

# Daily Pilot

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## County makes 'honor roll' for beaches

The environmental advocacy group Heal the Bay gives O.C. high marks for its water quality.

BY LILLY NGUYEN

According to an annual survey of more than 500 beaches across the state of California, Orange County found at least 10 of its own ranking among the top 35 beaches that scored perfect water quality grades year-round.

Heal the Bay, a Santa Monica environmental advocacy group that focuses on coastal waters and watersheds, reported Tuesday that Orange County had the most beaches on this year's "honor roll" with the majority located near Newport Beach and the Balboa Peninsula.

The beach at 52nd/53rd Street in Newport and Treasure Island Beach in Laguna Beach were ranked on the honor roll list — down to 35 from last year's 42 — for the second year in a row.

The local beaches in the top 35, in order of their ranking on the list were Promontory Point, Crystal Cove, Orange Street, Balboa Beach Pier, Balboa Beach's The Wedge, 1,000 Steps Beach at 9th Street in Laguna Beach, North Aliso County Beach and Treasure Island Beach in Laguna.

None of O.C.'s beaches were included on the "beach bummer" list, which includes beaches in San Diego, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, Los Angeles, Humboldt, San Francisco and Santa Barbara counties.

The report adds that the honor roll list tends to be dominated by beaches in Southern California because Northern and Central Califor-

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Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

**LOGAN DUNN**, a recent graduate from Edison High School, stands by a civil rights mural that he completed at the school.

## Edison High graduate paints quite a picture of history

BY MATT SZABO

Logan Dunn roamed the hallways for a few more days after graduating from Edison High School on June 17. He had unfinished business.

The 17-year-old recently completed a civil rights-themed mural at his alma mater, in the social studies building.

Logan was encouraged to paint the project by Edison art teacher Jennie Roy-Atwood, who taught him for two years. The senior class selected the theme, but Logan did most of the rest of the work, coming up with a design and painting the entire mural himself.

He ended up highlighting Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Thurgood Marshall, Jackie Robinson and Rosa Parks.

Logan Dunn's mural, featuring four Black civil rights leaders, is now on display in the Chargers' social studies building.

"I'm pretty satisfied," Logan said. "It came together a lot better than I thought [it would]."

He said the project took about five weeks, adding that he used gesso to apply a base coat before using acrylic paints for the rest of the project.

Logan said he has been drawing for years, but he just started painting last fall. His mural is the 10th that Roy-Atwood's art students have produced on campus.

On Wednesday, Logan was presented with a gift card by the social studies department to give thanks. Melissa Murphy, a local artist who also went to Edison High, was a special guest.

Logan also was an Edison Golden Key Award recipient this year in the category of fine arts visual.

"I've enjoyed working with him for two years," Roy-Atwood said. "He's gotten so good at painting. When he first came in, he was doing more markers and drawings. He has a good sense of color and design, so he's quite an artist. I'm excited for him."

Logan comes from an artistic family, said his mother, Hilary Hickok. His grandfather, William Squire, worked for Warner Bros. and created set designs.

The mural was a labor of love, as Logan

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**HOLLEY SAO**, kitchen manager for Toast Kitchen + Bakery in Costa Mesa, prepares meals for Delivering with Dignity on Wednesday. One year in, the collaboration of donors, volunteers, assistance agencies and local restaurants has delivered 81,000 hot meals to people in need.



Scott Smeltzer  
Staff Photographer

## Collaboration still serving hot meals, dignity to O.C.'s neediest residents

BY SARA CARDINE

As Orange County entered the long stretch of the coronavirus pandemic last summer, a contingent of nonprofit organizations, local restaurants, philanthropists and volunteers teamed up to provide fresh, hot meals to residents whose food options were scarce.

Delivering with Dignity Orange County created a framework where donors raised funds to pay a modest \$6-per-meal price to independent restaurants, which took turns boxing up goods for an army of volunteer delivery drivers.

The meals went to clients of local assistance agencies who were at high risk for coronavirus and confined to their homes, did not qualify for other food programs and who otherwise had no support system or means of procuring food.

Among them was local resident Jeffrey Hull, a client of the Costa Mesa nonprofit Project Independence, which helps adults with disabilities find jobs and live



**JEFFREY HULL**, a Project Independence client, speaks to a TV crew outside Toast Kitchen + Bakery at the one-year anniversary of Delivering with Dignity O.C. Hull received hot, prepared meals during the pandemic.

on their own. Last year found Hull often stuck inside his apartment with limited transportation and means of getting fresh meals.

"I mainly stayed inside the house," Hull said of his pandemic routine, alleviated by Delivering with Dignity. "I've gotten meals delivered before — I think

it's a fantastic organization."

Todd Eckert, development director for Project Independence, said the meal program filled a huge void.

"The pandemic clobbered a lot of us and our ability to get out," he said. "A lot of our clients are

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Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**A CONSTRUCTION WORKER** adds finish to an outdoor dining deck in front of the Marine Room Tavern in Laguna Beach on May 19.

## Laguna facing parklets versus parking debate

BY ANDREW TURNER

Laguna Beach is taking steps to address parking concerns in its downtown area, as some residents have raised issues about the parklets that were installed to assist restaurants during the coronavirus pandemic.

The parklets allowed for restaurants to continue to operate with an outdoor dining option, expanding the range of offerings beyond takeout that had become a reality of COVID-19 restrictions.

Some of those outdoor dining decks are in the crosshairs. Heidi Miller, the owner of World Newsstand, told the Laguna Beach City Council on Tuesday that she recently closed the newsstand, pointing to a parklet in front of the business as an explanation for a loss in sales.

Miller referenced three parklets on Ocean Avenue that she said are not being used most of the time.

"I'm surrounded by [parklets]. I've got three of them in front of me," Miller said. "Nobody can

come down and visit. My income is down. We went 12 days with zero sales. I've never had that in my life, and it's simply because there wasn't the in-and-out parking that was available, so that yellow zone is not only for me.

"It's for everybody, it's for Hennessey's, it's for The Wharf, it's for Laguna Sushi. It's for everybody, it's for the Marine Room, and that's needed."

Mark McAvoy, the director of public works for Laguna Beach, said that city staff are considering a couple of options to alleviate the loss of the loading zone.

Community Development Director Marc Wiener said the temporary use permits attached to the parklets are revocable, but several council members spoke in favor of the parklets again on Tuesday.

"I got curious about the parking spaces on Ocean yesterday," Mayor Pro Tem Sue Kempf said. "So I walked and I counted them, and I was thinking about

See **Parklets**, page A2



## forum

A WORD, PLEASE | JUNE CASAGRANDE

## Nominalizations can sometimes result in terrible writing

Nominalizations are grammatical, and a lot of adjectives and verbs have noun forms, but using nominalizations can occasionally lead to terrible writing.

Before 2006, I never gave much thought to nominalizations — noun forms like “beauty” and “the scheduling” that at heart are really adjectives like “beautiful” or verbs like “to schedule.” I was familiar with the concept, but I didn’t understand how much it could improve writing.

That changed when I came across “The Curious Case of the Misplaced Modifier” by Bonnie Trenga — a brilliant little book that portrays common writing mistakes as mysteries to be investigated detective-style. Chapter 2, “The Illuminating Investigation Into the Nasty Nominalization,” changed me.

The chapter begins with a short detective story packed with badly written sentences: “Astonishment by Miss Crufflepuff had occurred upon the realization that a thief had absconded with her TV and toaster. However, the perpetrator’s leaving of the heirloom silverware caused much head scratching.”

If you came across writing this bad in the wild you might not notice how bad it is. Instead, you’d lose focus, lose interest and put the book down. Even if you did pause to appreciate how exquisitely bad this writing is, you probably couldn’t put your finger on why.

As Trenga illustrates so clearly, nominalizations are the problem. “Astonishment” is a noun form of the adjective “astonished.” “Realization” is the noun form of the verb “realize.” “The leaving of the heirloom silverware” makes a noun out of “leaving.” And the crowning glory, “caused much head scratching” uses the noun



“scratching” instead of the verb “scratch.”

Nominalizations are perfectly grammatical. Lots of adjectives and verbs have noun forms. I run: verb. I wear running shoes: adjective. Running is good exercise: noun.

But unlike verbs and adjectives, a nominalization can sometimes make a sentence terrible. Or should I say, it can imbue a sentence with terribleness.

There are several reasons.

First, nouns trying to do the work of verbs or adjectives are static and abstract

dust bunnies” can be recast as “The forensics team collected the victim’s dust bunnies.”

“Happiness was evident after the clown was arrested” can be rewritten as “The detective was happy after she arrested the clown.”

Since I read Trenga’s book, I see nominalizations everywhere. And I know how to fix them. On the day I wrote this column, I edited an article with a sentence like “The addition of the new headquarters paved the way for the creation of jobs.” Armed with an understanding of nominalizations, I could see multiple

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— lifeless objects devoid of action or texture. They’re poor substitutes for dynamic verbs and descriptive adjectives. The idea of “walking” is less relatable than “Joe walked,” with an actual person doing an actual thing.

Second, sentences with nominalizations often leave out subjects of action. As Trenga notes, in “The screeching unnerved the rookie,” you don’t know who’s screeching.

Third, nominalizations often require awkward writing just to make sense. In “Astonishment by Miss Crufflepuff had occurred upon the realization,” you need a word like “by” or “of” just to know who is astonished. Plus, you end up with the action-deprived verb “had occurred” and the always-awkward “upon.” The preposition “of” is the nominalization’s biggest accomplice. The screeching of the owl. The writing of the will. The walking of the dog.

Trenga uses simple examples to show how to rewrite sentences to get rid of nominalizations.

“The last step was the collection of the victim’s

alternatives including, “ABC’s new headquarters opened in 2014, adding 200 jobs in the community.”

Another example from my editing work: “We elevate the status of our communities through the provision of high-quality, affordable healthcare services.” When I was done, it said, “We elevate our communities by providing high-quality, affordable healthcare services.”

Of course, nominalizations exist for a reason. “The running of the bulls” is a good example of a deliberate nominalization that requires no improvement. And the word “nominalization” is itself a nominalization.

When you spot a nominalization, try rewriting the sentence. In some cases, you’ll see the sentence is best left as is. But more often than not, the writing will be better when you’re done.

**JUNE CASAGRANDE** is the author of “The Joy of Syntax: A Simple Guide to All the Grammar You Know You Should Know.” She can be reached at [JuneTCN@aol.com](mailto:JuneTCN@aol.com).

## MAILBAG



**TRUMP SUPPORTERS** gather for an anti-mask “freedom march” in Huntington Beach on June 14.

Scott Smeltzer  
Staff  
Photographer

## Readers explain people whose views differ from their own

A June 20 Forum letter in the Daily Pilot Mailbag begs with anguish, “Please, someone, help me to understand these petulant people.” Here’s an explanation for why some folks hold mind-boggling views. It’s something I learned in 1963 from a sociology course at the University of Redlands.

The key is the difference between a “membership group” and a “reference group.” A person has several membership groups, reflecting various facets of one’s life. But one of these groups serves as a reference group, and it is from that group that the person draws their attitudes, values, beliefs, commitments. It matters little if those beliefs are in conflict with scientific facts or even dangerous to one’s life and family. Those beliefs and behaviors are passionate expressions of one’s loyalty to their chosen “reference group.” If cognitive dissonance becomes too great, a person may explore a change in reference group. This sociological construct helps explain how a person converts into a rigid

new world view, as well as how someone grows into a healthier perspective. I’ll let the readers supply their own real-world examples of the power which can be exerted by a reference group.

**Gary Barmore**

Costa Mesa  
Pastor Emeritus of  
Fairview Community Church

In his recent letter regarding the June 14 “anti-mask” pro-Trump rally in Huntington Beach, Ben Miles asked for help in understanding their motivation. He queried “Are they proud of their ignorance?” The answer is a resounding “Yes!” regarding these “know-nothings.” He made the mistake of referring to them as “petulant” for few of them would understand what the word means (hint: insolent or rude in speech or behavior for a start). Their “freedom march” was definitely “lemming-like.” Yes, to some extent, the protesters have the individual liberty to be stupid. Their hero, Donald Trump, was famously unintelligent in many areas, especially

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regarding COVID-19 issues. “Anti-mask, anti-vaxx, anti-science, anti-reason,” etc., you get the picture. It’s sad that my hometown is becoming known less for being “Surf City” than that portrayed in the Guns N’ Roses song “Paradise City” (think “Desolation Row”). Keep up the good work, Ben, Steve, Lynn and others in writing about the need to turn things around with H.B.’s reputation. We definitely deserve better!

**Tim Geddes**  
Huntington Beach



Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

**LOGAN DUNN** said he would spend five to six hours a day working on the mural project.

## PICTURE

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said he would spend five to six hours a day working on the project.

“He sketched it out first, just on a scratch piece of paper,” Hickok said. “The steps to get it to [the finished product], I’m just blown away. He would just come here and spend hours doing it. I’m just proud of the kid.”

Edison teacher Bob Strachan, who had Logan in his government class as a senior, is happy that the social studies building finally has a mural.

Strachan, who also announces Edison football games, said he was im-

pressed with Logan’s choice of Thurgood Marshall. Not only was Marshall the first Black justice on the U.S. Supreme Court, but he also argued the famous Brown v. Board of Education case that desegregated public schools.

“The fact that he would go there as one of his people he wanted to highlight, I thought that was very insightful,” Strachan said. “What he produced was even better than his mock-ups.”

Strachan added that he also liked Logan’s selection of Jackie Robinson, but for a different reason. Strachan is a big Los Angeles Dodgers baseball fan who shares season tickets with Edison teacher and

tennis coach Dave Lemons.

As for Logan, he said he plans to study art next year at Orange Coast College. He has an Instagram account highlighting his artwork, but he said leaving a legacy at Edison had not really crossed his mind.

Still, Logan said he went to a couple of civil rights protests last year.

“It was something that I was passionate about,” he said. “Not that it was my thing to be passionate about, because it’s not my struggle, but I was glad that I was able to portray it and represent it.”

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