

Lasting legacies

O.C.'s trailblazing women given the spotlight in special cemetery tour

BY JESSICA PERALTA

Though some Orange County residents may recognize Nellie Gail Moulton's name — or even parts of it — most may not truly know who she was. Moulton Parkway and Nellie Gail Ranch are named after her. Following the death of her husband, Lewis Moulton, she managed Moulton Ranch until 1950. She also enjoyed art and donated to various local artists and art groups. "I knew nothing of Nellie's legacy until much later, after I had graduated college, lived in France for eight years and returned," said Scott T. Barnes, of Lake Forest, who is chief financial officer at the Moulton Company, treasurer for Moulton Museum and also Nellie Gail Moulton's great-grandson. "It was only when I moved to Orange County to marry my wife, Grace, that I became familiar with her legacy." In an effort to raise awareness about and honor historical women, Fairhaven Memorial Park &

DOROTHY ALICE Chandler, who lived between 1928 and 2023, became Orange County Sheriff's Department's first female deputy on Aug. 1, 1949.



Mortuary in Santa Ana recently launched a Women in History Tour as part of Women's History Month in March. Tour guides sought to educate the public about the female trailblazers now

resting in the cemetery. Accomplished early Orange County landowner Gail Moulton, who lived from 1878 to 1972, was

See Legacies, page A2



Photos courtesy of Fairhaven Memorial Park & Cemetery

FOLLOWING THE death of her husband, Nellie Gail Moulton managed Moulton Ranch until 1950. She also enjoyed art and donated to various local artists and art groups.

At the forefront of digestive health

UCI Health
Chao Digestive Health Institute



Chapman students face discipline over megaphone use

Administrative hearings are scheduled for several Chapman University students alleged to have used amplified sound during a protest last month to protect diversity, equity and inclusion programs.

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

Following a protest last month to protect diversity, equity and inclusion programs at Chapman University, several student activists are scheduled to appear at administrative hearings over alleged campus conduct code violations. Student groups banded together on March 17 for a rally in response to two vice presidents who were placed on leave, including from the university's DEI office, just two days after the U.S. Department of Education sent a letter to Chapman and 59 other colleges warning them of "potential enforcement actions" for al-

leged antisemitism. It is unclear whether the administrators are on leave due to the letter, as the university has declined to comment on personnel matters. During the demonstration in front of Memorial Hall, several students used a megaphone and a microphone to give speeches to the crowd and to lead chants, which ran afoul of the university's conduct codes regarding amplified sound. Myth Moos, co-president of Students for Justice in Palestine at Chapman, helped emcee the rally

See Discipline, page A8



Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

THE WESTERN TERMINUS of Costa Mesa's Gisler Avenue leads to a pedestrian bridge spanning the Santa Ana River. A plan to replace it with a road bridge may soon be removed from the county's highway master plan.

Plans for a traffic bridge at Costa Mesa's Gisler Avenue may be nixed after 60+ years

BY SARA CARDINE

The western terminus of Costa Mesa's Gisler Avenue has for years remained untouched — an asphalt road segueing to a pedestrian bridge that spans the concrete channel of the Santa Ana River — and city leaders want it to stay that way. But, since the first highway master plans for Orange County were inked in the 1950s, the site has been identified as a place where a potential roadway bridge could link Gisler to Garfield Avenue in Huntington Beach. That juncture is one of four Santa Ana River crossings identified in the document — two more at Adams Street and Victoria Avenue have since been



constructed, while a third connecting Huntington's Banning Avenue and Costa Mesa's 19th Street is also being contested but is currently on hold. The plan for the bridge system likely made sense when Orange County's population was

A BICYCLIST Thursday approaches the end of Costa Mesa's Gisler Avenue, near the Mesa Verde Country Club golf course.

booming and homes had not yet filled in the parcels along Gisler Avenue. But today, Costa Mesa's "state streets" neighborhood and California Elementary School to the

See Bridge, page A6

ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

SUCCESS TASTES SWEET FOR HUNTINGTON BEACH TEEN
RUNNING DESSERT SHOP PAGE A6

Laguna begins process of renewing tourism marketing district

BY ANDREW TURNER

Laguna Beach is preparing to renew its tourism marketing district, which has assigned assessments of 2% to local lodging businesses to drive funding toward causes that help bring overnight guests into town.

In addition to covering the costs of promotional material geared toward tourists, the funds raised through the district have also supported Laguna's cultural arts and economic development.

The City Council on Tuesday declared its intent to make a 10-year commitment to the tourism marketing district. The district was established in 2001 and most recently renewed for five years in 2020.

City staff said the plan was for the 2% rate to remain in place, but it could be increased to 2.5% at the determination of the council and Visit Laguna Beach, the tourism marketing arm of the city.

Under the current structure, half of the assessed funds go to Visit Laguna Beach. The other half goes to local arts organizations, including Arts Commission programming, grants for cultural arts, Laguna Art Museum, Laguna College of Art & Design and Laguna Playhouse.

Distribution of the revenue brought in from the lodging establishments would change under the proposed plan, with a new category for destination development that would receive 25% of the funds.

Assistant City Manager Gavin Curran told the



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

THE LODGING ESTABLISHMENTS in Laguna Beach pay a self-assessment of 2% as members of the tourism marketing district to fund tourism-related initiatives. Above, the Montage Laguna Beach at twilight.

council the new category would address a wide range of interests, from artist housing to beautification projects, and from enhanced tourism to environmental sustainability. The city would also receive \$500,000 annually for development initiatives.

“When [the marketing district] started 23 years ago, the idea was to support the organizations that it currently supports, and since that time, we’ve noticed and understand that we have a need to support artists and try to keep them in the community,” Mayor Pro Tem Mark Orgill said. “That’s what this is about. It’s been said and could be argued that we’re expecting this to do too much, but my counter argument to that is, ‘Well, it’s grown 9% a year.’ That’s a lot, so I think it can do more, and I think it can now, at this time, support the artists.”

The creation of a destination development pool would result in a reduction in the funding share for the local arts organizations, which have been receiving 10% of the generated revenue from the assessments. Plans showed that each would get 8% under the new proposal, an idea some members of the arts community objected to.

“You cannot build destination development on a weakened foundation,” said former mayor Wayne Baglin, who served three terms on the City Council. “It can’t happen. Laguna Art Museum, Laguna Playhouse, Laguna College of Art & Design, the Arts Commission, and dozens of nonprofits in the arts will not be stronger and more able to increase the number of tourists in Laguna lodging establishments after having 20% of their funding reduced.”

Donna Ballard, chair of the Arts Commission, took a different tack, expressing appreciation for the funding and noting that the arts and the hotels have a “symbiotic relationship.”

“In 2024, the Arts Commission special program budget was \$319,800,” Ballard said. “Of that amount available, a total of \$275,000 was paid directly to artists for the employment in city programming. That’s 86% of the funds provided going directly to artists. The other 14% went to public art maintenance, so we can maintain the condition of our public art projects.”

“The city distributed \$380,000 in the cultural arts funding grants,” Ballard said. “We administer that. We support nonprofit arts organizations who present innovative programming in our community, so I hope you’ll agree with us that the investment in the Arts

Commission programming and all the arts through the Laguna Beach tourism marketing district is an investment in artists and art in our special community.”

Community concerns also included visitor impacts and the longevity of the proposal. Resident Aaron Peluso said the city would only be able to manage the impact of the tourism marketing district if it had the ability to opt out and if annual reviews occurred.

“I’m in favor of watching what Visit Laguna is doing and seeing how it’s going next year and not in 2036,” Peluso added.

Ruben Flores, a local horticulturist and the owner of Laguna Nursery, pointed to the city’s desire to attract visitors that would bolster the local economy.

“I see more and more about the ads for the hotels, but not necessarily how we’re changing that profile of the ads so that who’s coming here is already geared towards coming to our retail and coming to our restaurants, versus just coming to the hotels and the beaches,” Flores said. “I applaud the use of funds for the arts, and I think we can all use more and more of that.”

Curran added the renewal plan was getting support from hotels, noting that the list of proponents included properties that would account for “75-to-80%” of the assessment revenue that would be collected. A staff report projected the tourism marketing district to produce a revenue stream of \$3 million in the first year and approxi-

mately \$36.75 million over the next decade.

Council members shared concerns related to oversight of decision-making for the tourism marketing district, asking for diversified representation on an advisory board.

“I think that this destination development idea is a really important one, and I very much appreciate the shift from Visit Laguna to one of stewardship and connecting people with these incredible resources that we have as a community,” Councilwoman Hallie Jones said. “I want to ask that we have a little bit of time to talk about, at the public hearing, how we codify that. How do we know if we’re doing a good job? How do we know if we’re being successful in shifting Visit Laguna’s focus from one of bringing tourists into this community to one of promoting responsible visitorship and responsible stewardship of our town?”

Laguna Beach will host a town hall meeting on visitor stewardship from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 17 at City Hall. The city is also circulating a resident survey on tourism impacts.

A public meeting regarding the renewal of the tourism marketing district will take place on May 6. The public hearing for the adoption of a resolution to renew the tourism marketing district is scheduled for June 10. If adopted, the 10-year renewal would begin with the new fiscal year on July 1.

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LEGACIES

Continued from page A1

one of them. But there are many others — a total of 14 trailblazing women were featured in the 45-minute tour.

“Everybody, or most everyone [featured] on the tour, either was a first in the field or a first to accomplish something back when things weren’t being accomplished by women,” said Cynthia Adair, Fairhaven Memorial Park campaign coordinator, who ran the Women in History tour.

Plenty of research was involved — including rounding up information from previous tours, local historical groups and even from a previous memorial service.

“One of my favorite additions was Dorothy Alice Chandler, and we just did her service two years ago,” Adair said. “I learned about her when we were getting items for her memorial service, and that’s when I found out that she was the first Orange County sheriff deputy, female sheriff deputy, and all about her life. And I was able to actually go to her memorial service, so that was such an honor to hear people actually speak about her and learn about her through firsthand stories.”

Chandler, who lived between 1928 and 2023, became Orange County Sheriff’s Department’s first female deputy on Aug. 1, 1949. She grew up on a ranch in Irvine, where she learned to ride horses and shoot guns. She also raised and trained German shepherds.

“My favorite is Bessica Raiche,” Adair said. “She was the first woman to fly solo [17] years prior to Amelia Earhart, but she did not do transatlantic. She only did continental. So yes, Amelia Earhart does have the transcontinental

claim to fame, but we have our own. And she was very scandalous because she went out in public in pants. So all of her neighbors thought, ‘Who is this woman?’ She was the talk of the town.”

Bessica “Bessie” Raiche, who was born in 1875 and died in 1932. She was a musician, painter and linguist. Raiche and her husband built a Wright brothers-type biplane in their living room. Her first solo airplane flight in the U.S. was on Sept. 16, 1910.

There’s also Cornelia “Corrie” Ten Boom, who lived between 1892 and 1983, and wrote “The Hiding Place,” her autobiography about her family’s experience during the Holocaust.

“They were Dutch. But the effects of the Nazis and the Holocaust affected them and as a Christian family, they saved and gave refuge to hundreds of Jews and their families to the point that their family was finally caught,” Adair said. “She was the only surviving member of her family, and it was found out later that she was released from a concentration camp due to a clerical error and the entire group that she was in was killed like a week later.”

After World War II, she came to the U.S. and ended up in Fullerton. She is now buried at Fairhaven.

“It’s so wonderful. You go to her grave marker at any time and there’s always fresh flowers and it’s people who have just read the book or know that she’s here,” Adair said. “She is the person that people stop in our office and are always asking where is she located because they’ve been so affected by reading her book.”

Clara Cushman, who died in 1972, was the first female attorney in Orange County. She was admitted to the Bar Association in 1922.

“There is the first female

who passed the bar, but then we have the first female attorney that was practicing,” Adair said. “So she started practicing before the other one did. So Clara Cushman, her biggest problem when she decided she wanted to practice after passing the bar is nobody wanted to hire her because, heaven forbid, they didn’t want a female attorney. So she decided to be a solo practitioner. Her second problem became keeping a sign out — because it was such a novelty to have a female lawyer, people kept stealing her sign.”

Dr. Hester Olewiler, who lived from 1895 to 1986, was one of Orange County’s first female doctors. She delivered more than 3,000 babies in a time when there were few hospital births. Her first payment for delivering a baby was a rooster.

“So it’s kind of a thing in Santa Ana — if you’re like third generation, there’s a chance that one of your ancestors were delivered by Dr. Olewiler,” Adair said.

There were some pretty familiar names on the tour as well — including Renee Mary Segerstrom, who lived between 1928 and 2000, and Virginia Maurine Knott Bender, who lived between 1913 and 2003.

“Renee Segerstrom: She’s obviously the wife of [the late] Henry Segerstrom. She just brought so much to Orange County. She handpicked some of the South Coast Plaza stores and restaurants and then was instrumental in bringing performing arts to Orange County,” Adair said.

“Virginia Knott: She is the daughter of Walter and Cordelia Knott, Knott’s Berry Farm, and she came to her dad when she was 19 years old with an idea that Knott’s Berry Farm needed a gift shop. And that was her thought as a high school student. And so Virginia’s Gift Shop came to be at the amusement park,



Courtesy of Fairhaven Memorial Park & Cemetery

DOROTHY ALICE CHANDLER, who lived between 1928 and 2023, became Orange County Sheriff’s Department’s first female deputy on Aug. 1, 1949. She is one of the notable women who was laid to rest at Fairhaven Memorial Park & Mortuary in Santa Ana.

and then she served as director until it was sold in 1997, after her dad retired. I was impressed. I know what I was thinking about at 19 and it wasn’t entrepreneurial.”

Adair said the list of prominent women laid to rest at the cemetery is like a who’s who of Orange County history.

“Looking at it from today’s standards, these

things that they accomplished don’t seem that impressive — but when you go back and you think of the time that they accomplished it in, it really was groundbreaking,” she said.

Donna Marsh Peery, office manager for the Tustin Area Historical Society, attended the tour.

“I love history and think it’s important to honor and

remember these women trailblazers,” she said. “Now if we tell people a lady doctor, woman pilot or woman attorney, people think nothing of it. The women buried at Fairhaven were the first. They broke down the barriers to make those careers commonplace today.”

JESSICA PERALTA is a contributor to the Daily Pilot.

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forum

COLUMN | PATRICE APODACA

Education cuts reveal an ‘outrage we can’t afford to ignore’

Here's a thought experiment: What if no one wanted to teach anymore?

Too extreme? Then I will modify the question. What if we didn't value teachers enough, or education generally, to ensure that we had a sufficient number of well-trained educators capable of providing every child living in the U.S. with equal access to at least a satisfactory learning environment?

Some schools would be understaffed and underfunded. Many kids, particularly those in low-income areas, would fall through the cracks, their futures deeply diminished. Poverty and crime rates would increase. Health outcomes would be compromised. Some sectors of society would be stuck in a depressing generational loop of disadvantage and hardship.

We know all these outcomes are real because we see them happening, despite the valiant efforts by many people to correct course and address the problems that have long plagued public education—the problems that have led to teacher shortages in communities throughout the nation in recent years.

But now the situation is in danger of getting even worse because of the cur-

rent administration's goal of shuttering the U.S. Department of Education. It's a move that threatens to take with it an important source of funding for schools to educate disadvantaged and disabled students, for collecting important data, and for grants and loans to college students.

Those would all be devastating losses, but let's just focus on the latter for now. In California, the administration cancelled \$148 million in grants for recruiting and training new teachers in the state. California joined in a lawsuit to try and stop the move, but the U.S. Supreme Court, by a 5-4 vote, upheld the cuts.

Again, this is occurring within the context of persistent teacher shortages. Districts throughout the state find it increasingly difficult to fill vacancies with trained and credentialed teachers, particularly in math, science, special education and bilingual education.

As teachers retire or leave the field for other opportunities, fewer and fewer new recruits are coming in to replace them. In the 2020-2021 school year, 26,179 college students were

enrolled in teacher education. By the 2022-2023 school year, that number dwindled to 19,833.

The reasons behind the declining numbers are varied, but if you talk to any teacher in any district they will tell you that people turning away from what was once considered a valued and noble career path is hardly surprising. Teaching has become an early burnout profession.

Sure, teaching pays less than other jobs with similar required education levels, the work is intense and often draining, and many teachers must open their wallets to pay for their classroom supplies. But the biggest complaint I hear, over and over again, is that teachers are fed up with a lack of respect and an increasingly hostile work environment.

Many schools have become so desperate to fill empty slots that they have had to employ growing numbers of underprepared and substitute teachers, increase class sizes, and reduce course offerings. Not by coincidence, the shortages are worse in communities with high numbers of underprivileged students.

Now we're faced with more chipping away at programs desperately needed to help recruit new



Christina House | Los Angeles Times

EDUCATORS ARE worried about the impact the loss of federal funding will have on their lives. “Not a day goes by that we don’t hear about someone wondering ‘What’s going to happen to my loan? Will I have a job in a few years?’ It produces a tremendous amount of stress,” a Cal State Fullerton professor said.

blood into the field. Worse still, many observers believe the damage inflicted is intentional. They see the dismantling of the Department of Education as a part of a broader project to starve public schools and shift more resources to private education.

The drying up of federal aid and downplaying the importance of supporting public education hit professional educators like Dr. Alison Dover hard.

A professor of secondary education at Cal State Fullerton, Dover was a first-generation college graduate and scholarship student who “came to see the massive inequalities in

loss of federal funding.

“I don’t know how anyone could not be,” she said.

“Not a day goes by that we don’t hear about someone wondering ‘What’s going to happen to my loan? Will I have a job in a few years?’ It produces a tremendous amount of stress.”

There’s a lot going on right now and much to worry about. I know it’s tough to focus on every problem when retirement accounts are shrinking and economists are warning about the potential for a trade war to worsen inflation and push us into recession. Not to mention that the purges at other government agencies—affecting such vital functions as weather forecasting and the containment of dangerous viruses—could literally cost lives.

Even so, the education cuts are an outrage that we can’t afford to ignore. Our vast, unwieldy system of public education is far from perfect, but it is one of the pillars of our democratic society. If we weaken it, we will be poorer for it.

PATRICE APODACA is a former Los Angeles Times staff writer and is coauthor of “A Boy Named Courage: A Surgeon’s Memoir of Apartheid.” She lives in Newport Beach.

MAILBAG

Huntington Beach voters will decide fate of city’s libraries

In less than one month, Huntington Beach voters will receive ballots in the mail for a critical citywide special election on June 10. The outcome of this election will determine how our city’s popular five-branch library system will operate going forward. It is vital that Huntington Beach residents vote YES for Measures A and B to protect our public library from hare-brained and dangerous MAGA policies.

During the past two years, the Huntington Beach City Council has tried to seize control of our public library by creating a polarizing MAGA commemorative sign for our Central Library’s 50th anniversary, establishing a committee with political appointees who determine what books are in our library and flirting with privatization of the library’s efficiently run operations.

These policies mimic what President Trump is doing on a national level. Last month, President Trump defunded the Institute of Museum and Library Services, which provides essential grants to

libraries throughout the country. The state of California has lost millions in previously approved funding for the 2024-2025 fiscal year that would have supported children, reading programs for veterans and work-readiness programs.

Huntington Beach residents do not agree with MAGA anti-library policies. They view our library as a community anchor that not only maintains an extensive collection but also provides a wide range of services such as free WiFi and a computer lab, veterans resource center, makers space, story time for children, literacy programs, book clubs, author talks, classes and more. To safeguard the integrity of our award-winning public library and preserve access to vital community resources for citizens and their families, I eagerly await voting YES for both these measures.

Carol Daus
Huntington Beach

This special election is exactly what the MAGA Huntington Beach City Council wanted so they

could continue their drive to privatize the library and ban all books they consider obscene, even those books dealing with potty training because of the subject matter.

Trump placed his sidekick Elon Musk in charge of reducing the federal workforce supposedly to eliminate fraud and corruption, although there has been no proof of such fraud and corruption. From essential library services for people with disabilities to summer reading programs for families, as well as reading initiatives, workforce readiness and opportunities to earn online high school diplomas — our city council will not object to any of this and welcomes the library budget cuts.

Wisconsin citizens recently took a stand against Musk’s attempt to buy a state Supreme court seat and voted down his candidate. Huntington Beach citizens have an opportunity to do the same by voting yes in support of Measures A and B on June 10 to show our support for our library system. Our state Atty. Gen. Rob Bonta has filed a law-

suit against Trump’s executive order to reshape voting and we should do our part by standing up for the library and the services it provides to our community.

Richard C. Armendariz
Huntington Beach

Showing support for NMUSD school board candidate

I am writing to express my support for Andrea McElroy’s candidacy for the Newport-Mesa School Board.

As the candidate endorsed by the Newport Beach Police and Fire Associations, Andrea brings a unique perspective with a commitment to our community’s values and the importance of school safety.

Andrea’s focus on academic excellence is exactly what our schools need. She understands that our children deserve a top-notch education centered on core subjects. Her dedication to parental rights ensures that families will have a voice in their children’s education, and a commitment to the partnership between

schools and the community.

Importantly, Andrea is committed to keeping the culture wars out of our classrooms. Our schools should be places of learning, not battlegrounds for ideological debates. With Andrea on the school board, we can trust that the focus will remain on preparing our students for success.

I urge voters to support Andrea McElroy for NMUSD school board. Her priorities align with the needs of our students and families, and her endorsements reflect her strong ties to our community.

Dianne Wells
Newport Beach

As a grandmother of two Area 5 students in the Newport-Mesa Unified School District, I am voting for Andrea McElroy in the upcoming special election. I trust her to make policy decisions that prioritize student achievement and well-being.

Andrea believes schools should never withhold information from parents. She is determined to safe-

guard the vital parent-child relationship and maximize transparency between parents and schools about their children.

Additionally, Andrea stands out as the only candidate endorsed by both the Newport Beach Police and Fire associations. A school district’s primary responsibility is to provide a safe learning environment for our children, and Andrea’s public safety endorsements demonstrate she is the most qualified to fulfill this duty. Their partnership with our schools is critical and Newport Beach Police and Fire trust Andrea’s dedication to public safety.

In the end, a school board trustee’s responsibility is setting and maintaining sound policies — not attending school events or knowing lots of school employees. I trust Andrea McElroy with my vote because she will enhance educational quality, keep our kids safe and maximize parental access to information about their children.

Kristy Gladding
Newport Beach

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Success tastes sweet for H.B. teen running dessert shop

BY MATT SZABO

Huntington Beach teenager Matthew Hunein still spends long hours just up the street from where he went to high school, although now he finds himself firmly entrenched in the real world.

The 2024 Edison High graduate recently opened a dessert shop, Crzookie Cookies and Ice Cream.

His senior project for Edison's Center for International Business and Communications Studies (CIBACS) program became a brick-and-mortar shop when it opened its doors last month.

Hunein's staff of 16 consists of local high school students, and a couple of people who attend Orange Coast College. Some of the staff are currently students in the CIBACS program themselves.

He said he definitely gets plenty of foot traffic from Edison, but he's also been feeling the good vibes from other places as Crzookie has gotten off the ground.

"Random strangers off the street that maybe I met once, a year ago, they remember me and they're rooting for me and they're genuinely happy for my success," said Hunein, 18. "The community in Huntington Beach is un-



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

EDISON HIGH alumnus Matthew Hunein stands with his mom Lilian at Crzookie Cookies and Ice Cream in Huntington Beach.

matched."

Hunein operates the business owned by his parents, who also own three other restaurants in Orange County.

Lilian Hunein said all three of her kids were in the CIBACS program. Ashley, 25, is the oldest and runs a coffee shop in Santa Ana, inside a restaurant that the family also owns.

"It's a great program," Lilian Hunein said.

"[Matthew] was a shy kid, very introverted, and the guy who came out of that program is completely different. To me, it taught them how to speak in public. It taught them résumé building, it taught them how to interview. During our interview process for our employees, you can tell the difference between the ones that were in the CIBACS program and the ones that were not."

Matthew, who was also Edison's ASB president as a senior, was in the CIBACS program for all four years he was at the campus.

The program has a long history.

Lori Chlarson, an English teacher at Edison who is the CIBACS faculty coordinator, said the program is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. Students have projects each year. Their freshman year, the project

involves moving an existing business to another country — Matthew Hunein came up with logistics of moving Jersey Mike's to Portugal.

As the students progress in the program, they job shadow their junior year, trying to identify their dream career.

Each CIBACS student then must write a business plan as part of their senior project; Matthew Hunein's was 42 pages long and included plenty of market analysis. He purposely opened his dessert shop next to a Chipotle, thinking customers might want some sweets after devouring their burrito bowls.

Chlarson can cite plenty of success stories from the program, which incorporates the students' English and social studies classes and has about 300 Edison students involved each year across the four grade levels. Many CIBACS alumni come back and judge students' projects in the spring.

"I'm just really proud of the work that Matt put into doing this, finding his footing," Chlarson said. "Following through and being able to actually open the doors on something like that is quite an accomplishment. It's really nice to see it actually come to fruition for him. He's got the marketing aspect of it wired. He came

to our school and brought cookies to all of his teachers, then he went to the school district office and did the same thing over there."

Crzookie has 16 ice cream flavors and 10 different warmed cookies available, along with bonuses like dirty sodas. Matthew Hunein has labeled beignets with syrup and powdered sugar that will be available soon "Habibi Bites," a nod to his Egyptian heritage.

There's been plenty of fine tuning, but he said the biggest thing he's learned in the whole process is patience. The architectural plans were submitted in November of 2023, but he and his family had to wait for different approvals and construction before Crzookie could become a reality.

"Patience is the biggest thing that I didn't think that entrepreneurs needed," Hunein said. "I knew they needed it, but I didn't know how important it was going to be."

Hunein is currently studying business administration at Irvine Valley College. He takes courses online so he can tend to the dessert shop.

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BRIDGE

Continued from page A1

north and Mesa Verde Country Club to the south make building out the two-lane road a dicey proposition.

"In order to put a bridge up, hypothetically, you'd have to do a lot of eminent domain, including a school site, the Mesa Verde golf course and about 20 to 30 homes," Mayor John Stephens said Thursday. "Obviously, nobody in Costa Mesa wants that. It

would be brutal for the residents of Mesa Verde."

For that reason, city leaders have fought since 1991 to have the Garfield-Gisler bridge removed from the Master Plan of Arterial Highways (MPAH), now under the jurisdiction of the Orange County Transportation Authority.

Joined in their effort by Huntington Beach, and later Fountain Valley, officials and residents alike have pushed the agency to conduct traffic studies and consider alternative infrastructure improvements

that would negate the need for the bridges.

With the penning of a memorandum of understanding in 2006, the involved parties agreed to implement a series of improvements, including intersection upgrades, street widening and new freeway on-ramps. And, in the meantime, a few seismic changes to the surrounding area have worked out in the cities' favor.

Orange County population forecasts have trended

See **Bridge**, page A8



A PORTION OF Costa Mesa's Gisler Avenue would possibly be destroyed, if the county were to enact a plan to connect the two-lane road with the four-lane Garfield Street, across the Santa Ana River, in Huntington Beach.

Don Leach
Staff
Photographer

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12:59

Los Angeles Times TimesOC



California State Parks seasonal lifeguard Sierra Fockler discovered a 14-inch Pacific football fish around 2:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 13, near the lifeguard station located at Crystal Cove State Park in Orange County. It's the second such case of the fish washing ashore over the last three years. (Courtesy of California State Parks)

Good morning. It's Wednesday, Oct. 25. I'm Carol Cormaci, bringing you this week's [TimesOC newsletter](#) with a look at the latest local news and events.

Watch where you're stepping on O.C.'s famed sands, because you may encounter a rare specimen of marine life. One, in fact, that has very sharp teeth.

That's what happened on a recent afternoon to lifeguard Sierra Fockler, who found a spooky-looking black angler fish, specifically a Pacific football fish, while she was walking near the lifeguard headquarters building on Moro Beach, located within Crystal Cove State Park.

Spring for Easter brunch at these O.C. restaurants

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

On Easter Sunday, hop over to one of these Orange County restaurants serving brunch for the occasion. There are indulgent options like a four-course brunch menu that starts with caviar-topped deviled eggs, fresh choices like seasonal garden-inspired menus and even classic Mexican breakfast dishes served with fresh fruit margaritas.

POPPY & SEED
350 S. Anaheim Blvd.
Anaheim
(714) 603-7130

This greenhouse-inspired Anaheim Packing District restaurant is a wonderful place to taste the bounty of spring. Poppy & Seed is set within an edible garden, where James Beard Award-nominated chef Michael Reed and wife Kwini host diners in an atmosphere that feels like an endless garden party. On April 20, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Reed will serve an Easter brunch buffet with items like his famous buttermilk fried chicken and waffles, braised short rib hash and baked eggs, snow crab claws, shrimp cocktail, freshly shucked oysters, made-to-order omelets and scratch pastries and bakery treats. Brunch is \$102 per person with optional mimosa kits that include a bottle of champagne and a trio of fresh juices priced at \$65. Reservations are recommended.

FAT OF THE LAND
700 N. Main St., Unit A,
Santa Ana
(714) 486-2372

An intimate space on the outskirts of Downtown Santa Ana, Fat of the Land serves European-inspired tapas alongside a tightly curated wine list. Owner Robert Paetz and chef Van Duong have created a cozy restaurant for diners who want a plate of Jamon de Iberico or Cantabrian anchovies on piquillo peppers, along with a glass of



Emily J. Davis

CELEBRATE SPRING with a garden-inspired brunch menu this Easter Sunday at Poppy & Seed in Anaheim.

Albariño. Brunch is typically served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, but the kitchen will open up early, at 10 a.m., on Easter Sunday. Indulge in a Spanish tortilla Benedict derived from the traditional egg and potatoes omelet with piquillo peppers and hollandaise, or orange cream French toast with Grand Marnier whipped cream.

LA VIDA CANTINA
1870 Harbor Blvd.,
Costa Mesa
(949) 612-2349

Enjoy Sunday brunch on one of Orange County's largest outdoor patios — equipped with fire pits and two over-sized palapas — at La Vida Cantina. Winter isn't truly over until you've sipped a beverage outdoors and this Costa Mesa Mexican restaurant and bar has fresh fruit margaritas at the ready. Sunday brunch is served from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and features classic Mexican breakfast dishes

like chilaquiles, served in your choice of green or red sauce with queso fresco and two eggs, any style. Diners can also choose from maple syrup-drizzled French toast, huevos con chorizo, breakfast tostadas piled high with refried beans, shredded pork, poached egg and avocado or a hefty breakfast burrito that's stuffed with scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, potatoes and Jack cheese. Bottomless mimosas are priced at \$20 or select one of the many margarita options, like blueberry basil, watermelon mint or cactus fruit. For reservations call (949) 612-2349.

MARCHÉ MODERNE
7862 Pacific Coast Hwy.
Newport Beach
(714) 434-7900

Marché Modern has been a favorite fine dining destination for Orange County since 2007 and chefs Florent and Amelia Marneau continue to draw diners for their sophis-

ticated French cuisine. While the restaurant usually only offers a regular dinner menu or chef tasting menu, Marché is bringing back its beloved Sunday brunch for a few special Sundays, including Easter. The four-course brunch menu priced at \$129 per person starts with an amuse-bouche of caviar deviled egg, followed by first course options like sashimi-grade hamachi poke with pickled ginger and sweet onions, radishes and mango and jalapeño sorbet or smoked coppa ham antipasti. Second course choices include "Everything Coconut" French toast with macadamia nougatine and coco-mango gelato, a brown butter crepe with smoked salmon, garnished with Kaluga Hybrid caviar, crème fraîche, dill, yuzu, shishito pepper, onion jam and pickled cucumbers or a Croque Madame, served with French-style truffle jambon blanc, Comté Du



Courtesy of La Vida Cantina

ENJOY SUNDAY brunch outdoors at La Vida Cantina.



Courtesy of Fat of the Land

ORANGE CREAM French toast at Fat of the Land in Santa Ana.

Jura cheese, a sunny side up egg and portobello champignon salade verte, to name a few. Finish with a dessert like black truffle vanilla ice cream or English Devon cream trifle. A supplement of boulangerie boards for two or four will also be available with fresh baked treats like croissants pur beurre, raspberry danish, Kouign Amann and Amelia's Hawaiian mango-passion sugar scone. Available from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., you will not see brunch again at Marché Moderne until Mother's and Father's days, so reservations are highly recommended.

THE MARKET BY THE MEAT CELLAR
31864 Paseo Adelanto,

Suite 105
San Juan Capistrano
(949) 503-1548
Located at San Juan Capistrano's newest hub, River Street Marketplace, the Market by the Meat Cellar is an immersive experience. Founded by Anthony and Sara Villegas, the hybrid artisan butcher, epicurean boutique and steakhouse restaurant makes it possible for guests to shop the prime dry aged meats and specialty food items served from the Meat Cellar kitchen. On April 20, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Meat Cellar invites diners to an all-you-can-eat brunch buffet. Priced at \$120 per person and \$45 for kids under 12, the buffet will center around a carving station featuring Moroccan spiced Colorado lamb, orange blossom honey glazed Kurobuta pork and cabernet rosemary jus glazed prime rib. There will also be seafood, including shrimp cocktail, ceviche, oyster shooters, domestic and imported cheeses and charcuterie, desserts, salads and an omelets and scramble station, made-to-order with organic eggs. Reservations are recommended but walk-ins are welcome.

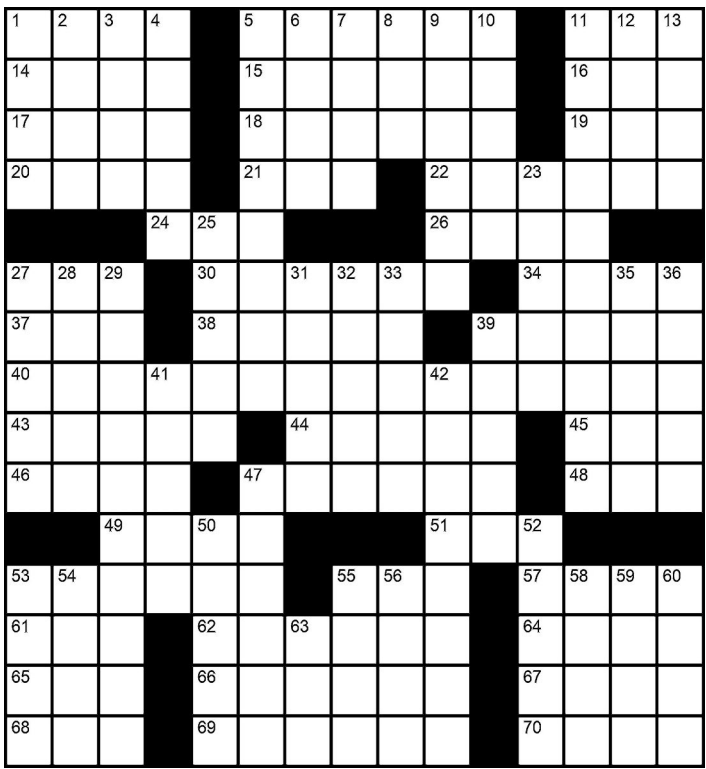
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THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Stella Zawistowski

ACROSS

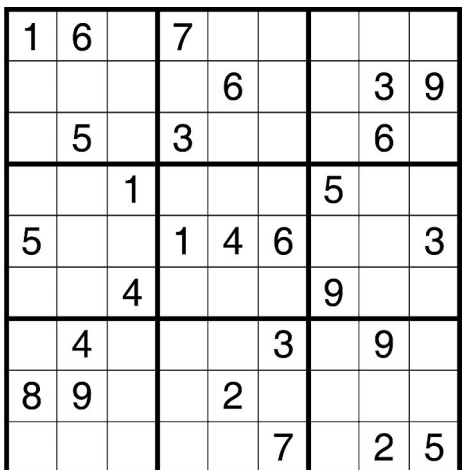
- 1 Facts and figures
- 5 Exertion
- 11 Tech that gives directions: Abbr.
- 14 Iniquitous
- 15 Playwright Arthur
- 16 River in Spanish
- 17 Window ledge
- 18 Public promise
- 19 Shade tree
- 20 Dark green veggie
- 21 Bitter beer
- 22 Take a breath
- 24 Yang and _
- 26 Secrecy documents: Abbr.
- 27 Banned organic chemical: Abbr.
- 30 Colón's country
- 34 Star in Lyra
- 37 Not feeling well
- 38 Wise saying
- 39 Cringe in fear
- 40 "Little Women" author: 3 wds.
- 43 Levels off
- 44 Each and _ day
- 45 Japanese sash
- 46 Stitched
- 47 Log-on name: 2 wds.
- 48 Artificial coloring
- 49 Perceive sounds
- 51 Buddhist discipline
- 53 Commences
- 55 Vietnamese soup
- 57 "Draht!": 2 wds.
- 61 Actor Holbrook
- 62 "Pay attention!"
- 64 Toon Betty
- 65 Chopping tool
- 66 Turkey's capital
- 67 Go the distance
- 68 That guy's



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 A4.

- 69 Summer or winter
- 70 Former lovers

DOWN

- 1 Office furniture
- 2 Nike competitor
- 3 Cash drawer
- 4 Narrow passage
- 5 Savory turnover
- 6 Overstuff

- 7 Run away
- 8 Ancient
- 9 Oscar winner King
- 10 Fashion fad
- 11 Oily shrub
- 12 Tedious person
- 13 Inexact amount
- 23 Great disorder
- 25 "No bet": 2 wds.

- 27 Heaps
- 28 Bit of garlic
- 29 Huge marine mammals: 2 wds.
- 31 Monikers
- 32 Tequila ingredient
- 33 "Twilight" author Stephenie
- 35 Make do: 2 wds.
- 36 Bandleader Shaw
- 39 Bonnie and _
- 41 Toward the center
- 42 Phoenix native, e.g.
- 47 Related to bears
- 50 Book of maps
- 52 High-minded
- 53 Old Iranian ruler
- 54 Cab
- 55 School support groups: Abbr.
- 56 Valiant one
- 58 Elaborate deception
- 59 Organ that smells
- 60 Makes a choice
- 63 Reggae relative

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Irving Barclay Theatre CHENG HALL

All dates, times, artists, programs, and prices are subject to change.

DISCIPLINE

Continued from page A1

and led chants through a megaphone during the march. He received an email from the Dean of Student Affairs office on Tuesday alerting him to an administrative hearing that could result in disciplinary action.

“It’s just part of the university pushback and repression of voices,” Moos told TimesOC. “As a group, Students for Justice in Palestine were hoping we wouldn’t get something like this, but we can’t say we’re surprised, either.”

Carly Murphy, a Chapman University spokesperson, did not answer direct questions about how many students are facing discipline and what such punitive actions could be, citing student privacy concerns.

Murphy otherwise defended the university’s policies in a prepared statement.

“In addition to fully supporting free speech, including peaceful protests and demonstrations, we encourage and nurture civil discourse,” she said. “We have an important role to play in this regard, as an educational institution, and our policies aim to provide opportunities for everyone.”

Michael Daniels, outreach chair of Students for Justice in Palestine, also received an email about his scheduled April 14 hearing, which includes a “failure to comply” charge.

“They haven’t told us



Gabriel San Román

STUDENTS MARCH on campus at Chapman University during last month’s “protect DEI” protest.

what the punishment could be,” he said. “I don’t know what to expect. I could be suspended.”

According to a university email sent to students about the hearings, Dean of Students Jerry Price and Tristan Alpert, assistant dean of students, approached student activists at the rally around noon and informed them about the amplified sound rules.

The conduct code for events states amplified sound must be approved in advance and that it is otherwise not permitted during

weekdays in outdoor areas that “could disturb classes, university business or nearby residents of Orange.”

After the conversation with Price, student activists continued using amplified sound as alleged in a university “incident summary” that included surveillance footage and screenshot photographs.

At least three Students for Justice in Palestine members face discipline related to the protest. Two other student activists were identified for alleged policy violations in the incident sum-

mary.

Students for Justice in Palestine used amplified sound during a walk-out last April. One month later, the group set up a pro-Palestinian encampment on campus where speakers routinely used a microphone. An agreement between university officials and student activists led to the encampment being voluntarily dismantled without any disciplinary action taken.

Students for Justice in Palestine claimed that university officials made a ver-

bal agreement not to alter any free speech policies on campus but its members came back for the fall semester to updated and expanded rules, including on amplified sound.

Since then, tensions over the Gaza War have continued to roil the university.

In January, Students for Justice in Palestine had an MLK award rescinded amid outcry from university president Daniele Struppa, who sent a campus-wide email criticizing the award and pro-Israel groups.

That same month, an ar-

chivist resigned from Barry and Phyllis Rodgers Center for Holocaust Education, accusing it of “silence on the apartheid state of Israel and its ongoing genocide against the Palestinians in Gaza.”

The Anti-Defamation League graded Chapman with a “D” for “deficient approach” on its 2025 campus antisemitism report card that sounded a high-alert for “severe antisemitic and anti-Zionist incidents.”

U.S. Education Secretary Linda McMahon’s letter to Chapman over alleged antisemitism followed — as did the student protest that drew hundreds in response.

Most recently, Moos and Daniels began a hunger strike calling on Chapman to preserve DEI, protect international and undocumented students and divest from war.

Daniels ended his fast before receiving the email about the hearing.

Moos, who counted Wednesday as his 10th day of fasting, faces his own hearing on April 16. He plans to make a case against the conduct codes, which he said unfairly hampers the ability of students to organize protests in an urgent manner.

“If you want to have a protest, then you have to go through the significantly long process of getting a space and getting permission for all these things,” Moos said. “By that time, the moment has passed.”

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BRIDGE

Continued from page A6

downward, from 3.6 million to 3.3 million, in the last two decades, while completion of OCTA’s \$2.16-billion I-405 Improvement Project in 2023 increased the freeway’s capacity, lessening the need for arterial connectors.

Those changes led the transportation agency to determine that the

Garfield-Gisler bridge was no longer necessary.

“Based on the fact that forecast congestion has not increased in the study area reviewed in this analysis, there is no indication of a need for further in-depth study of the MPAH status of the Garfield-Gisler [right of way] reserve,” a 2025 technical study concluded.

“It is recommended that the facility be fully removed from the MPAH

without significant impacts on traffic or congestion in the area.”

Stephens and Orange County Supervisor Katrina Foley, two longstanding opponents of the bridge proposal, serve on OCTA’s Board of Directors as well as a Regional Transportation and Planning Committee that reviews highway programs and makes recommendations to the agency’s board of directors.

On Monday, the committee formally recommended the project be stricken from the master plan. The move was highlighted in letters of support signed by the public works directors of the cities of Costa Mesa, Huntington Beach and Fountain Valley.

Fountain Valley, which had in previous decades historically supported the Santa Ana River traffic crossings, after Monday’s vote decided to withdraw

its letter of support so the matter could be reviewed by its city council, according to Stephens.

Once a determination is made at that level, it will be up to the OCTA Board of Directors to decide whether to formally adopt the master plan amendment that would leave the Gisler Avenue terminus as it stands today.

Foley said Thursday she was hopeful for a positive outcome.

“We can’t exactly have a highway running through our nice residential communities — you’d be taking out schools, homes and beautiful open spaces, the golf course, etc.,” she said. “We’ve been working on this for many decades here in Costa Mesa, and it’s finally time to take this bad idea off the Master Plan of Arterial Highways.”

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