

Daily Pilot

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2025 /// dailypilot.com

Costa Mesa police target retailers of laughing gas

Citing improper sales, detectives on Jan. 24 seized nitrous-oxide-related products from two smoke shops.

BY SARA CARDINE

As county officials draft a law to ban the sale of nitrous oxide gas in unincorporated Orange County, Costa Mesa police are educating residents about the dangers of inhaling laughing gas and citing retailers for improper sales of the substance.

Police officials in a social media post this week shared photos of gas canisters and chargers seized from two Costa Mesa smoke shops. Members of the department's Special Investigations Unit determined employees had not been selling products in accordance with state laws.

Although the retail sale of nitrous oxide — used medically for anesthesia and pain relief, as well as in certain foods such as canned whipped cream in some meringues — is not prohibited in California, its use for recreational purposes is a misdemeanor offense.

Purveyors who sell nitrous oxide, also called NOX or NOS, are required by law to record all transactions, including customers' names and addresses, and make them sign a document

See **Target**, page A2



Courtesy of Costa Mesa Police Department

IMPROPER DOCUMENTATION of nitrous oxide sales at two Costa Mesa smoke shops on Jan. 24 led to the seizure of products.



LILA ROSE MILLER, 4, reads to Zoe as Karen Coyne looks on during the BARK reading event at Corona del Mar Branch Library.

Dogs lend their ears

BY SUSAN HOFFMAN

A handful of children gathered Tuesday afternoon at the Corona del Mar branch of the Newport Beach Library to brush up on their reading skills by sharing a good book aloud to a friendly canine.

They were there under the auspices of Long Beach-based BARK, an all-volunteer program designed to encourage children to build reading skills — and boost their self-confidence — by reading to certified therapy dogs.

"It can change a child's life by helping them change their attitude toward reading," said Josie Gavieres, founder and director of BARK. "Dogs don't judge, and when kids see dogs at a reading event, they want to be involved."

The three therapy dogs lending an ear during Wednesday's gathering were Zoe, a chihuahua, Harlow, a golden retriever,

See **Dogs**, page A3



SIX-YEAR-OLD Fynlee Wentz reads to Harlow during the BARK event at Corona Del Mar Branch Library on Tuesday.

Photos by Susan Hoffman

H.B. voter ID case kicked back to O.C. Superior Court

BY MATT SZABO

A three-judge appellate panel on Thursday kicked Huntington Beach's voter identification case back down to the Orange County Superior Court, calling the lower court's decision that the case was not ripe for decision "problematic."

Last November, Judge Nico Dourbetas dismissed the state's challenge of the constitutionality of the city's voter ID law, Measure A. The measure was approved by Surf City voters last year and al-

tered the city charter to allow for voter ID beginning in 2026.

The city has not detailed plans to implement such a law for next year's election, and the language of the measure stated that it "may" implement voter ID, not that it will.

But the California Fourth District Court of Appeal panel asked Dourbetas to modify his order, granting the city's motion to dismiss the case, within 10 days. If that doesn't happen, the appellate court would take over and invite both parties to file briefs by March

10. Specifically, the court is asking the city to reveal if it intends to conduct voter ID checks beyond those required by state and federal law.

California Atty. Gen. Rob Bonta and Secretary of State Shirley Weber filed a writ of mandate on Feb. 13, asking the appellate judges to decide the merits of the case.

"We are grateful for, and encouraged by, the appellate court's prompt action," said Bonta said in a statement. "Our priority remains the same: making sure that Huntington Beach's Measure A is struck

down as quickly as possible."

Thursday's order, written by Judge Kathleen O'Leary, states that Huntington Beach's city charter is now at odds with Elections Code section 10005. Outgoing Huntington Beach City Atty. Michael Gates has argued that the state constitution renders the elections code unconstitutional in regards to charter cities.

The order, however, calls Huntington Beach's argument that it has a constitutional right to regulate its own municipal elections free from state interference prob-

lematic. It notes that municipal elections are consolidated with statewide elections, which takes the local elections outside of the home rule doctrine.

Weber, in a statement, said she is pleased with the direction the case is headed.

"I look forward to a resolution that protects California voters," she said.

Gates did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

matthew.szabo@latimes.com
Twitter: @mjszabo

Pacific Symphony hosts Orange County Lantern Festival today

Activities, performances and a dragon dance are part of a collaboration with the South Coast Chinese Cultural Center.

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

Fifteen days have passed since the Lunar New Year began, marking the Chinese tradition of the Lantern Festival.

Also called Shuangyuan Festival and Cap Go Meh, the festival celebrates the first full moon of the lunar calendar, and Pacific Symphony, in collaboration with the South Coast Chinese Cultural Center, will host the 10th annual Orange County Lantern Festival at Segerstrom Center for the Arts in Costa Mesa for the occasion.

"We created the Orange County Lantern Festival tradition with Pacific Symphony in 2016 because we know that music can bring people together," said Yulan Chung, chief executive officer of the South Coast Chinese Cultural Center, in a statement.

Opened in 2005 by the South Coast Chinese Cultural Assn., the



James Giovanni Pan

PACIFIC SYMPHONY presents its 10th annual Orange County Lantern Festival in partnership with South Coast Chinese Cultural Center.

South Coast Chinese Cultural Center serves as a permanent campus where the association continues its mission of promoting and preserving Chinese heritage, culture and language, advocating for unity in diversity in America and serving as a central cultural hub for Chinese American communities.

The Lantern Festival gives the South Coast Chinese Cultural Center an opportunity to share its traditions with the local community. The first full moon marks the return of spring, and the renewal represents the reunion of family. The tradition of

See **Festival**, page A4

Former oncologist pleads guilty to child pornography charges

BY ERIC LICAS

A Laguna Beach man who used to practice medicine in Newport Beach and had previously evaded charges alleging possession of lewd photos of children pleaded guilty Wednesday to similar accusations in a separate case.

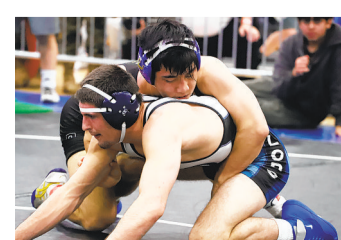
Mark Albert Rettenmaier, 72, admitted to two out of three counts of possessing child pornography per the terms of a plea agreement. He's scheduled for sentencing on Aug. 6 and

could have faced a maximum of 20 years behind bars per count, representatives for the U.S. attorney's office said in a news release. But federal prosecutors will recommend he serve no more than five years in prison.

Law enforcement served a warrant at Rettenmaier's home in July 2020. They seized his Apple iPhone and Macbook Air, which contained one video and over 200 images depicting children in suggestive poses or en-

See **Charges**, page A3

ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



James Carbone

FOUNTAIN VALLEY BOYS' WRESTLING RIDES MOMENTUM OF CIF THREE-PEAT INTO MASTERS
PAGE A4

LEFT: Fountain Valley's Mikel David Uyemora wrestles Newport Harbor's Anthony Manno in the 157-pound final.

Man sentenced for molesting girl for years in Costa Mesa

A 37-year-old man was sentenced Friday to 97 years to life in prison for sexually assaulting a female relative beginning when she was 4 until she was 16 in Costa Mesa.

Sergio Arroyo Miralrio was convicted Jan. 29 of a dozen felony counts related to the assaults.

The victim came forward to Costa Mesa police in September 2021 when she was 16. She reported the relative had been sexually assaulting her since she was in first grade, prosecutors said in a sentencing brief.

Miralrio met her when she was 4, prosecutors said. By third grade the sexual assaults "escalated" to intercourse, prosecutors said. She estimated it happened more than 20 times, prose-

cutors said. The girl tried to tell her mother about it in seventh grade, but her mother didn't believe her, prosecutors said. She kept quiet until she was 16 and told her aunt about it to "explain her recent behavior," and the aunt took her to the police, prosecutors said.

Several weeks later the girl's mother contacted police to tell them she recorded an incriminating conversation with the defendant, prosecutors said.

"She told him he didn't need to lie anymore and used a ruse that she had a video of the defendant" and the victim, prosecutors said.

"The defendant admitted that he began touching [the victim] when she was 4

years old," prosecutors said.

The victim's mother then had him call his parents, sister and the girl to apologize and recorded the call on her phone, prosecutors said.

When police went to question him the defendant admitted his crimes, prosecutors said.

"He admitted that his porn addiction caused him to develop an attraction to [the victim] and he would fantasize about taking advantage of her," prosecutors said.

During the trial Miralrio testified that he lied to the detective to "spare" the victim, prosecutors said. He testified that the two had a consensual sexual relationship, prosecutors said.

— City News Service

TARGET

Continued from page A1

highlighting the health risks and laws around sales and uses of the product.

But on Jan. 24, members of Costa Mesa Police Department's Special Investigations Unit visited five smoke shops where nitrous oxide-related products are sold and found two purveyors out of compliance with the law, spokeswoman Roxi Fyad confirmed Friday.

"Investigators randomly chose five smoke shops to contact," Fyad wrote in an email. "Two had enforcement action for improperly selling nitrous oxide, and the other three [had been] closed for a significant amount of time, so contact was not made."

The two stores where citations were issued are located on the 700 block of Baker Street and the the 500 block of W. 19th St. CMPD reported 678 large cylinders and 5,542 small N20 chargers — aka whip-pets, or whip-its — were

seized from one location, while about 183 large cylinders and 1,048 chargers were taken from the other.

The products boasted a variety of flavors, ranging from mango and fruit punch to blue raspberry and coconut. Costa Mesa police reported Tuesday that in addition to the nitrous oxide, several local smoke shops' inventory included other illegal items.

"Detectives also found several of these businesses were unlawfully selling psilocybin and THC-related products, which they also seized and booked into evidence," CMPD's post read.

The seizures come as the Orange County Board of Supervisors earlier this month unanimously supported an ordinance that would ban the sale of nitrous oxide products in unincorporated areas.

Supervisor Katrina Foley, who introduced the ordinance in a first reading by the panel during a Feb. 11 meeting, said the fact that laughing gas is legally and

commonly sold at area smoke shops and liquor stores masks the health risks of ingesting the gas.

"NOX suffocates your brain, and causes serious neurological harm, even death. [But] because NOX is sold like a candy bar at a corner store, consumers falsely assume ingesting it is safe," Foley said in a statement after the meeting.

"Allowing the sale of nitrous oxide at local shops offers zero benefit to consumers. It only endangers public health."

A second reading of the proposed ordinance is set for later this month. If approved, the county health officer would be directed to prepare a report and make recommendations on the abuse, use and sales of the substance throughout Orange County and direct county counsel to take legal action as necessary on related matters, according to an agenda report.

sara.cardine@latimes.com
Twitter: @SaraCardine

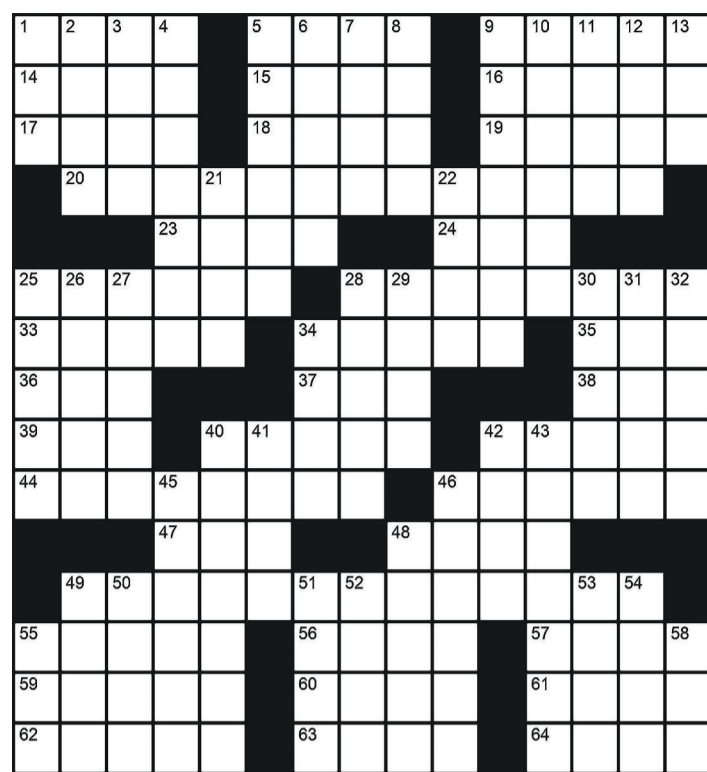
THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Stella Zawistowski

ACROSS

- 1 Chemistry particle
- 5 Omelet ingredients
- 9 "Shool!"
- 14 Sioux City's state
- 15 Word before "cause" or "canal"
- 16 Statistical pattern
- 17 Completely destroy
- 18 Utah ski resort
- 19 Peruses
- 20 "Shout" group, 1985: 3 wds.
- 23 Social signals
- 24 Permit
- 25 Piano exercises
- 28 Puts up a fuss
- 33 Warsaw natives
- 34 Basketball, in slang
- 35 End of a sock
- 36 Back muscle, for short
- 37 Alias acronym: Abbr.
- 38 Possess
- 39 "Rocks" in a drink
- 40 Rob _ to pay Paul
- 42 Restored to health
- 44 Elated
- 46 Tartar sauce ingredient
- 47 Helium, e.g.
- 48 Used a doorbell
- 49 "Aida" composer: 2 wds.
- 55 Diamond weight unit
- 56 Sole
- 57 Road vehicle
- 59 Pilotless aircraft
- 60 Computer owner
- 61 Opposite of shallow
- 62 Italian herbal liqueur
- 63 Stitched
- 64 Shade trees

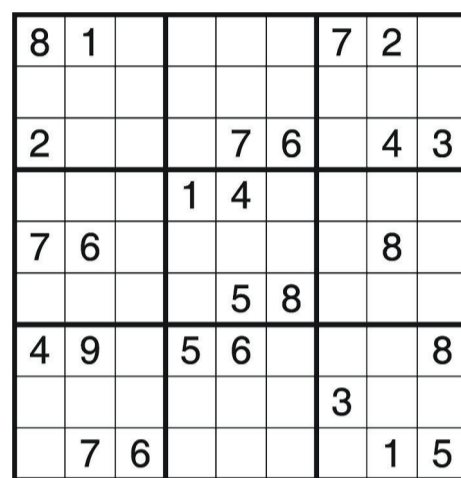
DOWN



SUDOKU

By the Mephram Group

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



For answers to the crossword and Sudoku puzzles, see page A3.

- filler
- 2 Hype up
- 3 Kid's boo-boo
- 4 Handcuff
- 5 Clears data from
- 6 Plays 18 holes
- 7 Attend: 2 wds.
- 8 Have the lead role

- 9 City thoroughfares
- 10 Bring into existence
- 11 Hindmost
- 12 No ifs, _ , or buts
- 13 Some doctors: Abbr.

- 21 Regrets
- 22 Box-office bomb
- 25 Gymnastics move
- 26 Horse-drawn carriage
- 27 Make changes to
- 28 Jabbed
- 29 Lion's sound
- 30 Place to shop
- 31 Tall building
- 32 Puts in the mail
- 34 Detest
- 40 _ of Paris
- 41 Otherwise
- 42 Candy _ (Christmas sweet)
- 43 Go from economy to business class, say
- 45 Mexican lizard
- 46 Spelunking spot
- 48 Start up again
- 49 Actor Oldman
- 50 Wrinkle remover
- 51 Positive aspect
- 52 Model's stance
- 53 "Hamilton" fight
- 54 Agenda part
- 55 Atlanta health agency: Abbr.
- 58 Word after "black" or "special"

Tribune Media Services

Winter Sale Event

Final Week To Save



HOME FURNISHINGS | HOME DÉCOR | OUTDOOR LIVING | INTERIOR DESIGN

Tommy Bahama
HOME

FASHION ISLAND - NEWPORT BEACH
VISIT OUR EXPANDED NEW SHOWROOM

Below The Lot, across from Anthropologie
949.706.9928 | tbfurniturenewport.com

School showcases environmental science

Golden View Elementary event featured exhibits, items from school's garden and farm animal care demonstrations.

BY MATT SZABO

As Venus Moeller took in the Golden View Elementary School environmental science showcase on Thursday afternoon, she couldn't help but smile. She made an offhand remark that the atmosphere outside felt like a wedding reception.

Each school in the Ocean View School District has a unique program that sets it apart. Golden View is often known as the school with the farm.

"This, honestly, has been my highlight," said Moeller, who is in her first year serving as the school's principal. "This is awesome. Not many people get to work on a farm for part of their day."

The annual event at the Huntington Beach school showcased student-led projects on environmental science inside the classrooms.

Outside, the 2-acre Golden View farm was in full swing, with items from the school's garden and animal care demonstrations. Partner organizations, including the Shipley Nature Center, Pacific Marine Mammal Center and Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy, offered booths with content for the kiddos and their families.

The Wetlands Conservancy booth featured several felt replica animals of endangered and threatened species, including a large Ridgway's rail bird.

"We try to do things that are tactile," said John Villa, executive director of the Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy. "When we're teaching them, they tend to



Photos by Don Leach

GOLDEN VIEW Elementary School kindergarten teacher Athena Allen shows an array of her students' insect art on Thursday.

remember more at this age if they can touch it and feel it. This exercise we do is to teach them about what is a watershed, and to be careful with the products you use in your home. When it rains, those chemicals will go down toward the ocean."

Moeller highlighted a couple of behind-the-scenes heroes who help run the outdoor programs. Dana Prante is the farm facilitator, helping students not only interact with the animals but grow their own vegetables, from seeding to harvesting to composting.

Mackenzie Munguia, who has been with Golden View for a bit more than a year, is the environmental science teacher. She plans and creates 30- to 45-minute lessons for each grade level at the farm.

Topics that have been covered this year include biodiversity, erosion, waste disposal and food chains.

"I think it's really cool for them because I feel like they're more excited to be outside, whether it's taking care of the animals or taking care of the garden beds,"

Munguia said of her students. "I feel like they're a lot more connected to it, because they get to experience it almost daily."

Lily Sheets, a Golden View fourth grader, said she enjoys feeding the pigs on the farm. The boys have the task of cleaning up the pigs' excrement, she added.

The geese are another favorite, though one tends to be aggressive.

Golden View's approach seems to be working. It was selected as a California Green Ribbon School in 2020.

More recently, in December, Golden View learned that it had earned a prestigious 2024 California School Boards Assn. Golden Bell award for its "Environmental Innovation is Golden" program.

Each grade level works on a project highlighting environmental science throughout the year, Moeller said, before students get to showcase their hard work.

On Thursday, students in Kindra Chen's fifth-grade class showed off slideshows and posters related to their study of how



FIFTH-GRADER Baz Rosenberg shows his succulent plant to a visitor during the school's environmental science showcase on Thursday.



FARM FACILITATOR Dana Prante shows students fresh lemons during the environmental science showcase at Golden View Elementary School.

humans interact with the four spheres of earth.

Each had examples of positive and negative human interactions. Student Nolan Ruiz explained that a positive human impact with the hydrosphere is building dams to control the flow of the water. A negative impact is that ships have oil spills, which harm the animals and the ocean.

"I think it's absolutely amazing," said Robyn Rosenberg-Augustyn, whose son, Baz Rosenberg, is in the class. "It's letting

them have pride in what they're doing and having them open up their minds. They're not just closed off to just writing a paper or reading a book. It's letting them be more involved in what they're doing, and hopefully doing stuff like this will help them be in agriculture or do something in nature.

"It's not just, 'You must work in an office.'"

matthew.szabo@latimes.com
Twitter: @mjszabo

DOGS

Continued from page A1

and Ripley, a sheepadoodle.

Zoe, who is about to turn 13, has a unique gait with a right leg twisted at a 90-degree angle.

"She's a gentle soul," said owner and handler Karen Coyne. She refers to Zoe as her "little ballerina," because the leg never slows her down.

Coyne explained that Zoe, who responded well to the special training involved, has been a therapy dog for almost four years. "She loves the kids and they love her."

Newport Beach resident Summer Wentz brought her 6-year-old daughter, Fynlee, to the library for Tuesday's event and is enthusiastic about the program.

"I just think this is incredibly amazing reading with the dogs," Wentz said. "It makes them want to read."

Annika Helmuth, branch and youth services coordinator Newport Beach Public Library, reported that they have had nothing but positive responses since they began holding BARK events in December 2022.

"It's a great program and we have kept [it] rolling," Helmuth said. "And each month we offer one at Cen-



Susan Hoffman

LAURA BURROWS reads to both son Milo, 4, and sheepadoodle Ripley at the Corona del Mar Branch Library.

tral Library, beginning with the first Tuesday of the school year, which is intended for school-aged children. The other branches offer quarterly BARK events."

The one-on-one reading sessions typically include a combination of small and large dogs, with priority given to making sure that the reader is comfortable.

"We give the child the opportunity to choose the dogs," explained Helmuth. "Sometimes the children want to read to all of the dogs and between the staff and volunteer handlers we do our best to make that happen."

"The program really does

offer a nice environment to increase reading skills," she continued. "We had a family share that their child has been working hard on their reading skills and this program has been a great support in encouraging them to stay motivated."

Corona del Mar Branch Library manager Nadia Dallstream, who hosted the handful of kids this week said, "We usually get a small turnout, and it's perfect because we have enough time for all the children to get to read to every dog."

A study conducted by UC Davis in 2010 showed students increased reading skills by 12% to 20% after 15

to 20 minutes reading one time per week to animals for eight weeks. Teachers also reported seeing more self-confidence and participation from students in class.

Tuesday's positive parent feedback reflected the benefits such as individual attention that a small group event brings.

"They were happy that their children were able to spend as much time as they wanted with each dog, they had so much fun practicing their reading," said Dallstream. "Some kids and adults don't find reading fun, but reading to the dog that's there makes it fun."

Susan Hoffman is a contributor to the Daily Pilot.

FOR THE RECORD

A sports story that appeared in Thursday's Daily Pilot, "Sage Hill girls' soccer outlasts Costa Mesa, makes first CIF semifinal," misidentified soccer player Marley Walker as teammate Tessa Lin.

Mark's Painting & Handyman Service
714-222-3055
Wood Restoration Specialist
Licensed & Bonded
C-33-#967860

Daily Pilot

A Times Community News publication.

CONTACT US

Carol Cormaci
Executive Editor
carol.cormaci@latimes.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Daily Pilot, established in 1907, is published Thursday through Sunday by Times Community News, a division of the Los Angeles Times. Subscriptions are available only by subscribing to The Times, Orange County.

© 2025 Times Community News. All rights reserved.

Jim Jennings Custom Masonry Inc.
Serving Newport Beach, Costa Mesa for 55 years.
SPECIALIZING IN:

- New Patios & Entries
- Drainage Expert: New or Repair
- Masonry & Concrete Repair.
- Grind High-spots caused by tree roots, etc.
- Remove & Replace sections of concrete, brick or stone.

714-796-9144
State License# 827800 www.jimjenningsmasonry.com

CHARGES

Continued from page A1

gaged in sexually explicit behavior, according to prosecutors.

His plea agreement orders him to register as a sex offender and have all of his electronic devices and correspondence monitored. He is barred from living near schools, parks and other facilities that largely serve minors, and he will not be allowed to

have any nonessential communication with children.

Rettenmaier used to work as a gynecological oncologist at Hoag Hospital. He stopped practicing after separate allegations of possessing child pornography were filed against him in 2014, and his medical license has been expired since the end of September 2023.

In 2011 technicians at a Best Buy in Chino repairing a hard drive for him

discovered disturbing images and contacted the FBI. But charges against Rittenmaier were dropped in 2017 after a judge ruled that photos were obtained from his property as the result of an unlawful search and seizure. U.S. District Judge Cormac Carney found that the affidavit federal agents used to obtain a warrant contained misleading statements.

eric.licas@latimes.com
Twitter: @EricLicas

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

A	T	O	M	E	G	G	S	S	C	R	A	M	
I	O	W	A	R	O	O	T	T	R	E	N	D	
R	U	I	N	A	L	T	A	R	E	A	D	S	
T	E	A	R	S	F	O	R	F	E	A	R	S	
C	U	E	S	L	E	T							
S	C	A	L	E	S	P	R	O	T	E	S	T	
P	O	L	E	S	H	O	O	P	S	T	O	E	
L	A	T	A	A	K	A							
I	C	E	P	E	T	E	R	C	U	R	E	D	
T	H	R	I	L	L	E	D	C	A	P	E	R	S
G	A	S	R	A	N	G							
G	I	U	S	E	P	P	E	V	E	R	D	I	
C	A	R	A	T	L	O	N	E	A	U	T	O	
D	R	O	N	E	U	S	E	R	D	E	E	P	
C	Y	N	A	R	S	E	W	N	E	L	M	S	

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

SELL ME YOUR CAR

Currently in need of BMW, Mercedes-Benz, Porsche, Lexus, Acura, Cadillac, Honda, Toyota vehicles under 100k miles.

Before you trade in, call me, Tim the owner, for a cash offer @ 949-752-2277 or email info to OCAW777@GMAIL.COM

1852 McGaw Ave. Irvine, CA 92614

LAA-629966-1

Sports

CONTACT US

To report scores of high school and college games, or other newsworthy items from youth to pro sports, contact the Daily Pilot sports staff.

Matt Szabo, Sports Reporter
(714) 966-4614, matthew.szabo@latimes.com
Andrew Turner, Sports Reporter
(714) 966-4611, andrew.turner@latimes.com

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2025

A4

BOYS' WRESTLING

F.V. rides momentum of CIF 3-peat into Masters

BY ANDREW TURNER

Fountain Valley made quick work of the field in the CIF Southern Section Coastal Division individual wrestling championships, its third consecutive team title well in hand before the medal round.

Nine individual champions out of 11 finalists was the exclamation point that the Barons put on a momentous weekend in their home gym, propelling them into the state qualification stage.

A grand total of 13 boys' wrestlers advanced on to the CIF Masters Meet, taking place Saturday at Sonora High. The top five finishers in each bracket — a blue and a gold division for a total of 10 in each weight class — move on to the state meet, held Feb. 27 through March 1 in Bakersfield.

Hunter Jauregui, named the lower-weight MVP of the CIF finals meet after pinning his way through the 113-pound bracket, led the army of Barons to earn glory at home.

Fountain Valley claimed 13 individual Sunset League titles in claiming its 14th consecutive league championship this season. The Barons have won six team titles in the CIF individual wrestling championships since 2015, including five of the last six they have competed in.

"It means everything, but I think that we need to get back to work because not all 14 guys won," Jauregui said. "That was our



BRADY MERCER of Fountain Valley wrestles Daniel Baeza of San Dimas in the 132-pound final.

goal, definitely, and I think that we need to get back to work, and we need to win Masters this year. That was our goal. We fell short last year."

Twins Chris Qureshi (106) and Liam Qureshi (120) were followed by Brady Mercer (132), Niko Valenzuela (150), Mikel David Uyemora (157), Christian Stoeber (165), Rocky Windrath (175) and Primo Catalano (190) in having their hand raised in victory in the finals.

"In the [wrestling] room, it's been hard, but it all pays out in the end," Stoeber said.

Fountain Valley topped the team standings 372-233.5 over Lakewood Mayfair. Newport Harbor placed third with 145.5 points.

Mercer took a business-like approach in his comments after the finals.

"We're not going to get too stoked over this," Mer-

cer said. "We have bigger goals, and we're going to keep this as long as we can keep the streak going. We're going to just keep building on it and keep this legacy going."

It sent a jolt through the crowd when Mayfair's Kayden Cartee pinned Khale McDonnell, the top-seeded Baron and an Oregon State commit, in the 215-pound final.

"I feel like I'm a very likable person," Cartee said of the crowd reaction. "I get that a lot."

Jauregui said he felt McDonnell would bounce back, saying, "I've never met someone that works as hard as Khale."

"Obviously, it was an expectation that he was going to win this match, and he didn't, but I think it's going to add more fuel to the fire," Jauregui added. "It's just going to be an extra thing. When he's going on that extra rep, he needs



Photos by James Carbone

FOUNTAIN VALLEY'S Liam Qureshi wins his match in the CIF Southern Section Coastal Division individual wrestling championships at Fountain Valley High on Saturday.

that one last push to just give it his all, I think he'll remember this and that'll get him through that."

Newport Harbor's Demian Pryima also won a title at 144 pounds, while Anthony Manno (157) and Asa Goff (190) were finalists for the Sailors.

"It's crazy to think my freshman year, I started as a heavyweight," Goff said. "I was 280 pounds. Now I'm wrestling 190. There were three freshmen on varsity — me, Ant and Demian. I always had this dream of me, Ant and

Demian always being on the podiums every tournament.

"They were on varsity as freshmen because they were good. I was on it because we didn't have a heavyweight. My record my freshman year was like 1-30. I had one win on varsity the entire year, just got beat over and over again, but I kept wrestling. Now, I feel proud that I'm able to compete on the level with these guys. I'm able to stand on the podium with them."

Marina's Ridge Lancaster

(175), who battled back from an ankle injury to wrestle late in the season, rounded out the local finalists. He's glad to have the season continue.

"I'm definitely excited for that," Lancaster said. "I think that Masters will definitely be a little bit different because it's a smaller bracket. There's more CIF placers there, and there's more people I haven't seen before, but I'm definitely excited to wrestle there."

andrewturner@latimes.com
Twitter: @AndrewTurnerTCN

MARKETPLACE

To place an ad, go to
<http://timescommunityadvertising.com/>

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ENTERTAINMENT 500

Religious Announcements

Thank you St Jude & Sacred Heart of Jesus for prayers answered-CM

MERCHANDISE 800

Miscellaneous Merchandise

Vinyl Records Wanted
\$55 Top cash paid
4 all or part of collection.
Jazz, Classical,
Psychedelic, Blues
949-933-6777 Mike

Classified is CONVENIENT whether you're buying, selling, or just looking, classified has what you need! To advertise in CLASSIFIED go to timescommunityadvertising.com

Classified is CONVENIENT whether you're buying, selling, or just looking, classified has what you need! CLASSIFIED (714) 966-4600

Classified is CONVENIENT whether you're buying, selling, or just looking, classified has what you need! CLASSIFIED (714) 966-4600

Classified is CONVENIENT whether you're buying, selling, or just looking, classified has what you need! CLASSIFIED (949) 494-4321

Sell your unwanted items the easy way! Place a Classified ad today! (714) 966-4600

Legal Notices

Legal Notices



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on **Thursday, March 06, 2025, at 6:00 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:

Pom & Olive Restaurant - A conditional use permit to obtain a Type 41 (On-Sale Beer and Wine - Eating Place) Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) License for an existing food service, eating and drinking establishment (restaurant) known as "Pom & Olive". Additionally, the Applicant requests a waiver of 18 parking spaces. No late hours (after 11 p.m.), live entertainment, or dancing is proposed as part of the project. Additionally, no physical changes to the suite or other changes to the existing operational characteristics are proposed.

The project is categorically exempt under Section 15301 - 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 the City of Newport Beach website at www.newportbeachca.gov/planningcom. 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 Oscar Orozco, Associate Planner, at 949-644-3219, ooorozco@newportbeachca.gov, at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660.

Project File No.: PA2024-0088
Activity: Conditional Use Permit

Zone: OG (Office-General)
General Plan: CO-G (General Commercial Office)

Location: 325 Old Newport Blvd, Suite 1
Applicant: Newport Business Consulting Inc.

David Salene, Secretary, Planning Commission, City of Newport Beach



James Giovanni Pan

THE 10TH ANNUAL Orange County Lantern Festival will feature traditional activities, performances and a dragon dance.

FESTIVAL

Continued from page A1

lighting and appreciating lanterns symbolizes the letting go of the burdens and worries of last year and putting forth one's best self and intentions for the future.

"Lantern Festival is a celebration of the first full moon in the Lunar calendar, representing the hope, joy and connection to come in the new year," said Chung. "Attendees will experience Asian American culture displayed through performing arts, such as orchestra, lion dance, folk dance and arts and crafts designed for families with young children."

The family-friendly event, taking place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, will also include live demonstrations, booths and food trucks.

In the concert hall lobby, multicultural arts and crafts like calligraphy, paper-lantern making and mini-drum building are scheduled for young guests along with an art exhibition titled "Reunions and Together-



PACIFIC SYMPHONY presents its annual Lantern Festival today, 15 days after the start of the Lunar New Year.

ness." The exhibition will feature 40 visual artists of all ages exemplifying this year's Lantern Festival theme: coming together in celebration of culture, unity and solidarity.

Inside the concert hall, musical performances will begin at 11 a.m., starting with a lion dance and the Pacific Symphony String Quintet, Chinese Dance Company of Southern California and South Coast Chinese Orchestra/Festival Chorus. At 12:40 p.m., Lac Hong Performing Arts Group, Thuy Van Dance

Company, Pacific Symphony Youth Chamber Artists and Festival Chorus will take the stage, followed by Pacific Symphony's Festival Orchestra, Tawni Nguyen, the Korean American Youth Performing Arts and Doo-Dream Samulnori closing out the program at 2:20 p.m.

"We are honored to partner once again with South Coast Chinese Cultural Center to host our 10th Orange County Lantern Festival," said Alison Levinson, senior director of arts engagement and inclusion for

Pacific Symphony. "It's a great opportunity for us to come together as a community around the Lantern Festival celebration to showcase hundreds of amazing artists within Orange County in an accessible and welcoming environment."

Performances outside on the Julianne & George Arguros plaza will include eight demonstrations of traditional Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese music, dance and fashion happening throughout the day, ending with a dragon dance and lantern parade led by the San Gabriel Valley Chinese Cultural Assn.

Admission is free, but tickets are required. This year, the event is also offering festival passes priced at \$50, which provide early entry into the lobby at 10 a.m. and guaranteed general admission seating in the orchestra level for the first segment of the festival. Visit pacificsymphony.org to secure a free admission or purchase festival passes.

sarah.mosqueda@latimes.com
Twitter: @SarahNMos