

Daily Pilot

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2022 /// dailypilot.com



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

A WORKER last week sanded away the last remnants of an Outback Steakhouse sign at 1670 Newport Blvd., in Costa Mesa. The restaurant became famous after debuting its "Bloomin' Onion" appetizer in 1988. The chain still operates other locations in Orange County.

Costa Mesa's Outback Steakhouse is no more

A hyper local landmark recognized by Orange County lovers of the Bloomin' Onion and Grilled Chicken on the Barbie recently came down — the Costa Mesa Outback on Newport Boulevard is no more.

Locals took to social media earlier this week, speculating as to whether the post-pandemic economy may have

been to blame for the loss of the spot that billed itself as a "boisterous, Australian-themed chain serving steaks, seafoods and other hearty steakhouse fare."

Outback Steakhouse closed its Irvine location, inside Culver Plaza, in 2017, the same year the restaurant's Florida-based parent company Bloomin' Brands announced it

would shutter 40 locations nationwide.

Despite a thinning portfolio, the chain still maintained a fanbase and was named a reader favorite in the 2019 Best of TimesOC edition in the "Best Steakhouse" category.

Those looking for their own slice of Down Under delights don't have to trek too far, however, as the chain still operates

locations in Orange County, according to an automated message at the Costa Mesa site's phone number.

"Sorry for the inconvenience, but we are permanently closed," the repeating message intones. "Please visit our nearest locations in Laguna Hills or Westminster. We look forward to serving you there soon."

— Sara Cardine

Suspect to plead guilty to bribing officer

Fountain Valley man admits to operating illegal casinos in Santa Ana and paying an officer to cover them up.

BY ERIC LICAS

A Fountain Valley man who admitted to paying a former Santa Ana police officer \$128,000 to cover up four illegal casinos he ran agreed to plead guilty to conspiracy, operating an illegal gambling business and bribery in court documents filed Thursday.

Niem Ngoc Ha would have faced a maximum sentence of 20 years behind bars for the charges in the indictment filed against him in April 2021. He and three people who allegedly worked for him were arrested on May 25 as the result of an investigation by a multiagency task force assigned to rein in Asian organized crime rings.

The 47-year-old Fountain Valley resident admitted he opened and operated "nets" or "slap-houses" in strip malls and private residences in Santa Ana and that violence had taken place at some of them. In one case, Ha instructed one of his underlings to find and beat up someone who had started a fight at one of his illegal businesses, according to court documents.

A shooting took place at one of the gambling dens on Nov. 6, 2020. One of its employees was struck and hospitalized with a wound to the back of his neck.

The illegal casinos could each bring in thousands of dollars in a

See **Plead**, page A2

Costa Mesa police ID standoff suspect, allege shots were fired

BY SARA CARDINE

Costa Mesa police have identified a man who, during the execution of a search warrant Wednesday morning, allegedly fired upon officers and state Department of Justice agents, initiating a standoff that lasted for more than eight hours.

The incident began at around 10:30 a.m., when CMPD officers

assisted special agents with a warrant service at a business located on the 1700 block of Monrovia Avenue on Costa Mesa's west side, according to a release issued Friday by the department.

State agents were attempting to contact an individual — identified as Luis Mendez Jr., 49, of Whittier — who was prohibited from owning firearms due to a previous misdemeanor conviction for do-

mestic violence. He also had an active misdemeanor arrest warrant, police reported.

Mendez's name had been flagged through the Department of Justice's Armed and Prohibited Persons program as an individual who, despite legal prohibitions, was in possession of firearms. The warrant authorized agents to seize

See **Standoff**, page A2



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

COSTA MESA Police blocked part of Monrovia Avenue Wednesday and evacuated nearby businesses after a man engaged in a standoff with police. Law enforcement has identified the suspect involved.

Coroners ID swimmer who drowned near Thousand Steps Beach as teenage girl

BY LILLY NGUYEN

A 16-year-old girl from Los Angeles has been identified as the swimmer who died in the ocean south of Thousand Steps Beach in Laguna Beach on Wednesday, according to the Orange County Sheriff-Coroner's Office.

At 4:50 p.m., lifeguards were alerted by a witness who reported that the swimmer, later identified as Juliette Jung, went underwater after being overtaken by waves near a remote, rocky area of the beach.

Authorities initiated a missing swimmer search and rescue response. County lifeguards answered calls from the Laguna Beach Fire Department for assistance. The Orange County Sheriff's Department, Orange County Fire Authority and Laguna Beach Marine Safety, fire and police participated.

Rescuers located Jung in the water at about 6:10 p.m., officials

said. She was brought ashore by lifeguards near Three Arch Bay, where she was pronounced dead at the scene.

"Constantly changing beach, surf and tidal conditions make the rocky areas along the shoreline unpredictable and extremely hazardous," OC Parks spokeswoman Marisa O'Neil said in a statement. "OC Lifeguards advise beachgoers to avoid going near the ocean in areas where there is no lifeguard on duty and to check with lifeguards on current conditions before recreating near the water."

O'Neil said lifeguards typically patrol the beaches during the week and are stationed there on weekends in October.

A GoFundMe for Jung's funeral expenses had raised \$21,480 of its \$25,000 goal as of Friday afternoon.

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Andrew Turner

THE LAGUNA BEACH Little League Intermediate All-Star team was honored for reaching the Western Regional finals at a Laguna Beach City Council meeting on Tuesday. The team posted a 13-2 postseason record.

L.B. City Council honors Little League All-Stars for memorable postseason run

BY ANDREW TURNER

After a spectacular season in which it went all the way to the western regional final, the Laguna Beach Little League Intermediate All-Star team was honored at City Hall on Tuesday night.

The team posted a 13-2 record, winning 15 postseason games, across the District 55, Section 10 and Southern California State tournaments, all of which marked a first in the history of Laguna Beach Little League.

The boys of this summer in

Laguna Beach became just the fourth team from District 55 to win the Southern California State championship and the second team from the district to earn the distinction of regional finalist.

See **All-Stars**, page A2

ALL-STARS

Continued from page A1

Mayor Sue Kempf read a proclamation speaking to those accomplishments with the team and their coaches in front of the dais. Family members were then invited to take pictures with the group back together again following their memorable run.

CITY RECEIVES GRANT FOR DUI EDUCATION

In other City Hall news,

the city accepted a \$110,000 grant from the Office of Traffic Safety during Tuesday's Laguna Beach City Council meeting, with the funds to be designated for efforts related to DUI education and enforcement.

The grant money can be used toward overtime salaries and the purchase of equipment used to raise awareness of and provide enforcement against individuals driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol. A staff report provided a

list of activities the funds would help subsidize, including the execution of a checkpoint, DUI saturation patrols, traffic enforcement, and motorcycle noise and safety operations.

The grant, which runs through September of next year, will also fund education and enforcement operations focused on distracted driving, as well as bicycle and pedestrian safety events.

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STANDOFF

Continued from page A1

any firearms on the property.

The location, which corresponds with online records of a copy and printing business, occupied one suite in a business complex.

When agents attempted to enter the building, Mendez allegedly shot at them, although it is unclear how many shots were fired. After a hasty retreat, officers deployed a drone and were again fired upon by Mendez, the release indicated.

A helicopter on scene issued an audio warning for people located in nearby businesses, advising them to shelter in place. Costa Mesa's SWAT team was called in, and businesses were eventually evacuated as Mendez remained barricaded inside the build-

ing, police reported Friday.

After more than eight hours of negotiations, Mendez surrendered and was placed under arrest without having sustained any injuries. Officers recovered a rifle, a shotgun and multiple handguns at the scene.

The Whittier resident was booked at Orange County jail on suspicion of multiple counts of attempted murder of a law enforcement officer, assault with a firearm upon an officer and being a prohibited person in possession of a firearm, according to the release.

Atty. Gen. Rob Bonta on Friday thanked the state agents and Costa Mesa officers for their work in taking illegal firearms off the streets and out of the hands of potentially dangerous individuals.

"Today, Costa Mesa is that much safer, because

of their brave efforts," he said in Friday's release. "I am incredibly relieved that nobody was hurt during this incident."

As of Friday, Mendez was being held on \$110,000 bail and due to appear in court Friday for an arraignment hearing, but court records indicate he failed to show. Court files also state Mendez is associated with an incident of misdemeanor domestic violence and criminal threats that occurred on Oct. 28, 2021. That case is still pending.

Anyone who may have information on this incident (DR# 22-015861) is encouraged to contact CMPD Det. Jared Korte at (714) 754-5051, jkorte@costamesaca.gov or Sgt. Jose Morales at (714) 754-4933.

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PLEAD

Continued from page A1

single night, according to court documents. In order to protect them from scrutiny by law enforcement, Ha made multiple payments between June and November 2020 to former Santa Ana Police Officer Steve Lopez. On at least one occasion, Lopez was wearing his uniform and driving a marked department vehicle when he accepted cash from the de-

fendant.

It was unclear whether the former officer was able to actually shield Ha's businesses from the law. Lopez did notify him ahead of time when a Santa Ana police gang unit planned to shut down one of his businesses during the 2020 Labor Day weekend, according to court documents.

Lopez was terminated from the department after he pleaded guilty in April 2021 to one count of bribery, Santa Ana Police Sgt.

Maria Lopez said. He is scheduled to be sentenced on June 5.

Ha was scheduled to return to court to formally enter a guilty plea in the coming weeks, U.S. Attorneys' officials said in a news release Thursday. The three people who worked for him — Mindy Bui, Honganh Thi Pham and Sammy Cardona — are expected to begin trial in May.

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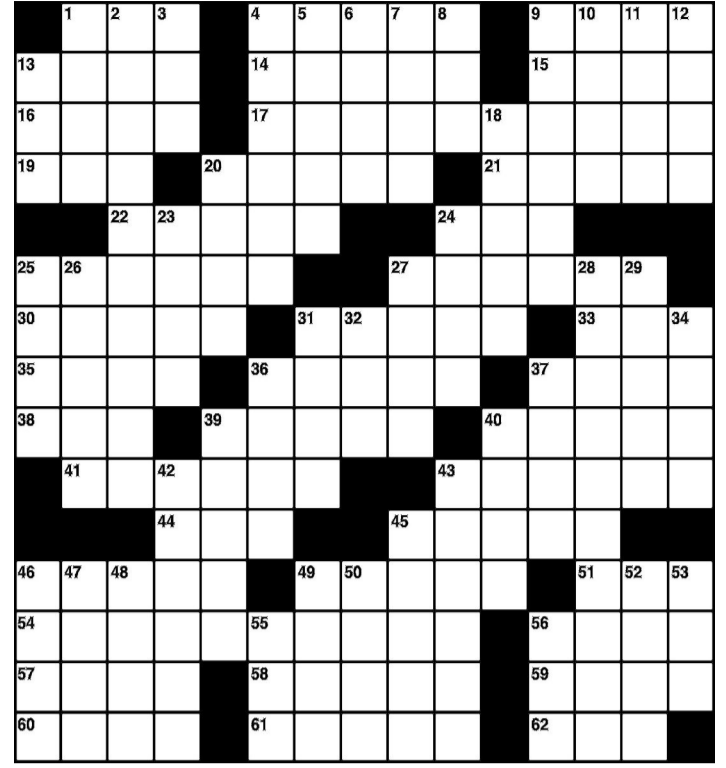
THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS

- 1 Jolt
- 4 Recur, as arthritis
- 9 Criticize harshly
- 13 Impulsive
- 14 _ out; eliminate gradually
- 15 "Who Wants _ a Millionaire"
- 16 Turn _; become
- 17 Asters & goldenrods
- 19 _ diem; for each day
- 20 _ out; oozes
- 21 Peruvian peaks
- 22 Acting award
- 24 Sizable
- 25 Handbook
- 27 Unwanted growths
- 30 Embrace as one's own
- 31 Lucerne folks
- 33 Sunbeam
- 35 Side dish with ham
- 36 Stable sound
- 37 Carry
- 38 "Ice _"; 2002 animated film
- 39 Burrito ingredients
- 40 Meat shunner
- 41 Mr. Hemingway
- 43 Absorbs knowledge
- 44 Mom's dinner table advice
- 45 Renter's contract
- 46 Sketches
- 49 Sandbar
- 51 That girl
- 54 Rote learning method
- 56 As wise _ owl
- 57 Small bills
- 58 Thickly packed
- 59 On the _; recuperating
- 60 Pillar
- 61 _ for; chose
- 62 _ out; invite for a date

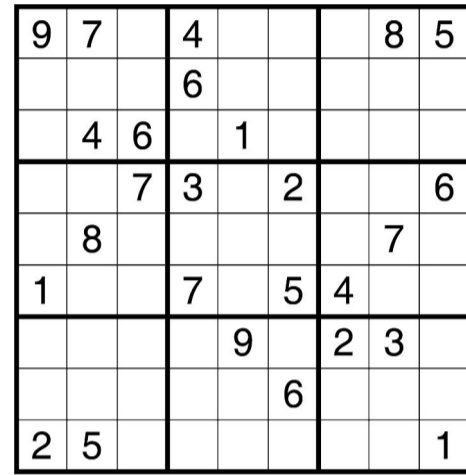
DOWN



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 A4.

- 1 "Eyre"
- 2 Galileo, for one
- 3 Fraternity letter
- 4 Entreaty
- 5 _ up; make happy
- 6 Waterproof covering
- 7 Utilizes
- 8 Name signer's need
- 9 Penny-pinching
- 10 Washerful
- 11 Suffix for notice or avoid
- 12 Predicament
- 13 Tear
- 18 Roofer's boxful

- 20 "Get lost!"
- 23 Has dinner
- 24 "Nonsense!"
- 25 Poet Angelou
- 26 Old saying
- 27 Gluttons
- 28 Advances
- 29 Lucifer
- 31 Tush
- 32 Achieve victory
- 34 Strong desires
- 36 Bobolink's home
- 37 Earl Grey products
- 39 Wild animal
- 40 Calf meat
- 42 Most recently purchased
- 43 Tilted
- 45 On the _; unrestrained
- 46 Bit of rain
- 47 Populous Nevada city
- 48 Copies
- 49 _ on; trample
- 50 _ at; allude to
- 52 Williams or Aaron
- 53 Conclusion
- 55 Knot-tying words
- 56 "I _ Rock"; Simon & Garfunkel hit

Tribune Media Services

Casual Elegant Style
by Tommy Bahama Home



HOME FURNISHINGS | HOME DÉCOR | OUTDOOR LIVING | DESIGN SERVICES

Tommy Bahama
HOME

FASHION ISLAND - NEWPORT BEACH

949.239.7112 | tbfurniturenewport.com | Atrium Court across from Starbucks

forum

A WORD, PLEASE | JUNE CASAGRANDE

She's adverse and averse to using these words in equal measure

"I'm not adverse to a little risk," I said recently in a conversation about personal finance. Then I quickly revised my wording. "Averse. I'm not averse to a little risk."

For all my years of studying English grammar and usage, I've never been comfortable with the difference between "averse" and "adverse." My solution: I usually try to avoid both words altogether. Once in a while I'll use "adverse," only to realize I probably used it wrong, causing me to swiftly backtrack, then double down on my policy of never using either word.

My bad relationship with these words began early in my editing career when a 1965 book called "The Careful Writer" by Theodore M. Bernstein messed with my head: "Adverse" means opposed, antagonistic, hostile. It is incorrectly used in the following sentence: 'He reads the morning papers and is not adverse to reading about himself.' In this example of litotes there is no intention of conveying an idea of hostility; the intention is rather to suggest disinclination. 'Averse,' therefore, would be the word to use because it means disinclined, reluctant, loath."

I find that example confusing. As Bernstein himself said, "adverse" can mean "opposed." So it seems reasonable to say, "He's not opposed to reading about himself." After all, a person who strives to be humble or who finds self-centeredness unseemly might oppose reading about himself. Anyone who's googled their own name knows there's something a little creepy about reading about oneself. So it's not unreasonable to point out that, while some folks might be opposed to this kind of navel-gazing, this guy is fine with it.

Bernstein isn't the only author whose advice on "adverse" and "averse" has let me down.

Here's Merriam-Webster's Dictionary of English Usage: "When used of people, 'adverse' and 'averse' are essentially synonymous, but 'adverse' chiefly refers to opinion or intention, 'averse' to feeling or inclination. Or, as it was put in the Literary Digest of 10 Feb. 1934, 'We are



adverse to that which we disapprove, but averse to that which we dislike."

So when you're talking about people, the two words are synonymous except that they're a little different? See why I get confused?

Luckily, in the real world, it's a little easier than that because "adverse" often describes things and "averse" almost always applies to people. After all, an inanimate object can't be averse to anything because "averse" is a feeling and only living creatures have feelings. Plus, "averse" often pairs with the preposition "to," as in "I'm averse to risk." Less commonly, it can also take "from": "I'm averse from risk."

Also, while some definitions of "adverse" are similar to those of "averse," the former also has a unique definition: harmful, unfavorable or opposed to one's interests. In this sense, "adverse" often comes right before the word it modifies: Your policies can have an adverse impact, your medication can cause an adverse reaction, and when you go to the beach you want to avoid adverse weather conditions.

Yes, when it means "opposed," "adverse" can pair up with "to" and describe people, but that's less common than cases in which it means "harmful" and comes right before a noun.

If you're looking for an easy guideline, consider this advice from Garner's Modern American Usage: "To be adverse to something is to be turned in opposition against it — Thailand was adverse to Japan during most of World War II. The phrase usually refers to things, not people. To be 'averse' to something is to have feelings against it — averse to risk. The phrase usually describes a person's attitude. Both words may take the preposition 'to,' but 'averse' also takes 'from.'"

Good advice for the brave. But I'll probably keep sidestepping both words altogether.

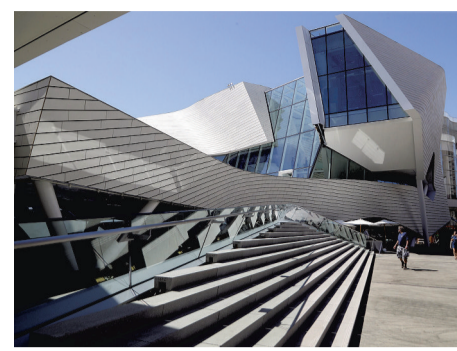
JUNE CASAGRANDE is the author of "The Joy of Syntax: A Simple Guide to All the Grammar You Know You Should Know." She can be reached at JuneTCN@aol.com.

MAILBAG

Celebrating the arts then and now

I had the distinct honor and privilege of serving as the Newport Harbor Art Museum's public relations and marketing consultant nearly 40 years ago, and then volunteering to help raise more than \$1 million as the original Orange County Performing Arts Center was being built in the mid-1980s. Those were heady days when many of O.C.'s business elite, like Donald Bren, George Argyros, Gen. William Lyon, Henry Segerstrom and Kathryn Thompson, personally knew then-President Ronald Reagan. Not surprisingly, these same corporate titans also were generous supporters of the Newport Harbor Art Museum and OCPAC. Today, many of their heirs have stepped up and become generous donors to the new Orange County Museum of Art. What I find most interesting is what people said decades ago still is being repeated today. There is more to life than making money. There is the creative process we call art. No matter your station in life, it is something we all can celebrate today and decades to come. I wish OCMA a very bright and artful future.

Denny Freidenrich
Laguna Beach



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

A DAILY PILOT reader congratulates the new Orange County Museum of Art.

— and won! — to delete 26 lies and misrepresentations that a council member made in his ballot argument against Measure Y.

Measure Y passed by a landslide: 26,132 in favor and 12,081 against.

Now you might think that the current council of ambitious politicians would learn from the leash-jerking an enraged polity gave the 2016 council.

You also might think that the last thing these ambitious politicians would want to do is poke a majority of voters in the eye. But that's what they are doing, in effect.

If Costa Mesans want to keep a leash on overly ambitious council members, they should vote "no" on Measure K to save Measure Y.

Tom Egan
Costa Mesa

Measure K would change the will of voters

The Costa Mesa City Council's Measure K is bad politics. It would nullify the 2016 citizens' landslide vote that approved Measure Y. It would grab the power back from the voters. It would unleash runaway development throughout Costa Mesa.

That Measure K even exists raises a question: What does it take to get through to the Costa Mesa City Council? We told them six years ago in no uncertain terms that we needed to put a leash on them; they had been too free with giveaways to developers.

We created a leash in the form of a citizens' initiative, which became Measure Y. It was popular with voters. When we circulated petitions to qualify the initiative for the ballot, some citizens enthusiastically grabbed the clipboard out of the circulator's hands, wanting to get their name on the petition ASAP.

We knocked on doors. We stood on street corners holding signs. We raised thousands of citizen-only dollars to print flyers and yard signs to explain the issues. We sponsored a civic forum to explain how Measure Y could rein in rash development in our city. We even went to court

Katie Porter for reelection

Katie Porter, a former professor from UCI, has become somewhat of a folk hero during her two terms in office representing the 47th Congressional district, which includes Newport Beach, Costa Mesa, Irvine, Seal Beach, Huntington Beach and Laguna Beach. She has become well known for her style of drilling powerful people by questioning them assertively while "scribbling figures on a whiteboard," a technique reflecting her professorial background. She also has been appreciated as a consumer activist protecting the "little guy" from corporate indifference.

Two of her accomplishments include confronting a pharmaceutical company for hiking the price of cancer drugs and pressing a federal official to make COVID-19 drugs free. She also has been

See **Mailbag**, page A4



FASHION ISLAND
NEWPORT BEACH, CALIFORNIA

UCI Health

Tito's
Handmade
VODKA

VISIT
NEWPORT BEACH
CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles Times

There's nothing like the experience of watching an amazing film in a big, dark theatre. But when you find yourself in the sun, make sure to apply the proper sunscreen.

AROUND TOWN



Courtesy of Roku

A STILL from the musical biopic, "WEIRD: The Al Yankovic Movie," which will open the Newport Beach Film Festival on Thursday.

23rd Newport Beach Film Festival opens Thursday

The Newport Beach Film Festival is opening this Thursday with the film "WEIRD: The Al Yankovic Story," starring Daniel Radcliffe, at the Edwards Big Newport theater at 7 p.m.

The festival will continue through Oct. 20 and dozens of films will be screened during its run. It will close with the much-anticipated "Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery" from director Rian Johnson. For more information or to buy tickets, visit newportbeachfilmfest.com.

Sign-ups still on for Love Newport Beach Day

The first Love Newport Beach Volunteer Day takes place Oct. 15

The event was organized by more than 25 businesses, nonprofits and faith-based organizations. Volunteers

attending will be matched with more than 30 projects throughout the city.

The day will begin at 8 a.m. at Newport Beach City Hall, 100 Civic Center Drive, where volunteers will gather for breakfast and a kickoff celebration. Work will take place from 9 a.m. to noon.

Volunteers can sign up at renewnewport.com.

Candidates forum on state races set for Wednesday

Speak Up Newport will hold a candidates' forum for the state offices that include Newport Beach on Wednesday. The forum will include races in the 72nd state Assembly District, the 36th state Senate District and the 47th Congressional District.

Candidates expected to attend, according to organizers, are Diane Dixon,

See **Town**, page A5

MAILBAG

Continued from page A3

trying to protect Americans' freedoms from being attacked by the right-wing Supreme Court.

Porter is not afraid to show that she is often politically independent. She even talked Speaker Nancy Pelosi into reversing her opinion on legislation that Porter initiated to prevent lawmakers from trading stocks while in public.

On her Facebook pages, you can see that Katie Porter is appreciated well outside of California. Her opponent is Scott Baugh who led the Orange County Republican Party for several years. According to the Los Angeles Times, if elected, he will join the ranks of "extremist GOP lawmakers."

Lynn Lorenz
Newport Beach

Voting could sway future of schools

Two months ago, my family relocated to Orange County after our children were kicked out of their private school in the Bay Area, an ordeal documented by journalist Bari Weiss. As parents, we decided to push back against a divisive and identity-obsessed shift in the curriculum, and administrators told us our objections made faculty and staff feel "unsafe" and informed us our children were no longer welcome on campus.

Six- and 7-year-olds were being asked to share which gender they "felt like" and to pick pronouns that seemed right to them. They were read books about children being "born in the wrong bodies" and were subjected to an identity lecture by a trans-identifying staff member. Older students were asked to join affinity groups based on race, gender identity and/or sexual orientation, and fourth-graders were subjected to sexually explicit health curricula including lessons on sexual orientation and masturbation.

American flags were taken down and replaced with pride flags, and civic holidays such as Veterans Day, Presidents Day and Memorial Day were removed from the canon and replaced with identity-based observances such as Black History Month, Indigenous People's Day, Pride Month and Trans Awareness Day.

When this ideology spread unchecked through our former school, the impact was devastating: Young girls were suffering from body dysmorphia and binding their breasts, white children were dehumanized through curricula that made them out to be oppressors due to the circumstances of their birth and, concerned adults were silenced, shunned and canceled all in the name of "diversity and inclusion."

The subversive shift at

our school was not done in isolation. Accrediting bodies, teachers' unions and textbook publishers across the country are pushing this ideologically extreme curriculum to schools, both public and private. This orthodoxy is being promoted to school administrators and districts by political activist groups.

In 2019, the Newport-Mesa school district contracted with the Anti-Defamation League to implement identity-based trainings to fight discrimination. Similar trainings were implemented at our former school, and while fashionable, the trainings pit groups against one another in power struggles based on immutable characteristics and ultimately diminish what it means to be human.

There is only one way to rid our school district of this divisive ideology — the ballot box. The incumbent board members who unanimously supported this program for our students must be held accountable and replaced.

I urge Newport Beach voters to consider the following candidates willing to protect our students from a curriculum that dresses itself up as equity and compassion but is rooted in a dim view of human agency that aggravates grievances and divides communities.

Barbara George, running for Area 4, vocally spoke out against the ADL program after it was unanimously approved. Reina Shebesta, running for Area 5, is a school counselor who has committed to vetting the district curriculum for inappropriate and divisive content. Danielle Mills, running for Area 2, is willing to stand up to the special interest groups promoting this controversial curriculum. Lastly, Kristen Seaburn, Area 7, is advocating for a curriculum that is transparent and evidence based.

These candidates are motivated to eliminate the sources of division in our schools and promote a district culture based on an understanding that every person is a unique individual with value and that we are all united by our shared humanity.

Rebeka Sinclair
Newport Beach

Blue and red get behind Stapleton

We're so much alike, we joke that we're sisters from another mother. Though we're not politically aligned, we put our friendship above politics. We've voted differently from the White House to Measure B, but on this one, we're voting exactly the same, and it's for Joe Stapleton.

Why would two political opposites agree on a vote for a City Council seat? For us, it's pretty obvious. Joe has spent years serving Newport Beach. He's respected for his integrity, intellect and work ethic. He cherishes our city and wants to preserve what makes it so special.

Some who spoke so loudly about not wanting to give anyone the ability to

buy their way onto the council to be mayor are now backing a relative newcomer who is doing just that. We have no animosity towards Joe's opponent, but he has no track record in our community, other than bankrolling Measure B. That's not a track record of civic leadership, years of building relationships in our community or a demonstration that one is the type who can lead our city.

The best example of this is the falsehood that Joe was "not being honest" with the O.C. Republican Central Committee when he responded "No" to the question "Have you ever been arrested?" In fact he had not been "arrested" but had been "cited" — two distinct and separate things. Joe was cited when driving his intoxicated friends home while in college and one of the friends had an open container. That is *not* an arrest.

Newport needs more of what Joe did — to know when to take action to ensure the safety of others. We all know of far too many instances in Newport Beach or of Newport Beach residents who have not had the care of friends like Joe, to ensure they made it home safe and sound. We applaud Joe for doing the right thing ethically and morally ... that's a good friend and a good person, and that's what Newport Beach needs more of now and always.

So here we are, two good friends ... one red, one blue, but both Newport. We both love Newport and we're both voting for Joe Stapleton for City Council.

Suzanne Gauntlett
Ruth Sanchez Kobayashi
Newport Beach

CCE remains the best option

I'd like to offer my thanks to reporter Matt Szabo for making an effort to cover the story of Community Choice Energy in Huntington Beach as well as touching on the ongoing saga of the Orange County Power Authority. This story dates back more than five years, and CCE has been discussed, studied and debated before three different versions of the H.B. City Council as well as the crazy world of social media.

Honestly, the Daily Pilot could have done an entire series of articles focused on CCCE simply to address the rampant misinformation swirling around our community; an explanation of CCE as a concept and its history would be very helpful in this regard. With seemingly so much debate about CCE being focused on renewable energy and future environmental benefits, many other community benefits of service go largely unnoticed and unmentioned.

While the rollout of OCPA has had a number of missteps, these management issues do nothing to undermine the soundness behind CCE's basic concept: local control and consumer choice.

Steve Shepherd
Huntington Beach

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

J	A	R	A	C	T	U	P	S	L	A	M		
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Brad Evans Foundation

Announces 2022 Scholarship Award(s)

In June 2022, by Zoom, the Brad Evans Foundation awarded **TWO** U.C. Berkeley scholarships. This year's recipients are **Costa Mesa High School** senior **Liam Fahrion** and **Estancia High School** senior **Melissa Plata**.

Besides being an outstanding student, **Liam** has been a Newport Beach Ocean Lifeguard and played varsity water polo. He is an economics major at Cal and is planning on attending Law School to become a criminal defense attorney. **Melissa**, also an outstanding student, is enrolled in the School of Architecture at Cal and is excited to pursue a career in that field.



Liam Fahrion
U.C. Berkeley



Melissa Plata
U.C. Berkeley

The Evanses join with their families and friends in wishing these scholars a wonderful and rewarding freshman year!

Harbor View School PFO

selects two for Brad Evans Memorial Scholarships

In May of 2022 the **Harbor View PFO - Brad Evans Memorial Scholarships** were awarded to Corona del Mar seniors **Kate Kittleson** and **Ellie Spotts**. **Kate** is now at U. C. Berkeley studying applied mathematics and **Ellie** entered Emerson College and will compete in lacrosse while majoring in business. The HV PFO and the Evans family wish them both the very best as they embark on their college careers.



Kate Kittleson
U.C. Berkeley



Ellie Spotts
Emerson College

After Brad died in 2001, the HV PFO lovingly renamed its scholarship in his honor and memory. It is awarded to outstanding CdM seniors who attended Harbor View Elementary School. Brad Evans was the recipient the PFO scholarship upon his graduation from CdM

For more information about either of these two programs, or to make a contribution, please visit the web site at bradevansfoundation.org

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COVID-19 hospitalizations and positivity rates hold steady in Orange County

BY CITY NEWS SERVICE

Orange County's COVID-19 positivity rates and hospitalizations remained relatively the same as last week, according to data released Thursday by the Orange County Health Care Agency.

The county also logged nine more fatalities, increasing the total death toll to 7,459. Seven of the fatalities occurred last month, increasing September's death toll to 43. One fatality occurred in August, raising that month's death toll to 104, and another happened in July, increasing that month's death toll to 127.

The county, which provides updates on Thursdays, reported hospitalizations dropped from 163 on Sept. 29 to 133 on Wednesday. The number of intensive care unit patients decreased from 23 to 14.

The county has 26% of its ICU beds available. Officials grow concerned when that percentage drops below 20%. Of those hospitalized 68.7% are incompletely vaccinated or unvaccinated.

The county logged 1,495 cases, increasing the cumulative case count to 669,278.

The county's test positivity rate went from 6.1% last week to 6.4%, with the statistic declining from 6.5% to 6.4% in the health equity quartile, which measures the communities hardest hit by the pandemic. The daily case rate per 100,000 dropped from 7.4 to 7.2 on seven-day average with seven-day lag, and from 7.8 to 7.6 in the adjusted daily case rate per 100,000 on a seven-day average with a seven-



Scott Smeltzer

ROMMEL HERNANDEZ, talks to Saul Garcia, dressed as Jesus, while he waits to get a COVID-19 vaccine booster at Golden West College in 2021.

day lag.

The positivity rate for those fully vaccinated with a booster dropped from 9 on Sept. 25 to 6.6 to Oct. 2, according to the latest data available. For those vaccinated with no booster the rate went from 4.3 to 4.4. For those not vaccinated the rate decreased from 8.3 to 7.2.

Officials corrected an "irregularity" in state vaccine data last week. The number of residents fully vaccinated is 2,353,187. The number of residents who have received at least one dose is 209,790. The number of booster shots administered is 1,379,689.

The number of children up to 4 years old who have received at least one dose is 14,091 with 6,166 fully vaccinated. Just 3.3% of the county's population in the age group is fully vaccinated. For 5- to 11-year-old children, 96,618 are fully vaccinated, about 36.5% of the age group. In the 12-to-17 age group, 69.8% are fully vaccinated.

dailypilot@latimes.com
Twitter: @TheDailyPilot

TOWN

Continued from page A4

Judie Mancuso, Janet Nguyen, Kim Carr and Scott Baugh. Congresswoman Katie Porter was invited, but unable to participate in the forum.

The program will be held at the Newport Beach Civic Center Community Room and begin at 6 p.m. Registration is not required to attend the in-person event, though organizers are asking interested viewers to register at speakup-newport.com/2022-state-candidates-forum for the Zoom simulcast.

OCC plans science night for kids

Orange Coast College is welcoming elementary school-aged children to attend its 23rd annual Community Science Night on Friday, Oct. 14, from 5 to 9 p.m.

Science Night is returning in person for the first time since the coronavirus pandemic. The event is free to attend for all elementary school students. Attendees will be provided a hot dog and water at no cost.

"More than a dozen STEM departments will be participating in Science Night, including chemistry, marine science, astronomy, engineering and more," Scott Mitchell, the coordinator for Science Night, said in a release. "Kids will have a chance to explore tide pools in our aquarium, see robots battling in our technology building, and visit the far reaches of our galaxy in our Planetarium theater."

Activities will take place in the Planetarium and surrounding buildings. For more information on the event, visit orangeoastcollege.edu/sciencenight.

Bella Terra hosts Viet Film Fest this weekend

The Viet Film Fest will be holding its in-person screenings this weekend at the Bella Terra in Huntington Beach.

Films will be screening on both Friday and Saturday. The festival opened at the start of this month and will continue through Oct. 15 in a hybrid format. For more information and scheduling, visit vietfilmfest.com

Fountain Valley Sports Hall of Fame Induction

The fourth annual Fountain Valley Sports Hall of Fame induction ceremony will take place at the Center at Founders Village (17967 Bushard St.) on Saturday, Oct. 15 from 5 to 9 p.m.

The event will honor elite athletes of the past from Fountain Valley High School, and tickets are available for purchase through Monday, Oct. 10. The cost is \$50.

Those being inducted into the Fountain Valley Sports Hall of Fame this year include Carlos Briceno (volleyball), Dan Malane (basketball), Pam Boswell (softball), Dan Lewis (wrestling), Luke Hudson (baseball), baseball coach Ron LaRuffa, wrestling coach Wayne Mickaelian, and the 1994 and 1995 baseball teams.

Questions should be directed to FVHOF@yahoo.com.

Huntington Beach High's Vandenbosch receives honor

Huntington Beach High School athletic director Melissa Vandenbosch was recently named the ath-

letic director of the year by the Orange County Athletic Directors Assn.

Vandenbosch, who has served as athletic director of the school for 11 years, has been on campus for two decades. She spent the previous nine years as an athletic trainer for Huntington Beach.

"I am very humbled and honored to receive this award," Vandenbosch said. "Huntington Beach athletics holds a special place in my heart. I am fortunate to work with an amazing administration, staff, coaches and athletes on a daily basis."

Free health fair at Newport Coast Pharmacy Oct. 20

The Newport Coast Pharmacy and Compounding Center is hosting a free community health fair on Oct. 20, where people will be able to get free flu shots, COVID-19 bivalent boost-

ers, glucose and blood pressure checks and product samples. The health fair will begin at 10 a.m. and end at 2 p.m. It will be at the center at 400 Newport Center Drive, Suite #106.

Fountain Valley Fire Department Open House

To celebrate "Fire Prevention Week," the Fountain Valley Fire Department will host its annual Open House event at Fire Station No. 1 on Saturday, Oct. 15 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The station is located at 17737 Bushard St.

Residents are invited to come enjoy the festivities, including the chance to view the inside of an ambulance and see the "Jaws of Life" put to work. Attendees will also learn about fire prevention.

There will be a hot dog lunch and a dessert truck.

— From staff reports

Daily Pilot

A Times Community News publication incorporating the Huntington Beach Independent, Coastline Pilot, Orange Coast Daily Pilot and the Newport Harbor News Press combined with Daily Pilot

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ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR A CHANGE OF NAME CASE NO. 01277708

Petitioner or Attorney (name, state, bar, and address):
Eleni Susan Buflaten
2260 Park Avenue
Laguna Beach, CA 92651
(949) 377-9669
Self Represented

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED:
Petitioner Eleni Susan Buflaten filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

Present Name:
Eleni Susan Buflaten
Proposed Name:
Eleni Otelie Buflaten

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING
DATE: 11/8/2022 TIME: 8:30 am DEPT: 100

The address of the court is:
Remote Hearing
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
County of Orange
Central Justice Center
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county, the **DAILY PILOT**.
Dated: **AUG 30, 2022**
Judge Layne H. Melzer
David H. Yamasaki, Clerk of the Court
B. Wangsness, Deputy

Dates of Publication: 10/1/2022; 10/8/2022; 10/15/2022; 10/22/2022

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CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on **Thursday, October 20, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.** or soon thereafter as the matter shall be heard, a public hearing will be conducted in the Council Chambers at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach. The Planning Commission of the City of Newport Beach will consider the following application:

Alchemy 43 Med-Spa - A request for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to operate an approximately 1,150-square-foot medical office (i.e., med-spa) within an existing shopping center known as the Corona del Mar Plaza. The med-spa will provide aesthetic treatments for up to 12 patients per day with the potential for walk-in patients, dependent on the availability of staff. The med-spa will operate Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. with up to five employees.

The project is categorically exempt under Section 15301 under Class 1 (Existing Facilities) of the State CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) Guidelines.

All interested parties may appear and present testimony regarding this application. If you challenge this project in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you raised at the public hearing or in written correspondence delivered to the City, at, or prior to, the public hearing. Administrative procedures for appeals are provided in the Newport Beach Municipal Code Chapter 20.64 (Appeals). The application may be continued to a specific future meeting date, and if such an action occurs, additional public notice of the continuance will not be provided.

The agenda, staff report, and corresponding documents will be available by end of business day on the Friday preceding the public hearing, and may be reviewed at the Community Development Department Permit Center (Bay C-1st Floor), at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660 or at the City of Newport Beach website at www.newportbeachca.gov/planningcommission. Individuals not able to attend the meeting may contact the Planning Division or access the City's website after the meeting to review the action on this application. All mail or written communications (including email) from the public, residents, or applicants regarding an agenda item must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on the business day immediately prior to the meeting. This allows time for the Planning Commission to adequately consider the submitted correspondence.

For questions regarding this public hearing item please contact Joselyn Perez, Assistant Planner, at jperez@newportbeachca.gov or 949-644-3312, 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660.

Project File No.: PA2022-0156
Activity Type: Conditional Use Permit
Zone: PC27 (Newport Village)
General Plan: CG (General Commercial)
Location: 906 Avocado Avenue
Applicant: Alchemy 43
Mark Rosene, Secretary, Planning Commission, City of Newport Beach

Legal Notices

CITY OF LAGUNA BEACH:
ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 1676
TO ENACT NEW REGULATIONS FOR USE OF CITY PARKS AND BEACHES

Adoption of Ordinance No. 1676 entitled "AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LAGUNA BEACH AMENDING THE LAGUNA BEACH MUNICIPAL CODE TO ENACT NEW REGULATIONS FOR USE OF CITY PARKS AND BEACHES" was introduced at the City Council meeting of September 20, 2022, and adopted on October 4, 2022, on the following 5-0 vote: AYES: Blake, Iseman, Weiss, Whalen, Kempf; NOES: None; ABSENT: None.

Ann Marie McKay, City Clerk

Legal Notices

CITY OF LAGUNA BEACH:
ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 1678
RELATING TO FUEL MODIFICATION PROGRAMS AND FIRE SAFETY

Adoption of Ordinance No. 1678 entitled "AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LAGUNA BEACH, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING PORTIONS OF LAGUNA BEACH MUNICIPAL CODE SECTIONS 25.05.040(B)1, 25.05.040(B)2 AND 25.15.004(A)7) RELATING TO FUEL MODIFICATION PROGRAMS AND FIRE SAFETY, AS MODIFIED AND APPROVED BY THE CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION" was introduced at the City Council meeting of September 20, 2022, and adopted on October 4, 2022, on the following 5-0 vote: AYES: Blake, Iseman, Weiss, Whalen, Kempf; NOES: None; ABSENT: None.

Ann Marie McKay, City Clerk

Legal Notices

CITY OF LAGUNA BEACH:
ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 1679
REGARDING THE REGULATION OF WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES WITHIN THE PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY

Adoption of Ordinance No. 1679 entitled "AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LAGUNA BEACH, CALIFORNIA, REGULATING WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES CITY-WIDE, AMENDING CHAPTER 11.06 (TELECOMMUNICATION FACILITIES WITHIN RIGHT-OF-WAY) OF TITLE 11 (STREETS AND SIDEWALKS) TO THE LAGUNA BEACH MUNICIPAL CODE, AND AMENDING CHAPTERS 25.07 (COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMITS) AND 25.57 (WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES) OF TITLE 25 (ZONING) TO PROVIDE UNIFORM AND COMPREHENSIVE REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS, ALONG WITH PERMIT REQUIREMENTS, FOR THE INSTALLATION OF WIRELESS FACILITIES IN THE PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY, AS MODIFIED BY THE CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION" was introduced at the City Council meeting of September 20, 2022, and adopted on October 4, 2022, on the following 5-0 vote: AYES: Blake, Iseman, Weiss, Whalen, Kempf; NOES: None; ABSENT: None.

Ann Marie McKay, City Clerk

Legal Notices

CITY OF LAGUNA BEACH:
ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 1677
RELATING TO STREAMLINING OF THE DESIGN REVIEW PROCESS

Adoption of Ordinance No. 1677 entitled "AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LAGUNA BEACH, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING LAGUNA BEACH MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 25.05 (ADMINISTRATION) RELATING TO STREAMLINING OF THE ENTITLEMENT PROCESS AND AMENDING LAGUNA BEACH MUNICIPAL CODE SECTIONS 25.50.008 (PERMITTED PROJECTIONS INTO REQUIRED SETBACKS) AND 25.50.012 (FENCES, WALLS, HEDGES, LATTICEWORK AND SCREENS) TO CLARIFY SETBACK REQUIREMENTS AS MODIFIED BY THE CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION" was introduced at the City Council meeting of September 20, 2022, and adopted on October 4, 2022, on the following 5-0 vote: AYES: Blake, Iseman, Weiss, Whalen, Kempf; NOES: None; ABSENT: None.

Ann Marie McKay, City Clerk

Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICE



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Thursday, October 20, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. or soon thereafter as the matter shall be heard, a public hearing will be conducted in the Council Chambers at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach. The Planning Commission of the City of Newport Beach will consider the following application:

Nonconforming Code and LCP Amendments - The City is proposing amendments to the Newport Beach Municipal Code (NBMC) Title 20 (Planning and Zoning) and Title 21 (Local Coastal Program Implementation Plan). The amendments include: 1) clarifying development allowances for residential uses that are nonconforming due to density; and 2) reinstating a side setback allowance for properties in the R-1-6,000, R-1-7,200, R-1-10,000, R-2-6,000, and the RM-6,000 zoning and coastal zoning districts. The side setback allowance would allow additions in line with the existing side setback of the principal structure regardless of the current minimum side setbacks standards.

The action proposed is not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in accordance with Section 21065 of CEQA and State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15060(c)(2), 15060(c)(3) and 15378. The proposed action is also exempt pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) because it has no potential to have a significant effect on the environment. The Amendments themselves do not authorize development that would directly result in physical change to the environment. Lastly, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15265(a)(1), local governments are exempt from the requirements of CEQA in connection with the adoption of a Local Coastal Program.

All interested parties may appear in-person and present testimony regarding this application. If you challenge this project in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you raised at the public hearing or in written correspondence delivered to the City, at, or prior to, the public hearing. Administrative procedures for appeals are provided in the Newport Beach Municipal Code Chapters 20.64 and 21.64. The application may be continued to a specific future meeting date, and if such an action occurs, additional public notice of the continuance will not be provided.

The agenda, staff report, and corresponding documents will be available by end of business day on the Friday preceding the public hearing, and may be reviewed at the Community Development Department Permit Center (Bay C-1st Floor), at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660 or at the City of Newport Beach website at www.newportbeachca.gov/planningcommission. Individuals not able to attend the meeting may contact the Planning Division or access the City's website after the meeting to review the action on this application. All mail or written communications (including email) from the public, residents, or applicants regarding an agenda item must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on the business day immediately prior to the meeting. This allows time for the Planning Commission to adequately consider the submitted correspondence.

For questions regarding this public hearing item please contact Joselyn Perez, Assistant Planner at 949-644-3312 or jperez@newportbeachca.gov, 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach CA 92660.

Project File No.: PA2022-076
Location: Citywide
Activity No.: CA2022-004 and LC2022-002
Applicant: City of Newport Beach
Mark Rosene, Secretary, Planning Commission, City of Newport Beach

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735 Via Lido Soud, Lido Isle

4 Beds / 5 Baths / 3,170 SF
Sold Price \$8,550,000

SOLD / Represented Seller



604 Via Lido Nord, Lido Isle

4 Beds / 4 Baths / 3,128 SF
Sold Price \$8,400,000

SOLD / Represented Seller



217 Via Jucar, Lido Isle

4 Beds / 2 Baths / 2,344 SF
Sold Price \$3,660,000

SOLD / Represented Buyer



748 Via Lido Nord, Lido Isle

4 Beds / 5 Baths / 4,376 SF
Sold Price \$9,500,000

SOLD / Represented Buyer



1021 Bayside Cove, Newport Beach

2 Beds / 2 Baths / 1,763 SF
Sold Price \$2,900,000



Alison McCormick

Broker Associate / The McCormick Group

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DRE No. 00607959

