



AMANDA MOORE prints a design made by Hailey Kamikawa and her mom Nancy, from left, at the new Girl Scouts of Orange County makerspace at the Argyros Girl Scout Leadership Center in Newport Beach.

Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

Girl Scouts get new makerspace for anything they can dream up

BY MATT SZABO

Foothill High School senior Kenna Kashima would love to see herself working in a career of toy design.

She said she was inspired by the popular "Barbie" movie that was released last year, and she also admires American Girl dolls. Kashima is currently taking graphic design and art classes.

"I think it's really cool how a toy can represent a young person's interests or culture or background," said Kashima, a member of Girl Scouts of Orange County Troop 881. "I really want to make that possible for the younger generation."

Now Kashima has a valued resource to match her passion.

Girl Scouts of Orange County recently opened a STEM-focused makerspace at its Argyros Girl Scout Leadership Center in Newport Beach.

The building now features tools like a 3D printer, an xTool Laser Cutter, a Cricut Cutting Machine and a Cricut Heat Press.

"We wanted to create a space for girls to have freedom to create and design and innovate," said Amanda Moore, Girl Scouts of Orange County STEM manager. "We were figuring out ways that we could do that. This is a STEM building, so we wanted to bring that to this space in a way that is accessible to all of our girls. [They're] tools that they might

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TINA OROOJI and her daughter Alyssa learn how to draw designs on a computer, to later print on a tote bag.

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Irvine OKs zoning for more housing

The City Council bypassed noise and safety concerns for development plans near John Wayne Airport.

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

Prompted by state housing mandates, the Irvine City Council voted to override the Orange County Airport Land Use Commission's concerns over plans to add 15,000 homes near John Wayne Airport.

If council members didn't pass the resolution during Tuesday's meeting, the city risked missing a February 2025 deadline to update its long-term housing plans, which would subject Irvine to hefty fines, stripped permitting powers and other penalties from the state.

While the council did not deliberate before voting, Irvine resident Doug Elliott supported the move as he said that development near the airport was already intensive.

"We have high-rise office buildings [and] hotels," Elliott added. "We have condos pretty much across the street from the airport and yet, supposedly, we can't accommodate housing further out?"

Only Councilman Larry Agran voted against the override and a subsequent zoning change that would clear the way for high-density units to be built in the Irvine Business Complex that abuts the airport.

In June, the airport commission aired its objections, citing noise impacts and safety issues in noting the rezoning as "inconsistent" with the Airport Environs Land Use Plan, which sets guidelines for development and land use in surrounding areas.

The Irvine City Council first voted on Aug. 13 to move forward with overriding the airport commission's determination while approving its broader general plan

ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



Robert Mansfield

'THE WEDGE' AND STORIES OF THE LOCAL BOARDING COMMUNITY ROARS ONTO SCREEN, DEBUTS AT NEWPORT BEACH FILM FESTIVAL PAGE A5

ANAHEIM MOVES FORWARD ON TOUGHENING LAWS IMPACTING HOMELESS PEOPLE PAGE A2

MAILBAG: TREATMENT OF AIR SHOW, LIBRARY A STUDY OF CONTRASTS IN H.B. PAGE A6

Locals recognized by safety group for heroic rescues at sea

BY SARA CARDINE

Costa Mesa friends Shayla Bauer and Jeffrey Weber were out at Huntington Dog Beach on a cold day in January trying to catch some waves before work, but not much was happening on the water.

The waves were too small, and most people were packing up to leave by the time they'd arrived. But they'd come there with a third friend, Chris Wessels, who was trying to get more surfing hours under his belt, and so decided to stay.

The trio were sitting on their boards waiting for something to happen when Wessels began to feel woozy.

"He looked at me and said, 'I'm feeling dizzy and light-headed,' and then he just kind of leaned

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Sara Cardine

FORMER COSTA MESA resident Chris Wessels, center, poses with friends Jeffrey Weber and Shayla Bauer, who helped save his life during a Jan. 16 surfing session in Huntington Beach.

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SERVICES

Anaheim approves laws affecting homeless

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

Homeless people in Anaheim may soon be banned from sleeping on sidewalks, selling bike parts at parks or even smoking near bus stops.

The sweeping changes were approved by the Anaheim City Council on Tuesday with an initial unanimous vote.

"We are creating ordinances to further enhance the toolbox for our law enforcement to better serve our city, but it really is also a comprehensive approach," said Councilwoman Natalie Rubalcava. "These ordinances, although some people may feel that they are heavy-handed, they're really necessary things for us to keep our community safe."

Last month, council members Rubalcava and Natalie Meeks asked city staff to review how it could strengthen its laws governing the use of parks and rights-of-way spaces after the U.S. Supreme Court recently ruled anti-camping bans are constitutional.

Anaheim first passed an anti-camping ban in 2014 as tent encampments popped up at public parks around the city. The law prohibits people from putting up tents and storing personal property.

In strengthening the city's enforcement hand, a new law also seeks to ban people from leaving property or lying down on sidewalks, bus benches or medians in an effort to clear the homeless from public places.

Citing an average of 255 bicycle thefts per year in Anaheim, another ordinance targets bicycle "chop shops," where parts are disassembled and sold at public parks.

Shoring up the changes, Anaheim is looking to update its



A HOMELESS MAN sits on the sidewalk in Newport Beach. Anaheim is set to pass a law banning people from sitting on sidewalks among other ordinances called "necessary ... for us to keep our community safe."

smoking ban to include public parks. Smoking from cigarettes, cannabis and vape pens would also be prohibited with 25 feet of public bus stops and within 100 feet of any school or daycare facility.

"These proposed ordinances apply to everyone in the city," said City Atty. Rob Fabela. "However, we recognize that they will likely impact those who are unhoused and are using our public rights-of-way as living spaces."

According to the latest homeless count, 1,417 unhoused people live in Anaheim, with 601 of them unsheltered.

In considering the changes,

Anaheim joined several other Orange County cities that have sought to strengthen their enforcement hand after the Supreme Court ruling.

Newport Beach recently banned storing public property on sidewalks and beefed up its anti-camping law to include people sleeping in their cars.

Duane Roberts, a longtime Anaheim resident and investigative blogger, criticized Anaheim's proposed sidewalk law as a potential affront to civil liberties and urged council members to table discussion.

He considered the exception for people who sit on the side-

walk "for purposes of viewing a legally conducted parade or similar lawful or permitted event" to be too broad and vague.

"It ignores the fact that the 1st Amendment does give people the right to sit on a sidewalk if they are engaged in free speech activities," Roberts said. "Somebody could set up a movable chair and table on the sidewalk in front of city hall and distribute political or religious literature."

Anaheim Resort hoteliers spoke in favor of the changes.

"We need to take back our bus stops," said Laura Watkins, general manager of the Best Western Plus hotel. "[Housekeepers] are

petrified to go out to the bus stop in front of my property because of the element that is at the bus stop."

Another hotelier echoed those concerns and claimed that unhoused people in the resort area were increasingly coming from outside of the county.

Council members found general agreement with the need for enhanced enforcement and stressed the city's efforts in recent years to provide services and shelter to unhoused people.

Last month, Anaheim became the third city in O.C. to partner with CalOptima's street medicine program.

"We're moving forward in an ethical way," said Anaheim Mayor Ashleigh Aitken. "But we are maintaining that responsibility to our residents and to our communities that we will keep you safe."

Anaheim police and code enforcement officers would have discretion to enforce the new laws with either a citation or a misdemeanor arrest. Shelter, housing and health diversion services are also slated to be made available as an alternative after detention.

"This is a balanced approach," said Anaheim Police Chief Rick Armendariz. "We're still providing services. We're still wanting to make sure that people are connected with services. However, for those individuals that refuse, for those individuals that continues to violate the law, we will enforce the law."

A second vote on the new ordinances is slated for Oct. 29. If passed, the bans would take effect in late November.

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'KISSSSS' is an intimate look at an artists' last work

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

For curator Bridget R. Cooks, the intimacy of the work featured in Yong Soon Min's "KISSSSS" is poignant and arresting.

"It is really powerful and unexpected," she said.

The personal nature of the exhibition goes even further for Cooks, as the late artist, a UC Irvine professor emerita was a colleague and friend of Cooks, who herself is the Chancellor's Fellow and a professor of African American studies and art history at UCI.

On view at the Contemporary Arts Center Gallery on UCI's campus and co-sponsored by UCI's Jack and Shanaz Langson Institute and Museum of California Art and Claire Trevor School of the Arts with support from UCI's Center for Critical Korean Studies and Claire Trevor Society, "KISSSSS" is a labor of love. Cooks and other fellow artists worked together to finish the exhibition, carefully crafting the show the way they believed Min would have wanted it.

"It was a very fulfilling experience because I was working with her team of artist friends," said Cooks. "Everyone missed her, everyone felt so sad and everyone wanted to do the right thing."

Much of Min's identity was wrapped up in the year of her birth, 1953. She was born during the Korean War in Bugok, in a village in South Korea just south of Seoul where she lived until age 7 when her family moved to the coastal town of Monterey, Calif.

"She was born in 1953, which was when the armistice was signed declaring a military ceasefire between what was newly North and South Korea," said Cooks. "She always felt very personally marked by that because that was also the year



David Kelley

GEOPOLITICAL RELATIONS between North and South Korea are explored in the late Yong Soon Min's "KISSSSS" on view at the UCI Contemporary Arts Center Gallery.

that she emerged, and it felt like the beginning of her life was this kind of ambiguous ending to this war that, technically, is still going on."

Min attended UC Berkeley, earning her bachelor's degree, master's of arts and master's of fine arts degrees. She became an educator, artist, activist and curator who continued to explore the impact of the Korean War in her studies and her art. In 1993, she joined the Department of Art faculty at UCI. Min passed away from breast cancer in March.

Currently, there are three separate works by Min at the gallery. Five prints on the wall titled "Both Sides Now" are part of a work Min completed in 2018.

"This is a combination of images from postcards she took when she went to the Joint Security zone, the demilitarized zone between

North and South Korea," said Cooks, "because there are gift shops there."

A pack of 10 postcards from two trips to the Joint Security area in the 1990s are spliced together in a collage to make a series of five prints that alternate two images, demonstrating the parallels of North and South Korea.

One image repeats throughout the gallery: three tables in a neat row.

"In this image we have a room with these tables, this is the room and the tables where the armistice was signed," said Cooks. "So that becomes a really important space in the history of the political war, but also for her and her work."

The image is the focus of a second work, "Still/Incessant," five newly produced artist books.

"This really is the last work that she completed," said Cooks.

The conceptual work is a heavy book, bound in a military green cover, with the image of the tables on every page, turning progressively more red until the image is completely obscured by the color. There are just five copies of the book, each lined up for viewing with gloves for handling.

"KISSSSS" is the third and unfinished work by Min and the title of the whole show. Min wanted to include representation of seven important moments that traced the beginning of the Korean War to the signing of the armistice.

"She passed before she was able to figure out how to convey that research. So what the team has done is looked at her notes, what she highlighted to help us understand how she was collecting these seven different moments," said Cooks.



Yubo Dong | Ofstudio Photography

"KISSSSS" IS the last project UC Irvine professor and artist Yong Soon Min worked on before her death.

Seven brick stations that display her notes and mark those events line up in the center of the gallery, placed with intention.

"The latitudinal North location of the split between North and South Korea is called the 38th parallel, so the horizontal bricks are about 38 inches long, and the vertical ones are about 38 inches high," said Cooks. "That was something that Yong Soon came up with and then we worked together to come up with these designs."

The brick stations are surrounded by walls with seven images on each, showing what was happening politically at these different stages in time.

The images show two people in various stages of embrace, with flags obscuring their faces, inspired by work from artist René Magritte's 1928 painting "The Lovers."

"In that painting you have two people who have these white clothes, and they are kissing, but they are not actually touching and that kind of surrealist intimacy but separation made sense conceptually for Yong Soon to explain the relationship between

China, the Soviet Union, North Korea, South Korea, the United States and the United Nations," said Cooks. "These are the different entities you see represented by the flags."

The show's opening on Oct. 5 also served as a memorial for the artist and included a walk-through of the exhibition with Kylie Ching, Ph.D., a postdoctoral researcher. On Oct. 26, a panel titled "KISSSSS and Legacy of Yong Soon Min as Artist, Curator, and Mentor" is planned with the participation of some of Min's artist friends who helped with the exhibition. The show ends on Dec. 17.

Deciding how a curator should be involved in a project when the artist has died is a subject Cooks tackles with her own students. She found this project to be both gratifying and emotional, she said, and feels Min would have wanted the team at UCI to help fulfill her vision.

"We just wanted to make sure that we did something that she would be happy with," Cooks said.

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'Sand czar' looks to turn tide on coastal erosion

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

Before becoming San Clemente's new coastal administrator last year, the beach has always held a nostalgic place in Leslea Meyerhoff's heart.

"Some of my earliest memories are walking the beach in Santa Monica with my grandma," she said. "I also recall fond times boogie boarding, collecting seashells or just enjoying a stroll at the beach."

On a recent foggy afternoon by San Clemente Pier, Meyerhoff looked on from a picnic bench as a handful of families similarly walked along the beach while others carried boogie boards into the ocean.

In recent years, the city's eroding beaches have been a far cry from the wide, expansive sands of Meyerhoff's Santa Monica memories.

But a year into her role as San Clemente's coastal administrator, stretches of the south Orange County city's shores are in much better shape, thanks to taking a cue from Santa Monica's sand pumping past.

"She's been nothing short of extraordinary," said San Clemente Mayor Victor Cabral. "We desperately needed someone like her with her qualifications, experience and connections to move the city forward, particularly with the enormous problems we have with sand and protecting our coastal infrastructure."

The initial phase of a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sand replenishment project has pumped a fresh batch of beige sand that has stretched the coastline further out toward the ocean. Crews are due back in November to finish the job of bringing 251,000 cubic yards of sand around the pier.

San Clemente also just announced the completion of an emergency project to repair North Beach with 37,000 cubic yards of sand trucked in from Orange County's Santa Ana River stockpile site.

More than beautifying the beach for recreation and tourism, San Clemente's sand projects are intended to protect infrastructure like the LOSSAN train tracks that coil by the coast to the picnic table Meyerhoff sat on as she discussed her "sand czar" role.

"We can't wait for Mother Nature, because she's not able to do her job, at least

for this stretch of coast," she said. "That's why we've had to restore the beaches ourselves."

Urban development has choked off natural sand replenishment, whether from river beds or bluffs that are armored by train tracks. In the future, sea level rise prompted by global warming will present a new threat to the integrity of San Clemente's beaches.

Sensing the task ahead, the San Clemente City Council approved the creation of a coastal administrator position to manage sand replenishment projects, guide coastal resiliency plans and serve as a liaison with different government agencies.

At an Oct. 3, 2023 council meeting, council members awarded Meyerhoff a three-year contract.

She came into the job having started the Summit Environmental Group as a small business in 2004 after earning a master's degree in urban planning from UCLA.

By 2016, Meyerhoff counted San Clemente as a client when the city hired her to help with its local coastal program, which guides development and resource protection in accordance with state law.

She also worked on San Clemente's Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment in 2019 and the city's Coastal Resiliency Plan in 2021.

Prior to taking on the coastal administrator job, Meyerhoff helped manage the Army Corps' Solana Beach sand replenishment project.

"It was actually an easy transition for me to step into the role in San Clemente," she said.

Crews overseen by the Army Corps set up on the beach by San Clemente Pier a month into Meyerhoff's tenure as coastal administrator. And then, the long-awaited Army Corps project that took two decades to secure funding for hit an unexpected snag.

When the borrow site off the coast of Oceanside didn't damage equipment, piping spewed its unusable cobble-strewn sediment on the beach.

"We had to come up with an alternate plan pretty quickly," Meyerhoff said. "It required everyone to work together."

She recalled 100-hour workweeks that spilled into weekends and the holidays.

The project was delayed for several months as all involved worked to secure



Allen J. Schaben | Los Angeles Times

WORKERS REPLENISHED the beach in San Clemente with new sand south of the pier in May.

permitting to use the Surfside-Sunset Beach borrow site in northern O.C.

When work resumed in April, the beach was widened with 114,000 cubic yards of sand just in time for summer.

As part of a 50-year plan, the Army Corps will assess future sand replenishment efforts every five to six years.

But that's not the only beach nourishment plan in the works for San Clemente.

The Orange County Transportation Authority is in the planning stages of a project to protect the LOSSAN tracks in San Clemente with riprap and 541,000 cubic yards of sand. The San Diego Assn. of Governments' third Regional Beach Sand Project is slated to bring a million cubic yards of sand to San Clemente in the future.

Meyerhoff stays in contact with all involved agencies in trying to integrate and streamline the incoming projects as much as possible.

"We are all trying to solve the same problem," she said. "My role is to advocate the city's position, which is [that] sand is the best solution."

It's a message Meyerhoff has brought to residents so that they can better understand the city's efforts against erosion.

"She has taken a strategic approach to doing an assessment of the entire



LESLEA MEYERHOFF stands ankle-deep in new sand pumped on the beach near San Clemente Pier to replenish it from erosion.

Don Leach | Staff Photographer

4.5-mile coastline of San Clemente," said Cameron Cosgrove, a resident and planning commission chair. "She's presented that in several public forums where members of the public could come and get educated and also provide their input on potential options moving forward."

In the Nov. 5 election San Clemente voters will have a say in the future of the city's beaches in the form of Measure BB, which, proposes a half-percent sales tax hike to fund the city's share of the Army Corps project.

Signs popping up around town in support of the ballot measure, which Cosgrove serves as campaign leader, urge residents to "restore our beaches" with a "yes" vote.

The scaled-down hike means that even if the initiative passes, San Clem-

ente will still need to track down additional funding for sand projects outside of the Army Corps, a task a coastal administrator would lead.

"You can get the permits, you can get through the environmental studies, but you need money, at the end of the day, to build these projects," Meyerhoff said.

With more sand planned for San Clemente's future, efforts against erosion also entail monitoring and retention.

The city is currently working on a study funded by the California Coastal Commission that is assessing breakwaters, artificial reefs and other sand retention strategies.

Every grain of sand goes toward a future that Meyerhoff envisions where a walkable beach from Dana Point Harbor to Trestles isn't thwarted by erosion at

any point along the way.

"The need for the beach is going to increase — not decrease — over time," Meyerhoff said. "All the things we're doing now — restoring the beaches, looking at retention solutions, looking at comprehensive beach nourishment from the south end to the north end of the city — are going to promote resiliency in the city now and with sea level rise."

It's all in a day's work for San Clemente's "sand czar."

Meyerhoff doesn't know where the tagline came from but shares a chuckle at its expense.

"I'm fine with it," she said with a laugh. "My mission is to get sand delivered to the beach. That is my focus for San Clemente."

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RESCUES

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forward on his board," Weber, 24, recalled of the incident nine months later. "Quickly, we realized he wasn't responding."

Immediately, Weber and Bauer wedged themselves on either side of Wessels' board and paddled him to shore. The beach was nearly empty, but Bauer managed to find someone with a phone and communicated their location to lifeguards as Weber performed CPR.

He'd taken a class in high school but had never performed the life-saving procedure. He remembered an episode of the TV show "The Office," in which the characters sang "Stayin' Alive" by the Bee Gees in a CPR class to maintain the correct tempo. So that's what he did.

"I didn't know what I was doing but started chest compressions and tried to stay to that beat," Weber said.

The trio remained on the beach until paramedics came and relieved the ad-hoc rescuers, transporting Wessels to Hoag Hospital, where he would remain for the next 45 days. CPR had sustained his life for a full 45 minutes until his natural heartbeat resumed.

Doctors later determined he suffered from arrhythmic right ventricular cardiomyopathy (ARVC), a heart disease that causes a potentially fatal irregular heartbeat and requires the implantation of a defibrillator.

"It's a very random heart



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

LAGUNA BEACH teens Merrick Vellmore and Jude Young, from left, received a Meritorious Act Award for their Oct. 15 rescue of a family of three struggling in a rip current at St. Ann's Beach in Laguna Beach.

disease," Wessels said of the condition that changed the course of his life, as he moved from Costa Mesa to Maryland to receive treatment from Johns Hopkins Hospital. "It was undiagnosed for a while. Now I'm doing cardiac rehabilitation and brain therapy."

The 27-year-old credits his friends, who he'd only met months earlier through Costa Mesa's Canopy Church, with saving his life. Today, the three friends are bonded by what they experienced together.

"We'd never even met his family," Bauer, 24, said. "Now we've been adopted into the Wessels family, for sure."

For their bravery and

quick thinking on that fateful day, Bauer and Weber were each officially recognized by members of the California Surf Lifesaving Assn. Thursday with a Heroic Act Award in a ceremony during a board meeting hosted by the San Clemente local chapter.

Founded in 1964 under the U.S. Lifesaving Assn., the statewide organization of lifeguards and marine safety professionals strives to promote beach safety and professional open-water lifesaving standards. Each year, the group hosts regional ceremonies to honor members and citizens who've gone above and beyond to save the lives of others.

"We anticipate bravery and quick thinking from our professional ocean lifeguards, but when civilians step up and perform life-saving actions, it is a particular honor to recognize their heroism and selfless commitment to their community," Gus Avila, president of the CSLSA, said of the annual award.

"These award recipients embody courage despite great personal risk, and their actions are both inspirational and worthy of recognition."

Bauer and Weber weren't the only local residents recognized Thursday at the San Clemente Community Center — two Laguna Beach teens received a



Sara Cardine

BILL RICHARDSON, a retired Marine Safety Captain for the Huntington Beach Fire Department, on Thursday received a Life Member Award from the California Surf Lifesaving Assn.

Meritorious Act Award for rescuing a family of three caught in a rip current at the city's St. Ann's Beach a year ago this week.

Jude Young was hanging out with friend Merrick Vellmore and a group of friends after school at nearby Thalia Street Beach on Oct. 15, 2023 and was just drying off when he saw imperiled swimmers in the distance.

"A little boy was getting swept out, and then his mom got swept out while trying to rescue him," recalled Young, now 18.

He alerted friend and classmate Merrick Vellmore, and the pair immediately ran to the adjacent beach. Then members of Laguna Beach High School Surf Team, they'd both taken lessons, provided through the city's Marine Safety Department, on performing underwater rescues.

The course, which covers everything from hasty

searches to pulling victims with broken necks to shore, is designed to train local surfers and beachgoers to spot danger and act quickly until first responders arrive on scene.

On that harrowing day last October, Young helped pull the young boy to waist-deep water, as Vellmore swam out to the boy's mother. The two of them were guiding the woman to safety, when they noticed more activity about 150 yards off shore.

"That's when I noticed there was also a dad in the mix," Young said. "It looked like he was struggling the most, and he was the furthest out."

Vellmore tried to pull the semi-conscious man to safety by having him hold onto his foot, but the rescuer's much larger frame was too heavy to pull. Using boogie boards provided by someone on land, the teens

See **Rescues**, page A4



JOSEPH MCGINTY Nichol, known as McG, speaks outside the Lido Theater while holding his young son.

Sugar Ray rocks the restored stage at Lido Theater

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

Outside the recently restored Lido Theater, movie lovers, music fans and politicians gathered near the box office. State Assemblywoman Diane Dixon, Newport Beach Mayor Pro Tem, Joe Stapleton and council members Erik Weigand and Robyn Grant were among those who joined Joseph McGinty Nichol, better known as McG, for a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the theater on Saturday, Oct. 5.

"I have never seen this many people here," Dixon remarked. "Thank you for restoring life to Lido."

While some of the guests came for the open house event that ran throughout the day, allowing visitors to explore the restored venue and offering complimentary popcorn from the concession stand, many came for the free concert from pop rock band Sugar Ray.

Sugar Ray was formed in Newport Beach in the mid-1980s and achieved mainstream success in 1997 with its first hit, "Fly," off the album "Floored."

Lead singer Mark McGrath and McG, who is also a Newport Beach native, have a friendship that dates back to their high school days in Orange County. McG produced Sugar Ray's first album and directed the music video for the band's song "Caboose." The experience led to other opportunities directing music videos for songs like Sublime's "Santeria" and The Offspring's "Pretty Fly (For a White Guy)" to eventually directing full-length feature films. McG credits the influence of the Lido Theater and his friendship with McGrath with inspiring his successful creative career.

McG is one of two partners at the River Jetty

Restaurant Group, the new operator of the landmark theater, which was renovated by the Fritz Duda Co.

"The Lido Theater was a house of dreams for all of us as I look at my buddy, Mark McGrath, my friend of 50 years," said McG. "We thought growing up in Newport Beach there was no way we could ever touch the world, that everything cool happened elsewhere."

McG tapped McGrath and his band to play a free show at the open house, reflecting another aspect of the offerings McG sees the theater providing for the community. Besides showing movies, he anticipates live music, comedy performances, benefits and galas at the venue.

"This theater is about bringing people together to experience film and [to] dream, to experience live music and feel alive," said McG.

Sugar Ray opened with "Someday" followed by "Every Morning" and "When It's Over." The set also included a medley of '90s hits such as "How Bizarre" by OMC and "Steal my Sunshine" by Len. They performed "Fly" with an added breakdown of Sublime's "What I Got" and closed with "Fight for Your Right" by Beastie Boys, as McG joined in on lead vocals.

McG said it was an encouraging first night of entertainment and just the beginning of what he believes the Lido Theater can be for Orange County.

"This the extinguisher of loneliness as we come together and celebrate everything that gets us excited and makes us dream about worlds that are bigger than ours."

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Photos by Sarah Mosqueda

POP-ROCK BAND Sugar Ray rocked the restored Lido Theater in Newport Beach on Saturday, Oct. 5.

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FROM LEFT, Newport Beach City Councilman Erik Weigand, Mayor Pro Tem Joe Stapleton and Councilwoman Robyn Grant present a certificate of recognition to the Lido Theater.

HOUSING

Continued from page A1

update, which included housing.

In addition to the Irvine Business Complex area, the update also eyed neighborhoods around the Spectrum and Great Park that could accommodate more than 57,000 future housing units.

"Unless we are absolutely committed to installing transit first and unless we are absolutely committed to addressing and providing affordable housing first, development of this magnitude is just unconscionable," Agran said. "The spillover effects will be dramatic. We're asked here to override all kinds of environmental concerns that have been identified [and] cannot be properly mitigated."

Councilwoman Tammy Kim tangled with Agran's stance and noted staff had put in three years of work on the general plan.

"We get into this

Catch-22 ... and then nothing gets done," she argued.

Since the August votes, government agencies traded letters over the airport commission's objection to residential development planned near the airport.

"The city's decision to introduce low to very-low income housing within the new residential zoning overlay fails to adequately address the principles of environmental justice," wrote Matthew Friedman, a Caltrans senior aviation planner, in a Sept. 9 letter to an Irvine city official. "These communities are often more susceptible to adverse environmental conditions, including those associated with proximity to airports, such as noise and safety risks."

Orange County cities have overridden the airport commission, according to Irvine's staff report.

Councilman Mike Carroll sits on the airport commission but was absent during its vote to find the housing plan inconsistent.



Allen Schaben | Los Angeles Times

THE IRVINE City Council voted to zone for more housing by John Wayne Airport.

ing the green light to a 282-unit apartment building near John Wayne Airport.

Santa Ana and Costa Mesa have also overridden the airport commission, according to Irvine's staff report.

Councilman Mike Carroll sits on the airport commission but was absent during its vote to find the housing plan inconsistent.

On the dais, Carroll voted to override that objection alongside a supermajority of his Irvine council colleagues.

A second council vote at a future meeting is required before the zoning change becomes official.

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RESCUES

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eventually transported him to shore as well.

Despite their valiant actions, the teens aren't quite comfortable wearing the mantle of hero. Young said, despite sounding like a cliché, it was just "the right thing to do." Vellmure agrees.

"I feel good about myself," the 18-year-old said. "It's not the first time I've saved somebody, but it's definitely the gnarliest. This time, it was like, OK, this is a big one."

Other awardees recognized Thursday included California State Parks seasonal lifeguard Ben Sweet, given a Medal of Valor Award Thursday for a rescue he performed in Ventura in December.

tired Capt. Bill Richardson, who received Life Member Awards in recognition of their commitment to saving lives while advancing water safety and the lifeguarding profession.



Sara Cardine

CALIFORNIA STATE Parks seasonal lifeguard Ben Sweet, with a Medal of Valor Award Thursday for a rescue he performed in Ventura in December.

tired Capt. Bill Richardson, who received Life Member Awards in recognition of their commitment to saving lives while advancing water safety and the lifeguarding profession.

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Robert Mansfield

BRENT WELDON, left, records a bodyboarder riding massive waves at the Wedge.



Eric Licas

BRENT WELDON sits on the rocks of Newport Harbor jetty while discussing his feature-length documentary, "The Wedge," which debuts at the Newport Beach Film Festival Friday.

'The Wedge' makes debut at Newport Beach Film Festival

BY ERIC LICAS

A powerful wave knocked the underwater housing of videographer and surfer Mike Harris's camera into his face as he was filming at the iconic surfing spot known as the Wedge. He passed out and got slammed into the rocks of Newport Harbor jetty, colleague Brent Weldon said.

"You know it happens," Weldon said. "You hear about it all the time. But to see it that bad, I'd never seen it that bad before."

Friends pulled Harris out of the water and waited in anxious horror as he floated in and out of consciousness. He was unable to coherently respond to the people trying to help him, yet somehow maintained a vice-like grip on his camera until he was able to recognize Weldon among the faces around him.

"He basically doesn't know what's going on, been knocked out twice in the water, being pulled in, and his only thing is: 'Give it to Brent!'" Weldon told the Daily Pilot during an interview at the Wedge while gentler waves rolled in Thursday morning.

Memories of that day and stories of other friends seriously hurt there despite being experienced swimmers, body boarders or surfers lingered with Weldon, imparting a deep sense of awe and reverence. That inspired him to chronicle their stories and pair them with footage spanning over seven years of monster swells.

"The Wedge" debuts at the Newport Beach Film Festival on Friday, Oct. 18. It's Weldon's first attempt at making a feature film after years of producing videos published to Youtube.

"It definitely turned into something that I was not expecting," Weldon said. "It's way bigger, way longer than what I was thinking it would be. But I'm stoked with how it came out. I learned so much."

The project that eventually became "The Wedge" began four years ago, shortly after Harris got hurt. Weldon put it to-

"It definitely turned into something that I was not expecting. ... But I'm stoked with how it came out."

— Brent Weldon
director of "The Wedge"

gether mostly on his own while maintaining a day job as a sales rep for underwater housing manufacturer Aquatech. The self-taught filmmaker refined his skills as an editor and interviewer over the course of production, and shot a majority of the footage himself.

Weldon said one of the hardest parts about making the film was maintaining enough motivation to complete it. Words of enthusiasm from practically everyone he shared his progress with was key in keeping him committed to his passion project.

Even so, he wasn't sure if "The Wedge" would make the cut for the Newport Beach Film Festival. He said he was about 90% done with it when he submitted his reel for consideration.

"They called me a week later and said, 'You're in,'" Weldon said. "And I'm like, 'Oh, crap, I better upgrade this to make it better!'"

Weldon said he was honored the boarding community surrounding the Wedge trusted him to share their stories and is excited to shed a light on them. He also hopes those who see the film come home with a deeper appreciation of the ocean's power.

"People are just not knowing what they're doing thinking they can surf this place," Weldon said. "The risks are out here. Parents are coming in and dropping off six kids [from their] car and saying, 'Go hang out for the day,' and leaving them here on an 8-foot [swells] day."

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



SCOUTS

Continued from page A1

not have access to otherwise.

"It's really important to not only provide the opportunities, but to show them that they can do anything in STEM, try different things in STEM in safe spaces."

The organization will have a Maker Night once a month, where girls can come in and work on projects with the resources. The space is also open by reservation seven days a week for each of the approximately 15,000 Girl Scouts and troops countywide.

"They can have a sleepover here and do projects overnight, or just come for the day," Moore said.

Kashima's mother Karin, an assistant leader for their troop, said she was excited to report back to its members about the opportunities that the makerspace can provide.

"To have it in a girl-driven environment, it's a safe environment and a sis-



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

KENNA KASHIMA reads information on how to use the Cricut machine at the new Girl Scouts of Orange County makerspace in Newport Beach.

terhood," Karin Kashima said. "For Kenna, it's a great opportunity that Girl Scouts offers that."

Other girls spent time working on different projects at the first Maker Night on Sept. 26. Chole Peckenaugh, a seventh-grader at

Talbert Middle School in Huntington Beach, is part of the Girl Scouts Juliettes program for individually registered members.

She was constructing a tote bag using Procreate on a tablet, before the Cricut app sent it to the printer.

"I love this," said Chloe's mother, Cindy Peckenaugh, watching nearby. "The STEM stuff is her forte, that's her strong point. She loves STEM. This is her outlet. She complained about coming before we got here, and now she loves it

here. She doesn't want to leave."

Girl Scouts of Orange County communications director Maria Solis noted the gender gap in STEM-related careers, and efforts to try to narrow that. According to The National Center for Science and Engineering, only 10.9% of inventors who filed patents with the United States Patent and Trademark Office in 2022 were female.

"What's really interesting, and one of our challenges, is that we're trying to redirect the public perception of what a Girl Scout is," Solis said. "It's always been about empowering girls, and building girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place. It's more than cookies, it's more than camp, it's more than crafts. One of our huge pillars is in STEM education, so it's really to help girls develop future skills and open up this area."

Alyssa Orooji, 10, lives in Foothill Ranch and is part of Troop 8623. She said she

hopes to eventually create a Nurdle-counting machine as she aims for her Girl Scouts Gold Award in the years to come.

Nurdles are plastic pellets that affect marine life, and Alyssa has already been on the "Nurdle Patrol" with Girl Scouts, collecting them from the beach.

"Alyssa is just brilliant ... she sees a problem and she comes up with a solution," Solis said. "She's a ways away from [the Gold Award], but I love that she has her eyes on a vision that's going to help the world."

Whatever their aspirations are, the new makerspace is a resource to help the Girl Scouts work on them, assisted by "STEM Patrol" volunteers.

Kenna Kashima, for one, said she really appreciates the collaborative environment.

"It's free of judgment," she said. "Everybody's just here to be creative."

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forum

MAILBAG

Treatment of air show, library a study of contrasts in H.B.

The air show is all about money. Our City Council only sees the Benjamins, no concern whatsoever about what the residents feel or want. I'm a 40-plus-year resident and homeowner in H.B. and today I had to keep windows and doors closed and sit and hold and try to console my terrified dog. The noise pollution is horrendous. There are sick people, children, pets and veterans suffering from PTSD who don't think the air show is swell. In Newport Beach there are noise regs because of airport noise. I plan on trying to complain on a state level. Wish me luck.

Joanne Piccolo
Huntington Beach

I am sorry that Kevin Elliott took it personally when citizens objected to the infamous air show settlement (Pacific Airshow set to zoom back into Huntington Beach, where reactions are mixed, Daily Pilot, Oct. 3) To me, it looks like Elliott was only doing what any red-blooded businessman would do. He materially supported the election campaigns of the city attorney plus some inexperienced candidates for City Council. Then, City Atty. Gates and newbies Strickland, Van Der Mark, Burns and McKeon won. A few months later, after suing his hometown, Elliott met with them and ended up with a settlement deal he couldn't refuse. Good business for him.

Your article quoted Elliott hoping that "time will heal these wounds, and people will realize that ... the airshow should be for everyone." As it stands, he's got that wish locked up: H.B. citizens are legally and financially committed to a 40-year exclusive with Code Four airshows come Hell or low clouds.

Buzz McCord
Huntington Beach

H.B. City Atty. Michael Gates taunted the wrong direction when he said "the state can go pound sand" (Daily Pilot, Oct. 4).

Gates should have said that to Pacific Airshow executive Kevin Elliott in answer to the lawsuit against Huntington Beach and then-Mayor Kim Carr.

Once again, Gates focuses his attention the wrong way.

Paula A. Schaefer
Huntington Beach



James Carbone

THE THUNDERBIRDS split up doing acrobatic maneuvers during the first day of the Pacific Airshow at Huntington Beach on Oct. 4.

Everywhere you look in Huntington Beach you see signs to "Save Our Libraries." Save them by voting for this person or that or by voting for ballot measures.

I can't speak for you, but I can say this for me: Our libraries don't need to be saved — they need to be left alone!

I think about it. Two years ago no one was saying that our libraries needed saving. We had respected librarians, a great collection of books with a known system to manage them, great programs that benefited the community. Then Van Der Mark, Strickland, Burns and McKeon came to be, and what do we have to show for it?

Book Bans: Books have been pulled from shelves without any professional expertise. An ordinance so flawed that the state has now passed a law to oppose it.

Privatization: This effort is not dead. City Council is simply waiting for the petition to be resolved before they give the business to LS&S. The finances are simple — the city's savings are the equivalent of paying a \$10,000 bill by not buying one \$20 pizza.

Librarians leaving their posts:

Librarians have been called pedophiles and groomers just for doing their job. Our city has done absolutely nothing to support them or refute these claims. The librarians are leaving our libraries and going where they are appreciated. The damaged has been done

What can you do? It's as easy as 1-2-3:

1) Sign the petitions: The petitions to place charter amendments protecting against book bans and privatization need signatures. Sign them and give yourself a voice in the outcome.

2) Support Moser, Kalmick and Bolton, not the "HB3": A vote for the "HB3" is a vote to continue the chaos that degrades our libraries.

3) Vote against Measure U: This flawed initiative has nothing to do with the libraries; the signs suggesting otherwise are a lie. We do not need to lose another costly lawsuit for flawed legislation. We need to fix the fountains.

Leave our libraries alone!

Larry Hersh
Huntington Beach

City Atty. Gates doesn't like the

state telling him what to do. Well, there are many residents here who don't like the council majority telling them how their schools and libraries should be run. Why is the council afraid to let residents vote on these matters if they truly believe in freedom as they all claim? And of course, our city will spend even more residents' tax dollars trying to fight AB 1825.

As with a true authoritarian government, residents were not allowed to vote on the ordinance restricting public library book access or having a review committee which could override any children librarian's books orders. When the motion was made that would have allowed residents to vote before management of the library could be outsourced to an outside company, the council majority vetoed it.

That is why a group of dedicated library supporters from Protecthb.org have written two library petitions hoping to give our residents a chance to vote on these important library issues. Should a politically appointed committee have the ultimate say in what books can and cannot be

in the children's library? Should residents' approval be required before the city can outsource library management and privatize its staff? Regardless how one feels about these issues, they should be allowed to vote on them. It's their library, their vote, their choice. I encourage all H.B. residents who support our award-winning library and believe all H.B. registered voters should have a say in what happens to their library to sign these petitions. Until we can get the privatization petition passed, put on the ballot and voted upon, our library is under threat. Our council could enter a no bid contract with LSS at any time and there would be nothing residents could do about it. To loosely quote Joni Mitchell, "Don't it always seem to be, you don't know what you've got, 'till it's gone. They've paved paradise and given you a substandard library and book collection."

Barbara Richardson
Huntington Beach

The current Huntington Beach Council majority continues to

See *Mailbag*, page A10

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

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

A WORD, PLEASE | JUNE CASAGRANDE

The torturous difference between 'rack' and 'wrack'

If you're the kind of person who chooses words carefully, that's a good thing. Precise language begets precise communication, which improves the odds you'll get your point across. But there's a price to pay for that caution: insecurity, like the self-doubt I'm racked with every time I have to choose between "rack" and "wrack."

Do you wrack your brain or rack it?

Are you racked with guilt or wracked?

Are these questions nerve-wracking or nerve-racking?

Faced with these questions, I forget what I once learned. Rather than get it wrong or (heaven forbid) take the time to look it up, I just avoid these phrases altogether.

Turns out, that's not a bad strategy. Though their origins point to different meanings, "wrack" and "rack" are often interchangeable today. But folks who choose their words carefully might want to keep the original meanings in mind.

"Rack" originates from a noun referring to a Medieval torture device, with the

verb evolving to mean torture, strain or wreck. "Wrack" was born as a nautical term meaning, essentially, "wreck." "This etymology explains why the word is 'nerve-racking' rather than 'nerve-wracking,'" insists Theodore Bernstein's 1965 guide "The Careful Writer." "Something that is nerve-racking does not wreck the nerves, it merely strains or tortures them."

"Wrack," by this reasoning, isn't very useful — limited mainly to talk of ships and things that can be similarly wrecked: like a "storm-wracked vessel" or, from that, "wrack and ruin."

Beware any usage guide that, like Bernstein, speaks in absolutes. Sometimes, their prohibitions are correct. But more often, the writer is a little drunk with power, demanding that good advice be treated as a hard rule.

In the real world, "rack" and "wrack" aren't so simple. For more than a century, leading language experts have been doling out contradictory advice. Some, like Bernstein, say to keep these words separate and true to their origins. Others say "wrack" is

In the real world, "rack" and "wrack" aren't so simple. For more than a century, leading language experts have been doling out contradictory advice.

dead and to just use "rack" no matter your meaning. Though "wrack" is most certainly not dead (in fact, it has gotten a little more popular in the last 30 to 40 years), it wouldn't be so bad to follow this advice. After all, how often do you talk about ships destroyed by storms?

Still other authorities, notably the official style guide of the New York Times, say to avoid both words and instead just find a more modern synonym.

So if you like taking orders from bossy types, you'll have to choose: Keep the words separate, strike "wrack" completely from

See *Word*, page A10

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*Source: Average rating calculated from over 8,500 patient reviews on Google, Healthgrades® and other third-party websites from July 2023 - June 2024



Photos by Sarah Mosqueda

THE 16-FOOT-TALL "Big Jack" at Outlets at San Clemente will be on display through Oct. 31.

'Big Jack' is a treat for a San Clemente charity



BIG JACK'S Pumpkin Patch at Outlets at San Clemente is open through Halloween.



HONEY, a miniature cow, is surrounded by other petting zoo friends at Big Jack's Pumpkin Patch in San Clemente.

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

At the petting zoo inside Big Jack's Pumpkin Patch at Outlets at San Clemente, Mary Lou is somewhat of an escape artist.

"She always does that," one of the petting zoo employees remarked, as the black and white goat scampered out of her pen when the gate swung open.

Most of the time Mary Lou dashes towards the sack of feed stored near the pen, but she doesn't get far. She makes it just a few feet before an employee scoops her up and helps her back into the enclosure. She is joined by other goats, chickens, alpacas and a miniature cow named Honey.

The petting zoo is surrounded by a large enclosed pumpkin patch filled with gourds of various sizes displayed on bales of hay.

The largest pumpkin of all is just a few steps away at Center Court, standing 16 feet high. Outlets at San Clemente is partnering with a local nonprofit through the end of October, using "Big Jack," a 1,500-pound steel jack-o'-lantern, to encourage families to treat Family Assistance Ministries to donations of canned goods and nonperishable food items.

"We are incredibly grateful for our partnership with Outlets at San Clemente for the 'Big Jack Gives Back' campaign," said Teresa Schickling, director of development at Family Assistance Ministries. "This initiative is helping FAM bring our community together during the holiday season to support local families who are struggling with food insecurity."

Family Assistance Ministries is based in San Clemente, and the interfaith charitable nonprofit alliance is dedicated to assisting those in need with food, shelter and personalized coaching to help them reach independence. Founded in 1999 by Ellen Gilchrist, FAM focuses on what the organization calls "whole person support" that emphasizes nutrition, housing, counseling

and health. Last year, FAM served more than 22,000 individuals in Orange County.

"Family Assistance Ministries' mission really resonated with our value of commitment to community," said Katy Ciotti, senior marketing manager at Outlets at San Clemente. "Food insecurity is something that is important to us that we really wanted to address this season."

Those visiting "Big Jack" for photo opportunities are invited to bring nonperishable food donations to the customer service desk at Outlets at San Clemente through Oct. 31. Additionally, donations can be made online at lovefam.org.

"By collecting both food and monetary donations, the Outlets are fueling our mission to ensure no one in our community goes hungry," said Schickling.

Besides photos at "Big Jack" and the pumpkin patch, Outlets at San Clemente will host a Candy Crawl on Oct. 26, welcoming guests to trick or treat at the shopping center while also enjoying face painting, a balloon artist and a pumpkin-carving contest. Children's train rides are being offered each Sunday now through Oct. 31 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The petting zoo is open Monday to Friday from 2 to 10 p.m. and from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

"Honey is worth the visit alone," Ciotti said about the miniature cow, who at 7 months old is fully grown.

In just the first couple of weeks of the "Big Jack Gives Back" campaign, Family Assistance Ministries has already seen the impact its fall-themed outreach can create.

"We have already received donations on our website and donated food items. It's through efforts like these that we can continue to make a real difference in the lives of those in need," said Schickling.

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THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Stella Zawistowski

ACROSS

- 1 Go the distance
- 5 Run after
- 10 One-pot meal
- 14 Inquires
- 15 Hank of baseball
- 16 Algebra and arithmetic
- 17 Hoodie, e.g.
- 19 Feel sore
- 20 Noticed
- 21 "I get it!"
- 22 Hunting dog type
- 24 At a discount: 2 wds.
- 26 Unsettle
- 27 One on an Olympic podium
- 31 Applies sloppily
- 34 Lion's home
- 35 Green starter dish
- 40 Go up
- 41 " _ overboard!"
- 42 Impartial
- 43 Planetary shadow
- 45 " _ never heard of him"
- 46 Narrative
- 47 Well-read
- 50 Portugal's capital
- 54 Handbags
- 58 Egg breakfast dishes
- 60 Moral crime
- 61 Actress Dennings
- 62 Spelunking locale
- 63 Hawaii's nickname: 2 wds.
- 66 Gets older
- 67 Hue
- 68 Agenda part
- 69 Glasses part
- 70 Stuffed bear
- 71 Writing tools

DOWN

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	
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58							59		60				61		
62							63		64				65		
66							67						68		
69							70						71		

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.

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

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

- 1 Catch with a rope
- 2 Nile dam
- 3 Misrepresents
- 4 Airport security team: Abbr.
- 5 Redeemed, as a check
- 6 "That's funny!": 2 wds.
- 7 Director Aster
- 8 Type
- 9 Keys in
- 10 Intelligent
- 11 Meant but unspoken
- 12 Merman of Broadway
- 13 " _ were we?"
- 18 Narratives
- 23 Lab animals
- 25 Deep yellow
- 28 Let in
- 29 Abandon
- 30 _ circle (closest friends)
- 31 R&B band _ Hill
- 32 Intend
- 33 Computer port type: Abbr.
- 36 Subsequently
- 37 Asian language
- 38 What we breathe
- 39 Lacking moisture
- 44 Moisturizing ingredient
- 46 Wows
- 48 Still in one piece
- 49 Beekeeping locale
- 50 From the area
- 51 Visual
- 52 Common dice roll
- 53 Sanctify
- 55 Rink footwear
- 56 Consumed
- 57 Flower supports
- 59 _ gin fizz
- 60 Not barefoot
- 64 Ancient
- 65 Helpful hint

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New spot brings handcrafted hand rolls to Irvine

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

Irvine's Heritage Center on the corner of Culver Drive and Walnut Avenue is already home to two eateries from Kei Concepts. Súp Noodle Bar and Nep Cafe both draw people to the center, especially on the weekends when crowds wait outside during the dinner rush. Now another restaurant from Kei Concepts has moved in.

"Our third ROL Hand Roll Bar in Irvine is a testament to the journey we've embarked on with Kei Concepts over the last decade," Viet Nguyen, the restaurateur and executive chef behind Kei Concepts, said in a statement.

ROL Hand Roll Bar opened in late September at 14370 Culver Drive and is the third restaurant in a lineup of sister restaurants in the same shopping center and the third location for the ROL concept.

Based in Orange County's Little Saigon, Nguyen started Kei Concepts nearly 10 years ago with full service restaurants like Vox Kitchen, Kin Izakaya and Nep Cafe as well as more casual concepts like the recently opened Kei Coffee House filling out the group's portfolio.

ROL currently has locations in Fountain Valley and Huntington Beach, and its popularity has led to the new 1,350-square-foot space in Irvine. ROL specializes in handcrafted hand rolls, made to order in front of guests. Unlike "maki" sushi or cut rolls which are rolled into cylinder and then sliced, hand rolls or "temaki" are individual servings rolled in a piece of seaweed or "nori."

With 22 bar-only seats, each guest can watch the sushi chef make their hand rolls right in front of them, placing them on a small tray in front of each seat when they're ready.

"We recommend that you take a bite within the first 10 to 15 seconds," a server advised on a recent visit. "So the nori is still crispy."

The nori is crispy and warm, filled with sushi rice and seafood of the diner's choice like yellowtail, toro, spicy salmon, shrimp tempura and blue crab. There are also premium hand rolls filled with Santa Barbara uni, lobster with truffle and A5 wagyu beef.

The menu also features inari,



Courtesy of ROL Hand Roll Bar

ROL'S BAR-ONLY DINING in Irvine focuses on a menu of handcrafted hand rolls.

pouches made of seasoned and fried tofu that are then stuffed with sushi rice and fillings like albacore, scallop or spicy salmon crunch. Seafood can also be ordered as a rice bowl or "donburi," and there is a section of expected appetizers like miso soup, edamame, furikake fries and tartare.

In the decade since Kei Concepts began, Nguyen's goal of growing the restaurant group's culinary empire includes expanding not only where diners can experience Kei's food but the type of experiences they have access to.

"From the success of our very first concept, Súp Noodle Bar, to this latest addition, our goal has always been to innovate and create spaces where people can come together over great food," said Nguyen. "We're excited to continue bringing unique and memorable dining experiences to our community as we look ahead to the next chapter."

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INARI, TOFU POUCHES stuffed with sushi rice and seafood at ROL Hand Roll Bar in Irvine.

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WORD

Continued from page A6

your vocabulary, or strike both “wrack” and “rack” (as verbs) from your vocabulary.

Luckily, you don't have to let any of these self-appointed rule-makers push you around. If you want to hew closely to the original definitions, you can rest assured that your choice won't offend any readers. That's what I try to remember to do. But if you don't want to worry about it, you don't have to.

“*Rack*” and “*wrack*” in ‘(w)rack one's brain’ and ‘nerve-(w)racking’ have been used interchangeably since the late 19th century, and both spellings are

commonly encountered today in edited prose,” write the editors of Merriam-Webster's online dictionary. As a result, both spellings are now acceptable: “‘*wrack*’ has so often been used as a variant spelling of ‘*rack*,’ especially when used in the phrases ‘(w)rack one's brain’ and ‘(w)racked with pain,’ that many dictionaries now list it as a variant.”

So while “rack your brain,” “racked with guilt” and “nerve-racking” are the safest choices, you still get to choose.

JUNE CASAGRANDE is the author of “The Joy of Syntax: A Simple Guide to All the Grammar You Know You Should Know.” Reach her at JuneTCN@aol.com.



DIANE OPPENHEIMER, from Detroit, balances on rocks to walk over a small creek while her friend Charity Kahn, from Oakland, stands next to the Inverness Shipwreck in Inverness, Calif., in April 2024. It had been wracked — not racked — by storms.

Genaro Molina
Los Angeles Times

MAILBAG

Continued from page A6

push an extreme MAGA agenda over good governance. As a voting bloc of four, it forces through unpopular policies unrelated to effectively running the city.

Thankfully, the democratic citizen-led library petitions now offer Huntington Beach voters the right to choose how they want their popular public library to be managed. Four council members shouldn't have sole power to choose the fate of an institution as essential and treasured as our public library.

The first petition, issued in May, has more than 17,000 signatures. It will give voters a voice on whether to allow a library review board of political appointees “final” and “non-appealable” authority over book selection. The second petition is not far behind and would allow voters to decide if a for-profit corporation should manage library operations. (No other public library in Orange County has taken on this business model.) Signatures for the second petition will be accepted through the third week of November.

Please cast your votes for Rhonda Bolton, Dan Kalmick, and Natalie Moser for City Council and Regina Blankenhorn for city clerk. All four of these candidates support keeping our award-winning library as it is.

Carol Daus
Huntington Beach

All eyes in Orange County and elsewhere will be looking at Huntington Beach this November for a couple reasons, neither good.

The first is the City Council election. If the council majority slate wins, all seven members will be cut from the same MAGA cloth. Along with MAGA City Atty. Michael Gates and the possibility of a new MAGA city clerk being elected (Lisa Lane Barnes), there will be no guard rails on how decision-making is made.

The second is the resulting fallout if this scenario

comes to pass. The citizenry could be at the mercy of bad decisions in taking on the state over voting, housing, the environment and a host of other issues. An enormous cost in terms of lawsuits, restrictions, penalties and loss of local control could haunt us. The community wouldn't know if the arguments of the council are constructed of straw or sticks until the Big Bad Sacramento Wolf blows our house in. The stakes in the election couldn't be much higher.

The right-wing forces which have built their grievance-driven machine over the past few years to dominate local politics in Surf City may have reached the pinnacle of their power this year. However, if the result is a tsunami of bad decisions for the community that wash away all we have built and threaten our future through state retribution, the residents here are in for the proverbial “bumpy night” for the next two years at least. Other communities will be watching to see how this all plays out.

Tim Geddes
Huntington Beach

Tank Farm vote reveals a lot

According to the Daily Pilot the Huntington Beach City Council voted unanimously to approve the Magnolia Tank Farm project at its Sept. 19 meeting. This project has many virtues, not the least among them that a full 20% of the proposed units in the mixed retail-housing development would be reserved for the very people who would work at the restaurants, the hotel, and the shops of the project. These will be actual units occupied by actual families, living stable, productive lives in our community.

But many of my fellow residents disagree. Vehemently. The one constant political truth in southeast Huntington Beach these last seven years is that there is a well-organized opposition to the Tank Farm project. And they had what seemed in 2022 a set of well-funded candidates for City Council who would take care of their interests. Of the “Fab-Code-Four+Gates” candidates in 2022, every single one of them have betrayed that trust. I am not sure that the current mayor, the mayor

pro tem, Councilman McKeeon or even City Atty. Gates fully understand what they have done, or really why they do anything they do. The mastermind of the group has always been Tony Strickland. And should Janet Nguyen win her campaign for county supervisor, the voters of CA-Senate District 36 should know a salient fact about Strickland.

You may imagine that Strickland is “your candidate” when you cast your ballot. But the reality is that once Strickland is in office, you are “his voter,” and he will do whatever is in his best interests to you and with District 36, as he has done with the city of Huntington Beach.

Galen Pickett
Huntington Beach

Not crazy about guns

It strains credulity to see how the gun show promoter would suffer irreparable injury from being forbidden to sell firearms, firearms precursors and ammunition at its scheduled Nov. 30 O.C. Fairgrounds show. I used to attend this event decades ago before America lost its mind over guns and the 2nd Amendment. Find another venue to hold your event at, just not at the state's county fairgrounds. I'm tired of the gun mayhem in this country, especially when the gun industry does everything in its power to continue to perpetuate the problem instead of being part of the solution.

Mike Aguilar
Costa Mesa

Liking Mancuso in Laguna Beach

Judie Mancuso would be an excellent City Council member for Laguna Beach. Having devoted much of her life to public service, she has gotten 27 bills passed in our state capital to protect animals, our natural environment and much more. Mancuso knows how to get things done and would be a good ally when working with Sacramento on the issues that matter most to us. Currently vice chair on the Environmental Sustainability Committee, she carefully researches topics before offering a solution that's based on the facts. Smart, engaging and driven, Mancuso has great ideas. She'll work collaboratively to accomplish goals,

including residents early in the decision-making process. Her no-nonsense, straightforward approach to solving our complex problems is just what we need now.

Trish Sweeney
Laguna Beach

Choices to make in Newport Beach

Even though I am far away in China, I am excited about the upcoming U.S. elections. We also have some notable people in our local Newport-Mesa elections.

Finishing my dozenth degree at Coastline College and an accelerated master's of education at Cal State San Bernardino, I can see how politics and education are closely intertwined. Sometimes, they work synergistically; sometimes, they work antagonistically.

I am no stranger to politics. I was part of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Congressional Affairs division in 2004. Although it was 20 years ago, I vividly recall the excitement of a presidential and congressional year. I worked very hard to ensure my team of capable lobbyists got the best information. We were quite successful, with the highest performance of any PAC in the country.

I hope voters can look carefully into the candidates we vote for or even champion. From firsthand experience working right next to the White House, I can say that integrity, a commitment to excellence, and a genuine hard work ethic can persevere. Leading by example is the only true form of leadership. Seeing year after year, certain families run for city council, mayor, and school board leadership, I voted not only on what they said but also on the track record and personality qualities they put forth.

One reason I championed Max Ukropina in the primaries was precisely because of the admirable qualities of him and his family: innovative, down-to-earth and loyal. Beyond a track record of business success, their track record of being good people who remember people and their needs gives confidence in their leadership abilities. Titles, good looks, and charisma abound in Washington D.C., Sacramento, and Newport Beach, but we need to look into a person and evaluate their character to see who is best fit to lead. While David Min had

strong ties to my alma maters, Brown University and University of California-Irvine, I championed Max because I knew his conduct and character were exceedingly stellar.

Going forward, I hope this newspaper and our entire community can have robust debates about the issues and the personal qualities that make up our candidates.

Joseph Klunder
Beijing

I told myself this election season that I was going to focus on national politics, having been disappointed too many times by Newport City Council elections being won by people who used them merely as a springboard for other positions. The current council's recent violation of the Greenlight Initiative shows their disdain for the democratic process. We need to elect people who are sincerely interested in our city and who will vote independently with the desires of their constituents in mind.

Two people I know who will do this have histories of being very involved in city matters, one having already served on the council where he proved that his prior experience as an educational leader prepared him for a leadership position in the city. In his previous service on the council, I knew I would always get a clear view of issues if I consulted him. His speaking and writing skills are excellent, qualities that set him apart from some other council members past and present. Perhaps most important of all, he always tried to be available to his constituents.

I am speaking of course, about Jeff Herdman.

During the last four years Herdman has been working diligently with the SPON (Still Protecting our Newport) and the Newport Beach Arts Foundation boards.

He also helped lead the successful campaign against Measure B. Between 2016 and 2020, Jeff represented District 5 on the City Council.

Herdman is so knowledgeable about the current council's controversial plan to exceed the state's requirement of 4,863 new homes by 50%, that he has laid out specific plans to satisfy the requirement without exceeding the mandate of the state. He refutes the council's current decision to amend the Land Use/Housing Element of the city's General Plan without voter approval.

The other candidate that I support enthusiastically is Nancy Scarborough, whom I have known for several years and with whom I have shared concerns about our Newport Heights' neighborhood. In addition to having been a close associate of Jean Watt, one of the all-time most respected leaders of the Newport Beach community, Scarborough has advocated for residents regarding airport noise, planning issues and traffic noise.

She even has a site in which she discusses important issues such as one-night rentals, the lack of sufficient police patrol cars in Heights/Haven to enforce traffic laws, more sensible control of e-bikes, and state and Newport plans for high-density housing. Scarborough also

desires to work to limit future overly ambitious developers' plans for Mariner's Mile. She is independent and her low-key approach to problems makes it easy for her to work with others. She brings the best of both worlds to City Council.

Scarborough's opponent is actually abandoning her seat on the school board to run. In my opinion, the position on the board is every bit as valuable as that on City Council if not more so, especially considering the current trend of trying to politicize public schools.

In contrast both Scarborough and Herdman have no desire to use a council position as a stepping stone to other positions. They want to serve the community and bring fresh ideas and other viewpoints to a council which too often votes as a block, often on unpopular ideas.

Lynn Lorenz
Newport Beach

Jeff Harlan the best choice for Costa Mesa

It's been a dizzying election cycle for people like me who believe in small “c” conservatism. Presidential candidates one-up each other's vicious rhetoric while our nation is rocked by one crisis after another. But thankfully our local elections provide a refreshing contrast.

Mayor Pro Tem and current District 6 City Council Member Jeff Harlan has earned my vote by representing Costa Mesa's east side with humility, intelligence and grace. He has championed public safety by restoring the Costa Mesa Police Department's staffing and resources cut by previous administrations and voting to make our street infrastructure safer for all users. He campaigned hard to revitalize Jordan Park and he helped secure over \$400,000 for the long-awaited renovation of Brentwood Park. He stood up for the community and successfully fought to maintain public access to Harper Park's fields. And he's a voice of fiscal responsibility: He recently voted against salary increases for City Council, breaking with the majority to do so.

But Harlan's most impressive accomplishments are in housing. Drawing on his background as an attorney and a former Planning Commissioner, his thoughtful approach reflects three clear principles: keep families in their homes during rapid inflation, respect private property and individuals' housing choices, and be humble about the government's role in the housing market.

And he has held firm to these principles even in the face of criticism by the more liberal members of the City Council.

In other words, Harlan's approach reflects the balanced governing philosophy I look for in a candidate. He respects individuals and their aspirations while defending our public spaces and striving to make them safe and welcoming. We are fortunate to have a proven leader representing us on the east side. I urge you to join me in supporting Jeff Harlan for reelection.

Jenn Tanaka
Costa Mesa

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