# Daily Pilot

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29, 2021 /// Now including Coastline Pilot and Huntington Beach Independent /// dailypilot.com



*Photos by Kevin Chang* | *Staff Photographer* **HUNDREDS OF** people honor longtime Huntington Beach surfing personality Rick "Rockin' Fig" Fignetti with a ceremony and paddle out on Saturday.

## Huntington Beach's 'Rockin' Fig' remembered with paddle out

untington Beach surf personality Rick "Rockin' Fig" Fignetti was remembered with a paddle out and celebration on Saturday at the Huntington Beach Pier.

Fignetti, who was a longtime surf announcer and owned Rockin' Fig Surf Headquarters on Main Street, died of a heart attack on July 16. He was 64.

The memorial on the sand Saturday morning was led by Aaron Pai and Brett Simpson. Pai is a longtime friend of



## Laguna removes interim tag on Calvert

#### **BY ANDREW TURNER**

Laguna Beach often references the number of visitors that come to the seaside community — estimated to be 6.5 million annually.

Jeff Calvert, who grew up in Orange County and attended Laguna Hills High School, had often found himself among the visitors, or at least that was the case until he began working for the Laguna Beach Police Depart-



ment. Since joining the department in 1996, Calvert has risen through the ranks, and he was named the interim police chief of Laguna Beach in May following the sud-

Jeff Calvert

> den departure of Robert Thompson, who had been on the job for a matter of months.

> The interim tag was removed for Calvert by Laguna Beach City Manager Shohreh Dupuis on Wednesday, making Calvert the permanent police chief and the 18th person to hold that position in the history of the department.

"I've lived in Laguna for the last two years with my wife and daughter and being integrated into the

See Calvert, page A2

## Hotel Laguna restaurant may reopen

Fignetti and owner of Huntington Surf & Sport who organized the paddle out. Simpson is a local surfer who won the U.S. Open of Surfing twice and now is the USA Surfing coach.

Surfers paddled out to form a circle on the north side of the pier, a spot frequented by Fignetti, a Surfers' Hall of Fame and Surfing Walk of Fame member who also did the morning surf report on KROQ-FM for 25 years.

A celebration in Fignetti's honor also took place at Pier Plaza on Saturday afternoon, featuring music from his friend Don Ramsey.

— Matt Szabo



ABOVE: Ricky Fignetti, center, stands in the center of a circle during a paddle out for his father. LEFT: Huntington Surf & Sport

owner Aaron Pai speaks as

he remembers his friend.

#### **BY ANDREW TURNER**

Laguna Beach residents and visitors may soon be able to return to one of the city's iconic coastal landmarks, as city officials reaffirmed their intent to have the lobby and restaurant at the Hotel Laguna reopen in short order.

Marc Wiener, the city's community development director, indicated during a report to the Laguna Beach City Council that he hoped that the restaurant could reopen to the public by the end of August.

See Hotel, page A2

## Hawaii Month one of rotating displays at Eastside Costa Mesa home

#### **BY SUSAN HOFFMAN**

here's no need to keep track of street numbers when trying to locate Mary Spadoni's home in Eastside Costa Mesa. Her Orange Avenue home is the one with year-round holiday themed decorations stretching across the front of the double lot.

"Ever since the pandemic I added extra holidays because people were still at home and needed a smile," Spadoni said. "I added Easter, Cinco de Mayo, Flag Day, Fourth of July, and for the month of August I made up my own holiday, "Mahalo: I wish I were in Hawaii Month."

Yes, this month her frontyard boasts a beach hut, grass skirts blowing in the wind, pineapple lights and leis draped across the large metal driveway gate. There's also an enticing array of glow bracelets and sweet treats for the neighborhood kids to enjoy, along with a supply of colored chalk so they can draw on the sidewalk.

While the exterior public display of holiday themed home decorating provides entertainment for the general public, it also creates a platform for social involvement, communicating messages such as: "Be like the Lone Ranger, wear a mask," "We're all in this together" and "Today is a day to smile."

Spadoni's neighbor John Reiss says he believes the display's true message really goes beyond the entire front of her property. Reiss, who lives two blocks away, started to walk around the Eastside during the pandemic and now makes an effort to always walk past Spadoni's house.

"Mary's displays always bring a smile to my face and a lift in my day," Reiss said. "A lot of time in California they say people don't know their neighbors, with Mary's decorations it helps bring people together."

A native of California, Spadoni grew up in East Los Angeles and became a patrol officer for the Whittier Police Department in 1968. She was one of the first women patrol officers in Southern California to work alone in a car.

Upon moving to Costa Mesa 49 years ago, she briefly worked for the Orange County Sheriff's Department prior to becoming a criminal investigator for the Orange County district attorney's office. Later she became a private investigator.

See **Hawaii,** page A2







Photos by Susan Hoffman

**COSTA MESA** resident Mary Spadoni, above, untangles one strand of her 3,000-light collection used in decorating. Spadoni's Orange Avenue home, top, is decorated in a Hawaiian theme for the month of August.

#### DAILY PILOT | COASTLINE PILOT | HUNTINGTON BEACH INDEPENDENT

#### HOTEL

#### Continued from page A1

"Hotel Laguna is a jewel of Laguna Beach, and we are incredibly excited to be reopening its doors to the community as an updated and refreshed new gathering place," Hasty Honarkar, vice president of the Laguna Beach Co., said in a statement on Saturday. "We have revitalized the entire ground floor of the hotel, aiming to restore the class and style of the original 1930 building while giving it a modern touch.

'We've transformed the hotel lobby to be a stylish and welcoming 'living room' for neighbors and community members, and, overlooking the Pacific will be a beautiful new restaurant led by celebrated local chef Craig Strong, which we are confident will become an instant favorite.'

Honarkar added that the community will be able to view the work of local artists, as well as photographs and memorabilia that will pay homage to the history of Hotel Laguna and the Laguna Beach community.

The Laguna Beach Co. acquired the Hotel Laguna in 2019, but it has not been a road without hurdles to get to the verge of welcoming back the public.

Along the way, there have been a total of four stop-work orders, including three within a relatively short period in the summer of 2020.

Upon inspection of the site, city officials decided to modify a stopwork order from May 5 with the goal of allowing the restaurant to serve the public after discovering that the work that had been done to the interior was near completion.

Wiener said that stop-work orders are issued by city staff, not the council, and he added that building permits are not required to go to the Planning Commission unless there is to be a change of use.

He also said that the city consulted with the California Coastal Commission, which found that the work that remained - including door hardware, hand railings and exit signage — did not consti-

#### tute development.

A structural engineer was also brought in and reported that the building is structurally sound, Wiener said.

A temporary certificate of occupancy will have to be issued by the city. Honarkar added that a permit will also have to be issued by the Orange County Health Care Agency.

Honarkar said there is not an exact date in place yet for when the Hotel Laguna will have its reopening, but she expressed excitement at that date growing near. In addition to the work on the ground floor, she also elaborated on the plans remaining for the property.

'We are also currently collaborating with the city and the Coastal Commission on repair and maintenance of the outdoor deck area, access, landscaping, and the hotel's beach club," Honarkar said.

"We are eager to reopen Hotel Laguna, including its guest rooms and the beach club, and hope to create a thriving community asset that creates jobs and supports the

city's economy while serving residents and visitors alike."

The project had recently fallen under scrutiny after it was revealed that plans to allow for work to continue at the Hotel Laguna were discussed in closed session on June 29, which preceded the stop-work order being partially lifted on July 15.

That prompted debate over whether the closed session was a violation of the Brown Act.

Councilman George Weiss was censured by the council for disclosing confidential information from that meeting.

Phil Kohn, the city attorney, remained steadfast in his view that discussing the item in closed session had been appropriate.

"Stop-work orders are handled as administrative matters," Kohn said.

"The City Council did not vote to direct staff to lift the stop-work order for Hotel Laguna. Instead, the City Council had acted to concur with the city staff's stated intention to modify the stop-work order ... to allow certain interior work to be performed to facilitate

the reopening of the restaurant and lobby, but no work that was implicated by the coastal development permit or the pending appeal before the Coastal Commission."

Laguna Beach city manager Shohreh Dupuis said Tuesday that the city was facing pending litigation, potentially from the Honarkar family over building permits or from other parties.

"I discussed that with the city attorney, and we also discussed the fact that either the Coastal Commission or a member of a community could also sue the city for allowing the work to continue," Dupuis said in response to an inquiry about potential litigation from Councilman Peter Blake.

After extensive deliberation, the City Council by a 3-2 vote concurred once more with city staff's plan for the reopening of the restaurant and lobby at Hotel Laguna. Council members Toni Iseman and Weiss dissented.

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CALVERT

Continued from page A1

community has changed my viewpoint," Calvert said by email. "I have a vested interest to ensure we provide exceptional service, and I'm never off duty being a community member.'

Calvert will earn an annual base salary of \$215,452, Dupuis said. The city did not conduct a search for outside candidates before appointing Calvert as its police chief.

Although that process differed from police chief hires of the past, proponents of the decision valued Calvert's experience with the department and his connection to the community.

vided stability and leadership for the Laguna Beach Police Department throughout a time of transition, is clearly qualified and remained the top internal candidate during past recruitments," Dupuis said in a statement.

"He is highly regarded within the Laguna Beach Police Department, and over the last 25 years, he has earned the trust and respect of our community. Appointing Chief Calvert ensures continuity of service and safety for residents and visitors, and also internal stability for the Laguna Beach Police Department."

Mayor Bob Whalen said Calvert had strong support from former police chief Laura Farinella, adding that he showed initiative on a variety of efforts, including loud vehicle enforcement.

"Jeff shows initiative, and he shows strong capability to get things done, good relationships with other law enforcement agencies in the county, which I think is important," Whalen said in a phone interview on Thursday. "All those factors, to me, underscore that he is ready, and he is a good choice."

Looking back on how he got involved in law enforcement, Calvert said his direction was clear after he had a 15-minute conversation with an Orange County sheriff's deputy at a career day event his senior year of high school.

At the first opportunity, he checked to see if the Laguna Beach Police Department was hiring. It was not.

He served as a reserve deputy sheriff on patrol in Norwalk for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department as a start. He joined the Orange County Sheriff's Department in 1993, and after three years, he put his hat back in the ring at Laguna Beach.

"I frequently see Chief Neil Purcell eating downtown and remind him that I was his last hire as a police chief in 1996," Calvert said.

Calvert's path has seen him work in undercover narcotics, train new officers, and move up the ladder as a

sergeant, lieutenant, captain and now chief. The priorities for Calvert include placing focus on the department's own personnel, whom he called "our most important asset.'

organization has "The been challenged the last 18 months with COVID-19, the national anti-police sentiment, the recent loss of our K-9, and the changes in leadership at all ranks,' Calvert said.

"My first priority is to turn the organization inward and focus both on the health and well-being of our personnel, leadership development, and succession planning."

Calvert holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Chapman University, as well as a master's degree in executive leadership from USC. He also graduated from the FBI National Academy.

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#### friend visiting from Ireland to help assist him during his recovery from a head injury. The young traveler had been crossing the street inside a crosswalk when hit by a car.

Spadoni, who had met him on an previous visit ended up taking him into her home for three months.

Known in the community for decorating her property, Spadoni's hard work

have Mala, a 12-year-old border terrier. What I love about my Eastside Costa Mesa neighborhood is that it's a dog friendly neighborhood. You couldn't stand out there [on the sidewalk] for 15 minutes without [seeing] somebody walking their dog."

she has been an activist most of her life toward animals, children and city

Spadoni declares that

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munity so they are aware." She doesn't always limit \$1,250 on behalf of the

selling her homemade organic dog biscuits.

'I baked them all myself

like the outcome of an issue, I think it's our responsibility to bring the information to the com-

her causes to local issues. Four years ago she raised Standing Rock reservation and their resistance of the North Dakota pipeline by

border terriers, now I just

HAWAII Continued from page A1 Spadoni likes that Costa

Mesa is a city that evolves, has a lot of variety that she believes other cities don't offer. Each distinct area has its own unique quality compared to planned cookie-cutter devel-

opments. Now retired Spadoni has lived in her present home

"Chief Calvert has pro-

July 12, 1921 - August 16, 2021

Mary Paine Wingard

Mary passed away in her sleep on August 16, 2021 in Danville, California. She was born in Peoria, Illinois on July 12, 1921, daughter of Harold Enoch Paine and Bess Quisenberry Paine.

Mary attended Monticello College in Illinois, and worked in a variety of administrative positions, including the FBI and the Newport Beach Library.

Marv met the love of her life in 1955, Clay Wingard while working at General Dynamics; they were married in October 1956. Their only child, Charlie, was born in September 1957. Mary and family moved to Newport Beach in 1966.

Mary was active in PEO and Boy's Republic and enjoyed many a wonderful outing with friends

Mary is survived by her son, Charlie (Sue) of Alamo, CA, grandchildren Rob (Liz) Wingard of Anacortes, WA and Allison (Sean) O'Brien and great-granddaughter Avery of Falls Church, VA and nieces Laurie Gorham and Lynn Kelsh. She is predeceased by her husband, Clay, her parents and sister, Joanne Kelsh.

Please consider a donation to the PEO Foundation in lieu of flowers.

Services at Pacific View Memorial Park in Newport Beach on Thursday, September 2nd at 11:00; private internment follows. Fully vaccinated guests only, please wear a mask as Mary's young great-granddaughter will be there. for 44 years.

"I bought the property not for the house but for the yard," Spadoni said. "At the time I was raising issues. "I'm not a Democrat or a Republican, I'm a NPP (no party preference),"

and sold them for \$5 a jar," she said.

Three and a half years ago, Spadoni launched a GoFundMe drive for a

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8 7 has been acknowledged by neighbors, with notes of gratitude in mailbox, on fence and written in chalk on the pavement.

Being single with no children of her own, Spadoni originally started the decorating project with her nieces and nephews. Armed with all the necessary tools and hardware, including 3,000 lights, she now does it by herself, a little at a time.

"I've got projects up the ying-yang," Spadoni said. "I can manufacture a project in 30 minutes. I've got fingers in all business and I'm used to being busy, I've always been a firecracker."

#### SUSAN HOFFMAN is a

contributor to Times Community News.

Spadoni said. "If I don't **CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS** 

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s former council members and mayors of Huntington Beach, some conservative, some liberal, and many in between, we understand that though we may have spirited debates about the best path forward for our city, our different perspectives and visions make our community collectively stronger, not weaker.

Having all previously taken an oath to defend the city of Huntington Beach, the City Charter and our fellow residents, we request that you do not support or sign any petition in support of the current City Council recall.

While we vigorously discuss and deliberate over key issues facing Huntington Beach both in the council chambers and throughout the Surf City community, and though we do not always come to an agreement, at the end of the day, we have always respected the outcome and sought to continue to move the ball forward.

That is the way of democracy. However, as you may know, a

perilous political undercurrent seeks to subvert the people's electoral judgment in Huntington Beach as six of the seven City Council members were served recall papers at their Aug. 3 meeting.

The petitions to remove and replace the council members have failed to produce any persuasive arguments in favor of recall. These recalls are nothing more than a publicity stunt, haphazardly thrown together by a group of political opportunists seeking to politically profit at the expense of the Huntington Beach resident and taxpayer.

Not only does the disorganization of the recall proponents point to a lack of seriousness and direction, and garner little possibility of reaching the ballot, these recall campaigns are disheartening and distracting from the real work and business of the City Council. One of the petitions has already been suspended by the city clerk because the proponents failed to read the state's rules for recall.

In a scathing editorial, the O.C. Register labeled the Huntington Beach recall bids a "silly effort," "an ill-defined hissy fit." and "a waste of time." We believe one local resident in a letter to the Daily Pilot eloquently sums up the state of the recall petitions in the following: "This is an effort forged from manufactured grievance and a desire for political retribution, and it lacks even the slightest hint of credibility, good faith or actual desire to benefit Huntington Beach.'

We recognize that recall is a vital process in the protection of democratic principles. However, it is to be applied with caution and care as a last resort, such as when elected officials engage in criminal activity or breach their covenant with the people. The proponents of these recalls have failed to provide any tangible evidence that real crime or treachery is occurring; instead, their only complaints are false policy narratives and that their preferred candidate in the recent City Council appointment process was not chosen.

We ask you to not sign any petition in support of this recall, and above all else, we encourage you to do your own research. Please talk to your friends, neighbors and elected officials. Please watch, attend and speak up at City Council meetings and community events. We are a stronger city when we passionately, yet civilly, share and debate the issues and possible solutions for a better Surf City with each other.

The only way these political agitators and bullies will succeed is if the vast majority of residents roll over and acquiesce. We hope you will join us in rejecting disinformation and these undemocratic attacks on our most sacred institutions.

Ralph Bauer served on the City Council from 1992 to 2000 and as mayor in 1996-97. Connie Boardman served on the City Council from 2000 to 2004 and from 2010 to 2014 and as mayor in 2002-03 and 2012-13. Keith Bohr served on the City Council from 2004 to 2012 and as

mayor in 2008-09. Patrick Brenden served on the City Council from 2016 to 2020. Debbie Cook served on the City Council from 2000 to 2008 and as mayor in 2001 and 2007-08. Shirley Dettloff served on the City Council from 1994 to 2000 and as mayor in 1997-98. John Erskine served on the City Council from 1986 to 1990 and as mayor in 1987-88. Peter Green served on the City Council from 1988 to 1992 and from 1996 to 2004 and as mayor in 1990-91 and 1998-99. Jill Hardy served on the City Council from 2002 to 2010 and from 2012 to 2020 and as mayor in 2004-05 and 2014-15. Tom Harman served on the City Council from 1994 to 2000. Vic Leipzig served on the City Council from 1993 to 1996 and as mavor in 1994-95. Linda Moulton-Patterson served on the City Council from 1990 to 1994 and as mayor in 1993-94. Grace Winchell served on the City Council from 1986 to 1994 and as mayor in 1992-93.

#### State takes aim at local control

The bad news first — SB9 and SB10 passed the state Assembly last week.

You may have heard about these two bills. They've been in the news a lot over the last few months.

SB 9 will unwind singlefamily zoning throughout California including here in Orange County. It allows a single R1 lot to be split into two, where each lot is allowed to have duplex on it and possibly an accessory dwelling unit. This translates to four or six rental units where once there was one. It's frightening to think what our neighborhoods will look like in a few years.

SB10 allows any City Council to approve a 10-

Mark's Painting & Handyman Service

unit apartment building on an R1 lot. SB10 also invalidates all citizen's initiatives (think Greenlight).

Neither SB9 or SB10 require any of the units to be affordable, so they won't contribute to our RHNA allocation. They will stress our infrastructure because there is no consideration for water, police and fire, traffic, schools, open space and on and on. There are no public hearings required. A developer can get a ministerial approval. Wall Street and hedge funds will compete with families to buy single-family homes, driving up the cost of real estate, putting affordable housing further out of reach for young families, our local workforce and lower-income community members.

The state legislature has been trying to pass these bills in some form or another for several years now. They finally got enough Assembly members to drink the Kool-Aid this year, and both bills are in the final stretch on their

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#### MAILBAG

cine and be quiet. So that's the bad news ... the good news is that there is a California ballot initiative for an amendment to the California constitution which was submitted last week. It would return control of land use and zoning decisions back to cities. The plan is to have it on the November 2022 ballot. There is a lot of work ahead, but the process is underway. It's an interesting initiative and you can read its current form online

at CommunitiesForChoice .org The organization behind this initiative is Californians for Community Planning. Right now, what they need most is money (donations can be made at the same website). In a few months the signaturegathering process will begin. You'll be hearing more about that later. For now, take a look at the initiative and allow yourself a small sigh of relief. Maybe

four years when we get a chance to evaluate our officials and decide if we

want to remove them. Interrupting the regular process with recall elections wastes time and money that could be used to solve real problems. We want our legitimately elected officials to focus on serving the public, not dedicate months fending off a recall for no other reason than the opposing team didn't win the last election.

California's economy is rebounding despite all the challenges we have faced the past year.

We should be applauding our governor for his accomplishments, including ensuring that all school-age children can receive free lunches and seniors can get food assistance, significantly reducing hunger in our state. I celebrate that healthcare coverage has been expanded to cover a million more previously

majority of the votes. I urge you to vote "no" on the recall by Sept. 14.

#### **Libby Frolichman** Fountain Valley

#### Mandates are the answer

Throughout the period of the pandemic, I have been in favor of mandates. As far back as spring 2020, I was pestering our City Council in Newport Beach to put them in place.

The federal administration is starting out by requiring nursing homes that receive federal Medicare or Medicaid funding to mandate vaccinations for all staff members. And legal action is going to be taken through the Department of Education against governors who attempt to prevent school districts in their states from enacting mask mandates.

Those who adamantly oppose vaccinations and masks are not listening to science and common sense but to some political leaders and other spokespeople, among whom are conspiracy theorists who protest against being inoculated. Because it is probably impossible both physically and politically at this point to pull off a blanket public mandate, I think that the mandates will need to be put in place layer by layer. And that has already started to happen. Recent polls show that two out of three people in the country support their state or local government to have mask mandates for public buildings. Even closer to home is the courageous response of the Newport-Mesa School

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convinced that they know what's best for all of us. We should just take our medi-

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Developers are salivating

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These bills strip cities of

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signatures. With a looming

may decide to sign the bills

ensure their passage, or he

we can fix this mess!

**Nancy Scarbrough** Newport Beach

#### Thoughts on the Newsom recall

I don't know exactly when, but it seems that election politics has become a team sport. "Are vou on the red team or the blue team?" The rules of the "game" have been subverted to win at all costs, at the expense of the intent of the rules.

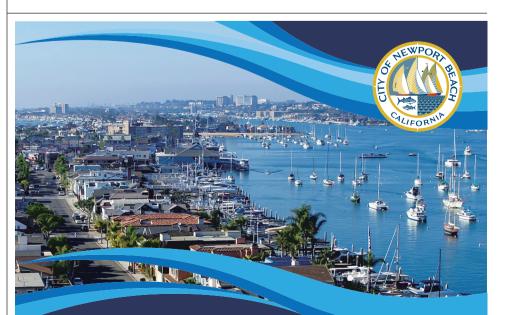
Recalls are intended for removing an elected official for dereliction of duty or for committing a crime. The process was never intended for the losing side to have another bite at the apple. We have regularly scheduled elections every two to

uninsured residents. These achievements and more, while our budget has the highest reserves in history!

Our state is battling climate change, wildfires, a COVID-19 surge and homelessness. We are resisting attacks on women's rights and voting rights. Instead of focusing on those things, we are wasting \$276 million on an unnecessary recall.

Please don't reward those that have wasted your taxpayer dollars on this frivolous attempt to overturn an election that was lost at the ballot box. Doing so not only sets our state on a backward course, it fuels those that will use the recall rules to continually waste our money as they attempt to get into office through a back door because they cannot win a

See Mailbag, page A5



Problems with short-term rental visitors this holiday weekend?

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marsaay, september 25, 2021 at 10.00AM.										
Customer Name	Inventory									
Jose E Vargas	Hsld gds/Furn, Tools,									
	AppInces									
Tony Srour	Hsld gds/Furn, Tools,									
	AppInces									
Jessica Cook	Hsld gds/Furn									
Inga Warren	Hsld gds/Furn, TV/Stereo									
	Equip									
Adrianne Derby	Hsld gds/Furn									

Published in the DAILY PILOT on Sunday, August 29, 2021 and Sunday, September 5 2021.

	e time specified in such notice
	having expired, the goods will
	bidder or otherwise disposed
of at a public auc	tion to be held online at
www.StorageTreasure	s.com, which will end on
Thursday, September	23, 2021 at 10:00AM.
Customer Name	Inventory
David Shrader	Hsld gds/Furn
David Shrader	Hsld gds/Furn
David Shrader	Hsld gds/Furn
Paula Quintas	Hsld gds/Furn
Vazhon Durant	Hsld gds/Furn
Brent Blair	Hsld gds/Furn
Trevor Stotts	Hsld gds/Furn
Shun LD Miller	TV/Stereo Equip/Tools/
	AppIncs/Clothes
Anacleta De Los Reyes	s Hsld gds/Furn
Kelly Smith	Hsld gds/Furn
Jack Alfonso	Hsld gds/Furn/TV/Stereo
	Equip
Eric Larson	Hsld gds/Furn
Tracei Hasenberg	Hsld gds/Furn
Demetrius Caldwell	Hsld gds/Furn
Paul Lewis	Hsld gds/Furn
Tracei Hasenberg	Hsld gds/Furn
Paula Quintas	Hsld gds/Furn/TV/Stereo
	Equip
Marie Loebel	Hsld gds/Furn/TV/Stereo
	Equip/Tools/AppIncs
Brett Bailey	Hsld gds/Furn
Jerry Black	Hsld gds/Furn
Michael Hernandez	Hsld gds/Furn
Samuel Scott	Tools/AppInces/Off Furn/
	Mach/Equip/Acctng rcrds/
	Sales Sampls
Gary Craig	Hsld gds/Furn
Sinclair Langlands	Business
Marion Baines	Hsld gds/Furn/TV/Stereo
	Equip
Demetrius Caldwell	Hsld gds/Furn/Tools/AppIncs
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#### **HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL**

## Los Amigos wins in Romel Guess' first game as coach

#### **BY ANDREW TURNER**

With numbers dwindling in the aftermath of the coronavirus-shortened spring season, the Los Amigos High School football program needed a shot in the arm.

The Lobos filled their head coaching vacancy from within, calling on their former offensive coordinator Romel Guess to step into that role.

It is no guessing game how the Lobos coach wants to lead. Guess fancies himself as a high-energy coach, and his team followed suit in its season opener.

Sophomore quarterback Maysen Navarro had a passing and a rushing touchdown, leading Los Amigos to a 20-0 win over visiting Ocean View on Friday at Garden Grove High School.

"He's like a hype man,' senior wide receiver Angel Garcia said of Guess. "He hypes us up. He turns us up. He puts faith in us. He makes us believe in him."

Los Amigos (1-0) took advantage of short fields after forcing back-to-back turnovers on downs to start the game. It took the Lobos four plays to punch the ball across the goal line on a one-yard run by Isaac Cuevas on their first drive.

The Lobos then took over at the Ocean View 30 on their next drive, one that featured a pair of fourthdown conversions.



Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

LOS AMIGOS' Maysen Navarro celebrates after scoring in the first half of Friday's nonleague game against Ocean View.

A pass from Navarro to Garcia went for 16 yards on a fourth-and-9 play. Later in the possession, Navarro kept the ball on fourth and inches for a three-yard rushing touchdown.

"The past is the past," Guess said. "We can't change the past. All we control is what's in front of us, and man, these boys are bought in, man, and we've seen our numbers grow.

"We were at 13 boys in the spring, and guys thought we were folding the program, and I came here and took over a program with 13 kids on the roster, but these boys believe in me, man, and I'm just so appreciative of that."

Los Amigos is playing under its fourth head coach in the last four years. The last playoff appearance for

open."

the Lobos came in 2016. Guess, who was an offensive coordinator under former Los Amigos head coaches Carl Agnew and Maopu Tuato, said he wants his kids to enjoy the game.

As he considered what the program has been through, he got emotional in thinking about a mentor in the late Harold McDowell.

He said he admired Mc-Dowell, who had been named the successor to Agnew as head coach in February of 2019 before his passing that April, for being a consummate players coach.

"That's something that I got from him, man, and again, I know he's looking down and he's smiling,' Guess said. "He's proud, and

See Los Amigos, page A6

MAILBAG

#### Continued from page A4

Board president last week who said to a strong and noisy contingent of parents who showed up to protest mask mandates in local schools: "I know some people don't agree with certain things, [but] I think we need to keep our eyes focused on what we want and that's to keep schools

Among private companies, more and more are requiring vaccination and mask mandates as well as tests. I walked by the Apple Store yesterday, which limits the number of occupants in their buildings as well as requires masks.

The most surprising group of all to require vaccinations to play is the NFL. So things are beginning to happen. Unfortu-

nately, the more time that passes, the more opportunity there is for the coronavirus to mutate and come up with a strain that will be impervious to the current vaccine. So until mandates speed up we are basically being held hostage by the coronavirus as well as the defiantly unvaccinated among us.

> Lynn Lorenz Newport Beach

#### **THE DAILY** COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS 1 Cheese's partner, in phrase 4 ln \_ of; floored by 9 Study at the eleventh hour 13 Needs medical help 15 "We Overcome"

16 Cartoon bear 17 Run 18 "The owl and the pussycat went

19 Singer Campbell 20 Lacking courage 22 TV's "Empty \_' 23 Give walking papers to 24 Hurry 26 Art projects 29 Artists 34 Cries like a wolf 35 Treasure chest 36 Statute 37 Take \_; subtract 38 Committing perjury 39 Epiphany visitors 40 Hoover's successor, for short 41 Start of a warning 42 Tribal pole 43 Makeup kit item 45 Grates, as cheese 46 Bizarre 47 Pare 48 Part of the alphabet 51 Acquiring 56 Money, slangily 57 Not at all savvv

58 Diamond, for one 60 Up to the task 61 Father or grandfather 62 Attire 63 Where to board a cruise ship 64 Marsh grasses

hoity-toity 3 Clippety-4 Fall flowers 5 Entire 6 Relaxation 65 Author 7 Cheers for the Stevenson's initials matador

DOWN

1 Floor pad

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63		+			64		+					65		+

#### **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.

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

For answers to the crossword and Sudoku puzzles, see page A2.

> \_ red light; stop sign equivalent 9 Young waterbird 10 Auditionee's goal 11 Middle historical period 12 Breath freshener 14 In an overly

formal way 21 Newborn lice 25 Tattoo parlor supply 26 Rub the wrong way 27 Boisterous 28 In the know to; before 29 30 Meghan, to Prince George 31 Bring joy to 32 Became furious 33 Emulates Mark Spitz 35 1982-88 costar for Sharon Gless 38 West Ender or Cockney 39 Sunup 41 "Where \_ I go wrong?" 42 Emaciated 44 Dillydally 45 Some winter Olympians 47 Kept for later 48 Word attached to jack or doodle 49 Desert near the Himalayas 50 Darner's target 52 Actor Christian 53 Laundry soap brand 54 Within reach 55 Little lady 59 Scale divisions: abbr.

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### HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL Estancia blanks Loara 38-0 in season opener

#### **BY MATT SZABO**

Estancia High School football coach Mike Bargas said people keep asking him if there are any more Pachecos coming.

Bargas wishes there were, but Trevor, Nathan and now Lucas Pacheco have all graduated from the program in the last three years. Still, the "Aire" to the running

back throne isn't so bad, either. "We've got a pretty good one," Bargas said after junior Noah Aires rushed for three touchdowns Fri-

day night. Estancia had its way against visiting Loara, earning a 38-0 shutout victory in its nonleague season opener at Jim Scott Stadium.

Aires had seven carries for 99 yards and the three scores, which came from 35, 28 and 29 yards out. All of that production came in the first half, when Estancia scored all of its points, instituting a running clock for the entire second half.

Aires managed to find the end zone three times, even after his kickoff return for a touchdown on the game's opening play was called back due to a penalty.

"It doesn't matter that it got called back," said Aires, who also earned a safety on defense after tackling a Loara kickoff returner in the end zone.

"As long as it boosted the morale for the team, that's all I cared about. It got everyone ready to go hit some stuff. It really set the tempo for the rest of the night, and obviously that tempo helped us."

Senior quarterback Cameron Knickerbocker had a touchdown pass to senior receiver Trevor Thomas in the first half. The Eagles' final score came on a 73yard punt return for a touchdown by Oscar Vazquez, with just one second remaining in the half.

Knickerbocker is entering his third year as starting quarterback for Estancia, though much of his junior season last spring was wiped out after dislocating his hip in Week 2. That sent things into a bit of a spiral; Bargas said he ended up using six quarterbacks.

"It means a lot to be out here with these guys," Knickerbocker said. "It was nice getting back to normal, with all of the different difficulties we've had over the past couple of years. Our coaches and all of our teammates have really just kept each other together and on the same course."

Knickerbocker credited the Eagles' offensive line as a strength, although Bargas said it was a relative unknown coming into the season.

Junior tight end Oswaldo Sanchez and senior right guard Misael Sandoval are the only returners to the unit, while junior left tackle Alex Rubio, junior left guard Kevin Avonce, senior center Marcos Linares and junior right tackle Adam Sotomayor are all newcomers.



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**ESTANCIA'S NOAH AIRES** runs down the sideline untouched for a score in the first half of the Eagles' season opener against Loara on Friday.

Junior free safety Dion Kerkhoff had a pair of interceptions to lead the Estancia defense Friday night. The Eagles recorded their first shutout since a 34-0 Orange Coast League win over Saddleback on Oct. 10, 2019.

Loara (1-1), coached by former Laguna Beach High athletic director Lance Neal, struggled to get things going offensively. The Saxons' biggest play of the night was a 51-yard pass from Remy Ybarra to Christian Arrieta in the first quarter, but they couldn't build on it. The Eagles hope they can build on their opening win. The next challenge will be tougher, as they play at Laguna Hills on Friday night.

"It was nice to come out with the victory early," Bargas said. "These guys have worked hard all summer, and I think they were hungry to play tonight. They were tired of hearing me bark, but they had fun tonight."

matthew.szabo@latimes.com Twitter: @mjszabo

#### LOS AMIGOS

Continued from page A5

I'm proud for him to be a part of my life in who I am as a coach. He has a lot to do with that."

Bao Huynh rushed for a gamehigh 83 yards for Los Amigos. The trio of Cuevas, Huynh and Navarro rushed for a combined 203 yards on 42 carries.

Ocean View (1-1) was led offensively by freshman running back Haston Allen, who turned 12 carries into 73 rushing yards.

The Seahawks also had a big special-teams play in the second quarter, when Keiki Leuta blocked a field-goal attempt by Nathan Villicana to keep Ocean View within a manageable deficit of 12-0.

Through two games, Ocean View has yet to put points on the board in regulation, but the Seahawks did secure an 8-0 overtime win over Santa Ana Valley last week.

"I can't fault them for how hard they come out and play because they give everything they have, but when you're a young team and you're learning how to fight and overcome adversity, you're going to have plays and drives where one or two things go negatively, and it can stall a drive," Ocean View coach Jimmy Welker said.

"We're sticking to the philosophy of how we do things, and eventually when it does click, and it does click at times, but when it all clicks together, we'll be fine and right where we want to be."

andrew.turner@latimes.com Twitter: @AndrewTurnerTCN

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Deed of Trust Recorded 07/31/2006 as Instrument No. 2006000510479 in book ---, page--- and of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Orange County, California, Date of Sale: 09/22/2021 at 03:00 PM Place of Sale: ON THE FRONT STEPS TO THE ENTRANCE OF THE ORANGE CIVIC CENTER, 300 E. CHAPMAN AVENUE, ORANGE, CA 92866

Estimated amount of unpaid balance, reasonably estimated costs and other charges: \$ 645,405.21

#### NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

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All right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described as:

More fully described in said Deed of Trust.

Street Address or other common designation of real property: 1071 SANTA ROSA AVENUE, COSTA MESA, CA 92626

#### A.P.N.: 412-052-08

The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above.

The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, under the terms of said Deed of Trust, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is: **\$ 645,405.21**.

Note: Because the Beneficiary reserves the right to bid less than the total debt owed, it is possible that at the time of the sale the opening bid may be less than the total debt.

If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse.

The beneficiary of the Deed of Trust has executed and delivered to the undersigned a written request to commence foreclosure, and the undersigned caused a Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located.

#### NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

**NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS:** If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on this property.

NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (866)-960-8299 or visit this Internet Web site <a href="http://www.altisource.com/MortgageServices/DefaultManagement/TrusteeServices.aspx">http://www.altisource.com/MortgageServices/DefaultManagement/TrusteeServices.aspx</a> using the file number assigned to this case 2021-00397-CA. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale.

#### NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

**NOTICE TO TENANT:** You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction, if conducted after **January 1, 2021**, pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (**866)-960-8299**, or visit this internet website <a href="http://www.altisource.com/MortgageServices/DefaultManagement/TrusteeServices.aspx">http://www.altisource.com/MortgageServices/DefaultManagement/TrusteeServices.aspx</a>, using the file number assigned to this case **2021-00397-CA** to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than **15 days** after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase.

Western Progressive, LLC, as Trustee for beneficiary C/o 1500 Palma Drive, Suite 237 Ventura, CA 93003 Sale Information Line: (866) 960-8299 http://www.altisource.com/MortgageServices/DefaultManagement/TrusteeServices.aspx

Date: July 20, 2021

**Trustee Sale Assistant** 

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