

# Daily Pilot

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2024 // dailypilot.com



Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**GUESTS AND** community members tour the new Robyne's Landing student transitional living home in Huntington Beach on Wednesday.

## A safe place to call home

Run by Huntington Beach nonprofit Robyne's Nest, transitional living house Robyne's Landing aims to provide support for at-risk high school students.

**BY MATT SZABO**

A nest is ideal. But sometimes birds — or high school students — who take flight also just need a landing place for a while.

Robyne's Landing, a transitional living house for abandoned and severely neglected students that will be operated by Huntington Beach nonprofit Robyne's Nest, held a grand-opening ceremony Wednesday morning.

The four-bedroom, four-bath-room house on Lindsay Lane was heavily renovated after it was purchased.

"It was a vision long-coming," Robyne's Nest executive director Robyne Wood said. "Kids need a home, and it takes a village. We did housing for five or six years, and it was just constantly turning."

Wood said Robyne's Nest was renting a house for three years,

See **Home**, page A3



**ROBYNE WOOD**, executive director of Robyne's Nest, thanks guests, builders and community members during Wednesday's ceremony.

## Costa Mesa planning head Jennifer Le leaving City Hall for job with Irvine Co.

**BY SARA CARDINE**

After deftly navigating Costa Mesa safely through an economically crippling COVID-19 pandemic and helping shape policies related to housing, land use and retail cannabis businesses as the city's economic and development services director, Jennifer Le is leaving City Hall.

Her departure was announced Mon-

day in a news release issued by city officials, who stated Le has accepted a position as senior director of entitlements for the Irvine Co. Her last day on the job will be Jan. 22.

Le first arrived at the city in 2017, coming on board as assistant director of development services, where she worked on short-term rentals and provided oversight of cannabis manufacturing businesses permitted under

Measure X and the city's housing element, a document that guides future citywide growth.

Three years later, Le was promoted to head Economic and Development Services and played a lead role in implementing the city's sober living ordinances, helping businesses survive through pandemic-era shutdowns and,



See **Leaving**, page A3 Jennifer Le

## Witte Hall garners narrow approval in N.B.

Construction on the library lecture hall, at an estimated \$23.5-million cost overall, is expected to begin this spring.

**BY LILLY NGUYEN**

After a roughly two-hour hearing Tuesday on a pair of intertwined agenda items, the library lecture hall project in Newport Beach will move ahead, following the approval by a divided City Council of a \$19.1-million construction contract.

The cost of the lecture hall, to be known as Witte Hall, will be split evenly between the Newport Beach Public Library Foundation and the city. The City Council also approved updates for the memorandum of understanding between the two parties to require the foundation to provide the lower number between \$11.7 million or 50% of the total project cost — an estimated \$23.5 million, including \$1.4 million incurred in design costs.

"The Newport Beach Public Library Foundation is extremely pleased with the vote by the City Council to approve the memorandum of understanding with the foundation," said Foundation chief executive Jerold Kappel. "We fully anticipate that the hall will be used significantly by not only the library and the foundation but other organizations throughout the state. It is meant to be a civic space and our goal is to be the conduit for the community to invest in that space."

Newport Beach residents who weighed in on the project focused on whether or not the lecture hall would be a civic good or a prohibitively expensive and "lavish" public works project. Close to 190 emails were received in support and 210 against the project prior to the hearing, though this difference in opinion was not reflected during public comment Tuesday night, which leaned heavily in favor of the project.

Those speaking against it often vowed their support of the New-

See **Approval**, page A4



Courtesy of the Orange County Fire Authority

**THE ORANGE COUNTY** Fire Authority, Newport Beach and Laguna Beach fire departments responded to reports of a fallen construction worker Monday in the Emerald Bay area of Laguna Beach.

## 3 fire agencies respond to save construction worker who fell below street level

**BY LILLY NGUYEN**

Three fire agencies were deployed Monday to help rescue a fallen construction worker in Laguna Beach's Emerald Bay community.

Authorities received a call at around 12:20 p.m. about a worker who had fallen into an open dirt area below street level, according to Orange County Fire Authority Capt. Sean Doran. The Laguna Beach and New-

port Beach fire departments, along with the Orange County Fire Authority, responded to execute a high-angle rescue utilizing fire truck ladders.

Paramedics on the scene treated and transported the man to a local hospital with moderate injuries. No further information was immediately available.

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## 'Coffee's great, people are better': Shop expands into Laguna Beach

**BY ANDREW TURNER**

A coffee venture that started in Orange County's southernmost community has worked its way up the coast into Laguna Beach.

Bear Coast Coffee, which began serving the local residents in December, held its grand-opening event on Saturday.

The location of the business is befitting of the name, as it is sharing space in the historic Coast Liquor building at 1391 South Coast Highway. Natural light floods into the cafe through its large windows, with views of the Pacific Ocean and the busy thoroughfare along which it is stationed.

"When it comes to the location where we are, and the reason why we felt the call to persist through the three years that we experienced of approvals and all that, it had parking, it had a beautiful view, it had permits," said Jeff Cloward, founder and co-owner of Bear Coast Coffee.

"All these things, in Laguna, are so difficult to find and have space inside for people to be and breathe, room for strollers to turn around. ... The building itself, and the views and the windows,

See **Coffee**, page A3



Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**BEAR COAST COFFEE**, which has locations in Dana Point and San Clemente, held its grand opening Saturday in Laguna Beach.



**THE NEW** Bear Coast location has views of the Pacific Ocean.

# THE COACH HOUSE

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THU, JAN 11  
**CANNED HEAT**



FRI, JAN 12  
**TOMMY CASTRO**



THU, JAN 18  
**ERIC SARDINAS**

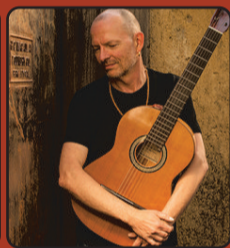


JAN 19 & JAN 20  
**MARC COHN**

- 1/11 CANNED HEAT
- 1/12 TOMMY CASTRO
- 1/13 WILD CHILD (THE DOORS TRIBUTE)
- 1/14 CUBENSIS (GRATEFUL DEAD TRIBUTE)
- 1/18 ERIC SARDINAS /  
W/ SPECIAL GUEST MARCO MENDOZA
- 1/19 MARC COHN
- 1/20 MARC COHN
- 1/21 BIG MOUNTAIN
- 1/26 PETTY BREAKERS (TOM PETTY TRIBUTE)
- 1/28 THE FOUR FRESHMEN
- 2/2 QUEEN NATION (QUEEN TRIBUTE)
- 2/3 GLENN HUGHES DEEP PURPLE SET  
- 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BURN
- 2/6 RICKIE LEE JONES
- 2/9 FAST TIMES  
(80s CONCERT EXPERIENCE)
- 2/10 JOURNEY USA (JOURNEY TRIBUTE)
- 2/14 OTTMAR LIEBERT & LUNA NEGRA
- 2/15 KARLA BONOFF
- 2/16 PRINCE AGAIN (PRINCE TRIBUTE)
- 2/17 THE MOTELS
- 2/18 ALBERT CUMMINGS
- 2/22 SHAWN PHILLIPS
- 2/23 BEATLES VS STONES  
- A MUSICAL SHOWDOWN
- 2/24 DADA
- 2/25 KEN GARCIA
- 2/29 FOOZ FIGHTERS / PEARL JAMMED
- 3/1 G. LOVE & SPECIAL SAUCE
- 3/2 "2 ENGLISHMEN ABROAD" AN EVENING WITH  
ROBERT FRIPP & DAVID SINGLETON
- 3/3 WALTER TROUT RECORD RELEASE PARTY
- 3/7 THE BODEANS
- 3/8 THE TUBES



SUN, JAN 21  
**BIG MOUNTAIN**



WED, FEB 14  
**OTTMAR LIEBERT**

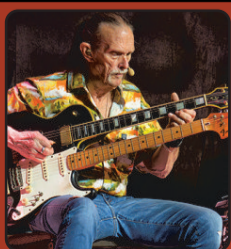


SAT, FEB 17  
**THE MOTELS**

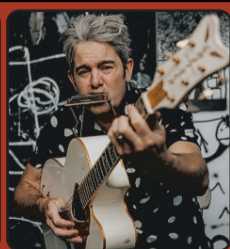


SUN, FEB 18  
**ALBERT CUMMINGS**

- 3/9 SUPER DIAMOND (NEIL DIAMOND TRIBUTE)
- 3/13 REVEREND HORTON HEAT /  
DALE WATSON / JASON D WILLIAMS
- 3/14 COLIN JAMES
- 3/15 THE FENIANS  
ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION
- 3/23 THE HIGHWAYMAN SHOW  
(CASH, NELSON, JENNINGS, KRISTOFFERSON TRIBUTE)
- 3/28 HERMAN'S HERMITS STARRING PETER NOONE
- 3/29 HERMAN'S HERMITS STARRING PETER NOONE
- 3/30 WAYNE NEWTON
- 3/31 LYNCH MOB - THE FINAL RIDE
- 4/4 THE KINGSTON TRIO
- 4/5 ULI JON ROTH  
- INTERSTELLAR SKY GUITAR TOUR
- 4/6 RONSTADT REVIVAL (LINDA RONSTADT TRIBUTE)
- 4/7 CINDERELLA'S TOM KEIFER
- 4/10 JOAN OSBORNE ACOUSTIC TRIO
- 4/11 JIMMIE VAUGHAN
- 4/12 ROGER CLYNE & THE PEACEMAKERS
- 4/13 TINSLEY ELLIS
- 4/14 THE FABULOUS THUNDERBIRDS
- 4/18 SPONGE
- 4/19 RICHIE FURAY
- 4/20 GEOFF TATE
- 4/21 VONDA SHEPARD
- 4/25 ISRAEL VIBRATION & ROOTS RADICS
- 4/27 KIDS OF CHARLEMAGNE (STEELY DAN TRIBUTE)
- 5/17 JOHN CRUZ
- 5/24 DSB (JOURNEY TRIBUTE)
- 5/31 YACHTY BY NATURE
- 6/14 AMBROSIA
- 6/29 SKELETON CREW (GRATEFUL DEAD TRIBUTE)
- 7/20 Y&T 50TH ANNIVERSARY



THU, FEB 22  
**SHAWN PHILLIPS**



FRI, MAR 1  
**G. LOVE & Special Sauce**



SAT, MAR 2  
**Robert Fripp & David Singleton**



SUN, MAR 3  
**WALTER TROUT**

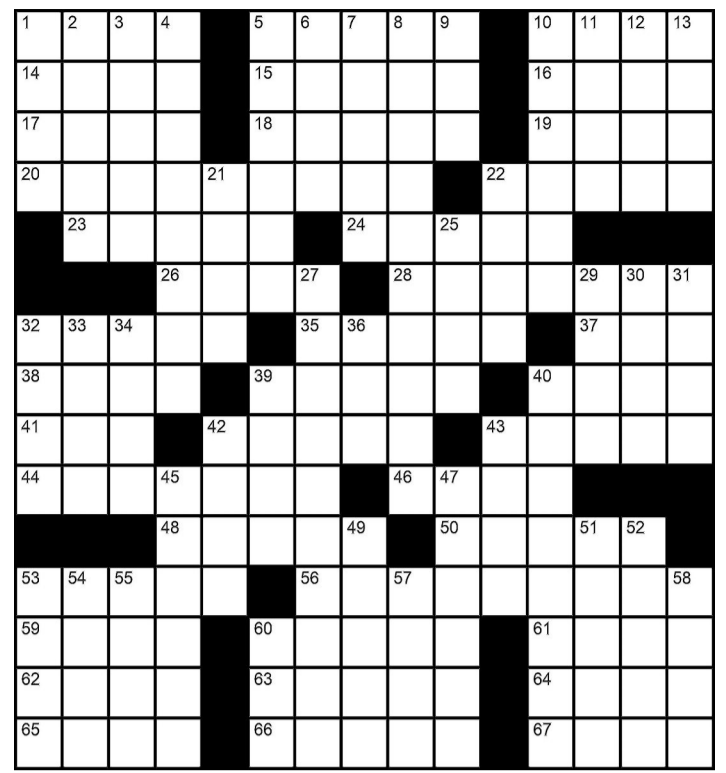
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## THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

### ACROSS

- 1 Tiny amount of data
- 5 Staircase parts
- 10 Create
- 14 "That's awesome!"
- 15 Railroad vehicle
- 16 Notion
- 17 Bring back to health
- 18 Fit for a king
- 19 Ninth month: Abbr.
- 20 Performer who challenges gender norms
- 22 Tries to catch
- 23 Snowboarder White
- 24 Parts to play
- 26 "Swoosh" sneaker brand
- 28 Very difficult problem
- 32 Spirited courage
- 35 Circle-shaped
- 37 What we breathe
- 38 Thick cord
- 39 Hall of Famer Jeter
- 40 16 ounces
- 41 Antique
- 42 Surface of a gem
- 43 Fourth-down plays, often
- 44 Creator of bouquets
- 46 Use a swizzle stick
- 48 Spirit of a culture
- 50 Bank robbery, e.g.
- 53 St. Louis's MLB team, for short
- 56 "Heard and



For answers to the crossword, see page A4.

- acknowledged!"
- 59 Black-and-white cookie
- 60 The Jetsons' dog
- 61 Golfer Isao
- 62 Viewed
- 63 Admitted
- 64 Playwright Coward
- 65 Give and \_\_\_
- 66 Do penance
- 67 Funny sketch

- 8 Keyboard pieces for two
- 9 "Weekend Update" show, for short
- 10 Treat badly
- 11 Yemen's temporary capital
- 12 Didn't give away
- 13 Consumes
- 21 Chocolate drink mix, once
- 22 Retained
- 25 Part of a chain
- 27 Toy for a future engineer
- 29 Principal
- 30 After-dinner candy
- 31 Creative pursuits
- 32 Univ. teacher
- 33 Loaf around
- 34 High hairstyle
- 36 Mined resource
- 39 Short footrace
- 40 Early Boston

- settlers
- 42 Is the right size
- 43 Boardwalk extension
- 45 Made over
- 47 Mr. Right, say
- 49 \_\_\_ voce (under one's breath)
- 51 Showed fear, in a way
- 52 "Star Trek" actor George
- 53 Price
- 54
- Two-dimensional measurement
- 55 Smell awful
- 57 Big smile
- 58 Lean to the side
- 60 Chicken \_\_\_ king

Tribune Media Services

## GIRLS' BASKETBALL



James Carbone

HUNTINGTON BEACH girls' basketball coach Russell McClurg, seen versus Edison on Saturday, earned his 500th career coaching win on Tuesday against Laguna Beach.

# 'A long time coming': Coach McClurg earns 500th win

BY ANDREW TURNER

Huntington Beach girls' basketball coach Russell McClurg has worked with countless players throughout a decorated career. His newest pupils helped him achieve a major milestone, as McClurg notched his 500th prep coaching win on Tuesday in the Wave League opener at Laguna Beach High.

Freshman guard Emma Miyai scored 17 of her game-high 19 points in the first half, and the Oilers edged the Breakers for a 41-39 win.

The Huntington Beach players broke out a sign, party hats and noisemakers to celebrate McClurg's latest achievement.

"The monkey's clearly off my back," said McClurg, who thanked [former Huntington Beach athletic director] Roy Miller for bringing him to the school. "... Forever grateful. All the kids I've coached all over the years, I can think back to all the memories and all the great times I've had at H.B. with some great teams. ... To get here is a dream come true for me because I worked so hard to get that. It's been a long time coming."

The wins were compiled between stops at Calvary Chapel and Huntington Beach. McClurg said he was 106-59 in his time at Calvary Chapel, where he led the Eagles to three CIF South-

ern Section finals, winning the Division IVA championship over Santa Monica Crossroads in 1999. That team also advanced to the Division IV state final.

Huntington Beach has reached two section finals under McClurg — in 2012 and 2017, both in Division 1A.

Win No. 500 didn't come easy. Huntington Beach (13-8) took the court three times before getting it done, but the one that finished the job looked like many before. A point guard pounded the rock, making plays late in the shot clock, limiting possessions and leaving the game up to execution.

The Oilers had the final shot in the first half, and Miyai dribbled to her left before throwing in the buzzer-beater from the baseline for a 26-20 lead. Lauren Matsumoto then drove left for a layup on the final possession of the third quarter, sending Huntington Beach to the fourth quarter up 32-27.

A three-pointer by freshman center Emily Hoang to start the final period gave the Oilers a 35-27 advantage, but Laguna Beach (6-12) would not go away.

The Breakers scored nine unanswered points to take the lead, fueled by two three-pointers by Alex Grombchevsky and capped by an offensive putback by Mila Davis.

Melanie Rose's bucket

with just over a minute remaining put Huntington Beach back in front. After Laguna Beach missed two attempts under the basket at the other end, Hoang and Miyai each made a pair of free throws to put the game away.

Matsumoto had six points, five rebounds, three assists and two steals. Hoang contributed eight points, four rebounds and two steals. Isobel Melitas also had four points and two steals, while Rose blocked four shots.

"Today, it was the first league game, and he was at 499," Miyai said of McClurg. "I was like, 'Oh, we need to get this.' I was in the car, 'Oh my gosh. I can't wait to play.'"

Grombchevsky led Laguna Beach with 14 points and three steals. Kate Cheng added 13 points, including a three-pointer as the clock ran out to end the game. Davis scored six points to go with 10 rebounds.

"They came back real well," Laguna Beach coach Rus Soobzokov said. "I was pretty proud of that. They got to understand that league games, you've got to be focused, ready to go from the beginning. I don't think that we were in the first quarter. It took us maybe a quarter and a half to get things going."

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