

Daily Pilot

FRIDAY, JUNE 28, 2024 /// dailypilot.com

NMUSD advised to wait on bond

Consultant cites partisan electoral climate and voter poll in suggesting delay on \$688M bond to fund school upgrades.

BY SARA CARDINE

Although Newport-Mesa Unified School District voters care deeply about improving the quality of public school education, a stormy election season forecast for November could dash the district's hopes of passing a \$688-million bond to fund such improvements.

Such an ask could, alternatively, encounter much smoother sailing were a bond to be floated during the 2026 midterm elections and preceded by a period of robust community outreach and engagement.

That was the determination of a bond feasibility survey, designed to gauge the potential support for and opposition to a general obligation bond among citizens likely to vote and considered by board members in a regular meeting Tuesday.

Tim McLarney, owner of Encinitas-based True North Research, shared findings from a weeklong survey of 535 district voters contacted by telephone text and email to determine whether residents would pay up to \$24 per \$100,000 of assessed property value over the next three decades for various facility and infrastructure improvements across the district.

Initial reactions to the prospect seemed favorable with 56% of respondents — just 1% higher than what would be required for passage — saying they would support such a measure, compared to

See *Wait*, page A4



Susan Hoffman

MARGIE CASTLE paints a work inspired by the nearby Brunfelsia blooms at Sherman Gardens. The artist had a stroke in the 1980s.

Humor keeps artist prolific 40 years after life-changing stroke

BY SUSAN HOFFMAN

Newport Beach artist Margie Castle refers to her unintended brush strokes as her "sweet surprises."

Castle, who works in oils, watercolors and mixed media, suffered a stroke at age 33, an occurrence that was declared an anomaly. She was forced to find ways to accommodate her new normal.

"My hand moves errantly when I paint, so my good friend decided we will just call these 'sweet surprises,'" Castle said with a

giggle. She and her cadre of friends maintain a laugh-at-life sense of humor.

"Sometimes you wipe away the drips, sometimes you leave them on and just embrace it."

Even though painting has been a passion of hers since she was 9, her dad urged her to pursue a vocation with more stability.

"Dad's advice was to get a paying career and to paint from the heart so that I'd never have to sell a painting to pay the electric bill," said Castle, who was born and raised in Southern California. "I married a Canadian,

then moved to Toronto in 1973, where I began a career in newspaper and television soon after."

Her love of painting then became like yoga to her, offering her a creative outlet in a relaxing environment.

During her time working for the Canadian National News Assn., Castle also found herself navigating the challenges of being a long-distance caregiver for her mother, who lived in Costa Mesa.

See *Artist*, page A2

Thousands expected to join Fourth of July bicycle cruise

BY MATT SZABO

Huntington Beach resident Ed Romo used to quiz his two daughters on their favorite part of celebrating the Fourth of July.

The annual parade is always majestic, but they told their father that they always preferred riding their bikes along Main Street or Pacific Coast Highway when it was closed down.

In the summer of 2020, "closed down" was a good way to describe things. In the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, the city heavily modified the annual parade, with two small car caravans driving around the city's downtown and residential areas.

Romo had an idea. How about a bike cruise from Lake Park to the beach?

He had fliers made, and spread the word on social media. He and emcee Mel Craig expected maybe 30 to 40 people.

When they showed up at the park, Romo said there were more than 1,000 bicycles.

"I mean, I looked and it was flooded," Romo said. "I was like, 'You've got to be kidding me. What's going on?' That's when there was a lot of stuff going



Courtesy of Mel Craig

MEL CRAIG, left, pictured at the first ride in 2020, serves as the emcee of the Huntington Beach Locals Fourth of July Bicycle Cruise.

down with the [Black Lives Matter movement] and all of that stuff.

"The cops show up like, 'Who's in charge of this thing?' And all of my buddies ratted me out and pointed at me. I'm like, 'Man, you guys suck.'"

The police didn't shut down the event and ended up helping

the riders with an escort. Ever since then, the Huntington Beach Locals Fourth of July Bicycle Cruise has been held on the Saturday before Independence Day. And it has exploded.

There were about 15,000 bikes at last year's event, Craig said.

See *Cruise*, page A3



MILES PATRICOLA, 31, has lived in Newport Beach all of his life with the exception of two years when he worked in Denver with two nonprofit organizations.

Courtesy of Miles for Newport

CdM alum Miles Patricola announces candidacy for Newport Beach District 7

BY LILLY NGUYEN

Another candidate has announced his campaign to represent Newport Beach's seventh district on the City Council, an area that spans Newport Coast.

Miles Patricola, 31, is a lifelong resident of the city, with the exception of two years when he lived in Colorado for work.

In a statement announcing his

bid, Patricola, who resides in the Harbor View Knoll community, said he's worked for the past eight years as a staffer on political campaigns and as a nonprofit fundraiser.

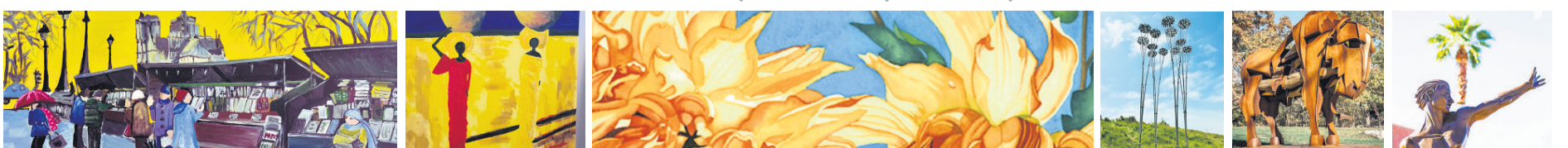
An alumnus of Corona del Mar High School and Orange Coast College, he said he is running because of a passion he has for the

See *Patricola*, page A3

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TEAM USA

Trinity Rodman, Jenna Nighswonger earn Olympic women's soccer spots

BY MATT SZABO

Two Olympic newcomers from Orange County will be trying to help Team USA win gold in women's soccer this summer at the Paris Olympics.

Newport Beach native Trinity Rodman and Huntington Beach native Jenna Nighswonger were among the 18 players named to the Olympic roster on Wednesday by coach Emma Hayes.

Rodman and Nighswonger are among nine Olympic newcomers on the roster, while Nighswonger is one of four who will be competing for her first senior level world championship.

Rodman, 22, is the daughter of former NBA star Dennis Rodman. She played soccer at Corona del Mar High as a freshman in high school before transferring to JSerra.

More recently, she was selected as the No. 2 overall pick by the Washington Spirit in the 2021 National Women's Soccer League College Draft. Rodman eventually earned Rookie of the Year honors.

Last summer, Rodman, a forward, also competed for Team USA at the FIFA Women's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand. Team USA was knocked out by Sweden in penalty kicks in the round of 16.

Nighswonger, 23, played soccer at Huntington Beach High until her junior year. After four years at Florida State, including helping the Seminoles win the 2021 NCAA Division I national title, she was selected with the fourth pick of the 2023 NWSL Draft by NJ/NY Gotham FC. Like Rodman, she was the league's Rookie of the Year and helped Gotham FC win its first NWSL champi-



Myung J. Chun | Los Angeles Times

TRINITY RODMAN at Dignity Health Sports Park in Carson on June 27, 2023.

onship. Nighswonger has recently played outside back for the U.S. women's national team, helping the squad win the Concacaf W Gold Cup championship in March.

The Team USA women's Olympic soccer team has

won four Olympic gold medals, most recently in 2012.

Competition in Paris begins July 25. Team USA is in a group with Zambia, Germany and Australia.

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AROUND TOWN



Spencer Grant

THE U.S. AIR FORCE Thunderbirds will return to the Pacific Airshow in Huntington Beach this year.

Pacific Airshow announces 2024 lineup; tickets are on sale

The Pacific Airshow has announced its performer lineup when it hits Huntington Beach Oct. 4 through 6.

The lineup boasts the largest number of performers in event history, according to organizers. Along with the previously announced headlining U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds and fan-favorite F-22 Raptor Demonstration Team, the show will be the site of the last performance ever for the U.S. Air Force A-10 Demo Team.

Others slated to perform include the Zapata Flyboard and Air Scooter demo, stuntman Jack Strong, the Horseman three-ship P-51 Mustang Demo, and U.S. Navy Leap Frogs.

Tickets are on sale now at pacificairshow.com, with general admission, pier seating, premiere club, private chalet and cabana options available.

— From staff reports



Courtesy of Mel Craig

RIDERS ENJOY the bicycle cruise in Huntington Beach in 2021.

CRUISE

Continued from page A1

This year, they're expecting 20,000 for the fifth annual cruise. Next year, they want to bring Guinness World Records out to Surf City to officially set the record for biggest bike cruise.

"Quite frankly, there's no doubt in my mind that we'll get it," Craig said.

For the first time, this year the city has shut down Main Street for the cruise. Participants are asked to meet at Yorktown Avenue and Main Street near City Hall at around 9 a.m. on Saturday. Huntington Beach veterans will kick off the ride at 10:30 a.m.

Riders will travel down Main Street to Walnut Avenue.

Huntington Beach public affairs manager Jennifer Carey said in an email that the cruise is not an official city event, but the city has issued a permit for it. Main Street will be closed between Yorktown and Walnut from approximately 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday. East and west traffic on Yorktown will remain open.

Romo said the veterans will be treated to a free lunch at Bruno's Sports Bar & Grille downtown and presented medals and a Hawaiian lei. He also expects to have three Volkswagen buses for the ride — one red, one white and one blue — and about 200 roller skaters will provide a buffer between the vehicles in front and the bikers that follow.

Participants are encouraged to be patriotic, of course, both in colors and bike designs. One thing that both Romo and Craig said they want absent, though, is politics. Romo said he had a couple of friends early on who asked if they could bring Trump flags, and he asked them not to.

"It's not that I'm against anybody or for somebody,

I just want to take this one time and not think about any of that other stuff," Romo said. "It's not about where you go to church, who you vote for, what shopping center you go to. It has nothing to do with any of that. It's the one time that we can all get together and just go for a ride together, not worry about any of this other stuff. And, let's focus on our kids."

Romo's daughters have grown up, but they stay in the front of the cruise with two big American flags.

And though the parade is back to normal, his

cruise on the Saturday before Independence Day has become an increasingly popular event for locals, too.

"I look at the video, and it's like, yeah, it's the biggest, but it's all of us," Romo said. "It's our core of Huntington Beach. It's just so nice."

"When you see a little girl on her bike with training wheels, all dressed up in red, white and blue and peddling really fast, you just go, 'Wow.' You feel that love."

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PATRICOLA

Continued from page A1

city. His priorities include improving infrastructure, public safety, the local economy, schools and increasing engagement and connection with the community.

"I decided to run because Newport Beach is my hometown, I've spent my entire professional career working in civic engagement, and joining the Newport Beach City Council is the natural next step for me," said Patricola. "I grew up interacting with members of the public from a young age while working at my family's restaurant [Rothschild's] and I continued to stay engaged with the people who live in Newport after leaving college, so I feel very connected to the people who live here and

have a clear understanding of the issues they care about most.

"I decided to run because I have a passion for working with people in my community and I know I'd bring new perspectives to the Newport Beach City Council, which currently has very little diversity of political opinions."

Patricola will run to replace the district seat currently held by Mayor Will O'Neill, who will complete his second term this year. As of this week, Patricola's sole competitor is fellow hometown candidate Sara Weber, a public accountant and small business owner. Although the two will run in the same district, the city has an at-large voting system in which voters of the entire city elect all members of the City Council to the dais.

Other City Council seats

up for election this November represent Districts 2 and 5. Councilman Noah Blom is expected to run for reelection while Councilman Brad Avery will step down as he completes his second term at City Hall.

The nomination period officially begins July 15 and closes Aug. 9.

"I'm running to help make Newport Beach a model of success and give everyone who lives here the best possible opportunity to prosper," Patricola said. "I'm running to actively seek out the people who are not being included in conversations and prioritize hearing their voice before moving forward with important decisions and projects for our city. I'm running to make Newport Beach thrive."

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CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

Sealed bids shall be submitted electronically via PlanetBids to office of the City Clerk, 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660 Before 10:00 AM on the 30th day of July, 2024, at which time such bids shall be opened and read for

ALLEY RESTORATION (AD-113 AREA)

Project No. 25R07

Contract No. 7979-3

\$4,100,000
Engineer's Estimate



Approved by
James M. Houlihan
Deputy PWD/City Engineer

Prospective bidders may obtain Bid Documents, Project Specifications and Plans via PlanetBids:
<http://www.planetbids.com/portal/portal.cfm?CompanyID=22078>

Hard copy plans are available via Mouse Graphics at (949) 548-5571 659 W. 19th Street, Costa Mesa, CA 92627

Contractor License Classification(s) required for this project: "A"
For further information, call the Project Manager, **Ben Davis** at (949) 644-3317

NOTICE:

No contractor or subcontractor may be listed on a bid proposal for a public works project (submitted on or after March 1, 2015) unless registered with the Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to Labor Code section 1725.5 (with limited exceptions from this requirement for bid purposes only under Labor Code section 1771.1(a)).

No contractor or subcontractor may be awarded a contract for public work on a public works project (awarded on or after April 1, 2015) unless registered with the Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to Labor Code section 1725.5.

This project is subject to compliance monitoring and enforcement by the Department of Industrial Relations.

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To allow our staff to enjoy the Independence Day holiday Thursday, there will not be a print edition of the Daily Pilot on Friday, July 5. The newspaper will resume its regular delivery schedule on Saturday, July 6.

WAIT

Continued from page A1

31% who said they were not and another 13% who were unsure.

Surveyors asked citizens to rank various issues of importance and found 86% of those with whom they spoke supported improving the quality of public school education.

When exposed to positive arguments for passing a bond, including explanations for the need of updating old buildings and technology, removing hazardous materials and investing in the future of children, the initial 56% support rose to 62%.

However, third on the list of respondents' overall civic priorities was preventing local tax increases, a cause that found favor among 69% of voters reached by the survey and spelled a bit of bad news for NMUSD.

"Voter support for a proposal like this can depend on the price tag — the higher the price tag, all things being equal, the less of a level of support you can expect," McClarny told the board Tuesday.

Only 52% of respondents favored a hypothetical bond when they were told they'd be charged \$24 per \$100,000 of assessed property value.



Courtesy of Newport-Mesa Unified School District

CONSTRUCTION ON a new performing arts complex at Estancia High School began in September. NMUSD officials are considering a bond to complete that and other projects.

Measure F bond, passed in 2005, which does not sunset until 2038 and levies \$16.30 per \$100,000 of assessed value.

McLarny said another headwind the district could face in November is a current "electoral climate" that could draw a deeply divided populace, with strong feelings about taxation, to the polls on Election Day.

"It's going to be a bitter, hyper-partisan presidential election that is kind of going to set the tone. That usually creates some challenges for local measures," he said.

"I frankly wouldn't feel comfortable recommending that you move forward because it wouldn't take much adversity for this measure to end up being underwater — I think the better, smarter play is to focus on November 2026."

Doing so, the consultant added, would give the district more time to communicate key messages about the need for a bond and what could be accomplished. Meanwhile, an independent and privately funded campaign run by volunteers could increase voter turnout and help a bond campaign weather uncertainties.

Assistant Supt. and Chief Business Official Jeff Trader said Thursday board members took no official action at Tuesday's meeting and have until an Aug. 9 filing deadline to determine whether to seek a bond in November. The board's last regular meeting before that deadline is set for July 30.

Examining the feasibility of a bond follows the months-long process of creating and adopting a facilities master plan that identified a total of \$2.5-billion worth of recommended capital improvements and determined a priority list for funding and completion.

Among the projects at the top of the list are flooring and roofing for the new Estancia High School theater, safety equipment and enhancements at multiple campuses, classroom expansions at five different elementary schools, updates to the outdoor athletic areas at Newport Harbor and Costa Mesa high schools and a compressed natural gas fuel station for district vehicles.

Details of the plan can be found online at nmusd.plan.org/chapters/summary.

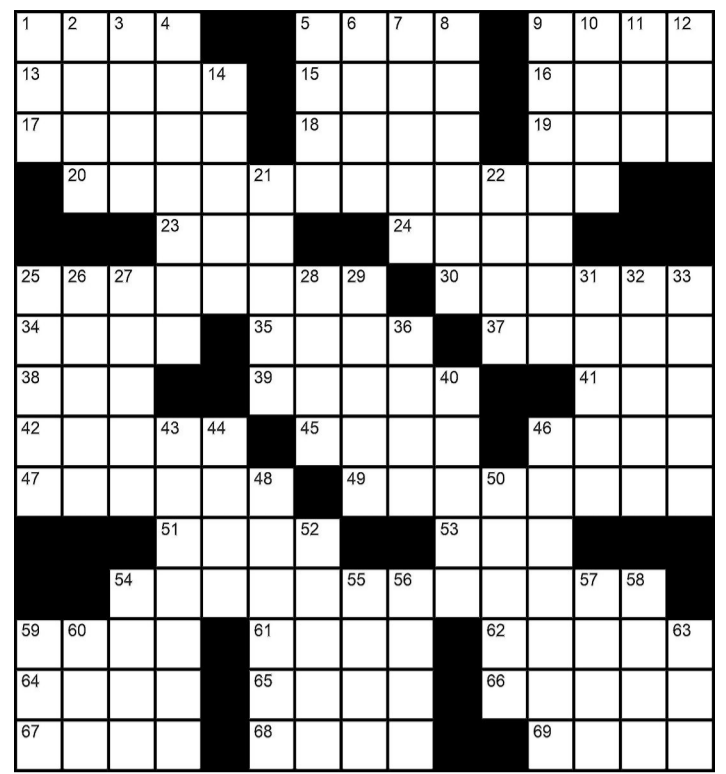
sara.cardine@latimes.com Twitter: @SaraCardine

THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Stella Zawistowski

ACROSS

- 1 "Moby-Dick" character
5 Be disrespectful to
9 Baseball equipment
13 Snake's poison
15 Tough criticism
16 "Plus..."
17 Fight verbally
18 Feel sorry for
19 Duplicate
20 Celebratory dessert: 2 wds.
23 Arthur of "The Golden Girls"
24 Staircase part
25 Sodom and _
30 Prens
34 Baking appliance
35 Simple earring
37 Not fresh
38 British reference work: Abbr.
39 Abodes
41 Barbie's boyfriend
42 Put clothes on
45 Process, as flour
46 Hat's place
47 Piles of pancakes
49 Devoted fans
51 Swats
53 Writing tool
54 Frosted Flakes mascot: 3 wds.
59 Natural



For answers to the crossword, see page A2.

DOWN

- 1 Actress Gardner
2 Basil or thyme
3 Home services website
4 Mint julep booze
5 Bay Area force: Abbr.
6 "RRR" actress Bhatt
7 Goat-legged deity
8 Airport worker
9 Illuminated from behind
10 _ vera gel
11 Kitchen measurement: Abbr.
12 Vegan milk type
14 Metric length measure
21 Unforgiving
22 Is on TV
25 Merchandise
26 Unconcealed
27 Sorceress of Greek myth
28 Basic unit in chemistry
29 Hot and sticky
31 Creator
32 Beg
33 Puts in the mail
36 Sandwich shop
40 Took a nap
43 Education locations
44 Apple's outside
46 Aircraft shelters
48 Hairdos
50 Criminal caper
52 Sharply inclined
54 Genealogy diagram
55 Hawaiian port
56 "_ of Eden" (Steinbeck novel)
57 Author Hunter
58 Make over, as a kitchen
59 "Soldier" insect
60 Enemy
63 Work with a needle

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LEGAL NOTICE



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Design Review Board / Board of Adjustment
Council Chambers, 505 Forest Avenue Laguna Beach, CA 92651
Thursday, July 11, 2024 at 5:00 PM

The CITY OF LAGUNA BEACH will hold a public hearing on the request below. You may participate in-person at City Hall. Case No.: Design Review 24-0536 Variance 24-0536 Address: 590 Allview Terrace | APN: 496-041-33 Applicant Burkhardt Brothers Construction (949) 375-6725

LEGAL NOTICE



NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

LAGUNA BEACH CITY COUNCIL

The Laguna Beach City Council will hold an in-person Public Hearing in the City Council Chambers, located in City Hall at 505 Forest Avenue, Laguna Beach, to consider: Appeal of approval of Design Review 23-1638 and Coastal Development Permit 23-1641, and CEQA Categorical Exemption for a New Single-Family residence at 1526 Morningside Drive in the R-1 (Residential Low Density) zone.

LEGAL NOTICE



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Design Review Board / Board of Adjustment
Council Chambers, 505 Forest Avenue Laguna Beach, CA 92651
Thursday, July 11, 2024 at 5:00 PM

The CITY OF LAGUNA BEACH will hold a public hearing on the request below. You may participate in-person at City Hall. Case No.: Design Review 24-0769, Variance 24-0770 Address: 1445 Bluebird Canyon Drive | APN: 644-322-21 Applicant: Warren Hutcherson, Designer (949) 338-6905 wh3d@cox.net Property Owner: Kyslee Greve Application Filing Date: January 25, 2024 PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant requests design review for an elevated deck and trellis in the R-1 (Residential Low Density) zone.

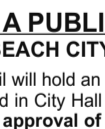
LEGAL NOTICE



NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
LAGUNA BEACH CITY COUNCIL

The Laguna Beach City Council will hold an in-person Public Hearing in the City Council Chambers, located in City Hall at 505 Forest Avenue, Laguna Beach, to consider: Appeal of approval of Design Review 23-1274, and CEQA Categorical Exemption for a new single-family residence at 950 Baja Street in the Arch Beach Specific Plan area of the R-1 zone.

LEGAL NOTICE



NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
LAGUNA BEACH CITY COUNCIL

The Laguna Beach City Council will hold an in-person Public Hearing in the City Council Chambers, located in City Hall at 505 Forest Avenue, Laguna Beach, to consider: Appeal of approval of Design Review 23-0919 for a new single-family residence with an attached two-car garage in the R-1 (Residential Low Density) zone at 1536 Morningside Drive.

LEGAL NOTICE



NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
LAGUNA BEACH CITY COUNCIL

The Laguna Beach City Council will hold an in-person Public Hearing in the City Council Chambers, located in City Hall at 505 Forest Avenue, Laguna Beach, to consider: Appeal of approval of Design Review 24-0285, Coastal Development Permit 24-0284 and CEQA Categorical Exemption for a modifications to a prior approval (DR 18-1095) in the R-1 (Residential Low Density) zone and construction in an environmentally sensitive area.