

Reviving an artist's life and legacy

Cerritos College Art Gallery exhibit celebrates the works of the late Peter Carr, an OC artist and antinuclear activist.

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

Before his untimely passing decades ago, Peter Carr left an indelible mark on Orange County through his paintings, political posters and prose.

Ensuring that his legacy endures, the "Peter Carr: Artist for Survival" exhibit at the Cerritos College Art Gallery celebrates the former Laguna Beach resident's life, activism and art.

The exhibit, which opened on Monday, is the first comprehensive look back at Carr's artwork, which is infused, at times, with the natural beauty of the county's ecosystems while also sounding an alarm about the pressing political issues of his time, including the nuclear arms race.

"The smart people who are the art historians and artists who have looked at the work have told me that people who know will recognize German expressionism, they will recognize the New Objectivity movement," said Andrew Tonkovich, co-curator of



Ryan Sumida, courtesy of Cerritos College

See *Legacy*, page A8

ANDREW TONKOVICH assembled the most comprehensive retrospective of Peter Carr's work to date.

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OCTA to offer free rides in the county on Election Day

BY SARA CARDINE

If you've filled out a voting ballot but have no way to get to a drop-off location on Election Day, fear not — the Orange County Transportation Authority is offering free bus rides all day Tuesday on 55 fixed routes countywide.

Agency officials announced Friday passengers may take ad-

vantage of free service to any destination, including county voting centers, all day long.

"Voting is what keeps our democracy strong and ensures our communities have a say in how they are represented locally, regionally and beyond," Board Chair Tam T. Nguyen said in a statement. "OCTA is doing our part to make sure people can get

See *Rides*, page A8

ORANGE COUNTY

Transportation Authority officials announced Friday the agency will offer free rides on all fixed-route buses on Election Day Tuesday.

Courtesy of OCTA



Eric Licas

BRIAN BALDAUF of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority workshops with members of the community about the future of Randall Preserve at Palm Harvest Church in Costa Mesa on Monday.

Meeting on the future of Randall Preserve draws a packed house

BY ERIC LICAS

The meeting hall at Palm Harvest Church on Wilson Street, east of Placentia Avenue, hummed with conversations between dozens of friends and strangers from communities in Costa Mesa, Huntington Beach and Newport Beach who packed the space Monday evening. While many eyes were glued to Game 3 of the World Series, those assembled were fixated on a different win for Southern California: the conversion of a nearly 400-acre former oil field into one of the largest nature preserves in Orange County.

The meeting was a workshop and panel discussion designed to teach the public how they can participate in the planning of the Frank and Joan Randall Pre-



A NEIGHBORING housing development is viewed through an oil pipeline expansion loop at the site of the planned Frank and Joan Randall Preserve.

Allen J. Schaben
Los Angeles Times

serve. It was the first public event organized by the Coastal Corridor Alliance, one of the organizations that helped rally the community around the creation of the nature preserve. It was also a major milestone in what has been a 25-year effort, the alliance's president, Terry Welsh said.

"We still can't get over the fact that we saved the area, that the community as a whole saved the area," Welsh told the Daily Pilot in a telephone interview Tuesday. "It's such a joy that we haven't come down from yet. Last night what you saw was

See *Preserve*, page A4

ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



Sarah Mosqueda

FARM-TO-SCHOOL SUMMIT AT ECOLOGY CENTER HOSTS COMMUNITY HUNGRY FOR CHANGE PAGE A7

Rancho Santa Margarita mayor accepts plea deal in false affidavit case

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

More than a week after Rancho Santa Margarita Mayor Carol Gamble suspended her reelection campaign, she has admitted guilt in falsifying nomination paperwork but won't face any jail time.

The Orange County district attorney's office announced on Wednesday that Gamble will be charged with a misdemeanor violation of election law for claiming to have personally gathered signatures to qualify on the Nov. 5 ballot when, in fact, she did not.

"Voters must have total confidence that every election is being carried out in a fair and unbiased manner," Dist. Atty. Todd Spitzer said. "Interference in the electoral process in any manner and at any stage jeopardizes the will of the people being carried out while eroding the trust of voters that their vote counts."

In exchange for her admission of guilt, Gamble will not face a felony perjury charge.

She will be sentenced to one year of probation, 160 hours of community service and will have to submit her DNA to authorities.

Shawn Gordon, a long-time Rancho Santa Margarita resident and local government watchdog, first alerted authorities about



Allen J. Schaben | Los Angeles Times

THE ORANGE COUNTY district attorney declared Rancho Santa Margarita Mayor Carol Gamble's nomination signatures "invalid" following a perjury probe.

allegations of perjury against Gamble back in August.

He deemed the terms of Gamble's plea deal too lenient, especially when compared to a similar case in Fullerton, where Scott Markowitz, a first-time city council candidate, was initially charged with a pair of felonies, including perjury, and was sentenced to a day in jail, a year of probation and 160 hours of community services after entering a guilty plea for a lesser misdemeanor charge at his arraignment.

"She has been in politics for 25 years," Gordon said. "She knows better and should have gotten jail time. The punishment should be far more severe than for Markowitz."

Gamble has served on

Rancho Santa Margarita's City Council for 16 of the past 20 years, including four terms as mayor.

The D.A. stated that Gamble, under the penalty of perjury, attested on Aug. 7 to having circulated and witnessed signatures on her nomination papers in seeking a return to council.

But investigators interviewed numerous voters who signed them and stated that Gamble neither circulated the nomination papers nor witnessed their signatures.

Prior to taking a plea deal, Gamble released a statement on Oct. 20 calling her attestation an "error" that wasn't caught in time to correct and pledged to resign from of-

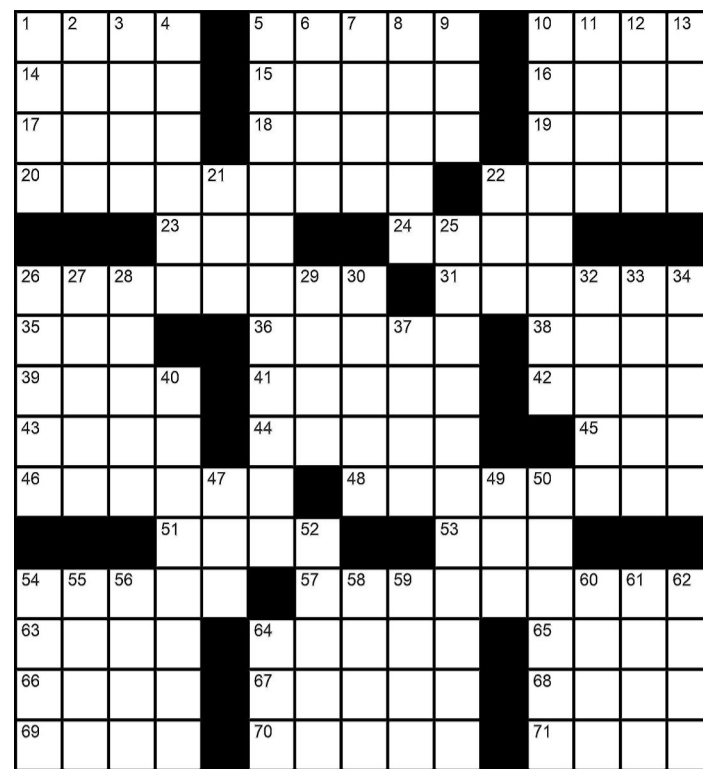
See Deal, page A8

THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS

- 1 Covered with frosting
- 5 Social blunder
- 10 Maidenform products
- 14 California wine valley
- 15 Whale's home
- 16 Don't have
- 17 Journey
- 18 Online greeting
- 19 Prefix that means "all"
- 20 Philharmonic ensemble
- 22 Colorado ski town
- 23 Get your hands on
- 24 Uses a shovel
- 26 Inflatable boat: 2 wds.
- 31 Hand-__ leather
- 35 Director Lupino
- 36 Drug cops
- 38 Double agent
- 39 Curve in a road
- 41 Ordered delivery: 2 wds.
- 42 Travel by boat
- 43 Contest of speed
- 44 "Cool!"
- 45 Eleventh month: Abbr.
- 46 Actress Milano
- 48 Antipathy
- 51 Leaning Tower of __
- 53 Rowing machine, for short



For answers to the crossword, see page A8.

- 54 Nun's outfit
- 57 Hotel employee
- 63 "Sadly..."
- 64 Mistake
- 65 Author Stephenson
- 66 Suffer defeat
- 67 Rental agreement
- 68 Story
- 69 Give a meal to
- 70 Small archipelago part
- 71 Certain Eastern European
- 7 Dread
- 8 Capacitance unit
- 9 Finish up
- 10 Flowers
- 11 Highway entrance
- 12 Pimples
- 13 Potato peel
- 21 __ piercing
- 22 A long time __
- 25 "Everyone knows": 3 wds.
- 26 Astrological scales
- 27 Best possible
- 28 Highly decorative
- 29 Destiny
- 30 Tire pattern
- 32 Mortgages, e.g.
- 33 "Middlemarch" author
- 34 Investigate
- 37 __ Field (Mets stadium)
- 40 Loathed
- 47 Take a chair
- 49 Three: Prefix
- 50 Representatives
- 52 Land area units
- 54 Fifty percent
- 55 __ vera
- 56 Foundation
- 58 Taken by mouth
- 59 Smelling organ
- 60 Actual
- 61 Glamorous party
- 62 Height: Abbr.
- 64 Former QB Manning

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Santa Ana City Council punts admonishing member

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

With Election Day a week away, the Santa Ana City Council met to discuss but ultimately delayed taking any action, including censure, against Councilman Johnathan Ryan Hernandez.

Prompted by a complaint, an independent probe recently sustained a trio of city charter and ethics code allegations against him in relation to the special event planning of the Juneteenth Festival, Chicano Heritage Festival and Indigenous Peoples Day events.

At the same time, another probe into a complaint made against Santa Ana Mayor Valerie Amezcua by former City Manager Kristine Ridge did not sustain its discrimination, harassment and retaliation claims.

The outside investigations were ordered last year before City Atty. Sonia Carvalho reported the results during an Oct. 15 council meeting.

Amezcua called for Monday afternoon's special meeting but denied its timing had anything to do with the election, as Hernandez is currently campaigning for another term against a Santa Ana police union-backed candidate.

"This is not political," she said. "This [report] was conducted by an outside investigator. This was not done by the mayor's office or the city manager's office or the city attorney's office."

Amezcua is also up for reelection.

The report was not made publicly available prior to the special meeting and, at least one council member claimed she did not have ample time to review be-

fore voting on taking action, if any, in response.

Hernandez defended himself as an advocate for the three events in question and blasted the probe as "retaliation" for a Brown Act complaint he made against Amezcua alleging that she conspired with other council members to sack Ridge as a means to fire former Santa Ana Police Chief David Valentin.

"We are wasting the public's time when my actions have not costed the city in lawsuits or settlement demands," he said.

"Black, Native and Chicano people belong here in Santa Ana and I will do my due diligence to make sure you continue to have a seat at the table," Hernandez added.

The report, obtained by TimesOC after Monday's special meeting, found the most serious of all four allegations against Hernandez — that he solicited donations for the events that were not received by the city — was not sustained by investigator Alfonso Estrada, a partner of the Los Angeles-based Hanson and Bridget law firm.

Estrada did find a "preponderance of evidence" that Hernandez "directed or interfered" with city staff during the planning of the special events.

Hernandez counted Dwayne Shipp, who helped organize Juneteenth festivals in Santa Ana as president of the Orange County Heritage Council, among his supporters. Shipp moved this year's festival away from Santa Ana to Anaheim after the city opened the celebration up for proposals.

"If it wasn't for us reaching out to him, the very first Juneteenth would've never happened," Shipp



Genaro Molina | Los Angeles Times

SANTA ANA Councilman Johnathan Ryan Hernandez blasted the investigation into him as "systemic racism." He is currently campaigning for another term.

said. "He was the bridge that allowed us to have communication with the city staff when there were problems."

"The only thing I can see Councilman Hernandez being guilty of is helping Black people," he added.

Estrada's investigation sustained the finding that Hernandez overstepped the city charter during a meeting with staff where he interjected that the event flier designed by Shipp's group would be the one used to promote last year's Juneteenth Festival.

From the dais, Hernandez claimed that a former city manager remarked the flier looked "too Pan African," a comment not included in the report.

Prior to the meeting, Councilman David Peñaloza wrote a letter to Carvalho urging her to prosecute the sustained allegations of city charter violations as a misdemeanor

or offense.

On Monday, he responded by reading from the report's assessment of Hernandez's credibility, which described his responses to allegations as "self-serving" and "sanctimonious" with an apparent bias against city staff.

"I'm sorry if he feels this is politically motivated," Peñaloza said. "But guess what? Follow our city charter, follow the rules and this wouldn't have happened."

Estrada found the complainant, whose name was redacted, to have been "credible," in part, but also prone to "overreaching" allegations not supported by the facts, especially in regards to speculation over any mishandling of special event donations from sponsors.

Councilwoman Thai Viet Phan didn't agree with the timing of the special meeting and complained that she only received the re-

dacted report during it.

"I have not had time to review it," Phan said. "I'm not ready to make any such decision tonight, especially when it comes to something so high-profile and so important."

A number of council members did review the report in person at the city attorney's office ahead of the meeting.

The investigation also looked into the complaint made by former City Manager Kristine Ridge against the mayor that alleged Amezcua created a hostile work environment. Ridge "refused to participate in the investigation," which did not sustain her discrimination, harassment and retaliation claims.

No discussion or action on the Amezcua investigation was put on the special meeting's agenda.

Estrada interviewed Amezcua, who he found credible, and two witnesses

while reviewing relevant documents. The mayor denied making any hostile remarks about Ridge being a white woman or her status as a non-Spanish speaker, including an allegation that she told Ridge "you don't understand my community or culture."

Amezcua surmised that Ridge was opposed to her as a Santa Ana police union-backed politician and claimed she called her "Gerry's Girl," in reference to former Santa Ana Police Officers Assn. President Gerry Serrano.

Ridge resigned last October with a majority of council members approving a \$652,000 severance agreement in response to her legal claims of emotional distress.

The vote was taken behind closed doors and before an investigation commenced.

Regarding Hernandez's Brown Act complaint, Carvalho previously reported that the Orange County's district attorney's office found "insufficient evidence."

Now that it's over, Amezcua said that if the outside investigation sustained allegations against her, she would have apologized.

"If the shoe had been on the other foot, do you think we would be sitting up here?" Amezcua said. "Of course, we would. They would all be screaming, 'Hang the mayor.'"

The council voted 5-1, with Councilwoman Jesse Lopez absent, to continue the discussion after the elections during the scheduled Nov. 19 council meeting.

gabriel.sanroman@latimes.com
Twitter: @gsanroman2



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Laguna resident realizes her public art wish

BY ANDREW TURNER

Those taking a stroll in downtown Laguna Beach of late have been reminded of the community's penchant for protecting the environment.

For the past month, passersby have laid eyes upon "Protect, Don't Pollute," a public art installation created by Amy Rose Hammond that now serves as the decorative surface of the performance stage on Forest Avenue.

Featuring an array of fish species amid a kelp forest in the deep blue sea, the 13-foot-by-16-foot mural calls attention to the importance of knowing the impact of one's actions on the environment.

"The original call for artists was for something referencing the fact that Laguna is a marine sanctuary," Hammond said. "Originally, it was going to be down there for the summer months, so it was going to be June through August, and I wanted to remind visitors, basically, protect, don't pollute. Don't leave trash on our beach, that there's animals out there. ... I just wanted them to have



Courtesy of Chris Moreno

ARTIST AMY Rose Hammond stands over her marine-inspired mural, "Protect, Don't Pollute," at the Stage on Forest in downtown Laguna Beach.

more of a realization. ... I kind of wanted it to be a message to the broader public."

The Laguna Beach native said she is not an activist or an environmentalist but rather an artist who grew up in the town and loves the beach.

Hammond, who exhibited at the Sawdust Art Festival about a decade ago before returning this summer,

had longed for an opportunity to have a public art project.

The transformations of the vintage phone booth on Forest Avenue helped drive her desire to have a commissioned public art piece.

When luck turned in her favor, she was all too happy to take it.

"First, they chose this one guy, but then he backed out," said Ham-

mond, who added the winner was selected by the Laguna Beach Arts Commission. "Then they brought me and the other girl back to present, so it wasn't like I won them over. Honestly, it was like I just got lucky, but having said that, I was trying to do a public art project in Laguna for a couple years. That was like a goal, so I was very pleased to get my foot in the door."

Origin stories: Artists examine and protect their past at OCCCA

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

A persimmon tree stands in the backyard of Maribel Nuño Navarro's parents' home. The tree is one of the symbols Navarro uses to explore her heritage in a piece titled "El Persimmo (the Persimmon Tree)" featured in the Orange County Center for Contemporary Art's exhibition, "Original Sources."

"It is a portrait of how I envision heritage looking, conceptually," said Navarro, who co-curated the show with fellow artist and friend Juan Gomez.

Multiple images are layered into the graphite work; ancient ruins blending seamlessly into plants, animals and the persimmon tree make it difficult to see where one image ends and another begins.

Opening Saturday and running through Nov. 30, "Original Sources" features 11 artists examining ances-

tral influences and the ambiguity of time. Like Navarro's work, a shared history in a family can trace so far back it can be hard to know exactly where it began or when it evolved to give way to the present.

The diverse work of Navarro and Gomez along with Chris Maya, Christopher A. Velasco, Dino Perez, Em Hernandez, Juan-Carlos Perez, Kiyomi Fukui, Priscilla Scott-Chavez, Sara Hassan Khani and The-ZonkyGirl explores different cultures using a variety of mediums.

Found objects make up an installation from Dino Perez, a well-known local Santa Ana artist, who uses imagery from childhood like popular cartoons and other home decor alongside political signs for Pete Wilson and Proposition 187 that sought to prohibit access to public services for undocumented immigrants in the 1990s.

"He is calling back to youth culture in his childhood, and there are some statements here that I can relate to," said Gomez, who is a Santa Ana native himself. "Talking about immigration and the fear of your parents being deported back to their country of origin."

Gomez himself calls on his own family history for a sculpture piece, titled "Sobresaliendo," that incorporates elements of iron and rope.

"My father worked several types of jobs over this working career," said Gomez. "Truck driver, construction worker, but one that always stuck out to me was iron work."

A scrap of ornate iron fencing sticks out from one of his pieces, a signifier of protection and a call back to his father, an iron worker who Gomez remembers as the protector of his family. "Original Sources" also

ask questions about the lack of recorded history for some individuals and how difficult it can be to build an identity when there isn't access to source material.

A piece by Los Angeles based artist Priscilla Chavez Scott, for example, photographs a woman in water in two phases, first with her face just about the surface, the moment before she submerges herself fully, the second when she is underwater, weightless and untethered.

"It makes me think about the fragility of holding on to certain ties you have culturally; especially when you don't have access to elders or recorded history it can feel very suffocating," said Gomez. "You can feel drowned, the loss of breath."

By making this work the artists are in some way preserving their past and holding on to their own recorded history, protecting it.

An honorarium of \$5,000 was awarded for the piece, which is expected to remain on display at the Stage on Forest until the beginning of December.

The dedication ceremony took place on Oct. 3, and with much of the town waiting at the entrance to the Festival of Arts for the Taste of Laguna that evening, prominent among the audience were members of the Laguna Bluebelt Coalition.

"Protect, Don't Pollute" is a great motto for our town, whether it is our bluebelt or greenbelt," said Jinger Wallace, a co-founder of Laguna Bluebelt Coalition. "Trash, plastic or urban run-off to our ocean destroys the beauty of Laguna's natural resources. Our thanks to Amy Rose for creating this magically important reminder of the sea life we need to protect."

The organization recently named Charlotte Masarik its inaugural Mermaid of the Year, an honor that will be bestowed upon a deserving Merman or Mermaid in the community who has contributed significantly to the success of the local marine protected

areas.

"Her dedication and enthusiasm shows you don't have to be a top-notch scuba diver, free diver or surfer to appreciate and champion sea life recovery," Wallace said in announcing the award in late September.

Hammond expressed appreciation for the support she received from Laguna Bluebelt, adding, "I'm definitely interested in their messaging."

As a show of putting the ideas behind the painting into practice, Hammond said she attempted to use only recycled materials for the mural. The exception came in using varnish to protect both the piece and the floor upon which it was displayed.

"Art supplies can be pretty toxic sometimes, so it's important to just be aware and minimize it," Hammond said. "When I cleaned my mural, which I do sometimes down there, I don't use soap because I don't want it to run off into the ocean. I just use a microfiber and water."

andrew.turner@latimes.com
Twitter: @AndrewTurnerTCN



Courtesy of Juan Gomez

"ORIGINAL SOURCES" at the Orange County Center for Contemporary Art features the works of 11 artists exploring ancestral influences. It runs through Nov. 30.

On Nov. 16, from 3 to 6 p.m. OCCCA will host a talk with the artists featured in the exhibition led by Joanna Roche, an art history professor at Cal State Fullerton. The co-curators said the discussion will give the artists the opportunity to speak more about their works.

"Maribel and I, being the curators, can only say so much," said Gomez. "The artist talk will give the artists a chance to say their piece."

Although the artists don't necessarily know each other, Navarro said the like-mindedness of their works and their dedication to honoring their pasts connects them.

"We think the same way," said Navarro. "We are not that different in the way we think about ourselves in relation to our past and the way we try to belong."

sarah.mosqueda@latimes.com
Twitter: @SarahNMos

PRESERVE

Continued from page A1

people showing up... there's interest in the community. People really want to see this thing succeed."

AN AMBITIOUS GOAL REALIZED

The process of securing Randall Preserve began in 1999 with the creation of a Sierra Club task force intent on saving at least part of the former oil field. The 387-acre parcel was known as Banning Ranch and sought after by developers hoping to capitalize on what had been one of the last remaining areas of undeveloped real estate in coastal Orange County.

In around 2006, a proposal from a development group called Newport Banning Ranch to build almost 1,400 homes, a hotel and retail space on the land started gaining traction, Welsh said. After years of back-and-forth and revisions that whittled the scope of the plan down to about 900 units, the Newport Beach City Council approved an environmental impact report for the project, clearing one of the last hurdles in the way of its construction.

Meanwhile, Welsh and members of the task force created the Banning Ranch Conservancy, an independent nonprofit working to preserve the undeveloped space. That group, which eventually became the Coastal Corridor Alliance, filed a lawsuit against Newport Beach challenging the environmental report. It won a unanimous decision from the California Supreme Court in 2017.

Additionally, plans for

construction were rejected by the California Coastal Commission in 2016. During the course of a roughly nine-hour hearing, commissioners noted a disconnect between developers and members of the community.

"Between the Coastal Commission denial and the state Supreme Court decision, the owners and developers were kind of set back to square one," Welsh said. "And at that point, we didn't know what they were going to do. They could have come back with a smaller project. The Coastal Commission never said you cannot build on this property, you just couldn't build something as big [as the plans called for]."

On the heels of those two victories for the conservation effort, the nonprofit Trust for Public Land entered negotiations with the owners of Banning Ranch about selling the property to those who wanted to turn it into a nature preserve. Their asking price was \$97 million.

Coming up with all of that money was daunting, Welsh said. But a pivotal \$50-million contribution from the new nature preserve's namesakes, Frank and Joan Randall, helped make it possible. The Trust for Public Land was able to secure the remaining \$47 million with grants and funding from a variety of different organizations.

"There was this huge question mark about where we could ever get the money to buy this property," Welsh said. "... That just changed everything. All of a sudden the discussion picked up momentum, agencies became interested in helping out. Frank and



File Photo

JOAN AND Frank Randall donated \$50 million to help turn a former 400-acre oil field into a nature preserve.

Joan's donation is the single most important thing that has helped this effort. We should always be grateful for them, and I'm happy the site will be named after them. They should always be remembered for their good deed."

SETTING THE FOUNDATIONS OF A DREAM COME TRUE

The Trust of Public Land completed the purchase of Banning Ranch in December 2022. The property was subsequently handed over to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, a public agency that manages local public open spaces. The agency is the current leaseholder of the property and will take on the Frank and Joan Randall Preserve's development and maintenance in partnership with the Coastal Corridor Alliance and other organizations.

The trust is working with state, county and city officials as well as a variety of nonprofits and the public to shape the future of the preserve. At Monday's

workshop, people learned about how they can provide input on the process and got advice on how to submit more helpful comments.

Those interested in the process can submit early comments and questions to planners via the Coastal Corridor Alliance's website. Another workshop will be hosted for the public on Thursday.

Conservationists are simultaneously writing four plans outlining how the public will access the space, the best ways to sustain the delicate habitats it encompasses, strategies to mitigate the effects of climate change and safeguard to protect artifacts and locations considered sacred to the Tongva and Acjachemen communities who originally inhabited the area. They hope to have drafts available for the members of the public to view and weigh in on by April.

"We're all very excited about it because we view it as more outdoor space, and more opportunity for peo-

ple who live in our community to get outside and have a park," Matt Kliszewski of the Newport Shores Home Owners Assn. told the Daily Pilot after Monday's meeting. "So it's gonna be great, just, a lot of questions about when and how."

The timeline of the park's development and how soon it might open were the most popular topics among attendees. Maintenance and cleanup of the preserve were also raised by local residents worried about the potential of trash left behind by visitors once the preserve becomes available to the public. Others expressed concern about the possibility of homeless people creating encampments in the area.

The decommissioning of oil rigs and other equipment as well as the removal of contaminants leftover from drilling in Banning Ranch are other matters that must be dealt with before the park opens. Fortunately for conservationists, the seller of the property took on responsibility for those tasks and is covering the cost of cleanup. That process could take about another year, and appears to be moving forward on schedule, Welsh said.

But despite a number of questions and concerns that still need to be hashed out, the former Banning Ranch's future as Orange County's newest nature preserve now seems all but certain.

"I honestly assumed it was going to be built on," Lesley Hill, the Environmental Mitigation Program manager for Orange County Transit Authority and a lifelong Orange County resident, said after Monday's meeting. "Living

in Southern California and Orange County, that's just what happens.

"Here we have this amazing property that's not going anywhere," she continued. "I love it. Now I have three kids, and someday hopefully soon I'll be able to go on the property with them. And if my kids stay in the area they'll be able to go on the property with their kids. To me that's a legacy."

A HUGE, CONTIGUOUS BOON FOR STRUGGLING SPECIES AND HABITATS

The space once known as Banning Ranch features roughly 100 acres of marshes, mudflats and riparian scrub and 67 acres of coastal sage scrub. It's home to burrowing owls, fairy shrimp, peregrine falcons and other species sensitive to the effects of human development on the environment.

The planned 387-acre preserve will expand an existing swath of green space that includes neighboring Talbert and Fairview parks. The inclusion of the Frank and Joan Randall Preserve will mean a contiguous 1,000-acre space in coastal Orange County will be set aside for future generations to enjoy and learn from, Welsh said.

"The larger the area, the more likely the ecosystem will survive," Welsh said. "It doesn't survive very well when it gets broken into little fragments. But when you have 1,000 acres of contiguous open space, there's a chance that the animals out there can reach an equilibrium and survive."

eric.lucas@latimes.com
Twitter: @EricLucas



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forum

MAILBAG

Happy to vote from afar (and to prove his identity)

With a permanent residence in Huntington Beach, where I was born and raised, and where my parents still reside, for the past 15 years I have been living and teaching abroad, in both Asia and Africa. This global journey has expanded my worldview, while also redefining my perspective of “home” when I am in Southern California for Summer and Winter Break. From Korea to Ethiopia and from Djibouti to, currently, China, I have been able to keep a perfect voting record overseas, submitting by fax in every national as well as local election since 2009. I am grateful for the opportunity to vote from these dynamic countries, and I welcome those interested in checking my ID for voter fraud to come to Beijing and see for themselves.

Matthew Jellick
Huntington Beach



Robert Gauthier | Los Angeles Times

MAIL-IN BALLOTS are processed at a facility where they are received from the post office, opened, sorted and verified then sent to be counted. A reader invites anyone concerned about his right to vote to travel to China to check his ID.

Posts reveal a lot about candidate

Do Costa Mesa voters really know the guy behind the “Faith, Family, Freedom” signs?

James Peters is running a campaign about crime, homelessness and pot shops. But a glance at the public posts on his personal Facebook page tells a much uglier story about the man who wants to be our mayor — one of racism, homophobia and election denialism.

“Import the Third World, become the Third World” says one post of many warning about the evils of

immigration. How does Peters intend to lead a city as diverse and multiethnic as Costa Mesa?

His posts are full of crude homophobia and transphobia, too, including a meme mocking Rachel Maddow for her appearance, and another with a cartoon of a doctored Dr. Seuss book cover that says “If you’re born with a dick, you’re not a chick.” There’s an AI-generated image of Joe Biden kissing a little girl, too, with a caption from Peters reading “Pedophile in chief.”

And then there’s the election denial: References to the Jan. 6 rioters as “political prisoners,” to Donald Trump as the rightful winner of the 2020 election, and to voting machines and early voting as inherently corrupt and untrustworthy. Does Peters even intend to accept the results of our local elections?

It only takes a few minutes of scrolling through his page to establish that this is a man brimming with prejudice, susceptible to ridiculous propaganda and utterly unfit to lead our

city. Please, Costa Mesa, reelect John Stephens and leave the wingnuttery to Huntington Beach.

Eliza Rubenstein
Costa Mesa

Weiss choice for Laguna

Laguna Beach is fortunate to have George Weiss on the City Council. Before he was elected, incivility was at an all-time high. He demonstrated real leadership right out of the gate, tackling tough topics and

carefully researching issues before making fact-based decisions. Over the last four years, he’s stood up for residents, saved the library, supported parks in South Laguna and done so much for our environment.

Transparency and accountability are important to him along with fiscal responsibility. The City Council majority is considering many high-dollar projects over the next four years. We need him there. Councilman Weiss sponsored the agenda item requiring the city to get an appraisal for

any property valued over \$500,000 after being the only “no” vote over the wasteful purchase of the former TiAmo restaurant property. For all these reasons and many more, our family supports George Weiss.

Trish Sweeney
Laguna Beach

Crane vs. Stemler

At a time when politics has seemingly subsumed the best interest of students in school board elections, I am encouraged by the candidacy of Carol Crane for Newport-Mesa Unified School District Trustee Area 3 and encourage voters to reelect her. Crane is the current president of the school board, and I’ve been very impressed with her commitment to providing a quality educational experience to all students in the district. Of note is her recent advocacy in updating a board policy disallowing cellphone use during school hours for all K through eighth grade students. She has also led major e-bike safety initiatives at all our elementary and middle schools.

In contrast, her opponent appears to be running for political reasons rather than a commitment to quality education and to actively serving his community. He recently acknowledged that he had never attended a school board meeting nor joined the PTA. He commutes daily to the Inland Empire, which will make it harder to be a physical presence

See *Mailbag*, page A9

A WORD, PLEASE | JUNE CASAGRANDE

In a nod to English, the ‘idiot’s apostrophe’ gets sanctioned in Germany

In French, to show that someone possesses something, you use their word for “of,” which is “de”: *La plume de ma tante*. Spanish works the same way: *La venganza de Moctezuma*. Italian, too: *Buca di Beppo*. I don’t know as much about German, but the internet tells me that in many cases you form the possessive by just adding an S at the end of



the noun: Angelas Mercedes. And then there’s English.

A simple “of”?

Sure, we can use it in rare constructions: A friend of Bill. But usually we don’t.

A simple S? No can do. That’s our system for forming plurals. Marias means more than one Maria. Not that Maria owns something. An apostrophe plus S?

Sure, sometimes, but only when you’re talking about a singular: the cat’s tail. When your noun is plural, you usually add an apostrophe with no S: the cats’ tails. But that’s only when the plural is made plural with an S. When it’s plural and doesn’t end with S, you add S plus an apostrophe just as you would for a singular: children’s books.

From the outside look-

See *Word*, page A9



Markus Schreiber | Associated Press

A PERSON RAISES the Union Jack flag between the German and European Union flags in front of the Brandenburg Gate at the eve of the visit of King Charles III at the German capital in Berlin in March 2023. The ‘idiot’s apostrophe’ has gotten official approval in Germany.



Charlotte Butler Skinner, *Rocks*, date unknown, Oil on board, 13 x 15 in. Collection of the Nevada Museum of Art, bequest of John A. White, Jr., in memory of Charlotte Skinner’s grandson, James Skinner.

End of the Range: Charlotte Skinner in the Eastern Sierra

October 5, 2024 – January 18, 2025

Exhibition on view at:
18881 Von Karman Avenue, Suite 100, Irvine, CA 92612

Explore the artistry of Charlotte B. Skinner (1879-1963), renowned for her vibrant depictions of California’s Sierra Nevada and Owens Valley desert country. This exhibition, organized by the Nevada Museum of Art, has been generously supported by John A. White, Jr., in memory of Charlotte Skinner’s grandson, James Skinner.

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Summit serves a community hungry for change

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

Crunchy vegetables with Yucatan-style pumpkin seed dip. Squash quesadillas with avocado salsa. Heiroom beans. Little gem lettuce with lemon-garlic dressing.

This might sound like a menu for the newest farm-to-table restaurant, but it is actually a menu the Alice Waters Institute envisions for public school lunches. It is also the lunch served at last week's Farm-to-School summit at the Ecology Center in San Juan Capistrano.

The all-day event on Oct. 24, hosted by Rumiano Cheese, gathered 25 local farmers, thought leaders and food service professionals from 35 California school districts, all dedicated to getting more California K-12 schools to source organic, local, regenerative school lunches.

"This is a gathering of really the ecosystem around K-12 and local farming," said Joe Baird, a past chairman at the Ecology Board and chief executive officer of Rumiano Cheese. "We think it is probably the first of its kind in terms of bringing farmers in direct contact with districts and people that are in the middle to empower and bridge the gap."

Rumiano Cheese was recently awarded a USDA grant to bring organic cheese to K-12 schools in California. Baird said schools want to support local agriculture, and while there is financial empowerment to do so through the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the California Department of Food and Agriculture, there is still a disconnect between farms and schools.

"What we are hoping to do is build the supply chain, if you will," said Baird. "How does the product get from a farmer or a food hub to a school district?"

Attendees heard from speakers from the Alice Wa-



Sarah Mosqueda

EVAN MARKS, founder and executive director of the Ecology Center, speaks at a Farm-to-School summit.

ters Institute, the Chef Ann Foundation and the California Department of Food and Agriculture and also took a tour of the Ecology Center farm, which has the distinction of being the nation's first certified regenerative organic fruit and vegetable farm. Three panels titled "Nature," "Nurture" and "Nutrients" covered topics like "A Roadmap to Regenerative Farming/Agriculture," with panelists like Andrew Dickinson of Dickinson Family Farms.

Guests enjoyed the seasonal lunch, inspired by chef, author and activist Alice Waters' forthcoming school lunch manifesto titled "School Lunch Revolution." The Alice Waters Institute has partnered with Rumiano Cheese as part of a CDFA grant to help school food service directors make connections with farmers and food producers in their local food community.

"The goal is to activate something we like to call

school supported agriculture," said Jennifer Sherman, culinary director of the Alice Waters Institute. "How can we take the purchasing power of the K-12 and higher ed schools in the state of California and support our local, small BIPOC family farms with direct purchasing?"

Building a relationship between local produce providers and schools benefits all parties involved, Sherman said.

"It is a win-win-win because the kids get really delicious seasonal organic local food, the farmers in the rural communities are supported, we keep the dollars in the community, and we take care of the planet," said Sherman.

The Alice Waters Institute is an extension of work Waters has done for many years.

Waters, who opened the iconic Chez Panisse in Berkeley in 1971, founded the the Edible Schoolyard

Project in 1995. The nonprofit organization effectively transformed the food experience at a public middle school in Berkeley. Today the Alice Waters Institute seeks to partner with the state's K-12 public schools and higher education to expand food procurement systems. It does this work at summits like the one held at the Ecology Center and by working directly with schools.

"In order to get kids to think beyond oranges, apples and bananas and carrot nubbins and chicken nuggets we need to edibly educate kids," said Sherman. "The Edible Schoolyard Project is 30 years old, and it is bringing gardens and kitchen classrooms into schools and actually teaching kids about where their food comes from. Now the next iteration is this Institute, which is taking their knowledge and now connecting it to the cafeteria."

The summit was attended by leaders like Kristin Hilleman, director of food and nutrition services at Capistrano Unified School District, which is at the forefront of the farm-to-school movement.

"Our district is participating in the Chef Ann Foundation Healthy School Food Pathways, where we have some of our employees who work with us currently going through the pre-apprenticeship, so we are an apprenticeship site," said Hilleman. "In addition to that we have been working with Shared Plate Strategies as a consult group to help us with our procurement of all things farm-school related."

The Ann Foundation works to make sure school food professionals, like Hilleman, have the resources, funding and support necessary for them to provide healthy and delicious school meals that not only benefit children's

health but the planet. Hilleman, who has been in school nutrition for nearly 20 years, said she has seen positive changes in national school lunch programs.

"In the years since I have been in this, I have seen a distinctive shift toward healthier items," said Hilleman. "We had the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act go into place back in 2010. That shifted the meal pattern into a standardized meal pattern for every school district participating."

Hilleman said collaboration efforts of nonprofits and other local organizations, like those present that summit, have also been a helpful.

"The Chef Ann Foundation, Eat Real, Center for Ecoliteracy, Friends of the Earth ... so many of them have helped us bridge that gap between being able to work with large manufacturers and draw it down to our small manufacturers and our farmers."

The summit ended with a networking mixer, allowing speakers and attendees to connect and keep up the momentum of the movement.

Baird noted that in his time working with the Ecology Center, he has seen the nonprofit grow.

"We went from 1 acre and really just an educational center with nine staff members to today, nearly 28 acres and a farm and ecosystem that is still growing," he said.

He and the other leaders at the summit would like to see the same kind of growth happen for the people working together to get organic, local, regenerative food into school cafeterias.

"There is a movement happening," said Baird. "My hope is people see that and they want to become part of it."

sarah.mosqueda
@latimes.com
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RIDES

Continued from page A1

to their polling place safely and comfortably.”

Chief Executive Darrell Johnson said in an interview Friday the new promotion builds upon other ridership initiatives that, for example, offer free and discounted service to youth and college students.

“We’re trying to get people to have opportunities and not have transportation be a barrier,” he said. “Voting is an opportunity, part of our democratic process, and we can remove transportation as a barrier, at least for this one day.”

Transit agencies across the region and state may offer up to five fare-free

days each year to encourage public transit use and help reduce congestion, while improving air quality and promoting safety and equity.

OCTA this year has hosted free ride promotions honoring Rosa Parks Day in February, Earth Day in April and Clean Air Day in October and will also offer free rides on New Year’s Eve. Johnson said the system shuttles an estimated 125,000 riders per day and typically sees increased ridership of about 2% to 5% on free-ride days.

“It’s not huge, but it is a boost for people who were maybe not going to take that ride that day,” he said.

Costa Mesa Mayor John Stephens, selected in 2023 to serve on the Transportation Authority’s Board of

Directors representing the county’s Fifth District, said providing more access to voting centers is a good thing.

“There was a time when almost every neighborhood had a voting site. And now, for various reasons, voting locations have been contracted, so a lot of people have to take transportation to vote,” he said Friday. “For the people who need it, it’s great to have this free transportation.”

Standard bus fare typically costs \$2 per entry, although riders can purchase day passes for \$5, and seniors and students may receive discounted rates. For a full list of bus routes and schedules, visit octa.net.

sara.cardine@latimes.com
Twitter: @SaraCardine



Eric Licas

COSTA MESA Mayor John Stephens pays for bus fare during 2023 trip with Councilwoman Arlis Reynolds, who went a week without driving as part of a statewide initiative.

LEGACY

Continued from page A1

the exhibit. “They will recognize the influence of George Grosz, William Blake and Otto Dix.”

Speaking to its broader appeal, Carr’s paintings are eye-catching enough to have piqued the interest of college students casually passing by as Tonkovich unloaded art pieces to be installed.

For Tonkovich, an author and retired UC Irvine English lecturer, the showcase is part of a personal mission to be the keeper of his mentor’s flame. The two met when Carr taught comparative literature at Cal State Long Beach and Tonkovich was his student.

“I was charmed by this totally charismatic teacher who kind of made me the weirdo that I am today,” Tonkovich recalled. “He was somebody who brought politics and life and love into the world. You could see that he adored his students.”

The pair only got to know each other for a little more than a year before Carr’s unexpected passing at 55 from a heart attack.

Jeanie Bernstein, Carr’s wife, entrusted Tonkovich with becoming the custodian of her husband’s vast archive of paintings, posters and writings after her own death in 2011.

Tonkovich donated Carr and Bernstein’s papers to UC Irvine’s Special Collections and Archives.

He also rolled up and donated a select few of Carr’s posters to the Center for the Study of Political Graphics in Culver City

Other posters, including one promoting a protest against an “arms bazaar” at the Anaheim Convention Center, are on display at the exhibit.

Carr’s artwork has only been posthumously exhibited once before, at BC Space in Laguna Beach in 2017. Tonkovich and Lisa Alvarez, his wife, celebrated the release of their edited anthology, Orange County: A Literary Field Guide, at the gallery while showcasing some of Carr’s art.

But once James MacDevitt, the director of Cerritos College Art Gallery, spent a day with Tonkovich looking at his vast Carr collection, a singular and larger re-evaluation of the late activist and artist’s creative output became an imperative.

In addition to Carr’s large-scale paintings, the exhibit that MacDevitt co-curated alongside Tonkovich also includes his drawings, notebooks, and self-published books.

“If you just walk through the show, the exhibit tells the story because Carr documented it all,” Tonkovich said. “There’s journals, buttons and bumper stickers that accompany his work.”

As Carr helped found the O.C. branch of the Alliance for Survival, an antinuclear organization, much of his



Ryan Sumida, courtesy of Cerritos College

“PETER CARR: Artist for Survival” runs through Dec. 13 at Cerritos College Art Gallery.

IF YOU GO

“Peter Carr: Artist for Survival” is on exhibit at the Cerritos College Art Gallery, Fine Arts Building Room 107, 11110 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk. The gallery is open Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

self-taught art reflects a stance that saw nuclear proliferation as an existential threat to humankind. It also inspired him to form Artists for Survival, a creative auxiliary of artists and poets.

A few paintings on display document a Saturday morning peace vigil that he and his wife faithfully showed up at every weekend in Laguna Beach to protest U.S. intervention in Central America or the nuclear arms race.

Another painting shows people swimming through an orange ocean with the San Onofre Nuclear Gener-

ating Station faintly in the backdrop, a subtle if stern denunciation.

“Peter didn’t live to see it, but that goddamn nuclear power plant is now decommissioned,” Tonkovich said. “God bless Peter Carr.”

The exhibit also threads through the “Discovery” of California, which Tonkovich describes as Carr’s opus. Though the activist disregarded conquest narratives, he did come to appreciate O.C. from Aliso Creek in Laguna Beach and the Santa Ana Mountains, ecosystems that feature prominently



ART ENTHUSIASTS peruse the exhibit during its opening.

through his three decades of innovative artwork.

Tonkovich hopes that people rediscover Carr through the retrospective, which is on exhibit through Dec. 13, and come to appreciate one of the county’s unheralded heroes.

“Not to pat myself on the back too much, but for 40 years, it turns out, I was

right all along,” he said. “This guy was an amazing outsider artist, a self-taught writer and poet. Carr was a person who was, first and foremost, an Orange County artist. I’m doing my best to make him immortal.”

gabriel.sanroman@latimes.com
Twitter: @gsanroman2

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CITY OF COSTA MESA NOTICE ANNUAL REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEE REPORT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Costa Mesa City Council at the regular meeting on **Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.**, in the City Hall Council Chambers, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, California will consider the following item:

ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE CITYWIDE DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEE AND TRAFFIC IMPACT FEE ACTIVITY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
California Government Code Section 66000-66008 requires an annual review and accounting of the Citywide Development Impact Fee Activity and Traffic Impact Fee Activity for the Fiscal Year. Agency description of specified activity is posted in the City Clerk’s Office.

Public Comments:
Public Comments may be made in person by attending the meeting, may be made via Zoom Webinar, or send in written comments. Members of the public wishing to participate in the meeting via Zoom Webinar may find instructions to participate on the agenda. Members of the public may also submit written comments via email to the City Clerk at cityclerk@costamesaca.gov and they will be provided to the City Council, made available to the public, and will be part of the meeting record. Any written communications, photos, or other materials for copying and distribution to the City Council that are 10 pages or less, can be e-mailed to cityclerk@costamesaca.gov, submitted to the City Clerk’s Office on a flash drive, or mailed to the City Clerk’s Office. Kindly submit materials to the City Clerk **AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE, BUT NO LATER THAN 12:00 p.m.** on the day of the hearing, **November 19, 2024**. All materials, pictures, PowerPoints, and videos submitted for display at a public meeting must be previously reviewed by staff to verify appropriateness for general audiences. No links to YouTube videos or other streaming services will be accepted, a direct video file will need to be emailed to staff prior to each meeting in order to minimize complications and to play the video without delay. The video must be one of the following formats, .mp4, .mov or .wmv. Only one file may be included per speaker for public comments. Please note that materials submitted by the public that are deemed appropriate for general audiences will not be redacted in any way and will be posted online as submitted, including any personal contact information. For further assistance, contact the City Clerk’s Office at (714) 754-5225. The City Council agenda and related documents may also be viewed on the City’s website at <http://costamesaca.gov>, 72 hours prior to the public hearing date. **IF THE FOREMENTIONED ACTION IS CHALLENGED IN COURT**, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in the notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City Council at, or prior to, the public hearing.
Brenda Green, City Clerk, City of Costa Mesa
Published November 3 and 10, 2024

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DEAL

Continued from page A2

fice if elected, as printed ballots already list her as a District 3 City Council candidate.

But the D.A. claimed that Gamble is ineligible to hold office and a special election would have to take place should Rancho Santa Margarita voters elect her.

As part of the plea deal, Gamble would pay restitution for the cost of a special election, if necessary.

Keri Lynn Baert, the sole candidate running against Gamble in District 3, thanked the D.A. for investigating the matter but isn’t taking Tuesday’s election for granted.

“It’s very important for voters to be able to trust the election process,” she

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CONTACT US

Carol Cormaci
Executive Editor
carol.cormaci@latimes.com

Beth Raff
Advertising Manager
(424) 225-9928
beth.raff@latimes.com

10540 Talbert Ave., Suite 300 West, Fountain Valley, CA 92708

Reporters:
Sara Cardine, Costa Mesa
sara.cardine@latimes.com
Eric Licas, Newport Beach
eric.licas@latimes.com
Sarah Mosqueda, TimesOC
sarah.mosqueda@latimes.com

Gabriel San Román, TimesOC
gabriel.sanroman@latimes.com

Matt Szabo, Huntington Beach and Sports
matthew.szabo@latimes.com

Andrew Turner, Laguna Beach and Sports
andrew.turner@latimes.com

Send Letters to the Editor to erik.haugli@latimes.com. See Mailbag for guidelines.

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said. “I’m still going to talk to voters because the issues are important. I want to win a majority of votes and not have to run again in a special election.”

Gamble is expected to appear in court on Friday to enter her guilty plea.

With just days before the Nov. 5 election, Gordon has, again, alerted authorities to another alleged perjury case. He submitted a complaint to the district attorney claiming that Rancho Santa Margarita Councilman Tony Beall attested to signatures he did not circulate or witness for his

mayoral campaign.

“Anyone who suggests that I did not personally gather and witness my nomination signatures is lying and exposing themselves to damages for libel and slander,” Beall said when reached by phone on Friday. “I personally gathered and witnessed every single signature.”

When asked, a D.A. spokeswoman stated that the office does not confirm investigations.

gabriel.sanroman@latimes.com
Twitter: @gsanroman2

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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WORD

Continued from page A6

ing in, this can seem like an odd system. Illogical. Some might even say idiotic.

That's exactly what they're saying in Germany, where the "idiot's apostrophe," as some call it, just got official approval.

Amid a long-term trend of businesses using these English possessive apostrophes on signs — like Rosi's Bar instead of the correct Rosis Bar — the Council for German Orthography, which regulates how the German

language is taught in schools and used in government, gave its blessing to the *Deppenapostroph*, or "idiot's apostrophe." It's now in the council's official style guide, meaning it's no longer wrong in German.

Some German speakers are pretty unhappy about it, saying that their language is caving in to the influence of English. One German who was quoted in the media said this apostrophe "made his hair stand on end." But some German language experts are more forgiving, pointing out that German already allowed these apos-

trophes to prevent confusion, for example to keep straight possessive "Andreas's" and the common men's name "Andreas."

I, too, have some thoughts.

Our system for forming possessives isn't great. One big problem is that we use the apostrophe-plus-s combo not just for possessives but also for contractions of "is" and "has." "Bob's here," for example, isn't possessive. It means Bob is here. "Who's been to Germany" means "who has been to Germany."

Pronouns like "who," "me," "you," "it," etc. have their own possessive

forms that contain no apostrophes: whose, my, your, its, etc. This leads to a lot of mistakes. Even people who know better can carelessly use the apostrophe and S with "who," as in, "Who's car is parked outside?" That's wrong. It should be "whose car." Then there's the most common apostrophe mistake of all: using "it's" as a possessive: The dog wagged it's tail. That should be "its." With the apostrophe, it means "it is" or "it has."

Our system also makes it very tempting to shove an apostrophe where it doesn't belong in some

plurals: The Ricci's are coming over for dinner. He drank too many mai tai's. The lineup included several singing duo's. None of those should have apostrophes.

But you can't blame people for getting confused because, in English, sometimes we do allow apostrophes to form plurals, like in "mind your P's and Q's" and "He got all A's in school."

On top of all that, sometimes rule books contradict each other on how to use apostrophes. For example, in book-editing style, you'd write "James's car," but in most news

media, the correct form is "James' car."

This messy system can fairly be called "idiotic." But "idiot's apostrophe"? Possessive "idiot's"? Not fair. In English, mastery of the apostrophe requires advanced study most of us don't get in school. So you can say our possessive apostrophe is idiotic, but don't call its users "idiots." "Geniuses" is more like it.

JUNE CASAGRANDE is the author of "The Joy of Syntax: A Simple Guide to All the Grammar You Know You Should Know." She can be reached at JuneTCN@aol.com.

MAILBAG

Continued from page A6

on campus, which is really essential to understanding what each school community needs.

Crane has done an excellent job as a school board member, and she will continue to be a strong advocate for our kids. It's her full-time job! Please consider voting for her on Nov 5.

Susan Skinner
Newport Beach

As both a mother and a Corona del Mar High School graduate myself, I'm enthusiastically supporting Philip Stemler for Newport-Mesa Unified school board in Trustee Area 3. His unique perspective as a prosecutor, alumnus and father of two district students gives him exceptional insight into what our schools truly need.

The reality of our district's academic performance demands attention: Newport-Mesa should be a leader in meeting state English and math standards but various numbers provided by the district say otherwise. Our children face unique social issues that often interfere with what they are there to do — learn. As a father watching his own children navigate these challenges, Stemler refuses to accept these

HOW TO GET PUBLISHED

Send an email to 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.

statistics as "good enough." His vision is clear: return to classical education fundamentals, keep politics out of our classrooms and focus on academic excellence that will genuinely prepare our students for their futures.

Our school board needs more than someone who can attend fundraisers and flag decks. It requires a leader with real expertise in oversight and accountability. Stemler brings both the perspective of a concerned father and the professional experience of a public corruption prosecutor — exactly the skills needed to manage our district's \$400-million budget and policies. He understands that parents must be fully informed partners in their children's education, and his career has been built on ensuring transparency in public institutions.

What sets Stemler apart is this rare combination of personal investment and professional expertise. As we face important decisions about our children's

education, we need a school board member who brings real-world experience in fiscal responsibility, policy oversight and unwavering commitment to high-quality education and parental involvement.

Please join me in voting for Philip Stemler for Newport-Mesa School Board in Trustee Area 3.

Jennifer Simpson
Newport Beach

H.B.'s reputation on the line

Huntington Beach's current MAGA-dominated City Council has drawn negative attention from conservative-leaning media and organizations from near and far — in California, throughout the United States, and even in Europe. They have justifiably criticized the majority council's anti-democratic policies such as censoring library books, abolishing the human relations commission, rewriting the longstanding human dig-

nity statement (by removing the term "hate crimes" and inserting anti-LGBTQ+ language), and using government overreach to pry into the private lives of young people related to sexuality and gender identity. All of these culture-war policies were voted in despite widespread backlash from the community at City Council meetings and in emails.

Now, three additional MAGA candidates, backed by outside money, are vying for seats on the City Council. These candidates, along with our city attorney, have pledged allegiance to former president Donald Trump, who last weekend, in what he called a "love-fest" at his Madison Square Garden rally, made crude and racist comments to whip up his base. Most U.S. citizens don't want Trump back in their lives. Let's stop MAGA from taking over Huntington Beach by voting for the rational candidates: Rhonda Bolton, Dan Kalmick and Natalie Moser. And for city clerk, Regina Blankenhorn is the only candidate with the experience needed to put the community's interests first.

Carol Daus
Huntington Beach

It's time for Huntington Beach voters to grow up and vote for proven leaders who do their homework

before each city council meeting, ask questions and guide the discussion in order to make the best decision for all residents of Huntington Beach. These incumbents who have earned our votes are Rhonda Bolton, Dan Kalmick and Natalie Moser. They have voted against the air show settlement (giveaway) of millions of dollars, against privatizing library operations and against censoring books with a banana republic book review committee. Yes, they voted for a senior care facility that residents desperately need and for affordable housing development. They follow the law and approve projects based upon, input from residents, city zoning and design standards.

We H.B. voters are at a crossroads in the administration of council meetings and elections. Will that seat be filled by someone hand-picked by the city attorney, Lisa Barnes, or someone who is independent and will follow the law, Regina Blakenhorn?

The results of the election will be very telling: Will Huntington Beach be a city that respects the rule of law or will it continue its path of reckless governance and filing whimsical lawsuits at the expense of taxpayers?

Patricia Goodman
Huntington Beach

When four EMTs shifted me onto a gurney dazed and half paralyzed from an accidental fall last month, I had no doubt that I was in the care of trained professionals. As nurses wheeled me into the operating room at UCI, even before the anesthesia kicked in, I was completely confident that behind the masks there were neurosurgeons who ranked among the best educated and trained that anyone could hope for. Convalescing this week, I watched the Dodgers and Yankees go at it, knowing from their baseball pedigrees that I was witnessing top professionals at work. In each case, those professional's successes spoke for themselves.

That's why it's so frustrating to see the now infamous Huntington Beach City Council majority striving to add inexperienced and underqualified candidates to their bungling midst. Singularly outrageous, first-time candidate Lisa Lane Barnes' government experience consists of only one short stint as a perfunctory commissioner. Barnes demonstrated in monthly public meetings that she was not an advisor but a rubber stamp kept usefully in the dark by her council majority bosses.

I hope that H.B. citizens realize that her under-

See Mailbag, page A10

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- Corn Chowder**
Fresh corn, applewood smoked bacon
- Caesar Salad**
Chopped hearts of romaine, herb croutons, shaved manchego
- Butternut Squash Raviolis**
Sage brown butter, pistachios
- Lobster Bisque Soup**
Northern Australian lobster, sherry wine, diced chives
- Bungalow Salad**
Greens, hearts of palm, feta, olives, red onion, bay shrimp, tarragon vinaigrette
- Bungalow Prawns (Five dollar supplement)**
Spicy cocktail sauce

ENTRÉE SELECTIONS

Tier 1 | Sixty four dollars per guest

- Pan Roasted Turkey Breast**
White & dark meat, whipped Yukon Gold mashed potatoes, house made stuffing, turkey gravy
- Blackened Wild King Salmon**
Yukon Gold mashed potatoes, avocado relish, honey jalapeno beurre blanc
- Pasta Primavera**
Linguine pasta, roasted fennel, yellow squash, celery, carrots, marinara sauce
- Braised Short Ribs**
Slow braised in a Cabernet veal stock, Yukon Gold mashed potatoes, braising jus

Tier 2 | Seventy four dollars per guest

- Prime Rib of Beef**
Au jus, creamy horseradish, whipped Yukon Gold mashed potatoes, broccolini
- Prime Rib of Beef & Pan Roasted Turkey Breast Combination**
Whipped Yukon gold mashed potatoes, house made stuffing
- Prime Filet Mignon**
Eight ounce prime filet mignon, whipped Yukon Gold mashed potatoes
- Miso Marinated Chilean Sea Bass**
Soy glaze, coconut rice, stir-fried vegetables, mushrooms, lemongrass ginger beurre blanc

Tier 3 | Eighty four dollars per guest

- Prime Bone-In Rib Eye**
Sixteen ounce prime bone-in rib eye, whipped Yukon Gold mashed potatoes
- Northern Australian Lobster Tail**
10 ounce tail, drawn butter, grilled lemon, Yukon Gold mashed potatoes

DESSERT SELECTIONS

- Berries and Ice Cream**
Fresh seasonal berries, vanilla bean ice cream
- Vanilla Crème Brûlée**
Vanilla custard, fresh raspberries
- Pumpkin Cheesecake**
House made whipped cream
- Chocolate Bundt Cake**
Chocolate cake, vanilla bean ice cream, chocolate sauce

A 3% processing fee will be added to all credit card transactions. For guest that choose to pay with cash, the 3% fee will be waived. 20% Gratuity will be added to parties of eight or more. *The chef respectfully requests no splits or substitutions please.



Lady Luck: Ina Garten discusses her memoir

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

Ina Garten admitted that she felt pressure to write her memoir for years.

"It took me so long to decide to do it, and I thought to myself, 'Who is going to want to read that?'" said the Food Network personality, also known as the Barefoot Contessa. "How interesting can that be?"

The resounding applause inside the sold-out Segerstrom Hall in Costa Mesa answered her question.

Garten's long-awaited memoir, "Be Ready When the Luck Happens" released on Oct. 1, is already a New York Times best-seller, joining her catalog of 13 bestselling cookbooks. On Oct. 24, she joined actress and comedian Julia Louis-Dreyfus on stage to talk about the new book and the life she is lucky to live.

Although Garten is often portrayed in her kitchen in the Hamptons, she began her career in a very different environment. She was working at the White House as a staff member of the Office of Management and Budget when she answered an ad in the New York Times' Business Opportunities section for a 400-square-foot specialty food store called Barefoot Contessa in Westhampton Beach.

For the new book, Garten's longtime collaborator, Deborah Davis, interviewed her, and the two women also visited important locations from Garten's life, which helped retrieve memories. They



James Carbone

INA GARTEN (aka the Barefoot Contessa), the author of 13 best-selling cookbooks and a Food Network personality, speaks about her memoir, "Be Ready When the Luck Happens," in an interview with actress and podcaster Julia Louis-Dreyfus at Segerstrom Hall in Costa Mesa on Oct. 24.

paid a visit to the house she shared in Washington, D.C. with her husband, Jeffrey Garten, to recall the conversation they had before they went to look at the store. Unbeknownst to the couple, the store would become the catalyst for an entirely new career for Garten. Being back in the same spot and remembering that fateful day reignited emotions for the now 76-year-old.

"Deborah said, 'Let's stand in front of the steps and tell me about the conversation you had with Jeffrey when you were leaving to go to Westhampton,' and I lost it," said Garten. "I forgot that it was such a hard conversation. I had to actually be there to remember the emotion of it ... I forgot how unhappy I was in

Washington."

Garten left her bureaucratic job and took over the Barefoot Contessa shop, and went on to write cookbooks and catering she did there. She eventually launched two television series: "Be My Guest" and "Barefoot Contessa" on Food Network and Max, earning five Emmy Awards and three James Beard Awards.

Louis-Dreyfus, who hosts the award-winning podcast "Wiser Than Me," asked Garten what she thought of the memoir-writing experience.

"Was it exhausting?" Louis-Dreyfus asked.

"It was exhilarating," Garten said.

While Garten is often compared to other domes-



INA GARTEN books on display at Segerstrom Hall.

tic goddesses like Martha Stewart and Paula Dean, Garten possesses an accessibility that has made her popular across a wide range of audiences. She has popularized phrases like "How easy is that?" and "Store-bought is fine" that makes her lifestyle attainable rather than aspirational.

Garten credits much of her success to luck, as the title of her new book implies.

"When I was buying a specialty food store, I was really lucky that I had chosen a field at time when women were going back to work and they had jobs, they had families and they had houses to take care of and they started buying dinner to take out. The specialty food stores were really happening. I was really lucky that I caught this."

But she also acknowledges that although she had never worked in a

kitchen before, she had taught herself to cook, and she spent time renovating houses and taking out loans to fund such projects. The skill set she cultivated prepared her in the years leading up to taking over the store.

"I did these things because they were fun, not because it was work, and I realized I was ready when the luck happened," said Garten.

In the book, she discusses some things her many fans already know, like her long romance with her husband of over 50 years, but there are also stories that are less familiar, particularly ones about her difficult childhood.

"A friend of mine who writes about childhood development said the expression is: what goes in early, goes in deep," said Garten.

Most of all, her fans were also there for talk about cooking, which Garten manages to present in

away that is both enticing and achievable. She and Louis-Dreyfus gushed while discussing a French salad, served warm.

Garten described "a warm vinaigrette with chicory and bacon."

"I imagine its hard to make," said Louis-Dreyfus.

"It's not, you just have to get the balance of flavors right," Garten said. "I am actually working on that for my next cookbook."

Garten told funny, personal stories about camping with her husband and trouble she has gotten into with her bad French. She also shared about her professional life, learning how to run Barefoot Contessa on the fly and the process of putting together her first book proposal. Garten took questions from the audience submitted ahead of time about favorite recipes and cooking, and signed copies of her books, including the new memoir, were for sale in the lobby.

Garten said she feels fortunate that each time in her life she dove into a new adventure, be it business ownership, cookbook writing or launching a show on the Food Network, the experience always worked out incredibly well. Luckily, it seems her memoir can be added to that list of successes.

"Deborah said somebody is going to write your memoir, and it should be you," said Garten. "And I finally said, 'OK, sign me up.'"

sarah.mosqueda
@latimes.com
Twitter: @SarahNMos

MAILBAG

Continued from page A9

funded opponent, Regina Blankenhorn, with years of employment in city government, will bring stability and professionalism to the city clerk position. For me, experience matters when results matter.

Buzz McCord
Huntington Beach

As we approach the upcoming election, it's worth taking stock of the situation in Huntington Beach. Since the last election brought four right-wing ideologues onto the City Council, our city has become a hotbed for divisive politics and a laughingstock across the country and around the world for ridiculous and wrong-headed efforts to disrupt reasonable city services such as our wonderful library system. The four City Council members and the city attorney are responsible for causing the city to face financial deficits after they lost multiple costly lawsuits and made backroom deals to give many millions of our taxpayer funds to their political supporters, such as the owner of the Pacific Airshow.

Meanwhile, the three remaining experienced and rational City Council members have been hounded and disrespected for two years! Those of us who want a return to normal city government are incredibly grateful that Rhonda Bolton, Dan Kalmick and Natalie Moser have remained steadfast in maintaining their commitment to Huntington Beach. We ask that the voters return these three selfless public servants to the City Council so that they can contin-

ue their efforts to protect the city.

Diane Bentley
Huntington Beach

It's unfortunate that the spookiness of this Halloween will carry over to Election Day the following week. As a current and former poll worker, a customer service representative on duty in a downtown Huntington Beach Vote Center, I am not worried about ghosts, goblins and ghouls, but members of the macabre MAGA machine trying to scare local voters here with all manner of mendacious mischief. The amount of misrepresentation, misinformation and mudslinging poured into smearing our council incumbents and their allies has been both disturbing and horrifying.

First, I can assure those who intend to cast their ballots on Tuesday that voter fraud will not be a problem. Period. All reputable media outlets would agree.

Second, state Sen. Dave Min's legislation, SB 1174, recently passed and signed into law, disallows the demand of voter ID for already registered citizens in localities like Huntington Beach. Proclamations by MAGA minions, especially city clerk candidate Lisa Lane Barnes, that they would implement voter ID are dangerously misguided. Barnes has no municipal government experience, but her opponent, Regina Blankenhorn, has decades of working with cities and local governments and would be a stable and honest official here. We need to follow the law. Period.

Third, only the reelection of Natalie Moser, Rhonda Bolton, and Dan Kalmick to the City Council will prevent Surf City's reputation from suffering further degradation and will preserve civic integrity and trust. It is scary to contemplate a dangerously defiant and inept seven-member conservative City Council with no guardrails and no

constraints. Period.

This year, we need to prevent ideological idiocy from haunting our hometown further.

Tim Geddes
Huntington Beach

Fact: SB 1174, recently signed into law, disallows the demand of voter ID for already registered citizens. Fact: Huntington Beach city clerk candidate Lisa Lane Barnes, with no municipal government experience, promises to implement voter ID anyway. Fact: Our city will again be sued by the state. We will lose, again. City Atty. Michael Gates is a consistent loser in his legal actions against the state at enormous cost to Huntington Beach taxpayers. With an already broken city budget, citizens must vote for Regina Blankenhorn to become city clerk. She has decades of experience working with cities and local governments and would give H.B. a stable, experienced and honest professional clerk.

Nora Pedersen
Huntington Beach

As we wind down the final days before the election, it should not be lost on anyone that the Huntington Beach is awash with huge political banners for the challengers on almost every street corner. One might think that this is a representation of the energy of the people for their candidates, but nothing could be further from the truth.

Despite the attempt to hide the source of funds that paid for these signs by making the required disclosure so small it's not legible from any significant distance, a little research shows that the same powers that were behind the egregious airshow settlement are also the ones funding the challenging candidates.

The conclusion to draw from this is clear: They think they can "buy" the election. And they are doing it with our taxpayer dollars.

Don't let them get away with it — your vote is your voice. Use it wisely.

David Rynerson
Huntington Beach

I agree with Patricia Apodaca that compassion will be very much in need depending on the outcome of the election (Apodaca: A call for compassion as O.C. elections near, Daily Pilot, Oct. 27). In Huntington Beach the conservative

majority were not satisfied with controlling the agenda with such frivolous items as privatization of the public library and the book-banning agenda and have encouraged a slate of like-minded conservatives to challenge the three minority members whose opposition has kept the majority honest.

The city attorney has been steadfast in his endorsement of their actions and has spent thousands in taxpayer funds filing lawsuits against the state arguing that its status as a charter city allows it to enact special legislation including voter ID, which is outside the city's jurisdiction.

A candidate with no prior experience to run for the city clerk's office is running to implement voter ID. This candidate previously worked for a nonprofit, and now the nonprofit has endorsed her opponent, as a result of fiduciary issues. Also running for city clerk is Regina Blankenhorn, who has worked for other municipal city clerk offices and has the experience necessary to be an excellent city clerk from day one.

Richard C. Armendariz
Huntington Beach

Fliers are misleading

I received two fliers today for the Newport Beach City Council race, which has lately become almost as contentious as that of Huntington Beach. One flier is very unfair and misleading about Nancy Scarbrough's position on the state-mandated housing issue. It is a complicated issue, which the supporters of the flier have put forth because the council has reversed its position, not Scarbrough.

The council started by bemoaning the fact that the state was making the city build affordable housing. That was a few years ago. Then recently council members completely reversed their stance and decided to build far more units than the state was requiring. This was a decision that should have been voted on by city residents according to the Greenlight Initiative passed by the residents almost two decades ago. Residents are now suing over this scandalous omission. The flier calls Scarbrough an agent of hypocrisy while in reality, it is the council who are hypocrites for pulling a 360 on its original decision.

Scarbrough, who has been endorsed by council members Brad Avery and Robyn Grant as well as several former mayors, many community leaders, as well as the Newport Beach Police Assn. wants the council to submit its decision to increase the number of houses to the vote of the people. That is why so many in the city support Nancy Scarbrough for City Council. And that is why the people are suing the council.

The second flier pretends to make Noah Blum, whose council seat is being challenged by Jeff Herdman, a hero for taking on homelessness in the city. Although Blum's name is not mentioned in any of the sample advertisements depicted on the fliers, we are to believe that by strengthening the anti-camping law, which is mentioned twice, that progress is made toward homelessness simply by not allowing the homeless to congregate in camps. No doubt this is a huge problem in California, but the way to solve homelessness is to find homes for those who have none.

The other was a brag sheet for Blum, one of the most divisive figures in council history. As per usual the fliers misrepresent the truth. But the truth is never the goal of these misleading and often fraudulent fliers.

Lynn Lorenz
Newport Beach

Petition shows will of people

One library petition down. One more to go. The residents have spoken (Protect Huntington Beach delivers signatures against children's book review board to City Hall, Daily Pilot, Oct. 28). There is so much wrong with Ordinance No 4318. The claim the review committee is needed because of all the "pornographic" books the librarians were allowing in the children's library. There is no pornography in the children's section. That would be illegal.

Our local Barnes & Noble sells the same books, but the mayor is not demanding it be closed or those under 18 years old without parents with them be banned from entering. Yet this is something our council majority wants to do with our library with its parent/guardian review board, when one does not need to be a parent, or

guardian or have any knowledge or experience with children to apply.

The committee would be able to refuse to order books the librarians requested. There would be no appeal. Our mayor says this is not a ban. She is completely missing the point. Librarians are supposed to be neutral. A librarian does not refuse to order a positively reviewed book which meets the needs/interests of the community just because the librarian personally does not like or agree with it.

It is also worrisome that the council majority's approval of children/teen restricted library cards and restricted access to the adult book shelves has yet to be enforced. Is it because the council is waiting until after the election so not to hurt the chances of the candidates they endorse, or could they be waiting to see if we can get enough signatures on our outsourcing petition? Outsourcing library management to a private company would give the company control over the library book collection, staffing and programming. We cannot allow this to happen.

A public library is supposed to reflect the interests and viewpoints of all members of the community; a city library run and managed by the city. Let's keep it that way.

Barbara Richardson
Huntington Beach

On Monday, Oct. 28, volunteers from the grass-roots group, Protect HB, submitted boxes with enough signatures for a Ballot Initiative Petition to Repeal a Huntington Beach City Ordinance. This ordinance would create a politically appointed book review committee that could make decisions that would be final and unappealable. Our efforts were made possible because hundreds of volunteers believed in democracy. This was truly democracy in action. We are not finished. We are circulating another ballot initiative petition to prevent private management of the Huntington Beach public libraries. Decisions about our treasured libraries should not be made by four city council members. Time for the voters to have an opportunity to vote on library issues. Our petitions will do that.

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