



Photos by Drew A. Kelley

NEWPORT HARBOR'S Chandler Green helps lead a dance class for kids with developmental disabilities at Bonita Creek Park in Newport Beach on May 7. The idea to hold the class, called Connect Dance, came from Newport Harbor junior Emma Chaix who loved to dance.

Students get into step to connect with fellow kids

BY LILLY NGUYEN

On a late Sunday morning, the sound of laughter and music spills out of the clubhouse at the Bonita Creek Park on La Vida.

Inside the small, one-room building, kids laugh and scream and sing along to their favorites. They coordinate small dance moves with one another as parents watch on warmly from the sidelines and chat among themselves. Eventually, the music comes to a slow lull as Jessica Grace calls the students to attention along with her cadre of about five teachers — varying between the ages of 16 and 18 — to answer the question of the day: “What’s one thing you like to do on Saturdays?”

This is the morning routine for Connect Dance, a free dance class led most Sundays for children with developmental disorders by their teenage instructors from Newport Harbor and Corona del Mar high schools.

The idea to hold the class came from Newport Harbor junior Emma Chaix.

“I’m not a dancer,” Chaix said, laughing during a recent interview. “I was a competitive gymnast for 11 years. I’ve done things similar to dance, but I’m not a dancer. But I’ve always loved to dance, and it’s also something that’s very expressive.”



NEWPORT HARBOR'S Alexandria Schachter helps lead a dance class at Bonita Creek Park.

Chaix said her little sister has a rare disorder, Kabuki syndrome, and that she herself has been interested in working with kids with varying ranges of abilities for some time.

See **Step**, page A2

Groups break bread at shared campus

Nonprofits gathered Wednesday at their hub in Santa Ana for an open house featuring four female chief executives.

BY MATT SZABO

Santa Ana has its first female mayor in the city’s 153-year history.

In a way, Valerie Amezcua was the perfect person to welcome people to a nonprofit community open house Wednesday — featuring four female CEOs — in the city she serves.

“I go to a lot of things, but it’s very personal to me because you’re touching the lives of children,” Amezcua said. “Children are a priority to me. They always have been, they always will be.”

Four nonprofits that serve Orange County — Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County and the Inland Empire, Families Forward, Girls Inc. of Orange County and the Orange County Human Relations Council — now operate from the same hub in Santa Ana.

They held the open house at their office, located at 1801 E. Edinger Ave., not far off the 55 Freeway, to showcase the services they provide the community.

“One of the coolest things that

See **Groups**, page A3

Guided by faith, students raise \$3K for toys

A trio of fifth-graders from Mariners Christian School recently raised money to help young hospitalized patients.

BY SARA CARDINE

Many Christians may have, at one point in their lives, asked themselves “What would Jesus do?” But three local students have gone a step further, not only answering the question but taking decisive action in their local community.

Tim Mustard Jr., Henry Klatt and Anees Mudawar — friends and fellow fifth-graders at Costa Mesa’s Mariners Christian School — were eager to participate in a school program that encourages students to put their values into practice.

Difference Makers challenges kids in fifth through eighth grade to do just that, offering seed funding and mentoring to applicants who’ve identified a need in their community and are willing to partner with local charitable organizations.

Tim said his older sister,

See **Toys**, page A3

ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

SONNY BEHAN'S 'BENEATH THE WAVES' ADVOCATES FOR OCEAN CONSERVATION PAGE A2

MILLIGRAM COFFEE BRINGS A TASTE OF EUROPE TO COSTA MESA'S PASEO 17 PAGE A7

Bees help artist tell her family story

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

Alicia Rojas has always been drawn to bees.

The winged workers were the mascot of the Catholic school she attended in Colombia, a symbol for the belief system of the community and a major pillar of the school’s teaching.

“In my school at that time, the bee symbolized the matriarchy; it also symbolized the hand of God,” said Rojas. “It symbolized the common purpose of coming together beyond your own individual purpose.”

The Santa Ana-based artist and activist sees parallels between the bees’ human-forced migration and life of service and her family, which fled Colombia and came to the U.S. in the late 1980s.

“I am trying to draw a line between nature and humans and the synchronicity and similarities of forced migration, inspired by my own

See **Bees**, page A7



Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

ARTIST ALICIA ROJAS worked with eight bee colonies to create sculptures now on exhibit at Grand Central Art Center in Santa Ana called “With Honey in the Mouth – Con Miel en la Boca.”

A Surf City Favorite Since 1961

AFFINITY & CO. JEWELERS • BANK OF AMERICA • BATH & BODY WORKS • BIG 5 SPORTING GOODS • CHASE BANK • CHICO'S • CLAIRE'S • CLOUDMOVER DAY SPA
DISCOVERY SHOP • DUCK DONUTS • GAP, GAPKIDS & BABYGAP • GLITZ NAIL BAR • GLOBAL VISION OPTOMETRY • HASHIGO SUSHI • KAHOOOTS PET STORE
LEMON THAI CUISINE • LOFT • MARIO'S MEXICAN FOOD & CANTINA • OMAHA STEAKS • PHENIX SALON SUITES • QUINN'S APOTHECARY PHARMACY • R&B TEA HOUSE
RED EFFECT INFRARED FITNESS • SALON CHAMPAGNE • TILLYS • TITANIUM TICKETS • TORRID • TRADER JOE'S • THE UPS STORE • VANS • YOGURTLAND • ZUMIEZ

NOW OPEN: 5 POINTS COMPANION ANIMAL HOSPITAL • CLAIRE'S • LANE BRYANT • LOFT • TORRID
COMING SOON: BIG BLUE SWIM SCHOOL • IKE'S LOVE AND SANDWICHES • SWEETGREEN

5 POINTS PLAZA

MAIN @ BEACH BLVD • HUNTINGTON BEACH • 5POINTSPLAZA.COM





Don Leach | Staff Photographer

ARTIST SONNY BEHAN stands in front of his completed ocean conservation mural featuring an array of jellyfish in the Peppertree Lot in downtown Laguna Beach.

Mural tells story in its message of pollution, ocean conservation

BY ANDREW TURNER

A community rich in environmental interests has a new messenger pushing the cause of ocean conservation, as a storytelling, large-scale mural addressing marine plastic pollution has been placed in the heart of downtown Laguna Beach.

Sonny Behan, a 36-year-old artist from South Africa, created the piece called “Beneath the Waves,” depicting the Pacific Sea Nettle jellyfish in clear waters on the left and, as viewers works their way across the wall, increasingly in turmoil as it is confronted by unnatural invaders.

Laguna Beach has endeavored to bring about a balloon ban, as well as a prohibition on single-use plastics at its beaches, parks and trails.

The artwork, located in the Peppertree Lot between Forest and Ocean avenues, aims to heighten awareness and lead to individual accountability as one prepares to head to the beach.

“I feel like the more people are aware of things, the more they’re one to take action,” Behan said. “You can donate a lot of money, and you can raise a lot of money and stuff, but I’ve always felt from experience that the awareness is the sharpest tool. I think murals do that quite a lot because I’m obviously on the streets for the week, two weeks, speaking to people and sharing the message, but then it continues online.”

“The more people know about these [environmental] issues, the better. It’s important, especially with the oceans, I think. Knowledge is everything, so the more people know about what’s happening, the more people try to help fix things.”

Behan, who is known for his murals depicting nature, has done multiple projects for PangeaSeed Foundation as part of its “Sea Walls: Artists for Oceans” initiative. The public art program has seen more than 400 artists

produce over 500 murals in 19 countries.

“It’s almost like a storyboard,” Behan said of his mural in Laguna Beach, which is 1,090 square feet in size. “On [the left] side, things are very calm and colorful and pleasant. As it gets to the right, in the middle there, it starts to go through some turmoil, and it starts to abstract the art, and then [it] goes into sort of this spiral to the right.”

“As it does, you can notice that everything desaturates, and the jellyfish turn into plastic bags, and the plastic bags desaturate and turn into a black and white world on the right, which is obviously symbolic of the turmoil of the oceans at the moment if we don’t continue to do what we need to do to preserve everything.”

The project was planned to be completed in time for Earth Day, April 22, but wet weather contributed to delays in the timeline. Additional work done by Behan can be seen at sonnyonline.com.

The Offield Family Foundation provided financial backing for the project. Chase Offield, a self-proclaimed “diehard waterman” and director for the foundation, indicated that the location for the mural’s display was of vital importance to him.

“We wanted a wall that was going to get a lot of eyeballs on it, and that Peppertree Lot — of all the options that were presented to us — was the one that was in the center of the village, gets a lot of foot traffic, is one of the main parking lots for the downtown area,” he said. “We wanted people to see that as maybe one of their last visual reminders before they hit the beach to be cognizant of things that they take to the beach, to pack out their trash, and for everyone — residents, visitors — to be mindful that all that single-use plastic, a lot of it winds up in the oceans.”

andrewturner@latimes.com
Twitter: @AndrewTurnerTCN

Laguna Beach workshop to examine Promenade’s future

BY ANDREW TURNER

The Promenade on Forest started as a response to revitalize Laguna Beach’s downtown during the coronavirus pandemic, but with city officials since making a decision to make it a permanent fixture, the next step in the process is around the corner.

Community members are invited to an in-person public workshop to discuss concepts for making the Promenade permanent on Wednesday, May 17 at the Laguna Beach Community and Susi Q Center, 380 3rd St., from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

A pedestrian plaza that offers outdoor dining, as well as opportunities to gather and shop down-

town, the Promenade was introduced to the Laguna Beach community in June 2020. It has also been a home for musical performances.

An online survey asked community members what they would look for from the gathering space going forward. The upcoming workshop will allow the public to review the design consultant’s conceptual plans before they go to the Planning Commission.

At its meeting on May 2, the Laguna Beach City Council voted 4-1 to replace the existing outdoor decks at the Promenade.

The city entered into an emergency contract with Laguna Construction for \$260,000 to carry out the



File Photo

COMMUNITY MEMBERS dine at the Promenade on Forest in downtown Laguna Beach in June 2020. A public workshop on May 17 will discuss the area’s future.

project deemed necessary because winter storms damaged the decks.

“We’ve tried to clear the

standing water underneath the best we can, but

See **Workshop**, page A3

UCI Health

Choosing UCI Health for cancer care gave us mom back.

There’s no greater feeling than knowing you’ve chosen the best place to help you beat cancer. At UCI Health, we treat more patients with cancer and more complex cases than any other hospital in the region. And with **world-class comprehensive cancer care** within your reach, the words “cancer-free” are even closer.



Visit ucihealth.org/cancer or call 714-500-7891 to schedule a next-day consultation.

Models used for illustrative purposes.

STEP

Continued from page A1

time. But, she said, it wasn’t until after she made friends on her school campus with a student named Maya that she realized just how detached students with disabilities can be from the student body as a whole. She noticed they rarely attended pep rallies or other events.

“It’s sad to me that they went to school and then went home,” she said. “I work with an organization called Friendship Circle [a nonprofit that works to provide social, recreational and educational programs to children and young adults with disabilities], and they have different classes and sessions with kids.

“So, I used my connections with Friendship Circle and my motivation to allow these kids to become more involved.”

Chaix said she started with a Google form and first sought help from



EMMA CHAIX, left, of the Newport Harbor Dance Team helps lead a dance class for kids with developmental disabilities at Bonita Creek Park in Newport Beach.

members of the Newport Harbor dance team, then from Corona del Mar High School students, to help develop choreography and teach it to prospective students in a dance class.

She said the small team had been divided between naming the class “Connect Dance” or INC, short for inclusion and kindness, but they decided to go with Connect, as they

wanted to both highlight the connection of children with disabilities to the greater community but also refer to how people can connect with their bodies, themselves and

their emotions through dance.

Newport Harbor sophomore Olivia Wimberry said her little brother, Asher, has autism, and she wanted to give him a place to go to hang out with other kids. Asher participated in the class on Sunday, counting off the initial dance practice with a loud and cheerful “five, six, seven, eight!”

Asher, who is in sixth grade, said he liked going to class because of the girls on the dance team. His favorite parts were the yoga stretches that started the day and the games they played between learning routines.

“The dancing and stuff [is fun],” he said.

Alexandria Schachter, the only high school senior in the group, said she grew up providing assistance to students with disabilities. Her father teaches special education classes at Corona del Mar High School, so she has spent a lot of time with the community.

Junior Rio Haupt said

the minute she heard about the class she wanted to be a part of it.

“Dance for me, I’ve done it since I was 5,” said Chandler Green, 17. “It’s been an outlet for my entire life in so many different ways, so I feel like I wanted to bring that to these kids. It’s just really special that we get to do this, so I just feel really honored and really proud that we’ve created this because I think for the kids it really means a lot. We all wanted to make a space where they could be free.”

McCoy Painter, a senior at Corona del Mar who describes himself as having “a little bit of autism, not too much,” leads the stretches and described the opportunity to participate in Connect Dance as “amazing.”

Painter said he hopes to become a dance instructor in the future, adding that he currently offers a yoga class at Sling Body Fitness every Saturday afternoon.

See **Step**, page A6

TOYS

Continued from page A1

Mandy, and a friend held a toy drive three years ago for the Irvine Police Department, which keeps comfort packs in patrol cars for encounters with children. He couldn't wait for his turn to develop a project.

"I want to make people feel like they're good and loved by people," the 11-year-old said. "So my mom and I decided to do Difference Makers."

Tim enlisted the help of Henry and Anees and, with help from their parents, decided to do something to help out the nonprofit Once Upon a Room. The group provides room makeovers to children undergoing long-term hospital stays, including Children's Hospital of Orange County and CHOC at Mission Hospital.

"They basically go into kids' hospital rooms, and they decorate the rooms so

kids can be happy, so they know they have God with them," explained Anees, 11.

Together the trio crafted a plan to purchase toys and activities children could use indoors — LEGO, remote-controlled vehicles, dolls and craft kits — then donate them to Once Upon a Room.

They used \$300 in seed money to buy snacks and beverages in bulk, including gummy candies, Munchies chips and the popular hydration beverage Prime, then sold them outside athletic events at Costa Mesa's Jack Hammett Sports Complex during two busy Friday night events.

"There already was a snack bar, but they didn't have Prime," 11-year-old Henry explained. "And all the kids are crazy for Prime, so we one-upped them."

To further their mission, the boys populated an Amazon wish list of needed items and created a QR code people could scan to donate to the cause. One

night while slinging snacks, a man walked up to them and gave them a \$100 bill, no questions asked.

"That's how we ended up making over \$3,000, because so many people opened up their generous hearts to buy toys for kids in the hospital," Anees said.

Mariners Christian School Principal Angela Drevlow said Difference Makers aims to promote compassion among students, while inspiring them to initiate projects and collaborate with others to fill needs in the community.

This year, five teams submitted proposals, including a fundraiser for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, a workbook for kids at Los Angeles' Cedars-Sinai diagnosed with heart defects and a support network for the siblings of children with cancer.

"It's such a good experience for our kids," said Drevlow, whose two sons led their own projects. "It teaches them humility and



ANEES MUDAWAR, left, and Tim Mustard Jr. organize \$3,000 worth of toys they purchased by selling snacks to donate to the nonprofit Once Upon a Room.

Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

gives them passion and empathy — that's really what the world needs more of, isn't it?"

Many of the students who take on projects have personal ties to local organizations or the clientele they serve, the principal said, adding Once Upon a Room helped out a Mariners student earlier this

year who'd had to stay in the hospital after a bad accident.

For Once Upon a Room co-founder Jenny Hull, the toys purchased by the Mariners students will provide a big boost for the organization that started out decorating area hospital rooms and has since grown into a network of more than 30 institutions nationwide.

"They have no idea how excited we are — not only are they great toys, but they're toys we really ask for the most," Hull said Thursday. "LEGOS are so great in a hospital, because even if you can't get out of bed, you can still stimulate your mind."

The nonprofit was inspired by Hull's daughter Josie, now 21, born attached at the head to twin sister Teresa. The pair underwent a massive separation surgery at UCLA Medical Center in 2001, requiring long hospital stays for the girls.

At age 12, Josie wanted to do something for kids facing similar situations. She remembered how much it

meant when her mom brought comforters, blankets and wall art from home to make her hospital room feel cozier.

Aside from decoration, providing toys that occupy patients' time and engage their minds is crucial to Once Upon a Room's mission, Hull said.

"The boys can't even fathom the impact that their sweet gesture is about to do for other people," she added.

As for Tim, Henry and Anees, being able to put their faith and beliefs into action was unforgettable.

"I feel really good," Henry said. "We're donating a lot of toys to unfortunate children in the hospital, and they might have a better time now."

"I honestly felt like I was doing God's work," Anees agreed. "Any person who does this, their hearts are going to be open so wide, they're going to experience something they've never experienced before."

sara.cardine@latimes.com
Twitter: @SaraCardine



TIM MUSTARD JR., Henry Klatt and Anees Mudawar, from left, stand with toys they raised funds for through Mariners Christian School's Difference Makers program.

WORKSHOP

Continued from page A2

that's really taken its toll," Jeremy Frimond, an assistant to the city manager, said. "That really happened with the succession of storms that we saw over the last several months. Really in the first part of winter, while the decks had seen a lot of traffic, they aged in dog years over the last several months."

Councilman George Weiss, who cast the lone dissenting vote, said the outdoor dining decks represented a gift of public funds that benefited restaurants for the past three years.

Mayor Bob Whalen said he would advocate for "agreements in place with these restaurants to pay

what equates to a market rate for this additional space," likening the city to a landlord for the Promenade's outdoor dining components. "That's where I'm at on it."

City Manager Shohreh Dupuis said that a fee program would be discussed as part of the city's upcoming budget review.

"Staff is bringing you a fee program on June 13 as part of the budget adoption," Dupuis told the council. "We already have looked at a couple of different ways to develop the fee program. We looked at multiple cities in California and what they're charging — all the coastal cities, San Diego. We looked at fair market value on a lease."

andrew.turner@latimes.com
Twitter: @AndrewTurnerTCN

GROUPS

Continued from page A1

has happened over the last decade is the purchasing of this building," Big Brothers Big Sisters chief executive Sloane Keane said. "I was not CEO yet, I was running development, and I went out to look for an 18,000-square-foot building. We said, 'We found the perfect home, and it is 50,000 square feet.'"

The other nonprofits have gradually filled the space. OC Human Relations moved there in 2017, followed by Girls Inc., then Families Forward last year.

All of them do in fact have female leaders, which is a point of pride.

"For us, it's standing together as women, as leaders in our community," Girls Inc. chief executive Lucy Santana said. "I hope we're kind of starting that. We want to continue to break down those barriers."

Santana said Girls Inc. recently celebrated 170 girls who are going to col-

lege.

OC Human Relations CEO Alison Edwards joked that the hub was just 2 miles from her house, so she was sold on moving there. In seriousness, Edwards knows that having all of these services down the hall from each other makes a lot of sense.

"If someone needs to report a hate crime, these folks know that they can refer to us," Edwards said. "If we have a young person in one of our schools that's struggling, we know that we can connect them with a mentor. If we find out they're at risk of losing housing, we can connect them with Families Forward. We're really running in the same spaces of supporting youth and families, so it's just a natural alignment to all be together and support one another the same way we want to support our clients."

OC Human Relations does important work in schools, especially coming out of the coronavirus pandemic. She said they are re-

ceiving more calls around the use of racial and ethnic slurs on campus than they have in some time, which has been a challenge.

Wednesday's event featured tours available of each suite, with Big Brothers Big Sisters and OC Human Relations on the first floor and Girls, Inc. and Families Forward on the second floor. The event was catered by Bracken's Kitchen, another nonprofit based in Garden Grove.

Amezcu presented certificates of recognition to each corporation, and a representative from state Sen. Tom Umberg's office was there to do the same.

Families Forward chief executive Madelynn Hirneise said her organization, which was founded in 1984 and works to end family homelessness around the county, had started to outgrow its space in Irvine. Moving into the hub in Santa Ana seemed like a natural fit, and Hirneise knew that from her personal experience in Big Brothers Big Sisters, the largest



Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

MADELYNN HIRNEISE, left, with Families Forward, Alison Edwards with OC Human Relations, Sloane Keane with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County & the Inland Empire, and Lucy Santana with Girls Inc. of Orange County, speak at the Santa Ana nonprofit hub.

youth mentoring organization in the country.

She said she was a "Big" in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program when she was in college. Her "Little" was part of a family of seven, which lived together in a

one-bedroom apartment.

"She would tell me about housing insecurity and her mom and some of the struggles," Hirneise said. "I didn't know what to do. I didn't know who to connect to. If I connected with

my program manager, did they have a resource? Now there is a resource, and it's on site. I think that makes a big difference."

matthew.szabo@latimes.com
Twitter: @mjszabo

forum

COMMENTARY
ANDREA SCHMIDT

Want to really help moms and kids in Orange County? Share your abortion story

May is full of Mother's Day tributes on social media and elsewhere. Those are nice, but if we really want to show appreciation for moms, we need to fight back against attacks on reproductive healthcare, bodily autonomy and abortion rights nationwide. To do that, we need to make it less scary to talk about abortion.

When parents can choose when and how many children to have, their families are healthier. That's not a political statement, that's a research-backed fact. To have this choice, every person in America needs access to abortion care and other reproductive healthcare, including comprehensive sexual health education and birth control. Those things are all under attack now, thanks to the Supreme Court's decision last year to overturn Roe v. Wade and take away the federal right to an abortion.

Future generations of children will suffer if women don't have the control over their bodies that our parents and grandparents once did. At Planned Parenthood of Orange & San Bernardino Counties (PPOSBC), we are fighting to keep these rights from eroding here in California, even as they

fall in other states. But there's one major roadblock to our efforts: many people are afraid to talk about their experience having an abortion, which means that the voices of extreme, politically-motivated abortion opponents are the loudest. Here's why we need more people in Orange County to share their abortion stories with us and the impact it could have.

DESTIGMATIZING ABORTION HELPS FAMILIES

There is still unfortunately a stigma around abortion in our country, meaning many people may consciously or unconsciously think it is wrong or shameful. The current political climate, in which lawmakers in states across the country are restricting or banning abortion, is a direct result of anti-abortion extremists fueling the stigma against abortion, claiming falsely that abortion rights are bad for families.

But the fact is, abortion is incredibly safe, common and vital for strong parents and families. In fact, many women who have abortions are already parents and simply trying to be the best parent for the children they already have. So when we

See *Abortion*, page A6

MAILBAG



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

MEMBERS OF the Mobile Home Resident Coalition rally at Yorktown and Main Street in Huntington Beach on May 2.

Mobile home issue reveals true colors of H.B. council

The mantra of the conservative majority of the Huntington Beach City Council has been "local control." This has been ostensibly to prevent the citizenry from being preyed upon by housing mandates and legislative arm-twisting from the state. But what of cases being the other way around? The case of manufactured housing homeowners in Surf City is a perfect example. The local mobile home community has been preyed upon by mobile home

park owners for some time. Outside corporations and investment groups have bought several mobile home parks over the past few years and arbitrarily jacked the space rents up beyond the ability of many senior, fixed income and young residents to pay. These predatory park owners have funneled many thousands of dollars into the campaign coffers of the council majority members and own these politicians as surely as they own their properties. Local control here

HOW TO GET PUBLISHED

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

means that mobile home owners are at the mercy of local leaders who will show them none. As outlined in the Daily Pilot, our leaders refuse to act with local remedies such as a

"carve-out" to Section 803 of the City Charter to exempt mobile home parks from the same rent control bans as other forms of

See *Mailbag*, page A6

2 WAYS TO SAVE. JOIN UNIFY FINANCIAL CREDIT UNION!

9-MONTH CERTIFICATE

5.00% APY¹
(IRA Certificate option available)²

UnifyFCU.com/StashMoreCash

HY CHECKING

4.00% APY³
Earn up to

UnifyFCU.com/HY

Earn 4.00% APY³ on average daily balances of \$2,000 - \$15,000. Earn .05% APY on average daily balances from \$0-\$1,999.99 and over \$15,000.

UnifyFCU.com
877.254.9328

UNIFY
FINANCIAL CREDIT UNION

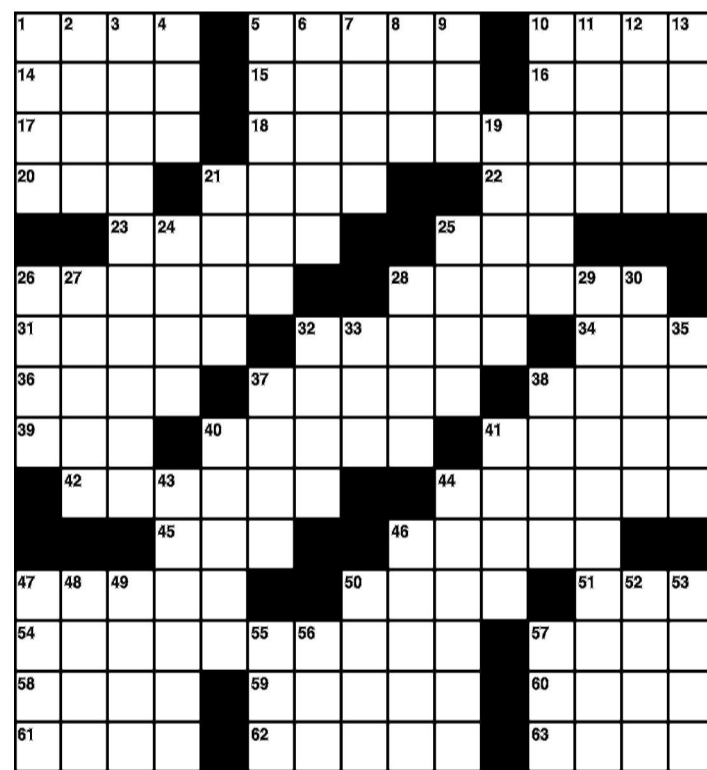
¹APY = Annual Percentage Yield. 9-month promotional rate effective April 4, 2023. Promotional Share Certificates must be funded with a minimum of \$500. Fees or withdrawals may reduce earnings on account and penalty may be imposed for early withdrawal. UNIFY membership required, which includes opening a membership share savings of at least \$5. Offer subject to change without notice and may end at any time. Share Certificates opened online have a maximum deposit of \$54,000. One additional deposit is permitted within the first 30 days of account opening, but deposit must be made in a branch or by mail. Opening a Share Certificate in online banking may not be available for some members. Call 877.254.9328 to get started.
²IRA = Individual Retirement Account. Substantial penalty for early withdrawal. Fees may reduce earnings on account. IRAs may have IRS-imposed contribution limits and tax implications, especially for premature distributions. Consult a tax advisor to determine what applies to your individual situation. Additional paperwork may be required to open the IRA certificate. Open at a branch or by phone.
³APY = Annual Percentage Yield. As of February 1, 2023, HY Checking earns 4.00% APY on average daily balances between \$2,000-\$15,000. Average daily balances between \$0-\$1,999.99 and over \$15,000 earn .05% APY. Minimum opening deposit is \$25. Dividends earned and ATM fees reimbursed each month you meet the following qualifications: have recurring direct deposit or conduct eDeposits of at least \$500 aggregate for the month and conduct at least eight (8) purchase transactions with your UNIFY debit card.
Insured by NCUA.

THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS

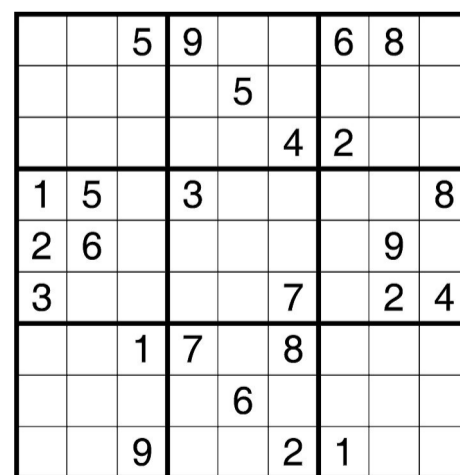
- 1 Pirate's transport
- 5 Brazilian dance
- 10 Fundamentals
- 14 Fish in a casserole
- 15 Hatred
- 16 Steady guy
- 17 Breakfast order
- 18 Brooklyn's location
- 20 _ person; apiece
- 21 _ of Good Hope
- 22 Winslet & Hudson
- 23 Royal decree
- 25 Wife to Todd, Fisher & Burton
- 26 Do an anesthesiologist's job
- 28 Least risky
- 31 Finest; choice
- 32 On the _; laid aside
- 34 Shanty
- 36 Uno & eins
- 37 Michelangelo sculpture
- 38 Identical
- 39 Cheap metal
- 40 Carries
- 41 Punctuation mark
- 42 Engraves
- 44 Saunters
- 45 Spicy
- 46 _ breath; panting
- 47 Higher berth
- 50 Hoax
- 51 Hubbub
- 54 _ of Champions; PGA event
- 57 Worked on a cake
- 58 Supportive nation
- 59 Harmony
- 60 Essential thing
- 61 Satan's realm
- 62 Narrow candle
- 63 _ to; increases



SUDOKU

By the Mephram Group

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



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

DOWN

- 1 " _ on it!"; cry to a slowpoke
- 2 Gigantic
- 3 Item in a recipe
- 4 Dads
- 5 Comfort
- 6 Embrace as one's own
- 7 Fielder's cry
- 8 Pester
- 9 Avignon pal
- 10 Burning
- 11 Pummel
- 12 Walking aid
- 13 Lather
- 19 Flat-bottomed rowboat
- 21 Quote as a source
- 24 Hoover & Aswan
- 25 In _ land; unrealistic
- 26 Blemish
- 27 Kovacs or Banks
- 28 Salon offerings
- 29 Humiliated
- 30 Stomach
- 32 Forms a lap
- 33 TV's " _ Haw"
- 35 Pekoe & oolong
- 37 Chaucer or Tennyson
- 38 Average
- 40 Prickle
- 41 Sheep pen
- 43 Ladd or Tieggs
- 44 Pass _; make the grade
- 46 Weight unit
- 47 Neighbor of Wyoming
- 48 Vaulter's need
- 49 Yank
- 50 Gather crops
- 52 Ownership document
- 53 _-on favorite; likely winner
- 55 Tenement bldg. unit
- 56 _ culpa
- 57 "Message _ Bottle"; 1999 film

Tribune Media Services



**Your
Health Is
Everything
to Us**

Focused on healthy futures

◆ Access to Care ◆ Support Services ◆ Whole Person Health

As the largest health plan in Orange County, we know healthy futures depend on more than medical care. No matter your age, life circumstances affect health. We remove barriers that hold health back, supporting members in need with access to preventive care, housing services, food security and much more. Because your health is everything to us.

STEP

Continued from page A2

"I love the people. I love the dances. I love the games here; it's just awesome to get to know everyone and all that," Painter said.

Jessica Grace, who founded Social & Kind and works regularly with children with developmental disorders, said she helped structure the class and guides the girls through instruction after being put in touch with them through the Winberrys.

"When you open up these kind of events to the public, you never know what kind of delays and



Drew A. Kelley

CASSIDY STOKES participates in a game as part of a class lead by members of the Newport Harbor Dance Team.

differences you're going to get, and there's been some challenges along the way," Grace said. "There are, of course, some kids who have a really hard time or it's loud or whatever it is,

I've been able to guide them and support the girls. A lot of these kids suffer from some social anxiety. "So, this already is our fifth or sixth time meeting, and it's amazing to see the

difference of how even their ability to remember in sequence the dance steps has been so great to see, and powerful," she added.

Grace said dance involves motor movement and allows kids that are more shy to come out of their shells.

"You get the smiles and the laughter. Even if they're not following the steps correctly, it's just meeting their sensory needs as well," she added. "That naturally emotionally regulates them, which is really something I'm passionate about educating more people on. Sometimes, we need to involve movement and brain breaks to get kids to express and use their language. That part is so powerful with dance."

"Really, it's about social-

ization. At the end of the day, these kids don't get enough social opportunities. They're not the kids that are invited to hang out on Saturday nights, and some of them are on spirit league, different sports teams, but those only meet once a week," said Grace. "This class has just been a great opportunity — we hope to keep it going through the summer too."

Grace said it was awesome to see students like Chaix, Green, Schachter, Winberry and Haupt organizing a dance class but noted that the community lacked people who could help empower others to start social groups and encourage them to keep going with them.

"A lot of times, kids will try to start something, and then they're really overwhelmed because one kid

has a behavior or one kid doesn't follow directions or they take it personally if someone's not participating," she said. "To me, that's our missing link, and everywhere, but especially in this community, we should have more people like me educating and empowering students on inclusion and [understanding]."

"That's the power of neurotypical models. That's really what inclusion is; we like to just say we're inclusive, but we need so much more growth around that and, to me, it all starts from support and education."

For more information about the class, email connectdanceco@gmail.com.

lilly.nguyen@latimes.com Twitter: @lilibirds

Daily Pilot

A Times Community News publication.

CONTACT US

Carol Cormaci Executive Editor carol.cormaci@latimes.com

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

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

Eric Licas, Public Safety eric.licas@latimes.com

Sarah Mosqueda, TimesOC sarah.mosqueda@latimes.com

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

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

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

Lilly Nguyen, Newport Beach lilly.nguyen@latimes.com

Matt Szabo, Huntington Beach and Sports matthew.szabo@latimes.com

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

© 2023 Times Community News. All rights reserved.

ABORTION

Continued from page A4

talk about abortion openly, we destigmatize it, making it less threatening.

According to the Institute for Women's Policy Research, children born to women with abortion access had lower rates of poverty during childhood; were more likely to graduate from college; and less likely to be single parents or receive public assistance as adults. Research also found that abortion legalization in the 1970s increased Black women's rates of high school graduation and college attendance in states where they had access.

Meanwhile, abortion restrictions are worse for parents and children, especially lower-income families. According to the landmark Turnaway Study, being denied an abortion seriously hurts a woman's health and well-being. Further research shows that children born to mothers with restricted abortion access had a greater likelihood of being unemployed at age 37 and a higher probability of being a teen parent. And, according to a 2017 study conducted well before Roe was overturned, the more abortion restrictions a state has, the worse women and children fare.

THE THREAT TO FAMILIES NOW

Twelve states have now banned abortion, and another 10 have severely



Elise Amendola | Associated Press

PLANNED PARENTHOOD of Orange & San Bernardino Counties wants to hear from people who have had abortions in hopes of destigmatizing the procedure.

restricted access. This is already having tragic impacts on people's lives and inhibiting doctors' ability to provide other critical care, including for patients experiencing miscarriages. This environment has also emboldened anti-abortion extremists in state legislatures to further ignore reality and propose bans on things like comprehensive sex education or discussing menstruation in schools.

Many federal lawmakers are actively pursuing a nationwide ban on abortion, which would affect us in Orange County, even though abortion is legal here. This will hurt our children and their children

unless we collectively act.

SO WHAT CAN YOU DO?

If you or your partner have had an abortion and it changed your life for the better, share your story with us at PPOSBC, so we can share it more widely and change the narrative around abortion in America.

Don't have a story to share? Urge your friends and relatives to share theirs. Talk to your friends and family about abortion, even when it's uncomfortable. Call or email your representative in Congress and urge them to support the Women's Health Protection Act (WHPA) and the Equal Access to Abortion

Coverage in Health Insurance (EACH) Act. Research and vote for candidates at every level of government who support abortion access. Support your local Planned Parenthood. Show your support for doctors who provide abortion.

We at PPOSBC can share all the facts we want about abortion, but in order to truly have a chance at changing hearts, minds and policies, we need real stories. Sharing yours will truly help moms and families in Orange County.

ANDREA SCHMIDT is the public affairs project manager for Planned Parenthood of Orange & San Bernardino Counties.

Advertisement for State Farm insurance featuring Chip Stassel, Agent. Text: "Great home & auto rates for any budget." Includes contact info and State Farm logo.

MAILBAG

Continued from page A4

investment property. In fact, they refuse to act at all to protect the thousands of mobile home park residents, estimated at 3 to 4% of our population, from park owner abuses. Worse, these leaders are actively opposing state legislation to help do what they won't. The park owners and their industry allies, like MHET (Manufactured Housing Educational Trust) and WMA (Western Manufactured Housing Communities Assn.), are also attempting to block legislative relief in Sacramento through lobbying efforts. It's been a no-win situation for those mobile home park residents under the thumb of our "local control."

The council majority members have also ignored recommendations from the city's Mobile Home Advisory Board to provide common sense relief measures and data collection efforts to help stabilize the mobile home market, claiming it smacks

of rent control. In reality, it is siding with special interests at the expense of homeowner constituents.

In Huntington Beach, the term "local control" is a double-edged sword that is cutting mobile home park residents deeply.

Tim Geddes

Huntington Beach

Note: Tim Geddes is the former chair of the Huntington Beach Mobile Home Advisory Board.

SEL method is about success

In her May 7 commentary ("Rethinking how schools address the mental health epidemic," Daily Pilot, May 7), Rebekah Sinclair seems to lay the blame on SEL (Social and Emotional Learning) for the rise in mental health illness among young people. If one reads the SEL literature (as found on Teachers First), the goals and purposes are "to provide a process ... to acquire and apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to develop healthy identities, manage emotions and

achieve personal and collective goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions." Nowhere is there evidence of "dogmatism, social justice indoctrination, identity politics," as stated by Sinclair. The RULER Approach, an evidence-based method developed by Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence, recognizes that emotions are an integral part of one's identity and mental health. The program trains educators and leaders first to understand the importance of emotional intelligence so they can model those qualities to students. It collaborates with parents and the community in applying that knowledge to help young people succeed in school and life beyond.

Jean Toh

Newport Beach

Tents pop up in Newport Beach

Homelessness now has a very public face and

location in Newport Beach. The bus terminal off to the right of Avocado Avenue is becoming an encampment for a growing number of tents along the sidewalk. The number is literally growing daily, and went from six to 10 overnight — from Thursday, May 4, to Friday morning.

A Newport Police Department representative told me that state law allows this kind of encampment in cities where there is no suitable facility designated for the homeless and that as long as they allow 3 feet between their tents and the sidewalk, it is legally permissible. I can predict that word will spread quickly by the homeless that Newport Beach is hospitable to their coming and setting up their tents without interference. All they have to do is take a bus to the terminal and conveniently set up shelter along the sidewalk.

Not only is allowing the encampment going to create safety and hygiene problems for the transit station, but it also means office and medical buildings, shops and residences in Irvine Terrace are going to be subject to wandering homeless people when they decide to leave their tents and go looking for financial assistance.

Although I have not believed up to now that homelessness was a significant issue here, it now is going to escalate into a complicated problem if no alternate solution to permitting a tent city can be found. Here comes everybody.

Steven Hendlin Newport Beach

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

Crossword puzzle grid with words filled in: SHIP, SAMBA, ABCS, TUNA, ODIGUM, BEAU, EGGS, LONGISLAND, PER, CAPE, KATES, EDICT, LIZ, SEDATE, SAFEST, PRIME, SHELF, HUT, ONES, PIETA, SAME, TIN, TOTES, COMMA, ETCHES, MOSEYS, HOT, OUTF, UPPER, RUSE, ADO, TOURNAMENT, ICED, ALLY, PEACE, NEED, HELL, TAPER, ADDS

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

Obituary for Ann Kempson Grau, October 19, 1931 - February 13, 2023. Text describes her life, family, and a memorial service on May 27 at El Toro Memorial Park.

A taste of Europe at Paseo 17

Milligram Coffee + Kitchen focuses on table service at the former Plaza Sereno in Costa Mesa.

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

Paseo 17, formerly Plaza Sereno, in Costa Mesa used to be a medical plaza. Now, the recently reimagined center is home to a diverse mix of dining and shopping tenants offering home goods, beauty, jewelry, clothing and more.

“We completed the remodel because the property has great potential to be a gathering place for the local Costa Mesa and Newport Beach communities,” said Bryon Ward, president and chief operating officer of Burnham Ward Properties, which owns and manages the plaza. “We’re proud of the aesthetic that the remodel created.”

Spanish-style architecture, arched walkways and terra cotta tiles house newly branded boutiques, like Layered by Paige Elise, Mama Bijoux and restaurants like Greenleaf Kitchen & Cocktails and Milligram Coffee + Kitchen.

“We fell in love with this space” said Ed Moffatt, owner of Milligram Coffee + Kitchen, on the wooden deck that overlooks Paseo 17’s water fountain.

Originally from Melbourne, Australia, Moffatt also owns Common Room Roasters, a popular specialty coffee roastery in Newport Beach.

Espresso machines were introduced to Australia by generations of Italian and Greek immigrants after World War II, and the 1950s enjoyed an espresso boom. That method of brewing coffee came to be preferred over drip coffee, which is favored in the States.

Moffatt brought his experience working as a head roaster in Melbourne to Common Room Roasters and is now bringing that expertise to Milligram, a European-style coffee shop where customers are encouraged to savor their cup, with table service, a full menu and, of course, well-made coffee.

“We tried to blur the lines between coffee shop, restaurant and wine bar, all [mixed] together” said Moffatt. “It is all of those



Photos courtesy of Milligram Coffee

MILLIGRAM COFFEE'S large wooden deck extends into Paseo 17's courtyard. Table service is essential to the shop's vision, owner Ed Moffatt says.



MILLIGRAM COFFEE serves a European-style breakfast, lunch and specialty coffees. The shop recently added a happy hour on Fridays from 4 to 6 p.m.

three things without being any one of them.”

Rather than ordering a coffee with a cashier on one end and picking it up minutes later from a

barista on the other end, guests at Milligram are asked if they wish to dine in or take out.

“Table service is always a non-negotiable,”

said Moffatt. “You can obviously order to-go coffee at the counter, but you can also get seated, get menus, get served at the table. We have no QR

codes. It is old-fashioned customer service.”

Milligram is coming up on its first anniversary in June, and the neighborhood has embraced its style of service, Moffatt said.

“I find a lot of the patrons are conditioned in café world to order at the counter,” Moffatt said. “Now they come marching in and sit down at a table. Now people love it.”

The service ultimately allows customers to spend more time connecting with each other at a table rather than waiting in line alone.

“If you go sit down, and we bring it all to you, you can hang out as a family and let us do it,” said Moffatt.

Milligram offers a European-inspired menu with items like a smoked salmon bagel for breakfast and sandwiches and salads at lunchtime along with “grazing plates” served until closing, and it recently added a happy hour

on Fridays from 4 to 6 p.m.

The shop's large wooden deck extends into Paseo 17's courtyard and hosts Vinyl Sundays on the first Sunday of each month for music lovers. Moffatt said as the weather warms, he plans to begin hosting wine-tasting nights, highlighting wines from Australia one month and France the next.

The space, located at 243 E. 17th St., is available for special and private events, and Moffatt said Milligram has many ways to be of service.

“It can be whatever you need it to be. So people have it as a coffee place, some people it is a brunch place,” said Moffatt. “For some people it is a working lunch, some people it is an afternoon glass of wine and charcuterie board type place. Everyone uses it for a different thing.”

sarah.mosqueda
@latimes.com
Twitter: @SarahNMos

BEES

Continued from page A1

family's story coming in to Orange County over 30 years ago,” said Rojas. “I believe the bees, like migrants, don't deviate from their purpose, regardless of where they land.”

When we think about bees, we typically call to mind honey, pollination and maybe the way the work they do feeds us.

“But we don't think about what they have to go through sometimes in order to travel to some of these agriculture spaces,” said Rojas.

Rojas' current installation, “With Honey in the Mouth — Con Miel en la Boca,” at Grand Central Art Center in Santa Ana was inspired by these connections.

The exhibit, partially supported by the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, is the result of a two-year artist-in-residence that began with a trip back to Colombia to reconnect with Rojas' childhood school and to meet with beekeeper Don Oscar Castelblanco in San Agustin, who keeps hives in the Andes Mountains.

“He showed me this beeswax he was selling, and I was like that looks like I can sculpt from that,” said Rojas.

The subsequent beeswax sculptures are on display in the show, formed in collaboration with eight active bee colonies placed in Rojas' Santa Ana backyard.

The sculptures are like open flowers, with honeycomb formed by Rojas' bees decorating the edges of the petals like jewels. Positioned on light-boxes,



Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

ALICIA ROJAS is seen in the photo on the right creating a beeswax sculpture in collaboration with eight active bee colonies in her Santa Ana backyard.

the sculptures are illuminated from below, lighting up all the hexagonal crevices that still smell faintly of honey.

“Con Miel en la Boca” also incorporates photography and video shot in Santa Ana and Colombia with assistance from local filmmaker and photographer SteadyJenny.

“It was important for me to document how this was going to come about,” Rojas said.

Two screens show footage of the bees working together on Rojas' sculptures, buzzing steadily around the hives in her backyard while photos on an opposite wall depict hives perched on mountains in Colombia. There is also a shot of Rojas in a beekeeper suit tending to her own bees at home, a practice she learned with help from Orange County beekeeper Alejandro Soto of the Bee Army.

The installation includes

personal oral history with audio recordings of Rojas' family telling the story of their immigration, playing over the hum of buzzing bees and sound work composed by Rojas' son, musician Gabriel Lopez Rojas.

The stories told by her family are sweet, but like honey, can get sticky, and Rojas admits that at first her family was reluctant to share them.

“What I tried to do was create a safe uplifting storytelling process,” said Rojas. “It took a lot of conversations to even get there.”

Told in Spanish, family members talk about what it was like for them when they first left Colombia and went to Mexico before arriving in the U.S., working morning until night to make a home in a new land.

Gabriel Lopez Rojas' music, played on clarinet, sax and flute, helps to break up the heavy tone of

some of the stories, a reprise in a song that hums as deeply and as steadily as the hives buzz.

“His piece releases some of the tension,” Rojas said.

“Con Miel en la Boca” is Rojas' first collaboration with her son, and in many ways a continuation of her family's story, which is built on matriarchs working hard for their children.

“My son is first generation, and I am so incredibly proud because he is also part of this process, he is listening to these stories, he is contributing,” said Rojas.

The installation, on display until Sept. 10 is a way for Rojas to highlight the resilience of those determined to survive, wherever they land.

“It is just a beautiful line between nature and humans.”

sarah.mosqueda
@latimes.com
Twitter: @SarahNMos

MARKETPLACE

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

MERCHANDISE
800

Miscellaneous
Merchandise

Vinyl Records Wanted

\$55 Top cash paid
4 all or part of collection.
Jazz, Classical,
Psychedelic, Blues
949-933-6777 Mike

Sell your unwanted items
the easy way! Place a
Classified ad today!
(714) 966-4600

CLASSIFIED

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

Bids Wanted

Bids Wanted

CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

Sealed bids shall be submitted electronically via PlanetBids to office of the City Clerk, 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660

By 10:00 AM on the 8th day of June, 2023, at which time such bids shall be opened and read for

ARROYO PARK SYNTHETIC FIELD INSTALLATION

PROJECT NO. 23P11

CONTRACT NO. 8891-2

\$2,650,000

Engineer's Estimate

Approved by

James M. Houlihan
Deputy PWD/City Engineer

Prospective bidders may obtain Bid Documents, Project Specifications and Plans via PlanetBids: <http://www.planetbids.com/portal/portal.cfm?CompanyID=22078>

Mouse Graphics at (949) 548-5571
659 W. 19th Street, Costa Mesa, CA 92627

Contractor License Classification(s) required for this project: "A"

For further information, call Tom Sandefur,
Project Manager at (949) 644-3321

NOTICE:

No contractor or subcontractor may be listed on a bid proposal for a public works project (submitted on or after March 1, 2015) unless registered with the Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to Labor Code section 1725.5 (with limited exceptions from this requirement for bid purposes only under Labor Code section 1771.1(a)).

No contractor or subcontractor may be awarded a contract for public work on a public works project (awarded on or after April 1, 2015) unless registered with the Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to Labor Code section 1725.5.

This project is subject to compliance monitoring and enforcement by the Department of Industrial Relations.



A sophisticated treatment that gets you back to the simple things.

Incisionless Essential Tremor treatment with immediate results.

Now you can get back to the simple things, whether it's steadily holding a cup of coffee in the quiet hours of the morning or clearly writing your name, all with a minimally invasive procedure - MR-guided Focused Ultrasound (MRgFUS). MemorialCare Orange Coast Medical Center, with the most experienced MRgFUS neurosurgeon on the West Coast, offers this treatment for Essential Tremor and Tremor-Dominant Parkinson's disease. Incisionless. Fast recovery time. And shown in clinical studies to provide immediate tremor improvement. Now you can get back to enjoying life's every moment with one treatment. Pure and simple.

Find out if treatment is right for you.

(800) 758-5817
memorialcare.org/tremor


MemorialCareTM
Orange Coast Medical Center