

Daily Pilot & Times OC

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Police honor man who hogtied suspect

Charlie Lush, known as 'Cowboy,' used his dog's leash to help restrain a man who struggled on the ground with a Costa Mesa officer.

BY ERIC LICAS

A Costa Mesa resident known by some as "Cowboy" came to the aid of a police officer by using his dog's leash to hogtie a fleeing suspect's legs. He was honored for his efforts with the department's Distinguished Citizen Award earlier this month.

Officers had received reports of a man causing a disturbance in the area of Newport Boulevard and 19th Street, Costa Mesa Police spokeswoman Roxi Fyad said. The suspect allegedly sprayed a fire extinguisher at several vehicles before tossing it at one that drove by him, denting its hood, then fled onto a bus.

When the man failed to pay his fare, the bus driver noticed he was acting strangely, became concerned for his passengers, pulled over and called the police. At that point, the apparently agitated man got out and started banging on the vehicle's windows.

Charlie Lush, 74, Stephanie Lush, 65, and their 6-year-old Rottweiler mix, Luke, were passing by on their way to Six Beans Coffee that day when they heard a woman shouting in a parking

See *Hogtied*, page A8



Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

MR. MONOPOLY, the iconic character who represents the board game, walks around Surf City Night on Tuesday in Huntington Beach. Surf City will be represented in the board game's city edition that is tentatively set to release in late September.

'Monopoly' maker rolls the dice on a Surf City edition

BY MATT SZABO

Huntington Beach locals don't have to pass "Go" and collect \$200, or go to jail for that matter, for a chance to enjoy a new board game representation of their hometown.

Top Trumps USA Inc., a licensee of Hasbro, has announced that "Monopoly: Huntington Beach edition" is coming this fall.

The company brought iconic character

Mr. Monopoly, also known as "Rich Uncle Pennybags," to Surf City on Tuesday to help get the word out. He hung out at the pier and Pacific City during the day and strolled through the Surf City Nights street fair and farmers market as dusk approached.

Top Trumps sales representative Jennifer Tripsea said the company has been doing Monopoly city editions for nearly 25 years and has recently hit the West Coast with Palm Springs, Napa Valley and Sacramento

editions.

Huntington Beach seemed like an iconic next spot to feature.

"I've grown up going to Huntington Beach all my life," said Tripsea, who grew up in Rancho Cucamonga before moving to Orange County for a while. "I bought my first surfboard here at one of the stores when I was 18 years old. When we're choos-

See *Monopoly*, page A9

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Models used for illustrative purposes.

F.V. teen develops idea for cancer-detecting toothbrush



Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

JAMES NGUYEN is a senior at La Quinta High School and is developing a cancer-detecting toothbrush. He started looking into cancer research when his grandmother died in 2020.

The idea came to James Nguyen, 18, after his grandmother died from a brain tumor. He began research in hopes of helping to conquer the disease.

BY LILLY NGUYEN

After losing his grandmother to cancer in 2020, one Fountain Valley teen became determined to do what he could to help anyone else from experiencing that pain — by detecting it first through a unique but everyday means.

James Phuc Nguyen, 18, immigrated to the United States from Vietnam with his mother in the summer of 2019. Just as he began to settle in, he and his family learned his grandmother, still in their homeland, had been diagnosed with a glioblastoma brain tumor. With his family in dire financial straits and the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, neither Nguyen nor his mother were able to return to Vietnam as it banned all foreign visitors by April 2020 to

prevent the spread of the disease.

"It was an emotionally difficult time," Nguyen said. "I couldn't do anything but witness her slowly die. [My grandmother] means a lot to me because she basically made up who I am today. All the food she made when I was a kid, the time she spent playing with me, words of advice, all her stories that she told me — all those things that she did that contributed to my childhood."

"So, she meant a lot to me and when she got diagnosed with this deadly disease at a very late stage, it was very depressing and frustrating. You're about to lose somebody, something that you don't want to lose and ... the most soul-crushing thing is that you

See *Idea*, page A2

Dine your heart out this Valentine's Day with special menus in the O.C.

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

A romantic dinner out is a popular Valentine's Day tradition. This year Orange County restaurants have reservations available for all kinds of sweet experiences, ranging from intimate tastings for two, "Galentine's Day" brunches and even a bros and brews event. So, show some love by dining your heart out this Valentine's Day at local eateries offering special menus. It will be love at first bite.

Old Brea Chop House
180 S. Brea Blvd., Brea, (714) 592-3122

A classic American steakhouse with a modern twist, Old Brea Chop House could almost be called New Brea Chop House and still make perfect sense. For Valentine's Day, the restaurant is offering two impressive specials. Choose between Mishima Reserve's "Ultra Wagyu" New York strip topped with prawn acampi or Sanuki Wagyu beef, which

comes from the island of Shodoshima, Japan, where a mulch of dehydrated and roasted olive is included in the cattle's diet. Old Brea Chop House also always has two chef's cuts on the regular menu that make for a shareable date night meal. A 20-ounce prime ribeye cap or 34-ounce tomahawk chop are available with two sides and OBCH's famous butter cake for dessert.

See *Menus*, page A2



Courtesy of Cafe Sevilla

CAFE SEVILLA will offer a special four-course Valentine's menu.

Laguna Beach senior becomes a musical sensation

Lily Gabora, who lives with blindness and epilepsy, has thrived thanks to a passion for music.

BY ANDREW TURNER

When she was younger Lily Gabora would sing, her parents would cry, and she didn't know why.

Greg and Kris Gabora were having their emotions moved to tears as they witnessed their daughter — who is living with blindness and epilepsy — do what she loves most in the world.

"I was always singing, and I had a little keyboard that I used to mess around with," Lily, now 17, recalled. "I didn't really discover that I had a good voice until second grade, but I didn't want to show it to anybody. I didn't want to show it to my parents, especially, because whenever I would try to sing for them, they would tear up.

"I didn't understand what 'tears of joy' [meant], so I thought I was making my parents sad when I sang. So, I kept it from them. Once I got more mature, I started to understand, so I started to sing more out in public."

A few years ago, Lily got serious about playing the piano, and it has led to numerous opportunities to



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

LILY GABORA, a Laguna Beach High senior, was the homecoming queen this year, writes and plays her own songs and has sung the national anthem at Angels baseball games.

perform. Beyond Blindness, which Lily has received services from since she was an infant, plans to have her perform in the nonprofit's Vision Beyond Sight Gala on March 11 at the Marconi Automotive Museum in Tustin. The gala features a "dining in the dark" experience, replicating the everyday act of having a meal for the blind.

It was through the nonprofit that Lily received her introduction to the piano,

as a member of their team came to the family's home and taught her some basics.

The Gabora family had become acquainted with Beyond Blindness, formerly Blind Children's Learning Center, through a day of volunteering for Greg's work in 2002. They came back again and again, and when Lily was born with her condition — Leber congenital amaurosis — they knew where to go.

Kris said that when her

daughter was a baby she was given occupational and vision stimulation therapy in their home through Beyond Blindness, "because we weren't sure how much vision she had, if any. They wanted to stimulate her vision, if she had any, with colorful lights and shiny objects. ... When she got a little bit older, we would go into the center because they had more equipment to help with her balance and her strength."

Today a senior at Laguna Beach High, Lily has at times felt disconnected from the student body. That did not stop her peers from seeing to it that she became homecoming queen, alongside Laguna Beach line-backer Jeremy Kanter, who was king of this year's court.

"I honestly didn't know if I was going to be nominated," Lily said. "I know a lot of the time, the 'disabled kids' are nominated, but I don't feel very popular, so I didn't really know. I was pretty happy when I found out that I was nominated because I was like, 'That all came from my peers. They must have voted for me.'"

Another aspect of the high school experience has come to light for Lily, as she revealed that on the night preceding homecoming, she made things official with her first boyfriend, AJ.

Lily Gabora became a well-known name in some circles when she stepped on the scene as a national anthem singer at Angels games. She first auditioned at the age of 14, though her debut was delayed due to the coronavirus pandemic. She has now done the honors four times, and her family says she will remain in the lineup for the upcoming season.

"I thought they were just going to pick a whole new group," Lily said, looking

back on a 2020 season that was played without fans. "When I figured out that they weren't and I was going to get my chance, I was so excited because I always say, 'The bigger the audience, the better,' and I've always wanted to perform in front of a crowd of thousands of people. ... I just thought it was so cool hearing that big, huge, roaring applause."

Several Angels players signed a beeping ball for Lily, designed to be detectable for those with vision loss. Knowing the signatures are there, she has kept it off the playing field.

Lily intends to go to community college after high school, and she wants to continue pursuing opportunities in music. She has begun creating her own compositions, as she performed an original she is calling "Storybook" during the interviews for this story.

"I want to continue working toward getting some sort of career in the music industry," Lily said. "Basically, what I want to do is just perform and inspire. I just want to show people that even if you have a loss, or some sort of disability or a difference, you can still be who you want to be."

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IDEA

Continued from page A1

lose them in such an unfortunate way."

When his grandmother died, Nguyen threw himself into research.

Nguyen, a sophomore at Westminster's La Quinta High School at the time of her death, said he started looking into cancer research in an effort to try and understand the disease, how it had taken his grandmother and what therapies and remedies already existed to treat it. It was in his reading and writ-

ing that he learned of microfluidic chips, which can process or visualize tiny amounts of liquid.

"It basically separates different types of cells in a liquid," Nguyen said, adding that the chip is essentially a filter. "How I made the connection between putting that chip into a toothbrush is a very fun story," Nguyen said.

The "ah-ha" moment came after a visit with family members. Nguyen had been brushing his teeth, which he does three times a day, when his cousin teased him about how often Nguyen practiced

that bit of oral hygiene.

One image that kept circling Nguyen's mind after that visit was his aunt putting toothpaste on a toothbrush and handing it to that cousin, who promptly ignored it in favor of playing video games. Nguyen said he didn't know why the image didn't leave his head, but he kept thinking about it until the two ideas clicked together.

"I realized that some of our most brilliant ideas come when we're walking our dog, taking a shower, washing the dishes," Nguyen said, laughing. "When we're not forcing it, [the

ideas] just come."

Nguyen believed it was important to make cancer cell detection convenient for the average person. Since most people brush their teeth on a daily basis, putting a microfluidic chip inside a toothbrush seemed like a reasonable idea. The chip could theoretically be programmed to separate out cancerous cells from saliva.

Nguyen has been working with a biomedical startup in Southern California for the last two years on the idea and has been recognized by Rise, a philanthropic initiative that aims

to identify promising young minds working to solve the world's most difficult problems. Nguyen is part of the 2022 cohort for Rise Global Winners.


While his ideas are still theoretical, Nguyen said he feels grateful and lucky to be recognized. He said he knew that hard work would lead to success, but that he felt the "journey went the way it did" because he was able to receive help from his friends, mentors, Google and his mother, who he said sacrificed a lot for him to be successful.

"I would not have been as strong of a person as I

am today [without such support]. The grit is harnessed through hard times ... so I'm grateful for everything I've received — the feedback, the advice — but I'm also grateful for the pain along the journey," Nguyen said.

As for what lies ahead, Nguyen said he planned on going to college, though things may change if the technology on his idea comes through. He said he already has ideas for other inventions in nonmedical fields.

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Models used for illustrative purposes.

MENUS

Continued from page A1

The Blind Pig

4975 Lakeview Ave., Yorba Linda, (714) 485-2593

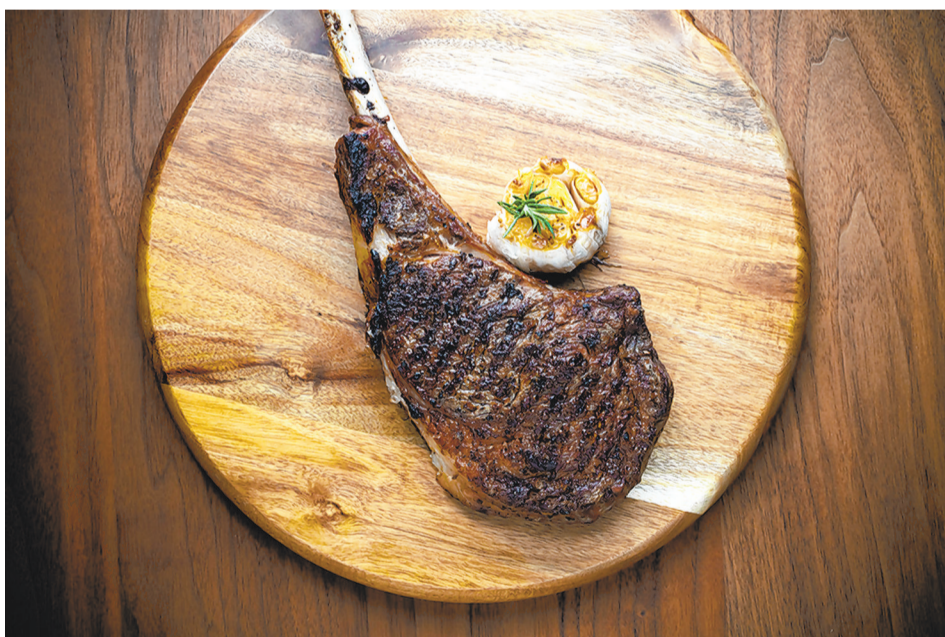
Most nights, the Blind Pig offers a unique mix of solid craft cocktails (I'm looking at you, tiki section) along with classic and comforting pub food, like its signature French onion soup. On Feb. 14, the kitchen abandons its standbys for a special six-course menu that includes a complimentary champagne aperitif and single long-stemmed rose. Priced at \$90 per person, the menu features a shared salad course of leeks, green tomatoes, tangerines and fresh herbs followed by celeriac soup, broccoli falafel with whipped yogurt and mint, risotto Milanese, and choice of seared scallops or rib-eye medallion for entrees. A slice of basque cheesecake with mango and passion fruit finishes off the meal.

Parkestry at JW Marriott Anaheim Resort

1775 S. Clementine St. Fl 11, Anaheim

Valentine's isn't just for the girls. Parkestry, the JW Marriott Anaheim Resort's rooftop bar, hosted Bro & Brews on Friday and Saturday. Besides offering a bird's-eye view of Anaheim, the event featured a DJ and fireworks.

On Tuesday, the resort's Italian steakhouse, Tocca Ferro, is offering a four-course menu priced at \$135 per person. Tocca Ferro



Courtesy of Old Brea Chop House

OLD BREA CHOP HOUSE offers chef's cut specials, like this 34-ounce tomahawk chop, that make a shareable date night meal.

means "touch iron" in Italian, a practice meant to bring good luck similar to knocking on wood.

Besides good fortune, Tocca Ferro is known for prime-cut steaks, hand-rolled pastas and fresh seafood.

Executive chef Adam Haverland's Valentine's menu is full of choices like pasta e fagioli, heirloom beets and burrata, filet mignon and ratatouille. Reservations can be made on OpenTable.

The Winery

2647 Park Ave., Tustin, (714) 258-7600

For the past 10 years, the Winery in Tustin has built a reputation on its wine

country-driven food from Chef Yvon Goetz paired with a wine program of more than 600 selections stored in its climate-controlled cellars. On Feb. 14, Chef Goetz presents a three-course menu with choices, add-ons and extras that make the meal a choose-your-own adventure.

Priced at \$125 per person, the menu begins with a seasonal amuse bouche, followed by a choice of Hawaiian ahi tuna tatakai, Maine lobster saffron bisque, little gem salad, roasted baby beet salad or toy box tomatoes and burrata. Main course choices include beef tenderloin with wild white shrimp, miso-

black garlic roasted black cod, lobster and snow crab orecchiette, citrus cured duck breast, jumbo Maine scallops or cocoa-espresso grilled venison.

A selection of mini pastries will be presented for desserts, and the entire experience can be enhanced with a seafood platter for two for an additional \$95 or black pearl caviar service with toast points and crème fraiche for an additional \$119.

Cafe Sevilla

1870 Harbor Blvd., Costa Mesa, (949) 688-1555

Cafe Sevilla is known for its Spanish ambiance, tapas menu and nightclub vibes, and the Triangle Square



Courtesy of Henry's Coastal Cuisine

HENRY'S COASTAL CUISINE invites guests to celebrate Valentine's Day with a Sweetheart Champagne Dinner.

location in Costa Mesa is hosting a collection of events for Valentine's weekend. The party kicks off on Feb. 11 with a "Don't Text the Ex" anti-Valentine's Day brunch from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and a complimentary Love Potion No. 9 shot with the purchase of any brunch entree. After 3, live music rolls out along with the regular dinner menu. At 7 p.m., a special Flamenco dinner show experience with a three-course prix fixe paella menu will be available for \$89.50 per person.

On Feb. 12, a "Galentine's Day" brunch keeps the party going with a free peach bellini with the purchase of any brunch entree from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

On Feb. 13 and 14, a four-course prix fixe menu priced at \$68 per person will be available along with live Latin music. The special menu will include dishes like warm goat cheese dip and Spanish charcuterie to

start; lobster cake with citrus salad and a choice of pan-seared duck with Spanish beer glaze or lobster paella Valencia for entrees. An orange tart with raspberry meringue will be offered for dessert. The special menu items will also be available à la carte, along with Cafe Sevilla's regular dinner menu.

Terrace by Mix Mix

3333 Bear St. No. 316, Costa Mesa, (657) 231-6447

South Coast Plaza's Terrace by Mix Mix serves chef Ross Pangilinan's eclectic dishes on a lush terrace full of greenery and ambiance, perfect for a romantic dinner. Chef Ross's five-course menu is priced at \$100 per person and starts with verrine of lobster and hamachi. Loup De Mer poached in lobster tamarind broth follows along with heart-shaped ravioli

See **Menus**, page A10

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Models used for illustrative purposes.

forum

COLUMN | **PATRICE APODACA**

The big purpose behind a small upgrade at Blue Heron Park

Tucked away in a serene residential neighborhood in Newport Beach's Eastbluff community lies Blue Heron Park, a recreational rectangle



boasting a thick emerald-colored carpet of newly laid turf; swings, slides, a tether ball set and other playground gear; a free library box and lovely pine trees with twisty branches bent so low to the ground they're just begging to be climbed.

Soon a change is coming to this little slice of suburbia — one that might easily be overlooked. But it shouldn't because it could serve as a model and inspiration for similar projects throughout the region.

The Eastbluff Homeowners Community Assn. will first rip out the ice plant located on a small slope at one side of the park. Ice plant, which is not native to California, is what the state's Department of Fish and Wildlife calls "a coastal invader" that chokes out native plants and damages soil composition.

In its place, the homeowners group will develop a "Butterfly Garden" filled



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

A HUMMINGBIRD visits a habitat garden for western monarch butterflies, which were classified as endangered last year, at Bluebird Park in Laguna Beach in July 2022.

primarily with native plants that attract pollinators and require minimal water and maintenance.

Another patch across the way, by the "Blue Heron Park" sign, will receive a similar treatment. At some point a third area might also be replanted.

If all goes according to plan, these spots will soon attract a bevy of butterflies, most notably monarchs. And who doesn't love butterflies? Aside from their beauty, however, there's a practical component to this project. Butterflies are amazing pollinators, and their continued existence is in jeopardy.

Last year, monarchs

were classified as endangered, as their numbers have been decimated by pesticide use, urbanization, climate change and a loss of native plants. Not only will Eastbluff's inviting new landscape provide a nurturing environment for monarchs, it will also attract hummingbirds and other pollinators that we humans depend upon for our own survival.

The project is the brainchild of Tom Roche, a retired business executive and Eastbluff resident who is a member of the homeowners association board. (Full disclosure: He is a longtime family

See *Apodaca*, page A8

MAILBAG



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

HUNTINGTON BEACH first raised the LGBTQ Pride flag at City Hall in 2021 on Harvey Milk Day, which celebrates the first openly gay person elected to California public office.

Flag decision is more about division than equality

There are more vacancies for police officers than qualified applicants in Huntington Beach and a shortage of affordable housing, resulting in a parade of unhoused people sleeping on the streets of Surf City. Nevertheless, the reactionary majority on the newly seated city council chooses to put focus and devote time to the removal of the rainbow flag from City Hall, which flies each spring in recognition of Pride month.

With its sordid history as a haven for skin-head gangs and racially based hate crimes, Huntington Beach ought not to be looking to remove any

symbol of tolerance or inclusiveness from its municipal establishments.

Ben Miles
Huntington Beach

The conservative four City Council members who voted to limit which flags can be flown over city property, thus excluding the rainbow Pride flag, mark Huntington Beach as homophobic!

Masking the vote as being patriotic does not excuse this vote. If this was the original vote on the motion to fly the Pride flag for one month during Pride month, then this argument might have some merit, but this vote

was to vacate an action previously decided by a prior City Council. You don't have to be gay to see that this 4-3 vote places the entire city as a prejudiced anti-LGBTQ community, instead of an open welcoming community, where I have resided for 61 years.

Why not fly Breast Cancer awareness flags during the month of October or Angel flags (when they make the playoffs)? It would certainly convey a positive philosophy instead of a negative image.

Richard C. Armendariz
Huntington Beach

See *Mailbag*, page A6

Bluey's
BIG PLAY

THE STAGE SHOW

FEB. 23
10 Am & 1 Pm

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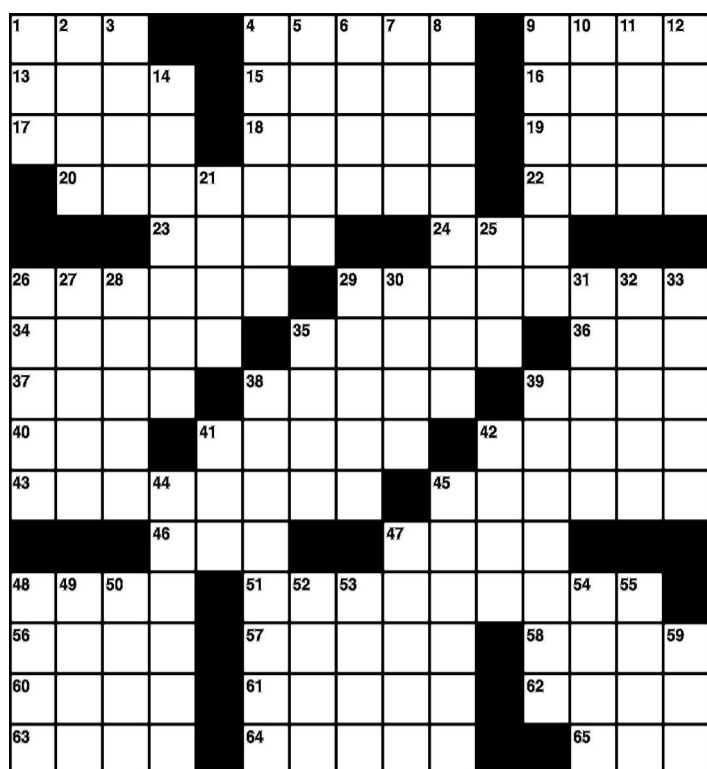
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THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

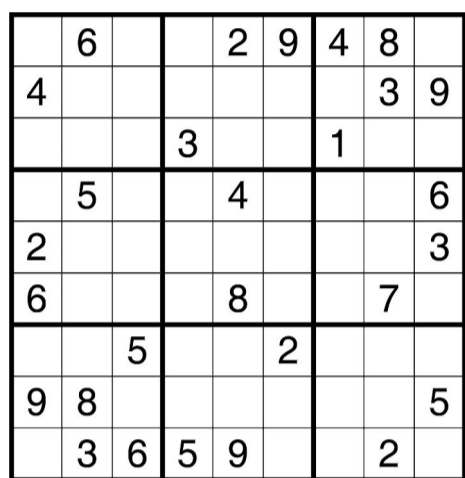
- ACROSS**
 1 Science experiment room
 4 _ crow flies; directly
 9 Provokes
 13 Has debts
 15 Piece of silverware
 16 Largest digit
 17 Lower the blindfold for a sec
 18 Confidence
 19 Erupt, as a volcano
 20 Meatball accompaniment
 22 _ up; runs out of
 23 Subdue
 24 Neighbor of Oreg.
 26 Spit
 29 Hewlett-Packard machines
 34 Duplicate
 35 Noise
 36 Nov. honoree
 37 Wedding band
 38 "It's a Boy Girl _"; 2006 film
 39 Refuse to admit
 40 Part of a blackjack
 41 Cheese variety
 42 Wild
 43 Sense
 45 Wee
 46 Nickname for Harold
 47 Brass instrument
 48 " _ Small World"
 51 Vastness
 56 Time to eat
 57 _ away; leaving
 58 Thrown for a _; surprised
 60 Gator's cousin
 61 Steed
 62 Sound of impatience
 63 Make sharper
 64 Butternut & birch
 65 Can top



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 A8.

- DOWN**
 1 Sever
 2 Impresses greatly
 3 Tap the horn
 4 Lung disorder
 5 Shopper's binge
 6 Make much of; promote
 7 Emcee
 8 Alluring
 9 Cheap shot
 10 Tears
 11 Part of the leg
 12 Uses a Singer
 14 Kristi Yamaguchi's forte
 21 _ in; yielded

- 25 "Pomp _ Circumstance"
 26 Table _; doggie bag morsel
 27 Girl's name
 28 Recluse
 29 Self-assurance
 30 Skedaddles
 31 Chris of tennis
 32 _ failure; reason for dialysis
 33 Out of _; dated
 35 Prison knife
 38 Time after sunset
 39 Particulars
 41 Blue or Bering
 42 Lies
 44 Monopoly board square
 45 Sudden forward thrusts
 47 Edgy
 48 _ along; crawl
 49 Lawn mower brand
 50 In just a bit
 52 Low-lying wetland
 53 Muddy soil
 54 Work up a sweat
 55 Boo Boo Bear's pal
 59 Prof.'s degree

Tribune Media Services

MAILBAG

Continued from page A4

I feel for you, H.B. My city also had a group of conservative extremists a few years ago who often pulled their extremist nonsense, but you know what? It took a few years, but eventually the moderate citizens of Costa Mesa gave them all the boot (with a little help from term limits). Don't let this MAGA group run roughshod over you and your beautiful city, and so what if a marginalized group wants to fly a flag for a few weeks? It's not like it's a swastika. Plus, who's that hurting? No one except for a sect that says they're for individual freedoms until they're not. So instead come out and vote in droves the next election because this is what the extremists do, and that's how they seize power. The moderate rest of us get complacent, and then before you know it, people who have no business running government are suddenly doing so. Plus it's so easy to vote in this state unlike in states where the MAGA-types hold sway. We believe in the right to vote for all Americans here in California and without all the stupid anti-democratic roadblocks in place that make voting a hassle all supposedly under the guise of protecting the ballot. (I'm talking to you Texas and Georgia, and we know what your true intent is.) Fact: Despite the braying on the right, there is no pervasive voter fraud in this country, and in the few cases when there has been it's Republicans doing it! You don't even have to leave your home if you don't want to. Although I would find the nearest drop box just in case ... because unfortunately we are living in troubling times.

Mike Aguilar
Costa Mesa

Let's be clear, Huntington Beach City Councilman Burns' change to Huntington Beach's flag policy is a clear and unmistakable attack on the LGBTQ community. His effort serves no constructive purpose. It doesn't seek to clarify an outdated or cumbersome municipal code, nor does it address a pressing matter of public safety, city finances or maintaining our local infrastructure. Nope. This is Burns going out of his way to eliminate the city's ability to display the world's most prominent symbol of unconditional love, acceptance and inclusion.

While Mr. Burns claims he's only seeking to "avoid actions that could easily or

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

mistakenly be perceived as divisive," his proposal alone has done precisely that. If approved, this proposal will leave Huntington Beach with the unmistakable stench of intolerance.

Steve Shepherd
Huntington Beach

I could not echo the sentiments of letter writer Lynn Lorenz loudly enough (Daily Pilot Mailbag, Feb. 3). Conservatives have tried to co-opt the term "silent majority" for use by their side ever since Richard Nixon first employed it in 1969, thus relegating their opponents (especially liberals) to being the "noisy minority." This provided for them a pretext of tacit approval for their pronouncements and policies despite clear polling evidence of the opposite.

Just as with school boards and other battlegrounds of the culture wars being fought both locally and nationally, the co-option of the so-called silent majority of the Huntington Beach community is being attempted by the new and not universally respected conservative majority of the City Council. Councilman Pat Burns blogged recently "The city of Huntington Beach should avoid actions that could easily be perceived as divisive. We are one community with many different cultures and people. All are equally valued members of our community, and none are to be treated differently or discriminated against."

The sheer effrontery of the councilman's presumptuous statement is mind-boggling. Tell that to the members of city boards and commissions, the LGBTQ segment of our citizenry, the mobile home community, environmental organizations and other progressive civic groups that have dared to be different that the new council majority is not being "divisive." Tell them they are not being treated differently or discriminated against. Tell them they are being "equally valued." Tell them there is not an anti-democratic and authoritarian bent to our new local government. Tell them it is better to stay silent and do nothing.

John Stuart Mill, the 19th Century philosopher, who reiterated the views of

Edmund Burke and others previously in the statement, "The only thing necessary for evil to triumph in the world is that good men do nothing," was proved true less than 100 years ago. It is equally true today in Surf City and elsewhere in Orange County.

Tim Geddes
Huntington Beach

Ukraine invasion one year later

It's hard to believe Russia's unprovoked attack on Ukraine began a year ago this month. Since then, millions of Ukrainians have left their homeland, hundreds of thousands have been wounded or killed and yet, despite all their military disadvantages, Volodymyr Zelensky's forces have been relentless in their fight for freedom.

Here in Laguna Beach, people from one end of town to the other reacted quickly to the news. First, there was a gathering adjacent to City Hall. Second, there was a vigil at Main Beach. And third, there was a fundraiser at the Laguna Art Museum.

My guess is Vladimir Putin never thought the western alliance would provide the kind of support it has for Ukraine these past 12 months — let alone adding Japan, Australia, Israel and other nations to the mix. Now, heading into the second year of the war, the issue is this: How much longer will the fighting last?

Here at home, the modern-day fight for civil rights began nearly seven decades ago. Much of it started with the Supreme Court's 1954 Brown v. Board of Education decision, followed by the 1955-56 bus boycotts in the Deep South, the 1963 March on Washington, the 1964 Civil Rights Act and then the high Court's 1967 Loving v. Virginia ruling.

It's no wonder Pete Seeger and Joan Baez performed Louise Shropshire's iconic anthem, "We Shall Overcome," hundreds of times while I was growing up. Today, most of my conservative USC fraternity brothers call me a liberal idealist. I, on the other hand, consider myself a realist.

After I rewrote the lyrics to "We Shall Overcome" last year, I submitted my revision to newspapers as a letter to the editor. Thankfully, three papers published the letters. As a result, two individual musicians and two groups recorded their versions of "Ukraine Shall Overcome."

To some, this may not account for much; but to me, and perhaps more importantly, to those who performed the song, it meant more than you can imagine. Why? Because we all were voluntarily adding our voices to something much bigger than ourselves — one nation's pursuit of peace and democracy.

Please take a moment to listen to a version (or all of them) of "Ukraine Shall Overcome," listed below. My hope is this song will reignite Americans' support for the Ukrainian people who continue to fight for their freedom.

LagunaTunes Community Chorus of Laguna Beach: youtu.be/6TEIVp-S_SY; Emergency room physician Eric Alcoumre of Laguna Beach: youtube.com/watch?v=aTuxaPjbs4U; Raging Grannies of Spokane, Wa.: youtu.be/c-E5pR0Q4Xo; Larry Costello of Port Townsend, Wa.: youtu.be/_pU9dHzZA7k.

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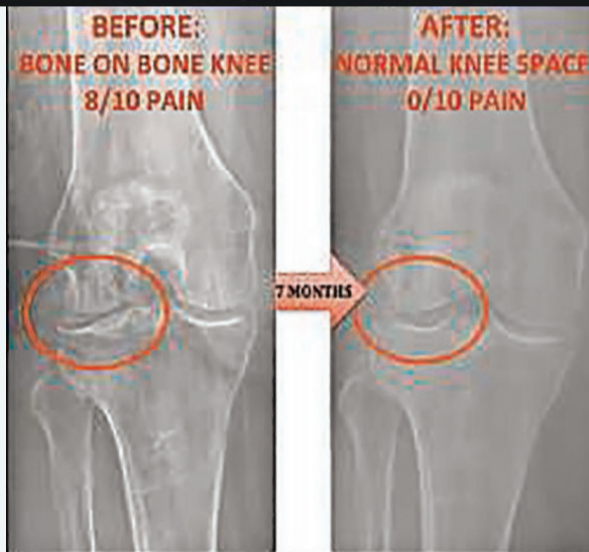


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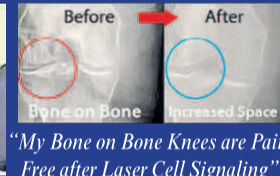
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-Linda L., R.N., Newport Beach, CA(Registered Nurse & Zumba Instructor)

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-lasted-Rosemary, Huntington Beach

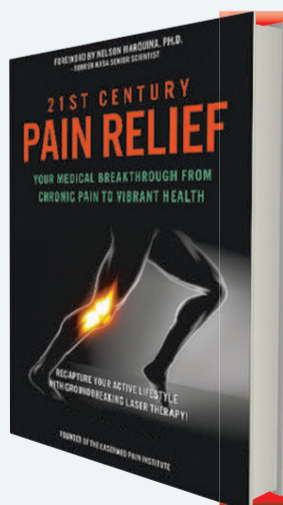


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-The late Dr. William Gutch, MD., Palm Desert, California



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Exhibition focuses on habit of sisters' activism

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

Lexa Walsh describes herself as a recovering Catholic. The Oakland-based artist and culture worker attended Catholic school through 11th grade, and her latest show at Grand Central Art Center in Santa Ana works through her experience while creating a platform for the legacy of progressive religious women in California.

"As I have gotten older, my view points have gotten much more activist-oriented," said Walsh. "As I became an activist, I learned about activist nuns and priests in Central America, and then in grad school I learned about Sister Corita Kent ... I just started to realize, once I was over my anger, that there are some things that I learned from Catholic School that were actually really good, thoughtful and important lessons."

Sisters InfoShop is an exhibition and socially engaged residency project with a special focus on the work and lives of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange. "When I first thought of doing the project, I thought it was going to be much more expansive," said Walsh. "But the sisters were really ready to collaborate,

so it has really homed in a lot more on them and their work."

The installation includes a timeline from the sisters' activism and their place within pivotal moments in the Catholic Church's recent history. For the project, Walsh worked with sisters like Sister Ellen O'Leary.

"Ellen is amazing. She is an artist and a mime and she is a little new agey," said Walsh. "Just not at all like my 1970s nun."

St. Joseph of Orange is quite an institution, and Walsh said there were a few people she had to go through to make sure the sisters were even allowed to participate in what she had in mind.

"I wrote a letter explaining what I was thinking of, which was somewhat vague," said Walsh. "I came down a month later to have a meeting with them, and they had come completely prepared with all these ideas."

Along with the installation in the gallery, the exhibit includes a mobile kiosk in the public square in front of the art center, activated with programming by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange.

"Early on, I was thinking about a kiosk that rolled out into the square, where I

was hoping the nuns could do things they weren't normally allowed to do, like pushing the boundaries of the church a little," said Walsh. "I was imagining they would give confession or at least give advice and turn the square into a social justice center."

The show opened on Feb. 4, during Downtown Santa Ana's monthly Art Walk, where the public was invited to engage with the Sisters inside and around the kiosk, which resembles a little chapel with a flat roof and coffered ceiling, with activities like a Human Library.

"You can borrow or 'check out a sister' to talk to her about a topic of her choice," said Walsh, "or ask her anything."

Other activities like a Social Justice Fair, Sister Ellen O'Leary's miming and multiple other socially engaged activations are planned for the first Saturday of each month through the show's run until May 14.

Walsh incorporated the blue, green and gold tartan plaid from her Catholic school childhood into vintage desks and prayer kneelers that have become conversational sculptures.

"I knew I wanted to use the plaid from my Catholic school upbringing," said Walsh. "I actually had a



James Carbone

ARTIST LEXA WALSH created the Sisters InfoShop art installation in collaboration with Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange. The Santa Ana exhibition is a socially engaged project for the legacy of progressive religious women in California and beyond.

couple different plaids, but this one sort of stuck with me, and I was able to find it in wallpaper and fabric."

Walsh said working with the sisters was a special experience in which she tested their creativity.

"I am really trying to push them; when they bring up an idea I am like, 'How can we make that more interesting, more difficult, more complicated?'"

Walsh said. "I have definitely challenged them on a couple ideas."

Walsh also admits, the sisters have challenged her too.

"They have also pushed me," Walsh laughs. "Like I wanted to do a soup kitchen, and they were like, 'Why? That doesn't fit.'"

Walsh said while she is still working through her own religious experiences,

she is inspired more by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange rather than the nuns she is familiar with from her past.

"In general, I am focusing on who they are today," said Walsh, "and they are amazing women who kick ass in the world."

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HOGTIED

Continued from page A1

lot on 19th Street. They walked over to see if she needed help, and then saw that she was among a handful of people who had gathered around a man who appeared to be in his 20s or 30s, yelling and acting erratically. A police officer arrived moments later.

"The officer is telling him stop and whatnot, and he runs around the officer, and then starts down the sidewalk toward Stephanie," Charlie Lush said.

Stephanie Lush leaped over some nearby bushes to get out of their way, but the officer managed to tackle the fleeing man about a yard from where she had been standing with her husband. Charlie saw them struggling on the ground and, quickly improvising, he used Luke's leash to bind the suspect's legs together.

"Luke was still attached to the leash," Stephanie recalled.

More officers arrived a short time later to take the man into custody. No serious injuries were reported. The entire altercation unfolded within five minutes, the Lushes said.

Charlie's actions were recognized by the Costa Mesa police during a ceremony on Feb. 2. He wore



Courtesy of the Costa Mesa Police Department

CHARLIE LUSH receives the Costa Mesa Police Department's Distinguished Citizen Award from Chief Ron Lawrence during a ceremony on Thursday, Feb. 2.

his trademark cowboy hat and was accompanied by Luke as Chief Ron Lawrence handed him the department's Distinguished Citizen Award.

Charlie insists he was "just trying to help." He grew up fixing things, initially as a farmhand on family ranches. He went on to become a technician for a painting equipment company but continued to sport his 10-gallon hat in his repair shop, earning his "Cowboy" nickname.

He said he felt "embarrassed" by the attention he has received, partly because he believes he played a supporting role in the kind of work officers do on a daily basis. He describes

himself as a supporter of law enforcement.

Charlie said he was horrified in September 2020 when heard that two Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputies were ambushed by a gunman while sitting in their vehicle in Compton. He was compelled to show local law enforcement that they were appreciated after that happened. Almost every morning since then, the Costa Mesa resident has been putting up an American flag near the entrance of the police department's headquarters and greeting officers as they come and go.

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APODACA

Continued from page A4

friend.)

A light bulb went off for Roche after he read an article in the Daily Pilot last summer, by staff writer Matt Szabo, about the Laguna Beach-based Pollinator Protection Fund. The nonprofit was founded in 2021 by Laura and Michael Ford with the goal of restoring the natural habitat for monarchs and other pollinators.

The focus of that story was on the Pollinator Protection Fund's work at Bluebird Park in Laguna Beach.

"I thought, man, maybe they can help us," said Roche. "It's a win-win."

He raised the idea for a butterfly garden in Blue Heron Park with the Eastbluff HOA board last November and was met with a few questions and concerns about the cost. Eventually they settled on a plan. The board would authorize paying up to 50% of the cost, or a maximum of \$10,000, with the remainder of the funds to come from the community.

Roche set about raising the money from residents and local businesses. No one said 'no,' and by the Feb. 5 deadline all the necessary funds had been pledged. The board

granted its conditional approval for the project at its Feb. 6 meeting.

The planting, supervised by the Fords at the Pollinator Protection Fund, will begin as soon as the pledged donations are collected and final plans are approved. Preliminary plans. Their plans call for a variety of pollinator friendly vegetation — lemonade berry and desert willow trees; native lavender, goldenrod, verbena, sun drops, sage and many other plants.

By March or April, Roche is hoping to stage a community event at the park to introduce residents to the new garden. A large sign will be installed to educate visitors about the new plantings and their benefits.

Fellow Eastbluff homeowners association board member and co-chair of the parks committee Nancy Kerr, who enthusiastically supported the project, referred to the new garden as "a little thing we can do" to make a positive difference in the world.

But from little things, bigger things can grow.

In Orange County we have nearly 5,000 HOAs. Imagine if every one of those associations decided to launch a similar effort to welcome pollinators with the plants that they need to survive and thrive, such as the native milkweed

where monarchs lay their eggs and which the caterpillars eat.

"I think that working with HOAs is going to be an integral part of what we do," said Laura Ford. "In order to help endangered bees and monarch butterflies we need to work together."

Individuals can also contribute. Many already are.

For example, at Roger's Gardens in Corona del Mar, sales of native plants doubled last year from the year before, and in 2021 they had nearly doubled from 2020, said general manager Ron Vanderhoff.

"If everyone plants one or two native milkweed plants, that could make a big difference on the monarch crisis," he said.

There's so much going wrong in our world today; it often feels as if the bad news is unrelenting, and it's tempting to give in to cynicism and despair.

But there's another way to go. Perhaps learning about a community effort to do some good can serve as a reminder that each of us can do our bit to plant seeds of hope.

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

43rd annual Orange County Black History Parade & Unity Fair is a source of pride

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

Saturday, Feb. 4, marked the 11th year Anaheim hosted the Orange County Black History Parade & Unity Fair and the 43rd year of the parade as a whole.

It was a milestone parade director Sherrick Collins admitted he was proud to see the parade reach.

"We were really concerned because last year was our first year back from COVID," said Collins. "We were uncertain how the public would respond to a big parade and gathering."

Collins was encouraged by the turnout on Feb. 4.

"I think this year was, if not the largest, in the top two or three largest events that we have ever had," Collins said. "A lot of people come back every year. A lot of people fly in from out of state. That is the importance and significance that it has in Black culture."

Despite challenges the parade has faced through the years, the event is among the most important cultural events in the county.

"The sense of community and togetherness of this event is amazing. It is a big part of the rich diversity and excitement of Anaheim," said Anaheim Mayor Ashleigh Aitken.

The parade did not always call Anaheim home, however.

"The Black history parade started back in 1980," said Collins. "The founding member was the honorable Helen Shipp, native of Santa Ana."

Shipp reached out to local businesses, churches and veterans to organize the first parade.

"It was a way to pay homage to the Black community, to uplift the community," said Collins.

The first parade was attended mostly by Shipp's friends and neighbors in the city of Santa Ana, where the parade was held for 30



MALIK REID, 23, left, and his brother **Marcus Reid**, 27, both from Costa Mesa, hold the Black History Month banner part of Gospel Voices of OC as they participate in the Orange County Black History Parade on Feb. 4 in Anaheim.



HUNDREDS OF parade attendees gather along Anaheim Boulevard to catch the procession.

years. The event grew through the years, and soon Santa Ana was no longer able to help subsidize the costs of the event.

The Orange County Heritage Council, a volunteer nonprofit established in

2008 that promotes cultural awareness and the historical contributions of Black people in Orange County, took over the event.

"When we left Santa Ana, we found our new home in



TROOPER RON R. JONES, left, and Trooper **Robert V. McDonald**, both representing the Buffalo Soldiers.

Anaheim," Collins said. "Anaheim welcomed us with open arms, as far as city resources."

Anaheim has hosted the parade since 2012. In 2015, the Disneyland Resort sent a performer as Tiana from

"The Princess and the Frog" to the parade. The character was not only the first Black princess featured in a Disney animated film when it hit theaters in 2009 but also the first Disney character to appear in the

Black History Parade.

Led by Grand Marshal Adai Lamar of 102.3 Radio Free KJLH and local host of the "Steve Harvey Morning Show," the parade moved from Pearson Park on Lemon Street onto Lincoln Avenue, then to Anaheim Boulevard and south to Water Street for about half a mile.

The procession included marching bands, dance teams, double Dutch squads, community groups and exotic cars.

The Unity Fair began after the parade along Center Street Promenade and featured arts and crafts, games and a college fair and health village that offered basic screening services. Performance stages hosted live music and DJs, while a culture stage hosted guest speakers, artists and Black history discussions.

While the Black History Parade & Unity Fair was created to celebrate O.C.'s Black community, Collins emphasized that the event is for everyone.

"It is our month to celebrate us, but you know it's like Chinese New Year, right? It isn't indicative of saying no one else can celebrate it ... but is honoring ourselves and our culture."

Aitken agrees. "No matter your background, people come and have fun and celebrate African American culture and contributions. And while we continue to see challenges, as our nation has recently, events like this bring people together for the better," Aitken said.

That sentiment is partly why Collins said he felt a strong sense of pride at this year's event.

"I was really taken aback, standing there on the stage and looking out at the sea of people," said Collins. "Wow, look what we created."

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MONOPOLY

Continued from page A1

ing these cities, we look for cities that are a beautiful location, as well as where there is a lot of local pride. We know Huntington Beach has tons of local pride, as well as community involvement."

Top Trumps is also looking for community involvement to choose the Huntington Beach properties that will be on this Monopoly game board. Locals are asked to suggest locations they would like to see featured on the board by emailing huntingtonbeach@toptrumps.com by March 1.

"We want to hear what the community loves," Tripsea said. "What are their favorite spots in this area? Where do locals go out to eat, maybe a park or an attraction? Or even, what is

their favorite lifeguard tower to lay out next to? We want to hear what's important to the community, no matter how big or how small."

Mr. Monopoly posed with plenty of surfers and kids for social-media-worthy pictures throughout the day.

"We saw him on a skateboard earlier, so that was kind of cool," said Brady Sweet, 20, of Anaheim. "But yeah, I think [the game] is a good idea."

His companion, Lyanh Barber, nodded.

"Main Street would make sense for one of the places, right?" she said.

The iconic location indeed would seem to make a lot of sense. Brianna Jean-Jacques, who lives in Seal Beach, had some other ideas as she strolled through Surf City Nights.

"The pier would be great, and the Bolsa Chica Wetlands," she said. "I love that

spot. I used to go as a kid, and they have a little conservatory there ... I think it'll be pretty cool to see a little set that's made of this town and what they pick as landmarks."

Many aspects of the game, besides the property names, will remain unchanged, Tripsea said. The Chance and Community Chest cards will feature things like, "Get stuck in [Pacific Coast Highway] traffic."

"That's very relatable," she said with a laugh. "I was definitely stuck in traffic earlier today."

"Monopoly: Huntington Beach edition" is tentatively set to release in late September, she added. It will be sold at stores throughout the city, as well as on Amazon, at CVS and through the Top Trumps website.

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Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

EMMA COOPER and her brother **Luke**, take pictures with Mr. Monopoly, the iconic character who represents the game, on Tuesday in Huntington Beach.



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Helen Bruton, *Woman with Turquoise Bracelet*, 1943, Cut ceramic mosaic tiles and cement, 24 x 29 in. The Buck Collection at UCI Jack and Shanaz Langson Institute and Museum of California Art, © Bruton Family Archive, courtesy of Barbara Carroll

Candle company sparks hope for owner

BY SARA CARDINE

Kristen Montgomery was in need of a lifeline when she chanced upon “the little candle company that could.”

In the aftermath of a divorce, followed by nearly a decade of socializing, drinking and bad decisions that brought her to her lowest point during the pandemic, the Laguna Beach resident found herself walking the long road to recovery in 2021.

Trying not to lapse back into drinking, Montgomery, at 50, was searching for meaning and purpose in her life and found it when a visit to the studio of a long-time friend and local candle maker Robert Brink led to an offer she couldn't refuse.

Brink was five years into running the Hundredth Acre — which sold small-batch, hand-poured soy wax candles with aromas intended to evoke memories of walks through the woods, the smell of air after rain, used bookstores and beach bonfires — and looking to move onto other things.

It was a meeting of minds and a lifeline for Montgomery, who now pours and sells candles in a range of scents, including the bestseller “Main Beach,” along with journals, pens and T-shirts with a vintage literary feel.

Her wares can be found in shops all over Laguna Beach, including Bushard's Pharmacy, Twig boutique, the Pearl Street General Store and home goods store Beach House. She is even considering expanding to offer a refilling service for customers.

It's a far cry from where she was two short years ago, Montgomery acknowledged in an interview Wednesday.

“I was always the person who had no purpose in life,” she said. “[And] I think what I'm doing in my life



KRISTEN "KIKI" MONTGOMERY hand pours candles in her home studio in Laguna Beach. Her small company, the Hundredth Acre, produces candles with scents intended to evoke personal memories, such as the smell in the air after a rain, the city's Main Beach or a walk on local trails. Her wares can be found in shops all over Laguna Beach.

right now is pretty bad ass.”

Known as “Kiki” among her friends, Montgomery came to Laguna Beach in 2011 with her former husband and decided to stay, even when the 10-year marriage ended. It would be a turning point in her life.

“This is when I had a lot of fun,” she recalled. “I had a pocketful of money from the divorce, and I left everything behind. I got to know a lot of people at bars and restaurants and going out. They even called me the mayor of Laguna Beach because I knew everybody.”

She earned an interior design degree and worked odd jobs but spent most of her 40s having fun and “just avoiding reality,” when the COVID-19 pandemic shuttered her favorite watering holes. That's when she

started drinking alone.

“From that March to just around October was when I really hit it hard,” she said, remembering a series of poor choices, unfulfilling relationships and bad behavior. “It was almost like I was looking down upon this life that was going on and thinking, what's my purpose?”

Montgomery wrote an email to her personal network of friends and family members, as well as her therapist and ex-husband, reaching out for help. An old friend and recovering alcoholic came to Laguna Beach and helped her sober up in December 2020.

Attending meetings in between pandemic shutdowns, she worked hard to occupy her time, especially around 3 p.m., a “witching

hour” when the urge to drink hit the hardest.

She decorated her home, painting and repainting walls and rearranging furniture, trying to create new routines and habits. During this time, Montgomery found lighting candles helped steady her nerves.

“It just creates an ambience for me. They definitely have a calming effect,” she said.

In spring 2021, finding herself in need of candles, she reached out to Brink, a writer, skateboarder and marketing professional who'd created the Hundredth Acre in 2016 as a candle and stationery company and lifestyle brand for the contemplative sort.

After leaving a corporate job several years earlier, Brink, now 47, started the

enterprise as sort of a personal project to see where his ideas might lead.

A kitchen alchemist experimenting through trial and error, he created scent combinations intended to induce memories and feelings of nostalgia. The result was candles with evocative names, like “Grandpa's Leather Chair,” “Sitting by the Fire” and “Walk in the Woods,” which Brink mostly sold online.

“I'd take hundreds of scents and think, which of these scents can I use to tell a story?” the Laguna Beach resident recalled Thursday.

The business grew as Brink filled mostly online orders from his local studio, eventually getting to a point where it demanded more than he wanted to give. With other projects in mind

“I was always the person who had no purpose in life. [And] I think what I'm doing in my life right now is pretty bad ass.”

— Kristen Montgomery

— including filmmaking, writing a novel and working with the U.S. Olympic skateboarding team — he was looking to offload.

So, when Montgomery sent him a text asking if she could swing by his studio to pick up some candles, he jokingly asked her if she was in the market for a candle company. The joke quickly turned to serious talk.

“She came to the studio that day and told me she was pretty deep in recovery and wanted a project to focus on, to kick-start her new life as a sober person,” said Brink, who sold Montgomery the Hundredth Acre on a payment plan.

“I was so happy it was going to a bigger purpose, and I was proud of her, so I was like, yeah, let's do this.”

Nearly two years later, Montgomery is taking her sobriety one day at a time, but the business has given her the drive and purpose that had been missing in her life.

Now, she wants to share the gift she's received by someday teaching others to replicate the Hundredth Acre in their own necks of the woods.

“I've got a really, really full life now — fuller, obviously, than it ever was when I was sitting on a bar stool,” she said Wednesday. “I don't know if I would have gotten to sobriety without this.”

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MENUS

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with ricotta, truffle and brown butter. The entree is sliced chateaubriand steak served with a foie gras sauce and a trio of desserts for two caps of the meal. A vegetarian menu option is also available by request.

OEB Breakfast Co.

1104 Irvine Ave., Newport Beach, (949) 438-7337

Since opening its doors last May, OEB Breakfast Co. has brought chef-driven breakfast dishes to Newport Beach. Helmed by Chef Mauro Martina, the menu features fancy takes on breakfast classics, like the gold digga breakfast poutine that blends traditional Canadian poutine with eggs benedict using duck-fat-fried potatoes, poached eggs and cheese curds, or French toast trifle that turns regular French toast into an English trifle by layering brioche, berries, crunchy pistachios, pavlovas and lemon curd. For Valentine's weekend, OEB is offering a limited-time pink “Cupid-approved” strawberry mimosa garnished with fresh strawberry, perfect for “Galentine's” brunch. Pink smoothies and juices are also on hand as festive, nonalcoholic options.

Henry's Coastal Cuisine

21100 E. Pacific Coast Hwy., Huntington Beach, (714) 845-8000

At Henry's Coastal Cuisine, located at the Waterfront Beach Resort, a Hilton Hotel in Huntington Beach, executive chef Lewis Butler has expertly paired champagnes with his four-course Sweetheart Champagne dinner. Priced at \$159, the dinner begins with a welcome reception at 5:30 p.m. with hors d'oeuvres and bubbly. Dinner begins with seared albacore tuna, followed by sous vide pheasant breast in dark berry butter sauce and roasted filet of beef in champagne hollandaise, with salt baked bosc pear for dessert. On Feb. 14, Butler has prepared an



Courtesy of Luciana's Ristorante

LUCIANA'S RISTORANTE will offer a four-course Valentine's Day menu, priced at \$85 per person.

entirely different menu priced at \$129. Henry's Oceanside Valentine's dinner starts at 5 p.m. with an amuse of buffalo mozzarella on brioche toast with pecan pesto followed by ahi tuna carpaccio and tartar. Second course is a pasta course with a choice of lobster ravioli or potato gnocchi, and the main course is a choice of roasted dry-aged New York strip or Dover sole. Choose from roasted pineapple or the show-stopping flaming baked Alaska for dessert.

Comedor at La Casa del Camino

1289 S. Coast Hwy., Laguna Beach, (949) 497-6029

Comedor restaurant, located on the first floor of Laguna Beach's historic La Casa del Camino hotel, offers a tasting for two this Valentine's Day. The five-course prix-fixe menu is designed for sharing and priced at \$200 per couple and includes a complimentary glass of bubbly. The dinner begins with an amuse sampler of oysters, ahi tuna sashimi, and kaluga royal caviar followed by red endive salad with roasted beets. The second course is a three-cheese raviolini and a choice of lobster gnocchi with rock crab in a lemon butter sauce or dry-aged Colorado lamb loin with au gratin potatoes and asparagus for the main course. A decadent chocolate tart with raspberry gelee, raspberry sauce and Chambord meringue is

offered for dessert.

Luciana's Ristorante

24312 Del Prado Ave., Dana Point, (949) 661-6500

Luciana's Ristorante is an old school Italian restaurant celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. Known for authentic red-sauce dishes and fine wines from Italy, Luciana is a romantic choice for a couple that loves tradition. Luciana's Valentine's Day menu is priced at \$85 per person and starts with an antipasti course of buratta with prosciutto, capocola, fig jam and crostini. Choose from an insalata di caesar or insalata di arugula for the first course. Entree options include carré di agnello, New Zealand rack of lamb grilled with pancetta balsamic rosemary honey glaze, filetto di manzo, grilled filet mignon with a cabernet pepper-corn demi-glaze, papardelle osso bucco, bone-in pork chop grilled in a brown butter sage brandy sauce, lobster ravioli in white wine sauce topped with sautéed shrimp, Frutti di Mare linguine pasta with shrimp, scallops and salmon in garlic Pomodoro sauce or swordfish grilled with a citrus champagne reduction sauce.

Dessert options include white chocolate cheese-cake, chocolate mousse or the classic Spumoni ice cream.

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