



Photos by James Carbone

AUTO SHOW attendees watch as guests get a chance to test drive a Jeep Rincon on the off-road track during the Orange County Auto Show at the Anaheim Convention Center on Thursday. The show, featuring model electric cars, continued through the weekend and ends today.

New electric vehicles spark interest at the O.C. Auto Show

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

Car lovers were revved up and ready to go as they filed into the opening of the Orange County Auto Show at the Anaheim Convention Center on Thursday evening.

Finishing up today, the event is being held in conjunction with National Drive Electric Week and features hundreds of new cars, trucks, crossovers, SUVs, exotics and electric vehicles. Owned by the Orange County Automobile Dealers Assn. and produced by Steve Freeman Events, the O.C. Auto Show is designed to celebrate Southern California car culture and offer a first look at the latest 2024 model vehicles in a non-selling environment.

Electric vehicles in particular are highlighted on the SoCal Electrified Ride Experience, a large indoor EV test track that gives show attendees the chance to experience all-

See *Auto*, page A2



MIDDLE: Guests test drive electric cars on the SoCal Electrified Ride Experience track during the O.C. Auto Show at the Anaheim Convention Center.

RIGHT: A family checks out a minivan at the O.C. Auto Show on Thursday, Oct. 5.



Family to pitch son's baseball-themed invention on TV

BY SARA CARDINE

Orange County devotees of the reality TV show "Shark Tank" may see familiar faces next Friday, as a local family pitches a product that's gone from the hands of an 8-year-old Little Leaguer into the Angels' and Dodgers' locker rooms.

Tustin resident Jon Batarse is scheduled to appear alongside 8-year-old son Gavin and daughter Morgan, 11, in front of a panel of potential investors — aka "sharks" — to sell them on "Glove Wrap," a device designed to break in and shape the gloves of baseball/softball players and hockey goalies.

Created in early 2022, the product is a solution to the age-old problem of transforming stiffly manufactured leather gloves and mitts into supple, performance-

ready pieces.

"It basically shapes your glove," Gavin explains of his invention. "It takes less time to break it in, and it's a lot easier."

Like most good inventions, Glove Wrap was born from necessity. In an interview Thursday, family members recalled a day in January 2022 when Gavin, then 6, bought a new baseball glove that needed breaking in.

The Batarses typically accomplish this task by placing a baseball inside the leather contraption, then winding dozens and dozens of rubber bands tightly around its exterior. Time and physics took care of the rest.

But on this fateful day there was a problem.

"We used to use rubber bands, but we didn't have enough," Gavin recalled. "So Dad asked me to

find a different way."

Challenging the kids to think outside the box is nothing new for Batarse who, aside from being executive pastor at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Newport Beach, heads his own marketing agency and is a firm believer in entrepreneurship and its ability to foster ingenuity, diligence and confidence in those who practice it.

And so, Gavin gave the matter some serious thought and eventually returned to his father with an idea: What if, instead of using 50 to 100 rubber bands, they could use one giant one?

"I went online after he asked, because I'd never seen anything like that," Batarse recalled. "When I couldn't find anything like it, I

See *Pitch*, page A4



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

GAVIN, JON, and Morgan Batarse, from left, will appear on an episode of "Shark Tank" to pitch Glove Wrap, a product that breaks in sports gloves.

Work to begin on inclusive F.V. play facility

A groundbreaking event was held Wednesday for a universally accessible playground at Fountain Valley Sports Park.

BY ANDREW TURNER

An early October morning felt like summer, the temperature rising but a crowd of people still smiling as they celebrated the next step in what promises to be an inclusive addition to their community.

Public officials and community members gathered Wednesday for a groundbreaking ceremony for the much-anticipated universally accessible playground at Fountain Valley Sports Park.

Community leaders have dreamed of bringing the specialized play facility to the city for more than a decade. A universally accessible playground would be designed to have individuals of all abilities play alongside each other.

The Fountain Valley City Council approved plans in January for the project, which carries an estimated cost of \$1.72 million.

"The city has long been a supporter of all people and believes that by removing barriers for children and adults, despite any differences, it gives them a chance to play and grow together," Mayor Kim Constantine said. "This universally accessible playground project shows our commitment to that philosophy and will be a highlighting recreational attraction for generations in Fountain Valley."

Funding for the play area has come through several sources. State Assemblyman Tri Ta secured \$1 million in state funds. Fountain Valley also received \$211,000 in Proposition 68 grant funding, which requires a 20% match of \$42,200 by the city.

City officials added that Rep. Michelle Steel is seeking \$500,000 in federal funding to support the playground.

"We are celebrating the com-

See *Play*, page A8

ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



Courtesy of Caló

A NEW MEXICAN KITCHEN AT SOUTH COAST PLAZA FOCUSES ON HOSPITALITY PAGE A5

Residents who lost trailer homes continue to struggle

BY LILLY NGUYEN

Nearly two months after a fire burned through three homes in a Newport Beach trailer park, the residents displaced are still uncertain of their next steps.

On Aug. 16, the Newport Beach Fire Department responded to calls about a fire at about 9:35 a.m. from an unnamed resident who spotted gray smoke coming up from one of the spaces in the Beach/Bay Mobile Home Port at 7204 West Coast Hwy. The witness said she did not see flames, according to a report on the incident prepared by fire investigators.

By 10:08 a.m., the fire was extinguished by firefighters, according to the report. No injuries were reported, but three of the homes were significantly damaged and displaced all three households.

The report, which was approved on Sept. 20, stated that the cause of the fire was undetermined, though the now displaced residents believe it may have originated from electrical outlets.

Fire investigators noted in their report that electricity was provided to the site through a central point to the rear of the spaces, with

two sites sharing one electrical pedestal.

Regardless of what may have started the destructive fire, several former residents continue to struggle to find an affordable permanent place to stay or even the means to haul away the wreckage of the trailers they called home.

Michelle Martin and her mother, Lynn Scherer, are still residing at a friend's home, where Martin said she's been paying \$2,200 in rent. She is struggling to find a home with enough room to take care of her mother, but rates have been either exorbitantly high or the property managers haven't called her back.

Her friend, Natasha Beavin, said so far they've only been able to raise \$3,400 on the GoFundMe crowdfunding platform for Martin and Scherer of the \$300,000 goal to get them back on their feet.

Gilbert Vasquez said the trailer he lost in the fire wasn't intended for his use but for his brother. Vasquez, still a resident at the park in an RV undamaged by the fire, said in a recent interview he'd been holding the second space for his sibling, who will soon be coming from Dubai. But now, with that

trailer gone and the wreckage still remaining, Vasquez is on the hook for finding a licensed contractor to do the necessary work. At this point, it looks like his brother will have to room with him.

"We know that with an RV ... if I add more people, it's going to be crowded," Vasquez said. "My mom is there. She's a senior, and when my brother comes, I'm going to have to buy an RV and replace it or double that," Vasquez said. "That's my struggle right now."

An independent contractor that has done work for the park said that, for legal reasons, the park is not permitted to remove the wreckage itself and cannot allow residents to do the work themselves because of potential liabilities. But, as Vasquez, Martin and fellow fire victim Tim Wetzel pointed out, that leaves victims forced to pay for the work.

Vasquez said that, at least from what he's learned so far, hiring a licensed contractor will put him out at a minimum of \$5,000 he doesn't have.

Vasquez gave up his Blue Nose pit bull puppy, Star, because of the lack of space. Neighbor Devyn Ascher has been fostering



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

A WINNEBAGO RV and the surrounding area were destroyed by a fire in a trailer park at 7204 West Coast Hwy. in Newport Beach in mid-August. Three households were displaced.

her for the time being, but Ascher is looking for someone to adopt her. Star has now received her puppy shots but has not yet been spayed, as she is too young.

Ascher is hopeful a family will be able to take her home, preferably one that will allow Star to sleep inside and have a yard to play in. Interested readers can contact her at adopt-starbaby@gmail.com.

Wetzel said he was living

at the park for the last five years. After the fire destroyed his home he stayed at a place that his sister owned for a few weeks before moving into a room in Huntington Beach, where he currently remains. If Wetzel could have his way, he said, "I'll never go back to that trailer park as long as I live."

Wetzel, 65, said he lost almost everything he owned in the fire. He'd been at

work at the time it broke out and lost keepsakes from his father and uncle.

A representative of Orange County Supervisor Katrina Foley has expressed the supervisor's office is prepared and able to provide assistance to those affected by the fires but that as of Thursday, none had reached out for that help.

lilly.nguyen@latimes.com
Twitter: @lilibirds



James Carbone

FAMILIES WALK through the Anaheim Convention Center looking at new model cars on display at the O.C. Auto Show.

AUTO

Continued from page A1

electric vehicles from Cadillac, Ford, Hyundai, Kia, Nissan, Volvo and Volkswagen.

Lorenzo Edwards, sales and leasing consultant at Simpson Cadillac of Buena Park, answered questions about the 2024 Cadillac LYRIQ, an electric vehicle from the luxury car manufacturer.

"The range is 312 miles on a full charge," Edwards said.

The LYRIQ has a horsepower of 340 to 500, and average battery charge time is 10.7 hours at 220 volts,

but Edwards said there are other features that make the LYRIQ stand out.

"What sets us apart from other EVs is the luxury, the style and the ride," said Edwards.

Another big draw at the show is Camp Jeep, where professional 4x4 drivers take passengers on an off-road test track.

Driver Israel Gonzales ferried riders in a 2024 Jeep Wrangler Rubicon through the course that includes 35-degree-angle climb.

"Of course these Jeeps are phenomenal at climbing," said Gonzales as he approached the climb. "This is 18 feet up and we are just going to go for it."

On the steep drive, a forward-facing camera helps drivers navigate the ascent and decent.

"Our forward-facing camera shows exactly where we are but also where we are steering," Gonzales said, demonstrating the camera's movement.

Other attractions include driving simulators, a scavenger hunt, photo opportunities and car collectibles from vendors like Burning Rubber Toy Co., which sells die-cast cars from a large orange "toy truck."

"Basically everything is organized by make, model, year — and that is why people like us," said Katie

Meck, who owns Burning Rubber with her husband Paul. "So say you want a '62 Corvette, we send you right to it."

Burning Rubber sells at shows in Southern and Northern California and online, but Meck said at Orange County shows, the crowd skews younger.

"This show is a lot of the younger set, so JDM cars are huge, especially in Orange County," said Meck. "And because we are so close to Disneyland, all the character cars are huge too."

sarah.mosqueda@latimes.com
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Students enjoy hands-on opportunities

BY MATT SZABO

Darlyn Romero was like a kid in a candy store on Thursday.

More accurately, the Middle College High School senior was like a kid on a medical technology campus, but Romero wouldn't have it any other way.

She is the president of the Feminineering club at Middle College, which is located on the campus of Santa Ana College, and developed a curriculum for that club. She's already taking a college manufacturing course, learning how to operate machines and do blueprinting.

Romero was one of the students who benefited from Vital Link's tour of the Johnson & Johnson MedTech campus in Irvine on Thursday.

The timing of the tour was chosen because October is Manufacturing Month in the state of California. Additionally, Friday was National Manufacturing Day.

"I'm looking forward to seeing how engineering happens in actual society," said Romero, adding that her goal is to study engineering at an out-of-state university next year. "I like to take advantage of any opportunity that comes my way. I feel like every opportunity, every experience that you put yourself through you get to learn and grow as a person. You get to come to terms with who you want to be, ask yourself, 'Is this something I see myself in? Does this spark something within me?' Honestly, this environment gets me really excited."

"Is this my vibe? In our generation, a lot of us care about how we feel and the vibe. Having emotion connected to what you do is really important."

Vital Link, an Orange County nonprofit based in Garden Grove, brought



Photos by Spencer Grant

BIOSENSE WEBSTER President Jasmina Brooks and Stacey Darling look over students' projects during a campus tour on Thursday as Maroun Nehme, center background, also observes. Students, left to right, are Michael Barba, Angel Torres (design engineer), Edwin Rodriguez Martinez (parking engineer) and Gourachandra Salam (marketing manager).

about 25 students from Buena Park High School and Middle College to the J&J MedTech campus on Thursday. Through the guidance of Stacey Darling of J&J MedTech, they got to hear from some of the company's leaders, and go to a laboratory to experience technicians doing one step of assembly of a catheter.

The students' tour started with an interactive project. They were put into small groups and asked to assemble and market a device that would allow surgeons to push tissues in the body, with the minimum amount of damage to dissect.

Jasmina Brooks is the president of Biosense Webster, a global leader in cardiac arrhythmia treatment and part of Johnson & Johnson MedTech. She spoke to the students at the



PAMELA BUITRON, Melissa Castillo and Pamela Buitron, from Middle College High School in Santa Ana, test their prototype during a tour of Johnson & Johnson MedTech.

end of their tour.

Brooks said it is important to develop the next generation of STEM workers, and show the students the wide range of opportu-

nities and careers that the medical technology industry provides. She's one of the sponsors of Johnson & Johnson's WiSTEM²D program, which could benefit

someone like Romero. The program focuses on helping women advance in the field.

"We want to help decipher the mystery behind

STEM," Brooks said. "It can be so many things, provide so many career opportunities. It doesn't necessarily mean you're just an engineer developing something or writing code. There are so many different things you can consider as your career path with that type of background."

Vital Link partners with all 25 school districts in Orange County and select schools in Los Angeles County and the Inland Empire. Vital Link lead program coordinator Gabe Torres said the students for Thursday's campus visit were selected on a first come, first served basis.

The nonprofit was formed in 1995, in response to national studies that America's high school graduates needed to strengthen their skills to compete in the global economy.

Though the students didn't specifically get to see manufacturing occur in Irvine — that happens at Johnson & Johnson's campus in Juarez, Mexico — they got to learn plenty about the importance of manufacturing and the global supply chain.

A 2021 study by Deloitte and the Manufacturing Institute indicated that U.S. manufacturing is expected to have 2.1 million unfilled jobs by 2030.

"Our goal is to help students find careers that they're passionate about," Torres said. "I think of us as kind of like the middle man between the students and a career. We get a lot of students that don't know what they want to do or students that do know what they want to do. We try to help connect them with businesses like Johnson & Johnson, and then colleges too. We want to try to push them into the pathway that they're interested in."

matthew.szabo@latimes.com
Twitter: @mjszabo

PITCH

Continued from page A1

told him, 'It sounds like you have a really good idea.'

That simple suggestion started a process that would lead to the purchase and testing of various materials, sized and cut into different configurations, until just the right combination of thickness and flexibility was obtained.

The end result was a sheet of latex-free rubber that, when wound tightly around a glove, tucked in at the ends and left overnight, provided just the broken-in feel necessary for immediate game play.

Coming up with the self-explanatory name Glove Wrap, the Batarses contemplated next steps and determined how the invention would be packaged, manufactured and priced. Its yellow and black coloring, selected for easy visibility, had the added bonus of standing out from any one individual team's colors.



Jon Batarse

INVENTED IN 2022 by the family of Newport Beach pastor Jon Batarse, Glove Wrap is enjoying national fame as MLB players use it to shape and break in baseball gloves.

While Gavin is more of a pitch man and face of the brand, his father helps out with many of the logistics and marketing techniques, as only an adult could, while Morgan serves as more of a manager overseeing operations.

"I keep everyone on

track. There's no goofing off in this business — we're very serious," she said. "I also package, label and ship orders."

With a ready-to-use product in hand, the family reached out to their respective networks in the church and little league communi-

ties, where people happily became early adopters of the new technology.

But that was only the first step. Glove Wrap catapulted into a national spotlight when the Batarses began handing out samples to players in the major leagues, sharing videos of their endeavors on Instagram and other social media accounts.

In short order, clips included Angels players Mike Trout, Brett Phillips and Eduardo Escobar as well as those in the Los Angeles Dodgers' dugout, including Chris Taylor.

Most simply accepted the product, congratulating Gavin on his invention. But outfielder Phillips went a step further, actually using Glove Wrap on his own brand-new Wilson "I love baseball!" glove in his own video.

"Thank you so much for your cool new invention, the Glove Wrap — I'm going to try it out and give you honest feedback," he said, taking his own wrap out of

the packaging and winding it around the glove.

"I already know this is going to be really good. Gavin, thank you so much, buddy. I'll let you know how it goes. You're the man, take care."

Just two years in, sales are strong and the Batarses are already testing new products, like Glove Rub, which keeps glove leather pliant and flexible.

To further the visibility of their brand, the family decided last summer to apply to appear on the reality show "Shark Tank," where inventors and start-up companies pitch products to industry moguls.

"We watch 'Shark Tank' a lot," Morgan said Thursday.

"They do a really good job of sponsoring entrepreneurship," Bartase added. "It really was a way for the kids to learn about business and life, going in front of people and being confident and brave."

"I can't wait to see the airing because, obviously, it's a

dream come true, but because they get to watch the value of hard work come to life."

Although the process was long, Glove Wrap will finally air before a national audience on Oct. 13. Unable to share details on filming or outcomes, the Batarses are scheduling a viewing party with friends and family members.

Regardless of any TV fame, celebrity testimonials or five-star reviews, however, just the process of testing, branding, manufacturing and marketing Glove Wrap together as a family has been both a learning and a bonding experience for the Tustin family.

"What I like most about it is making fun videos and spending time with family," Gavin said of the process.

For more information on Glove Wrap, visit glowrap.com. "Shark Tank" airs Oct. 13, at 8 p.m. on broadcast channel ABC.

sara.cardine@latimes.com
Twitter: @SaraCardine



Marion Kavanagh Wachtel, *Long Lake, Sierra Nevada*, circa 1929, Oil on canvas, 20 x 26 in. UCI Jack and Shanaz Langson Institute and Museum of California Art, Gift of The Irvine Museum

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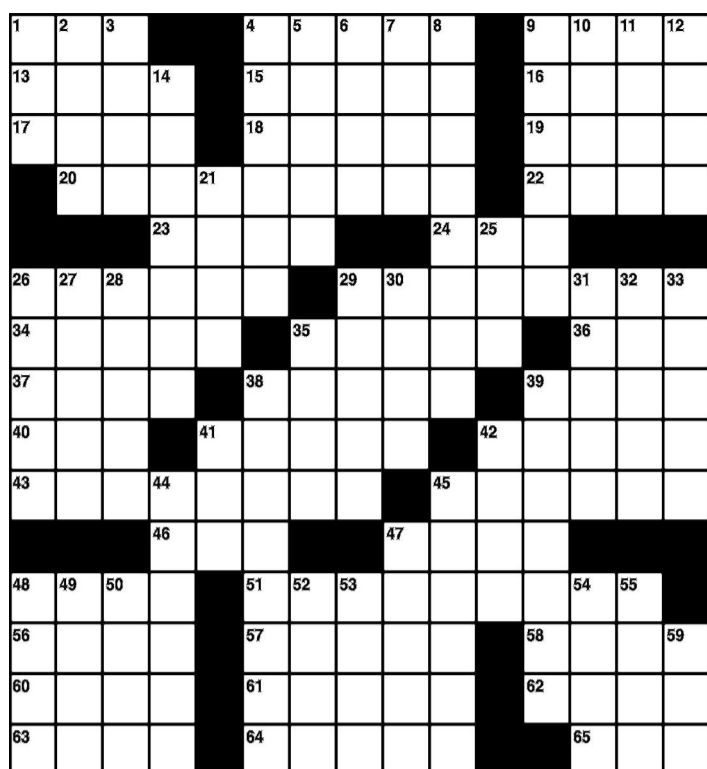
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THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Matthews

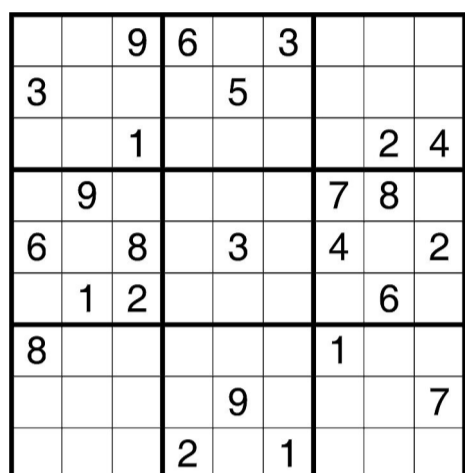
- ACROSS**
 1 Spoil
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 16 Genuine
 17 Easter's forerunner
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 20 Masonry
 22 Home buyer's concern
 23 Tears
 24 Pen contents
 26 Far from lenient
 29 Nice
 34 Spare holder
 35 National flower of Denmark
 36 Female animal
 37 __ out; peeled
 38 Doctrine
 39 Mongolian desert
 40 Actress MacGraw
 41 Chairs & stools
 42 Little misses
 43 Wild felines
 45 14-line poem
 46 Egg layer
 47 Cardinals or Saints
 48 Three biblical kings
 51 Hanging on every word
 56 Astounds
 57 Clutches
 58 Lasting quite awhile
 60 Request for permission
 61 Mysterious
 62 Learn's partner, in phrase
 63 Peepers
 64 Marsh grasses
 65 Coloring agent
- DOWN**
 1 Brooks or Blanc
 2 Logging tools



SUDOKU

By the Mephram Group

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



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

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 3 Torn in two | Jay |
| 4 Agree to take | 11 Feed bag contents |
| 5 Cat's defense | 12 Storyline |
| 6 Bull | 14 Putting away for later |
| 7 __-friendly; easy to operate | 21 Shaving mishap |
| 8 Most irksome | 25 Thumbs-down vote |
| 9 Pokes with a pin | |
| 10 Most famous | |

- 26 Camera attachment
 27 Refrain syllables
 28 Confrontation
 29 Jeans
 30 Whoppers
 31 Oak nut
 32 Gallant
 33 Oliver of fiction
 35 Letter opener
 38 Fake ID user, often
 39 Saloon
 41 "Murder, __ Wrote"
 42 Farm animal
 44 TV's " __ Us"
 45 Sight, smell, etc.
 47 Lukewarm
 48 Pepper spray brand
 49 Out of the office
 50 Actress Tierney
 52 Yuletide purchase
 53 Michelin product
 54 Empty space
 55 Covetous feeling
 59 Word of mild surprise

Tribune Media Services



CALÓ KITCHEN + TEQUILA at South Coast Plaza features dishes like shrimp and crab enchiladas.

Courtesy of Caló

Caló Tequila + Kitchen brings Mexican hospitality to SCP

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

Restaurateur Clemente Heredia believes there is a special level of hospitality in his Mexican culture. "Especially from the service aspect," he said. "In Mexico City, just as an example, when you go out to eat, service is very different there. You can go to any restaurant and they will say 'a tus ordenes' which means 'I am at your orders.'"

Heredia is hoping to replicate that service style at his recently opened Caló Tequila + Kitchen at South Coast Plaza. "Transfusing that level of energy here is the most important thing for me," said Heredia.

Caló Tequila + Kitchen opened in the space formerly occupied by the Hall Global Eatery. It's the third location for the Caló concept; Caló Kitchen in El Segundo opened in 2018 and Caló Kitchen, Laguna Niguel opened in 2021. In order to capture the attentive hospitality he's aiming for, Heredia said he took special care in assembling the Caló team.

"We spent so much time hiring. I think we had 4,000 applicants," Heredia said. "I hired I want to say, 40 servers from that pool. To be able to have that

hospitality that Mexico has, we really have to find people that have that naturally."

Heredia's team, headed by director of operations Juan Duarte and general manager Jacob Migliaccio, mans the 8,000-square-foot restaurant space. Decorated with natural rock and custom wallpaper, the space seats 179, with 35 bar seats and 144 in the dining area.

Heredia is particularly proud of the enclosed patio, which features an outdoor bar and three fire pits.

"I like it to feel outdoors, but with the enclosure you are not even sure if you're outdoors or not," said Heredia. "It is an escape."

Caló's menu offers traditional Mexican favorites, some with playful twists, like Clemente's enchiladas, stuffed with shrimp and lobster topped with salsa de guava.

"I like things that are sweet and spicy," explains Heredia.

Other dishes are inspired by Heredia's grandmother, the namesake of his restaurateur family's first concept, Carmelita's, which opened 60 years ago in the Sacramento area.

"A lot of our recipes were created by Grandma

in 1962, and they haven't changed," said Heredia. "So I am not sure what is more authentic than that."

The bar menu is mostly tequila, of course, but tightly curated.

"We tend to focus on certain tequilas, ones that are traditionally made," said Heredia. "So there is a lot of handmade processes still used. That is really important to us."

Heredia, who dabbled in tequila-making himself, knows good tequila and, by default, margaritas.

"We don't have a single bad margarita" Heredia said. "We keep it really simple too — just high-quality tequila, fresh lime juice and pure agave."

But Heredia maintains the food and drinks are only part of the dining experience.

"Honestly, I am proud of our build-out, I am proud of our food and our drinks," Heredia said. "But at the end of the day I am more proud of the people that are working alongside me."

Caló is currently open for dinner but will add lunch service beginning Oct. 24. Reservations can be made at calokitchen.com.

sarah.mosqueda@latimes.com
 Twitter: @SarahNMos

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forum

A WORD, PLEASE | JUNE CASAGRANDE

Did the ship founder or flounder?

The ship floundered in rough seas and eventually sank.

"The ship floundered in the swells off the Outer Banks for a while before breaking apart."

"When a cargo ship floundered on the shore, it was often considered providence."

When I searched Google recently for wrong uses of the verb "flounder," I

found a lot of flubs. Or did I? On second glance, I'm not sure any of the errors I caught by searching the term "ship floundered" were actually errors. On the contrary, the error may have been mine for believing the grammar scolds who complain that almost no one uses "founder" and "flounder" correctly.

"People commonly confuse 'flounder' and 'founder' because they sound similar and have similar spellings," one blogger warns. "The words 'flounder' and 'founder' are easily confused," says another. And there are lots more where these two came from. For the most part, these online language commenters are



Los Angeles Times

THE 247-FOOT fishing barge Minnie A. Caine was washed ashore off Sunset Boulevard, north of Santa Monica. Her crew of six was rescued. The fishing barge was one of several craft, large and small, battered by heavy seas and 60-mile-per-hour gale winds. This photo was published in the Sep. 25, 1939 Los Angeles Times.

right: The verbs "flounder" and "founder" are easy to confuse. But what's remarkable is that, at least in a nautical context, you're likely to get them right even if you're confused.

Here's a closer look. "Although the figurative sense of both words is 'to go wrong,' the literal sense evokes different images," says the Chicago Manual of Style. "To flounder is to

struggle awkwardly, as though walking through deep mud (the professor glared while the unprepared student floundered around for an answer). To founder (usually in reference to a boat or ship) is to sink or run aground (the ship floundered on the rocks)."

In the meaning of struggling or sinking, "flounder" appears to have entered the language in the late 16th century, but no one

knows where it came from. Some etymologists think it may have evolved as a variation of the verb "founder." It could also be related to the Dutch word "flodderen," meaning to flop about. It's probably not related to the fish flounder, which is interesting because the way fish flop around on the deck of a boat is a perfect illustration of the verb "flounder."

The verb "founder" is better understood. It started showing up in English in the early 14th century as a transitive verb meaning "to send to the bottom." Later that century, it started cropping up as an intransitive verb meaning "to sink or fall." Its roots lie in the old French "fondrer," meaning to collapse, to submerge or to sink or fall to the bottom. That means it's also related to the modern French "fondrier," which itself seems to have emerged from the 12th-century Latin "fundus," meaning a bottom or foundation of something.

So at every stage of its evolution, the verb "founder" has to do with sinking to the bottom of something or the bottom itself.

People don't often make the mistake of saying "founder" when they mean "flounder." To borrow

the Chicago Manual of Style's example above, it seems no one's inclined to say, "The unprepared student floundered around for an answer." It's only "flounder" that tends to show up where it's not intended, most often referring to sinking boats.

So when someone says that a ship floundered, it's easy to assume they mixed up the words. But, in many cases, a closer reading suggests that maybe they didn't. For example in "The ship floundered in rough seas and eventually sank," the verb "founder" would be illogical — the equivalent of saying "the ship sank and eventually sank."

"The ship floundered in the swells off the Outer Banks for a while before breaking apart" may not be a mistake either, because ships can both flounder and founder. And if these writers meant that the vessel struggled awkwardly in the water, then they chose their words just right.

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.

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MAILBAG

Who invited the former president to enter our airspace?

I'm so angry, I'm not sure where to begin! I read in today's Daily Pilot that the Pacific Airshow had a "special guest," which was Donald Trump in his branded plane on his way to a GOP convention in Anaheim. Who invited him, the show organizers? The city of Huntington Beach? Did he pay for this privilege? Were other candidates offered the opportunity to fly their planes over our beach and in front of hundreds of spectators? Did the spectators who paid to attend understand that they were possibly paying for a particular candidate to advertise to them?

Laurie Houghton
Huntington Beach

I live in Seal Beach near the Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base. As I write, jets roar over my neighborhood — some directly above my house — on their way to and from the three-day Huntington Beach Pacific Airshow. My dogs cower underneath furniture; some neighbors resort to tranquilizing their frightened pets.
In the past, I've weathered the disruption without complaint because so many people enjoy the air show.



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

FORMER PRESIDENT Donald Trump's Boeing 757 does a flyover to a rally in Anaheim, on day one of the Pacific Airshow in Huntington Beach on Friday.

This year, however, the Huntington Beach city attorney and the new council majority have thoroughly politicized what simply should be a fun family event.

Final straw: The air show's opening day featured none other than a flyover by the Trump plane.

I am forever surprised by what is "legal." Not all Huntington Beach residents support Trump, but they all helped pay for his free campaign stunt.

Due to a head-scratching and secretive lawsuit settlement, Huntington Beach taxpayers are providing more than \$5 million for what was previously self-supporting entertainment. (The organizer alleged the city, despite having little choice, maliciously shut down the 2021 air show

after an oil spill catastrophe.)

What's more, the private company running the air show gets to charge an entrance fee for swaths of a public beach. That seemingly underappreciated privilege should not have become a Trump whistle stop.

But this disrespect doesn't just concern Huntington Beach. Seal Beach and Los Alamitos residents should not be compelled to endure the noise and safety risks imposed on us to prop up a highly politicized, for-profit spectacle.

Susan Christian Goulding
Seal Beach

When Huntington Beach City Council Mayor Pro Tem Gracey Van Der Mark was speaking about her

Monopoly experience (Huntington Beach passes Go, collects its own 'Monopoly' game, Daily Pilot, Sept. 28), she related a story about her children asking why they had to pay a Monopoly tax. She could have used this as a teaching moment to explain how taxes fund public goods and services that benefit the community as a whole, saying something like, "Taxes maintain the parks and beaches where we go in the summer, build the roads to take us there, hire police, firefighters and lifeguards to keep us safe and pay your teachers' salaries. They hire people to keep our food and water safe, and protect the environment so you'll be able to enjoy nature when you get older. Speaking of getting older, taxes pay for grandma's Social Security, which she needs to live on, as well as her medical care. It also pays for the military to keep our country safe. And lastly, taxes pay mommy a salary." But instead, the general tone of Van Der Mark's response to her children is that taxes are bad and you better get used to it. Apparently, Van Der Mark doesn't understand the function of the government and the fundamental role taxes play in it, which is unfortunate for someone sitting on our City Council.

Dave Courdy
Huntington Beach

UC Irvine's law department, where both Katie Porter and Dave Min were professors, has provided the two key lawmakers to Orange County's governmental districts, one, the federal 47th Congressional District and the other California's 48th Senate District, both of which cover approximately the same areas, with the latter including not only Newport Beach and other beach cities but running as far inland as Anaheim, Orange and Villa Park. Both lawmakers are facing extremely strong opponents in the upcoming elections.

Much has been written about the charismatic personality and popularity of Katie Porter, who is known for her famous whiteboard presentations to business moguls as well as her refusal to take corporate election funds. She will be abandoning her 47th Congressional District, which is only a two-year position, to run for the much talked about Senate seat abandoned by the death of Sen. Diane Feinstein.

No stranger to tough

See Mailbag, page A8

OC Film Fiesta finds home for 'amazing lineup'

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

For the past 13 years, the annual OC Film Fiesta has taken place all around Orange County.

"We started in 2010 with the focus of celebrating the anniversary of the Mexican Revolution of 1901," said Victor Payan, director of Media Arts Santa Ana (MASA) and founder of the OC Film Fiesta. "So we had a lot of films about Mexico and the revolution, but from around the world, and from that we have gone on to showcase different cultures that are in Orange County."

Touted as "the premier cinematic celebration of the nation's diversity and multicultural heritage" and presented by MASA, the 14th OC Film Fiesta takes place virtually and in-person from Oct. 12 to 29, featuring films from Mexico, Argentina, Valenzuela, Italy, Spain, Greece, Iran, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, China and Taiwan.

"In previous years we have also had films from Bolivia and Central America, from North Africa, so it is always exciting and fun," said Payan. "These are films you are not really going to see anywhere but here. If you are looking for refreshing international films that are not Hollywood films, we have a really great selection."

This year's Film Fiesta includes everything from features, shorts, documentaries and experimental films dealing with human stories, comedy, artist profiles, history, rock music, surfing, police brutality, immigration and refugees.

"We received a record number of entries from around the world this year, and we are excited to once again offer an amazing lineup of independent films that truly deliver on representing Orange County," Payan said.

The film fest will start rolling with the California premiere of Mexican director Ricardo Arnaiz's new film "Héroes" on Thursday, Oct. 12 at 7pm at the AMC Orange 30 cinemas. "Héroes" tells the story of a group of students from the Chapultepec Castle Military Academy, known as the Niños Héroes, as they face an invading army in 1847 during the Mexican-American War. It's the first live-action film from the Mexican animation pioneer.

While the first film of the fiesta



A STILL FROM "100 Ways to Cross the Border," directed by Amber Bay Benak, is among the films screening at 14th annual OC Film Fiesta.

Courtesy of Media Arts Santa Ana



THE OC FILM FIESTA will feature a music film titled "It's Gonna Blow!!!: San Diego's Music Underground 1986-1996," directed by Bill Perrine.

screens at AMC, many of the events will take place at Media Arts Santa Ana's new venue that opened last year, Tele Visions & Giga Bytes, located at 1666 N. Main in Santa Ana.

"TVGB's is a digital makers space, and this is the second year we are having the festival in our space," said Payan. "It is centrally located, 17th and Main, close to

the Bowers, close to Santa Ana College."

With an acronym modeled after New York's famous punk movement venue CBGB, TVGB opened last June as a home for MASA's educational programs and festival screenings. The space will allow MASA to put down roots in a way that will foster more community growth.

"It gives us a lot more freedom to program more events where people can come and really be a hub of activity," said Payan.

Payan said they have plans to expand the space with an art gallery opening next month.

"We're opening a new gallery right next door in November called MASARTE, which is us because we are MASA, but it also means 'more art' in Spanish," Payan said.

OC Film Fiesta is made possible by support from the California Arts Council and Dreamocracy in America. MASA is a project of the nonprofit Community Partners, and proceeds from the film festival benefit MASA's free media arts programs for youth and adults.

"TVGB has year-round programming, so coming to our festival will connect you to year-round free and low-cost classes," said Payan. "We do film-making, Garage Band, podcasting, we have a 35-foot green screen ... We have video game developers that meet there, a songwriters showcase. So it is really a great chance to see our space and see how community members can interface with us and learn or create multimedia or digital art."

Each Friday evening during the Fiesta, events are planned for TVGB, like a Friday, Oct. 13, screening of Arnaiz's popular Spanish language 2007 animated feature "La leyenda de la Nahuala."

Payan is also expecting a good turn out for the Friday, Oct. 20, screening of "It's Gonna Blow!!! - San Diego's Music Underground 1986-1996," which focuses on a time period when San Diego was touted as "the next Seattle."

"It is a documentary chronicling the legendary San Diego rock scene of the '80s and '90s," said Payan.

Film lovers can find festival passes, which provide priority admission to all festival screenings and events, for \$75 at ocfilmfiesta2023.eventive.org.

A Virtual Only pass is available for \$50.

"We are super affordable and a lot of our screenings are free," Payan said. "The accessibility is important to us."

A full schedule of screenings can also be found at the website.

"There is something for everybody," said Payan.

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PLAY

Continued from page A1

community coming together for this amazing project," Ta said. "Once open, this play space will be inclusive so that every child can play together, regardless of their abilities."

There has been approximately \$100,000 in community support, including a \$50,000 match from the Fountain Valley Community Foundation, which will draw the money from Summerfest revenues.

Designs for the project have featured a focus on athletics, with sports-themed sun shades and gridiron-like imagery on the ground. The playground will be situated on a smooth, spongy surface, include ramps and transfer



James Carbone

FOUNTAIN VALLEY City Council members, from left, Patrick Harper, Jim Cunneen, Vice Mayor Glenn Grandis and Mayor Kim Constantine walk through the area that will be turned into a universally accessible playground during the groundbreaking ceremony at Fountain Valley Sports Park.

stations, and provide opportunity for parallel play.

The project is expected to begin in late October or

early November. City officials hope that, weather permitting, the universally accessible playground can

be completed within the first quarter of 2024.

Fountain Valley served as a host town for the 2015 Special Olympics World Games that were held in Los Angeles.

Rob Frizzelle, community services director for the city, recalled an interaction between members of the team from the Netherlands and the Fountain Valley High track and field program back then. Frizzelle told a story of a Netherlands athlete challenging a high school track team member, surprising them with their take-off speed, and the joy the moment brought to both parties.

"You saw a light click in those athletes' eyes right then and there," Frizzelle said. "They realized that these athletes wanted nothing else but the exact same

thing they did — friendship, social engagement, to win, to race, to have fun. That's what's so important about bringing this project to our community. We are removing those barriers, and when kids play together, they learn together, and they recognize that everybody's the same, and they all deserve that love, respect and dignity."

The Special Olympics Fall Games will be coming to Fountain Valley Sports Park on Nov. 11 and 12. Athletes will showcase their talents in golf, soccer, softball, tennis, volleyball and cheerleading.

Fountain Valley resident Ed Arnold, a retired broadcaster who helped found the Southern California Special Olympics, was delighted to reach the latest milestone in bringing the

universally accessible playground to the city's central gathering place.

"In 1969, we had our very first Special Olympics competition," Arnold said. "The success from that point on is absolutely amazing. People like you have made this happen, and when you see the changes that it has made in the lives of those who have the challenges that most of us don't, when you see what can happen when they're given the opportunity ... what this [playground] will do is give opportunities for the mixing of both. You'll have someone that's having challenges, and you'll have somebody that's able-bodied that can help them. All I can do is thank you."

andrew.turner@latimes.com
Twitter: @AndrewTurnerTCN

MAILBAG

Continued from page A6

campaigns, she will be running against two other popular California Democrats.

Interestingly, Dave Min, who was elected to the California Senate for the first time in 2020, is running for Porter's abandoned district. Because of his short political career, less is known about his contributions on a federal scale, while on a local scale he has been very active. On a personal level, I have contacted and gotten help from his official aides on three occasions when I have contacted his office. Prior to entering politics, Min, a Harvard Law School grad, was recognized for his expertise on financial markets and housing finance issues and has written often for well-known newspapers and contributed to television and radio.

Lynn Lorenz
Newport Beach

Your article regarding the underground utility proposal in Laguna Beach brought back a slew of old memories. When I was living on Seashore Drive near 48th

Street in Newport Beach there were numerous occasions when that neighborhood was suppose to get rid of all those ugly telephone poles and wires. Each time this event was suppose to happen, it didn't. So most of us just ignored any additional news on this subject when it came up. And boom, all of a sudden it not only happened, but the entire area was transformed into what looked to be a war zone with sidewalks gone, giant holes dug in the street, very large and strange-looking items just sitting in the middle of the street, and chaos prevailing everywhere.

This nightmare took place about 20 years ago and what was suppose to be about a year and a half of transitioning to underground utilities took about four years. Due to the area being in very close proximity to the beach, all work and construction was halted for the summer crowd between June and September thereby loosing more time for completion. The property I was living in and was also part owner of paid our share through property taxes, and if I recall, it was right around

\$15,000. And then all of a sudden all the equipment, the big trucks, the strange-looking items and all the workers were gone. And when I say gone, I mean not a trace could be found that there was any kind of work that had been done. They even repaved all the streets. I sat on my second-story balcony and peered south on Seashore Drive to see not only the absence of any and all poles but a kind of a silent beach landscape that had a calm to it that was hard to describe. It was four years of noise, not being able to drive on the street, having to dodge and jump over construction items on the sidewalk when the sidewalks were still intact. But the finished product, however, after the job was completed, was worth every minute of misery we had to go through.

On a less technical issue, yet on kind of a sad note, our winged friends who once perched for hours at a time on the now absent miles of telephone wires now fly around aimlessly seeking out new places to rest and enjoy the various views the neighborhood has to offer. If bird translations to English were

possible, we might hear a comment from a disgruntled bird such as, "There they go again, can't they just leave well enough alone?"

And we wonder why as humans our cars are prime targets for bird droppings. Other than that, the neighborhood is far better off with no ugly poles and wires going every which way. So, Laguna Beach folks, vote those poles out and the underground wires in.

Bill Spitalnick
Newport Beach

I've frequented the two, often busy McDonald's in Fountain Valley for quick, on-the-go meals. The Egg McMuffin and Filet o' Fish are first-rate, but the French fries are, hands down, the best in the business! There's no question McDonald's is the leader in this industry. So I was very surprised to learn recently that the restaurant was trying to be another kind of first.

McDonald's has proposed building a 24-hour restaurant with two drive-up lanes for ordering, within feet of a neighborhood of single-family homes in Fountain Valley! A McDonald's representative I

spoke to couldn't think of a single instance where this has happened before.

"Fountain Valley, a nice place to live" is the city's motto. I hope the best interests of homeowners, residents and Fountain Valley's reputation are top of mind when city planners are making their decision to approve this project or not.

Fusako Takeda
Fountain Valley

I am writing this letter out of frustration over the way the majority of our elected Huntington Beach City Council is governing the city. From the day they were sworn in last December, the four of them have shown a disrespect for their colleagues and for the public. A mayor was chosen with very little city experience, the right of the council to decide what flags are flown at city facilities was replaced with an authoritarian ordinance effectively banning the Pride flag, four very important department heads left our city, the council majority refused to send the Housing Element to the state for approval, then eliminated key citizen's boards and committees (the voice of the community), tried to insert the

city attorney in running the library when we have a well trained staff and library board, enacted an anti-vaccine-mandate policy when the cases of COVID-19 are on the rise, entered into a lawsuit over the RHNA numbers and rewrote the Human Dignity Statement when hate crimes are on the rise, and there are more.

Now we are faced with a number of charter revisions and amendments. This has always been done by a citizen's committee, who every 10 years or when needed, review the charter, discuss potential amendments with the assistance of a qualified expert on charter revision and are given legal advice. However, our City Council majority determined that they would do the job, so the mayor put together a committee of three council members. When the public became aware of some of the proposed changes, they took action. Never before, in my memory, have so many citizens come before the council to criticize what they were doing.

Shirley Dettloff
former mayor
Huntington Beach



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