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Freeway express lanes set to go

14-mile stretch is part of \$2.1B I-405 Improvement Project that will offer commuters a faster drive for \$9.95 or less.

BY MATT SZABO

The 405 Freeway is known as the busiest in the country.

Specifically, Orange County Transportation Authority CEO Darrell Johnson notes, the stretch where the 405, 605 and 22 come together at the northern edge of Orange County is the busiest section of freeway in America, carrying nearly 400,000 vehicles per day.

Those drivers will soon have a time-saving option, as the new 405 Express Lanes are scheduled to open on Dec. 1.

"Doing a project like this under that extreme amount of volume, we think obviously it's hard, but there's also a lot of benefit to have those 400,000 people a day have a different option to go through there," Johnson said.

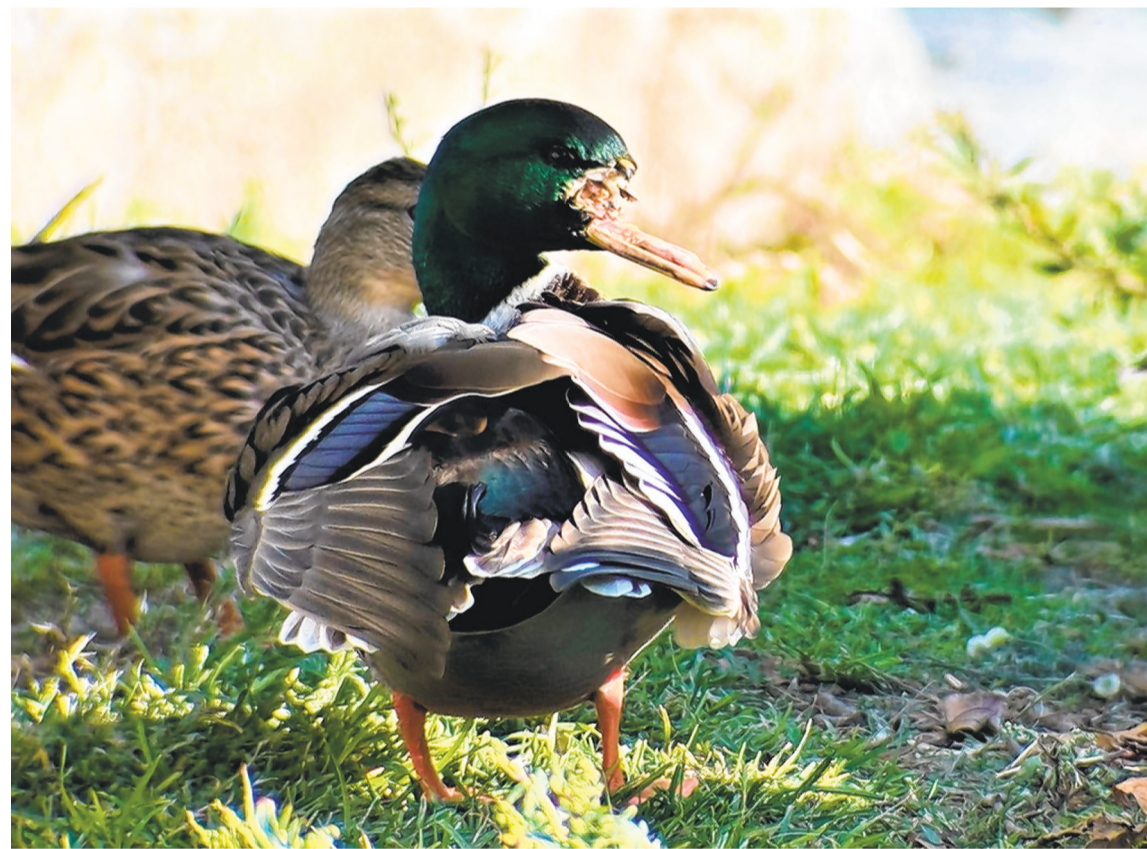
See [Lanes](#), page A8



LOOKING NORTH on Thursday, the new 405 Express Lanes stretch through Fountain Valley as part of the I-405 Improvement Project from the Orange County Transportation Authority. The lanes are scheduled to open Dec. 1.

Don Leach
Staff
Photographer

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Robert Di Massa

A MALE MALLARD is seen with a severe bill injury at Mile Square Regional Park in Fountain Valley.

Bird injuries at Mile Square Park baffle advocates

BY SARA CARDINE

Mile Square Regional Park at dusk is a daily destination for Robert Di Massa, a hobbyist wildlife photographer whose affinity for the numerous bird species there has inspired more than 40,000 photos and video scenes in recent months.

But among the snaps of spry kingfishers hunting hapless quarry from atop the bulbous heads of swan boats, or arcs of ibises mid-flight and blue herons hunkered down in the treetops, several photos document a different side of life at the park.

Image after image of birds, their feet entangled in fishing line tight enough to cut off circulation, anger the bird lover in Di Massa. And then there are the waterfowl.

Over the past four months, the Fountain Valley resident has been observing mostly mallards with disturbing signs of mutilation — their bills appear broken or completely severed, in some cases causing their tongues to loll out of their mouths at a garish angle.

"The first day I was there, I noticed an injured goose missing half of its beak," Di Massa, 55, recalled. "Over a period of time, I started witnessing more and more injured birds. The ones with broken beaks seemed to be in clusters."

He initially thought the broken bills might be injuries sustained from occasional crash landings, as ducks aren't known for their agility. Some at the park sug-

See [Bird](#), page A2

Love Newport Beach kicks off with meeting of local leaders

BY LILLY NGUYEN

In the Newport Beach Public Library's community room Thursday roughly 50 civic leaders — from faith communities, businesses and government institutions — took a deep look at just what they love about the city they call home.

For some, the diligence of its full-service city staff stood out, while others extolled the values of how beautiful Newport Beach is. During part of a short interview session moderated by Brian Darrow, the lead pastor at W Church, Mayor Pro Tem Will O'Neill said what he likes most about Newport Beach is its people, the city's willingness to get necessary work done.

"It's one of those things, where especially when you get into an elected office, you realize that

See [Leaders](#), page A7



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

IAN STEVENSON, executive director at Trellis International, asks the 50 civic leaders who attended what they love about Newport Beach during the inaugural city leaders' gathering for Love Newport Beach Thursday at the Newport Beach Central Library.

ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

PACIFIC MARINE MAMMAL CENTER EXPECTS TO MOVE INTO TEMPORARY SITE IN NOVEMBER PAGE A2

THRILLER NIGHTS IN ANAHEIM THROWS IT BACK TO '80S AND '90S HORROR PAGE A6

MUSCO CENTER SETS ITS SIGHTS ON MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP'S 'THE LOOK OF LOVE' PAGE A7

Temporary site to house marine mammals

BY ANDREW TURNER

Following its busiest time of year, the Pacific Marine Mammal Center in Laguna Beach is getting set to move operations over to a temporary location due south of its big red barn.

Officials broke ground on the Next Wave Expansion in March, a \$14-million project headlined by the incoming installation of a water reclamation system that will allow the center to recycle up to 90% of the water it uses.

The temporary site should be up and running by late November, Pacific Marine Mammal Center chief executive Glenn Gray said. Construction crews were seen conducting foundational work for the facility in a visit on Oct. 19.

Stationed between the city's Alternative Sleeping Location for persons experiencing homelessness and the Laguna Beach Dog Park, the replacement site will be equipped to accommodate patient capacity similar to what the center can now handle.

"We'll have a full-functioning rescue rehab facility, as we do now," said Jorge Villa, director of rescue and logistics at Pacific Marine Mammal Center. "The only difference is we're not on site here at our barn. We're across the way, but we'll be able to accommodate about the same number of animals that we do cur-



THREE SEA LION pups, Raindrop, Miley and Kenny, swim in a pool at the Pacific Marine Mammal Center.

rently, so sea lions, elephant seals, and the rest of the marine mammals that we normally pick up that strand."

Among the features at the temporary site are five small pools, two large pools, two dry areas, and two ICU units. The facility required some space at the north end of the dog park. Sound-deadening fencing separates the new site from

the dog park.

"When I went to attend the Planning Commission meeting for this topic, I was bookended by representatives of the Friends of the Dog Park, and I was thinking, 'Uh, oh. What's happening here,'" Gray said. "They said, 'No, we're here in support of it. We think this is great.'"

Gray expressed his appreciation for the collaboration

that will help continue the center's operations through the expansion process. He added that the portion of the park utilized by the center will be restored upon completion.

Major renovations at the center are expected to enhance the patient treatment capabilities and the educational opportunities for its visitors. A funding gap of about \$7 million remains.

Don Leach | Staff Photographer

Pacific Marine Mammal Center closed its doors to the public on Oct. 22. The closure is expected to last until the expansion project wraps up in the fourth quarter of 2024.

Prior to the closure, the center was getting ready to say goodbye to its final three patients of the season. The trio of baby sea lions — Kenny, Miley and Raindrop — were born at the center

after their mothers were brought in as rescues due to a toxic algae bloom.

"The births of all three of them were fairly uneventful," Dr. Alissa Deming said. "They all came out very strong, normal neurologic behavior, acting like what you would expect [of] normal baby sea lions — vocalizing, interacting and trying to suckle on their mothers, and so we decided to just monitor them and see if we were going to see the impacts of the domoic acid exposure, instead of reflexively euthanizing them."

Kenny, Miley and Raindrop were all born around the middle of June. Deming said that they were being transferred to SeaWorld San Diego, where they could be integrated with more of their own kind. The end goal is to prepare the sea lion pups to go to their ocean home.

"SeaWorld is a better, closed-off location for them not to see people because we need to raise them to be wild sea lions," Deming added. "We don't want them approaching people after we release them. They need to stay away from fishing boats and have good manners for a wild sea lion, so having them in a facility where they're not seeing as many people on a regular basis will give them the best chance possible for that."

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BIRD

Continued from page A1

gested snapping turtles living in the park's main lake might be the culprit, although none have ever been seen.

Di Massa fears the damage is human in nature.

"When I lay it all out and look at the whole picture, I see it makes sense that some people are capturing them and injuring them," he said.

RESCUE FATIGUE

Di Massa is not the only one who thinks there's something unsettling afoot at Mile Square. The phenomenon has attracted the attention of one Westminster couple, whose daily trips to the 607-acre park have become almost compulsory rescue missions.

Anna and Marshal, who asked that their surnames not be released to protect their privacy, come each day to the northeast corner of the park near the intersection of Edinger Avenue and Euclid Street.

They walk the perimeter of the main fishing lake with a skimmer net and two pairs of watchful eyes. They retrieve balls of tangled fishing line, lures and plastic trash from the shoreline and give the hundreds of waterfowl a quick look for signs of trouble. In their car they keep a carrier in case transport is necessary.

"I'd prefer not to do it, but the park rangers don't really make the rounds," Anna said of her efforts, adding that signs indicating how the litter can harm birds would go a long way toward educating the public.

Since July, they've noticed several damaging entanglements, lines cutting off the circulation of a goose's foot or, in some cases, seeing both legs bound together in discarded filament. Like Di Massa, they have also seen maybe a dozen ducks with severed bills.

"They'd sometimes have missing beaks. Sometimes

they're missing the whole beak, sometimes it's just the top," Marshal said. "Their faces are just cut to ribbons — it's very grotesque"

The couple used to call for park rangers when they saw the injured animals. But staff rarely came out, or showed up after an hour or more with just a towel. So, they began capturing and transporting ducks to the Wetlands & Wildlife Care Center in Huntington Beach.

"We used to be so sad about it at first," Marshal said of the rescues. "Now, we've gotten to the point where we're desensitized."

"We're not crying every time anymore," Anna agreed.

UNDER INVESTIGATION

Debbie McGuire, executive director of the nonprofit rescue center, said incidents of ducks with severed bills began last year, baffling wildlife officials, then stopped for a while before resuming earlier this year.

"It started up again this spring or early summer and has been nonstop," she said. "We've been sending in the ducks and geese to the lab for necropsies. They say it may be snapping turtles, but I think we'd be seeing all species suffering from that, not just mallards."

Unlike a fingernail, a duck's bill is filled with nerves that make injuries painful. Often, the cuts observed have ruptured birds' sinus cavities or rendered them incapable of eating, a fate worse than death, according to McGuire.

"They should kill them," she said. "It would be kinder than leaving them to die."

Mile Square Regional Park's acreage falls under the jurisdiction of Orange County Community Resources, which oversees O.C. Parks and the county's Animal Care division.

Community Resources spokeswoman Alexa Pratt confirmed Wednesday one incident of a male mallard duck missing the top of its bill was reported on Oct. 3



James Carbone

ROBERT DI MASSA uses binoculars to look for birds entangled with fishing line at Mile Square Regional Park.

to animal care officers by a park visitor.

"Officers responded and brought the duck back to the O.C. Animal Care Clinic. But, unfortunately, due to the extent of the injury, it was euthanized," she said.

Even though ducks and other migratory animals are wild and not technically considered property of the county, laws prohibiting their harm or endangerment exist.

One county ordinance reads: "No person shall hunt, kill, wound, feed, touch, tease, frighten, or intentionally disturb wildlife in any park, beach or recreational area, except persons in the performance of their official duties."

Pratt said Mile Square park rangers have been working with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to investigate potentially illegal incidents of animal harm at the park.

Patrick Foy, a captain for CDFW's Law Enforcement Division, confirmed Thursday an investigation was

ongoing and said he did not yet have anything substantive to share on the matter.

CONSTANT WATCH

While officers look into the activities, Anna and Marshal say they will continue their daily treks to Fountain Valley, net in hand.

They've tried to recruit other park goers into helping them pick up littered fishing lines or keep an eye out for injured birds but don't get much more than sympathy in response. So, like Di Massa, they maintain their daily vigil, fearing what will happen if they stop.

"Doing this has taken a toll on my physical and mental health," Anna wrote in an email on the subject, describing 10-hour work days capped off by two hours of park duty. "I'm just drained."

Di Massa agrees the park's current enforcement efforts seem to be coming up short.



Robert Di Massa

A DUCK at Mile Square Park with its foot wrapped in fishing line. Such entanglements are a common problem, even among endangered birds seen at the park, visitors say.

"In four long months I have not seen anyone walking or driving around the lake or near it," he said. "If someone is intentionally injuring these wildlife animals, no one would ever find them because it's a free-for-all."

"How can we do better as a community to protect our

wildlife?"
Anyone who discovers an injured animal at Mile Square Regional Park or any other county property is asked to call O.C. Animal Care's 24-hour line at (714) 935-6848.

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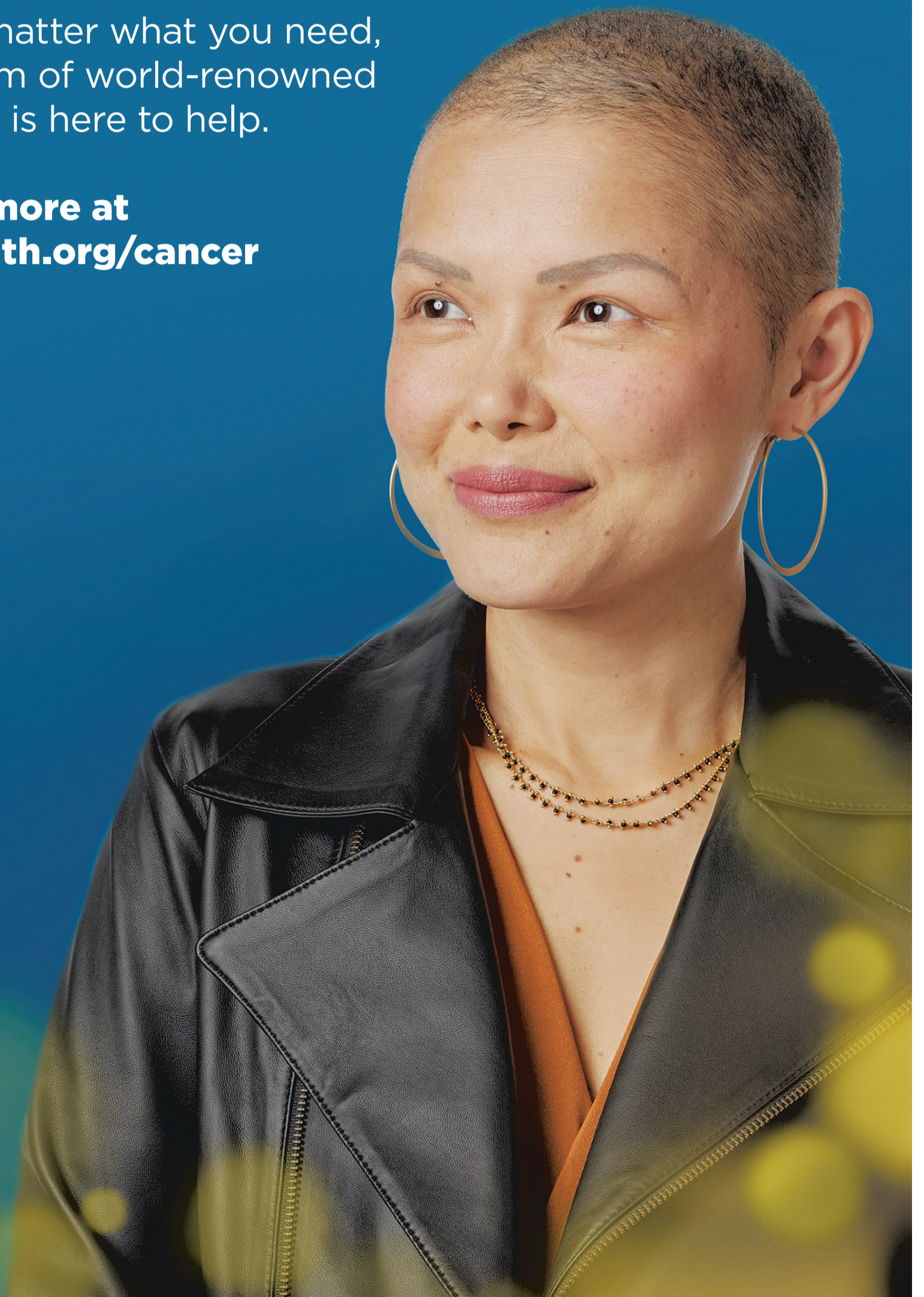
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JILL HARDY, LINDA MOULTON-PATTERSON, JOE SHAW AND GRACE WINCHELL**

Current Huntington Beach council majority sending city in wrong direction

Since December 2022 the Huntington Beach City Council has, at every meeting, brought forth controversial agenda items that have been met with public opposition.

At the very first meeting, rather than following established council policies, they chose a newly elected fellow council member with no city experience but who shared their views to be our next mayor rather than the council member with experience.

At the next meeting they changed campaign contribution limits from \$620 per person to \$5,500 per person and gave the city attorney such a substantial raise that he now makes more than the city attorney of Los Angeles.

They stopped the volunteers of the Huntington Beach Interfaith Council who represent a variety of faiths from giving the invocation.

They then voted to replace the council voting on what flags could be flown at City Hall with an ordinance to prevent the Pride flag, or any other commemorative

flag, from being flown at City properties. They settled a lawsuit brought by the air show for \$7 million before a judge could even dismiss the suit against the city, and they continue to refuse to make the rest of the settlement public.

Their actions have led to a lawsuit over housing numbers, and the loss of four of the city's top administrators. More recently, this council eliminated several citizens boards and committees, then gutted the city's Human Dignity Statement.

At the Oct. 17 meeting, this council voted to make changes that would change how our beloved libraries are managed. Instead of a well qualified staff making decisions, they voted to have a council-appointed panel of up to 21 members determine what children's books would be allowed in the library. The power to reject books or to determine what our children should read is book banning!

By approving a committee with the power to ban books from our libraries, the Huntington Beach

City Council majority showed they do not believe parents and guardians have the wisdom to help their own children select books from libraries by themselves and need the government to interfere. This action was taken after hundreds of our residents objected to what the council was doing. This book banning will damage our library's excellent reputation for years!

At the same meeting, the majority on this council voted to place charter amendments on the March 2024 ballot that will harm our city.

One amendment pulls the city out of the county's voting system, something no other city in Orange County does. This amendment would require the city, rather than the county, to operate municipal elections, require voter ID and monitor ballot drop boxes. Both the California attorney general and secretary of state have warned this amendment is inconsistent with state law.

Why would the city want to take over a process currently done exceptionally well by the

award winning O.C. Registrar of Voters office? There is no problem with voter fraud in Huntington Beach. There is no sound reason to waste taxpayer dollars to take over the operation of the elections of our council, attorney, clerk and treasurer.

City staff estimates the cost for one election will be between \$1.35 million to \$1.69 million. Taxpayer dollars. City staff reported the cost to provide 20 ADA-compliant voting locations can't be known at this time. Despite not knowing the total cost to taxpayers, the council majority recklessly voted to put this charter amendment on the ballot. In addition, this amendment opens the city up to a variety of lawsuits, which will result in the spending of even more taxpayer dollars at a time when the city is cutting budgets and services.

As mentioned, earlier this year the council passed an ordinance that requires only military or governmental flags be flown at city facilities, changing a policy that allowed the council by majority vote to decide what com-

memorative flags may fly on city property. This authoritarian ordinance is now proposed as a charter amendment that would require a unanimous vote of the council to fly commemorative flags. What on Earth happened to majority rule?

Currently no charter section requires a unanimous vote by the council. Should the first unanimous vote required be over flags? This amendment will also prevent any cultural or national flags from being displayed at the library or other city facilities.

Make no mistake, this is an attempt to place into the City Charter language to make it almost impossible to fly the Pride flag during Pride month at city facilities. This kind of intolerance should not be in our charter. This amendment and the others must be voted down.

We urge the people of Huntington Beach to reject the damaging amendments the council majority is proposing. Please go to the website ProtectHB.org to join us in opposing these amendments to our City Charter.

MAILBAG

A power-hungry agenda threatens Surf City

We, the citizens of Huntington Beach, must disempower the reactionary majority of the City Council by defeating them in elections and voting against their self-serving ballot proposals. Moreover, Mayor Pro Tem Gracie Van Der Mark's proposal that professionally trained librarians be superseded by a council-appointed library review board (no requirement for appointment specified) is further evidence of the ignorant and power-hungry agenda of misleadership under this right-wing municipal cartel. Fellow citizens, the future of Surf City is in our hands. End the reign of these town tyrants as soon as possible.

Ben Miles
Huntington Beach

The Huntington Beach City Council majority has had just about enough of public participation at City Council meetings. The Oct. 17 meeting had 128 speakers and received 547 emails.

So, the council came up with a plan that involved voting on the climate issue this past week. But this was not a regular City Council meeting. Rather, they scheduled it for Monday, Oct. 23 with a total of 14 people attending and speaking.

This council then voted 4-3 to withdraw from the OCPA. This reflects that Huntington Beach does not want to continue to be part of the effort to curb greenhouse gas emissions, a major issue of climate change.

What is going on in our city?

Flossie Horgan
Huntington Beach



James Carbone

SUPPORTERS OF THE Mobile Home Advisory board applauded a speaker during a Huntington Beach City Council meeting in August.

In May, the Huntington Beach City Council majority decided to remove custody of the council meetings' invocation from the Greater Huntington Beach Interfaith Council and award it to Mayor Tony Strickland as his prerogative selection. Thumbing his nose at diversity, Mayor Strickland has stuck with our police and fire chaplains, both Christian, since then in possible violation of the 1st Amendment. At its Oct. 17 meeting, the City Council passed a resolution supporting Israel and condemning Hamas for the brutal attack on Oct. 7. At a following special council meeting on Oct. 23, I suggested during public comments that the council break this cycle and have a representative

from one of the two faiths mentioned in the resolution present the invocation at the following council meeting on Nov. 7 if only to promote peace and restraint in light of possible future conflict. At the Mayor's Town Hall on Oct. 24, I reminded Mayor Strickland of the suggestion, and he thought it might be a good idea. He asked me if I had a rabbi in mind to do it. I deferred to an attendee who was with me and much more knowledgeable with the Interfaith Council. He made a recommendation, selecting someone different than Rabbi Stephen Einstein, a co-founder of the Interfaith Council, whose prayer in December last year was deemed political by the council majority. Various civic and com-

munity leaders thought the suggestion was a good idea and a fitting opportunity to return diversity and purpose to the council invocation in light of the recent resolution.

Mayor Strickland and the council majority have been criticized all year for ignoring the will of the community on various topics. As his mayoral year winds down, it is speculated that Strickland has the opportunity to put his money where his mouth is regarding his support resolution on Israel. To do otherwise would have his resolution ring hollow.

Tim Geddes
Huntington Beach

Seeking equity in Orange County

"Where conversation is not present, justice cannot arise."

Parting words from Poet Ali at the 2023 Orange County Grantmakers Summit held Oct. 5 at Orange Coast College remind us that equity is *not* possible without meaningful dialogue. The annual event provided a space for more than 400 philanthropists and nonprofit leaders to engage in conversations about what equity looks like in practice across Orange County, an ever-changing landscape historically home to diverse communities.

Of the many ideas explored in breakout sessions — from finding humanity in AI to trust-based philanthropy that invests in leaders and their vision — the concept of ethical storytelling resonated deeply in a conversation

about grounding organizational narratives in race, equity and social justice.

Words matter. And for many nonprofits, stories are a critical currency. In this insightful session, a dialogue was had about how the ways in which we talk, teach and practice storytelling can uphold harmful systems of oppression. The interactive learning environment offered an opportunity to deconstruct the narratives of marginalized or underrepresented groups and come from a place of truth and positivity that empowers the subjects rather than sensationalizes trauma.

The kind of thoughtful, actionable discourse that emerged from this year's summit cannot be a once-a-year occasion. To advance equity, racist and oppressive systems must be changed, historically oppressed communities must be heard, and they must find liberation and autonomy. That begins with continuing these important conversations and putting words into action.

To that end, Orange County Grantmakers convenes year-round with monthly workshops, briefings, and roundtables that range from deconstructing media stereotypes surrounding Arab and South Asian communities (held Oct 24) to equity in health (Dec. 6). Each event is centered on encouraging meaningful dialogue that can inform strategies to move us forward in our journey to a more equitable Orange County.

Taryn Palumbo
Huntington Beach

A WORD, PLEASE | JUNE CASAGRANDE

Though disputed among authorities, 'between' can work outside pairings of two

Can two people talk among themselves? Can three people have disagreements between them?

According to some of the more strict language authorities, no. That's not how "among" and "between" work. But in the real world, the definitions are more forgiving.

Let's start with this rule for publishers explained in the Chicago Manual of Style: "'Between' indicates one-to-one relationships (between you and me). 'Among' indicates undefined or collective relationships (honor among thieves)."

What if you have one-on-one activities within a group of more than two? For example, when you're talking about pairs of member countries of the European Union that trade with each other? The Chicago Manual says "between" works in these situations because you're still talking about one-on-one exchanges:



"'Between' has long been recognized as being perfectly appropriate for more than two objects if multiple one-to-one relationships are understood from the context (trade between members of the European Union)."

The equally influential Associated Press Stylebook has the same rule: "The maxim that 'between' introduces more than two covers most questions about how to use these words: 'The choice is between fish and tofu. The funds were divided among Ford, Carter and McCarthy.'" AP agrees that one-on-one relationships within larger groups get "between," as well: "'Between' is the correct word when expressing the relationships of three or more items considered one pair at a time: 'The games between the Yankees, Phillies and Mets have been rollicking ones.'"

As far as anyone can tell, this

rule dates back to 1851 when the "Grammar of English Grammars" (not published, as far as I know, by the Department of Redundancy Department) by a language expert named Gould Brown, insisted that "between" used for more than two people or things "is a misapplication of the word 'between,' which cannot have reference to more than two."

Other grammar authors followed Brown's lead, and the idea caught hold that you can never say, as Jane Austen did: "This, of course, is between our three discreet selves."

Which authorities did Brown and the others base their rule on? None, as far as linguists can tell. In fact, it seems these restrictive grammarians were laying down the law in open defiance of the grammar experts who came before them, most notably one Noah Webster, who wrote in his 1828 definition of "between": "We observe that 'between' is not restricted to two."

Today's style guides seem to have fallen under the spell of the 1850s disrupters and not the old-timers like Webster. But for us regular folks who just want to use the language well, it's good to remember that AP and the Chicago Manual aren't rule books. They're style guides, so they apply only to publishers following that style. For everyday people, a good dictionary works fine.

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary says that while "between" is "especially appropriate to denote one-on-one relationships," the idea that it only applies to groups of two is "unfounded." It's fine, this dictionary says, to use it for more than two things, as in "between you, me and the lamppost." Merriam's adds that "between" also works for unspecified numbers, as in "cooperation between nations," and even "when only one item is mentioned (but repetition is implied): 'pausing between every sentence to rap the floor.'"

Merriam's warns that if you try too hard to please the old-school grammarians, you can end up with bad sentences like: "The author alternates among mod slang, clichés and quotes from literary giants." Obviously, "between" would be better here.

"Among," Merriam's says, is more appropriate where the emphasis is on distribution rather than individual relationships: "discontent among the peasants."

Finally, if you've been wondering about "amongst," my advice and that of other editors and publishers is to avoid it when you can. Merriam's dictionary says, "'amongst' can be used in place of 'among' if you want to sound fancy." But that's a bad idea if you want to keep your reader focused on your message and not your fancy, fancy words.

JUNE CASAGRANDE is the author of "The Joy of Syntax: A Simple Guide to All the Grammar You Know You Should Know."

2 Bowers shows extol iconic photos and prints

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

There is one photograph that Peter Fetterman credits with starting his love of photography.

"When I was 15, I came across this book called 'A Vanished World,' and there was something about the book that totally obsessed me," said the curator and gallerist.

The book, by author and photographer Roman Vishniac, is a pictorial history of Jewish life in Germany in the years that lead up to World War II. One photograph in particular haunted Fetterman, titled "Sara, the Only Flowers of Her Youth." The image, taken in Poland in 1939, is of a young girl looking tiny in a large bed with wide eyes. Behind her are hand-painted flowers on the wall.

"This kid has never been outside this room, and her father painted pictures of flowers on the wall because he wanted to give her some sense of hope that they might survive," said Fetterman.

The photo captivated Fetterman so much that five years later on his first trip to New York he looked up Vishniac in the Yellow Pages and paid him a visit at his home.

"This image was the first image that turned me on to the power of photography," said Fetterman, "and I look at it everyday."

Photography lovers have the opportunity to look at it too, at the Bowers Museum's exhibition "The Power of Photography," organized by Photographic Traveling Exhibitions, curated by Fetterman and made possible by support from the Ronald C. and Kristine Pietersma Family Trust.

Fetterman has spent the last 40 years championing the photographic arts, running a leading fine art photography gallery and collecting some of the most moving photographs the world has seen.

"The Afghan Girl," by Steve McCurry, for example, is one such photo in his collection on view at the show that is as famous as it is compelling. The portrait of Afghan refugee Sharbat Gula appeared on the 1985 cover of National Geographic. There are many photos of historical figures: a pensive portrait of Malcolm X, a coy shot of Audrey Hepburn and a stunning photo of Abraham Lincoln from 1890 by Alexander Hesler. There are also photos in the collection that depict ordinary people at historic moments in time, like Life Magazine photographer Carl Mydans' "On the 6.25 from Grand Central to Stamford," taken on Nov. 22, 1963, as all the commuters read newspapers with headlines on the assassination of JFK.

Not all images are so heavy, however. There is humor in the show as well, Fetterman assured, with images of fashion photography, rock stars and even pets. Thurston Hopkins' "La Dolce Vita," for example, is whimsical, and as Fetterman put it, "so British."

"I call this the Driving Miss Daisy photo," Fetterman said of the photo that shows both a chauffeur and poodle sitting at attention in the front seat of a vehicle. "It just puts a smile on my face."

The power of an image is truly in the eye of the beholder, and the idea of the power it can hold is also found in Bowers' other new exhibition, "Beyond the Great Wave: Works by Hokusai from the British Museum."

"Japanese artist Katsushika Hokusai was best known for designing the print known as 'The Great Wave,'" said curator Alfred Haft. "He designed that print at the age of 72 when he was well into his third career as an artist."

"The Great Wave" was originally featured in Hoku-



Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

TWO GUESTS view Steve McCurry's iconic "The Afghan Girl" at "The Power of Photography," an exhibit curated by Peter Fetterman at the Bowers Museum in Santa Ana.

sai's series, "Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji," centered on the raw power and beauty of nature. While the exhibition begins with a preserved early example of "The Great Wave," the show presents a diverse array of Hokusai's works that go beyond the iconic image.

The show is a collaboration between Bowers Museum and the British Museum and contains over 100 paintings, drawings, woodblock prints and illustrated books that offer insight into the evolution of Hokusai's work.

"You get a sense of the passion that he brought to painting and the humanity he brought to painting," said Haft.

The extensive collection is largely the result of the foresight of six individuals who played a pivotal role in building the Hokusai collection at the British Museum and are featured in

biographical portraits in the exhibition.

"How do we have these things available to us today? That is on account of some very astute collectors who were interested in his work at a very early stage and thought that the British Museum would be a good place to have these preserved as a legacy for future generations," Haft said.

Among the pieces are privately commissioned prints of illustrated poems, beautifully made with fine block-cutting and pigments of the highest quality. "For most of his career he actually was designing illustrations for popular novels," said Haft.

The exhibition finishes with examples of work from his last years before his death at the age of 90.

Although Hokusai began making art at 8 years old, he is said to have remarked that it wasn't until his 70s



"THE GREAT WAVE," an iconic wood print, at "Beyond the Great Wave: Works by Hokusai from the British Museum."

that he produced anything worthwhile. Haft said he respectfully disagrees and holds Hokusai's estimated 30,000 prints that span his 70-year career as evidence.

"The power of Hokusai's work is immediately inspiring," said Haft.

"The Power of Photography" is open until Jan. 14,

and "Beyond the Great Wave: Works by Hokusai from the British Museum" runs through Jan. 7. The Bowers Museum is located at 20th and Main streets in Santa Ana.

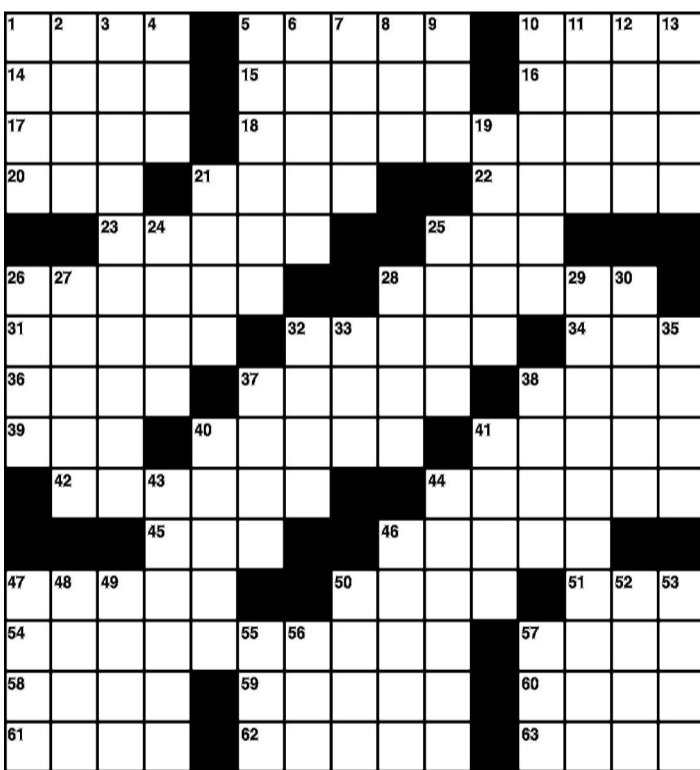
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THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS

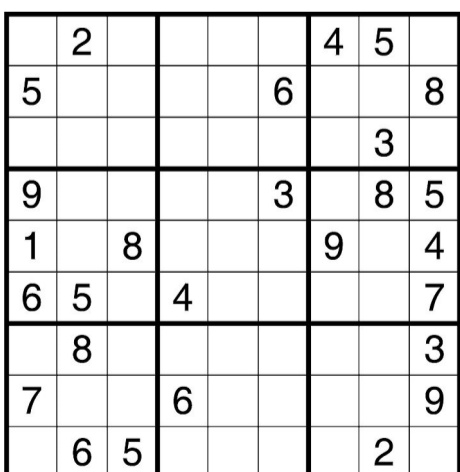
- 1 "Wonderful Life"
- 5 "Beat it!"
- 10 Repeat verbatim
- 14 Bicyclist's challenge
- 15 Stop temporarily
- 16 Weather forecast
- 17 Pub orders
- 18 One of four in a square
- 20 Hideaway
- 21 Knightly titles
- 22 "Boy World"; 1993-2000 sitcom
- 23 San __, CA
- 25 Faux __; blunder
- 26 "Carmen" and "Tosca"
- 28 Actress Anjelica
- 31 Yosemite & Yellowstone
- 32 Treble __; musical signs
- 34 Deadly viper
- 36 Men's accessories
- 37 Bundle of grain
- 38 Radar screen image
- 39 Soon-to-be grads
- 40 Telemarketer's talk
- 41 Composure
- 42 Radio interference
- 44 Drooped
- 45 Prohibit
- 46 Good wood for rafts
- 47 Cake ingredient
- 50 Think deeply
- 51 Cruise, for one
- 54 Guardians
- 57 Clavicle or scapula
- 58 Meanie
- 59 Out of the sack
- 60 Rainbows



SUDOKU

By the Mephram Group

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



For answers to the crossword and Sudoku puzzles, see page A7.

- 61 Shirts, for short
- 62 Well-known
- 63 Henna & indigo
- DOWN**
- 1 "If __ a Hammer"
- 2 Scrabble piece
- 3 Thinnest
- 4 Jolson & Roker
- 5 Bits of parsley
- 6 Egypt's capital
- 7 Floor coverings
- 8 Cigar dropping
- 9 New York athlete
- 10 Mr. Hemingway
- 11 Hamster's home
- 12 Sword handle
- 13 Tip jar fillers
- 19 Stockpile
- 21 Oceans
- 24 Ticks off

- 25 "__, the Magic Dragon"
- 26 __ out; chooses not to participate
- 27 Figure skating event
- 28 Get well
- 29 Required
- 30 Bang or boom
- 32 In style
- 33 Gen. Robert E. __
- 35 Made fun of
- 37 Twirl
- 38 Swamps
- 40 Gaze
- 41 Lose color
- 43 Subsides
- 44 Answered impudently
- 46 Actress Delta
- 47 Espy
- 48 Yen
- 49 Film gruesomeness
- 50 Protective trench
- 52 Fairy tale opener
- 53 Chaotic situation
- 55 Cheap container
- 56 Siesta hour
- 57 Lousy

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Thriller Nights throws it back to '80s and '90s horror

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

The last time you saw Jason, Freddy and Michael Myers in the same place was probably on the shelf at Blockbuster video around 2001, but Thriller Nights at Anaheim's Gardenwalk has gotten the gang back together for Halloween weekend. The 21-and-over throwback entertainment party destination celebrates classic horror films and the nostalgia of the 1980s and '90s with live music, themed cocktails, classic board games and classic scary movie monsters. A family-friendly event is offered at earlier hours today and Tuesday.

"This is all throwback so we have everything from the '80s, '90s and the 2000s, and we kind of stop there," said Elijah Reyes, chief executive officer and director of Room 2 Party Events, the company behind Thriller Nights. "I didn't want anything past 2010 because this is a throwback party."

Reyes is a professional performer who has sung at various theme parks, toured with the Radio City Rockettes Christmas spectacular and booked with Broadway's "Hamilton" touring company in 2018, performing alongside Lin-Manuel Miranda. Reyes also used his performing arts background to start an entertainment company, providing deejay services, photo booths and character appearances at parties and events. Reyes said Thriller Nights is inspired by his love of the horror

films he grew up with.

"My favorite throwback scary movie is 'Child's Play,'" said Reyes. "I grew up with that one and it terrified me."

Located under the House of Blues, just across from Casa De Pancho at Suite 199, Thriller Night opened a light-up bar on Friday and Saturday that returns Halloween night for a Happy (Horror) Hour with drink specials on themed cocktails like Freddy's Revenge (a version of whiskey sour) and other drinks like Good Guys Juice and Pennywise Surprise until 8 p.m. Cocktails are served in pouches that evoke the nostalgia of CapriSun juice drinks. No tickets are necessary for bar access, but the real screams are in the Thriller Nights horror-themed main room.

After 8 p.m., ticket holders can enter the main room, for live '80s and '90s music from bands like Moonlight Collective and Oh Goodie Band, plus deejay sets from DJ Tommy Fullove. On a recent Saturday night, Oh Goodie Band played hits like "Wake Me Up before you Go-Go" by Wham! and Michael Jackson's "Bad," while characters Freddy Krueger and Michael Myers took to the dance floor.

The main room also has photo spots inspired by classic horror movies, like "Poltergeist," for guests to pose with.

"Our photo locations feature 'Halloween' with Michael Myers, 'Friday the 13th,' and we have got Chucky" said Reyes, referring to the serial killer doll from his favorite movie.



Photos by Sarah Mosqueda

PARTYGOERS AT Thriller Nights at Anaheim's Gardenwalk play touchscreen game-table versions of classic board games like "Hungry, Hungry Hippo," "Candyland," "Operation" and "Guess Who" on Saturday Oct. 21.



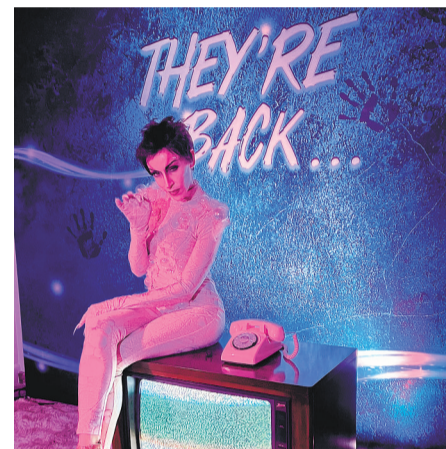
There are also touchscreen game tables loaded with popular children's games such as "Hungry, Hungry Hippo," "Candyland," "Operation" and "Guess Who."

"The interactive game tables have these classic board games from the past, which again goes back to

the throwback but with an electronic twist to it," said Reyes.

While Reyes has put together many events, Thriller Nights is his largest undertaking, and he wants guests to experience more fun than fright.

"I have thrown many events through the years,



THRILLER NIGHTS at STC Gardenwalk features specialty cocktails and oversized photo spots remembering classic horror films of the '80s and '90s.

and this is by far my biggest party," said Reyes, "and that is exactly what it is — a party."

Thriller Nights is open Halloween (Tuesday) at 7 p.m. with tickets for the main room ranging from \$25 to \$90.

Today, Oct. 29, the kid-friendly Thriller Nights

Family Edition will be open from 3 to 7 p.m. and again on Tuesday, Oct. 31, from 4 to 7 p.m. Tickets for that event are \$5 for kids and \$20 for adults 18 and over and available at Eventbrite.

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Eyes are on 'The Look of Love' at Musco Center

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

Renowned choreographer Mark Morris' biggest inspiration, by far, is music.

"I am interested in music that is interesting, surprising and wonderful," said Morris, who founded the New York-based Mark Morris Dance Group in 1980.

Morris remains the group's artistic director, and wonderful music is at the center of his production "The Look of Love," which comes to the Musco Center for the Arts in Orange for a one-night-only performance on Nov. 4. The first in the Maybelle Musco Contemporary Dance Series at the Musco, "The Look of Love" features the musical legacy of the late Burt Bacharach.

"He was a great, great brilliant composer, and whether people think they know his music or not, they do," said Morris.

Bacharach, along with his longtime lyricist Hal David, had an immense impact on popular music as a composer, songwriter and pianist. Bacharach had more than 70 Top 40 hits, and over 1,000 artists recorded versions of his songs, from Dionne Warwick and Perry Como to Tom Jones and Dusty Springfield. Popular songs from the Bacharach songbook like "I Say a Little Prayer" and "Raindrops Keep Fallin' on My Head" are presented in "The Look of Love," with new musical arrangements by Ethan Iverson and vocals by Broadway star Marcy Harriell, all performed live by the Mark Morris Dance Group's Music Ensemble.

"Much of it is music that you'll know, in arrangements that are new and unfamiliar and completely great," said Morris. "And



Skye Schmidt

THE MARK MORRIS Dance Group's "The Look of Love" comes to the Musco Center for the Arts on Nov. 4.

you've never seen this dance before."

"The Look of Love" first premiered in October 2022 at Santa Monica's BroadStage, and the late Bacharach, who died in early February of this year, praised the show and Morris.

"For many years, I've wanted to see my music reimaged in some kind of theatrical production, not just a jukebox musical formula of songs, but an original work with its own story and appeal," Bacharach said. "I've found an ideal collaborator in Mark

Morris, whose brilliant choreography and deep musicality give songs new meaning and dimension through movement. Like a great melody, his dances evoke an atmosphere and inspire feelings, and I think that's just what the world needs now."

The show's creative team includes fashion designer Isaac Mizrahi, who has designed boldly colored costumes for the show's dancers, and lighting design by Nicole Pearce.

"The Look of Love" is a commissioned production of

more than a dozen organizations, a model that allows multiple groups to provide the financial resources to bring the large-scale production to the stage while uniting in sharing the work of MMDG. Commissioning partners include BroadStage, Brooklyn Academy of Music and the Jay and Susie Gogue Performing Arts Center at Auburn University in association with Arizona Arts Live, University of Arizona; Cal Performances, UC Berkeley; Tennessee Performing Arts Center; Marybelle and Sebastian P. Musco

Center for the Arts; Moss Arts Center at Virginia Tech; Harri-man-Jewell Series; Hopkins Center for the Arts, Dartmouth College; the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts; Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; Modlin Center for the Arts at University of Richmond; UC Santa Barbara Arts & Lectures; and Virginia Arts Festival.

While the show is only performing at the Musco Center for one night, a schedule of accompanying public and private events will take place at Chapman University Nov. 1 through 7.

"We always do a lot of outreach when we are on tour and we will be doing that when we are in Orange," said Morris. "There are a number of classes and Q&As and a film screening to involve the community."

Besides dance instruction by company members for Chapman students throughout the week, events include an open panel discussion on the history of Mark Morris Dance Group with Morris and MMDG executive director Nancy Umanoff at 2:30 p.m. on Nov. 2 and a dance class for high school students at Santa Ana's Wooden Floor Dance School. Nov. 4's performance will be followed by a Q&A with Morris and Iverson, and on Nov. 7 a public viewing of "Capturing Grace," a documentary about the company's Dance for Parkinson's Disease, will screen at 2:30 p.m. followed by a Zoom discussion with Dance for Parkinson's Disease founding teacher and program director David Leventhal.

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LEADERS

Continued from page A1

you have a ton of type A personalities in the city," O'Neill joked. "That shows up pretty clearly at your council meetings from time to time, but the truth is that the best part about having a significant number of type A personalities is that more often than not people will have as their first reaction — 'Oh, we have a problem? I wonder how I can solve that' or 'OK, I think we can figure that one out.'

"Most people in this city, at least, their gut reaction isn't to go to City Council and say, 'Hey, you need to solve this.' We've actually had a lot of things in the city either solved or at least mitigated dramatically just by people looking around the neighborhood and having that as their gut reaction, and by the time it gets to us, it's usually a problem and we do need to step in to help out."

Ian Stevenson, the executive director for Trellis International, a nonprofit organization based in Costa Mesa that focuses on effective collaboration between churches, businesses and city leaders to better engage with their cities, helped organize Thursday's meeting.

Love Newport Beach is in some ways reflective of the initiative launched by former Mayor Kevin Muldoon last year as "Renew Newport."

But Trellis neighboring initiative director Reina Cuthill and lead pastor Brian Darrow of the W Church on E. 15th Street said Love Newport Beach has its roots in a group of local pastors who prayed together for the city.

Darrow said he had been thinking about how the church could collaborate with other leaders, specifically with other pastors, to figure out the most efficient way to help Newport



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

MAYOR PRO TEM Will O'Neill speaks to guests attending the inaugural city leaders' gathering for Love Newport Beach at the Newport Beach Central Library on Thursday.

Beach without reinventing the wheel. That was when he heard about the Love Costa Mesa campaign, which Trellis has been facilitating since 2011.

"They were helping thousands of people, and they were collaborating between the political leaders at City Hall with church leaders, with business leaders, and they were all on the same team helping their city, and so I said, 'How can we do that?'" Darrow said, adding that he later met with Trellis, who encouraged him to start with prayer.

"I'm a pastor. I should've thought of that," he joked. "So, now we have 17 churches in the footprint of Newport Beach, and we decided to start reaching out and getting pastors together and just start praying."

That led to the city's religious leaders reaching out to Muldoon. By October, the city saw its first Love Newport Beach volunteer day, which will in the future coincide with Love Costa Mesa Day in May, Cuthill said. The team responsible for Love Newport Beach includes staff from Trellis, but it also includes Darrow, Don Nemchok, Jeff Herdman, Kathy Gilbert and Terry Moore.

Thursday's meeting was held to begin introducing city leaders to one another. Each individual in attendance was hand-picked because of their capacity to lead or their responsibility to a larger group of community members. Present were business owners, school board members, public safety officials, city officials and others.

Herdman, a former member of the Newport Beach City Council, said that after stepping down from that position he wanted to continue giving back to the city and sought organizations that would allow him to do so. Through a Corona del Mar Chamber of Commerce meeting, he crossed paths with Terry Moore, who recruited him to join the Trellis team for Love Newport Beach.

Herdman said he attends the nonprofit's monthly meetings and provides input on its four initiatives — prayer, education, neighboring and homelessness.

"Plans are in the making for next year's Love Newport Beach Day. Prayer is taking place for our city, city leaders, business and business leaders, communities, neighborhoods and villages within our city,"

Herdman said. "Tangible support is being provided to our school, to seniors, to the homeless, as well as individuals who are isolated, in poor health or disabled. I can't think of a better way to be giving back."

The meetings will be held quarterly, with the next planned for February. Each will feature a different civic leader to introduce particular challenges and determine how leaders can pool their resources to help resolve them.

"Even though I think a lot of people have this conception of Newport, there's still a whole lot of needs in Newport, and the point of these gatherings is to bring awareness on what's going on in the city of Newport Beach that people can actually get into and collaborate on," said Cuthill. "It could be one entity doing it all, but our goal and our hope with these gatherings is that everybody in the room becomes stakeholders for loving on their city — Newport Beach."

Love Newport Beach's next upcoming event is Love Our Schools Day on Nov. 4. For more information, visit lovenewportbeachca.org.

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LANES

Continued from page A1

The 405 Express Lanes, operated by OCTA, are the finishing touches on the \$2.1-billion I-405 Improvement Project that started construction in early 2018. The project has also replaced and improved 18 bridges, while adding new bike lanes and sidewalks.

But the freeway itself is set to get wider in a matter of weeks, when the 16-mile stretch of express lanes is opened to the public between the 605 interchange to the north and State Route 73 to the south. The new express lane will combine with the existing high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane to create two express lanes in each direction.

A new general lane in each direction has also been added on the 405 between the 605 and Euclid Avenue, as part of the improvement project.

Before it opens, the express lanes system will undergo testing, OCTA communications manager Joel Zlotnik said. To that end, the carpool lanes along the 405 in both directions will close at night on Wednesday, Nov. 1, including the connector lanes between the 22 and the 405 and the 605 and 405.

"We take very, very seriously the opportunity and the responsibility we have to invest taxpayer dollars in the Orange County transportation system," Johnson said during a media tour of the project on Thursday. "We have made a lot of investments since the early '90s, but this by far is our largest single investment in any corridor of any type in our county's history."

OCTA also operates the 91 Express Lanes, which it purchased for more than \$200 million in 2003.

The 405 Express Lanes will be monitored from an OCTA traffic operations center in Santa Ana, which will be staffed 24/7.

All toll road drivers will be required to have a FasTrak transponder, and a FasTrak Flex transponder

— which can be switched depending on the number of occupants — is needed for carpool riders.

As for cost, three-plus person carpools and drivers with veteran or disabled person license plates always ride free. Two-person carpools are charged during peak hours and free during non-peak hours, and solo drivers will always pay a toll. Clean air vehicles with the transponder receive a 15% discount.

The tolls will go toward the \$629-million federal loan that OCTA received for construction of the express lanes, with Measure M also funding the freeway improvements.

"Tolls are set and they vary by hour, day of the week and direction of traffic," Zlotnik said. "We monitor them constantly. Over the initial period of opening, we can adjust them, sort of on the fly. Then moving forward, they'll get adjusted quarterly."

Some local residents are anxiously awaiting the toll roads. Diana Blatz, who lives in Newport Beach, expects them to significantly cut her drive time to see her daughter in the Silver Lake neighborhood of Los Angeles.

"It takes 1½ hours when it should technically take no more than 45 [minutes]," Blatz said of the 40-mile trip. "This will alleviate some of this and I am willing to pay. However, it would suck for regular commuters to have to pay that every day."

Johnson said drivers typically use the toll roads one to three days per week.

Leah Garland makes the unenviable commute from Los Angeles to Irvine and said she is not a fan of the new toll roads. She compared the situation to the airline industry, where companies are charging for things like checked bags that used to be free.

"When are we going to stop squeezing the less affluent?" Garland said. "Everyone's trying to get by in life, and you're going to say here's another thing that's more difficult for



Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

THE EXPRESS LANES of the 405 Improvement Project are scheduled to open Dec. 1.

people without money? ... I think it's helpful to have a carpool lane, so that you have fewer cars on the road. If people have an electric car, etc., it's promoting something that we all want to have happen and it's kind to our environment."

Teri Kurzen, who lives in Costa Mesa, has similar views.

"So sick and tired of being taxed and tolled everywhere we go," she said.

"HOV lanes help alleviate traffic ... toll roads make it worse because not everybody can afford to pay for access."

Johnson said he believes the new lanes are affordable; the maximum toll rate for the entire stretch during peak conditions is \$9.95. He added that anyone who was previously in a general lane who chooses to use an express lane has now freed up a spot in a general lane.

"There's benefit even for people that don't take the toll lane," he said. "When those two things are put to-



ORANGE COUNTY Transportation Authority CEO Darrell Johnson briefs the media in the 405 Express Lanes traffic operations center in Santa Ana on Thursday.

gether, the overall highway corridor is operating at a much more efficient level."

Officials expect traffic along the 405 corridor to grow approximately 35% by 2040.

Huntington Beach resident Sydnie Thomas holds a slightly optimistic view, though she also bemoaned the loss of the carpool lane.

"I'm happy that they are being proactive with our traffic solution," Thomas

said. "I will definitely use the toll roads."

Johnson said the 405 Express Lanes have been a long time coming, with the first studies being done in 2004. He added that the 91 Express Lanes have provided a good model in the two decades they've been operated by OCTA.

"We've owned and operated them through the great recession, we've owned and operated

through a global pandemic," he said. "We have a really good sense of how traffic responds through all the economic cycles, through economic growth, downturns, and how you can manage a freeway that has 350,000 cars a day and get more performance and efficiency out of the same footprint of a freeway."

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