

Daily Pilot

SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 2023 // dailypilot.com



Courtesy of Purina Pro Plan

FAITH, A SURFING American pit bull terrier from San Diego, catches a wave Friday morning at Huntington State Beach.

Surf dogs ride in style

The two-day Purina Pro Plan Incredible Dog Challenge Western Regional event kicked off Friday at Huntington State Beach.

BY MATT SZABO

Going out on top is a rare thing in sports. Then again, so is having a dog who loves to surf.

Dan and Amy Nykolenko of Newport Beach are retiring their 11-year-old French bulldog Cherie from surf dog competitions after this year. But Cherie, dressed in a pink shirt and with pink toenails to match, showed that she had a flair for the dramatic on Friday.

She defended her small dog title at the 26th annual Purina Pro Plan Incredible Dog Challenge Western Regional competition at Huntington State Beach.

See **Dogs**, page A6



BENNIE WONG throws a disc to Riley as he leaps off his knee during the freestyle flying disc competition at the Purina Incredible Dog Challenge in Huntington Beach on Friday.

Don Leach | Staff Photographer

Luxe Baja hotel where Newport couple was found dead closes amid investigations

BY ANDREW J. CAMPA

Two bodies were found in the hotel room — one on the shower floor. Now an investigation has been launched into the deaths of an Orange County couple, and the tony Baja California Sur resort where they were found has closed its doors.

The \$600-a-night Rancho Pescadero Hotel in the seaside village of El Pescadero closed on Sunday, a spokesperson for the Hyatt property confirmed to The Times on Thursday. It's a tempo-

rary closure while an official investigation is underway into the June 13 deaths. But a statement from the hotel says that Hyatt "together with the hotel's owners ... is conducting an extensive, independent investigation of the incident led by a third party."

Hyatt did not respond to further questions regarding the investigation, only noting that guests planning on staying at the resort were being contacted by Hyatt personnel. Some were being directed to the Cape Hotel, a Hyatt property about 45 miles

southeast of El Pescadero in Cabo San Lucas.

Hyatt lists Lisa Harper of Rancho Resorts as owner of the adults-only resort.

An email to Harper on Thursday afternoon was not immediately returned.

The shuttering comes after John Heathco, 41, and Newport Beach resident Abby Lutz, 28, were found dead in their rooms last week.

Forensic examiners working with the attorney general's office in Baja California Sur deter-

mined on June 15 that the cause of death was "poisoning by [a] substance to be determined." That toxin is still being investigated.

The doctors added that they did not find evidence of violence and that the couple had been deceased "between 10 and 11 hours" before their bodies were discovered.

Hotel staffers found Lutz in the couple's room and Heathco on the shower floor after entering at

See **Hotel**, page A5

Costa Mesa to boost shelter capacity

Citing long wait lists for the Bridge Shelter, City Council OKs increasing beds, lockers, expanding outside contracts.

BY SARA CARDINE

Costa Mesa officials made a significant move intended to help more people transition from the streets into safe shelter and, ultimately, a permanent home, approving an expansion of the capacity of the city's Bridge Shelter from 72 to 88 beds.

Citing consistent wait lists of about 20 to 30 unhoused individuals seeking entry into the shelter, the City Council approved Tuesday not only increasing capacity, but also bolstering service contracts for meals and shelter management and enhancing an occupancy agreement with Newport Beach, which uses a portion of the space.

Implementing the plan will require nearly \$30,000 in capital purchases, namely 16 new bed frames and mattress kits, 43 two-level lockers and inside and outdoor storage to accommodate the needs of new tenants.

The Santa Ana nonprofit Mercy House, which has been operating the shelter since its opening in 2021 and provides staffing, client support and security for the shelter, located at 3175 Airway Ave., had previously been working under an annual not-to-exceed contract of \$2 million. That will be increased to \$2,185,286.

See **Shelter**, page A3

ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



Spencer Grant

EXPECTATIONS SHIPSHAPE AS OLD GLORY BOAT PARADE RETURNS TO NEWPORT BEACH FOR THE FOURTH OF JULY

Page A3

Movie Mondays return to the screen at Segerstrom

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

Outdoor movie screenings are a popular summer activity in Southern California. Segerstrom Center for the Arts recently announced the return of Movie Mondays on the Julianne and George Argyros Plaza.

"We are so proud to be able to provide not only these movies but the fun of gathering with your friends and neighbors free of charge to enjoy a lovely California summer evening," said Casey Reitz, president of Segerstrom Center for the Arts.

The series runs July 10 through Aug. 7 and, as always, is free. Movie Mondays began at the Center in 2007 and have remained a beloved tradition in the Center's outdoor space that helped keep the arts alive during the pandemic.

"Movie Mondays have been a long-standing tradition in our Orange County community for over 16 years," said Reitz. "It's great to have the Julianne and George Argyros Plaza buzzing during summer with so many joyful faces!"

This summer's series features



Courtesy of Segerstrom Center for the Arts

MOVIE MONDAYS returns to Segerstrom Center for the Arts this summer beginning July 10.

five films inspired by the coming season's Broadway shows scheduled to appear at Segerstrom Center for the Arts.

"The selected summer movies were inspired by our upcoming 23-24 Broadway series, in anticipation of our new Broadway season lineup and to serve as an invitation for community gathering in celebration of the stories that will touch Segerstrom Hall stage," Reitz said.

The series begins with the animated "The Lion King," which follows the journey of a young lion named Simba and his nonlinear journey to king of Pride Rock. The movie is the inspiration for the Broadway musical, "Disney's the Lion King," which returns to Segerstrom Feb. 1 through 25, 2024. The next film in the series, on July 17, is "Clue," inspired by the popular murder mystery board game. The film was later adapted into a musical for Broadway, which will appear at Segerstrom Hall July 23 through 28, 2024. Christmas comes in July for a screening of "How the Grinch

See **Movie**, page A5

Tommy Bahama[®]
HOME

GRAND RE-OPENING IN FASHION ISLAND



HOME FURNISHINGS | HOME DÉCOR | OUTDOOR LIVING | DESIGN SERVICES

Explore Our Expanded New Showroom and View Our Latest Collections!

BELOW *THE LOT* IN FOUNTAIN COURT,
BETWEEN *THE LEXUS EXPERIENCE* AND *URBAN OUTFITTERS*

TOMMY BAHAMA HOME – FASHION ISLAND

949.706.9928 | newport@tbfurniture.com | tbfurniturenewport.com

Old Glory Boat Parade readies for July 4 return



Spencer Grant

ABOARD THE judges boat Sundance, Kevin and Patricia Dawson and Jon F. Reynolds in 2021 wave American flags to passing Old Glory Boat Parade contestants in Newport Beach.

BY LILLY NGUYEN

Independence Day wouldn't be Independence Day in Newport Harbor without all the boats and decorations to celebrate it. The Old Glory Boat Parade is making its return on July 4, with this year's theme celebrating the nation's founding fathers.

The parade is hosted by the American Legion Yacht Club, which took over for the Newport Beach Chamber of Commerce back in 1992. It was initially called the "Newport Harbor Character Boat Parade" before being renamed and will follow the same path it traditionally does around Newport Harbor on July 4.

In conjunction with the event, Newport Harbor American Legion Post 291

and Newport Harbor Post 291 Sons of the American Legion will be celebrating with a pancake breakfast from 7:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. in their parking lot at 215 15th St. The breakfast costs \$15 for adults, which includes two drink tickets, and \$8 for children. Additionally, the group will hold a barbecue lunch, from 1 to 5 p.m., for a \$30 donation. The M Street Band will provide live music.

All proceeds will go toward the organization's veteran and activity duty programs and support activities.

As of Friday afternoon, 34 people had signed up to participate in the Old Glory Boat Parade. Entrants will compete for Best Decorated, Best Music, Spirit Award, Best Theme, the

IF YOU GO

The Old Glory Boat Parade in Newport Harbor begins at 1 p.m. and runs until 3 p.m. on July 4.

Commodore's Award and a Sweepstakes Grand Prize.

Leading the parade this year will be Newport Beach Police Chief Joe Cartwright, who came into his role in April. Cartwright is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and a chairman on the board for the Newport Beach 1st Battalion, 1st Marines Foundation. He is also a member of the American Legion Newport Harbor Post 291.

lilly.nguyen@latimes.com
Twitter: @lilibirds

Laguna Beach police lead enforcement effort against speeding, loud exhaust

BY ANDREW TURNER

The Laguna Beach Police Department recently led a team of law enforcement agencies in targeting speeding motorists and those operating a vehicle with loud exhaust.

Such issues have frequently been identified by Laguna Beach residents as quality-of-life concerns, an activity that authorities say persists up and down the Orange County coastline.

"Aftermarket or custom vehicle exhausts that exceed noise limits set by law are a continual problem along the coastal communities within Orange County," Laguna Beach Police Chief Jeff Calvert said in a statement. "Our communities are greatly affected by the nuisance of loud noise, and we will continue to work with our neighboring police agencies to address the issue."

The task force was deployed on Saturday, June 17. The Huntington Beach,

Newport Beach and Tustin police departments, as well as the Bureau of Automotive Repair, joined in the enforcement efforts.

Officers stopped 80 vehicles for code violations, writing 69 citations with some of those coming for loud or modified exhaust. Bureau of Automotive Repair personnel inspected six vehicles for modified exhaust violations. One driver was arrested, and their vehicle impounded, after it was discovered that they had several outstanding warrants.

Similar joint enforcement efforts are expected to continue through August.

SUMMER PARKING RATES, TROLLEYS RETURNING TO LAGUNA

School is out for summer, and the art festival season is just around the corner.

That means Laguna Beach is on the cusp of its busiest time of year, and,

in preparation, the city will be charging summer parking rates as demand for parking downtown and along the coast goes up.

Summer parking rates will be in effect beginning Monday, and city officials said parking enforcement hours will be extended from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. during the festival season.

Multispace pay stations will replace the parking meters on Frontage Road and Laguna Canyon Road in front of the Sawdust Festival. Opening day is June 30 for the Sawdust Festival and Art-A-Fair. The Festival of Arts will open its doors on July 5.

Festival parking passes are being sold for the Act V and Laguna College of Art and Design parking lots for \$25. A premier festival parking pass, which is \$50, grants the pass holder access to the Community and Susi Q Center lot. A free trolley service will make stops at the Sawdust Festival, Art-A-Fair, Festival

of Arts, Laguna Playhouse and downtown. Passes can be purchased at the Community and Susi Q Center.

Laguna Beach will run its free summer trolley service along four routes from June 30 through Sept. 4.

The Canyon Route goes from the Act V lot to the festivals and downtown, leaving every 20 minutes. The Summer Breeze Route brings visitors in from 16355 Laguna Canyon Road in Irvine to the downtown area.

The Long Coastal Route arrives every 40 minutes with service going from downtown to the Ritz Carlton in Dana Point. The Short Coastal Route takes off every 30 minutes, running from North Cliff Drive to Mission Hospital. Both routes run along Coast Highway.

andrew.turner@latimes.com
Twitter: @AndrewTurnerTCN



File Photo

THE BRIDGE SHELTER in Costa Mesa can accommodate 69 regular residents and three emergency-use guests.

SHELTER

Continued from page A1

That will allow the organization to increase its staffing to assist an increased population and to pay for the additional administration and maintenance that will be needed, Nate Robbins, the city's neighborhood improvement manager, told the council.

"With the \$2 million we allocate we get shelter management, housing

navigation, security, logistics, janitorial [services], transportation, pet care, snacks and supplies," he said, adding that Mercy House is expected to have amassed \$286,402 in unspent funding in its first two years of operations.

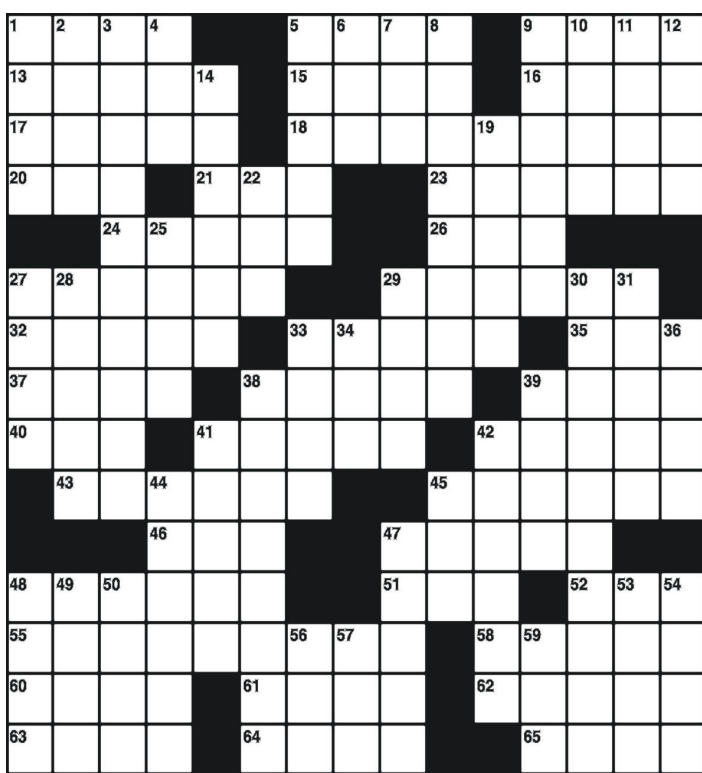
The expansion also calls for increasing the city's contract with Bracken's Kitchen, a Garden Grove nonprofit that provides three meals per day at the shelter, at a cost of \$12.50

See *Shelter*, page A6

THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

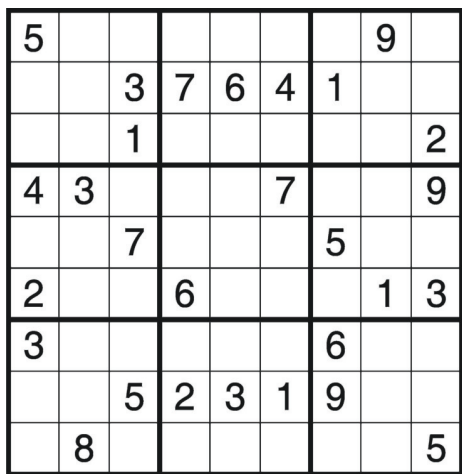
- ACROSS**
 1 Actress Loretta
 5 Cutting tools
 9 Prissy
 13 Bike part
 15 _ the air; undecided
 16 Not bananas
 17 Game venue
 18 Dwelling
 20 Afternoon social
 21 Do drugs
 23 Instructed
 24 Beer
 26 "El _"; Charlton Heston film
 27 Terror
 29 Pulsates
 32 Finishes last
 33 Singer Mariah
 35 Suffix for origin or assassin
 37 Gobbles up
 38 Ran fast
 39 Deli salad
 40 "What Kind of Fool _?"
 41 _ Midler
 42 Serving spoon
 43 Piano practice exercises
 45 Donnybrooks
 46 Pale
 47 "Nothing could be _ than to be in Carolina"
 48 Shocked
 51 Cereal grain
 52 Flood preventer
 55 Actress Cox
 58 Qom resident
 60 Watched
 61 Film part
 62 Goes on and on
 63 Insolence
 64 _-fry; wok dish
 65 " _ Land Is Your Land"
- DOWN**
 1 Quarrel
 2 "If I _ a Rich



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 A4.

- Man"
 3 Starry-eyed
 4 Pantyhose shade
 5 More certain
 6 Make fun of
 7 Madison's place: abbr.
 8 Was a tattletale
 9 Sham; artificial
 10 Used the doorbell
 11 About 25 millimeters
 12 Bump into
 14 Giggles &

- guffaws
 19 Milk-processing site
 22 Salon offering
 25 Grows old
 27 Little biter
 28 Wanders
 29 Koala's home
 30 "Hogwash!"
 31 No longer fresh
 33 Alley strays
 34 Play division
 36 Farm femmes
 38 Goes into again
 39 Realtor's delight
 41 Explosion
 42 Pod legume
 44 Oscars & Emmys
 45 Farrow or Sara
 47 Vestibule
 48 Large spades
 49 Spanish romantic painter
 50 Pink & purple
 53 "Nay" voter
 54 Feel the loss of
 56 "To be or _ to be"
 57 Actor Wallach
 59 One not to be trusted

Tribune Media Services

Brad Evans Foundation Announces 2023 Scholarship Award

In June 2023, the Brad Evans Foundation awarded its annual U.C. Berkeley scholarship. We are pleased to announce that this year's recipient is **Costa Mesa High School** senior **Isabella Mills**.



Besides being a top student, Isabella has been active in mock trial, musical theater, public speaking, and also played in a rock band.



Isabella Mills
U.C. Berkeley

She will major in English and looks forward to the opportunities and experiences that the University has to offer.

The Evanses join with her family and friends in wishing Isabella a wonderful and rewarding freshman year!

Harbor View School PFO selects two for Brad Evans Memorial Scholarships

In May of 2023 the Harbor View PFO - Brad Evans Memorial Scholarships were awarded to Corona del Mar seniors **Shea Tomac** and **Isabella Vu**.

Shea will major in art history, film, and animation at Tufts and Isabella will major in biology and pre-med at UNC Chapel Hill.

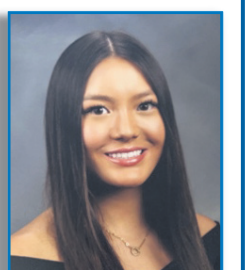
The HV PFO and the Evans family wish them both the very best as they embark on their college careers.

After Brad died in 2001, the HV PFO lovingly renamed its scholarship in his honor and memory. It is awarded to outstanding CdM seniors who attended Harbor View Elementary School. Brad Evans was the recipient the PFO scholarship upon his graduation from CdM.

For more information about either of these two programs, or to make a contribution, please visit the web site at bradevansfoundation.org



Shea Tomac
Tufts University



Isabella Vu
UNC Chapel Hill

forum

MAILBAG

Let's remember who was behind Mr. Irrelevant

I read with interest "Mr. Irrelevant plans to 'keep pushing forward'" (Daily Pilot, June 15). What the article, for some unfathomable reason, failed to mention was that the whole concept of the Mr. Irrelevant idea was the brainchild of the late Newport Beach resident Paul Salata. If it were not for him there would never have been such a celebration. I had the privilege of interviewing Mr. Salata for the Newport Beach Historical Society for our ongoing oral history project.

Lenard Davis
NBHS board of directors

FLIERS DESERVE CONDEMNATION

An act of racial hatred was committed in the city of Huntington Beach this

HOW TO GET PUBLISHED

Send an email to erik.haugli@latimes.com and include your full name, hometown and phone number (for verification purposes) with your submission. All letters should be kept to 350 words or less and address local issues and events. The Daily Pilot reserves the right to edit all accepted submissions for clarity, accuracy and length.

week. Ugly anti-Jewish materials were distributed at several homes in the city. The representatives of several religious denominations at the Greater Huntington Beach Interfaith Council believe that hate has no place here.

Our council was started some 25 years ago in response to a climate of hate in the city that culminated in a vicious hate crime. Over these more than two

decades, the council has sponsored many events and programs promoting understanding between people of many faiths and working toward harmony for the entire community.

We call upon all persons of goodwill to join us in condemning this hateful act and all similar hurtful behaviors. Let us work together to create the society of which the prophet Isaiah spoke, where all people will sit under their vines and fig trees and no one will make them afraid.

Maneck Bhujwala
president, Greater Huntington Beach Interfaith Council

Disgusting is one way to describe the antisemitic, anti-LGBTQ+ fliers left near Edison High School. Another way to describe this action is cowardly. Why? Because these people always drop their fliers in the dead of night when no one can see them. If you are so convinced your point of view is valid, then come out of the shadows and show your faces. If you ask me, it's the least you can do when attacking people you despise.

Denny Freidenrich
Laguna Beach



Courtesy of Mr. Irrelevant

CHEERLEADERS WELCOME Mr. Irrelevant with a banner. A reader writes to identify Paul Salata as the driving force behind Mr. Irrelevant Week activities coming to Newport Beach.

GUN ISSUE REQUIRES VOTER ACTION

Patrice Apodaca in her recent article this month in the Daily Pilot ("We must find effective answers to gun violence," June 7), takes on gun violence, the number one problem in our country today and the problem that taints our reputation as the "leader of the free world." Our lack of control over gun violence has resulted in more than 17,444 gun deaths so far this year, Apodaca writes. It has come to the point that people do not feel safe outside their homes.

While any number of solutions has been offered to rid us of this blight on our national reputation, there is no one fix that will solve our problem, other than changing the minds of our government repre-

sentatives.

The best place to start is at the top, focusing on the institution which most affects the laxity of gun legislation, and that is the Supreme Court. The Citizen's United Supreme Court decision of 2010 stated that the 1st Amendment prohibits the government from restricting political expenditures by corporations, associations or labor unions and is the decision that gave groups like the National Rifle Assn. unlimited influence. On May 26, 2022, just 72 hours after the mass shooting in Uvalde, Texas took place, prominent Republicans headlined the NRA convention in Houston. In the 10 years since Sandy Hook, the NRA has donated more than \$100 million dollars to elect

Republicans, according to Democrats.org.

Consequently, even if Congress and state legislators take meaningful action, there are still the federal courts to get through, many of which are stocked with Republican-appointed judges hostile to gun control. So we need to not only be concerned about legislative inaction but judicial action.

One solution that has been offered for this dilemma is to increase the number of Supreme Court justices to achieve a more balanced court. The time for President Biden to do so has passed. Perhaps it will be a viable solution in the future. For now we must focus on electing

See Mailbag, page A5

A WORD, PLEASE | JUNE CASAGRANDE

AP softens on the Oxford comma, but its rule against them makes sense

"We don't ban the Oxford comma."

That was the subject line of an email the Associated Press Stylebook editors recently sent to subscribers. To anyone who's been on the front lines of the comma wars, the message seemed like an olive branch — or possibly a white flag.

Not familiar with the Oxford comma controversy? It's a tempest in a teapot — a trumped-up battle between people who eschew an optional comma, called the Oxford or serial comma, and the devotees of this little punctuation mark.

The Oxford comma, or serial comma, comes before the conjunction in a list of three or more things. If you write, "The flag is red, white, and blue," you're using an Oxford comma. If you write, "The flag is red, white and blue," you're not. Either way, you're using correct punctuation because this comma is optional.

The publishing world's two major style guides take different positions on whether editors should use this comma. The Chicago Manual of Style, followed by many book

and magazine publishers, is in favor.

"When a conjunction joins the last two elements in a series of three or more, a comma — known as the serial or series comma or the Oxford comma — should appear before the conjunction," says the Chicago manual's 17th edition, adding for emphasis: "Chicago strongly recommends this widely practiced usage."

AP is mostly opposed. "Use commas to separate elements in a series, but do not put a comma before the conjunction in most simple series," the stylebook advises. But unlike Chicago, AP editors don't use the next sentence to strenuously underscore their point. Instead, AP emphasizes that the rule is flexible. "Include a final comma in a simple series if omitting it could make the meaning unclear." Dig a little deeper into the Chicago manual and you see they make exceptions, too, albeit reluctantly.

So AP and Chicago — the most influential voices on the Oxford comma — are de facto leaders of opposing camps. Oxford comma enthusiasts, then, could see AP as the enemy, which could put AP on the defensive, which in turn could inspire an email like

the one I got in my inbox this month. Just a theory.

AP gave an example in which the Oxford comma makes sense of an otherwise confusing sentence: "The governor convened his most trusted advisers, economist Olivia Schneider, and polling expert Carlton Torres." (If the governor is convening unidentified advisers plus Schneider and Torres, the final comma is needed.)

The publishing world's two major style guides take different positions on whether editors should use this comma.

If you meant instead that the trusted advisers were none other than Schneider and Torres, no comma goes before the conjunction, AP notes: "The governor convened his most trusted advisers, economist Olivia Schneider and polling expert Carlton Torres."

AP missed an opportunity here. They should have given an example with "adviser" in the singular instead of the plural: "The governor convened his most trusted adviser, economist Olivia Schneider, and polling expert Carlton Torres."

With "adviser" in the singular, the Oxford

comma doesn't prevent confusion — it creates it. Maybe Schneider and the trusted adviser are one and the same, so the governor convened only two people. Or maybe the trusted adviser is separate from Schneider and three people showed up. We don't know. But take out the Oxford comma and it's clear that three people met with the governor: the trusted adviser, Schneider

and Torres. Obviously, sometimes it's better to just rewrite the sentence. But when you can't, knee-jerk comma partisanship is not the remedy. Sometimes the Oxford comma helps, sometimes it hurts.

Consistency counts, too. So pick your default preference — yes or no on the Oxford comma — then be prepared to make exceptions whenever it could help your reader.

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

FOR THE RECORD

In the article "Newport-Mesa Unified announces 4 key personnel changes for coming school year" that ran in Friday's edition, it was incorrectly stated that Lorena Rubio attended Wilson Elementary. She attended Kaiser Elementary and taught at Wilson.

Mark's Painting & Handyman Service
714-222-3055
Wood Restoration Specialist
Licensed & Bonded
C-33-#967860

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

Crossword grid with answers: SWIT, SAWS, PRIM, PEDAL, UPIN, SANE, ARENA, RESIDENCE, TEA, USE, TAUGHT, LAGER, CID, FRIGHT, THROBS, LOSES, CAREY, ATE, EATS, RACED, SLAW, AMI, BETTE, LADLE, SCALES, MELLEES, WAN, FINER, AGHAST, OAT, DAM, COURTNEY, IRANI, EYED, ROLE, LASTS, SASS, STIR, THIS

Sudoku grid with numbers: 5 6 8 1 2 3 4 9 7, 9 2 3 7 6 4 1 5 8, 7 4 1 8 5 9 3 6 2, 4 3 6 5 1 7 8 2 9, 8 1 7 3 9 2 5 4 6, 2 5 9 6 4 8 7 1 3, 3 9 2 4 8 5 6 7 1, 6 7 5 2 3 1 9 8 4, 1 8 4 9 7 6 2 3 5

Daily Pilot

A Times Community News publication.

CONTACT US

Carol Cormaci
Executive Editor
carol.cormaci@latimes.com

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

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

Eric Licas, Public Safety
eric.licas@latimes.com
Sarah Mosqueda, TimesOC
sarah.mosqueda@latimes.com

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

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

Reporters: Sara Cardine, Costa Mesa
sara.cardine@latimes.com

The Daily Pilot, established in 1907, is published Wednesday through Sunday by Times Community News, a division of the Los Angeles Times. Subscriptions are available only by subscribing to The Times, Orange County.

Lilly Nguyen, Newport Beach
lilly.nguyen@latimes.com
Matt Szabo, Huntington Beach and Sports
matthew.szabo@latimes.com

© 2023 Times Community News. All rights reserved.

MARKETPLACE

To place an ad, go to http://timescommunityadvertising.com/

MERCHANDISE 800

Miscellaneous Merchandise

Vinyl Records Wanted
\$\$\$ Top cash paid
4 all or part of collection.
Jazz, Classical, Psychedelic, Blues
949-933-6777 Mike

GOOD JOBS, RELIABLE SERVICES, INTERESTING THINGS TO BUY, IT'S ALL HERE EVERYDAY IN CLASSIFIED! (714) 966-4600

CLASSIFIED

It's the solution you're searching for-whether you're seeking a home, apartment, pet or new occupation!

Legal Notices

Legal Notices



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Thursday, July 06, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., or soon thereafter as the matter shall be heard, a public hearing will be conducted in the Council Chambers at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach. The Planning Commission of the City of Newport Beach will consider the following application:

Bandera Restaurant - A conditional use permit and coastal development permit to change the operating hours of an existing 6,047 square foot restaurant and modify the approved seating layout with no changes to the existing net public area. Operating hours are proposed to be updated from 4:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m., to 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. to accommodate lunch service. The restaurant provides for the sale and service of alcoholic beverages with an existing Type 47 (On-Sale General - Eating Place) Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) License. If approved, this conditional use permit would supersede Use Permit No. 3564 and Site Plan Review No. 73.

The project is categorically exempt under Section 15301 - Class 1 (Existing Facilities) of the State CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) Guidelines.

All interested parties may appear and present testimony regarding this application. If you challenge this project in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you raised at the public hearing or in written correspondence delivered to the City or before the public hearing. The application may be continued to a specific future meeting date; if such an action occurs, additional public notice of the continuance will not be provided. Administrative procedures for appeals are provided in the Newport Beach Municipal Code Sections 20.64 and 21.64. A fee is required to appeal any final action on a coastal development permit to the City Council. The project site is not located within the appeal area of the coastal zone; therefore, final action by the City on the applications may not be appealed to the California Coastal Commission.

The agenda, staff report, and corresponding documents will be available by end of business day on the Friday preceding the public hearing and may be reviewed at the Community Development Department Permit Center (Bay C-1st Floor), at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660 or the City of Newport Beach website at www.newportbeachca.gov/planningcommission.

Individuals not able to attend the meeting may contact the Planning Division or access the City's website after the meeting to review the action on this application. All mail or written communications (including email) from the public, residents, or applicants regarding an agenda item must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on the business day immediately before the meeting. This allows time for the Planning Commission to adequately consider the submitted correspondence.

For questions regarding this public hearing item please contact Kelly Ribuffo, Consultant Planner at kribuffo@sagecrestplanning.com, at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660.

Project File No.: PA2023-0063

Activities: Conditional Use Permit and Coastal Development Permit

Zone: Commercial Corridor (CC)

General Plan: Corridor Commercial (CC)

Coastal Land Use Plan: Corridor Commercial (CC-B) - (0.0 - 0.75 FAR)

Filing Date: March 15, 2023

Location: 3201 East Coast Highway

Applicant: Andrew Yapp, Southern California Land Use

Sarah Klausnermeier, Secretary, Planning Commission, City of Newport Beach

HOTEL

Continued from page A1

a little past 9 p.m. on June 13, according to a police report obtained by The Times.

Lutz and Heathco had initially received hospital treatment for what they thought was food poisoning, according to Lutz's sister Gabrielle Slate on a GoFundMe page. They even appeared to be recovering before Slate was alerted that the pair had been found dead.

"We received a phone call saying that they had passed away peacefully in their hotel room in their sleep," she wrote.

"We have been told it was due to improper venting of the resort and could be carbon monoxide poisoning."

A former Rancho Pescadero manager, Ricardo Carbajal, said on June 16 that resort management ignored signs of a possible gas leak and disconnected carbon monoxide detectors that had been frequently sounding alarms.

Carbajal said monitors rang almost constantly for three months in 2022 — which he chalked up to likely gas leaks.

Hotel Pescadero management eventually disconnected the detectors in January after multiple guest complaints, according to Carbajal.

"They knew there were problems with gas leaks," said Carbajal, who ended his tenure at the resort in March. "Everyone was aware of the alarms and that the detectors were off."

Two current employees, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they feared for their jobs, also said that hotel



STRIKING EMPLOYEES

gather outside Rancho Pescadero Hotel in El Pescadero, Mexico, on June 16, days after a couple was found dead at the hotel.

Meghan Dhaliwal
| For The Times

managers ignored complaints about the strong smell of gas.

"Housekeepers reported gas leaks, security reported gas leaks, maintenance workers reported gas leaks," said one of the employees on Sunday. A few days before the guests were found dead, a housekeeper cleaning their room fell ill because of suspected gas poisoning, the employee said.

Initially, hotel general manager Henar Gil Rios said in a statement that she was "not aware of any threat to guests' safety and well-being."

Hyatt said in a statement on June 16 that Mexican "authorities immediately tested the air quality in the room after responding to the situation, and at the time, did not report any findings of gas or carbon monoxide and advised that the hotel was cleared to continue normal operations."

Although Hyatt did not answer questions regarding its detectors, the com-

pany said it was closing the hotel out of caution for its guests.

"The property will not resume normal operations until our investigation is complete," a company statement said. "The local authorities have not yet released their findings of their ongoing investigation which Hyatt and the hotel owners continue to fully cooperate with."

Slate wrote an update on Sunday stating that the fundraiser she established had raised more than \$30,000 to bring her sister's body home for burial.

"Donations from family and friends have been extraordinary, and we have received donations from people we have never met," Slate wrote. "We are so deeply humbled yet in awe."

Times staff writers Alexandra E. Petri and Kate Linthicum contributed to this report.

andrew.campa@latimes.com
Twitter: @campadrenews

MOVIE

Continued from page A1

Stole Christmas!" on July 24, a live-action adaptation of Dr. Seuss' holiday tale. A musical stage version of the story will be part of Segerstrom holiday programming, showing Dec. 19 through 24, 2023. A visit to Neverland comes in the form of "Peter Pan" (the 2003 version) on July 31, ahead of the "Peter Pan," the Broadway musical showing at Segerstrom Aug. 6 through 18 in 2024. The series finishes with the live-action "Aladdin" from 2019 on Aug. 7. Disney's "Aladdin," the hit Broadway musical will show May 7 through 12, 2024.

Moviegoers can arrive as early as 5:30 p.m. for preshow activities that run from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Films begin at dusk, which is usually around 8 p.m. Guests are encouraged to bring their own chairs and blankets as well as snacks and picnic dinners, although tables, barbecue grills or any other large food setups are not allowed. George's Café is open for the event with alcohol available for purchase for those 21 and older. Outside alcohol is not permitted, but different food trucks park on site each Monday for additional food options.

Reitz hopes movie lovers will take advantage of the free films made possible by donations, even if they can't make it to see their Broadway counterparts.

"This wouldn't be possible without the generous support of our board of directors and donors who continuously strive to develop and fund programs that can be accessible to everyone," said Reitz.

sara.cardine@latimes.com
Twitter: @SaraCardine

MAILBAG

Continued from page A4

candidates who are in favor of solving this catastrophic problem.

Lynn Lorenz
Newport Beach

MORE THOUGHTS ON H.B. POLITICS

It is amazing what happens when you open your mind and at least listen to and consider opinions that may differ from your own. You can learn something new, you may even gain respect for others, you could come to a compromise, or you may just have to agree to disagree on a particular topic. Our democracy was built on compromise and it is sad to see that the Huntington Beach City Council has apparently forgotten that very basic principle. Con-

gratulations to our city attorney and council majority for successfully checking off some of the least important issues facing our city; flags, invocation, settlement with the air show, etc. How about redirecting some of your energy away from advancing personal agenda items and work towards solving community issues that have an impact on the entire population, like homelessness?

Dwight Brandt
Huntington Beach

Great article on access to sex education to prepare young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities with potentially life saving information about their own bodies and rights (Forget the birds and bees. Sex ed series preps young adults with disabilities for

life, dating, Daily Pilot, June 16).

Unfortunately some members of our City Council would object to the dissemination of this type of information in our school system. In fact Mayor Pro Tem Gracey Van Der Mark contends that it has been a longstanding problem in public education that children are being exposed to obscene and age-inappropriate materials by adults, many of whom are educators we have entrusted with our children, and proposed an ordinance that materials should be submitted to the city attorney for analysis and evaluation for 1st Amendment protection (Huntington Beach mayor pro tem seeks to identify, stop kids from reading 'obscene' public library books, Daily Pilot, June 19). The item, which

passed Tuesday, directs the city manager to work with the city attorney on the proposed ordinance identifying obscene and pornographic materials in public libraries and making them unavailable to minors.

The city should be aware that Gov. Newsom, Atty. Gen. Robert Bonta and State Supt. Tony Thurmond recently issued a five-page warning to all California school superintendents reminding them that the U.S. Constitution restricts the removal of books from libraries, and the state education code requires public schools to provide instruction and contribution by both men and women of all ethnic and cultural groups.

Therefore the mayor pro tem should focus her attention on city issues instead of issues outside of

her domain and knowledge.

Richard C. Armendariz
Huntington Beach

I attended the June 20 Huntington Beach City Council meeting and spoke in the public comments marathon (albeit at about 11 p.m.) about agenda items No. 18 and 19 (denouncing hate). Concerned community members should realize that the conservative council majority has no interest in addressing and fashioning solutions to our problems. It is a pure exercise in power politics by shoving their right-wing ideology down our throats. There was nothing practical about their push for restricting access to children's reading materials ("Huntington Beach will seek to stop children from accessing library books

city deems obscene or pornographic"). It will never be implemented effectively because there is "no there there." Spouting half-baked moral majority mumbo jumbo and pressing conservative officials to become civic watchdogs was a further step toward the authoritarian regime this dangerous collection of political misfits is trying to impose. Parrying the proposed denunciation of hate by resurgent anti-semitic, white nationalist, racist and anti-LGBTQ+ fear mongers was both sad and infuriating. It is further clear that this council majority stands for nothing but their own authoritarian aggrandizement and will never represent our interests fairly and honestly.

Tim Geddes
Huntington Beach

CONNECTING PEOPLE

WITH OPPORTUNITY

> Cameron D. works as an Associate at Smart & Final

For 99 years and counting, Goodwill of Orange County has opened up opportunities. We help people unlock their potential and reach their goals. We turn opportunities into triumphs. To put it simply, we are a force in workforce development. So, how can we help you? OCGOODWILL.ORG



DOGS

Continued from page A1

Cherie edged Gidget, a female pug from San Clemente trained by Alecia Nelson, in the small dog title heat for the second straight year.

Faith, a 12-year-old American pit bull terrier from San Diego, won the large dog title with her trainer James Wall. She topped Kioni "Kentucky" Gallahue's goldendoodle Derby, also of San Diego, in the final.

The Nykolenkos were honored to have Cherie and Faith both at the top of the podium. They both started their careers a decade ago in the same event, the Surf Dog Surf-A-Thon in Del Mar, and even in the same heat.

"The entire way, we've been able to do this," Dan Nykolenko said. "I'm super-stoked for that reason, that we both won together. It makes me feel warm and fuzzy. It makes my cold, black heart pump once or twice."

Cherie came out first in the event off Brookhurst Street. Each surf dog competed in 10-minute heats, with the top two in both the small dog and large dog categories making the finals.

Nykolenko said the conditions weren't great for his Frenchie, but they also weren't rough.

"It was very calm, and you kind of had your pick of wave," he said. "They wer-



THE WINNERS at the Purina Pro Plan Incredible Dog Challenge Western Regional surf dog competition were small dog Cherie, left, a French bulldog from Newport Beach, and large dog Faith, an American pit bull terrier from San Diego.

of the dogs in action Friday, maintains a very active social media presence with Instagram, TikTok, Facebook and YouTube pages.

"Honestly, I think there's an OnlyFans too, but we don't talk about that," he added with a laugh.

Sugar, a 12-year-old female surf dog from Huntington Beach, was knocked out prior to the finals. She had won the large dog competition four straight times.

"She kept falling off [the board] and weird stuff she's never done," said her trainer, Ryan Rustan. "Sometimes it just doesn't work out ... I feel bummed out, but it's OK. I think she's got another year left in her, hopefully."

The Purina Pro Plan Incredible Dog Challenge, a free event that's open to spectators, concludes Saturday at Huntington State Beach. The event headquarters is located between Beach Boulevard and Newland Street.

Events on Saturday include agility, diving dog, weave, fetch it and freestyle flying disc competitions.

matthew.szabo@latimes.com
Twitter: @mjszabo

en't super-big, but that's fine with me, because I have a 29-pound French bulldog."

Nykolenko said Cherie's final surf dog event will again be the Del Mar competition in September, providing a full-circle moment.

But Wall, who trains Faith, said he has no immediate plans to retire his pit bull, who rides with a pair of dog goggles called "Rex Specs."

"She's going to keep going until she tells me she doesn't want to," he said. "We pulled up in the parking lot and she was whining to get out here, so we'll keep going. She's going to be the old lady of the circuit."



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

KAYA, AN Australian cattle dog, joins the freestyle flying disc competition at the Purina Incredible Dog Challenge.

The surf dog competitions are largely for bragging rights, but Wall said it felt good to nab his canine's first Purina Pro Plan Incredible Dog Challenge Western Regional title. The event will air on television starting in July.

"I'm just having fun with my dog, and it brings joy to other people," Wall said. "This year's been a little bit hectic for us. My kids play sports ... and I think this is actually the first time she's been in the water since October of last year. That proves that she knows what she's doing. I'm just the person pushing her out there, the rest is all on her."

Wall said Faith, like many

SHELTER

Continued from page A3

per meal. The current annual not-to-exceed contract of \$327,600 would be increased to \$400,600 to accommodate the potential addition of 16 guests, Robbins said.

To help offset the costs associated with the expansion, Costa Mesa officials are proposing an increase in what the city charges Newport Beach for partial use of the Bridge Shelter, in exchange for allowing the city to increase its

share of beds.

The current memo of understanding between the two cities requires Newport Beach to pay Costa Mesa \$1 million annually for exclusive access to 20 of the facility's 72 beds, three of which are emergency, one-night only spaces. The city also pays a one-time capital cost of \$50,000 each year, Robbins explained.

Under the new agreement, the neighboring city would pay \$1,275,000, along with the ongoing capital cost contribution, but would get five more beds. It

would have the option of paying an additional \$155 per night for any Costa Mesa bed that becomes vacant and cannot be filled.

"So, rather than have that bed stay vacant, Newport could use it," Robbins said. "Then, we're getting additional revenue to help offset our costs at the shelter."

Newport Beach spokesman John Pope said the City Council will vote Tuesday on whether to approve the contract.

"Having available shelter beds is critical to the success of our homeless outreach efforts," Pope

wrote in an email. "The 20 beds leased by the [city] are consistently filled, so the addition of five more beds for those experiencing homelessness in Newport Beach will help address a top priority for our community."

Members of the Costa Mesa City Council Tuesday questioned Robbins about the current census and were told the shelter typically houses 69 individuals, serving more than 200 people each year. In comments, panelists expressed their support of the expansion.

"Having a program like this is

indispensable, knowing that, when you encounter someone homeless on the street, you actually have options and are not trying to figure out what to do with them," said Councilman Loren Gameros, whose Council District 2 includes the shelter.

"We focus, as a council up here, to provide housing for everybody, and this is a perfect example of how far we're willing to go to do such things."

sara.cardine@latimes.com
Twitter: @SaraCardine

You are unique

and so is your taste in wine

bold spices

smooth tannins

chocolate

black cherries

6 bottles for \$39.95
Valued over \$120

Take the quiz and receive delicious wines curated to your palate.



Get your wines at
LATimes.Wine/Cork

FREE SHIPPING TO YOUR DOOR