



Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

RYAN HOGE holds the very collectible grade 10 Pikachu trading card, part of the Pokémon card game series, at the new Professional Sports Authenticator facility in Santa Ana.

Sought-after Pokémon cards hit it out of the park

The physical totems of an animated character role-playing game, Pokémon cards have overtaken baseball cards at an area collectibles authenticator.

BY SARA CARDINE

Professional Sports Authenticators, or PSA as it's known by memorabilia and trading card collectors worldwide, is the gold standard when it comes to rating and grading hobbyists' holdings, especially baseball cards.

Founded in 1991 as a division of Collectors Universe, Inc. and now headquartered in Santa Ana, the company has served as a third-party authenticator for more than 65 million certified coins, cards and collectibles valued at more than \$1 billion.

For several years sports memorabilia comprised a bulk of the company's business and sports cards — graded on a scale of 1 to 10 for the crispness of corners and edges and surface quality — were king in the trading card industry.

"In the early '90s there was a surge in interest in sports card collecting in particular, and that's when PSA started," said President Ryan Hoge. "You have people who view these trading cards almost like fine art. They're

See **Pokémon**, page A8



ONCE THE STOCK and trade of Santa-Ana based collectibles rating company PSA, baseball cards have recently taken a backseat to Pokémon cards in the trading card category.

Tustin recovery carries on after hangar disaster

Study finds no elevated levels of asbestos or lead caused by the fire. Meanwhile, recovery costs near \$90 million.

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

Helicopters whirling over a blimp hangar in Tustin roused Mayor Austin Lumbar from sleep just before 1 a.m. on Nov. 7.

A call to Lumbar from the city manager at the time relayed the reason why: A fire had engulfed the massive 17-story, 1,000-foot-long wooden structure half a mile from the mayor's home.

Then, a Tustin police captain arrived to escort him to the scene.

"In those early hours, I don't think anybody ever thought that the fire would burn for 24 days," Lumbar said. "As it continued to burn, and as fire personnel encountered so many obstacles in trying to knock the fire down, it became apparent that the costs were going to grow exponentially."

Six months after the fire destroyed much of the historic World War II-era hangar owned by the Navy, Tustin has contracted \$88 million in recovery efforts.

A rough estimate by city analysts places the potential cost of deconstruction and cleanup at \$137 million, a figure that far surpasses Tustin's annual budget.

"We're spending on behalf of the Navy," Lumbar said. "They've committed to paying for the impacts, and we're taking them at their word. We need them to expedite the government funding process to pay for the incursion."

A fraction of recovery costs have gone to address pressing concerns about what spewed

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ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

A SOIREE AT SHERMAN LIBRARY & GARDENS SPOTLIGHTS ITS 'GROW THE GARDEN' CAMPAIGN PAGE A3

CHEF ROY CHOI TO RECEIVE HONORARY DOCTOR OF FINE ARTS DEGREE FROM CSUF PAGE A4

A DEEP DIVE INTO THE NAUTICAL-INSPIRED TIKI BAR STRONG WATER ANAHEIM PAGE A7

Anaheim school district scraps mass layoffs, weighs alternatives

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

Shelley Hawkins, a health teacher at Cypress High School, received a notice in March from the Anaheim Union High School District that she could potentially be laid off. For Hawkins, who has 25 years of classroom experience, it was her second such slip in as many years.

But on May 10, she learned from her principal that school board members reversed course on contentious teacher layoffs and rescinded them all.

"I'm still shocked," Hawkins said. "If we were in such a budget crunch that we needed to lose so many teachers, how are we not losing any now? What's going to be the impact next year?"

First approved in March, the mass layoffs originally sought to

See **District**, page A3



Eric Licas

IN MARCH, students led parents in a demonstration against planned teacher layoffs within the Anaheim Union High School District.

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Don Leach | Staff Photographer

THE LAGUNA BEACH City Council has approved the installation of up to seven new wood-burning fire pits at Aliso Beach now that the beach is under local control. Above, participants of a drum circle gather around one of the old fire pits.

Beach to see wood-burning fire pits return

BY ANDREW TURNER

Roughly a year after Laguna Beach assumed control of operations of several beaches in South Laguna from the county of Orange, the city is preparing to bring back wood-burning fire pits in time for summer.

The City Council unanimously voted Tuesday night the installation of up to seven wood-burning fire pits at Aliso Beach. A staff report requested council direction in the hope the fire pits could be put in place by Memorial Day weekend.

Visuals shared during a presentation at the meeting showed as many as seven fire pits on the sand in 2010

that had either been removed by the county prior to the transfer of ownership or were lost due to storm activity.

“We know that they’re going to be moved in specific areas due to storm events,” acting Marine Safety Chief Kai Bond said Tuesday.

The fire pits will be available for use at no charge on a first-come, first-serve basis. Police and marine safety personnel will monitor activities surrounding the fire pits.

Lost Pier Cafe, a concession business at Aliso Beach, can also rent out up to five portal propane fire

See *Beach*, page A3



Irfan Khan | Los Angeles Times

STEVE AND Patti Craik watch the stubborn fire at the north hangar at the former Tustin Air Base in November.

HANGAR

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from the ashes and debris of the fire through a soil, air and dust study commissioned by the city.

Two days after the fire began, city officials closed nearby schools and parks. The county declared a local emergency. Public health officials urged residents to stay indoors as much as possible.

Air quality authorities tested debris samples and found up to 37% asbestos present in one of them.

In December, Orange County Health Care Agency officials said the risk to Tustin residents from the hangar fire was low and that asbestos fibers in the air played a “limited role.” That same month, the city announced the \$900,000 followup study out of an abundance of caution.

All the while, law firms began investigating potential injury claims related to exposure to the fire’s fumes, though no related lawsuits have been filed against the city to date.

Brian Hitchens, a hydrologist with Geosyntec, outlined preliminary results from the city-commissioned study on May 7 during a Tustin City Council meeting.

“We found no evidence that the Navy hangar fire resulted in increased lead or asbestos within the study area,” he told council members.

Geosyntec, a consulting and engineering firm hired by the city, randomly sampled 50 homes near the hangar site and 30 homes in Irvine and Santa Ana outside of the fire’s impact area.

A collection of federal, state and local agencies reviewed and approved Geosyntec’s work plan, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

No asbestos fibers above screening levels were detected in indoor air or dust samples.

Volunteers collected three samples for lead from all homes included in the study. Only one out of 150 residential dust samples had elevated lead levels.

“There was no evidence of soot, ash or char in those dust samples,” Hitchens explained. “It does not appear to be an exceedance related to the fire.”

The Navy-owned hangar site was also tested, and the study found no asbestos in the ash. Twenty out of 34 debris samples contained asbestos, but the building material analyzed doesn’t crumble and release fibers. City officials expect the

full report to be released once a review of it by environmental and public health agencies is completed later this month. The study will be downloadable from the city’s website.

“We have not yet been able to review a copy of the report, but we look forward to doing so as soon as it is made available,” said Michael Penn, an attorney with the Aitken, Aitken, Cohn, a firm looking into potential claims. “Our interests remained focused on the health and safety of homeowners and others that were exposed to harmful materials caused by the fire.”

Six months later, the cause of the hangar fire still remains under investigation by the Orange County Fire Authority and the Tustin Police Department.

“A lot of our lives were turned upside down because of this fire and we don’t even know how it started,” Lumbar said. “It’s frustrating. I want answers. I have faith OCFA is turning over every stone, but the fire burned for 24 days. I’m not sure what evidence was left after the fact.”

The Navy has pledged \$61 million in funding, so far. A fifth amendment to a cooperative agreement between the Navy and Tustin is currently being discussed to free up more funds.

Work to clear debris from the fire’s fallout has accounted for \$52 million in contracted costs alone.

In December, the Navy signed a \$6-million contract with ECC Environmental to demolish remnants of the blimp hangar and clean up the rest of the site.

“The Navy’s debris removal and cleanup work plan was submitted to regulatory agencies in late April, with reviews and approval expected to take several more weeks,” said Christopher Dunne, a spokesman for the Naval Facilities Engineering Command in Washington, D.C. “Fieldwork is expected to begin this summer.”

Meanwhile, a resolution by state Sen. Josh Newman (D-Fullerton) aimed at shoring up the funding for recovery efforts passed the senate with a bipartisan unanimous vote.

“Almost six months in, the fallout from the fire continues to be a source of frustration and concern within the community,” Newman said in a floor speech before the vote. “It has left this relatively small community with unprecedented fiscal burdens.”

The resolution calls on the Biden Administration and U.S. Congress to de-

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A CITY-COMMISSIONED study found no elevated levels of asbestos and lead that could be attributed to the hangar fire.

Allen J. Schaben
Los Angeles Times

clare a formal emergency and secure \$100 million in supplemental funding for the Navy. It advances to the state Assembly next.

Looking forward to the future, Lumbar hopes the Navy’s cleanup work can begin as soon as possible as Tustin looks to close a

chapter on the hangar fire.

Part of that process includes a south hangar at the former Marine Corps Air Station site and the question of what to do with it. The Navy owns the hangar, but Tustin leases and controls the site.

Had the fire engulfed the

south hangar in November, the hardships on the city could have been far more dire.

“Tustin is taking a very hard look at the future and whether we need to deconstruct the hangar itself,” Lumbar said. “That’s a painful discussion, espe-

cially for our veteran community, but we cannot afford to have another potentially \$100-million disaster occur on city-controlled property.”

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Soiree spotlights venue's 'Grow the Garden' campaign

BY LILLY NGUYEN

Like the plants and flowers that it houses, Sherman Library & Gardens announced its intention to grow with its "Grow the Garden" campaign — a \$13-million endeavor to renovate and expand some of its facilities and establish its "front door" on Pacific Coast Highway.

In front of donors and supporters of the botanical garden Thursday night, Executive Director Scott LaFleur said the gardens are undergoing a "renaissance."

The gardens were founded in 1966 by Arnold Haskell, who named them after his mentor, Moses Sherman. Haskell initially wanted an office close to his home and purchased a property that is now part of the gardens' library and the adjoining property. That was expanded to the entire block by 1967, and the facilities were established between 1966 and 1974, according to Sherman Library & Gardens officials.

"As the premier nonprofit cul-

tural center of Newport [Beach], we strive every day to fulfill our mission to inspire and educate the community to have an appreciation of history, horticulture and the arts," LeFleur said. "The education program continues to drive the Sherman Library & Gardens mission, providing people of all ages and backgrounds with an opportunity to engage and connect with nature and with each other and with the beauty of history."

LaFleur said school field trips to the gardens are now up to 43 annually while drop-in tours have seen roughly 3,000 participants. About 10,000-plus visitors engaged with other programming at the venue.

LaFleur explained funds raised during the campaign will go toward establishing a space dedicated to Sherman's educational programs in the central patio room. They will also facilitate new programs that will focus on the Pacific Southwest and finance the renovation of the



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

ASHLEY AND Blake Brewer pause to look at a Gensler rendering of the planned new entrance to Sherman Library & Gardens during the "Grow the Gardens" gathering at the Sherman Gardens on Thursday evening.

tropical conservatory.

The proposed improvements will also include the relocation of the gardens' restaurant to Pacific Coast Highway, the addition of a

rooftop deck and the reinstatement of tea garden dining.

But, most importantly, LaFleur said the "front door" to the gardens is needed to let both resi-

dents and visitors know where they are.

"How many of you have driven by countless times and never realized what was behind the wall? I can't tell you how many times I've had someone tell me, 'I've driven by or lived in town for 10, 20, 30 years and I didn't know where to come in,'" LaFleur said. "We're going to change that."

The gardens expect groundbreaking to occur in the summer of next year. LaFleur confirmed about \$8.3 million of the \$13 million goal has been raised.

"As [LaFleur] alluded to, [in] just 2½ years, our education department has [gotten] 20,000 people to participate in over 600 different educational opportunities. We call that a good start," said Gary Pickett, the president of the Sherman Foundation. "We have big ambitions, but these big ambitions are going to need the help of the community."

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Dr. Maheswari Senthil is a nationally recognized surgical oncologist who specializes in the management of advanced abdominal cancers.

BEACH

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pits.

Councilman Bob Whalen asked what becomes of the remnants of the fire when persons using the fire pits get ready to leave.

"The intent and the use of these fire pits are to allow the visitors or residents to utilize them, and if there are any fires ... left, then they would burn themselves out within the confinement of the ring itself," Fire Marshal Robert Montaghani said. "That's why the separation is important and the distance from local vegetation is important, as well."

Between the wood-burning and propane fire pits, there could be up to a dozen fire pits at Aliso Beach. South Coast Air Quality Management District regulations dictate they must be at least 50 feet apart if there are no more than 15 devices in which fires are burning on a contiguous beach area within the city limits.

No fuel should be added to a fire within an hour of the Aliso Beach parking lot closing, Bond added.

Use of the fire pits will not be permitted during red-flag and no-burn days. Mayor Sue Kempf requested that Nixle alerts communicate information when the AQMD declares no-burn days.

The City Council directed staff to appropriate \$20,000 from the South Laguna fund for the purchase of the fire pits.

Signage warning of natural hazards was installed near a sea cave at 10th Street Beach in June. Bond told the council that incidents resulting in death had occurred in the area in years past.

In addition, the city has installed two observation cameras — at Aliso and Camel Point beaches — and has plans to add another.

"We have one at Aliso Beach," Bond said of the cameras. "One is installed above the Pride [lifeguard] tower [at Camel Point], and the other hotspot area that we identified, and we're

working with the homeowners, is at Lighthouse Cove.

"Lighthouse Cove is an area that's very difficult to see. It's the exit of the sea cave and where those deaths had occurred. It just allows us to monitor those areas remotely, and it just allows us to shift resources to get into those areas, which we normally wouldn't be able to see. They're a huge benefit to our operation."

The cameras are monitored by the marine safety dispatch center, although marine safety dispatch is not a 24-hour operation, Bond said.

Marine safety statistics were provided for the year since the March 2023 transfer of the beaches in South Laguna, which covers a stretch from Aliso Beach to Three Arch Bay. There were 2,383 rescues, 2,463 medical aids, 73,024 ordinance advisements, and 193,901 preventive contacts in South Laguna.

Public works officials requested additional funding for day porter services, including trash and recycling pickup and cleaning and restocking of restrooms.

"When we began these services in March 2023, we started off using the most fiscally conservative level of service, but within months, we saw the need to increase our service levels," Director of Public Works Reza Jafari said. "By August, during the height of the peak visitor season, we had nearly tripled our service levels, which based on the reduced number of complaints, let us know we had hit the marks with the appropriate staffing."

The council authorized the city manager to increase the annual contract amount by \$580,000 for the day porter services. Additionally, \$450,000 from the South Laguna fund will go toward support for beach maintenance operations.

A trial period for a designated skimboarding area at Aliso Beach was also extended indefinitely.

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DISTRICT

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eliminate 119 teacher positions out of the more than 250 notices issued, a reduction that would have accounted for about a 10% cut in teaching staff across the district. In April, the district rescinded dozens of layoffs to bring the remaining count down to 62.

Since the board's vote approving the layoffs, teachers, parents and students have rallied against them at school sites from Anaheim to Cypress.

Geoff Morganstern, president of the Anaheim Secondary Teachers Assn., credited the rallies with helping to turn the tide against the looming staff cuts.

"They gave folks an opportunity to exercise their voice, and that had a big impact on the conversation," he said. "We're very pleased district leadership has decided to rescind the layoffs. We acknowledge that it wasn't an easy decision for them to make."



Gabriel San Román

ANAHEIM HIGH School is the second largest school site in the district, but has seen its enrollment decline by 17%

Morganstern joined Supt. Michael Matsuda in a joint statement on May 10 noting that the teachers' union and district officials will be "working collaboratively" in the future to "emerge stronger as a district."

The district did not make Matsuda or board members available for comment.

Amid declining enrollment, district officials originally sought to cut

costs by \$18.4 million through layoffs. Even taking the reduction into account, the financial forecast remained bleak with reserve funds expected to be in the red within three years.

"If we do not face this, we do not have a school district," said Board President Annemarie Randle-Trejo before voting to approve the cuts in March. "We can't run a school district on negative funds."

In lieu of layoffs, the district has now outlined a series of alternative cuts and reductions to maintain both staffing levels and financial stability. It's looking to freeze a number of infrastructure improvements to school sites while offsetting payroll costs by cutting a \$16.3-million arts and music block grant.

But the pivot didn't come soon enough for dozens of educators who won't be returning to the classroom next school year due to retirements, resignations and expiring contracts.

"With how the layoffs went down, some teachers are deciding to find a teaching job somewhere else," Morganstern said. "In the end, we will probably have 50 less teacher positions."

That number concerned Germaine Neumann-Chau, a district parent who attended rallies and packed school board meetings to speak out against the layoffs.

"While I'm elated our teachers don't have layoffs looming over them any-

more, I'm also worried about next year, because I know that our district isn't going to backfill those positions," she said. "Our class sizes will increase."

The district currently serves 27,000 students across campuses in Anaheim, Buena Park, Cypress, La Palma and Stanton.

According to California Department of Education statistics, 70% of its students are Latino.

Total enrollment is down by about 5,000 students since the 2011-12 school year, a decline that district officials expect to double within five years and cited as a reason for mass layoffs.

An analysis of California Department of Education data shows that enrollment has dropped across many district campuses.

Loara High School in Anaheim showed the steepest drop-off with a 40% reduction since the 2011-12 school year. Cypress High School and Lexington Junior High School, both in Cypress, have increased in enrollment during that same time frame.

For Andrew Campuzano, a graduating Anaheim High School senior, fewer students at the district didn't translate into a need for fewer teachers. He became outspoken against teacher layoffs, in part, out of concern for overcrowded classrooms.

"As it stands right now, we do not have small class sizes," he said. "What would happen if you took those teachers away? Those numbers would increase."

Campuzano, who is headed to UCLA in the fall, recalled consoling one of his teachers when layoff notices were first issued.

"I told her I'm not going to stop fighting for teachers like her," he said. "At the end of the day, it's mentors like her that motivate students to go to school."

Before being rescinded, layoffs were originally slated to become permanent on May 15. Administrative law judge hearings over the staffing cuts delayed that date through the end of the school year.

See **District**, page A8

Grant to boost CSUF nursing programs

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

As part of an initial effort to address healthcare workforce shortages in Orange County, CalOptima Health presented Cal State Fullerton with a \$5-million grant on Wednesday in support of its nursing programs.

Spread out over five years, the grant will provide 50 nursing students at the university with a \$10,000 stipend each year to help them complete a bachelor's degree in nursing.

Grant funds will also go toward expanding programs like Jump Start and Concurrent Enrollment that graduate nursing students into the workforce at an accelerated pace.

"Our programs help students take some of their bachelor's classes in conjunction with their associate degree nursing program so they only have two or three semesters left to complete their degree," said Penny Weismuller, director of Cal State Fullerton's School of Nursing. "The stipend would help them stay focused on their studies rather than needing to work."

Weismuller, who wrote the grant, added that the stipends will also help diversify the ranks of nursing students who will graduate



Courtesy Janis Rizzuto | CalOptima

CALOPTIMA HEALTH leaders present Cal State Fullerton with a ceremonial check representing \$5 million to boost nurse staffing in Orange County. CSUF was one of seven institutions locally to receive funds from the initiative.

to work in Orange County, whose population is majority people of color.

Cal State Fullerton is one of seven local institutions to benefit from the first phase of CalOptima's \$50-million

Provider Workforce Development Initiative, the biggest such grant ever awarded by the healthcare provider.

"Cal State Fullerton is probably the largest educa-

tional producers of nurses in the county," said Michael Hunn, CalOptima's chief executive. "They have incredible teaching facilities. They also have one of the largest state of the art simu-

lation labs, where they teach students all the nursing skills they need."

Chapman University, Coast Community College District, Concordia University Irvine, Orange

County United Way, Santiago College and the Sue and Bill Gross School of Nursing at UC Irvine round out the list of other grant recipients.

A common thread among several awardees is the need for more nurses in Orange County, a shortage born of the aftereffects of the pandemic and a rash of retirements that is more acutely felt at community health centers and safety net providers.

"Now we need to replace those retirees," Hunn said. "We also have an aging population here in Orange County. If you look at the county's data, there is going to be a greater demand and as more healthcare is done in the outpatient setting, a lot of that care is provided by a nurse."

Jenee Miller is a nursing student in Cal State Fullerton's Concurrent Enrollment program. She will graduate in June from Riverside City College with an associate's degree in nursing and, thanks to the program, is on track to complete her bachelor's at Cal State Fullerton by December.

Miller, 40, is the parent of three children and is interested in working as a nurse

See **Nursing**, page A5

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Chef Roy Choi to receive honorary fine arts doctorate from CSUF

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

Through the years Roy Choi has grown accustomed to answering to the title of "chef," but after May 22 the restaurateur and author will have to get used to being called "doctor."

The Cal State Fullerton alumnus and Kogi BBQ food truck owner will receive an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree during the university's College of Business and Economics Commencement ceremony at Titan Stadium, where he will also be the guest speaker.

"I'm excited and honored to accept this honorary doctorate from the Cal State University system," said Choi. "I hope it can inspire these Fullerton Titan graduates and future entrepreneurs to embrace the challenges ahead with wisdom and patience."

While Choi is mostly associated with Los Angeles, due partly to his New York Times best-selling memoir and cookbook titled "L.A. Son: My Life, My City, My Food," he also has strong ties to Orange County.

Choi was born in Seoul, South Korea, but his family moved to the United States in 1972, living in Los Angeles and later Villa Park. His

family owned Silver Garden, an Anaheim Korean restaurant for three years, where his mother made a kimchi so popular, the family packaged it and sold it locally. In '94, Choi graduated from CSUF with a bachelor's degree in philosophy, but his obsession with Emeril Lagasse's "Essence of Emeril" inspired him to move to New York to pursue a culinary career. Choi graduated from the Culinary Institute of America and went on to work at three-Michelin-star restaurant Le Bernardin as well as Hilton hotels.

Choi found notoriety in 2008 when he partnered with fellow Titian alumnus Mark Mangera and food journalist Caroline Shim-Manguera to launch gourmet Korean Mexican taco truck Kogi BBQ. After consulting on the 2014 film, "Chef," Choi partnered with Jon Favreau for the Netflix series "The Chef Show" and is also the host of "Broken Bread," an Emmy Award-winning PBS SoCal series co-produced by KCET and Tastemade. In March, Choi launched Tacos Por Vida, his first L.A. restaurant debut since 2016 where he serves street-style tacos and burritos from a pop-up tent in Palms.



Travis Jensen

CAL STATE Fullerton alumnus Roy Choi is a restaurateur and New York Times best-selling author.

"Roy Choi's impact on the culinary world is unparalleled, and it's an honor for Cal State Fullerton to recognize his achievements with an honorary doctorate degree. His innovative approach to food and his dedication to social causes have inspired and delighted many," said Cal State Fullerton president Sylvia Alva. "We're proud to call him one of our own."

Cal State Fullerton is the largest university in the CSU system, with 13,347 Titans in the college's 2024 graduating class. The commencement for the school's 11,390 undergraduates and 1,957 graduate students will

be spread over 12 in-person ceremonies held over four days, May 20 through 23. The campus is expecting 120,000 attendees to turn out for the ceremonies.

Choi expressed confidence in the graduates' ability to make a difference post-graduation. "As they progress through life with the tools they gained from their coursework matched with the real-world experiences they'll acquire, they will break down barriers in their industries and change the world," he said.

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Barbara Hoshour Smith

February 27, 1928 - May 2, 2024

Barbara Ruth Hoshour Smith, longtime Newport Beach resident, family therapist, active community member and wife of deceased Municipal Court Justice the Honorable Kenneth McRae Smith, died of natural causes at 96 years of age on May 2, 2024. She is survived by her daughters Linda McRae Smith-Russell (husband-Gary), Amy Elizabeth Smith-Acevedo (husband-Michael), son Daniel Sheely Smith (wife-Keiko), and her beloved sister-in-law Lise Marie Bellour Hoshour (husband-Harvey). Grandchildren include Alanna Russell-Zuniga, Claire Russell-Wert, Patrick Smith, Emily Kato, and Linden Acevedo. Great-grandchildren are Riki Smith and Laki Kato. She is preceded in death by her father Harvey Sheely Hoshour, her mother Ruth Jesmore Hoshour and brother Harvey (Tad) Sheely Hoshour Jr.

Born on February 27, 1928, she spent her early childhood in St. Paul, Minnesota, attended St. Paul Academy and Summit School, later attended Dana Hall in Wellesley Farms, Massachusetts, graduating in 1945. She then attended Pomona College, in Claremont, California, graduating in 1950. During her time at Pomona, she met her husband and love of her life, Ken. She then was accepted to the Masters of Social Work program at the University of California, Berkeley. Her first job was with the Children's Home Society, placing children with adoptive families. She married Ken in 1952 while he was attending Stanford Law School.

In 1960, they moved to Newport Beach, where Ken established a private law practice. Barbara was a devoted mother while remaining active in community events. Ken was appointed as a judge in 1966. In the early 1970's, Ken faced a challenge when he battled alcoholism. As a result, Barbara and Ken became involved with Alcoholics Anonymous and Alanon. In the mid-70's, she obtained a real estate license and sold homes in the Newport area. Later, she received a Master's degree in Counseling and became a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. She provided counseling and clinical supervision at several local agencies including the Women's Opportunity Center at the University of California, Irvine, while beginning a private practice of her own. Helping people create positive change in their lives was one of her greatest joys.

When Ken was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease in the early 1980's, Barbara focused on helping him manage the disease until his death on May 2, 2002 (the same day as Barbara's passing). Barbara lived a full, happy and accomplished life. She loved working out at the Back Bay YMCA and was a fixture at the Costa Mesa Dog Park with dogs Wawona and Daisy. Her passions included camping and traveling throughout the western United States. She was an avid collector of antique Valentines, nativities and folk art. Anyone who met Barbara was instantly taken by her outgoing, intelligent, inquisitive and upbeat manner. She will be deeply missed by her family and large circle of friends.

Barbara's family is grateful to the caregivers who helped us through the last several years. We offer a special thank you to Reginaldo Ramos for over thirty years of devoted care to both Ken and Barbara. A memorial will be held in early August. Donations may be made to the Parkinson's Resource Organization.

Wahoo's founders are grand marshals at the Garden Grove Strawberry Festival

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

Wing Lam is one chief executive officer you won't find in the office very often. It isn't uncommon to see him grilling fish tacos for charity events with his organization California Love Drop. The co-founder of Wahoo's Fish Taco prefers to be out in the community helping where he can, which is how he became the grand marshal of this year's Garden Grove Strawberry Festival Parade.

"I love strawberries, and I always help out behind the scenes," Lam said of the festival. "Somewhere in this helping out they asked me and my brothers to be the marshals."

Lam will be joined by his brothers and Wahoo's co-founders Ed Lee and Mingo Lee in leading the parade procession as Celebrity Grand Marshals.

The Garden Grove Strawberry Festival takes place this year over Memorial Day weekend, May 24 through 27, with the theme "Celebrating Our Hometown." The parade of floats,



Courtesy of Garden Grove Strawberry Festival

A SHEET CAKE from a past Garden Grove Strawberry Festival.

bands, equestrians and cartoon characters will hit the streets at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 25, following the parade route down Chapman Avenue to Euclid Avenue.

"The Garden Grove Strawberry Festival Assn.'s

dedication to supporting the community aligns with Wing, Ed and Mingo's philanthropic efforts," said Mark Mahoney, festival association president. "We are excited to welcome the Wahoo's brothers as participants in this year's festival."

Their presence is a valuable and impactful contribution to our community in celebration of AAPI month."

The Strawberry Festival began in Garden Grove in 1958 when strawberries

See **Festival**, page A5

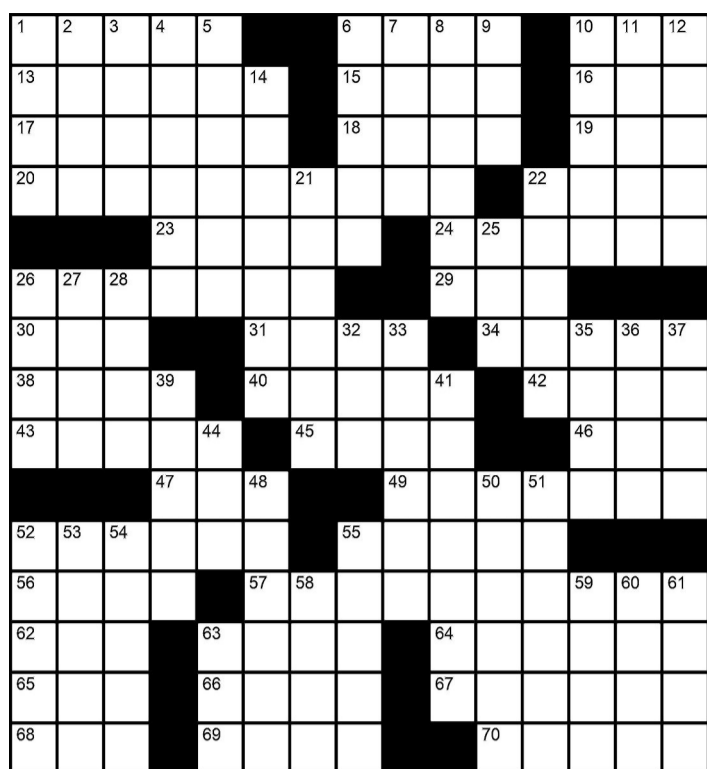
THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS

- 1 Suspect's story
- 6 Identify
- 10 Make a selection
- 13 Portly
- 15 Bearded flower
- 16 Suit accessory
- 17 Emilia of "Game of Thrones"
- 18 Cardinal's home
- 19 Owns
- 20 Famed "Messiah" chorus
- 22 Put in the mail
- 23 Pleasant scent
- 24 Houston's MLB team
- 26 Makes a mistake: 2 wds.
- 29 Crusted dessert
- 30 Place to park
- 31 Thailand, once
- 34 Finds actors for
- 38 Not awake yet
- 40 Mistake
- 42 Kangaroo's jump
- 43 "Aquaman" star Jason
- 45 Prefix with -plasm
- 46 Imitate
- 47 Special effects tech: Abbr.
- 49 Didn't include
- 52 Said aloud
- 55 Stockholm native
- 56 Dances like Fred Astaire
- 57 Write down
- 52-Across words
- 62 Consumed
- 63 Transaction
- 64 Roman emperor
- 65 Game with melds
- 66 B&Bs
- 67 "Twelfth Night" duke
- 68 Greek dawn goddess
- 69 Jazz singer James
- 70 Palm fruits

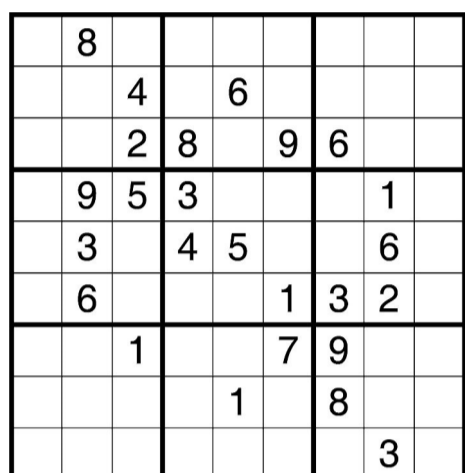
DOWN



SUDOKU

By the Mepham Group

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



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

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Eyebrow shape 2 Dancer Falana 3 Slanted, as type: Abbr. 4 Sack material 5 Animation studio workers, once 6 Japanese | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> warrior 7 Locale 8 Unfortunate accident 9 Approximately: Abbr. 10 This, that, and the _ 11 Instrument with |
|--|---|

keys

- 12 Exams
- 14 Nitpick, literally
- 21 Baseball official
- 22 Take illegally
- 25 _ semper tyrannis
- 26 Poetry event
- 27 Gray wolf
- 28 Celeb couple
- 32 Rainbow shape
- 33 Detroit nickname
- 35 Chair, e.g.
- 36 Cassette
- 37 Went too fast
- 39 Marina parts
- 41 Roasted red pepper sauce
- 44 " _ before beauty"
- 48 Meaning
- 50 Doc with a photo: 2 wds.
- 51 Mother _ (Nobel winner)
- 52 Actor's spot
- 53 Barbecue spot
- 54 Unlocks
- 55 Taco topping
- 58 Tirade
- 59 "You think?": 2 wds.
- 60 Nemesis
- 61 Mythical matchmaker
- 63 Perish

Tribune Media Services

NURSING

Continued from page A4

in Orange County, but doesn't know if she will be eligible for the stipend as she will have one semester left to complete. She touts the grant's benefits, either way.

"My family is living off of one income right now," Miller said. "With a stipend there will be more time to focus on studies, and that's such a great opportunity, especially for anyone who's coming from an underprivileged background or is facing any financial burden."

Weismuller hopes that the Cal State Fullerton grant will be implemented at the start of the



Courtesy of Janis Rizzuto | CalOptima

CALOPTIMA CEO Michael Hunn at the Cal State Fullerton sim lab.

next academic year in August.

As a condition of the \$10,000 stipend, repayment will be waived if a nursing school graduate

goes on to work in Orange County.

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FESTIVAL

Continued from page A4

were farmed on both the east and west sides of the city. The Chamber of Commerce hosted the first festival, organized by Garden Grove resident and public relations professor Tom Hoxie. The following year the city's residents formed the Garden Grove Strawberry Festival Assn., a nonprofit that still runs the festival to this day. The event benefits local organizations, with other Garden Grove nonprofits offered the space to sell food and keep 100% of their profits.

The festival will kick off with an opening ceremony on Friday, May 24, at 6 p.m. at the Showmobile at the intersection of Main Street and Acacia Parkway. Attendees that evening can look forward to the annual strawberry cake cutting, a tradition dating back to the early festivals, with free strawberry shortcake served to all who attend. Free concerts are scheduled to follow from Aerosmith tribute band AeroRocks, Chris Cornell/Soundgarden tribute band Rusty Sunn and Def Leopard tribute band Hysteria at the Garden Amp on



Courtesy of Garden Grove Strawberry Festival

THE GARDEN GROVE Strawberry Festival will feature carnival rides like the Kite Flyer and Tilt-a-Whirl.

12762 Main St.

On May 25, before the parade at 10 a.m., the Garden Grove Community Center will host a pancake breakfast at 8:30 a.m. open to the public for \$15 per person. Free concerts and annual contests like the Redhead Roundup contest will continue throughout the festival weekend along with carnival rides and games at the Village Green at Euclid and Main streets.

Additionally, Lam will be on hand for a special cooking demo using strawberries.

"I always make salsa and fish tacos, but they said if you do a demo here, you have to do something

with strawberries," said Lam. "I said, OK, I will take out the tomatoes and put strawberries in the salsa. Pineapple, mango and strawberries are delicious."

If strawberry salsa isn't your thing, Lam said there will be plenty of other strawberry treats to indulge in.

"I know I am going to eat a lot of funnel cake with strawberries," said Lam.

A full schedule of events and vendors can be found at strawberryfestival.org.

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forum

COLUMN | PATRICE APODACA

Climate change is driving worsening allergies

Springtime in Orange County. Flowers are blooming, birds are serenading and daylight is lingering. Isn't it glorious?



But also: May Gray. June Gloom. Bugs. And seasonal allergies.

When it comes to the latter, this year is off the charts, at least for me. I've spent the better part of the past few months sneezing, wheezing, wiping my weeping eyes, scratching my perpetually runny, itchy nose and consuming box after box of tissues. I'm a real joy to be around.

Fact is, though, it isn't just me. Allergy, asthma and immunology specialists across the country, including those here in Orange County, are reporting that they are seeing ever-growing numbers of patients seeking relief from their seasonal allergy symptoms. What's more, those symptoms are increasing in severity.

Not just that. Seasonal allergies — also known as allergic rhinitis or hay fever — aren't even confined to just one season any more. That is, for many of us, the symptoms are starting earlier in the year and lasting well past the traditional springtime window. Perhaps it's time to retire the term "seasonal allergies," since their appearance is quickly approaching a year-round phenome-

non. This occurrence isn't going unnoticed. News stories have been popping up regularly with headlines assuring readers that they are not imagining things, that allergies really are getting worse.

Even my dog has allergies, poor guy.

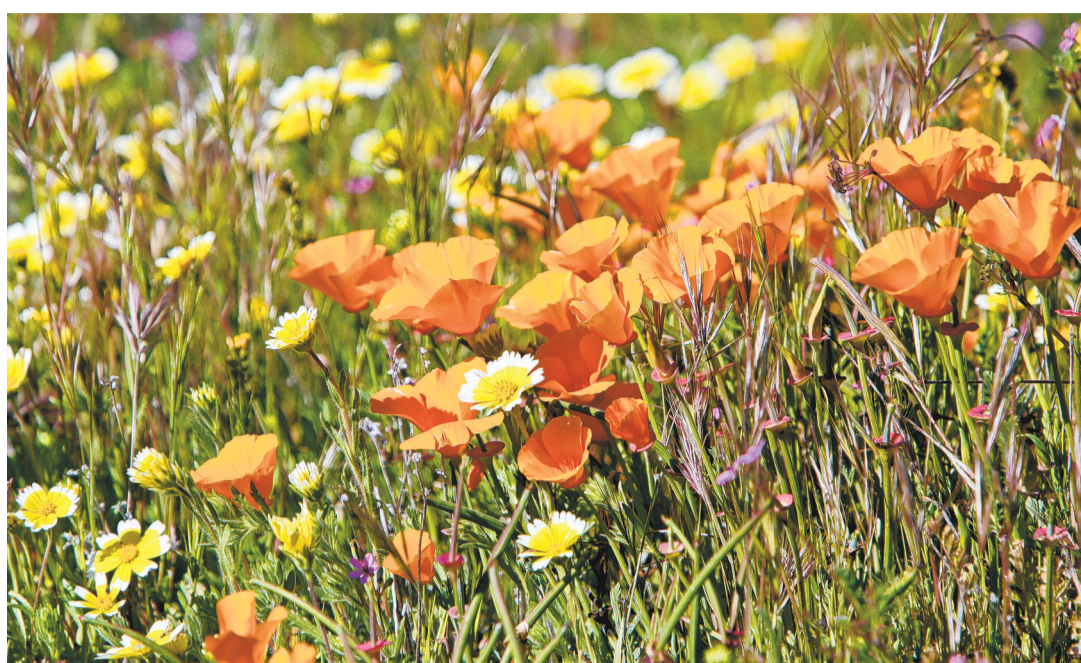
So what's going on? Why can't I turn off the leaky faucets that my nasal passages have become? Why are my eyeballs on fire? And why can't a girl keep her makeup from smudging and smearing?

Topping the list of reasons that explain what's happening is climate change.

The growth in allergies is one of the many ways that our addiction to burning fossil fuels is rapidly changing our environment and impacting our health in profoundly negative ways. As the climate warms, growing zones are shifting, many plants are blooming earlier and longer, and pollen counts are rising — in many areas, those counts have been consistently breaking records.

That means that more pollen and other irritants such as mold particles are being released into the air.

Heavier rainfall and shifting wind patterns due to climate change also contribute to the problem, as does the encroaching vegetation that previously wouldn't be found in cooler climates. Many people are being exposed to allergens that they previously did not encounter; thus, their resistance might be lower. There's even some evidence



CALIFORNIA POPPIES grow on a hillside near Angeles Forest Highway and Sierra Highway in March 2024.

File Photo

that increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere causes pollen to become more potent.

The allergic reactions we experience after breathing in these particles result from both genetic and environmental factors. They occur when the immune system detects a foreign substance in the body, triggering the release of histamines, which cause inflammation and boost mucus production.

"Climate change definitely has affected people," said UC Irvine immunologist and allergist Jenny Lee.

"With climate change — global warming — trees, grasses and weeds have their own growing season, but it's extending, getting longer."

In addition, she said, pollinating seasons for different types of vegetation, which, previously were more distinct, are now

blending into each other. "There's more overlap," she said.

Which is yet another reason why allergy sufferers like me can no longer seem to get a break from their symptoms. And those symptoms are nothing to sneeze at. Increased mucus and fluid production can lead to sinus and ear infections, and chronic inflammation is dangerous for those with asthma. Allergy sufferers tend to sleep poorly, and that negatively impacts overall health and productivity.

Unfortunately, treatments for allergies haven't changed much over the years. We have over-the-counter oral antihistamines and decongestants that lessen the symptoms, and there are steroid nasal sprays that temporarily reduce inflammation. Indoor air purifiers can also help.

But the relief these measures provide is limited and short-lived.

A more effective treatment — one that's been around for decades — is expensive and time-consuming. Immunotherapy involves giving patients a series of injections containing tiny amounts of allergens in order to desensitize the immune system so that it doesn't go into attack mode every time those allergens are introduced into the body.

Yet focusing on the treatment part of the equation shouldn't lead us to ignore what is now obvious — and urgent. The overarching issue here is that we have messed with our environment so recklessly and for so long that we are now reaping the hard consequences of living on a planet that is growing more hostile to our collective health and well-being.

For those who have yet to acknowledge the fact of human-caused climate change, it's long past time to accept reality. Allergies are getting worse because we have made it so, and this is just one of countless ways that our use of fossil fuels is quite literally making the air we breath toxic.

Humankind created this problem, and it is up to each of us to do our part to fix it. If we are to keep our planet livable, we need everyone fully on board with measures to transition to cleaner sources of energy.

Until then, no one should breath easy.

PATRICE APODACA is a former Los Angeles Times staff writer and is coauthor of "A Boy Named Courage: A Surgeon's Memoir of Apartheid." She lives in Newport Beach.

A WORD, PLEASE | JUNE CASAGRANDE



Elisabeth Frausto

JUNE CASAGRANDE would like to throw out the mistaken impression that it's ungrammatical to end a sentence with a preposition.

The grammar rule that isn't a rule that won't go away

When I started writing this column in the early aughts, people would say it's wrong to end a sentence with a preposition. They said it to me — every time I did it.



This idea was one of many myths that had been fashionable in classrooms in the 1950s and '60s and had incredible

staying power, perhaps because they allowed people to play gotcha with others' grammar which, let's face it, is pretty satisfying. Decades later, long after English class curricula abandoned these ideas, people continued to believe and repeat them.

As a grammar columnist, I've spent a lot of time setting the record

straight, citing respected authorities like Strunk and White's "The Elements of Style," which clearly says that it's OK to end a sentence with a preposition. I figured I'd be trying to clear the air on this matter forever.

In recent years, I've noticed a shift. The die-hard misconceptions that were so popular in recent

See Word, page A8

MAILBAG

Bill promoting trap, neuter and return would harm cats

State Sen. Janet Nguyen's SB 1459 is bad policy and should be opposed.

After working for 17 years to reduce pet overpopulation and shelter overcrowding through legislation, two things are crystal clear to me. First, good laws will compel most people to do the right thing when it comes to animals. Second, bad actors with little regard for the voiceless will exploit every legal loophole they can.

SB 1459, which was scheduled for a committee hearing on May 16, is a prime example of poorly written legislation that can be used to harm rather than help animals. Willingly abandoning an animal in California is a misdemeanor. SB 1459 contains a provision that would amend that particular section of the Penal Code to state that releasing "community cats" through trap, neuter and return (TNR) programs does not constitute animal abandonment. Yet the bill sets no strict parameters for implementing TNR programs. Operators are not required to hold specific permits. Nor do they need to coordinate with local animal control agencies or meet minimum standards of care. In essence, anyone would be able to round up and sterilize as many adoptable cats as they want and legally dump them onto the street, as long as they call it a TNR program. SB 1459 would also give legal cover to individuals who abandon their cats and claim it was part of such a program. It would be virtually impossible for a prosecutor to prove those individuals were lying, due to the lack of specific lan-

See Mailbag, page A8

MARKETPLACE

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NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: HARRIET K. WENT AKA HARRIET WENT CASE NO. 30-2024-01388335-PR-PW-CMC

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of HARRIET K. WENT AKA HARRIET WENT.

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by CATHERINE MARIE WENT in the Superior Court of California, County of ORANGE.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that CATHERINE MARIE WENT be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act with limited authority. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 06/05/24 at 1:30PM in Dept. 08 located at 3390 HARBOR BLVD., COSTA MESA, CA 92626

NOTICE IN PROBATE CASES

The court is providing the convenience to appear for hearing by video using the court's designated video platform. This is a no cost service to the public. Go to the Court's website at The Superior Court of California - County of Orange (occourts.org) to appear remotely for Probate hearings and for remote hearing instructions. If you have difficulty connecting or are unable to connect to your remote hearing, call 657-622-8278 for assistance. If you prefer to appear in-person, you can appear in the department on the day/time set for your hearing.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner R. CHAD HALES - SBN 217488 LAW OFFICE OF ROBERT E. HALES, APC 1341 E. CHAPMAN AVE. ORANGE CA 92866 Telephone (714) 771-7671 5/19, 5/23, 5/26/24 CNS-3815205# DAILY PILOT

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Employment

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CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

Crossword grid with letters: A L I B I, R O T U N D, C L A R K E, H A L L E L U J A H, A R O M A, S L I P S U P, L O T, A B E D, M O M O A, C G I, S P O K E N, T A P S, A T E, G I N, E O S, N A M E, I R I S, N E S T, A S T R O S, P I E, S I A M, E R R O R, M O M O A, C G I, O M I T T E D, S W E D E, T R A N S C R I B E, C A E S A R, O R S I N O, D A T E S

Sudoku grid with numbers: 6 8 3 7 2 5 1 9 4, 9 7 4 1 6 3 5 8 2, 5 1 2 8 4 9 6 7 3, 2 9 5 3 7 6 4 1 8, 1 3 8 4 5 2 7 6 9, 4 6 7 9 8 1 3 2 5, 8 5 1 2 3 7 9 4 6, 3 2 9 6 1 4 8 5 7, 7 4 6 5 9 8 2 3 1

A deep dive into a nautical-inspired tiki bar

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

When you walk into Strong Water Anaheim you don't simply cross the threshold into a kitschy tiki bar on Clementine Street. You embark on a journey into the bowels of a sunken ship. You begin in the alcove where your eyes need to adjust to the dimly lit bar, named for the rip currents that caused the Clementine to sink. At 1,884 square feet, the space is small, large enough to bring just 50 patrons aboard, but that number gets worked into the story too. The immersive bar is a testament to creativity, and every part of it, from the eclectic decor on the walls to the mugs the tiki cocktails are served in, is full of intention.

The concept of a sinking ship, said to have sank in 1884, comes from husband-and-wife team Ying Chang and Robert Adamson, the duo behind the Blind Rabbit, a popular speakeasy near the Packing House. Inspired by the Blind Rabbit's successful Mahalo Mondays, the couple opened Strong Water in 2019, with Adamson as director of spirits and Chang as fleet commander.

"It definitely was our passion project that took us many years to collect and curate," said Chang.

This year the bar earned recognition at the 2024 Tales Spirited Awards for "Best U.S. Bar Team – U.S. West" and "Best U.S. Restaurant Bar – U.S. West." In April, Strong Water was named a 2024 James Beard Award nominee for "Outstanding Wine & Other Beverages Program," the only establishment in Orange County to earn a nomination in any category.

Chang and Adamson have a combined 40-plus years of bartending and hospitality experience, but it is their dedication to the details that sets Strong Water apart.

Adamson maintains that good design has a good story, and his stories are inspired by the items he collected from Facebook Marketplace and other sources to outfit the bar. The atmosphere is part Robinson Crusoe and part Swiss Family Robinson, with a little Don the Beachcomber.

"The entire restaurant has been upcycled. We didn't build any-



Sarah King

STRONG WATER Anaheim welcomes patrons with an eclectic ship-wrecked design that tells a story.

thing new, we just used things that we could get," said Adamson.

The Clementine, the story goes, now exists inside a lava cave, turned on its side with its interiors made from the debris of its wreck. The booths are made from old ornate bed frames and antique library tables. A series of exotic bird paintings that look like they came from the same artist are actually sourced from multiple suppliers. A pink flamingo, a set of toucans and a peacock painting fill out the parade of tropical fledglings.

"When I first got this peacock painting I drove all the way out to somewhere in Northern California, and I got there and it wouldn't fit in my car," recalls Adamson. "So I had to go back and get a different car, but it is beautiful piece."

Each seat offers a different vantage point and therefore a different experience. A terrarium of birds is tucked above a particular table, visible only from that spot, for example.

"I didn't ever want any part of the restaurant to feel like it was the worst seat in the house," said Adamson.

Another coveted seat is one near the "Zombie King Grotto,"

the water feature Adamson said every tiki bar is obligated to include.

"Every good tiki bar is supposed to have a blowfish, a water feature and colored lights," Adamson said.

The grotto also serves as the inspiration for the Zombie King cocktail, a combination of coconut, dark and Demerara rums mixed with lime, pineapple, cinnamon and walnut bitters. The Zombie King of Balacombé is a legend told through a short film of impressive production value accessible on YouTube. QR codes on the menu link to Strong Waters' other short films, a popular medium the couple uses to introduce new drinks and limited-edition mugs and tie them into elements of the bar.

The menu itself is a field guide of sorts, with 40 original, rum-based, stirred and zero-proof craft cocktails and helpful bits of tiki facts, like why tropical drinks are traditionally served over pebbled ice. There are classic rum cocktails like a mai tai and 3 Dots & A Dash, noted with an origin marker, saying who created it and where it was created.

"Did you know the Saturn cocktail, which is a very popular

cocktail, was created in Huntington Beach?" Adamson asks.

Chang said while they know not every cocktail is meant for the casual drinker, they like to have a few deep cuts for industry folks and tiki heads.

"We have a lot of cocktail integrity, so everything from juice to syrup to spirit is handpicked to make sure that cocktail is delicious and well-balanced," said Chang. "But we have a few that are handpicked for industry, for people that enjoy something a little different."

The menu also lists the drinks made with Lost Voyage Hamilton Rum, Strong Water's own spirit that won the bronze at the 2023 L.A. Spirits Awards.

The Asian-fusion food menu is overseen by executive chef Steve Kling, who presents dishes like mushroom mapo tofu, braised in tongue-numbing sichuan, furikake fries with spicy mayo and a Loco Moco burger stacked with a wagyu patty, Spam, fried egg and tempura onion ring.

Chang said that while tiki tends to be rum-driven, patrons will find a variety of spirits at Strong Water, along with vodka, gin, bourbon and tequila-based cocktails.

In fact, the Captain's Quarters, a more intimate back room with a back bar, was originally conceived as a place for gin-only cocktails. Now you can enter the quarters for any kind of drink, as long as the red light is on above the door.

"Red over red is the nautical term for the captain is dead," explains Adamson, "which means otherwise you wouldn't be able to go into his estate room without asking his permission."

In the backroom, a curio cabinet is filled with tiki mugs hand-selected by or gifted to Chang and Adamson, as well as original works of art commissioned to tell new stories. A painting of Adm. Horatio Nelson by a local artist, for example, was the inspiration for Strong Water's Tappin' the Captain mug, sharing the story of a captain said to have died while at sea. In order to give him a proper burial, the real-life admiral was stored in barrel of brandy — which sounds smart, until you learn that it wasn't uncommon for the crew to tap random barrels while the captain was asleep to steal a bit of liquor.

"It is believed that when they got to their first port, he was completely exposed to the air because the crew had unknowingly drank the brandy from the barrel he was in," Adamson said.

The legends, myths and tall tales not only put a creative spin on the menu but also create a way for patrons to connect with the concept.

"Our cocktail program is based off of stories and history because when you hear a little bit about how that cocktail was developed many moons ago, people almost get personally connected to it and feel they are part of the journey too," said Chang.

In the years since Adamson and Chang's own journey began, they are proud of what they have built together and grateful to see patrons squeeze into the ship's tight quarters night after night.

"We hope we can continue to provide the community with this for years and years to come," said Adamson.

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Twitter: @SarahNMos

MemorialCare Orange Coast Medical Center Regional Leader in Advanced Endoscopy – Earlier Diagnosis of Digestive Tract Cancers

Jose Luis Aranez, M.D.,
medical director, advanced endoscopy,
MemorialCare Orange Coast Medical Center



MemorialCare Orange Coast Medical Center is filling a gap in the region by introducing advanced endoscopy capabilities using advanced technology called endoscopic ultrasound (EUS).

Interventional gastroenterologists with training in EUS are typically only found in academic settings. However, Orange Coast Medical Center is using this advanced technology to identify esophageal, pancreatic and colorectal cancer sooner by diagnosing it in hard-to-reach places.

EUS is a minimally invasive imaging technique that uses sound waves to create an image of the inside of the digestive tract. Combining ultrasound with endoscopy for better visualization of organs and structures, EUS technology can help determine if cancer has spread to lymph nodes.

"Because the ultrasound device is inside your body, right next to your organs, it creates more detailed and accurate images," says Jose Luis Aranez, M.D., medical director of advanced endoscopy at MemorialCare Orange Coast Medical Center. "This allows us to take a tissue or fluid sample by passing a thin needle through the endoscope, eliminating the need for a separate biopsy procedure."

In addition to diagnosing cancer before it reaches advanced stages, Orange Coast Medical Center specialists also are using this technology to help diagnose and identify non-cancerous gastrointestinal conditions; evaluate internal organ diseases; locate common bile duct stones; and evaluate lesions in the lining of the gastrointestinal tract or in enlarged stomach folds.

MemorialCare Orange Coast Medical Center also offers advanced endoscopic procedures, such as endoscopic mucosal

resection (EMR) and ablation, a procedure that removes pre-cancerous, early-stage cancer, or other abnormal tissues from the digestive tract, and balloon-assisted enteroscopy, an incisionless procedure performed to reach and treat less-accessible colon polyps or areas of bleeding in the gastrointestinal tract.

"The EUS system provides a less invasive and more reliable diagnosis because of its unique ability to deliver outstanding image quality that facilitates easy identification and more accurate staging of GI tumors," says Dr. Aranez.

Orange Coast Medical Center offers comprehensive, multi-disciplinary gastrointestinal services designed for early detection and treatment of a range of gastrointestinal conditions, from common to complex, offering a suite of minimally invasive procedures and advanced technologies.

With these expanded services at Orange Coast Medical Center, Orange County residents now have access to advanced GI endoscopic services without having to travel far from home.

Want to learn more? Please call (657) 241-9090 or visit memorialcare.org/ocendoscopy.



MemorialCare
Orange Coast Medical Center

POKÉMON

Continued from page A1

not interested in collecting Picasso and Monets, but they might like having a PSA-10 Michael Jordan rookie card or a Mickey Mantle rookie card.”

Although professional sports and its legions of superstars remain a national obsession, when it comes to trading cards, a new king has ascended to the throne — Pokémon.

The Japanese franchise began in the mid-'90s as a role-playing video game for Nintendo, populated by a universe of unique animalian characters with different attributes, strengths and susceptibilities who would battle one another for dominance.

Finding an eager market of mainly young players, Pokémon became a multimedia universe of cartoons, movies, plush toys and trading cards featuring individual characters and their associated stats, similar to baseball cards.

Pokémon's fanbase now spans multiple generations, and the depth and breadth of Pokephiles' devotion has created a critical mass that is rocking the trading card industry.

Hoge says authenticating Pokémon cards has doubled PSA's overall business in the past two years, from 7 million cards graded in 2022 to 14 million in 2023. It has officially outpaced baseball cards as the company's largest category and necessitated the opening last year of a PSA office in Tokyo.

“There's a real emotional connection people have to these players or characters,” he said.

“We've seen several Pokémon cards sell for over \$400,000.”

For Orange County ad executive Alex Hodges, collecting Pokémon cards and attending events where he and others play and watch live battles is more than just a hobby, it's kind of a lifestyle.

The 36-year-old Anaheim Hills resident started collecting in 1999, when the trading cards began selling in the United States following the release of the popular Pokémon TV series, which featured a cast of 151 animated characters.

“That was a very revolutionary moment, where kids thought, ‘I can collect all 150 things I'm seeing on the TV right now,’” he said, recalling how the cards quickly became a form of kid currency.

“You could get one card that



Courtesy of Alex Hodges

ANAHEIM HILLS advertising executive Alex Hodges, seen in 2023, is a social media influencer within the world of Pokémon fandom.

sold for \$50 from a \$4 pack. We'd come home from soccer games with \$90 — my dad was so confused.”

Hodges diligently added to his collection, attending matches and keeping an eye out for rare cards that would not only round out his fleet of fighters but whose value would continue to increase over time.

Today, his collection comprises some 40,000 to 50,000 cards, several of which he uses for playing and others that, as trophy or display cards, have been authenticated by PSA and are part of a curated menagerie of standouts.

A father now to 2-year-old son Kit, Hodges enjoys a certain status among Pokémon devotees, posting regularly on Instagram and TikTok to more than 245,000 followers. He travels the world, competing and participating card parties where fans buy, sell, trade and bond over their shared passion.

People on the street are beginning to recognize him from



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

A COLLECTIBLE POKÉMON trading card on display at the new Professional Sports Authenticator (PSA) facility in Santa Ana.

social media, and even work clients who catch wind of Hodges's hobby join him at events and seek advice on their own collections.

“It ended up being this thing that added to everything else,”

he said Thursday. “Ultimately, I'm just a people person, and this kind of gave me a through line to everybody.”

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DISTRICT

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The teachers' union asked Campuzano to testify as a student, but the hearings took place during the school day. Some of his classes were taught by substitute teachers while teachers who received layoff notices attended them.

Hawkins missed four days of teaching her Cypress High

School health class on account of the hearings.

“Very little work got done,” she said. “My kids lost four days of instruction.”

With the layoffs rescinded all future hearings are canceled.

In the statement by Supt. Matsuda and Morganstern, joint meetings exploring solutions to the district's budget challenges are promised in the coming weeks, instead.

Morganstern, in a TimesOC

interview, signaled support for a bond measure should the district consider one later this year to help out with its financial woes.

But for some parents, it's too little, too late.

Daniel Olea has an eighth-grade student at Brookhurst Junior High School. As a parent, he wondered why district officials couldn't have crunched the numbers on alternate cuts before announcing teacher layoffs.

When Olea's son goes to high

school in the fall, it won't be at an Anaheim Union High School District campus.

“I already wasn't happy with the problems that we are currently facing like big classroom sizes, not enough communication between schools and a lack of security,” he said. “I'm taking my son out of the district.”

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MAILBAG

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guage in the bill.

As a general rule, those of us who work on the front lines of the animal protection battle oppose TNR programs that are not closely managed. We know they are not good, for wildlife and especially not for the “community cats,” most of which suffer greatly from untreated medical conditions, hunger, dehydration, exposure to extreme weather, predators, or cruel humans.

The last thing California needs is a law that will send more of our feline friends back onto dangerous streets, condemning them to an early death.

The keys to ending pet overpopulation are spay and neuter programs for owned and shelter animals, vaccinations, licensing, microchipping, and keeping animals indoors. By creating a new, legal pathway for people to abandon their cats, SB 1459 moves us away from that goal. Please join me in opposing it by contacting Sen. Nguyen at (916) 651-4036 and the Senate Appropriations Committee at (916) 651-4014.

Judie Mancuso
Laguna Beach

District elections would not suit Huntington Beach

It is super ironic that I would ever agree with City Atty. Michael Gates and even more ironic that conservatives have flipped on the “districting” issue for Huntington Beach (Lawsuit alleges Huntington Beach's at-large elections disenfranchise Latino residents, Daily Pilot, May 10). In the March

2004 primary election, Measure E, championed by conservative Scott Baugh and his GOP ilk, was soundly defeated 63.2% to 36.8%.

The fear in the community was that “districting” was a thinly disguised “divide and conquer” strategy which would allow partisan special interests to flood each district with oceans of cash supporting their own candidates and thereby control the City Council outright. It would also bump citywide candidates residing in the same district and essentially force relocations, showdowns or dropouts. Given the new overgenerous campaign contribution “limits,” special interests can now rule city elections regardless of districts.

The lawsuit proponents fail to realize that whoever draws the district boundaries controls the process, and minority areas can wind up even less represented than they already are. This would have occurred to southeast Huntington Beach in 2004, for example, being lumped with a more dominant downtown electorate population which would have almost always guaranteed a downtown council member for that district.

Districting will not work in Surf City unless you increase the City Council and have “micro-districts.” Even then, the “micro-districts” could be easily outvoted in setting policy by a majority on the City Council.

The best strategy for minorities of all kinds is to rally behind citywide candidates who will listen to them and represent them fairly. Fortunately, the 2024 election in November offers that kind of outcome with support for the council incumbents.

Tim Geddes
Huntington Beach

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.

Huntington Beach won't send library outsourcing to voters

Our Huntington Beach council majority claims they have to look into any budget-saving measure, which is why they are putting out an RFP to privatize/outsource the library. If the majority honestly believes “outsourcing” our library system is what the public wants, why are they refusing to let us vote on this? This council had no problem holding a special election in March which cost the city almost half a million dollars, but now refuses to allow the library issue to be put on the November ballot for a fraction of the cost. Could it be because they know the majority of the residents do not want this to happen?

The council can claim it's all about saving money, but I think most of us already know, it's really about controlling what reading materials will be made available to the public and what library programs will be offered. It is also a way to get rid of our experienced, educated librarians who have been maintaining a book collection which reflects all viewpoints of the community, not just those of the MAGA far-right Christian extremists. If our council truly believed in the democratic process, they would let the

residents decide the fate of their library.

Barbara Richardson
Huntington Beach

The new Shake Shack looks tempting

There's a place on 17th Street in Costa Mesa called the Baycrest Caps N Corks Bottle Shop and Market, where I often spend time buying and scratching lottery Scratchers along with numerous others who share the same passion. I've been going to that place for some time and have made some new friends. The store sells liquor, food, all kinds of snacks and two lottery ticket machines, which is atypical, as most places that sell lotto tickets only have one machine.

The Bottleshop is not just close to the new Shake Shack (Costa Mesa welcomes second Shake Shack to Orange County, Daily Pilot, May 10), it is just a few feet away with an ample view of the new place and even the outside seating. The customers of the Bottle Shop have been watching the construction of the new restaurant for the last few months and look forward to tasting the food there, which I'm told is pretty good. I happen to be at the Bottle Shop this past Thursday when Shake Shack had its grand opening with many people there

WORD

Continued from page A6

decades are fading. My myth-busting services are getting less valuable by the minute. But then, just when I think this never-was-a-rule rule has landed in the dustbin of history, I come across this “12 Common Grammar Mistakes You're Probably Making Right Now” list in Business Insider. Number 10 on their list of mistakes: ending sentences with prepositions.

I guess the rumors of my irrelevance have been slightly exaggerated.

Prepositions are little words like “with,” “at,” “from,” “to,” “until,” “during,” “including” and many more. Many of them refer to physical proximity, like “from” in “the object fell from the sky,” and like “around” in “she ran around the house.” But others don't, like “before” in “get it done before tomorrow” and “except,” as in “I saw every episode except the last one.”

Prepositions take objects — nouns or pronouns like “Mary” in “with Mary” or “the moon” in “to the moon.” The prepositions show relationships between the object and the rest of the sentence. “I'm talking with Mary. The rocket will go to the moon.”

Look closer and you can see the logic behind the myth: Prepositions take objects, so it's weird to separate the two and leave the preposition just hanging out at the end of a sentence: “Mary is the person I'm talking with. The moon is the place the rocket will go to.”

You can also see that these forms are a little awkward. Clearly, it's often best to follow a preposition with its object instead of stranding it alone at the end of a sentence.

But that doesn't mean it's wrong to end a sentence (or a clause within a sentence) with a preposition. And every expert out there agrees.

Merriam-Webster's Dictionary of English Usage says, “Recent commentators — at least since Fowler 1926 — are unanimous in their rejection of the notion that ending a sentence with a preposition is an error or an offense against propriety.”

The above referenced lexicographer H.W. Fowler described this belief as a “superstition.”

The most famous pushback against this myth, “This is the kind of pedantry up with which I shall not put” (or any of several similarly worded variations), is often attributed to Winston Churchill. The real author is unknown, as research by linguist and columnist Ben Zimmer has revealed. But the lessons are clear. There's no rule against ending sentences with prepositions and doing so — for example by contorting your sentence to avoid a simple wording like “put up with” — can be a terrible idea.

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.

celebrating the ribbon-cutting ceremony. We Bottle Shop customers have even made comments on how we would buy a few Scratchers and walk over to the Shake Shack, sit down on the outside seating and enjoy the food while either winning or losing money on the lottery. I've yet to taste the food there, but am looking forward to it along with my new friends from the very nearby Bottle Shop. As busy as that little shopping center is, it appears that the new eating place will garner even more business.

Bill Spitalnick
Newport Beach

Transparency crucial in air show settlement

Re: California state auditor to examine Huntington Beach's \$7M air show settlement, Daily Pilot, May 15): In 2014, when Michael Gates was first running for city attorney against a 12-year incumbent, he criticized her for settling cases and argued that he would fight for the city. Now, not only did he enter into a \$7-million settlement with the air show operator Code Four, but he refuses to discuss the terms of the settlement.

These are city taxpayer funds, and taxpayers are entitled to learn the details of that settlement. When Gates ran for reelection he campaigned with the conservative four candidates running for the the City Council, and now this majority, who granted Gates a pay raise, agreed to this settlement. Therefore it is crucial that its details be revealed. If there is nothing to hide, why the hesitation?

Richard C. Armendariz
Huntington Beach