

Daily Pilot & Times OC

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Surfing teacher returns to the waves

In 2016, Tim Reda was diagnosed with a brain tumor and told he could never go into the water again — but he's back.

BY LILLY NGUYEN

Although a brain tumor diagnosis once prompted doctors to advise him to stay out of the waters he grew up in, 40-year-old Tim Reda is competing in a World Surf League event this weekend.

Reda, who also teaches and coaches the sport, competed in the Assn. of Surfing Professionals' World Longboard Championships in 2014, when they were held in China. Today he has aspirations to vie once again for a world title.

He grew up in Washington state, where he learned how to surf from his father. He spent his days chasing waves with his father and his father's friends every summer in what his family called a "surfing safari" before eventually becoming a competitive surfer in his own right.

It was never in the plans to stop, Reda said, until he felt some numbness in his fingers after a re-qualification competition in Huntington Beach in 2015.

"I didn't think much of it. But

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Simone Staff | Seaster Media

TIM REDA paddles out into the water in December 2023. Reda was diagnosed with a brain tumor in 2016.



Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

GROUPS OF SIBLINGS, twins and triplets, pose for a picture with Santa Claus during a breakfast hosted by the Orange Coast and Saddleback Mothers of Multiples clubs at South Coast Plaza's Carousel Court Thursday morning.

The more the merrier!

Twins and triplets descend on South Coast Plaza in holiday tradition

BY SARA CARDINE

Old Saint Nick was seeing double — and triple — at South Coast Plaza Thursday as members of two Orange County Mothers of Multiples clubs brought in droves of twins and triplets for a special visit just in time for the holidays.

Dozens of youth, some dressed in their holiday finest and others in seasonal pajamas, assembled at Carousel Court hours before stores opened to enjoy a catered breakfast in the resplendently decorated space and ride reindeer on the merry-go-round.

Representatives say the Costa Mesa retail complex traditionally makes morning hours before stores open available to local groups and clubs wishing to celebrate during the Christmas and Easter holiday seasons.

As such, families can pay a discounted rate for entry and activities and enjoy unlimited carousel rides, themed arts and crafts and, of course, photos with Santa.

Thursday's gathering joined members of the Orange Coast Mothers of Multiples and

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TRIPLETS WALK with their cups of orange juice during an Orange Coast and Saddleback Mothers of Multiples clubs' breakfast Thursday.

Introducing a dish that might become a new favorite

A DRY BOWL of hu tieu nam vang at Grandpa's Kitchen - Grill Bar 168 in Garden Grove, with noodles, slices of roast pork and shrimp.



Photos by Edwin Goei

BY EDWIN GOEI

One night, when I was a UC Irvine undergraduate in the '90s, some dorm mates regaled me about a dish they'd just had. It had an anise-perfumed soup, supple noodles and paper-thin slices of raw beef that cooked themselves in the bowl. It was spelled "pho" but, per my Vietnamese roommate, was pronounced "fuh?" as though you were asking a question. The place to have it, everyone agreed, was just a few freeway exits from our campus in a place called Little Saigon, where dozens of shops made it and sold it for cheap.

After multiple trips to slurp countless bowls, a realization came: Little Saigon was a treasure trove of undiscovered dishes from a rich food culture my 19-year-old palate knew nothing about. *Pho* was just the beginning. There were the protein-



INSIDE GRANDPA'S KITCHEN - Grill Bar 168 in Garden Grove, a Vietnamese restaurant worthy of bringing a date.

laden rice platter called *com tam*, crisp-crust *banh mi* sandwiches filled with charcuterie, and even more noodle soups that, to me, were even more intriguing than *pho*.

I found *bun bo hue* heartier and beefier. I loved the softness of *bun rieu* and its orbs made of pork and crab meat. And then

there was *hu tieu nam vang*, which was my favorite of them all.

Through the years, I learned that the noodle originated from the Teochew people who migrated from China's Guangdong province and proliferated in Ph-

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Report on O.C. children outlines pluses, minuses

BY CITY NEWS SERVICE

An annual report on the health of Orange County's children showed substantial progress in health insurance access and a reduction in child poverty but raised other issues related to lagging English and math skills, rising suicide and depression rates and school absenteeism.

For the past three years, the annual county report has focused on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, but now, according to the 29th edition, "The next crucial step is to assess the longer-term impacts and the underlying inequities that were exposed."

The report this year "reflects positive improvements in health insurance access, early prenatal care and a reduction in child poverty and high school dropout rates," according to

the report. "The percentage of Orange County high school graduates considered ready for college increased as well."

But the report also showed a 4.3% decrease in third-graders meeting standards for English Language, arts and math since 2019. The report also notes a 12.1% increase in chronic school absenteeism from 2021 to 2022, and an 8.5% increase in the percentage of 11th-graders "experiencing depression-related feelings, with students who identified as lesbian, gay or bisexual being over 1.5 times more likely to experience these feelings."

Also, suicide is "now the leading cause of death" for 10- to 14-year-olds, according to the report.

"That makes you sick to see that," Orange County Board Chairman Don Wagner said. "We're making re-



Courtesy Children's Bureau

THE 29TH ANNUAL Conditions of Children of Orange County report shows improvements in some areas but also illuminates an uptick in school absenteeism and depression. Suicide is now the No. 1 cause of death among 10- to 14-year-olds, according to the report.

sources available to anyone suffering mental illnesses. The problem is kids are too young to know, so we have to make sure parents know what's available."

Wagner said he believes the county is "making headway, I hope, in removing the stigma of mental health. There are resources. Please, dear God, don't be afraid to

use them."

Orange County Supervisor Katrina Foley said, "The earliest years of a child's life sets the foundation for the rest of their lives. ... The Annual Conditions of Children Report shows that a bright future begins with a healthy pregnancy. My office funded grants for MOMS Orange County and the Hoag Foundation's Women's Health initiative to ensure the health and wellness of mothers during pregnancy and of children during their early years. It's so important, especially for policymakers, that we all understand what is needed for children in Orange County to thrive, be healthy and live up to their potential."

The county has developed an "innovative" way to address issues related to inequity to accessing services, the report said. The Orange County Health Care Agency

received a \$22.8-million grant to cover COVID-19-related health disparities, according to the report.

The county used the money to develop a "community- and data-driven approach to prioritize three areas to address disparities: Housing is Health, Health and Healing and Food as Medicine," according to the report.

Another program the report highlighted was Wellness on Wheels, a collaboration of organizations that "uses two vans that make weekly trips to Anaheim, Costa Mesa, Fullerton, Garden Grove, Laguna Hills, Orange and Santa Ana as well as regular health and wellness fairs in the community," according to the report.

"The mobile clinic's goal is to serve as a welcoming 'front door' to services," the

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Edwin Goei

HU TIEU nam vang served as a soup at Trieu Chau, as the "Chao Chow" option with liver, fish balls, fish cake, ground pork, sliced pork, shrimp, chicken and roasted duck.

DISH

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nom Penh and Saigon. And unlike *pho*, *hu tieu nam vang's* distinguishing factor is that there is no distinguishing factor. Regional variations abound. It might be served with rice noodles, yellow egg noodles or chewy clear noodles made from tapioca — or combinations of all of the above. Toppings also vary wildly but can include ground pork, sliced pork, pork cracklings, shrimp and fishcake.

About the only constant is the clear, pork bone-based broth, which is long-simmered to extract all the umami. Any restaurant that serves *hu tieu nam vang* will also offer a rainbow of table-side condiments. Most pride themselves on a signature chili paste, a hellish concoction of crushed dried chilies swimming in oil as red as pepperoni grease. But there will also be pickled garlic, pickled green peppers, hoisin, soy sauce, fish sauce

and white pepper — all paints to use on the blank canvas of a dish that is infinitely customizable. So if you don't end up liking it, it's your own fault.

So while *pho* shops still reign in Little Saigon, purveyors of *hu tieu nam vang* aren't far behind. There are now more restaurants that specialize in my favorite Vietnamese noodle soup than there ever was. Start your exploration with these three establishments, each one distinctly different than the next — just like the dish itself.

WHEN YOU WANT THE BEST BROTH

Trieu Chau
4401 W 1st St #4016,
Santa Ana

Hours: 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Bowls starting at \$12.50

Trieu Chau is an unapologetic dive. It always has been. But for more than 30 years and despite the grimy tables and sagging ceiling tiles, it still inspires long waits and a loyal fan base who arrives

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SURFING

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later on, we learned those were small, localized seizures that were on my motor strip [of the brain]. I failed to re-qualify to stay on the tour, and later found out when I went to a neurologist about the brain tumor through an MRI," Reda said. "We went ahead and did a biopsy, which was risky because of where it was located on the motor strip, but through that we found out it was oligodendroglioma [a type of brain tumor that affects the central nervous system]."

The diagnosis came in March 2016, where Reda was told that not only would he not survive more than five to eight years after that, but he couldn't return to the water because of the possibility of having a seizure and drowning.

A second opinion from doctors at Cedars-Sinai in Los Angeles did not rule out surgery but advised him he

TIM REDA poses for a picture in December 2023. Reda is competing this weekend in Morro Bay.

Simone Staff Seaster Media



could lose mobility in his arms if they took that route. For someone who teaches surfing, that wasn't an option. So, through chemotherapy and a change in diet, Reda managed to reduce the size of the tumor by about half.

"Several months of no surfing is a long time to us surfers," his wife, Amy

Reda, said. "So, he didn't surf and stayed out of the water for several months but then went back in on his own accord. He hasn't had any other seizures since."

Tim started competing again not too long after, participating in local surfing competitions, which, he said, gave him a true sense

of accomplishment.

"I just feel like I could kind of channel my energy toward going for it more. I could feel how precious life really is and how important the little moments are. Surfing is a very healing thing for me," Tim said. "I teach surfing for a living and here [in Newport Beach] we own a surf

school.

"Getting back into it — I was teaching someone with a disability, and that set my goal — I needed to get back in there so I could surf with him. At first, I couldn't surf when I got my prognosis because of the seizure risk, but getting back into the water and feeling that energy again, it really brings everything back to a new day, like we're living in the moment kind of an environment."

"A lot of times, when you get a bad card dealt to you, it's easy to get down. I really did at first. But it was important to have something like surfing as a healing process for me."

As this weekend's competition in Morro Bay approached, Tim said he felt the same anticipation, coupled with being able to go back to chasing his dreams of going on a world surfing tour.

With it, he'll also be competing in the Surfing for Hope contest, where he will be featured as a surfer to

help raise proceeds for the nonprofit's "survivor camps," which are open to those who are undergoing or have completed cancer treatment.

"I do think it's a testament to all the survivors that we don't give up and we're going to go out and doing it no matter what because we've got a different view of the world," Tim said.

Amy said watching her husband's journey to recovery is inspiring.

"Not only is he still going after all of his dreams, but he's also helping other people and serving our community and ... he's a fighter in a lot of different ways," she said. "The beginning was very hard for our family, but that was years ago. Today, currently, watching him go after this again — it really is inspiring to see someone not give up on their dreams and keep going after them."

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New \$3M medical imaging suite is 'state of the art'

BY ANDREW TURNER

Excitement around the latest technological advancement at Fountain Valley Regional Hospital was palpable Tuesday, as the local medical facility unveiled its new neurointerventional angiography suite.

Hospital staff showed off new medical imaging equipment. A biplane angiography system, manufactured by Siemens Healthineers, assists physicians in performing surgical procedures in a manner that is less invasive, they explained.

Randy Rogers, the chief executive for Fountain Valley Regional Hospital, said the new suite cost between \$3 million and \$3.5 million.

Dr. Hamed Farid said the biplane room is being utilized for neurointerventional work. He demonstrated the detailed imaging of the system in a brief pre-



Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

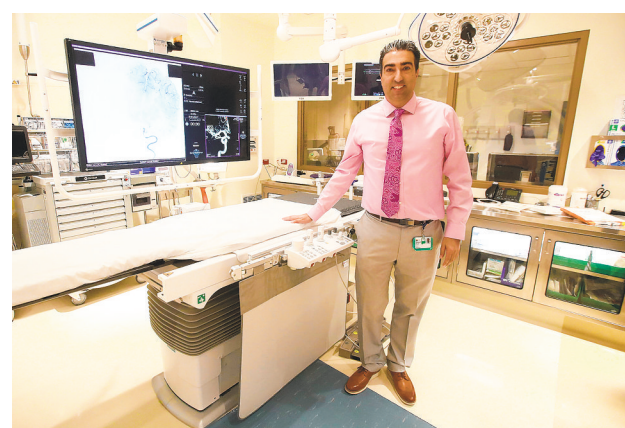
DAVID TRUONG, Debbie Killey, Randy Rogers (CEO), Shirley Dettloff (chair), Reginald Abraham (chief of staff), Kim Constantine (mayor), and urologist Bernard Turbow, from left, join the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new neurointerventional angiography suite at Fountain Valley Regional Hospital on Tuesday.

sentation for hospital staff and dignitaries on Tuesday.

"Interventional radiology is from the neck down,"

Farid said. "It's low-risk procedures. Neurointervention is from the neck up, and these are very high-risk

procedures, usually, very little room for error. If something wrong was to happen, it can be devastat-



DR. HAMED FARID in the new neurointerventional angiography suite at Fountain Valley Regional Hospital.

ing for the patient."

Farid spoke to the importance of precision when operating in and around the brain, comparing the curvature of the blood vessels within to navigating Lombard Street in San Francisco, famous for its hairpin turns.

The device provides phy-

sicians access to live fluoroscopy on two planes at the same time, which allows for the faster maneuvering of catheters into the brain. Farid added that the radiation exposure for the patient is reduced significantly.

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UCI Health



Edwin Goei

THE SMALL but popular Hu Tieu De Nhat eatery in Garden Grove is a highly rated spot for hu tieu nam vang.

DISH

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as early as 7 in the morning to sip its secret recipe soup. It's simply the best non-*pho* broth in Orange County. There is no equal. Its umami levels are off the charts. You could conceivably make a meal out of it and be nourished for days.

The broth is the base of the *hu tieu nam vang*, which it simply lists on the menu as "noodle soup." You can choose from egg or rice noodles, either thin or wide, or a combo of two types. The most popular topping option is called the "Chao Chow," which will endow your bowl with liver, fish balls, tender flaps of fish cake, ground pork meat, sliced pork, boiled shrimp, bone-on dark-meat chicken and a chopped piece of roasted duck with scraps of its gelatinous skin still attached.

If you fancy a Chinese doughnut — a salty, hollow stick used for dunking into your soup — you had better get there by 10. They're cold by 11 a.m. By noon, all

supplies are depleted. And at 5 p.m., Trieu Chau closes up shop.

Perhaps the best way to experience Trieu Chau's sumptuous porky nectar is to order your noodle soup "dry." This will separate the noodles and protein in one bowl; the broth on the side in another. But you don't just get the broth; you're also given one of the humongous hunks of pork bone that was boiled in the soup pot to enrich it — and at no extra charge.

You are encouraged to pick up the bone and tear off the tender scraps of meat with your teeth like a dog. No one will blink an eye. Table manners aren't important here. Before a recent remodel that only slightly updated the dank dining room and added a table for a Yelp waiting list, there was always a chance that you could be seated next to a stranger who'd never heard of Emily Post.

A fellow food writer remembered how he once sat with an elderly lady who propped her feet up

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REPORT

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report said. "All are welcome, regardless of income, insurance or legal status."

Wagner said, "I don't know if there's anything in particular we have to 'Oh, my gosh, do this or that or the other thing,' but there are tweaks we can do to specific things that we can do. It's good to have these reports to keep an eye on things."

Wagner said some of the problems with students struggling to meet standards for English and math may have much to do with the remote learning due to the pandemic.

"Since the public schools weren't open people looked for other ways to educate their children, and some are sticking with some of those ways, [so] you see a decline in public school attendance," he said.

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MERRIER

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the Saddleback Mothers of Multiples, the latter of which has been providing camaraderie and support to moms (and dads) for 52 years, according to member Danielle Foster.

"It's a community — we all know everyone and we've all seen each other raise kids," said the 38-year-old Chino Hills resident, who came to South Coast Plaza with 9-year-olds Lily and Micah.

Aside from having one's hands full, parents of multiples may face added difficulty nursing, sleep training, replacing outgrown wardrobes or traveling with twins and additional siblings.

Multiple births are often premature, which can lead to medical complications, and many of the parents in the group who've had twins or triplets as the result of in vitro fertilization may benefit from

being in a network of others who know what they're going through.

"There are so many layers of support for our unique needs," Foster said. "It's saved all of us, basically."

Despite the added difficulty, there are also joys to being the parent of twins, said Irvine mom Dawn Antis, who came to South Coast Plaza Thursday with husband Charles and 9-year-old fraternal twins Charlie and Gracie.

"It's challenging, but it's also the most rewarding experience in the world," she said, as Gracie came up behind Charlie and pulled him in for a hug. "They're absolutely best friends."

Charlie and Gracie came to ride the carousel, play with other multiples they've come to know over the years and to communicate to Santa their respective wishes for a new LEGO set and night vision goggles.

Nearby, Tustin mother



TWIN SISTERS high five as they ride the carousel at South Coast Plaza's Carousel Court on Thursday.

Don Leach
Staff
Photographer

Misty Mahoney had her hands full with two sets of twins — Bryan and Madelyn, 6, and 11-week-old babies Kaylie and Riley. Invited by a friend and member of Orange Coast Mothers of Multiples, she said she was grateful not to have to brave the usual holiday traffic to see Santa. "I feel like everything is

just a tad bit difficult when you're dealing with a single kid and you have one baby to cater to. But when you have more than one, it becomes about caring for them all equally and at the same time," she said, hovering over the handbars of a double baby stroller.

Mahoney said she appreciated being able to

chat with other parents in similar situations and let the kids enjoy free rein of Carousel Court.

"It's very special," Mahoney said. "I would say this is our biggest event of the year."

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IMAGING

Continued from page A3

"You are able to view two different projections at the same time, so literally as we're going up with the wire and the catheter, you're able to go back and forth in the projections and know exactly where your catheter is, be able to maneuver the wire around and position catheters to the exact location needed," Farid said. "When you're looking at 1-

to 2-millimeter structures in the brain and maneuvering wires through those things from the patient's groin or wrist, that precision is pretty important. Having the biplane room not only reduces the radiation exposure to the patient but also the contrast dosage."

Dr. Reginald Abraham, the chief of staff at Fountain Valley Regional, celebrated the milestone as an opportunity to get more patients back to their families.

"Now, we have this ability to be able to detect and treat strokes to do what's really important," Abraham said. "This is important, but what is really important is for all of us to get back to what we do every day, which is be with our families, grow, love and have a wonderful time with the growth of our young ones, and also our elderly people."

Rogers called the biplane technology "just another tool in the toolbox." During

Tuesday's ribbon-cutting ceremony he broke into an anecdote he had heard from a physician about how the equipment had already been put to use.

"We've got multiple cath labs and radiology labs in various stages of updating, and so we had a patient that came in and they identified a lesion," Rogers said. "They were coming back to get their interventional procedure, and they moved from the old lab to the new lab, and with the new visu-

alization and technology that comes with the Siemens biplane, they were able to not only properly do the intervention on this lesion, but they found another hidden lesion."

On what was the final day of her first term as mayor of Fountain Valley, Kim Constantine remarked that the new medical capabilities at the hospital will be a boon to residents.

"Giving the people of Fountain Valley access to state-of-the-art technology

for less invasive surgeries and faster healing is truly a gift starting this holiday season," Constantine said. "I really appreciate your continued support and for always being here to serve our community. I am thrilled this hospital continues to invest in our collective health and works to bring the best care possible to the people of Fountain Valley."

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DISH

Continued from page A3

on a chair and started clipping her toenails after she finished her meal. I once witnessed a fellow diner taking a sip from a serving spoon before he put it back into the jar of pickled chiles without a trace of shame. True story.

These days, there are posted signs with dire warnings that the police will be called on dine-and-dashers. But those are the perils when a place like this has been around forever and everyone knows the food is this good.

WHEN YOU WANT THE BEST NOODLES AND TOPPINGS

Hu Tieu De Nhat
9972 Garden Grove Blvd
Ste. F, Garden Grove
Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Closed Tuesdays.

Bowls starting at \$12
Hu Tieu De Nhat is a hole in the wall. It has exactly nine tables: two of them outside — all of them sticky and worn down in spots where they've been rubbed by a thousand elbows. And if you come anywhere close to lunchtime, forget about scoring a parking spot in the lot shared by the six other businesses in the strip mall. This is exacerbated by the fact that Hu Tieu De Nhat is currently the highest rated restaurant in Orange County for *hu tieu nam vang* on Yelp, and it's only open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and closed on



Edwin Goei

KNOWN FOR its dry pho, Grandpa's Kitchen - Grill Bar 168 in Garden Grove also offers a delicious hu tieu nam vang.

Tuesdays. So either go early or adopt a monk-like patience while you wait for a table to open up.

Located in Garden Grove, on the border of Little Saigon where it bleeds into Koreatown, Hu Tieu De Nhat serves nothing else than its namesake noodle soup. There are no stir-fries or rice dishes. So the only choice you need to make is what kind of noodle you want: either egg, rice or chewy, clear tapioca. Then come the toppings. Though

the menu is divided into permutations of different protein options, the only one you should consider is the special, which offers nearly all of them in one bowl.

The shrimp are large and plump, the ground pork and pork meat slices are so tender they melt. There's even quail egg and fried rendered nubbins of crunchy pork belly that inch you toward a heart attack one decadent cube at a time. But especially

great are the fish cakes, which get formed into rustic footballs and taste homemade.

Like at other joints, opting for your noodles "dry" will dress them in a savory sauce while the broth is served on the side. Both versions are exemplary, so it really depends what you're in the mood for. Does your sore throat need soothing from a deluge of hot broth? Try the noodles submerged in soup. Want to savor and appreciate their texture? Then have it "dry."

But whatever your choice, do not ignore the condiments, especially the house-cured pickled garlic and jalapenos, which are a signature of the shop and an essential part of the experience. They're bright, snappy and addictive counterpoints to the rich soup and the pleasant chewiness of the noodle. Never mind that they'll foul up your breath for the rest of the afternoon.

WHEN YOU WANT TO TAKE A DINNER DATE

Grandpa's Kitchen - Grill Bar 168

14208 Brookhurst St., Garden Grove
Hours: Sunday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.;
Friday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to midnight
Bowls starting at \$14.99
Grandpa's Kitchen is known for its dry *pho*, a unique specialty of a city called Pleiku in Vietnam's central highland region. It is one of the few restaura-

rants in Little Saigon to offer the dish. So if at this point in your life you've only experienced your *pho* noodles submerged in soup, you have to try it dry, at least once.

When you do, you're served two bowls of food. The first will be the rice noodles coated in a savory and sweet sauce topped with thinly sliced flank steak, fat-rimmed brisket, crisped pork cracklings and lettuce. The second will be the soup — a bona fide *pho* broth, aromatic of anise, insulated by a layer of melted beef fat which keeps the liquid scalding hot and two tiny beef meatballs bobbing on the surface like buoys.

But one thing you should know about this specialty dish — listed as "Grandpa's Dry Rice Noodle" on the menu — is that while it is very good, the egg noodle version called "Grandma's Dry Egg Noodle" is slightly better. And the *hu tieu nam vang*, which is virtually identical to the "Grandma" noodle except with more proteins added on, is even better still.

Whether you take the *hu tieu nam vang* dry or soupy, your noodles will be covered with meat. You may find that there are just a bit too many pieces of pork heart and liver, but they are, in fact, outnumbered by the generous portions of sliced pork. Also in the bowl: a smattering of fat-gushing pork lardons, more ground pork, two quail eggs and three boiled shrimp.

Bits of celery are thrown

in for crunch. Their texture contrasts the slightly too soft egg noodles, which, if you order "dry," will be lubricated in a special sweet-and-salty soy-based sauce.

You are encouraged to cut the richness with a squeeze of lime, some herbs, squirts of Sriracha and the side jars of pickled garlic and jalapenos. And then there's the side of broth with floating bits of ground pork and more celery. It may not be as flavorful as the other purveyors on this list, but it does the job.

It should be noted that Grandpa's Kitchen offers more than just noodles. The house specials include filet mignon *banh mi* and a sizzling platter of steak. But what sets this restaurant apart from the others is that it's not a dive or a hole-in-the-wall; it's an actual restaurant.

The napkins are presented in a wicker basket. The friendly service staff takes your order with iPads and checks on you mid-meal. And with potted plants outside and string lights dangling above the dining room, you would not be embarrassed to bring a dinner date here.

Grandpa's Kitchen is also one of the few *hu tieu* joints that is open late and that offers beer and soju, which at the other places would be an odd pairing for what's normally breakfast.

Edwin Goei is a contributor to TimesOC.

HANDCRAFTED GIFTS & HOLIDAY MAGIC



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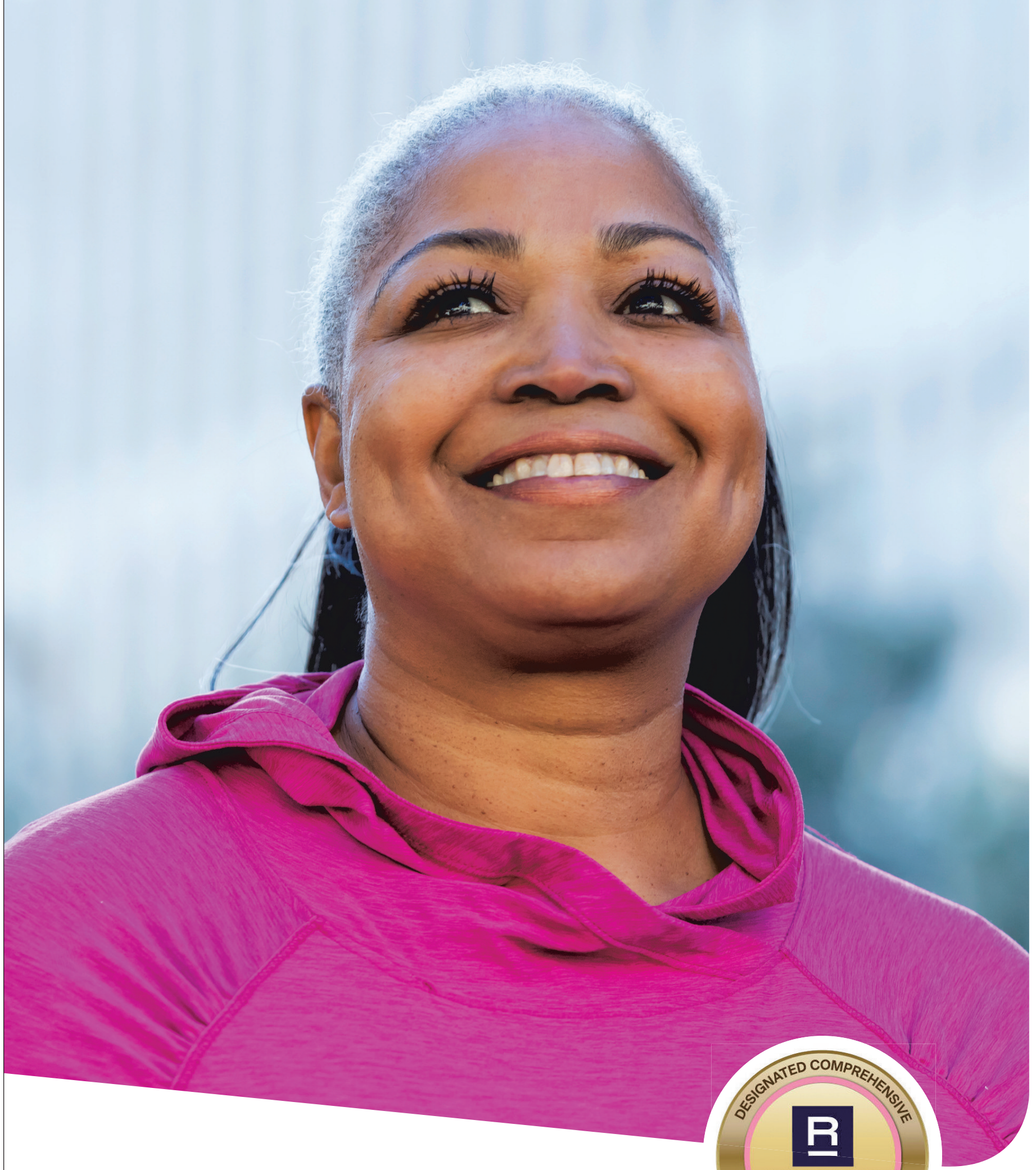


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forum

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE | REV. PAUL E. CAPETZ



File Photo

CHRIST CHURCH by the Sea rededicated its stained-glass windows in October.

Church's trauma from broken windows leads to unexpected places

Early on the Saturday morning after Easter I got a call from the Newport Beach Police Department informing me that our church had been vandalized during the night. A young man had taken a baseball bat and smashed our stained-glass windows. I was stunned by this news. I asked myself, "How could anyone do such a terrible thing? And why would anyone do such a thing to us?" When I arrived at the church and saw the extent of the damage that had been done, I couldn't believe my eyes. There were pieces of shat-

tered glass everywhere, not only on the floor but also in the pews and on top of Bibles and hymnals in the pew racks. Within a few hours as the news spread that our sanctuary had been desecrated, a dozen volunteers showed up at the church with brooms and other cleaning supplies in hand. We worked for hours until all the broken glass was cleaned up so that we could worship there the next morning. I admired the resolve of our members not to let this senseless act of violence interrupt our church's mission to worship God

and to be of service to all people.

That next morning as I thought about what I would say from the pulpit, I realized that I couldn't deliver the sermon that I had written earlier that week before the vandalism occurred. I needed to let the members of our church speak about how they felt. I made the right decision. As one person after another came forward to share what was on their hearts and minds, we found ourselves working through the shock and

See **Windows**, page A9

MAILBAG

Closure of Equestrian Center would be a big loss

I am sorry to learn about the problems at the fairgrounds (O.C. fairgrounds' Equestrian Center could close in March if new operator can't be found, Daily Pilot, Nov. 24), as years ago I used to spend time watching my mother ride her five-gaited horse, the Chief, which she kept stabled there. She won many show ribbons, from Indio to the Cow Palace, and I have lots of fond memories of watching her.

Riding horses and taking care of them is a wonderful and valuable experience for especially younger children, and losing a place where they can do that is a shame. I can understand in this time of inflation and uncertainty and the high cost of owning a horse that the fairgrounds would have a



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

RIDERS PAUSE to chat with trainer Sarah Klifa as they train at the OC Fair & Event Center Equestrian Center.

problem financially, however nothing ever stays the same and in another year the "worm will turn."

John Kingsley
Playa del Coco, Costa Rica

Sewage spill raises questions

On Nov. 29, approximately 95,000 gallons of

See **Mailbag**, page A10

A WORD, PLEASE | JUNE CASAGRANDE

Heed this holiday advice on plural names and apostrophes

Every year in this column, I give tips for how to avoid the most common writing mistakes in holiday greetings and invitations. And every year, I'm reminded of just how influential I'm not as people far and wide repeat the mistakes: Merry Christmas from the Smiths! Happy Holidays from the Wilsons. We look forward to seeing you this year at Joe Gomez' house. And on and on. So here's my 2023 edition of



how to make names plural, possessive and plural possessive in your holiday greetings.

1. Don't use an apostrophe to form the plural of a family name. Clay and DeeDee Smith are the Smiths, not the Smith's.

2. Don't use an apostrophe to form the plural of a family name even if it ends in a vowel. Just because the plural name Mancinis looks like the last syllable should be pronounced

"iss," that's no excuse for using an apostrophe. Ignore your ear and follow the rule: Add just an S to make plurals of last names ending in vowels. One Mancini, two Mancinis. One Popescu, a whole family of Popescus. One Cho, all the Chos.

3. Use and ES and no apostrophe to form the plural of a family name that ends in S, Ch, Sh, X or Z. "We're visiting the Walshes this Christmas" is

See **Word**, page A10

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12:59

53

Los Angeles Times TimesOC



California State Parks seasonal lifeguard Sierra Fockler discovered a 14-inch Pacific football fish around 2:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 13, near the lifeguard station located at Crystal Cove State Park in Orange County. It's the second such case of the fish washing ashore over the last three years. (Courtesy of California State Parks)

Good morning. It's Wednesday, Oct. 25. I'm Carol Cormaci, bringing you this week's [TimesOC newsletter](#) with a look at the latest local news and events.

Watch where you're stepping on O.C.'s famed sands, because you may encounter a rare specimen of marine life. One, in fact, that has very sharp teeth.

That's what happened on a recent afternoon to lifeguard Sierra Fockler, who found a spooky-looking black angler fish, specifically a Pacific football fish, while she was walking near the lifeguard headquarters building on Moro Beach, located within Crystal Cove State Park.

THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

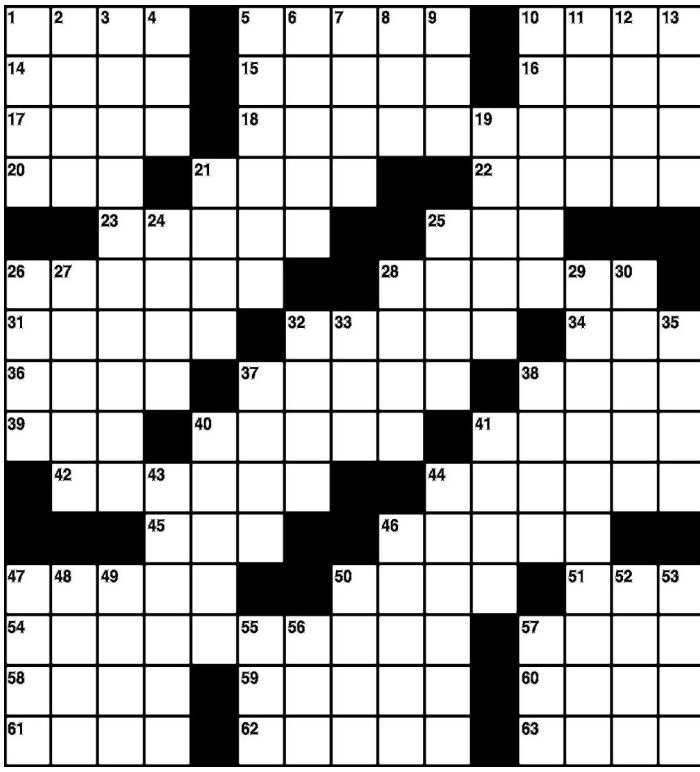
By Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS

- 1 Touch on
- 5 Largest U.S. bank
- 10 _ around; twirled
- 14 Man's nickname
- 15 Foyt or Andretti
- 16 Hawaiian tuber
- 17 Kitchen feature
- 18 Puts on a show for
- 20 High school building
- 21 Passing crazes
- 22 Dishwasher cycle
- 23 Rosa or Bert
- 25 Roofing goo
- 26 Dale
- 28 Contorts
- 31 Wed secretly
- 32 Danger
- 34 _ as a beet
- 36 Requests on a letter to Santa
- 37 Sink hole
- 38 Few and far between
- 39 Pronoun
- 40 Word with hug or therapy
- 41 Forgo rights
- 42 Venerates
- 44 _ against; opposing
- 45 Curtsy
- 46 Cattle catcher
- 47 "See ya!"
- 50 Unit of length
- 51 Squabble
- 54 Penalty
- 57 Upper seating area
- 58 Munches
- 59 Hockey player from Edmonton
- 60 "Of course!"
- 61 Mail opening
- 62 Gullible one
- 63 Not brand new

DOWN

- 1 Very excited
- 2 Group of quail
- 3 Not working
- 4 Playing card



SUDOKU

By the Mepham 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.

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

For answers to the crossword and Sudoku puzzles, see page A9.

- 5 Like old floorboards
- 6 _ over; delivers
- 7 Goes on stage
- 8 Behold
- 9 Slip up
- 10 Elevator alternative
- 11 Kidney stone
- symptom
- 12 Fancy vases
- 13 Facial center
- 19 Mountain path
- 21 Unrestrained
- 24 Grenoble's scenery
- 25 Bed size
- 26 Nov. honorees

- 27 Island greeting
- 28 Journey
- 29 Disloyal
- 30 Do a waiter's job
- 32 _ and cons
- 33 Thirsty Frenchman's need
- 35 Landowner's paper
- 37 Carey, for one
- 38 Household pests
- 40 144
- 41 Intelligent
- 43 Woodwind player
- 44 Meager
- 46 Queues
- 47 Gibbons & gorillas
- 48 Serving two purposes
- 49 Very interested in
- 50 Patty _; lunch menu offering
- 52 Meanie
- 53 Do garden work
- 55 1950s teen dance party
- 56 Ms. Farrow
- 57 Univ. in Baton Rouge

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TOYS FOR donation to 350 Marine families at Camp Pendleton spilled onto the floor during the Travelers of Gulliver's Christmas party.

Photos by Susan Hoffman

Daily Pilot

A Times Community News publication.

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Charity puts new toys into children's hands

BY SUSAN HOFFMAN

After just one meeting, Karen Wilson was convinced that she wanted to be a part of the Travelers of Gulliver's charitable organization. She is now a current board member and secretary of the organization.

"It was in 2011 that my friend, John Scudder, invited me to a meeting, which was all men at the time," said Wilson, who lives in Anaheim Hills. "They always met at Gulliver's [Restaurant], and

he asked me if I could help him out because they wanted to get involved with the Marines."

Wilson thought it sounded like a lot of fun inviting Marines from Camp Pendleton for a Christmas lunch and toy giveaway for their families.

And on Dec. 1 this year, the festive holiday gathering, which was open to the public and included a raffle and silent auction, continued at Gulliver's Restaurant in Irvine.

"It has really grown since 2013 when we first invited the Marines for a lunch and toys for children of Marine families," said Wilson, who refers to herself as a "jack-of-all-trades" for the organiza-



FIRST SGT. Garrett Jolly, third from right, is flanked on Dec. 1 by Marines from Camp Pendleton during the Travelers of Gulliver's Christmas party at Gulliver's Restaurant in Irvine.

tion. "The first year we had 30 to 35 people, and this time we had 75."

Spreading beyond the Christmas tree that sat in the corner of Gulliver's banquet room during the Camp Pendleton Marine & Family Christmas Holiday party was the huge collection of donated new toys. The six Marines

who attended the event later transported the generous gifts for distribution to 350 Marines and their family members.

First Sgt. Garrett Jolly of Wichita, Kan., who attended for the second year, expressed his gratitude, saying, "On behalf of Lt. Col. Sgt. Major Hernandez of the Marines and sailors of first Reconnaissance Battalion, I want to thank the community of Orange County for the donations of all the Christmas gifts that they provided for all the military families."

"For 25 years or so, it has been a pleasure helping in Santa's work for the children of those who serve America around the world," said Newport Beach resident John Scudder.

A nonprofit organization, Travelers of Gulliver's is comprised of Orange County business and professional leaders dedicated to the belief that "need has no season" for those individuals and groups who are less fortunate.

The organization was founded in 1999 by 11 charter members as a result of a newspaper article reporting the hardships and challenges of impoverished children living in hotels in Orange County. Travelers of Gulliver's has expanded its mission to identify and assist those who are making a meaningful difference in the community along with providing assistance to special individuals and groups in crisis with 100% of contributions going to charity.

The organization recognizes that many individuals and especially children are in desperate need and do not receive assistance from formal charities.

Among the local recipients are the Orangewood Children and Family Center in Orange and schools in Costa Mesa, where each year Traveler's donates 200 backpacks to children in need.

Susan Hoffman is a contributor to the Daily Pilot.

Los Angeles Times

This must be the place

HYPERLOCAL GUIDES TO NEIGHBORHOOD GEMS.

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Pursuant to the California Self Service Storage Facility Act (B&P Code 21700 ET seq.) The undersigned will sell at public auction on Tuesday December 26, 2023 at 1:30 pm. Personal property including but not limited to furniture, clothing, tools and/or other household items located at: The sale will take place online at www.selfstorageauction.com.
John H Christman III
All sales are subject to prior cancellation. All terms, rules and regulations are available online at www.selfstorageauction.com. Dated this December 10, 2023 and December 17, 2023 by Irvine Self Storage, 2960 Main St, Irvine, CA, 92614 (949) 851-7900
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WINDOWS

Continued from page A6

disbelief as well as the grief and sorrow that we all felt. Some spoke with tears in their eyes and with trembling voices. Others expressed genuine concern for the misguided young man who wreaked such havoc on our congregation. This event was a trauma for our little church. We never expected random violence, which has become so prevalent in our society, to touch us. We knew, however, that it could have been much worse. Someone could have entered our sanctuary with a gun during worship and started shooting. After all, windows can be repaired, but dead people cannot be brought back to life.

I went to court five times to represent our church in the legal proceedings. Although the young man confessed to the crime when the police arrested him, the district attorney informed me that he probably won't be able to stand trial since he is severely mentally ill. She also explained our church could not expect to receive any financial restitution since the defendant has no monetary resources of his own. I wondered what would become of this young man, whom I saw only once in court. The detective overseeing our case lamented that our society sorely lacks

adequate mental-health care that people like the defendant so desperately need. Our church would gladly forego the restoration of our windows if only this troubled young man could get the help he needs to live as a happy and productive member of society.

The windows were more than beautiful works of art. They were religious symbols, depicting scenes from the life of Jesus and other biblical figures. Moreover, the windows had been given by beloved former members of our church, now deceased, in memory of someone they loved and wanted to honor. The cost of repairing our windows was \$60,000, which is a lot of money for a small church like ours. But we were able to raise this money and within six months our windows were restored. A great deal of the money we raised came from people in the wider community who are not members of our congregation. We were deeply touched by this outpouring of support from strangers.

A few months after our church was vandalized, another Methodist church was burned to the ground by the devastating fires that engulfed the island of Maui in Hawaii. The members of this congregation were not the victims of violence resulting from the actions of a misguided human being as we were. Their sanctuary was destroyed by

the violent forces of nature that can sometimes be as random and senseless as the violence perpetrated by human beings. But their loss was far worse than ours. They have no sanctuary left to repair. They will have to rebuild from the ground up.

Out of gratitude for all the financial assistance given to us when we were in need, we have decided to collect a special offering at our Christmas Eve service and to donate the proceeds to Lahaina United Methodist Church in Maui for the purpose of rebuilding its sanctuary. As we celebrate the birth of Christ in our sanctuary with our restored stained-glass windows, we will pray for the people of Lahaina who will be celebrating Christmas without a sanctuary of their own to pray in. Since ours is a story of grief, healing, restoration and gratitude, we hope our gift will encourage them as we were encouraged by the generosity of others.

This Christmas we will give thanks for the restoration of our windows, we will hope for the rebuilding of the church of Lahaina, and we will pray for the young man in jail who has lost his way in life and needs help finding it again.

REV. PAUL E. CAPETZ is the pastor of Christ Church by the Sea (United Methodist) in Newport Beach.

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

A	B	U	T	C	H	A	S	E	S	P	U	N
G	E	N	E	R	A	C	E	R	T	A	R	O
O	V	E	N	E	N	T	E	R	T	A	I	N
G	Y	M	F	A	D	S	R	I	N	S	E	
	P	A	R	K	S		T	A	R			
V	A	L	L	E			T	W	I	S	T	S
E	L	O	P	E	P	E	R	I	L	R	E	D
T	O	Y	S	D	R	A	I	N	R	A	R	E
S	H	E	G	R	O	U	P	W	A	I	V	E
A	D	O	R	E	S		P	I	T	T	E	D
	B	O	W		L	A	S	S	O			
A	D	I	O	S		M	I	L	E		R	O
P	U	N	I	S	H	M	E	N	T		L	O
E	A	T	S		O	I	L	E	R		S	U
S	L	O	T		P	A	T	S	Y		U	S

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


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Ritzy Lunch Is Back!

Traditional Holiday Fare | Mon - Fri 11:30am - 3pm
December 1st - 22nd







This Holiday Season, The Bungalow Restaurant Family is continuing the tradition of the Ritzy-style lunch that locals and visitors alike enjoy year after year!

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TRADITIONAL HOLIDAY FARE

Served Monday - Friday 11:30am - 3pm Dec 1st - Dec 22nd

The Bungalow restaurant family would like to thank you for joining us this holiday season to continue the tradition of the Ritzy-style lunch that locals and visitors alike enjoy year after year.

APPETIZERS

THE BUNGALOW EGG
Chive smoked salmon scrambled egg topped with caviar. Served with a shot of Grey Goose Vodka 20

COLOSSAL PRAWN COCKTAIL
Spicy cocktail sauce with fresh horseradish & Tabasco then mixed with diced celery 24

BUTTERNUT SQUASH RAVIOLI
Sage brown butter, shaved Manchego, pistachios 18

SWEET CHILI CALAMARI
Tender calamari fried golden brown, sweet chili, bean sprouts, daikon sprouts, peanuts, carrots, Japanese dressing 18

GRILLED ARTICHOKE
Quarters of grilled artichoke, garlic olive oil marinade, ginger aioli 18

SOUPS & SALADS

CORN CHOWDER
Fresh corn, Applewood smoked bacon 13

MEATBALL SOUP
Pork & beef meatballs, beef stock, sautéed spinach, penne pasta 13

HOLIDAY SALAD
Cut romaine, Belgian endive, chives, watercress, Canadian coral bay shrimp, hard-boiled egg, tomato, ciabatta croutons, tossed in an olive oil, tarragon apple cider vinaigrette & a touch of Dijon mustard 20

DUNGENESS CRAB & BAY SHRIMP LOUIE
Juliened iceberg lettuce, sliced egg, asparagus spears, roasted red pepper, 1000 island dressing 28

LIME-MARINATED CHICKEN SALAD
Mixed greens, lime marinated grilled chicken, avocado, chopped grilled vegetables, tarragon vinaigrette 20

BUNGALOW COBB SALAD
Diced chicken, bacon, hard-boiled egg, avocado, tomato, scallions, bleu cheese, red wine vinaigrette 20

SEARED AHI SALAD
Seared rare, field greens, sweet peppers, Portobello mushrooms, toasted sesame seeds, wasabi-ginger vinaigrette 28

SANDWICHES

STEAK SANDWICH
Six ounce sliced filet mignon, onion strings, French baguette, French fries 29

BEEF DIP SANDWICH
Sliced thin, au jus, Swiss cheese, caramelized onions on a French roll. Served with creamy horseradish & French fries 22

FILET MIGNON BURGER
Ground filet mignon, cheddar cheese, lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, caramelized onions, 1000 island dressing & French fries 21.

HOLIDAY FARE

TRADITIONAL ROAST GOOSE WITH LINGONBERRY SAUCE
Celery root mashed potatoes, warm gala apple compote & sweet sour red cabbage 46

DI BELLA PASTA
Penne pasta, marinara sauce, meatballs 25

PEPPERED MEDALLIONS OF FILET
Two medallions of pan-seared & pepper crusted filet mignon, topped with Diane sauce, seasonal vegetables 35

MISO-MARINATED CHILEAN SEA BASS
Soy glaze, coconut rice, stir fried vegetables, mushrooms, lemongrass ginger beurre blanc 37

BLACKENED KING SALMON
Yukon Gold mashed potatoes, avocado relish, honey jalapeño beurre blanc 31

CALIFORNIA CHICKEN BREAST
Pan-seared chicken breast, oven roasted tomatoes, avocado, Yukon Gold mashed potatoes 31

Split plate charge of five dollars for all entrees. Consuming raw or undercooked meats, poultry, seafood, shellfish or eggs may increase your risk of food-borne illness, especially if you have certain medical conditions. We have the right to refuse service to anyone. No more than two forms of payment per table, please. 20% Gratuity will be added to parties of eight or more. A 3% processing fee will be added to all credit card transactions. For guests that choose to pay with cash, the 3% fee will be waived.



WORD

Continued from page A6

correct. Not “the Walshs.” “We’re traveling with the Williamses” is correct. Not “the Williams’s” or “the Williams.” For these, it’s especially important to remember whether you want to make the name plural, possessive or both, because these names in possessive form get tricky. But to simply make plural a name ending in S or another of these letters, just add the ES: We love spending time with the Besses, the Gomezes and the Mad-doxes.

4. Don’t change the spell-

ing of a name that ends in Y. Berrys aren’t berries. They’re people whose last name is made plural the same way most names are: with just an S. The Quincys. The Murphys. The Zelen-skys.

5. Don’t insert an apostrophe in front of an S that’s part of the name. If you’re writing a card to people with the last name of Williams, don’t talk about them as “the William’s.” Two people named James are never “the Jame’s.”

6. Form possessives of singular and plural names the same way you form possessives of singular and plural generic nouns. You

already know to add an apostrophe plus an S to make most singular nouns possessive: the cat’s tail. You also know that if the noun is plural, you usually make it possessive with just an apostrophe placed after the plural S: the cats’ tails. Keep that in mind when writing possessives of proper names on holiday greetings. The house owned by the Smiths is the Smiths’ house. The party thrown by the Mangiones is the Mangiones’ party. Of course, if just one person named Mangione is throwing the party, it’s Bob Mangione’s party. But it’s those plural possessives that you have to watch out for.



SANTA CLAUS (Lou Martinez) brought his large mailbox for letters from children during the St. Bonaventure Catholic School Santa Drive-Thru Experience on Dec. 5, 2020.

File Photo

7. Don’t make exceptions for names ending in X or Z. Outdated style books used to say that names ending in X or Z had their own set of rules for forming possessives. Not so. For singular possessives ending in X

or Z, add apostrophe plus S: Donna Cox’s party. Paul Martinez’s house. For plural possessives ending in X or Z, first make plural by adding ES, then add the apostrophe on the end as you do for all plural pos-

sessives. The Coxes’ party. The Martinezes’ house. 8. Pick your style for forming possessives of singular proper names ending in S. Some rule-makers say that singular proper names that end in S form the possessive just like every other word: by adding an apostrophe and S: Mr. Jones’s hat. Others say to add just an apostrophe: Mr. Jones’ hat. Either way is fine. Just remember this applies only to singular names.

JUNE CASAGRANDE is the author of “The Best Punctuation Book, Period.” She can be reached at JuneTCN@aol.com.

MAILBAG

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raw sewage spilled out along our coastline areas from Laguna Avenue to Blue Lagoon. With the area polluted by our very own human waste, I couldn’t help but think about our fragile ecosystem and what effect this will have, both short term and long term, for our aquatic life, not to mention the quality-of-life issues for the folks who live along the beach and the many businesses that rely on it. I can’t stop asking myself, how could we let this happen?

When Amplify Energy spilled thousands of gallons of oil in our ocean, killing land and marine life and closing businesses, we were all rightly outraged. What happens in our state and federal waters is out of our control. We rely on the good actors, or in Amplify’s case the bad actors, to maintain their infrastructure and to sound the alarms immediately in the event of a failure, in order to minimize the impact. But in this case, the spill of raw sewage now polluting our shores and water is our fault. We have no one to blame but ourselves. And it’s not the first time. As recently as November 2019, one million gallons of sewage spilled into the ocean near Aliso Beach.

Some have suggested this November time frame has to do with the city’s strategy for managing runoff in the winter.

Recently, David Shissler, a civil engineer with many years of experience in building and maintaining sewer facilities and training employees, retired as the city’s director of the Water Quality Department. Under his management, the department was divided into two divisions, one handling sewers and the other handling storm water infrastructure. The city has since rolled these divisions into the Department of Public Works and Utilities. Instead of finding and hiring the top candidate to focus on our water quality, the city eliminated Shissler’s position. To me, this seems to indicate that water quality and public health and safety are less of a priority.

I would think bringing on an experienced engineer and ensuring we have the latest and greatest technology and infrastructure and staff would be among the city’s top priorities. Instead, we appear to have chosen a void in leadership by eliminating positions, all while having old and failing infrastructure. In a town where ocean water quality is a public priority, how should we interpret this coastal city eliminating the department with that sole

responsibility?

Judie Mancuso
Laguna Beach

H.B. politics continue to vex readers

Huntington Beach took another troubling step towards authoritarian rule Tuesday night with the installation of Gracey Van Der Mark and Pat Burns as mayor and mayor pro tem. As reported by Sara Caradine (“Huntington Beach’s first Latina mayor, Gracey Van Der Mark, sworn in after 4-3 vote,” Daily Pilot, Dec. 7), this “subverted established procedure.” The whole mayoralty of Tony Strickland and the performance of the council majority since taking seats on the dais has subverted established procedure. And this is only the first installment of a likely four-year reign of terror for a largely cowed community. This opening salvo of MAGA-style conservatism has been topped with ramming through three unneeded and irresponsible charter amendments to be placed on the March 2024 primary ballot. At a recent State of the City breakfast, Strickland claimed his primary devotion has been to public safety. It seems that the new devotion of the majority will result in the loss of public credibility. Ignoring rules,

trampling norms, brushing aside official resolutions and acting with impunity defines the new “in your face” style of governing. Even if the minority members are reelected next November, it will not change the downward trajectory of representation in Surf City. The year 2026 cannot come soon enough for our beleaguered citizenry. Many in the community point to Huntington Beach becoming a political laughingstock outside our borders. Unfortunately, most of those stuck under this new authoritarian form of local government aren’t laughing.

Tim Geddes
Huntington Beach

The writ of mandate filed against the Huntington Beach City Council’s Charter Changes to require voter identification for city elections, although rarely granted has an excellent chance of being granted.

A writ of mandate is a type of extraordinary writ in the U.S. and the state of California to command lower bodies including courts and administrative agencies to do or not to do certain things if granted by the court as an order.

At the present time there are 452 municipalities in California, from the largest, Los Angeles, to the smallest, Amador City, and one

cannot expect each city, even a charter city, to develop and implement its own election regulations. That is why we have state legislators to write election requirements for the entire state. Mayor Tony Strickland, a former legislator, should be well aware of this and should be ashamed of himself for spending taxpayer funds on worthless, meaningless charter amendments, which are primarily meant to thwart the will of the people.

Richard C. Armendariz
Huntington Beach

On March 14, 2023, the Huntington Beach City Council voted 4-2-1 to end the Greater Huntington Beach Interfaith Council’s 17-year role in providing invocations at its meetings. The majority members claimed that the invocations were too politicized, yet no specific cases were cited as explanation. Then-Mayor Tony Strickland said, “It’s very important that we have nonpolitical prayers and statements that include all faiths.”

It was highly hypocritical and offensive of Strickland and his majority to invite (for the second time in a year) controversial Senior Pastor Joe Pedick of Calvary Chapel of the Harbour to give an invocation at the Dec. 5 City Council meeting. In his weekly sermons

he often encourages congregants to take questionable political actions. Pedick was a keynote speaker at a “Stop the Steal” rally in Huntington Beach in December 2020 (introduced by Alan Hostetter, who was sentenced on Dec. 7 to 11 years for spreading conspiracy theories and carrying a hatchet during the Jan. 6 Capitol attack).

Anyone with an ounce of intelligence and perception (let alone character) understands that Pedick is no “average Joe” pastor. He is a divisive political operative and any appearance by him in a city-sponsored capacity, even if his remarks are not inflammatory in an invocation, will be considered polarizing and offensive by association. Already congregants of his have spread his poisonous propaganda at City Council meetings. Allowing Pedick to present at the invocation was an affront to the community.

Those who voted to replace community religious leaders from the Greater Huntington Beach Interfaith Council with this dangerous demagogue are hypocrites. Those who see nothing wrong with kowtowing to a representative of a divisive ideology, despite its obvious and serious political ramifications, are blind as well.

Carol Daus
Huntington Beach

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