

Daily Pilot & Times OC

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James Carbone

ARTIST JOHN KOSH poses in front of some of his iconic album covers, the Beatles' "Abbey Road" and "War is Over," at the Art of Music Experience at the Orange County Fair in Costa Mesa on Aug. 3.

Show tracks album covers and creatives behind them

BY ANDREW TURNER

Joy Feuer insists that she has always seen the sound of music and the images behind it as inseparable.

From the looks of the crowds pouring into the Art of Music Experience at the Orange County Fair this summer, it would be difficult to disagree.

Back for more, the exhibit has staying

power, tapping into the nostalgia of music lovers from across the generations.

Music pumps through the building, but the driving attraction is the large-scale duplication of the images that became intrinsically linked to the feelings of those listening to lyrics sung and notes played.

"Over and over, you just see firsthand, [people are] so connected to the art and the imagery behind what they listen to," said

Feuer, the co-founder and curator of the Art of Music Experience. "The reason I always loved it, to me, it always felt like a shared experience. When I listened to albums, I looked at them, too, so it wasn't like I just was about the music, or I just was about the art. They kind of went together, and I don't think I'm alone in that tribe."

See *Covers*, page A10

Mooring fees deal stalled by state officials

California State Lands Commission questions legality of Newport Beach council's decision on raising mooring rates.

BY ERIC LICAS

A compromise that would have more than quadrupled the cost of mooring a boat at Newport Beach's harbor tidelands while grandfathering in longtime permit holders fell through after state authorities issued a letter last month questioning its legality.

The monthly cost the city charges for a mooring permit is based on the length of the vessel it covers. Boat owners had been paying \$1.67 per foot for onshore moorings and \$3.35 per foot for offshore moorings, and those rates had remained unchanged since 2016. Some who live on their vessels said a 300% price increase proposed in April would practically evict them from the tidelands.

"The moorings are the last place in Newport, people like me, like retirees and veterans, nurses and lifeguards can afford to keep a boat," Anne Stenton, teacher and president of the Newport Mooring

See *Mooring*, page A5

New podcast ponders O.C.'s 'purple' politics

MADRID INTERVIEWS former Rep. Loretta Sanchez for a future podcast episode of "Red County, Blue County, Orange County."

Courtesy UC Irvine School of Social Ecology



BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

As Orange County goes, so goes the nation?

Mike Madrid, a longtime political consultant and author, is convinced enough to anchor his new "Red County, Blue County, Orange County" podcast around the idea.

The old county of President Ronald Reagan's imagination, "where the good Republicans go before they die," has all but withered away. Supplanting it is a new contested but also col-

laborative purple terrain, one that Madrid, a senior fellow at UC Irvine's School of Social Ecology, believes is well-poised to determine our national fate politically.

"Orange County is a perfect battleground for the future," Madrid said. "We're seeing something very unique in Orange County that is probably a preview of what is going to be happening over the next couple of decades in this country."

See *Podcast*, page A3

ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



Sarah Mosqueda

NEW BREAKFAST CAFE IN NEWPORT BEACH STACKS UP PAGE A8

SAN CLEMENTE VOTERS TO DECIDE ON SALES TAX INCREASE FOR SAND-STARVED BEACHES PAGE A2

South Coast Repertory sets the stage for its new managing director

BY SARA CARDINE

This week was a whirlwind for Suzanne Appel — recently selected to manage the business of Costa Mesa's South Coast Repertory, succeeding longtime director Paula Tomei — as she participated in a sort of rush week through the local theater community.

The 44-year-old managing director of New York City's off-Broadway Vineyard Theatre will take over the reins of the non-profit theater company in September, working alongside Artistic Director David Ivers as the second managing director in

SCR's 60-year history.

Her appointment was announced by the organization's board of trustees on July 23 at the end of a nationwide search to replace Tomei, who's been with the company since 1979.

"South Coast Repertory's reputation, particularly for new play commissioning, development and production, is something I'd been aware of for most of my career," Appel said ahead of a weeklong visit to Costa Mesa designed as an orientation to the theater company, its board members and local stakeholders.

"What I think [SCR] does incredibly well is appeal to a wide

range of ages," she continued. "At this stage of my life I was really looking for community, and I'm excited to find that in Orange County."

Growing up in Denver, Appel's first blush with the theater came when she was in the first grade and participated in an after-school drama program.

"I absolutely fell in love with the theater — I would act in any school show that would have me," she recalled. "Then, in college, I started directing because that was a way you get to pick the plays. The part I really loved

See *Director*, page A4



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

PAULA TOMEI and Suzanne Appel, from left, stand in front of the stage with the set from "Seussical the Musical" at South Coast Repertory on Thursday. Appel will succeed Tomei, who is stepping down after 44 years as managing director for the Costa Mesa theater company.



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A CONCEPTUAL DESIGN for the new park in West Orange near the Santa Ana River Trail.

Orange gets \$850K to help build a new park

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

Near the banks of the Santa Ana River and the trail that runs parallel to it, a strip of dirt and asphalt stretches out toward the horizon. The area off West Chapman Avenue is in the middle of one of the city of Orange's most park-poor areas, but the land won't stand empty for much longer.

On Aug. 7, U.S. Rep. Lou Correa (CA-46) presented a check for \$850,000 in federal tax dollars to Orange Mayor Dan Slater, Councilman Jon Dumitr and other Orange officials to help build West Orange Park.

At the check presentation, Correa talked about the orange groves and open space that used to be abundant in the county, especially in the central cities of Anaheim, Santa Ana, Orange and Garden Grove.

"Today it's different," said Correa. "Central Orange County is densely populated, and we need parks, we need quality of life."

Behind the congressman, a banner of the conceptual design for the park stood as a sign of things to come. The City Council and the county of Orange signed a 50-year lease of the 2.4-acre property, which is managed by Orange County Flood Control, back in 2023. The city



REPRESENTATIVE LOU CORREA (CA-46), right, presents a check for \$850,000 in federal funds to help build the West Orange Park in the city of Orange, between the Santa Ana River and West Chapman Avenue.

Photos by Sarah Mosqueda

of Orange worked with BLDG Partners and Agora Partners to conceptualize the plan for the park and in October 2024, MIG Inc. was awarded the design contract. The concept art for the park includes art installations, a skate plaza, picnic tables with custom shade structures, kids playgrounds on both wood chip and poured rubber terrains and solar lighting throughout.

Slater said the addition of the park will benefit the

city of Orange and the county as a whole.

"As we know, we have a lot of asphalt in Orange County and anytime we can find an opportunity to create a new park we are definitely ahead," said Slater. "The community loves green spaces and trees and places where they can cool off and enjoy nature."

The federal funding is part of nearly \$15 million in Community Project Funding Correa secured for California's 46th District in

2024 federal funding legislation. Correa has worked with community leaders to find projects for CA-46 constituents that had a likelihood of getting approved in spite of new restrictions introduced this year that limit the kinds of projects eligible for funding. Besides the West Orange Park project, the House passed 14 other projects Correa submitted. Among them \$1,666,279 will be allocated to OC River Walk in Anaheim for

the construction of a new pedestrian and bicycle bridge over the Santa Ana River.

Slater said completion of the park is anticipated in one to two years, an event Correa said he is looking forward to.

"I want to be here when we cut that ribbon to open this area up for all of us to enjoy," said Correa.

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San Clemente voters to decide on sales tax increase

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

Helping rebuild San Clemente's beaches may soon be as simple as ordering a pizza by the pier from Cosentino's or shopping at the Outlets, should voters approve a new sales tax increase.

After a series of presentations and a lengthy discussion, the San Clemente City Council decided to put a half-percent sales tax measure on the November ballot.

The vote on Tuesday came amid questions on how to fund critical sand replenishment projects aimed at curbing coastal erosion for decades to come.

San Clemente City Manager Andy Hall suggested looking at the sales tax measure as not a cost but an investment in the city's coastline.

"We believe that, certainly, the best way to protect our coastal infrastructure, including the railroad tracks, is sand," Hall said.

But the business of beach sand is admittedly expensive.

If approved by a required 67% of the local voters, the targeted sand tax is expected to generate \$6.75 million annually, which would fall about \$3 million shy of estimated costs to improve and maintain the coastline every year.

"That will give us the baseline for ... the federal projects," Mayor Victor Cabral said in support. "It will force us as a city to go out and secure the other funds that we can secure."

San Clemente is on the hook for anywhere between \$2.5 million and \$3.5 million for the fall completion of a federally supported sand replenishment project overseen by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

After that, the city's cost-share increases to 50% for



Allen J. Schaben | Los Angeles Times

SAN CLEMENTE residents will vote on a slight sales tax increase to help fund beach erosion projects. Residents largely favored the tax at a council meeting Tuesday.

future replenishment work every six years or so throughout the 50-year life of the contract.

But San Clemente's coastline is in need of much more attention than just the pier project.

A laundry list of repairs includes a \$2 million emergency sand replenishment project to restore North Beach from severe erosion. Work on the Mariposa Bridge, which collapsed in January following a landslide, is expected to cost between \$10 million and \$12 million.

While city officials believe that a 0.50% sales tax increase would provide the funding needed to cover future expenses related to nourishing the beach near San Clemente's pier, it's a lot less than previous proposals that were debated last month.

Council members ini-

tially considered turning a 1% sales tax increase ballot measure over to voters during a July 17 special City Council meeting.

The measure would have boosted revenue by \$13.5 million annually but didn't find the support needed among the five-member council.

Cabral, instead, instructed city staff to bring back a 0.75% sales tax, which failed to hold sway during Tuesday's council meeting.

Councilman Mark Enmeier tried, as he did during the special meeting last month, to persuade his colleagues that a general sales tax ballot measure would be the safest bet, especially as it required a simple majority vote.

"My fear is that we are trying to replace the good with the perfect," he said. "Do we want to risk that? If

we do, OK. But if it doesn't go through, man, what does that mean for our beaches?"

Enmeier pointed to a city survey that found 64% support for a tax that funded public safety and beach erosion projects with a 6.7% margin of error in citing a reason for concern.

San Clemente residents at the meeting largely spoke in favor of a sand tax. "We're going to be a beach town if we do this," said Joe Wilson, a member of Save Our Beaches San Clemente. "If we don't put it on the ballot, we might as well just gather up our beach towels and our boards and go home."

The sand tax may factor into another race on November's ballot.

Councilman Chris Duncan, a Democrat, is running against Republican Assemblywoman Laurie



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

BRINGING SAND to a critically eroded North Beach is just one of many projects facing San Clemente.



Gary Coronado | Los Angeles Times

SAN CLEMENTE'S city manager stated that sand is the best way to protect a rail line hard armored with riprap.

Davies (AD-74) and criticized her for not marshaling enough state resources to help San Clemente's beaches.

He cited political blowback for supporting putting the 0.50% sales tax increase before voters as the Assembly race heats up.

"I'm going to be profoundly attacked, including potentially by some on our own council, for what I vote on here today," Duncan said. "Watch out for that. This isn't for me. This is for the people of San Clemente."

That prompted a response from Councilman Steve Knoblock.

"Our Assemblywoman Davies has been responsible for getting the money that we've spent to get the sand here," Knoblock said. "Her office has led the charge in writing to the Army Corps of Engineers to reconsider the fact that they're charging the city up to \$1.5 to \$4.5 million extra."

After debate, council members approved sending the 0.50% sales tax measure on the ballot, with Knoblock being the sole vote against it.

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You're gonna need a bigger cone

3 new ice cream shops in O.C. worth screaming for

BY EDWIN GOEI

Can we admit that ice cream tastes better when you get it from a scoop shop than your own freezer? It's the difference between a movie at the theater versus the TV. Think about it: Your fondest ice cream memories didn't happen at home while eating from a carton in the dark; they happened somewhere out there while you were on a date, celebrating an achievement or looking for something sweet to cap off a meal.

Whether it's soft serve from McDonald's drive-through or at Rite-Aid where a distinctive cylindrical scoop pushes out Chocolate Malted Crunch into that pencil-eraser shape with an audible "kachunk," there's nothing like the experience of a having ice cream when you're out, especially during these dog days of summer.

Here's a look at three shops in Orange County that have opened in the last year, where we hope you can make even more ice cream-based happy memories.

STRICKLANDS ICE CREAM

1835 Newport Blvd., Suite B-121, Costa Mesa
Instagram: @stricklands.oc
Cones and cups starting at \$4.75

When Stricklands Ice Cream in Irvine was forced to close in December 2018 after the landlord refused

to renew its lease, the shop ended a 15-year run and devastated its rabid fan base. Most fans were sad. Others were mad at the landlord. But at least a few were hopeful that because owners Randy and Donna Nettles didn't shutter their shop voluntarily, there was a possibility it could open elsewhere.

But die-hard Stricklands fan Queena Mewers wasn't taking any chances. The closest Stricklands franchise was now, after all, more than 2,000 miles away in Ohio. So she hatched a plan. She would secure as much of the remaining stock as possible and stash it in a new garage freezer she bought specifically for the purpose. She ended up with 20 flavors spread among an inventory of 32 quarts and 7 pints.

Six years in, her stockpile has only dwindled by half. And in that time, she learned a lot about the long-term storage of ice cream.

"It stays fresh as long as you don't open a completely full container," she said.

Once a container is opened, she observed, it should be eaten within two or three weeks. Flavors without mix-ins tend to fare better than those with them. Oreo bits degrade over time and pistachios don't stay crunchy.

In the meantime, another Stricklands super fan, Neil Liu, had a plan of his own. He was going to bring



Edwin Goei

PAMPAS HELADO Argentina is located in Aliso Viejo Town Center. The store debuted in December last year.

Stricklands back to O.C. The former IT executive missed going to Stricklands with his family and was looking to get out of the corporate world. He contacted Stricklands' offices in Ohio, found a spot for his franchise in Costa Mesa, and after a lot of red tape, managed to open the second coming of the only Stricklands west of the Mississippi this past February.

The gleaming churning machines that look like they came from the engine room of the Starship Enterprise were back and humming, producing the fresh ice cream that were sculpted into sharp, undulating peaks like the trees in Van Gogh's "The Starry Night." Like the Nettles before him, Liu developed flavors that were rotated out daily along with chocolate and vanilla. He brought back fan favorites like matcha and taro. And from staff and customer suggestions, Liu added horchata and a pandan flavor, both of which were instant hits.

But one flavor eluded him: the Nutella ice cream that Randy Nettles used to make. Nettles, with whom Liu is still in close contact, unfortunately had lost the recipe and couldn't remember the ratios he used.

Enter Queena Mewers. After revealing to Liu that she still had some Nutella ice cream from her 2018

stockpile, she offered to bring it to taste and compare with the recipe he arrived at through trial and error.

So the next time Liu offers Nutella on his rotating flavor calendar, it will have been perfected — with a little help from Mewers, Stricklands' biggest fan, hoarder and accidental archivist.

PAMPAS HELADOS ARGENTINOS

26841 Aliso Creek Road, Suite B, Aliso Viejo
Instagram: @pampas_heladosargentinos
Cups starting at \$6.50

Ask any Argentinean and they'll tell you that their indigenous ice cream, helado, is not ice cream, and it's not gelato; it's its own species of frozen dessert that should be recognized among the country's more famous exports alongside soccer, wine, steak and the tango. Unlike American ice cream, air is not whipped into the mixture. And unlike its close cousin gelato, which was brought to Argentina by Italians, helado uses a high percentage of cream that results in a thicker and heavier body.

You don't let it melt on your mouth as much as you chew it. Helado has a sticky and stretchy texture that almost mirrors taffy. And when it does melt, the flavors are big, rich and



Edwin Goei Edwin Goei

A MEDIUM CUP of helado at Pampas Helado Argentina in Aliso Viejo includes two flavors, which can be the chocolate alfajor and banana split or a pairing of many others.

intense. Owner and certified nutritionist Sandra Hoyos, a native of Buenos Aires who emigrated to the U.S. in 1999, is not afraid to say that she believes she's the first to bring authentic Argentinian helado to the West Coast. "I'm very sure nobody has done it," she says.

To prepare for her shop's opening at Aliso Viejo Town Center, she flew over a team of helado experts from Argentina to train her crew for three months in the summer of 2023. When Pampas Helados debuted last December, she had

See **Cone**, page A9



Edwin Goei

A SMALL serving of Stricklands Ice Cream's matcha flavor.

PODCAST

Continued from page A1

Ahead of the presidential election in November, Madrid's six-episode Seussian-named series explores O.C.'s transformation from a sturdy "Orange Curtain" of conservatism to a county where Democrats now outnumber Republicans in voter registration, 37% to 34%.

But more than party affiliation, Madrid suggests that there are three main prisms — race and ethnicity, class and education — that people view politics through, especially in O.C., which has a sizable community of well-educated nonwhites.

According to Census data, the county is roughly 37% white, 34% Latino and 22% Asian American. Nearly 44% of all adult residents have a bachelor's degree or higher.

"There is a new electorate that is emerging that is entirely different than the older model, which was very rigid," Madrid said. "We believe that education is more dominant than the race and income level considerations."

In 2016, the county's voters backed Hillary Clinton for president, the first Democrat at the top of the ticket to take O.C. since the Great Depression.

Republican reluctance to



Courtesy UC Irvine School of Social Ecology

HOST MIKE MADRID, right, sits with Jon Gould, dean of UC Irvine's School of Social Ecology, which produced the podcast "Red County, Blue County, Orange County."

support Donald Trump played a role in the outcome.

"We saw something that year, which we had never seen before," Madrid said. "Though there was no vote for Trump at the top of the ticket, Republicans got more votes down ticket. There isn't even a name for that."

Four years later, Joe Biden won the county for Democrats, again, and made surprising inroads in besting then President Trump in suburbs north and south like Brea, Mission Viejo, Lake Forest and Laguna Hills.

It appeared as if the "suburban warriors" of

Harvard Professor Lisa McGirr's book on Orange County conservatism could no longer anchor a new American right-wing movement led by Trump, even if they hatched Proposition 187 and propelled the bell-curve border rhetoric that stands ascendant today.

The county's political realignment has given Madrid, who founded the Lincoln Project, much to talk about. Future podcast episodes will tackle topics like Proposition 187 and the death of the aforementioned "Orange Curtain."

Guests include former Rep. Loretta Sanchez, current Huntington Beach Councilman Tony Strick-

land and Gustavo Arellano, a columnist for The Los Angeles Times.

"From California to Washington, D.C., Orange County has had an outsized impact on American politics, and the lessons it holds today are invaluable for anyone looking to bring together communities," UC Irvine School of Social Ecology Dean Jon Gould said. "That's why we created the 'Red County, Blue County, Orange County' project. We are fortunate to have Mike as a partner in this endeavor. He combines unparalleled experience, a sharp mind and tremendous advocacy skills."

Looking forward to No-

member, the balance of power in the U.S. House of Representatives is hotly contested — and O.C. could play an outside role, once more.

Conservative Korean American politicians Young Kim (CA-40) and Michelle Steel (CA-45) helped retake congressional seats for Republicans in 2020, even if Trump didn't carry the county that year.

Both are running for reelection in November.

Another race for Rep. Katie Porter's 47th Congressional District seat following her failed Senate bid pits Republican Scott Baugh against state Sen. Dave Min, a Democrat.

That race, as well as Steel's reelection bid against newcomer Derek Tran has Madrid salivating for new political data.

"What we're going to be looking at is the difference, not just between the racial composition of the districts but the class compositions and the education levels," he said. "The fact that we can do all three of those in the same county in the same region, with potentially different results is what is uniquely Orange County."

Latino residents, the largest ethnic group in O.C., aren't poised to be a key voting bloc in either of those two congressional races but still have a big part to play in terms of the

county's evolving politics.

Madrid, who is also the author of the new book "The Latino Century: How America's Largest Minority is Transforming Democracy," postulates that Latino politics itself is evolving and is bucking assimilation assumptions in O.C. and across the nation.

"What's fascinating is to see the Hispanic community in Santa Ana that's going from Democrats to increasingly Republican, as they become more second and third generation," he said. "Next door in Westminster, we're seeing Vietnamese becoming less Republican as they become more second and third generation."

As Madrid continues with his fellowship at UC Irvine, the podcast series will serve as a foundation for a future class to be taught after the elections, of course.

Until then, new episodes are set to be released every Thursday through Sept. 5.

"It's aimed not just at a California or an Orange County audience," Madrid said. "It's designed to be a focus for national journalists, pundits, politicians, reporters and researchers to understand that this purple county is unique and it's really a harbinger of things to come."

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Catching up with the county's new Michelin-starred dining spots

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

When chef Jordan Nakasone and his wife, Debrah Cha, were invited to cater Monday night's Michelin ceremony at the Ritz Carlton in Half Moon Bay, they had no idea their Laguna Beach restaurant, Rebel Omakase, would also be receiving one of the prestigious guide's most coveted awards: a Michelin star.

"We feel very grateful and honored to be highlighted by the Michelin guide," said Nakasone. "For sure, that's the dream of many chefs and new restaurants, but we did not go with any expectations."

On Aug. 5, the 2024 Michelin California Guide welcomed 10 new Bib Gourmands and six new one stars to the Golden State. Rebel Omakase was the only new Orange County restaurant to earn a star, joining fellow Omakase concept Hana Re in Costa Mesa and Knife Pleat, also in Costa Mesa, as Orange County's one Michelin star establishments, signifying "high-quality cooking, worth a stop."

Nakasone and Cha traveled to San Francisco to prepare 800 bites for the ceremony, which Nakasone said he viewed as an amazing opportunity.

"We were able to see many recognized chefs that we only see on social media. It was shocking because there were so many famous people walking all over the ballroom," Nakasone said. "It was like going to the Oscars but for food."

Located at 361 Forest Ave. in Laguna Beach, Rebel Omakase opened in 2021, when Nakasone said COVID-19 was still everywhere and all cities were "pretty much empty."

"We never knew if this could work or not, but we decided to try it. O.C. is very nice so we tried to stay positive," said Nakasone.

The omakase-style sushi experience, which leaves the menu up to the sushi chef, is offered in two seatings per night by reservation starting at \$260 Tuesday through Saturday, and a lunch omakase is available for \$160 per person Wednesday through Sat-

urday. Nakasone and Cha work each service, with family watching their two young children while they work.

"Definitely this is something that is possible with the support of many, many people," said Cha.

Also new to the guide is Lola Gaspar in Santa Ana, which earned a Bib Gourmand this year, an award reserved for "friendly establishments that serve good food at moderate prices," according to the Michelin Guide.

"It's a great honor that this recognition is happening now, after so many years," said Lola Gaspar's chef Luis Pérez. "We have been able to maintain those standards for 15 going on 16 years."

Lola Gaspar, or Lola's as it is affectionately known by regulars, opened in 2008 and has long been a favored Latin late night hot spot for the area. Pérez was inspired to open his concept after a trip to Spain, where he fell in love with with tapas bars serving small plates and free-flowing sangria.

"It was my first time out of the country ... and I didn't go out there for a gastronomic awakening, but that's kind of what happened," said Pérez.

When he returned to Orange County, the art and architecture of downtown Santa Ana's Artists Village on the 2nd Street Promenade reminded Pérez of his time in Europe, and he opened Lola's in a small space in the historic Santora building right in front of the Chiarini Fountain.

"It's romance for sure, it's the romance of being in Spain, the buildings, it all kind of tied in," Pérez said.

Lola Gaspar's opening was arguably the catalyst that began a renaissance in downtown Santa Ana, one that is still evolving today. The Michelin Guide mentions Lola's "post-pandemic reset" that led to a tighter menu of quekas, house-made churros and tacos that earned a spot on the Los Angeles Times' 101 Best Tacos list that launched last month.

Lola Gaspar joins six

See *Starred*, page A9



Photos by Sarah Mosqueda

REBEL OMAKASE, featured in the 2024 Michelin California Guide, is tucked in a corner of Forest Avenue in Laguna Beach.

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CHEF JORDAN NAKASONE and his wife, Debrah Cha, at Rebel Omakase in Laguna Beach, which earned one Michelin star in the 2024 Michelin California Guide.

DIRECTOR

Continued from page A1

about it was bringing together the plays and the audiences. That's what production is."

Soon after graduating in 2002 from Wesleyan University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in theater and American studies, Appel realized she wanted more stability in her career than was afforded by the boom-and-bust lifestyle of an auditioning actor. So, she entered a four-year MFA program at the Yale School of Drama in 2007.

Two years into the program, she added MBA-level work in nonprofit management from the university's School of Management out of a desire to help arts organizations thrive.

"An arts organization I worked at at the time had an incredible mission but was struggling financially," Appel said. "I didn't know a lot about finance at the time, but I recognized it wasn't working. I really felt

called to learn more."

During her seven-year tenure at Vineyard Theatre, Appel steered the company through the COVID-19 pandemic, creating a four-year plan that raised all arts worker wages by more than 30% and helping establish the company's first strategic development and equity, diversity and inclusion plans.

Before joining Vineyard, Appel was the director of external affairs at Hubbard Street Dance Chicago and managing director of the Cutting Ball Theater in San Francisco.

A winning combination of possessing a passion for the arts and a head for business made Appel a standout candidate for Tomei, who began at SCR as a subscriptions assistant and worked her way to general manager and, eventually, managing director.

"Not only does [Suzanne] have the passion for the theater and the work and the new work, but she's someone who could really

recognize what they were going to inherit with an organization like South Coast Repertory," Tomei said Thursday.

"You have to be able to work with a variety of individuals from all sides — not the least of which is your partner, the artistic director — to shape what the future looks like and what the individual seasons look like to get there."

Working with Ivers and reporting to the SCR's board, Appel will oversee the organization's business operations, including fundraising, marketing and community relations, handling a \$12.6-million annual operating budget with assets of \$74.7 million.

Ivers called Appel's selection a "thrilling moment" for the company.

"I am honored to be in partnership with such an accomplished and invigorating leader," he said in a statement announcing the news. "Suzanne brings with her a wealth of experience, accomplishments and vision. Her natural char-



SUZANNE APPEL has been appointed to take over the managing director position at South Coast Repertory in Costa Mesa.

Don Leach
Staff Photographer

isma and ambition are matched only by her curiosity and love of theater — I am confident ours will be a winning partnership for SCR."

Tomei's last day on the job will be Aug. 31. Although it's mere weeks away, rehearsals for the upcoming season will soon be underway and the board

will have to approve the budget for the next fiscal year.

After that, the Laguna Beach resident will engage in some farewell events with staff members and artists ahead of Appel's arrival to the position on Sept. 3. Tomei says she's confident about South Coast Repertory's future

and hopeful for her successor's role in it.

"I just hope she has a long and successful life here," she said Thursday. "I wish her all the fun and the joy, and more, as she takes it over and takes it on."

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CSUF student journalists cover the Paris Olympics



Photos courtesy of Cal State Fullerton

CAL STATE FULLERTON communications students are covering the Paris Olympics as part of a study abroad program, led by professor Gayle Jansen Brisbane.

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

For more than two dozen Cal State Fullerton students, the Paris Olympics has been an assignment of a lifetime.

With datelines from Paris, a cohort of 26 communications students have produced print, video and social media coverage of the Olympic Games and its host city.

The experience has been everything that Gayle Jansen Brisbane, a CSUF communications professor, envisioned when she wanted to craft a study abroad program around the summer Olympics.

"Something like this hadn't been done before," she said in a Zoom call from Paris surrounded by students. "It took all of my skill sets to put this together."

Jansen Brisbane worked



STUDENTS TY THERIEN and Enrique Medina are ready to broadcast from the Paris Games.

in sports broadcasting for 20 years and has taught communications at CSUF for the past five years.

She even brought her early work experience as a travel agent into making the three-week program covering the biggest sporting event in the world a reality.

"Some students in our group have never left the country," she said. "Being able to introduce them to an international experience, let alone the Olympics, has been super fulfilling for me."

Once in Paris, Jansen Brisbane and Bob Young, a faculty associate from Arizona State University, held a meeting with students over how to plan their opening ceremony coverage.

"We spread out across the city and covered the different fan zones that were available for locals and other people who didn't have tickets to the actual opening ceremony to watch it," said Connor Alicaya, a fourth-year communications student.

Another group had the task of getting as close as possible to the Eiffel Tower, past language barriers and physical barricades.

"It came down to will and determination," said Jose Flores, who is graduating from CSUF this summer and is already working as a television news producer in Fresno. "We ended up a few feet from the Seine River with a beautiful view of the Eiffel Tower and we were able to do our coverage from there."

Jansen Brisbane created a university website to host the cohort's Olympic blog coverage.

Student stories have ranged from athlete profiles to how Parisians have mixed feelings about the games.

The dispatches count towards the completion of sports broadcast journalism and sports reporting classes.

Students are also pitching freelance stories to professional media.

Lina Naranjo, a senior communications major, published a profile on local U.S. boxer Jajaira Gonzalez's journey past anxiety to Olympic competition for the Orange County Register.

Francisco Molina, a senior communications major graduating this summer, landed a job with the Sporting Tribune thanks to the opportunities afforded

by the study abroad program. He's filed print and video reports for the outlet while handling its social media account at various events, including a U.S. men's basketball game.

"Getting the behind the scenes footage that people don't really get to see on NBC is the goal," Molina said. "When we're going out to these places, one of the things that our advisers have talked about is to think about things that people are always wondering in their mind that they'll never see on TV."

Marissa Lavezzari, an assistant director of athletic communications graduating this summer, also had the opportunity to publish a story close to home for the Sporting Tribune.

She interviewed Darren Spiritosanto, a CSUF aquatics facility manager, who is officiating Olympic water polo games. Jenn McCall, a Huntington Beach local, joined him as the first woman from the U.S. to serve as a referee for the sport.

Lavezzari got to see the duo in action at the Paris Games.

"I went to water polo with Robbie Loya from our group and we actually got to see Spiritosanto in his officiating gear," she said. "Experiencing that achievement with him was great because we got to see our very own Cal State Fullerton representative there. That was a highlight for me."

The opening ceremony proved to be the longest day for the cohort, so far. Jansen Brisbane stayed up past 4 a.m. editing stories from the event.

Students are routinely clocking in 10-hour shifts and staying up until 3 a.m. before calling it a wrap on most days.

"Our professors make sure that we don't burn out and take the rest that we need," Molina said. "Obviously, we want to produce as much content we can but also want take care of ourselves, as well."

As the Paris Games wrap up, student journalists are turning their reporting attention to Los Angeles as the host city for the 2028 Olympics. So, too, is Jansen Brisbane.

"I'm hoping that this can be a program that Cal State Fullerton does regularly," she said. "We won't have to travel far in 2028."

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Dr. David I. Lee is a nationally recognized fellowship-trained urologist who specializes in prostate cancer surgery.

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MOORING

Continued from page A1

Assn., told the Daily Pilot via text Thursday.

On July 9 the City Council voted 6-1 to approve a plan that would have hiked the cost of new permits to \$7.71 per foot for onshore moorings and between \$7.77 and \$17.78 per foot for offshore, depending on mooring length. However, people with existing permits would be grandfathered in at their old rates, with fee increases based off of the consumer price index capped at 2% annually.

Mayor Pro Tem Joe Stapleton called the compromise a "win-win," and members of the public expressed cautious optimism during public comments. But on July 22, the California State Lands Commission (CSLC) issued a letter to Newport Beach officials instructing them to hold off on a second reading and adoption of the plan so they can review it to address potential "violations



File Photo

THE MONTHLY COST Newport Beach charges for a mooring permit is based on the length of the vessel it covers. A state commission has challenged a compromise on new rates.

of the trust grant," giving the city the right to manage the state-owned tidelands.

In particular, the commission took issue with the potential inequity between new and grandfathered

mooring rates. They also highlighted residential pier rates, which are the fees homeowners pay associated with having a dock on their property. A cursory examination of data from the

city shows those rates ranging between \$240 to \$850.

The latter were not addressed in the city's compromise ordinance.

In their letter, the CSLC described them as "sub-

stantially below fair market value," and a possible "unconstitutional gift of public funds. While the Commission staff recognize the city's efforts to align mooring rates with fair market value, the recent decision to grandfather existing rates, coupled with the failure to reassess residential pier rates, underscores the need for a comprehensive evaluation."

One provision in the mooring ordinance the commission seemed to support was an end to the private transfer of legacy, low-cost mooring permits when a boat is sold. The plan would have phased out the practice by 2028.

City officials have been in communication with the CSLC, and they are in the early stages of reviewing the mooring fee ordinance. It's unclear how they might reassess fees for mooring permits and residential pier leases or how long that process may take. But given the commission's expressed interest in achieving fair market rates, there is a pos-

sibility that legacy-permit holders will wind up paying more than what was envisioned in the city's compromise plan.

Stenton hopes state and local officials will take the concerns of existing permit-holders, some of whom have called the moorings at the tidelands home for years, and come up with a way forward that allows them to stay in Newport Beach. She would like to see to the system that existed before.

"The current mooring permit system, in which permittees pay for and maintain their own tackle, has served the harbor well for decades, going back nearly 100 years," she said. "We hope the city, CSLC, CCC [California Coastal Commission] and stakeholders can collaborate to ensure equity in tidelands use, rates and access in the harbor for current boaters as well as future generations."

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forum

COLUMN | **PATRICE APODACA**



File Photo

A STUDENT LOOKS at his phone after school at Newport Harbor High School in 2021.

Newport-Mesa Unified moves to disconnect cellphone use

A funny thing happened on the way to implementing Newport-Mesa Unified School District's more restrictive cellphone policy. Almost no one objected.

They had anticipated some pushback. I would have expected a lot of pushback.

After all, when the district's board approved the new policy last fall, it was moving into territory where most districts hadn't ventured as yet. So, in a sense, Newport-Mesa was flying a bit blind when it came to how best to make the new policy work and in terms of how it would be received.

Not that there hasn't been widespread agreement that cellphones have created a lot of headaches for



K-12 education. Pretty much everyone acknowledges the problems that stem from students who are glued to their phones, distracted by constant messages and connected to social media while they are meant to be paying attention to lessons.

What's more, cellphones are often the vehicles by which bullying and harassment of some students continue throughout class time. Hard for students to concentrate on congruent triangles when they're traumatized.

And spare some compassion for teachers, who are at their wits' ends trying to get kids to engage.

To be clear, most schools do have longstanding cellphone policies. They

typically call for phones to be stashed away during class. There are exceptions, such as when teachers authorize their use for lessons or in case of emergencies. But for the most part these policies have no teeth — they are notoriously difficult to enforce and easily ignored.

That's why districts across the nation have been grappling with the question of whether, and how, to crack down on cellphone use. At this point, most are still in the talking stages regarding next steps.

There is increasing movement of late.

In June, the Los Angeles Unified School District, the second largest in

MAILBAG

More taxes would not solve long-term issues in Laguna

Thank you to Mayor Sue Kempf and Councilman Alex Rounaghi for not supporting the proposition to place a tax increase on the next ballot (Laguna won't send hotel tax increase, business license tax to ballot, Daily Pilot, July 26). Increasing the tax burden on our citizens to support the cost of city programs and services is short-sighted and will not solve our problems. Instead, we need sustainable, long-term solutions that address the underlying issues causing costs to exceed revenue, which is projected to gradually increase by 2 to 5% annually, as city staff shared in their presentation on the proposed tax increase. Relying on tax increases merely postpones the inevitable need for comprehensive fiscal management and innovative approaches to economic growth and efficiency.

The city has recently purchased several properties throughout Laguna Beach which involve substantial additional costs beyond the initial purchase price. These are ongoing costs that significantly impact our city's budget and resources. Rather than acquiring additional properties like the St. Catherine of Siena school site for expanded office space or assuming responsibility for the South Laguna beaches, we should explore opportu-

nities to lease underutilized city-owned properties to generate revenues to alleviate the increased cost pressures that the new taxes seek to solve. Given that the projected revenue shortfall is relatively modest at \$1.14 million, leasing existing city properties could potentially generate a similar or even higher income without impacting current residents. This approach would also alleviate the need for additional staffing, equipment (like boats), and services associated with property acquisition and management. At the very least, I suggest exploring all options to maximize current assets to generate revenue first before looking to our taxpayers to support ongoing costs that will likely need expansion and have increased costs in the future as they go towards personnel costs.

Jim Kelly
Laguna Beach

Concern soars over Surf City

The annual Pacific Airshow in Huntington Beach is popular and attracts many spectators over three days. Fans pay for tickets ranging from \$30 for general beach access to \$80 for pier seating on public land. Premium options, in-

See *Mailbag*, page A7

See *Apodaca*, page A8

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THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Stella Zawistowski

ACROSS

- 1 Cash dispenser: Abbr.
- 4 Puts frosting on
- 8 Spoken
- 12 Remove wool from, as a sheep
- 15 Informal talk
- 16 Get ore from
- 17 Military priest
- 18 Surrounding glow
- 19 Really enjoying
- 20 Bottoms for a pool: 2 wds.
- 23 Actor Driver
- 24 Long sandwich
- 25 Calendar listings: Abbr.
- 28 _ New Year (Chinese celebration)
- 32 Naysay
- 35 " _ we all?"
- 38 Red-tag event
- 39 Broad street: Abbr.
- 40 Cuban singer Cruz
- 41 Key lime _
- 42 Sports squad
- 44 Denture parts
- 45 Mountaintop
- 46 Broad assortment
- 48 "Thus _ the Lord"
- 50 Remainder
- 53 New Mexico art town
- 55 Understands: 3 wds.
- 61 NYC cab
- 62 Nebraska neighbor
- 63 Moved like slime
- 64 Rotate
- 65 Future attorney's exam: Abbr.
- 66 Take potshots
- 67 _ Spumante
- 68 Change for a twenty
- 69 Extra-long time

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12			13	14		15				16		
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46				47			48			49		
				50	51	52			53			54
	55	56				57	58				59	60
61					62				63			
64					65				66			
67					68						69	

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.

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

For answers to the crossword and Sudoku puzzles, see page A8.

- 1 Egyptian snakes
- 2 Warm up
- 3 Newspapers and TV
- 4 " _ See Clearly Now": 2 wds.
- 5 Drink quickly
- 6 Our planet
- 7 Long look
- 8 Foreboding
- 9 Skating locale
- 10 "Marching" insects
- 11 Astrological lion
- 13 Time to do bicep curls: 2 wds.
- 14 Make new charts
- 21 Collide with
- 22 Web address: Abbr.
- 26 Pine or cedar
- 27 Monica of tennis
- 29 Back of the neck
- 30 Actress Shawkat
- 31 Smell awful
- 32 Facts for analysis
- 33 At any time
- 34 Close by
- 36 Silent-film star Naldi
- 37 South Seas island
- 43 Cocktail with olives
- 45 Light particle
- 47 "Uh-huh!"
- 49 Folded Mexican food
- 51 Circus support
- 52 " _ were the days"
- 54 " _ Q" (CCR song)
- 55 Hiatuses
- 56 Go offstage
- 57 Actor McGregor
- 58 Gentle touches
- 59 Seized vehicle
- 60 Garden of _
- 61 Airport screening group: Abbr.

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MAILBAG

Continued from page A6

cluding reserved tables under a tented pavilion, can cost hundreds or even thousands of dollars. While it's an enjoyable experience for attendees, it's a highly lucrative payoff for the event management company called Code Four.

Last year, Code Four installed a fence around the entire event area to exclude non-paying visitors and barred them from the pier and the water. This situation is totally unacceptable. California law mandates public access to its beaches, and it is the Coastal Commission's duty to ensure this through the permitting process for events like the air show. Did Code Four obtain the necessary coastal permits for the structures and equipment used, or for blocking public parking for nearly a month? Code Four must secure these permits, and the city of Huntington Beach should enforce this requirement! The giveaway financial settlement reached last year recently revealed a 40-year financial bonanza for Code Four, negotiated by four council members that may have received campaign benefits from Code Four as well. This needs to be investigated. The settlement resolves Code Four's lawsuit over a 2021 coastal oil spill that led to the cancellation of the show's final day. I would like to see the losses that caused Code Four to receive millions in taxpayer damages and exclusive rights to the event for up to 40 years. Why didn't the city go after the oil company that caused the damages in the first place? This entire settlement needs to be investigated and the four council members need to be held accountable for this spending spree of taxpayer funds.

Andrew Einhorn
Huntington Beach

The settlement contract with the Pacific Air Show will likely be



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

LAGUNA BEACH purchased the St. Catherine of Siena school property from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Orange County in 2022. A reader says the purchase will require substantially more investment than the initial price and writes that the city should find alternatives to pay for such expenditures without raising taxes.

overtaken once the state audit is completed, and there might also be some indictments once all the secret details are unearthed.

There is still time for one of the conservative four to become a whistle blower and escape potential legal consequences. Not all of them are equally responsible for what took place and now is the time to contact the office of the attorney general and make arrangements to turn states evidence against those responsible before it's too late.

Richard C. Armendariz
Huntington Beach

As someone of a certain age, I personally remember the breakup of the Beatles amid mistrust, recriminations, management squabbles and creative differences among the members. Such disunity among members was on display at the recent Huntington Beach City Council meeting on Aug. 6, where a key theme was the lack of transparency exhibited by the council majority of Gracey Van Der Mark, Tony Strickland, Pat Burns and Casey McKeon and City Atty. Michael Gates.

Whether it was the gross incompetence of the council majority, the chicanery of the city attorney or the arrogance of them all, the council minority of Dan Kalmick, Natalie Moser, and Rhonda Bolton as well as the bulk of the Surf City community were left bewildered by the Pacific Airshow settlement agreement process. There appeared to be no accountability in representing the city, which allowed for a sweeping and prohibitively expensive resolution to placate

Code Four, which produced the airshow. This prompted local activist Diane Bentley to call for a new city ordinance declaring Huntington Beach to be a "Citizens' Right to Know" city which would state that the city not restrict release of any settlement terms on lawsuits without unanimous consent of the City Council. It is clear that Huntington Beach deserves better and more transparent governance than we have been receiving.

Tim Geddes
Huntington Beach

It's unfortunate that Huntington Beach is saddled with a mayor who thinks it's OK to use the city's official Facebook page to spew lies and veiled hatred for the LGBTQ community.

Mayor Gracey Van Der Mark's most recent agenda item (Huntington Beach City Council majority calls for creation of a 'Parents' Right to Know' ordinance, Daily Pilot, Aug. 8) begins with, "... Assembly Bill 1955 ... prevents educators from informing par-

ents of their child's gender identity or gender expression."

AB 1955 does not prevent educators from informing parents of their child's gender expression and identity. It only prohibits school boards from forcing teachers to out students against their will.

It does not say anything about schools keeping secrets from parents. If a teacher thinks it's in their student's best interest to talk to a parent about something going on with that student, the teacher is free to do so. If a student is afraid to talk with a parent about such issues, the teacher can help develop a plan or refer the student to other help.

Mayor Van Der Mark should stop wasting staff time and taxpayer money with her never-ending culture war and political theater — and mind her own business. She constantly whines about government overreach, completely oblivious to the fact that she is the government and is definitely overreaching.

The City Council does not have jurisdiction over education policy, nor would it have standing in a legal case, so any ridiculous ordinance they come up with is unenforceable. However, the agenda item passed, as usual, on a 4-3 conservative majority vote. Our new tourism slogan: Welcome to Homophobia City!

Michele Burgess
Huntington Beach

As it turns out, anything really is possible. The City Council majority "Fab-Code-Four" have finally stumbled onto a culture-war idea that I can get behind. I refer, of course, to the desire of the mayor to use teachers as the "Eyes on Gilead: Huntington Beach." Sadly, the proposal does not go far enough to protect the city or children. As a parent, I would have liked to be informed when my kids were near various misanthropic, racist Nazi-sympathizers, assorted skinheads, and MAGA-hatted wierdos.

But this is really a huge distraction from the real purpose of the Code Four function of civic government: to gather tax dollars and funnel them to political backers and act as if it is the most natural thing in the world to have a hand in the cookie jar.

Galen Pickett
Huntington Beach

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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.

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New breakfast cafe in Newport Beach stacks up

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

You can hardly throw an egg in Orange County without hitting a restaurant serving brunch. So Billy Sadat, owner of Little Billy's Cafe in Newport Beach, knew his breakfast and lunch concept would have to stack up to the competition.

"I have tried every cafe from Mendocino to San Diego," said the Los Angeles native. "Visiting so many different diners, my whole thing was how do I do this but bring all the best things under one roof?"

Sadat found the best way was to be super picky about everything he puts on his

menu. "We tasted so many different sourdoughs, trying to find the right one because it makes a difference," said Sadat. "We didn't want to just make a menu and try to throw some white bread at the situation."

Sadat landed on Orange County favorite Rye Goods sourdough as the best, and he uses it for avocado toast and serves it on the side of Billy's two-egg breakfast.

Located on 2606 Avon St., Little Billy's Cafe soft-opened on Aug. 2 with a steady stream of people shuffling in and out of the blue-and-white space in the morning and into the afternoon. Diners with

dogs sat at the outdoor tables and groups came in for cold-brew coffee to go. Sadat greeted customers and ran plates of buttermilk pancakes to tables.

"We tried 14 different buttermilks for these," he said of a short stack, "and we could taste the difference in each one."

Sadat said he was very selective about each vendor and the manufacturer of each ingredient found on the menu and hopes that customers will taste the difference.

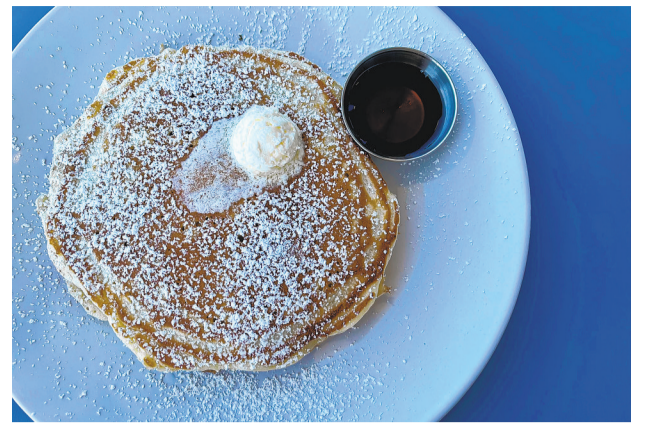
Buttermilk pancakes, sold in stacks of three, are served with 100% pure maple syrup and can be ordered in classic, chocolate chip or blueberry varieties. Rolled-oat pancakes are also available, and a pastry case offers a daily selection of cookies and croissants.

If pancakes aren't your thing, there are egg dishes

on the tight menu like a "farmers market" omelet stuffed with spinach, mushrooms, onions and cheddar cheese, a breakfast burrito filled with fluffy scrambled eggs and an egg breakfast sandwich with chicken sausage and arugula.

The cafe is open from 8 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. and serves breakfast all day. Lunch service begins at 11 a.m., and diners can choose from items like a little gem Caesar salad, a chicken club sandwich and a double smash burger made with beef ground in-house. Of course each ingredient on the lunch menu has been thoroughly vetted too.

"I would rather spend the couple extra bucks to buy something that I would actually eat and curate what we bring into this place," said Sadat.



A SHORT STACK of buttermilk pancakes from Little Billy's Cafe in Newport Beach.

He said he would like the cafe to be elevated and thoughtful, but he wants the atmosphere to remain cozy and approachable too. "The culture is neighborhood vibes," said Sadat.

After all, Sadat said, good food is only part of the equation when it comes to

a successful breakfast joint. "Culture and customer experience is key too," said Sadat. "If you can align those two with good food, then it's all smiles."

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Photos by Sarah Mosqueda

LITTLE BILLY'S Cafe in Newport Beach kept busy during a soft opening on Aug. 2.

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APODACA
Continued from page A6

the nation, spawned a rash of headlines when it decided to ban cellphone use all day on campuses. And some states — including California — are proposing to adopt statewide restrictions on cellphone use at public schools.

Such policies are not without controversy. Some of the objections come from students, as one might expect. But some parents also criticize cellphone bans, arguing that the devices are important for security and necessary communication. Even a

few teachers have complained about adding the policing of classroom bans to their already-daunting workloads.

While all this nationwide drama and discussion has been playing out, Newport-Mesa has been quietly implementing its new policy over the past several months.

"Over the last couple of years we have observed students at all levels, but mostly secondary schools, who have been exceptionally distracted from instruction because of cellphones," said Newport-Mesa's Assistant Supt. of Secondary Education Kerrie Torres.

"Inside the classrooms students are redirected to put their phones away. The problem is kids are unable to. It's a habitual act. Ten minutes later phones are back out."

So a couple of years ago the district began looking into ways to rewrite its cellphone policy. District officials studiously avoid using the word "ban" — but, as Torres said, they wanted to craft a policy that was more "restrictive and supportive." The effort included talking to parents, students and teachers, and researching the experiences of a few school districts in other states that were further ahead on implementation.

The new policy delivers important changes. Students in preschool through eighth grade are not allowed to use cellphones on campus. If they bring phones to school, the devices must be turned off and put away. If they need to make a call, they are instructed to use a school office phone.

High school students are required to turn off their phones during instructional time, with certain specific exceptions, including when a teacher gives permission, during an emergency or because of a cleared medical or educational need.

It has gone surprisingly well so far.

Torres received no complaints about the new cellphone restrictions, just questions, such as whether students could still wear smart watches. (The answer: yes.)

The district also adopted a flexible approach to implementation, allowing individual school sites to experiment with different ways to make the new policy work more smoothly. One school, for instance, has been using numbered cellphone caddies — not unlike shoe pocket organizers — that students can use to store their phones while in class. Another school will be trying out concert-style cellphone

pouches in the coming school year.

So far, Torres has received mostly positive feedback from teachers and parents. And the number of disciplinary referrals for inappropriate online posting during the school day declined after the new policy took effect.

But she said the intent is to continually analyze the impact on students — whether the restrictions might compromise anyone's safety, for instance — and make adjustments as needed.

"We're trying to be a really data-driven organization," she said. "We might have to pivot. But we're open to that."

That's a common-sense approach.

No policy will completely fix what has become a huge impediment to learning. But if everyone keeps an open mind as more feedback becomes available and as tweaks are made, this one could make a positive difference. Hopefully at some point, unplugging at school might just be a normal part of the daily routine.

PATRICE APODACA is a former Los Angeles Times staff writer and is coauthor of "A Boy Named Courage: A Surgeon's Memoir of Apartheid." She lives in Newport Beach.

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River Street Marketplace adds more tenants

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

When River Street Marketplace finally opens in September, the highly anticipated outdoor retail and dining destination in San Juan Capistrano will be home to a total of 30 tenants, with a number that recently signed on to join developer Almquist's 60,000-square-foot market, including sushi, Italian and Argentinian eateries.

Capas, a Baja-inspired ceviche concept from chef Michael Campbell, will open with locally caught fish and smoked queso tacos. Campbell formerly worked at other Orange County eateries like Pueblo in Costa Mesa and the Loft at the Montage in Laguna Beach and currently operates a Capas location at Rodeo 39 in Stanton, another mixed-use destination from the Almquist team. Capas at River Street will serve the restaurant's signature ceviches as well as seasonal agua fresca slushies and house-smoked carnitas and birria.

Kebab Craft, a fast-casual dining spot that specializes in Mediterranean and Middle Eastern fare, will also join River Street. Originally from San Diego, diners can use the build-your-own menu to create customized plates, bowls and pitas with shawarma, gyro, steak kebab and falafel. There is also a menu of chef creations like the Cali Kebab, a burrito stuffed with French fries and kebab meat.

Also coming to the O.C. market from San Diego is Parana Empanadas. Started



Courtesy of Capas

CEVICHE AND smoked taco concept Capas is among the 10 new tenants signed to River Street Marketplace in San Juan Capistrano, set to open in September.

in 2014 as a family business and a way to share Argentinian culture and the "working man's lunch" of empanadas, Parana Empanadas serves the buttery pastry filled with meat and vegetables options like Malbec beef and BBQ chicken with traditional dipping sauces like chimichurri, chipotle

chimichurri and green olive.

Pasta concept Pastalia from Christian and Adriana Gorgicze will bring fresh hand-made Italian pasta dishes, while the Sushi Stand will serve both traditionalist sushi rolls, nigiri and classic cut rolls as well as modernist specialty rolls like the "Fresh Prince" with

spicy tuna, cucumber, avocado, salmon, lemon slices, ponzu, micro cilantro and sesame seeds.

The new dining options join other tenants River Street announced back in March when a summer 2024 opening was anticipated, like La Vaquera, from the Santa Barbara-based Acme Hospitality

Group and McConnell's Ice Cream's first scoop shop in Orange County.

On the retail side, River Street will feature specialty florist Pick Me Floral Boutique, western boots and apparel shop Tecovas and woman-owned jewelry brand and boutique May Martin.

Almquist also operates

Uptown Commons in Long Beach and New Haven Marketplace in Ontario and has plans for developments similar to River Street Marketplace in the works in Whittier and downtown Fullerton.

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CONE

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about 20 flavors on offer. But her top three are also the most Argentinian: traditional flan; the similarly egg-forward sambayon, which is flavored with Marsala wine; and the dulce de leche, which Hoyos notes is made with reduction of milk, not caramel.

All flavors are created in-house at the back of the store in a big machine, a process that involves pasteurization and freezing for 48 hours to let the flavors meld and maturate. When the helado is finally ready, it's brought up to a secret serving temperature that allows it to be swirled and molded like clay around a cup or a cone. "Esa!"

SWEET SCOOPS

HOMEMADE ICE CREAM

135 E. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton

Instagram: @sweetscoops.oc
Regular scoops starting at \$5.75

When you walk into Sweets Scoops Homemade Ice Cream in downtown Fullerton, the first thing you'll notice is how quaint it looks. There are no TV screens. No superfluous decorations. A simple DIY



Edwin Goei

A REGULAR SERVING at Sweets Scoops includes two scoops, this one with mango sticky rice and jackfruit.

craft wooden peg board presents the flavors hand-scribed in colored chalk on rectangular pieces of slate.

On the other side of a counter, painted green, a solitary staff member offers tastes on metal spoons from unseen freezers. Behind her is the

modest kitchen where the ice cream is made. Owner Celeste Herco and her staff develop her 15 flavors through a process that she admits happens mostly through listening to ideas and then trial and error.

"For example, Thai tea was suggested by one of our scoopers," she says.

"Right now, we're looking at Hokey Pokey, which one of our customers indicated they enjoyed from their time in New Zealand," she elaborated.

If there's a charming, homegrown and improvisational personality to it all, it may or may not be on purpose. Before Herco opened Sweet Scoops in February, she had a 20-year career as a claims adjuster for the State Compensation Insurance Fund. She started making ice cream simply because she loves it.

"It brings a lot of memories of happiness, and I wanted to share that with everyone else," she says.

Some of those memories are from her native Philippines where ube is king. Here, ube is one of her most popular flavors. But she's particularly proud of her sticky rice and mango, a Thai dessert staple that she reimaged into ice cream using both dairy from Chino's Scott Brothers, coconut milk, ribbons of ripe mango and a touch of pandan. It's simultaneously light and refreshing as it is decadent — the perfect summer frozen dessert experience.

Edwin Goei is a contributor to TimesOC.



Cindy Carcamo | Los Angeles Times

THE CHICKEN TACO at Lola Gaspar. The Santa Ana eatery earned a Bib Gourmand this year in the Michelin Guide.

STARRED

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other Orange County restaurants that have earned Bib Gourmands including Ramen & Tsukemen TAO in Buena Park, Fable & Spirit in Newport Beach, CHAAK Kitchen in Tustin, Heritage Barbecue in San Juan Capistrano, Pho 79 Garden Grove and Khan Saab Desi Craft Kitchen in Fullerton.

Michelin expanded the guide to include Orange and San Diego counties in 2019, when Knife Pleat, Hana Re and the temporarily closed Taco Maria each earned one Michelin star. Recognition of Orange County's dining has increased since, supporting

the notion that its food scene has evolved.

"The culinary landscape has changed; now we are up there with L.A., we are up there with San Diego," said Pérez.

And Michelin recognition can inspire more diners to venture out to restaurants in O.C.

"We are aware that we are in Laguna, which is maybe a little far from L.A. or other big cities. Also, the restaurant is a little hidden," said Nakasone. "We know that whatever we do, we have to put a lot of effort, and the hope is that some day, someone will notice."

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Shiril Goedike, *Water Games—Calais Sur Mer*, 1964, Oil on canvas, 30 x 41 in. The Buck Collection at UCI Jack and Shanaz Langson Institute and Museum of California Art.

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UCI Jack & Shanaz Langson
Institute & Museum of California Art

COVERS

Continued from page A1

When the Art of Music debuted at the fair last year, a member of that tribe reached out to Feuer to have a look at what she had assembled. John Kosh, an art director and album cover designer known as the only one to work with the Beatles, the Rolling Stones and the Who, was the interested party.

Their interaction led to nine months of working together to bring about a career-highlighting exhibit entitled, "Abbey Road to Hotel California." Kosh, a former art director for Apple Records, eventually made it out to Los Angeles, where he would become familiarized with California sound.

"I was fascinated to see how people were reacting to what was on the walls," Kosh said of his visit that led to his decision to collaborate with the show.

"Now, we were in the show," he added. "I like the idea that this show may go on the road, and if it does, this is cool because I think people should understand that this is an art form. Album cover design is an art form, something that describes the music and it gives the listener joy."

Kosh signed autographs for patrons of the Fingerprints pop-up record store on Aug. 3, taking note of a wave of Beatles fans, with a handful in line bringing items for the Who and ELO.

He showed up to the signing event wearing a "War Is Over (if you want it)" shirt, looking back on work done with John Lennon.

"That war was raving, raging," Kosh said. "The 'War Is Over' started out just as a Christmas card and then turned into a worldwide campaign. It was a pretty turbulent time, 1969."

While the covers for "Abbey Road" (the Beatles), "Hotel California" (the Eagles), and "Who's



Photos by James Carbone

FAIRGOERS LOOK at the album covers from John Kosh, an iconic album cover designer whose works have won Grammy awards.



ART DIRECTOR and album cover designer John Kosh talks with Joy Feuer, the curator of the Art of Music Experience.

Next" (the Who) became icons, it was Kosh's work with Linda Ronstadt that led him to receive three Grammy awards. The titles of those albums were

"Simple Dreams," "Get Closer," and "Lush Life." Kosh dished on his entry into the field, describing a changing landscape just as he was getting started.

"There was a change in the record business," Kosh said. "No longer were the art departments churning out sort of Sinatra covers with just a picture on the front of him."

"All of the sudden, the artists after 'Sgt. Pepper's [Lonely Hearts Club Band],' were getting control of how their graphics were going. That's where as an independent, I didn't really work for the labels. I would work for the artists, so I would listen to the artists' music, and I became intimately involved in the structure. I'd be in the studios with them, or I would be taking demos."

Kosh said he moved in 1973 to Los Angeles, where he found ideal working conditions.

"The work ethic was fantastic," Kosh said. "You could run out of film, I'm talking about like movie film, at 2 o'clock in the morning, phone Kodak, and then a guy on a motorbike would turn up 20 minutes later with more film."

As star-studded as his list of clients is in creating over 400 album covers, Kosh revealed he would have liked to work with Elvis Presley.

The Art of Music includes 50 pieces that weren't in the show last year, Feuer said. Throughout the journey, visitors will find information included on the art directors, graphic designers, illustrators, painters and photographers that contributed

to the albums being represented.

Live painting activations remain a popular feature of the show. Graphic artist and illustrator Scotty Roller, the founder of 714 Creative, was working on the likeness of the cover for No Doubt's "Tragic Kingdom."

"We see little kids glued to it, ... we see all ages appreciating it, and those paintings that we're doing live painting on are adding to the collection," Feuer said. "All of those paintings, I work with the labels and artist managers, we get approval on everything to recreate, and they become a part of the legacy."

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