

Daily Pilot & Times OC

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A pumpkin patch with learning in mind

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

Families combed the rows of a naturally grown, mature pumpkin patch in Irvine for the perfect gourd last weekend at South Coast Research and Extension Center's annual Pumpkin U-Pick event.

"Typically we do a pumpkin patch every year, but this year we did things a little differently in that we invited all of the programs that are headquartered here," said Jason Suppes, a community educator specialist at South Coast REC.

Those programs include the Orange County Farm Bureau as well as UC Cooperative Extension programs, like Master Food Preservers, Master Gardeners, Master Beekeepers and 4-H Youth Development. The different programs set up booths to talk about their programs to the families visiting the center on Saturday, Oct. 7.

"Our whole goal is to conduct research, but then to also extend that information," said Darren Haver, director at South Coast REC. "These are our community

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CHRISTOPHER ARIAS, 2, of San Juan Capistrano, gets a ride after picking pumpkins with his family during the South Coast Research and Extension Center's annual U-Pick Pumpkin Patch open house and urban living expo in Irvine on Saturday, Oct. 7.

James Carbone

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Online series tells story of the Balboa Island Ferry

BY LILLY NGUYEN

In another effort to call attention to mandates handed down by the California Air Resources Board and their impact on the Balboa Island Ferry, a short documentary series will soon be released online about the ferry and its relationship to the city, according to state Assemblywoman Diane Dixon's office.

The four-part series, "Save the Ferry," will begin Oct. 16 and was filmed over the course of a few days in mid-June with the assistance of the California Assembly Republican Caucus. Each segment focuses on a different facet of the ferry's influence on the community and more broadly on Southern California, the first of which looks at its economic impacts. A new segment will go live every day on Dixon's YouTube channel.

The state Air Resources Board implemented new regulations in December 2022 that would require short-run ferries, like the



ASSEMBLYWOMAN DIANE DIXON (R-Newport Beach) speaks with riders of the Balboa Island Ferry during the filming of the short documentary series on the ferry that will appear online on Oct. 16.

Nick Fox

Balboa Island Ferry, to use zero-emission engines by the end of 2025. In March, the local ferry

service made headlines when word got out that it might have to shut down if it is unable to make

the conversions necessary to its three vessels to comply with new state mandates.

Ferry owner Seymour Beek said in March that there was no way of knowing if it would even be feasible for his fleet to meet the demands of the mandate, given the size of its vessels.

In a recent interview, Beek said the ferry service has contracted with a marine engineering company with experience in electrifying vessels to do a study on the energy requirements and the size and weight of a battery needed to power ferries of their size.

Since then, the ferry has launched an online petition that, as of Friday morning, had gathered 28,445 signatures in support exempting the ferry from the new regulations.

"CARB staff have been engaged with Balboa Island Ferry throughout and are available to help them with compliance options, potential extensions and incentives," said Lynda Lambert, a spokeswoman for the state board on Friday. "In advance of the Oct. 26 ap-

See *Series*, page A2

Councilwoman walks the walk in no-driving challenge



Eric Licas

COSTA MESA Councilwoman Arlis Reynolds reaches for a pedestrian call button at Fair Drive and Fairview Road Friday, Oct. 6. She participated in a "Week Without Driving" challenge from nonprofit America Walks.

BY SARA CARDINE

Costa Mesa Councilwoman Arlis Reynolds is a big proponent of making the city more walkable and bikeable through better infrastructure planning, but until recently she hadn't truly walked the walk.

An avid bicyclist, she was already familiar with the city's bike lanes and having to contend with cars for travel space and right of way. But when it came to walking or taking public transit across town, Reynolds admits she was a little rusty.

"I haven't been on a bus in, like, 30 years," she said.

That all changed earlier this month, when Reynolds decided to go a full week without driving and instead rely on walking or riding the bus to and from City Hall, appointments, meetings and shopping trips.

"You see the city differently and notice things you wouldn't have if you were just driving around," she said on Oct. 5, the fourth day of her experiment.

Reynolds' commitment was in-

spired by her service on the national nonprofit board of America Walks, which advocates for safer, more walkable communities.

The group's "Week Without Driving" challenge asks elected officials and local decision makers to walk a proverbial mile in the well-worn shoes of the estimated 25% of the American public that relies solely on modes of transportation other than automobiles.

This year, the effort became a national campaign to get civic leaders across the nation out into the streets of their respective jurisdictions to gain first-hand experience of the mobility issues pedestrians and bicyclists face when interacting with the local infrastructure.

Transit routes, bus stops, bike lanes and bulb-outs, sidewalks and crosswalks are all fair game for the seven-day scrutiny, which has the potential to give birth to new policies and practices.

To complete the challenge, Reynolds, already an avid bicy-

See *Walk*, page A2

Dunn celebrates 30 years at Planned Parenthood

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

When Jon Dunn accepted the position of president and chief executive officer at Planned Parenthood of Orange and San Bernardino Counties in 1993, he wasn't sure he was the right leader for the organization.

"I had already worked in healthcare for about 15 years, and I have always been very committed to reproductive rights," said Dunn. "So it was something I had some interest in and passion about. But I had not had any experience in reproductive healthcare at that point, so it was a new opportunity for me at that time."

It was also "out of the box," as Dunn put it, for Planned Parenthood to hire a man for the job. When the organization asked for a five-year commitment, Dunn negotiated it down to three years. Just last week however, Dunn celebrated 30 years with PPOSBC.

"I guess it was a good fit," said Dunn.

During his career Dunn has been at the forefront of improving and expanding the services PPOSBC has to offer and the patients it reaches. Planned Parenthood not only provides essential reproductive healthcare but also offers primary care, nutrition services and education programs to over 208,000 local people, no matter their circumstances or ability to pay.

In the 30 years since Dunn joined the organization, it has increased the number of patients it is able to serve annually. In 1993, PPOSBC had 20,000 medical visits per year. Today, it has close to 21,000 medical visits per month.

"That means we are meeting the needs of the communities we serve far better than we ever used to be able to," said Dunn. "The more robust we become as a business, the more patients we could serve."

One way PPOSBC is achieving that is by expanding its footprint. Thirty years ago, PPOSBC operated five health centers in Orange and San Bernardino counties. Today there are nine health centers, with seven of them offering comprehensive primary care through Melody Health. Additionally, Dunn said health centers were open five days a week, eight hours a day, with long wait times when he started.

"When I started, it was not atypical for a patient to have to wait an hour to maybe 90 minutes at one of our health centers for an appointment," Dunn said. "We started a concerted effort about 15 years ago to really change that and be respectful of our patients time."

PPOSBC health centers are now open seven days a week, 10 hours a day, and average appointment wait times are down to 15 min-



JON DUNN, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Orange and San Bernardino Counties, speaks on behalf of Planned Parenthood at a recent event.

Corey Sandler
Courtesy of
PPOSBC

utes or less.

Technology has played a role in the organization's advancement too, particularly the Planned Parenthood Direct app, which makes it possible for patients to receive birth control and UTI treatment in the mail.

While many people associate Planned Parenthood health centers with abortions, Dunn said before 1993, PPOSBC did not provide surgical abortions in Orange County.

"Actually, we didn't provide any abortions in Orange County at all when I first came to PPOSBC. We had a couple of doctors in Tustin that did abortions for our patients. We referred about 130 to 150 patients to them a year and they took care of them well."

A few years after Dunn joined PPOSBC, those two doctors decided to close their practice because they

were retiring.

"I had to go to the board of directors and say there really isn't going to be good access to abortion services in Orange County and San Bernardino County if we don't step up and do it ourselves."

Dunn said the board rose to meet the need and surgical abortion services began in Upland first, until 1997 when PPOSBC opened a facility in the city of Orange that became the main surgical site.

But Dunn said there is a large scope of services offered at PPOSBC besides family planning.

"We provide HIV testing and prevention, cancer screenings, HPV vaccinations, prenatal screenings for pregnant women, comprehensive primary care, behavioral healthcare, gender-affirming care, vasectomy," said Dunn. "And we also have a WIC program, a nutritional program for

low-income families with children. So we are providing a very wide range of healthcare."

Dunn said the organization has also worked to create a culture that puts patients first.

"We have really made a commitment to creating what I call a culture of caring and what that really means is not only is every patient treated with dignity and respect, but they are treated with compassion and without judgment. We know our patients are walking through that door often with some level of anxiety about the kind of care they are seeking. We make an effort to make it clear to them as soon as they walk in that they are welcome there, regardless of background, regardless of the kind of care they are receiving, regardless of the personal choices they are making."

One thing that hasn't changed since Dunn began

his career with PPOSBC is the fight for reproductive freedom.

"Even back then, abortion was very much an issue, and your access to reproductive healthcare depended a lot on your Zip code," said Dunn. "So that side was clearly going to be an ongoing challenge, and of course here we are today a little more than a year after Roe v. Wade was overturned. It is still an issue and probably will be a more important issue in the 2024 election than virtually anything else."

But overall, Dunn feels the work he and Planned Parenthood do ultimately reaches the people it needs to, with the support of the community.

"Despite the political climate, I am very, very optimistic about the future," Dunn said.

With 30 years of experience behind him, Dunn looks forward to the future of Planned Parenthood.

"We have a tremendously talented young staff, we have the most talented group of people we have ever had, the most committed group of people we have ever had, and so I think we are going to continue to expand and grow and do new and dynamic things and reach the needs of the community more effectively than ever."

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SERIES

Continued from page A1

plication deadline for the Advanced Technology Demonstration and Pilot Projects solicitation, CARB staff encouraged the Balboa Island Ferry to apply for funding support through this and other funding programs.

"CARB also offers its support to other ferry companies as they transition to cleaner technologies that greatly benefit air quality and public health, but to date, it has not received any compliance extension requests nor has the Board or CARB received 'appeals' or input from other ferry companies."

But, as Beek noted, applying doesn't guarantee access to competitive funds. The Beek family has previously expressed that they sometimes do not qualify for grants and that

applying for the extension requires detailed engineering information that they need to pay for out of pocket.

"This is way beyond anything we could afford to do. We're working on the grant funds and that ain't easy," said Beek. "It's very complicated ... [and applying] there's no guarantee you're going to get it even if you apply. We've gotten no commitments yet ... and haven't made much progress, even though we're trying."

The hope is that the new short series, which Beek credited to Dixon, will help reinvigorate some of the conversations around the Balboa Island Ferry.

Dixon said she wanted to capture and share stories around the ferry to keep people's eyes on it but also to help illustrate her point in her talks in Sacramento.

"[CARB] cannot do anything until they have an ap-

plication in front of them. They're a public agency. They have to act on information presented to them in the form of an application, ... then they can agendize it and make the decision to grant an extension at that point. But that's the Catch-22," said Dixon. "[The Beeks] can't get the exemption until [they] get the application, but that takes months to do."

"Can you imagine? It's craziness to put a small business owner through this and he has to do it himself or spend tens of thousands for a legal service and that's just not right. This issue, while important to Newport Beach, also tells the story of what is in my opinion, California's anti-business problem."

Dixon added that she felt it was an important story that highlights more than just one small business in California contending with what she described as "hy-



VEHICLES AND pedestrians prepare to disembark from the Balboa Island Ferry in 2022.

File Photo

per-regulation."

She said she was hopeful the short series would encourage more individuals to sign the petition and bring wider exposure.

Beek agrees.

"I certainly think [the series] will help with awareness for anybody that watches it about the overreach of CARB to pick on some little operation like us

like they're going to save the world because they're going to save 26 gallons of fuel a day," the ferry operator said. "That's all we use — 26 gallons a day. It's kind of an overreach and an overkill because the cost of conversion to electric is millions of dollars in comparison."

Beek said he's continued to see huge support for the

ferry since the news of its financial hurdles in wake of the CARB regulations became public in the spring.

"We're going through all the motions of trying to comply as best we can, but ... there's no possible way for us to comply unless we get grant funds."

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WALK

Continued from page A1

clist, walked, rode buses or, when absolutely necessary, hitched an occasional ride from a loved one.

Reynolds quickly discovered traversing the streets of Costa Mesa provided a pretty clear picture of what works and where improvements are still needed.

"Even though I feel like I knew it already, I hadn't really experienced how hostile the infrastructure was," she said, describing the perils pedestrians face, particularly when pitted against drivers.

"I've seen teenagers, older people, someone carrying food — these are people whose lives are made more dangerous or more convenient by the choices that we're making."

Costa Mesa has recently made great strides toward accommodating active transportation, or non-motorized travel, investing millions into street improvement projects that fostered more of a "share



Eric Licas

COSTA MESA employee Jennifer Rosales, Councilwoman Arlis Reynolds and Mayor John Stephens ride a bus.

the road" mentality. In 2021, citizens were invited to participate in walk audits designed to root out vulnerabilities faced by pedestrians.

An Active Transportation Committee was formed in 2015 to recommend updates to the city's general plan and to inform the creation of a pedestrian master plan to guide future policy decisions related to walkability and bikeability.

Last year, officials hired an active transportation

coordinator, Brett Atencio Thomas, to help oversee the implementation of several new projects and initiatives.

Thomas previously worked at Los Angeles County's Metropolitan Transportation Authority, where he managed a \$13-million Open Streets grant program that funds the county's popular CicLAvia open streets bike festival. He also helped open more than 200 Metro Bike Share stations and developed

Metro's Adopt-a-Bike Program.

But aside from his professional background, what made Thomas an ideal candidate was the experience and insight he's gained from several years of living and traveling in Southern California without a car.

An Orange Coast College graduate on his way to studying urban planning at San Francisco State University in 2010, Thomas divested himself of his Nissan Titan pickup truck.

"I was already into walking and biking and doing all that urban stuff," he recalled Tuesday. "So I sold it — I took a loss on selling the car but I was really determined this was a good decision."

These days, Thomas gets around Costa Mesa mainly by bike. Like Reynolds, the experience of having to rely on the city's active transportation network gives him valuable information on how it's working for an estimated 7,000 daily transit riders and countless pedestrians.

"Being car-free I'm actu-

ally able to help design infrastructure in a way that is cognizant of the needs of those individuals I'm designing [it] for," he said. "It's one thing to design infrastructure based on best practice in a book, but it's another thing when you actually have that lived experience."

On the fifth day of Reynolds' week without driving, the councilwoman was joined by Mayor John Stephens and transportation services manager Jennifer Rosales.

The trio met at City Hall and took a bus to the busy intersection of Harbor Boulevard and 19th Street, walking from there to Original Barista for coffee. From there, they walked to nearby Globe Deli, where they spoke with employees and patrons about various issues.

Stephens, who's lived in Costa Mesa for 30 years but cannot recall ever taking the bus, said he was stunned to learn how many denizens rely on the local transit system.

"I was surprised that [buses] were pretty well

packed with people," he said Tuesday. "We don't usually walk through the neighborhood like this when we don't have campaign literature in our hands — whenever you do something like this you become more aware."

Reynolds, who officially concluded her week without driving last Sunday, is already thinking of improvements for transit riders, first by evaluating all the city's bus stops to ensure they meet the same standards and adding vital shade and seating where they are currently lacking. And that's just the beginning.

"I'm interested in looking at broader routes. What I haven't done is zoom out and see the whole network," she said in a debriefing Tuesday. "I think there's an assumption transit can never work in Orange County, but, actually, it could."

"I'm two days past the campaign, and I'm walking still."

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Exploring Orange County's barriers through art

Artist Lorena Ochoa explores the Santa Ana River, while Susy Bielak and Fred Schmalz look over O.C.'s many picket fences at the Grand Central Art Center in Santa Ana.

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

Artist Lorena Ochoa sees their birthplace of Santa Ana as a city that contains multitudes. Ochoa explores those multitudes in their show at the Grand Central Art Center in Santa Ana, "Lorena Ochoa: Se Busca," which examines the place where memory and transport intersect in their home town.

"This body of work is kind of my love letter to growing up in Santana," said Ochoa.

Ochoa earned their bachelor's degree in Visual Arts with a minor in Chicana/o Studies at UCLA and received their master of fine arts at UC San Diego. On the heels of being an artist in residence at the Guapamacataro Hacienda in Michoacan in 2022, Ochoa was selected as one of seven graduating artists from regional art programs to present their work in the Institute of Contemporary Art San Diego's annual NextGen exhibition.

"Additionally, I am the ICA's 2023 NextGen Award recipient, which recognizes the artist who received the highest total ranking across an international jury panel," said Ochoa.

In "Se Busca," Ochoa uses objects that feel familiar to create a connection to her message, which generates a universal approachability.

"I think Lorena's work is, first of all, eye-catching, but the message behind it is so perfect for Santa Ana, and I think it really represents the community well," said GCAC curatorial associate and public programs coordinator, Savannah Lee. "People can walk in and feel a connection."

"Se Busca" is the first show Lee has curated, and she let the colors of Ochoa's work dictate the composition of the exhibition.

"In terms of display, Lorena's work is very vibrant, and I wanted certain colors to be next to each other or opposite each other," said Lee.

The show's title refers to the constant searching that

can be done within a marginalized community, when survival mode feels like the only mode.

"What happens when you are in a constant state of searching, you have this survival mentality. You only live in the present, and it doesn't give you the opportunity to pause and plan for the future or set goals."

A colorful string of Mini Mate coolers for example, titled "La Gente Unida," stands in for a paper picado banner.

"On one side it says 'people,' and on the other side it says 'profit,'" said Ochoa. "A lot of times Latin Americans are seen for the labor they can provide and not for the people that they are. It's the symbol of packing your lunch and going to work and doing this labor but also a way to find beauty in the fact that we



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

SANTA ANA ARTIST Lorena Ochoa stands with one of their signature pieces, "Somos de Calle Diptych," at the "Se Busca" show at the Grand Central Art Center in Santa Ana. The artist's exhibit is a "love letter" to growing up in Santa Ana.

jammed in along with a plaster cast of a bolillo wedged next to a virgin statue, wrapped in protective foam but bound with string.

"A lot of the items in these pieces have dual meaning," Ochoa said.

Ochoa also notes that Santa Ana is bordered by freeways and a river, which can encourage escape but also foster isolation.

"What I found by looking at maps while doing this research is Santana is surrounded by freeways, then



LORENA OCHOA'S "La Gente Unida," made from Mini Mate coolers, at her show at the Grand Central Art Center.

rated from their land, Vietnamese refugees, the military industrial complex, cheap labor and the fumigation of orange trees.

"We really wanted to uplift and notice and pay attention to histories from this region," said Bielak.

The show also features an infographic poem "Three Conditional Welcomes," which borrows from the initial planning documents for UC Irvine designed by a defense contractor. While the piece is made up of circle, it is difficult to discern a center.

"Hybrid," the exhibition's largest installation, is centered around a painting of an image that originally appeared in an agriculture-industry magazine that Bielak found herself taken with.

"I was so struck by it and by this idea of hybridization, like how to make the perfect thing," said Bielak.

The painting of an orange blossom being hybridized is surrounded by a short picket fence on the side of AstroTurf hills.

The show's sound installations "Never Never" and "Am I an American" feature Valley High School choir students singing a chant the artists derived from a 1970s fair housing protest and a question printed on a 1920s KKK recruitment flier.

"We were working with the choir at Valley High, and we brought them two texts that were complicated for different reasons," Schmalz said. "We reduced those texts down to a slogan that could be used as a chant."

For the show's opening on Oct. 7, Valley High School students and music director, Ammy Beltran, joined Bielak and Schmalz's artist talk at GCAC for a moving performance.

"Lorena Ochoa: Se Busca" is open through Nov. 12, with Ochoa building a special ofrenda for the Nov. 4 art walk. "Bielak and Fred Schmalz: Welcome" runs through Jan. 14. For more information visit grandcentralartcenter.com.

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ARTISTS SUSY BIELAK and Fred Schmalz stand in front of their "Hybrid" piece at the Grand Central Art Center in Santa Ana in their show titled "Welcome."

are so hard working."

In another corner two over-stuffed suitcases titled "On the Hook" and "Hold & Held" are filled with objects that simultaneously symbolize where one comes from and the trauma migration can cause. Cowboy boots and car parts are

the other border is the concreted portion of the Santa Ana River," said Ochoa, "It is not concreted in other places, but in its namesake it effectively creates this square around us."

In "Se Busca," Ochoa connects the river their mother lived close to in Michoacan to the Santa Ana River where Ochoa now makes her home.

"The Santa Ana River exits in to the Pacific Ocean, but the ocean current actu-

ally goes down to Michoacan where my Mom is from, before it ravel's further west," said Ochoa. "She grew up by a river too, and so these ideas of the water moving and merging together."

A water-filled LCD barricade makes up the piece "Agua Santa," adorned with lenticular religious figures and fitted with brass hose bibs.

While bodies of water can signify life and movement, they also create barriers.

"There is this idea of movement that surrounds us with the flowing of river and traffic," said Ochoa, "but it is also very stag-

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Ariyo A Mackay

All sales are subject to prior cancellation. All terms, rules and regulations are available online at www.selfstorageauction.com. Dated this October 08, 2023 and October 15, 2023 by Costa Mesa Self Storage, 3180 Red Hill Ave, Costa Mesa, CA, 91745 (714) 966-9901

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Pursuant to the California Self Service Storage Facility Act (B&P Code 21700 ET seq.) The undersigned will sell at public auction on Wednesday October 25, 2023 at 2:00 pm. Personal property including but not limited to furniture, clothing, tools and/or other household items located at: The sale will take place online at www.selfstorageauction.com.

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Eric Neil Piper

May 11, 1934 - September 23, 2023

Eric Neil Piper, 89, reached the finish line on Earth peacefully surrounded by family. He had been a resident of Corona del Mar for 53 years. Born in Brighton, England, Eric was the only child of Eric Cyril Piper and Queenie Barbara Piper. Eric's strong faith in God, generosity, and positive attitude were key to being a loving husband, a devoted father, a loyal friend, and a strong community member. From the day Eric and Berry were married, they embarked on their journey to serve God and help others. He is survived by his loving wife of 67 years, Berry, his son Eric (Rika), son Jonathan (Heather), and daughter Jennifer (Jose), grandchildren Logan, Hadley, Natalie, Neil, Piper, and Eliza, cousins, nieces, and many dear friends. Colonel Piper will be deeply missed and forever remembered. The family would like to thank Hoag Hospice and the caregivers at Broadway Manor for their kind and compassionate care. Memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.pacificviewcalifornia.com for the Piper family. A celebration of Eric's life will be held at a later date.

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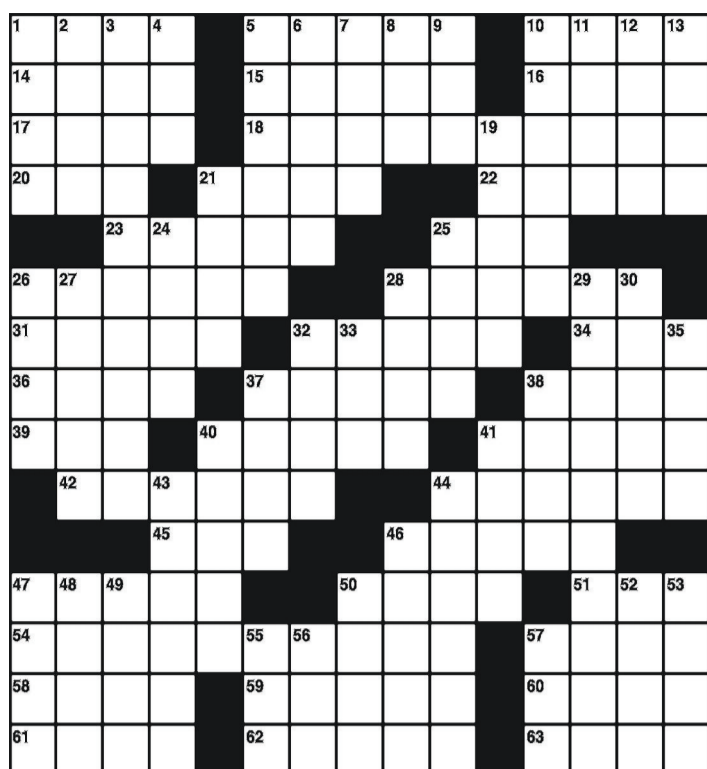
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THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

- ACROSS**
 1 Steals from
 5 Piece of bacon
 10 Catch sight of
 14 Store event
 15 Exchange
 16 Internal spy
 17 Word of agreement
 18 Truly sorry
 20 Do drugs
 21 Misfortunes
 22 Hobo
 23 _ off; becomes less angry
 25 Irish dance
 26 Academy
 28 WA's Mount St.



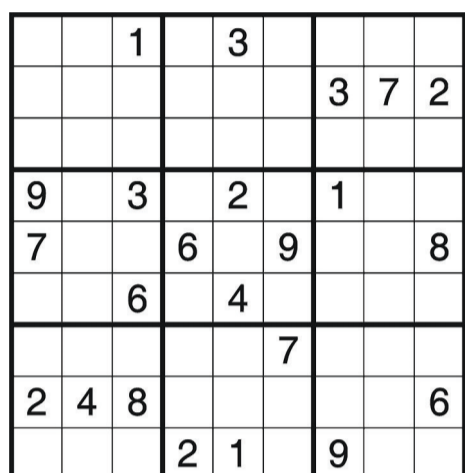
- 31 Marshmallow chicks
 32 Perfect
 34 Jungle beast
 36 Large hearts
 37 _ away; amazed
 38 Begin to wake up
 39 Prefix for deed or lead
 40 Indianapolis team
 41 More reserved
 42 _ of; finds out about
 44 Sewer's array
 45 Dancer/actress Charisse
 46 Earth visitor
 47 Terrify
 50 Rivers or Baez
 51 Pale
 54 Scientist's milieu
 57 Conceal
 58 DDE & others
 59 Actress Davis
 60 Chances
 61 Kennedy & Knight
 62 Actor Romero
 63 Reason to study

- DOWN**
 1 Part of the alphabet
 2 Doesn't have both _ in the

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.

- water
 3 Dressing choice
 4 Notice
 5 Walk leisurely
 6 Laurel & locust
 7 Los Angeles team
 8 Bachelor's last words
 9 Part of RPM
 10 Come forth
 11 Davenport
 12 Purple fruit
 13 Sharp cry of pain
 19 Not moving
 21 Wines and dines
 24 Klutz's word

- 25 Skier _ -Claude Killy
 26 Unwanted email
 27 _ B. DeMille
 28 Takes an axe to
 29 From sea to shining sea
 30 Salesman's pitch
 32 Problems
 33 _-com; Internet business
 35 Goes astray
 37 Close connection
 38 Sneaker or pump
 40 Actor Jon
 41 TV's "_ City"
 43 Come _; find
 44 Assassin
 46 Large artery
 47 Skirt opening
 48 Dessert choice
 49 Asleep for the night
 50 _ down; makes a note of
 52 Puts 2 and 2 together
 53 Tree house?
 55 "20/20" network
 56 Palmer's peg
 57 Sweltering

Tribune Media Services

DERRICK RUTHLESS, of Mission Viejo, picks the perfect pumpkin during the South Coast Research and Extension Center's annual U-Pick Pumpkin Patch open house and urban living expo.



James Carbone

LEARNING

Continued from page A1

outreach programs that make sure we engage with the public."
 South Coast REC, located at 7601 Irvine Blvd. is one of nine research and extension centers in the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources REC System. South Coast REC was established in 1956 by the UC as a site for agricultural and horticultural research in the state's south coastal plain-temperate climatic zone.
 "It was put in place in order to provide researchers from the campuses a location that was coastal, hence the name South Coast, to test their research out," said Haver. "We also have locations in the desert, in the central valley and up along the border of Oregon and California."
 South Coast REC is essentially a regional living laboratory for UC scientists to conduct agricultural and natural resources management research. Despite the facility stretching out over 200 acres, most Orange County residents are unaware of its existence, making it one of the county's best kept secrets. But Suppes and Haver are working to get the secret out.
 "There is a big research component, but there is also this public service component, and it is our goal to make sure that people understand the work that UC does across all of our units, campuses and research centers across the

state," Haver said. "There are nine of these, and we are lucky to have one here in Orange County."
 In one area of the land, UC Riverside is conducting research on the uptake of biosolids — products of wastewater treatment — in crop vegetables.
 "The relationship here at the farm is when a proposal is submitted we take care of a majority of the land, labor and water," said Suppes during a tour of the facility Tuesday. "So we are responsible for watering, and they will give us a prescription, in this case a prescription for how to siphon in the biosolids into the fertigation."
 The South Coast REC team is out in the fields day to day, while researchers' visits depend on what the project demands.
 "We have a 20-year-long climate change tree project; I think I have seen them here three times in 12 years," Suppes said of the researchers involved in the biosolids study. "With this project they are here every other day."
 The director has the option to keep certain projects that continue to be fruitful, and as a result, the property contains 150 citrus varieties, 300 varieties of avocado and 25 types of cherimoya.
 "This was another small farms project from 25 years ago, and there has been interest in growing cherimoya in Orange County since the 1920s," Suppes said in the large cherimoya grove at South Coast REC.
 Cherimoya, which have a flavor that is starchy like a

banana but also sweet and tropical like a pineapple, have been in the region for 100 years. Suppes believes the collection of varieties grown at South Coast REC are a cultural portal of sorts since they taste different than the cherimoya found in grocery stores.
 "Cherimoya typically in this area comes from South America, from Ecuador," said Suppes. "It has to be refrigerated and transported, and fruit doesn't like that."
 South Coast REC also has some unique partnerships within the community. It partners with Second Harvest Food Bank and Solutions for Urban Ag to bring fruits and vegetables to food-insecure families in Orange County. It is also home to Bee Canyon Farm, a dedicated space to host youth education programs that teach topics like the basics of hand-cultivated food production, irrigation, integrated pest management and food safety. Suppes has also fostered relationships with local chefs and entrepreneurs, like Derek Bracho, who has sourced ingredients like garlic, onions, jalapeños and basil for his focaccia pizza pop-up, Focaccia Boi.
 The pumpkin patch is part of South Coast REC's efforts to spread the word to the community. The family-friendly event offered a unique experience with a chance to pick your own pumpkin off the vine for \$5, with a limit of five per paying customer to allow enough for everyone.

See Learning, page A6

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UNITED WORLD WRESTLING VETERAN WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

60-year-old wrestlers to compete in Greece

BY MATT SZABO

Ocean View High wrestling coach Petros Petrosyan might be from Armenia, but he feels at home competing in Greece.

The two countries share similar ties, and the connection extends to the mat. In the year 281 A.D., Petrosyan pointed out, the Armenian King Tiridates III became an Olympic champion in wrestling at the 265th Olympiad in Greece.

"It's in my blood," Petrosyan said.

He heads to Loutraki, Greece, this weekend to compete in the United World Wrestling Veteran World Championships. Petrosyan will be representing Orange County Grappling, which is based out of Ocean View High.

Brian Jones, who lives in the Westchester neighborhood of Los Angeles, also will be competing for Orange County Grappling.

Both Petrosyan and Jones are 60, and will compete in the 56 to 60 age group. Petrosyan competes at 88 kilograms, while Jones is up at heavyweight.

Jones is the defending world champion for his age group in Greco-Roman

wrestling, while Petrosyan won gold last year in freestyle. But this year, they're both competing in both styles, with freestyle wrestling on Tuesday and Greco-Roman wrestling on Friday.

They're among 25 United States wrestlers competing in both.

"Always I do only one style, freestyle," said Petrosyan, a Los Alamitos resident and 10-time Armenian national champion. "This year, because I won the U.S. Open in freestyle and Greco, now I want to do both."

Petrosyan has been busy. He says he has about 15 wrestlers out for his second year in charge of the Ocean View wrestling team, which has its season start next month. Sometimes he takes his kids to beach wrestling tournaments too, he said.

Jones found Orange County Grapplers during the coronavirus pandemic, after his former club in Santa Monica stopped doing adult wrestling. He doesn't mind the trip south to train.

"You've got to go where you can get a good workout," he said. "The adult practices are getting pretty big. A year ago we had



Courtesy of Brian Jones

PETROS PETROSYAN, left, and Brian Jones at last year's United World Wrestling Veteran World Championships.

maybe five people. Now we might get 15 or more. That's kind of cool."

Both wrestlers are feeling prepared and healthy for what Jones said will be their final year in the United World Wrestling

Veteran World Championships; they're aging out. "There's a new organization for world championships after 60," he said. "Next year it's going to be in Las Vegas. I don't know the name."

"As far as I know, it's called the Old Guys World Championship League," Jones added with laugh. Petrosyan knows he's also getting up there in age, but he said he doesn't feel like he's 60.

"I still feel young," he said. "I'm in shape and I'm feeling good. I'm not feeling I am 60. I'm feeling I am 45."

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CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

LEARNING

Continued from page A5

"Typically when you go to a farm, they will harvest the pumpkins, mow the fields and then kind of lay everything back out," Suppes said. "We are proud to be able to foster an experience where people can come and pick it off the vine and see how they grow naturally on a farm."

At the end of each row, the pumpkin varieties were identified by a small place card. "Solid Gold Farmore F1 Decorative, Carving" one

sign read. "Jack O Lantern, Carving" said another.

"Mostly, we are leaning into the carving pumpkins, those are ones that most people want," said Suppes. "So by and large we have orange-style carving pumpkins, though there are a few out there that are striped or have some patterns to them. But since this is a family event, people are coming out for those Halloween pumpkins."

South Coast REC hosts other events, like a Persimmon U-Pick, Potato U-pick and Avocado and Cheri-moya Pop-up Sales.

Haver said he hopes events like the Pumpkin U-Pick will help families think differently about their food ways.

"We want to provide people that wouldn't normally venture into an agriculture setting, the real agriculture setting," said Haver. "I think that experience hopefully connects them closer to where their food comes from. We don't want urban people to forget."

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select one

<p>Butternut Squash Bisque Cinnamon crème fraîche</p>	<p>Classic Caesar Salad Chopped hearts of romaine, herb croutons, tomato, shaved Manchego</p>
<p>Bungalow Salad Greens, hearts of palm, olives, feta, red onion, bay shrimp, tarragon vinaigrette</p>	<p>Autumn Apple Salad Mixed greens, cranberries, apples, sunflower seeds, feta cheese, apple cider vinaigrette</p>

ENTRÉE SELECTIONS
select one

<p>Prime Filet Mignon 8 oz. prime filet mignon, Yukon Gold mashed potatoes, fried shallots</p>	<p>Bone-In Rib Eye 16 oz. prime bone-in rib eye, Yukon Gold mashed potatoes, fried onion strings (Twenty-Five Dollar Supplement)</p>
<p>California Chicken Breast Pan-seared chicken breast, oven-roasted tomatoes, avocado, Yukon Gold mashed potatoes</p>	<p>Grilled Swordfish Sweet & sour cauliflower, lemon caper, beurre blanc</p>
<p>Miso-Marinated Chilean Sea Bass Soy glaze, coconut rice, stir-fried vegetables, mushrooms, lemongrass ginger, beurre blanc</p>	<p>Double Pork Chop Thick-cut grilled all natural pork chop, Vadouvan sweet potato mash, sherry sauce</p>
<p>Australian Lobster Tail 10 oz. drawn butter, grilled lemon, Yukon Gold mashed potatoes (Twenty Dollar Supplement)</p>	<p>Slow-Braised Short Rib Whipped mashed potatoes, broccolini, demi-glaze</p>

DESSERT
select one

<p>New York-Style Cheesecake Fresh whipped cream, raspberry coulis</p>	<p>Apple Cobbler A La Mode Vanilla bean ice cream, whipped cream, caramel sauce</p>
<p>Vanilla Crème Brûlée Vanilla custard, fresh raspberries</p>	<p>Berries & Ice Cream Fresh seasonal berries, vanilla bean ice cream</p>

*A 3% processing fee will be added to all credit card transactions. For guests that choose to pay with cash, the 3% fee will be waived.
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 20% Gratuity will be added to parties of eight or more.

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