

Daily Pilot & Times OC

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Cultivating a renewed purpose

After nearly dying from a complicated pregnancy, Danielle Judd opened FarmHouse Rescue to share her love of animals with special guests.

BY JESSICA PERALTA

Danielle Judd was in a deep depression in 2017 after nearly dying while pregnant with her third child.

She'd survived bacterial meningitis, which led to sepsis, severe pneumonia and organ failure, that kept her in the hospital for months. Though she and her baby survived, she was left with brain damage, memory loss, seizures, partial hearing and vision loss, and depression.

"I already had depression before, but here I am with this ... brand-new baby, I'm having seizures. I don't know who my husband is," said Judd, of Trabuco Canyon. "I was extremely depressed."

She said her husband asked her when she remembered feeling happy.

"I remembered when I was in Ojai [as a child], I loved having farm animals," she said. "I got chickens for my birthday-type thing. Three chickens in an HOA."

Then came a pig and a horse.



Courtesy of FarmHouse Rescue

ANDREW PENNINGTON holds his 5-year-old son, Evan, as Danielle Judd, right front, and a volunteer show him a chicken at FarmHouse Rescue in Trabuco Canyon on Guest of the Farm day on Jan. 29. Evan is in remission from acute myeloid leukemia.

See **Purpose**, page A4



Coming soon to Irvine

UCI Health



Courtesy of Valia Properties

THE INTERIOR of one of the seven homes of this year's Corona del Mar Home Tour.

CdM Home Tour marks its 50th anniversary with sold-out event

BY LILLY NGUYEN

A 50-year tradition of showcasing local homes will be celebrated next month by the Corona del Mar PTA, which relies on the popular annual fundraiser to support the CdM High Middle and High School.

The precise story on how the PTA decided on a home tour as a fundraising vehicle is uncertain. But the tour has ties to the Sherman Library & Gardens, which long supported the CdM Home Tour, according to library director Jill Thrasher.

Thrasher said Charles Wade Roberts, the first director of the Sherman Library & Gardens, had been seeking a way to bring more visitors to the gardens while raising funds for the school. She said she believes the connection between the two parties was established because Roberts' wife, Jan, was involved in the Corona del Mar High School PTA during the time that their two children, Darren and Darcie, attended



Courtesy of Gina Jaha

IN A RECENT photo, homeowner Jane Croul, 93, poses in front of her Victorian home on 427 Fernleaf Ave. The Crouls were featured twice in the home tour previously, but will not be this year.

See **Tour**, page A2

Gophers dig up a challenge in F.V.

BY SARA CARDINE

How do you solve a problem like a gopher? In the city of Fountain Valley, rodents digging networks of subterranean tunnels that compromise the soil integrity of local parklands have been an ongoing challenge for public works employees.

"They burrow all day long, so there are shallow tunnels that can create risks if they do cave in," said Mark Sprague, a field services manager for the city. "They mostly feed on the roots of plants. They also chew irrigation lines. It's caused a lot of problems both privately and publicly."

Visitors to Los Alamos Park, Harper Park and the city's Sports Park near Mile Square Regional

Park — identified by city staff as gopher "hot spots" — may have seen signs of the rodent's presence in the area, including cones and markers placed near tunnels.

Officials have for years contracted with an area landscaping company to trap and remove the critters. But recently, an observed increase in gopher activity is popping up in residential neighborhoods.

Fountain Valley City Councilman Jim Cunneen said it's common for residents to air gopher grievances at City Hall, sometimes speaking in public comments at council meetings, or to bring up the subject at local functions.

See **Gophers**, page A2



A JAN. 9 PHOTO taken near Fountain Valley's Westmont Park shows evidence of burrowing gophers, a problem in some city parks.

Courtesy of the city of Fountain Valley

ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

AUTHOR SHOWS LOVE FOR HER HOMETOWN, FAMILY PAGE A4

Pacific Chorale concert to bring love to Fullerton

BY JESSICA PERALTA

Costa Mesa-based choral group Pacific Chorale brings some romance to the stage in February with a mix of modern love songs, from artists including Adele and Ben Folds to Dolly Parton and Elton John, for a “Language of Love” concert at Cal State Fullerton’s Meng Concert Hall.

The eclectic, love-themed concert also spotlights a classical, choral piece composed by Morten Lauridsen, “Les Chansons des Roses.”

“The program is centered around Morten Lauridsen’s beautiful and complex five-movement ‘Les Chansons des Roses,’” said Robert Istad, Phillip N. and Mary A. Lyons artistic director. “The complete work is rarely performed and so we wanted to showcase Lauridsen’s masterful a cappella writing. ... This program really features music for every listener, all tied together by the universal language of love.”

The 90-minute concert, which takes place Feb. 24 at 7:30 p.m., includes 20 songs and 24 singers. The mix of modern music featured in “Language of Love” is part of a larger effort to reach a broader audience.

“It’s a central focus of mine to pair the choral repertory standards of the last 500 years with newer 20th and 21st century works. I’d say that most of



Drew Kelley

ROBERT ISTAD conducts the Pacific Chorale. The group’s “Language of Love” concert is taking place at Cal State Fullerton’s Meng Concert Hall on Feb. 24.

our concerts represent this programming duality,” Istad said. “By weaving classical choral romance with contemporary hits, Pacific Chorale aims to reach a broad and diverse audience. This deliberate mix welcomes music for all generations, including younger audiences who may not be as familiar with the choral art form.”

In addition to “Les Chansons des Roses,” the concert will include songs like Elton John’s “Your Song,” Eden Ahbez’s “Nature Boy,” James Taylor’s “Something

in the Way She Moves,” Sting’s “Fields of Gold,” Ben Folds’ “The Luckiest,” Adele’s “When We Were Young” and Dolly Parton’s “I Will Always Love You.” Many of the songs are arranged for a choral format, but also expect some solos that will sound much like the original song. The lineup includes Broadway songs, pop hits, vocal jazz and choral music. An instrumental trio — including collaborative pianist David Clemensen, Sean Emch on double bass and Matt Smith on drums — will

accompany the choir. Istad said though the Pacific Chorale has done a handful of cabaret-style performances in the past with its chamber choir, there haven’t been many concerts like this one.

“We wanted to explore a concert of choral music centered around the universal themes of love,” he said.

The concert features Pacific Chorale’s smaller chamber choir rather than the full, 100-plus choir. Istad said the Chorale roster includes 200 singers

from across Orange County and Southern California.

“While many of our singers studied music in college, many did not,” he said. “About one-third of our roster is employed as part-time staff. Due to our annual schedule, we rotate singers across programs, with choir sizes ranging from 24 to 80, to 140 performers.”

Daniel Alvarez, tenor staff singer, has been with the Chorale since the 2018 season.

“Before my first season with Pacific Chorale, I was

a music education student at California State, Fullerton, and was urged to audition for the choir by both peers and teachers,” Alvarez said.

Alvarez is currently a choir teacher at Martin Luther King High School in Riverside.

“In addition to [the] hall’s excellent acoustics, I am looking forward to many of my high school students attending the performance,” Alvarez said. “It is a uniquely beautiful experience to sing in a choir filled with friends. I look forward to every rehearsal and performance, and it is the highlight of my week.”

Stephanie Shepson, alto staff singer, said this is her third season with Pacific Chorale.

“After finishing graduate school, I was looking for a new challenge and the opportunity to meet and collaborate with new artists. Pacific Chorale has been a special answer to this desire,” she said. “Many of my colleagues are alumni of CSUE, but for me performing in Meng Concert Hall will be new. I enjoy being and performing in new acoustic spaces. It is also special to think we might perform this program to a slightly different audience since this is not our regular performance venue.”

Jessica Peralta is a contributor to TimesOC.



Joe C. Wen & Family Center for Advanced Care

ucihealth.org/wencenter

UCI Health

TOUR

Continued from page A1

the campus. Until recently luncheons were held at the botanical gardens in conjunction with the event.

In a clipping from an October 1974 edition of the since-shuttered Newport Harbor Ensign, an article announces the beginnings of the tradition. It lists the several area homes that were going to be featured during the Nov. 1 event, including the residence of the Argyroses on Linda Isle, with its “crystal and yellow decor.”

That same article says donations solicited for the tour were \$3.50. Funds raised would be earmarked for a baccalaureate tea.

By 1990, those prices went up to \$25. This year’s tickets for the sold-out event, set for March 14,

went for \$125 each.

The scope of the event has grown over the decades, according to Gina Jaha, chairman of the home tour since 2019. It now includes a catered breakfast reception, the tour, a luncheon, boutique and after-party.

Returning this year are the home tour’s presenting sponsors, Barclay Butera Interiors and VALIA Properties.

To celebrate the tour’s golden anniversary, the high school’s drumline, orchestra, jazz band and cheer team will be performing at the Newport Beach Civic Center as part of the luncheon, according to Jaha.

“Another special thing is that Bliss Home Design will be placing 50 ‘golden tickets’ inside some of the swag bags, which will be redeemable in-store,” Jaha said. “The after-party’s go-

ing to be a lot bigger, and it will be in the VALIA Properties’ parking lot with a big canopy tent. We’re going to have a proclamation from the city [for the tour] and Mayor Will O’Neill. It’s a big deal.

“The raising of the funds is to benefit the school and do the enhancements and everything we need for the students and the classrooms,” Jaha continued. “That means teacher grants, student scholarships, and we really try to spread the funds throughout the whole school so that every student at CdM benefits from it. That’s what the PTA — our mission — is. The projects have really created a lot of school spirit and boosted morale around campus, which is so beautiful now.”

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THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

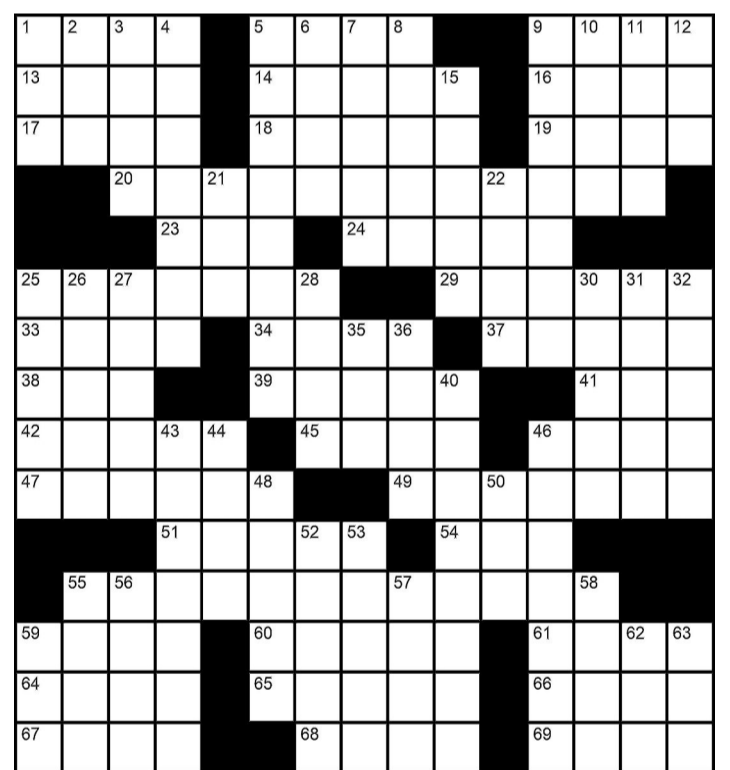
By Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS

- 1 Abbreviation before a short version
- 5 Baja’s opposite
- 9 Jacobson of “Broad City”
- 13 Uninteresting person
- 14 Place for discussion
- 16 Close to
- 17 Animal with antlers
- 18 “_ Jacques” (French children’s song)
- 19 Food drive donations
- 20 Off on a jaunt
- 23 Letters before an amount due
- 24 Put out
- 25 Passage between England and France
- 29 Temper, as steel
- 33 Batter’s statistic
- 34 Bottle part
- 37 Classic video game company
- 38 Simon Cowell’s show, for short
- 39 Subject
- 41 Pink Lady liquor
- 42 Motif
- 45 Wide ribbon accessory
- 46 Classroom furniture piece
- 47 Messy handwriting
- 49 Works that spoof
- 51 Competing sides
- 54 Texter’s “ha!”
- 55 1987 Tom Clancy novel
- 59 Residence
- 60 Composer Ned
- 61 Crowds
- 64 Opportunist
- 65 Trap with a net
- 66 Think (over)
- 67 Roosters’ mates
- 68 Expectorate
- 69 Armed Forces branch

DOWN

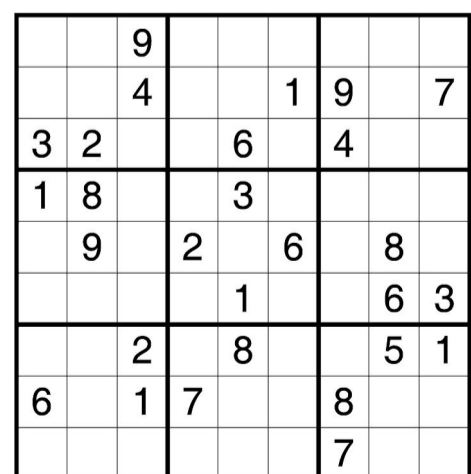
- 1 “Very funny”
- 2 Building site
- 3 Lug with effort
- 4 Gets back
- 5 Wealthy
- 6 “Tank Girl” actress Petty
- 7 Famed Roman fountain
- 8 Mysterious
- 9 Older than old
- 10 Hit in the head with a pitch
- 11 Explosion sound
- 12 W-9 form org.
- 15 Smart bunch
- 21 Chaney who played Frankenstein
- 22 Fish in a melt
- 25 Has a talk
- 26 Note in a soprano’s range
- 27 Sheer
- 28 Some summer babies
- 30 Anxious to please
- 31 Come up
- 32 Sausage units
- 35 Auditor, often: Abbr.
- 36 Smooch
- 40 Timothée of “Dune”
- 43 Makes a difference
- 44 Pitcher by a basin
- 46 Difficult problem
- 48 Animals’ hideouts
- 50 Male cat
- 52 Natural satellites
- 53 Handbag feature
- 55 Do some modeling
- 56 “Heck yes!”
- 57 Spice Girl Halliwell
- 58 Tart-tasting
- 59 “Well, I’ll be”
- 62 Social justice abbreviation
- 63 Cagey



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.



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

- network
- 2 Building site
- 3 Lug with effort
- 4 Gets back
- 5 Wealthy
- 6 “Tank Girl” actress Petty
- 7 Famed Roman fountain
- 8 Mysterious
- 9 Older than old
- 10 Hit in the head with a pitch
- 11 Explosion sound
- 12 W-9 form org.
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- 63 Cagey

Tribune Media Services

GOPHERS

Continued from page A1

“It’s not unique to our city, but something has triggered a rise in the population of gophers in our parks,” he said Friday. “A lot of people in our neighborhood are dealing with gophers. You can see it in some of the front lawns of our neighbors.”

Cunneen has lived for the past three decades near the city’s Los Alamos Park on a street named La Marmota Avenue, the Spanish word for groundhog. Although he recalled having issues with the animals in the ‘90s, his backyard was pretty calm until the recent population explosion.

“We have at least 30 holes gophers have chewed,” he said. “They take out a 3- to 4-inch diameter patch, and they’re also burrowing so the surface becomes uneven — it’s horrible.”

City officials reported last week on social media gopher mitigation efforts are in full swing at local parks. Where a typical month may bring in 15 to

20 animals, last month more than 40 trappings were logged, according to Sprague.

Cunneen said extermination companies tend not to deal with gophers, requiring residents to seek out services that offer to remove the animals by trapping them. It’s unclear, however, what happens once an animal is captured.

Representatives of Merchants Landscape Services, which handles landscaping for Fountain Valley and its more than 150 acres of park space under an \$873,000 annual contract, did not immediately respond to a request for that information. But one local wildlife expert offered some advice.

Debbie McGuire, executive director of the non-profit Wetlands & Wildlife Care Center in Huntington Beach, maintains state laws prohibit the relocation of many small animals and rodent species into different habitats. She said many removal companies end up humanely euthanizing the animals they trap.

One explanation for the rising gopher population may be a decline in the

presence of predators who feed on them, such as bobcats and coyotes or birds of prey like barn owls.

“Gophers are really important for the ecosystem. They move the soil around and keep roots aerated so plants stay healthy,” McGuire said Friday. “But there are times when there are no predators to keep their population down, and they’ll get out of control.”

She suggested city employees or residents in Fountain Valley might look into installing nesting boxes in public parks and residential neighborhoods to attract animals like the barn owl, which prey on gophers but leave larger animals, like cats and dogs, undisturbed.

A number of organizations and resources can be found online, including the Barn Owl Box Co., which sells nesting boxes and instructs people how to build their own.

“The best thing is to leave nature alone and let the circle of life take care of things,” McGuire advised.

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Author shows love for hometown and family

BY MATT SZABO

Toni Haas grew up near the San Bernardino Mountains.

As a fifth-generation Southern Californian, heading south to Huntington Beach in the summer to visit with relatives was a welcome treat.

"I fell in love with it," she said. "Growing up in the mountains, you're waiting for the snow to melt so you can ride your bike. Out here, you can do it anytime you want."

Once she became an adult, Haas moved to Surf City in the late 1980s. Now she enjoys watching her five grandchildren run on the Huntington Beach Pier during visits to "Grandma T," as they call her.

Haas' first children's book, "Goodnight Surf City," was written mainly for those youngsters, four of whom live in New Zealand and one in Orange. Each grandchild is pictured among the pages, and their names are also hidden throughout the book.

But Haas has also enjoyed seeing the general public's reaction since the book was released in January.

"It's just a really fun read, and it incorporates a lot of what



Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

HUNTINGTON BEACH author Toni Haas shows a few of her favorite pages in her new children's book, "Goodnight Surf City," which highlights iconic locations of her hometown Huntington Beach.

Huntington Beach has to offer," said Haas, 56. "I hope it inspires some of the children that read it and see it to go make their own family memories and find their own favorite spots in Huntington Beach, like I did with my family."

Each page of the book, which features rhyming sentences

wishing goodnight to different Huntington Beach favorite locales, was also illustrated by Haas. Examples include the dog beach, Pacific City, Main Street, Central Park featuring Lake Huntington and the skate park. Haas said she's planning to

See **Author**, page A8



HUNTINGTON BEACH author Toni Haas leafs through some of the pages of "Goodnight Surf City."

PURPOSE

Continued from page A1

"I was able to rescue this horse that was an off-the-track racehorse," she said, saying it helped her feel better. She added it was then she realized, "Oh, my gosh, we need a farm."

Judd filed FarmHouse Rescue in 2018 as a nonprofit, serving as purely an animal sanctuary between 2017 and 2020, with animals boarded at different facilities. Once she found their Trabuco Canyon farm, a total of 32 acres, they moved there in 2020.

The nonprofit houses 68 rescued farm animals — ranging from a miniature horse and feral cats to chickens, goats and pigs. Once Judd had the property, she started offering the Skill-Building Program that offers adults with physical and cognitive disabilities a chance to learn how to work on a farm, as well as the Smile Box Program. The rescue delivers up to 50 Smile Boxes a month to children going through cancer treatment in hospitals. Each box contains a farm animal plushie, FarmHouse Rescue cap, art projects, toys, cute straw, stickers and a pen pal kit from one of the animals on the farm. Items in the Smile Box are ideas Judd had from her time in the hospital.

Children also get 24/7 access to Smile Cams, broadcasting a live feed of the farm animals, and farm shows scheduled weekly include virtual tours, story times, daily animal feedings and science lessons.

"Really what healed me was the relationship that I had with Lovey [the racehorse] of just talking to her," she said. "We need to give these boxes, these Smile Boxes, things that I've learned when I was in the hospital that will help with infusions and stuff like that. ... And then a pen pal letter from Lovey, the horse that rescued me, telling them her favorite colors, her friends on the farm and then a return envelope and a cute, colorful pen and some letterhead. And they write a letter to Lovey and Lovey writes back with her hoof print and introduces them to a new friend on the farm. So like the next one is George Ham-

ilton the Third [a pig]. ... We go all around the farm where they write, and it's like a constant pen pal relationship that they have."

The Guest of the Farm Program takes it to the next level by hosting visits with the animals.

"Then if they get better, or a lot of times they don't get better, and they come here for end-of-life wishes, which we call the Guest of the Farm day," she said. "It's a day dedicated to them on the farm. We pull out all the stops. We have a big event tent. We do a lunch for up to 20 people. We have a photographer come for them so that way they don't have to worry about taking pictures. It's all about just them on the farm because we're not open to the public. Just having a day. We bring out the goats — they can do goat dress-up. We have different art activities. ... It's all about them that day. And to just have a great day to make memories and just to feel a bit normal just for that moment. And it's really just so healing for them. ... And they get to meet the animals that they've written letters to, which is great."

Andrew Pennington said he heard about FarmHouse Rescue through the NEGU (Never Ever Give Up) childhood cancer foundation in Irvine. His son, Evan, is 5 and was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia last August. Evan is currently in remission and visited FarmHouse Rescue for a Guest of the Farm day on Jan. 29.

"We all looked forward to the visit, knowing how much our kids love animals," Pennington said. "We had a ton of fun at the FarmHouse. Everyone there was very friendly and great with the kids. When we first arrived kids got to feed animals, which they loved. Evan had so much fun, that he really didn't want to leave. ... The whole experience meant a lot to our family. We all, especially Evan, had been stuck in a hospital room for a while. Seeing the kids so happy and just being kids meant a lot to my wife and I."

Isabel Moon, of Mission Viejo, said her 33-year-old son, Creig, who has autism, has been working at FarmHouse Rescue since March 2021 as part of the Skill-

Building Program.

"Up until then he had been attending a day program in the area," Moon said. "Creig did not love going to the program and was not progressing with life skills. Once COVID hit and his program became remote, it was not a good situation for Creig."

Moon knew Judd from a few years back and saw some posts about the rescue.

"When Creig mentioned that he wished he could work with animals — he has always loved animals and learning about them — I reached out to Danielle and asked if he could volunteer at the farm, as long as he had someone with him," Moon said. "She was super supportive from the beginning, and a wonderful relationship was born."

Creig was trained on caring for the animals, for tasks including mucking the stalls, feeding and watering, and learning how to handle the animals in general. Moon said he is now able to perform the work almost independently. He goes to work three days a week, on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 9 a.m. to noon.

"This opportunity has been life-changing and something we never dared to even wish for," Moon said. "Creig has proven to be a really hard worker. Creig's autism causes him to have quite a bit of sensory sensitivity but he's able to be in the chicken coop, with cobwebs, birds flying around him making loud noises, all without him being bothered at all. He loves cleaning the nests and retrieving the chickens' eggs. He is learning the responsibility that comes from having a job, such as being on time and being reliable."

She said he's also learning money management skills since he earns a small token wage. He interacts with a lot of different people at the farm, which is improving his social skills, Moon said.

"Creig also loves practicing his joke-telling with Danielle," Moon said. "Overall, we have seen a huge improvement in his social behavior and self-confidence."

She said either she or his aide drives him to the farm and stays



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

THE DRAKE owner and founder Alec Glasser stands in front of the restaurant on Thursday in Laguna Beach.

The Drake Gives helps student development via music education

BY ANDREW TURNER

Alec Glasser was 12 when he picked up a saxophone for the first time.

As a youth growing up in the Queens borough of New York City, Glasser didn't see a path forward for himself in athletics, but in music he discovered a sense of self and so much more.

Music became more prominent in his life by high school, which he attended in the South Jamaica neighborhood. The local plan for integration exposed him to new genres of music, including the blues and jazz.

Before long, Glasser was redirected from a music career. His father secured a job for him at the Drake Hotel in Manhattan, where he came across stars in the field.

"In large part, I did it because the Drake, at that point in time, was a very iconic music venue in New York," Glasser said. "All the great blues and jazz guys played there during that period of time. I used to hang out in the kitchen on my breaks, and all the musicians hung out in the kitchen. I hung with John Coltrane, Miles Davis, all the great ones."

Glasser was an elevator operator at the hotel. That stint — working inside a 10-foot-by-10-foot space — taught him a lot about understanding people and how to make them happy, he said.

It is a time in his life that never left, even as he went on to practice law and work as a real estate developer.

Glasser, who received a heart

transplant in 2018, opened a nostalgia-rooted business venture the next year in the form of the Drake, a restaurant and live music venue in Laguna Beach.

The business harks back to Glasser's experience working at the hotel. Elements of the design pay tribute to that experience, including the image of an elevator dial above the front door.

"It was a great opportunity to see how fine dining came together with wonderful, very high-level music," reminisced Glasser, who has lived in Laguna Beach since 1978. "It was one of the only places that I've ever been where you had fine music and fine dining under the same roof."

From the conception of the restaurant, Glasser said he wanted to have a nonprofit to go along with it. The Drake Gives became that nonprofit in 2021, since aligning itself with another musically motivated nonprofit, Save the Music.

To date, four fundraising events put on by the Drake Gives have raised more than \$500,000. The next event is happening on May 14.

"The power of music changed my life," Glasser said. "It wasn't just playing an instrument. What happened for me was it was an opportunity to socialize, to get out of my shyness a little bit and make friends. I learned how to work in groups. When you're playing in a band, you have to work together."

See **Drake**, page A8



Courtesy of FarmHouse Rescue

CREIG MOON helps clean up at FarmHouse Rescue in Trabuco Canyon as part of the Skill-Building Program.

with him in case a situation arises where he needs help.

"As soon as he arrives at the farm, he changes into his rubber work boots and farmer's hat and gets right to work," she said. "He starts by mucking the horse stalls and helps with the feeding and watering. Then he moves to the sheep and goat pens and lastly the chickens. He will also do some raking and straightening up of the area as well before he leaves at noon."

Judd, whose email signature reads, "Be the reason someone smiles," jokes often when talking about her life — especially when talking about her memory loss. She said that she'll forget watching specific shows on Netflix, but re-watches them when her hus-

band reminds her she liked them. "He has a thing that he swears he's taken me to a hockey game, and I said if there's no picture, it doesn't exist," she said.

Through the smiles, she works hard to reach all the goals she has set for FarmHouse Rescue because she knows the importance of the work she does.

"My biggest fear is that I won't grow FarmHouse Rescue to what it needs to be by the time that I've forgotten what it is," she said. "I need this to work because it helps so many kids. So it's a driving force for me, which is actually fantastic. I think it's helped my brain a lot."

Jessica Peralta is a contributor to TimesOC.



She never stopped fighting. Neither did we.

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forum

A WORD, PLEASE | JUNE CASAGRANDE

When lack of punctuation landed a woman in jail

Michael: The incident has already been reported. When you see that sentence, do you think that I'm talking to Michael, or do you think that Michael said that and I'm quoting him?

What if we added one more line for context?

Michael: The incident has already been reported.

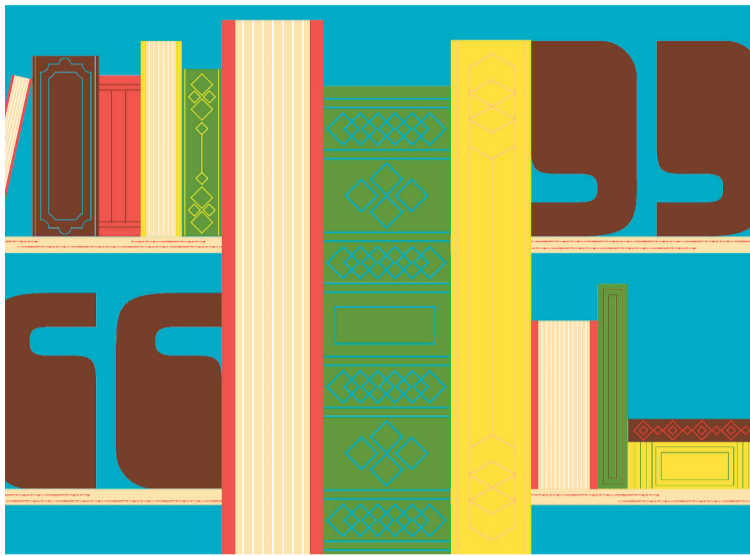


Timothy: Then, sir, all is lost! It's starting to look like dialogue, right? Like the words after the name Michael are not me talking but in fact are Michael's own words.

Naturally, if I added quotation marks, all doubt would be erased. Michael: "The incident has already been reported."

But the quote marks would be wrong. For dialogue, according to both the Associated Press Stylebook and the Chicago Manual of Style, from which I lifted this Michael-Timothy dialogue verbatim, you should use only a colon and no quotation marks.

Yet a colon could mean the opposite. Sometimes colons are used to indicate you're addressing someone directly. You see this most often in correspondence — emails, letters and the like.



Patrick Hruby | Los Angeles Times

ALTHOUGH THEY aren't required with dialogue, quotation marks can help readers understand a writer's intent.

Michael: I hope you're well. If this were the first line in an email, the reader would know immediately who's talking. Plus, if you throw in a word before Michael like "dear" or "hey," you erase all doubt. Dear Michael: I hope you're well.

It's a small miracle that this system doesn't cause more problems. We can usually infer who's talking from the context. For example, when we see a news

headline that says, "Biden: You can't have the strongest economy in the world with a second-rate infrastructure," we know that it's probably not someone at the newspaper speaking directly to Joe Biden but instead a shorthand way of attributing the quote to the president himself. Even if that's not immediately clear, it usually takes no more than a sentence or two for the reader to understand who's talking.

It's a pretty good system, usually.

But it didn't work out so well for Monica Ciardi, a New Jersey mom who went on Facebook to vent about the way two judges handled her child-custody dispute with her ex-husband. Among Ciardi's many angry posts was this one: "Judge Bogaard and Judge DeMarzo: If you don't do what I want then you don't get to see your kids. Hmm."

Soon after, local police swarmed Ciardi's house, handcuffed her and put her in jail, where she would spend the next 35 days for "terroristic threats, harassment and retaliation against a public official," according to the New Jersey Monitor.

Ciardi says she wasn't speaking to the judges — wasn't harassing them or threatening them on her 50-follower Facebook account. She was instead paraphrasing the judges' words and actions as she interpreted them — summing up the jurists' implicit message.

"She got arrested because she forgot quotation marks," Ciardi's public defender, Mackenzie Shearer, told the paper.

Yes, quotation marks could have prevented the whole unfortunate incident. But technically you can't forget a punctuation mark if it was never required in the first place.

Before social media, pretty much the only people getting published were journalists and authors — trained professionals with experience in clear, unambiguous, not-legally-fraught communication. Today, everyone's a content creator, writing about their lives and broadcasting their opinions in public forums. But most social media users lack the training and experience to understand how to prevent potentially catastrophic ambiguities.

It's not hard to imagine a private citizen sitting in her living room, venting in a sarcastic voice to friends: "Ugh! Those judges! They're all like, 'If you don't do what I want then you don't get to see your kids.'"

Nor is it hard to imagine someone who actually did mean the judges harm using the same words in a different tone of voice. Either way, the listeners would get the speaker's meaning.

The lesson here: Whenever punctuation — even unnecessary punctuation — could add greater clarity to your writing, use it.

JUNE CASAGRANDE is the author of "The Joy of Syntax: A Simple Guide to All the Grammar You Know You Should Know." She can be reached at JuneTCN@aol.com.

MAILBAG

Lamenting the poor adverb

Although I have greatly enjoyed reading "A Word, Please" regularly in the Daily Pilot, my husband and I found ourselves adamantly disagreeing with June Casagrande's February 11, 2024 column about adverbs.

Echoes of Mr. Hardin, my eighth-grade English teacher at John Adams Jr. High School in Santa Monica, rattled loudly in my brain.

How did I dress? Warmly, that's how. How did I slice the onions? Thinly, that's how. How should I drive the car? Slowly, that's how. Sadly, the poor adverb sometimes seems destined for the trash heap of the

English language. I, for one, will miss it terribly.

Celeste Liddle San Clemente

How to privatize a public library

While I hope I am wrong, I have a feeling the Huntington Beach City Councils' library resolution N0 2023-41 is just an excuse so they can privatize our beautiful library.

Step 1. Vilify the library and claim its librarians are infesting the children with pornography and obscenities. Create outrage among your base.

Step 2. Claim in order to protect children, you must demand all materials you deem to be offensive be removed and placed in a restricted area. State loudly this is not a book ban.

Step 3. Make your children's book restriction criteria as broad and vague as possible. Use terms like "any children's book with sexual content." Force librarians to determine what that means. Should public outcry occur, blame library staff.

Step 4. Form a 21-person committee to oversee the ordering of all children's materials. These volunteers are sure to become overwhelmed having to read through every single book before it can be purchased. It will also be expensive for the city to purchase preview

copies for the committee members.

Step 5. Tell the public after considerable consideration you have decided the best way to save money and keep children safe is to hire a company to privatize the library. This company will now order only materials you and your colleagues find to be morally acceptable and reflect your point of view.

That my friends, is how a mayor and her fellow council members can take over the Huntington Beach Public Library and Cultural Center and turn it into a privatized library, one that will reflect the viewpoint of only some of the residents, while being paid for by all of the residents.

Barbara Richardson Huntington Beach

O.C.'s Porter might be best for state

It's not often you get the chance to vote for two candidates that you admire and ones you don't just like but really like. In the upcoming primary, being offered the choice of voting for Orange County's U.S. Reps. Katie Porter or Adam Schiff seems to me too good to be true. What adds to the allure of this race is the fact that there has not been an open Senate seat in California since Barbara Boxer retired eight years ago.

Unlike Congressional seats, which last only two years, a Senate seat lasts six years. The downside of this, of course, is that if one of these three Congressional members wins, the others will be out of office for a minimum of

two years unless they seek a position at the state or local level. All of my speculation is made from the perspective that the voter is a Democrat or independent. It does not take into consideration that people are going to vote for another strong Democrat in the running, Barbara Lee, or a strong Republican candidate, Steve Garvey of Dodger fame. With two dozen other candidates, there are likely to be many votes spread around. Most speculation, however, is based on the likelihood that at least one of the top two vote-getters will be Schiff or Porter.

With the primary election format adopted in 2011, the top two candidates will go on to the November election regardless of their political party. This format makes strategy as necessary as it is in a chess game. Already Schiff in his ads has devised the strategy of advertising that the top two vote-getters will be him and Garvey, leaving Porter out in the cold. Porter, a professor from UC Irvine, is running on her skills and reputation as a consumer protector and the fact that she takes no campaign contributions from corporations. Schiff has built a reputation as a tough public prosecutor and a leading critic of Donald Trump and who presided over the latter's first impeachment trial. Garvey has no political experience but is counting on his reputation as a famous athlete and a concerned citizen who, as a Republican, often expresses conservative views.

From the onset I have been torn between voting for Schiff or Porter, having great admiration for both of their accomplishments. I loved meeting Schiff when he came to Orange County and campaigned for Harley Rouda. I also love the clean campaign that Porter has run and her incredible strength and originality as a consumer protector. After much deliberation, my decision might just rest on the fact that Porter is truly an original. Also weighing heavily in my decision is that she comes from Orange County. She currently represents Newport Beach and other coastal cities in the 47th district of Con-

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CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

Crossword grid with letters filled in.

Sudoku grid with numbers filled in.

Cabinet Factories Outlet advertisement featuring Kempfer and Decora cabinets, with contact information and award logos.

Mark's Painting & Handyman Service advertisement with phone number 714-222-3055.

Marketplace advertisement with sections for Merchandise, Employment, and Restaurant opportunities.

MAILBAG

Continued from page A6

gress. How exciting and what a novelty that would be for our state to be represented by a local citizen and Congresswoman?

Lynn Lorenz
Newport Beach

Banana tradition is worth keeping

Your article on my favorite stop on Balboa Island to get a frozen banana sure brought back memories when I lived on Lido (Balboa Island's Sugar 'n Spice goes up for sale; owners hope to keep it alive, Daily Pilot, Feb. 10). When I moved 23 years ago down here to Costa Rica I found that the Costa Ricans like their frozen bananas just dipped in the chocolate without all the other nuts and goodies; however, you very seldom can find them for sale. I hope the new owners keep up the tradition on the Island.

John Kingsley
Playa del Coco
Costa Rica

H.B. leaders need to focus on H.B.

The Huntington Beach City Council gang of four have once again mistaken themselves for federal or state representatives. They seem to believe that they are entitled to be the voice of the people of Huntington Beach by sending a message of support to Texas Gov. Greg Abbott for defying the federal government's jurisdiction over the Texas border.

The immigration issue is complex and frustrating. Neither party has been able to solve it. I can see valid arguments on both sides.

If I feel my Congressional representative, my Senators, the governor or even the president needs to be apprised of my



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

KIDS GATHER around for frozen bananas at the Sugar 'n Spice frozen banana stand on Balboa Island on Feb. 8.

thoughts on any issue, I have and I will continue to write them. I do not appreciate the actions of this self appointed, unauthorized quartet once again overstepping the boundaries of their positions. They have continually used their majority status to quash any objections or public outcry to their absurd proposals. Perhaps a review of the description of the duties of a councilman or woman is in order for these four.

I have lived here since 1960 and have never witnessed such belligerent, partisan-pushing behavior as we've seen lately by four of the council members. Councilwoman Natalie Moser was correct in suggesting at the Feb. 7 meeting that the job of the council was "to work for our community" citing issues as homelessness, infrastructure, public safety as taking precedence. Maybe if Strickland, Van Der Mark, Burns

and McKeon made our city their priority instead of wasting time pushing their uncalled for agendas we might see some progress.

Mary Franklin
Huntington Beach

When will this City Council learn that they are governing a city and were elected to do so by the people? At the last meeting the majority members passed a resolution in support of Texas with its position on immigration. Federal issues should not be the concern of our council. We elect House of Representatives and Senators to take care of issues they control.

This council predicts a financial crisis in the years ahead, so they should be looking at ways to meet this crisis. Climate change will bring us very important questions on how to prepare and meet potential sea level rise. Our city made many infrastructure

decisions during a time of intense building when oil production was no longer a major industry. Many of these improvements must be looked at and may need to be improved.

We are faced with three unnecessary and costly amendments to the charter. Measure A used the prospect of voter I.D. to win over folks. If you are a registered voter, you have already produced identification when you registered to vote. The proponents say it will protect us against election fraud, but there has never been a proven fraud case in an Orange County election. If this were passed the city would probably be sued by the state, and to make it even more costly, the county could refuse our appearance on the county ballot because we went against the state. The city would then have to conduct its own elections at a great cost to the citizens. The city would have to

buy new voting equipment, find locations for voting, hire personnel, pay for ballot printing, and many other costs.

Measure B is the most unnecessary amendment. If passed it would place a permanent ban on certain flags that could be flown on city property. There already is an ordinance to allow the council to vote on which flags would fly, so putting it into the charter is totally unnecessary.

Measure C is more of an administrative issue but does have two important sections. One is that the mayor would have the right to cancel a meeting. This should be a decision made by the entire council and only if there is a very good reason for doing so! I believe, at this time, a two-year budget is unreasonable. If we have financial concerns ahead of us, there is a need to watch, study and make decisions on how to address each year!

We have a well educated community whose residents should be a part of the decision-making process. Don't silence their voices — instead the council should make them a part of the work it should be doing.

Shirley Dettloff
former mayor, Huntington Beach

Based on how the Huntington Beach City Council majority is handling its overhaul of our public library by relocating books from the children's section with the slightest depiction of nudity (e.g. mermaids) and sexual content (e.g. kissing/cuddling), closing the teen section, and launching restrictive library cards for teens as old as 17, do we really think they can handle running local elections? Their draconian library policies have been mired in chaos and confusion from day one. Can we trust the conservative majority with the hiring, training and infrastructure needed for municipal voting? Our city is operating at a deficit. Where is the money going to come from to pay for this scheme?

Based on how these politicians have performed since taking office, we can't let them tamper with our city charter. I urge Huntington Beach residents to vote no on Measures A, B, and C.

Carol Daus
Huntington Beach

When former City Council members write a commentary urging residents to vote no on A, B and C, all voters should pay attention.

One of the most important arguments is the major costs that the charter changes would impose on our tax payers, initially \$450,000 to place the changes on the March 5 primary and thereafter additional unknown

See **Mailbag**, page A8

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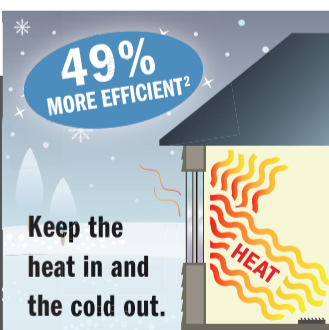
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DRAKE

Continued from page A4

“Something about music, ... about learning an instrument, there have been a lot of studies to the effect that by playing an instrument, people who play instruments become better problem-solvers, they have a sense of fortitude and will toward a goal. ... There are a lot of benefits that go along with learning an instrument that go way beyond just entertainment value.”

Most recently, the financial backing has gone to support the needs of the Anaheim Union High School District, which on Jan. 24 received a contribution of \$205,000. A district spokesperson said the multiyear grant will go toward instruments for Ball and Sycamore, a mariachi grant for Brookhurst, and a digital lab grant for South, all of which are middle schools. Savanna High will also benefit from a digital lab grant.

“We’re in a community where music-making has a very long and meaningful tradition in our district, and these instruments are going to be beneficial in getting into the hands of students who wouldn’t



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

ALEC GLASSER, founder of the Drake restaurant, middle, stands with his general manager and partner Matthew Timmes, left, and sous chef Nick Gstrein.

otherwise have the means or the access to these types of opportunities,” Ball band director Nate Wilson said in a statement. “We are eternally grateful, and we’re excited to see the way it’s going to impact their lives moving forward through high school into higher education.”

Henry Donahue, executive director of Save the Music, said Glasser

reached out to the group as the restaurant was getting up and running, hoping to launch a social impact component that would contribute to the development of students.

Save the Music aligned with those goals in helping to make music accessible to those in public schools.

“The idea is that the school commits to budgeting and paying for the teacher, so it’s got to be

a certified teacher in the regular budget teaching music as a class during the school day in a room dedicated for music,” Donahue said. “Then we make the capital investment in each school to get each of these programs off the ground, so it’s mostly instruments, equipment and technology.”

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AUTHOR

Continued from page A4

incorporate a scavenger hunt, where families can go to visit company names that she will release that tie to the locations in the book. Each participating business will display a “Goodnight Surf City” logo to look for.

She hopes spending time in Huntington Beach sparks something, like it did in her.

“I’ve been watching the U.S. Open and other surf contests, watching the volleyball players, the hustle and bustle of the boardwalk and taking in the views since I was a little one,” she said. “Now I love to take fun walks and enjoy all of the beautiful views, all while spending quality time with my family. It’s fun to watch the grandkids run down the pier, taking it all in like I did at their age. It’s so magical. Then topping it off with a visit to the Kite Connection.”

Haas said she will do a reading and signing of the book at Pacific City on Saturday, March 2, which is National Read Across America Day (Dr. Suess Day).

As for “Goodnight Surf City,” Haas hasn’t really worried about how many

“It’s fun to watch the grandkids run down the pier, taking it all in like I did at their age. It’s so magical.”

Huntington Beach author Toni Haas

copies she’s sold, since she has a day job as a sales and contracts administrator in the construction industry. Still, she’s already planning a sequel.

“I’ve been getting so many inquiries on this that I want to give it some attention before I just dive into another book,” she said. “But I’ve already started the other one. It’s a process, for sure.”

“It’s been really fun. It’s like a little trickle of star magic drops down when I get a little review. I’m like, ‘Oh my gosh.’”

“Goodnight Surf City” is available on Amazon and other online booksellers, as well as select locations in Huntington Beach.

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MAILBAG

Continued from page A7

amounts in the thousands to set up the city’s own election system.

A PAC has placed numerous signs throughout out the city urging a favorable vote, and it would be interesting to learn the composition of the PAC and whether taxpayer funds were used.

Richard C. Armendariz
Huntington Beach

The well-funded conservative majority seems to want to stage a coup in Huntington Beach, not only banning books DeSantis-style, but also rebuking our nation’s Constitution, Texas-Abbott-style. Next they will want to secede from California, following the divisive rhetoric of

Greg Abbott. I support law and order and the right to peruse any book of learning I choose, and not to not to support divisive, Constitution-defying followers of insurrectionist Donald J. Trump and all of his lawless ways.

Jim Hoover
Huntington Beach

I write this observation as I’ve watched with despair as my first O.C. hometown in 1972 — Huntington Beach — become a city that seems to have decided behind a highly partisan City Council to return in many ways to the apparently nostalgic era of hatefulness, division and intolerance that was once the national identity of Orange County. Let’s not reconstruct our past history as the home of the John Birch Society. Let’s not return to electing hateful, des-

potic and ignorant representatives like Bob Dorman and Dana Rohrbacher.

Huntington Beach is not alone in this prosecution of many of the elements of the right wing-inspired culture war agenda — we’re finding it spreading to many local communities around the country. Something happened to our vision of a great country with our recent national elections and exacerbated by the pandemic. People have become more openly hateful and intolerant. Hate crimes and property crimes are proliferating, even though violent crime seems to be down from the 1990s. People drive like the 405 is a new setting for Destruction Derby. It often seems like daily life has become a race to the bottom. Against this national backdrop, we find many cities, counties and states acting like the Hunt-

ington Beach council — demonizing enemies and deconstructing institutions that grew up in the last few decades to promote better human interaction and greater tolerance.

So that’s why I’m sad when I see the H.B. City Council cancel the Human Relations Task Force, refuse to adopt a Housing Element dealing with affordable housing and homelessness, censure a fellow council member for her concern about legitimizing Holocaust denial, banning the Pride flag, and most recently aligning with the Texas’ governor in virtue-signaling racist immigration policies.

It’s clear the council majority’s aim is to diminish the direction we are headed as a county — diverse, inclusive, tolerant of others. Perhaps I’m not close enough to the issues on the ground in Surf City, but why

should a City Council purposefully take actions that devalue others’ life choices, create unwarranted divisions, further polarization, and propel disruptive and often untruthful culture wars?

Please, Orange County, don’t return to the days of covert racism, free-floating hatred and antisemitism. Don’t cancel initiatives aimed at diversity, equity and inclusion simply because it’s the new cancellation target of despots and autocrats and even some presidential candidates. Please don’t turn off the beacon that has been focused on Orange County — the shining County on the Hill. Let’s live and let live, and continue on the course that we’ve set for our county over the last 40 years.

Michael Schneider
Laguna Beach



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