

## Autopilot not part of fatal crash in Newport

Investigators say Tesla Model S was traveling in 'great excess' of speed limit when it crashed on PCH and killed 3.

BY ERIC LICAS

On May 12, 2022, a Tesla Model S Plaid traveling "in great excess of the speed limit," slammed into construction equipment at about 12:45 a.m. on Pacific Coast Highway, between Old Newport Boulevard and Riverside Avenue, Newport Beach Police Lt. Eric Little said.

Crystal McCallum, 34, of Texas, Andrew James Chaves, 32, of Arizona, and Wayne Walter Swanson Jr., 40, were killed in the crash. Three people working at the scene were injured.

The crash happened as questions were being raised about the safety of self-driving cars. The Newport Beach collision was one of 34 involving such technology that had been reported to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration since 2016. Of those, 28 involved Teslas.

It became one of the cases examined in an NHTSA probe into the reliability of autopilot-like features, and the focus of widespread media attention. Newport Beach police's MAIT team worked closely with the federal agency, Tesla and other local agencies to learn what they could about the moments leading up to the tragedy.

After examining data recorded by the Model S's onboard computer, investigators learned that its driver assist function was not activated during the crash, and the vehicle was under its driver's control at the time, Little said.

As of Friday, authorities believe alcohol or drugs and speeding were the main factors behind the incident.

### PAINTSTAKING COLLECTION OF CLUES AT THE SCENE

Everyone hates traffic jams, es-

See **Autopilot**, page A8



Photos by Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

**BILL HOFFMAN**, a Laguna Beach resident who gives tours of his hometown and other spots under his business "Hoffy Tours," talks about the Laguna Art Museum on Tuesday.

## Showing the best of Laguna and beyond

Retired teacher Bill Hoffman uses his knowledge to offer tours throughout SoCal and doesn't stop there.

BY MATT SZABO

Teachers have lesson plans. That was the life that Laguna Beach resident Bill "Hoffy" Hoffman lived for close to 40 years.

When he retired from the Capistrano Unified School District in 2012, though, Hoffman never stopped teaching.

His lesson plan nowadays is an information packet he gives out to those who attend his Hoffy Tours, including the tour itinerary, fun quizzes and information about the locale.

The classroom? Dozens of spots in Southern California might qualify. It might be a walking tour of one of several cities in Orange County, or it might be a bus tour to places like Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Joshua Tree National Park or even local cannabis dispensa-



**HOFFMAN PICKS** a dead head from a Bird of Paradise plant at Heisler Park. The retired teacher start giving tours in the early 1980s.

ries. "I did a cannabis tour the other day," said Hoffman, 71. "People bought a bunch of product. I don't know if it benefited them or not."

Hoffman clearly sees the benefits to his tours, which to him showcase the best of what Golden State living has to offer. He said he's developed 83 dif-

ferent tours, mostly in Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego counties. He began giving the tours in the early 1980s, then formalized the business once he retired from teaching.

His mailing list has 1,350 people on it, he said, and he's proud of the fact that the

See **Laguna**, page A8

## Officials warn EBT users of benefits thefts

O.C. victims can turn to groups like Community Action Partnership of Orange County while funds are reprocessed.

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

Low-income families in Orange County often struggle to make ends meet, and a recent rash of thefts of electronic benefit transfer funds is making that struggle even harder.

"Many of us have heard of these skimmers using card readers, initially to go after ATM cards," said Gregory C. Scott, president and chief executive officer of Community Action Partnership of Orange County. "That has evolved to now going after those individuals that have EBT cards, or funds from the Supplement Nutrition Assistance Program."

Founded in 1965, Community Action Partnership of Orange County is dedicated to addressing the root of poverty by advocating for low-income individuals and families through systemic reforms, social justice and racial equity. CAP OC also addresses immediate needs with a diaper bank, the OC Food Bank and the Southeast Community Center in Santa Ana, which serves hot meals and offers other resources including utility assistance and an emergency crisis intervention program.

"CAP OC, we see ourselves as a very trusted resource for Orange County," said Scott, in an interview with TimesOC, "especially for folks who are facing obstacles like food insecurity, unemployment and economic turmoil."

Those obstacles also include falling victim to "skimmers."

Thieves will place a device on a retailer's card-swiping machine to copy or "skim" the EBT card information.

"Once they swipe the card, the skimmer will retain both the card

See **Theft**, page A2

## Gems of O.C. canyon country to shine during free tour

Self-guided Amazing Places of the Canyons Tour on April 1 invites guests to explore six sites including a monastery, wildlife center, famed actress' home.

BY LORI BASHEDA

What do a Romanesque abbey, a rescued girls' sanctuary and a famous Shakespearean actress' Victorian homestead have in common?

They all call Orange County's canyon country their home. And on April 1 the public is invited to visit any, or all, of them on the Amazing Places of the Canyons Tour. The free self-guided tour invites you to take a peek inside six canyon gems.

One of those gems is a fairly new addition. St. Michael's Abbey, perched atop a hill just after you tuck into Silverado Canyon, was dedicated in May 2021.

Famed French architect Jean-Louis Pages designed the abbey in the Romanesque style, heavy on the arches. Highlights include

a \$2-million special collections library, a glittering Virgin Mary assumption mosaic (by Italian artists) behind the high altar, a rose stained-glass window like the ones decorating Notre Dame and limestone floors imprinted with the occasional sea shell fossil. Price tag for the entire project: \$160 million.

"It really is a minor miracle," says Father Edmund Page. "Everything here is built on the generosity of our benefactors. We pray for them every day."

The abbey sits on 327 acres along with a conference center for retreats and a monastery where currently 70 men, 43 of them seminarians studying to be priests, live.

"We have so many men inter-

See **Tour**, page A3



Courtesy of St. Michael's Abbey

**ST. MICHAEL'S** Abbey on Silverado Canyon Road, one of six stops on the Amazing Places of the Canyons Tour.

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# Father and son pair up, aim high with tacos in Tustin

New concept from the Taco Mesa family offers high-quality tacos at a low price point in order to compete with fast-food options.

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

As a child, Nico Calderon always wanted the same thing for his birthday. “If you asked Nico where he wanted to go for his birthday, he would say, ‘I want to go to the best restaurant out there,’” said his father, chef Ivan Calderon. “Most other kids would say, ‘I want to go to Disneyland or Chuck E. Cheese,’ no, he wanted to go to a restaurant, a high-end restaurant. He was always passionate about food.” Food was important to Nico because it was important to his father. Ivan is the founder of Taco Mesa and Taco Rosa, and Nico often spent time in his father’s restaurants.

“I loved to come in and help out my dad on the weekends,” said Nico. “I always wanted to share what we were creating with others.” The father and son have partnered, along with Nico’s childhood friend and established designer Max

beloved Orange County brand. A small but focused menu offers high-quality burritos, tacos, snacks and drinks at a competitive price point. “Instead of dealing with 100 items, you are dealing with less than half so you can elevate the technique,” said Ivan. The steak taco (\$6), for example, takes skirt steak over the kitchen’s woodfire grill before nestling it in a homemade corn tortilla and topping it with cilantro pickled onions. A blue corn tamalito (\$6) is made using an heirloom mole recipe, passed down for generations in the Calderon family, and filled with huitlacoche, a delicate mushroom-like growth on corn husks, sometimes referred to as a “Mexican truffle.” “White gold” horchata (\$5) is made the indigenous way using the super food tiger nut, and Modelo (\$6) and Lost Coast’s Great White (\$7) beers are available on draft.

get filled up on one burrito and not be able to eat anything else.” The intention in the food carries through the restaurant space, thanks to Moriyama. “Originally they brought me in for the architecture,” said Moriyama, who spent time working at Taco Rosa before pursuing a design career that led him to work with firms like Bjarke Ingels Group. “As things sort of evolved and morphed, I took on a bit more of the branding and the vision and the look and feel of everything.” The building felt very disjointed, with things added to the structure as needs arose, but Moriyama effectively created a space that



Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**OWNER IVAN CALDERON** and his son, Nico, stand in the kitchen next to their mesquite fire grill at the new Taco Mesita in Tustin. The new restaurant opened in February.

**CHICKEN** and steak tacos on corn tortillas are prepared on a flat grill at Taco Mesita in Tustin.



Moriyama, to create Taco Mesita, a concept looking to redefine fast food. “We wanted to put a brand out there that stepped up what was available in the drive-through industry,” said Ivan. “There are no high-end drive-throughs, so to speak, with slow-cooked, served-fast food.” Nico said he and his father wanted to fill that void. “I have always been confused about why we couldn’t have really good quality food in a fast-food setting with a drive-through,” said Nico. “It wasn’t out there so I was asking my dad, ‘Why don’t we do it?’” Taco Mesita opened in Old Town Tustin at 765 El Camino Real in February in a space formerly occupied by Alberta’s Mexican Food. Taco Mesita isn’t a smaller version of Taco Mesa as its name suggests but is an entirely new concept from the

The bean and cheese burrito (\$3.75) made on a homemade flour tortilla, is filled with just two ingredients: flavorful pinto beans and stretchy Oaxaca cheese. Then it is lovingly grilled on the flattop, making it a crispy handheld pocket of beany, cheesy goodness. The manageable size is intentional. “They are not your standard burrito, they are a bite-sized burrito, but the tortilla is just magnificent, it is fresh and finished on the griddle,” said Ivan. “When you bite it, you want to have two — or you want to have a burrito and a taco.” Ordering at Taco Mesita is meant to be similar to the way you might order multiple items at a fast-food restaurant, and the low price point helps make that possible. “We want to give that variety,” Nico continues. “We don’t want you come in and



**ROTISSERIE** chicken taco, woodfire steak taco and al pastor taco with pickled vegetables and corn on the cob.

## THEFT

Continued from page A1

number and the pin,” Scott said. Thieves use that information to create “cloned” cards — debit cards, gift cards or other devices with magnetic strips that have been encoded with information from legitimate EBT cards. “They have direct access to people’s accounts,” Scott said. Card skimming can happen to anyone who uses a credit, debit or EBT card. Unfortunately, most EBT cards don’t have the chip or tap technology included with most credit cards, making them more vulnerable to skimmers. An alert of the scam on the U.S. Department of Agriculture site urges EBT and SNAP participants to keep their PIN secret and regularly monitor EBT accounts for any unauthorized charges. If unauthorized purchases are found, the PIN should be changed immediately to prevent thieves from making any new purchases. “This is becoming a major problem not just in our community in Orange County but across the country,” Scott added. He



**A LOCAL STORE** displays a sticker stating it accepts Electronic Benefit Transfer, or EBT, cards.

recommends paying the cashier directly and avoiding swiping at all, since the problem is spreading. In Los Angeles County alone, more than \$19.6 million in EBT benefits were stolen in 2022.

“It is already hard for families that are struggling financially and dealing with poverty, then when you add a theft of this magnitude it creates even more of a problem,” said Scott. If a family’s money is stolen,

the missing funds need to be reported within 10 days and for cash aid theft, within 90 days. Victims then must wait for funds to be reprocessed, a waiting period that can be detrimental to a low-income family.

“Oftentimes families with EBT cards are also able to use those cards for rent, for utilities, for groceries, for school supplies and other resources that families need to stay afloat,” said Scott. “If they are unhoused, they may use these funds to pay for hotels. When they are unable to pay, they find themselves being kicked out.” The good news, Scott said, is that in the state of California, families can be reimbursed. “It can be somewhat of a wait, and families that are in dire need may not have that time,” Scott said. For those families, Scott said Community Action Partnership of Orange County is here to help. Food, diapers and hot meals and utility assistance can all be accessed through CAP OC. “Our role is to help families address immediate needs when they are in a crisis,” said Scott. “We try to wrap services around families who may be in need, certainly if they are dealing with the theft of their EBT benefits.”

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Models used for illustrative purposes.



# Local youth, Ukrainian refugees share a connection



Photos by Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

**COSTA MESA** High School and Middle School art teacher Keli Marchbank, second from left, with her students Fnu Anu, left, Allie Trask, and Dharma Andreas, right, have taken part in the Memory Project, in which students create a portrait of a child from across the world.

Costa Mesa teacher and her students take part in the Memory Project, connecting youth internationally through art.

BY LILLY NGUYEN

Costa Mesa High and Middle School art teacher Keli Marchbank cries every year when she watches the video sent to her and her students from the Memory Project, an organization that aims to create “a kinder world through art.” For at least a decade, Marchbank and her students have been contributing to the nonprofit, which encourages young artists to create portraits of children facing neglect, abuse, loss or other hardships internationally. Artwork from her classroom has made its rounds to countries including India, Syria and Mexico and, this year, roughly 30 portraits

made their way to Ukraine, which recently observed the grim hallmark of entering its second year of war with Russia.

While Marchbank can't recall how she got involved with the project, she said she continues to do it because she feels the project, which was started by Ben Schumaker in 2004, helps give a sense of identity to displaced children.

“If someone cares enough to look at their face, draw it and give it to them as a memento because some of them don't really have a form of or relating to their identification, it's a way of showing that these kids have value,” Marchbank said. “It's nice to contribute to that. Though some of these kids might not have a family or an environment where they're loved, having something like this is pretty powerful.”

Costa Mesa freshman Allie Trask painted a portrait of a girl who was shown in the video receiving the gifted work of art.

“That's your kid. It's this sense of connection and being able to identify that connection,” Marchbank said.

Marchbank said classrooms participating in the Memory Project are given their choice of countries at the start of the school year and are provided photos of the children relatively early in the fall semester. What mediums the students work in are up to them, though all of the portraits must be finished by December to be shipped off to their respective countries.

Trask, who is in Marchbank's Art II class, said this was not only the first year she had participated in the Memory Project but also her first time drawing a person's portrait.

“I was looking through the kids in the pages and I chose this girl, [Polina]. She was older, kind of our age and that was my way of relating to her,” Trask said. “I



**TRASK**, 14, with a picture of the student, Polina, she painted.

wanted her to feel special because I knew if someone drew a portrait of me from across the world, that would make me feel special. I did pencil for her and I did watercolor in the background. She had this expression that was serious, but almost like a model look, and I wanted to keep that composure.”

Trask said that seeing her smile in the video gave her “butterflies” because it felt fulfilling to be able to make someone feel that way with something she made.

Senior and AP Drawing Portfolio student Dharma Andreas said she chose her portrait subject because of her curly hair, which she said inspired her to do not just one but three separate portraits of the girl: one in charcoal, one in acrylic paints and one in colored pencil. Three versions, she said, in which she saw the girl's beauty.

“I actually drew her as Mother Nature — Gaia — so, I drew vines growing from her hair with her favorite color, mint, in the background,” Andreas said.

“I find happiness in my art and I like to center myself with my own art,” Andreas continued. “If I want to calm down or smile or have feelings to express, I tend to put them down on paper. When I got the chance to draw somebody and bring them a self-portrait of themselves when they may not be going

See **Refugees**, page A5



## TOUR

Continued from page A1

ested in joining our way of life,” Page said. “Our kind of life is in between ministry out in the world and this monastic life. The divine liturgy, the praise of God.”

The men in the order sing Gregorian chants seven times a day (the St. Michael's choir once chanted at Segerstrom Hall for Maestro Carl St. Clair's conception of Anton Bruckner's Ninth Symphony) and visitors are welcome to attend.

“The acoustics here are amazing,” Page said. “There is a several second delay, perfect for Gregorian chants.”

A little backstory on St. Michael's. The monastery was originally founded near Cooks Corner off El Toro Road in 1960 by seven priests who escaped Hungary after the communists shut down their monastery. There the order remained until 2016 when the Silverado property came up for sale.

Just a few miles down the road from the abbey, in Trabuco Canyon, you can visit Vera's Sanctuary for trafficked teens. Here, on the former Boys Town property, is

a place for rescued girls to heal. The donor-funded property is perched on a hill with sweeping canyon views that on a clear day stretch to the ocean. A small tree-lined street and five houses with tidy front porches make it look like a movie set of a cozy little Anytown, U.S.A.

In Modjeska Canyon you can step back in time at Madame Helena Modjeska's historic home. A famous Shakespearean actress, Modjeska came to California from Poland with her husband, Count Karol Bozenta Chlapowsk. The couple hired acclaimed American architect Stanford White to design a large Victorian country house in a live oak grove on the banks of Santiago Creek, where they lived from 1888 to 1906, entertaining Hollywood friends.

Just above the Modjeska home is “Islandia.” Rumored to be one of Madam Modjeska's guest cabins, it has been given a tropical makeover by owners Nor and Greg Killingsworth. The couple built a tree house and brought in some giant metal dinosaur sculptures to roam the terraced property, which is guarded by ancient wooden gates from a temple in

## FYI

Maps for the Amazing Places of the Canyons Tour will be available April 1 starting at 10 a.m. at the Modjeska Home, 29042 Modjeska Canyon Road in Silverado, or call (310) 995-0976. The tour ends at 3 p.m., and no tickets are needed.

India.

Further down the road is the Tucker Wildlife Center. The 12-acre sanctuary includes a natural history museum, trails and a bird observation deck.

If architecture is more up your alley, don't skip the concrete Dome Home, an engineering marvel. Set in the canyon brush, it looks futuristic, like something out of a “Star Trek” episode. But inside it's bright and warm — temperatures naturally hover around 70 — with teak floors and cathedral windows. A graceful standalone spiral wooden staircase takes guests up to an outdoor deck.

Lori Basheda is a contributor to TimesOC.



## LIGHT

**SHINES** on a crucifix inside St. Michael's Abbey on Silverado Canyon Road, one of six stops on the self-guided Amazing Places of the Canyons Tour on April 1.

Courtesy of St. Michael's Abbey



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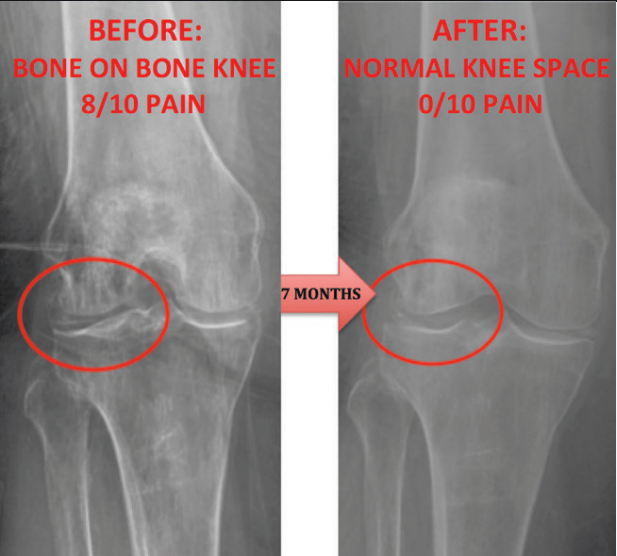


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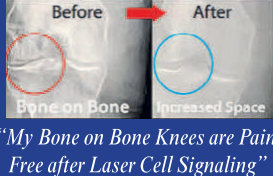
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-lasted-Rosemary, Huntington Beach

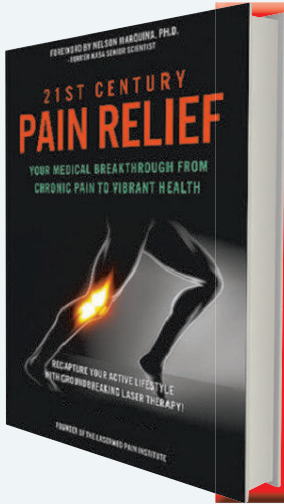


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-The late Dr. William Gutch, MD., Palm Desert, California



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## REFUGEES

Continued from page A3

through the best times, I kind of just thought about how happy it would make me feel, and I tried to put my best effort into making it worth their time to see it and really enjoy it.”

Andreas said seeing the people in the video touched her and that she felt like the portrait forged a true connection between her and people on the other side of the world that she may never meet in her life.

Fnu Anu, also a senior in Art II, said she’s participated in the project several years now, though this year was the first time she’d seen the video, as previous years weren’t able to be recorded due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The best thing you can do is make someone feel like they’re seen, especially if they’re struggling,” Anu said. “They are being heard,



Photos by Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

**COSTA MESA** students Dharma Andreas and Fnu Anu, stand with photos of the students they painted, Anna and Alice, as part of the Memory Project.

and art is another way of doing the same thing because it contains so much emotions and one of the quotes [in the video] that I still remember is that this parent being like, ‘When we get a new home, we are going to put this portrait up.’ It just kind of touched me. My portrait is going to stay with them as a memory ...

of their struggle ... that they overcame.

“I feel great; I feel empowered to do more of such work and even being more involved in my community because there’s a huge impact that you can make.”

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### SIGN UP FOR THE TIMESOC NEWSLETTER

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### CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

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



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MAILBAG

Fractional home ownership affects the neighborhood

In his recent letter to the editor (Daily Pilot Mailbag, March 10), Joe Maehler (whom I understand to be a Pacaso executive) basically says “Jump, I’ll catch you.”


Maehler states “Pacaso owners have a significant vested interest in both the home and the community ... Pacaso owners are responsible families that abide by local ordinances and are committed to being good neighbors.” He assures us that his family is “heavily” involved in local sports and “spends a lot of time in local parks and beaches.”

In my view, Maehler’s praise and assurances of Pacaso owners and his family’s civic involvement do not necessarily qualify as license for a well-funded, dressed up time-share operator to disrupt the peace and quality of life for which our villages are renowned.

Unless you grew up in Newport, do you remember the feeling of unbridled excitement when you arrived from your inland home at the rental for a summer week at the beach? I do.

The warm sand. Welcoming blue ocean with white-crested waves. Colorful swim suits. Can-vas rafts before Boogie Boards were invented. Fishing rods with soft shell sand crabs as bait. Volleyball and touch football. Hot dogs and hamburgers on the barbecue. Multicolored umbrellas. Zinc oxide and baby oil. Top 40 blaring on the patio. Noise. Party on! Late nights. Nirvana.

But what about those poor neighbors who were full-time residents? They put up with the noise. They put up with all of our many visitors — the relatives, the boyfriends and girlfriends (and their friends), the parents’ pals. They put up with the overcrowded parking and the hoards from our San Ga-



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Courtesy of the city of Newport Beach

**MID-20TH-CENTURY** cottages in Newport Beach alternate with taller, more contemporary homes in older neighborhoods. Fractional ownership has become an issue in the city as neighbors against the practice say temporary ownership adversely affects the community.

briel Valley home. They put up with the trash we accumulated, the beach toys we scattered, the sand we tracked. They put up with the blaring music we played, the wet towels and bathing suits we draped on the walls, the beer cans our parents emptied and the garbage. They put up with the loss of privacy, the likely loss in property value. They put up with a loss of community and “neighborhoodness,” the traffic, the noisy late nights! For those seven days we received the maximum return on our investment.

The good news for our poor neighbors was that it was temporary. A summer week here and a summer week there. It goes with the territory of Newport as a desirable community, but it all ended on Labor Day.

But fast forward to the age of Pacaso. The typical Pacaso model promises 45 days for each of eight owners (who may well be strangers to each other) on a repeated, in-and-out, never-ending, year-round basis. The Nirvana hormonal

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

excitement of a summer week at the beach is multiplied by eight owners for 52 weeks who all want to get their money’s worth for their high-priced investment at the expense of neighbors.

Fractional ownership does nothing to help us meet the multiple California mandates regarding RHNA and affordable housing and will permanently scar the nature, quality of life and character of our village-centric town.

**Paul Watkins**  
Newport Beach

As enticing as Joe Maehler makes co-ownership of housing sound, it has many a pitfall. Interestingly, never does he refer to the practice as it is most commonly known — fractional home ownership or FHO. It is a hot-button issue right now before the Newport Beach City Council. So far 12 of these FHOs have popped up in residential neighborhoods in

the city and contrary to what those promoting them have said, these homes affect the surrounding neighborhood and not necessarily in a positive way.

Purchased by real estate/management companies, the homes are often remodeled and then sold in “shares,” usually to eight different buyers. The buyers are allowed to “share” the home usually in what ends up to be two weeks at a time.

Just imagine eight different families rotating in and out of the house next door every two weeks. There could be even more than eight families rotating in and out because these fractional owners can give away their weeks or rent them as they please.

Fractional owners own the property, and it is difficult to regulate their homes in the same way the city regulates and permits short-term lodging. Once established, you cannot take away their operating permit.

FHOs invite “vacation-type” activities: partying and late-hours behavior that is not conducive to promoting a sense of community in a neighborhood. The kids do not go to school in Newport Beach. Consequently, the FHO owners don’t have the usual educational and charitable connections to the community.

This type of housing has become a divisive issue because these homes will be cropping up in some areas (think: beachside) and not in others; therefore, many parts of Newport will not be able to relate personally to FHOs. But this is indeed a “city issue,” and the whole city needs to get involved in the solution.

**Lynn Lorenz**  
Newport Beach

Invocation could be silent moment

An invocation at a public meeting is constitutionally protected; however, this once benign action, like many other things; has become political and acrimonious.

The purpose of an invocation strives for the idea that people of different faiths and those who do not ascribe to any faith can be united in a community of tolerance. That obviously is not happening at Huntington Beach City Council meetings.

Bringing religion into government meetings erodes at the boundaries of separation of church and state. A moment of silence instead of an invocation would be an adequate solution.

**Lisa Shook**  
Huntington Beach

See *Mailbag*, page A7



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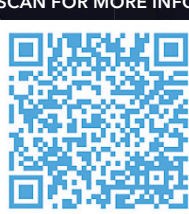
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**Pamela Lyn Jeffery Young**  
*April 9, 1949 - January 28, 2023*

Pamela Lyn Jeffery Young passed away on Saturday, January 28, 2023 surrounded by her loving family. Pam was a fourth generation Californian born in San Bernardino on April 9, 1949. She was born into the Suverkrup family, one of the city’s pioneer families, to Robert Jeffery and Barbara Suverkrup Jeffery. Pam and her family had a summer home in Newport Beach and she enjoyed many years sailing in Newport Harbor on her Sabot and at Catalina Island aboard the family’s Chris Craft.

Pam graduated from Pacific High School in San Bernardino and attended San Diego State University. Pam was an award-winning swimmer in middle school and high school and was accepted to what turned out to be an all-male swim team at San Diego State where her times were much better than many of her teammates.

Pam spent 35 Years in the banking industry beginning with Bank of America in San Francisco and Wells Fargo Bank in Fremont, CA. She transferred to the Wells Fargo office in Orange County in 1980 and joined Union Bank of California in 1992. She retired as a Vice President with Union Bank’s Private Banking Office in Newport Beach in 2015.

In addition to her career in banking, Pam was a 15-year member of the Hoag Hospital Foundation’s 552 Club where she served on the Board of Directors. She also spent many years on the board of directors of the Newport Harbor Nautical Museum when it was housed onboard the Ruben E. Lee, and she served as a trustee of the Olive Crest Foundation for Abused Children and was a board member of the Crystal Cove Alliance.

In 1993 she married the love of her life, fifth generation Californian, James Young. In 1994 they moved to Newport Beach where Pam was a member of the Balboa Yacht Club and the Balboa Bay Club.

Pam will always be remembered for her professionalism, award-winning smile, infectious personality, love for community service, and passion for travel and adventure, which included many trips to Hawaii, and to New Zealand and Australia. On one of her trips to Europe, she was able to visit her great-great-grandfather’s ancestral home, formally Denmark, now part of northern Germany, and light a candle in the church where he was baptized. That visit included meeting several of her distant relatives with whom she had remained in contact.

Pam is survived by her loving husband Jim; son Brian Martin, his wife Donna, three grandchildren, Elizabeth, David and Wyatt, of New Braunfels, TX; son Bryan Young, his wife, Tatiana, of Portsmouth, NH; son Eric Young, his wife, Sara, of Baltimore, MD; and niece, Samantha Stout, of Costa Mesa. She was preceded in death by her parents and sister, Terry Stout.

In loving celebration of the life of Pam, the family has established a memorial tribute fund. In lieu of flowers, please consider a gift in Pam’s memory to the Hoag Hospital Foundation, 330 Placentia Avenue #100, Newport Beach, CA 92663.

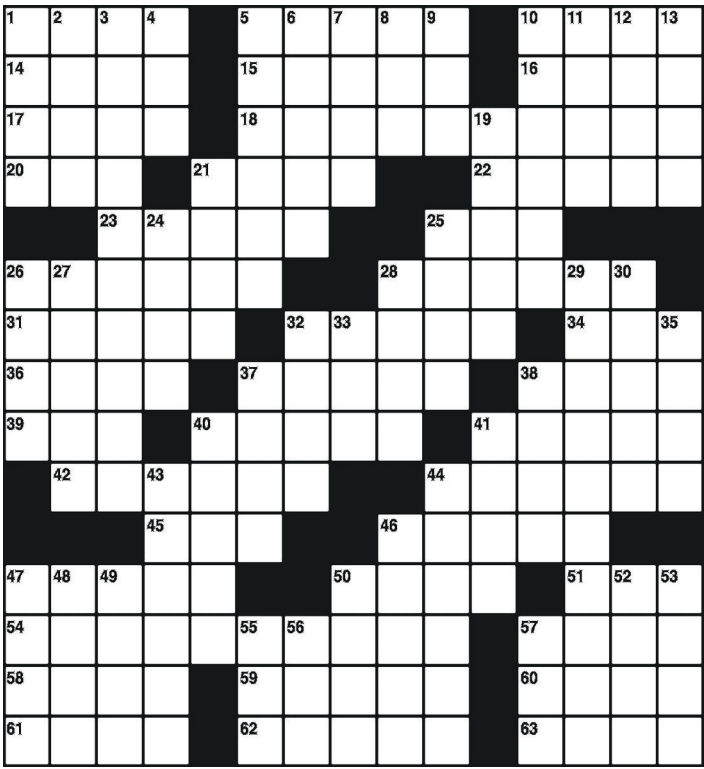


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By Jacqueline  
E. Matthews

**ACROSS**  
1 One of the Simpsons  
5 Stops  
10 Additionally  
14 Landlocked U.S. state  
15 Lanai greeting  
16 Hopping amphibian  
17 \_ Raton, FL  
18 Schoolyard  
20 Slip up  
21 Extend across  
22 Peruvian peaks  
23 Narrow street  
25 Years lived  
26 Pago Pago native  
28 Company  
31 On the ball  
32 Detroit team  
34 Tupac Shakur's music  
36 Come across  
37 Religious belief  
38 Sandwich shop  
39 "Please Don't \_ the Daisies"  
40 Goes under  
41 Actor Matt  
42 Enjoyed a long bath  
44 Ma or Pa  
45 Tupperware top  
46 Expand  
47 Tribal pole  
50 Apparel  
51 Actor DeLuise  
54 Vanquishes  
57 Company symbol  
58 "A diller, a dollar, a \_ 'clock"  
59 Ocean's edge  
60 Yours and mine  
61 Finales  
62 Irritable  
63 Does drugs

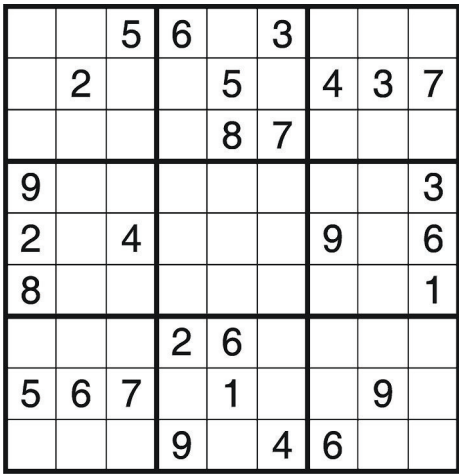
**DOWN**  
1 Jiffy \_;  
oil-changing place  
2 "Take \_ leave it"



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](http://sudoku.org.uk).



For answers to the crossword and Sudoku puzzles, see page A5.

3 U.S. state capital  
4 \_ moment; time of awareness  
5 Take place  
6 Alleviate  
7 Bank offering  
8 " \_ kingdom come"  
9 Hang limply  
10 Makes amends  
11 Deafening  
12 Of sound mind  
13 Chances  
19 Hits the ceiling  
21 Thin board  
24 Actor Jack

25 Family tree member  
26 Out of harm's way  
27 Nom de plume  
28 \_ away; leaves  
29 "Wonderful!"  
30 Beauty shop  
32 \_ a hand; help out  
33 Writing fluid  
35 16 ounces  
37 \_ on; attached  
38 Show courage  
40 Pinch pennines  
41 Root beer brand  
43 Midsize Oldsmobiles  
44 Animal enclosure  
46 Most horrible  
47 Carry  
48 Kiln  
49 Watch over  
50 Pekoe & oolong  
52 Villain  
53 Forest floor covering  
55 Calendar pg.  
56 Anguish  
57 Actor \_  
Diamond Phillips

Tribune Media  
Services

TACOS

Continued from page A2

feels more connected. "Right away the design ambition was to clean everything up and bring a cohesion to everything," said Moriyama. "This is where the breezeblock wall came from." The breezeblock wall, in stark white, surrounds the patio creating a oasis in a strip mall, but it also leads the cars going around the space through the drive-through. Rather than emulating the high-sensory design and bright colors of most fast-food restaurants, Taco Mesita uses lush landscaping, simple mirror-finished mesh seating and two colors: orange and white. The woodfire grill and rotisserie are all visible through wide windows that look into the kitchen, another purposeful design move. "We wanted to show off the operations of the business because we are cooking everything from



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**OWNER IVAN CALDERON** works in the kitchen cutting mesquite grilled steak tacos with his son, Nico, left. scratch," said Nico. "We don't have anything to hide." Taco Mesita is a family business and on a recent weekday afternoon, Ivan himself ran half-sheet pans of food out to tables while Nico greeted customers. "I love being here with him," said Nico, looking at his dad, "and I love serving people and helping them have a great experience." Ivan said he is happy to continue working with his

MAILBAG

Continued from page A6

H.B.'s suit denies housing reality

The Huntington Beach city attorney, instead of remaining independent and correctly advising the City Council of the state's affordable housing law, has chosen to side with the council's right-wing coalition, and this has resulted in the city being sued by the state. The 59-page lawsuit filed by the city against the state in federal court is basically a delaying action, and it might come as a surprise to the city attorney, but more is not necessarily better, and you can't fight city hall! Since the city received a letter of warning from the state for noncompliance with the state housing law, further ignoring it can result in sanctions, which will be born by the taxpayers. When we first moved

to Huntington Beach in 1962, the population was 10,000, and now it's 200,000, so the city can already be considered urbanized. Affordable housing can only improve the city, and the city attorney should be aware that his responsibilities belong to the property owners and not to individual council members. **Richard C. Armendariz** Huntington Beach Recently the Huntington Beach council announced its latest push back against the state. The new majority has a bad habit of frittering away the city's treasury on quixotic lawsuits. This is distressing but not because the city will lose (again) on the same issue of affordable housing. No, I am disappointed in the inability of our city leaders to understand the words that come out of their own mouths. According to the Daily Pilot, at the press conference when the City Coun-

cil revealed their intention to sue the state, Casey McKeon, said "Let the free market dictate what the demand is per city." Think it through, McKeeon. If you believed your words about the free market, you would not protect the city's zoning code but instead work to eliminate it altogether since it is the most anti-free-market regulatory apparatus on the books. But you will never do that because the code is a set of government rules that favor already-housed (that is, wealthier) residents. Those are, in your words, "our residents and our constituents that elected us." So please do not insult us with your transparently ridiculous appeal to the free market. You are fine with government interference in the housing market when it will win points and get you elected. **William Yarchin** Huntington Beach

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# AUTOPILOT

Continued from page A1

pecially the people tasked with investigating the crashes often at the heart of them, Little said. That's not just because they get a lot of the blame for the holdup.

"It inconveniences people when they're on the road and there's a road closed for several hours," the lieutenant overseeing NBPd's Major Accident Investigation Team said. "And I know how frustrating that can be. But, again, we're working as quickly as we can while being as careful as we can to make sure we're not compromising the investigation."

For police and forensic experts, that can mean tracking down evidence strewn across a roadway, interviewing freshly traumatized people or recording precise data about skid marks and other scars left by a collision. And, in cases where people are hurt or killed, they're forced to see the human toll of a crash.



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**POLICE GATHER** wreckage from a May 12, 2022 vehicle collision on West Coast Highway in Newport Beach as part of a local investigation.

"It is challenging for our team to go out and deal with a loss of life as frequently as they do," Little said. "It's a traumatic event for everybody, and often we see stuff at collision scenes that most people shouldn't see."

They do it because survivors and relatives of those killed want answers, Little said. Survivors oftentimes want to find out as much as they can about how and why their lives were turned upside down. And authorities must also determine who might have been responsible.

"People want some closure to these incidents, and here you had the loss of three lives," Little said of the Tesla's crash. "With how tragic this was, it was important to provide a complete, thorough investigation for their loved ones while not speculating on the nature of the crash."

As many as 31,785 were killed in the U.S. in just the first nine months of 2022, according to early statistics released by the NHTSA. And in 2021, over 42,900 people died in traffic collisions nationwide. That figure represents more than a 10% jump over the previous year and is the highest tally recorded since 2005.

"We realize the inconvenience closing roads causes to the public," Little said. "But at the same time, at the end of the day, we have to realize and appreciate that we're still living and breathing. And if we have to detour for 10 or 15 minutes, fortunately we're not the ones in that tragic situation."

ericlicas@latimes.com  
Twitter: @EricLicas



Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

**BILL HOFFMAN** talks about the tide pools from Heisler Park on Tuesday in Laguna Beach. Hoffman said he's developed 83 different tours, mostly in Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego counties. His mailing list has 1,350 people on it.

## LAGUNA

Continued from page A1

emails are opened 60% of the time.

"I advertise on my newsletter, people sign up and I take them on adventures," he said. "I'm a retired high school teacher, and I got bored when I retired. Golf and tennis is fun, but I needed a little bit more."

Hoffman earned a master's degree in urban planning from UCLA, and a doctorate in social ecology. For his master's project, he helped designate Los Angeles' second historic district, South Carthay in the Fairfax District.

"L.A. now has 41 historic districts, which is kind of cool," he said. "I have a lot of knowledge about cities that I like to share with people."

Sometimes his wife, Maria, herself a former math teacher in the Laguna Beach Unified School District, joins him on the tours. Hoffman said she was happy when he started Hoffs Tours, because it kept him busy.

"She said, 'Bill, I don't care if you make money, just don't lose money,'" Bill Hoffman said. "That was her one bit of advice to me, and she also said, 'Give them snacks.' If it's a bad tour, at least you feed them."

Dave Bratton-Kearns, Hoffman's business partner who lives in San Juan Capistrano, offers more consistent advice. The two met in the dorms at UC Irvine when they were 18-year-old freshmen, but Bratton-Kearns didn't really become too in-

volved in Hoffs Tours until five decades later, when he and his wife recently moved back to Southern California.

He called himself the detail guy of the operation, while Hoffman is more of the big-picture guy. Bratton-Kearns is the one who will sometimes make sure the calendar isn't double-booked or that they are charging enough for the tours to at least break even.

"Bill is kind of like a Type-A personality on steroids," Bratton-Kearns said. "Very engaging, very talkative, very bright and funny as all get out. People love listening to him talk. I chip in when I can. I'm not exactly an introvert, but compared to him, I am. We have a lot of fun doing this together."

The biggest tour he's led took place in the South, a tour of Savannah, Ga. and Charleston, S.C. Hoffman said that Savannah, which was designed with 24 town squares, is his favorite city.

He has plenty of dedicated tour-takers. He ran into one Tuesday, when providing an abbreviated walking tour of Laguna Beach to the Daily Pilot.

Penny Poorman is a Laguna Beach resident who Hoffman estimates has been on at least 15 of his tours. She's looking forward to the bus tour to the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens in San Marino in May.

"He's got a huge fan club, let me tell you," Poorman said. "Huge. I love his

tours, and so do my friends. We can go to L.A. and we don't have to drive. You see things that you don't get out to see on your own, because we're lazy. We don't want to drive to L.A. and get in that traffic and find a place to park. We always have a nice lunch, which is fun."

Hoffman starts the walking tour of his hometown in front of the Laguna Art Museum. He points out interesting facts about places like Heisler Park, focusing on the city's history but also pieces by local artists like Scott and Naomi Schoenhurr, and Jorg Dubin.

Hoffman even had a heckler as he turned his attention briefly to Dana Point.

"We don't talk about Dana Point in this city," yelled out a man passing by. "This is Laguna."

Hoffman just smiled.

"You're right, but I throw in Dana Point anyway," he said.

The smile rarely leaves his face as he continues doing something he genuinely loves. Hoffman is excited for a Sustainability Tour he will be hosting on April 20, a guided tour of 12 acres of organic crops that will feature a visit to the Tree of Life Nursery on Ortega Highway.

"I'm really lucky, I reinvented myself," he said. "I love teaching, I love people and I love cities. It's like a perfect combo."

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