Daily Pilot Times OC

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Class offers a window on fashion



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

ORANGE COAST COLLEGE fashion students Rebecca Lee, Lizbeth Delgado, and Velinda Quintana, from left, study the Dior storefront display of South Coast Plaza Wednesday.

Orange Coast College fashion instructor met students at South Coast Plaza to impart lessons on storefront design.

BY SARA CARDINE

South Coast Plaza, a premier destination for brand-conscious shoppers this week doubled as a classroom for Orange Coast College fashion students, who contemplated window displays as they learned the fine art of visual merchandising.

Small groups huddled together before posh storefronts Wednesday, observing the intricacies of register placement, materials selection, color and tone at mega retailers Chanel, Dior, Louis Vuitton and Saint Laurent, among oth-

They were there at the behest of instructor Steve Jones, who teaches a Display and Visual Presentation class for OCC's Fashion Department.

"What I really want you guys to think about is why this brand chose what it did for the storefront," Jones told the class ahead of the assignment. "With each one of these brands, there's a visual language and vocabulary. They're trying to tell you something.

Owner of boutique real estate development company bettershelter, Jones served as vice president of visual arts for Huntington Beach-based surfwear retailer Quicksilver from 1989 to 2007. There, he oversaw the design of hundreds of stores for the company and sister brand Roxy. He's been bringing stu-

dents to South Coast Plaza

See Fashion, page A7



Rocker turned barber opens shop, clippers in hand

BY MATT SZABO

Fostering a sense of community has always been important to Jake Bushnell.

He used to do it with a microphone and his voice as the lead singer and drummer for reggae rock band HB Surround Sound.

A couple of decades later, Bushnell does it with a barbershop chair, a pair of clippers and

He is preparing to open up Nice Day Barbershop in Hunting-

ton Beach on Friday, Oct. 6. He never really left Surf City — Bushnell, 44, now lives in Newport Beach near Hoag Hospital but it's a homecoming of sorts.

This new barbershop is less than a mile away from the Ocean View School District schools he used to attend, Village View Elementary School and Spring View Middle School. His alma mater of Marina High School is also just a couple of blocks north on Springdale Street.

Bushnell, who worked at Huntington Surf & Sport for seven years during the early years of his

See **Barber**, page A2





Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

CO-FOUNDERS LORRAINE HAN and Dan Yang, from left, stand with "Spring #1" and "Cat's Eye Autumn Camellia" by artist Bing Liu at the Unveil Gallery in Irvine. The pair have launched the new gallery space and intend to amplify diverse voices and provide a platform for emerging and established artists.

Inaugural exhibition at Unveil Gallery features 4 'amazing' artists

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

Art advisor and Irvine resident Lorraine Han was troubled by the lack of art galleries in her

"I was traveling to L.A., going to different galleries and museums, and I found it very strange that there were not many galleries in Orange County in the more strict, contemporary art sense," said Han, "especially in

Inspired by the opening of the Orange County Museum of Art in Costa Mesa and encouraged by the work of nonprofits like Grand Central Art in Santa Ana, Han felt compelled to contribute to Orange County's growing art

"I live here and I love this city and I do want to contribute a little bit," said Han. "Having one art institution in O.C. is not

enough." Han partnered with friend. artist and fellow Irvine resident Dan Yang to open Unveil Gallery



ARTIST LARISSA ROGERS' "Of eaters, and eaten" shows melted porcelain and glass, with candied brown sugar at the Unveil Gallery.

at 200 Technology Drive, and on Sept. 23, the gallery's grand opening hosted about 100 people. Unveil's inaugural exhibition, "Displacement and Belonging," features the work of four female artists, each with

unique backgrounds. 'We are very, very happy to have these four amazing female artists showing with us here,"

said Han. "They are united here,

See Gallery, page A4

with his son, Rocky, under

BUSHNELL,

his new sign for Nice Day Barbershop, a beach-vibe barbershop in the Westfair Shopping Center in Huntington Beach.

Don Leach



ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



Courtesy of the Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel

CHEF SANJAY RAWAT SAYS HE HOPES HIS NEW RESTAURANT AND OTHER PROJECTS INSPIRE OTHERS PAGE A4

Underground utility proposal heads to voters

BY ANDREW TURNER

The fate of a substantial undergrounding project in Laguna Beach will be in the hands of associated property owners this

A proposed underground utility assessment district, covering 380 parcels in the Woods Cove neighborhood, received the backing of the City Council on Tuesday evening.

The council unanimously passed resolutions approving the engineer's report and declaring intent to form the district should a weighted vote of the assessed property owners favor proceeding with the project.

Councilman George Weiss recused himself from the item because his residence falls within the proposed district.

Pierre Sawaya, the city's senior project manager, said the estimated cost of the project is \$14.485 million. The construction bid is good until May.

Ballots, which will be distributed in early October, are scheduled to be counted during a public hearing when the City Council meets Dec. 12.

Mayor Bob Whalen noted the proposed Woods Cove project would be the city's biggest underground utility

"One thing that has come up in the council conversation that we're thinking



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

POWER POLES line Glenneyre Street in Woods Cove in Laguna Beach, where an underground utility assessment district has been proposed.

about is whether there's a way we can kind of incentivize [other] neighborhoods to look at the process and see if we can develop

some larger districts because there are economies of scale that come with the larger districts.

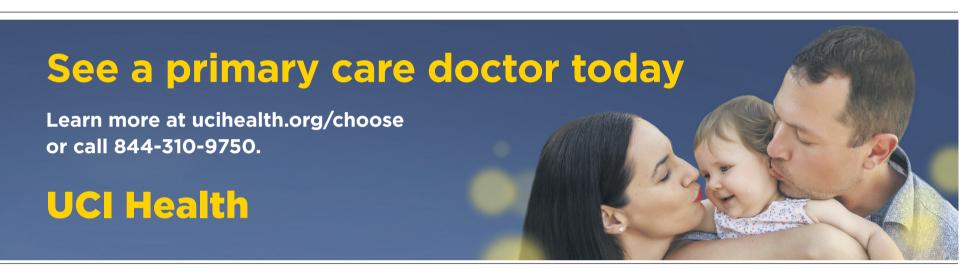
'I think we're seeing that

with Woods Cove. The good news on this was the construction bid came in several million dollars under original projections, so that

allowed the assessments to be lower."

Assessment values are expected to range between \$4,286 and \$85,928, according to a staff report. The average assessment across the 380 parcels is \$38,132.

See **Utility**, page A7



BARBER

Continued from page A1

band, has sparked a new connection with his past. When he reached out on social media announcing his new barbershop, Bushnell said he heard from people he hadn't talked to since those Marina days of the mid-1990s.

"I'm going to be seeing people that I haven't seen in 25 years, and I can't wait to see them." Bushnell said. "When you're a barber, you get to visit with every one of your friends all the time. They just come to you every couple of weeks, and you catch up. I can't wait to be back in everyone's life. That's so rad, and now they get to meet [my 4-year-old son] Rocky.'

Bushnell anticipates Rocky being in the shop at least a couple of times a week, since he and his wife, Lorna, both work full-time jobs. Bushnell has had a few of those since HB Surround Sound, which reunited for a few years, stopped playing shows in

He spent about a year as tour manager for popular reggae rock band Dirty Heads, which features his brother, Dustin "Dirty B" Bushnell, as a group member. But what came next?

'[HB Surround Sound] decided to give it a break, and I realized I don't have any other skills," Jake Bushnell said. "I had a friend who was also a musician who had gotten off the road and became a barber. I called my friend, and asked, 'What's barbering like? All I know how to do is play drums and sing."

Bushnell's friend invited him to spend a weekend at his barbershop, American Vintage in Long Beach. Bushnell fell in love with it, and quickly signed up for a barber school in Westmin-

He ended up barbering at American Vintage for about seven years. During this time, he started his "The Morning Ride Show," streaming himself live as he would drive up Pacific



Courtesy of Jake Bushnell

JAKE BUSHNELL, right, recorded with his brother "Duddy B" of Dirty Heads during the lockdown on the "Feelin Good With Duddy" podcast. He's opening Nice Day Barbershop in Huntington Beach on Oct. 6.

Coast Highway to work at Belmont Shore.

"It felt like the most natural change," he said. "A lot of musicians are barbers, you'll find, because it provides you the same lifestyle. You get to be creative, you're cutting hair, you get to talk trash with people. There's really no rules. You can wear whatever you want, for the most part. You can make your own schedule, you listen to cool music if you're at the right shop. It almost feels like you're on tour just sitting backstage and talking with the other bands ... It's so fun.'

Annie Ustayan, owner of American Vintage Barbershop, saw some of those personality traits in Bushnell. She said she and her team wish him well in his new venture.

"He's an excellent barber with a good attitude," Ustayan said. "Jake had a lot of stories to bring to the table with his music background. He's just very enthusiastic about life, so I think he connected with his clients a lot in his chair. On top of being a good barber, I think [his upbeat



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

SINGER AND drummer and now barber Jake Bushnell looks forward to opening his new Nice Day Barbershop in the Westfair Shopping Center in Huntington Beach.

personality is] what got him where he is today.'

The pandemic lockdowns, which came soon after Rocky was born, threw some hiccups into Bushnell's journey. Earlier this year, he barbered for a few months at a little shop called Borto in Newport

But Bushnell knew he

Beach.

wanted his own place. An abandoned nail salon in the Westfair Shopping Center presented that opportunity.

ⁱJake is always looking to take care of others and just uplift people," said his

good friend, Enrique Najera, a teacher at Ocean View High. "He's superpositive, and that's why it's not a coincidence that his shop is called Nice Day Barbershop. He wants to take care of other people and make them look good, and at the same time just

share his story and build community in our hometown. It's a dream come true for all of us because we all want Jake to succeed, you know?"

Najera doesn't play music, but he said he still grew up as an unofficial member of HB Surround Sound. He's also been coaching cross-country and track at his alma mater since 2012, which provided Bushnell an opportunity to give back

By using "The Morning Ride Show" as a fundraiser, Bushnell said he was able to raise \$1.400 in donations for the Seahawks' crosscountry and track programs at a time when they needed it the most.

"He's definitely paid it forward to our kids and our community," Najera said, adding that his friend has even gotten into running himself in recent years. "One thing that I love and admire about Jake is that he's all about the people.'

Nice Day Barbershop will start with three chairs, though Bushnell wants to eventually add a fourth. It will feature a back area with a waiting room, which Bushnell wants to equip with a surfboard rack he's a surfer too — and have World Surf League and mixed martial arts events on television.

He will surely play the music of HB Surround Sound and Dirty Heads in the shop, Bushnell said with a smile. But he also wants to meet younger musicians in bands. If he likes their vibe, he'll feature them on his playlist, which Bushnell plans to keep on Spotify so everyone can enjoy it.

That sense of community remains strong in Bushnell, who sees signs of his past in the shopping center itself. The store next door, Baskin-Robbins, is where he used to get his childhood birthday cakes.

"It felt right," he said. "I gotta open up my own shop, it's time. I'm 44, so let's go."

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Teen's baking company hits the sweet spot

BY LILLY NGUYEN

Shiksha Anand has a deft hand when it comes to baking sweets.

She can make any number of brownies, cookies and muffins, though she says the most requests she gets are for her cheesecakes — the mango one, especially, which she said offers a fresh taste and a bit of brightness with the creamy texture of the cheesecake.

She said she started really cultivating this talent at the start of the pandemic when she and the rest of her family were living in Houston. She's since turned this talent into a small home bakery that she calls Penplatter.

"I had more time," Anand, 17, said of the first days of her nascent business. "I was at home and I was trying to figure out what I wanted to do and be more productive and creative. I got into baking, and I decided I wanted to expand it and make it more of a business and share my desserts. As a baker, it's always really exciting when you have someone try your dessert. They give you feedback, they like it or don't — in order to do that, I decided to make it more [organized] and start selling

Anand said she started first by posting pictures and her recipes on her social media before building her own website in the summer of 2021, when her family relocated to Newport Beach. She took formal courses and then earned her food handler's

certification. By fall, she had figured out the goals she had for Penplatter — focusing on charity through food — after attending a small fair for teen entrepeneurs and collecting a sum of \$250 she donated to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital in November that year.

"That was a big thing for me. It was my first time [selling] and being able to impact society through [my] hard work, passion and creativity — I was 15. That was really meaningful to me and so we started getting into volunteer work," Anand said.

She got in touch with For Goodness Cakes in Huntington Beach, the Orange County chapter for a nonprofit that provides birthday cakes for underprivileged children, and more recently, with Parmarth Sewa Trust in New Delhi, India, to help provide funds for meal kits in rural parts of that country. To date, the organization reports that Anand, through Penplatter, has helped provide roughly 18,000 meals a month for about 75 families of four to five people each.

Anand said she helped assemble and distribute those meal kits herself when she and her family visited India last summer to reconnect with their extended family.

"Being able to go on-site and hand out meal kits myself ... it's the difference between just donating money versus going there ... because you have the personal connection. You feel the change and the



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

SAGE HILL senior Shiksha Anand with her popular mango cheesecake at her home in Newport Beach. The 17-year-old started her own baking company, Penplatter, in 2021 and currently sells her goods through online and fair orders in person.

creativity and dedication that got you there by being able to go there. It was a totally new experience," she said.

Anand said the majority of her sales come from in-person fairs, where she said she's raised roughly \$300 to \$400 in a few hours. So far this year, she's participated in two fairs, with a number of other online sales in-between. She said she can't devote herself to

baking full time, as school takes precedence. But her hope is to one day be able to expand Penplatter into a brick-and-mortar shop.

As a senior at Sage Ĥill School, she said she's planning on majoring in a STEM field while minoring in business or entrepreneurship.

This summer, with her supportive parents cheering her on, she plans on taking a more extensive culinary course to expand her repertoire. Anand said, as of now, all net proceeds of her baking efforts go to charitable causes.

How did she choose the name Penplatter for her baking company?

"Penplatter is made of two parts. Pen, and then platter. Platter has two associations — when you serve a dessert, you serve it on a platter, decorate on a platter. You're serving someone, and that's where our volunteer work comes in part. Pen is a way for me to show my writing and through my website and on Instagram. Sharing my thoughts out ... that's how that [name] came together," Anand said.

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Chef Sanjay Rawat's Kahani debuts in Laguna Niguel

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

Chef Sanjay Rawat came to the Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel a year ago to head up the culinary program dedicated to Indian weddings at the Dana Point Resort.

"This was something very close to me and my culture," said Rawat.

His culinary journey now continues with the opening of Kahani at the Ritz on

"When I immigrated from India eight years ago, I never imagined I would be given the opportunity to helm a restaurant at an iconic resort like the Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel," he

Kahani, which translates to "story" in Hindi, is a new restaurant concept that takes influence from the New Delhi native's experience from his grandmother's kitchen in India and brings it to Dana Point.

"We couldn't be more proud to collaborate with Chef Sanjay to open Kahani on property and share his cooking with resort guests and Southern California locals," said Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel general manager Kelly Steward. "Sanjay has brought joy and comfort to numerous families in the South Asian community and beyond, and we quickly recognized that his talent could not be confined to private wedding events but celebrated

as a full-service concept."
Rawat was born in Uttarakhand, India, a state in Northern India, and grew up in New Delhi. He received his culinary degree in Malaysia, and over the last 10 years he has worked in kitchens like the five-star Taj Hotel in New Delhi to Orange County staple Clay Oven.

"Working around the world, doing my culinary arts in Malaysia, then moving to Bermuda, then working for a five-star hotel in India, it just gave me a different perspective about food," said Rawat. "From the presentation to the

cooking technique, it is different around the world."

Rawat came into his chef de cuisine position at the Ritz in 2022 and earned a following for his bespoke menus designed for 400plus-person, multi-day South Asian weddings.

"I am really big on customizing the menu for weddings," Rawat said. "I talk to the client and try to understand their preferences, their spice level and gather as much information as possible, and then I present a menu to them. Pretty much every wedding has a different menu."

Rawat plans to bring the same care and understanding of Indian cuisine to Kahani, with modern interpretations of traditional dishes

"I want to stay true to the food, I want to stay true to the culture and to the people that I am going to be

serving," Rawat said.
Guest can look forward
to dishes like rogan josh
short rib, which features



Courtesy of the Ritz-Carlton. Laguna Nigue

CHEF SANJAY RAWAT oversees the Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel's new restaurant concept, Kahani.

beef short rib slow-cooked in traditional Kashmiri curry, served with roasted root vegetables, pickled onions and crispy garlic, and a curry sampler that fills the table with daal, curry, rice, naan and all the accompaniments. Rawat said the saag lobster risotto, which highlights whole grilled lobster tail in Tandoori spices, is a perfect

example of the innovation he is bringing to the menu.

"Risotto is Italian, but I have used this rice from Italy with a flavor that is fully Indian," said Rawat. "Pretty much all the components are Indian, apart from the rice."

There will also be some favorite dishes initially developed for catering on the Kahani menu. "Our corn and cardamom bisque is from our banquet menu," Rawat said of the soup that blends cardamom and turmeric and is topped with cilantro crema.

In order to ensure the quality and authenticity of the dining experience at Kahani, the resort formed a voluntary Indian Cultural Committee, made up of several Indian food and beverage managers and directors across finance. operations and banquets with Sanju Beri, the assistant director of food and beverage overseeing the wine, beer and cocktail program. Rawat said the committee decided each detail of Kahani.

"It was so helpful, and it all happened under Kelly Steward's guidance," said Rawat. "Having this Indian Cultural Committee helped us decide the uniform for those representing the front of the house, the environment and the type

See **Kahani,** page A7

GALLERY

Continued from page A1

telling their different sto-

Shuling Guo, Bing Liu, Fei Xue and LaRissa Rogers use different mediums and themes in their work, but each uses their talent to explore the world they come from and their place within it. The artists in the group show are united by diasporic experiences, and Han said "Displacement and Belonging" is balanced by two well-established

artists and two new voices.
A series from Shuling
Guo, titled "Every Flower
That Opens its Sweet Eyes,"
for example, showcases a
new direction for the young

"Shuling Guo is originally from China, and she migrated to the East Coast in 2019, before the pandemic," said Han.

Guo was classically trained at an art school in Beijing but now is based in Philadelphia where she lives on a boat with her husband and their 1-year-old daughter. Using pencil on paper, Guo creates images that evoke the exultation of nature.

"Her work is very organic, abstract with a lot of natural figures," said Han. "The title is inspired by a poem from William Blake



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

ARTIST FEI XUE uses ink and oil-pigment characters in "Sweetwords 07," on tiles on display at the first exhibit at the new Unveil Gallery in Irvine.

called 'To The Evening Star.'"

The original line reads, "Blue curtains of the sky, scatter thy silver dew / On every flower that shuts its sweet eyes." But Guo changes the line to a flower opening instead, signifying an awakening rather than slumber.

"Having a new baby around her makes everything seem so new, so like it is like a flower opening,"

said Han. Bing Liu's work also draws inspiration from travels outside of Beijing, where she is also from.

"If we look at Bing's work, it is very different from traditional Asian artists," said Han. "It is very expressive and it is very colorful."

Liu is an established artist in China and her work has been shown in major museums and galleries, like Line Gallery, Beijing, and her oil paintings on canvas feature vegetation and animals found in her travels abroad, balancing rocks similar to those found in Lake Victoria in the city of Mwanza, in "Spring #1" or the falling leaves in "Cat's Eye Autumn Camellia," modeled after cat's eye camellia leaves found in Africa.

Fei Xue, from Chongqing, China, paints surreal characters directly on found tiles from ruins and abandoned houses using a technique that incorporates sand and color, making for earth-toned pigments with a fine texture. Xue's series

"Sweetwords" is made up of 12 tiles that tell individual stories but also come together in one narrative.

"If you look carefully, the story isn't about kind sweet words but conflict," said Han.

LaRissa Rogers is easily the most established artist in the exhibition, and her work at Unveil is powerful and looming. Rogers is a Los Angeles-

based artist originally from Charlottesville, Va. Her African American and Korean identity is a prominent theme in her work. She began her ceramics journey two years ago, while researching sugar for her exhibition "We've Always Been Here, Like Hydrogen, Like Oxygen." The result is "Textures of Enfleshment (a silent viewer)," a handpainted wallpaper pattern that depicts multiple images of a soldier, a mother and child, a home, trees and a small girl wearing a traditional Korean outfit encrusted with a thick, fragrant layer of crystallized brown sugar. A sculptural self-portrait, not unlike a funerary mask, also made of sugar, protrudes from the wall.

The most striking piece is Roger's 'of eaters and the eaten,' where a mahogany table is dusted with white sugar and set with surre-

alist china and sticky puddles of brown sugar. The opulent rug and place settings are juxtaposed by melting glassware and finery that can't seem to hold its shape. The table settings are styled after the 17th and 18th centuries and tell the stories of European economic hegemony based on colonial exploitation as well as the European fascination with Chinoiserie and Asian ceramics.

"This a dialogue with her past and with her future," said Han. "There are lot of messages echoing back and forth between each other."

Han and Yang said they were encouraged by the turnout for their first show.

"We are very grateful that we have received so much support for our artists and friends that showed up for our opening," said Han.

The duo hopes Unveil will continue to champion contemporary art in O.C.

"We have a mission in a way; I do want a really authentic contemporary art gallery to flourish here in Irvine, to serve our community and have everyone have a place to go to enjoy contemporary art and a place for our talented artists showcasing their work," said Han.

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THE DAILY **COMMUTER PUZZLE**

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS 1 Bit of Hershey's chocolate 5 Sanctuary table 10 Ponzi scheme 14 Shem, Ham & Japheth's dad 15 Actor Harrelson 16 Pius XI, for one 17 Dermatitis symptom 18 Lawn game 20 Feather's partner, in phrase 21 Yearn 22 European language 23 Florence's place 25 Pickle container 26 Mar 28 Cellphone

feature 31 Mrs. Ralph Kramden 32 Undress 34 Forest animal 36 Furniture ding 37 Fly fishing reel 38 Ice sheet 39 Gobbled up 40 Inexpensive 41 Fire bell's sound 42 Shun

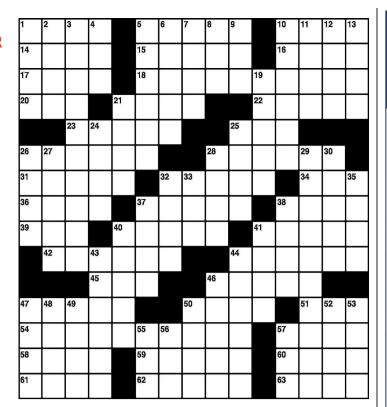
44 Mean pranks 45 Youth 46 Mattress brand 47 Coldly reserved 50 _ one's time; wait 51 Bit of body art,

for short 54 Giving permission 57 Wave movement 58 Carry 59 Flat-bottomed boat 60 Trickle out

61 Observe 62 Peru's range 63 Vane letters

DOWN 1 Make a sweater

2 Greek letter



SUDOKU

By the Mepham Group

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

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

For answers to the crossword and Sudoku puzzles, see page A7.

3 Generously forgoes 4 "Be quiet!" 5 For _; temporarily 6 Cuckoo

7 Shredded 8 Internet pop-ups 9 Deli loaf

10 Globe 11 Weather forecast 12 Gibbons & gorillas 13 Fit snugly together 19 Wetland

21 Walking speed

24 Small nail

unanimously 35 Small barrels 37 Get rid of 38 Driver's woe 40 Rub harshly 41 Central part 43 Walk-in __; modern home feature 44 Rows of shrubs 46 Burn 47 Performs 48 Fingerprint feature 49 Not fooled by 50 Swan or swallow 52 Tool with a wooden handle 53 Golf shop purchase 55 Org. for Kings & Wizards 56 Fawn's color 57 AAA caller's

25 Slammer

26 Carvey or

28 Cut short

27 Upper crust

29 Workaholic's

30 By yourself

32 Gush forth

33 _ man;

Delany

need

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Bungalow Salad Greens, hearts of palm, olives, feta, red onion, bay shrimp, tarragon vinaigrette

Classic Caesar Salad shaved Manchego

Autumn Apple Salad

Mixed greens, cranberries, apples, sunflower seeds, feta cheese, apple cider vinaigrette

ENTRÉE SELECTIONS

Prime Filet Mignon 8 oz. prime filet mignon, Yukon Gold mashed potato fried shallots

California Chicken Breast Pan-seared chicken breast, oven-roasted tomatoes,

avocado, Yukon Gold mashed potatoes

Miso-Marinated Chilean Sea Bass Soy glaze, coconut rice, stir-fried vegetables, mushrooms,

lemongrass ginger beurre blanc

Australian Lobster Tail 10 oz. drawn butter, grilled lemon, Yukon Gold

mashed potatoes (Twenty Dollar Supp

Bone-In Rib Eye 16 oz. prime bone-in rib eye, Yukon Gold mashed potatoes,

fried onion strings (Twenty-Five Dollar Supple Grilled Swordfish

Sweet & sour cauliflower, lemon caper beurre blanc

Double Pork Chop

potato mash, sherry sauce

Slow-Braised Short Rib

DESSERT

New York-Style Cheesecake Vanilla Crème Brûlée

Apple Cobbler A La Mode

Berries & Ice Cream Fresh seasonal berries, vanilla bean ice cre



orum

COLUMN | PATRICE APODACA

Huntington Beach is retreating from progress

he extreme right-wing majority on Huntington Beach's City Council has stirred up so much controversy in its brief reign that it's tough to keep track of all the decisions that have outraged many residents.

Just recently council members proposed charter amendments to require voter ID and ballot box monitoring; voted on bans on mask and vaccine mandates; changed the city's policy on human dignity by cutting references to eliminating hate crimes and adding anti-transgender language; pushed for restrictions on certain library books; and restructured, consolidated or dissolved several longstanding citi-

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zen-led committees and commissions. There's been such a flurry of contentious moves that the council's vote last

February to effectively ban the rainbow Pride flag on city property now seems like ancient history — as well as a warning of more to come.

But for now I'd like to focus on one particular issue: Among the committees that the four-member majority killed was the one dedicated to human rights.

When looking at this decision, it's helpful to take a step back and examine what human rights are really all about.

The term "human rights" might sound a bit vague, but it generally refers to the ability to interact in a heal-

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thy manner with others and build strong relationships. The modern human relations movement actually began in the business world, as a way to help employers succeed by changing their thinking of workers as replaceable

Founded by sociologist George Elton Mayo in the 1930s, the movement was based on a series of experiments known as the Hawthorne Studies, which examined the link between employee satisfaction and workplace productivity.

The movement, and the term, eventually morphed into something more expansive. In 1951, Philadelphia became the first U.S. city to form a human relations agency to combat prejudice and discrimi-

The idea spread, and a couple of decades later Orange County joined in. Since the early 1970s, the county has maintained an organized human relations effort in one form or another, with the intention of eliminating prejudice, intolerance and discrimination. The current iteration is the nonprofit Groundswell (formerly OC Human Relations), which contracts with the county and works with schools, businesses, other government entities, police departments, foundations and others to foster communication and build secure and inclusive communities.

"To me, human relations is about bringing diverse people together and seeing how we can better understand the people we share our community with," said Alison Edwards, chief executive officer of Groundswell.

Ultimately, all people



want to feel safe in their schools, homes and workplaces, she said. In order to accomplish that, communities must build trust among various groups and

"We provide that kind of space for people to meet, share their ideas and humanize one another."

individuals.

Groundswell also provides the county with its annual hate crimes report. The latest report, released on Sept. 21, showed that hate crimes jumped 67 percent last year, and hate crimes and incidents together increased for the eighth consecutive year.

One particularly troubling finding: Alleged hate incidents at schools jumped to 103 from 41 in 2021. Keep in mind that such incidents are routinely underreported.

Clearly, human rights organizations are needed. Back to Huntington Beach.

In voting to disband the city's 26-year-old Human Rights Committee, the council members in favor suggested that the committee's efforts were redundant, as they duplicated work done by police and by Groundswell.

This wholly unsatisfying

rationale ignores the fact that many cities throughout Orange County maintain their own human rights committees because their leaders recognize that every community has a specific set of concerns and

objectives. Indeed, Huntington Beach's now-disbanded **Human Rights Committee** was formed after the 1994 murder of a Black man and the 1996 attempted murder of a Native American, both at the hands of white su-

The committee has done good work over the years partnering with the **Huntington Beach Police** Department to track hate crimes and incidents, overseeing educational programs and organizing community events — and it has had a positive impact. The city was making significant progress in moving away from its past notoriety as a haven for individuals and groups that promoted hate and sometimes used violent means to spread their noxious

ideologies. But to suggest that Huntington Beach is no longer a town in need of continuing vigilance when it comes to human rights, or that the

Pride flags at the Huntington Beach Pier in May, a few months after the City Council voted to limit the types of flags that can be flown

outside City Hall.

ACTIVISTS wave

Courtesy of Sally Sanders

committee's work is superfluous, defies reality. Just last year there were 14 hate crimes and incidents in the city, according to the HBPD, and this year has seen more of the same, including the distribution of anti-Semitic fliers and a surge in anti-LGBTQ+ hate incidents.

This is a city that hosts major events such as the U.S. Open of Surfing and this weekend's Pacific Air Show, and courts tourists and corporations that fuel economic growth. Now some elected leaders are sending the message that not all are welcome. That's bad business.

But more to the point, failing to use the city's resources to fight intolerance and bigotry displays a shocking lack of concern about such vile behavior. The council is neglecting its responsibility to protect all citizens. It's moving **Huntington Beach** backwards, and that is just plain wrong.

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.



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Proposed change to charter is political overreach in H.B.

As a resident of Huntington Beach, I am deeply concerned about the City Council's four conservative members, including our mayor, who want to seize control of municipal elections. There have been a few poorly organized public meetings addressing how the city would either work with the Orange County Registrar of Voters to accomplish this or work completely independently of the Orange County Registrar of Voters to run our elections. The latter is even more disturbing. Given how disorganized and uninformed the four council members are about either process, it makes me wonder how my vote will be handled in future elections. During these meetings, the vast majority of residents who

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File Photo

VOTERS CAST ballots at Huntington Beach Central Library. A proposed charter amendment would require ID to vote.

attended vehemently opposed this move. The public is concerned about the expense (estimated at \$400,000 to \$1,000,000) that would be required to add the proposed charter amendment to the March primary ballot, as well as the ongoing cost to add voter ID administration, new polling places, drop

box monitoring, cameras for drop box locations, extra poll workers and more. Yet there have been no reported incidents of voter fraud either in Huntington Beach or Orange County! Plus, most voters now vote by mail-in ballot. Why should Huntington Beach undergo this madness when there's no reason other than the conservative majority's MAGAdriven paranoia about voter fraud?

The Orange County Registrar of Voters has one of the best reputations in the country for managing secure and safe elections. In fact, it was awarded the ISO 9001:2015 certification, an internationally recognized standard that ensures its services meet the needs of stakeholders using an effective quality management system. It is rare for government institutions to receive this high level of certification, which is typically applied in lead-

ing private industries. I urge our City Council to withdraw its proposal to place this charter amendment on the March ballot.

Carol Daus Huntington Beach

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KAHANI

Continued from page A4

of music."

In addition to the opening of Kahani, Rawat is also preparing for the Ritz-Carlton's second-annual Diwali Mela Dinner, celebrating the Hindu festival of lights on Saturday, Nov.

"Last year's Diwali event was all street food on live cooking stations, and people loved it," said Rawat. "And if people love it I don't want to change much on that."

Rawat said this year, he will incorporate buffet-style serving along with the live cooking stations, in order to keep lines short and allow more guests the chance to try more food.

"I want them to enjoy as much as possible and not waste time standing in line," Rawat said.

Diwali Mela takes place at the edge of the resort's bluff overlooking the ocean, illuminated by string lights and featuring a colorful decor. Rawat will present live food stations



Courtesy of the Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel

KAHANI'S CHENNAI sea bass, topped with delicata squash, is among the dishes from chef Sanjay Rawat.

with modern and traditional regional cuisine, like pani puri shots and mithai, an assortment of Indian sweets. The event will also include Bollywood music and a traditional dance performance.

While opening a new dining concept, planning a Diwali event and continuing to head up the resort's Indian wedding culinary program might seem like a big job for one chef, Rawat said he hopes the story his work tells inspires others.

DAILY PILOT

"I want Kaĥani, my story, to inspire other chefs to dream outside of their parameters and have trust that their journey will come full circle like mine.'

Reservations for Kahani are available on OpenTable. Tickets for the Diwali Mela dinner can be found on Tock.

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UTILITY

Continued from page A2

Assessment values were assigned factoring safety, neighborhood aesthetics and removal of view obstructions such as utility poles.

Two city-owned parcels lie within the district, Fire Station No. 2 on Agate Street and Bluebird Park on Santa Cruz Street. The City Council authorized the city manager to return ballots for those two properties in favor of the project.

The city will contribute \$1.57 million toward the general benefit should the proposed district gain approval. Council members also agreed to a conditional

contribution of \$1.18 million in support of the project on Aug. 8.

A boundary map for the proposed project covers a stretch of Glennevre Street from Agate Street to Arch Street. Aside from the adjacent Coast Highway, Glenneyre is one of the more utilized roadways in Laguna Beach.

"I can't tell you how important it is to go underground," said Stephen Jeppson, an impacted resident who added he works for Southern California Edison. "It just makes the world much safer. ... The maintenance underground is just as high as the maintenance above ground, but the safety in a weather condition, earthquake, when

you're dealing with whatever's happened, after that has finally calmed down, access on the roads is definitely limited.

"With electricity being underground, it is a lot safer. Glenneyre Street is a major street for Fire House No. 2. It's not always easy to get down on PCH and travel, so they use it all the time."

The push to underground overhead utility lines in Woods Cove dates back almost a decade. Petitioners approached the City Council with a request to form an assessment district for a portion of the neighborhood on Sept. 16, 2014.

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FASHION

Continued from page A1

for the past 15 years or so, finding it an ideal learning space for those interested in the business side of the

industry. Last year the Costa Mesa retail center generated a record \$2.4 billion in sales revenue, according to South Coast Plaza representatives, a fact attributed precisely to the number and quality of the brands housed there.

Tenants Van Cleef & Arpels, Giorgio Armani, Gucci, Cartier, Bulgari and Balenciaga are in the process of opening new locations or undergoing major expansions, while retailers Graff Retail, Balmain, Byredo, Bucherer, and Maison Margiela will open storefronts in the coming

weeks and months. "They've got all these incredible brands, and you can see these brands talk the talk and walk the walk," Jones said of the complex

"To really be a fullfledged brand, even in today's online economy, you have to have stores. Stores are a way for them to completely control the environment — it's very much a brand builder."

After receiving basic instructions for the day's lesson, student groups set out to observe their assigned legacy brands and report back in 45 minutes with findings.

Elsie Walker, who transferred to OCC this year from Cypress College, was assigned to study the pla-

za's Saint Laurent store. The 20-year-old Huntington Beach resident noted the retailer's many mirrored surfaces and use



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

FASHION STUDENTS Sierra Herecia, Ella Brynteson and Tetsuma Morino, from left, take notes on the Hermes storefront display as part of OCC fashion instructor Steve Jones' Display and Visual Presentation class.

of the images of pop icons like Gigi Hadid, Zoe Kravitz and Hailey Bieber, which seem to reflect a shift from the tried-and-true traditional French luxe brand Yves Saint Laurent toward a more modern market.

"They're trying to integrate those more popular styles and looks that Gen Z is interested in. [The store] is not necessarily trying to target the old money clientele," Walker said. "It's trying to connect with younger people who know it's cool, but actually want

to wear their clothes.' Ella Brynteson, a 19-yearold Newport Beach resident whose group studied French retailer Hermès, is a second-year OCC student with aspirations of getting a job as a stylist in New

York City. Growing up in Boise, where her mom ran a consignment shop, fashion quickly became a personal passion that allowed her to create an identity.

"I didn't fit in with the popular kids at my high school and couldn't really

figure out what was my thing," Brynteson recalled in a talk after the class. "I would [shop thrift stores] after school, and it sort of became my personality, my friend.'

She said she feels fortunate to be able to take classes at Orange Coast's Fashion Department, which offers a host of realworld, hands-on learning opportunities that expose students to the realities of working in the industry.

Every class I have feels like real life. It doesn't feel like school; it feels like a

job," she said. That's exactly the experience Jones wants students to have with the lesson, as they prepare to design their own retail storefronts for a final project and embark

on their future careers. "Where kids learn is by doing, so I'm trying to get out of the way," he said of the class. "It's meant for them to participate in a real life sort of way."

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CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

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It's alive!

Firkfest reawakens as the Firkenstein Craft Beer Festival.

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

In 2013, Greg Nagel was at a local beer festival when he noticed a long line forming for a brewery serving cask beer. The founder of *OCbeerblog.com* and a well-known fixture in Orange County's beer community wondered why more events didn't feature the traditional brewing method.

"One of the breweries had a cask beer, and there was line of about of 50 people, just to get a taste of it," said Nagel. "I thought maybe we should have an all-cask beer festival. I think there is a lot of magic that can happen with events that are niche and different from every other beer festival."

Nagel launched his own beer festival, Firkfest, in 2014 featuring cask-conditioned beer or "real" ale offerings from local breweries.

"Cask beer is generally how beer is served in the U.K.," he said. "When the beer is finished fermenting, it is transferred into a cask."

Nagel said there are two kinds of casks, the 5.4-gallon pin and the firken, a 10-gallon vessel that is the inspiration for the festival's name.

"You have to hammer the tap into the vessel and also vent it, and sometimes they are served out of things called beer engines, which is just basically a pump, and it is a totally different kind of beer service," said Nagel.

Cask-conditioned beer undergoes a secondary fermentation in the barrel, and since it isn't filtered, live residual yeast and flavors are still present when the beer hits your glass.

"The thing with cask beers is it that it changes over time," said Nagel. "It can get more nuanced, it develops different flavors or aromas, and it seems to change



Photos by Geoff Kagy

BREWERIES LIKE Bottle Logic and Firestone Walker pour craft brews at 2018's Firkfest. This year, the beer festival returns for Halloween as Firkenstein Craft Beer Festival, with proceeds supporting the century-old Anaheim Fall Festival and Halloween Parade.

day to day if you are drinking from the same cask."

In 2020, Frikfest was set to return for its seventh year, but the pandemic prevented the event. Now, for the first time since, the festival is returning as the Firkenstein Craft Beer Festival on Oct .7 from 4 to 8 p.m. at Anaheim's Center Street Promenade.

This year's festival combines
Halloween and Oktoberfest, two
of Nagel's favorite reasons to
celebrate. He also notes the event
is no longer a cask-only festival,
though every beer will be special.

"About half the brewers are bringing cask beers and the other half are bringing a mix, but every beer is made just for the event," said Nagel. "So it is a one-time opportunity to get something from your favorite brewery that you have never had before and you will probably never have again."

Firkfest has traditionally donated its proceeds to charity, and this year, Nagel said the event will benefit the Anaheim Fall Festival and Halloween Parade, which marks its 100th year this October.

"The Anaheim Fall Festival and Halloween Parade is all run by volunteers and neighbors and talented people in our city," said Nagel. "This is my way of giving back to something my family and I enjoy every year."

More than 30 participating breweries including Green Cheek, Bottle Logic Brewing and Riip Beer Co. will be on hand at Firkenstein, and beer lovers are encouraged to come in Halloween costumes. Food options will be provided by Tacos El Gringo, Windsor Brown and a chili popup called Chili Doug. Of course, it wouldn't be Oktoberfest with a bratwurst or two.

"Hoffy is donating a 120



BEER LOVERS try cask-conditioned beers at Firkfest in 2018.

pounds of brats and frankfurters to us, and Villains Brewery is going be helping us smoke those and serve them hot at the event," Nagel said. Tickets are on sale now at *firkfest.com*.

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