

Daily Pilot

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2023 // dailypilot.com



Kiernan Coliflores, Diocese of Orange

A PORTRAIT of Sr. Kathleen Marie Pughe hangs inside a learning center created in the house in Costa Mesa where she resided before her death in 2022 in a car accident. The new space accommodates reading areas and the Saint Joachim Catholic Church's library of 14,227 books.

Church turns the page on tragedy with a new library

BY SARA CARDINE

Members of Saint Joachim Catholic Church convened Friday in a two-bedroom house near the Costa Mesa church grounds to celebrate its recent transformation into a school learning center and to honor the legacy of its former occupant and namesake.

Sr. Kathleen Marie Pughe dedicated her life to the church, spending more than 70 years in service with the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Orange.

An adored figure in Catholic education for half a century, she served as principal for St. Joseph School in Santa Ana, St. Mary's in Fullerton, Orange's Holy Family School and Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Habra.

Pughe came to Saint Joachim School in 2006 and stayed there until her retirement 13 years later. She continued to live in the 900-square-foot residence, serving as a friend and mentor to countless parishioners and the many children who attended the school.

Her life was cut short by a tragic car accident that occurred

on the evening of March 31, 2022, as the sister drove home from a dinner with friends. Although she lived to age 89, her death came as a shock to those in the community.

Bishop Kevin Vann of the Diocese of Orange presided over Friday's dedication, blessing the space and the life of the woman who made it a cornerstone of the local church.

"Bless this home with its books and belongings. It stores the knowledge of ages and the memories of Sister Kathleen Marie for all of us," he began. "Grant that all who come here may be enlightened by the spirit of truth, so that they may know it and that the truth shall set them free."

Fullerton resident Silvia Jenn, who came to Friday's dedication with 28-year-old son Gregory, found herself welling up with tears as she stood inside Pughe's former dwelling.

"She was my spiritual adviser," Jenn recalled. "She was a close, dear friend, always checking up on us. She attended every fune-

See *Library*, page A2



BISHOP KEVIN VANN, of the Diocese of Orange, on Friday blesses a new library at Saint Joachim School in Costa Mesa.

Vanguard adapts to meet mental health needs

BY SARA CARDINE

In a post-pandemic world, college students are only now beginning to fully return to the social activities, in-person classes and the same high expectations that were placed before them in pre-COVID times.

But while the day-to-day world may be shifting back to some version of normalcy, the internal lives of adolescents and young adults and their ability to navigate school, jobs and life in general are more complicated than ever.

To help start important conversations about mental health, wellness and the resources available to students in need, Vanguard University on Wednesday held a Wellness Fair on the Costa Mesa campus, inviting professionals and experts throughout Orange County to attend.

Doug Hutchinson, director of Vanguard's Counseling Center, said his team partnered with the campus' Healthcare Services Department to host the free event to introduce students to a recent rebranding of the university's counseling and healthcare departments into a unified Center for Wellness and Health Promotion.

"It's really a movement away



Courtesy of Vanguard University

THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE on Mental Health was one of several organizations that participated in a Wellness Fair Wednesday at Costa Mesa's Vanguard University.

from responding to crises to thinking about how we can promote health and wellness," he said of the collaboration. "We're

trying to integrate our services to reach more of our population, rather than just seeing the ones who can make it to the Counsel-

ing Center or Health Center." Hutchinson acknowledged

See *Health*, page A4

Laguna seeks public input in hiring

An online survey asks community members what priorities they'd emphasize in search for the next city manager.

BY ANDREW TURNER

As Laguna Beach continues the recruitment process for its next city manager, officials are calling on stakeholders to weigh in on what they would like to see from the person who fills the role on a full-time basis.

The city's executive recruiting firm, Ralph Andersen & Associates, is soliciting public input on the matter via an online survey, which became available on Thursday. Community members can respond to the questionnaire through Nov. 10 at survey.monkey.com/r/FZTN7V7.

Respondents are asked to provide their age, housing status, time lived in the city, and to identify whether they own a business in Laguna Beach.

The survey also asks for direction regarding priorities for an incoming city manager, the options including public safety, public works, economic and social development, arts and culture, and city services.

Another question inquires about the ideal work experience

See *Input*, page A4

Jimmy Pham switches to run for Assembly

Candidate suspended his campaign for a seat in Congress last week, citing family's focus on community issues.

BY LILLY NGUYEN

Jimmy Pham announced his candidacy for the race in State Assembly District 70 on Friday, one week after suspending his campaign for a seat to represent CA-45 in Congress.

"Too many Californians face financial hardship, a burden exacerbated by career politicians in Sacramento," Pham said in a statement announcing his new campaign. "My family and I are deeply rooted in this community and I believe it's time for fresh leadership that puts working families first, tackles our affordability crisis head on and ensures current and future generations find reasons to stay in Orange County."

See *Pham*, page A3

ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



James Carbone

DIAMOND BAR OUSTS PACIFICA CHRISTIAN FROM DIVISION 5 GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL PLAYOFFS PAGE A4

THE CROWD | B.W. COOK

Foley feted at SPIN's annual gala, presents \$25,000 to the nonprofit

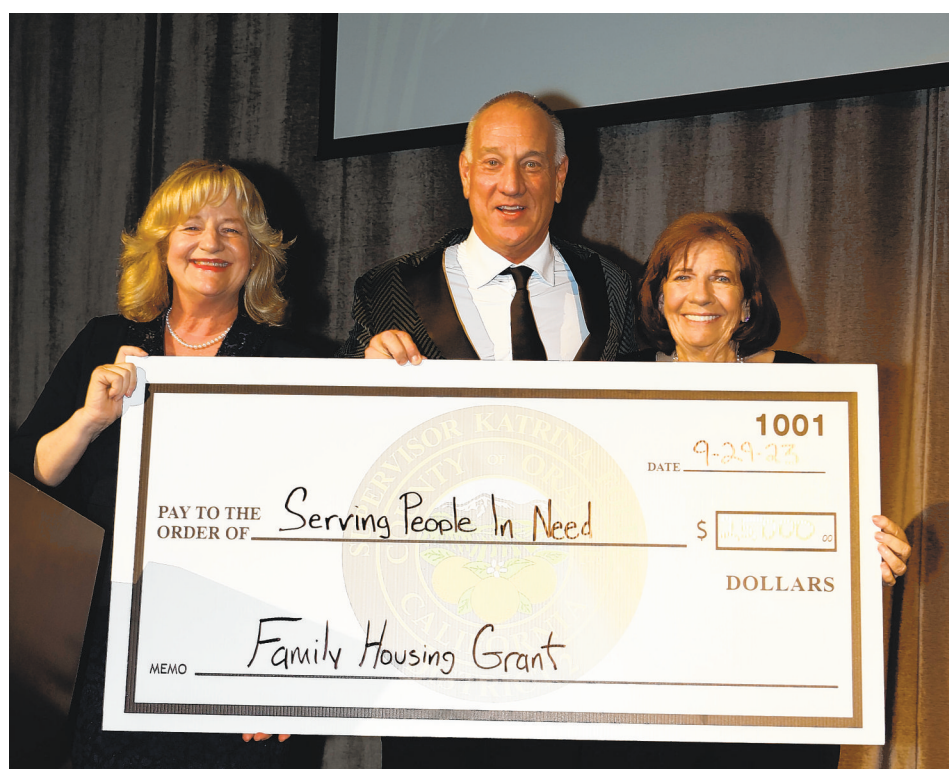
It was an evening of style and substance as the sponsors and generous donors supporting Serving People In Need (SPIN) came together for its 2023 gala dinner billed as "A Night At Club 1221."

The Balboa Bay Resort grand ballroom welcomed about 200 patrons who came to open wallets providing funding earmarked

for permanent housing stability and counseling services benefiting O.C. families.

SPIN donors have been making a difference for needy families in the county for nearly four decades. For those who give, it is a calling. The crowd arrives to enjoy the camaraderie with fellow advocates. More significantly, they come to change lives.

In the spirit of this cause, the annual dinner celebration paid homage to two exemplary O.C. citizens. Both are people at the forefront of improving the lives of the marginalized in this, one of the wealthiest communities in the nation. SPIN event chair and board member of the organization **MaryLou Shattuck** created a special honor presenting the first annual Jean Wegener Humanitarian Award named for the late executive director of SPIN. Wegener served the nonprofit with resolve and strength of purpose for 25 years. Her legacy of standing up for the most underserved families with children in



Photos by Tony Lattimore

ORANGE COUNTY Supervisor Katrina Foley, left, board chair Curtis Scheetz and gala chair MaryLou Shattuck welcome 200 guests to the annual Serving People in Need dinner at Balboa Bay Resort.

the O.C. represents the ideal model for presenting the first annual recognition to **Katrina Foley**, supervisor, 5th District, Orange County Board of Supervisors.

Shattuck welcomed Foley to the stage with genuine appreciation for her role supporting the unhoused in the O.C. The supervisor responded by presenting a \$25,000 check to SPIN in honor of the late Jean Wegener and the work that continues on as the challenges remain.

A standing ovation followed, and the giving continued at-large, taking over

the upbeat mood of the ballroom in response to the classy, intelligent and heartfelt demeanor of hostess, emcee and live auctioneer chef **Jamie Gwen**.

Dressed to impress in tailored lipstick red evening attire, the blond Culinary Institute and Le Cordon Blu grad, who is a nationally syndicated radio host, seven-time cookbook author and regular on television's Food Network, along with stations KTLA, NBC, HSN and others, charmed the crowd, raising impressive donations. By the evening's end, some

\$300,000 was raised.

Supreme credit for the success belongs to SPIN's platinum sponsor and board chair **Curtis R. Scheetz** and his wife, **Jill**, both of whom receive a nod for "best dressed" in great nightclub style befitting the theme of the party. Others in that platinum circle of givers included home builder **Dick Crawford** and his wife, **Kim**; **Maureen Flannagan** of First Republic Bank, **Channing Lindsay** of Flagship Bank, **Charlie** and **Regina Granville**, **Gazal Pour-Moezzi** of Sheppard Mullin, **Rachel Owen** from



HOSTESS AND auctioneer chef Jamie Gwen and event chair MaryLou Shattuck at the 2023 SPIN Gala.

Tri-Circle Financial, **Frank and Peggy Listi**, and chair MaryLou Shattuck and husband **Wayne Shattuck**.

Additional major donors in the crowd were **Michael Gilmore**, who served on the event committee with Shattuck responsible for major auction gifts, **Veronica Lopez**, and SPIN board members including vice chair **Kate Domagala** and **Al** and **Susan Degrassi**. Front and center from SPIN, deserving kudos for a successful event, were **Crystal Cook**, **María Mazzenga Avellaneda**, interim director and **Ladeshia Goubert**, SPIN's director of donors and volunteer relations, who also served as de facto co-chair to Shattuck.

On arrival, guests shared in a cocktail reception, sampling the passed hors d'oeuvres from the kitchen of Balboa Bay Resort executive chef Prathapan while perusing silent auction offerings in the pre-function room adjacent to

the ballroom. Party planners separated the massive ballroom, taking one-third of the newly redecorated grand space turning it into a lounge fronted by a jazz trio. Waiters served champagne as guests sat at small cocktail tables moving back and forth from the pre-function lobby and silent auction.

As the dinner bells sounded, the massive walls separating the jazz club from the ballroom parted, and the SPIN guests were seated in the elegant black-and-white decorated club setting.

The crowd was served an exceptional three-course dinner featuring Prathapan's famous short rib entrée as the program began with emotional videos delivered from two SPIN families rescued from living in shelters and cars. One of the mothers shared on video that her young son claims, "I love my bed. My own bed." A message delivered in the most simple, direct way without further explanation.

Post dinner service, speeches, honors and auction, topped off by a decedent layered chocolate dessert, the Dan Olivio Band with three horns took over the room, bringing patrons up on their feet to the beat of American standards reminiscent of long-gone days of the old nightclubs.

To learn more about the work of SPIN visit spinoc.org.

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

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LIBRARY
Continued from page A1
al of every [student] who ever passed away — that's

the kind of heart she had. There will never be another Sister Kathleen."

In the year or so following her death, the empty house where Pughe resided remained a stark reminder of her passing. That's when Saint Joachim leaders put their heads together and came up with a solution.

They ultimately decided to relocate the school library into the former home, turning it into the Sister Kathleen Marie Learning Center, with different areas for fiction, research and young readers. A lush, green backyard provided an ideal spot for use by both children and adults, according to current Principal Kelly Botto.

"We didn't have an outdoor gathering area. Be-

yond the lunch tables and the field, there wasn't really a quiet space," she said. "Now the backyard can be a quiet learning space."

Moving the library out of the early childhood center at the school freed up room, allowing Saint Joachim to formally expand its preschool offerings, Botto added. Now, kindergarten and pre-kindergarten classes can accommodate 25 students per class, while the preschool classes can enroll up to 24 kids.

Librarian Victoria Burnett, who worked with Botto and Senior Priest Fr. Mike Hanifin to reconfigure Pughe's residence into a library capable of accommodating 14,227 books and reading areas, said St. Joachim is one of only a



Kierman Coliflores, Diocese of Orange

SAINT JOACHIM Catholic School librarian Victoria Burnett stands outside the former residence of retired Principal Sister Kathleen Marie Pughe, which was recently converted into a school library.

handful of schools that still employs a librarian.

"Reading is not just recreation, it's intentional," said Burnett, an oral storyteller as well as a book lover. "We want students to know if you read, you can go anywhere. I'm hoping our students can get out of their bubbles or the microscopic worlds they're living in and expand their thinking."

The transition — and the undeniable impact it will have on the school and the larger Saint Joachim community — is something those who knew and loved

Pughe are absolutely certain the sister would have loved.

"I think she is smiling down and is so happy that this place is used for the students, for this to be a second home for them, because she really had a heart for the kids," Botto said. Jenn agrees. "She would love this," she said. "She is looking down on us right now, enjoying every moment of this."

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NOTICE OF UNSCHEDULED VACANCY
The City of Newport Beach is currently accepting applications to fill one (1) unscheduled vacancy on the Board of Library Trustees (term expires 6-30-25)

The Board of Library Trustees meets at 5:00 p.m. on the third Monday of each month, at 1000 Avocado Avenue, Newport Beach.

An application can be obtained from the City Clerk's Office at 100 Civic Center Drive, or can be sent to you by calling 949-644-3005. The application can also be accessed through the City's website at www.newportbeachca.gov/vacancy.

The deadline for filing applications is noon on Wednesday, November 1, 2023, or until filled. For more information, contact the City Clerk's Office at 949-644-3005.

FIND an apartment through classified!

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LEGAL NOTICE

CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on November 14, 2023, at 4:00 p.m., or soon thereafter as the matter shall be heard, a public hearing will be conducted in the City Council Chambers at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach. The City Council of the City of Newport Beach will consider the following: **CHANGES TO WATER AND SEWER RATES** - City Council will consider the adoption of a resolution to change the water and sewer rates collected through the municipal services bill. These rates fund the operations, maintenance and replacement activities associated with the City's water and sewer systems.

The Utilities Department retained the consulting services of a specialty financial consultant to conduct a financial review and prepare rate studies for the City's water and sewer systems. The financial review analyzed operations/maintenance costs, current and future inflationary factors such as labor, materials, construction, and water supply costs, and future capital replacement needs of the systems. The studies concluded that water rate and sewer rate increases are recommended to ensure adequate funds are available to continue providing high quality water and sewer system services. Along with the publication of this notice, the City mailed written notice of the proposed water and sewer rate structure and adjustments to the record owners and customers of each identified parcel subject to the water and sewer rates.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN The project is exempt under Section 15060(c)(2) of the State CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) Guidelines because it will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change to the environment.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN All property owners and active water and sewer customers subject to the City's water and sewer rates were properly notified as required by California statutes including, but not limited to, Proposition 218. Under the Proposition 218 requirements, the rates will not be adjusted if a majority of the property owners subject to the water and sewer rates submit a valid written protest to the City Clerk by the close of the 45-day notice period. If the total number of protests is less than half of the number of properties served by the City, then the Clerk may advise the City Council of the absence of a majority protest without determining the validity of all protests.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN - SENATE BILL 323: 120-Day Statute of Limitations for New or Increased Water and Sewer Rates: With the enactment of Senate Bill 323, customers must bring a civil action to new or increased water or sewer rates within 120 days of the effective date or date of final passage, adoption or approval of the resolution adopting the applicable water or sewer rate(s).

All interested parties may appear and present testimony in regard to this change. If you challenge this project in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you raised at the public hearing or in written correspondence delivered to the City, at, or prior to, the public hearing. The change may be continued to a specific future meeting date, and if such an action occurs, additional public notice of the continuance will not be provided. Prior to the public hearing, the agenda, staff report, the 2023 water rate study, the 2023 sewer rate study and documents may be reviewed at the City Clerk's Office, at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, California, 92660 or at the City of Newport Beach website at www.newportbeachca.gov. Individuals not able to attend the meeting may contact the Utilities Department or access the City's website after the meeting to review the action on this item. For questions regarding this public hearing item please contact Josh Rosenbaum, Utilities Department Senior Management Analyst, at 949-644-3011 or rosenbaum@newportbeachca.gov, or UtilitiesHelp@newportbeachca.gov.

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

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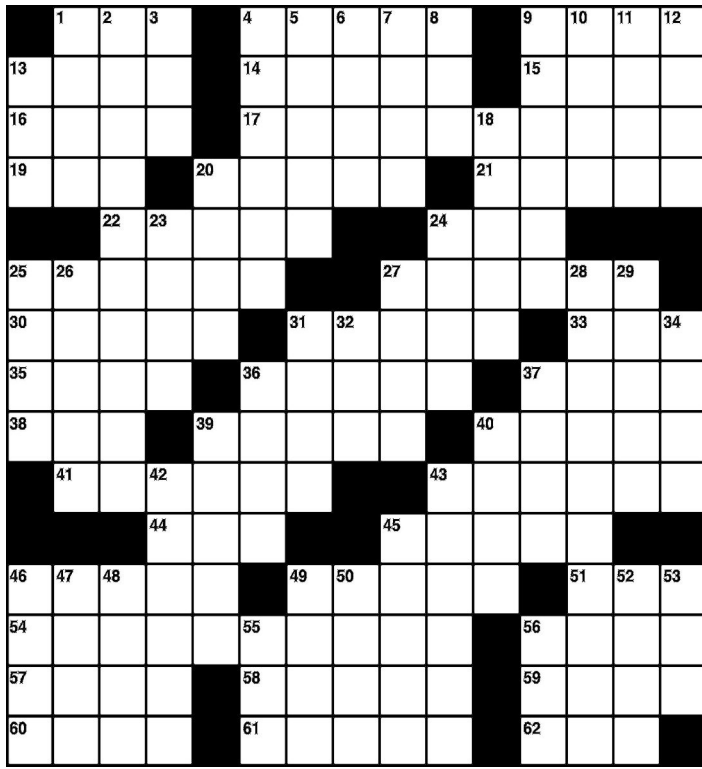
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THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

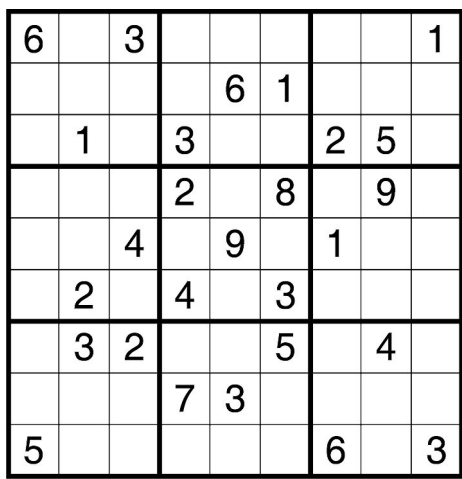
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 13 Sulk
 14 JFK arrival
 15 Picture of health?
 16 Joyfulness
 17 Up until now
 19 Fellow
 20 Golf course
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 39 Coin toss call
 40 Light color
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 43 Edgar or Candice
 44 Chicken _ king
 45 Tiny European nation
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 49 Sore as _
 51 Afternoon hour
 54 Sounds familiar
 56 Scuttle contents
 57 Prefix for enemy or angel
 58 Air freshener
 59 Push for
 60 Doesn't overlook
 61 Ross or Palmer
 62 "Ciao!"
- DOWN**
 1 Refreshing drink
 2 Generous
 3 Flying insect
 4 Plant destroyers
 5 Campbell & others



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 A2.

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| 7 Till compartment | 13 "Rocky Balboa" production co. |
| 8 Moist | 18 Microwaves |
| 9 College founded around 1096 | 20 Meriwether & Majors |
| 10 Expand | 23 Not relaxed |
| 11 Out of the ordinary | 24 "_ Mary, full of grace" |

- 25 Argument
 26 Populous Vietnamese city
 27 Coolidge & Ripken
 28 Not optional
 29 Cosmetic case item
 31 "_ Land Is Your Land"
 32 Actor Holbrook
 34 Architect Christopher
 36 Poet Teasdale
 37 Ernie's buddy
 39 _ off; scolds harshly
 40 Students' summons
 42 Comedian's goals
 43 Comic strip "Beetle _"
 45 Shapes
 46 Mardi _
 47 Take on employees
 48 In the past
 49 Capable
 50 Exhausted
 52 _ war; go to battle
 53 "Grand _ Opry"
 55 Inventor Bell's initials
 56 Babe in the woods?
- Tribune Media Services

CdM High tagging case under investigation as antisemitic hate crime

BY LILLY NGUYEN

A vandalism incident is under investigation by police after Newport-Mesa Unified School District district were made aware of antisemitic tagging on a student's locker at Coronado del Mar High School last weekend.

Authorities confirmed Friday they are investigating the incident as a hate crime. Photos circulated online Sunday of the tagging were met with criticism, as some called for a police investigation and asked the school district how it would be protecting their Jewish students. In response, district officials confirmed they were also investigating and have met with the Jewish Federation of Orange County.

"This behavior is unacceptable and will not be tolerated in our schools," said NMUSD spokeswoman

an Annette Franco.

The high school has since organized an interfaith inclusion council that includes students, parents, community members and local religious leaders in partnership with the faith group to discuss the incident and develop next steps, which so far include a student-to-student education series.

"This work is especially important as there is a global increase in hate speech and violence online and in social media due to recent events overseas," Franco said.

"We strive to cultivate an atmosphere where diversity is celebrated, and everyone feels valued and supported," she continued. "In partnership with our students, staff and parents, we will be working together to combat hate and foster kind and welcoming learning commu-

nities."

A similar incident occurred off-campus involving students from Newport Harbor, Estancia and Costa Mesa high schools in 2019 when attending par-tygoers formed a beer pong swastika and did a Nazi salute. The Newport Harbor campus was also vandalized with Nazi posters in the immediate fallout of the event.

According to the annual report released by the OC Human Relations Commission, hate crimes jumped in 2022 compared to the prior year with a significant number of the incidents occurring in county schools. Six were reported in elementary schools and 50 in middle and junior school campuses. Thirty-two were reported at high schools.

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PHAM

Continued from page A1

"I'm running for state Assembly to take my record of service to the people of the state of California and to build strong bonds for a prosperous future."

District 70 includes Fountain Valley, Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Los Alamitos, Midway City, Rossmore, Santa Ana, Seal Beach, Stanton and Westminster and is currently represented by state Assemblyman Tri Ta.

Pham is, as of Friday, the only Democratic candidate in the running for the Assembly district. Ta is expected to run for reelection.

Four other Democratic candidates are running in

the CA-45 race to unseat Rep. Michelle Steel with the race's most recent addition, Derek Tran, announcing his bid earlier this month.

In his statement suspending his congressional campaign last week, Pham said, "I have made the decision to end my campaign for California's 45th Congressional District, effective immediately. While I appreciate the support I have received throughout this race from the community I love and the place where I call home, my heart lies in other service to move our communities forward with common sense ideals and a willingness to get things done."

Pham is an immigration attorney and in 2022 ran a failed bid for a seat on the Westminster City Council.



Courtesy of Jimmy Pham for State Assembly

JIMMY PHAM suspended his campaign for a seat in CA-45 in favor of running as the sole Democratic candidate in State Assembly District 70.

He is the vice chair of the city's traffic commission.

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GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

Diamond Bar drives out Pacifica Christian

BY ANDREW TURNER

DIAMOND BAR — A year removed from its second appearance in a CIF Southern Section final, much was different for the Pacifica Christian Orange County girls' volleyball team.

The Tritons had a new coach, a new division, and were now without Rebecca Penjoyan, a formidable front-row force for the program in playoff runs of the past.

Pacifica Christian traversed that unfamiliar road, placing second in the San Joaquin League in an effort that led it to Thursday night's first-round clash at Diamond Bar.

Junior middle blocker Chara Wondercheck had 19 kills, but the Tritons fell to the more-balanced Brahmas 25-23, 25-12, 23-25, 25-17 in a Division 5 playoff opener.

Pacifica Christian (17-9), which was the runner-up in Division 7 last year, had several contributing players return from that team. Opposite Colleen O'Callaghan was the only senior among them.

Ron Cheser, the first-year coach of the Tritons, said his team played with courage, but the performance lacked execution, especially in serve receive.

"We didn't have the swings we wanted," Cheser said. "We did not have the angle we wanted. Our passing, when that breaks down in this game, everything breaks down. It limits you. They did a really good job of keeping us off balance."

Junior libero Charlotte

Carlson had 15 digs for Pacifica Christian. Freshman outside hitter Sierra Leeper had four kills, seven digs and two service aces. O'Callaghan chipped in with three kills, eight digs and two aces, and sophomore setter Addie Roberson distributed 32 assists.

"Effort-wise, they were communicating, they never gave up," Cheser said. "They never quit. It's just learning the game and learning in that moment how to take care of small things."

Junior middle blocker Zariah Crosby had 13 kills and four block assists to lead Diamond Bar (20-8). Senior outside hitter Priya George added a dozen kills and three block assists. Senior outside hitter Kaylin Mendoza pounded out 10 kills, senior opposite Samantha Doehla had nine kills, and junior outside hitter Eleni Kort provided five aces.

"I've got four seniors who were all sophomores on varsity," Diamond Bar coach Becky Bevans said. "This is their third go. This is their opportunity. We've got 10 seniors on this team. We're senior-heavy, and they knew coming into tonight it was kind of do-or-die, single-elimination, and this either ends the journey or gives you one more opportunity. That's what we really wanted."

Diamond Bar had been eliminated in the first round of the playoffs in back-to-back years.

"Determination," Mendoza said when asked what the difference was with this

team. "I feel like every year, we just got better. We just learned from our mistakes last year."

Also in the CIF Southern Section girls' volleyball playoffs:

Newport Harbor 3, West Hills Chaminade 2: Freshman outside hitter Ella Olson posted 34 kills, 14 digs and three service aces in her postseason debut, as the Sailors edged the host Eagles 19-25, 26-24, 14-25, 25-18, 15-13 on Thursday in the first round of the Division 2 playoffs.

Vladimira Kotzakov added 16 kills for Newport Harbor (16-15), which travels again to face Santa Margarita (17-10) on Saturday.

Drue Coberly distributed 41 assists to go with seven digs for the Sailors. Fiona Gaffney had 20 digs, and Talea Berry added 11 digs.

Aliso Niguel 3, Corona del Mar 1: Senior opposite Lauren Esquino had 14 kills, but the Sea Kings fell to the Wolverines 25-16, 22-25, 25-15, 25-13 at home on Thursday in a Division 2 first-round match.

Corona del Mar (17-11) was the Wave League champion this season.

Aliso Niguel (13-12) will play host to No. 4-seeded Orange Lutheran (23-13) in the second round on Saturday.

Edison 3, Lakewood St. Joseph 1: Senior opposite Molly McCluskey had a team-leading 18 kills and three blocks in the visiting Chargers' 25-21, 25-20, 25-27, 25-18 win on Thursday in the first round of the Division 2 playoffs.

Summer Witherby had 12



PACIFICA CHRISTIAN'S Colleen O'Callaghan (16) and Chara Wondercheck (8) try to block Diamond Bar's Priya George (20) in a CIF Southern Section Division 5 girls' volleyball playoff match on Thursday.

James Carbone

kills, Adia McCown added 10 kills and three aces, Morgan Gillinger produced eight kills, and Sophie Vienna handed out 41 assists for the Chargers.

Edison (15-12), which will be on its home court for a second-round match against Vista Murrieta (17-9) on Saturday.

Marina 3, Glendora 2: Freshman outside hitter Korynn Mayo starred with 31 kills to lead the visiting Vikings to a 25-23, 23-25, 28-30, 25-18, 15-12 win on Thursday in a Division 3 first-round match.

Mayo, who performed to a 0.571 hitting percentage, had seven kills and an ace in the fifth set for Marina (17-12), which will be at home against top-seeded Beckman (30-5), the Pacific Coast League champion, on Saturday.

Jenna Zaffino had 10 kills, five blocks and three aces,

and Brooklyn Enriquez chipped in with 11 digs and three aces.

Costa Mesa 3, Rancho Cucamonga United Christian Academy 1: Kaitlyn Yagerlener had a team-high 10 kills to lead the Mustangs to a 25-23, 25-12, 24-26, 25-18 road win Thursday in the first round of the Division 6 playoffs.

Gracie Glass contributed 35 digs defensively, adding seven kills and three aces for Costa Mesa (20-6). Isabel Ortega-Davidson compiled 36 assists, 15 digs, five kills and an ace.

Costa Mesa, which began its playoff journey with a win over Santa Monica St. Monica Academy in the wildcard round on Tuesday, remains on the road to face Moorpark (6-9) on Saturday.

Carpinteria Cate 3, Ocean View 2: The host Seahawks could not make a lead after three sets stand

up, falling to the fourth-seeded Rams by a count of 17-25, 25-20, 18-25, 25-16, 15-13 on Thursday in a Division 6 playoff opener.

Jade Auger had 16 kills to pace Ocean View (11-10), the Golden West League champion. Sara Liganman added 11 kills, Lizbeth Espinoza had eight kills, and Natalia Christensen provided 46 assists and six aces.

Cate (11-7) plays host to Lancaster Paraclete (15-12) on Saturday.

Century 3, Liberty Christian 2: The Minutemen fell in a decisive fifth set at home on Thursday in the first round of the Division 9 playoffs.

Liberty Christian (17-6) finished in second place in the Express League this season.

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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Los Amigos beats Bolsa Grande to extend winning streak

BY SCOTT FRENCH

GARDEN GROVE — Los Amigos is growing healthier as the games become more meaningful, is starting to show what it's all about, and that could mean a share of the Garden Grove League title for the second straight season.

The Lobos are aiming for much more.

They were virtually unstoppable in their penultimate league clash Thursday night, running roughshod through Bolsa Grande's defense and finding the end zone on six of their first seven possessions to turn what began as a tight, back-and-forth affair into a 46-14 road romp.

Los Amigos (5-4 overall, 3-1 in the Garden Grove League) amassed 409 yards on the ground behind quarterback Maysen Navarro, who ran for 142 yards and a touchdown and passed for another 65 yards.



James Carbone

LOS AMIGOS' quarterback Maysen Navarro (2) and Pedro Hernandez (23), seen against La Quinta in 2022, combined for 246 rushing yards and three touchdowns against Bolsa Grande on Thursday.

Running back Pedro Hernandez gained 102 yards with two touchdowns and a pair of two-point conversions.

It was their second full game after returning from injuries that sidelined them most of the season's first

half, and with three other starters also back from injury — with three more nearing their returns — things are starting to play out as expected.

"I got a hungry group of boys, man, that's eager to prove themselves," said Los

Amigos coach Romel Guess, whose team gained double-digit yardage on 16 of 52 offensive plays, half of them for at least 20 yards and four for 30 yards or more. "They knew everything that we dealt through, and we know that the adversity we dealt through early in the year was going to pay off now, and it's sure paying off, for sure."

The Lobos played the night before a key meeting between Rancho Alamitos (5-3, 3-1) and first-place La Quinta (6-2, 3-0). A win by the Vaqueros would vault Los Amigos into a three-way tie atop the standings.

The result of Friday night's games could not be obtained before press deadline.

The Lobos lost to La Quinta without several pivotal figures in their league opener and beat Rancho Alamitos two weeks ago, with Navarro seeing some action.

"We felt all year we were the best team in the league," Guess said. "This was supposed to be our dream year. We thought we had a shot to go undefeated, with our schedule, and part of God's plans, we had maybe some bumps in the road. It built character, it forced some young guys to step up, and now those guys are role players and [some of the injured players] are back, and now we're deep. ...We knew if we took care of business tonight, yes, we could win the league title. But we want the CIF title."

Depending on the division, it could be possible, if the Lobos are at full strength.

"We're dangerous," Navarro said. "If we get [everyone] back, it's a scary sight, for sure."

Los Amigos twice had to overcome early deficits after quarterback Ethan Nguyen guided Bolsa Grande

on two lengthy first-quarter touchdown drives. It answered both, taking a 15-14 lead on Hernandez's first conversion following the first of two Raul Cruz touchdown runs three plays into the second quarter.

The Lobos were dominant the rest of the way, striking quickly — on Isaac Galindo's weaving 23-yard sprint — after forcing a fumble, then driving 86 yards for a 31-14 halftime lead on Navarro's 19-yard touchdown run. A nearly 11-minute drive into the fourth quarter produced Hernandez's 23-yard score, and Cruz (71 yards on eight carries) completed the rout after racing 33 yards to the 1 following a 40-yard Navarro gain.

Bolsa Grande (5-4, 2-2), which faces La Quinta next week, was held to 47 second-half yards.

Scott French is a contributor to the Daily Pilot.

HEALTH

Continued from page A1

that while college has never been easy, students walking onto campuses these days may find themselves balancing the usual pressures of completing assignments, passing exams and paying for college with intensifying social justice issues, political crises and concerns about the climate crisis.

According to a 2023 study issued by the Healthy Minds Network, a research organization focused on adolescent and young adult health, 44% of college students nationwide reported experiencing depression, while 37% of respondents

indicated they'd had feelings of anxiety and 12% confessed to contemplating suicide.

"We're multiplying our services, but counseling can't be the only answer to everyone's health needs," Hutchinson said.

Kimberly Cook, Vanguard's director of Healthcare Services said the university has convened a 15-member Living Well Committee of students, faculty and staff that focuses on supporting the spiritual, relational physical and emotional wellness of the student body by sponsoring events like Wednesday's Wellness Fair.

The event featured demonstrations, games and free

health screenings from the school's Kinesiology Club. Albertsons Grocery provided free COVID-19 and flu shots, while mental health-related organizations like the National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI) provided information to attendees.

"Everyone's been really engaged with the hope of it not only being health and wellness out of the counseling and health centers, but being university-wide something people are thinking about," Cook said. "It takes the whole university to be mindful of the whole student."

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Courtesy of Vanguard University

JENNIFER QUE, a specialist with the Orange County Health Care Agency, speaks with a nursing student Wednesday at a Vanguard University Wellness Fair.

INPUT

Continued from page A1

for a city manager, including the option to favor candidates who have previously served as a city manager.

Those who take the survey are also invited to answer a number of free-response questions. They can formulate a question that could become part of the interview process in the city manager search. There is also a prompt for respondents to name the top three issues they believe are facing the city.

The city manager is the top

executive in the city of Laguna Beach, and the position is appointed by the City Council.

Sean Joyce has been serving as interim city manager since the City Council and former city manager Shohreh Dupuis agreed to part ways via a separation agreement nearly two months ago.

STUDENTS LEAD ORANGE COUNTY IN LANGUAGE ARTS PROFICIENCY

Laguna Beach Unified School District students topped Orange County for proficiency in English language arts in recent statewide testing, district offi-

cials announced Friday.

Testing results for the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) show that 78.96% of Laguna Beach students met or exceeded state standards for English language arts, while 69.26% achieved such standards in mathematics.

As for the science standards, 66.08% of district students proved proficient.

"[The Laguna Beach Unified School District], much like a successful organization, establishes measurable academic progress goals for students," District Supt. Jason Vilorio said

in a statement. "One of the data sets our leadership team annually reviews for continuous improvement is the CAASPP scores. While we are still analyzing the data, there is certainly cause for celebration with the overall growth achieved in all areas and the highest English language arts scores in Orange County."

Vilorio attributed the student success to a district focused on building connections with all students, an effort that has been on display with updated facilities like the Family Resource Center and the student well space at the high school.

"As this connectedness deepens, it acts as a catalyst for academic achievement, and we expect our collaborative efforts will continue to drive growth in core academic areas," he added.

The tests are administered annually to students in grades 3 through 8 and those in their junior year of high school. Laguna Beach saw improvement in all three disciplines, with a 7% jump in science scores marking the largest increase in performance from the past two academic years.

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