



Courtesy of Gus Martinez

SPECTATORS WATCH the Fourth of July fireworks show over the Huntington Beach Pier in 2019.

Sparks set to fly as county celebrates Independence Day

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

Celebrating the Fourth of July with a mesmerizing fireworks display is a tradition as American as apple pie. After spending the day at the beach or attending a backyard barbecue there are several parks and beaches you can head to in Orange County to see sparks fly this Independence Day. Fireworks shows are even planned

for July 3 and 5. Whenever you decided to celebrate, do it with a bang at one of these O.C. fireworks displays.

ANAHEIM

Disneyland is known for its nightly fireworks display, but you don't have to brave the park to see it. Tickets for Paseo's Fourth of July Celebration are still available. The recently opened concept from Michelin starred-chef

Carlos Gaytán is offering premiere terrace seating at the Downtown Disney restaurant with a perfect view of the fireworks. The celebration features an exclusive prix-fix menu featuring dishes like tuna ceviche, grilled New York strip steak and grilled jumbo shrimp. Tickets are priced at \$250 for a table for two, with the credit applied to the final bill. Get your tickets at by visiting paseoanaheim.com.

*Paseo at Downtown Disney
1580 Disneyland Drive, Unit 106,
Anaheim; fireworks at 9:30 p.m.*

COSTA MESA

Costa Mesa is one of the few cities in Orange County that allow the use of approved fireworks by residents. On Thursday's holiday you will hear many such backyard celebratory explo-

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Don Leach | Staff Photographer

ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:

STANTON LAUNCHES 'SAFE STREETS TOGETHER' CAMPAIGN TO CURB SEX TRAFFICKING PAGE A2

TIPSTERS TO SPLIT \$100K AFTER HELPING CRACK ROAD-RAGE KILLING CASE PAGE A3

'WHAT WE NEEDED': DIN TAI FUNG SOFT OPENS AT DOWNTOWN DISNEY DISTRICT PAGE A5

RECENTLY RENOVATED HISTORIC SWANNER HOUSE PUTS OUT THE WELCOME MAT FOR SPECIAL EVENTS PAGE A7

Report examines food security, nutrition and access

BY MATT SZABO

Orange County has been in a fortunate position, with two food banks to serve the needy among its more than 3 million residents.

The olive branch was extended when former Second Harvest Food Bank chief executive Harald Herrmann arranged to meet with Mark Lowry, the director of Community Action of Orange County's OC Food Bank.

Herrmann approached the meeting with a spirit of collaboration, not competition. Lowry appreciated that.

He said there are often areas in California and elsewhere where two food banks saw themselves as competitors — at best.

"At worst, they're at war with each other," Lowry said. "To our credit, the two food banks have been polite and respectful and

courteous toward one another. But Harald challenged me and said, 'That's nice, but it's not good enough. This is an issue that affects all of Orange County, and we're not sitting at that table together, agreeing on a strategy together about how to address hunger.'"

This discussion was the cornerstone for what became the Orange County Hunger Alliance, founded in 2020 during the coronavirus pandemic as a partnership between both of the local food banks and Abound Food Care.

Abound Food Care, the lead agency for the OC Hunger Alliance, is a nonprofit that also addresses food insecurity by examining food waste.

On June 13, nearly 200 cross-

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A MAN PICKS out vegetables at Orange Coast College as part of Second Harvest Food Bank's college pantry program.

Courtesy of Kevin Rogers
Second Harvest Food Bank

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Stanton launches campaign to curb sex trafficking

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

In an effort to discourage sex trafficking, two new solar-powered mobile cameras are going up around “hot spots” in Stanton.

The approach is two-fold, according to city officials.

An around-the-clock recorded livestream will serve as a visual deterrent for potential sex buyers.

But the cameras will also feature an audio recording that, when triggered, will play bilingual messages offering victim support information to sex workers exploited by pimps.

The Stanton City Council approved the camera rentals on Tuesday as an early step toward the city's official “Safe Streets Together: United Against Exploitation” campaign, which launches in July and is its latest effort to address sex trafficking, mostly along Beach Boulevard.

“We’re trying to provide a lot of visual cues,” Hannah Shin-Heydorn, Stanton's city manager, told TimesOC. “Our goal is not to be secretive about this. Our community, our residents and businesses are very supportive.”

With close proximity to tourist destinations, freeway onramps and a thoroughfare dotted with seedy motels, sex trafficking has plagued Stanton off-and-on since the mid-1980s.

Over the decades, city officials have deployed an array of strategies, from limiting the number of motel room rentals within a 24-hour period to publicly outing sex buyers.

Stanton even passed a public nudity law which targeted, in part, sex workers who advertised certain body parts not covered by skimpy wear with misdemeanor offenses.

The approach seemed to work for three months before sex workers learned how to avoid citation. Even when cited, a judge would hand out a small fine that did little to deter sex trafficking along Beach Boulevard.

“It felt strange and unproductive to be focusing on the supply side,” Shin-Heydorn said. “The prostitutes are the human trafficking victims. They’re part of this vicious cycle and they’re viewed as replaceable by the person making money off of them.”

In the meantime, Sacramento legislators passed the Safer Streets for All Act in 2022, which repealed a law against loitering with the intent to sell sex.

Advocates for the bill argued that law enforcement disproportionately targeted Latino, Black and trans people for loitering violations. Opponents contended that it would remove a critical tool in the fight against sex trafficking.

“There are some unintended consequences with laws that are passed out of Sacramento, where it makes sense for one community or city in terms of how the

problem is manifesting there, but it doesn't always make sense in how it's been applied to other communities and cities,” Shin-Heydorn explained.

In announcing the Safe Streets Together campaign, Stanton held a town hall on May 29 at City Hall.

City officials detailed a multipronged approach that includes banners that have already been hoisted up on city-owned poles to promote the campaign.

Key side streets off Beach Boulevard are also being targeted for no stopping signs to curb sex acts that often take place after solicitation along the main highway.

Parking restrictions are slated for change to target lots that remain empty long after businesses close and provide a dark corner for similar transactions.

Stanton, which is patrolled by the Orange County Sheriff's Department, is beefing up overtime hours for deputies to enforce the new rules.

In addition to a new enforcement strategy, the city will distribute postcards with QR codes linking to Waymakers, a nonprofit that offers direct services for sex trafficking victims, and the Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force.

“We’re trying to offer help for those who are interested,” Shin-Heydorn said. “But we’re also sending a message to the purchaser.”

Stanton is partnering with the county's sheriff's department, district attorney's office, human trafficking task force and transportation agency in the effort.

It's also taking a page from Santa Ana's playbook in partnership with the city. One approach Stanton seeks to emulate is how Santa Ana turned to traffic restrictions during certain hours to target solicitation, which helped curb sex trafficking along Harbor Boulevard.

Readying for its July launch, Stanton's campaign will also feature lawn signs for residents and businesses.

Meetings are slated to provide updates how the effort is panning out.

Stanton's short stretch of Beach Boulevard has already made positive strides in recent years through new retail, dining and housing developments, including motel conversions.

Shin-Heydorn believes Stanton residents deserve the best quality of life while addressing sex trafficking in a way that balances enforcement with empathy.

“If individuals are not willing to accept services, they're not allowed to do illegal things in the city,” she said. “But at the same time, this council and this community has compassion and sympathy for those who are victims.”

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Don Leach | Staff Photographer

SAFE STREETS banners hang along Beach Boulevard in Stanton on Thursday.

Our cancer discoveries are your victories.

Your victories are our motivation, driving us to unlock the next breakthrough. Our dedication to discovery means more targeted therapies, fewer side effects and innovative care for patients like you. Your fight is our fight, and together, we never cease in our commitment to a cancer-free world.

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Newport Harbor graduate kicks off biz with a splash – and a slide

BY LILLY NGUYEN

When he was growing up, Landon Leguina's mother always rented out inflatable water slides for his June birthday parties. Between those and the parties organized on his street for the kids and neighbors to connect, those inflatable playsets held a lot of fond memories for him.

Now 18, he hopes to be able to facilitate those memories for other kids too.

Leguina, a recent Newport Harbor High School graduate, officially launched his business — Splash n Slide — in the spring of this year and was booked for two parties so far, with more on the way as the summer gets into full swing.

He said he's been thinking about starting the business for at least two years, after talking about entrepreneurship with his step-father.

“I've always been interested in [the slides and bounce houses] since I was a kid, so we got the idea, but we stepped forward on it last summer. But I'd ended up be-



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

COSTA MESA resident and entrepreneur Landon Leguina, a recent Newport Harbor High School graduate, recently launched Splash n Slide, a small business that rents bounce houses and slides.

ing gone a lot, so I wasn't able to put in as much time and effort as I wanted to. That's why this spring and summer, it's really been my focus,” Leguina said.

“I really started in February, so we could be set up for spring and

summer, which would be what I thought was my busier season. I started making stickers, making fliers, going door-to-door. And, we had some great leads,” he said. “I got a small personal loan from my mom that I'm paying back now,

but we bought a water slide and a bounce house after I did some research.”

Now, Leguina said he's the proud owner of four water slides. Depending on the size requested and the dates of parties, all-day rentals are around \$150 on average for bounce houses and \$350 on average for the water slides. He said he negotiates costs with customers and that his business sometimes rolls out discounts.

For his part, Leguina said he does a lot of the business on his own, having learned through YouTube videos and asking questions. Deployment is another story. Sometimes friends he's hired will help him transport the slides and set them up at venues because of the sheer weight and size.

Sometimes, he uses the slides and bounce houses to host events in his own neighborhood — his way of giving back.

“I do really enjoy working for a service, especially a local one. I feel good about knowing that kids will have fun because I used to be in those shoes. I remember how much I loved them for my birth-

days and I enjoy knowing that I can do that for other people,” Leguina said. “The other side of that is that I can see myself being entrepreneurial. This whole experience has been really beneficial for me, and I like learning how to run a business better so that I can set myself up for the future.”

Leguina said he's heading to Orange Coast College in the fall, where he'll be studying communications and business. He added he hopes to continue running the business locally even after he transfers to another school.

He said he has other business ideas he wants to eventually pursue, but that it's his wish to keep Splash n Slide going for as long as he can. He encourages other young business-minded people to try to chase their ideas if they feel true passion for them.

“The longer you wait, the harder it'll become. The earlier you start, the better you can set up. But it's definitely not easy,” he said with a laugh.

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Tipsters to split \$100K after helping crack Aiden Leos road-rage killing

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

With Marcus Eriz serving a 40 years to life in prison sentence for the murder of 6-year-old Aiden Leos in a road-rage incident, Orange County supervisors approved a reward offered in exchange for tips that led to his arrest.

Laura Keith, Jesica Rodriguez and Raul Martinez all provided critical information to law enforcement agencies following the May 21, 2021, shooting on the 55 Freeway in Orange that killed Leos as his mother drove him to kindergarten.

The California Highway Patrol served as the lead agency investigating the crime and determined how the \$100,000 reward offered by county supervisors would be apportioned between the three.

After a unanimous vote by county supervisors, Keith will receive 70% of the reward. Rodriguez will get 20% and the remaining 10% will go to Martinez.

During Tuesday's meeting, board chair Don Wagner thanked



File Photo

ORANGE COUNTY Supervisor Don Wagner put \$50,000 from his district funds as reward money to catch Leos' killer.

the tipsters, law enforcement and the O.C. district attorney's office for helping to solve the crime.

"You come after the least of us, we're coming after you," Wagner said.

In January, an Orange County

jury found Eriz, a Costa Mesa man, guilty of second-degree murder.

Eriz rode in the front passenger seat of a white Volkswagen driven by Wynne Lee, his girlfriend at the time, when the road-rage incident turned

deadly.

Joanna Cloonan, Leos' mother, drove a Chevrolet with her son strapped to a booster seat behind her when she said Lee cut her off on the freeway. Lee flashed a taunting peace sign. Cloonan flipped her off, in turn. That's when Eriz reached for a Glock pistol and shot at Cloonan's car, striking Leos.

In April, Lee pleaded guilty to being an accessory to the crime and to carrying a concealed weapon in the vehicle. She received a four-year prison sentence but was freed on time served.

Days after the shooting, Wagner and Supervisor Katrina Foley each put up \$50,000 from their respective district budgets for any information that could help lead to the arrest of the suspects after the crime.

Martinez witnessed the shooting on the freeway and provided authorities with a photograph of the suspect's vehicle, according to the staff report.

On June 4, 2021, Rodriguez

sent an email on her father's behalf that noted Eriz worked at a Gerber Collision body shop, had an Asian girlfriend and claimed they drove a white Volkswagen.

Keith and her husband worked at the body shop with both suspects. She provided authorities with the suspects' names, where they lived and information about the Ford Ranger they were driving to avoid developing leads on the Volkswagen.

Twenty-four hours after Keith's tip, Eriz and Lee were arrested on June 6, 2021.

Foley said during the board meeting on Tuesday that the speedy tips helped stave off the possibility of the suspects fleeing justice.

"The tips provided by these witnesses were literally instrumental in apprehending the suspects quickly," she said. "I remind the community, when you see something, say something."

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Dr. Maheswari Senthil is a nationally recognized surgical oncologist who specializes in the management of advanced abdominal cancers.



File Photo

THE ORANGE COUNTY Board of Supervisors this week decided not to renew its contract with Groundswell, a Santa Ana-based nonprofit that supports the work of the O.C. Human Relations Commission. Above, guests gather at Groundswell's offices during a tour in May 2023.

AGAINST

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30.

That initiative also failed to gain support.

In December 2022, the county signed a \$750,000 contract with Groundswell for commission programs and services, including Hate Prevention Network meetings.

The end of the partnership comes amid rising hate in O.C. against vulnerable groups that have been charted in annual reports released by the commission in tandem with the nonprofit.

A report released last year found that in 2022 there had been a 67% increase in hate crimes over the previous year.

"It is doubly concerning that the Board of Supervi-

sors would fail to renew this contract ... during an election cycle when many of these communities will be scapegoated and targeted," said Amr Shabaik, legal director for the Council on American-Islamic Relations in Los Angeles.

The contract's expiration also arrives as the commission has faced divisions from within over how to combat hate against Jewish and Palestinian Americans after the Gaza War.

"Though I do not know why the Orange County Board of Supervisors decided to not renew the contract, there is plenty of cause to question why an anti-hate organization is failing to fight against hate when the Jewish people are targeted," said Rabbi Peter Levi, regional direc-

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File Photo

COUNTY SUPERVISOR Andrew Do requested the shift as simple housekeeping.

REPORT

Continued from page A1

sector shareholders met at Dwelling Place in Anaheim to discuss findings from a new community needs assessment that examined the state of food and nutrition security in Orange County.

Claudia Bonilla Keller, who took over as the chief executive of Second Harvest in 2022, said many of the data points and conclusions in the survey reinforced what those in the industry already knew, regarding the importance of choice in food pantries.

"The old way, which really kind of hit its zenith during the COVID-19 pandemic, of handing somebody a box or a bag of food, really isn't optimum in terms of dignity for people experiencing hunger," Bonilla Keller said. "It's also not optimum for reducing food waste, because if you don't get to pick your food there's a good chance there will be food that's not ap-



File photo

MARK LOWRY, left, OC Food Bank director, helps collect butternut squash at Westminster High School in 2022.

propriate for you or your taste."

Along with choice of pantries, the survey highlighted the importance of good, nutritious food, including options that are rich in protein.

Lowry, who has been in the field for nearly 40 years, said the old adage used to be that people suffering from food insecurity

should simply be thankful for what they get. But the switch to healthier options has come with the realization that the service provided is more long-term than short-term.

"By far the two largest populations we serve are seniors on fixed incomes and the working poor, people that are working at full-time jobs but simply aren't

earning a living wage and enough to meet the needs of their family," Lowry said. "Those people are receiving food, maybe not just for a short period of time but on a consistent basis ... and there are long-term consequences for people without protein in their diets, in terms of their health and life outcomes."

Participants in the survey, conducted in collaboration with nonprofit Charitable Ventures and funded by the Orange County Health Care Agency's Office of Population, Health and Equity, included more than 189 community organizations and 811 Orange County residents. It touched on seven primary themes: demographics, utilization, capacity, referral services, unmet needs, barriers to access and areas of improvement.

More than half of respondents said they struggle to access benefits and services. According to the USDA Food Access Research Atlas, there were 74 low-income census tracts

in Orange County in 2019, where a significant share of residents lived more than half a mile from the nearest supermarket. These areas, largely in central or northwest Orange County, made up 13% of the census tracts countywide.

The survey also showed that less than half of providers allow for food choice. The need for culturally appropriate food is another challenge.

The executives agreed that one of the initial barriers to food insecurity discussion is the perception of wealth in this county.

Another issue is that food insecurity isn't always easily visible.

"There's a segment of the population that is gainfully employed, they have mortgages, they have health insurance — and they're food insecure," said Mike Learakos, the Abound Food Care CEO. "The first thing you cut back on, the first thing you skip, is that one thing you need everyday. It's food."

Learakos said over a five-

year period, 125 million pounds of food was recovered in Orange County. That's food that used to be going to a landfill.

The OC Hunger Alliance also has new additions to its steering committee, including 211 Orange County, CalOptima Health, Meals on Wheels, Orange County Grantmakers and the Orange County Social Services Agency.

The group plans to take the survey results and keep working.

"The survey helped identify the 'what,' what the needs are," Lowry said. "Now we have to start talking about the 'who.' Now that we've identified all of this stuff, who has the capacity to follow up on these recommendations, these identified needs, and how? Much of what was discussed costs money. One of the jokes in food banking is, it costs a lot of money to hand stuff out for free."

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DAY

Continued from page A1

sions, but on Wednesday, the city will host a free Independence Day community celebration at the O.C. fairgrounds. Admission and parking are free and guests are encouraged to bring their own picnics, lawn chairs and blankets. Food and drinks will be available for purchase. No outside alcohol is permitted. The event will also feature a bounce house for the kids and live music from a local favorite, Tijuana Dogs.

*O.C. fairgrounds
88 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa –
Lot A; 5 to 11 p.m. on July 3;
fireworks at 9:30 p.m.*

DANA POINT

Dana Point Harbor will host a couple festive events to celebrate Independence Day, including the harbor's annual spectacular firework display. The activities in the harbor begin at noon with Water Wars. The event encourages participants to paddle out to the main channel in boats ranging from small inflatables to 20-plus-foot fishing boats for an epic water battle. Posts are still available for the harbor's daily Whale a Watching Tours with Dana Wharf Sportfishing. The fireworks show begins at 9 p.m., with the pyrotechnics shot from a barge off the coastline of Doheny State Beach.

*Dana Point Harbor
34571 Golden Lantern
Dana Point; noon to 9:30
p.m.; fireworks at 9 p.m.*

HUNTINGTON BEACH

Pacific City in Huntington Beach will host a Fourth of July celebration complete with views of the Huntington Beach Pier and a VIP barbecue. From 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., the Ocean Deck between Lemonade and Simmy's will be open, with live music from Midnight Martini and barbecue and booze available for purchase. Entry and chairs are priced at \$20 per person, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting Alzheimer's Assn. Food will be available until 8 p.m., and the bar will remain open until the midpoint of the fireworks, which is estimated to be around 9:15 p.m.

*Pacific City
21010 Pacific Coast Hwy.,
Huntington Beach;
11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.;
fireworks at 9 p.m.*

The 120th Huntington Beach Independence Day Event includes "Fireworks over the Ocean" at the Huntington Beach Pier. Presented by the Mayer Family Foundation, the celebration is open to the public and enjoyable by beach viewing. A limited number of tickets for reserved seating on the pier remain available. Early entry tickets are priced at \$42 per person and general admission tickets are priced at \$32 and are good for seating on the Pier at Main & Pacific Coast Highway in Huntington Beach. The Pier will open at 7 p.m. for early entry ticket holders and 7:30 p.m. for general seating. While there is no alcohol permitted, fireworks viewers can bring bags and coolers. Chairs will be provided. Firework show will begin at 9 p.m. Buy tickets by visiting



Courtesy of Dana Point Harbor

DANA POINT Harbor celebrates Independence Day with a bang.



Courtesy of Newport Dunes Waterfront Resort & Marina

TUNES AT the Dunes live entertainment at Independence Day on the Back Bay.

hb4thofjuly.org.

*Huntington Beach Pier
325 Pacific Coast Hwy.,
Huntington Beach; 7:30 to 9
p.m.; fireworks at 9 p.m.*

IRVINE

Principal Pops Conductor emeritus, Richard Kaufman, will conduct the Pacific Symphony for a July 4 Spectacular at Great Park Live, Irvine's new temporary live music venue. Enjoy a patriotic selection of orchestral music from the Pacific Symphony, like "Liberty Fanfare" and "America the Beautiful." The special event will also include the music of rock band Chicago, performed by Brass Transit, and end with a fireworks spectacular. Concert-goers can also preorder boxed meals, appetizers and wine from 24 Carrots. Buy tickets at *pacifichsymphony.org*.

*Great Park Live
8000 Great Park Blvd.,
Irvine; concert at 8 p.m.;
fireworks at finale*

LAGUNA BEACH

The city of Laguna Beach outlaws all fireworks, including those regarded as "safe and sane" by other cities. That means you won't see even a sparkler lit in Laguna on the Fourth of July. You can however, check out the 4th of July Drone Show from Heisler Park. The drone light show begins at 9 p.m. from Monument Point and viewers are encouraged to tune into the Voice of Laguna and KXFM Radio, where a live audio simulcast of patriotic music will broadcast with

the show. Note that some areas of Heisler Park will be closed for the day in preparation for the drone show and at the area of Heisler Park from Myrtle Street to the Rockpile Beach stairs at Jasmine Street will be closed to the public beginning at 5 p.m. for the duration of the show.

*Heisler Park
361 Cliff Drive, Laguna
Beach; drone light show
at 9 p.m.*

NEWPORT BEACH

Newport Dunes Waterfront Resort & Marina offers an entire weekend of Fourth of July festivities with Celebrate Independence Day on the Back Bay. Live music, movies on the beach and more are planned for the four-day weekend, but it's the fireworks display on the Fourth, billed as one of the largest in Southern California, that really brings out the crowds. Gates open at 8 a.m. on Thursday for attendees to stake their claim with beach chairs and umbrellas. The Inflatable Aquatic Park will be open and food trucks and a full bar will be available for snacks and libations. Live music at the Tunes at the Dunes show will include performances from the Class, playing Top 40 hits and classic rock from 5 to 8 p.m. and the firework show will begin at 9 p.m. You can reserve parking for \$100 in the main paved lot off Jamboree and Back Bay Drive. Day-of parking will be priced at \$50 at an unpaved lot accessible

from Bayside Drive and Pacific Coast Highway.

*Newport Dunes Waterfront
Resort & Marina
1131 Back Bay Drive, New-
port Beach; 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.;
fireworks at 9 p.m.*

VEA Newport Beach invites O.C. residents to take a staycation this Fourth of July with the Independence Day Celebration package. The stay will include mini flags upon check-in and stuffed animals for children. There will be live music on Friday and poolside DJs throughout the weekend. Families can spend the weekend by the pool or playing lawn games like ping-pong, cornhole, connect four and Jenga on the Sunset Lawn. On Thursday guests are invited to the Red, White and VEA Blue BBQ and will have a front row seats to the Newport Beach Country Club Fireworks show. Visit *marriott.com* for room rates.

*VEA Newport Beach, A
Marriott Resort & Spa
900 Newport Center Drive,
Newport Beach; fireworks
at 9 p.m.*

ORANGE

The city of Orange always gets a jump on the fireworks with a 3rd of July Celebration. The event is in its 29th year, hosted at Grijalva Park. Food trucks will be on hand and the Patriotic Music Program will star the Orange Community Master Chorale. Gates open at 6 p.m. and Orange Mayor Dan Slater will give remarks at 8 p.m. Fireworks will start at ap-

proximately 8:45 p.m. Admission is \$7 per person, although children under 2 are admitted free. Tickets can be purchased at the Orange Community Services Department or on site the day of the event. Limited parking will be available at Prospect Elementary School, as well as at El Modena and Esplanade high schools.

*Grijalva Park
368 N. Prospect St., Orange;
6 to 9 p.m. on July 3; fire-
works at 8:45 p.m.*

RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA

The Blind Pig Kitchen + Bar in Ranch Santa Margarita offers a perfect view of the SAMLARC Star Spangled Spectacular, a 5th of July tradition. Fireworks will light up the sky above the Lago Santa Margarita at 9 p.m., and the restaurant will have several seating options available on its newly renovated patio. Seats overlooking the lake are priced at \$75, while courtyard seating is priced at \$50. Diners will have the chance to sip craft cocktails and enjoy limited time specials from the Blind Pig like the Street Dog, an all beef, bacon-wrapped hot dog topped with caramelized onions, bell peppers, mayo, mustard and chives or Baby Back Ribs, spiced with peach barbecue sauce, chipotle aioli and served fried corn. Reservations can be made on Opentable.

*The Blind Pig Kitchen + Bar
31431 Santa Margarita
Pkwy., Rancho Santa Mar-
garita; fireworks at 9 p.m.
on July 5*

SAN CLEMENTE

The city of San Clemente is launching a new Independence Day celebration this year, "Stars, Stripes, & Slip 'N Slides." Taking place in downtown San Clemente, this family-friendly event will begin at 10 a.m. on Thursday. Admission is free, but activity wristbands for the event can be purchased for \$7 for San Clemente residents and \$12 for nonresidents. Activities will include a 300-foot San Clemente Slip 'N Slide, 17-foot water slide and giant inflatable 75-foot obstacle course, to name a few. Food trucks like Kona Ice and Currywurst Frankfurt will be on site, and a beer garden hosted by the Los Molinos Brewery team will be open to guests 21 and over, with proceeds

benefiting the Friends of San Clemente Beaches, Parks & Recreation Foundation. Live music will be provided by bluegrass group Hillbilly Crutch and Soul Kitchen, a tribute band to the Doors. After spending a day downtown, pull up a chair at the San Clemente Pier for a fireworks show beginning at 9 p.m.

*Downtown San Clemente
Avenida Victoria and
Avenida Rosa; 10 a.m. to 9
p.m.; fireworks at 9 p.m.*

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO

San Juan Capistrano's annual Fourth of July Celebration and fireworks display will take place in the athletic fields of Marco Forster Middle School this year. The party kicks off at 2 p.m. with live music from Flashback Heart Attack, Family Style and Tijuana Dogs. The event includes face painting for the kids, bounce houses, carnival style games and food trucks. The fireworks show begins at 9 p.m.

*Marco Forster Middle
School, 25601 Camino Del
Avion, San Juan Capi-
strano; 2 to 9:30 p.m.;
fireworks at 9 p.m.*

SANTA ANA

Centennial Park will host its annual Fourth of July Celebration on July 4 from 3 to 9:30 p.m. This free community event not only includes a spectacular fireworks show at 8:45 p.m. but live music, activities for kids and food trucks too. Attendees can look forward to performances from Ballet Folklorico Nueva Generación at 3 p.m., Cedar Tree Mariachi at 3:30 p.m. and Folklorico Alebrijes at 4 p.m. The Patriotic Pup Contest will begin at 7 p.m., with residents invited to bring their furry friends dressed in their best red, white and blue outfits. Plan to arrive early to secure your spot with lawn chairs and picnic blankets. Pets are welcome but must remain leashed.

*Centennial Park
3600 W. Edinger Ave., Santa
Ana; 3 to 9:30 p.m.;
fireworks at 8:45 p.m.*

TUSTIN

Tustin Parks and Recreation Department presents its annual Fourth of July Celebration at Tustin High School. From 6 a.m. to 5 p.m., Operation Warm Wishes will be collecting nonperishable food items for unhoused veterans in the school parking lot. Festivities at the baseball field begin at 6 p.m. with live music from Maroon Five tribute band, Maroon Vibes. Food trucks will also be parked on campus for the event. Seating will be available on the bleachers, and picnickers are welcome to set up blankets on the lawn, though it should be noted marshmallow fights are a tradition in that area. Parking will be available on campus too, for \$10 per vehicle, with the proceeds benefiting the Tustin High Dance Team. Pets are not permitted. The 20-minute aerial firework show will begin at 9 p.m.

*Tustin High School
1171 El Camino Real, Tustin
begins at 6 p.m.; fireworks
at 9 p.m.*

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AGAINST

Continued from page A3

tor of the Anti-Defamation League in Orange County.

Since the commission released separate statements in November opposing antisemitism and Islamophobia, its monthly meetings have turned into a forum on the war's impact on local communities.

Earlier this year, pro-Palestinian activists called on Commissioner Rabbi Rick Steinberg to resign or be removed after he voted against the Islamophobia statement, a stance he said was based on its framing of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, not prejudice against Muslims.

Activists also dubbed Steinberg a "bully" after

statements he made about defunding Groundswell.

More recently, Levi claimed Groundswell failed to act against antisemitism during Hate Prevention Network meetings, which includes a Palestine-Israeli work group.

Norma Lopez, executive director of the commission, defended Groundswell's work with the Hate Prevention Network during a commission meeting last month.

"We're looking for people to feel empowered to respectfully call each other in when there has been harm," she said. "That way we can serve as exemplars to the broader community. We hope to demonstrate that, even in the moments of disagreement, [we can] find ways to collaborate



Eric Licas

COMMISSIONER RABBI Rick Steinberg speaks out against critics accusing him of Islamophobia at a March meeting. He had claimed Groundswell failed to act against antisemitism.

harmoniously through the shared objective of eliminating bias-motivated hate."

None of the recent con-

tentiousness over the Gaza War arose during brief discussions about reorganizing the commission at recent Board of Supervisor

meetings.

Supervisor Andrew Do requested the shift as simple housekeeping.

"There is no change to the budget or staffing at this time," Do said during the June 11 budget hearing. "We're just directing the function to go internal."

After the budget hearing, the commission held a special meeting in Huntington Beach on June 13 where Groundswell all but bid farewell to commissioners.

"With the seven-year uptick in hate activity in county, we feel that it's more important than ever to continue to focus on anti-hate activity, to shine the light on the disparities that we see in our county," said Alison Edwards, Groundswell's chief execu-

tive. "We hope that this shift back to staffing the commission with county employees is a positive signal of the county's investment and leadership on human relations and fighting hate."

Lopez announced the meeting would be her last as executive director of the commission, a post she's held since 2017.

Groundswell's contract not being renewed gave Commissioner Ada Briceño a moment of pause during the meeting.

"I don't know where that puts us as commissioners," she said. "Frankly, this is the time that we need [Groundswell] the most."

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Dumplings added to Downtown Disney mix

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

There is no “Lightning Lane” for the latest attraction at Disneyland Resort in Anaheim.

On Monday, Din Tai Fung, which requires reservations, opened its doors with a limited menu for soft opening service ahead of offering full service beginning July 1st. In order to get a table at the newest restaurant at the Downtown Disney District, some hopeful diners resorted to persistently refreshing the Taiwanese eatery’s Yelp page.

“Literally, I just kept checking constantly, constantly on the Yelp app and at 10 p.m. last night a reservation showed up for 12:30 today,” Orange County resident Annika Espinoza said on opening day.

Two Din Tai Fung employees dressed in all black, armed with iPads and headsets, stood at the top of the steps leading to the 7,500-square-foot restau-

rant’s double doors, checking in guests.

“Opening our first stand-alone location in Downtown Disney District is an exciting chapter for us,” said Aaron Yang, vice president of Din Tai Fung USA. “We are immensely honored and excited to bring Asian-focused dining to the Downtown Disney District.”

Best known for xiao long bao, or steamed soup “dumplings,” Din Tai Fung’s Hong Kong location has been awarded a Michelin Star five times.

The Anaheim location sits at the west end of the district, just beyond the new mid-century modern entrance to Downtown Disney. Designed by the Rockwell Group, the restaurant incorporates a traditional Chinese pavilion rooftop structure with a modern touch on the exterior. The interior space includes the signature dumpling expo kitchen, giving diners a front-row seat to the dump-



Courtesy of Christian Thompson | Disneyland Resort

DIN TAI FUNG opens in the Downtown Disney District at the Disneyland Resort in Anaheim.

ling-making process.

“It smells so good,” one guest remarked to his companion as they strolled past Din Tai Fung. “Do you think they still have reservations?”

After seeing a social media post about the soft opening, Los Angeles resident Tetris Kelly hopped on the Yelp app and was able to snag one of the first reservations of the day.

“The food was great, I think the ambiance is beautiful [and] you have a view of the new area,” Kelly said, referring to the lawn space around the new Downtown Disney LIVE! Stage. “I think Disney is adding a lot to this end of Downtown Disney, where people can come eat, drink and have fun without going to the parks.”

When Din Tai Fung opens officially in July, the company plans to release

two new, limited collections of brand apparel to celebrate the occasion. DTF Essentials will feature streetwear-inspired unisex apparel embroidered with the original Din Tai Fung storefront in Taiwan, while the Anaheim Collection will focus on the company’s mascot, Bao Bao, on clothing and accessories.

Additionally, Din Tai Fung is donating \$50,000 as a sponsor of the July 21 CHOC Walk in the Park, presented by Disneyland Resort and dedicated to raising funds for programs, education and research for Children’s Hospital of Orange County.

The opening of Din Tai Fung follows three recently opened new concepts at Downtown Disney, Paseo, Centrico and Tiendita by Carlos Gaytán, who became the first Mexican-born chef to earn a Miche-

lin star, for his now shuttered Chicago restaurant Mexique. Gaytán also earned a star this year for his contemporary Mexican concept Ha’ in Xcaret, Mexico.

The star power at Downtown Disney is evocative of Walt Disney World, where Victoria & Albert’s, a new American dining establishment at Disney’s Grand Floridian Resort & Spa earned a Michelin Star this year, the first U.S. theme-park-owned restaurant to do so.

Even more high-caliber dining concepts are planned for Anaheim, like Porto’s Bakery, an expanded two-story Earl of Sandwich, food hall concept Parkside Market and a yet-to-be named steakhouse restaurant and barbecue eatery that will take over the former Tortilla Jo’s space.

The new dining options are a welcome change for diners like Espinoza.

“I really do think the food options at Downtown Disney have been very subpar in regards to food quality and even ambiance and atmosphere, Espinoza said. “I think there has been a lot of missing elements [and] I think Din Tai Fung here is filling in what we needed.”

Yang said Din Tai Fung is glad to be part of the changing culinary landscape at Disneyland Resort.

“We’re looking forward to serving guests from around the world as they visit during their theme park adventures, and we hope to invite them along on the Din Tai Fung journey celebrating culinary excellence and authenticity,” he said.

Din Tai Fung, at 1547 S. Disneyland Drive, is open from 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

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COLUMN | PATRICE APODACA

Expert weighs in after small earthquakes shake things up in O.C.

Many Orange County residents were undoubtedly agitated when the earth rumbled in early June — not once but three times in just a couple of days. Even those of us who grew up in earthquake country might have felt their anxiety levels spike during and immediately after the trio of minor but nerve-rattling temblors.

Not Lisa Grant Ludwig. She was excited. And that's good news for the rest of us.

Grant Ludwig is a leading expert on earthquakes. She is a Stanford and Caltech-educated geologist, current UC Irvine professor and chair of UCI Public Health's Department of Population Health and Disease Prevention. Past president of the Seismological Society of America, she has testified before Congress, received a medal from NASA and served on a federal advisory committee dedicated to earthquake safety.

I could go on listing Grant Ludwig's impressive credentials, but I think the point is clear: She is brilliant, knows as much or more than anyone about earthquakes — particularly those in our backyard — and she had devoted her career to reducing earthquake risks.

So she is exactly the person we want to get excited when we're hit with a few relatively mild quakes. That ebullience means that she learned something potentially important that could help her



Los Angeles Times

A BUILDING AND an automobile on Beacon Street in San Pedro were damaged by the Long Beach earthquake, a 6.4 seismic event that occurred on the Newport-Inglewood Fault in 1933.

and others who are working hard to keep all of us much safer when the ground shakes.

Grant Ludwig was born in Norway, but her family moved to California when she was very young. The 1971 San Fernando earthquake, which toppled the

church where she was baptized, made a big impression.

During her school years she was drawn to the earth sciences and what she describes as the interplay between the earth and humans. But it wasn't until she was in graduate school at Caltech

and the Whittier Narrows quake hit that her attention began turning from water pollution to earthquakes. She recalls a particular light-bulb moment inspired by a comment made by one of her professors that earthquakes don't kill people, buildings do.

"I was just really fascinated by earthquakes," she said. "It seemed to me a more challenging problem because you can't ever prevent earthquakes. The solution to the earthquake problem is a

See Apodaca, page A8

A WORD, PLEASE JUNE CASAGRANDE



Gabriella Angotti-Jones | Los Angeles Times

GUESTS dine at Sonny's Pizza & Pasta in San Clemente. Whether they enjoyed either is a good grammar question

Whether you use 'if' or 'whether' depends on the context

I don't pay attention to the difference between "if" and "whether." And that works out great. Just winging it, I have no trouble choosing "whether" in a sentence like "I don't know whether to order the pasta or the pizza" and I have no trouble choosing "if" in a sentence like "If I order the pizza, I'll have leftovers."

In those examples, I don't really have much choice. I'd never say, "I don't know if to order the pasta or the pizza," just as I'd never say, "Whether I order the pizza, I'll have leftovers."

But not all whether/if choices are as clean. For instance, would you say, "I don't know if it will rain" or "I don't know whether it will rain"? Both work because both are correct. Yet some language cops have tried to take the simple logic of certain whether/if choices and make it into a rule governing every whether/if choice.

For example, a post some years ago on the Lit Reactor website argued: "'Whether' expresses a condition where there are two or more alternatives. 'If' expresses a condition where there are no alternatives."

If this were true, which it's not, it would mean that you could never say "I



don't know if it will rain" because there are two alternatives: It may or it may not rain.

This kind of arbitrary rule-making is nothing new. Back in the 1700s, language experts were arguing that you can't use "if" after verbs like "question," "see" or "know." Different rule, same result: You can't say, "I don't know if it will rain."

There was no basis for this prohibition in the 1700s, and there's none now.

So why did anyone, at any point in history, waste even a minute trying to write a rule about "whether" and "if"? I'm not sure. It seems a lot of non-sensical grammar rules arose when people who were trying to explain some part of the language got carried away. They spotted some dynamic, like how you can't say "I don't know if to order the pasta" and tried to make a rule out of it, for example by declaring that you can't use "if" after "know." Soon, people are running around proclaiming that you can't say, "I don't know if it will rain."

But there are some real differences between "whether" and "if." As Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary explains

See Word, page A7

MAILBAG

Letter on bees caused positive buzz, but issue remains in the air

Ambrose, the patron saint of bees, must have been sitting on the shoulders of Orange County Supervisor Katrina Foley and Costa Mesa Mayor John Stephens when they arranged a reprieve for my bees after I was cited by Animal Control to either exile or destroy them within seven days. This reprieve is only temporary, however, until the Costa Mesa City Council votes at its August meeting whether to allow beekeeping in Costa Mesa.

This all started a few months back when Councilwoman Andrea Marr put native plants in her front garden, which soon were covered in bees. Then, at an Earth Day celebration at City Hall, she and I separately happened to meet Alberta Mirisciotti from Hey Honey, who said to Andrea, "We can raise chickens in Costa Mesa, why not bees?" At the June 4 council meeting, Marr quoted Mirisciotti and mentioned she would be talking to Animal Services about making beekeeping legal in Costa Mesa.

On June 8, I was cited for allowing bees to live in a trash can in my atrium for the last 10 years. Suddenly, I was a criminal beekeeper. So, I left a message for Marr and wrote to her and the other council members asking for a reprieve until the beekeeping ordinance was enacted. Hearing nothing, I wrote a letter to the editor of this paper. I called Alberta for an estimate to relocate my bees and started doing research. In 2023, Mirisciotti was on a beekeepers subcommittee of Animal Services. The group wrote a draft ordinance, using beekeeping best practices from Fullerton and incorporating input from the O.C. Beekeeping Assn. The liaison from the City Council did nothing with the information. But now Councilwoman Marr has it and is moving forward, with the backing of Supervisor Foley — previously Costa



Brian van der Brug | Los Angeles Times

A HONEY BEE on a rabbit bush. A reader is hoping the bees on her property will be saved by approval of a potential ordinance in Costa Mesa that would allow beekeeping.

Mesa's mayor — who is advocating for pollinator gardens and beekeeping in her entire district.

Bee advocates have deluged Marr with letters. And three people (including myself) spoke on behalf of beekeeping during public comments at the June 18 council meeting. Four council members voiced support, but that may not translate into votes in August. In the past, a few politically connected individuals have been able to force their minority opinions on everyone, while the council ignored the majority of scientists, experts and residents.

If enough people call, write and/or speak at the next couple of council meetings, this will greatly help. If the ordinance does pass, bee lovers must prepare to get permits, take classes to educate themselves and comply with other rules in order to keep bees. It's little to ask in order to maintain the health of our gardens, our food crops and the planet.

Priscilla Rocco
Costa Mesa

Zoning concerns in Costa Mesa

The proposed live-work project, with shrinking of workspace and parking requirements and elimination of others, is exactly the kind of mindless dismissal of development standards that caused the people of Costa Mesa to approve Measure Y by a landslide vote of 67%.

The purpose of the mixed-use zoning overlay was to upgrade the existing hodgepodge development that characterized the west side of Costa Mesa. Some development standards would be flexible, in exchange for amenities such as green space and communal gathering areas. But in implementing the plan, the developer-dominated city council of the 2010-14 period approved projects, such as the one across from Trader Joe's on W.17th Street, that flouted development standards and failed to provide needed amenities.

No city council would dare to consider approving such a project in affluent

Mesa Verde or the east side. But the westside demographic less affluent, largely Latino and older. It's been the place where anything goes. "Forget it, Jake, it's Chinatown."

Present council members rightly hesitated about the requested deviations for the proposed project and intimated that the time has come to plan for housing on the westside bluffs, rather than live-work units. The council must say no to the proposed project and should seriously consider replacing the failed live-work concept with housing appropriate to the location.

Eleanor Egan
Costa Mesa

Differences of opinion in H.B.

Really getting tired of the same old garbage opinions in the Daily Pilot Mailbag by the same leftists over and over again attacking our City Council because they don't agree with them on their leftist

See Mailbag, page A8

Recently renovated historic Swanner House puts out the welcome mat

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

The first thing most people notice when they step onto the Swanner House property is the scent of citrus. The event space has a small cluster of lemon and orange trees lined up at the back of the property near the bocce ball court and open land where a future farm is planned.

"All of the trees are still in bloom, and our little lemon and orange trees are giving off that citrus scent," said Michelle Searles, venue manager at Swanner House.

The two-story Craftsman house sits on 2.5 acres of the Northwest Open Space in San Juan Capistrano, on Camino Capistrano. Southern California developer Almquist, responsible for other projects in San Juan Capistrano including the soon-to-open outdoor retail and dining destination River Street Marketplace, undertook the property's renovation.

"Almquist acquired the space last March and hit the ground running," said Searles. "We went full-blown construction mode for the interior, the exterior and poured a lot of love and money into the property to restore it."

In 1913, Roger Y. Williams and his brother, William, purchased 347 acres of land in north San Juan Capistrano from Judge Richard Egan. With help from another brother, Guy, they initially farmed walnuts on the property, transitioning in the 1920s to oranges as their primary crop.

Roger and Lizzie Swanner Williams built the house, which was referred to then as the Roger Y. Williams House, in 1923, adding a matching garage and a water tower.

The family is often credited with pioneering the



THE SWANNER HOUSE, a two-story Craftsman, sits on 2.5 acres in San Juan Capistrano.

Photos by Kalani Cummins



SWEEPING VIEWS at the historic Swanner House property in San Juan Capistrano.

citrus industry in San Juan Capistrano, which flourished in the '30s and '40s.

Swanner family descendants owned the property until 1991, when the city of San Juan Capistrano bought the land. In 2007, the house, water tower and garage were listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In order to preserve its history, Searles said care was taken to keep many of the original details of the house.

"The bones of the structure, of course, are all origi-

nal. We have got the original window frames, the door frames and the floors," Searles said.

The Almquist team hired interior designer Helene Johnsen to enhance the interior space with touches that feel modern while still honoring the historical essence of the home. For example, an antique Victrola record player stands in the front room, where Searles wound it up with a few strong turns of the crank.

"This model is from the 1920s, so maybe the Swanners had this in their

home," she said.

It's easy to picture the Swanner family inside the house but even more so outdoors on the property. Native plants like a large oak tree that can serve as a backdrop for outdoor events, and details like a fire pit modeled after a cast-iron cowboy cauldron can help guests imagine what life might have been like back then. There are plans to enhance the outdoor area even further to match its former use.

"This is all our acreage," Searles said, motioning to untouched land beyond the manicured lawn. "We are working on getting a farm put out there."

The Swanner House is available to rent for events; it hosted its first wedding on March 1. The space currently has about 25 events booked between now and early next year. Searles, who has 15 years of experience in the wedding industry, said she has noticed a trend among engaged couples toward a shorter lead time in reserving their wedding venues.

While for decades it was customary within the wed-

ding industry to start reserving venues more than a year in advance of the big day, today couples are booking just six months to a year ahead, she noted.

"People are still booking for this year; I just signed a contract for October yesterday," she said.

The Swanner House property is also used for community events.

"We have already hosted a couple school galas here and we did the first fundraiser for California Republic Leadership Academy, which is a new charter school," said Searles.

Swanner House also hosted Harbor Point Church's satellite Easter services this year, and plans are in the works for music festivals, ticketed dinners and brew-tasting events for the future.

"We would love for the Swanner House to be a space for people to want to come and bring their families and have date nights," said Searles. "The possibilities are endless."

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WORD

Continued from page A6

it, "if" starts a subordinate clause in a conditional sentence. In other words, when one thing can happen on condition of the other, "if" works: If I order pizza, I'll have leftovers. Here, I will only have leftovers on the condition that I order pizza. No pie, no leftovers.

But was there any chance you would use "whether" instead of "if" here? No. So you don't need this rule.

As for "whether," the dictionary tells us it is "a conjunction that usually starts a subordinate clause that expresses an indirect question involving two stated or implied possibilities or alternatives. And this is where the confusion starts: 'if' can also be used in this sense." Maybe it will rain, maybe it won't — either is possible. So "I don't know whether it will rain" is correct here. But so is "I don't know if it will rain."

The closest thing to a pitfall with the word "whether" is the question of whether to add "or not": I don't know whether or not it will rain.

Some people say these extra words are unnecessary or even illogical. In most cases, they have a point. When conciseness counts, "or not" can usually be nixed. But if you feel like subjecting your reader to two extra syllables, you can. "Whether or not," according to Merriam-Webster's usage guide, is "perfectly good idiomatic English."

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

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THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Stella Zawistowski

ACROSS

- 1 Archipelago parts
- 6 Rooms about
- 10 Male foal
- 14 Canonized Catholic
- 15 Inch or yard
- 16 China's continent
- 17 "The Republic" philosopher
- 18 Brink
- 19 Processes, as leather
- 20 High-ranking angels
- 22 Single-serve sugar holder
- 24 "No choice!": 2 wds.
- 27 Developmental stage
- 28 Future attorney's course of study
- 31 Puccini work
- 33 Stool pigeon
- 34 Illinois River city
- 36 "We should!"
- 40 Prefix that means "all"
- 42 Moon-related
- 43 "Doctor Zhivago" character
- 44 Go across
- 45 Gets up
- 47 Flee on foot
- 48 Trapped, in a way
- 50 Showered or poured
- 52 Uncertain
- 55 Krispy Kreme treats
- 57 Loves to bits
- 59 Good-natured
- 63 Nashville's state: Abbr.
- 64 Methods
- 67 Synthetic fabric
- 68 Roof edge
- 69 Zone
- 70 Hall of Famer Shaquille

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63					64	65	66			67			
68					69					70			
71					72					73			

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.

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

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

- 71 Coin opening
- 72 Blue-green
- 73 Sentence subjects, often
- DOWN**
- 1 Ways to the WWW: Abbr.
- 2 Discounting event
- 3 False witness

- 4 Require
- 5 Emergency measure
- 6 Hotel user
- 7 "Beauty _ the Beast"
- 8 Use a shovel
- 9 Staircase part
- 10 Odds-and-ends category

- 11 Japanese city
- 12 Script parts
- 13 Small sip
- 21 "In what other way?": 2 wds.
- 23 Month after March: Abbr.
- 25 Twister
- 26 Bee-related
- 28 Paid players
- 29 Highway access
- 30 Sicilian volcano
- 32 Membrane of hearing
- 35 Exposed
- 37 Come by honestly
- 38 Factual
- 39 Beach makeup
- 41 Part of 1-Down
- 46 Audited: 3 wds.
- 49 Whiskey grain
- 51 "Nay": 3 wds.
- 52 Palm fruits
- 53 Best-case
- 54 Chat, slangily
- 56 Vocally twangy
- 58 Playful smack
- 60 Chicken cordon _
- 61 Lend
- 62 Photo blowups: Abbr.
- 65 "We _ Family"
- 66 Yes vote

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CITY OF COSTA MESA NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the Costa Mesa City Council at its regular meeting at City Hall Council Chambers, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, California on **Tuesday, July 16, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.**, or as soon as possible thereafter as the matter shall be heard, to consider:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COSTA MESA AMENDING TITLE 13 (PLANNING, ZONING, AND DEVELOPMENT) OF THE COSTA MESA MUNICIPAL CODE TO ESTABLISH AFFORDABLE HOUSING REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS

AND

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING AND ADOPTING FEES RELATED TO THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN-LIEU FEES FOR THE PROPOSED AFFORDABLE HOUSING ORDINANCE (ORDINANCE NO. 2024-02)

Pursuant to Government Code Section 606016, data and analysis indicating the estimated fees required to comply with the Affordable Housing Ordinance have been made available on or before May 20, 2024. Copies of the in-lieu fees data and analysis can be obtained during normal business hours at City Hall, 1st Floor, City Clerk's Office, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa and on the City's website at: <https://www.costamesaca.gov/trending/affordable-housing-ordinance>.

Public Comments: Members of the public wishing to participate in the meeting may find instructions to participate on the agenda. Members of the public may also submit written comments via email to the City Clerk at cityclerk@costamesaca.gov and they will be provided to the City Council, made available to the public, and will be part of the meeting record. Any written communications, photos, or other materials for copying and distribution to the City Council that are 10 pages or less, can be e-mailed to cityclerk@costamesaca.gov, submitted to the City Clerk's Office on a flash drive, or mailed to the City Clerk's Office. Kindly submit materials to the City Clerk **AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE, BUT NO LATER THAN 12:00 p.m.** on the day of the hearing, **July 16, 2024**. All materials, pictures, PowerPoints, and videos submitted for display at a public meeting must be previously reviewed by staff to verify appropriateness for general audiences. No links to YouTube videos or other streaming services will be accepted, a direct video file will need to be emailed to staff prior to each meeting in order to minimize complications and to play the video without delay. The video must be one of the following formats, .mp4, .mov or .wmv. Only one file may be included per speaker for public comments. Please note that materials submitted by the public that are deemed appropriate for general audiences will not be redacted in any way and will be posted online as submitted, including any personal contact information. For further assistance, contact the City Clerk's Office at (714) 754-5225. The City Council agenda and related documents may also be viewed on the City's website at <http://costamesaca.gov>, 72 hours prior to the public hearing date. **IF THE AFOREMENTIONED ACTION IS CHALLENGED IN COURT**, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in the notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City Council at, or prior to, the public hearing. Brenda Green, City Clerk, City of Costa Mesa
Published June 30 and July 7, 2024

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IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT NOTICE OF FILING OF REPORT AND OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON HAVING SEWER CHARGES FOR CERTAIN PARCELS OF LAND COLLECTED ON THE TAX ROLL

NOTICE is hereby given that a report has been filed with the Secretary of the Irvine Ranch Water District relative to having sewer charges for certain parcels of land within the Newport North area of the District collected on the tax roll. The report contains a description of each parcel and the amount for annual charges for Fiscal Year 2024-25 (annual charges of \$441.48 per year for single family units and \$308.40 per year per apartment). The report is on file with the Secretary of the District at the District Office and is available for public inspection on the District Bulletin Board located at 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine, CA. This report is filed pursuant to Section 5473 of the Health and Safety Code of the State of California.

NOTICE is further given that on Monday, July 8, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. (or as soon thereafter as is reasonably practicable) in the District's Board of Directors meeting room at 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine, CA, the Board of Directors will conduct a public hearing and consider all objections or protests, if any, to the report.

Dated: June 23, 2024 /s/ Kristine Swan
June 30, 2024 District Secretary
Irvine Ranch Water District

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MAILBAG

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agenda. It tells me one thing — we are over the target when it comes to the policies. All the shouting and yelling at the meetings will not change a thing. The opinions expressed in the Mailbag are the same: “We hate Huntington Beach and want to turn it blue.” One of the activists doesn’t even live in HB anymore. Lay off our City Council and cover the failed policies in other cities on homelessness, drugs and crime. God wins in the end ... that ought set you off.

Donald Witteborn
Huntington Beach

Many thanks to Huntington Beach residents who are sending letters to the editor. They have provided a service to citizens who want to know what is happening in their community. Demonizing other council representative and calling them names are unacceptable. This is not the way council members should behave.

Libraries serve a vital function in our communities. And contracting them out to the private sector is abominable.

Those who have written letters to the editors are profiles in courage.

Susan Barrett
Los Alamitos

The four conservative members of our Huntington Beach City Council have said they are taking measures at our beloved libraries to “protect the children.” Then something should be done to protect our kids from the gutter mouth and poor behavior of Mayor Pro Tem Pat Burns who recently referred to fellow council members Natalie Moser, Dan Kalmick and Rhonda Bolton as “pieces of s**t.” No apology has been given nor censure has been forthcoming.

At several previous City

Council meetings, many high school students spoke eloquently about what our libraries mean to them, so it is obvious that our young adults are listening and aware of what is taking place. What sort of example or lesson does Burns’s behavior teach our children about conflict resolution or about collaboratively working together with others to reach solutions? Is this an example of how they want to “protect” our children?

Kathleen Bunge
Huntington Beach

After reading the Mailbag on Sunday which again focused on the warring H.B. City Council, the comments from Tim Geddes struck a chord with me. He writes that it is the Daily Pilot that has been exposing the chaos on the dais in H.B., and I would add that if it wasn’t for the Pilot, the public probably wouldn’t be aware of the discord on the City Council, and this should be a lesson for all of us. The collapse of local news is allowing bad actors to fester among us without exposure. This is a danger to the democratic process. When we don’t call truth to power, the community at large suffers. Couple this with consistent and shamefully low voter turnout for elections, and you have a recipe for disaster.

Mike Aguilar
Costa Mesa

The Huntington Beach City Council meeting of June 18 was the high-water mark of dysfunctionality exhibited by our purported civic leaders. As a longtime observer and participant in local civic affairs, it is my contention that the polarization that has poisoned our local government has three root causes. The first is the complete lack of respect for established process, procedures and norms on the part of the current council majority.

This disrespect is compounded by those members’ abject failure to seek guidance and education on running the city through established channels. The second is the reliance on political ideology to shape public policy instead of practical and constructive approaches that involve the citizenry and represent its best interests instead of partisan objectives. The third, and a byproduct of the first two, is a stunning lack of transparency on the part of the majority, which has resulted in the inability to be open and honest with its constituents. It has resulted in a hostile approach in dealing with opposing council colleagues and has alienated a major part of the community.

It is therefore unsurprising that the political polarization we are experiencing is not only continuing but deepening. While its root causes are clear, the path to “finding commonalities and unity” to address these cankerous conditions is not. It will require the council majority to understand how this polarization has developed. It will take both sides on the council to press for a reset and return to the process and procedure norms from which it has strayed. While it may be difficult to achieve complete harmony going forward, council members can deliberately eschew the rancor and discord that has characterized this term to date. Both sides, if they agree to pursue civility, also need to admonish their ardent followers against unruly behavior and verbal assaults, which destroy decorum and cause chaos. That is the only way peace can be maintained and progress pursued in restoring smooth sailing for Surf City’s local government.

Tim Geddes
Huntington Beach

APODACA

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human one.”

Another turning point occurred when she was still in graduate school and the Landers quake occurred. At the time she was in a hospital, about to give birth to her first child, and her critically ill grandmother was in another hospital. After her grandmother passed away, she began pondering the question of how infrastructure impacts public health — thinking that ultimately led her to work in the School of Public Health, an unusual move for a geologist.

“It’s very problem-focused,” she explained. “You can take any disciplinary background and focus it on real-world problems that impact people’s health and well-being.”

Which brings us back to the recent earthquakes, what she learned from them and what can be done to improve safety.

Grant Ludwig was kind enough to dumb down some highly technical information for me. At the most basic, it’s important to understand that there are different types of quakes and faults.

Most of us have probably heard of the Newport-Inglewood Fault, a major fault zone that runs through densely populated coastal communities and is probably a bigger threat to

Orange County than even the San Andreas Fault. A destructive 6.4 quake occurred on that fault in 1933 — although it’s known as the Long Beach earthquake, Grant Ludwig said that the epicenter was actually around the Huntington Beach-Newport Beach boundary — and that prompted the adoption of some new regulations.

When the trio of smaller quakes occurred recently, some initial reports suggested the culprit could again have been the Newport-Inglewood Fault. Like the San Andreas, it’s what’s known as a strike-slip fault, which moves predominantly in a horizontal direction.

But under the San Joaquin Hills there’s also a blind thrust fault — that is, it’s underground so we can’t see it, and it moves vertically. It bears some resemblance to the fault that caused the Northridge earthquake, but less is known about it.

The three recent temblors were thrust quakes, and they were all located around where Grant-Ludwig believes the San Joaquin Hills Fault converges with the Newport-Inglewood Fault. What’s more, they were oriented in ways that she had previously expected from the San Joaquin Hills Fault. The data collected could lead to a better understanding of how future earthquakes might behave and what

areas are most vulnerable.

Such knowledge also informs another critical component of Grant Ludwig’s work — policy.

On that front, she is advocating for reauthorization of the 1970s-era National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program, which supports research, strategies, tools and techniques to reduce the adverse effects of earthquakes, yet is in danger of seeing its funding lapse.

She also wants more advanced early-warning systems, and a comprehensive plan to ensure that all structures are earthquake-resistant and held to standards that could be adjusted based on an area’s seismic risk. She even has a novel idea for posting earthquake safety ratings on every building, similar to the grading system used for restaurants.

Now she’s preparing to take a sabbatical to undertake another worthy endeavor — writing a book that will sketch out her recommendations.

So yes, I think we can excuse Grant Ludwig if she gets a little giddy about earthquakes. It means she’s putting her considerable brainpower to work on solutions that will benefit all of us.

PATRICE APODACA is a former Los Angeles Times staff writer. She lives in Newport Beach.

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

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