

Daily Pilot & Times OC

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Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

STAFF MEMBERS, including longtime Director of Animal Care Michele Hunter, far left, stand for a group picture during a groundbreaking ceremony Wednesday for new construction that will lead to water-saving efforts at the Pacific Marine Mammal Center in Laguna Beach.

Pacific Marine Mammal Center breaks new ground

\$14M expansion project will include a water reclamation system capable of recycling 90% of facility's water.

BY ANDREW TURNER

Pacific Marine Mammal Center in Laguna Beach has broken ground on a \$14-million expansion project that will enhance the center's educational and patient treatment capabilities while making it a leader in water conservation.

The project, which is being referred to as "The Next Wave" ex-

pansion, will include a water reclamation system that organization officials say will allow the center to recycle up to 90% of the water it uses.

As the second largest water user in Laguna Beach, the gains in that area are expected to be significant. Once installed, the system could allow the center to save 15,000 gallons of water per day and approximately 5 million gallons of water annually.

"What our facility is going to do is allow us to recycle upwards of 90% of the water that we use," Glenn Gray, chief executive of Pa-

See *Center*, page A3



STAFF MEMBERS feed healthy sea lions, soon to be released to the wild, at the Pacific Marine Mammal Center in Laguna Beach.

OCC program works to ease job searches

The Costa Mesa campus' program helps students learn the lost art of job seeking by building networks to succeed.

BY SARA CARDINE

In a post-pandemic digital world, the allure of an online job posting may be strong, but only occasionally does it lead to an actual in-person interview, let alone a promising career.

That's something Sabrina O'Brien learned the hard way.

A graduate of UC Santa Cruz, the 25-year-old Santa Ana resident can't even recall how many resumes she's sent out through the ether, responding to marketing jobs where her degree in psychology might be applied, to no avail.

"I was contacting hiring managers but really getting no response," said O'Brien, who's now taking business classes at Orange Coast College. "The internet is just an endless pit."

So, when she came across a notice about a free career coaching program being piloted on the Costa Mesa campus, one that would help participants identify jobs or career fields of interest and then build professional networks within those industries, she signed up.

Called "Career Launch," the sessions are offered on a weekly basis throughout a four-week period. Students are given workbooks that allow them to brainstorm, journal and create an action plan for executing job search goals. Then, they meet in person to discuss revelations and next steps.

Career center employees trained on the material walk stu-

See *Program*, page A3

Serving up a fresh feast for OC Restaurant Week

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

OC Restaurant Week returns for its 15th year this month, with over 150 restaurants cooking up special menus for the occasion. Beginning today and running until March 11, participating dining destinations will offer a variety of prix fixe menus.

"It's hard to believe that OC Restaurant Week has been celebrating our dynamic culinary landscape and shining a light on the many talented, passionate chefs and restaurateurs in our communities for 15 years," said Pamela Waitt, founder of OC Restaurant Week and president of OC Restaurant Assn., Inc.

Participating restaurants offer menus that range from \$15 to \$60 for brunch, \$15 to \$25 for lunch and \$25 to \$60 for dinner. Luxe menus with more premium items, like filet mignon or a bottle of wine range from \$60 to \$120 from restaurants like Morton's Steak House and Great Maple. Family meals that can feed up to four are available from Scratch Bakery Cafe for \$40 and Three Roots Mexican Cocina for \$140.

"Restaurants have been through so much over the past few years, and we are more committed than ever to help connect diners who are hungry to explore our diverse dining options."

— Pamela Waitt
founder of OC Restaurant Week and president of OC Restaurant Assn., Inc.

Last year was the first year OC Restaurant Week returned to in-person dining after two years of takeout due to the pandemic. Many restaurants are still digging themselves out of the hole the COVID-19 pandemic sunk them

See *Week*, page A2



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

MORE THAN 165 Orange County restaurants will participate in OC Restaurant Week, which is in its 15th year. New restaurants like Verdant, the cafe at Orange County Museum of Art, will participate, offering items like their avocado toast with boiled egg and crunchy garlic sauce, shown above.

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Sweets eatery says 'Let them eat Oreo bundt cake'

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

Have your cake and cookie and eat it too. To celebrate Oreo cookies' 111th birthday, specialty cake company Nothing Bundt Cake has launched a new Oreo cookies and cream flavor to its existing menu of cake flavors.

"We couldn't think of a sweeter partnership than bringing together our recipe with the iconic Oreo cookie," said Nothing Bundt Cakes Chief Marketing Officer Angie Eckelkamp.

The new flavor starts with the cake company's classic white cake baked with Oreo cookie pieces and topped with its signature cream cheese frosting. Available as bite-sized bundtlets, miniature bundtlets and 8- or 10-inch bundt cakes, the new flavor joins other bundt cake flavors like red velvet, chocolate chip, lemon, classic vanilla, carrot and confetti.

The new flavor will be available at all Nothing Bundt Cake Orange County locations including Tustin, Orange, Costa Mesa,

Huntington Beach, Mission Viejo, Laguna Hills and Brea until March 26.

To keep the partying going, Nothing Bundt Cakes will host a cake giveaway at all locations on March 6. At 1:11 p.m. local time, the first 111 guests at each bakery will get a free Oreo cookies and cream bundtlet, the brand's individually packaged miniature bundt cake.

Oreos were introduced by Nabisco on March 6, 1912. Oreo biscuits, as they were known until 1921, were produced at Chelsea Market bakery in Manhattan. Since then, 491 billion of the cookies have been sold in over 100 countries.

Nothing Bundt Cakes was founded in 1997 by Dena Tripp and Debbie Shwetz in their Las Vegas home kitchens and has since grown to nearly 500 franchised and corporate bakeries.

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Courtesy of Nothing Bundt Cakes

AN OREO cookies and cream bundt cake from Nothing Bundt Cakes, which will be available until March 26.



ROASTED SWEET POTATO with lemongrass coconut milk and watermelon radish at Verdant inside OCMA.

WEEK

Continued from page A1

in.

"Restaurants have been through so much over the past few years, and we are more committed than ever to help connect diners who are hungry to explore our diverse dining options," said Waitt.

In honor of the milestone anniversary, special cocktails are also being offered for the week. Anaheim White House is offering \$14 cilantro margaritas, with Patron Silver, fresh lime, cucumber and cilantro. El Mercado Modern Cuisine in Santa Ana's special \$15 Pink Lady cocktail with Grey Goose vodka, orange liquor, lime and hibiscus shrub is also part of the celebration.

There are dessert deals too. Newport Beach's Atomic Creamery, for example, is offering buy one get one free on frozen treats of \$10.50.

OC Restaurant Week not only gives diners the opportunity to visit their favorite eatery for a special drink or deal but also an incentive to check out a new restaurant for a fresh feast.

"My experience with restaurant week has always been really good," said chef Ross Pangilinan of Terrace by Mix Mix and Populaire Modern Bistro at South Coast Plaza and the recently opened Verdant, at the Orange County Museum of Art. "It brings a lot of new customers to your restaurant, which is always good."

Pangilinan's restaurants are offering special prix fixe menus for lunch and dinner during restaurant week, and he is looking forward to introducing diners to the vegetarian-friendly Verdant.

"The vibe here is a plant forward menu with seasonal ingredients," said Pangilinan. "We are not serving impossible meats or anything like that, we are serving fresh vegetables that we cook with a variety of techniques. We also have a charcuterie board and you can add salmon or chicken to each dish, so there is a little something for everyone."

For OC Restaurant Week, Verdant is offering a prix fixe lunch menu for \$25

and a prix fixe dinner menu for \$35.

"We are offering some of our most popular dishes because we want our guests to come and have our heavy-hitters," said Pangilinan.

Choice of starters includes baby gem salad with toasted farro, avocado, tomato, cucumber, black radish and preserved lemon vinaigrette, avocado toast with heirloom tomato, medium boiled egg and crunchy chili garlic or seasonal soup.

"We always have a soup," said Pangilinan. "A lot of time it is a vegetable puree or a vegetable stew, but it's always vegan."

Entree choices include roasted sweet potato and heirloom carrots in lemongrass coconut milk topped with watermelon radish, pea tendrils and sesame seeds.

"We roast our sweet potato low and slow, so it gets nice and caramelized on the outside and really tender in the middle," Pangilinan said. "We make a lemongrass coconut milk that is like a coconut curry; it eats really well together."

The other entree choice is farmers market vegetable tagine with dates, apricot, almonds, and cilantro emulsion over basmati rice.

"We cook it for about 3½ hours," said chef Philip Tangonan, who also helped open Pangilinan's Populaire. "We are slow roasting the vegetables. We like to use whatever is in season, so right now we are using butternut squash, sweet potatoes, acorn squash, zucchini and yellow squash."

Dessert is a choice of olive oil cake or vegan ice cream.

The Orange County Museum of Art has free admission too, so Tangonan hopes people will make a day of a visit to Verdant.

"It is exciting because it is a new restaurant and we get to introduce ourselves to the community," said Tangonan.

A full list of participating OC Restaurant Week restaurants and their menus can be found at ocrestaurantweek.com.

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Models used for illustrative purposes.



Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

CHEFS PHILIP TANGONAN and Ross Pangilinan, from left, are participating in OC Restaurant Week with their new restaurant Verdant, at the café at O.C. Museum of Art in Costa Mesa.

PROGRAM

Continued from page A1

dents through each session, encouraging attendees with small “homework assignments” they can do before the next session — setting up a LinkedIn profile, crafting an email signature and researching businesses.

Over four weeks, students are asked to list 10 companies they might like to work for, then find professionals at each company performing jobs of interest.

These people are strategic contacts students will ask to meet with in a “career conversation,” formerly known as an informational interview. Such contacts could become a crucial part of a student’s professional network moving forward, introducing them to others or referring them for internships or positions.

Ginger Neel, OCC’s di-

rector of workforce development and career services, said most of the extracurricular program covers good old fashioned job-seeking skills that college students may not be learning in the classroom.

“It’s a lot of the stuff that’s not taught,” Neel said of the course content. “This is analyzing and thinking about your career and life skills. How do you get what you want? How do you decide what you want in the first place?”

“You can take a sales class, but you’re not taught to sell yourself.”

During an afternoon session Wednesday, a cohort of students gathered to learn how to set up and prepare for a career conversation and what to say when they get there.

OCC career counselor Katie Ottoson advised them to arrive early, bring their resumes and look for ways to connect with the subject conversationally, before steering the talk

toward the reason for the visit.

“Because this is not a job interview, the ball is essentially in your court,” she said. “So, know your goals — do you want to work there? Do you want an internship, or a mentor? It’s very helpful to know your ultimate why for being there.”

Participants shared their hangups about cold calling companies, having face-to-face talks with strangers and being asked questions they hadn’t prepared for in advance.

Ottoson assured them most subjects would simply be impressed they’d taken the initiative to set up the talk in the first place and urged them to “play the student card” by treating the conversation like a class assignment and go with the flow.

Still, she showed them a move for relieving physical anxiety — something that could be done in a bathroom immediately before

an interview — hanging upside down and then taking several deep breaths to get oxygen flowing to the brain.

Ottoson said after the session she sees Career Launch as a student equity program designed to help young people build their social capital from scratch.

“A lot of community college students don’t have that set up already. This teaches them, literally step by step, to build those relationships, how to reach out to professors, what to say, specific questions to ask,” she said. “The ultimate goal is to help people get those career conversations going and to do that throughout their careers.”

OCC student Long Lê heard about the program from his mother, who encouraged him to check it out. The 19-year-old was a sophomore in his native Vietnam but came to the U.S. in January to study business administration in hopes of someday working



Photos by Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

OCC CAREER counselor Katie Ottoson leads a personalized career coaching session Wednesday at Orange Coast College.

in logistics and supply chain management.

Lê targeted enterprises like Amazon, DHS and UPS as companies of interest and is using LinkedIn to compare the college and career trajectory of managers there to his own. He’s also working on getting a recommendation from a professor to serve on OCC’s College Life Committee, to engage more deeply with others on campus.

“I’m building my network every day, even in my classes,” he said. “I think this class helps me a lot to orient my career path and to see what I want to do in life and what I want to be.”

Neel acknowledged while some aspects of job seeking have changed in recent years with the advent of technology, a lot of the tried and true approaches — establishing a brand, attending industry events and just getting to know people — are still the most sure-fire ways to land a job or internship.

“The idea is they’re building their network and building relationships,” Neel said of Career Launch’s main goal. “Because about 80% of jobs aren’t online, it’s about who you know.”

For O’Brien, who’s considering a career in market research and is being considered for an internship at an Orange County real estate firm, the program came at just the right time.

“I couldn’t have asked for a better thing to fall into my lap,” she said.

Neel plans to hold another round of Career Launch sessions for Orange Coast College students in April. OCC students interested in learning about Career Launch may call the Career Center at (714) 432-5576, email CareerCenter@occ.cccd.edu or visit <https://orangecoastcollege.edu/academics/career-center/index.html>.

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HANNAH BUI attends a coaching session Wednesday at Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa.

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CENTER

Continued from page A1

cific Marine Mammal Center, told dignitaries at Wednesday’s groundbreaking event, to a round of applause. “To put that into context, that’s about 5 million gallons a year. ... Seven years now, Laguna Beach has been the most water-wise city in America. No one’s going to touch Laguna Beach [in terms of water conservation] after this facility’s put in place.”

The expansion will also see the center take its number of pools from seven to 10, increasing its capacity for its seal and sea lion patients. With the arrival of an elephant seal on Thursday morning, Dr. Alissa Deming said the center currently has 23 patients. The center will be able to accommodate nearly tenfold that amount following construction, an increase in capacity from about 125 animals to close to 200.

“From 2013 to 2016, there was something called an unusual mortality event of the California sea lion pups, where there just wasn’t enough prey items around their nursery, like where they’re born in and off the Channel Is-



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

VOLUNTEERS JOELLE CASSIDY, left, and Amanda Peng wash herring for sea lions at the Pacific Marine Mammal Center’s outdoor rehab pens.

lands,” Deming said. “That caused almost a three-to-fourfold influx of starving baby sea lions hitting the beach for a four-year period.”

“During that time, we hit our capacity. We don’t want to compromise our standard of care, and we can’t crowd our animals because that can spread disease and cause issues with getting them

better. ... Back then, that’s what started getting us moving to the direction of we need more space to accommodate these years when we see these really high, elevated numbers of marine mammals stranding.”

If members of the public see a stranded marine mammal, Deming urges them to keep their distance and to talk to a lifeguard or

contact local response teams. Pacific Marine Mammal Center serves all of Orange County.

“Once they come back here, our veterinary team and our animal care supervisors will assess the animal,” Deming added. “They do a full physical exam, X-rays, if necessary. We always get blood work on them, ... so we can see if they have infections or if they’re dehydrated, how their organs function — their liver, their kidneys, their electrolytes, all that stuff. Then every patient gets an individualized treatment plan.”

An estimated 35,000 students participate in education programs provided by the Pacific Marine Mammal Center each year. The expansion will see the space available to those programs doubled.

In addition to new pools and units, the center’s hospital will be adding a new treatment room for surgery, endoscopy, ultrasound and radiographs, among other medical services for patients. The project is expected to provide a boost to the facility’s research and training capabilities.

Pacific Marine Mammal Center representatives said they have received \$6 million in pledges toward the projected \$14-million

project cost. The anticipated timeline for completion is the fourth quarter of 2024.

“We think that we can touch a lot of different types of donors,” Gray said. “We can appeal to them on the basis of ocean stewardship, animal care, children’s education, medical research and now water conservation, so there’s a lot of different boxes that we check.”

Jeff Meberg, chairman of the board for Pacific Marine Mammal Center, admits that the project may not be economical, but it is furtherance of the center practicing what it preaches.

“I was asked by [the] Planning Commission, ‘How much did this cost?’” Meberg said. “I said, ‘It’s going to be \$10 to 15 million.’ They said, ‘Is this a good investment?’ And I said, ‘No, it’s lousy, but we’ll get a return on our investment in probably 50 years.’”

“But is it the right thing to do? We’re an environmental company. It’s not just saving seals. It’s about being ocean stewards, taking care of our ocean, studying the ocean, studying the water. ... It’s a good return. It’s fantastic.”

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MAILBAG



File Photo

THE LGBTQ Pride flag flies outside Huntington Beach City Hall. The city recently voted to approve the introduction of an ordinance limiting the flying of flags on city property to government flags, as well as the POW/MIA flag and the six flags of the U.S. military.

Flag decision raises the veil

In her column "Huntington Beach move to narrow flag rules is about exclusion" (Daily Pilot, Feb. 26), Patrice Apodaca performs the remarkable feat of being on-point and missing the point at the same time. While correctly diagnosing the illness of intolerance and insensitivity exhibited by the Huntington Beach City Council majority, she misses the cure (excising the problem). Yes, the rationale put forth by the council majority and its defenders regarding the proposed flag ordinance was fallacious. Yes, the proposed ordinance was divisive and disrespectful. Yes, it was errant and ill-advised. But it was intentional. It was ideological. And, no amount of reason or remonstrance will change this council majority's outlook.

Now we know, and early on, what a mess a hornswoiggled Surf City electorate bent on change and protest has caused for our city and our citizenry. In addition to acting in an arbitrary and authoritarian manner to shove their political dogma down our throats, our new masters

seem wholly incapable of addressing our civic concerns and needs constructively. Will they solve homelessness and housing issues? Of course not. Will they make our city safer and more prosperous? I doubt it. Will they strive to make our city more unified, inclusive and tolerant? We know the answer to that.

The main issue of the Pride flag is problematic for a group that has co-opted the American flag to project their own twisted view of patriotism. Their symbol has less in common with the red, white and blue than it does with the red, white and black. The Pride flag represents what most citizens espouse as Americans in representing our democratic ideals. That would never appeal to the homogenized vision of the MAGA-style crowd running our local government now.

Patrice Apodaca is right to call the motives and moves of the new Huntington Beach City Council majority into question. However, the cure may be some years away when and if it is fully understood, the problem eliminated at the ballot box, and the Surf

City electorate has awakened to appreciate vibrant diversity instead of forced uniformity.

Tim Geddes
Huntington Beach

Good points, Patrice. But these four new members of the City Council represent more than just exclusion. They represent Republican ideals at the local level.

It started with Tito Ortiz, a Trump supporter, who felt pressured to resign. Rejection of the Pride flag is a tenet of the united Republican goal of attacking ethnic differences that conservatives see as threatening white majority rule.

I was one of the Huntington Beach voters who failed to vet Tito Ortiz, so I cannot disparage voters who voted for the well-financed campaign avalanche of Tony Strickland, Gracey Van Der Mark, Pat Burns, and Casey McKeon, who represented another well-financed "save Surf City" force behind the earlier failed recall of non-conservative council members.

Jim Hoover
Huntington Beach

THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS

- 1 As neat as _
- 5 Small fragment
- 10 Part of the foot
- 14 Soft drink
- 15 Unrefined
- 16 Contemptible
- 17 Oaf
- 18 Truly sorry
- 20 Actor Gulager
- 21 Wrangler or Grand Cherokee
- 22 Basket by the lake
- 23 Feline cries
- 25 Positive reply
- 26 Hits hard
- 28 Most sensible
- 31 Reagan or Grace
- 32 _ out; say suddenly
- 34 Cribbage piece
- 36 Cedar City's state
- 37 Covered with pines
- 38 Three-__ casserole
- 39 Gamble
- 40 Auditorium furnishings
- 41 Good wood for floats
- 42 Gathered crops
- 44 Straw mattress
- 45 Get _ of; shed
- 46 Hitchhiker's need
- 47 Contempt
- 50 " _ sea to shining sea."
- 51 Switch position
- 54 Walker
- 57 South African tribe
- 58 Puts two and two together
- 59 Pound division
- 60 Dollar bills
- 61 Reason to study
- 62 Hornet homes
- 63 Lofty poems

DOWN

- 1 Current letters

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SUDOKU

By the Mepham Group

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit sudoku.org.uk.

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

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

- 2 Motel feature
- 3 Brighten
- 4 _ King Cole
- 5 Threaded fasteners
- 6 Canadian tribesmen
- 7 Fanny
- 8 Hustle and bustle
- 9 _ person; apiece
- 10 Reluctant
- 11 Abundant
- 12 Helpful hint
- 13 Hades
- 19 Odor
- 21 Bishop, for one
- 24 Carve letters

- 25 Linear measure
- 26 Ignore rudely
- 27 Alma _
- 28 Takes to court
- 29 Bewitched
- 30 Razz
- 32 Actor Garrett
- 33 Give permission to
- 35 Pesky insect
- 37 _ off; angry
- 38 Healing ointment
- 40 Rotates
- 41 Cowardly Lion's creator
- 43 Slap cuffs on
- 44 T-Mobile store display
- 46 Land parcel for new homes
- 47 Squabble
- 48 Relinquish
- 49 _ and ends; miscellany
- 50 Swim _; diver's flippers
- 52 Escape
- 53 Complain childishly
- 55 Freight weight
- 56 Kick oneself for
- 57 Animal park

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Every week, author Fidel Martinez will bring you everything from music recommendations to underappreciated moments in Latinx history as he explores, with the help of our readers, what it means to be Latinx in the United States.

We're shining a spotlight on our community. From a city where almost half the population is Latinx, we know the nation is ready for this newsletter.

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LEFT: A look at the 1 Shoreridge property in the gated Pelican Crest neighborhood. The two-story home has been listed for close to \$40 million for the last two weeks.
BELOW: One of the outdoor spaces and pools included at the property.

Photos courtesy of Circa Properties

Newport Coast home with expansive views going for just \$40M

BY LILLY NGUYEN

The first thing people notice about 1 Shoreridge is how stylistically designed it is for families, according to listing agent Abraham Lim.
 “That’s been a striking feature of the home,” Lim said. “Everything in every nook and cranny has really been considered. It was supposed to be a wellness re-

freshment treat for [the owner’s] entire family, so he put a lot of love and care into it. When you’re doing a flip, you’re usually going with the quickest, cheapest material, but he really thought about his family’s use ... and so people really get that when they come into the home.”

The 12,000-square-foot home sits on

See *Home*, page A6



Seegerstrom Center Presents

Erik Larson

In Conversation

March 6 • 8 pm

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THE ENTRYWAY for 1 Shoreridge, which is currently being listed at almost \$40 million.

HOME

Continued from page A5

double lot of about 34,373 square feet and faces southwest, which makes both unobstructed sunrise and sunset views possible from the back. It includes six ensuite bedrooms, sev-

en bathrooms, four pools, a gym, game room, sauna, kitchen, living room, master suite, office, wine cellar and a four-car garage. "The lot itself is rare," Lim said. "A lot of the homes here in this neighborhood are skinnier lots that have nice views but aren't as expansive as this



Photos courtesy of Circa Properties

AN OVERHEAD shot of the 1 Shoreridge, 12,000-square-foot property in Newport Coast.

one." The two-story home, built in 2010, is located inside the Pelican Crest

neighborhood and has been listed for close to \$40 million for the last two weeks. Lim said that they've already received offers for the property, but did not confirm if any have been accepted by the seller.

The current median listing price in Newport Coast is around \$5.3 million, according to Realtor.com.

"The market overall has been seeing a downturn in a lot of places, but the luxury markets are still thriving — particularly properties that are well designed and ready to move in are kind of flying off the shelves," Lim said.

He noted one other property in Pelican Crest that was first priced at \$45 million sold for \$30.6 mil-

lion in January. Lim noted that he and Circa Properties co-founder Matt Hartman felt that, given the views, turnkey-nature and style of the Shoreridge home, its current listing price was achievable.

"There's a lot of listings out there in Newport Coast," Lim said. "After the Super Bowl, there were some mega lists that kind of debuted on the market. There are two stratospheres. The highest stratosphere is the \$60-million-plus properties. Not too many of those come online and actually sell at over \$60 million," said Lim, adding that he believed only two such sales have been made in Orange County.

It is Lim's hope that this

property will be able to surpass the \$30.6 million sale of 1 Pelican Crest Drive.

"The \$60-million-plus is one stratosphere and below that are your \$25-million to \$40-million [properties]," he continued, adding it's difficult to find properties that strike in the middle like 1 Shoreridge.

"In that stratosphere, you cannot really find something that's ready to go like with this lot, which creates a little more urgency in people's minds."

The listing is held by Lim and Hartman of Circa Properties and Paul Daffarian, who is with Luxe Real Estate.

lilly.nguyen@latimes.com
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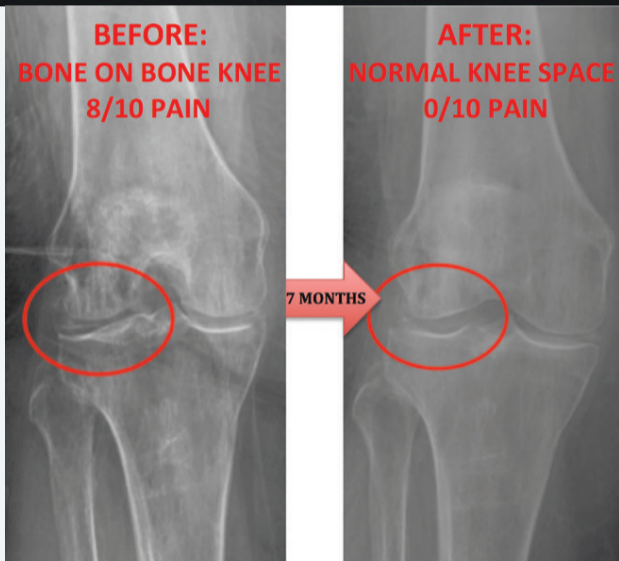


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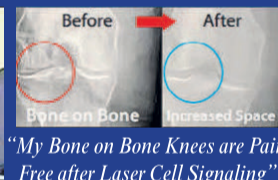
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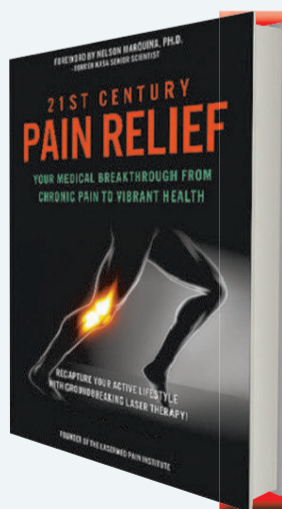


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Photos by Josh Corbin

OUTSIDE POSTINO WINECAFÉ at Irvine's Park Place. The mixed-use dining and retail destination opened in December.

Postino WineCafé raises a (wine) glass to O.C. community

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

When Lauren Bailey, chief executive officer and co-founder of Upward Projects restaurant group, set out to open a wine concept, she wasn't interested in just opening a restaurant. She wanted a place that was more community-driven than the average wine bar.

"We really wanted to create a place for the community to come meet," said Bailey, "and I know that seems simple, but we wanted it to be a place you could just come and have a glass of wine if you wanted, you could come and have lunch, you could have a date night ... we wanted the space to flex between a lot of different people's needs."

The former server partnered with former bartender Craig DeMarco to create their first concept inside a historic 1940s-era post office in Arizona in 2001, which inspired the name Postino.

"We typically take almost all exclusively older buildings that are in need of a restoration," said Bailey. "We definitely try to do those whenever we can."

Postino WineCafé has become known for its signature wine program and all-day food menu, letting the concept serve as a bar for some, a brunch spot for others and a family dinner place for others.

Today, Upward Projects restaurant group spans 24 restaurants and four brands besides Postino over five states. Their concepts include artisan ice cream shop Churn, a Phoenix neighborhood bar

and restaurant called Windsor, Joyride Taco House and a wood-fired pizza parlor, Federal Pizza, housed inside a 1950s federal bank building.

The foundation of the company is revitalizing buildings as well as creating spaces integral to their neighborhoods and communities.

Other times though, Bailey said, the community is the driving force behind where Upward Projects opens a new spot, which is how Postino ended up in Orange County.

"In 2017 we took an investment from a California-based investor which has been really great for us," said Bailey. "Naturally they were like, you guys have to come to California."

But rather than take her concept to Los Angeles, Bailey took Postino straight to Orange County.

"When we came to Irvine, it was evident that our people were there," said Bailey. "We really fell in love with that community."

Bailey said in talking to the community, she asked what kind of place residents wished for.

"We kept hearing, 'We want a hangout spot, we want great wine, we want a place where you don't have to order food, but you can if you want, we want share-able stuff,'" said Bailey. "We felt that a lot from Orange County, and we heard that loud and clear."

Postino opened at Irvine's Park Place on Michelson Drive, a new mixed-use dining and retail destination, back in December.

Postino Irvine opens at 11 a.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. Saturday and Sunday for brunch and closes at 11 p.m. most nights (10 p.m. on Sundays and midnight on Fridays and Saturdays). Besides an extensive wine list and craft cocktails, Postino has a



Courtesy of Postino

LAUREN BAILEY, co-founder of the Postino brand and Upward Projects.

menu of soups, salads, finger-food snacks like olives and grilled petite filet skewers and boards with options like bruschetta, charcuterie and cheese.

Since opening, Bailey has made it Postino's mission to integrate and support the O.C. community by holding fundraisers for local organizations like the Children's Hospital of Orange County Foundation and the LGBTQ Center Orange County.

"Those are organizations that are near and dear to our heart, and supporting them is paramount," said Bailey.

Postino, Irvine most recently hosted a give back event for CHOC.

every board of bruschetta, which is the thing we sell the most of by far," said Bailey.

Bailey said she is looking forward to expanding in California and continuing to provide Orange County with a place to raise a glass.

"We get the privilege of creating the space where people come together to have some of their most important moments," said Bailey. "We create the space where people get engaged, decided they are going to buy a house, take a job, meet a friend, go on a first date. We are lucky enough to be the backdrop of that."

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Dodgers legend honored with signs on 5 Freeway

BY ANDREW J. CAMPA

The stretch of the 5 Freeway where Tommy Lasorda started his trips to Dodger Stadium and exited after games now bears his name.

Twenty-seven miles southeast of what Lasorda called "Blue Heaven on Earth" is the "Tommy Lasorda Dodger Legend Memorial Highway."

The pair of green highway signs are already up on the 5 Freeway in Fullerton, near the former Dodgers manager's longtime home. The signs are on the northbound and southbound lanes between Lincoln Avenue and Ball Road.

On Saturday, the late Lasorda was recognized during a ceremony featuring his daughter, Laura, former Dodgers first baseman Eric Karros, the 1992 National League Rookie of the Year under Lasorda, and Assemblywoman Sharon Quirk-Silva (D-Fullerton). The event was part of the West Fullerton Little League opening day festivities at James Carter Field in Fullerton.

Lasorda had been a supporter and benefactor of the West Fullerton Little League and the surrounding parks.

The ceremony marks the culmination of ACR 67, a bill sponsored by Quirk-Silva and co-authored by Wendy Carrillo (D-Los Angeles) in 2021 to memorialize Lasorda, who had lived in Fullerton since 1958. The legislation was written shortly after Lasorda's death in January 2021 from sudden cardiopulmonary arrest. He was 93.

Even though Lasorda was born in Norristown, Pa., Quirk-Silva said many in Fullerton considered the onetime Brooklyn Dodgers pitcher "a hometown hero."

"We remember Tommy



Eddie Carmona

FORMER DODGERS manager Tommy Lasorda has a stretch of the 5 Freeway dedicated in his name in Fullerton, the city he lived in for 63 years.

as a man of the community," Quirk-Silva said. "There was a good possibility you would see him in town, probably picking up a pizza at Giovanni's."

In 1976, Lasorda spoke at Nicolas Junior High School in Fullerton and donated dozens of tickets to his friend, instructor Jim Schlotthauer. The social science and speech

teacher, who taught at the school from 1960 to 2004, in turn invited a group of six students to an upcoming game.

One of those students was Quirk-Silva, who enjoyed views of Dodgers heartthrob Steve Garvey and her first Dodger Dog in her inaugural visit to the stadium.

Quirk-Silva said she was

"forever grateful" for the experience, which endeared her to the manager.

The honors are one of many Fullerton has bestowed on Lasorda and his family.

The Fullerton Museum just concluded a three-month exhibit on Dec. 31 titled "Picturing America's Pastime," with a section

dedicated to Lasorda.

The city has also hosted consecutive street festivals in 2021 and 2022, honoring Lasorda on his birthday in September.

The Dodgers are providing some of the funding for the signs.

"Fullerton held a very special place in Tommy's heart, and we know how proud he would be to be

standing here today," Stan Kasten, president and CEO of the Dodgers, said in a statement.

Lasorda guided the Dodgers to World Series titles in 1981 and 1988, four National League pennants, eight division titles and 1,599 victories.

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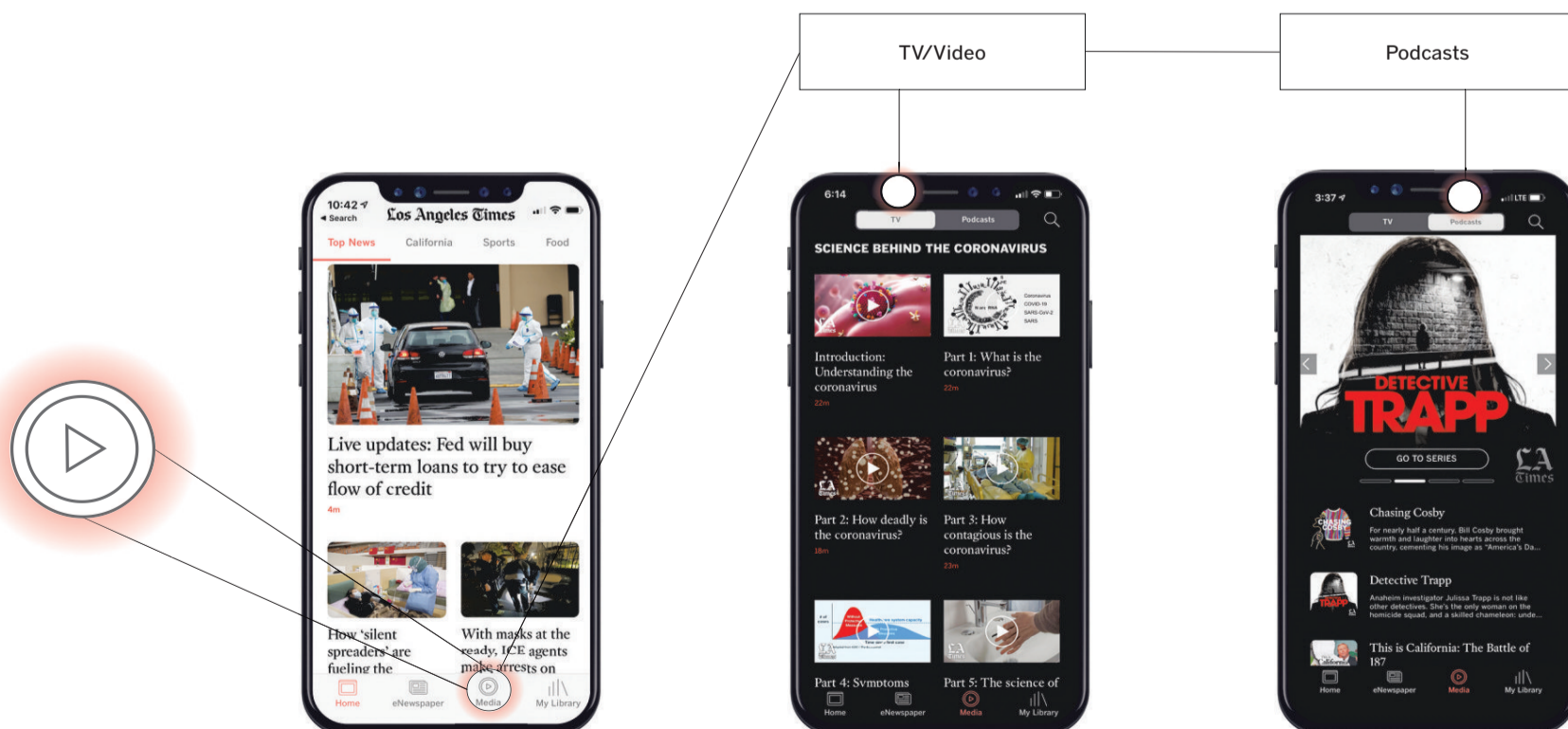
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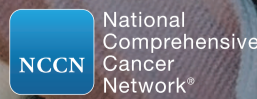
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