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'Creativity of all kinds': Show celebrates festival's centennial

The Anaheim Fall Festival that began in 1923 is a hometown tradition said to have attracted Disney to the area.

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

The Anaheim Fall Festival and Halloween Parade were two of the reasons local artist Evie Yapelli, known professionally as Show Pigeon, moved to Anaheim.

"The parade is what made me want to become an Anaheim resident," she said. "I got involved in the parade back when I was renting an apartment in Costa Mesa. My husband and I were starting to think about where we wanted to buy a home in Southern California, and through the parade we fell in love with the community here."

Anaheim's Fall Festival was established back in 1923 and marks its 100th year when it returns on Oct. 28, along with the Halloween Parade, which was added to the event in 1924. In honor of the festival's centennial, the Downtown Anaheim Community Center is presenting an Anaheim Fall Festival Art Show, featuring original works from some of the most popular Anaheim Fall Festival artists.

"We have an exhibit of 13 of the artists who have been volunteering over the past couple of years to bring back the Halloween Parade and Fall Festival," said curator Kevin Kidney at the show's opening reception on Thursday, Aug. 24.

Show Pigeon, who is both an art creator and tattoo artist, created an original pennant for the show, titled "I Love a Parade," featuring some of the parade's classic characters, like Andy Anaheim, the city's mascot dating back to the 1950s.



Shalene Lundgren

A SOFT SCULPTURE titled "Little Pumpkin Man" by Shalene Lundgren is on display at the Anaheim Fall Festival Art Show. Pumpkin Man is a popular Anaheim Halloween Parade character.

See **Festival**, page A8



Drew A. Kelley

"I LOVE A Parade," by artist Evie Yapelli, at the Anaheim Fall Festival Art Show at the Anaheim Community Center.



Drew A. Kelley

EVIE YAPELLI smiles in conversation during the Anaheim Fall Festival Art Show at the Anaheim Community Center.

BASEBALL TRAINING

Costa Mesa facility helps players hone the craft

BY MATT SZABO

Brooks Pounders figured out his next step almost as speedily as a fastball he used to throw at Major League Baseball parks across the country.

The Newport Beach resident, originally from Riverside, spent several years in the big leagues as a relief pitcher after being called up by the Kansas City Royals in 2016. His tenure included 11 games with the Los Angeles Angels the following year.

But things started moving in a different direction in 2021, after

he was signed by the Seattle Mariners. He tore his rotator cuff and labrum, and also found out that his wife, Lucia, was pregnant with their first child.

"I was just kind of over traveling," said Brooks Pounders, now 32. "I wanted to be home. I was trying to figure out the best way to stay close to my family, and this was it."

"It," in this case, is the Clubhouse in Costa Mesa, a full-service baseball facility that Brooks and Lucia opened in October

See **Baseball**, page A7



TWO PITCHING mounds are featured at the Clubhouse baseball facility in Costa Mesa.

Don Leach
Staff
Photographer



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

MICHELLE WULFESTIEG stands outside "Jerry's Heavenly Home" in Mission Viejo.

Hospice founder answers a calling to help

Driven by a personal passion, Michelle Wulfestieg opened a nonprofit hospice house and plans a second.

BY SARA CARDINE

Just a few years ago, the Heavenly Home — a place where people could spend their final months surrounded by peace and love, no matter their status — was but a dream in the mind of Michelle Wulfestieg.

The Newport Beach resident and executive director of the Costa Mesa nonprofit Southern California Hospice Foundation had spent the better part of her career arranging the care of individuals diagnosed with six or fewer months to live.

But while some had the fortune of being able to receive care in their own homes, many more had no other option than to go to convalescent hospitals or board and care facilities to live out their final days.

So, Wulfestieg rallied board members, friends and associates to help her raise funds to purchase and renovate a six-bedroom house on a quiet street in Mission Viejo that had been the former site of a senior care facility.

"The minute I pulled up to the cul-de-sac, I just knew with all my heart and soul this was our

See **Hospice**, page A2

ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



Spencer Grant

SANTA ANA MARKS CHICANO HERITAGE MONTH WITH A FESTIVAL AND NEW MURAL
PAGE A3

PAGEANT OF THE MASTERS' 'BUILDER' SET PROVIDES PEEK BEHIND THE CURTAIN PAGE A4

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Newport Beach natives band together to connect

BY LILLY NGUYEN

Tom Stillwell suspects there is probably a former Newport Beach resident in just about every country, on every continent in the world, though the jury's still out on Antarctica, he joked.

He knows the membership of his Facebook group certainly has enough people to tout the possibility. In 2010, Stillwell launched the group with the assistance of his daughter and called it "I grew up in Newport Beach BEFORE it was The OC," a tongue-in-cheek reference to "The O.C." television show that debuted in 2003. Stillwell said he started the group at what he describes as the lowest point of his life, and when he was trying to think of a time when he'd been happiest.

It had been when he was growing up in Newport Beach, he concluded.

"All of us had gone through so many things, whether it's the deaths of people we love, war or just politics, any one of a number of things, but what you find [in this group] universally is the pleasant memories of what it was like to grow up there," Stillwell said. "It was an amazing place to grow up. One of the things that people say a lot is that you didn't realize at the time how lucky you were. You just took things like sailing, going to the beach like — 'Well, yeah. Doesn't everybody do that?'"

Stillwell hadn't expected the Facebook group to grow the way it did.

He had thought maybe a couple hundred of people would join it, but today the group boasts of a membership of around 22,600 people by Facebook's metrics and is still going strong. Not all members are active, but he estimates at least 10,000 members contribute to conversations and share stories and pictures.

Stillwell, like many of the group's members, no longer lives in Newport Beach. But he can tell you any number of memories he has from there and businesses he remembers that don't exist anymore. He was a Carden Hall graduate in 1970 and grew up in Dover Shores from 1965 until he left for Tennessee, where he went college in 1978 and has remained ever since.

He's a strict group moderator and focuses on letting in only those that might have remembered Newport Beach between

the end of WWII until the mid-1980s to 1990s — a window of about 50 years. He said that doesn't mean Newport Beach got worse after that time period but that it changed from what he and his members describe as the "golden age" for what they considered a small beach town.

Christie Silsbee Poor, who now lives in Santa Ynez Valley, said she graduated from Newport Harbor High School just a year ahead of Stillwell and joined the group about a week into its existence. Poor remembers being named an outstanding candy stripper at Hoag Hospital in 1973 and going to Five Crowns with her parents for dinner every time she visited until they passed away. Poor left for college in San Luis Obispo and settled in the Central Coast, but she remembers fondly sailing around the harbor in her hometown.

Poor said selling her parents' house after their deaths was "traumatic," especially when the house she grew up in was demolished.

"Here again, I could get online and talk to people who had their houses destroyed. Nothing can destroy our memories. We still have those. Even though our parents have passed [and] we may not be living there, we remember riding our bikes, sailing our little Sabots," Poor said. "It was a special time in our past, holding onto that and being able to share it with people that also appreciate it is priceless."

For Jackie Little Bisset, the memories of life in Newport Beach are fresher. She and her husband lived in the city until 2003, when they decided to move to Chandler, Ariz. She joined the Facebook group about a day or two after it launched when a friend called her to let her know about it.

"The first picture I saw [on the group's page], I fell in love," said Bisset. "It was the classic picture of Dover [Drive] and Coast Highway with the bait shop. I fell in love with it, and there was no going back. When it first stared out, it seemed like it was a group of locals remembering old Newport before 'The O.C.' Over the years, [the group] has grown very much. It's gotten a lot larger and it's still an awesome group and has a lot of wonderful contributors."

But Bisset lamented it didn't have much of the

same small-town feel of when she lived there. She feels the Facebook group is important to her to stay connected to her hometown. She remembers Villa Nova, which she said had the best Italian food ever, and remembers she and her sister hitchhiking down to the beach to surf. She remembers body surfing at the Wedge and finding the waves over at Newport Pier. She also remembers walking from Big Corona to Little Corona.

PHILANTHROPIC EFFORTS

Stillwell said his Facebook group stumbled into philanthropy by accident, after it was suggested its members meet up in person.

"After a while, we thought, 'Maybe if we're go-

See **Connect**, page A9



Courtesy of Tom Stillwell

IN 2015, the "I grew up in Newport Beach BEFORE it was The OC" Facebook group raised \$10,000 for the Ben Carlson Foundation. It's now working to help wildfire victims in Maui.

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Courtesy of "I grew up in Newport Beach BEFORE it was The OC"

CUSTOMERS STAND outside Sugar n' Spice on Balboa Island in September 1970. The shop opened in 1945.

HOSPICE

Continued from page A1

house," she recalled in an interview. "I wanted it to be a place so beautiful, anyone would want to send their loved one there at their end of life. I wanted to make it a sanctuary of hope."

When that pooled fundraising effort still fell short of the purchase price, a donor wishing to remain anonymous pitched in the rest, asking only that it be named after his belated wife.

Jerry's Heavenly Home opened its doors in February, taking in a 51-year-old Newport Beach resident named Megan who'd sustained a traumatic brain injury at 18. Her one wish was to be baptized before she died, so Wulfesteig called in a chaplain, who performed the ceremony in the backyard.

"This woman didn't have a bridal shower. She never had a baby shower — this was her moment, where

her family could love on her," she said, noting Megan died the following week.

The Heavenly Home Project has since served 10 patients, accommodating the peaceful transition of four. While such facilities may exist elsewhere in the state, the nonprofit Mission Viejo facility is the first of its kind in Orange County.

During a visit Tuesday, caregiver Denise Hyde stopped in to visit with 84-year-old June Malchow, a former Lake Forest resident admitted in April.

Malchow was living alone but could no longer fully take care of her needs, which are now amply provided for by the Heavenly Home staff. Working day shifts, Hyde not only oversees her patient's routine care but provides comfort, companionship and free haircuts.

"We're doing everything from changing diapers to cooking and cleaning the house. Each person has similar needs, and yet they



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

THE HEAVENLY HOUSE manager Ky'Shawna Owensby stands in the living room at the Mission Viejo nonprofit hospice house, which has served 10 patients since opening.

all have unique needs," Hyde said.

"We have so many sacred

moments with people here," she continued. "I feel this is a calling."

Draped over Malchow's bed is a handmade quilt provided by a volunteer

network and rendered in purple and lavender, her favorite colors. In early June, staff celebrated her birthday, inviting all her friends. Other highlights include a visit from a mini pony and an Elvis impersonator.

Prognosis aside, it's a comfortable situation for Malchow, whose bed faces sliding doors that lead out to a patio in the lush, green backyard and a eucalyptus that the thin, soft-spoken patient has claimed as her personal tree.

"There have been some really good times, but there have been some bad times," Malchow said of her overall health journey. "[Here], each morning I wake up and usually they have breakfast ready. I watch cooking shows, but I have no interest in cooking."

What makes the Heavenly Home unique is that it accepts low- and fixed-income individuals on a sliding pay scale. Ordinarily,

See **Hospice**, page A3



Photos by Spencer Grant

ARTIST MARINA AGUILERA unveils her mural at El Salvador Park during the Chicano Heritage Festival in Santa Ana.



HOSPICE

Continued from page A2

hospice care includes staff and services but makes no provision for housing or 24-hour care, which can run from \$5,000 to \$40,000 per month.

Currently, three of the Heavenly Home's six residents were admitted with waivers. Staff say they receive multiple calls daily from people interested in placing someone there.

To respond to that need, and having established a Living Legacy Endowment — made possible through the donations of foundation supporters and family members of patients wishing to honor loved ones — Wulfstiegl is looking at purchasing a second home, possibly in North Orange County.

Her team is applying for a California Department of Health Services grant that may someday accommodate a hospice house for 100% waiver patients be-



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

CAREGIVER DENISE HYDE chats with resident June Malchow at the Heavenly Home in Mission Viejo. Malchow has a view of a eucalyptus tree in the green backyard.

cause, she says, "that's really where the need is."

For the 41-year-old Wulfstiegl, caring for those at the end of life is a pas-

sion that comes from personal experience. Born with a cluster of tangled blood vessels and arteries in her brain, she had her first

hemorrhagic stroke at age 11.

Growing up, she dived deeply into the stream of life, excelling at her studies

Santa Ana marks Chicano Heritage Month with a festival and new mural

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

Santa Ana Councilman Johnathan Ryan Hernandez has a special connection to El Salvador Park in Santa Ana.

"I used to play here when I was kid," Hernandez said.

The park at 1825 W. Civic Center Drive also has a connection to Orange County's rich Chicano history, making it the right place to hold the city's second annual Chicano Heritage Festival, which took place on Aug. 27.

"El Salvador Park is part of Artesia-Pilar, one of the oldest neighborhoods in Santa Ana" said Santa Ana Mayor Valerie Amezcuca. "There is a lot of history there regarding the Chicano movement, so it is great place to have the festival ... It is an important place in Santa Ana."

Located on the northwest side of Santa Ana, El Salvador Park has played host to many historically significant events in Orange County, including a march in September 1970 memorializing Los Angeles Times journalist and activist Ruben Salazar, who was killed in a month earlier in East L.A. during what began as a peaceful protest by the National Chicano Moratorium Against the Vietnam War.

Hernandez noted that while the event is an opportunity to remember the past, it's also a chance to look to those in the community who are influencing the future.

"The Chicano Heritage Festival is an event that not only focuses on the Chicano Moratorium and the life of Ruben Salazar, but it also focuses on amplifying the stories of local Santa Ana residents," Hernandez said.

For example, this year singer Vicky Tafoya, a Santa Ana native, performed at the event.

"Vicky Tafoya's family has been in Santa Ana for over 100 years," said Hernandez. "She is an artist with Penrose Records, and she gave one of the most memorable performances we have had



VICKY TAFOYA sings along with the Big Beat at the Chicano Heritage Festival.

in Santa Ana. It is humbling and it's empowering for kids and families to see that."

The first Chicano Heritage Festival in El Salvador Park was held last year, after the city made August Chicano Heritage month in 2021.

County Supervisor Vicente Sarmiento pointed out in his address to Sunday's attendees that Orange County is the first in the nation to declare August as Chicano Heritage Month, ahead of other areas with large Chicano populations like Los Angeles and parts of Texas.

In early August, the Orange County Board of Supervisors also declared August to be Chicano Heritage Month, and the neighboring city of Anaheim followed Santa Ana's lead and made the same declaration.

"Chicano-Chicana heritage is a rich part of Anaheim's history," Anaheim Mayor Ashleigh Aitken said in a statement on Aug. 2. "Mexican Americans have been part of Anaheim from the start and make up one of the largest culturally unique groups in our diverse city today. We join with them and invite everyone to join us in celebrating with a series of events at our libraries and parks throughout August."

Last year, U.S. Rep. Lou Correa introduced a resolution to federally recognize August as Chicano Heritage

See *Heritage*, page A4



AN ICE CREAM vendor manages his push cart as a taco truck serves customers at the Chicano Heritage Festival.

and extracurricular activities. She traveled the world and saw firsthand people suffering from poor health and living conditions, then came home and volunteered for several causes.

During her senior year at California Lutheran University, Wulfstiegl took a death and dying class that introduced her to hospice. She noticed people at the end of their lives were incredibly open to sharing with others, even complete strangers, at the bedside.

She eventually became a volunteer coordinator with a hospice in Garden Grove, where she helped grant patients' final wishes. When, at age 25, a second more massive stroke put her into a nine-day coma, she had a life-changing experience.

"I was in this beautiful place," Wulfstiegl recalled. "It was warm and there was this light, it was like candlelight. I heard the prayers of loved ones asking for healing, then all prayers everywhere, in different languages. I did not want to

leave."

Something assured her she would be healed. A religious and spiritual person, she maintains that a divine force guided her back to life. She subsequently struggled to regain mobility, having lost most movement on her right side. Although doctors believed she would not walk, she proved them all wrong.

In 2014, she shared her journey in the self-published book "All We Have is Today: A Story of Discovering Purpose." Today, Wulfstiegl is on a personal mission to expand access to hospice care.

"Since I woke up, I don't know how else to describe it, but it feels like God's hand is on my back and guiding me forward to just where I need to be," she said. "I really believe my job is to help make each moment count and to help people fulfill their life's purpose."

sara.cardine@latimes.com
Twitter: @SaraCardine

Pageant's 'builder' set peeks behind the curtain

BY ANDREW TURNER

Without an audience, the show might not have gone on.

The masses, an essential element, have filed into the Irvine Bowl nightly this summer as the Pageant of the Masters has celebrated 90 years of its living picture show in Laguna Beach.

Through the decades, the Pageant of the Masters has staged an elaborate ruse, captivating crowds with the seemingly two-dimensional reproductions of art.

What some first-time attendees fail to realize, at least until the show puts together one of the artworks piece by piece in front of their eyes, is that humans — made up and in costume — are being placed into the frame.

This peek behind the curtain, revered internally as “the builder,” awakens the audience to the nature of tableaux vivant, as the Pageant casts volunteers into works their measurements will allow. The requirement of the participating volunteers is to hold their position silently for the duration that their set is on stage.

Of the traditions of the Pageant of the Masters, the builder might be second only to the show's finale piece, Leonardo da Vinci's “The Last Supper.” The late Don Williamson, a former director of the Pageant, first brought the builder to the



Don Leach | Daily Pilot

BUTCH HILL, technical director, and Dan Duling, script writer, from left, stand in front of a reproduction of “Oyster Gatherers” by John Singer Sargent at the Pageant of the Masters.

stage in 1966 with Winslow Homer's “Breezing Up.”

That work has returned to the stage in recent years, the crowd getting a chance to see cast members loaded into an elevated boat before it was brought up against the backdrop.

“When a magician gets skilled enough, they can essentially show you how the trick is done, and then when the lights change, the trick still works,” said Dan Duling, now in his 43rd year as scriptwriter for the Pageant. “The audience, this summer in particular, has been thrilled with our recreation of ‘Oyster

Gatherers of Cancale,’ by John Singer Sargent because it is a very dramatic reveal.

“You watch the elements coming together, and you begin to see the image start to emerge from what essentially looks like a lot of very obviously manufactured elements that do not look, in any way, realistic. It is that final element of adding the proper flat lighting that allows all of the detailing to be fully revealed with the proper coloration that your eye is surprised and pleased by the final result.”

The builder has been shown early on in the pro-

duction. Staff and volunteers agree it draws a resounding round of applause once attendees see the finished product.

“That lighting in that frame, all the big, larger sets travel behind that frame,” said Butch Hill, the Pageant's technical director. “That frame's adjustable vertically, so it's 10 feet high, but we can crop in the painting depending on the size of the painting. All the lighting is built into that, and that helps us eliminate shadows and create the two-dimensional effect. Any shadows that we want are painted-on shad-

ows.

“What kind of makes the builder special is when the set is rolling down into its position, we've got either a blue light or a red light, something to make it look monochrome, kind of quashes out all the color of the set. As it's rolling down and stops, our cast members are coming in from the wings to load into the set, and the audience gets to see all this action, but then once the set rolls down to that frame and the lights go dark for a moment, the lighting that we put on the set to make it look real comes up.”

The trick of the light receives audible gasps, said Madison Muhonen, who has been cast in the builder twice, including this year's show.

“I always hear oohs and ahhs every night,” said Muhonen, 28, of Orange. “People don't even know that it's real people. I walk on stage, and then when the lights turn on, the audience is like, ‘Oh, my gosh!’”

The Pageant of the Masters staged its “Art Colony: In the Company of Artists” show for the final time on the night of Aug. 25. The recreation of “Oyster Gatherers of Cancale” featured five volunteers, including Tustin's 5-year-old Jack Cherry.

Jack has taken after his mother, Taylor, whose debut in the Pageant took place in the same piece as a kid. While staying up way

past his bedtime to fulfill his role, Jack said he likes “holding still,” as well as making friends and playing games backstage.

“I was in the Pageant when I was younger, and this was my first piece,” Taylor said. “The painting he was in, ‘Oyster Gatherers [of Cancale]’ by John Singer Sargent, was the first piece I was ever in when I volunteered as a kid, and I was 9. ... I remember when we auditioned this year, thinking, ‘It would be so cool if one of my kids got to be in the same picture I was in, and then when he did, it was just a really nice surprise.’”

While the builder is a reveal of the magician's secrets, there is little explanation for the spell the Pageant casts on its youngest volunteers to stand stationary.

“If you had seen Jack on the patio running around and jumping, he's so animated and he's so social, and I'm thinking, ‘There's no way this little 5-year-old boy is going to hold still. There's no way,’” Taylor added. “My older son, yes, for sure he can do this, but Jack, I'm always holding my breath, and every night, he's wiggling up until the last second, and then the lights come on, and it's like, ‘Oh my gosh, this is the longest he's held still since the day he was born.’”

andrew.turner@latimes.com
Twitter: @AndrewTurnerTCN

HERITAGE

Continued from page A3

Month. Correa, whose district includes communities in Santa Ana, Anaheim, Stanton, Fullerton and Orange, reintroduced the resolution this year with an updated title of Chicano-Chicana Heritage Month. The updated language recognizes both men and woman in the Chicano community.

“Chicano heritage and our culture is not just important here in Santa Ana,” Amezcua said. “It is wonderful to see that this is taking place all around California and the United States.”

This year's festival started with a classic car cruise beginning at Santa Ana College's parking lot and traveling to El Salvador Park.

The free event included carnival rides, arts and crafts, a kids zone, cultural

exhibits and musical performances by Malo, Tierra Legacy, the Altons, Thee Sinseers, MOFAK, Zackey Force Funk, and the aforementioned Vicky Tafoya and the Big Beat.

The story of Santa Ana native Marina Aguilera was also highlighted, as the local artist unveiled of new mural at El Salvador Park.

“Marina Aguilera is a lifelong Santa Ana resident. She was born and raised in Santa Ana, and she has rep-

resented Chicano culture for several decades,” said Hernandez.

Aguilera joined a local mural group at the age of 14 and contributed to work that can be found throughout Santa Ana, including at El Salvador Park.

“In 1974, she created a mural at El Salvador Park's handball courts,” Hernandez said. “In 1976, she created a mural at the El Salvador Park community center.”

Aguilera, now 63, also designed the Artesia-Pilar neighborhood street toppers, unveiled earlier this month. Her newest mural at El Salvador Park features a single red rose.

“I love the fact that there was a rose included, because roses signify the people,” Hernandez said.

And in a powerful, full circle moment Hernandez's 13-year-old daughter, Evoni Maya Hernandez, got to help paint the rose on mu-

ral at the historical park her father grew up playing in.

“This is her first time painting on a wall. She was being mentored by Marina Aguilera, and that was a really inspiring thing to see,” said Hernandez. “Marina is passing on knowledge to young people to ensure that our stories are always told.”

sarah.mosqueda@latimes.com
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8 oz. prime filet mignon, Yukon Gold mashed potatoes, fried shallots

Bone-In Rib Eye

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

(Twenty Dollar Supplement)

California Chicken Breast

Pan-seared chicken breast, oven-roasted tomatoes, avocado, Yukon Gold mashed potatoes

Blackened Scottish Salmon

Roasted corn and avocado salad, chimichurri sauce

Miso-Marinated Chilean Sea Bass

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

Double Pork Chop

Thick-cut, grilled all natural pork chop, creamy caramelized onion barley risotto, creamed kale, sherry sauce

Australian Lobster Tail

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

(Fifteen Dollar Supplement)

DESSERT

select one

New York-Style Cheesecake

Fresh whipped cream, raspberry coulis

Peach Cobbler A La Mode

Vanilla bean ice cream, whipped cream, caramel sauce

Vanilla Crème Brûlée

Vanilla custard, fresh raspberries

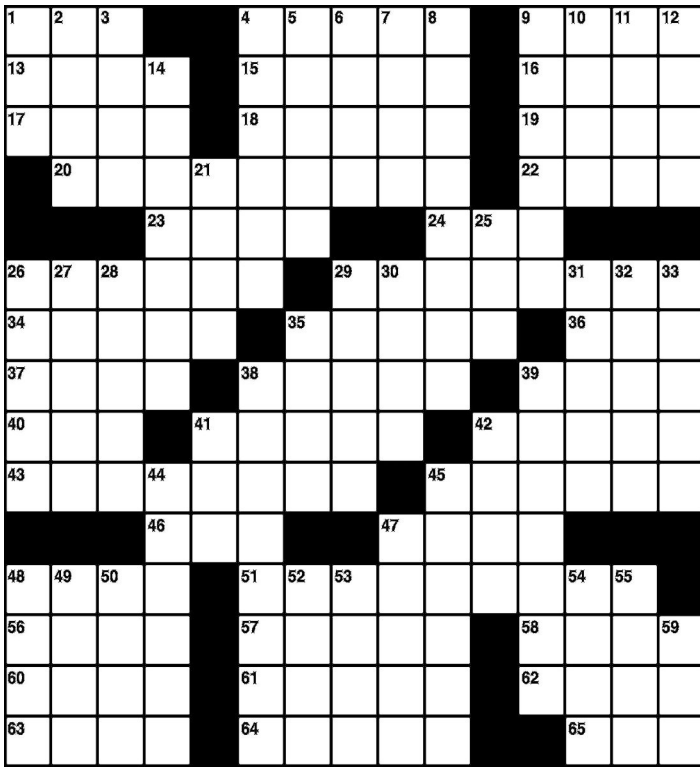
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THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews



- ACROSS**
 1 Coolidge or Ripken
 4 From Laos or China
 9 “_ the Rainbow”
 13 Book jacket blurbs
 15 Ballroom dance
 16 Foolish person
 17 Job opening
 18 Trick’s alternative
 19 Crock-Pot meal, often
 20 Food that’s twirled
 22 Actress Harper
 23 Sightseeing trip
 24 Olsen of vaudeville
 26 Luxury car
 29 Ores
 34 Blue ribbon
 35 Volcanic outflows
 36 Ring around the collar
 37 Arrived
 38 Eye color
 39 Bridge
 40 Most common Korean surname
 41 _ fun at; ridicules
 42 First prime minister of India
 43 Laws
 45 Meat shunners
 46 Top file drawer, perhaps
 47 Bulls or Bears
 48 NHL officials
 51 Loathsome
 56 Flavor enhancer
 57 Doesn’t throw away
 58 Room recess
 60 Banyan or willow
 61 Spooky
 62 Subdue
 63 Previously owned
 64 Eyeglasses, for short

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.

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

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

65 Barnyard bird

- DOWN**
 1 “NCIS” network
 2 Has a bug
 3 Embroidery stitch
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 29 Labyrinths
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 31 First Greek letter
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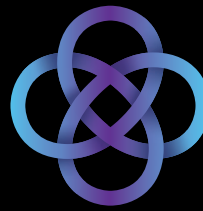
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COLUMN | **PATRICE APODACA**

County's ties to Lahaina extend beyond empathy

As Lahaina burned, Orange County residents empathized with the suffering of the people of Maui.



hell the next. We've witnessed flames raging perilously close to population centers, choked on air heavy with smoke, seen ash blanket everything in sight as bright days turn dark with soot-filled skies.

power lines. It is now believed that high winds — the kind Californians are well acquainted with and are growing more fierce due to climate change — brought down power lines that ignited the flames on Maui.

Affection for the Hawaiian islands runs deep here. Many of us vacation in the Aloha state regularly and some even have homes there. Fair or not, our love for Hawaii has an almost proprietary feel, as if our special bond with the islands surpasses all others. And so we share in Maui's pain. We understand too well how quickly and easily fires can rage out of control, turning what seems like paradise one minute into the pit of

As of this writing, the fire on Maui was already the deadliest in modern U.S. history, with 115 confirmed fatalities and at least 1,000 people still missing. Those gruesome numbers put it past the previous record-holder, 2018's Camp Fire that leveled the California town of Paradise.

The similarities are eerily familiar. The Camp Fire was caused by downed

But even more binds us to Hawaii, and those commonalities should feature prominently in any discussion about wildfires — or any natural disaster, for that matter.

Both Hawaii and California have histories of colonialism and land development, which essentially assured that in modern times fires would grow

See *Apodaca*, page A9



Robert Gauthier | Los Angeles Times

AN AERIAL IMAGE of Lahaina, Maui, where homes and businesses lay in ruins after a devastating wildfire swept through the city in mid-August.

MAILBAG

Is H.B. turning a blind eye to homeless students?

As the new school year begins in Huntington Beach, we should all be concerned about how to provide the best education for our students but especially for our unhoused students. According to the data provided by the Orange County Department of Education, in 2021-22, there were over 1,300 identified homeless students in H.B. school districts. There are many more students who do not reveal their housing status.

This is a growing problem our city government can no longer ignore. The City Council majority touts its commitment to promoting "local control." But if "local control" means less interference from county, state or federal authorities, the council must take charge of tackling our housing issues. Kids should not have to choose between the classrooms and the streets for their learning.

The council majority purports to be supportive of family life and values and campaigned on addressing our homeless issues, but when it comes to actually helping families in need, they are nowhere to be found. Our housing insecure students with no roofs over their heads are left staring at the sky as the Pacific Airshow jets zoom overhead, taking our city's

funds away from essential housing.

Diane Bentley
Huntington Beach

An open letter to the N.B. council

Whether the delay at the Coastal Commission to adopt a de minimis amendment to our Local Coastal Programs is an administrative matter or a reaction to a letter from legal counsel or other concerns, the result is the same: more time for fractional home ownerships in our city and an evasion of the ordinance you have crafted to prevent this.

For this reason, we ask that you revisit the subject of a moratorium which, as we understand it and as other cities have done, could be enacted under existing city statutes and applicable California law. It was clear from the public meeting on the subject that the community strongly supports such an action.

As our General Plan states, Newport Beach is primarily a residential city. A person living here for a portion of the year while spending most of the year elsewhere is not a resident but a visitor, and while Newport has always welcomed visitors, it should not be at the expense of our

full-time residents. Good Neighbor Newport strongly urges the Newport Beach City Council to approve a moratorium at the next council meeting during the Coastal Commission delay so as not to further compromise our residents' cherished quality of life.

Thank you for acting on our request.

Laird Hayes
Good Neighbor Newport
Newport Beach

Remembering Norma Hertzog

What is the "inside story" of Norma Hertzog Wagner (Obituary: Norma Hertzog, Costa Mesa's first woman mayor, dies at 94, Daily Pilot, Aug. 24) that adds to her already inspirational legacy?

What led her to shatter glass ceilings as the first female councilwoman and mayor of Costa Mesa? What gave her, a high school dropout, the business acumen to operate two preschools? Was it nature or nurture? As one of her children, I'd say both.

Her dad was very smart, a talented musician and clever with his hands. Her mom's strength was her Christian faith and perseverance. She stopped a ring of counterfeiters, sought a private audience with the president of Mexico and raised three children as a divorcee.

Mom's family moved from Canada to Mexico during her third- and fourth-grade years. She said, "I didn't learn much because my parents couldn't afford to send us to private schools." Upon returning to Canada, her fifth grade teacher said to her, "You're sweet but stupid." She disagreed with being stupid. Mom completed eighth grade.

She was elected president of the local Red Cross club at age 11. She said, "I knew that I couldn't be a secretary or treasurer because of my lack of skills. I *did* know that I could organize people!"

Seeking a vocation, mom met with a university professor who suggested she "sweep the floors at Woolworth's after hours." Her response? "That's just one

See *Mailbag*, page A9

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CONTACT US

Carol Cormaci
Executive Editor
carol.cormaci@latimes.com

Beth Raff
Advertising Manager
(424) 225-9928
beth.raff@latimes.com

10540 Talbert Ave., Suite 300 West, Fountain Valley, CA 92708

Reporters:
Sara Cardine, Costa Mesa
sara.cardine@latimes.com
Lilly Nguyen, Newport Beach
lilly.nguyen@latimes.com
Matt Szabo, Huntington Beach and Sports
matt.szabo@latimes.com

Andrew Turner, Laguna Beach and Sports
andrew.turner@latimes.com

Sarah Mosqueda, TimesOC
sarah.mosqueda@latimes.com

Send Letters to the Editor to erik.haugli@latimes.com. See Mailbag for guidelines.

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CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

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FORMER MAJOR LEAGUE
Baseball pitcher Brooks Pounders and his wife, Lucia, own the Clubhouse baseball facility in Costa Mesa.



Don Leach
Staff
Photographer

BASEBALL

Continued from page A1

2022. The facility is already coming up on a year old, and it offers many options for little kids all the way up to high school, college baseball players and beyond.

The place felt right to Lucia, who said she used to have cheerleader practice there when she went to Mater Dei High. It happened to become available when Brooks was trying to figure out his next step and offering private pitching lessons in his backyard.

Seven batting cages and two pitching mounds are featured in the 14,000-square foot space. So are an open turf area for stretching, fielding and throwing, as well as a full workout and recovery room.

Brooks Pounders said the place really filled up last spring, the wet weather drawing teams inside. With school starting up again, attendance has begun trending upward again.

About half of the Clubhouse's business is with teams, which is a bit different than the individual atmosphere Pounders imagined, though he does still do private pitching lessons every day.

"As soon as they walk in the door, it's like a hang-out," Pounders said. "As much as we try to turn it over every hour or whatever they're using the cages for, it turns into one big gather-

ing." One popular feature is a customizable "HitTrax," a high-tech simulation system that allows customers to feel like they're hitting at their favorite ballpark.

The Pounders have a full life with now two young children, a boy and a girl, but the Clubhouse remains a big passion project for them. It's the second business for Lucia, who formerly owned a clothing store on Balboa Island.

Joe Navron of Irvine is a frequent customer, with three boys ages 6 through 11 who all play the sport. More than that, Navron said his Orange County Crush travel-ball organization, headed by another former Major Leaguer in longtime Washington Nationals infielder Danny Espinosa, also utilizes the Clubhouse.

"His facility is top-notch," Navron said. "It's a safe location, safe atmosphere ... El Segundo just won the Little League World Series. SoCal is just the hub for youth baseball right now. When we travel around to other states, California always does the best, and it's just crazy to me that we don't have good facilities."

Bobby Nichols, who lives in Newport Beach, brings his 11-year-old son Mason to the Clubhouse. Mason plays for the Mariners Select 11U team, which also trains there.

"We went in there and fell in love with it," Nichols said. "I love him and his wife, they're class people, and he understands the

functionality and the importance of fundamentals in baseball. I just feel like it's such a dynamic place for local and out-of-area kids to come in and hone their craft in a controlled setting, regardless of the weather or temperature or whatever."

There are also fun touches. The flooring is designed to look like clay mound dirt, and the front of the facility features tables labeled "Tickets" and "Snacks" like an old-time ballpark. A lounge has several televisions.

The only two nods to Pounders himself is an old-school scoreboard that features the date he made his Major League debut — July 5, 2016 — and a rug that bears his signature.

"Brooks didn't really want his name all over the building," Lucia Pounders explained. "He wanted it clean and simple, but I said, 'We've got to give you your moment.'"

Brooks is more interested in the moments to come for the athletes he's trained. He will follow their progress with excitement.

"Right now, everything's still so young," he said. "I can't wait for that one kid who I've worked with for two, three, four, five, six years finally get to where he's wanting to go. Whether that's college or pro or whatever, that's going to be the most gratifying thing for me."

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FESTIVAL

Continued from page A1

"I wanted to capture a few of my favorite characters," she said.

Her vintage-sports-style pennant also features original characters she has created for her own Halloween Parade float, like a cherubic redhead girl and her black cat.

"I have a little cart that rides in the parade, so I wanted my characters in there as well," said Show Pigeon, who will be producing similar pennants to sell at this year's Fall Festival.

The Fall Festival is a hometown tradition that, much like Show Pigeon, is thought have been what drew Walt Disney to the city.

Coincidentally, Kidney and his husband, Jody Daily, have worked as Disney art directors for nearly 35 years, designing parades.

"When we moved here to Anaheim, we bought a historic home, and we got really interested in Anaheim history," said Kidney.

Kidney and Daily found out about the parade in 2012 and began volunteering. Today, Daily serves as president of the Fall Festival.

Other local Anaheim artists in the show include plush artist Shalene Lundgren, who creates using felt under the name Beanie Marie Art. Lundgren created a soft sculpture interpretation of pumpkin man, one of the Anaheim Fall Festival and Halloween Parade's most recognized characters.

"If you are familiar with the parade, then you will definitely recognize the pumpkin man," said Lundgren. "He is a character that has been in the parade for many years."

Lundgren created pumpkin man out of felt and stuffed with polyester fiberfill from her own original pattern.

"I hand-painted some things on there too," said Lundgren, "and he's got wire inside so you can pose him."

Pumpkin man is a favorite of Kidney.

"I have a special connection to Beanie Marie's little pumpkin man plush," he said. "Pumpkin man has become a standout character here in the parade over the last decade."

Artist Lauren Kurtz, who works as Coppertop Ink, used the event to imagine a pumpkin woman rather than a man, which she depicted in a digital illustration for the show as visiting the grave of her beloved dog, Lucy.

"I've lost some dogs of my own and it's crushing; they are family," said Kurtz. In Kurtz's illustration, the



Photos by Drew A. Kelley

"PURR EVIL," by Chris Simich, at the Anaheim Fall Festival Art Show at the Anaheim Community Center.

ghost of Lucy pays a surprise visit.

Kidney said the imagination of local artists like Kurtz, Lundgren and Show Pigeon is what makes the beloved event come alive each year.

"The Fall Festival and Halloween Parade really relies on different artists and creativity of all kinds, just to keep it going and keep it fresh," said Kidney. "It really is the life blood of the whole event."

This year's Fall Festival will take place on Oct. 28 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Center Street in Anaheim. The Halloween Parade will start at 7 p.m. on Oct. 28 starting at City Hall. The art show will be on display in the Downtown Anaheim Community Center from now until Oct. 8.

sarah.mosqueda
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"PUMPKIN HEAD Kid" by Tiki Tony, on display during the Anaheim Fall Festival Art Show at the downtown Anaheim Community Center on Thursday, Aug. 24.

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CONNECT*Continued from page A2*

ing to have a party, let's make it a purposeful party. That would've been a year after [heroic life-guard] Ben Carlson died."

They reached out to the Ben Carlson Foundation, which welcomes donations.

"We sold \$13,000 of clothing with a logo for the party, had a party at the Newport Dunes, and we ended up with \$10,000 to the Ben Carlson Foundation from the proceeds."

The gift-giving efforts have continued via sales of customized merchandise that includes caps, clothing, mugs and more. The group has held fundraising efforts for Toys for Tots and other charitable organizations in Newport Beach and greater Orange County. It's currently fundraising for the victims of the Maui wildfires through its online merchandise store at nbb4oc.com.

Stillwell said a number of the group members had close ties to people in Lahaina, and after his son-in-law designed a new logo to turn attention toward Maui, they were off to the races. The group has now successfully raised about \$9,000 to go toward mutual aid groups and other organizations on the ground and will continue to raise funds through December even after the

*Courtesy of Tom Stillwell*

A SURFBOARD READS "N.B. b4 OC." at the Ben Carlson Foundation benefit party that the "I grew up in Newport Beach BEFORE it was The OC" Facebook group held in 2015.

news headlines long disappear and attention is turned elsewhere, Stillwell said.

"I used to say that you can be about that Reuben E. Lee's isn't here anymore, or that you can't water-ski in the Back Bay anymore. These are all things you can whine about, and say that the people who live here now ru-

ined the place. But, the attitude I try to instill in people is that for the people who live in Newport now, it's as amazing a place as it was when I was a kid in the 1966. It's just different now," Stillwell said.

"I wish I could bring back all the hills, but that's why it's important for me to have this so

that people who might not have ever lived during that time can get a sense of what that town like back then. [The Facebook group] is not a 'Let's trash Newport Beach,' but a 'Let's remember how nice it was in our youth.'"

lilly.nguyen@latimes.com
Twitter: @lillibirds

MAILBAG*Continued from page A6*

person's opinion and they're wrong!" She chose to work with preschoolers because "they don't care if I have a degree, but how I feel about them."

She was hired at a nursery school where her employer paid for one semester of university education. Eventually she left Canada for California and worked with children of movie stars. She continued learning at California universities.

Mom was a risk-taker. She opened a preschool in 1962, overcoming several hurdles. She never advertised, yet both schools had a waiting list.

Mom believed the Lord never asked her to do anything without providing the needed resources. Two professional campaign managers learned that she was a "first-timer" running for City Council. They offered to help. She won, and glass ceilings kept breaking.

My mom was guided by her faith in God, a strong and creative mind, sense of responsibility and wacky humor that carried her through breast cancer and other challenges. I pray that her life continues to inspire others to achieve their God-given dreams!

Rev. Elaine Hertzog Burkert
Dumont, N.J.

APODACA*Continued from page A6*

larger, more intense and more difficult to control. Decisions made decades or even centuries ago created landscapes that are far more prone to exactly the kinds of big, deadly wildfires that destroyed most of Lahaina and have ravaged communities throughout our own beautiful state.

In Hawaii, for centuries prior to colonization, the islands' residents employed a sophisticated agricultural system that was used to grow crops such as taro. But colonists who came to the islands had, by the 19th century, largely replaced these practices of subsistence farming that maintained the naturally abundant and diverse environment with high-maintenance cattle ranches and sugar and pineapple plantations.

They also introduced nonnative grasses. When the ranches and plantations were abandoned as Hawaii's economy pivoted to tourism, those invasive grasses spread unchecked. They are now ready kindling spread across the land. All that's needed for a fire to ignite and commence its rapid onslaught is a spark — and those sparks are increasingly likely to occur, given the growth in development right up alongside those tinder-dry grasslands.

Although California, unlike Hawaii, is naturally more fire-prone, there are many relevant historical parallels of colonization and modification of the native landscape, followed by a period of rapid development.

For thousands of years the native tribes here were careful stewards of the land, using what's referred to as "cultural burning" — small, controlled burns that reduced fuel loads by clearing out

dead leaves and other debris. Their burning techniques revitalized ecosystems, encouraged biodiversity and created fire breaks in the landscape.

Spanish colonists and missionaries, and later American settlers, brought in cattle and nonnative plants and introduced fire suppression policies that did away with these healthy cultural burning practices. The highly combustible nonnative grasses pushed out the native grasses that were well adapted to the climate. Now those invasive grasses are fuel for massive wildfires.

Increasingly, those wildfires are engulfing the housing developments that have been built next to grasslands and other fire-prone areas. The world we humans created over centuries almost guarantees that, absent intervention, fires will grow ever more monstrous.

Which means that Maui's catastrophic burning will not be the last — or the worst. As fall approaches, we Californians will brace ourselves every time those dry winds we know so well start to blow.

Is the situation hopeless? Only if we do nothing.

"It's horrible to know that things could have been done differently in the past," said Steven Allison, professor of ecology and biology, and earth system science, at UC Irvine.

"But the past is the past. What can we do from here? That has to be the focus."

Habitat conservation should be a top priority, Allison said. We need to be far more cautious about where and how we build and work aggressively on efforts to preserve — and renew — native habitats.

"Number two is coming together as a community or set of

communities to manage the land that we have," he said. "If we don't work on that and put that effort in it's really vulnerable to the effects of climate change and massive fires."

And we need to keep building awareness.

We must foster a broader acknowledgment and understanding of the ways we have abused our wonderful world. And we must realize that if we don't want communities throughout the state to be consumed by fire year after year, it's up to us to take action to find practical solutions, to restore the natural landscape and to save ourselves from our own worst instincts.

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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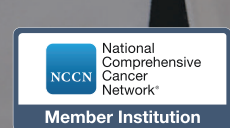
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