Daily Pilot Times OC

SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 2023 /// Serving the coastal cities of Orange County and beyond /// dailypilot.com



Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

DINA KEIROUZ, a volunteer at the Orange County Humane Society and co-founder of Angels 4 Paws, gives some love to Moose, an English Mastiff up for adoption at the Huntington Beach shelter. OCHS takes in strays and found pets on a contract basis for the city of Garden Grove.

Fetch a pet

Animal shelter partners with rescue group for big adoption event June 10. **BY SARA CARDINE**



Crystal Cove breaks close to even

Conservancy partner of state park released its 2022 report in mid-May, detailing expenditures, sources of income.

BY LILLY NGUYEN

The Crystal Cove Conservancy took in about \$9.8 million in revenue in 2022, and nearly all of it was spent on educational programs, which saw over 10,000 students this year, according to the organization's annual report released in May.

About \$5.3 million came in through donor pledges and contributions while rental of the state park's historic beach cottages generated roughly \$1.5 million, and \$1.9 million came from concessionaires, which include the Beachcomber and Shake Shack eateries and the park's store. The rest came from memberships, special events and other investments.

According to the report, the conservancy broke close to even in 2022. Expenditures in the form of programs, administrative and fundraising expenses amounted

See Crystal, page A2

ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



During the pandemic animal shelters shut their doors to the visiting public, eventually making accommodations for potential adoptees to visit dogs and cats of interest by appointment only.

While shelters are once more fully operational, most are continuing to restrict visitation to one-on-one meetups, offering signup sheets and appointments by request, and allowing animals to participate in small, pop-up style adoptions events in the Courtesy of Holly Spritzer

VOLUNTEERS WITH the Orange County Humane Society will work at a June 10 facility-wide adoption event in Huntington Beach. The nonprofit organization houses up to 64 animals.

community.

That's the case at the Orange County Humane Society, a privately owned nonprofit shelter in Huntington Beach that takes in

Sarah Mosqueda

TUSTIN REMEMBERS MISSING, FALLEN U.S. SERVICE MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES PAGE A2

See **Pet,** page A4

Nixon Library honors Vietnam War POWs 50 years later

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

Everett Alvarez Jr. spent eight years at the North Vietnamese Hoa Lo Prison, a POW camp notoriously known as the Hanoi Hilton, during the Vietnam War. The U.S. Navy officer's tenure there is recognized as one of the longest terms as a prisoner of war in U.S. military history.

"I was the first one in the Hanoi Hilton," said Alvarez. "I was shot down on Aug. 5, 1964 ... the second fellow came about six months later."

On May 25, Alvarez was joined by fellow U.S. service members and former POWs Tom Hanton, Jack Ensch and Tom McNish at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum in Yorba Linda to discuss their extraordinary experience. The group spoke frankly

See War, page A3

TWO VIETNAM veterans salute each other during a panel discussion of former POWs at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library on May 25.





Photos by Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

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FORMER PRISONERS of war Tom Hanton, left, Everette Alvarez, Jack Ensch, Tom McNish and Jim Bryon, the moderator, take part in a panel discussion of former POWs to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum on Thursday, May 25 in Yorba Linda.

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Service members remembered in Tustin

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

The American flag flying at half-mast above the Tustin Veterans Memorial at Veterans Sports Park on May 29 not only honored fallen heroes from Tustin but the city's history as a whole.

"We opened Veterans Sports Park in 2020, and one of the reasons we did it was to honor the history of this area of Tustin Legacy as a Marine Corps Air Station Tustin," said Chad Clanton, the city's parks and recreation director. "And one of the things that we wanted to make sure was a part of this facility is two events: Veterans Day each November and Memorial Day."

Veterans Sports Park stands on an area of land that was formerly part of the air station, established in 1942 by the U.S. Navy, mainly for blimp operations. In 1951, it became Marine Corps Air Facility Santa Ana and supported Korean War efforts before being renamed Marine Corps Air Station Tustin in 1979. In the 1990s, the air station was a major center for the Marine Corps. Two blimp hangars remain on the former air station land.

"The blimp hangars that we have in the area hearken back to World War II," said Clanton. "They are from the 1940s."

To honor that history and KIA/MIA U.S. Service members, the Tustin Parks and Recreation Department hosted a Memorial Day Remembrance with a stage set up just steps from the Tustin Veterans Memorial.

The memorial features brick pavers engraved with the names of United States Armed Forces members who lived, worked or went to school in Tustin or were stationed at the former Marine Corps Air Station Tustin. Applications for pavers are submitted yearround and installed twice a vear, on Memorial Day and Veterans Day. President of the Orange County Rescue Mission and former Tustin City Councilman Jim Palmer read the names and ranks of the 28 newly added pavers at the ceremony while Tustin Mayor Austin Lumbard welcomed friends and family of the fallen.

"Memorial Day is a special time to honor all the and women are spouses, fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters. Their families are often unseen but make tremendous sacrifices of their own."

The same sentiment was reflected in remarks from guest speaker Rick Martinez of Honoring Our Fallen, a nonprofit organization that provides support for families of the fallen, particularly during the dignified transfer of remains.

"For those of us that are here today recognizing Memorial Day, it is one day of the year," said Martinez, "but for those who have lost a loved one, everyday is Memorial Day. Every day they wake up and remember that they lost a loved one. Every day they wake up and continue to mourn the loss."

Martinez went on to share stories from his experiences working with nearly 1,300 families through his work with Honoring Our Fallen.

"For me it is always humbling to witness what I get witness, as difficult as it is during a family's worse time in their life," said Martinez.

Most recently, Martinez worked with the family of Army Tech Sgt. Matthew L. McKeon, who was killed in 1944 in Germany. His remains were finally identified thanks to DNA advancements and brought home to the San Diego area this year.

"I had the chance to drive his daughter, who was 2 years old when he died. She is 80 years old now," said Martinez. "We drove to the cemetery, and even though she didn't remember her dad, she was happy to get him back. She walked up to the casket and said, "Welcome home, Daddy'."

The presentation included a musical performance by community choir Voices of Tustin and a 21gun salute by American Legion Post 227.

Clanton said events like the Memorial Day Remembrance at Veterans Sports Park are important for the Tustin community.

"Many of the people who live in Tustin grew up in this area and many of them have connections to this Marine Corps Air Station, when it was operating," said Clanton. "We want to make sure that we honor those people with this event, with this memorial."



Photos by Sarah Mosqueda

A 21-GUN salute by American Legion Post 227 honored local KIA/MIA members of the U.S. armed forces at Tustin's Veterans Sports Park on Memorial Day. City and county officials added 28 new pavers at the ceremony.

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men and women who fought to keep America safe and free," said Lumbard. "And while we take time to honor the men and women of our armed forces, we must never forget that they have families. These men

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THE TUSTIN Parks and Recreation Department honored local KIA/MIA U.S. service members on Memorial Day.

CRYSTAL

Continued from page A1

to around \$9.8 million, short by a little over \$150.

About 94.8% of the conservancy's budget goes toward providing educational programs for kids from kindergarten through 12th grade. It also provides an internship for undergraduate and graduate students, part of last year's expansion of a new initiative meant for Black, Indigenous, people of color and first-generation college students.

Roughly 2.9 million visitors visited the park last year.

Work continues on the restoration of the North Beach cottages. Three have been fully restored while five remain under progress. Nine others remain untouched as of May.

Progress remains at roughly the same level as reported in 2021, when five of the 17 cottages undergoing restoration were in "great shape," according to officials.

Restoration is done in groups of four to five. According to a recent update, the project remains on track, with the first four groups now considered "substantially" complete. Work is beginning on another five cottages.

"Ultimately, historic restoration is not just about rebuilding a structure, it's about rebuilding its story," said Cindy Otto, Crystal Cove Conservancy's director of donor relations, in a statement released in April regarding the status of the cottages.

"Throughout the restoration process, the conservancy has worked closely with state park historians digging deep into the historic archives and meeting with many of those who lived in the cottages," Otto said. "The crew has been able to capture the character of each cottage during those summer tent camping heydays, and as each cottage is completed, with

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

Models used for illustrative purposes.



File Photo

BEACHGOERS ENJOY the sunshine and water at Crystal Cove State Beach. The seaside cottages that are available for rent brought in \$1.5 million in revenue over the last fiscal year.

its original quirks preserved, one gets a sense of the joy and respite the cottages provided to the families who built them."

The total cost of restora-

tion is expected to be \$55 million, with about \$48 million of that secured. Otto said the hope is to receive the remaining \$7 million through federal historical tax credits.

"Sometimes, I struggle to describe our work because parks have countless possibilities — countless ways for people to untether," Crystal Cove Conservancy President and CEO Kate Wheeler said in a statement accompanying the report's release. "The simple act of freeing yourself from the hustle and bustle of everyday life and allowing yourself to be swept away into a uniquely beautiful landscape. Parks are a fantastic universe in themselves."

Wheeler acknowledged the stewardship of the Acjachemen and Tongva tribal nations, with which the Conservancy works in partnership.

"For over two decades, we've been dedicated to preserving Crystal Cove's storied past to honor those who came before us, working to create a welcoming place that allows everyone who visits today to connect with the park, and providing educational opportunities that are cultivating the park people of tomorrow," Wheeler said.

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FOR THE last five years, Ed Steinfeld worked at KX FM radio station in Laguna Beach, but now he's starting his own station.



Laguna Beach is getting a second radio station

BY DAVID HANSEN

In the end, local radio host Ed Steinfeld just wanted more responsibility, so he's starting his own radio station.

Since 2018, he's had the marquee morning show at KX FM in Laguna Beach, but Tuesday was his last day, announcing on air that he's ready to aim higher.

"I've always wanted to own my own radio station," he said after the show. "I've been doing radio since the mid-'80s. This is my opportunity, man."

Steinfeld's new station, Voice of Laguna, will launch online on Monday and is still awaiting FCC approval for a transmitter and call letters, but the process is in the works. Unlike KX, it will be a commercial venture.

"I'm not competing with them," he said. "They're a nonprofit, they're membership driven, grant funded, and I'm going in the opposite direction. I'm going commercial, and I'm not depending on the community to send me money or anything. I just want them to listen."

The music will be eclectic and an important anchor for the new station.

"My music format is quite literally, every song, ever. So it will be from the decision I've made. I'm sad at the same time because I love that radio station. I would have done anything for it. I would have stayed and made nothing had I been granted the ability to do more."

During his last broadcast, Steinfeld, who sports a KX tattoo on his arm, tried to focus on the positive but did allude to some disagreements with the station.

"A little over a year ago I just started seeing some missed opportunities that I had hoped I'd be tasked to help repair," he said on the air. "I have been invested in this station, personally, financially, invested in this station. I was willing to do it for free. But ownership and the board, they chose a different path, and there is no blame to place, there's no grudge to hold. I'm choosing to look forward and not back.

Ultimately, it's not my radio station, it's theirs, and I have to respect that. That's why after several months of agonizing, I've decided to start my own radio station, called Voice of Laguna."

KX founder Tyler Russell McCusker did not want to get into the specifics of Steinfeld's departure but said in an official statement that the station appreciated his role over the years. "KX FM would like to thank Ed for his contributions to the station and our community over the past five years. We wish him luck in his future endeavors," he said. Steinfeld now is leaning into his many immediate tasks, including finding a broadcasting location downtown. He's eyeing a couple of sites, such as the old newsstand on Ocean Avenue, and hopes to finalize something soon. In the meantime, he's hopeful that people will tune in and engage.

Stevie Ray Vaughn to Billie Holiday to Billie Eilish, from Duke Ellington to the Rolling Stones."

Steinfeld had a "Mornings with Ed" show on KX, and he will evolve it. The new morning show will run from 7 a.m. to noon, with the first half devoted to news and discussion.

"The most important thing is it's going to be relevant," he said. "I will continue to interview newsmakers and people of interest from all walks of life that have a story to tell. I will be community focused but with a bigger footprint."

Steinfeld admitted that he wanted more things from KX but for a variety of reasons, he was never given additional responsibility.

"I feel really good about

"I've always wanted to do this. I'm good at it and I think I have a shot."

DAVID HANSEN is editor of

Under Laguna in Laguna Beach. He can be reached at *david@underlaguna.com*.

WAR Continued from page A1

about their hellish ordeal as POWs and at times with good humor.

"I used to tell the others, if you really wanted a good room, you had to come early," Alvarez said.

The panel was presented by the Richard Nixon Foundation to commemorate the 50 years since the Nixon administration brought home nearly 600 prisoners of war.

"This year, 2023, is the 50th anniversary of the end of American involvement in the Vietnam War," said Joe Lopez, vice president, communications for Richard Nixon Foundation. "The Paris Peace Accords were signed on Jan. 27, 1973, and within weeks, the POWs started coming home. The ones that were held the longest came home first."

Alvarez was on one of those first planes home.

Other events hosted by the Richard Nixon Founda-



Photos by Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

RICHARD HUERTA, a Vietman veteran, views a replica of a cell at Hanoi's Hoa Lo Prison at the "Captured: Shot Down in Vietnam" exhibit at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library.

tion included a Heroes Welcome Parade for 150 POWs and their families in front of the Nixon Library on May 23, and a recreation of the 1973 White House dinner the president and first lady hosted for the returning POWs on May 24. sti

"On May 24, 1973, they put up a big tent on the south lawn and they hosted almost 600 POWs and their guests," said Lopez. "It is still the largest dinner ever held at the White House."

The anniversary events at the Nixon Library led up to



JACK ENSCH, a former POW, shows his uniform in the "Captured: Shot Down in Vietnam" exhibit in Yorba Linda.

the opening of "Captured: Shot Down in Vietnam," a new special exhibition about the experience of Vietnam POWs.

"It tells the stories of the American prisoners of war from the Vietnam War," said Lopez. "Most of them were aviators that were shot down in enemy territory. They were then captured and taken to the prison camps of North Vietnam. The most infamous of those camps was called the Hanoi Hilton."

The exhibition contains 75 unique artifacts and a recreation of a prison cell from the Hanoi Hilton.

"Using drawings that were done by one of the POWs named Mike Mc-Grath, we were able to size it and recreate it for this exhibit," said Lopez. "It gives you an idea of how small

See War, page A9

'Bigs' and 'littles' enjoy shop's debut

Big Brother Big Sister of O.C. among the first to visit new Nordstrom Rack in San Clemente.

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

Nordstrom Rack opened a new 32,000-square-foot store in San Clemente Plaza last weekend, and participants in Big Brother Big Sister of Orange County were among the first to shop in a special mentorship moment and store preview earlier that week.

"Our partnership with Big Brother Big Sister dates back to 2019," said Carl Jenkins, senior vice president of Nordstrom Rack. "Today we were able to welcome 10 littles and have each one of them shop for themselves and their family with a \$400 gift card. They were our first customers."

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County is a nonprofit organization that brings one-to-one mentoring to youth facing adversity by matching "bigs" (adults) and "littles" (youth) with one another to develop positive relationships.

"We have had an amazing partnership with Nordstrom Rack for a few years, and they have supported us twice a year through campaigns," said Bianca Carranco, director of development at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County. "This specific event is really focusing on providing a shopping spree gift card to amazing littles in our program so they can shop for school, college, work and even for graduation."

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County uses four program models to provide one-to-one mentoring. In community mentoring, adults 18 and older are matched with children aged 6 to 12 to plan activities together twice a month while the big couples program matches two adults in a relationship for two years or longer with a "little brother" aged 6 to 16. The high school bigs program matches high school students in grades nine to 11 with an elementary school student for onehour mentoring sessions that take place at school once a week and are led by a Big Brothers Big Sisters program specialist. The program also offers workplace mentoring for corporate employees at participating workplace mentoring companies to mentor high school students once a month at company headquarters for 90-minute sessions facilitated by a program specialist. To date, Nordstrom Rack has donated more than \$1.5 million in support of its long-term partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters, and this spring, Nordstrom Rack locations across the U.S. are partner-



ALYSON BEUKEMA, of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County, shops at the newly opened Nordstrom Rack in San Clemente with her "little" Emily.



BIG BROTHER John Wolfe shops with his "little," Jonathan, at the new Nordstrom Rack in San Clemente. The new 32,000-square-foot store is located at 403 San Clemente Plaza.

ing with Big Brothers Big Sisters of America to host "littles" in the store to shop for the season.

Alyson Beukema and her "little," Emily Baeza, were drive in the car, and she would say one or two words," said Beukema. "But even just now, driving here from Santa Ana we chatted the whole way. Just seeing her blossom into the woman she is has been really cool and really awesome to be a part of." Carranco said they reached out to staff that works directly with the "littles" to hand select those who would benefit the most from a shopping trip. "There are various reasons as to why they would benefit from having a gift card," said Carranco. "We have some students that need support as they are graduating and going to college and need the appropriate attire. Or they need clothes for interviews, professional attire for transitioning into adulthood. Or they have graduations coming up, and even though their parents are working incredibly hard, but they can't afford to buy a dress.



CONNOR MCGILL shops with his mother, Michelle Madrid, who said she is grateful she found nonprofit organization

among the excited shoppers in San Clemente on May 23. The pair has been matched for four years and was searching for a graduation dress for Baeza who is a graduating senior this year at Godinez Fundamental High School in Santa Ana.

"We actually went shopping for her eighth-grade promotion outfit together too, so this is full circle," said Beukema.

During their time together Beukema said she has seen Baeza mature and grow.

"When I first met Emily, she was very shy. We would Baeza said she has enjoyed having a friend like Beukema too.

"Being in a relationship with Alyson has been good for me because it has gotten me to experience a lot of moments I wouldn't and meet new people," Baeza said.

Carranco said Baeza has always been proactive about setting herself up for success and is waiting to hear back from several four-year universities.

For the shopping event,

Connor McGill, shopped with his mother, Michelle Madrid. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County.

"I am looking to get some new clothes because my clothes are like a couple centuries old," said McGill, as his mother held up a polo shirt for his approval.

McGill joined the program a few months ago at his mother's suggestion and has enjoyed being a part of Big Brothers Big Sisters.

"My mother, she knew a friend who participated in the program, and that friend had a lot of fun and knew a lot of people and actually felt a lot better once joining Big Brother Big Sister, so I decided to join in," said McGill.

Madrid said she has been happy with the experience her son has had with Big Brother Big Sister and the friendship he is developing with his "big," Peter.

"Big Brother Big Sister is a really nice organization," said Madrid. "I am extremely happy with it and I am very glad I enrolled my son in it."

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PET

Continued from page A1

strays and found pets on a contract basis for the city of Garden Grove and houses up to 64 animals.

Manager Rose Gomez said appointment-based visits let people see animals of interest in a more relaxed environment and are less taxing on cats, dogs and the people who work with them.

"Some people don't want to do the extra work. They'll just stop by and say we want to look at the animals," she said, adding the facility doesn't turn away individual walk-ins. "[But] a lot of these animals don't like to see people from behind a cage. All it takes is for one dog to bark, then they're all in defensive mode."

Not offering at-large visits may improve the quality of the adoptions that take place, but it can also affect the overall number of adoptions, leading to facilities that are at capacity. Some dogs have been at the site for more than two years.

A group of volunteers at OCHS, wishing to maximize animal outcomes of



Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

DINA KEIROUZ, a volunteer at the Orange County Humane Society and co-founder of Angels 4 Paws, takes English Mastiff Moose for a walk Thursday. The organizations will hold an adoption event in Huntington Beach on June 10.

the facility, formed their own nonprofit organization, Angels 4 Paws.

Members of its small team pull OCHS animals for fostering and work with area rescue groups, shelters in other cities and even boarding facilities to save as many dogs and cats as possible.

They recruit and train

other animal lovers to be fosters for rescued pets and donate supplies to the shelter, according to cofounder Dina Keirouz. A volunteer at the Hu-

mane Society since 2016, Keirouz walks dogs on her lunch break from work. Since the group was formed six years ago, she and other members have been rescuing and fostering at-risk pets and regularly taking OCHS animals to satellite adoption events at Pet Supply on Brookhurst Street and Kahoots on Main Street.

"We try to network the dogs more to increase their adoption rates," said Keirouz, who lives in Costa Mesa. "We're also trying to develop a network of fosters, so we can take in more dogs and cats."

On June 10, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Angels 4 Paws is partnering with the Orange County Humane Society in an outdoor adoption event that will give visitors a chance to get up close and personal with the animals at the Newland Street facility. It's the first event to be held there in several years.

Holly Spritzer, an OCHS volunteer and president of Angels 4 Paws, said the idea is dogs will be brought out in groups, giving more than 50 pooches a chance to be seen.

Husky mixes will be on display from 10 to 11:30 a.m., with pit bulls and terrier mixes following from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Shepherd mixes go up next, from 1 to 2 p.m., while



Photos by Eric Licas

TANG MANISUTA checks for mechanical issues for participants of RC Tank Battles at Huntington Central Park on May 28. The model kits could cost upwards of \$200 each.

H.B. man revives and keeps RC Tank Club hobby alive in O.C.

BY ERIC LICAS

Families got together for a morning of fun with remote-controlled firepower in Huntington Beach hosted by the Irvine RC Tank Club last Sunday.

Father, sons and daughters coordinated their attack plans in mock battles played out over a field of miniature lookout towers, bunkers and trees set up in the shade beside Lake Huntington at Huntington Central Park. Dirt and gravel flew in the wake of tiny motorized treads rolling over scaleddown berms and barriers.

"My intention is very simple," Irvine RC Tank Club President David Nguyen said as battles were getting underway. "I would like to have our youth get out of the house



NORM PRINCEN, left, and Benny Princen of Long Beach inspect their model tank before RC battles.

instead of staying in their rooms playing video games by themselves. His dad's in the other room, sister's in another room. So now, they go out into the park, play together." The model kits used in RC tank battles can cost upwards of \$200 each, and

See **Club,** page A8

THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS 1

Montana, for one 4 Actress Kathy 9 Bathtub ring, e.g. 13 Objectives 15 Keep away from 16 Remain optimistic 17 Radar screen image 18 "Could you favor?"; request for help 19 Public disturbance 20 Male horses 22 Resorts 23 Resting in peace 24 Hasten 26 Boastfulness 29 Strategic barrier 34 Destroys 35 Grocery store section 36 State leader: abbr. 37 Piece of jewelry 38 Mob 39 First, second third 40 BPOE membe 41 Kraków native 42 Pilot 43 Went AWOL 45 Very small 46 Trumpeter Severinsen 47 Beer topper 48 Ship's bow 51 Taking into custody 56 Etna's output 57 "Ode to a Nightingale" poet 58 TV's "_ Team" 60 Put one _ on; dupe 61 Uncanny 62 Saint topper 63 Take care of 64 Winter toys 65 Pelosi's title: abbr. DOWN

DOWN 1 Poke 2 Lubricates 3 Give off, as fumes

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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*.

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

4 Pandemonium 5 Stay away from 6 _'-shanter; woolen cap 7 Place of tranquility 8 Waterfront 9 Sharp shrill cry 10 Bit of change 11 Feel put-_; harbor resentment 12 National League team 14 Digging with a tool 21 _ than; < 25 Like Arctic

weather 26 Made a faux pas 27 Slyness; trickery 28 Requests for more slop 29 __ one's soul; spoke frankly **30** Tupperware tops 31 Once more 32 Amounts to swallow 33 Each 35 Pineapple brand 38 Breakfast order 39 Facial woe 41 Quid _ quo; trade-off 42 Daring act 44 Actor _ James Olmos 45 Throws 47 Bad-smelling 48 Scheme 49 _ about; praise highly 50 Baker's need 52 Virginia _; folk dance 53 Uncommon 54 Close at hand 55 Storm or Sayers 59 Prune, as branches Tribune Media

LEFT TO RIGHT: Piaget, Hermès, David Yurman, Gucci, Porsche Design, Sur La Table, Hoka, Reiss London

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Inflammable, flammable and other confusing similar-sounding words

W e've all been there: You're about to write or say a word when you realize there are two forms and you don't know which is correct. One of them is shorter, like dissociate, the other seems more logical, like disassociate.

Maybe you're struggling to choose between preventive and preventative. Or recur vs. reoccur, dissemble vs. disassemble, mischievous vs. mischievious, flammable vs. inflammable, comment vs. commentate.

Which do you choose? And how do you know?

Sometimes in language there's

a blanket solution, like "The one that sounds best is probably best." But with these word pairs, there's no one-size-fits-all strategy. The only way to be sure is to look them up.

Here are some word pairs you can only navigate with a dictionary.

Disassociate/dissociate. I've never been comfortable with either of these words. They both sound a little wrong to me. So I usually find a workaround, like "avoid" or "not associate with" or "sever ties with." Now that I've finally looked them up, I can see that all my mental gymnastics were unnecessary: dissociate and disassociate are synonyms, according to Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, which argues that playing favorites here is silly: "Dissociate is recommended by a number of commentators on the basis that it is shorter, which it is by a grand total of two letters — not the firmest ground for an endorsement. Both words are in current good use, but disassociate is used more often in the U.S."

Disassemble/dissemble. If English were logical, disassemble/dissemble would work just like dissociate/disassociate. But it's not, so these words have two completely different meanings. To disassemble means to take something apart — to do the opposite of assembling it. But to dissemble means to lie or otherwise misrepresent something. They're not interchangeable.

Mischievous/mischievious. Size-wise, the difference between these two words is negligible just one tiny, unobtrusive little "i." But in every other regard, the difference is huge: Mischievious, with that extra "i," isn't a legitimate word in Merriam's dictionary. When you want to say someone is full of mischief, the only correct choice is "mischievous." And when you say it out loud, it should contain three syllables, not four, which is considered a nonstandard pronunciation.

Recur/reoccur: Recur means to happen again. So does reoccur, which we get from adding "occur," meaning to happen, to the prefix "re," meaning again. So to say something happens again, you can either use "recur," which is already listed in dictionaries, or slap a prefix and a word together to get "reoccur." Both are legitimate, but there's a subtle difference in how they're used. "'Reoccur' and 'reoccurrence' are the more basic words; they simply tell you that something happened again," writes Merriam-Webster's Dictionary of English Usage. "'Recur' and

See Word, page A9

MAILBAG Mooring changes to Newport Harbor would affect boat owners



File Photo

A LARGE NUMBER of boats joined the War Heroes on Water boat parade in Newport Harbor in October 2020. A letter writer responds to talks about changing mooring there.

The possible mooring changes to Newport Harbor could be interesting if one is fortunate enough to own a boat there.

First off, the article mentions that the harbor is one of the largest small-craft recreational harbors on the West Coast. The sources I've read seem to do the harbor a slight injustice. One says Newport Harbor is one of the largest recreational harbors in the U.S. and another source says Newport is definitely the biggest on the West Coast and possibly the biggest in the country. OK, now that that is settled, the mooring project would reconfigure the mooring field to double-row moorings, placing boats closer together, taking up less space while offering the same number

NEWPORT BEACH

of potential moorings. Boats of like sizes would be consolidated into the same rows.

This is all well and good, and I'm sure very interesting for those of us who have boats in the water. I'm curious, however, about the process that would occur when a larger than typical boat comes to the harbor. I'm reminded of an event taking place in September 2013 when the Invictus vacht at 216 feet long owned by billionaire and real estate developer Rick Caruso caused some problems for other boat owners from his oversized ship and the possibility that it would bring with bright lights, noise and harmful fumes while blocking some views. Assuming Caruso comes back in his monster yacht,

how would the Invictus fit in with the proposed mooring changes? I guess we just have to wait and see what happens.

In the meantime, we have another ongoing harbor issue with the possibility that the 100-yearold Balboa ferry service may be shut down due to obsolete engines. Which event, I wonder, will garner more interest and action if necessary? Only time will tell.

Bill Spitalnick

Newport Beach

Laguna fentanyl deaths no surprise

Re: "Laguna Officials warn against erroneous

See **Mailbag,** page A9



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A passion for fulfilling mothers' needs

Rachelle King travels around O.C. offering lactation support for mothers and their young babies.

BY MATT SZABO

Rachelle King put the 6week-old baby boy on the scale, but first she took a guess.

The Huntington Beachbased International Board Certified Lactation Consultant, or IBCLC, uses a scale, accurate to 2 grams, to weigh babies she sees on her home visits.

They're weighed before a breastfeeding session, and again after feeding from each breast, to measure how much milk is being transferred.

King's client on Thursday, Kaitlyn Ramos of Rancho Santa Margarita, has a very healthy young son. Bowen not only weighed 12 pounds, 2 ounces before breastfeeding, but he drank 2.6 ounces of milk from the first breast.

King guessed that the baby would take 1.2 ounces from the second breast. She was exactly right.

"Auntie Rachelle has a new faith in herself," she said with a laugh.

King is passionate about her line of work. She started her own lactation support company, Latch Amoré, in January 2021, just a few days after her 40th birthday.

She soon got a large tattoo on her upper right arm, of Marilyn Monroe breastfeeding a baby girl. She said it's the most personal of her 20 or so tattoos.

"I often get asked if it's me and my daughter," King said. "I really need to just start saying yes.'

There is a smaller tattoo of two breasts on her right wrist, and one on her forearm with a uterus and a vagina with flowers growing out of it. Eventually, it will be a full sleeve dedicated to motherhood on her right arm.



REGISTERED NURSE and lactation consultant Rachelle King proudly shows her mother and baby tattoo while client Kaitlyn Ramos breastfeeds son Bowen during a home visit in Rancho Santa Margarita on Thursday. King travels around Orange County doing house calls for mothers in need.

"The goal is just to remind myself and other people that mothers are superheroes," she said. "There's probably no role in life that deserves more honor and respect."

King, an Edison High graduate, has two children herself — Scarlett is 13 and Arrow is 7. But she struggled breastfeeding them. She eventually learned she had a benign brain tumor that secretes prolactin, the hormone responsible for milk production.

"When a woman's body exceeds a certain level of prolactin, the body assumes that it's pregnant or

breastfeeding, and it won't ovulate," she explained. "My body thought I was breastfeeding a baby and thought, 'You don't need another one."

Arrow also suffered from a tongue and lip tie, King said, and she developed postpartum depression and anxiety.

"I'm a really open person, and I'm happy to share my experiences with anyone that will listen," she said. "I think my clients can appreciate that because they can see that I too have struggled and been vulnerable. I too

See Mothers, page All



LACTATION CONSULTANT Rachelle King, right, advises her client Kaitlyn Ramos as she breastfeeds son Bowen during a home visit in Rancho Santa Margarita.

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MemorialCare Spine Health Center Orange Coast Medical Center Helps Patients Avoid Surgery

Back pain is the second most common reason people go to the doctor. Fortunately, only 10% of people with back pain will need back surgery because most back problems are successfully resolved with non-surgical and minimally invasive treatments. The goal of any treatment - non-surgical or surgical - is to reduce pain, limit further degeneration and get you back to normal activities as soon as possible.

If you begin to feel pain from performing your everyday activities such as walking or working, it may be time to seek professional care.

The majority of back and neck problems can be treated nonoperatively. In fact, MemorialCare Spine Health Center at Orange Coast Medical Center has a leading spine surgery program that is typically considered when non-surgical and minimally invasive treatments have failed to provide relief.

"Orange Coast Medical Center always has its patients" concerns and best interests at heart," says Jason R. Koh, D.O., triage physician, Spine Health Center, MemorialCare Orange Coast Medical Center. "Our non-surgical program prides itself on helping people manage their back pain without the use of opioids. Our program has been 99.9% opioid free for over seven years."

Physicians at the MemorialCare Spine Health Center at Orange Coast Medical Center use a combination of physical therapy, exercise therapies, stretching and other holistic approaches to help patients relieve their back pain. Most patients do well with a conservative approach like physical therapy, occupational therapy or medication.

The first step in the Spine Health Center's spine treatment process is to have the patient speak with a spine concierge to obtain a detailed medical history, collect any recent diagnostic images and test results, and schedule an appointment with our spine physician specialist. The spine physician specialist will then perform a full physical assessment to determine the best course of treatment.

Once the physical assessment is complete, a navigator will assist with setting up the prescribed care plan. Patients have a variety of experts and resources at their fingertips such as rehabilitation medicine specialists (physiatrists), pain management specialists, physical therapists, radiologists, neurosurgeons and orthopedic surgeons.

When conservative measures are not enough, the MemorialCare Spine Health Center at Orange Coast Medical Center has leading surgical outcomes, from highly skilled surgeons in minimally invasive and complex spine surgery. In addition, the Spine Health Center offers procedures, such as kyphoplasty and vertebroplasty, to treat patients with scoliosis and spinal compression fractures caused by osteoporosis. All patients are provided with a pre-operation education class and a guidebook to help them effectively navigate and manage their surgery and recovery process.

"The surgical component at the Spine Health Center is second-to-none, giving patients back quality of life after surgery" says Devin K. Binder, MD, neurosurgeon and medical director, Neuroscience Institute, MemorialCare Orange Coast Medical Center. "Our pre-operative education course gives patients an overview of the entire spine surgery process, from proper pre-operative care, what the treatment will look like for the duration of the hospital stay, and rehabilitation services for a quick, healthy recovery."

To learn more, visit memorialcare.org/OCSpineHealth.





CLUB

Continued from page A5

that can be a barrier for some. But the Irvine RC Tank Club had more than a dozen loaners available for people to try out on Sunday, and does so at most of its other events. About a third of these were purchased through fundraising, and the rest came from Nguyen's personal collection.

Other RC tank groups aren't as willing to put expensive and painstakingly detailed miniatures in the hands of newbies, said Tang Manisuta of the Irvine RC Tank Club. Most tend to be made up of members who have already invested heavily in model kits and gear and are not necessarily focused on bringing in new people.

The Irvine RC Tank Club had been practically abandoned for years before Nguyen, a Huntington

Beach resident, reached out to its former president and got permission to take over its social media pages in November. The group was still small as of May, with about six core members helping to set up events.

But Nguyen hopes making it easier for newcomers to get into the hobby will help the group's membership grow and ensure that a community for their favorite activity flourishes in Orange County. So far, the club has hosted four battles in Huntington Beach, one in Stanton, and is attempting to set up events with officials in Santa Ana, he said

"I thought people in O.C. should have a club today," Nguyen said. "This is the hobby I enjoyed, before when we were young. We were playing outdoors in the dirt, and now with technology people stay at home with their electronics.'

In between skirmishes last Sunday, families got to know each other by discussing shared interests like military history, model building and crafting. Some like Norm Princen of Long Beach used to be into models when they were growing up but had no idea they could be used in remotecontrolled combat with other people.

He said he was just as enthralled as his son when they stumbled upon a miniature battle hosted by the Los Angeles Tank Club at the American Military Museum in South El Monte a few months ago. That's when the 60-year-old engineer decided to buy an RC tank for Benny's ninth birthday, which they just finished putting together the night before the Huntington Beach meet-up.

They're kinda rinky-dink at the moment," Norm Princen said of the laser signal receivers fitted to their model so it can regis-

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Eric Licas

A MEMBER of the Irvine RC Tank club explains controls to Wesley Tran, 9, of Fountain Valley, during battles hosted by the group in Huntington Beach on May 28.

ter hits from enemy guns. "I want to do a more permanent thing later, but yeah, they at least work. I this week and got them

the kids quickly got the hang of the controls and even managed to shoot down a few opponents.

pastime is unlikely to leave him with anything tangible no matter how much time he might sink into it. But whether he wins or loses an RC tank battle, he still gets to inspect and tinker with his personalized model and keep the satisfaction of knowing that he built it himself.

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A LARGE crowd listens to a panel discussion of former POWs discussing the end of the Vietnam War at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library on May 25 in Yorba Linda.



Scott Smeltzer Staff Photographer

WAR Continued from page A3

these cells were and what were in the cells.'

The concrete cell is tiny, furnished with nothing but a woven mat and copper teakettle. Audio of POWs telling their stories plays, and the cuff ports around the cell don't look into other cells but screens playing footage of Vietnamese prison camps.

"As you are standing here in the exhibit, you can hear the POWs talking about their experiences, and you see some of the rare footage of the prison camps," said

Lopez. "It is really captivating to hear what the POWs were experiencing and how they moved and talked to each other using tap code, how they helped each other."

During the panel the men explained how they used tap code to communicate and recalled memories from the White House dinner, where John Wayne, Henry Kissinger and Playboy bunnies made the guest list.

Lopez said the Vietnam POWs have never forgotten President Nixon for bringing them home, and as a result, the Nixon Library has hosted the 25th and 40th anniversaries of their return. Lopez said the foundation is honored to host their 50th anniversary as well.

"This is the golden anniversary of their homecoming. This is the third day that we have had events with the POWs, and these are amazing stories, and they deserve to be told," said Lopez. "We wanted to curate this special exhibit to tell those stories and to give the public an idea of how courageous and heroic these men were."

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WORD

Continued from page A6

especially 'recurrence' can suggest a periodic or frequent repetition, as well as the simpler notion."

Comment/commentate: This one surprised me. I assumed "commentate" was an illegitimate word people made up when they want to say what commentators do but feel that "comment" sounds too generic. After all, anyone can comment, but only commentators commentate. I assumed people were assuming this. And you know what happens

when we assume. Here's the dictionary entry that proves I was wrong and that "commentate" is actually legit: "commentate: verb. To give commentary on.'

Preventive/preventative. Both these words are acceptable, but the shorter form is strongly preferred in the publishing world. If you want your writing to carry the gravitas of professional journalism, stick with "preventive.'

Flammable/inflammable. Famously, these two seemingly opposite words are actually synonyms. But if combustible

means the opposite of incombustible, then why does "inflammable" mean the same thing as "flammable"? "Inflammable" doesn't use the prefix "in" to mean "not" the way "incombustible" does. Instead, "inflammable" comes from Latin inflammare ("to inflame"), with its "in" meaning "in" or "into," so the whole word means "into flames."

JUNE CASAGRANDE

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

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MAILBAG

Continued from page A6

fentanyl death reports," Daily Pilot, May 24: I am not relieved nor reassured that there were not six fentanyl deaths of Laguna Beach teenagers (who might have been taking drugs) but just two deaths of adult men (who might have been taking their

HOW TO GET PUBLISHED

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

ing to find solutions to address it.

mission, just like the parks, arts, harbor and planning commissions, would work on issues and advise the City Council but especially on homelessness in Newport Beach.

medication).

May I share the following story? My plumber was unable to respond to an emergency call from me on Saturday because he was "on his way to Mexico to pick up insulin for his wife and heart pills for himself." He explained it would cost him much more for this medication in the U.S. and he saves money by shopping in Mexico. I cautioned him about the fentanyl lacing problem. He didn't feel there was a choice.

We should not be content that only two people died of fentanyl poisoning in Laguna Beach no matter what their age. Absolutely it should be a community concern about how those deaths could have been avoided.

Carole Urie-Chickering Laguna Beach

City needs to look at homelessness

I think most would agree that state, county and local elected officials have "kicked the can down the road" for decades regarding the homelessness situation, and we are now faced with this huge problem and work-

One solution that I would like to present to the Newport Beach City Council would be to create as quickly as possible a new commission, a Homelessness Commission to address this issue in our city. This new com-

Roy Englebrecht Newport Beach SAVE

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The Daily Pilot, established in 1907, is published Wednesday through Sunday by Times Community News, a division of the Los Angeles Times. Subscriptions are available only by subscribing to The Times, Orange County. © 2023 Times Community News. All rights reserved.



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HEALTHCARE FINANCING FOR YOUR PRICELESS SMILE

O.C. man accused of setting Holy fire acquitted of arson, convicted of threats

BY PAUL ANDERSON

A Trabuco Canyon man who was accused of setting a blaze at his neighbor's remote cabin, sparking the massive 2018 Holy fire, was acquitted Thursday of arson charges but convicted of making criminal threats and was sentenced to time already served in jail awaiting trial.

An attorney for Forrest Gordon Clark, 56, argued during the trial that law enforcement experts made a "rush to judgment" in accusing him of setting the fire that burned 23,000 acres in Orange and Riverside counties and destroyed 18 structures.

Jason Phlaum of the Alternate Defender's Office told jurors that defense experts were more thorough in their investigation of the Holy fire's origins, concluding it began along a roadway, not in a cabin neighboring Clark's. Phlaum said the fire was more likely sparked by exhaust from a passing truck or a discarded cigarette, noting that witnesses reported seeing a white truck pass through the remote area around the time the fire began.

Prosecutors accused Clark of setting fire to the cabin of his next-door neighbor, Frank Romero, on Aug. 6, 2018. Clark lived in Cabin 14 and Romero lived in Cabin 15, which were the closest residences in Trabuco Canyon, just 30 to 40 feet apart, Deputy Dist. Atty. Dominic Bello said.

"He had the means and motive to start this fire," Bello said in his closing argument of the trial that started in April.

Bello argued that Clark had a burn mark on his shoulder when he was arrested, and while the defendant claimed to investi-



A DC-10 MAKES a fire retardant drop over Holy fire that burned 23,000 acres in Orange and Riverside counties in August 2018.

gators he suffered it while fighting the blaze, there were no witnesses to back up that contention.

A key piece of evidence in the prosecution's case was a recording from Romero's phone, in which Clark is heard threatening to harm his neighbor about five hours before the blaze started. Sprinkled in with lewd insults on the recording were declarations such as, "Frank is a walking dead man," Bello said.

Jurors convicted Clark of felony criminal threats but acquitted him of aggravated arson of five or more inhabited structures, arson of an inhabited structure and arson of a structure or forest. Clark faced a life sentence if he had been convicted of arson.

Orange County Superior Court Judge Patrick Donahue rejected Bello's request to continue sentencing so Romero could make a victim impact statement.

Donahue said he offered Romero the chance to call him on the phone or talk to him through video conferencing about the impact of the crime before sentencing, but the judge said he could not postpone the sentencing because Clark had far more credits for custody than

any possible punishment available to the defendant. Clark had credit for 3,520 days in custody awaiting trial and the maximum punishment in the case was two years, Donahue said. Donahue sentenced Clark to two years

and ruled that Clark had enough leftover custody credits to cover any parole as well.

Bello said Romero was several hours away and could not drive in to the sentencing in time on Thursday. He also relayed that he didn't "feel comfortable" making the victim impact statement on Thursday, Bello said. "I don't think I'm in a position to keep Mr. Clark in custody any longer for no reason," Donahue said. "If Mr. Romero wants to write me a letter, that's fine."

Donahue said he would not reduce the felony to a misdemeanor, however.

"It was a lengthy fourminute threat and a threat to the life of Mr. Romero," Donahue said, adding that he recalled how "shook up" Romero appeared to be by the threats when he testified in the trial about them.

Bello asked Donahue to at least order Clark to report to parole, but the judge said he could not do that either.

"If I ask him to go to parole, they would just tell him to go home," Donahue said. "And if he didn't go to parole, I couldn't do anything anyway. It's moot. I can't put a warrant out for him for nothing."

Clark said he wanted to "put this on the record that I don't accept this sentence," prompting Donahue to remind him why he had just instructed him on his appeal rights. Clark said he intended to appeal the conviction.

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OCHS VOLUNTEER Dana Lundblad on Thursday works with Zeus, a German shepherd who's lived at the shelter for three years.



Scott Smeltzer Staff Photographer

MOTHERS

Continued from page A7

struggled with breastfeeding, I too had to make a choice about how to feed my child."

Helping mothers who might also be having a tough time quickly became a passion. She graduated from nursing school in 2015, a year before the birth of Arrow, and soon got a job at Whittier Hospital Medical Center in 2017 as a postpartum nurse.

That was followed by a closer job at Fountain Valley Regional Hospital, from which King was eventually laid off during the early stages of the coronavirus pandemic. But during that time, she became a Certified Lactation Counselor, then an IBCLC.

"The day I received my severance package was the day I received my exam results from the IBCLC test," King said. "It was like, 'This is where I am supposed to be. This is a sign."

She came up with the name for Latch Amoré by making a small edit while singing "That's Amore," made popular by Dean Martin. She ended up loving the name and it stuck, kind of like a hungry baby during breastfeeding. She gained a following early on by joining the team of Newport Beach-based Nurture Birth, headed by Whitney Lowe, as a postpartum doula and a lactation consultant.

King now goes around Orange County doing house calls for mothers in need. On Fridays, she offers lower-priced office visits in Newport Beach through a partnership with a local midwife, Jennifer Angell.

She wants to help as many people as possible. King contracts with an organization called the Lactation Network that takes insurance, and she offers a sliding scale for lower-income families.

Through a recent partnership, she said her lactation class is now being included in a package from local doula Nicolle Kasch, the owner and founder of Mind Body Baby.

"Now I'll be presenting myself and my services to her clients," King said. "We get to establish some kind of a rapport prior to me to showing up in their most vulnerable moment and them undressing in front of a stranger. I like to be cool and comfortable in my class, very light, joking, storytelling. The goal is to let them know, 'This is who I am. If it's comfortable to you, I would be a great person to call on for support after a baby comes and you need it.'"

Comfort is key, as is adapting to a mother's needs. King said she's not here to push breastfeeding and bash formula feeding; every situation is different.

Ramos, her client on Thursday, is herself a doula. She said King has already visited her three times in Bowen's young life. Though he has a healthy appetite and is latching well, King has recommended some bodywork as he's a bit tight. "Obviously she's helped a

lot because you are so big," Ramos said, smiling at her son. "Especially for firsttime moms, it's really helpful to have somebody that's super-knowledgeable like her to give you tips. I know a lot of these things she knows, but she obviously knows a lot more, and I even forgot some of these things. He latched right away when she was here, and I think it's just because I wasn't as stressed because I felt supported by her. I was more comfortable; just having her around is amazPET

Continued from page A4

various other breeds can be seen from 2 to 3 p.m.

"Our goal is to bring every dog out that day to be seen, even for a few minutes. People can also walk through and see the cats," the Huntington Beach resident said, noting 10 shelter volunteers will be there to help.

"My vision is to parade the dogs down the walk and around the street and have hundreds of people looking at them."

The format is designed to keep animals calm, so attendees can get a better read of an individual dog's temperament and personality but also see every dog at the facility without having to make an appointment online.

"When they used to let people go in the back, the dogs would get riled up and start jumping. There wasn't a lot of space to meet with the dog and click with it," Keirouz said. "The dogs have to decompress."

Organizers hope the event not only leads to more adoptions but also draws people interested in fostering through Angels 4 Paws as well as Garden Grove residents who might have had a pet go missing and did not realize OCHS in Huntington Beach is where lost pets are taken.

Gomez said she's looking forward to the animals, and the shelter, gaining a little more exposure in the local community.

"I just hope it brings a lot of people out," she said. "We haven't had an event for a very long time, because of COVID and everything, so it's kind of exciting to do this."

For more information, contact the Orange County Humane Society at (714) 536-8480.

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Don Leach | Staff Photographer

LACTATION CONSULTANT Rachelle King gives 6-week-old Bowen a mini-physical, while his mom Kaitlyn looks on, during a home visit in Rancho Santa Margarita.

ing."

King feels that with Latch Amoré, she is part of an amazing community. In the future, she could see herself writing books about breastfeeding. "I love that my kids are

"I love that my kids are exposed to me talking about breastfeeding and babies and birth," she said. "For me, it's really important, especially for young boys, to learn and witness breastfeeding. If our young boys can learn that the primary purpose of the breast is for nourishment, and they can learn this before they hit puberty and realize that breasts are sexually attractive, I think our society

could be so different in very positive ways. Maybe we'd have fewer instances of people giving a side-eye to a woman breastfeeding on the street but being happy to see a Victoria's Secret ad."

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