



Photos courtesy of Gasia Karakesis and Unveil Gallery

ALISA OCHOA'S "Fruits of Labor" is part of the "Photosynthesis" exhibit, which recently opened at Unveil Gallery in Irvine. Ochoa was inspired to create the hyper-realistic fruit rattles during the pandemic when her son suggested they make a banana out of clay.

Unveil Gallery ripens with 'Photosynthesis'

Artists Zhen Huang and Alisa Ochoa use plants and fruit to explore nature and life.

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

Upon entering Irvine's Unveil Gallery, visitors are invited to remove their shoes and step down to the carpeted floor to interact with part of the gallery's latest exhibition "Photosynthesis."

Brightly colored ceramic fruit sculptures from artists Alisa Ochoa sit on round pillows like gems in a jewelry store display. The collective work is titled "Fruits of Labor" and within each orange, pomegranate and jackfruit sculpture a collection of ceramic seeds are stored. A gentle shake of the fruit makes them audible.

"The banana sculpture is so realistic but also so fragile at the same time," said Lorraine Han, director and co-founder of Unveil Gallery, holding up the piece that first attracted her to Ochoa's work.

It has been one year since Unveil opened on Irvine's Technology Drive, Han's answer to

See [Gallery](#), page A4



"SURVIVAL GAME" and "Departure" by Zhen Huang; "Fruits of Labor" and "Happy Birthday" by Alisa Ochoa are on display at Unveil Gallery for the exhibit through Oct. 26.

Signs point way to Little Arabia

Anaheim unveiled freeway signs that will be installed on 5 and 91 freeways to help direct drivers to ethnic enclave.

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

Next exit: Little Arabia.

Over the years, Arab American activists and merchants have pushed for freeway signs to give motorists directions to an officially designated ethnic enclave of their own.

During a ceremony held Thursday in Little Arabia, that aspiration inched closer to reality.

After a series of speakers, the city of Anaheim unveiled a life-sized replica of the long-awaited signs that are set to be installed by Caltrans on the 5 and 91 freeways within the next two weeks.

"This is not just an installation of a sign," said Rashad Al-Dabagh, executive director of the Arab American Civic Council. "It's a powerful symbol of recognition, pride and the representation that we have fought so hard to achieve."

The freeway signs are arriving more than two years after the Anaheim City Council voted to officially designate Little Arabia along

See [Signs](#), page A3

Beach project gets more expensive

San Clemente City Council approved up to \$2.6 million to finish the first phase of a sand replenishment project.

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

A federally-supported Shoreline Protection Project in San Clemente around the city's pier is set to resume next month at an increased cost.

The San Clemente City Council voted unanimously on Tuesday to cover new expenses, estimated at \$2.6 million, in order to complete the first phase of the half-century sand replenishment plan.

"If we don't continue with this project right now, the 20 years that we've invested in this...is gone," Mayor Victor Cabral said. "We would have to start all over."

With an original \$14-million price tag, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers oversaw the beach nourishment work as it initially began dredging sand off the coast of Oceanside late last year to shore up San Clemente's beaches.

But the borrow site spewed cobble-strewn sediment when pumped on to the stretch of beach between T-Street and Linda Lane, which caused the Army Corps to agree to delay the project.

See [Sand](#), page A2

ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



Geraldine Wilkins | Los Angeles Times

SANTA ANA ARTISTS VILLAGE FOUNDER DON CRIBB DIES AT AGE 77 PAGE A2

DISCOUNTED ROOMS FOR FAMILIES DISPLACED BY WILDFIRE PAGE A4

ASTRONOMER HOSTS MONTHLY STAR-STUDDED EVENINGS PAGE A5

Teaming up for love and healing

BY ANDREW TURNER

Candice Bond has often found herself around those who could use a little healing.

As a personal injury attorney and the founder of Irvine-based Bond Legal, she fights to help individuals and families recover in the aftermath of tragedy.

That principle of building people back up has bled over into her philanthropic endeavor. Bond has taken to utilizing rejuvenating retreats to heal, sending those who go through them back into their communities to do further good.

The passing of her uncle, John Hungerford, whom she said died after a battle with the aggressive brain cancer glioblastoma, was a defining moment in how Bond

See [Wellness](#), page A5



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

KATRESHA MOSKIOS, left, is the yogini of The Pearl Laguna in Laguna Beach and Candice Bond is the founder of The God Spot.



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OBITUARY

Santa Ana Artists Village founder dies at age 77

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

Miguel Pulido recalled when Don Cribb stopped by Ace Muffler Shop in 1987 to discuss a vision for a new arts colony in Santa Ana.

Between invoices, customer calls and muffler repairs, Cribb rolled blueprints over a desk at Pulido's family business. He had formed the Santa Ana Council of Arts and Culture that same year and believed such a colony could go a long way toward overhauling the city's reputation for gangs, poverty and crime.

Pulido, an upstart politician serving his first term on Santa Ana City Council, listened attentively to Cribb's impassioned pitches.

"We would start talking about what was possible," said Pulido, who later served as Santa Ana's mayor from 1994 to 2020. "I credit Don with developing much of the concept of an artists village in downtown Santa Ana. Many others worked on it, but Don was an early visionary."

Cribb lived to see the Santa Ana Artists Village take shape with dozens of studios, galleries, restaurants and cafes dotting the 10-block area after the city first committed to the project in 1994 by purchasing the future site of the Grand Central Art Center.

But, according to the Orange County Coroner's office, the former planning commissioner and arts advocate passed away at 77

A BICYCLIST RIDES past the Chiarini Fountain, a landmark that Cribb had donated to the Artists Village.

*Allen J. Schaben
Los Angeles Times*



on Sept. 4 in Santa Ana, one month shy of the Artists Village's 30th anniversary.

Cribb left behind a legacy that has been celebrated by backers as key to revitalizing downtown while critics decried it as "artwashing" gentrification in Santa Ana, a majority Latino city.

Born in New Bern, North Carolina, Cribb first moved to Orange County with his family in 1950. Cribb's father, a Korean War veteran, transferred to El Toro Marine Base. The Cribbs later settled in Santa Ana.

In his early 20s, Cribb gallivanted from Los Angeles to New York to London and rubbed elbows with artists like Andy Warhol and David Hockney. He wanted his hometown to have an outsized arts reputation and served as president of the arts and culture council he founded to make that ambition come to life.

Cribb conceptualized a vibrant arts colony as a rebellion against the beige "blandscape" of Orange County suburbia.

It's a vision that was initially ignored until Hockney, a personal friend who painted a portrait of Cribb, did a solo exhibit in Santa Ana instead of Newport Beach.

Santa Ana followed by purchasing an abandoned brick building in 1994 that Cribb long eyed as the Artists Village's cornerstone. The city invested \$7.2 million over several years in transforming the property into the Grand Central Art Center, a Cal State Fullerton annex where art students lived and worked once it opened five years later.

Community block grants also helped rehab a former auto shop nearby into the new home for the Orange County Center for Contemporary Art, which opened in 2000.

"Don was an urban planning genius," said Jeffery Frisch, OCCCA's executive director and the first artist to move into the village. "He not only knew about the arts, but he also knew about what kind of economic mix it took for an area



Geraldine Wilkins | Los Angeles Times

DON CRIBB, shown in 2001 when his vision for an artists village began to take hold in Santa Ana, died earlier this month, just shy of the Artists Village's 30th anniversary.

to survive and thrive."

Cribb had the Chiarini Fountain that serves as the landmark for the 2nd Street Promenade donated. "First Saturday" artwalks drew throngs of people to the area's restaurants, cafes and exhibits.

Media outlets hailed Santa Ana's new reputation. The Los Angeles Times profiled Cribb in 2001 as the man behind the metamorphosis, which was backed by \$11 million in city spending.

"I'd gone out and had all these adventures in the art scene in Los Angeles and New York and saw how much artists contribute to a community. I wanted to bring it back and share it with my hometown," Cribb told The Times. "I thought there was only one opportunity left — the golden plum — to save the town from irrelevance."

The notion that Santa Ana needed to be rescued

in such words has long irked critics.

Sarah Rafael Garcia, an author, artist and founder of Crear Studio in downtown Santa Ana, took offense to Cribb's past comments calling downtown a "grease pole to hell" before the Artists Village emerged.

"Cribb has become a white savior figure in this revamped history," Garcia said. "It's masked with an Italian marble fountain in the Artists Village that is considered a landmark but serves to erase the harm caused to local residents."

More than just rehabbing gutted buildings, Cribb's vision paved the way for working class residents to be displaced from downtown as new lofts opened. After buying one complex near the Artists Village, a developer offered one month's rent to remaining residents to move out in favor of artists and higher-end tenants.

By 2004, artists found themselves complaining about being priced out as landlords raised rents. Cribb, then a planning commissioner, said at the time that the city sometimes gets in its own way.

Some local Latino artists and impresarios felt in the way and overlooked in their own hometown.

Sali Herandez founded SolArt Gallery & Café in 2004, which housed alternative art exhibits and concerts by local musicians away from the hub of the Artists Village.

She wasn't opposed to the idea of such a village but had a different concept of what arts in Santa Ana could mean.

"My idea of a community arts space was always to be as organic and representative of the community that I was a part of," Herandez said.

See **Cribb**, page A4

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SAND

Continued from page A1

Once a new borrow site that pumped beach quality sand was located at Surfside-Sunset Beach in north Orange County, the project resumed in April and added 114,000 cubic yards of sand before pausing work over the summer.

"The Army Corps is asking for additional funding," Leslea Meyerhoff, San Clemente's coastal administrator, told council members. "The borrow site that we're now using is further away than the original borrow site."

In addition to increased transportation costs, the Army Corps will also have to restage the beach for construction in order to finish pumping 86,000 cubic yards of sand.

A statement from the group Bring Back Our Beaches urged council members to cover the added costs.

"Approving more sand now not only continues our progress but also capitalizes on federal subsidies that we cannot afford to miss," the statement read.

In the first phase of the project, San Clemente is responsible for 35% of the costs. As future nourishment cycles are set to take place every five to six years, the cost-sharing agreement will increase to 50%.

It's an expense that San Clemente voters will weigh in on in November with Measure BB, a ballot initiative aimed at increasing the sales tax by a half-percent to help fund its share of the Shoreline Protection Project going forward.

Before then, council members voted to direct City Manager Andy Hall to pen a letter to the Army Corps indicating San Clemente's intention to complete the project's first-phase while shouldering the add-

"If we don't continue with this project right now, the 20 years that we've invested in this...is gone. We would have to start all over."

— **San Clemente Mayor Victor Cabral**

ed costs.

While the Army Corps is readying to resume work by the pier, San Clemente stands to catch a break elsewhere as city-hired construction crews are currently ahead of schedule on an emergency sand replenishment project at North Beach, which is more critically eroded.

Public Works Director Dave Rebensdorf noted during Tuesday's meeting that the local contractor is slated to complete its work in 45 days, half the time of the original 90-day period.

If the project stopped at that time, the cost would draw down from \$2 million to \$1.75 million.

San Clemente has also been able to pocket savings on administrative and management costs.

The added time allowed for council members to consider putting those savings to use by dumping up to 7,000 cubic yards of remaining sand collected from the Santa Ana River basin above and beyond the 30,000 cubic yards initially slated for North Beach, while remaining at the original \$2-million budget.

"Bottom line here, we're getting huge savings for our community by continuing and stepping this up for 7,000 cubic yards as opposed to waiting until next season when we would have to start all over again,"



File Photo

SAN CLEMENTE'S Shoreline Protection Project is set to resume in October. The original price tag was \$14 million.

Councilman Mark Enmeier said.

The prospects of being able to add more sand due to cost savings brought relief to council members who have had to consider multiple projects along San Clemente's battered coastline in recent years.

All five members voted approvingly.

For Cabral, he's already seen a return on investment on the emergency plan.

"If anyone has had the opportunity to go down to North Beach, it's amazing," the mayor said.

"There's been a number of people now using that beach that were never there before because of the rocks."

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Don Leach | Staff Photographer

NORTH BEACH in San Clemente before crews started dumping sand to replenish it.

\$25 million donation boosts addiction care at Hoag Hospital

BY ERIC LICAS

An expansion of facilities for the treatment of substance abuse announced this week by officials at Hoag Hospital in Newport Beach is partly thanks to a charitable donation of \$25 million and comes against the backdrop of skyrocketing rates of overdose deaths in the U.S. over the past two decades.

The donation came from the Martin and Pickup families and will cover about half the cost to build the hospital's planned Caremar Recovery Center. The new building will allow Hoag to increase its spots for inpatient addiction treatment from 21 to 28, and will raise its capacity for outpatient care to around 60 or 70 people, according to Michael Brant-Zawadzki, Hoag's vice president of Clinical Research Administration and Kambria Hittelman, executive director of Hoag Addiction Treatment Centers.

The new building will give the hospital's addiction treatment program room to develop specialized tracks of care geared toward veterans, the elderly, first-responders, women, men and other specific groups of people. It may also facilitate group sessions at night.

The upgrade helps confront the rising death toll of substance abuse in America. The rate of people killed by overdose in the U.S. quadrupled over the past 20 years, with 107,941 recorded in 2022, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Research suggests the COVID-19 Pandemic accelerated that trend.

Those figures do not fully account for cases in which an addiction exacerbated

"Approximately 50% of the folks in our treatment programs for substance are 50 and over. So that's a demographic change. People think of addiction as a young person's problem ..."

— Michael Brant-Zawadzki
Hoag's vice president of Clinical Research Administration

an underlying condition that led to someone's death, Brant-Zawadzki said. The true cost of substance abuse may be much higher.

He also noted that alcohol continues to be the leading drug associated with addiction. But the prevalence of opioid abuse, in particular fentanyl, has risen dramatically in recent years. It's the second most common drug that patients at Hoag are working to overcome, Hittelman said.

The reach of substance abuse across age groups has also broadened, Brant-Zawadzki and Hittelman said. It's now far more common among older Americans than ever.

"Approximately 50% of the folks in our treatment programs for substance are 50 and over," Brant-Zawadzki said. "So that's a demographic change. People think of addiction as a young person's problem and still think of it, because of the term behavioral ther-



Photos courtesy of Hoag

A RENDERING (above and below left) of the Caremar Recovery Center at Hoag Hospital in Newport Beach.



THE MARTIN AND PICKUP FAMILIES donated \$25 million to help fund a new addiction treatment center at Hoag Hospital. Clockwise, from top left, are Kevin Martin, Todd Pickup, Natalie Pickup, Carole Pickup and Devon Martin.

apy, as bad behavior. But in reality addiction is coupled to mental health disorders quite tightly. And people self-medicate, whether it's anxiety in our youth [or] depression in our seniors."

A specific date to break ground on the project has not yet been determined. Eventually, Brant-Zawadzki said he would like to see the new facility become a host for trials for new forms of care. He said Hoag may also be interested in developing a medically assisted treatment program. That involves a combination of counseling with the use of

drugs like methadone, in the case of opioids, to replace more harmful substances like fentanyl or heroin.

Although addiction may have practically always been an issue in society, the condition is deadlier now than ever before, Brant-Zawadzki and Hittelman said. For them and many others in the field of substance abuse treatment, their mission to combat it is personal. But they also know from firsthand experience that recovery truly is possible.

"I grew up in this field younger than, unfortu-

nately, I had to," Hittelman said. "My dad is a recovering alcoholic. ... he's just celebrated 33 years of his sobriety just this year. So I just grew up with being in that world, being in that en-

vironment and seeing change can really happen for the better and how impactful it could be."

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Gabriel San Roman

ANAHEIM COUNCILMAN Carlos Leon, Mayor Ashleigh Aitken and advocate Rashad Al-Dabbagh celebrate the unveiling of Little Arabia's new freeway signs on Thursday.

SIGNS

Continued from page A1

a one-mile stretch of Brookhurst Street between Lincoln Avenue and Ball Road.

Anaheim Mayor Ashleigh Aitken called the unveiling on Thursday an "absolute milestone moment" for the city and its Arab American community.

"In just a few days, we'll see the actual Little Arabia freeway signs go up," Aitken said. "We know it cannot happen fast enough."

Arab American merchants first began revitalizing Brookhurst Street in the 1980s by opening new Middle Eastern restaurants, markets and bakeries.

In 2004, a summit organized by Nahla Kayali, founder and executive director of Access California Services, advocated for Little Arabia's official designation as one of its key goals in Anaheim.

"It's gone back 20 years," Kayali told TimesOC. "It's a great moment for our community. We are a thread of the fabric of the United States and we've been recognized here in Anaheim."

To get there, a new generation of Arab Americans took to social media over the past decade to elevate Little Arabia's profile while continuing to make the case to often reluctant city officials that designation would benefit all of Anaheim.

Al-Dabbagh, one of the new generation of activists, pointed to one of the freeway signs standing at the ceremony and noted it as the vision that motivated him.

"As we looked around, we saw Little Italy, Chinatown, Koreatown, Little Armenia, Little Saigon and Little Ethiopia, all wonderful destinations that represent the rich diversity of Southern California," he said. "But a space to honor the Arab American community's contributions, its heritage, its culture, its businesses, was still missing."

In January, the Anaheim City Council voted to work with Caltrans on getting the freeway signs for its only officially designated cultural district installed before the end of the year.

By July, more than 100 decorative Little Arabia banners were added to poles along the thoroughfare.

A study of the wider 3.5

mile Brookhurst Street corridor gave a number of recommendations that hint at Little Arabia's possible future, including public art and the widening its boundaries to encompass long-established businesses and nonprofits.

Until then, the cultural district continues to grow with an eclectic mix of new businesses, including clothing boutiques, jewelry stores and a halal cart.

The in-coming freeway signs are one recommendation from the report that is just around the corner and will point people to all that Little Arabia has to offer.

Nora Hawari, co-owner of Kareem's Mediterranean, called the signs "emotional" for the family restaurant that her parents first opened in Anaheim in 1996.

"We're so happy that it's finally happening," she said.

"With inflation, the last four years have been hard on small businesses. We're hoping that it'll drive business, but also give people who haven't heard of Little Arabia some direction of where we are."

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THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

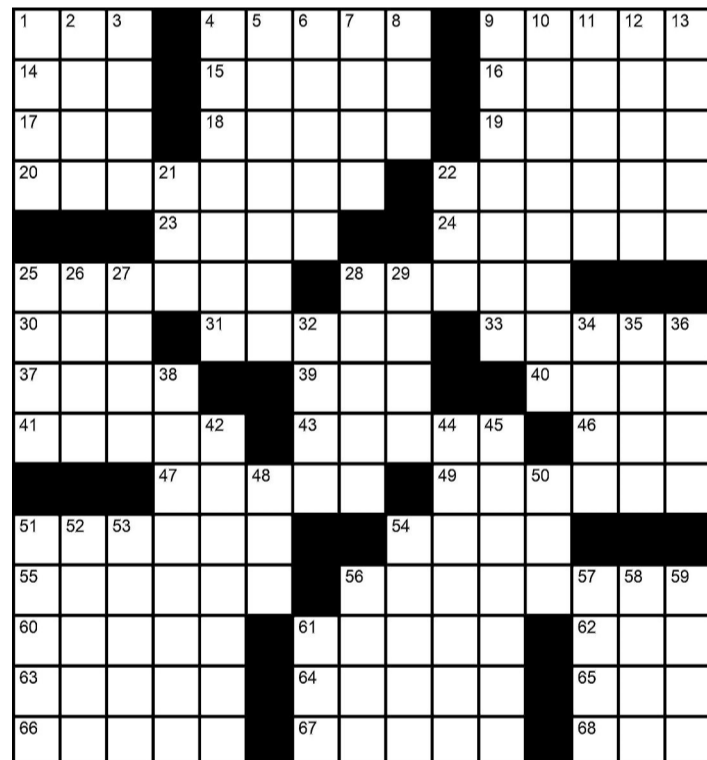
By Stella Zawistowski

ACROSS

- 1 Took a chair
- 4 Run after
- 9 Tackles the quarterback
- 14 " _ you kidding me?"
- 15 Wouldn't stop talking: 2 wds.
- 16 Heart chambers
- 17 _ breeze (vodka cocktail)
- 18 Spoken exams
- 19 Flip-flop shoe
- 20 Amateur broadcaster's hobby: 2 wds.
- 22 Afternoon rest
- 23 Great Basin people
- 24 Bearded flowers
- 25 Chinese noodles: 2 wds.
- 28 Flower holders
- 30 "Figured it out!"
- 31 Plus on a balance sheet
- 33 Commit theft
- 37 Actress Kunis
- 39 Picnic pest
- 40 Discount event
- 41 Cooks in water
- 43 _ New Year
- 46 Trig function: Abbr.
- 47 Southpaw jabs
- 49 Reduces to a pulp
- 51 Printed bulletin
- 54 Yankee legend
- 55 "Onward and _!"
- 56 Paid attention
- 60 Author Carolyn
- 61 Pesto herb
- 62 Chopping tool
- 63 Standing upright
- 64 Dancer Castle
- 65 Brooch
- 66 Calendar listings
- 67 Hair over the forehead
- 68 Pig's home

DOWN

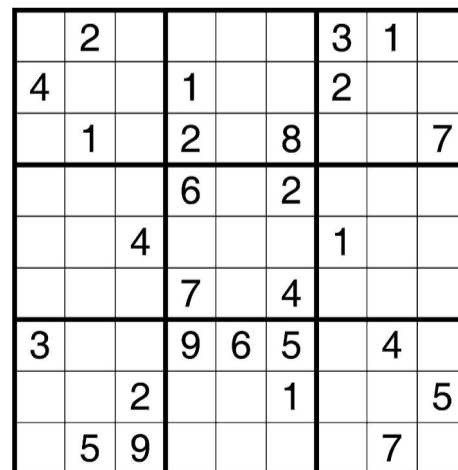
- 1 Cummerbund,



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.



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

- e.g.
- 2 Carpeting measure
- 3 Sports group
- 4 Dubrovnik's land
- 5 Sets
- 6 Author Nin
- 7 By oneself
- 8 Navy rank: Abbr.
- 9 Ironic works
- 10 Nonbelievers
- 11 Christian symbol
- 12 Kunta _
- 13 Heroic legends
- 21 Regret
- 22 Sibling's nickname
- 25 Baby sheep

- 26 Cleveland's state
- 27 West African nation
- 28 Goddess of love
- 29 Envelope routing word: Abbr.
- 32 _ and pepper
- 34 Apiece
- 35 Lotion additive
- 36 Not as much
- 38 Coalition
- 42 Private matters
- 44 Tickling pink
- 45 Noisy baby toys
- 48 Nourished
- 50 Pronoun for a boat
- 51 Cooked in a microwave
- 52 Sung musical drama
- 53 Bird word
- 54 Out of bed
- 56 "_ Croft: Tomb Raider"
- 57 Short snoozes
- 58 Leave the highway
- 59 Naysay
- 61 Baby's mealtime neckwear

Tribune Media Services

Discounted rooms offered for families displaced by wildfire

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

The Airport fire in Orange County that began on Sept. 9 near Trabuco Canyon Road before raging through the Santa Ana Mountains has left many families displaced. The fire has destroyed more than 160 structures in Orange and Riverside counties and forced the evacuation of nearly 1,500 families. Sadly, some of those families do not have homes to return to.

In Anaheim, about 27 miles from Trabuco Canyon, travel and tourism organization Visit Anaheim is offering support through fire relief offers from the areas hotel and resort community.

"While Visit Anaheim is a tourism organization, our community is at the root of everything we do," said Mike Waterman, president and chief executive officer at Visit Anaheim. "When evacuation orders for the recent fires went into place, our team and

hotel partners immediately jumped into action."

Visit Anaheim mobilized the support of five resorts in Anaheim and Garden Grove as early as Sept. 11, but the list of participating hotels has since grown to 25.

The Viv Hotel, Anaheim was among the first to join cause, offering 20% off retail rates for those affected by the fires.

Other participating Anaheim area hotels include Candlewood Suites Anaheim, offering families a 25% discount of their basic rack rate through Oct. 1. Embassy Suites by Hilton Anaheim North is making rooms available for a discounted rate of \$149 a night plus tax until Sept. 26. The Anaheim Element by Westin Resort Convention Center is offering displaced families a flat rate of \$183 a night for rooms that include full kitchen suites and a complimentary daily breakfast buffet until Oct. 9. Capri Suites Anaheim is providing

rooms for \$55 before taxes, with deposit of \$100 and parking fees are waived. In Costa Mesa, the Avenue of the Arts Hotel is offering 15% off room rates through Nov. 1.

"Together, we were able to create a resource offering discounted hotel rooms for anyone being impacted," Waterman said.

Many of the individuals forced to evacuate last week were given less than an hour to leave their homes, leaving not only families displaced, but pets too. One Lake Elsinore family narrowly escaped the fire with their 46 animals, including dogs, cats, birds and tortoises. A few hundred horses were evacuated last week with the help of volunteers to Serrano Creek Ranch in Lake Forest and the Orange County Fair & Event Center in Costa Mesa.

Additional large animal shelters that are being made available to those that have been evacuated include Los Alamitos Race



Courtesy of the Viv

LOCAL RESORTS like the Viv Hotel in Anaheim are supporting families affected by nearby wildfires with discounted room rates. The Viv's discounts were 20% of retail rates.

Course in Cypress and the Nohl Ranch Saddle Club in Anaheim. Foothill Ranch library located at 27002 Cabriole Way in Foothill Ranch is open for care and

shelter and small household pets are welcomed too. OC Animal Care in Tustin is also offering animal services.

For more information

about O.C. fire relief offers, go to visitanahome.org.

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Don Leach | Staff Photographer

THE GRAND CENTRAL ART CENTER in Santa Ana served as the cornerstone of Cribb's Artists Village vision.

CRIBB

Continued from page A2

She recalled a handful of interactions with Cribb, including a time when he dismissed SolArt Gallery & Café as a space that wouldn't attract "serious" artists like the Artists Village did.

After the gallery closed years later, Cribb objected to Heraldez organizing shows and exhibits at OCCA. In 2012, she helped curate "Siempre es hoy," a photography exhibit at the gallery that documented the Latin Alternative music scene. It packed OCCA and felt like a vindication.

Garcia later became the first Chicana from Santa Ana to live and work at Grand Central Art Center as an artist in residence in 2016, a timespan she saw as telling of the arts district's priorities. When Crear Studio began in the center's basement, Garcia recalled being told by the director that the studio's work didn't meet the aesthetics for its walls.

Pulido expected Cribb's vision to conjure up critics from the onset and tangled early on with former Santa Ana Councilman Ted Moreno over plans for the Artists Village. Moreno argued that the project would bring artists who were out of touch with the city's Latino community.

But Pulido believes Latinos and the arts aren't incompatible. For the retired politician, Santa Ana is bet-

ter off for having had Cribb's work and influence as an arts and civics leader.

He credits the Artists Village with helping to persuade the Orange County School of the Arts to relocate from Los Alamitos to Santa Ana, a move that he claimed the city's own arts administrator at the time didn't believe could happen.

Turning toward the future, as the OC Streetcar gets ready to board passengers next year, Pulido sees a growing and connected downtown as a still unfurling legacy of Cribb's work, including the time he spent on the county's light-rail advisory committee.

"The Artists Village linked the east and west of downtown," he said. "Restaurants began to open up on the other side of Main Street and the Chase family, as developers, encouraged more art-related activities."

Along the way, the Fiesta Marketplace that once catered to immigrant shoppers became a trendier East End amid continued anti-gentrification protests.

It's a debate that isn't likely to subside after Cribb's passing.

Pulido sees change and its discontents as the offspring of a consequential life.

"For a guy that never officially entered politics, Don was very political," he said. "He had a lot of influence."

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GALLERY

Continued from page A1

a lack of contemporary art galleries in her area. In that time Han and her co-founder, friend and fellow artist Dan Yang have used the space to showcase both local and international artists.

"Photosynthesis" is a two-person exhibition open until Oct. 26, featuring the work of Ochoa, a Thai-Mexican artist and educator currently based in Costa Mesa and Zhen Huang, a Chinese artist based in Shanghai.

The name of the show is derived from the vital biological processes in which plants absorb sunlight and convert it into carbon dioxide and water into oxygen. This alchemy of nature is explored through the two artists' work.

The opening reception

for the show featured a dance performance from Balkan-American movement practitioner known professionally as "mia simonovic" and dancer Taylor Grandy who interacted with the delicate fruit much the way others are encouraged to when they experience the exhibition.

The themes of care and compassion were made more evident as simonovic and Grandy picked up each fruit and cradled it. Ochoa was inspired to create the hyper-realistic fruit rattles during the pandemic when her son suggested they make a banana out of clay. The resulting sculpture is also exploration of growth and birth, a seed growing into fruit and making more seeds that in turn produce more fruit. The theme is highlighted with a framed photograph of Ochoa's mother pregnant with her and holding a large water-



Courtesy of Vanessa Reyes and Unveil Gallery

BALKAN-AMERICAN movement practitioner mia simonovic and Taylor Grandy interact with "Fruits of Labor."

melon not unlike the one that sits on its own pillow in the exhibition.

Han said her placement of the ceramic fruit on the floor was a deliberate one.

"I didn't want these on a pedestal or in a transparent box," said Han. "This is a grounded way of showcasing this work."

In his paintings Huang also use a a unique vantage to look closely at the details of plant life, from the point of view of a tiny creature within them.

"Huang's work offers a micro perspective," Han said. "It almost feels like you are looking at the flowers or plants from an in-

sect's view."

There are branches or sometimes even hands that are just beyond the frame in his work, mostly obstructed from view by leaves and petals. For Huang, the body of work is about personal evolution and the dynamics with his family. As young children, we are nurtured to grow but when the nurturing is done successfully our branches can stretch so far beyond where we are planted.

His paintings are not just an exercise in perspective but also in light. A warm glow radiates through petals so thin they are nearly transparent in works like "Song of the Wind, 2023" and the vibrantly red three-paneled "Survival Game I, II & III." In "Greenhouse Harvest, 2024" a collection of yellow tulips bloom under a harsh greenhouse lamp.

In a way, the exhibition is an example of how Unveil

IF YOU GO

"Photosynthesis" is on view at Unveil Gallery at 200 Technology Drive, Suite F, Irvine until Oct. 26. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday by appointment only.

itself has grown, matured and ripened in the past year. About 100 people turned out for the inaugural exhibition at the gallery; the opening reception for "Photosynthesis" drew even more.

"Our gallery space was flooded with supporters coming to see the show and see the performance," Han said of the event.

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Local astronomer to host star-studded evenings



Photos courtesy of Waldorf Astoria Monarch Beach

USING A high-power telescope on the hotel's Grand Terrace, attendees can view the moon and planets.

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

When a marine layer began to roll in on the Orange County coastline on a recent Saturday night, local astronomy enthusiast Anthony Perkic wasn't worried.

"From experience, I knew there was always a possibility that there would be clouds, especially along the coast," Perkic said.

Perkic is the founder of outreach astronomy organization Orion Bear Astronomy and is experienced in conducting telescope demonstrations. He is also leading the S'mores and Stargazing series at the Waldorf Astoria Monarch Beach in Dana Point this fall. In the event of bad weather, Perkic comes prepared with a projection presentation.

"We can still talk about the constellations in the sky, where the planets are," he said.

Perkic spoke to the Waldorf Astoria guests about this year's total solar eclipse and the May 10 solar storm that resulted in an aurora, a spectacular natural light display, visible over Southern California.

People of all ages are invited to spend a night under the stars as a part of the resort's special series. Using a high-power telescope on the hotel's Grand Terrace, attendees can view the moon and planets. The event also utilizes special lasers to help teach guests how to orient themselves with the cardinal directions using the sky.

During the month of October, Saturn will become more visible, while the best viewing for Jupiter happens in November. There is a possibility of viewing bright stars like Vega and Capella as well as some double stars and star clusters too. The dates of the series were chosen for the probability of optimum viewing.

"I coordinated these dates knowing full well that the moon will be visible and certain planets will be visible," said Perkic. "Ninety percent of the time when I am dealing with casual public viewers, that is what they want to see."

Perkic's passion for astronomy began at a young



BESIDES THE STARGAZING, the Waldorf Astoria will also offer fireside s'mores at the event.

age, inspired by Comet Hale-Bopp, which was visible to the naked eye for about an 18-month period from 1996 to 1997. It was one of the brightest comets observed in decades.

"Comet Hale-Bopp was dazzling everyone in the sky and that led me to ask my parents for a telescope for Christmas," said Perkic. "It started out as a hobby and years later turned into a profession."

Today, Perkic leads telescope demonstrations around Southern California and runs his own website dedicated to astronomy and his own astrophotography work at orionbearastronomy.com.

Besides the stargazing, the Waldorf Astoria will also offer fireside s'mores at the event, providing the ingredients for toasting marshmallows and making memories.

Perkic said there is plenty of fun to be had at the events, pesky marine layer or not.

"Just looking through the telescope is an experience because many people have never done that," said Perkic. "Come with an open mind."

Perkic will return for the next installment of the series on Oct. 5 from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. The series will wrap up with a final event on Nov. 9 from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. For more information visit waldorfasteriamonarchbeach.com.

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WELLNESS

Continued from page A1

chose to approach the mission. She has started a nonprofit to further the "healing is contagious" movement she named The God Spot.

"He wanted to pass without any medicine, so he was completely without the morphine," Bond said. "I saw the end-of-life process with him, of him seeing heaven, seeing him seeing the other side. ... When he did pass, what I wanted to do was be able to give people that end-of-life experience without them being at the end of life, where they actually have a moment to connect with themselves [and] appreciate things."

Bond added that in her final interactions with her uncle, he encouraged her to be kind. Giving kindness without the expectation of

something in return provides a path to healing, she said.

The God Spot has gone down that road, collaborating with local wellness retreat center The Pearl Laguna to offer eight women an all-expenses paid, week-long stay at the facility.

Close to 100 applications were received. The nonprofit asked applicants to share personal stories of why they were in need of a wellness reset. The winners were selected on Friday — three from outside the state — and their stays will begin on Oct. 6. The retreat for all eight guests is valued at \$52,000.

Katresha Moskios, the yogini of The Pearl Laguna, said the winners were chosen because "they were open and ready for new beginnings." She spoke about the union with Bond's organization.

"[It was through] a combination of energies and both with the same goal to spread love and kindness to everyone," Moskios said of their coming together. "That's what we do here at The Pearl. That's all about opening our hearts to all wonder in people's lives. ... That's what this center is all about, and that's what Candice saw as her vision, as well."

The Pearl Laguna, which will celebrate its 15th year at its location in the canyon in October, was among the properties featured on Village Laguna's Charm House Tour.

Placed in the foothills near the Big Bend, the windows are filled with natural light and have sweeping views of the greenery of the Laguna Coast Wilderness. A yoga room features a dozen



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

See *Wellness*, page A7 **ESTER WOODY**, The Pearl Laguna's chef, stands in the kitchen.

forum

MAILBAG

Readers weigh in on U.S. Senate, Huntington Beach City Council races

While the community in Huntington Beach has been stymied by the MAGA machinations of the City Council majority in preventing them from exercising good government on a range of policies and issues, it has been able to turn to outside help from our representative in Sacramento, state Sen. Dave Min.

It was Min who rode to the rescue of those combating the ill-advised and illegal charter amendment Measure "A" (Voter ID) foisted upon the citizenry, and helped get his bill, SB 1174, passed in the Legislature. Min has also been helping out on other issues affecting our libraries and civic institutions.

representing our city and state senate district well, Min is facing an equally important task of taking on Scott Baugh in the Congressional Race for District 47 (becoming the successor to outgoing Katie Porter). Baugh, who started out climbing his partisan ladder a quarter of a century ago in running for state Assembly, has spent his post-Sacramento years as a lobbyist for big business and partisan special interests and has been a big wheel with the Republican Party of Orange County.

Voters in Huntington Beach and other parts of our district have a clear choice in November. The promise of Dave Min

While he has been

See Mailbag, page A7

COLUMN | PATRICE APODACA



File Photo

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

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A FOURTH-GRADE student at Victoria Elementary in Costa Mesa interacts on a video call with executives at Veritone, a company that specializes in artificial intelligence.

The future is now – AI is changing the way we live

Lately it seems as if everyone is talking about and freaking out about artificial intelligence, or AI, which uses algorithms, data and computer power to simulate human intelligence. I offer a synopsis of the dialogue: AI is exciting. No, it's scary. We're only beginning to fathom its mind-blowing, world-changing potential. Actually, it's overhyped, and the hysteria will soon pass. It will improve our lives. It will take over our lives. It will help us be smarter. It will make us dumber.



It's tough for us regular folks to understand what's really going on. Indeed, I'd wager that few of us actually know much beyond some reports of students using ChatGPT to assist with — sometimes even cheat at — school assignments. And, understandably, many of us are wary. We've taken heed of warnings about its potential dark side. The scenarios that have been posed often call to mind the plots of many a science fiction movie about technology run amok and robots taking over the world. It's pretty hard to ignore the concerns raised about the risk of AI someday shutting down utilities or financial markets, or even launching nukes. Instead of doomsday prepping, however, I decided to talk to someone who knows a lot more than I do. Specifically, I wanted to know how AI will impact K-12 education. So I turned to a professional educator who has spent considerable

time and energy studying this very topic. Dr. Nancy Watkins is the director of the doctor of education program at Cal State Fullerton. A former K-12 public school educator, she has a master's degree from Claremont Graduate School and a doctorate from UC Irvine. Watkins was quick to characterize herself as "an explorer" of AI, rather than an expert. Regardless, she is highly knowledgeable and conversant about the emerging technology. Although cognizant of the risks, she is upbeat about its potential to improve education. "It's one of my favorite topics," she said. "I think that we are seeing the next revolution in technology, with the jump that AI has been making, both with its capabilities and its possibilities."

The first point that Watkins made was that AI isn't just about the future — it's already here. It's integrated into our daily existence — from the autocorrect feature on our phones to product suggestions by AI bots on Amazon. It has been changing the way we live and behave, and it's starting to have an impact on how educators teach and students learn. Rather than focusing on the fears surrounding AI or on students using it to cheat, Watkins characterizes the adoption of the technology as one of "challenges and opportunities."

Those opportunities may come in several forms — through increased efficiency, for instance. Teachers can use AI to help organize class activities and assignments, and assist with assessments.

Watkins also believes that the potential is great for AI to improve personalized learning, achieve greater equity in education and structure more accessible, adaptable and interactive classrooms. For example, AI can be used to tailor assignments by, say, changing the reading or math level and adjusting the pace in order to best suit individual students' needs.

Some teachers are just starting to experiment with creative ways to utilize AI. Watkins heard of one

See Apodaca, page A7

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APODACA

Continued from page A6

teacher who asked students to use AI to create an outline for an essay. The students would then write their own essays and compare them with AI-generated essays on the same topic, which she saw as a clever way to enhance critical thinking.

Yet many obstacles lie ahead. Training teachers in AI is a huge challenge. Right now, attempts to do so are scattershot, and there might be some resistance. Teachers are asked to do so much; now we're asking them to do more.

Many other downsides must be addressed. AI-generated work is hard to detect. There is a potential for bias, misinformation and privacy violations. Some AI programs have been caught making up information, a phenomenon that's called "hallucinations."

Great care must be taken to avoid AI becoming a crutch or a shortcut for students. Guardrails will be needed to ensure that it's used to assist with, but not replace, students' work. After all, as one observer put it, when it comes to learning, effort is the point.

How to fund AI development and programs is another open question. And we're not talking about a one-time investment; as AI advances, so will the ways it can be integrated into the classroom. Educators must continually figure out how they will adjust to that dynamic environment.

We're still in the early stages, Watkins acknowledged. AI is evolving rapidly, and we're only beginning to understand its full potential. As it develops, the key to using AI successfully will be to consider it a partner in achieving teaching and learning goals, she said.

"AI is giving us more information. It's giving us a different way to do things. It's going to change the way the world operates. So I'm just saying, let's explore."

Point taken. The future isn't just knocking, it's inside the house, and it's changing everything, education included. School districts must figure out how to manage that change before they become overwhelmed by it.

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

MAILBAG

Continued from page A6

serving his constituents well in Washington, D.C. or the threat of Scott Baugh callously misrepresenting us in Congress.

Tim Geddes
Huntington Beach

Earlier this year the Huntington Beach City Council majority voted in favor of a city ordinance titled Community Parent-Guardian Review Board for Procurement of Children's Library Materials and proceeded with efforts to look into privatization of the library, in spite of numerous objections from concerned citizens. City Council members Rhonda Bolton, Natalie Moser and Dan Kalmick voted against the new law and also argued against the idea of privatizing the library.

During the past several months many individuals have devoted a great deal of time and effort circulating petitions requesting that two measures be placed on the ballot; one allowing voters to decide whether to retain or repeal the library ordinance, and the other allowing voters to decide whether the library should be privatized in the event this



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

A WOMAN arrives to Marina Park Community Center to vote during a previous election.

possibility presents itself in the future.

Many of the hand-made signs designed to promote this effort say "Save Our Libraries." This effort has garnered a great deal of support from the community. There are also signs located throughout the community describing Rhonda Bolton, Natalie Moser and Dan Kalmick as "library champions."

The three council candidates who refer to themselves as the "HB-3," Chad

Williams, Butch Twining and Don Kennedy, are closely aligned with the current conservative council majority and did not participate in or support the community effort described above.

The "HB-3" has made it apparent that their view of "saving the libraries" does not align with the community's effort to "Save Our Libraries" described above.

There are now "HB-3" campaign signs located throughout the communi-

ty which say "Save the Libraries." It appears to me that the use of this language on their signs is somewhat deceptive, therefore could confuse some voters.

Voters in Huntington Beach need to be aware of that the true supporters of the Huntington Beach Public Library are Rhonda Bolton, Natalie Moser and Dan Kalmick.

Judy Morris
Huntington Beach

WELLNESS

Continued from page A5

distinct rugs, several of them depicting dragons. Candles are also lit during sessions.

In addition, there is an outdoor saltwater Jacuzzi, an infrared sauna, a gym area and massages. The off-site activities include hikes in the canyon and sunset walks along the coastline.

Moskios said a week-long stay offers the most benefits that are evident among the clients at check-out time. "They just look different. They feel better. They cleanse out, they slim down. They just do — from the juices and the vegeta-



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

KATRESHA MOSKIOS and Candice Bond, from left, walk past the saltwater pool at The Pearl Laguna on Thursday.

bles. "Some people don't need to slim down. We have to

feed them up. It depends on what's needed for each person, so we work with

that. They're able to go inside, take time, and rediscover themselves. They rediscover who they are, the highest expression of themselves."

The bedding is made of organic linens, and the rooms have private bathrooms.

Personal digital devices such as cellphones may not be used in the common areas, such as the living room and yoga room. They weren't allowed at all for the first three years the spa was in operation, but Moskios concedes she lost that battle, so there is Wi-Fi in the bedrooms.

"We don't want the energy, and we want people to take a break," Moskios added.

Bond, a Mission Viejo resident, said she had started her healing mission abroad in Peru a few years ago, but some people closer to home felt she could make an impact locally.

"Once you begin to say, 'God, I'm going to help people,' those doors are open," Bond said. "It's not an easy path. People go, 'Well, don't you have other things?' I have a lot of other things I can be doing, so clearly, it's a calling to help people heal."

"Katresha's doing it to the point that she's made the center. ... They can be here, they can eat, they can be safe, they can be vulnerable, and then we can help them heal and get better in this environment. Environment

is the big thing — it has to be a safe, good, comforting place."

Additional planned events through her non-profit include two Butterfly Meditation sessions at the rose garden at the Hotel Laguna, scheduled for Nov. 14 and Dec. 12.

"Healing doesn't look like, 'Oh, this horrible, horrible thing happened to me. I need to heal,'" Bond said. "It's also just replenishing our spirit as we've given all year. We've given, and we've given. Healing, it's a catch phrase, but it also means you've got to replenish that, replenish all that energy that you've given out."

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