resort Chef Daniel Duke Brown's own mother's recipe.

"I started working at Disney because of the Lunar Festival. I loved how they told stories with it and how different it was," said Brown. "When I became a chef here in the park, I wanted to be able to tell a story too and bring in the things I grew up with."

Bulgogi is a Korean dish, made up of thinly sliced meat typically marinated in a combination of soy sauce, a sweetening agent like sugar or honey, sesame oil, garlic, onion and traditionally pureed Asian pear. It is something Brown said he often ate when he was growing up in a Korean American household.

Brown's contribution is part of the park's annual Lunar New Year celebration, which launched on Jan. 17. This year, more than 40 new menu items honor Asian cuisine. As in years past, park guests can purchase a Sip and Savor Pass redeemable for six food or nonalcoholic beverages from participating locations at California Adventure. Brown said the new food offerings were developed by multiple Disney cast members like him, sharing their culinary experiences.

"I feel that having those stories behind it actually makes the food taste better. You can feel the love in it," said Brown.

Each year the Lunar New Year is determined by the lunisolar calendar and observed within multiple Asian and Pacific Islander



Christian Thompson | Disneyland Resort

GUESTS CAN ENJOY Mulan's Lunar New Year Procession during Lunar New Year at Disney California Adventure Park through Feb. 16.

cultures. This year marks the Year of the Snake, and food is just one of the ways to celebrate. Many Chinese, Vietnamese and Korean traditions are honored during the festival.

Mulan's Lunar New Year Procession returns this year, led by Mulan and Mushu with a Chinese dragon puppet and traditional dancers and drummers marching from Hollywood Land to Paradise Gardens in the afternoon and evenings. A special preshow, "Hurry Home - A Lunar New Year Celebration," takes place before "World of Color-ONE" and follows a little lantern traveling on a journey home for good luck and fortune with an original score by composer Tan Dun.

The Paradise Garden Bandstand features live music performances daily from groups like the Fortunes, a China-based pop band that fuses hits of today, like Chappell Roan's

"Hot to Go!" with traditional Chinese sounds while the Sonoma Terrace hosts the Korean American cappella group Vocal Seoul Friday through Sunday. The multicultural celebration also brings back the Lunar New Year Wishing Wall in Paradise Gardens Park, where guests can add their wishes for the new year.

The Lunar New Year celebration in Anaheim runs through Feb. 16 and is one of many such events planned in Orange County. Other area cities and businesses promoting good luck and good fortune include:

Santa Ana Tet (Lunar New Year) Festival
3000 W. Edinger Avenue, Santa Ana
Jan. 25, 1 to 6 p.m.

Presented in partnership with the Santa Ana Parks, Recreation & Community Services Agency and the Santa Ana Public Library, the second annual festival

will feature cultural performances, food vendors, Library Lane and a fireworks show at 5:45 p.m.

The District at Tustin Legacy
2437 Park Ave, Tustin
Jan. 25, noon to 2 p.m.

A festive performance is planned featuring lion dancers and Chinese musicians along with a pagoda-themed photo opportunity and lucky red envelopes.

Chinese New Year Omakase experience at Sushi Ii
100 West Coast Hwy Suite 202, Newport Beach

Master Chef Susumu Ii has planned a special course for diners at Sushi Ii on Jan. 29. Priced at \$200, the traditional Omakase experience will include a celebratory appetizer plate, sashimi, grilled and simmered dishes, a selection of nigiri, miso soup and dessert. Reservations can be made online.



File Photo

LUNAR NEW YEAR in Garden Grove's Little Saigon.

UVSA Tet Festival at Garden Grove Park
9301 Westminster Blvd., Garden Grove
Jan. 31, 4 to 10 p.m.; Feb. 1, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Feb. 2, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

This Vietnamese Lunar New Year Festival hosted by the Union of Vietnamese Students Assns. of Southern California is a tradition that began in Garden Grove in 2013. The three-day festival will feature Vietnamese food, entertainment and a special replica of a traditional village in Vietnam. Admission is priced at \$9, but entrance is free for those who wear traditional outfits or military and Scout uniforms.

City of Westminster's Tet Parade
Intersection of Bolsa Avenue and Magnolia Street
Saturday, Feb. 1

The Tet Parade in Little Saigon has been a tradition for nearly two decades. Westminster is home to one of the largest populations of Vietnamese Americans in Orange County, and multiple generations come out for this annual event. The opening ceremony begins at 8:30 a.m., and the parade starts at 9:30 a.m. at the intersection of Bolsa Avenue and Magnolia Street, heading

eastbound on Bolsa.

Paradise Dynasty Lunar New Year menu at South Coast Plaza
3333 Bristol Street, BLM, 1 Bloomingdale's, Costa Mesa

Paradise Dynasty rings in the Year of the Snake with a special menu through Feb. 7 that includes Singapore-style black pepper lobster with noodles, steamed Chilean seabass, crispy sweet and sour prawns and crab and silken tofu soup. Diners can also look forward to red envelopes filled with 20% off vouchers for future dining.

Garden of Good Fortune Event at Fashion Island
401 Newport Center Dr, Newport Beach
Feb. 8, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

This free, family-friendly event is designed to honor the creativity and cleverness of the Wood Snake. A special lion dance performance will be accompanied by calligraphy demonstrations and kite-painting activities. Near Nordstrom, visitors will find a special wood snake art installation on view Jan. 29 through Feb. 12.

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Dining options expand at Downtown Disney in Anaheim

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

Just a few days into the new year, the Downtown Disney District in Anaheim opened its first new eating establishment of 2025. Parkside Market, a two-story food hall with four dining destinations under one roof, is one of a few food options anticipated to open at the District in the near future.

The new space soft opened Jan. 4 on the west end of the District, opposite the lawn and Downtown Disney LIVE! Stage, across from Din Tai Fung. A grand-opening celebration was hosted on Wednesday, with vice president of hotel operations and Downtown Disney Jason Smith and Andy Lansing, chief executive officer of Levy Restaurants, for officially welcoming the new concepts. Geri Wolen, chef Lee Wolen of GG's Chicken Shop, Seoul Sister's chef Kelly Kim and Sip & Sonder founders Amanda-Jane Thomas and Shanita Nicholas were all

on hand for the ribbon-cutting ceremony that included an appearance by Mickey and Minnie Mouse.

"It is no small feat to bring a new offering like this to life. It truly takes countless individuals collaborating and putting forth their best effort to make it happen," said Smith. "We are truly thrilled to welcome you to our Disney family."

Lansing, whose restaurant group brought the concepts at Parkside Market together, also took the opportunity to acknowledge those who have been affected by the L.A. wildfires and highlight how Levy Restaurants will help.

"Our hearts go out to everyone who have been impacted by this," said Lansing. "All of us at Levy, with our partners here, will continue to do all we can, and we are going to start by donating our first month of profits to the L.A. Regional Food Bank to help support the efforts there."

Plans for Parkside Market were announced in

2023, and the District spent the last two years in different phases of construction in the area formerly occupied by the AMC Movie Theater and the original Earl of Sandwich location. (The fast casual Earl of Sandwich and sit-down service Earl of Sandwich Tavern have temporarily relocated to the former La Brea Bakery space.)

On the first floor with a service window at the entrance, thirsty guests will find Sip & Sonder. The Inglewood-based coffee brand serves classic drip coffee, espresso and creative coffee beverages like "the onyx," a vanilla charcoal latte and "the monarch" a butterfly pea flower coconut vanilla slushy.

Inside, GG's Chicken Shop serves up fried chicken, waffle fries and chicken-topped salads while Seoul Sister serves Korean-inspired rice bowls with protein options like beef and egg, chicken, pork belly and tofu.

Growing up as child in Texas, Kim said she felt like



PARKSIDE MARKET is the new two-story food hall in the Downtown Disney District, with four dining destinations under one roof.

Christian Thompson | Disneyland Resort

her Korean American food was taboo, and she expressed her excitement at being able to share her Bibimbap-inspired dishes with a California twist at Downtown Disney.

"Now we live in a place where anyone can come and have Korean food; it's a dream come true," said Kim.

Kim said she has worked hard to make her food approachable but still distinctly Korean.

"I want people to taste it and go, it was designed by a Korean person, a Korean American person," said Kim. "I also want them to taste it and want to come back."

On the second story, bar and lounge Vista Parkside Market serves beer, wine and cocktails and allows guests to order food from any of the restaurants downstairs. Bar seating, indoor tables and two outdoor spaces with patio seating are available where diners have a birds-eye

view of Downtown Disney below. Avian-themed cocktails fill out the menu, like the Birdwatcher, made with ice tea, lemonade and Buffalo Trace bourbon, and the Flamboyance a pink frose cocktail served in a Flamingo glass.

The space is full of mid-century modern details like Sputnik chandeliers and white breeze blocks that match the nearby Downtown Disney LIVE! stage and the family-friendly lawn visible from Vista's outdoor patio.

Nearby, the Disney Wonderful World of Sweets is set to open to the public on Jan. 24, taking over the space formerly known as Marceline's Confectionery. The reimagined sweet shop will offer new confectionery treats, most notably Werther's Original Caramel popcorn made fresh in the shop, filling the space with the scent of caramel. There will also be caramel apples, churro toffee, a large selection of lollipops, chocolate,

gummies and baked goods. Sweets also introduces a collection of new food characters to the park, like Poppi the popcorn bucket and four new cake pops named Jimmi, Fluffi, Bonni and Lolli.

Construction for Cuban pastry giant Porto's Bakery is scheduled to begin at Downtown Disney this year, and Tortilla Joe's closed in 2024 to make way for two new restaurant concepts from chef Joe Isidori. Arthur & Sons Steak and Bourbon will be a classic steakhouse while Pearl's Roadside BBQ will be a quick-service concept serving pulled pork, beef brisket and smoked heritage turkey from the acclaimed New York City chef.

Opening dates for these highly anticipated dining options have not yet been announced.

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

Continued from page A1

Convention Center from Jan. 21 until Jan. 25, NAMM kicked off the week using music to unite educators and industry professionals in supporting music education.

“Every year during the NAMM Show we host a day of service at Anaheim Elementary School District. This is an opportunity for folks in our industry to give back and to collaborate,” said Julia Rubio, executive director at NAMM. “It is an opportunity to inspire these kids.”

NAMM has worked with the Anaheim Elementary School District for many years, and the event provides support of the district’s music initiatives.

“We are honored to have NAMM here today because it is an opportunity for our students to get additional music instruction. Over the course of the school year, literacy is a huge focus in our district and music is a literacy in itself,” said Denise Victoria, principal at Westmont Elementary. “There is a lot of research around how music impacts problem solving, how it impacts reading, how it impacts creativity and providing our students with those types of opportunities provides them opportunities for the future.”

In 2014, the Anaheim Elementary School District Board of Education committed to including music instruction within every student’s school day. By 2018, all 24 campuses within the district had full-time general music teachers for TK through fourth grade and instrumental teachers for fifth and sixth graders.

Mark Anderson is the coordinator of the music and arts programs for the district, working with all grade levels at various schools.

“Our program is very student centered; it revolves around the input and feedback from students in our community,” said Anderson. “We are very excited to not just offer general music instruction during the day, but we are exploring ways to offer mariachi at many schools. We are offering drumming and modern band. We have an elementary drumline that marches in parades ... We are really excited to continue finding ways to offer more opportunities, whether it is during the school day or through



Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

MUSIC EDUCATOR Steven Pu teaches kids chords on a ukulele at Westmont Elementary.

the community school programs or through the after-school Anaheim Elementary Succeeds program.”

This year, the NAMM Foundation donated \$10,000 to the district to support its music programs. NAMM president and chief executive officer John Mlynczak attended the event and emphasized the donation is only part of the work the foundation does.

“We exist to serve music makers worldwide ... the foundation work is more than writing big checks,” he said. “It is about showing up, organizing, building relationships, and you want to leave places stronger than they were when you got there.”

In a classroom just down the hall from the ukulele players, students got a lesson on the finer points of rapping.

Music educator Scott Burstein took suggestions from the kids on words that rhyme, jotting each one down a smart board. “It’s not nice to shove” was followed by the line, “I put on a glove.” When the beat dropped, a young student volunteered to rap the lines, but first he shyly requested the mic.

Although the NAMM Foundation visits Anaheim annually, this year the group had a particular goal to show students definitive career paths in music.

In a classroom off the school



KIDS SHARE simple hip-hop rhymes, courtesy of music educator Scott Burstein, during the NAMM Foundation’s Day of Service.

library, high school students sat down with music industry professionals in small groups. Musicians, D.J.s and a custom drum maker spoke with students about their jobs in the music industry.

“We brought the high schoolers in this year for a ‘Networking with the Pros’ opportunity,” said Mlynczak. “Professionals in our industry in a number of careers are mentoring and talking with students one on one, so they can have more of a dialogue.”

Other activities continued through out the day, including a drum circle and musical performances in the quad. Rubio

said the connection the students make to the music, and to each other, is part of why community outreach is so important to the NAMM foundation.

“We believe very strongly at the NAMM Foundation that music brings people together,” said Rubio. “If you are starting that in the schools with children, they are going to take that into their communities, and they are going to build stronger and healthier communities as adults.”

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ELECTION

Continued from page A1

of Nov. 8, 2024, batch reports from the scan room during the time of the video footage, which occurred the same day a bomb threat evacuated the Santa Ana facility by late afternoon.

An audit log report was also provided and showed that the first two scans of the ballots were discarded, not saved.

The original batch report and batch of ballots cannot be disclosed without a court order, as state election law mandates ballots be preserved for 22 months.

Before issuing a statement, the Registrar of Voters responded to an email inquiry from the Gateway Pundit, a far-right website owned by Hof’s brother, which was sued by Georgia election workers who were falsely accused of fraud during the 2020 elections.

Hoft was also named in the defamation lawsuit.

Articles cited as defamatory in the complaint were no longer hosted on the website after a settlement agreement was reached in October.

The Registrar of Voters responded to the email inquiry with an initial explanation for the triple scan while also noting that quality checks and audits are part of its process to ensure an accurate vote count.

Jon Gould, dean of UC Irvine’s School of Social Ecology, praised the Registrar of Voters’ commitment to transparency.

“We should expect our governmental institutions to be responsive to citizen concerns, and so it is impressive to see the extent to which the Orange County Registrar of Voters is explaining its work,” Gould said. “It is also unfortunate that this period of distrust in governmental institutions is requiring such explanations.”

A poll conducted by UC Irvine’s School of Social Ecology last year found that 26% of O.C. adults did not believe President Joe Biden legitimately won the 2020 election. Among Republicans, 55% of those surveyed share that same skeptical belief.

Prompted by concern letters over alleged election fraud, the O.C. Grand Jury concluded in its report that the Registrar of Voters represented the “highest level of integrity” during the November 2024 elections.

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Lobster Bisque

Northern Australian lobster, sherry wine, diced chives

Classic Caesar Salad

Chopped hearts of romaine, herb croutons, tomato, shaved Manchego

ENTRÉE SELECTIONS

select one

Filet Mignon

8 oz. filet mignon, Yukon Gold mashed potatoes, fried shallots

Slow Braised Short Ribs

Slow braised in a cabernet veal stock, Yukon Gold mashed potatoes, braising jus

Miso-Marinated Chilean Sea Bass

Soy glaze, coconut rice, stir-fried vegetables, mushrooms, lemongrass ginger beurre blanc

Bone-In Rib Eye

16 oz. prime bone-in rib eye, Yukon Gold mashed potatoes, fried onion strings

(Thirty Dollar Supplement)

Australian Lobster Tail

10 oz. drawn butter, grilled lemon, Yukon Gold mashed potatoes

(Twenty Dollar Supplement)

Lobster Pot Pie

Ten ounce sautéed Maine lobster, carrots, celery, potatoes, sherry lobster cream sauce.

DESSERT

(Seven Dollar Supplement)

Toll House Pie

Like a warm chocolate chip cookie in pie form, walnuts, vanilla bean ice cream

Vanilla Crème Brûlée

Vanilla custard, fresh raspberries

Hot Fudge Sundae

Vanilla bean ice cream, walnuts, fresh whipped cream, hot fudge

Strawberry Shortcake

Fresh strawberries, vanilla bean ice cream, house made whipped cream

20% Gratuity will be added to parties of eight or more.

A 3% processing fee will be added to all credit card transactions. For guests that choose to pay with cash, the 3% fee will be waived. *Consuming raw or undercooked meats, poultry, seafood, shellfish or eggs may increase your risk of food-borne illness.



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DANCE

Continued from page A3

Among those taking the stage will be BalletX, Jeraldine Mendoza and Dylan Gutierrez of the Joffrey Ballet; Viktorina Kapitonova and Daniel Rubin of the Boston Ballet; Beckanne Sisk and Chase O'Connell of the Houston Ballet; Jillian Davis, April Watson and Joe Gonzalez of Complexions Contemporary Ballet; the JA Collective, Jillian Meyers and Jake Tribus.

General admission for each day of the festival is \$75, while students can get a ticket for \$25. Performances begin at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday. The Sunday matinee starts at 2 p.m.

While the four-day event will be riddled with star power, a younger generation will get its chance to take the stage. Dance majors from Chapman University, UC Irvine and University of Southern California (Gates is the founding director of the Gloria Kaufman School of Dance at USC), as well as Laguna Dance's young artist scholarship recipients, will perform.

Laguna Dance will also continue to collaborate with the Laguna Beach Music Festival, which will have its own programming the following week, from Feb. 12 to 16. There will be live music throughout the whole opening night performance on Thursday, Feb. 6.

JODIE GATES is the founder and artistic director of the Laguna Dance Festival, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary.

Hiroimi Platt



"I think it speaks to the possibilities and the potential for decades to come, how many people we can collaborate with that are local, how many great organizations can be our partners," Gates said. "It's exciting, I think, for the audience because our goal, our mission, is to provide entertainment. I think that often there's a misconception that ballet is sort of rigid, or that dance is not for everyone, but indeed, our goal is to make it for everyone and to think about opportunities where the viewer has autonomy."

The dance festival, at one point, utilized Laguna Beach High to put on shows, but a bigger stage became necessary. Doug Wilson, a board member of Laguna Dance, said even a larger venue like the playhouse makes for a unique experience as a member of the audience.

"We were used to seeing it at Segerstrom Center or at a very large ballet scene

in New York City," Wilson said. "This was a whole different venue here that made it up close. You could see them sweat. You could feel the emotion on their face. That was so exciting."

MUSEUM HOSTS 'NATURE OF DANCE' SUNDAY

A kickoff event will take place with the "Nature of Dance" at Laguna Art Museum on Sunday, Jan. 26, at 4 p.m. Gates, working with a musician and a dancer, choreographed movements inspired by the work of Fred Tomaselli, whose work will serve as a backdrop for the performance. The Tomaselli exhibit, part of the museum's annual Art and Nature programming, will be closing on Feb. 2.

"The idea of [Gates] creating movement in response to the 'Fred Tomaselli: Second Nature' exhibit was really exciting for us," said Robin Rundle,



Beau Pearson

HOUSTON BALLET principal dancers Beckanne Sisk and Chase O'Connell will perform in the Laguna Dance Festival.

the museum's education coordinator, who emphasized the idea of offering another layer of interpretation for the art. "Bringing various senses and art disciplines together for programs is something I'm really passionate about."

Tickets for Sunday's event are \$30 for general admission, \$25 for museum members and \$15 for students with ID.

"I think Laguna is on the cusp of a renaissance in the arts," Wilson added. "Laguna is seeing collaboration going on like we

haven't had in the past between dance, music and the actual art, as in the art museum. That's creating a different kind of vibe, and I think it's going to draw more people in.

"I think we need to do a better job, though, reaching out beyond our community into the broader community to educate them on why they need to be here, and that's something that should be on everybody's priority list."

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HELP

Continued from page A5

Action Partnership of Orange County hosted its 26th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service on Jan. 20 at its OC Food Bank facility in Garden Grove.

CAP OC was founded 60 years ago to prevent and end poverty by providing individuals and families with the resources they need to achieve stability that is sustainable. The OC Food Bank, located at CAP OC's headquarters, is among the services the organization offers, with over 28 million meals distributed each year and 25,000 boxes of food packed each month for distribution to 80 sites across Orange County.

"Our organization would not exist without the advocacy and the work of Dr. King during the civil rights



Sarah Mosqueda

VARIOUS GROUPS came out to volunteer at OC Food Bank, including 100 Black Men of Orange County.

movement, advocating for people that are living in poverty," said Gregory C. Scott, president and chief executive officer of CAP OC.

Each year, the day of service draws individual volunteers as well as organizations and groups of all ages who want to be part of the community event. Last year more than 700 volunteers turned out for the occasion, while this year's event drew over 1,000 volunteers. The extra hands are divided up over three shifts throughout the day,

and they work packing boxes with shelf-stable food items. Many young people were present on each shift, packing bags of rice, boxes of cereal and canned soup.

"We originally had the tagline, 'It's a day on, not a day off,'" said Lowry. "Students are now given the day off, and they can go to the beach, they can go to the mall, they can go to the movies or they can come here and learn an important part of our history and provide some community service in honor of Dr.

King's life of service in their own way."

Participating organizations this year included PNC Bank, MissionUp, Ventura Foods, Friendship Baptist Church Boy Scouts of America Troop 1803, St. Edwards Church, 100 Black Men of Orange County and even Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, of which Dr. King was a member. McDonald, who is an Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity alumni, said the Greek organization is represented at the event each year.

"We have it set up so that every year, during the session, some member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. will come to speak to each one of the groups," said McDonald. "That is a tradition that has gone on and on."

McDonald expressed pride in how the event has grown over the years.

"When we started the program, it was only one session, and we also did a diaper drive," said McDonald. "In 26 years, it now has three sessions, and I have people calling me saying they tried to sign up. People are begging to come do this

on Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday. What an honor."

McDonald greeted many of the volunteers with familiarity, like Sarah Middleton, who has made a tradition of bringing her family out to the OC Food Bank to volunteer on Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

"Volunteering is important to us as a family, and it is important to me that my kids know how to serve, and Dr. King was an amazing example of service," said Middleton. "I love coming here to the OC Food bank because kids can volunteer here, and they have a lot fun."

Nearly 11,624 food boxes were packed on Monday, all to be distributed to low-income families and seniors across the county. It is an accomplishment Scott believes follows Dr. King's example.

"I am inspired whenever the community comes together. At the end of the day love has the greatest impact," said Scott. "This is love."

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MAILBAG

Continued from page A4

Jan. 23: If the MAGA Seven were truly interested in making Huntington Beach a safer city they would not waste the city's resources in actions outside their jurisdiction.

Instead of reviewing the city's preparations for the type of Santa Ana-fueled wildfires that have devastated Pacific Palisades and Altadena, they are dealing

HOW TO GET PUBLISHED

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

in resolutions that have no impact on our city.

Immigration is within federal jurisdiction and not a local issue, and be-

ing a nonsanctuary city has nothing to do with local issues.

Our law enforcement should be concerned with enforcing state penal codes and nothing else and should not be placed in harm's way enforcing immigration laws.

It's time that the MAGA Seven realize their place in the scheme of jurisdictions.

Richard C. Armendariz
Huntington Beach

Library's fate should go before H.B. voters

As a longtime Huntington Beach resident and constant patron and supporter of the city's public library, I applaud Lindsay Klick's letter in the Jan. 19 Daily Pilot Mailbag. As a parent and grandparent, I do want a "seasoned librarian selecting a broad range of materials" to keep our library collection fresh and wide-ranging for library patrons of all ages to expand everyone's understanding of our world and its many per-

WORD

Continued from page A4

traditionally avoided the en dash and today just use a hyphen instead.

Colons are similar to dashes, just with a little more oomph: They set off an idea from a main sentence, but they suggest a greater emphasis. This can be a single word, as in this Associated Press Stylebook example: "He had only one hobby: eating." Or one or more complete sentences can follow the colon. If the words that follow the colon don't make up a complete sentence, don't capitalize the first letter. But if one or more sentences is introduced by a colon, capitalize the first letter. Never double-space after a colon.

Colons can also introduce examples and lists, as in this sentence from the Chicago Manual of Style. "The watch came with a choice of three bands: stainless steel, plastic or leather." But never use a colon after the word "including" to set up a list. "The watch came with a choice of four bands including stainless steel, plastic and leather."

Colons that scream "listen to what I'm about to say" too loudly should probably be replaced by a period. I'll try to take my own advice on this.

Commas have a lot of jobs, but they can't connect two independent clauses without an "and," "or" or "but." This sentence is an example of a comma splice, you shouldn't use commas this way.

Technically, a semicolon can link independent clauses. But they shouldn't because — well, yuck. Semicolons to link clauses make sentences longer and less readable with nothing to gain except a chance for the writer to show off her knowledge of semicolons. Rude.

Dashes, colons and commas have a proper role to play between clauses. But if you're using them to cram multiple ideas into a single sentence, ask yourself whether a period would make the passage more palatable to your reader.

JUNE CASAGRANDE is the author of "The Best Punctuation Book, Period." She can be reached at JuneTCN@aol.com.

sonalities and preferences.

By contrast, the Huntington Beach City Council insists that professional librarians are incapable of managing libraries and their collections, that parents (and grandparents) cannot possibly make reasonable book choices for their children under the age of 12, and that teens under the age of 18 are not mature enough to choose their own reading materials.

Hence Ordinance 4318, which would give a commission of partisan and inexperienced non-librarians the opportunity to ban books from our library's collection without the possibility of appeal. And the possibility that the H.B. library system could be taken over by a for-profit company instead of being operated by professional librarians devoted to public service.

In response, the H.B. community stood up and fought back with two wildly successful and legally legitimate signature-gathering efforts to defend the library.

Will the City Council do the right thing and arrange an election soon for all Huntington Beach voters to choose or seek once again to pander to their extremist base and deny the electorate a voice in the operation of our beloved library system?

Diane Bentley
Huntington Beach