

Daily Pilot

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2020 /// Now including Coastline Pilot and Huntington Beach Independent /// dailypilot.com

24 more COVID-19 deaths reported in county

In addition, the O.C. Health Care Agency said on Saturday there were 186 new infections of the virus.

BY ANDREW TURNER

The Orange County Health Care Agency reported 24 coronavirus deaths and 186 new infections on Saturday in its latest numbers tracking the virus.

Among the new data, 13 of the deaths reported were assisted living facility residents and six were skilled nursing facility residents.

The county has had 1,340 fatalities due to COVID-19, the disease caused by the virus. The total number of cases in the county now stands at 55,531.

Cases that required hospitalization number 169, with 61 of those patients receiving treatment in intensive care units.

The healthcare agency reported 8,477 more tests for the virus within the last day, bringing the cumulative total of tests administered to 937,718. To date, an estimated 49,698 people have recovered from

See **COVID-19**, page A7

ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



Raul Roa | Staff Photographer

VOLUNTEERS SHOW THEIR CIVIC PRIDE AT LOVE COSTA MESA DAY PAGE A2

NEWPORT BEACH TO TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT CHANGES TO SHORT-TERM RENTAL REGULATIONS PAGE A4



Photos by Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

OPEN GATE KITCHEN owner and founder Deidre Pujols, the wife of Angels baseball star Albert Pujols, at the restaurant's location in Costa Mesa. Pujols' nonprofit organization takes people from vulnerable life situations and gives them an opportunity to have sustained life success by learning the culinary arts.

Open Gate Kitchen dishes out hope and opportunity

BY ANDREW TURNER

When he lost his father at the age of 13, Michael Rodriguez looked for ways to fill the void.

He turned to the neighborhood gang for support and began experimenting with drugs a short time after. He was selling drugs just to get by.

"Once my dad died when I was 13, I wanted that love," said Rodriguez, 25, of Stanton. "They all showed me love. I felt loved after my dad died, and I started hanging around with the wrong people, started using drugs, tried heroin after he died.

"I tried it a few times. I wasn't addicted to it, but I liked the feeling. It kept me away from reality ... about losing my dad."

One thing led to another. By 14, Rodriguez was intermittently homeless. By 17, Rodriguez found a drug he had promised his dad he would never do in methamphetamine. "I just cracked," he recalled. "I tried it out. It was bad for a few years."

Rodriguez said a family friend told him about a culinary school in Costa Mesa called Open Gate International, and it has become his way out.

The program takes aim at equipping people from vulnerable

life situations with a skill set to find gainful employment, but also the life skills to make good choices.

Both Rodriguez and his stepbrother, David Lopez, 30, work for Open Gate Kitchen, the restaurant and proving ground for the culinary school's graduates.

Open Gate International, an Orange County-based culinary school and nonprofit organization, has produced 138 graduates since it was launched in January 2017.

Guarded as one with his past might be, Rodriguez recounted

See **Kitchen**, page A7

PREP COOK

Michael Rodriguez of Stanton slices red onions at Open Gate Kitchen in Costa Mesa. He is an Open Gate International culinary arts program graduate.



Six artists display their work online for OCC's 'Almost Presidential' exhibit

BY VERA CASTANEDA

Although arts director Tyler Stallings didn't have gallery access to put together an in-person show, he didn't want to let the "Almost Presidential" exhibit go. It's an election year after all.

Instead he worked with curators and artists to reconfigure the exhibit as an online project through Orange Coast College's Frank M. Doyle Arts Pavilion.

"Almost Presidential" features the work of six artists: Pio Abad, Deborah Aschheim, Matthew Brannon, Cintia Segovia and exhibition curators Marisa J. Futernick and Rebecca Sittler. Their new work focuses on presidents, failed presidential candidates or those who played supporting roles to presidencies. The scope of the online project isn't limited to the U.S., but also extends to Mexico and the Philippines.

The artwork lives online on the Orange Coast College website as a photo slideshow.

The artists will also be highlighted in an ongoing monthly newsletter, a film that will be released at the end of October and a recorded Zoom panel discussion that will be posted online for public viewing.

"It's a way to extend the experience and part of it is to have a legacy beyond the exhibition," Stallings said.

Coast Community College Dis-



Courtesy of Deborah Aschheim

"NOVEMBER 14, 1960 (Key Biscayne)," 2020, by Deborah Aschheim.

trict announced schools, including OCC, will continue distance learning through the spring semester. Since the Doyle will remain closed in Costa Mesa, Stallings is planning on organiz-

ing online programming for the on-campus arts gallery throughout the year.

In the Oct. 1 Zoom panel, Futernick

See **Exhibit**, page A7

Laguna chamber hosts online forum

The five City Council candidates address development during the panel discussion.

BY ANDREW TURNER

Candidates for the Laguna Beach City Council convened for a virtual forum over Zoom on Friday with a chance to distinguish themselves to the city's registered voters.

Incumbents in the race are Mayor Bob Whalen and Mayor Pro Tem Steve Dicterow, while Ruben Flores, Larry Nokes and George Weiss are running as challengers. All participated in the forum, which was hosted by the Laguna Beach Chamber of Commerce.

The opening question created a back-and-forth discussion. It concerned a ballot initiative for a future election that would require major development projects to go to a vote of the people after it had gone through review by city staff and been approved by the City Council.

Weiss separated himself as a proponent of the initiative, saying that nearby Costa Mesa, Dana Point and Newport Beach have all established or passed similar initiatives.

"You've just got to bring out the vote, for or against it," Weiss said. "That's the democratic process."

Whalen said he believed in the city's process for approving development projects. He said that it has led to few projects as is, citing the Coast Inn as one, and added that he felt it was unnecessary to further impede development.

"We've got a good process," Whalen said. "I believe in our staff. I believe in our planning commission. I believe in our design review board, and ultimately, I believe in our City Council."

Nokes began the evening by saying he wanted to ease regulations to help bring in businesses that residents frequent outside of the town, and fittingly, he was against the initiative, calling the extra step "too cumbersome."

"I think it's going to discourage anybody from coming here

See **Forum**, page A4



Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

NATALIE ELLIOTT, a Huntington Beach resident, has written her first book, "Peny's Purse: A True Story of a Determined and Brave Woman."

Huntington Beach teacher enlists 9-year-old's help to illustrate her first book

BY MATT SZABO

Huntington Beach resident Natalie Elliott has always been someone to embrace a new opportunity.

Elliott, who holds master's degrees from UCLA and Concordia University, taught for 11 years at an elementary school in Watts, earning a Los Angeles County Teacher of the Year honor in 2016.

She pivoted to Plaza Vista Elementary in Irvine the following year. Then, last year, the Fountain Valley High graduate did

something even more interesting.

She moved more than halfway across the country to Iowa.

"I wanted to experience something totally different," said Elliott, 36, who found a home teaching at Shuler Elementary in Clive, Iowa.

Naomi Davis was in Elliott's third-grade class last year and showed talent in art. When Elliott decided this spring to write her first children's book, she asked Naomi, 9, to be her illus-

See **Book**, page A3



Photos by Raul Roa | Staff Photographer

VOLUNTEERS INCLUDING Silas Newcott, 14, of Costa Mesa, left, help paint the crosswalk at Junipero and Arlington drives in Costa Mesa on Oct. 3.

Volunteers show their civic pride at annual Love Costa Mesa Day

The morning of Oct. 4 found the city of Costa Mesa's cup running over, as hundreds of volunteers spent several hours the day before engaged in acts of service for the betterment of the city and its residents during Love Costa Mesa Day.

Sponsored by local non-profit Trellis, the annual event allows people to list projects where an extra pair of hands may be needed.

Volunteers sign up and show up, painting fences, weeding gardens, assembling care kits and performing other acts of service.

"The goal is to just encourage neighbors to get out here and love on everyone," said Sharon Hurd, Trellis' director of neighborhood networks. "Love

Costa Mesa Day can even be considered a tool to get out there working together, building community but also making our city a better place to be."

More than 300 volunteers turned out Oct. 3 to contribute to nearly 30 low-touch, socially distanced or virtual projects. High schoolers joined with community members and city staff and officials at the intersection of Junipero and Arlington drives, near TeWinkle Park, to help paint art designs in the crosswalks while nearby, volunteers touched up an old mural at the city's skate park.

Kelli Frager, who led the crosswalk painting project, said her group painted patterns designed by Costa Mesa High School student Esmeralda Andres, who

drew inspiration from the natural beauty of TeWinkle Park.

"My favorite part was watching everyone take her idea and build on it," Frager said Monday. "We had to support each other, strategize, problem solve and be creative together, which is what community is all about."

Hurd said while the modified event, postponed from May due to the COVID-19 pandemic, drew a smaller crowd, the positivity was at an all-time high.

"I think it offered hope to people and an excitement they haven't been able to have in a while," she said. "I just want to say thank you to everyone who participated in any way — it was amazing."

— Sara Cardine



VOLUNTEER JAMIE KRUSE of Costa Mesa helps with painting the artwork in front of the skatepark in Costa Mesa on Oct. 3. More than 300 volunteers came out that day.

MURALIST JOSH MADRID and his 5-year old daughter Dali help retouch his artwork in front of the skatepark in Costa Mesa on Oct. 3.

LOVE

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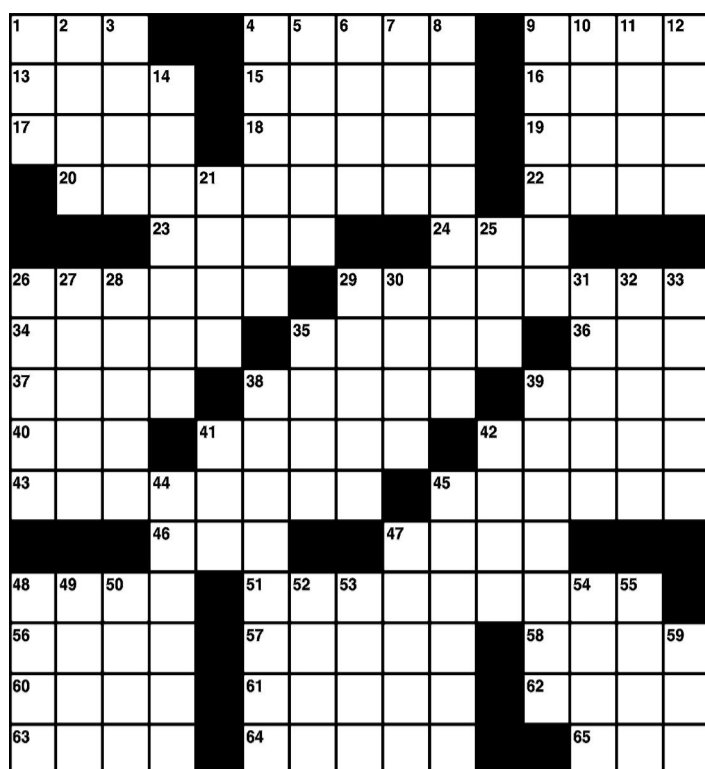
THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS

- 1 Barker & Bell
- 4 Butt heads
- 9 Morse _
- 13 Money for the poor
- 15 "Roots" author Alex
- 16 Gives a pink slip to
- 17 Hasn't a _; suspects nothing
- 18 Regions
- 19 "As ye sow, so shall ye _"
- 20 Most bizarre
- 22 Williams or Griffith
- 23 Household pests
- 24 North Pole toy maker
- 26 Bill's VP
- 29 Accepted by all parties
- 34 Farm buildings
- 35 Grape or guava
- 36 Apple pie _ mode
- 37 Large spades
- 38 Punctuation mark
- 39 Turn over
- 40 Herbal brew
- 41 Winningham & others
- 42 Actor Christopher
- 43 Highly respected
- 45 Handbags
- 46 Blood analysis site
- 47 "True _"; John Wayne film
- 48 "Not so fast!"
- 51 Acquiring
- 56 Stack
- 57 Day or Roberts
- 58 Outdoor feast
- 60 Irritates
- 61 Actor Jeremy
- 62 Trees with broad leaves
- 63 Model's stance
- 64 Nervous
- 65 Golfer Trevino

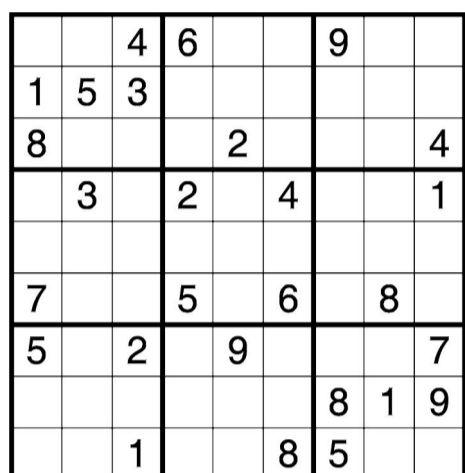
DOWN



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 A4.

- 1 Big _; fast-food burger
- 2 Know-it-_; wise guys
- 3 Filth
- 4 Monopoly board square
- 5 T-shirt size
- 6 Away from the
- 7 Bodies of water
- 8 State of panic
- 9 Wine container
- 10 Strong animals
- 11 No longer with us
- 12 Notice
- 14 Talks on Sunday
- 21 Broadcasts
- 25 "_ Me Call You Sweetheart"
- 26 Decrease
- 27 _ up; puts on a corset
- 28 Magnificent
- 29 Ready for battle
- 30 Periodontist's concerns
- 31 Evans & Robertson
- 32 Martini garnish
- 33 Neck parts
- 35 Golfer's cry
- 38 Asian nation
- 39 Like good farmland
- 41 "Cry _ River"
- 42 Wreck
- 44 Go by, as time
- 45 Straitlaced
- 47 Puts on weight
- 48 Use a whisk
- 49 Medal of Honor recipient
- 50 Bur _; Iowa's state trees
- 52 "A Star Is _"; Streisand film
- 53 Run
- 54 Not valid
- 55 Bridge or badminton
- 59 Do drugs

- 21 Broadcasts
- 25 "_ Me Call You Sweetheart"
- 26 Decrease
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Tribune Media Services



Courtesy of Natalie Elliott

NATALIE ELLIOTT with her former student and book illustrator Naomi Davis, age 9.

BOOK

Continued from page A1

trator. "I was hoping that this would give her an outlet to kind of be more confident and highlight her talents in other ways," Elliott said. "She was so professional throughout the whole process. We had Zoom meetings every week, and she wanted to make sure all of her illustrations were just perfect and really highlighted the message on each page that I wanted to get across." The result of the hard work came to fruition on Oct. 1, when the book, "Peny's Purse: A True Story of a Determined and Brave Woman," was released. The book illustrates the life of Elliott's aunt, nicknamed "Peny," who died at age 88 in May. Elliott said she wanted to highlight her aunt's passion for animals, and how brave and feisty she was. "Peny," who lived in Long

Beach, received her college bachelor's degree at the age of 80. "We have to value our seniors more, especially now in the time of a pandemic," Elliott said. "I really wanted to do something to highlight how special our seniors are, and how much we can still learn from them and appreciate them while they're still here. It's a great message to teach children. Just because someone's a senior doesn't mean they're ancient. They still have a lot to offer, and anyone can pursue their dreams no matter what age they're at." Elliott also appreciates Naomi's contributions to the book. She said half of the proceeds will go toward Naomi's college fund; the other half will go toward a nonprofit that Elliott wants to launch that would put together portable libraries for low-income students. "It was really fun," Naomi said of illustrating the

book. "At first, I thought it was just for the classroom. I didn't know it was actually going to get published and stuff. I was really happy." Elliott has pivoted once more in 2020. She said she moved back home to Huntington Beach to be closer to family; this fall she is teaching her students in Iowa virtually online. Elliott, who also holds an administrative credential, said she hopes to land an assistant principal job in Orange County next school year. For now, she is promoting her new book. She and Naomi participated in the virtual Orange County Children's Book Festival last month. "I knew I'd always wanted to write a children's book," Elliott said. "It was always in the back of my head, and 2020 is the year of everything new." matthewszabo@latimes.com Twitter: @mjszabo

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Newport to discuss more short-term rental reforms

BY LILLY NGUYEN

The Newport Beach City Council will again be considering additional reforms of short-term rental regulations to reduce neighborhood impacts at Tuesday's City Council meeting.

Up for consideration is the possibility of adding a three-night stay minimum requirement and limiting the total number of short-term rental permits in the city to 1,550.

The City Council will also consider changing the age limit to rent to 25 and holding property owners responsible for any parking violations by guests at or in the general vicinity of the property. It will also be deciding whether or not short-term rental lodging permits will be transferable to immediate family upon the death of an owner in addition to new owners.

All items were discussed during a Sept. 8 study session and have been brought back before the City Council for review.

In July, the council approved changes to current regulations on short-term rentals in the city, which now stipulate that owners must disclose the number of parking spots available; occupancy is limited to the maxi-

mum stated by the building and fire code; owners must have a nuisance response plan; and advertisements must include their permit numbers. They are also required to have an on-site contact that the city can call for complaints.

The city launched its 24-hour hotline for complaints and non-emergency issues related to short-term rental units on Oct. 2.

A staff report prepared for Tuesday's meeting said the city has 1,500 active short-term lodging permits in Newport Beach, including 1,436 on coastal zone properties and 64 on non-coastal zone properties.

City staff previously said new regulations are in light of the proliferation of short-term rental units in recent years through Airbnb, though the city has a history of short-term rentals that predates such websites, and the community impacts.

The majority of short-term rental properties are concentrated at the Balboa Peninsula, Balboa Island and Corona del Mar.

Tuesday's meeting begins at 4:30 p.m. and can be livestreamed at newportbeachca.gov/government/departments/public-information-office/nbtv/



File Photo

SHORT-TERM RENTALS are especially prevalent on the Balboa Peninsula in Newport Beach.

nbtv-live. Members of the public are encouraged to email questions to cityclerk@newportbeachca.gov or can attend in-person from the community

room. Phone numbers will be listed on-screen during the meeting for residents to call in and comment on specific agenda items.

Only 20 people can be on hold at one time.

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Laguna Beach City Council to discuss regional housing needs

BY ANDREW TURNER

At its next scheduled meeting on Tuesday, the Laguna Beach City Council will consider whether it should appeal the city's Regional Housing Needs Assessment.

The Southern California Assn. of Governments is requiring Laguna Beach to accommodate 393 units, but local jurisdictions have until Oct. 26 to submit an appeal of the city's fair share for regional housing needs. City staff note that Laguna Beach faces a significant increase in the allocation of units from the two units required in the previous planning period.

Staff argue that the appeal is necessary because of



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

REGIONAL HOUSING needs is expected to be a topic of the Laguna Beach City Council's next meeting on Tuesday.

discrepancies in reports regarding the state's housing shortage, physical barriers to providing 393 more housing units based on the

steep terrain of the hillside community and the increased risk of wildfires due to climate change.

The meeting will also in-

clude a public hearing. A property owner is appealing conditions of approval by the Design Review Board for a project that would demolish a single-family residence and build a 6,703 square-foot duplex with a 1,274 square-foot five-car garage in a residential district (R-2).

Among the issues to be considered is the scale as it relates to view equity for neighbors.

The Laguna Beach council will consider how it would like for meetings to be conducted moving forward.

There have been 14 meetings of the City Council held over Zoom since April 7, a change necessitated by the coronavirus

pandemic.

Zoom meetings have produced an average attendance of 185 people, excluding city staff members.

A staff report indicated that 14 Orange County cities responded to a survey requesting information on how they were conducting their meetings.

Nine of the responding cities said their meetings are held online, while five were allowing for limited public participation in an in-person or hybrid model.

Three options are to be considered: Zoom meetings through December, hybrid meetings that would allow the public to stand in line to speak on a subject and then immediately leave or in-person meetings for

council members only with staff and the public participating over Zoom.

The scheduled meeting for Tuesday begins at 5 p.m., and members of the public can participate over Zoom (<https://lagunabeachcity.zoom.us/j/93080380026>) or call into the meeting at 669-900-9128. It can also be viewed live on Cox cable channel 852.

Comments may be submitted to the city clerk by email at LcheL@lagunabeachcity.net.

It is requested that comments be sent to the city clerk by 3 p.m. on Monday to give council members time to review them.

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Study Site:

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To find out if you qualify, contact 949-650-1863 or info@drwirta.com



THE CANDIDATES for the Laguna Beach City Council participate in a virtual forum on Friday.

Screenshot by Andrew Turner

FORUM

Continued from page A1

and trying to do anything at all," Nokes said. "We have our property development standards. We need to guard those jealously."

Dicterow, who has served on the council for 20 years, said that elections for development projects would be time-consuming and expensive, especially for the applicant.

He added in his opening remarks that a primary concern of his is "taking back our streets and neighborhoods from the day-trippers that come to town" because of the impact on the quality of life for residents.

In his opening statement, Flores stressed the need for kindness. It has not always been the case in council meetings. In the last meeting, Councilwoman Toni Iseman appeared to be the target of profane language.

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CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

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forum

COMMENTARY | **HANG T. DANG, D.O., AND WADE SMITH, M.D.**

Neglected breast cancer is an all too common occurrence

As breast cancer specialists, one of the most distressing aspects of our jobs is seeing new patients who have ignored their symptoms for weeks, months — or even years. Some are young women (mothers, sisters, daughters, granddaughters) who found a lump but kept putting off their mammograms or delayed a consult with their physician; other women simply hope the changes in their breasts will disappear without treatment or surgery.

Neglected breast cancer is an all too common clinical occurrence in underserved communities, whether that's in Third World nations or in areas of the United States where women have limited access to screenings, treatment and education.

However, we see patients in Orange County who know all about breast cancer and its symptoms and have access to medical experts. But their fear of breast cancer caused them to avoid seeking care in a timely manner.

We know how scary this can be. But it's important to note that finding breast cancer early is one of the most important factors in successful treatment of this disease and gives us more treatment options for a cure.

In fact, the five-year survival rate for localized breast cancer (cancer that has not spread to lymph nodes or other organs) is 99%. Early detection and treatment is key.

Neglected breast cancer is not a new phenomenon. A 2015 survey found that nearly one in five women who discovered a suspicious sign, such as a lump in their breast, did not contact their doctor for at least a month.

One in 20 women waited six months or longer to get checked by a medical expert. Another study found that one out of three women experiencing symptoms



Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

MONICA PARK, from left, Bobbie Valentine and Kim Bortnick join other volunteers in Newport Beach for a celebration of Susan G. Komen Orange County's 25th anniversary in 2016.

with their breasts waited more than three months before seeking medical help. We must change this.

Early detection is a game-changer. It's worth noting that according to the National Cancer Institute, Orange County has a higher rate of women with breast cancer than both the state and national averages.

For many patients, breast cancer is detected without the appearance of symptoms, therefore regular screening mammography (appropriate to your age and risk level of breast cancer) is important and effective in detecting the disease early.

Self-breast awareness and clinical breast exams by a health-care professional are also critical for early breast cancer detection and treatment.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer diagnosis for American women, other than skin cancer. A woman's risk of

breast cancer nearly doubles if her mother, sister or daughter has been diagnosed with breast cancer. But family history alone is not determinative: Fewer than 15% of women who get breast cancer have a family member with the disease, which makes self-exams and regular checkups even more essential.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The time is now for women to talk to their doctors about breast cancer, know their risk factors, understand screening recommendations and be proactive in early detection of breast cancer.

If there's one message we want to convey it's this: If you notice changes in your breasts, schedule an appointment with your physician.

The most common physical change you may notice is a breast lump, but see your doctor if you have noncyclic (not associated with menses) breast pain,

persistent swelling, redness of the skin, nipple discharge, breast skin or nipple rash, swelling of your underarm lymph nodes or changes in your nipples.

Ask your doctor if you're due for a screening and talk to him or her about healthy habits you can explore — like controlling your weight, avoiding smoking and being physically active. Your doctor can also help you better understand your personal overall risk.

Facing an uncertain diagnosis is scary, but experts who truly understand your needs and fears and will be by your side are here in Orange County. Don't put your health on hold.

HANG T. DANG, D.O., a fellowship-trained breast surgical oncologist, and **WADE SMITH, M.D.**, a board-certified medical oncologist specializing in breast cancer, practice together at City of Hope Newport Beach.

MAILBAG

I can see the difference in my kids since Mariners Elementary reopened

As the debate continues on whether in-person learning during COVID-19 is safe, one thing is certain: I will never forget the look of joy on my children's faces when they took their very first steps on a Newport-Mesa campus and walked off with their teacher.

After a month of distance learning, transitional kindergarten through sixth-grade students began the process of resuming on campus education last week.

During these challenging times, parents seem to be at the mercy of the school board, district and their teachers.

With Newport-Mesa Unified School District trustees voting 7-0 on Sept. 10, the district began the process of instituting a hybrid model for in-person learning.

However, in recent weeks, petitions, rallies, letters and social media drives have shown that some teachers, mostly at the high school level, are not comfortable returning to the classroom.

Fortunately, at Mariners Elementary (where my twins attend kindergarten), that sentiment didn't seem to carry over. Parents and students arrived last Tuesday to balloons, banners and excitement from their teachers.

Through their masks, you could see the pure love these teachers showed during drop-off and pickup. They shared pictures with parents and did everything possible to provide a great experience, even under tough circumstances.

I am so proud of our elementary school teachers for their hard work these past few months.

And while students are only receiving 2½ hours of in-person instruction, I have already seen a difference in my children's interest in education.

During distance learning, my

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Amrita Krishnan, M.D., Hematologist
Director, Judy and Bernard Briskin Center for Multiple Myeloma Research
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COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER OPENING IN IRVINE 2022



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

DRIVERS WEARING MASKS return to their buses at Top of the World Elementary School as staff and students returned for in-person learning on Monday.

COVID-19

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battling the virus in the county.

Orange County remains in the second, red tier in the state's color-coded guidelines for reopening. The county's reopening metrics were at one time progressing toward the third, orange tier, but due to a spike in cases, the county has stayed in the red tier, classified as "substantial transmission," since Sept. 8.

Currently, the county sports seven-day averages of 5.2 new daily cases per 100,000 residents and a testing positivity rate of 3.2%. Those numbers come with a seven-day lag.

For a county to progress into the orange tier, labeled "moderate transmis-

sion," it must achieve seven-day averages of one to 3.9 new daily cases per 100,000 residents and a testing positivity rate of 2% to 4.9%.

Below are the coronavirus case counts and deaths for select cities in Orange County:

- Santa Ana: 10,648 cases; 293 deaths
- Anaheim: 9,492 cases; 291 deaths
- Huntington Beach: 2,463 cases; 78 deaths
- Costa Mesa: 1,872 cases; 36 deaths
- Irvine: 1,754 cases; 13 deaths
- Newport Beach: 1,170 cases; 25 deaths
- Fountain Valley: 524 cases; 18 deaths
- Laguna Beach: 234 cases; fewer than five deaths

Here are the case counts by age group, followed by

deaths:

- 0 to 17: 4,021 cases; one death
- 18 to 24: 8,362 cases; four deaths
- 25 to 34: 11,907 cases; 19 deaths
- 35 to 44: 8,829 cases; 37 deaths
- 45 to 54: 8,965 cases; 111 deaths
- 55 to 64: 6,671 cases; 192 deaths
- 65 to 74: 3,344 cases; 267 deaths
- 75 to 84: 1,884 cases; 286 deaths
- 85 and older: 1,499 cases; 423 deaths

Updated figures are posted daily at occovid19.ochealthinfo.com/coronavirus-in-oc. For information on getting tested, visit occovid19.ochealthinfo.com/covid-19-testing.

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KITCHEN

Continued from page A1

that he would seldom talk to anyone when he entered the program. He learned to love it and said that Open Gate marked his first graduation of any kind, a broad smile showing on his face as he talked about the happiness it brought him.

Rodriguez is married. He has fathered two children from two different women, and he also has a stepdaughter. His outlook on life has improved dramatically. He says he has stayed away from drugs, with his kids serving as the motivation.

"We both lived that life," Rodriguez said of himself and his stepbrother trying to turn their lives around. "We're just trying to change now. We're trying to progress."

"We're trying to get a house together. From kids doing crimes and going to jail together to now we're working, getting paychecks, saving."

Human trafficking had been an issue that Deidre Pujols, 44, a champion for vulnerable populations and the wife of Angels baseball star Albert Pujols, wanted to address. Open Gate International grew out of those efforts.

A trip abroad to several countries with her good friend Judy Lamborn, 54, sought to find out the answer to three key questions — What is human trafficking? Who is involved in the fight against it? What can we do about it?

"We met with law enforcement [and] we met with nonprofit organizations that were involved in the rehabilitation of survivors," said Lamborn, the executive director of Open Gate International. "Every single one of them said, 'At the end of the rehabilitative process, there's nothing to bridge the gap from rehabilitation to reintegration.'"

Pujols decided after that trip, which Lamborn said included stops in Mexico, Brazil, India and Cambodia, that the nonprofit would be created, providing vocational training and employment opportunities for survivors of human trafficking.

The culinary school, led by Global Executive Chef Cinthia Worsey, 44, of Long Beach can accommodate up to 20 students for a 12-week program. Open Gate expanded its reach to include other vulnerable populations, including those struggling with addiction, at-risk youth aging

"We met with law enforcement [and] we met with nonprofit organizations that were involved in the rehabilitation of survivors. Every single one of them said, 'At the end of the rehabilitative process, there's nothing to bridge the gap from rehabilitation to reintegration.'"

— Judy Lamborn

Executive director of Open Gate International

out of the foster care system, the homeless and the previously incarcerated.

Lamborn, who is in charge of the life skills mentoring portion of the Open Gate operation, has the ability to empathize with many who enter the program. She shared her background as a former prostitute, drug addict and alcoholic.

Now, she travels back and forth from St. Louis, helping individuals move beyond their undesirable past. "It's one thing to get free," Lamborn said. "It's all together something different to stay free, and fortunately, we've had that happen."

Pujols and her family, who live in Irvine, have placed a strong emphasis on faith in their lives.

"Watching somebody believe nothing about themselves or their existence to being fulfilled and knowing that they have a purpose on this planet, watching them smile, have confidence, watching them now be armed with a skill in culinary arts ... that's the kingdom-building stuff that I believe I'm here on Earth to do," Pujols said.

Worsey also sees changing lives for the better as the most rewarding part of her job. She said that 75% of eligible graduates have been placed in culinary positions.

"Being able to do what I love and share that with others while changing lives is so special," Worsey said. "Here at OGI, I've become a part of the process of changing lives and seeing students start to feel worthy and proud of themselves."

The Open Gate International program is free for students. In 2021, Pujols hopes to expand by providing three 15-week programs, which will include 12 weeks in class and three weeks of on-the-job training.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the culinary class was interrupted eight weeks into the program. Open Gate Kitchen opened anyway.

During those early

months, the café was only open for lunch. Open Gate Kitchen extended its hours this week to include breakfast, and added to its menu, and is now open from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

"We did open during COVID, which I was fine with because I really felt like our team needed a chance to get their feet wet with a few customers, [to] learn a little bit about how things go," Pujols said. "It kind of has just slowly grown, and it's been really amazing. We were able to cater to the Angels taxi squad in Long Beach all season long. We were able to feed the Angels Major League Baseball team a few times this year, as well, and do a few other catering gigs."

The Open Gate International program has also provided opportunities to students in Cambodia, India, Mexico City and Moldova, Pujols said. She added that they are working on starting a program in Uganda.

Albert Pujols is now fifth on the all-time home run list with 662. Deidre Pujols said that it became imperative that the couple knew what they stood for as her husband's career took off in baseball. The significance of that is ingrained in them by how the community looks up to them.

She added that it is important to let people know that it does not matter what they were born into. Rather, she said she believes that it is what a person turns their life into that matters.

"You have two important numbers in your life, which is your birth and your death, and that dash is so significant," Pujols said, holding up her thumb and finger to display a symbolic gap.

"If the dash is like this big so far because you don't feel like you've contributed to the world, then make it bigger. Do something. Make a plan."

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EXHIBIT

Continued from page A1

nick introduced the project and said the past elections may seem quaint in their sense of civility in comparison to the current election but "these histories both contained small seeds that have gone into this current moment that we're living through as well as the possibility of imagining our way out of it."

Futernick stages photos of herself wearing a paper facemask to assume the identities of multiple presidential candidates — from Barry Goldwater to Hillary Clinton — in the "Concession" installation.

Nearly all of the candidates are male. Each photo has corresponding green text panels where she weaves together fictional lines and direct quotes from their concession speeches.

Aschheim and Segovia will be the first set of artists to be highlighted in the monthly newsletter.

For the show, Aschheim focused on John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon. "November 14, 1960 (Key Biscayne)" are a series of ink drawings of the two presidents meeting for an hour for a peaceful transition of power after Kennedy won the election.

Aschheim said they aren't necessarily failed presidential candidates since they both worked as presidents, but their terms were interrupted by either an assassination or resignation.

She used archival material, some of which she accessed through the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum in Yorba Linda.

"It just seems impossible that I could have even lived in a time period where they're people who are still alive that remember this afternoon and ... also are watching what's playing out right now. It's kind of mind-boggling to me," Aschheim said on the Zoom panel.

Aschheim also discussed the "365 Days of Voters" project, an Instagram visual



Courtesy of Rebecca Sittler

"SUPPORTERS," 2019, by Rebecca Sittler, from "Fritz: Fragments from an Imagined Presidential" Museum.



"HILLARY," 2020, by Marisa J. Futernick, from the installation "Concession."

Courtesy of Marisa J. Futernick

diary of voters documenting their stories and the communities they represent.

Sponsored by the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder and arts commissions of L.A., Glendale and Pasadena, Aschheim takes headshot photo submissions and makes drawings to post on the account as well as to send a free physical copy to participants.

Segovia shared a video excerpt of "I Am Worth It, I Will Be Mexico's President," in which the artist explores the character of the latest female candidate who ran for presidency in Mexico — Margarita Zavala de Calderón, the wife of former President Felipe Calderón.

The piece touches on the idea that machismo and the reputation of her husband played a role in her unsuccessful campaign.

"I wanted to show all the insecurities that she must have been feeling at the

time and the idea that she was never going to be seen as an individual, but always be compared to her husband in the same way than other female candidates in the United States might have been looked at like Hillary Clinton," Segovia said.

Stallings' plan for the 2020-21 exhibition schedule was to focus on women in conjunction with this year's 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment passage. Most of the artists featured in "Almost Presidential" are women.

"What's interesting is when artists deal with political and social issues because what art can do is help create a platform for discussion and can inject ambiguity back into a conversation where usually there's a tendency to immediately categorize," Stallings said.

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