

# Daily Pilot

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2023 /// dailypilot.com

## OC ACCESS drivers walk off the job

About 250 employees of bus service for disabled and elderly riders went on strike this week after contract talks stalled.

BY SARA CARDINE

Hundreds of bus drivers responsible for shuttling disabled and elderly riders through the Orange County Transportation Authority's OC ACCESS paratransit service went on strike this week, citing stalled contract negotiations with the third-party company that employs them.

Some 250 employees represented by Teamsters Local 952 walked off the job Wednesday afternoon, returning their vehicles to an Irvine site operated by Transdev North America and assuming their places in a 24-hour picket line outside the office that serves as a hub for OC ACCESS.

Secretary-Treasurer and Local 952 Principal Officer Eric Jimenez said Friday bargaining talks began in October, ahead of a Dec. 31 contract expiration date, and officially reached a stalemate last week.

"The company gave us their last, best and final offer, and it was rejected by our members," Jimenez said, adding that a strike authorization vote was taken by

See **Drivers**, page A4

## 4 more hopefuls enter race for CA-45 next year

Democratic challengers will face off with Rep. Michelle Steel, who secured her seat in last year's midterm election.

BY LILLY NGUYEN

The race in California's 45th Congressional District got more crowded with the announcement of two new candidates to the Orange County district last month, but that doesn't include two other candidates who appeared to have slipped under the radar, according to records from the Federal Elections Commission.

The seat, which includes Garden Grove, Westminster, Cerritos, Fountain Valley, Buena Park, Fullerton, Placentia and Brea, is currently occupied by Rep. Michelle Steel, who won her second term in the U.S. Congress in last year's midterm elections over Democrat Jay Chen with 53.6% of the votes. Chen has not yet announced if he intends to run again in the 2024 election for the seat.

See **Race**, page A3



Photos by Drew A. Kelley

**ARTISTS DAVID DAHLQUIST**, left, and Matt Niebuhr take pictures of their new public art installation "To See Yourself in Nature," which is now on display at Huntington Central Park on Thursday. The piece is the latest of more than 40 site-specific works on display throughout Surf City.

## New public art piece is 'a dream come true' in H.B.

BY MATT SZABO

Lyn Semeta was mayor of Huntington Beach in 2020.

The coronavirus struck, making for a difficult year for Surf City residents along with everyone else. But behind the scenes, Semeta, a watercolor/mixed media artist, had a vision for a piece to be put in Central Park.

Three years later, that vision has become reality.

Huntington Beach officials held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new piece, called "To See Yourself in Nature," on Thursday night.

The piece is the newest of more than 40 site-specific works located at beaches, parks and businesses throughout the city. This installation explores nature's horizontal plane of reflection, a reference to the conceptual design of the library, which sits directly behind the piece.

"We started this art committee during that year, and it just continued on," Semeta said. "It's really just a dream come true for me. When I first went into public service, a big

See **Art**, page A3



**CITY COUNCILWOMAN** Natalie Moser, right, and former Mayor Lyn Semeta cut the ribbon at the debut of Huntington Beach's newest public art installation, "To See Yourself in Nature."

## Center aiding O.C. residents marks anniversary

BY ERIC LICAS

Robin Rush spent the past 10 years managing the Alana Club, a chapter of Alcoholics Anonymous in Anaheim, and has seen the 12-step program fill a need for community many in recovery need to get sober. But there were many vital forms of support it doesn't provide.

Some of the people who came to meetings at the Alana Club were struggling with homelessness and going hungry. Many often had trouble getting access to computers to file important paperwork, Rush said. And others were battling addiction to opioids as well as alcohol.

"What I saw that was missing was long-term recovery," Rush said.

That's why she founded Recovery Road, a resource center aiding about 500 families in cit-

ies throughout Orange County. The nonprofit headquartered in Anaheim celebrated its third anniversary Friday.

The center provides supplies like food or diapers, haircuts and training on various life skills. Additionally, one of the most important forms of support it offers is the distribution of Narcan. That's the brand name variant of the opioid inhibitor naloxone, which immediately reverses the effects of a heroin or fentanyl overdose even if someone has stopped breathing, Rush said.

The father of Rush's child died during an overdose while he was homeless and living in the Santa Ana riverbed, she said. He might have lived if he had naloxone, and getting it into the hands of anyone who might need it has become one of her life's mis-

See **Center**, page A4



Eric Licas

**RECOVERY ROAD** founder Robin Rush, right, joins fellow advocate for the distribution of the overdose reversal drug naloxone, Aimee Dunkle, at the nonprofit's storefront and warehouse in Anaheim on Wednesday.

GABY MORENO  
NEIL FRANCES  
BIANCO  
JAZZY ASH  
THE NANDOS  
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THE CROWD | B.W. COOK

# MORE THAN \$530K RAISED IN BLACK-TIE FIGHT AGAINST CANCER

**S**aving lives for people fighting cancer is nothing short of “a calling” for **Frank Di Bella**. The passion is born out of his own fight for survival after being diagnosed with metastatic bladder cancer in 2011 and told he had a month to live. As a last resort, Di Bella found **Dr. Sumanta K. Pal** at City of Hope in Duarte. Dr. Pal saved his life.

In the spirit of “paying it forward,” Di Bella, along with a wide cross-section of Orange County community support, has exceeded expectations. Founding an annual fundraising campaign in 2015 to generate significant dollars earmarked for research by Dr. Pal and the City of Hope, now in Orange County in addition to the Los Angeles County location, “Let’s Be Frank About Cancer” has raised more than \$9 million dollars. The latest event unfolded recently, once again at the Balboa Bay Resort, Newport Beach, where it first debuted eight years ago. The 2023 cancer-awareness and fund-for-the-cure black-tie happening honored philanthropists and major donors **Kelly and Duane Roberts**, supporters of the Di Bella mission for many years.

The Roberts are owners of the historic and beautiful Mission Inn, Riverside. Known as “Keepers of the Inn,” they received the 2023 Frank Di Bella Humanitarian Award. As the platinum sponsors of the evening, the Roberts were joined by other major donors including **the Hardin**



“REAL HOUSEWIVES of Orange County” star Shannon Beador at the Let’s Be Frank About Cancer event.

**family** of Newport Beach, St. Augustine RV, Musick, Peeler, Garrett LLP, and Di Bella with **Claudette Kraus**. More than \$530,000 was raised and donated to City of Hope. Some 300 guests made the success possible. **Dennis Kuhl**, chairman of Angels baseball, **Shannon Beador** of television’s “The Real Housewives of Orange County,” **John DeCero**, chief executive of Mechanics Bank, and former “Entertainment Tonight” correspondent **Jann Carl** as mistress of ceremonies were all front and center for the cause. Also leading the cancer



LET’S BE FRANK About Cancer gala chairman Frank Di Bella and gala co-chair Richard Thomas.

fight, **Annette Walker**, president of City of Hope Orange County, ad-

dressed the crowd. “Philanthropy holds tremendous power and gives

people the chance to live better, longer and healthier lives. City of Hope’s supporters have been central to our story and have helped fuel our vision to bring the most advanced cancer care to the Orange County community. Thanks to generous donors like Kelly and Duane, Frank and the entire gala committee, we are providing our patients access to leading-edge research and pioneering treatments,” Walker said.

Frank Di Bella added, “I am so honored that so many people came to support Let’s Be Frank About Cancer.” Di Bella

continued, “Thanks to the help of these contributions from private individuals and local businesses, City of Hope and Dr. Pal can continue to provide the ultimate care, leading-edge research and most importantly, hope to patients like me. And now, with City of Hope right here in Orange County, even more local lives will be impacted.”

“City of Hope Orange County Lennar Foundation Cancer Center is Orange County’s most advanced comprehensive cancer center. It opened in Irvine last year,” offered **Kristin Scheithauer** on behalf of City of Hope and the Di Bella event.

“Patients receive fully integrated, multidisciplinary cancer care from prevention through survivorship in one convenient location, where every physician and staff member is solely focused on treating and curing cancer,” she said, adding, “The comprehensive cancer center provides patients with access to more than 500 physicians and 1,000 researchers who only focus on cancer. Patients have access to more than 800 phase one through three clinical trials conducted each year at City of Hope that speed promising treatments years before becoming standard of care.”

“The region’s only hospital exclusively focused on treating and curing cancer will open on the site in 2025.”

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

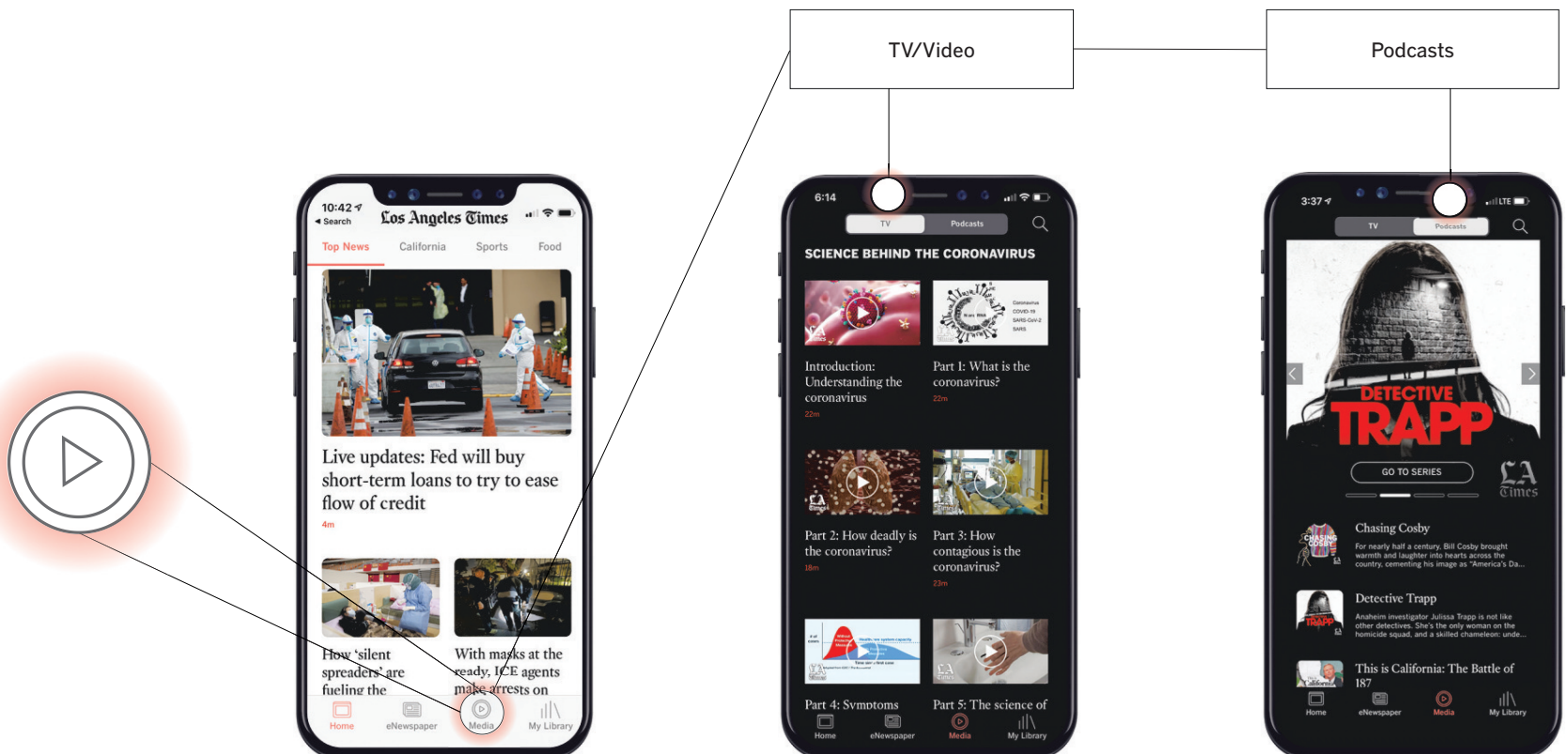
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**HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL**

# Ocean View shuts out South El Monte in playoff opener

**BY ANDREW TURNER**

**SOUTH EL MONTE** — After her team's playoff opener, Ocean View High softball coach Keala Cordeiro was able to laugh about the fact that one of her players had told her it didn't feel like the postseason had begun until they arrived at the field.

As winners of their first seven regular season games, the Seahawks had been playing like a team ready to meet the moment. Since the draw had come out over the weekend, Cordeiro had been championing at the bit to get it started.

Ocean View made an early lead stand up, as the visiting Seahawks defeated South El Monte 4-0 on Friday to begin their run in the CIF Southern Section Division 5 playoffs.

"I've been anxious all week, so I have a different

mindset," a jovial Cordeiro said. "They were ready, and I just got to keep them relaxed, no matter what, and just keep telling them that even though it is CIF, it's just another game, and we have to take it one game at a time."

Two-run innings in the first and second allowed Ocean View starter Kaitlyn Knobbe to settle in. She scattered eight hits and two walks in a complete game, a feat accomplished without the benefit of a strikeout. The Seahawks recorded a shutout for the fourth time this season, their first since a 15-0 win over Century on Feb. 18.

"It feels amazing," Knobbe said of pitching a shutout in the playoffs. "I'm still shaking from it. The whole game, my adrenaline was just keeping me going."

Knobbe stranded four runners between the first

and second innings, before retiring eight in a row, a stretch that ended in the fifth. She was assisted by a couple of untraditional plays from her defense.

Nadine Gutierrez dropped a hit in front of right fielder Sydney Fullbright to lead off the bottom of the second. The ball bounced away from Fullbright, but second baseman Sienna Erskine tracked it down. She got the ball to shortstop Ashley Capelouto, whose relay throw reached third baseman Kaylah Arteaga in time to cut down Gutierrez trying to stretch the hit into a triple.

Following a walk in the fifth, Knobbe threw late to third with Alyssa Hernandez executing a delayed steal. Loreli Castrejon, who had walked on the pitch, attempted to move up to second, but Arteaga threw over to the bag. She was tagged

out before Hernandez could cross the plate, ending the inning.

"I always tell them that we have to look ahead," Cordeiro said of her team's defense. "We can't just settle on that one play. Even the one where the girl stole, and [the trail runner] thought she was going to make it to [second], we always have to have that second out. Always what's after the play, not just that play."

South El Monte (15-9), the Mission Valley League champion, had won 12 games in a row entering the playoffs.

Ocean View (17-5) remains on the road to face Alhambra Mark Keppel in the second round on Tuesday. The Seahawks will hope success at the top of the order travels, too.

Center fielder Kaya Colorado and left fielder Emily Mayorga combined for four



Andrew Turner

**OCEAN VIEW'S** Kaitlyn Knobbe throws a pitch against South El Monte in the first round of the CIF Southern Section Division 5 softball playoffs on Friday.

of the Seahawks' five hits. Each had an opposite-field single to drive in a run in the second. Arteaga's single to begin the inning accounted for the other hit.

"My emotions were happy and relieved because as a freshman here, I'm ac-

tually kind of nervous playing with these big girls," Mayorga said. "But they definitely cheer me up, and I'm really happy to have them."

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Drew A. Kelley

**THE SCULPTURE** "To See Yourself in Nature," with its textures in relief, stands in contrast to the sky above Huntington Central Park at its debut on Thursday.

**ART**

Continued from page A1

goal of mine was always to bring more public art to the city, and here we are. It took longer than I thought, but we're here."

Other members of the Huntington Central Park Public Art Committee at Thursday's ceremony also included Huntington Beach Art Center executive director Kate Hoffman and former Huntington Beach Councilman Devin Dwyer.

City Councilwoman Natalie Moser served as emcee of the ceremony. "To See Yourself in Nature" was approved by the City Council in July 2021, after Semeta led the seven-member ad hoc

committee. The piece, which is just east of the Secret Garden, was designed by Matt Niebuhr and partner David Dahlquist with RDG Planning & Design. It features two curved pillars, each 13 feet tall, that are crafted of etched bronze and hand-finished stainless steel.

Depending on the light conditions and time of day, the textures, planes and curves of the installation offer different reflections of light, nature and people — including viewers themselves.

"What someone might think of as a butterfly might remind me — or could remind others — of feathers," Niebuhr said. "In a different scale, it almost looks like feathers,

and in another scale all of the little squiggles almost start to look like particles of water. It was intentional, to try to have it be open. There's never any right or wrong answer in art, but can you invite someone to contemplate a little bit or notice something? That's part of what we're trying to do, just point to some of the things that are here."

The project cost about \$330,000, Huntington Beach acting director of community and library services development Ashley Wysocki said. Those funds were all restricted funds specified for public arts.

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**RACE**

Continued from page A1

Garden Grove Councilwoman Kim Bernice Nguyen was the first Democrat entering the ring to unseat Steel, and she is joined by two other Democratic candidates — Chyenne Hunt and Aditya Pai — who announced their runs for the seat last month.

Hunt, 25, an activist and attorney with Public Citizen, said in an April announcement that she was running "because I believe we need leaders who will fight for working families, for our planet, and for justice and equality for all. I've seen firsthand how our current representative has failed our community by putting corporate interests ahead of our needs."

"It's time for a change, and I'm ready to be that change," Hunt said. She is running with the economy, energy and the environment, infrastructure, women's rights, seniors and veterans and reining in "big tech" as her key issues. If elected, she would be the first Generation Z — roughly marked as those born between 1997 to 2013 — woman elected to Congress.

Pai, 31, who also announced his run last month, is an attorney and Democrat, making him the third member of that party to announce his bid for the seat.

In a statement, he said,

"As our community emerges from a global pandemic, we ought to elect leaders whose vision is fixed firmly forward to brighter days ahead — not the petty squabbles of the past. I'm running because it is time for my generation to step up, and to show how we move past the division, loss, loneliness, and isolation that we have all just endured. Let's move forward to build a future where the American Dream is a lived reali-

ty for all of us."

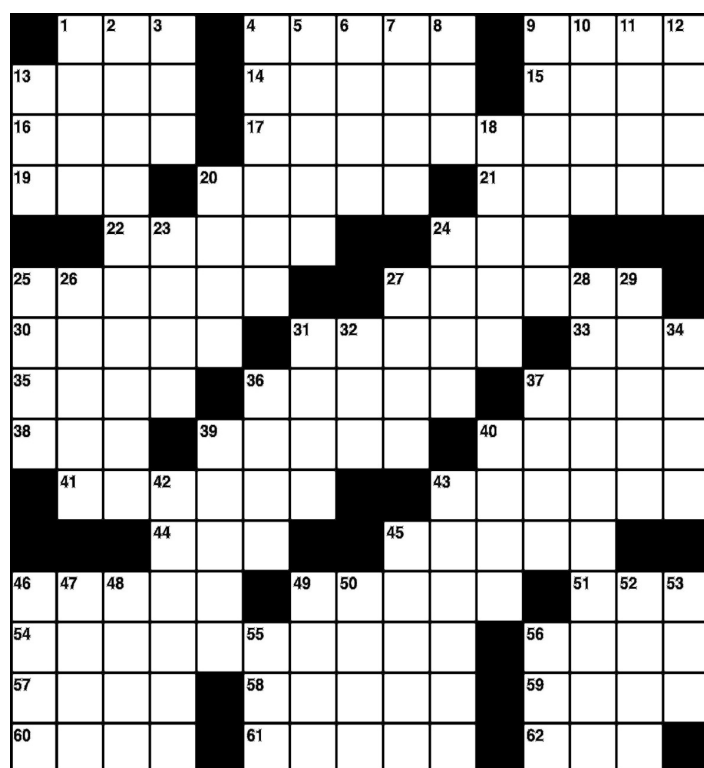
In addition to Hunt and Pai, two other candidates appear to have not formally announced their runs: Brian Forde, who ran for CA-45 prior to redistricting in 2018, and Jimmy D. Pham, who recently had an unsuccessful run for Westminster City Council. Both are Democrats, according to the FEC.

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**THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE**

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

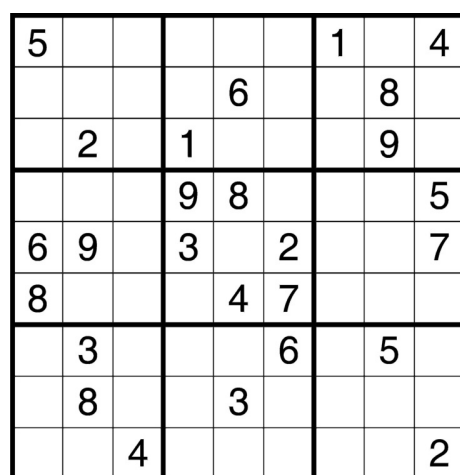
- ACROSS**  
1 Many miles away  
4 Hockey or soccer  
9 Speak unclearly  
13 Wild feline  
14 Mystical glows  
15 "It's Impossible" singer Perry  
16 Get a glimpse of  
17 Rockets  
19 Hardwood tree  
20 Hopscotch grid "pen"  
21 Edgy  
22 Nastase's namesakes  
24 Drifter  
25 Convent clothes  
27 Movie theater  
30 Mrs. Ralph Kramden  
31 Car parker  
33 "Station 19" network  
35 Breakfast ; kitchen alcove  
36 \_ bears; Arctic animals  
37 June 6, 1944  
38 Wildebeest  
39 Lingerie fabric, perhaps  
40 Orchestra section  
41 Run away  
43 Instructed  
44 " \_ scale of one to ten"  
45 Plato's "S"  
46 Theft or forgery  
49 Unexpected obstacles  
51 Tub with seats  
54 Nobel Prize category  
56 Inverness native  
57 To boot  
58 Low point  
59 \_ smoothie; healthy shake  
60 Singer & actor Martin  
61 Frock  
62 Rage



**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](http://sudoku.org.uk).



**For answers to the crossword and Sudoku puzzles, see page A4.**

- 2 Able to live on land or in water  
3 Sunbeam  
4 Scout uniform accessories  
5 Immature insects  
6 Spoken  
7 Wine bottle holder  
8 Poet Eliot's initials  
9 Wily plot  
10 Cut of pork  
11 Diamond officials  
12 Stood up  
13 Split \_ soup  
18 Daredevil's feat  
20 Use as a reference  
23 Keep an ice cream cone from dripping  
24 Coffin stand  
25 \_ up; end a phone call  
26 Unescorted  
27 Hatfields or McCoys  
28 Island near Africa  
29 Embarrass  
31 Cast a ballot  
32 Actress Larter  
34 Fluid-filled sac  
36 Daddy  
37 Percussion instrument  
39 Not as crazy  
40 Sacks  
42 "Hurry up already!"  
43 Detroit team  
45 Flowing dresses  
46 \_ in; wearing  
47 Exasperate  
48 " \_ Long Way to Tipperary"  
49 Celestial body  
50 Bare  
52 Flag holder  
53 Chowd down  
55 Connecting word  
56 \_ lodge; Aspen retreat

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