

Daily Pilot

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Photos by Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

MEMBERS OF Teamsters Local 396 form a picket line Thursday at the Republic Services facility in Huntington Beach.

Huntington Beach, Anaheim sanitation workers go on strike

BY SARA CARDINE

Orange County sanitation workers Thursday formed picket lines at Republic Services facilities in Huntington Beach and Anaheim, as unionized employees initiated a strike over alleged unfair labor practices being perpetrated by the Phoenix-based company.

Organized by Teamsters Local 396, the demonstration follows a Nov. 23 vote during which some 420 employees authorized a strike as negotiations stalled beyond a Sept. 30 contract expiration.

Union representatives accused Republic Services of threatening workers who spoke in media interviews after the vote, calling the response the



STRIKING MEMBERS of Teamsters Local 396 force a driver to wait before entering a Republic Services facility in Huntington Beach.

latest example of the ongoing harassment of employees.

"There were comments made by managers that, if workers

came out in pictures, there'd be trouble," said Adan Alvarez, communications director for Local 396. "There are essential workers of color who work hard for their community, and they are denied dignity and respect on the job."

Alvarez said Republic offered bonuses to employees without consulting the union, although the context in which the sums were offered is unclear. About 60% to 70% of the workforce represented are employees of color, he added.

The strike began at 3 a.m., shortly before drivers were due to begin their morning shifts in cities across Orange County, including Huntington Beach, Ana-

See *Sanitation*, page A2

Vendor's display of political material decried

The Laguna Beach Chamber of Commerce issues an apology after the community's reaction at Hospitality Night.

BY ANDREW TURNER

The thousands that descended upon downtown Laguna Beach for Hospitality Night last week were evidence enough of a community looking to put itself in the middle of the holiday spirit.

A vendor displaying political propaganda at the traditional holiday kickoff event proved irksome to some who came across it last Friday, causing community uproar and compelling the Laguna Beach Chamber of Commerce to issue a public apology.

The politicized material, which included items with phrases such as "COVIDIOT" and "Let's Go Brandon," the latter of which refers to words used by a trackside reporter to describe a derogatory chant directed at President Joe Biden after driver Brandon Brown won a NASCAR Xfinity race on Oct. 2 at Talladega.

Sandy Morales, the president and CEO of the Laguna Beach Chamber of Commerce, contends that the vendor conducted itself in a deceitful manner.

She said the chamber was contacted by Randi Berger about availability for a station at Hospitality Night on the day of the event.

Another vendor had dropped out earlier that day. Morales said that Berger spoke of her connections to the Laguna Beach community and name-dropped a chamber ambassador to further her case for securing a spot, which ended up being in front of the Candy Baron on Forest Avenue.

Morales added that the aforementioned ambassador indicated that they had no knowledge of Berger,

See *Vendor*, page A2

Police report several residential burglaries, attempts in Newport Beach in last month

BY LILLY NGUYEN

Newport Beach police have reported several burglaries and burglary attempts in recent weeks and advise the public to report suspicious activity.

As recently as Saturday, police said, a burglary was attempted on the 20300 block of Cypress Street, though no losses or injuries were reported.

Unknown suspects accessed the backyard of a residential home in that attempt and shattered a first-floor window using a tool located in the backyard. The two suspects, described

as possibly male, fled upon realizing the house was occupied. One of the suspects was described as having worn dark clothing and the other as having worn a hoodie, long pants and a face mask.

Police were contacted after the fact and are actively investigating the attempted break-in.

Another burglary was attempted in late November at around 7:15 p.m. on the 700 block of Cameo Highlands Drive, where two unknown suspects similarly accessed the backyard of the residence. The victim saw the suspects at-

tempt to pry off the window screen to the master bedroom and turned on the exterior lights, frightening away the suspects.

The victim then contacted Newport Beach police and saw the suspects again near the living room window, but the individuals — described as two males wearing black masks and dark clothing — fled before police arrived on the scene. Nothing was stolen in that incident.

Police also reported burglaries at a residence on the 1000 block of Tiller Way on Nov. 19 and 22, which resulted in the loss of

money and jewelry.

Two other attempted residential burglaries and one successful residential burglary were reported in Newport Coast in November, though the losses from the latter are unknown.

Residents are advised to call the Newport Beach Police Department at (949) 644-3717 to report any suspicious activity in their neighborhood or at a home where they know the residents are out, on vacation or when a house is listed for sale.

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Hand-in Photo

SOME OF the items a vendor displayed at Hospitality Night in Laguna Beach on Dec. 3.

Santa comes in a fire engine this year for Newport family

BY LILLY NGUYEN

It's a Christmas miracle at the Taylor-Hill house.

Katrina Taylor-Hill said it started with a form from her daughter's school at the end of October, asking if the family needed any assistance with school or access to anything.

No more than a month later did Newport Beach fire paramedic Cory Freeman and Capt. Joe Harrison arrive, promising the family after a brief interview a Christmas that hadn't been in their household for years.

"It was overwhelming," said Taylor-Hill, a single mother who is raising six children, ages 4 to 19, and has two adult children who live on their own.

"It just felt like a complete blessing," Taylor-Hill said. "It was like a weight lifted off my shoulders. I don't have money for Christmas. I don't have money for trees or for

anything, so the fact they were going to come and help my children and get them a Christmas was just, 'Are you serious? Who does that? For real? People still do that?' We're just thankful and so happy that people care still."

Her first husband, Pele Hill, died in a drowning accident in 2007.

"When he passed away, I just didn't know how to deal with things. I was here physically for my children, but emotionally I was gone," Taylor-Hill said. "My older children and I ... we've all been through a lot and we're just trying to actually heal."

She and her family uprooted their lives in Phoenix last year. She said she left with her children in her little car in August for California, where she'd spent the majority of her childhood in and out of the foster care system between the San Fernando Valley and Los An-

See *Santa*, page A4



PICTURED IN front of a Newport Beach fire engine, is, from left, Katrina Taylor-Hill, Shiloh Vance, Kenya Vance, Micah Hill-Vance, paramedic Cory Freeman, King Vance and Naemah Hill.

Courtesy of the Newport Beach Fire Department

IN THE FIRST PERSON

We are the Wrights of Wright Hardware

The first time my grandmother ever really yelled at me was the summer of 1989. I was 15 and running from the police. She stood beside her blue faded, wood facade station wagon, with a fistful of toilet paper and lungs of fire. I was booked with adrenaline, barreling down Santa Isabel Avenue toward Newport Boulevard in Costa Mesa.

My grandmother, Evelyn Wright, died last year. She was 95. Facts and dates don't do any justice to her story. She lived, died, was born, went to church, always bought a ton of groceries and was a lot of fun.

She was a proud woman, known to be friendly to strangers and to take pictures of everything. She could talk to anyone. And she did: the waitress, the mail carrier, the coffee shop owner and the cute boy who moved in next door. I benefited from her confidence in the way she introduced herself to the people.

"We are the Wrights of Wright Hardware," she would say as her chin ticked up.

I always felt second-hand pride to be the granddaughter of the Wrights. My grandparents built their hardware store building in 1956 with the motto, "If we don't have it, you don't need it."

Previously, my grandfather and great-grandfather ran a lumber business, which they started in 1937 on the same property. They would buy houses, take them apart and sell the wood and appliances at the store.

When I was growing up, Wright Hardware was well known for its antiques and unique metal parts for older machines. A vintage steam engine was a staple of the display window at the shop. It was sold to Disney and shipped to Paris for one of its theme parks. My grandmother blocked the flatbed that was hauling it away — just



FRAMING THE HOUSE, built on 23rd Street and Orange Avenue on the Beardsley farm.



WRIGHT HARDWARE STORE on Rochester Street in Costa Mesa in 1956. From left, Harold Wright Jr., Steven Wright, Harold Wright Sr.

to take one last picture.

In 1989, my uncle, Jeff Wright, opened his own branch of the family business selling sheet metal. He hired my grandma to do his payroll and bookkeeping. She worked in the front office and often met me for lunch at Mimi's.

She always wore a bright blazer, with a white blouse, dark skirt and black closed-toed shoes with nylons — a vision of the 1950s American dream. Where everything was safe. Everyone had a role.

She liked her home and fashion choices buttoned up and proper — juxtaposed by her shenanigans, and her never-throw-anything-away mentality. After she passed, I found a shoebox containing tissue-wrapped frosting from her wedding cake.

Evelyn's oldest child, Kathleen (my mother), likened her childhood to the Carrie Fisher book and movie "Postcards from the Edge." Like the movie, Grandma never seemed to be running on a plot or conflict, but interesting things always happened.

She was the life of the party and loved to attend the women's overnight retreats with her church. On one such weekend she returned with a limp and told me she hurt her leg playing ding-dong ditch. She was 68 at the time.

In my mom's analogy, Grandma was the Shirley MacLaine of the prayer-chain potluck. She'd throw parties, invite people over and then wait in her room at the top of the stairs until all her dinner guests had arrived and then walk down to make her grand entrance among the casseroles and potato chips — 20 minutes late to a party at her own house.

She always kept a Marie Callender's pie on hand in case somebody stopped by. And the good throw pillows and hand towels had to be ready to go at a moment's notice — just in case there was a knock at the door.

Grandma's faith was important to her. She was very involved in her church. Her family founded Central Bible Church. In the 1980s she made her home at Newport Mesa



EVELYN'S PICTURE of Wright Hardware on Rochester Street in Costa Mesa, 1955.

Photos courtesy of the Wright Family

Christian Center and recently at Harbor Trinity in Costa Mesa. She attended Bible studies and was a devoted prayer-chain volunteer.

Grandma was born Evelyn Beardsley and was raised on a small farm on 23rd Street and Orange Avenue — across the street from Lindbergh School. Her father paid her a nickel for plucking chickens, and the family was pleased to share their food with people in need during the Great Depression.

She would meet my grandfather in fourth grade at Lindbergh School. She didn't fall for him until she was 20. By that time, he had already asked her out five or six times. Each time she said, "No." Her calendar was full. It was nothing personal. But Granddad assumed she didn't like him and stopped asking.

One night, she had a dream about him where



THE WRIGHTS' 1947 wedding at the Methodist Church on 19th Street.

they locked eyes in a crowd. The next time she saw him, he looked different. She had a crush. And he didn't have a chance. She was too beautiful and he couldn't turn her down.

They married at the Methodist Church on 19th Street and Harbor Boulevard, which still stands to this day across the street from Triangle Square. The night before her wedding she decided that her cake with the white, buttercream roses was all wrong. She spent that night painting the roses yellow of the aforementioned wedding cake.

They built a house on the Beardsley farm with wood that was donated from Wright Lumber. They rented an apartment on Balboa during the construction and passed the days fishing at the jetty. Granddad played jazz with friends and his trusted saxophone on Balboa street corners. It must have all gone by so fast.

I imagine my grandparents and who they were before I knew them. I imagine their time together, planted by Grandma's dream that sowed a life and a family of four children.

When Grandma passed, each of my daughters sat beside her bed. One painted her nails pink bubble gum and the other read her a letter. Grandma was asleep, but we knew she could hear us.

I told her I would be a grandma like her. And I was looking forward to the day when I could make trouble

for my kids and wrangle their children on antics and escapades. I reminded her of the night that we had the run-in with the cops when I was 15.

I reminded her that on that fateful day, I greeted her with an armload of her floral, quilted toilet tissue and asked her to take me toilet papering. "No," she said, "not with the good toilet paper. That is for the company." She told me she would have to ask Granddad if it was OK. After speaking to him for mere seconds in the other room, she told me Granddad said it was OK as long as we only toilet-papered her brother's house (Uncle Bob). I asked her if it would even count because his wife, Aunt Doris, was blind. She didn't answer.

We made a run to Vons on 17th Street at 10:45 p.m. We were the rebels of the night. We picked up the cheapest toilet paper in bulk, pantyhose and a small peach pie — in case of company.

We silently arranged streamers of Slim Priced, Vons-brand bathroom tissue in the bushes and on the front of Uncle Bob's porch. Until the Costa Mesa Police Department's helicopter showed up to the party and its spotter beam was squarely on me. I ran and hid beside the sanctuary of the station wagon before charging down the street.

My grandma saw me run and started yelling, "Emily! Don't run from the police! ... Don't run from the police!" She waved me back to the front lawn and ordered me to continue my work. The chopper stayed for a moment, then left.

How would they have called it in? What would the police have done anyway? After all: We were the Wrights of Wright Hardware.

EMILY BEES is a freelance writer who lives in Costa Mesa.

VENDOR

Continued from page A1

who had advocated to have her nonprofit Recycled Pets Rescue included in the event.

"When my event manager arrived around 5 o'clock, she went and checked on everybody, and there was no material at all out there other than for pets," Morales said in a phone interview on Tues-

day. "There was someone at their table with a little puppy and everything just seemed completely fine.

"Then it was somewhere during the night. In fact, I was not notified that night, but they obviously put out material that people saw."

After hearing tale of the goings-on of the night before from a community member on Saturday, Morales released a statement saying that the vendor was being banned as a Laguna

Beach Chamber member and would not be allowed to partake in its future events. Morales' message also stated that chamber events are not to be politicized.

There were seven vendors present at Hospitality Night.

"It was obviously a painful learning experience because, you know, [you] can't be trusting anymore,"

See **Vendor**, page A4



A VENDOR at Hospitality Night in Laguna Beach on Dec. 3 displayed right-wing political items.

Hand-in Photo

Daily Pilot

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SANITATION

Continued from page A1

heim and Santa Ana. Local 396 workers also provide trash collection service to Disneyland and its resort hotels.

Employees say 14-hour shifts keep them from their families, while they often endure grueling conditions. Other issues include Republic's use of noncontracted labor and allegations of retaliation against employees who file grievances.

About 100 workers outside Republic's Huntington Beach facility Thursday carried picket signs as passing cars honked in solidarity.

In the crowd was Huntington Beach resident Eddie Chavez, a driver for the past 16 years.

Chavez said he'd much rather be working his route, doing beach pickups in Corona del Mar, Newport

Beach and Balboa Peninsula than standing in a picket line in the rain. But he said it's important employees be heard.

"This is the only opportunity to represent ourselves and fix the things we need to fix," said the 49-year-old father of five. "This affects me as a resident and a worker — I've got to find out what to do with my trash, too."

Chavez said Republic has dug in its heels, not over money but over clearing up ambiguities in the contract that, for example, force employees to bid on six-day work weeks when their contract defines a work week as five days or allow the company to ignore seniority while assigning routes.

"They have all these little loopholes," Chavez added. "This is our one chance, every five years, to correct that. But they don't want to budge."

At Republic's Anaheim fa-

cility, Katherine Kelleher, a driver of 15 years, joined a 200-member picket line to raise awareness of the working conditions sanitation workers face.

"It's very risky," said the Anaheim resident, describing having to clean out pickers, slip and fall hazards and runaway trucks. "The industry itself is a very dangerous industry to be in — we're dealing with all types of weather, and there's always work."

Kelleher said employees have been pushed to the limit and are frustrated and fatigued.

"We will go as long as we need to get a fair contract and deal with the issues at hand," she added. "The customer comes first, but we have to be treated fairly, and we'd like the customers to support us."

Andy Marshall, a contract coordinator for the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and Local 396, is negotiating contracts for

1,000 sanitation workers at 13 Orange County facilities. While some level of agreement has been reached in most cases, talks with Republic Services in Anaheim and Huntington Beach aren't progressing.

"Republic just doesn't have any inclination to settle these contracts, in my opinion," Marshall said, adding bargaining sessions scheduled for Dec. 16 and 17 will likely not take place, due to the strike.

When asked to respond to interview questions, an unnamed representative from Republic Services' corporate office in Phoenix provided an email statement identical to one provided in Nov. 30 following the strike authorization vote.

"We continue to negotiate in good faith to achieve fair and competitive labor contracts," it read.

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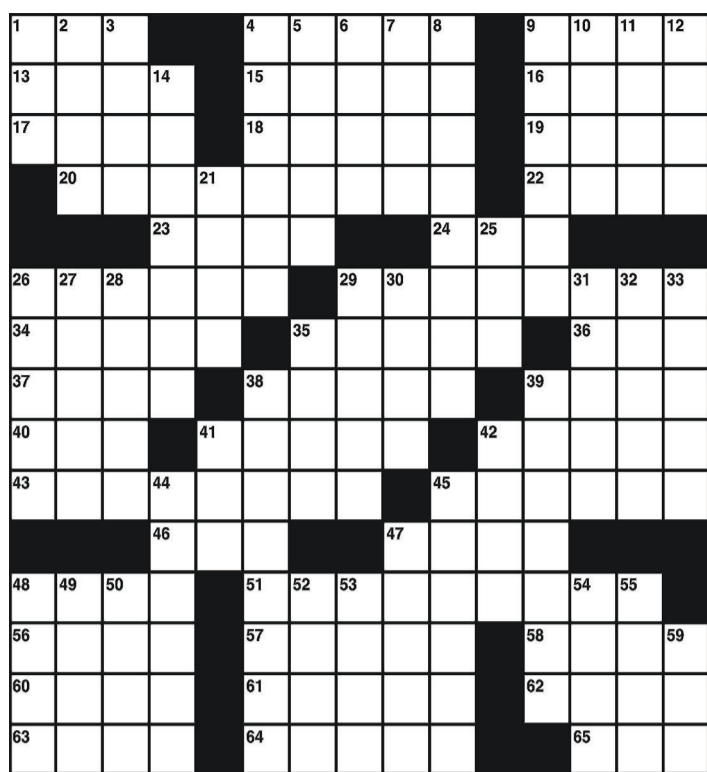
The top ten sculpture finalists will be recommended to City Council for installation of Phase VII of the Sculpture Exhibition in Civic Center Park. Public voting closes January 10, 2022.

newportbeachca.gov/culturalarts



THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

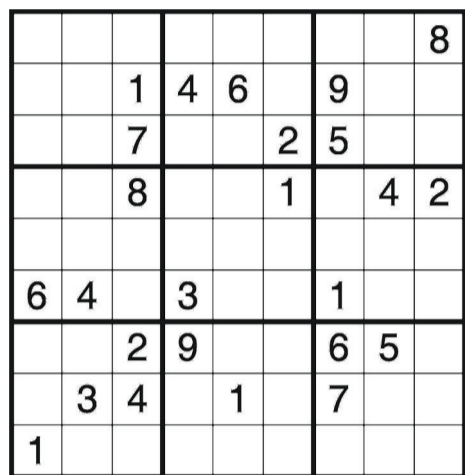


- ACROSS**
 1 Deadly viper
 4 "It's not my _ tea"
 9 Facial center
 13 Use foul language
 15 Computer letter font
 16 Neighbor of Missouri
 17 "Phooey!"
 18 Holiday toy giver
 19 Feodor II or Alexis I
 20 Cowardly
 22 Islets off Florida
 23 Actress Tina's family
 24 Soil turner
 26 Summer camp activities
 29 Former British currency
 34 Coyote cries
 35 Mixer speed
 36 _ of Cortez; Gulf of California
 37 Blown _; flabbergasted
 38 Street talk
 39 Rob Reiner's dad
 40 WWII president
 41 Casual attire
 42 Debonair
 43 Vision
 45 Nutmeg & cinnamon
 46 "Rocky Balboa" production co.
 47 Potpie ingredients
 48 File drawer, perhaps
 51 Necessary; vital
 56 Pillage
 57 C-sharp & E-flat
 58 TV crime drama series
 60 Capable
 61 Treasure cache
 62 Engrave
 63 Children
 64 _ up; sutured
 65 Firmament

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.



For answers to the crossword and Sudoku puzzles, see page A4.

- DOWN**
 1 A-E connection
 2 " _ is not to reason why"
 3 Letters of urgency
 4 Kasem & Affleck
 5 Mountains in Russia
 6 Yearn
 7 Barn brunch
 8 Like strobe lights
 9 U.S. coin
 10 Seep out
 11 Convince
 12 Dumbo's "wings"

- 14 In an overly formal way
 21 NBA team
 25 Aged
 26 Make sore by rubbing
 27 Boisterous
 28 In the know
 29 Incline
 30 Female birds
 31 Sir _ Newton
 32 Boldness
 33 Storm & Gordon
 35 Lackluster; dull
 38 Portions
 39 Fine food
 41 Lively dance
 42 Argument
 44 Hits hard
 45 Perceived
 47 Aggravate
 48 _ jacket; bulletproof vest
 49 Mongolian desert
 50 Have possession of
 52 As _ as a boil
 53 Squirrel away
 54 _ like; imitates
 55 Promise's partner, in phrase
 59 Timid around others

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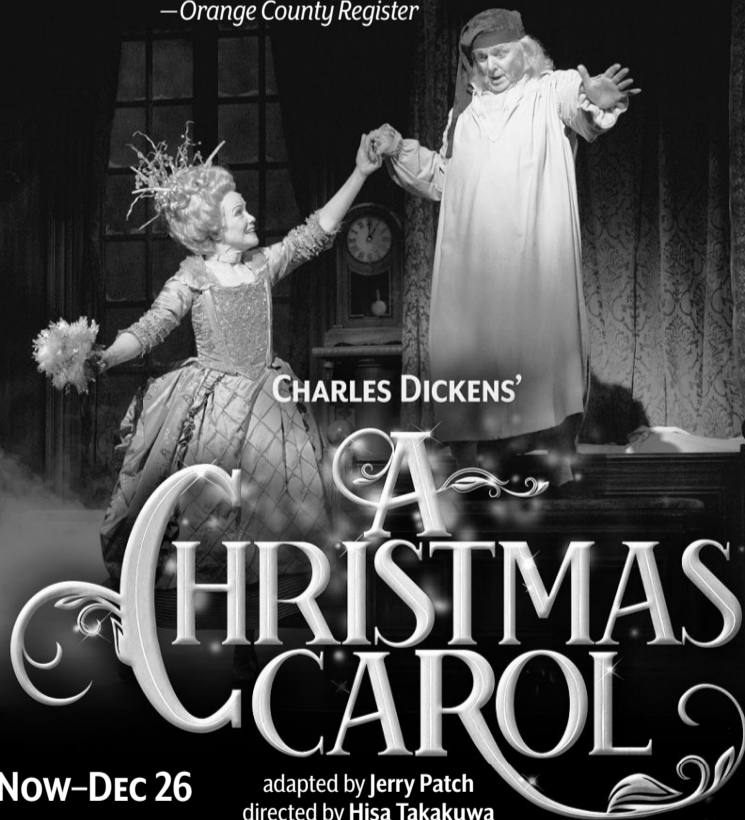
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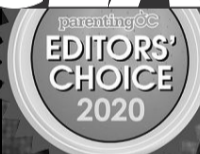


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