

Daily Pilot

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2020 /// Now including Coastline Pilot and Huntington Beach Independent /// dailypilot.com



Orange County's bishop, a \$12M problem and a secret fight stretching to the Vatican

BY HARRIET RYAN

The FedEx envelopes landed at dawn on the doorsteps of some of Orange County's most influential Catholic philanthropists — real estate developers, attorneys, CEOs and other church stalwarts who had raised tens of millions of dollars over the years for the local diocese.

Inside were letters from Bishop Kevin Vann that boiled down to two words: You're fired.

Those June missives ignited a revolt inside the Orange County church that has burned all the way to the Vatican while remaining largely hidden from the diocese's 1.3 million rank-and-file Catholics.

At its heart is a falling out between a circle of well-connected laypeople who helped the church rebound financially from the clergy abuse scandal two dec-

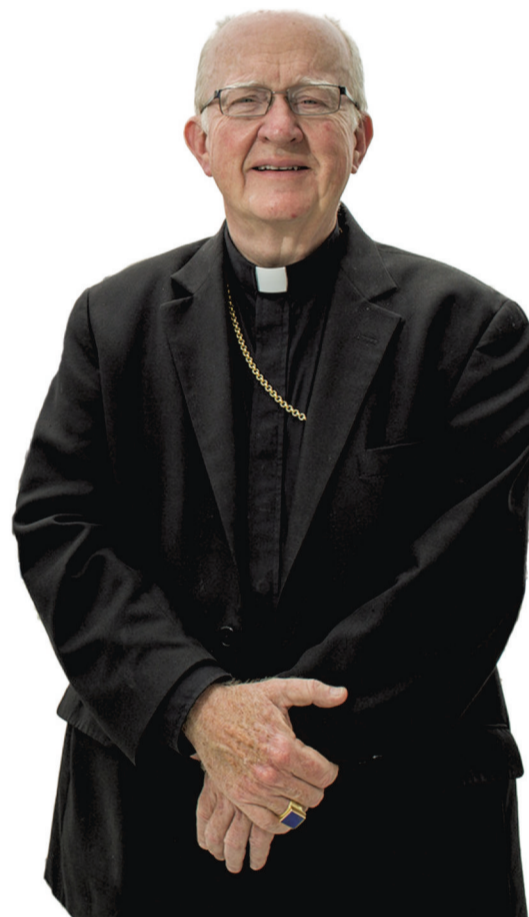
ades ago, and a prelate staring down fresh money problems brought on by the pandemic and a new round of molestation lawsuits.

The benefactors have accused Vann of violating state law by removing them from the board of an independent charity after they rebuffed what they contend was an illegal plan to "invade" endowment funds and flout donor wishes.

They complained formally last month to the papal nuncio, the Vatican representative in Washington, D.C., and have alerted Los Angeles Archbishop Jose Gomez, the head of the American bishops' conference, along with a cardinal in Rome who oversees clergy issues and charitable foundations for Pope Francis.

A spokeswoman said the bishop was on vacation for the month and unavailable for an interview. His representatives

See **Bishop**, page A6



TOP: Just a year after the Roman Catholic Diocese of Orange dedicated the \$130-million Christ Cathedral complex, some of its most influential philanthropists are at war with the bishop, a revolt largely hidden from the diocese's 1.3 million rank-and-file Catholics.

Dania Maxwell | Los Angeles Times

RIGHT: Bishop Kevin Vann at Christ Cathedral. The Diocese of Orange has become the fastest-growing diocese in the country, at a time when most are shrinking.

Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

19 more COVID-19 deaths in county

Agency reports 408 new cases of the coronavirus on Saturday, a week after the state dropped O.C. from its watch list.

BY ANDREW TURNER

The Orange County Health Care Agency announced 19 deaths and 408 new infections on Saturday in its latest report tracking the coronavirus pandemic.

The fatalities included five residents of skilled nursing facilities and two of assisted living facilities.

In the county, there have been 975 deaths due to COVID-19, the disease caused by the virus. The cumulative case count stands at 48,190.

Hospitalizations due to the virus were at 341 on Saturday, with 99 of those patients in intensive care.

There were 812 tests performed within the last day, bringing the total number of tests countywide to 624,816. An estimated 40,721 residents in the county have recovered from the virus.

The healthcare agency also said that 32% of intensive care unit beds and 63% of ventilators are currently available.

Orange County was taken off the state watch list for COVID-19 on Aug. 23.

In new guidelines released by the state on Friday, Orange County was classified in the first tier, with "widespread" transmission of the virus. That means many nonessential indoor busi-

See **Deaths**, page A5

Murder charged in fatal Dana Point crash

Woman accused of leading chase was under the influence, police say.

BY ANDREW TURNER

A San Francisco woman who is accused of leading law enforcement on a high-speed chase last week that ended with a fatal traffic collision has been charged with murder and driving under the influence.

Ariana Joyce, 44, also faces two felony enhancements for a second offense while released from custody, and an additional enhancement for inflicting great bodily injury, per court records. The charges were brought forth on Aug. 24.

If convicted on all charges, Joyce faces 15 years to life in

See **Crash**, page A5

ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



Raul Roa | Staff Photographer

ORANGE COUNTY SC PLAYS TO SCORELESS DRAW AT HOME VERSUS SAN DIEGO LOYAL

PAGE A8

Newport Beach Chamber of Commerce names Joe Stapleton Citizen of the Year

BY LILLY NGUYEN

Chairman Joe Stapleton was giving an update on the work of the Newport Beach Foundation, a nonprofit organization that focuses on works to strengthen community leadership, when he found out he'd been named Newport Beach's citizen of the year.

"I started seeing past citizens [of the year] poke into the meeting. What was going on here? I figured it was someone on the board getting recogni-



Joe Stapleton

tion and I was really excited for them, but then people from my office rushed in," Stapleton said Friday, laughing. "It was an honor I'll never forget, but none of us do the work we do because of recognition, we do it because of our love for Newport Beach."

The award dates back to 1949

and honors individuals who are respected and admired by community members for their efforts in bettering Newport Beach.

Stapleton is the president and co-founder of Spinnaker Investment Group and is the chairman of the Newport Beach Foundation in addition to being a member of the city's finance committee. He also serves on at least a dozen boards for organizations including Speak Up

See **Citizen**, page A5

ONLY 3% OF UC IRVINE STUDENTS ARE BLACK. THE 'BLACK THRIVING INITIATIVE' AIMS TO CHANGE THAT

BY TERESA WATANABE

Calling anti-Blackness an "existential threat" to its mission, UC Irvine unveiled an ambitious plan Monday to intensify recruitment of Black students, faculty members and senior leaders and create a campus climate that supports their success.

A new Black Thriving Initiative, inspired by the surging demands for racial justice after the killing of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer, will expand research and teaching about the Black experience with 10 new faculty hires and a new program offering \$30,000 research grants. The campus aims to increase its Black undergraduate student population, which at 3.3% last

year was among the lowest in the 10-campus UC system, and also boost the number of those seeking graduate degrees.

UC Irvine is also launching an extensive review of its policing practices and classes about anti-Blackness. To hold itself accountable, the university will issue a bi-annual "scorecard" analyzing survey responses about the campus climate, progress in increasing Black representation and completion of anti-bias training. A new website offers resources to combat anti-Blackness and a robust new community engagement effort is planned.

"Anti-Blackness is an existential threat to our mission to be a place where all people can teach and learn and thrive," said Doug-

las M. Haynes, vice chancellor for equity, diversity and inclusion. "We are committed to creating a national model for institutional transformation."

The effort comes as campuses across the nation answer calls to reckon with racist legacies in society and their own institutions. In recent months, UCLA approved a Black Resource Center, which students have demanded for years. USC has announced an examination of its police force, more spaces for students of color and the hiring of a chief diversity officer. UC Berkeley, whose campuswide diversity initiative launched in 2018 resulted this year in the most Black and Latino

See **Black**, page A7



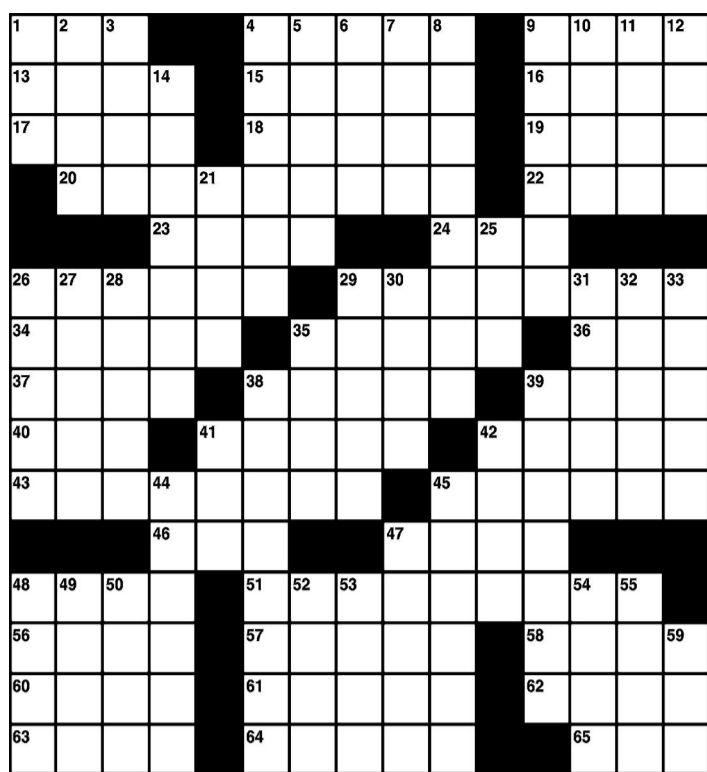
Mark Boster | Los Angeles Times

A DECADE AGO, UC Irvine students and faculty rallied to celebrate the life and legacy of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Now the university is launching a comprehensive effort to transform itself into a thriving campus for Black students, faculty and staff.

THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

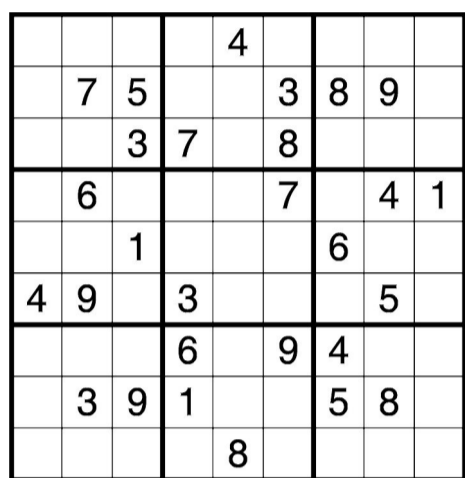
ACROSS 1 One of the Seven Dwarfs
 4 As _ as a tack
 9 Racetrack bettor's concern
 13 "E pluribus _"; words on a dollar bill
 15 Tree with chocolaty pods
 16 Seldom seen
 17 "I _ Kick Out of You"; song for Sinatra
 18 Innuendos
 19 Request for help
 20 Inane
 22 Chops down
 23 Key _ pie
 24 "A penny saved _ penny earned"
 26 One of 13 on the U.S. flag
 29 Suave; charming
 34 Alcoves
 35 Rings out
 36 Presidential monogram
 37 "Coffee, Tea _?"; Karen Valentine film
 38 White adhesive
 39 Golfer's target
 40 Tumor ending
 41 Dangers
 42 Written slander
 43 Necklace dangles
 45 Baffling questions
 46 On one's _; independent
 47 Young horse
 48 Dangerous critter, for short
 51 Literary assortment
 56 _ wolf; solitary type
 57 Deep pink
 58 Housetop
 60 As slippery _ eel
 61 On the _; free to roam
 62 Shout
 63 Bumper boo-boo
 64 Finished
 65 Wild blue



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 A6.

yonder
DOWN
 1 Used a spade
 2 Change for a five
 3 Like babies & puppies
 4 Plot craftily
 5 Ethiopia's
 Selassie
 6 Undesirable spots
 7 Vermin
 8 Part of ASAP
 9 "Little _ Annie"
 10 Actor Robertson
 11 TV's Carey

12 Coral and yellow
 14 Macho
 21 Uses a straw
 25 Scouring pad brand
 26 Be nosy
 27 Singer Mel
 28 Word with numeral or nose
 29 Classroom furnishings
 30 Polishes off
 31 Sun-dried brick
 32 Lazybones
 33 Spins
 35 One of three tenses
 38 High point
 39 College major
 41 Not cooked yet
 42 Lounge about
 44 Museum guide
 45 Combined, as funds
 47 Largest U.S. bank
 48 Dressed
 49 Popular flower
 50 "Chestnuts roasting _ open fire"
 52 Midday
 53 _ on; trampled
 54 _ without saying; is obvious
 55 Part of an egg
 59 Go by plane

Tribune Media Services

Joseph Vidal named new principal of Thurston Middle School in Laguna

Joseph Vidal will be the next principal of Thurston Middle School.

The Laguna Beach Unified School District approved the appointment of Vidal to the position on Thursday.

His start date has yet to be determined.

Vidal was an assistant principal at Thurston Middle School from 2013 to 2015. Currently the senior director of student support services for the Cupertino Union School District, Vidal comes with more than 20 years of experience as an education administrator. He earned master's degrees in educational leadership and in special education.

"It is with great honor and excitement that I rejoin Thurston Middle School and the Laguna Beach community," Vidal said in a statement. "As I

begin my transition, I am deeply committed to maintaining Thurston's history of excellence and ensuring a rigorous learning environment that fosters a sense of belonging, promotes intellectual growth, and inspires collaboration.

"I look forward to listening, learning and partnering with all stakeholders to enhance the educational opportunities for students and staff alike."

Vidal will take over as principal of the district's lone middle school, replacing Jennifer Salberg, who resigned last month.

District Deputy Supt. Leisa Winston said that Jeanne Iman, the interim principal for Thurston Middle School, will continue to serve in that role until Vidal's family can get situated following a move back from Northern California. She added that it is anticipated that Vidal's start date could come in early October.

Members of the Thurston Middle School community will have a

chance to meet Vidal after his start date is determined, with the manner of that event depending on the state's coronavirus guidelines pertaining to large gatherings.

From the pool of candidates, 10 went on to the first of three rounds of interviews. Six moved on to be interviewed by parents, teachers, support staff and administrators, and the final three were interviewed by district Supt. Jason Vilorio and other district administrators, a press release stated.

"Mr. Vidal distinguished himself as the best candidate for this position, demonstrating his instructional leadership and innovation throughout the interview and screening process," Vilorio said in the release. "I am excited to welcome him back to the Laguna Beach Unified School District at Thurston Middle School, where I am confident he will help the students, teachers, staff and community thrive."

— Andrew Turner

NMUSD names assistant superintendent

The Newport-Mesa Unified School District announced Thursday that it has appointed John Drake, the district's director of curriculum and instruction, as its assistant superintendent.

Drake will succeed current Supt. Russell Lee-Sung, who was appointed in early August after exiting Supt. Fred Navarro announced his retirement in June. Drake will also be the chief academic officer. Drake has been

with the district for 10 years, serving in various capacities as director of certificated personnel, director of curriculum and instruction and, as of 2018, acting assistant superintendent, chief academic officer.

This is Drake's formal appointment to his position.

"I have had the privilege to work closely with Mr. Drake and am highly impressed with his ability to lead teams to consensus through positive relationships and collaborative approaches," Lee-Sung said in a statement. "It's not only what he does but how he does it; always with a calm demeanor and a purposeful vision."

The district said that Drake was instrumental in the implementation of a collaborative instructional materials adoption process and provided resources and support to teachers for implementation of a math "experience" for transitional kindergarten through 12th grade that he led the development of.

Drake received his master's in education administration and supervision from the University of West Georgia and a bachelor's in English from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. He also graduated from Estancia High School, a Newport-Mesa school.

— Lilly Nguyen

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MAILBAG

Costa Mesa's mask mandate makes sense

Reading "O.C. hits 800 COVID-related deaths as anti-mask protest held in Costa Mesa" made me appreciate Costa Mesa's mask mandate and enforcement policy even more.

The article reported that the protest was against Costa Mesa's mask mandate and specifically targeted the \$100 fine for failing to wear a mask in public. But the protesters' irresponsible actions, coupled with a little historical perspective, illustrate why the continued mask mandate and fine are necessary.

On the same day as the Pilot article, the L.A. Times published "1918 flu offers lessons for today, experts say, but few are learned." The story described how cities that adopted public health measures early in that pandemic, and kept them in place, achieved better outcomes than cities that were slow to act.

Current-day protesters seem willfully ignorant to these lessons. Fortunately, Costa Mesa's leadership began requiring face coverings back in April, when Mayor Katrina Foley pushed for ratification of the city manager's mask mandate.

The protesters also say that masks equal mind control, but it is they who seem to be under the control of an anti-science, anti-fact movement that simply dismisses pandemic death counts as

"completely and totally fake," and creates ludicrous false-equivalencies between mask mandates and requiring members of the public to "wear a Spiderman outfit."

The protests, and the completely unhinged protesters, make me appreciate the fact-based leadership and decision-making practiced by Mayor Katrina Foley, Mayor Pro Tem John Stephens, and the Costa Mesa City Council majority. They have my support and gratitude, and I hope they'll continue to make the right decisions to keep Costa Mesa residents safe.

Bill McCarty
Costa Mesa

There's no place left to build in Newport

In all its wisdom the Southern California Assn. of Governments has mandated the building of 4,832 affordable housing units in Newport Beach by 2029.

I am a recently retired Realtor, having sold property in Newport for over 50 years. In the early 1970s I sold 263 homes in the Port Streets ranging in price from \$35,000 to under \$70,000. These were virtual entry-level homes. Today developers are paying well over a million dollars to purchase a tear-down in that area. Some recent sales of new homes have exceeded \$4,500,000.

If there was land available for even 1,000 housing units anywhere in the city, affordable or not, the land would have been developed years ago.

HOW TO GET PUBLISHED

Email us at erik.haugli@latimes.com. All correspondence must include full name, hometown and phone number (for verification purposes). The Pilot reserves the right to edit submissions for clarity and length.

SCAG may make rules, but they cannot make land. Is the city going to be fined if we do not meet the association's goals?

Howard Wells
Newport Beach

Lesser known candidates have cleaner slates

I am in full agreement with Peggy Palmer of Newport Beach and Tim Geddes of Huntington Beach in their letters to the editor: "Running for city council should be compared to being interviewed for a new job, an occupation that should be taken seriously."

Having said that, I suggest people do a Google search of the people who are running for Huntington Beach City Council. They may be shocked by what they find. Over the past 10 years or more, I have been appalled by the special interest groups on the council and still am to this day. One would think being a long-time real estate agent or having any involvement with real estate developers would be self-serving.

The lesser known candidates, ones not being financed with flashy mailers, should be considered.

As they say, follow the money, which is quite evident with the proposed Poseidon desalination plant.

I'd also like to thank Ben Miles of Huntington Beach for his contribution "Lawyer doesn't seem to know the law." If Chapman University's law professor's comments weren't so pathetic, they actually would be humorous.

Lynn Copeland
Huntington Beach



Raul Roa | Staff Photographer

ANTI-MASK PROTESTERS rally earlier this month against mask orders implemented by the city of Costa Mesa that include a \$100 fine if not wearing one in public. A letter writer says those who are against mask mandates are mistaken about science and government health measures.

Let's give democracy a better chance in N.B.

For several years now, our City Council in Newport Beach has not been very democratic because of the existence of voting blocs or teams whose many disadvantages I have described in a previous letter. Whenever a single candidate has to fight against a slate of candidates, the slate obviously has an unfair advantage. Two of our candidates in the upcoming election either must run against an incumbent who is part of the team or an incumbent who is running against a totally new candidate who, according to a colleague, had not even been involved in his first debate when he was endorsed by three members of the team or bloc. Without even considering names, qualifications or accomplishments, two of our candidates, Nancy Scarbrough and Jeff Herdman, start the race with obvious unfair disadvantages. And this does not even take into consideration that new candidates must run against incumbents who have been building up "war chests" since before their first election. The high cost of running for office against slates or teams discourages good potential candidates from running. And it is the reason that Newport has far fewer candidates trying to seek election when compared to neighboring cities.

Lynn Lorenz
Newport Beach

ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:


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CITIZEN

Continued from page A1

Newport and the Pacific Arts Foundation.

Stapleton also served as a harbor commissioner.

"It's not for one single effort. It's for a collection and body of work ... and dates back to 12 years, from the moment I got invested in the community," Stapleton said. "Newport's where it is because of those who came before us. It's not here because of chance."

Stapleton said that he felt the greatest honor was being recognized by past citizens of the year, who he said devoted their lives to Newport.

"Joe is very deserving of this honor," Newport Beach Chamber of Commerce president and chief executive officer Steven Rosansky said. "He is a tireless volunteer and has definitely made a difference in the 10 plus years he has been part of the Newport Beach community. Whatever he starts, he finishes and he is always all in."

Newport Beach Mayor Will O'Neill described Stapleton as a close friend, adding, "[Stapleton] steps into leadership like tailored suits. Volunteerism just fits him."

"I am thrilled that the citizen of the year during the year of the volunteer has been awarded to my friend, Joe," O'Neill said.

Stapleton said he felt it was an honor he didn't deserve, but it wasn't an honor he took lightly and was thankful for the recognition and platform to champion his causes.

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Twitter: @lilibirds



LOCAL FAMILIES get in line for new school supplies compliments of the Newport-Balboa Rotary Club during a distribution of back-to-school supplies from the Boys & Girls Club of Central Orange Coast at Rea Elementary School in Costa Mesa on Aug. 21. Students are learning remotely during the pandemic.

Don Leach
Staff Photographer

DEATHS

Continued from page A1

nesses are to remain closed for now.

There are four tiers — widespread, substantial, moderate and minimal. If a county in the first tier has met the requirements for a less restrictive tier the week before, that county only has to meet the criteria for the next less restrictive tier for one more week to progress to the next tier. Counties can only move up one tier at a time.

State data show Orange County with 6 new infections

per 100,000 residents per day and a testing positivity rate of 5.2%. Orange County's numbers meet the requirements for the second tier, "substantial transmission," for counties who are between four to seven cases per 100,000 residents and carry a testing positivity rate of 5% to 8%.

Here are the latest cumulative coronavirus case counts and COVID-19 deaths for select cities in Orange County:

- Santa Ana: 9,328 cases; 236 deaths
- Anaheim: 8,262 cases; 220 deaths
- Huntington Beach: 2,211

- cases; 62 deaths
- Costa Mesa: 1,660 cases; 21 deaths
- Irvine: 1,460 cases; 12 deaths
- Newport Beach: 1,051 cases; 19 deaths
- Fountain Valley: 473 cases; nine deaths
- Laguna Beach: 176 cases; fewer than five deaths

Here are the case counts by age group, followed by deaths:

- 0 to 17: 3,263 cases; one death
- 18 to 24: 7,166 cases; three deaths
- 25 to 34: 10,568 cases; 13 deaths
- 35 to 44: 7,779 cases; 29 deaths

- 45 to 54: 7,795 cases; 84 deaths
- 55 to 64: 5,806 cases; 136 deaths
- 65 to 74: 2,867 cases; 195 deaths
- 75 to 84: 1,638 cases; 212 deaths
- 85 and older: 1,277 cases; 302 deaths

Updated figures are posted daily at ocovid19.ochalthinfo.com/coronavirus-in-oc. For information on getting tested, visit ocovid19.ochalthinfo.com/covid-19-testing.

andrew.turner@latimes.com
Twitter: @ProfessorTurner

CRASH

Continued from page A1

prison, plus four years, the Orange County district attorney's office said in a statement. She is set to be arraigned on Sept. 18.

Joyce is accused of running a red light in Dana Point and crashing into a vehicle driven by Jason Carbonall, 23, who was killed in the collision.

Carbonall's twin brother was seriously injured, and a woman in the vehicle had minor injuries.

Laguna Beach police were involved in the reported high-speed pursuit on Aug. 19, Laguna Beach police officials said.

At about 10:30 that night, an officer drove up behind an apparently disabled vehicle with its hazard lights on parked next to a red curb near the intersection of Park Avenue and Glenneyre Street.

The officer activated their emergency lights and got out of their car. When the officer knocked on the driver-side window of the parked vehicle, Joyce

drove ahead to Park Avenue and Catalina Street.

Another attempt was made by the officer to contact Joyce. Laguna police said she refused to give her driver's license to the officer and ignored an order to stay where she was.

Joyce fled westbound on Legion Street and turned onto South Coast Highway. Believing that Joyce was driving under the influence, two Laguna Beach police officers began a pursuit of the vehicle.

At one point in the high-

speed chase, she threw her cellphone out the window.

When the speed reportedly reached 100 miles per hour approaching Crown Valley Parkway, the watch commander ended the pursuit.

The vehicle crashed near the intersection of Coast Highway and Selva Road just minutes later.

The Orange County Sheriff's Department's Major Accident Reconstruction Team ran investigations of the accident and whether or not Joyce had been driving under the in-

fluence after narcotics were reportedly found in her vehicle, the Laguna Beach police statement said.

The Orange County Sheriff's Department's Major Accident Reconstruction Team ran investigations of the accident and whether Joyce had been driving under the influence after narcotics were reportedly found in Joyce's vehicle, the Laguna Beach police statement said.

Laguna Beach police spokesman Jim Cota said that Joyce had multiple

warrants out for her arrest for failure to appear in court, and she had prior convictions for evading police.

Joyce also had a restraining order against her from Coldplay lead singer Chris Martin for multiple incidents of stalking, Cota added.

Orange County district attorney spokeswoman Kimberly Edds said Joyce is being held on \$2 million bail.

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Susan Samuelli
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BISHOP

Continued from page A1

denied he or the church acted improperly, but declined to answer many questions about the situation, with the spokeswoman, Tracey Kincaid, saying the diocese “does not comment on internal processes.”

The situation unfolding in Orange County might be a harbinger for other dioceses. At a time when generational shifts and the fallout of the abuse scandal have made Catholics more willing than ever to question church authorities, COVID-19 is forcing controversial decisions on bishops. A Georgetown University survey of 116 American bishops published last month found that as a result of declining revenues in the pandemic, nearly a quarter were considering closing parishes and 45% either had closed elementary schools or were considering doing so.

The church in California has added financial pressure. A state law that took effect in January allowed a three-year window for the filing of sexual abuse claims previously barred by statutes of limitation. Lawsuits are already piling up against church organizations across the state.

The most striking part of the Orange County conflict may be that the bishop's opponents are not church

critics, but devout insiders.

Two forced off the charity board by the bishop, the real estate developer Rand Sperry and Dr. Jacqueline DuPont, chief executive of assisted living companies, have received awards from the diocese for “exemplary business integrity,” and DuPont co-chaired the gala dedication last summer of Vann's crown jewel, a gleaming new \$130-million cathedral complex in Garden Grove. The board member who wrote the Vatican complaint, Tustin attorney Don Hunsberger, was honored in 2019 as Orange County's Catholic Man of the Year.

“Not one of my brethren among the board of Directors of the Orange Catholic Foundation has ever found herself or himself in the position of having to question the actions of our Ordinary in a manner such as this,” Hunsberger, the former board secretary, wrote to the nuncio July 2, using the ecclesiastical term for bishop. “Each of us has suffered under the weight of having to make this decision.”

Most of the directors forced off the 18-member board did not return messages and those who did declined interview requests. This story is based on emails, memos and other internal diocese and foundation records as well as the accounts of people familiar with the dispute who spoke on the condi-

tion of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

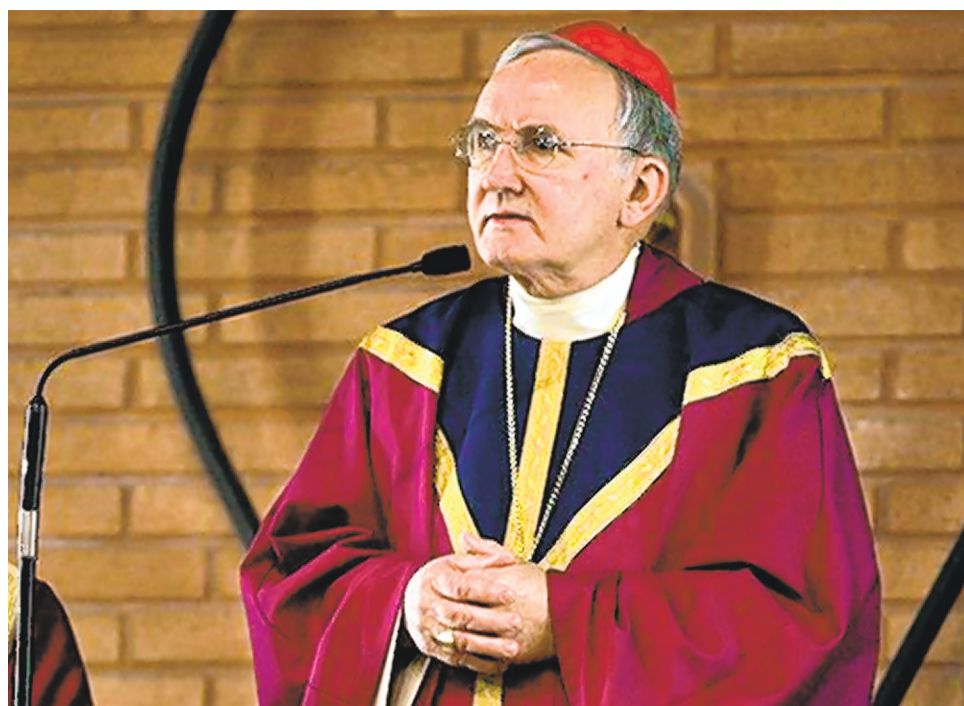
California was in its first day of the COVID shutdown when the chief financial officer of the diocese approached the Orange Catholic Foundation and said the bishop needed a lot of money and quickly. CFO Elizabeth Jensen said the school system was short \$8 million and parishes \$4 million, according to correspondence reviewed by The Times and interviews with people familiar with the conversation.

In a follow-up email March 23 to foundation Chairman Stephen Muzzy, a Trabuco Canyon real estate and private equity investor, the CFO wrote that nine parishes lacked “enough cash to meet near-term basic expenses.” Parents in poor areas and “even some in South County” were unable to make tuition payments, she said.

“I believe the situation is getting to the point of being grave, which motivated me, on behalf of Bishop Vann, to ask for the resources from OCF for which I truly consider to be real needs,” Jensen wrote.

Money the foundation provided might be repaid down the road, she said, but “there is no guarantee. We are all in uncharted waters.”

The emergency funding



Rick Loomis | Los Angeles Times

BISHOP TOD BROWN at the Holy Family Cathedral in Orange in 2004.

request, which the board ultimately declined, was unprecedented in the foundation's history. The nonprofit had been set up 20 years before in the midst of another crisis: Revelations that priests had sexually abused children and their superiors had covered it up. As the abuse crisis swept the country in the late 1990s and early 2000s, big donors cut back on their giving. Many said they did not trust church leaders who had covered up molestation and did not want their money going to pay legal bills or million-dollar settlements with abuse victims.

Church leadership devised a solution embraced by many dioceses: Independent foundations that benefited Catholic causes, but were outside the control of the bishop. In some cases, dioceses moved existing church assets into the new nonprofits, making them beyond the reach of plaintiffs and other creditors should the local church fall into bankruptcy.

Retired Laguna Niguel banker Jim Tecca, who chaired the foundation years before the current dispute, explained the dynamic between the diocese and the foundation in a way fitting for property-mad Orange County.

“If you are an investor in a piece of real estate, you set up a corporation rather than doing it yourself. In case there are lawsuits ... personal assets are not at risk,” Tecca said.

By the time then-Bishop Tod Brown signed a \$100-million settlement with 90 victims in 2005, the independent foundation was already up and running. It grew into a prestigious and trusted organization that doled out millions in grants annually and held endowment money for parishes and institutions including Mater Dei and Santa Margarita high schools. Its annual Conference on Business and Ethics drew high-profile speakers such as actress Patricia Heaton and Dodgers broadcaster Vin Scully to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for Catholic schools while its estate planning seminars primed wealthy parishioners to leave money or property to the foundation. The average bequest to the non-

profit was a startling \$867,000, according to recent marketing materials.

Critical to its success, supporters say, was donors' view of the foundation as entirely Catholic yet independent from the hierarchy, or as its mission statement states, “an autonomous, pious foundation that works with members of our Diocese ... following each donor's intent.”

Donors were assured that contributions will be used for the purposes they specified, whether seminarian training, care of

ange is one of the voting members of the board of directors but is not the chairman.”

Tecca, the former board chair, could not recall a single legal or ethical dispute during his tenure, he said, adding, “The reason is we did what the donor said. Exactly. No question.”

Vann, a 69-year-old native of Illinois, was installed as bishop in 2012, a year after the diocese bought televangelist Robert H. Schuller's Crystal Cathedral out of bankruptcy for \$57 million. The 34-acre property needed extensive renovations that topped \$72 million. The cathedral had been open less than a year when the coronavirus hit. When the diocese told the foundation board in a March 19 call that it was in need of \$12 million, the foundation had assets of about \$45 million.

People with knowledge of the call said Jensen, the diocesan CFO, asked the foundation for the entire amount. Through a diocesan attorney, she said she never asked for \$12 million and was only laying out the scope of the problem.

In a written request two days later, she identified more than \$2.6 million in specific foundation accounts she wanted turned over to the diocese. She noted that the board's funding decision “should respect the intent of the donors.”

Much of foundation money was in endowments that paid a small percentage of their value to dedicated causes annually. State law requires charities to be “prudent” when disbursing endowment money and to follow any donor instructions. The foundation's agreements capped the amount at 5% a year. Yet Jensen was requesting 25% of two funds and 50% of another, according to her written request.

In a statement provided by the diocesan lawyer, Jensen said that when she asked for the money, “I had no specific knowledge of the particular restrictions in each of the donor agreements. For that reason, I emphasized that any limitations imposed by donors must be followed.”

In a series of phone calls and emails, board members told church officials

See *Bishop*, page A7

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

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COMPANY INFO

The Daily Pilot, established in 1907, is published Wednesday through Sunday by Times Community News, a division of the Los Angeles Times. Subscriptions are available only by subscribing to The Times, Orange County.

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BISHOP*Continued from page A6*

that while they wanted to help, the law wouldn't allow it.

"Right now you, you feel the Board's hands are tied and cannot grant any funds for the foreseeable future," Jensen summarized in a March 25 email that prompted the board chair, Muzzy, to reply, "I am shocked at what I perceive to be the tone of your email — that the OCF does not want to help the [bishop.]"

In a three-page letter later that day, Muzzy wrote that on the advice of its lawyers, the board was denying the diocesan request for emergency funds. He attached a copy of the state law governing endowments.

The board, he wrote, "cannot breach its fiduciary duties and statutory requirements as custodian of endowment funds. To do so would be a breach of every duty we have to our donors ..."

The bishop had other potential sources of money. The diocese annual financial report showed that as of July 2019, the diocese had \$195 million in net assets with \$37 million of that held in "cash and cash equivalents." Parishes, schools and other organizations also received loans of more than \$18 million from the federal Paycheck Protection Program, a government database indicates.

Still, in the following weeks, members of the foundation board searched for emergency money for the diocese, including soliciting donations from long-time benefactors. They handed over \$1.4 million in April, according to



Allen J. Schaben | Los Angeles Times

THE REV. Robert Schuller, who died in 2015, founded Crystal Cathedral Ministries in 1955.

foundation records The Times reviewed.

The money did not pacify Vann. On a June Zoom meeting with board members, he said he saw the new funds as evidence that Suzanne Nunn, a longtime foundation consultant serving as acting executive director, had lied about whether the nonprofit had money for the diocese, according to sources familiar with the situation who asked not to be named. The sources said Vann told the board to fire her. They refused, telling the bishop's staff that Nunn served at the board's pleasure, not his, the sources said.

Nunn declined to comment. After the bishop made his displeasure known, she decided to leave the foundation anyhow and the board was scheduled to finalize her severance agreement at a meeting June 19.

Early that morning, Vann informed the board by FedEx letters that he

had decided "to remove all the current elected members" of the board. He said the board had failed to achieve goals he set out for them including establishing a strategic plan and hiring a permanent executive director, despite repeated requests. "[S]peaking as a father to his family, there has been a loss of trust and collaboration," he wrote, adding, "While I had hoped to avoid this outcome, I have come to believe that this is necessary and in the best interests of OCF and its mission at this particular time in our history."

He thanked them for their service and signed the letter "Yours in Christ."

The same day, a new chair appointed by Vann, fired Nunn.

The dismissed board, which included a parish priest from San Clemente and a 74-year-old nun who worked at the cathedral, was stunned. One former director remarked, "I feel

like I've been fired by God," according to sources familiar with the board's response.

As it often does, the shock gave way to lawyers. Attorneys pored over church law and corporate governance documents, and argued that the bishop had violated state corporate law, according to emails and memos reviewed by The Times. The foundation's bylaws allowed a majority of the board to remove a director for any reason, but the bishop was limited to removing a director only for a spiritual failing, such as excommunication or causing a public scandal, or for acting against the objectives of the foundation.

Three board members, Muzzy, Hunsberger and Newport Beach finance executive Ryan Kerrigan, told Vann in a July 2 letter that he lacked legal authority to fire the directors and urged him to reconsider.

"What have we done to

deserve such arbitrary, judgmental treatment," they wrote, copying Gomez, the head of the L.A. archdiocese, and the papal nuncio, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, and another Vatican official, Cardinal Benjamin Stella.

A letter to Pierre the same day begged apologies for "sending this letter on plain white paper."

"We have been locked out of the offices of the Foundation by order of our Ordinary, so we do not have access to stationery worthy of the recipient of this missive," Hunsberger wrote on behalf of the fired board.

An accompanying memo prepared with a lawyer warned of dire potential legal consequences. It charged that the bishop had opened the diocese up to suits by the ousted directors for their "illegal" removal and by Nunn for being dismissed "based on her refusal to allow illegal actions." Additionally, the memo asserted, donors could file breach of contract suits and plaintiffs' attorneys in the new clergy abuse suits could go after foundation money.

The bishop responded July 28, telling the three board members that the directors' removal "was strictly in accord with the OCF Bylaws as well as canon and civil law, as I confirmed in advance, to ensure the continuing appropriate separation of OCF and the Diocese." A diocesan lawyer said in a statement that the foundation assets remained off limits from those with legal claims against the church.

"[T]here can be no suggestion that ... any creditor of the [diocese] can pierce the corporate veil and tap into the assets of OCF," the

lawyer wrote.

So far the Vatican has not weighed in publicly. The nuncio did not respond to messages. A spokeswoman for Gomez did not answer questions about the archbishop's response to the conflict in Orange, but noted in an email that he "has no day-to-day administrative oversight of the Diocese of Orange."

A member of the old board, Strader, was reappointed to the new board. Asked about her former colleagues' complaint, she said the bishop "is the Ordinary of the diocese so they don't really have a leg to stand on."

Since the changeover, the new board has not disbursed more than 5% from any endowment, according to a diocesan lawyer.

The diocese's most important donor, Timothy Busch, an Irvine entrepreneur who co-founded JSerra High School in San Juan Capistrano, gave heavily to the new cathedral and gifted more than \$15 million to Catholic University, declined to comment.

"I was not involved on that board or the decision," he said in a text, adding, "Thank you for caring about church governance."

Villanova Professor Emeritus Charles Zech, an expert on the Catholic Church's finances and management, said that he was unaware of a similar dispute between a bishop and foundation, and called the firings "outrageous."

"I can't imagine a bishop being that naive to think he can get away with that and not alienate donors, big and small," Zech said.

HARRIET RYAN is a staff writer with the Los Angeles Times.

BLACK*Continued from page A1*

students admitted in 30 years, will devote this academic year to an examination of social justice, racism and anti-Blackness.

For UC Irvine student Iyanna Blackburn, the efforts are long overdue. Blackburn, a rising senior double majoring in film and media and African American studies, said the campus is "perfect" except for the stark underrepresentation of Black students and faculty. Among UC's nine undergraduate campuses, UC Irvine has the second-smallest proportion of Black students after UC San Diego.

Despite those small numbers, 57% of Black UC Irvine students who responded to a 2018 UC undergraduate survey said they felt their race was respected on campus. That is higher than at UCLA, UC Berkeley and UC San Diego.

Blackburn, who was raised in diverse Carson, said it was jolting to arrive at Irvine, where she was the only Black student in her dorm. She did not experience overt racism, she said, but had encounters that made her uncomfortable: non-Black students using the N-word when they lis-

tened to music and making assumptions that she would speak in Black vernacular or know the latest in rap and hip-hop; being the only Black student in classes where she was expected to be the voice of an entire community.

The experiences drove her to make a short film giving voice to UC Irvine Black students about their campus experiences. Students described being one of the few Black persons in their classes, witnessing other Black students being singled out by bad jokes, listening to non-Black students talk about whether they like to date Black people, being racially profiled in the surrounding community by a store security guard.

Jaylenne Thach, a student in philosophy and earth system science, said her non-Black sorority sisters asked her to straighten her hair for a formal so they would have the same look.

"That hurt me," she told Blackburn. "As a black woman, it takes a long time for us to just accept our hair ... to love our curls."

Blackburn and other students said they found community and support in campus spaces for Black students — a Rosa Parks residential house, a living and learning community

known as Black Scholars Hall, a resource center offering academic advising, career and professional development, health programs, financial aid assistance and other services.

"The spaces are therapeutic for us," Blackburn said. "It feels like home. You don't feel like you're walking on eggshells."

UC Irvine created the Black Scholars Hall and resource center as part of the campus response to demands by the Black Student Union in 2015. Now, Haynes said, the university is poised to take the next major step by focusing on academic concerns.

The campus already has made progress. This fall, 13 new Black faculty members — spanning fields of engi-

neering, biological sciences, economics, history, English and dance — will join the campus as the largest such group ever hired in a single year. Other recent milestones include the appointments of UC Irvine's first Black deans of the business and law schools.

Despite its Orange County location, where Black residents make up just 2% of the population, UC Irvine is drawing more California Black applicants. While the Black student population was at 3.3% last year, the campus received the second-highest number of California Black freshman applicants after only UCLA.

Also, the gap in first-year retention and graduation rates between Black stu-

dents and all undergraduates is smaller than most of UC's other top-tier research universities. The Black student first-year retention rate is 92.1%, compared with 93.9% for all students, while the six-year graduation rate is 81.7%, compared with 85% overall.

But that's not good enough, Haynes said. The campus is planning to re-evaluate its entire philosophy about how to teach and evaluate today's students — questioning, for

instance, whether the lecture format or grading on curves is still appropriate.

"As a campus, as much as we feel we have momentum in improving the experience of our Black students, faculty and staff, we can't do this piecemeal," Haynes said. "This is a national imperative that requires an equivalent response."

TERESA WATANABE is a staff writer with the Los Angeles Times.

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PRO SOCCER



Raul Roa | Staff Photographer

ORANGE COUNTY Soccer Club defender Kevin Alston controls the ball against the San Diego Loyal Soccer Club in Irvine on Saturday.

Orange County SC plays to draw

BY ANDREW TURNER

After surrendering multiple goals in a match for the first time this season in its midweek match, Orange County Soccer Club rebounded in that respect.

It would not be enough to achieve the desired result, as Orange County played to a scoreless draw against the San Diego Loyal on Saturday night at Championship Soccer Stadium at the Great Park in Irvine.

Orange County is now 4-1-3 with 15 points on the season, and it is in second place in Group B of the United Soccer League Championship standings. Phoenix Rising FC (6-2-2, 20 points) is in first place, but Orange County has two matches in hand.

The San Diego Loyal (3-4-3, 12 points) are tied with L.A. Galaxy II (4-3-0, 12 points) for third place.

The back line of Kevin Alston, Michael Orozco, Rob Kiernan and Daniel Finlayson did not allow a shot on target after Las Vegas Lights FC produced nine shots

on goal in Orange County's previous contest.

Orange County had its six-match unbeaten streak to open the season snapped in its previous match, a 3-1 defeat on the road to Las Vegas Lights FC. Prior to that, Orange County had won four in a row.

Neither team recorded a shot on goal in the first half. Orange County created some chances late in the half, the best one coming on a long set piece in the 43rd minute. Aodhan Quinn lobbed a ball into the box on a free kick from just beyond the midfield stripe. Finlayson headed the offering across to Sean "Ugo" Okoli, who sent a well-struck header wide of the left goalpost.

Darwin Jones was a dangerous player for Orange County to begin the second half. He had looks at the goal two minutes apart, the second hitting the crossbar and staying out in the 52nd minute.

Brian Iloski also got away a header when he flashed through the middle on an aerial pass by Edson Alvarado in the 74th

minute, but San Diego goalkeeper Jon Kempin (two saves) was there for the stop.

San Diego's best chance came in stoppage time. Charlie Adams sent a cross through the box. For a fleeting moment, multiple San Diego players had a chance to run onto the ball, but the ball skipped across the goal untouched.

In observance of the United Soccer League Championship's "United Against Racism" campaign, the teams came together around the midfield circle at the seven-minute mark, symbolizing the seven times Jacob Blake was shot in the back by an officer in Kenosha, Wisc., until the scoreboard reached 8:46, symbolizing the eight minutes and 46 seconds Derek Chauvin, a Minneapolis police officer, knelt on the neck of George Floyd.

Jones and Okoli, who are both forwards for Orange County, raised their fists during the in-game moment.

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GOLF

Jones Cup golfers glad to be competing in tournament

BY ANDREW TURNER

For two decades, the Jones Cup community golf tournament has brought local country clubs together for a day of friendly competition and bragging rights among the members.

The tournament is held annually, with the five competing clubs being Big Canyon, Mesa Verde, Newport Beach, Santa Ana and Shady Canyon.

Originally scheduled to be held at Big Canyon in Newport Beach on June 11, the event was in jeopardy due to circumstances surrounding the coronavirus pandemic.

Although it will not have some of its usual pomp and circumstance, the tradition of the Jones Cup will continue as Mesa Verde volunteered to host the tournament in Costa Mesa on Thursday.

"I'm very excited that Mesa Verde is able to step in, come out of the rotation, and host this year," said Heidi Wright-Tennyson, the head golf professional for Mesa Verde. "I think it's an honor to be a part of this tradition. I know that Mr. [Tom] Sargent played in every one since its inauguration until he retired [in 2018], so to just follow in Tom's footsteps and be able to be a part of this team and this tradition means a lot to me."

This will be Wright-Tennyson's third year competing in the Jones Cup. She will serve as captain. The rest of the Mesa Verde contingent will be Mike Fergin (professional), Kim Izzi (women's champion), Tim Beans (men's champion) and Mitch Allenspach (senior champion).

Spectators for the event will be limited to spouses and significant others of players, Mesa Verde members, and invited board members of the participating clubs. The invitation-only event will guard against gatherings. After the competition, a socially-distanced toast by the teams will be made to the winners before heading home, Wright-Tennyson said of the protocols in place because of the pandemic.

Live scoring will be kept on a mobile app, and flagsticks will remain in the holes, Wright-Tennyson added.

As the host club, Wright-Tennyson considers her team a favorite to claim victory.

Irvine's Shady Canyon would have a hard time disagreeing. Since joining the Jones Cup field, Shady Canyon has earned its two victories on its home course — in 2014 and 2019.

"Last time we played Mesa Verde, we made two bogeys on the last hole, and we ended up just losing out, so we were close last time we played," Shady Canyon director of golf Brian Gunson said. "It was a different team, certainly, but it's our next task to try to win away, rather than winning at home."

"It's nice to arrive at the course with the trophy that we'll hand off to Heidi, and then obviously, we'll try to get it back again."

Gunson reported the golf course at Mesa Verde to be in good shape after a recent practice round. Wright-Tennyson credited the work of golf course superintendent Matthew Marsh for keeping the course in good condition through the summer heat and increased rounds of play.

Shady Canyon will bring Gunson (captain), Kirk Manley (professional), Isako Takada (women's championship runner-up), Scott Barton (men's champion) and Charles Kavanaugh (senior champion).

Big Canyon, which has had its name inscribed on the Jones Cup 10 times, lost to Shady Canyon last year by one stroke.

"Last year, we did what we wanted to do," Big Canyon head golf professional Robert Pang said. "We went to Shady Canyon, and we put everything together. It's like anything else. Home-field advantage always counts, and we pushed it to 18 [holes]. I was proud of the team. I was proud of how we played."

Pang will captain a team that also includes Chris Valeriano (professional), Olivia Slutzky (women's champion), Taylor Wood (2019 men's championship runner-up) and Jamie Held (senior champion).

Mesa Verde has won the Jones Cup six times. Newport Beach has won two championships. Santa Ana has been involved in two playoffs, but it has never won the event.

Some feel that the live-scoring element of the Jones Cup gives it the feel of a tournament. Adam Baumann, competing as a club professional for Newport Beach, noted that the PGA Tour also is not currently allowing fans.

"We'll be playing an event to do the best we can and hopefully bring [the trophy] back so that people can see it when we get back," Baumann said.

Newport Beach's roster is filled out by Robbie Maurer (captain), AiLam Newkirk (women's champion), George Schmidt (men's champion) and Todd Roberts (senior champion).

Santa Ana will be bringing director of golf Geoff Cochrane (captain), Nick Kumpis (professional), Diane Booth (women's champion), Corey Van Houten (men's champion) and Greg Hopkins (senior champion).

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HIGH SCHOOLS

American Sports Centers shuts its doors

BY MATT SZABO

American Sports Centers in Anaheim was known as a second home on weekends to many Orange County club volleyball and basketball players.

"[We'd be there] all day," said Yvette Tufuga, whose son Mason and daughter Malia each played in their first club volleyball tournament there with Orange County Volleyball Club before going on to star at Costa Mesa High School. "From 7 in the morning until sometimes 7 at night."

Those long sports sessions at the 242,000 square-foot facility are now a thing of the past.

American Sports Centers has closed, general manager Glenn Henry confirmed Friday. A statement posted on the ASC website Friday said the complex is closing after 16 years of serving the youth sports community.

No tournaments have been played at American Sports Centers since the novel coronavirus pandemic started in March.

"Nobody could have anticipated the widespread impact of COVID-19," the statement read in part. "ASC made every effort to continue forward by exploring several different paths, but determined it wasn't feasible to continue."

Newport Beach resident Scott Stucki, the co-founder and director of operations at Newport Lightning Basketball Club, also spent a lot of time at American Sports Centers with his teams.

Stucki said he developed a good working relationship with American Sports Centers president and CEO Matt Kanne following the facility's 2004 opening. He said it wasn't the easiest place to play or coach in, but it was great due to the number of courts — 34 for volleyball and

25 for basketball.

"At the time it opened, there were really no facilities for tournaments," Stucki said. "There was really a handful of guys running tournaments, and they were mostly running them out of high schools they had access to. There used to be a place called The HAX in Los Angeles, where all the L.A. teams would play, and then [American Sports Centers] opened up. If you were going to play in a big tournament, that was really the only place you could play. If you were trying to go out and compete at a high level, like we always want to do with our kids, you played there."

"I think the problem was that more venues started popping up that were more accessible, maybe a little cheaper for the tournaments, things like that. There was just more competition over the last five years, on the basketball front."

American Sports Centers also was the home to USA Volleyball's men's and women's teams, along with the Open Gym Premier basketball training program that Kanne launched in 2011.

Rocky Ciarelli, who coached volleyball for 24 years at Huntington Beach High School and five at Newport Harbor before retiring in 2019, also was an accomplished club coach with Balboa Bay Volleyball Club. He guided the Balboa Bay 18 Open team to back-to-back national championships in 2016 and 2017.

Ciarelli said Friday that he spent "a lot of time at the ASC, maybe too much time."

"Unfortunately [the ASC closing] is just a sign of the times," Ciarelli said in a text message. "It certainly hurts club volleyball. It was an ideal setup."

Recent Corona del Mar High



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

AMERICAN SPORTS CENTERS in Anaheim, a large volleyball and basketball complex, is closing after 16 years.

School boys' volleyball graduate Austin Chandler, who is beginning his freshman year at Pepperdine University, said he has been playing at ASC since he was 12 years old.

"It's a bummer that a place like that has to shut down," Chandler said. "I've had a lot of really memorable experiences playing volleyball there with my teammates and coaches, and I feel sad that the younger generations won't have a place like that. I don't really know where they're going to play, but it was a really pivotal part of the start of my volleyball career."

Parents were also saddened to hear of the American Sports Centers closing. Corona del Mar High School parent Julia Bruening spent a lot of time there with her three kids — Natalia, Tatiana and George — competing in club volleyball and basketball.

Julia Bruening said part of playing at the complex was learning to block out the whistles coming from the other courts.

"When I coached, I always would have to warn the kids about that so they wouldn't get

called for traveling the first play," Bruening said. "In volleyball, the goal was always to play on AI and be the last team playing. First to arrive, last to leave. So many memories; it is like letting go of the childhood home. I'm going to miss the sweet parking lot lady who always greeted with a smile."

Shannon Morgan said her daughter, Jaida, who also played girls' volleyball at CDM before graduating in 2019, competed at American Sports Centers for eight years. She played for Goldenwest Volleyball Club.

"I'm more sad for the jobs lost, and the dreams of kids who lost their chance at a college scholarship and are losing a sport they have devoted their lives to," Shannon Morgan said. "Then you wonder how many other facilities may close and where the teams will go? It always seemed that youth sports was such a powerhouse, and no one ever thought that a little virus would bring it to its knees, along with everything else. It's humbling."

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