

OCMA honors its founders

'13 Women' marks museum's 60th year and its new location at Segerstrom Center for the Arts in Costa Mesa.

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

When Heidi Zuckerman interviewed for her position at the Orange County Museum of Art, she knew exactly how she wanted to honor the museum's founders.

"They asked if I was going to curate an exhibition from the collection, what would it be?" said the museum's chief executive officer and director, "and I said, '13 women.' I would curate an exhibition that honors the 13 visionary founders of this institution."

OCMA has made its new home at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts campus in Costa Mesa and opens to the public on Oct. 8, but its beginnings were more humble.

"Sixty years ago this month, 13 visionary and determined women in Newport Beach took it upon themselves to turn the second floor of the Balboa Pavilion into an art gallery for the public," said incoming OCMA board president Lucy Sun. "So began one of the earliest contemporary art museums in California."

The women who opened the Balboa Pavilion Gallery in Newport Harbor in 1962 were Dottie Ahmanson, Joan Brandt, Thelma Chastain, Em Cray, Dorothe Curtis, Kay Farwell, Ailene Hays, Judy Hurdall, Gloria Irvine, Jane Lawson, Betty Mickle, Flo Stoddard and Betty Winckler.

Since then, Sun continued, the museum's name has changed and the location has moved more than once.

"But the spirit that motivated these 13 women, the drive to connect people with art and artists remains at our heart today," said Sun.

Among the new building's inaugural exhibitions is Zuckerman's curated "13 Women," featuring artists she said have much in common with the OCMA's founding females.

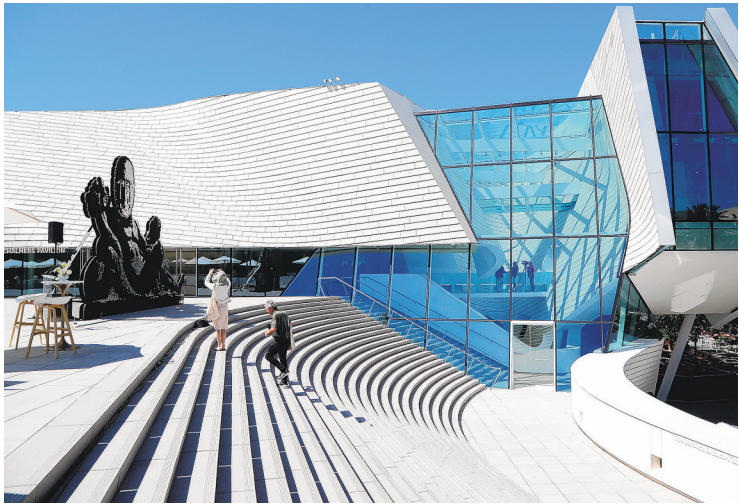
"The 13 women who founded OCMA, just like them, the 13 women who are currently on view are undaunted by the times that they have lived in," said

See **OCMA**, page A3



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

A VISITOR takes a photo of "Untitled, 1989," by Barbara Kruger of Newark, N.J. at the art exhibit "13 Women," during the media preview of the new Orange County Museum of Art in Costa Mesa on Wednesday.



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

A VISITOR takes a photo Wednesday of an outdoor sculpture "Of many waters ..." on the upper terrace of the new Orange County Museum of Art in Costa Mesa. It is set to open Oct. 8.

Museum welcomes public to new home

BY SARA CARDINE

The Orange County Museum of Art — the final component of a long-held vision of Costa Mesa's Segerstrom Center for the Arts as a cultural epicenter — will soon welcome the public to its permanent home in a most unusual fashion.

A 24-hour opening celebration for the new museum begins Oct. 8 at 5 p.m. with a drumline procession down Avenue of the Arts that winds toward a rooftop terrace, where a fireworks show will

be waiting.

Following that will be a line-up of tours and live performances, a rooftop dance party, silent disco with headphones, movies for insomniacs, tarot readings, aura photography and sunrise yoga.

"It starts at 5 p.m. and will literally go nonstop until 5 p.m. on Sunday evening," OCMA Director and Chief Executive Heidi Zuckerman said Wednesday during a media preview of the \$93-million complex and its inaugural

See **Home**, page A3

H.B. crisis team answers the calls

BY ERIC LICAS

Outreach takes many forms, according to Michael Romero, a licensed psychiatric technician with the nonprofit, Be Well OC. Washing the swollen feet of a man who had spent days going barefoot and helping a distraught homeless person on the verge of a public breakdown track down a missing dog are just a couple of services he has offered as a member of Huntington Beach's Mobile Crisis Response Team.

The team was created in August 2021 as a partnership between the nonprofit and the

See **Calls**, page A2



PARKER SEAMAN, a Newport Beach native and film director, is returning home to the Newport Beach Film Festival, where his movie "Wes Schlagenhauf is Dying" is one of the featured films this year. He is a 2010 graduate of Corona del Mar High School.

Don Leach
Staff Photographer

Film festival to screen CdM grad's movie

BY MATT SZABO

The Newport Beach Film Festival will represent a homecoming for Corona del Mar High graduate Parker Seaman.

More specifically, the director is thrilled to show his debut full-length film, "Wes Schlagenhauf is Dying," at Regal Edwards Big

Newport across from Fashion Island.

The festival starts Oct. 13, and Seaman's documentary-style film will show Monday, Oct. 17 at 5:30 p.m.

"I've been to this theater, I don't know, 500 times?" Seaman said. "To be playing here is incredible. The first R-rated movie that I

snuck into was 'Jackass,' in Theater 1 right here."

Seaman, now 30 and a resident of Los Angeles, adds with a smile that he's also paid for a movie at Big Newport many times.

He said he made the film during the coronavirus pandemic

See **Movie**, page A8

ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



Kevin Chang

NEWPORT BEACH TEENAGER RELEASES FREE TAEKWONDO APP PAGE A2

OC PARKS CELEBRATES THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF IRVINE REGIONAL PARK PAGE A3

HIGH SCHOOL ICE HOCKEY THRIVING LOCALLY IN THE ANAHEIM DUCKS HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY LEAGUE PAGE A6

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Newport Beach teenager releases taekwondo app

BY LILLY NGUYEN

Sage Hill senior Aiden Kiani has been practicing taekwondo for 12 years.

A third-degree black belt in the martial art, Kiani said he practiced at the studio on a weekly basis. Master John Seock at the Sunrise Martial Arts Studio remembered the days when, as a child, Kiani wanted to quit because he was embarrassed by his lack of skills.

Kiani persevered and, by early 2020 he started teaching in the Newport Beach studio, under the supervision of Seock.

When the studio had to close in response to the onset of the pandemic that March, not only was Kiani's training schedule interrupted, but his teaching schedule was also affected.

"Around that time, I felt withdrawal; I was upset that I couldn't train. This

has been with me my whole life. This is the first period I couldn't do much with it.

"The second thing was that I really missed teaching," Kiani said. "I missed seeing the students grow and improve and start to really do all of the challenges I put in front of them."

Kiani said the studio started holding Zoom classes virtually, which made him think about other ways to teach and reach out to as many people as possible — especially those who couldn't pay for studio classes themselves to stay fit throughout the pandemic closures.

That was when he thought about creating an app.

The result was "Taekwondo Prime," released in August on the Apple and Google app stores. Kiani

said he's been working on it since about February 2021 through a program called MyStudio App. He approached Seock with the idea and asked him what he thought about making an app to teach people taekwondo and its basic principles.

"[Seock] wanted to make an app but never was able to. He didn't have the time for it. We started to work together in making videos for the app to teach people. I also thought that this would be a great idea, especially after the pandemic," Kiani said, noting ongoing financial woes for some and the current rate of inflation.

"Taekwondo studios aren't cheap," he said. "But I thought the teachings that taekwondo teaches ... is more valuable than any money, so I wanted to

See **App**, page A8



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

MASTER JOHN SEOCK, right, trains Sage Hill School senior Aiden Kiani at Sunrise Martial Arts in Newport Beach. The two worked on videos for the app "Taekwondo Prime."



Photos courtesy of Be Well OC

A MEMBER of Be Well OC's Mobile Crisis Response Team performs outreach to people living in Huntington Beach. As of August, the team had responded to over 2,000 calls for service since its creation one year ago.

CALLS

Continued from page A1

police department and is the first of its kind in Orange County, Romero said. It is made up of counselors and sworn officers who respond in plain clothes to both 911 calls involving mental health issues and requests for aid from a non-emergency line, (714) 960-8825. This is done at no cost to those in need of help.

Team members also go to places where homeless people are camping to offer shelter and other forms of aid. In their first year on the job, they have connected over 1,200 clients to mental health services, substance abuse treatment and housing assistance, Huntington Beach Police spokeswoman Jessica Cuchilla said.

About 49% of the clients assisted by Be Well OC in Huntington Beach have been homeless people, according to Jason Austin, the deputy director of HBPD's Homelessness and Behavioral Health program. The rest were introduced to their aid as a result of some of the 2,040 calls the Mobile Crisis Response Team was dispatched to over the past year.

Of those requests, about 73% were handled without assistance from other responders, Cuchilla said. The overwhelming majority, a total of 1,548, were looking for mental health support, according to statistics shared by the nonprofit. Another 133 were seeking help dealing with substance abuse. Only 67 were related to a public disturbance.

The people who get help from the crisis teams come from all walks of life, said Tameka Tate, Be Well OC's director of Mobile Services. Many were hesitant to seek assistance through traditional means.

Meeting people at their homes can circumvent the stigma associated with seeking care and other barriers that keep people from getting treatment, Tate said.

That makes it easier for the crisis team to get them to "push through in that first contact so that maybe they're willing to follow through and then engage in some kind of ongoing treatment," according to Austin.

Assigning the team to take care of calls regarding mental health crises keeps police and firefighters available to tackle other issues, Cuchilla said. And it's easier for those who need help in

these situations to talk to people in regular clothing rather than to uniformed officers, Police Lt. Bryan Smith said.

Smith is a member of the crisis team. He said he used to see the apprehension rise in people around him whenever he would respond to calls involving a mental health issue while wearing a gun and handcuffs strapped to his belt. Regardless of what he might say to de-escalate the situation back then, the people he was trying to help couldn't ignore the fact that it was possible he might arrest them, or even shoot someone if things took a turn for the worse.

And he had to leave if a crime in progress came up while he was trying to work with someone on the verge, or in the midst, of a breakdown. Another officer might be able to show up later to take his place, which means the person they are trying to aid or their relatives would have to rehash their emergency to another first-responder.

"It can be traumatizing to have to reexplain the situation, sometimes three or four times and to different people each time," Bryant said.

Unlike police, Be Well OC's sole mission in Huntington Beach is to bring mental health care to people wherever they might need it, Austin said. That means they can commit to the calls they receive without distractions. The crisis team also conducts follow-up visits with their clients to make sure they have the support they need to move forward.

"This really filled an important void that was out there for the continuum of care," Smith said. "Because from the public safety side, our response was along the lines of: 'how can we immediately resolve this situation.' And then our involvement was either cut off there or we transport them to an emergency medical facility, nothing in the middle."

The start of Be Well OC's partnership with Huntington Beach Police came more than a year after the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis resulted in nationwide scrutiny of law enforcement and suggestions to reinvest public money away from police departments and into social services.

When counselors and police came together to form the crisis team, there were members of the department who were hesi-



A MEMBER of Be Well OC's Mobile Crisis Response Team performs outreach to people living in Huntington Beach. The team was created one year ago in partnership with the city and the nonprofit. It has handled thousands of calls.

tant to see the team take over roles previously held by sworn officers, Smith said. Meanwhile, some at the non-profit worried that the rigid structure and culture of the police department might place restrictions on the way it served

its clients, according to Romero.

But despite their misgivings, Romero and Smith said the two groups have built a seamless and cooperative relationship with each other.

"Huntington Beach was

the first city to launch a program like this, and we've learned a lot from it," Romero said.

Huntington Beach officials signed a \$1-million contract with Be Well OC to enlist its services over the past year. Although some

on social media have questioned the cost of the program, "The city sees the tremendous value in this program to help the most vulnerable," Cuchilla said.

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County honors longevity of Irvine Regional Park

Gifted by the Irvine family in 1897, the now 495-acre park was the state's first regional park.

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

It may seem peculiar that Irvine Regional Park is located in the city of Orange and not Irvine — unless, of course, you know that in 1897, the Irvine family gifted the land to the county, and its namesake comes from the family rather than its location. The then-160-acre park was called Orange County Park, but its name was officially named for its donors in 1928. On Saturday, Irvine Regional Park marked 125 years since its founding. “The whole community is invited to celebrate Irvine Regional Park’s 125th anniversary, one of Orange County’s premier natural

spaces for family recreation and educational opportunities,” said Vice Chairman Donald P. Wagner of the Orange County Board of Supervisors. Before the park became the property of James Irvine in 1876, the land was part of Don Teodosio Yorba’s original Mexican grant of Rancho Lomas de Santiago. The first known recreational use of the area was in 1857, when early German colonists who settled in Anaheim dubbed the area the “Picnic Grounds.” As the communities surrounding the area grew, more families came to gather there on holidays like May Day and July Fourth. Irvine Regional Park remains a popular picnic destination today, stretching across 495 acres with many more amenities than

See **Longevity**, page A6



Courtesy of OC Parks

A PADDLE-TRICYCLE heads out onto the lake at Irvine Regional Park, originally called Orange County Park, in Orange.

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Photos by Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

HEIDI ZUCKERMAN, OCMA’s chief executive and director, speaks Wednesday during a preview of the museum’s new home in the Segerstrom Center for the Arts in Costa Mesa.

OCMA

Continued from page A1

Zuckerman. The earliest work in the show is by artist Agnes Pelton from 1920, while the most recent works were made for the acquisition and are far more freshly minted. “We created this acquisition strategy, 60 works to commemorate the 60th anniversary,” said Zuckerman, “and some of the paintings, including the one by Lily Stockman, were definitely wet when it got here last week.” Interestingly, some of the works featured are by male artists. “I am calling it ‘13 Women and a few guys,’ because of course we have so many men who have contributed to our past, our present and of course our future,” said Zuckerman. Among them are Charles Ray’s works “Ink Box” (1986) and “Self Portrait” (1990), which OCMA acquired when it presented Ray’s first solo museum exhibition. One work in particular is called out in the show’s introduction, perhaps because it embodies the spirit of the exhibition so well.

Barbara Kruger’s untitled work from 1989 depicts a feminine hand with long manicured fingernails, clawed around a stopwatch. The image appears, pop-art style in nine grids, each with a word: happy, sad, awake, asleep, hopeful, doubtful, relaxed, tense and alive. The American conceptual artist was known for her collage style and images that challenge consumerism through a feminist lens. At OCMA, Zuckerman suggested the piece references the different feelings we can have from one moment to the next. Kruger herself said, “I believe that moments congeal into hours and days and construct a life, and I was just trying to reflect on those moments, those thoughts, those feelings, those fears, those pleasures.” The pieces in “13 Women” each offer their own separate moments, but organizers hope together they can create a more powerful reflection of our space and time and how we position ourselves within its narrative.

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VISITORS BROWSE through the art exhibit “13 Women” during a media preview of the new OCMA.

HOME

Continued from page A1

ral exhibitions. “I hope that we will surprise you. I hope that you will discover artists you haven’t seen before, and I hope you’ll see familiar artists in unexpected ways.” The 53,000-square-foot space offers reconfigurable galleries that will accommodate temporary modern and contemporary art shows as well as selections from the museum’s 4,500-piece permanent collection. OCMA Chief Curator Courtenay Finn called it a first in the museum’s 60-year history. “We’re able to pull works out of storage and tell stories around them and really showcase the breadth and depth of the collection, something that the museum hasn’t been able to do before,” she said. Just as important as the interior galleries are several spaces outside the new



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

“SUPERNOVA, 2000” by Lee Bul, of Yeongju-si, South Korea, is part of the exhibit “13 Women” at the new OCMA.

structure, designed by Culver City-based architectural firm Morphosis under Pritzker Prize-winning architect Thom Mayne and Managing Partner Brandon Welling. The vast rooftop terrace, along with an education pavilion, café and museum shop are positioned to foster a relationship between interior spaces and the out-

doors. Mayne said it took a decade of collaboration with museum officials to craft a vision that served not only as a showcase of art but a public square that would expand the museum’s audience by serving as a connective tissue in the community. “We got very early on involved in not building a

building, another shiny object, but building a public space,” he said. “We thought it would be nice to make a piazza in Orange County. This community is now ready for this kind of a public space.” Attendees at Wednesday’s preview strolled through expansive galleries and enjoyed guided tours filled with architectural notes and observations. Among the five inaugural exhibitions on display is “California Biennial 2022: Pacific Gold,” a survey of contemporary art from acclaimed and emerging artists throughout the state that began in 1984 and has been revived for the re-opening with 60 works, including some created specifically for the new space. “13 Women” marks the museum’s diamond anniversary by honoring the original founders of the Balboa Pavilion Gallery, OCMA’s predecessor, with works created by 13 pioneering women artists who

reflect the qualities of the museum’s founders. “Of many waters ...,” an outdoor multimedia sculpture created by Los Angeles native and New York-based artist Sanford Biggers, is the visual centerpiece of the building’s terrace. Standing 16 feet tall and 24 feet across and covered in metal sequins, the figure conjures the spirit river gods and serves as a blessing for the building’s opening. Zuckerman said the piece, on display through Aug. 13, 2023, marks the space as somewhere people can congregate, encounter art and have conversations. “If the past two years have taught us anything, it’s how much we need the experience of communal spaces, where new connections can be made and where unexpected conversations can happen,” she said. “That’s where the sparks of creativity fly.” Officials shared their wish that the new space be inclusive and welcoming to

all. Assisting in that vision is Lugano Diamonds of Newport Beach, whose owners donated \$2.5 million to allow OCMA to offer free admission on opening night and for the next 10 years. “There’s no economic barrier to experience our exhibitions and our programs,” Zuckerman said. In remarks Wednesday, OCMA Trustee Anton Segerstrom shared how his father, Henry Segerstrom, who transformed acres of Orange County lima bean fields into a hub of commercial and cultural activity, believed in the power of the arts to elevate communities. “For me, personally, this day has special meaning. It’s a realization of a dream of our family and the culmination of 16 years of personal work,” he said. “This is a great day for Orange County.”

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forum

A WORD, PLEASE | JUNE CASAGRANDE

It's not like 'like' is incorrect when used to mean 'as if'

"Grammar error — July 7 column" read the subject line of an email from a reader named Bill. The body text was concise:

"As written: '... Jovin said she feels like she's the beneficiary.' Should be: '... Jovin said she feels as if she's the beneficiary.'"

In other words, Bill was saying I should get rid of "like" and use "as if" instead.

This isn't the first time I've heard that "like" is wrong in a sentence like mine. And the people who take this position usually have good reason. Perhaps they read Eric Partridge's "Usage and Abusage," first published in 1942, which says: "'Like' for 'as if' is incorrect." Partridge cites as an example of incorrect use this passage from "The Dragnet" by John G. Brandon: "Carted her out limp — looked like a chloroform-pad had been at work."

Or maybe they read Theodore Bernstein's influential 1965 book "The Careful Writer": "'Like' cannot stand for 'as if,'" Bernstein insisted, "except for a few idiomatic phrases such as 'The car looks like new' and 'They cheered like crazy.'"

Other popular texts in the 20th century took the same position. Around that time, a far-reaching ad campaign created controversy about "like" by declaring "Winston tastes good, like a cigarette



should." That should be "as," not "like," sticklers argued.

All these objections center on the fact that "like" is a preposition. A preposition takes a noun or pronoun as its object, for example "chicken" in "tastes like chicken."

Compare that to "as," which is a conjunction. Conjunctions can introduce not just nouns but whole clauses, complete with subject and verb, for example, the "you know" in "as you know."

The Winston ad used "like" to introduce the whole clause "a cigarette should." My July column used "like" to introduce the whole clause "she's" (which is just a short form of the clause "she is"). If you can't use "like" to introduce a clause, then the ad copywriter and I were wrong. But we weren't.

First of all, like so many other words, "like" is more than just one part of speech. Look it up in the dictionary and you'll see that, yes, it's a preposition, but it's also a verb, an adjective, a noun and (here it comes) a conjunction. So you can use "like" to introduce a whole clause.

But dictionaries reveal yet another reason why these objections to "like" are misguided: "like" can literally mean "as if."

Among its many definitions of "like," Merriam-Webster's Collegiate dictionary lists "as if." So does

American Heritage Dictionary. So does Webster's New World College Dictionary. So does Dictionary.com, which adds: "'Like' as a conjunction meaning ... 'as if' ('It looks like it will rain') has been used for nearly 500 years and by many distinguished literary and intellectual figures. Since the mid-19th century there have been objections, often vehement, to these uses. Nevertheless, such uses are almost universal today in all but the most formal speech and writing."

So on the one hand, you have widely respected authorities like Bernstein and Partridge saying you can't use "like" to mean "as" or "as if." On the other hand, you have dictionaries supplying two reasons why you can. Who's right?

Picking sides in language disputes is easier than you might guess because no one has the power to prohibit a usage. So if some respected authorities say a usage is wrong and other respected authorities say it's OK, the "wrong" camp is out of line.

Because dictionaries say you can use "like" to mean "as if," and also because they say that "like" is sometimes a conjunction, you can use "like" like you like.

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.

COMMENTARY | ALICIA BEGET AND HALEY JENKINS



Sara Cardine

THE NEWPORT-MESA Unified School District office in Costa Mesa. A pair of members of Newport-Mesa Uncensored explain the goals of their group.

Newport-Mesa Uncensored aims to restore the basics of education

Who is Newport-Mesa Uncensored?

Some Newport-Mesa Unified School District employees believe this "small, scary and dangerous" group of "extremists" is seeking to "take over our school district."

On the contrary, Newport-Mesa Uncensored, with more than 438% social media growth since

late June, is the voice of many parents, grandparents and other Newport and Costa Mesa community members.

Newport-Mesa Uncensored aims to protect our children from ideological issues that pose a threat to their psychological, physical and academic success and overall well-being, as well as the fundamental rights of parents.

The mission of Newport-Mesa Uncensored is to restore parental rights to primary-secondary education through community engagement, valuable resources and information that empower individuals to advocate with meaningful action on behalf of students within the NMUSD. We stand firmly

See **Aims**, page A8

MAILBAG



HUNTINGTON BEACH CITY COUNCIL candidates take part in a forum at the Huntington Beach Senior Center on Sept. 21.

Scott Smeltzer
Staff
Photographer

Observations on a Huntington Beach City Council forum

The recent Daily Pilot report on the City Council candidate forum held at the Senior Center and sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce (Huntington Beach City Council candidates talk business at forum, Sept. 22) brought forth a few salient points.

First, the nexus of co-candidates consisting of Pat Burns, Tony Strickland, Casey McKeon and Gracey Van Der Mark stand as a single monolithic block along with their intellectual superior and leader, Michael E. Gates (candidate for city attorney).

McKeon (a bona-fide real

estate developer) spoke for the collective, aghast that "we bleed tax dollars to other cities."

I am glad McKeon agrees with me and a whole host of Huntington Beach voters that we should not subsidize our neighboring cities. Which is why I specifically applaud the February 2020 council decision to rationalize housing planning, particularly in opening opportunities for affordable housing in the city. Had the council not taken that action, the city would have been burdened with a multimillion-dollar fine. Our planning department

would have been controlled directly by Sacramento. We would not have been able to enforce our anti-camping laws, and every park in the city would have seen permanent encampments. And, adding salt to that wound, we would be send tax dollars to Sacramento, and those dollars would be spent in our neighboring cities, just when the pandemic would have shuttered businesses.

What happens to my quality of life and the value of my investment as a homeowner when all that happens? Of the candidates at the forum, only one cast a vote to make all of those awful outcomes happen — former Councilwoman Jill Hardy.

Make no mistake. Huntington Beach does not have enough housing for the people who live here — including my children, and one day my grandchildren. When a candidate tells me that new housing needs to be fought, they are telling me they want my children and yours to be homeless in the streets. It is a positive good to plan for the city to adequately house its residents. Not all would agree, but in my mind, this is an imperative emanating from Christ himself.

Galen Pickett
Huntington Beach

While I appreciated Daily Pilot reporter Matt Szabo

See **Mailbag**, page A8



David W. Cross

December 17, 1946 - September 22, 2022

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of David W. Cross of Newport Beach, California. David died on September 22, 2022, at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas, surrounded by his family, after a six-year battle with cancer. He was 75.

David was born December 17, 1946, in Seattle, Washington, to John and Ruth Cross. Raised and educated in Southern California, David devoted his career to healthcare, founding many successful healthcare companies, including Advanced Rehabilitation Resources and Intensive Healthcare. He retired at age 65, pursuing his twin passions of golf and traveling the world with family and friends. He will be remembered by all who knew him for his work ethic, humility, kindness, and generosity.

David is survived by his loving wife of 30 years, Maureen; his children, David and Kathleen Cross; and grandchildren, Riley, Frederick, and Jack Cross. A beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend, he touched so many people in many special ways.

A memorial mass will be held at Our Lady Queen of Angels Catholic Church, 2046 Mar Vista Drive, Newport Beach, California at 11:00 a.m. on October 7, 2022.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to MD Anderson Cancer Hospital, Houston, Texas or a cancer charity of your choice.

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NOV 6 **ATTACCA QUARTET PERFORMS CAROLINE SHAW**
3PM | RENÉE AND HENRY SEGERSTROM CONCERT HALL

Frequent collaborative partners, the vibrant Attacca Quartet performs works by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Caroline Shaw. Hear the quartet play music from Shaw's *Orange* album, which earned Attacca Quartet a Grammy Award for Best Chamber Music/Small Ensemble Performance, and other works. Tickets start at \$38.

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All dates, times, artists, programs, venues and ticket prices are subject to change.

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Not ready for autumn? Latest theme from Casa Romantica creates an ‘Endless Summer’

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

Some people live for sweater weather and pumpkin spice latte, but if you are among those not quite ready to let go of summer, head to Casa Romantica Cultural Center and Gardens in San Clemente this season.

The nonprofit arts destination is gearing up for its first of four themes with “Casa Captivating Fall and Winter Season: Endless Summer.”

Celebrating Orange County’s surf culture, Endless Summer includes programming centered around our oceans and includes a beach cleanup, jazz dance series, art exhibition, concerts and more.

Endless Summer opened Thursday with an art exhibition that features three Southern California artists who debuted their collections curated for the program.

Work from artists Wade Koniakowsky, Kristianne Koch Riddle and Olga Lah are on display on the Casa Romantica grounds, with a focus on the influence of the ocean.

Koniakowsky is a surfer and painter known for oil paintings of oceanscapes in Southern California, Hawaii and Indonesia, and his paintings of coastal scenes will be on display. Riddle is a fine arts photographer and interdisciplinary visual artist who will share photography in the exhibition. Finally, Lah will bring her installation, “The Constance of Glory,” to the Casa’s outdoor gardens.

In the classes series, an adult surf jazz dance class for beginners, set to 1960s surf music, will be offered until Oct. 11, while D. Yoder Family Sundays starts today, adopting a Surf’s Up! theme, with family-friendly activities, like a lifeguard talk.

On Oct. 12, a driftwood air plant display workshop will be offered, with casa attendees to create their own driftwood air plant display using driftwood and air plants — succulents that live outside of shells and rocks. The season closes out with a concert from Woodie and the Longboards, a Beach Boy tribute band, on Oct. 19.

Casa Romantica provides programs for all ages in arts, music, history throughout the year. Upcoming themes for “Casa Captivating” include “Vietnamese American Stories,” with an art exhibition from Hung Viet Nguyen in January, and “Romantic Era Arts,” focusing on European arts of the 19th century in February.

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ABOVE: Olga Lah’s installation at Casa Romantica in San Clemente.

LEFT: The “Endless Summer: Kristianne Koch Riddle” exhibit at Casa Romantica.

Photos courtesy of Casa Romantica

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Bring Friends! Bring a Neighbor! Bring Family! See you there!



Joan Brown, *The Journey #5*, 1976. Enamel on canvas, 90-1/2 x 72-3/4 in (229.9 x 184.8 cm). Collection of Orange County Museum of Art. Museum purchase with additional funds provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency, 1978.008. © The Joan Brown Estate

OCMA

The Orange County
Museum of Art opens
on October 8 at 5 PM!

Be there for the 24-Hour
Opening Party

Visit **ocma.art** to plan your visit.

MOVIE

Continued from page A1

with his buddy Devin Das. After graduating from CdM in 2010, Seaman studied at the New York Film Academy for a couple of years. He dropped out to work at the comedy website co-founded by Will Ferrell, “Funny or Die,” and it was there that he met Das in 2012.

They lived together in West Hollywood for three years and have many fond memories from that period. In fact, there are plenty of callbacks in “Wes Schlagenhauf is Dying.”

The 78-minute film tells the story of the friends taking a road trip to Idaho during the pandemic to visit their friend Wes, who has contracted COVID-19 and is in bad shape.

It sounds like a heavy premise, but the movie keeps it light, meta and satirical. Seaman, Das and Schlagenhauf all use their real names, but Seaman maintains they are nothing like the unlikable guys portrayed in the documentary.

“I was seeing a lot of commercials during that time that were like, ‘We’re in this together, it’s all good, be sure to enjoy this Kit-Kat,’ he said. ‘And it’s like, ‘We shouldn’t be doing this



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

PARKER SEAMAN is returning home to the Newport Beach Film Festival, where his movie “Wes Schlagenhauf is Dying” is one of the featured films this year.

right now.’ Filmmaking was still deemed an essential business, which was very funny to me.

“That’s where this started, making fun of the idea. In the movie, there’s a lot of commercial parodies about sort of capitalizing on the pandemic in a way. I think we wanted to comment on capitalizing on the pandemic for content, while doing it, but hopefully maybe this will be the first and last of its kind.

“I don’t think we would ever again make a movie this meta or this on the nose. In a sense, it’s a piece of commentary by it folding in on itself at the exact same time that it’s happening.”

The film debuted at the Tribeca Film Festival earlier this year.

Seeing it shown at the Newport Beach festival will also represent a homecoming for Trent Anderson, a producer on the film who went to Sage Hill School. Seaman and Anderson both went to Harbor Day School, and played on a Little League team together two decades ago.

Movies are generally categorized as ultra-low budget when their budgets are less than \$250,000, Anderson said. And “Wes Schlagenhauf is Dying” has a budget well below even that.

“Parker does one-day commercial shoots with

bigger budgets than we had for our entire 19-, 20-day feature shoot,” Anderson said. “Making a movie is really hard. It was my first time doing it. You had a bunch of people who were just really excited to do this. Those are long hours and hard days, and doing it especially without the guarantee that something great is going to happen is a big ask. Everyone came every single day and was excited to be there and work on it, and I think that all comes from Parker. The director has to set the tone on set.”

Anderson had lunch with an actor friend in Griffith Park in the summer of 2020, and the actor ended up putting the first money into the film. Seaman also got some key cosigns, including actor and filmmaker Mark Duplass. Seaman was given a cameo — a personalized video message — from Duplass during the early stages of the pandemic. The cameo plays a role in the movie, and Duplass ended up liking what he saw and agreeing to appear beyond that as well.

D’Arcy Carden, well-known as Janet from the NBC sitcom “The Good Place,” also appears in the cast and as an executive producer.

“I think this was like, we’ll make a movie for a shoestring budget starring us,

shot over the course of a very minimalized time,” Seaman said. “Hopefully that will prove that with money and bigger actors and even just resources, we can do it again. It’s opened up a lot of doors. Nothing I can say yet, but I think there’s a lot of potential opportunity. It kind of did exactly what we wanted it to, in many ways. I will never make a movie in this style or vein again, but I hope this will be a little time capsule that will grow better with age.”

Das, also listed as a screenwriter and producer, is returning to the Newport Beach Film Festival for the second straight year after attending last year for “Keeping Company,” a horror comedy.

He said he and Seaman were going through what a lot of people were going through during the early stages of the pandemic.

“Creatively, we were open to anything,” Das said. “We didn’t feel this pressure the way we did before, when it’s like, what do we need to do to stand out? We did something that was fun for us. It’s not really terribly ambitious ... but it was a lot of fun. It kind of felt like we were in summer camp for a few months.”

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APP

Continued from page A2

bring that to people free of charge.”

Seock said the black belt is a reflection of the best version of a person.

“I think this app that he made was to apply that and have other people use it to learn what he learned from our school,” said Seock. “Martial arts, what it means to become black belt ... it gives easy access to people who are less fortunate and can’t come to classes and really enhance their body and mind.”

Seock said he is proud of Kiani for making the app and for thinking about a way to give to others.

“We always tell our black belts. There’s no use in having all this strength, power and knowledge and not using it to help others. All the things you work hard for,” Seock said. “Keeping it to yourself is no good. You have to reach to other people to make them better. Then you’re a real leader. A real black belt ... is how we give back to society.”

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AIMS

Continued from page A4

against the stronghold ideologies that have contributed to the detrimental outcomes adopted by our current district leaders who seek to advance this cause.

NMUSD is a community-funded district which means 75% of revenues come from local property taxes, according to the district’s 2022-23 budget. The average cost per student is a generous \$23,367, higher than the state average. Local comparison districts spend several

thousands less, yet most perform stronger in academic outcomes than within NMUSD. One must ask, if the NMUSD is spending this much money per student, why are both English Language Arts and math scores declining, when districts spending substantially less are improving?

To show the alarming comparison, based on most recently published state data, only 62.26% of all students met or exceeded ELA standards in the NMUSD. In math, less than half of our students (46.11%) met or exceeded standards. Statistics show a

steady decline across content areas from 2019, which is not true of the majority of local comparison districts negating the blame of COVID-19 “learning loss” as a standard. Again, if many of our children are not able to read, write or do math at grade level, why are we passing them along, outspending many districts, and allowing them to get lost in the system?

Thus, it is imperative to shift the focus of our local schools away from spending millions on state-backed ideological programs and return to the basics our American edu-

cational system were founded upon. As originally intended, the purpose of education was to instill good character, convey an understanding of America’s underpinnings and provide training in the practical competencies such as reading, writing and arithmetic. Over the years, we can see this idea has fallen to the wayside.

Newport-Mesa Uncensored acknowledges and appreciates the district employees that effect educational advancements for our students with excellence and integrity. All community members have a duty to ensure the best

educational outcomes for our future. In unity, we aim to restore the foundations to a system of excellence and to restore the rights of parents to direct the education and upbringing of their children. Together we must work to engage the whole community in meaningful ways in order to secure the successful future of our children and families.

The best way to become informed and have your voice heard is to join us at the school board meetings, where anyone can make public comments. We also urge families to read the board agendas, read all

materials your child brings home and maintain consistent communication with your child(ren)’s teachers and school leaders. We also invite you to join our Instagram followers at @NewportMesaUncensored to keep up with the latest issues in the district. Email NMUncensored@gmail.com.

ALICIA BEGET is a licensed educational psychologist and board certified behavior analyst. **HALEY JENKINS** has a background in behavioral therapy and working with children with developmental disorders.

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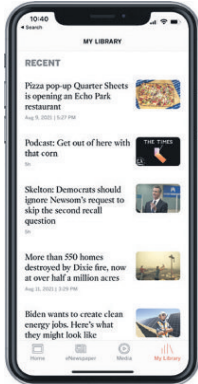
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The state of what’s next. **Los Angeles Times**

MAILBAG

Continued from page A4

covering the candidate forum sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, some commentary based upon informed observation is necessary. The forum was supposed to be a non-partisan display of candidates addressing business issues that would benefit the citizenry. It was a chance to display leadership, knowledge, experience and skills. Several candidates tried to “talk business” without “talking turkey.” Worse, they lapsed into partisan prattling that alienated many in the audience. This came especially from the so-called “slate” foursome (Pat Burns, Casey McKeon, Tony Strickland and Gracey Van Der Mark) but also from Republican contenders like Brian Burley. Cringeworthy partisanship and touting GOP endorsements that many may have found hollow did not advance the discussion.

I found the best insight came from arguably the youngest candidate, Gabrielle Samiy, who stressed needed connectivity between the business sector and the community.

Conservatives trumpeting the need for “free market forces” to prevail in business affairs largely ignored the negative impacts on the community especially in the areas of high rents, the need for affordable housing, environmental standards, consumer protection and corporate oversight.

There was much hand wringing about “red tape,” but it took candidate Ken Inouye to point out the difference between excessive bureaucracy and the rules and standards which protect and serve the general public.

It was unclear what many of the candidates would do about the major concerns of homelessness, law enforcement and housing, although the impact on local business is tangible. Several candidates openly ignored guided questions put to them. Others, like Jill Hardy and Oscar Rodri-

guez, gave thoughtful answers to all of them. Gina Clayton-Tarvin, the teacher and school board president, did a good job of the bridging necessary in Samiy’s need for connectivity.

Future candidate forums should include a written question or two from the audience to provide real-world context to the responses from candidates. Otherwise, the Chamber candidate forum served a useful function in introducing us to the candidates and the voting public should clamor for more of them.

Tim Geddes
Huntington Beach

Newport can count on Mosher

Newport Beach has the rare opportunity this election season to vote for someone we don’t see running for local office very often, a candidate with a PhD from Cal Tech.

This candidate, Jim Mosher, is by far the most independent candidate running. In his field of science, independent thought is not only valued but expected, unlike politics where it does not often enough seem to be valued.

Originally Jim wanted to run because only one person had drawn papers, and he didn’t want the seat to go uncontested. But as time wore on, Jim Mosher has proven to himself and others how valuable his candidacy has become. At candidate forums he has impressed his audience with his knowledge and original views.

“Independence” plays a big role in Jim’s main objective for City Council. He feels that the council needs to be more responsible to its constituents and that city staff has far too much influence over council decisions. Also, council members are often too concerned about their own political future to make good decisions for Newport Beach.

For years, those of us who are interested in city government have gone to Jim with our questions

because he knows more about it than any council member.

That was partially brought to light by his opponent in a candidate forum when he amusingly responded to a difficult question, “That is a Jim Mosher question.”

As more and more people have had the opportunity to listen to him, they are realizing how valuable it would be to have Jim Mosher on the City Council.

Lynn Lorenz
Newport Beach

Queen Elizabeth II earned respect

“Why are Americans fascinated by the royal family?,” an article by Patrice Apodaca published in the Daily Pilot Sept. 25, was actually kind of fascinating itself. Apodaca admits that she is an Anglophile (a person who greatly admires the British).

So why are we so enthralled with those people on the other side of the ocean living in castles, wearing fabulous clothes, ridiculous hats, are extroverted with their snippy accents that seem to breed the attitude of “We are British with obviously a higher plain of nobility than that of the typical peon”?

Per the article, “We purposefully rejected a system based on a sovereign ruler.” Yet we are sad for the people of England as they mourn their late queen who reigned for a record 70 years. And per Apodaca once again, she was not our queen, but our respect and admiration for her is beyond words.

On a lighter note, but still within the realm of the current topic, I’m reminded of a line in the 1988 movie, “The Naked Gun: From the Files of Police Squad” as spoken by Lt. Frank Drebin (Leslie Nielsen) who quoted: “No matter how silly the idea of having a queen might be to us, as Americans, we must be gracious and considerate.”

Bill Spitalnick
Newport Beach