# Daily Pilot

## SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 2025 /// dailypilot.com



Screenshot by Sara Cardine

A RENDERING PRESENTED to planning commissioners in 2024 shows 70-units of affordable senior housing proposed to be built near the city-owned Costa Mesa Senior Center.

# **Senior housing project could** get green light in Costa Mesa

A request for the entitlements needed to move the project forward are scheduled to come before the council Tuesday.

### **BY SARA CARDINE**

A proposal to build 70 units of affordable senior housing on the parking lot of the cityowned and operated Costa Mesa Senior Center has been in the works for years but could finally see the light of day Tuesday.

That's when a request for the entitlements needed to move the project forward - reviewed and approved by the Costa Mesa Planning Commission in December — are scheduled to come before the City Council in a public hearing. Put forth by Irvine-based nonprofit devel-

oper Jamboree Housing Corp., the plan calls for the subdivision of the 2.66-acre senior center lot, located at 695 W. 19th St., which would create a separate 1.5-acre parcel on the eastern side.

A four-story, 93,972-square foot Spanish

Revival-style building standing 57.5 feet tall would feature 35 units for low-income seniors and 34 units of permanent supportive housing for very-low income residents 55 years and older, along with one two-bedroom manager's unit.

Occupants identified for the supportive housing would also receive assistance from case workers as well as life improvement services, such as financial literacy classes and help finding employment. No on-site medi-

See Housing, page A2

# 41st annual Spirit Run returns to Fashion Island



**BY ERIC LICAS** 

Alexis Garcia had shown promise in 800 meter and 1.5 mile runs in middle school, so he was eager to take on his first "real race" in 7th grade: the Spirit Run's 5k event hosted at Fashion Island.

It was twice as long as any distance he had ever attempted before. The reality of that set in midway through; he wound up regretting the massive lunch he had eaten earlier as it sloshed about his guts while he tried to keep pace with his competition.

"I remember I got past this other kid and I was like: 'OK, what am I gonna do now? How do I race this second half?" Garcia told the Daily Pilot Friday. "...That's when it hit me, towards the middle of the race. I was like 'Oh man, I'm getting tired.'" Garcia said the Spirit Run taught him lifelong lessons about distance racing and perseverance; completing it fueled a huge boost to his confidence. He went on to compete for Newport Harbor High, and earned a full ride to CSU Fullerton. After he graduated in 2023, Newport Harbor invited Garcia to come back to their distance running program as a coach. And on Sunday, March 16, he'll return to the race that kick-started his athletic career, the 41st annual Spirit Run.

# Council expected to fill vacant H.B. seat

Tony Strickland resigned his council seat after winning state special election.

## **BY MATT SZABO**

The Huntington Beach City Council is expected to appoint a new member to fill Tony Strickland's now-vacant position during Tuesday night's meeting.

Strickland resigned his council seat, which runs through 2026, after winning the special election to represent state Senate District 36.

The council has the power to appoint a replacement, per the city charter. If it does not do so within 60 days, a special election must be held to find someone to fill the rest of the term. According to the meeting's agenda, the person appointed Tuesday night will be sworn in immediately.

The current all-conservative council has met with city manager Travis Hopkins to give suggestions on Strickland's replacement, according to the agenda item submitted by Hopkins. Three have been suggested — Valentina Bankhead, Ken Babineau and Andrew Gruel — though others may also be recommended.

Bankhead is a regular at city council meetings. Babineau was recently appointed to the Huntington Beach Planning Commission by council member Butch Twining, while Gruel is a celebrity chef who owns a local restaurant and sometimes appears on Fox News.

The last time Huntington Beach had a vacancy was when former Mayor Pro Tem Tito Ortiz resigned in 2021. At the time, conservatives called for that council to either hold a special election or give the seat to Gracey Van Der Mark, the first runner-up in the 2020 election.

Gustavo Martinez

**KIDS PARTICIPATE** in a 5k youth race during the Spirit Run at Fashion Island in Newport Beach.

The event has been a springboard for nu-

See Spirit, page A2

Instead, after interviewing dozens of interested residents, the council appointed Rhonda Bolton to fill the seat.

The Huntington Beach City Council meeting will be held at 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 16 in Council Chambers at City Hall, 2000 Main St.

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# Hoag Classic worth the trip to Newport for longtime volunteer

#### **BY MATT SZABO**

Dick Yuhnke knows that most of the work that goes into the Hoag Classic golf tournament happens long before the first ball is struck.

Still, there is something satisfying about arriving at the Newport Beach Country Club in time for tournament week and seeing dozens of people he knows by name.

Yuhnke, 77, planned to arrive on a flight from his residence in Oklahoma with his wife Linda on Friday.

He's still at it, volunteering with the Hoag Classic for the 27th time.

The three-day tournament starts Friday, March 21, preceded by the first-ever Newport Beach Celebrity Classic on Sunday and the pro-am event on Wednesday and Thursday.

This is Yuhnke's 10th time working with his volunteer co-chairman, Brian Mericle, at the PGA Tour Champions event. Yuhnke said Mericle is now arguably his best friend.

"We know the golf tournament world frontward and backward, and we like what the Hoag represents," Yuhnke said. "It's one of



Courtesy of Leigh Steinberg Sports Office

SPORTS AGENT Leigh Steinberg stands with attendees of his agent academy in Newport Beach on March 8. See Classic, page A3

**BY ANDREW TURNER** 

Leigh Steinberg has little left to

accomplish as a sports agent, so

when he held court last week for

a group of people looking to

break into the industry, the at-

Steinberg, 75, a Newport

Beach resident, has represented

more than 300 professional ath-

tendees listened intently.

#### DICK YUHNKE, right, and his

wife Linda, at a Hoag Classic volunteer appreciation party in 2020.



Courtesy of Hoag Classic



Leigh Steinberg mentors next in

their respective draft class. Over the course of the two-day agent academy at his offices in Newport Beach, informational sessions discussed topics rang-

players who went first overall in

ing from recruiting athletes and negotiating contracts to the importance of charity and community.

Steinberg began the second day with an overview of the agent industry, emphasizing the need to forge local connections in an effort to dominate a region.

See Steinberg, page A3

# SPIRIT

Continued from page A1

merous local youth who have gone on to become elite runners, according to Diane Daruty, president and race director of Newport-Mesa Spirit Run, Inc. This year's participants include former UCLA runner George Gleason and Steve Scott, the world record holder for the most sub-4 minute finishes in the mile.

Participants can choose a variety of different events based on their age and skill level. They're welcome to go at their own pace, especially in more lighthearted races like the dog mile, family mile and toddler trot. And anyone taking part is welcome to grab a pair of St. Patrick's Day themed sunglasses from organizers while supplies last.

Entry fees for the event support local schools and charities. For Sunday's full schedule, visit newportspiritrun.org/schedule.

The Spirit Run isn't just for top tier athletes, Daruty said. It's an opportunity for anyone interested in living a healthy lifestyle to either test their limits, or just get out and get to know their community a little better, all for good causes.

"It's about teaching kids the value of hard work, discipline perseverance,



Courtesy of Diane Daruty/Newport Mesa Spirit Run, Inc.

**A HUMAN-PUP** duo participate in a race during the annual Spirit Run at Fashion Island.

goal setting on top of getting to hang out with your friends and family and having fun, Daruty said. "...With running, all you need is a pair of shoes and hard work.'

Garcia, who emigrated with his family from Mexico City to Costa Mesa when he was 13, said the Spirit Run introduced him to a larger community of runners that has helped inspire and encourage him over the years. It was a turning point that allowed him to gradually come out of his shell.

"Runners are the most supportive athletes, would say, " Garcia said.

The Spirit Run started out in the 1980s with with just two parent teacher associations in the Newport Mesa-Unified School district hosting a 5k and children's dash, Daruty said.

Over the decades it grew by adding more events and inviting more schools to participate.

But in 2010, representatives for the coalition of PTAs organizing the event decided to pivot from it and host individual jog-athons instead. Daruty was the head of the committee responsible for putting together the Spirit Run at the time and, instead of allowing the fundraising gathering become a thing of the past, created her nonprofit to keep it alive.

"I like kids to understand the value of setting a goal and doing the work to achieve that goal," Daruty said. "And then you get there and you get your shirts and medals .... it brings me a lot of joy."

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# HOUSING

Continued from page A1

cal services are being proposed for the complex, according to a staff report for Tuesday's meeting.

Although the structure would be built on the current site of the Senior Center's 145-space parking lot, the housing units would sit atop a groundfloor lot with 59 spaces, while another 74 spaces are proposed for an onsite surface parking lot.

City officials in July 2020 entered into an exclusive negotiating agreement with the Irvine-based nonprofit that allowed it to study the feasibility of the site for low-income senior housing. While the agreement expired in 2022, plans have continued to progress. The project has been

floated by Jamboree representatives at two community meetings held in February and December last year.

Participants at those events lodged their concerns about accessibility to the center and parking lot during construc-tion, as well as noise,

dust and traffic impacts. Others support the plan for the needed housing it would bring, particularly for low-income seniors, and its location within a transitrich area with shopping and public amenities, like the nearby Norma Community Hertzog Center.

City The Council meeting begins Tuesday at 6 p.m. at Costa Mesa City Hall, 77 Fair Drive. For the meeting agenda, visit costamesaca.gov.

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**THE DAILY** COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Stella Zawistowski

ACROSS 1 Send for 7 Core muscles 10 Aid 14 Penny-pincher 15 "Oh \_, what a day!" 16 Dastardly 17 Some belly buttons 18 Egg cells 19 Depend (on) 20 Famous area of New Orleans: 2 wds. 23 Short-lived craze 24 Ignored, as an

email 25 Port-au-Prince's nation 27 Actress Marla

31 Pop star Grande's nickname 34 Business phone number: Abbr. 35 Vienna's natio 37 The 50th stat 39 Pithy prover 40 "Talk yourselves' 42 Ott of baseba 43 Some doctor Abbr. 44 Golfer Vijay 45 Eat away 47 Urban thoroughfare 49 Association: Abbr. 52 "No charge!": wds. 56 Having little money 58 Motorists' group: abbr. 59 Crass 60 Fall \_ a trap 61 Movie visual

tech: Abbr. 62 Hire 63 Sports squad 64 Egg-laying bird 65 "Blank" looks

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#### **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.

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For answers to the crossword and Sudoku puzzles, see page A4.

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job 22 Decluttering event: 2 wds. 25 Elevated areas 26 Line of rotation 28 Top of a glass 29 Securely tie up 30 Droops 31 Shouts of understanding 32 Malek of "Mr. Robot" 33 Victor's shout: 2 wds. 36 Pre-owned 38 Wavelength measure 41 Older than 12, younger than 20 42 Butterfly relative 46 Keep 48 Urban pest 49 Coffee sweetener 50 "August: \_\_ County" 51 Big asteroid 52 Tiny amount 53 Nights before holidays 54 Pursue, as prey 55 Actress Kurylenko 56 Trading area 57 Two-for-\_ deal

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**OPERA SINGER** Laurie Rubin will perform at the 8th Annual Vision **Beyond Sight** Gala.



Classic twice — Hale Irwin,

Fred Couples, Jay Haas and

Ernie Els — but no one has ever won it back-to-back

Stewart Cink is one new-

Cink, 51, will be seeking

comer to Newport Beach

who will be eager to com-

his second PGA Tour

Champions title and a cut

of the \$2-million purse. He

has eight PGA Tour wins,

including the Open Cham-

that I've done over the

years, surprisingly, Orange

County is one of the areas

that I've visited the fewest,"

said Cink, who lives in At-

lanta. "I know very little

about the area, other than

what I've heard. Newport

Beach and the community

has a tremendous reputa-

tion around the world, so

I'm no stranger to that, but

as far as the specifics, I've

not spent any time in this

area. I'm looking forward to

acteristics are the Poa an-

grew up on the East Coast,

are like, 'What the heck is

this stuff?" Cink said. "It

can be challenging, but

that's great. It's not that

anybody doesn't like it, but

it's fun for me to play on

something different and

challenge yourself. I've had

wins on Poa annua, and

nua grass greens.

One of the course's char-

"People like me, who

it."

"In all of the traveling

pionship in 2009.

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pete.

Courtesy of Laurie Rubin

# **CLASSIC**

Continued from page A1

the tournaments on the Champions Tour. I enjoy the people, and I enjoy the challenge of putting it together and making it a smooth-running operation.'

He worked at Rockwell International, which became Boeing, in the Anaheim area until his retirement in 2005. A few years later, Yuhnke moved to Oklahoma to be with his deceased father, since Charlie, who was 93 at the time.

Yet he kept volunteering with the Hoag Classic, formerly known as the Toshiba Classic, the whole time. He said he counts former longtime tournament director Jeff Purser as a good friend.

Yuhnke was also a longtime volunteer at the Nissan Open, now called the Genesis Invitational, at Riviera Country Club in Pacific Palisades, from 1989 to 2017.

The volunteer chairman has duties including handling volunteer registration, as well as receiving feedback from the many tournament committees in the weeks following the tournament.

This Saturday, Yuhnke plans for a long day on the course, as organizers get ready for Sunday's first-ever Newport Beach Celebrity Classic, which will be a fundraiser for Southern California fire relief efforts. NFL stars Josh Allen, Saquon Barkley and Dak Prescott are some of the current players confirmed

for the tournament, along with Pro Football Hall of Famers Eric Dickerson and Marshall Faulk and many other standouts.

Yuhnke's wife also volunteers at the tournament, in admissions, and will call at the front of the golf course

He said he remembers the first time the tournament became the first to raise \$1 million for charity in a single year, in 2000.

Then, to do it 20 times in a row was even more special," he said. "That gives you a good feeling, to be a part of something like that ... [All tournaments] have something unique. But I'm not working at any of those other ones, and I'm still working at this one.'

It's well worth the flight from Oklahoma.

#### **PADRAIG HARRINGTON SEEKS TO DEFEND HOAG CLASSIC TITLE**

The Hoag Classic boasts an elite field of Champions Tour golfers, as always.

Padraig Harrington is the defending champion, after making an 8-foot birdie putt on No. 18 last year.

"Newport Beach Country Club is an old school-style golf course, which allows me to hit driver off almost every tee," said Harrington, 53. "In fact, last season's tournament was the first where I have hit a driver off the tee on every par-4 and par-5 tee during a round. I made hard work of winning the event last year with two double bogeys in the final round, but managed to birdie the last two holes."

There are four players who have won the Hoag matthew.szabo@latimes.com Twitter: @mjszabo

Blind opera singer to perform at 'Vision Beyond Sight' gala

## **BY SARAH MOSQUEDA**

Southern California native Laurie Rubin was diagnosed with leber congenital amaurosis when she was 3 months old. The genetic eye condition is rare, affecting about one in 40,000 newborns and causing severe vision loss or blindness.

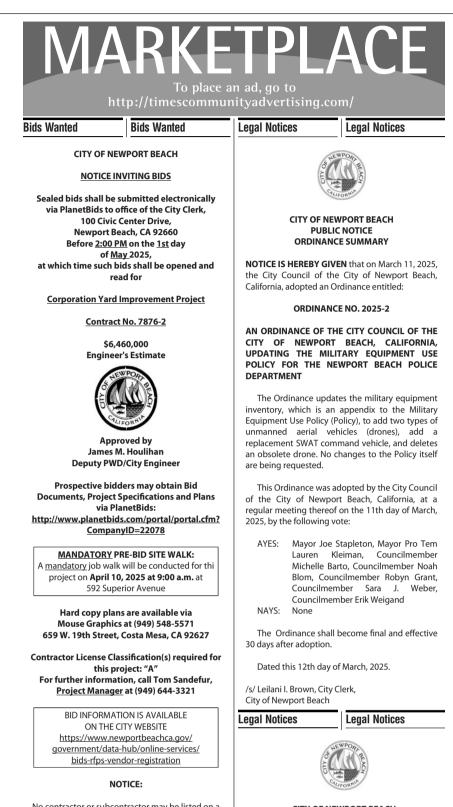
"The retinas never fully develop, so I can see light, I can see dark and that's about it," Rubin said.

Her family made sure she didn't feel different at home while she was growing up, but in the outside world she constantly felt pressured to prove herself.

"It took a toll on my selfesteem for a long time," she said. "I felt like a normal kid but everything that I was hearing outside was different; there were always doors I had to pry open."

In spite of the challenges, the mezzo-soprano gradu-

See GALA, page A4



**CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH** PUBLIC NOTICE **ORDINANCE SUMMARY** 

The attendees were encouraged to not only seek out

STEINBERG

Continued from page A1

games. In fact, she attended her first game at just three weeks old, she said. It sparked her interest in athletics, and she got involved in the Sports Business Assn. on campus. Steinberg spoke at a summit put on by the organization, which was the first time the two had crossed paths. Key takeaways from the academy for Rios included overcoming fear of rejection and being kind to one's future self. "One of the things Leigh really focused on was athlete's physical and mental wellbeing and understanding what kind of injuries come around and how you can be of assistance. In the role of an agent, you're really just doing a lot of different things. ... Being kind to your future self was kind of part of that, making sure that you set yourself up with the skills and knowledge now to be successful later." A number of breakout sessions also let the attendees put what they had learned into motion. Rios said she participated in a workshop that allowed her to work with former NFL players Mike Sherrard and Carnell Lake in a recruiting exercise. Additional scenarios that came up included working on a hypothetical brand deal for Heisman Trophy winner Travis Hunter, crisis control in the media, and an opportunity to practice negotiating skills. Ari Naiman, a senior psychology major with a prelaw emphasis at USC, was partnered with Rios for the

negotiating exercise. "I think that Leigh really tried to make it clear that we were wanting to concede to [a general manager's] needs, as well, so that they didn't feel like

I've played terrible on Poa annua. When you've played as many golf tournaments as all of us out here have, you've seen it all."

> 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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on March 11, 2025,

athletes, but to talk to entire social circles, including coaches, directors of player personnel, friends, parents, scouts and trainers.

Steinberg also urged the class to be mindful of the fact that agents should intend on having lifelong relationships with their athletes. An agent can show they're invested in a client's long-term health by learning about innovation in the medical field, he said.

"When you have clients, you'll be able to help them in a bigger way," Steinberg "Your commitment said. has to be to their long-term health, and no one's going to tell you that at an agent seminar. What they're going to tell you is how to make money and how the salary cap works.

"You've got to have a larger fiduciary responsibility. You're going to know that player in 20 years, and you don't want that player in dementia or hopping around in ways that are not necessary. Traditional medicine is changing and growing.

Steinberg also noted an agent can be an asset to an athlete by setting the stage for their next job after their playing career. The agent can facilitate that by asking the athlete about their outside interests and helping them in networking situations.

The emergence of NIL (name, image and likeness), gambling, and conference realignment in college sports are changing the industry, he said. "Eventually, gambling will be the existential threat to sports."

With all that being said, Steinberg added, "The best way to recruit ... is take care of your current clients. If they're happy, they'll talk to the next group."

Brooklynn Rios, a sophomore business administration major at USC, grew up going to Trojans football

they had to be defensive or feel like they were giving too much, and kind of exhausting them," Naiman said. "I think it's similar with any relationship, that everything's a two-way street, that there's never just one side to something.'

Naiman said becoming a general manager or a sports agent has been on his radar for a long time.

"I wonder a lot about where I can do the most positive change, like where I can instill a lot of positive change in people's lives," he said. "I think that through talking with Leigh and through listening to all the things that he does for players — setting them up with these philanthropy organizations and nonprofits – I think it became clear to me how much good you can do as an agent.

"I went into the weekend with the idea that I was wanting to lean towards being an agent, and I think that over the course of the two days, that was reinforced for me, that I think that would be my target."

andrew.turner@latimes.com Twitter: @AndrewTurnerTCN

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exceptions from this requirement for bid purposes only under Labor Code section 1771.1(a)].

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



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on March 11, 2025, the City Council of the City of Newport Beach, California, introduced an Ordinance entitled:

#### **ORDINANCE NO. 2025-4**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING SECTION 1.08.120 (DEFINITIONS) OF TITLE 1 (GENERAL PROVISIONS), SECTION 5.95.042 (MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PERMITS), SECTION 5.95.043 (TRANSFER OF PERMIT), AND 5.95.065 (SUSPENSIONS AND SECTION **REVOCATIONS) OF CHAPTER 5.95 (SHORT-**TERM LODGING PERMIT) OF TITLE 5 (BUSINESS LICENSES AND REGULATIONS) OF THE NEWPORT BEACH MUNICIPAL CODE TO ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES UPDATE RELATED TO GOOD CAUSE DETERMINATIONS AND THE EXTENSION OF DEADLINES

The Ordinance would authorize the Finance Director to extend deadlines for short-term lodging permit applications, transfers, suspensions and revocations upon finding "good cause," which includes unforeseen circumstances such as emergencies, medical natural disasters, administrative errors, or events beyond the applicant's control.

This Ordinance was introduced by the City Council of the City of Newport Beach, California, at a regular meeting thereof on the 11th day of March, 2025, by the following vote:

AYES: Mayor Joe Stapleton, Mayor Pro Tem Lauren Kleiman, Councilmember Michelle Barto, Councilmember Noah Blom, Councilmember Robyn Grant, Councilmember Sara J. Weber, Councilmember Erik Weigand NAYS: None

Second reading of Ordinance No. 2025-4 will occur at the March 25, 2025 City Council meeting. If adopted on March 25, 2025, the Ordinance shall become final and effective 30 days after adoption.

Dated this 12th day of March, 2025.

/s/ Leilani I. Brown, City Clerk, City of Newport Beach

the City Council of the City of Newport Beach, California, adopted an Ordinance entitled:

#### **ORDINANCE NO. 2025-3**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH, CALIFORNIA, DESIGNATING A PORTION OF CORONA DEL MAR AS A SAFETY ENHANCEMENT ZONE DURING THE MEMORIAL DAY, FOURTH OF JULY INDEPENDENCE DAY, AND LABOR DAY HOLIDAYS AND EXPANDING THE WEST NEWPORT SAFETY ENHANCEMENT ZONE TO INCLUDE THE MEMORIAL DAY AND LABOR DAY HOLIDAYS BY AMENDING SECTION 1.04.060 (SAFETY ENHANCEMENT ZONE), CHAPTER **10.58 (POLICE SERVICES AT LARGE PARTIES,** GATHERINGS OR EVENTS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY), AND SECTION 10.66.060 (VIOLATION-PENALTY-CIVIL FINE) OF THE NEWPORT BEACH MUNICIPAL CODE

The Ordinance designates a portion of Corona del Mar as a Safety Enhancement Zone during the Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Labor Day holidays. The ordinance also expands the West Newport Safety Enhancement Zone to include Memorial Day and Labor Day

This Ordinance was adopted by the City Council of the City of Newport Beach, California, at a regular meeting thereof on the 11th day of March, 2025, by the following vote

AYES: Mayor Joe Stapleton, Mayor Pro Tem Lauren Kleiman, Councilmember Michelle Barto, Councilmember Noah Blom, Councilmember Robyn Grant, Weber, Councilmember Sara J. Councilmember Erik Weigand NAYS: None

The Ordinance shall become final and effective 30 days after adoption.

Dated this 12th day of March, 2025.

/s/ Leilani I. Brown, City Clerk, City of Newport Beach



# THE CROWD | B.W. COOK Vienna Philharmonic's visit to Orange County made possible by patrons of the arts

enturies of classic European orchestral excellence graced Orange County this week when the Vienna Philharmonic arrived for a residency. The orchestra was brought here by the Philharmonic Society of Orange County, in partnership with Cal Performances.

Rousing ovations echoed throughout the Reneé and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall during the performances conducted by internationally acclaimed maestro Yannick Nézet-Séguin. The Orange County concerts followed performances that had been held at Zellerbach Hall at UC Berkeley. Both West Coast appearances were made possible primarily through the philanthropic largess of two women dedicated to the musical heritage of the 180-year dynasty of the Vienna Philharmonic.

The two modern "Medici" patrons responsible for the performances are San Francisco Bay Area resident Maria Manetti Shrem and Elizabeth Segerstrom, of Newport Beach and New York City. Without their significant patronage the public would not have the opportunity to experience such performances. Dedication to the highest level of artistic presentation exists today as it did centuries past due to individuals such as Manetti Shrem and Segerstrom. Their credit goes largely unknown by the general public, making it even more important to recognize such support in the media. In addition to the performances, the visiting orchestra's residencies in both Northern and Southern California included multiple opportunities for educational and civic outreach.

The Segerstrom Concert Hall performances were held last Sunday and Tuesday, On Sunday afternoon, the concert featured pianist **Yefim Bronfman** 

Schubert's Symphony No. 4 and Dvorák's popular Symphony No. 9, also known as "From the New World."

With the music came revelry. Following Sunday's performance, the Westin South Coast Plaza Hotel wel-

comed patrons to a celebratory dinner reception in honor of the orchestra and the donors making it possible. Joining Segerstrom and Manetti Shrem were major sponsors the Donna L. Kendall Foundation and the Shanbrom Family Foundation. Additional significant support came from Jennifer and Anton Segerstrom, Elizabeth An and Gordon Clune, Dee and Larry Higby, Patricia and William Podlich, Connie and Peter Spenuzza, **Katherine and Howard** Bland and Mary and John Carrington. Also front and center for the Philharmonic Society were Whitney and Jerry Mandel, Hung Fan and Michael Feldman, Elaine and Carl Neuss, Gail and Robert Sebring and Deirdre and Douglas Smith.

The elegant party décor was inspired by the paintings of Austrian artist Gustav Klimt, who was known for his Symbolist style. A legendary figure in the Vienna Secession Movement in the late 19th century, his imprint was evident throughout the Westin Ballroom, which was adorned in vibrant splashes of color and expressive floral displays. The crowd enjoyed a multi-course Sunday supper raising additional funds in support of music education in Orange County. With considerable grace, both Elizabeth Segerstrom and her close friend and fellow arts advocate Maria Manetti Shrem accepted the Philharmonic Society's Performing Arts Visionary Awards.

Arts mentorship matters. The entire community is elevated through such passion and generos ity. To learn more visit development@philharmonicsociety.org.



Nick Koom

ELIZABETH SEGERSTROM, left, and Maria Manetti Shrem were principal sponsors of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra concert residency at Segerstrom Hall. A post-concert reception Sunday was held at the Westin South Coast Plaza Hotel.



with the Vienna Philharmonic delivering Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 3 and then Strauss's worldrenown triumph, Ein Heldenleben. The Tuesday evening performance shared with its audience

**B.W. COOK** is editor of the Bay Window, the official publication of the Balboa Bay Club in Newport Beach.

Matt Szabo,

Huntington Beach and Sports

Andrew Turner,

Laguna Beach and Sports

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# **Daily Pilot**

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Reza Allahbakshi

ACTOR MARCIA Gay Harden and her son Mason Harden pose at the reception following the Vienna Philharmonic concert at Segerstrom Concert Hall.

MAJOR DONOR Donna L Kendall, left, with sponsor Debra Gunn Downing of South Coast Plaza at the post-concert reception for the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra.

# GALA

## Continued from page A3

ated from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and the Yale School of Music. She felt her vision impairment didn't define her, but it was difficult to get others to view her the way she viewed herself. Her experience inspired her to write a book titled "Do You Dream in Color?: Insights from a Girl Without Sight.'

Chronicling her journey toward identity, the memoir traces her life, from being an isolated adolescent to blossoming into an international opera singer.

Rubin now makes her home in Hawaii where she runs Ohana Arts, a nonprofit arts education organization in Honolulu with her wife, Jenny Taira, who is a composer, pianist and clarinetist.

"We started our performing arts organization for youth because Jenny and I both had amazing experiences in performing arts programs," said Rubin. "We wanted to bring that to Hawaii."

On Thursday, March 27, Rubin will bring her inspiring story to Orange County when she performs at Beyond Blindness' 8th annual Vision Beyond Sight Gala.

"Laurie exemplifies Beyond Blindness' core value of optimism, one of seven that guide our mission to empower children with visual impairments and other disabilities to achieve their fullest potential," said Angie Rowe, president and chief executive officer at Beyond Blindness.

Based in Santa Ana, Beyond Blindness provides services like early intervention, education, enrichment and family support to help children of all abilities build fulfilling and rewarding lives. Each year, the non-profit provides about 500 children and 1,000 family members with resources. Rubin connected with Beyond Blindness through one of its board members and was delighted to hear about the difference they were making for visually impaired youth and their families.

"Beyond Blindness really has so many of the values of organizations that I believe in and I was really excited to hear about what they were doing," Rubin said. "It's all about building independence and providing resources."

Likewise, Beyond Blindness officials felt that Rubin's story was a perfect example of what can be possible for those living with blindness when they have the right support.

"Her journey is a testament to resilience, determination and the belief that anything is possible, even in the face of significant challenges," said Rowe. "We are honored to have her perform at our gala, inspiring our guests to join us in building bright beginnings for every child and family we serve."

The annual Vision Beyond Sight Gala is one of three major fundraising events Beyond Blindness hosts each year, along with its annual Family Fair and the Fall Golf Classic. Taking place this year at the Mile Square Golf Course in Fountain Valley, the gala will celebrate those who live with visual impairments with testimonies from Beyond Blindness alumni, a wine pull and auction and a special "Din-

ing in the Dark" experience. "I will be singing a few songs, which range from covers of pop songs to classic folk songs. We will be doing some opera pieces as well," said Rubin.

Reza Allahbakshi

Rubin also plans to perform an original song she wrote with Taira, a personal piece called "The Girl I Am.'

"It basically tells the story of my feeling like I didn't fit in as a blind person, but then coming at it with this perspective, knowing that things get better," she said.

Copies of Rubin's book will be for sale at the gala, where she will sign them. Additionally, she will be donating copies of "Do You Dream in Color?" to Bevond Blindness and hosting a book club over Zoom on March 18, from 7 to 8 p.m.

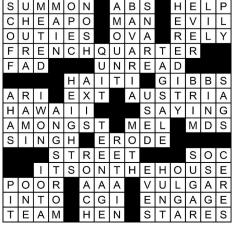
Rubin believes her story can provide hope to anyone feeling like their vision impairment creates a barrier they can't overcome. While Rubin works hard to not let her blindness define her, she knows talking about her experience can be an inspiration.

"It feels really good if I, in any small way, can help somebody who is going through some of the same stuff I went through," she said.

For tickets to the 8th annual Vision Beyond Sight Gala or to make a donation to Beyond Blindness, visit beyondblindness.org.

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## **CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS**



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