

3 Irvine officials honor local org

The recognition comes after the Chamber of Commerce revoked an award intended for Planned Parenthood.

BY SARA CARDINE

The Greater Irvine Chamber of Commerce was all set in January to recognize organizations, businesses and individuals whose innovative work makes a meaningful difference in healthcare and patient outcomes, when a mysterious last-minute edit to the event's program was made.

One of the recipients due to be honored — Planned Parenthood of Orange and San Bernardino Counties — was quietly removed from all public mention associated with the Jan. 16 ceremony.

Irene Salazar, senior vice president of community education and outreach for the Orange-based nonprofit, said members of her team were “devastated” to hear the news on the day of the event.

“At first I was a little bit shocked. We thought maybe it was a safety issue,” she said of the organization whose Costa Mesa health center was the scene of a 2022 firebombing attempt that spurred the need for a security presence at public occasions.

“Then we found out it was something completely different.”

Held at the Hilton Irvine, the

See **Honor**, page A8

Local college students get visa reversals

International students at Cal State Fullerton, Chapman University and UC Irvine have had their visas revoked.

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

The wave of the Trump administration's visa cancellations sweeping through colleges nationwide has affected several international students at three Orange County universities.

As of April 15, four students at Cal State Fullerton have had their visas revoked, along with 44 others systemwide. A spokesperson for the university confirmed the tally.

On April 11, Chapman University's acting provost Glenn Pfeiffer confirmed that three students had their visas canceled during a faculty senate meeting that TimesOC has reviewed.

“What the [U.S.] State Department is doing is within the law,” Pfeiffer said during the meeting. “They have the authority to revoke a visa for anyone that they feel may be a threat to national

See **Visa**, page A2



Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

CROWDS GATHER at the end of the Balboa Pier to watch boats get into position for last year's Newport to Ensenada International Yacht Race.

Favorable conditions forecast for international yacht race

BY ERIC LICAS

Craig Reynolds and the crew aboard his yacht, *Bolt*, sat in becalmed waters for around five hours on a windless afternoon near the coast of Rosarito. They were just about ready to give up on sailing through the finish line of the 1998 Newport Beach to Ensenada International Yacht Race and motor to the nearest harbor, until choice words from softball coach and current Balboa Yacht Club dockmaster Brian Marshall “explained to us that we are not quitters,” Reynolds said.

Bolt finished the race late Saturday evening, eons slower than they would have under typical conditions. The crew still placed first in their class.

“It was a horrible race,” Reynolds told the Daily Pilot Thursday, shortly before boarding a plane to Newport Beach to prep for this year's competition. “And one of the reasons we won is because most of the other boats quit.”

But this year, forecasts predict conditions ripe for speedier times, according to Pete

See **Yacht**, page A3



THE CREW OF the Halawa, scramble for position with other crews during their start of last year's Newport to Ensenada International Yacht Race outside the Balboa Pier from Newport Beach.

Fountain Valley to allow hand-painted installations for Art on a Box program

BY ANDREW TURNER

On the southwest corner of the intersection at Brookhurst Street and Edinger Avenue in Fountain Valley, a utility box is decorated on all four sides, the titular “Drive-In Hospital” facing the pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

Depicted in the piece is the former Fountain Valley Drive-In, a marquee displaying the movies that played on opening night in 1967 — “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs” and “Tammy and the Millionaire.”

The drive-in was demolished in 1984, and the evolution of what the property became is represented in a reflecting pool, where the artwork displays the reverse image of MemorialCare Orange Coast Medical Center.

Resident artist Katy Wright became the first to put her design

on a city-owned utility box through the Art on a Box program in 2021. She remains the only one to have done so.

The program is run through the Fountain Valley Community Foundation, which sponsored the initial project. The other sides illustrate advertising for the theater and crows swooping down on the grounds of the abandoned drive-in, including one perched on top of a speaker.

Wright described her discovery of the public art program as a “fluke,” but she has become somewhat of a champion for it.

“I have gotten up at several meetings, and I have talked about that I’m the inaugural artist, and I want to see more art out there by more people, more variety,” Wright said in an interview on Wednesday. “The sky’s the limit as far as what could be on



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

FOUNTAIN VALLEY resident and artist Katy Wright stands with her artwork featured on a utility box at Brookhurst Street and Edinger Avenue.

those boxes. A quilter could take a photograph of their quilt, and that would be a gorgeous thing on a box.

“I, myself, have relied on public transportation for a good portion of my life, and I would appreciate something like that, and I know everybody else would,

too. I want people who don't think they're artists to go ahead and think, ‘Well, the worst case, maybe they don't take it, and they don't use it.’ I can't tell you what it feels like when you didn't think you were an artist, and you

See **Box**, page A5

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Santa Ana poised to take action against businesses labeled ‘drug dens’

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

A gateway to downtown Santa Ana, East 1st Street has also been a corridor where open drug use and other criminal activities have become commonplace over the years.

Wearry of what the city has called a “staggering” number of police calls for service at Royal Grand Inn, Royal Roman Motel and El Tapatio Restaurant, Santa Ana is ready to take legal action against the trio of East 1st Street businesses they have described as “drug dens.”

On Tuesday, the Santa Ana City Council voted unanimously to allow City Atty. Sonia Carvalho to file a lawsuit against the businesses and seek a court order to board up and shut them down for up to one year.

“These legal actions are necessary,” said Councilwoman Jessie Lopez.

“I sincerely hope that the property owners can work with the city to resolve these issues, to become better neighbors to families in the area.”

A staff report listed Kyong Su Kim and Myong Kim as owners of all three properties. City records noted Maria Melendez as the owner of the Mariscos El Tapatio y Antojitos restaurant.

Over the past three years, the pair of motels across the street from each other and the restaurant along East 1st Street have been the subject of more than 1,400 calls for service to the Santa Ana Police Department.

Felony and misdemeanor criminal activity committed in and around the businesses read like a laundry list of drug-related offenses, including methamphetamine possession.

Councilman David Peñaloza said that if he could have single-handedly given Carvalho the power to file a lawsuit, he would have done so five years ago.

“I hope that this sends a message, loud and clear, to every business [or absentee landlord] across this city, that if you allow... blight, drug dens and crimes to exist inside your property and ignore it... we will go down this route,” he said. “It is a shame that our residents have to deal with this non-sense day after day.”

Santa Ana red-tagged five motel rooms at the Royal Roman in 2024 for fire and

water damage. To date, many of the units remain red-tagged.

The city also issued more than \$2,000 total in administrative fines against the Royal Grand Inn for code violations.

More recently, the California Labor Commissioner’s Office and the Employment Development Department inspected El Tapatio and found that it was operating without worker’s compensation insurance and a payroll system.

The agencies cited the owner for \$69,000 and ordered the shut down of business operations until in full compliance with labor law.

“We don’t want promises for 30 days,” Carvalho said in wanting a civil complaint against the businesses in hand. “We will use that authority to seek compliance first. Compliance is always our first step.”

If the city proceeds with a lawsuit, it could ask a judge to issue \$25,000 civil penalties against each business. Santa Ana would also look to have the properties fall under an appointed receiver and possibly be sold to a new owner.

Mayor Valerie Amezcuea mentioned how she has regularly called Santa Ana PD’s watch commander about seeing people naked, doing drugs and sleeping on the corridor.

“First Street has always been a disaster,” she said.

“We can sit up here and say it’s been years and years in the making. This has been a problem for a very long time. Things did not start happening until recently.”

Amezcuea claimed that the proactive approach to 1st Street represented a swing of the political pendulum in Santa Ana. In recent years, a split between progressive and moderate Democrats in their approach to public safety issues has defined the council’s political dynamics.

“First Street is just the beginning of where we are going,” Amezcuea promised. “It is time. We are done.”

In the end, all seven council members, regardless of their political leanings, voted to give Carvalho the power to take legal action against the businesses, if need be.

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VISA

Continued from page A1

security.”

Pfeiffer was otherwise unaware why the private university’s students, including a post-doctoral student, had their visas canceled.

The Department of Homeland Security did not respond to a TimesOC request for comment.

Nationwide, hundreds of international students have had their visas, which allow them to live and study in the U.S., revoked amid the president’s continued crackdown on immigration.

Initially, it appeared as if the move targeted students accused of supporting State Department designated foreign terrorist organizations.

“We are not going to be importing activists into the United States,” said Secretary of State Marco Rubio in remarks to the press. “They’re here to study. They’re here to go to class.

They’re not here to lead activist movements that are disruptive and undermine our universities. I think it’s lunacy to continue to allow that.”

But as the cancellations continue, students with minor offenses are increasingly finding themselves faced with the dilemma of leaving the U.S. within seven days or face deportation proceedings.

An anonymous student at an unnamed Orange County campus sued the Trump administration alleging that their status was illegally revoked with the violations on their record being a “minor speeding ticket and a misdemeanor alcohol related driving conviction,” the latter of which the State Department knew about before deciding to renew the visa.

About 6% of Cal State Fullerton’s nearly 44,000 student body population is comprised of international students authorized to study under either F-1 or J-1



Photos by Gabriel San Román

OVER A three-year period, Santa Ana police said they have received 765 calls for service related to the Royal Roman Motel.

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Allen J. Schaben | Los Angeles Times

CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY in Orange is one of three university campuses in O.C. to be impacted by the visa cancellations.

visas.

Chapman currently has undergraduate students from 60 different countries attending classes, according to the university’s website. They make up 5% of Chapman’s nearly 10,000 enrolled students.

“The Chapman Office of International Student Services is working directly with the affected students to try and understand their specific situations,” said Jeff Howard, a Chapman University spokesperson, in a statement to TimesOC.

The university did not disclose the students’ country of origin or provide any

further details, citing privacy concerns.

UC Irvine has also seen a “small number” of its international students and recent graduates temporarily employed in their major areas of study have their visas canceled.

According to an April 7 statement by UC Irvine Chancellor Howard Gillman, the campus learned of them through monitoring the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System.

“While the numbers are fluid, none of these cases are connected to campus disciplinary processes,” Gillman wrote.

UC Irvine has more than 36,000 students enrolled.

A spokesperson for UCI would not confirm the total number of international students affected, citing the numbers being so few that it could lead to their identification.

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San Clemente readies search for offshore sand



Allen J. Schaben | Los Angeles Times

WORKERS REPLENISH the beach with new sand during the first phase of a sand replenishment project in San Clemente.

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

In dire need of sand to replenish its eroding beaches, San Clemente is on the lookout for nearby offshore deposits to dredge. Coastal Frontiers Corp., a consultant hired last year to carry out a sand investigation project, gave the San Clemente City Council an update Tuesday about its recent efforts. The exploration plan has identified 11 possible borrow sites, mostly along Orange County's coastline, from north to south. Working with an \$800,000 contract, only six of the sites can be scouted for a week's worth of sediment sampling later this year. As a cost-saving measure, the goal is to find beach-quality sand as close to San Clemente as possible, even if the prospects are admittedly slim. "This approach is a bal-

ance between the desire to focus on the San Clemente area itself with the realization that that we think there's a low probability that we're going to find that sand close by," Greg Hearon, a principal engineer with Coastal Frontiers, told the City Council. A higher probability of finding beach-quality sand is expected in north O.C., at Surfside-Sunset. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers tapped the borrow site during the first phase of a 50-year sand replenishment project in San Clemente last year, after the original Oceanside dredge location spewed cobble-strewn sediment and caused delays. A total of 251,000 cubic yards of pumped sand widened the beach surrounding San Clemente Pier. But the borrow site's distance from San Clemente added to the project's overall costs. San Clemente and its consultant are looking to dial down the cost of future sand replenishment, if possible, by finding a deposit closer to home, especially after a beach sand sales tax ballot measure failed to pass in November. "The reward of finding sand that close is enormous," Hearon said. "It can completely change the economics of a project."

Councilman Victor Cabral expressed reservations about spending time and money on exploring possible borrow sites that have a low probability of providing enough sand. "We spent millions of dollars through the Army Corps of Engineers surveying all the area in front of San Clemente," he said. "They had determined, based on the same testing that you appear to be doing, that there was no sand in this area. What is it that you're doing differently than the Army Corps?" Hearon noted that the spots Coastal Frontiers has identified differ somewhat from those in the Army Corps survey but acknowledged the geology wouldn't have changed significantly since then. "Dana Point might be the exception," he said. "San Mateo [Point] around the corner... our geologist has identified a high spot in the bedrock that looks like it might be a stranded beach that hasn't been explored. That has us intrigued."

San Clemente Mayor Steve Knoblock did not want to dismiss low probability sand sites near San

Clemente as zero possibility ones. "We don't know that there's not sand there," he said. "If we do strike gold, it will be a quantum change in how we get sand to our beach. It would be incredibly quick, incredibly inexpensive and voluminous. I think it's worth the investigation." The exploration is awaiting the approval of two permits before it begins, possibly by late summer. An opportunity for the sand investigation project to expand and include all potential sites identified, work that is funded by a California Coastal Commission grant awarded last year, rests with the Orange County Transportation Authority.

San Clemente is in discussions with OCTA, which has its own sand needs in San Clemente as part of a plan to armor the rail line that runs along its coast. On April 10, the California Coastal Commission approved a partial emergency coastal development permit for OCTA to speed up plans to protect the tracks from landslides and coastal erosion. In the permit application, OCTA laid out a proposal to add 540,000 cubic yards of sand from an offshore source, in addition to repairing more than 9,000 tons of riprap to protect four critical areas of the rail line. The partial permit doesn't approve all of the hard armoring elements, but on Monday the OCTA Board of Directors authorized the agency to undertake emergency actions to stabilize the tracks. San Clemente and OCTA seek to forge a partnership in the search for offshore sand deposits. "We'll be working with [OCTA] to see if we can expand this study to beyond just our seven days," said City Manager Andy Hall. "Let's say that we found some really promising sites on day seven, but we wanted to do some additional studies. What I've been told is that this study can be expanded. It just costs about \$60,000 a day." Hall stated that OCTA would cover any expansion expenses. If a dredge site closer to San Clemente is identified, the city will move forward with permitting next year.

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Dr. David I. Lee is a nationally recognized fellowship-trained urologist who specializes in prostate cancer surgery.





Irfan Khan | Los Angeles Times

A MOTHER AND her son enjoy a cool morning at the beach in San Clemente.

YACHT

Continued from page A1

Bretschger, board member and spokesman for the event's organizer, the Newport Ocean Sailing Assn. Winds should be moving at about eight to 10 knots when the competition kicks off on Friday. Further down the course, a boost originating off of the back side of the Catalina Islands should pick wind speeds up to around 15 knots. The quickest boats should cross the finish line in Mexico at around 9 or 10 a.m. Saturday. They should, but whether or not all goes according to plan remains to be seen, Bretschger and Reynolds said. "Tough is not the right term," Reynolds, a staff commodore at the Balboa Yacht Club, said of the event. "It's a fickle race. It can be a heavy air race; it can be an extremely light air race. There's an element of luck on where you go on



BOATS AMASS near the starting line of the 74th annual Newport to Ensenada boat race north of Balboa Pier. This year's the race is scheduled to start on Friday.

Don Leach | Daily Pilot

the course. The best years, the wind blows; it's a downwind sled ride to Ensenada." The most challenging portion of the event happens after sunset, when critical decisions that separate faster competitors like Team Bolt from the rest of the pack are made, Bretschger said. In addition

to choosing which route to take around the Coronado Islands, crews must navigate the ocean in the dark. Doing so can be treacherous, with a much higher chance of colliding with fishing nets, a Navy destroyer or some poorly lit boat on its way in or out of port. NOSA requires competi-

tors to undergo workshops and equip a variety of modern safety equipment, like GPS trackers that monitor individual crew members' positions. These can help race officials spot someone who may have gone overboard and immediately send help, while allowing for real-time updates on each team's progress.

Event organizers also work closely with officials in both Newport Beach and Ensenada to coordinate the largest international yacht race on the West Coast, Bretschger said. He added that Mexican officials and organizations have been increasingly involved in recent years, and described the event as an annual opportunity to build bridges between Southern California communities and their neighbors in Baja. Newport Beach Mayor Joe Stapleton and Ensenada Mayor Claudia Agatón as well as representatives of the Mexican Navy were scheduled to attend a reception ahead of the competition at the Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club Thursday evening. In a statement, Stapleton called the event "a cherished tradition in our community, showcasing the spirit of sailing and fostering camaraderie among sailors from around the world. The race highlights

the beauty of our coastline while strengthening the enduring friendship between Newport Beach and Ensenada." The race spans 125 nautical miles and originated in 1948. At its peak it registered around 800 teams competing in a single year. There will be 130 boats in this year's event, including about five crewed by teams from Mexico, Bretschger said. The remainder are mostly based out of Newport Beach, Long Beach, Dana Point and San Diego. Reynolds said one of the best places to watch the race is from the end of Newport Beach Pier. He also recommends spectating from the cliffs in Corona Del Mar. The latter offers sweeping views of the ocean, but may require binoculars or a telescope to get a good view of the boats from a distance.

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THE DAILY
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By Stella
Zawistowski

- ACROSS**
1 Highway entrance
5 Unpleasant person
9 Sheriff's followers
14 Opera solo song
15 Largest continent
16 Fire remnants
17 Shout
18 Unit of paper
19 Area of shallow water
20 Chocolate bunny holder: 2 wds.
23 Nonperishable goods container
24 "Go away!"
25 Most sugary
30 Capital of Texas
34 Helps
35 Completely destroy
37 Biblical possessive
38 Fuel efficiency number: Abbr.
39 Pre-finals round
41 Language suffix
42 Summer vacation spot
45 Mailed off
46 Competed
47 Highly skilled
49 Snakes
51 High-value cards
53 Consume
54 Company that markets events
59 A lot, in Spanish
60 "I'm all _!"
61 Civil rights icon
64 Take the wheel
65 Poker payment
66 "You said it!"
67 Courageous
68 Disaster
69 On deck

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
		20		21						22				
			23					24						
25	26	27				28	29		30		31	32	33	
34					35			36		37				
38					39				40			41		
42			43	44		45						46		
47					48		49			50				
			51			52			53					
	54	55					56	57				58		
59						60				61		62	63	
64						65				66				
67						68				69				

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.

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

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

- DOWN**
1 Sunbeam
2 "You _ too much!"
3 Odometer unit
4 Royal homes
5 Law firm
6 "Understood": 2 wds.
7 Committer of perjury
8 Sheep's babies
9 Swoon: 2 wds.
10 Wisconsin city
11 Sneaker or loafer
12 Political position
13 Subject for a

- new American: Abbr.
21 Plopped down
22 "I've got it!"
25 Brazilian dance
26 Tired out
27 _ Allan Poe
28 Takes to court
29 Multiplied by
31 Promotional gimmick
32 Map closeup
33 Requires
36 Number of SCOTUS justices
40 Underscores
43 Sports team leaders
44 Fragrant wood
46 Old pro
48 Golf accessory
50 Rocker Benatar
52 Hot water vapor
54 Ballet skirt
55 "SVU" star
56 Horse's hair
57 _ and leisure
58 Caesar's city
59 Umami additive: Abbr.
62 "_ and the City"
63 Picnic bug

Tribune Media Services



Sarah Mosqueda

THE CLOTHESLINE PROJECT in Orange County aims to raise public awareness around sexual violence and educate communities.

The Clothesline Project in O.C. gives survivors a way to make their voices heard

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

When the Clothesline Project in Orange County began nearly 24 years ago, there were only eight T-shirts on the line. Representing the unheard voices of those affected by violence and sexual assault, the clothesline with the colorful cotton shirts was created by non-profit Waymakers in 2001 to raise awareness during April's Sexual Assault Awareness Month. "Today we have about 1,300 T-shirts and to us, they are each the voice of a survivor's and we honor them wholeheartedly," said Vanessa Reyna, program director for Waymakers' Victim Assistance Programs. A survivor has created a message sharing their personal experience with sexual assault on each of the shirts, some writing out their story, some sharing mantras of empowerment and strength, others using art to convey their feelings. The different colors represent the type of assault, with red, pink and orange signifying rape; green and blue representing child sexual abuse; gray, human trafficking; purple, rape due to sexual orientation; black, sexual harassment; white, homicide and yellow, domestic violence. Each April, the installation visits Orange County college campuses where students can view the display and write on a T-shirt of their own. "The display has a two-fold purpose," Reyna said. "One, of course, is education. This is more impactful than statistics because it helps represent and illustrate an individual here in our local community. The additional purpose is it really empowers the survivor to share, in a safe way, the biggest message they want to convey about

their experience at their level of comfort." Waymakers has served Orange County for nearly 50 years, providing sexual assault and rape crisis services to local survivors, including a 24-hour crisis hotline. The organization also offers one-on-one peer counseling, support groups, extensive education programs and a primary prevention focus that works with men's groups. Reyna said Waymakers serves between 2,500 and 3,000 survivors of sexual assault each year in Orange County alone and nearly 60,000 victims of crime. The growth in the number of T-shirts over the years isn't necessarily an indicator of increased assaults, but rather a measure of the way survivors have found their voices and the work Waymakers does to help achieve that. "We are very mindful of using the term survivors and many times we use survivor and victim interchangeably and we recognize that someone maybe labeled as a victim because they experienced something they never should have experienced," said Reyna. "But we do also want to reframe and remind them they have survived, they have survived something unthinkable."

The installation lined the main walkway to the Titan Student Union at Cal State University Fullerton's campus on Wednesday. A monarch butterfly landed on one of the blue T-shirts that represents child abuse, a touching moment a student captured with a cellphone photo. "We have brought the Clothesline Project to Cal State Fullerton the last number of years," said Brett S. Goldberg, Ph.D., assistant director of advocacy services and community engagement with Titan Thrive, part of the Titan Health Umbrella. "This is the third year since I have been here, and we put it right on Titan Walk, which is one of the central thoroughfares of campus." Goldberg said the installation is an opportunity for students to read stories and raise awareness about how common violence is. The project also aligns deeply with Titan Thrive. "We support students, faculty and staff here on campus who have experienced sexual or domestic violence and that can also include dating violence, stalking, sexual- and gender-based harassment," said Goldberg. "We do events throughout the year about healing and solidarity, as well as individualized services based on the need. This is an important event where we can partner with Waymakers, who we work throughout the year in a different capacities, at such a public scale which we don't often get for our line of work." Next, the installation heads to Irvine Valley College on April 29, followed by Cypress College on May 7. Waymakers' 24-hour confidential hotline is available at (714) 957-2737. Reyna says they always welcome volunteers. "Volunteerism is down nationwide but for our crisis centers, especially because we are 24/7, we have been feeling it," said Reyna. "Many of volunteers are survivors themselves." For those interested in getting more involved with Waymakers' programs, a training session is scheduled for July. For more information, email prevention@waymakersoc.org.

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South County Pet Expo returns for eighth year

BY JESSICA PERALTA

South County Pet Expo returns to Lake Forest for its eighth year helping to educate and grow pet families. “It’s one of the largest animal-based events put on by a city in Orange County,” said Kevin Fernandez, the city of Lake Forest’s Management Services supervisor. The event takes place Saturday, April 26, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Lake Forest Sports Park & Recreation Center. It’s free to enter and has a “hippie” theme this year of “All They Need is Love.” Parking is also free, but is limited at the park, so guests can park

across the street in the Saddleback Church parking lot. The pet expo is organized by nonprofit Pet Adoption Center of Orange County and the city of Lake Forest, with support from Third District Orange County Supervisor Don Wagner’s office, according to April Josephson, the center’s executive director. “This event fills a number of important needs within the south county community,” Josephson said. “It facilitates the adoption of rescued animals, educates the public on pet care and provides easy access to many services, including a low-cost vaccine and wellness

clinic for pets, pet licensing information and other pet-related support needs.” She said this year they have nearly 80 vendors participating. Event highlights include animals for adoption and related vendors, and HEART 4 Pets’ low-cost mobile vet clinic for dogs and cats needing vaccinations or microchips. Dogs, cats, birds, rodents and other small animals will be available to adopt. The expo is also a pet-friendly event — vaccinated and well-socialized dogs are welcome to attend. There’s a carnival area, an Earth Day section with crafts, live music with the Summer of Love Band, and even mini

horses and cows. “Along with the pets for adoption to meet, vendor giveaways and information at all of the booths, the city provides food trucks, children’s activities and music,” Josephson said. “One of the most popular activities is meeting the mini horses and cows that are therapy animals.” There’s also a silent auction to raise funds for the Pet Adoption Center of Orange County and a pet food donation drive for the center’s partner nonprofit, the RSM Cares food pantry. “Often just by providing pet food, pet owners are

See **Pet**, page A8



Kevin Fernandez

ANIMALS ARE center stage at South County Pet Expo in Lake Forest.

BOX

Continued from page A1

can drive by your work on a street corner.” Artwork installation has been limited to vinyl wraps up until now, but the City Council unanimously approved an amendment to allow for hand painting. While the Fountain Valley Community Foundation runs the program, the item came to the council because it concerned city property. “The City Council on the whole, we were concerned about the potential of graffiti, and I think that’s why we went with the wrap,” Councilwoman Kim Constantine said in revisiting the approval of the program in September 2020. “I am in support of allowing artists to do either the painted art or the vinyl wrap.” The project was launched five years ago as a beautification project to promote local artists and history, and to instill a sense of community engagement, civic pride and



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

KATY WRIGHT’S “Drive-In Hospital” painting is installed as a vinyl wrap on a utility box in Fountain Valley. cultural heritage. In July 2020, the city’s recreation and community services department collaborated with public works officials to identify a dozen city-owned utility boxes to serve as a canvas for art. Nine of the specified boxes are located around the perimeter of Mile Square Regional Park, with the other three stationed along Slater Avenue between Brookhurst Street and Mt. Hermann Street. Priority is given to artists who live and work in Fountain Valley, but it is also open to those who support or have an affiliation with the city. “When placed on utility cabinets or other public property, the artwork constitutes city speech,” Community Services Director Rob Frizzelle said. “The city does not intend to create any type of forum for private speech, and as such, the city speech, the artwork content, must be G-rated.” Other guidelines require

the artwork to be non-discriminatory and generally positive in nature. The artwork may not include content that is hateful or obscene, contains depictions of illegal activities, or that references racial, religious or sexual harassment. The amendment is geared toward making the program more accessible by lowering the cost of installation and maintenance. City staff estimated the cost of installation for a vinyl-wrapped box fall between \$1,700 and \$2,300, while the expected cost for a hand-painted box (including supplies) is somewhere between \$500 and \$1,500. Both methods of installation would require an anti-graffiti coating for protection of the artwork. Projects through the program do not use city funds. The foundation is expected to work with selected artists to find sponsors for the installation. Costa Mesa and Dana Point restrict their utility box public art programs to vinyl wraps only, Frizzelle said, while Garden Grove, Long Beach and San Clemente allowed for the boxes to be painted. “While there are some times when a vinyl wrap application is warranted, the truth is that the two preapproved pieces that I have done — “Hobble Nation” and “Time Twister” would have already been done if I could have painted them,” Wright told the council. “At this point, it’s expensive. “There is an expectation that the artist will help seek funding and sponsorship, and I will note that an artist is an artist. It’s not our forte to go out and do fundraising. Not that we aren’t willing. It’s just not an easy thing to do. We’re not good at it, and that’s partly, in my opinion, why the program seems to be languishing.” The Fountain Valley Community Foundation reviews the artwork for approval. Constantine also urged the foundation to do more to promote the program to local artists and the community. “I would support to have the options for the art,”

Mayor Ted Bui said. “Yes, this is a mission that the foundation should be engaged more. The foundation, the only thing they should look for is the art itself. Is it appropriate? Is it subjective? That’s the role they should be playing. As long as the art is appropriate to the community, let the artists express themselves.” A couple of the panels from the “Drive-In Hospital” project wound up in a show at the Huntington Beach Art Museum. If Wright’s name doesn’t ring a bell there, residents might remember that she ran for City Council last November. “I wanted the experience of doing it,” Wright said. “I gained so much life experience. I came out the winner. Even though I came in No. 4, I had 5,300 votes from people that didn’t know me, and they liked what I was saying, and that meant a lot to me. The experience meant a lot to me.”

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forum

COMMENTARY | MEREDITH STARKENBURG

Before they open a book: the politicization of Orange County's public libraries

The Huntington Beach Public Library is a community paragon and is expected to unveil its 50th anniversary plaque this month — a plaque that has sparked controversy with its politicized messaging. Emblazoned with the MAGA acronym and slogans from previous presidents, the plaque is one of many ways politics have infiltrated Orange County libraries, especially the children's sections.

Politicization through book bans, extremely partisan city councils and physical signage has skewed our youngest readers' perception of literature. To combat literary politicization, the state of California recently chartered the Freedom to Read Act, restricting book banning in state-funded facilities. Will this be enough to protect Orange County children's right to read?

Every new parent is urged to create avid readers for a reason. Reading is key to a child's development. It is known to improve children's critical thinking and concentration, develop their senses of empathy and creativity, and introduce them to different cultures and experiences.

Orange County public libraries support families' reading goals with their children's sections and events such as story time, reading challenges and family book clubs. Yet our public libraries have faced roadblocks to free access in recent years.

According to the American Library Assn., book bans have been on the rise in the last few years, and nowhere is this clearer than in Huntington Beach. Although free access to literature is considered a protected 1st Amendment right under free speech, Huntington Beach officials have been among those who believe children's sections should be monitored. Just last year The Huntington Beach City Council ordered its central library to move books with "sexual content" out of the children's section. The



Don Leach Staff Photographer

SUPPORTERS OF Our Library Matters take a group picture during a press conference at Huntington Beach Central Library on Tuesday.

"sexual content" in question? Books on potty training, puberty, and anatomy — subjects integral for children's development.

The state of California seeks to reduce such instances of book banning. The Freedom to Read Act, AB 1825, dictates that by Jan. 1, 2026, all state-funded libraries must write and publish a collection development policy. Collection policies cannot allow the removal, relocation, or restriction of books based on political, LGBTQ+, or racial content, topics that frequently justify book bans. This act would especially affect children's sections, cementing diverse stories on children's shelves. Supporters view this act with optimism toward a biparti-

san state library system, especially for littles; in contrast, some municipalities, including Huntington Beach, expressed contempt for AB 1825 and seek to fight against it.

Book bans are not the only conduits of library politicization; city councils and infrastructure are politicized as well. While AB 1825 aims to reduce politicization of public libraries, it only focuses on library content. Despite librarians, volunteers and patrons alike voicing concerns about the presidential slogans on the Huntington Beach Public Library's 50th anniversary plaque, the City Council unanimously approved the design. When the plaque is unveiled, families will encounter politicized messages from both the left and

the right before even cracking open a book. Despite its best efforts, AB 1825 will not eliminate politicization by a long shot.

Orange County citizens are responsible for protecting the integrity of our libraries, especially for our children. Community members can directly support public libraries by simply going to their local library and taking out a library card. This increases the library's door count and card count and can dictate its allocated resources. Advocate for children's free, bipartisan access to literature in public libraries by voicing concerns at city council meetings and reaching out to representatives. Relatives of school-age children can attend

school board meetings and defend librarians and teachers. Parents should discuss what content their children should and should not be reading at their age while encouraging curiosity on diverse stories.

Orange County public libraries have encouraged both proper development through reading and love for books in thousands of children; it is up to its citizens to protect the libraries from politicization so thousands more can experience the benefits of free access to literature.

MEREDITH STARKENBURG is a lifelong Orange County resident who studies education and English at the College of William and Mary.

MAILBAG

Sad Huntington Beach won't be an L.A. Olympic venue

I was sad to see that HB was shutout as an Olympic venue. Still, on the bright side, there is surely some joy in town, especially for folks that admire longtime City Council members "BMV": Burns, McKeon and Van der Mark.

First, a portion of HB folks will be delighted to not have to deal with the diversity of foreigners from what Donald Trump called "s&tholes" like Africa, or pesky Muslims from places like Dubai or Singapore all of whom look so, well, diverse. Second, HB won't have to develop the means to handle international equity flow and currency conversions. We will be little burdened with Chinese yuan, wannabe dollars from Canadians or broad-spectrum euros. This is doubly beneficial given that the number of dollars to be dispensed is going to jump up as the looming tariffed dollar teeters further in international markets. Lastly, HB restaurants and hotels won't have to worry about the inclusion of nearly so many foreign travelers. This might please many BMV followers. HB restaurants, hotels and

drinking holes will not be burdened with "blimeys" or "gesundheits" or even "oo lalas" late into the spending nights. Truly a DEI-less paradise.

The Olympic committee cited deficiencies in HB waves and sand, so Burns, Van der Mark and McKeon need not take much credit. Their stage-managing HB's marginalization of "the other," demonization of librarians, backroom sweetheart air show deals and their slandering of former council members as "liars" and "pedophiles" during council sessions is strictly part of "running the city like a business." Losing the Olympics is maybe just a side dividend for them. Still, I'm kinda sad.

Buzz McCord
Huntington Beach

Tariffs and the O.C.

I support Gavin Newsom's lawsuit against the Trump administration. It's not because I am a native Californian or a lifelong Democrat; rather, it's based on my assessment that Donald Trump's "tariff-



A SURFER LEAVES the water at Huntington State Beach, which will not be included as a 2028 Olympic venue.

File Photo

palooza" will wreak havoc on the Golden State's — and by extension, Orange County's — economy. My hope is local business owners in O.C. will end up agreeing with me.

Denny Freidenrich
Laguna Beach

Locals sound off on school board special election

In January, the NMUSD Board of Trustees filled a vacant seat. The candidate they selected, in a very transparent and legal process, was Kirstin Walsh, who is registered "NPP — no party preference" and one of the most active, concerned and in-touch par-

ents in the district. The process followed all applicable laws.

Then, in March, a handful of disgruntled political operatives ousted Ms. Walsh by forcing a special election.

The price tag on this stunt? \$500,000.

Newport-Mesa Unified is on the hook for this bill, and our children pay the price. No one who would pick the pockets of our kids to advance their narrow and extreme political and religious interests ought to be rewarded with a position of public trust. Never has the appointment to a vacant NMUSD seat led to an election.

Meanwhile, those orchestrating this special election are clear that their goal is to install a Republican ideologue, arguing that Ms. Walsh isn't cut from the same political cloth as her predecessor. They conveniently ignore the fact that voters elected that predecessor as a rejection of MAGA-style extremism. They dishonor the nonpartisan tradition our local school board elections by villainizing Ms. Walsh, who has been nothing but good for our kids, schools and community.

To waste half a million taxpayer dollars on a nakedly partisan power play

See **Mailbag**, page A8

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Pop (art) goes punk at Fullerton Museum Center

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

A wall covered in black and white fliers, the kind easily photocopied, lined the walls of the entrance to the Fullerton Museum Center's latest exhibit, "Punk OC: From the Streets of Suburbia." Duplicated and distributed outside other punk shows, the paper fliers were a precursor to social media invites and texting.

Co-curated by Fullerton Museum Center curator Georgette Collard and music historian Jim Washburn, "Punk OC" is on view through Aug. 10. The exhibit focuses on Fullerton's influential punk scene, the evolution of punk in Orange County and how the local scene influenced national and global punk culture.

In conjunction with the opening, the museum hosted a punk show with a live performance from T.S.O.L. (True Sounds of Liberty, for the uninitiated) and D.I., two Orange County-based punk bands from Huntington Beach and Fullerton, respectively. Paper fliers weren't necessary to get the word out about this sold out show, however.

"We had about 1,300 people there," said Elvia Susana Rubalcava, the museum's director.

Additionally, the evening included a DJ set from Joe Escalante of the Vandals with actor and comedian Chris Estrada, best known for his hit comedy show on Hulu, "This Fool," serving as emcee for the evening.

"I think it is really cool what the Fullerton Museum put together here, because there is a rich history of punk in Orange County and in Fullerton specifically, with bands like Social Distortion, Agent Orange and the Adolescents," Estrada said.

A thriving punk scene might seem unusual for a conservative region like Orange County but Estrada said it isn't as unusual as one might think.

"I think people have this perception of suburbia, but not everybody feels suburban," said Estrada.

'ROCKIN' THE SUBURBS'

Orange County is often viewed as the land of safe cities and pristine beaches. The county also consistently voted red until the mid-2000's but a statement from

Washburn explains the idealistic suburbs were a prime environment for teen restlessness to fester and young punk bands to form.

"Orange County, and Fullerton in particular, has produced far more than its share of bands that made a difference, many with a sound that's as rooted in O.C. as surf music was. Most of the 1970's punk scene originated in metropolises suffering from urban decay, poverty, and other issues that justified the anger and nihilism of the music it spawned," Washburn said. "But what about suburban Orange County, with its manicured lawns, blue skies and beaches? One didn't have to dig too deep beneath the turf to find that O.C., too, had an underside of outcasts and disaffected youth, for whom this new home-brewed music meant the world."

Punk is generally regarded as a movement that emerged in the 1970's and revolved around fast and loud music coupled with anti-establishment attitudes and a DIY aesthetic.

Collard, who has long been interested in documenting punk through the lens of museum studies, points out that like other counter culture movements, punk has historically popped up during times of political and civil unrest.

"I think it is indicative of areas where people feel oppressed or have a certain expectation that they need to be viewed a certain way, a lot of these people grew up with parents that were conservative. I think all of that played a role in this frustration and they needed to have other ways of expressing themselves," said Collard. "What better way to do that, than with music?"

'THAT'S SO PUNK ROCK'

The exhibit begins with a reference to this very paper. "In 1980, Orange County's Daily Pilot newspaper ran a front page headline reading: 'Punk: Fad or Peril?'"

On black and red walls, an array of ephemera from Orange County's punk scene is on display from bands like the Offspring, Social Distortion, Manic Hispanic, Circle Jerks, the Middle Class and the Adolescents. Guitars and drum kits used by the bands are set up and photos, news clippings and sets lists also



James Carbone

GUESTS BROWSE through exhibition of famous punk rock bands during the opening of "Punk OC: From the Streets of Suburbia" at the Fullerton Museum in Fullerton.

line the walls. Featured photographers include Linda Aronow, Alison Braun, Edward Colver, Dina Douglass and Marla Watson.

"T.S.O.L is a huge part of my teenage years, helping with my teenage angst, so to be here to help put this installation together is a dream come true for me," said Seija Rohkea, a member of Fullerton Museum Center's board.

Rohkea is also a gallery tech in the art department at Fullerton College and said many students volunteered to help put the exhibition together. She plans to keep the conversation going with her students by planning a field trip with the class to the museum.

A large map on one wall charts the hometowns of O.C. punk bands and tracks the camaraderie in the closely knit music community. Mike Ness, leader singer of Social Distortion, had an apartment on East Wilshire Avenue that became known as the "Black Hole," a place where musicians and other misfits would come to hang out. Members of the Adolescents were frequent visitors and the apartment inspired their song "Kids of the Black Hole."

"There are people who are cynical about punk being in a museum, but I think punk is a subculture," said Estrada. "It has its own symbols, its own language, its own rituals like slam dancing, and its own art. I think that stuff should be archived and celebrated."

The show is dedicated to the punk rock musicians no longer with us, with a special installation honoring them hanging over the exhibit.

"All the 3-foot banners are black and white photos of all the musicians who have passed away, and now they are looking down on all the people who attended and all they have accomplished," said Rubalcava.

'PUNKS NOT DEAD'

The size of the crowd that gathered for the opening is testimony enough that punk is indeed still alive. As T.S.O.L. played, a group of toddlers milled around in circle, creating a mini mosh pit, egged on by a nearby adult. For every aging punker, it seems there is a young person just discovering the music and the movement for the first time.

Besides the live show, the mu-

seum is hosting a few more events during the exhibit's run. On May 20, a book release party for "Tearing Down the Orange Curtain: How Punk Rock Brought Orange County to the World" by Daniel Kohn and Nate Jackson will take place, moderated by Washburn and Collard. On July 12, a book signing with Roger Miret from Agnostic Front is planned and on July 20, Jack Grisham will read from his book, "An American Demon: A Memoir." The exhibit will close on Aug.10 with Leo Fender Day.

Collard said demonstrating punk rock is still alive and well was among the curators' most important objectives and she was encouraged by the turn out.

"I feel like a lot of times when we think about punk rock, we think about the golden days of when it started in the late 1970's and 1980's, but I want to make sure people know there are still backyard gigs, there are still local shows," Collard said. "It might evolve and the sound might change, but I feel like punk rock is going to live on forever."

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MAILBAG

Continued from page A6

is both inefficient and wasteful. That money could be used to renovate the Newport Harbor culinary kitchen. It would fund 250 elementary field trips. It's enough to outfit an entire school with new furniture or cover the classroom supply budget of every teacher in the district for three years. With that kind of money, we could make our children safer by installing state-of-the-art security cameras on two campuses.

This is why partisanship has no place on our local school board.

Our best and most dedicated NMUSD school board members have all run nonpartisan campaigns. Candidates touting their political, religious and extremely intolerant allegiance have been routinely rejected by voters. Those who have bull-

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dozed their way to this special election know that their only path to victory is low turnout, which is why a special election is part of their scheme. Do not reward this politically motivated end-run around the voters. Vote for Kirstin Walsh.

We must send a strong message to those who are reckless with our tax dollars and restore Ms. Walsh to her rightful seat on the NMUSD Board of Trustees.

Kirby Piazza, Betsy Fisher, Jane Hartley, Matt Armstrong, Gwen Gaylord, Torree Soel-

berg, Alex Goodman, Ross Sinclair, Jerry Murray, Lissa Slay, Carlos Alcazar, Annabelle King, Kelly Bourgeois, Tony Zeddies, Sarah Pilon, Quinn Corbett, Cori Ciok
NMUSD teachers
Newport Beach

Andrea McElroy is the clear choice for our school board. As a conservative, she champions values that strengthen our community: public safety and parental transparency. Andrea believes parents should have a direct say in their children's education, with open access to curric-

ulum and school policies. Her commitment to safety ensures our schools remain secure environments where students can thrive.

With years of community involvement, Andrea understands the challenges our schools face. She's dedicated to fostering accountability, prioritizing student success, and protecting parental rights. Her practical approach avoids divisive politics, focusing instead on solutions that benefit all families.

This election, we need a school board member who listens to parents and prioritizes safety. Andrea McElroy will deliver both. I urge voters to support her to ensure our schools reflect our community's values and provide a safe, transparent education system for our children.

Teri Leigh, NHRW President
Newport Beach

PET

Continued from page A5

able to keep their pets, rather than giving them up," she said.

Russell G. Taylor, who co-founded Modjeska Ranch Rescue with his wife in 2001 in their Modjeska Canyon home, will be at the expo. He said they started their menagerie by rescuing some dogs and it grew to include cats, horses, pigs, llamas and even wild mustangs. He even wrote a book about it called, "Living in an Animal Rescue."

"We've morphed in the last few years to being more of a hospice or a sanctuary," he said. "They live out their days here."

They attend the expo to connect with potential animal adopters and demonstrate what they do.

"It raises the profile of responsible pet ownership," he said about the expo. "We try to make sure that people understand that dogs

are not Christmas presents. They're not things that you should take on lightly and it's a commitment. Our ideal would be that people like us were not needed. That people get animals and look after them, and it's a lifelong commitment."

Though the animal-focused event America's Family Pet Expo, which took place in Costa Mesa, did not survive the pandemic, the South County Pet Expo made it through.

"Like everyone else, we took a break at the beginning of the pandemic," Josephson said. "However, our nonprofit mission is to help local pets and families. Working with the city of Lake Forest to co-sponsor this well-attended event, we felt it was important to continue to provide these valuable community services. Many of the pet rescue groups consider this their best event of the year."

JESSICA PERALTA is a contributor to the Daily Pilot.

HONOR

Continued from page A1

chamber's Excellence in Healthcare and Innovation award had intended to pay tribute to Planned Parenthood's "Equal Voices" and Male Involvement programs — two initiatives that provide education, support and a forum for students with intellectual disabilities and young men in the justice system, respectively.

Instead, officials were told by the Irvine chamber's chief executive Dave Cofaro their removal from the night's program was "a business decision," though no additional information was provided. They were offered the chance to receive the award in private, so long as they did not post about it in social media or share the news publicly. They declined.

Representatives of the Greater Irvine Chamber of Commerce, including Cofaro, did not respond Tuesday to requests for comment on the matter.



Planned Parenthood of Orange and San Bernardino Counties

IRVINE CITY COUNCIL members Melinda Liu, left, and Kathleen Treseder with Planned Parenthood's Irene Salazar and Amy Streavel during an April 7 Public School Defenders Summit in Irvine.

Sadaf Rahmani, who oversees public affairs for PPOSBC, said some wondered at the timing of the chamber's decision, just days before Donald Trump's second presidential inauguration and amid increasing rhetoric about the dismantling of educational programs aligned with diversity, equity and inclusion standards.

"Being Planned Parenthood, it's easy to see what

they may have meant by 'business decision,' especially given the environment we're in right now with the current administration," Rahmani said. "So, we were disappointed but not necessarily surprised by this."

Still, the snubbing was unsettling given that, in June 2022, the Irvine City Council passed a resolution formally opposing the U.S. Supreme Court's overturn-

ing of Roe vs. Wade and encouraging residents to "continue to support efforts to protect reproductive freedom, through education and advocacy."

The declaration was proposed by then-Mayor Farrah Khan and adopted on a 3-2 vote, with former Councilman Anthony Kuo and current Councilman Mark Carroll opposed.

Now, a contingent of relatively new Irvine City Council members have stepped up to show their support for Planned Parenthood's programs and impact on the local community — and to deliver the recognition they say the group and its staff deserve.

During an April 7 summit hosted by the Public School Defenders Hub, an initiative of the Anaheim-based nonprofit Contemporary Policy Institute, Irvine council members Kathleen Treseder, Melina Liu and William Go presented a certificate of recognition as a gesture of appreciation for Planned Parenthood's local outreach programs.

Liu, who attended the Greater Irvine Chamber of Commerce award ceremony in January, initially had no idea of the rescinded award and was stunned to hear from others what had happened.

"I reached out to our government relations person and tried to see if there was anything we could do to give them the proper recognition," she said. "I find their services invaluable, as far as what they've done [to assist] our low-income population and what they've done to educate young men and women. That's a very indispensable part of what they do."

Treseder said she reached out to Irvine Mayor Larry Agran, who had backed the 2022 council resolution supporting reproductive freedom, to see whether officials might present some formal recognition to Planned Parenthood in a council meeting presentation, but he wasn't interested.

So, she teamed up with Liu and Good, and the trio

was made aware of the April 7 summit in their communications with the nonprofit.

"I think Planned Parenthood deserves all the recognition in the world," Treseder said Tuesday. "They're working with folks who might not otherwise be able to get healthcare. In addition, I'm really relying on them to beat the drum for reproductive freedom for our young women. [They're] on the front lines and they don't back down — we need them."

Rahmani said she and her colleagues are grateful to the Irvine City Council members for rectifying the situation.

"We're certainly not going to be silenced, whether it's providing care in health centers or the education team working out in the community," she added. "We're always going to be loud and proud of the service we provide and the work that we do."

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Discover Fleurs de Villes, where floral artistry meets timeless design. Step into the world of Downton Abbey with a stunning collection of floral mannequins inspired by the series' most iconic characters and timeless fashion.

EXPLORE NEW SPRING FASHION, HOME DECOR AND NEW STORES

Acne Studios • Alaïa • Amiri • Baccarat • Collegium • Crate & Barrel • Delvaux
Khaite • Pottery Barn • Santa Maria Novella • West Elm • Williams Sonoma

partial listing

