

Daily Pilot

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2020 /// Now including Coastline Pilot and Huntington Beach Independent /// dailypilot.com

Foley casts eyes on open supervisors seat

BY SARA CARDINE

The Costa Mesa mayor announces she'll run for the position soon to be vacated by Michelle Steel.

Costa Mesa Mayor Katrina Foley has announced she will run for an open seat on the Orange County Board of Supervisors soon to be vacated by Chairwoman Michelle Steel, who won a congressional seat in the November election.

Foley's move comes one month after she was reelected to a second term on the Costa Mesa City Council, earning 52.2% of the vote in a race against four other contenders. Two years prior, she made local history as the city's first-ever elected mayor.

Now, Foley will shift gears once more as she campaigns for a seat representing the county's 2nd Supervisorial District, which includes Costa Mesa, Huntington Beach, Fountain Valley and Newport Beach, among other cities.

Foley said she'd originally planned to term out as mayor in 2022, then run for Steel's seat when the Surfside resident would also be terming out.

But when Republican Steel edged out incumbent U.S. Rep. Harley Rouda (D-Laguna Beach) in the race for the 48th Congressional

District, the Costa Mesa mayor decided it was time to act.

"What I've learned in 2020 is that you have to be flexible, adaptable and able to pivot," Foley said in an interview Thursday. "I feel like I'm prepared for this moment in time to lead Orange County well as a supervisor and support my colleagues on the Costa Mesa City Council to continue the good work we've begun."

Although the Board of Supervisors has yet to call for a special election, which determines the

period during which candidates can file to run for office, a handful of candidates have expressed interest in the District 2 seat.

State Sen. John Moorlach (R-Costa Mesa) — a former District 2 supervisor from 2006 to 2015 who just lost a bid for reelection in the 37th District to Democrat Dave Min — recently announced he would run.

Huntington Beach Republican Councilman Mike Posey and fellow GOP candidate Kevin Muldoon, a Newport Beach city councilman, also plan to throw their

hats in the ring.

A Democrat, Foley supported Rouda's 2018 bid for Congress and has appeared alongside the politician at numerous events.

Though she would be a political minority in a five-member supervisorial board occupied by four Republicans, including three members of Orange County Republican's Central Committee, Foley said Thursday she didn't see the office as a partisan one.

"It's not about a D or an R be-

See **Foley**, page A3



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

ELISH AND FIONA ZACHARY, from left, hold the Kris Kringle Balboa Bar and frozen banana, which are offered as part of the Newport Beach Holiday Pass, a campaign meant to encourage business at local restaurants and shops throughout the city.

Shops won't pass on the holidays

More than 50 Newport Beach businesses join first-ever Holiday Pass that kicked off on Dec. 1.

BY LILLY NGUYEN

All businesses want for Christmas is — well, business.

Starting this month, residents and visitors to town will be able to help with that through Visit Newport Beach's first-ever Holiday Pass.

The pass aggregates information on all the holiday celebrations in the city and includes promotions from participating restaurants and retailers. It also provides deals on rooms at hotels. More than 50 businesses are currently participating with more expected to join.

Planning for the monthlong campaign started in spring, but the idea of the Holiday Pass has been a long time coming.

"Newport Beach has a lot of holiday



Raul Roa | Staff Photographer

SANDRA LE, with Buddha's Favorite, holds a sushi combo plate with an assortment of fish and California rolls at the Newport Beach eatery, which is participating in the Holiday Pass.

See **Pass**, page A3

See **Ruling**, page A4

O.C. school districts pivot as Bond fire rages in Silverado Canyon

BY LILLY NGUYEN, SARA CARDINE, MATT SZABO, ANDREW TURNER

As the Bond fire burns through Silverado Canyon, nearby school districts were making plans as air quality worsens and evacuation orders are issued in parts of Orange County.

The Bond fire started late Wednesday night. Orange County Fire Authority officials reported just after 11 p.m. that a structure fire extended into nearby vegetation. As of noon Thursday, the fire exploded to an estimated 7,200 acres with zero containment. About 500 firefighters are reported to be on the ground.

The South Coast Air Quality Management District issued a smoke advisory in response to the Bond fire and the Airport fire, which is burning in Corona in Riverside County.

Officials stated that both the Bond and Airport fires were producing heavy smoke. Unhealthy air quality index levels were being recorded throughout northern Orange County and parts of Long



THE BOND FIRE

started late Wednesday night when a structure fire spread into nearby vegetation, according to the Orange County Fire Authority.

Kent Nishimura
Los Angeles Times

to distance learning out of an abundance of caution. It's unclear whether the early morning decision may have come after students had already arrived on campuses or while they were in transit, as primary and secondary schools have different start times.

Franco said efforts were being made to communicate to all schools and families.

"We're not, at this point, in any immediate threat of the fire," she clarified. "It's just that the air quality is immensely bad in our area."

Similar actions were taken by the district in October when the Silverado fire shut down schools. The fire burned through 12,466 acres and was extinguished in early November.

"Because of the nature of the school year, we were able to reasonably switch to distance learning at a moment's notice," Franco said.

With the exception of nearly 2,000 students who attend an on-line only Cloud Campus, an estimated 19,186 students are cur-

See **Fire**, page A4

Beach while parts of central Orange County, affected by the Bond fire, were reaching very unhealthy air quality in places.

The advisory was to be in place through Friday morning, though the agency said it would issue an update if things change.

In Newport Beach and Costa Mesa, Newport-Mesa Unified School District spokeswoman An-

nette Franco said that officials heard news of the developing fire early Thursday morning and made the decision to transition its Newport Beach campuses to distance learning to avoid student and staff exposure to smoke.

"We all woke up this morning with the news of the fire and quickly got together," Franco said. "Newport Beach schools ap-

peared to have the worst air quality."

The advisory names Newport Beach as one of the cities reaching very unhealthy air quality levels due to the Bond fire.

As the Orange County Fire Authority continued to battle the blaze, Newport-Mesa officials decided to take further action and transitioned Costa Mesa schools

N.B. City Hall limits staffing, encourages remote service

Newport Beach announced Thursday it would be reducing in-person services at City Hall and other city facilities at least through the end of the year as cases of COVID-19 continue to grow in Orange County and across the state.

The Orange County Health Care Agency reported Thursday another 1,102 cases and eight deaths related to the coronavirus.

To date, Newport Beach has seen 1,522 confirmed cases and 26 deaths.

Officials said Newport Beach City Hall will remain open and are encouraging members of the public to conduct city business remotely where possible, either through email, phone or at newportbeachca.gov.

The permit center and cashier's office will remain open and the central li-



File Photo

NEWPORT BEACH City Hall closed earlier this year in response to the pandemic, but there are currently no plans to do so through the end of 2020.

brary at 25% capacity.

All city services will continue and officials said that essential workers such as public safety, public works, code enforcement and building inspectors will continue to work onsite.

Newport Beach City Hall reopened in October after closing in July for the second time as cases rose. It first closed in mid-March at the start of the pandemic and reopened in May.

— Lilly Nguyen

Costa Mesa police answer calls of possible shooting, discover 2 with injuries at second location

Costa Mesa police detectives are investigating a shooting incident that took place Wednesday night and caused two individuals to be hospitalized for injuries, officials reported.

Costa Mesa Police Department spokeswoman Roxi Fyad said officers responded to a call of a possible shooting at around 10 p.m. on a commercial property on the 2700 block of Harbor Boulevard.

It wasn't until a second

call came in from an apartment complex on the 2800 block of Pinecreek Drive, less than a mile from the Harbor Boulevard location, that officers discovered two individuals who appeared to have sustained non-life-threatening wounds, Fyad confirmed Thursday.

"Two victims were located and transported to a nearby hospital to be treated," Fyad said.

While the incident was still being investigated Thursday, officials reported no arrests had yet been made. Anyone who may have information is asked to call the Costa Mesa Police Department at (714) 754-5280.

— Sara Cardine

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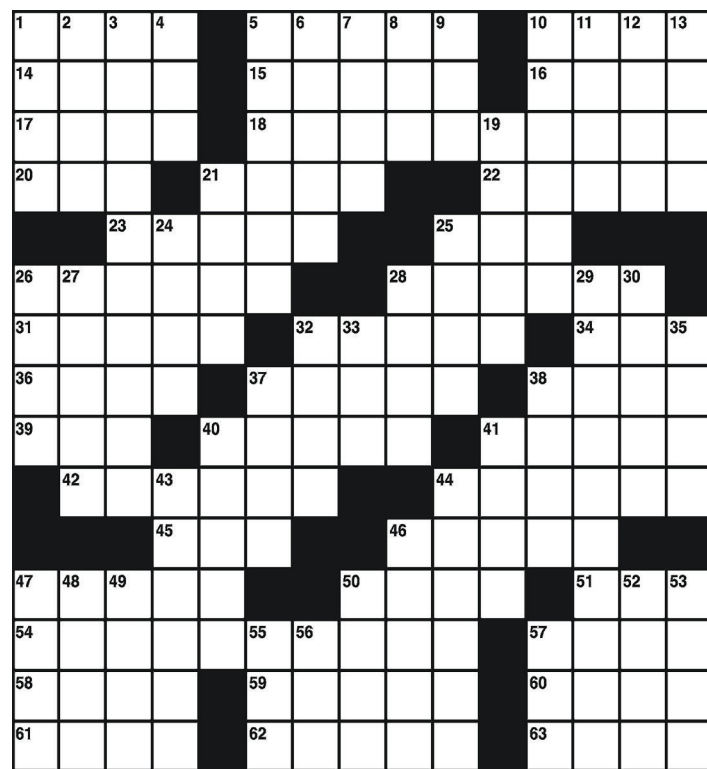
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THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS

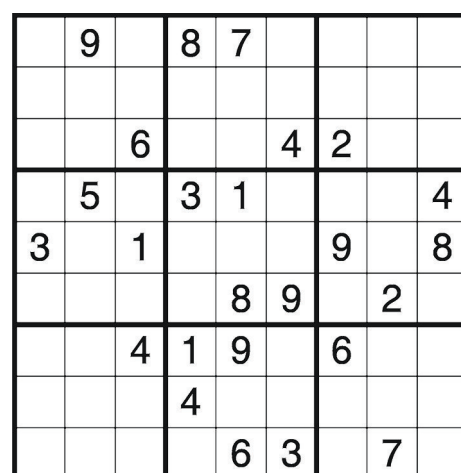
- 1 Beach surface
- 5 Role on "M*A*S*H"
- 10 Chat
- 14 Call it __; quit & go home
- 15 Cleansing process
- 16 Horned animals
- 17 Fence opening
- 18 Asian language
- 20 "What Kind of Fool __?"
- 21 Señorita or Fräulein
- 22 Craft class staple
- 23 Shade of green
- 25 Sporting goods store purchase
- 26 Pointed tooth
- 28 Verdict deciders
- 31 Dam across the Nile
- 32 __ Ste. Marie
- 34 Semi-deciduous tree
- 36 Begin to awaken
- 37 Deadly
- 38 Sheet of ice on the sea
- 39 One of the Kennedys
- 40 Steve or Tim
- 41 Campbell's products
- 42 Save from danger
- 44 Gravies
- 45 Color
- 46 Remorseful feeling
- 47 Skirt fold
- 50 Drape puller
- 51 Feel miserable
- 54 Able to withstand the earth shaking
- 57 __ in a while; occasionally
- 58 Unusual
- 59 Elevate
- 60 4 cards in a deck of 52
- 61 Phoenix hoopsters
- 62 Proprietor
- 63 __ up; admit to wrongdoing



SUDOKU

By The Mepham Group

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit sudoku.org.uk.



For answers to the crossword and Sudoku puzzles, see page A3.

DOWN

- 1 Heroic narrative
- 2 Eden evictee
- 3 From coast to coast
- 4 Coloring agent
- 5 Resuscitate
- 6 Licorice-flavored herb
- 7 GPA spoilers
- 8 Qt. or gal.
- 9 __ out; had none left
- 10 Part of a BLT
- 11 Tools with blades
- 12 In case
- 13 Part of the leg
- 19 Standing __; social distancing

- 21 St. Paul's place; abbr.
- 24 Pinocchio, at times
- 25 Male animal
- 26 Group of actors
- 27 Fall flower
- 28 San __, Puerto Rico
- 29 Foot-dragging; hesitancy
- 30 Hillside
- 32 Business transaction
- 33 Consumed
- 35 Disarray
- 37 Chimney channel
- 38 Umpire's cry
- 40 Sudden & sharp, as pain
- 41 "I Am El __"; Neil Diamond song
- 43 Word attached to milk or hand
- 44 Wave rider
- 46 Gaggle member
- 47 O's followers
- 48 Outdoor feast
- 49 Be a breadwinner
- 50 Quarter or nickel
- 52 Frosts a cake
- 53 Not as much
- 55 Major leaguer
- 56 Like chafed skin
- 57 Clumsy fellow

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PASS

Continued from page A1

assets outside of the [Christmas] parade,” — which was canceled last month — “We have the Ring of Lights. We have the trees over at the Newport Dunes, Fashion Island and a lot of other activities that people can see and experience,” said Gary Sherwin, president and chief executive officer of Newport Beach and Co. in an interview on Wednesday.

“If we’re really doing Christmas as well as historically we have, we need to do a better job of pulling all those assets together. We need to put it in a one-stop, easy to access source, which is Holiday Pass,” Sherwin said. “I want to go to a restaurant. I want to go look at lights. I want to do some outdoor activities — all in that seasonal flavor.”

“Where can I do it?” Sherwin said. This is the first time all those assets have been pulled together into one place. Sherwin said creating an app like the Holiday Pass has been a long-standing dream, and that this year it might even be more important to have everything in one place.

“Without the parade ... we still have a lot of things to do in Newport Beach, and here’s how you can access those,” Sherwin said.

Interested parties can sign up for the Holiday Pass online at visitnewportbeach.com/holiday.

The pass will be directly delivered by text and email for use. Special offers will be accessible as users arrive at businesses and “check-in.” Every check-in counts as an entry to a giveaway.

One of the special deals being offered is at Buddha’s Favorite. Customers will get a free garlic or salted edamame. The restaurant also donated a gift card to the Holiday Pass giveaway.

“Dine Newport has been fabulous to me and to our restaurant,” owner Nicole Paskerian said. “I think [the



BUDDHA’S FAVORITE

is offering a free salted (shown) or garlic edamame as part of the Holiday Pass campaign.

Raul Roa Staff Photographer

Holiday Pass] brings awareness to my own restaurant and other local restaurants and businesses in the community. This thing has been going on for so long. It helps keep it fresh in people’s minds that we all still need local help.”

Paskerian said that Buddha’s Favorite is unique in that it actually has a large patio space. She said that the restaurant did well with takeout and with outdoor dining, but the sushi bar will be hurt by the oncoming winter and rains. The restaurant doesn’t have a large parking lot to put up a tent, and its patio is not fully covered.

She said the seating will be tremendously affected if indoor dining is not permitted as California heads into the next few seasons.

“I do think that [the Holiday Pass] will help the local economy, bringing everybody in it. It’s not just us. You look at these little boutiques, and there was a local cleaner that’s been here ever since I came to Newport Beach and they’re gone now,” said Paskerian, adding that she understood the severity of the pandemic.

“It’s a huge trickle-down,” Paskerian said.

The owners of Sugar ‘n Spice, Courtney and Will Alovis, said their ice cream shop on Marine Avenue isn’t too affected by the change in tiers and the restrictions.

The pair participated in Restaurant Month, which Sherwin said helped test the platform that currently

hosts the Holiday Pass. The Alovises said participation in the campaign in September was successful and they received good feedback on the banana flights they offered as a promotion.

This month, the shop will offer Kris Kringle Balboa Bars, which are vanilla ice cream bars dipped in chocolate and rolled in crushed Oreos and candy canes. Along with the purchase of a Kris Kringle bar, people will get a frozen banana of their choice at half price.

“No Christmas in my memory have we ever needed more to bring some smiles and joy around and to bring the community together safely,” Will Alovis said.

The Alovises said that they were fortunate in the fact that Sugar ‘n Spice is set up as a walk-up window and that, when they shut down the shop for a few months in spring, they reconfigured the space and switched to cashless payments to make it safer for both their employees and customers.

“It lets the community know and the surrounding communities know that we’re all open for business. Even with all the changing tiers, we’re still here,” Will Alovis said. “We’re still here. We’re still offering great things to our visitors and our customers.” Alovis said that though Sugar ‘n Spice is a little different than other restaurants, it could use some love from the community like the others. He said he hoped that people would consider

both Balboa Island and Newport Beach as a destination where visitors could come down and have some holiday cheer while supporting small and local businesses.

“Retail and restaurants have taken devastating hits and we’re in for another at least three to four months of challenging conditions until the vaccines kick in, hopefully, in March or April,” Sherwin said.

“We want to make sure we can get these businesses over the finish line so that they can still be here when that does happen and to let people know that we’re more than just the [Christmas] boat parade,” Sherwin said. “There’s a lot of things that they can see and enjoy here even if we’re not going to have our usual major holiday event.”

lilly.nguyen@latimes.com
Twitter: @lillibirds



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

COSTA MESA Mayor Katrina Foley said about her decision to run for a supervisors seat, “The status quo within county government is no longer good enough.”

FOLEY

Continued from page A1

hind your name,” said Foley, 53. “It’s about who’s the best qualified, who has a proven track record of actually doing work that benefits the community and who’s going to roll up their sleeves and make it about people and businesses and not about politics.”

In a release issued Thursday, Foley said she would help guide Orange County residents and businesses through the coronavirus pandemic with a science-based approach and common-sense solutions.

“The status quo within county government is no longer good enough,” she said in the statement.

An attorney and president of the Foley Group,

PLC, Foley has served on the Costa Mesa City Council for 14 years and previously served on the Newport-Mesa Unified School District board of trustees.

She cited her role in responding to the pandemic by securing emergency financial assistance and loans for small businesses and her ability to build relationships at all levels of governance as attributes she would bring to bear at the county level as coronavirus cases and hospitalizations climb.

“We need to have people in that role who have relationships at the city, county, state and federal level who can help secure funding and help our county come out of this pandemic successfully,” she said.

sara.cardine@latimes.com
Twitter: @SaraCardine

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