

Daily Pilot

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2024 // dailypilot.com



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

PUBLIC COMMENTATORS including Libby Frolichman, right, express their concerns at the podium over Ordinance No. 4326, declaring Huntington Beach a Parents' Right to Know city, during Tuesday night's City Council meeting.

Surf City calls for Do to step down

6-1 council vote comes amid increasing scrutiny of the O.C. supervisor, whose home was raided by the FBI last month.

BY MATT SZABO

The Huntington Beach City Council has joined the growing number of voices calling for the resignation of Orange County Supervisor Andrew Do.

Council members formally approved a resolution demanding Do's resignation by a 6-1 vote on Tuesday night.

Do represents the county's First Supervisorial District, which includes Huntington Beach, Fountain Valley and Seal Beach as well as other cities. He is involved in an ongoing controversy over millions of unaccounted for federal coronavirus relief funds.

LAist first reported that Do had voted to approve millions of dollars to nonprofit Viet America Society, which at times had his 23-year-old daughter, Rhiannon, listed as an executive. He reportedly did not disclose the family connection.

On Aug. 15, county officials filed a lawsuit against Viet America Society, accusing executives of using taxpayer money to fund their own bank accounts. A week later, the FBI searched the homes of Do and his daughter.

Council members Dan Kalmick, Natalie Moser and Rhonda Bolton brought forward the agenda item Tuesday, joined by Mayor Gracey Van Der Mark and council members Tony Strickland and Casey McKeon as

See **Do**, page A2

H.B. council majority backs Parents' Right to Know law

BY MATT SZABO

The conservative Huntington Beach City Council majority has approved the introduction of a controversial "Parents' Right to Know" ordinance, which supporters say allows parents to keep control but detractors say could have dangerous consequences.

Ordinance No. 4326 states that Huntington Beach is a Parents' Right to Know city, regarding children's gender identity or expression. The vote at Tuesday night's meeting was what has become a familiar 4-3, with Mayor Gracey Van Der Mark, Mayor Pro Tem Pat Burns and councilmen Tony Strickland and Casey McKeon voting in favor. Their council

The conservative members call 4-3 vote to approve Ordinance No. 4326 a reaction to government overreach via Assembly Bill 1955, while some dissenters accuse majority of overreaching themselves.

colleagues Dan Kalmick, Natalie Moser and Rhonda Bolton dissented.

The City Council does not have direct authority over school districts, but the ordinance states that educators who work in the city's libraries, parks or other facilities will not be allowed to withhold information from parents related to a child's sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. Examples given Tuesday included instructors in the SANDS recreation classes, or Junior Life-

guards instructors.

But Carlos Rubio, president of Teamsters Local 911, said in an email to the City Council that the Huntington Beach Municipal Teamsters had not received a comprehensive list of positions that would be affected by the ordinance.

"Additionally, we have not been invited to engage in a meet and confer process regard-

See **Know**, page A3

Fountain Valley council votes for pay bump

A PAY RAISE for members of the Fountain Valley City Council came under consideration 15 months ago, when then a 3-2 vote struck it down. This week it passed.

Andrew Turner



BY ANDREW TURNER

Those serving on the Fountain Valley City Council will soon receive a \$1,200 monthly stipend, a 140% increase over their current pay, as the panel decided on a salary adjustment for the first time this century.

Council members have received \$500 per month since at least as far back as 1997. Colin Burns, legal counsel for the city, noted Fountain Valley previously provided benefits to council members.

"The benefits were deleted later," Burns said. "That was af-

ter 2008, following the financial crisis, so not only has the \$500 not gone up, but, actually, it's gone down because benefits were deleted."

Changes in compensation cannot go into effect until the next council election, per state law. It will result in an additional cost to the city of \$42,000 annually.

State law holds that the allowable compensation for council members representing a municipality of 50,000 to 75,000 people is \$1,600 per month.

See **Pay**, page A4

ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

ESTANCIA FOOTBALL BLANKS RIVAL COSTA MESA, EARNS THIRD STRAIGHT BATTLE FOR THE BELL WIN PAGE A4

Proposed surfing lagoon on golf course property to get EIR

BY ERIC LICAS

Developers who want to build a surf lagoon generating waves on command in Newport Beach must conduct a study of its potential impact on residents and receive input from the public before the City Council can even consider reviewing the project for approval.

Developer CAA Planning submitted an application in April on behalf of Back Bay Barrels LLC to redevelop what is currently a part of Newport Beach Golf Course between Irvine Avenue and Mesa Drive. The proposal includes construction of a 7-acre surf lagoon, a 50-foot-tall three-story building that will contain food service, retail space and fitness facilities, as well as a 45-foot-tall two-story building to provide overnight accommodations for athletes.

The City Council voted last week to move forward with an environmental impact report for the

project. The study will examine what effect the proposed facility may have on traffic, air quality and other factors.

"They'll analyze every little detail that affects the environment, affects the area around there," Councilman Erik Weigand said during the meeting. "Tonight we are not approving any project. That will have to come at a later date, after the EIR is generated, after there's public input, after there's discussion about it."

Environmental Planning Development Solutions Inc. will produce the report. CAA Planning will cover the \$277,630 price tag for the analysis.

Residents will have opportunities to weigh in on what the report should investigate and can respond to its findings after it's completed. If the project moves forward from there, people will have more chances to offer public

See **EIR**, page A2



File Photo

BACK BAY Barrels LLC seeks to redevelop what is currently a part of Newport Beach Golf Course to build a 7-acre surf lagoon and buildings for food service, retail and fitness facilities as well as guest accommodations.

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SAT, SEP 21
DON WAS & THE PAN DETROIT ENSEMBLE

- 9/6 **TIFFANY**
- 9/7 **SOUTHERN ROCK THROWDOWN** (LYNYRD SKYNYRD, BAD CO., ZZ TOP TRIBUTES)
- 9/12 **GRAHAM BONNET WITH MARCO MENDOZA**
- 9/13 **RICHIE KOTZEN WITH SPECIAL GUEST MARK DALY**
- 9/14 **JOURNEY USA (JOURNEY TRIBUTE)**
- 9/15 **BENISE: FIESTA!**
- 9/19 **THE MAN IN BLACK (JOHNNY CASH TRIBUTE)**
- 9/20 **WILD CHILD (THE DOORS TRIBUTE)**
- 9/21 **DON WAS & THE PAN DETROIT ENSEMBLE**
- 9/22 **JANE MONHEIT**
- 9/25 **ANA POPOVIC**
- 9/26 **DEBBIE GIBSON ACOUSTIC YOUTH**
- 9/27 **DAVE MASON**
- 9/28 **ORIANTHI**
- 9/29 **RICHARD STEKOL BENEFIT**
- 10/1 **FT HONK/MISSILES/133's/FUNKY KINGS**
- 10/3 **DELVON LAMARR ORGAN TRIO**
- 10/4 **ZEBRA W/SPECIAL GUESTS FUZZBUBBLE**
- 10/4 **DAVE MASON**
- 10/5 **KIMBERLY PERRY (OF THE BAND PERRY)**
- 10/6 **DAVE HAUSE**
- 10/9 **AL DIMEOLA THE ELECTRIC YEARS**
- 10/10 **HENRY KAPONO**
- 10/11 **HENRY KAPONO**
- 10/12 **PABLO CRUISE**
- 10/13 **JIMMY WEBB**
- 10/15 **MARIA MULDAUR – CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF MIDNIGHT AT THE OASIS**
- 10/16 **JIMMIE VAUGHAN**
- 10/17 **FOUNDATION**
- 10/18 **GARY PUCKETT & THE UNION GAP**
- 10/19 **BRETT DENNEN**
- 10/20 **THE YOUNG DUBLINERS**
- 10/25 **MIRAGE (FLEETWOOD MAC TRIBUTE)**
- 10/26 **STRYPER 40TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR**
- 10/27 **FREDDY JONES BAND**
- 10/30 **THE MUSICAL BOX PERFORMS GENESIS LIVE 1973**
- 10/31 **OINGO BOINGO FORMER MEMBERS / UNTOUCHABLES**
- 11/1 **OINGO BOINGO FORMER MEMBERS / UNTOUCHABLES**



SUN, SEP 22
JANE MONHEIT



WED, SEP 25
ANA POPOVIC



THU, SEP 26
DEBBIE GIBSON



SAT, SEP 28
ORIANTHI

- 11/2 **VENICE**
- 11/3 **THE WINEHOUSE EXPERIENCE (AMY WINEHOUSE TRIBUTE)**
- 11/7 **MATTHEW SWEET ACOUSTIC TRIO**
- 11/8 **COMMON SENSE**
- 11/9 **TYRONE WELLS**
- 11/13 **JOHN HIATT**
- 11/14 **THE SWEET**
- 11/15 **RONSTADT REVIVAL (LINDA RONSTADT TRIBUTE)**
- 11/16 **JOSHUA RADIN & RON POPE**
- 11/22 **SPACE ODDITY (DAVID BOWIE TRIBUTE)**
- 11/23 **RUFUS WAINWRIGHT**
- 11/24 **CTRL + Z FEAT. MARC BONILLA, THOMAS LANG, RIC FIERABRACCI, ALEX MACHACEK & JONATHAN SINDELMAN**
- 11/26 **LEONID & FRIENDS (CHICAGO TRIBUTE)**
- 11/27 **LEONID & FRIENDS (CHICAGO TRIBUTE)**
- 11/29 **THE PLATTERS**
- 11/30 **LEE ROCKER OF THE STRAY CATS**
- 12/4 **LIVINGSTON TAYLOR & LOUDON WAINWRIGHT III**
- 12/6 **WHICH ONE'S PINK? (PINK FLOYD TRIBUTE)**
- 12/7 **WHICH ONE'S PINK? (PINK FLOYD TRIBUTE)**
- 12/8 **SANDRA BERNHARD**
- 12/11 **DAVID BENOIT CHRISTMAS TRIBUTE TO CHARLIE BROWN**
- 12/12 **KY-MANI MARLEY**
- 12/13 **ABBA HOLLY JOLLY CHRISTMAS**
- 12/15 **THE GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA**
- 12/19 **A VERY WHITNEY CHRISTMAS**
- 12/21 **AMBROSIA HOLIDAY SHOW**
- 12/22 **GARY HO-HO-HOEY**
- 12/27 **BEATLES VS STONES - A MUSICAL SHOWDOWN**
- 12/28 **DRAMARAMA**
- 12/29 **L.A. GUNS**
- 12/31 **THE ENGLISH BEAT NEW YEARS EVE!**
- 1/10 **TOMMY CASTRO & THE PAINKILLERS**
- 1/11 **AC/DC vs OZZY**
- 1/12 **BURTON CUMMINGS OF THE ORIGINAL THE GUESS WHO**
- 1/17 **DADA**
- 1/18 **DSB**
- 1/23 **PAT TRAVERS**
- 1/24 **GENE LOVES JEZEBEL / BOW WOW WOW**
- 1/31 **DESPERADO (EAGLES TRIBUTE)**
- 2/1 **DESPERADO (EAGLES TRIBUTE)**
- 2/8 **LED ZEPAGAIN (LED ZEPPELIN TRIBUTE)**
- 2/16 **INCENDIO WITH ARDESHIR FARAH (OF STRUNZ & FARAH)**
- 3/6 **ALTAN**
- 3/28 **KIDS OF CHARLEMAGNE (STEELY DAN TRIBUTE)**
- 4/5 **HERMAN'S HERMITS STARRING PETER NOONE**
- 4/6 **HERMAN'S HERMITS STARRING PETER NOONE**

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THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

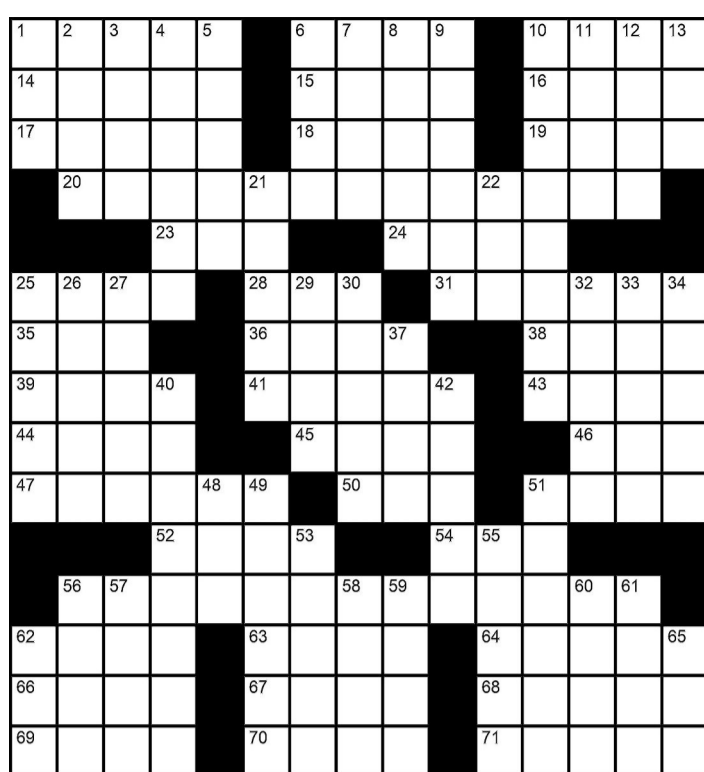
By Stella Zawistowski

ACROSS

- 1 Cuts and pastes, e.g.
- 6 Jane Austen novel
- 10 Engrossed
- 14 Earn
- 15 Scenic vista
- 16 Soothing plant
- 17 Hill for skiing
- 18 Singer Fitzgerald
- 19 Not doing anything
- 20 Worldwide
- 23 Spanish cheer
- 24 Part of a ticket
- 25 Keep for a rainy day
- 28 Computer program, for short
- 31 ___ and bonds
- 35 Get older
- 36 Rotary phone feature
- 38 Jockey's crop
- 39 Hammer's target
- 41 Old photo tone
- 43 Only
- 44 Rock legend Turner
- 45 Goes out with
- 46 Boy child
- 47 Response
- 50 Streets and avenues: Abbr.
- 51 Annoyance
- 52 Get dirty
- 54 Notable time span
- 56 Noisy downpours
- 62 Spiced tea drink
- 63 Wicked
- 64 Twistable cookies
- 66 Move rapidly
- 67 Seized property, for short
- 68 Car engine
- 69 Tastes of a drink
- 70 Whole bunch (of)
- 71 Numerical info

DOWN

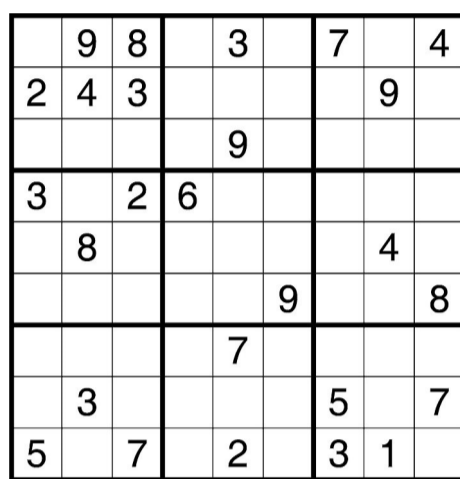
- 1 Ambulance crew: Abbr.
- 2 Sandwich shop
- 3 Golf club type
- 4 Walk very quietly
- 5 3-Down alloy
- 6 All tied up
- 7 Actress Kunis
- 8 Thaws
- 9 Hangs around



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 A3.

- 10 Pride Parade symbols
- 11 Actor Alan
- 12 Opinion survey
- 13 Casual top
- 21 Absorbs books
- 22 Not at home
- 25 Christmas
- 26 Once more
- 27 Some blood vessels
- 29 Crusty desserts
- 30 Origami material
- 32 Selected
- 33 Metric weights, for short
- 34 Paid out
- 37 Fudged the facts
- 40 Court cases
- 42 Thing of value
- 48 Very long time
- 49 Bus passengers, e.g.
- 51 Macaw or cockatoo
- 53 Raze to the ground
- 55 Hotel offerings
- 56 Language used in Bangkok
- 57 Angel's instrument
- 58 Ready to harvest
- 59 Snail-like
- 60 Facebook's owner
- 61 Chimney residue
- 62 '90s music media: Abbr.
- 65 Fourth-year students: Abbr.

- visitor
- 26 Once more
- 27 Some blood vessels
- 29 Crusty desserts
- 30 Origami material
- 32 Selected
- 33 Metric weights, for short
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- 61 Chimney residue
- 62 '90s music media: Abbr.
- 65 Fourth-year students: Abbr.



File Photo

ORANGE COUNTY Supervisor Andrew Do, whose district includes Huntington Beach, Fountain Valley and Seal Beach, is involved in an ongoing controversy over millions of unaccounted for federal coronavirus relief funds. The Huntington Beach City Council this week added to calls for his resignation.

DO

Continued from page A1

yes votes. Mayor Pro Tem Pat Burns was the lone dissenter.

"By taking a public stand against corruption, we send a clear message that Huntington Beach will not tolerate breaches of public trust," Moser said. "Our community deserves better, and it's our duty to fight for that standard."

"The expectation is that public servants avoid the appearance of impropriety," Bolton said. "That line has already been crossed." Strickland said he didn't have enough information

but still believed that Do should resign.

"Here in America, we're innocent until proven guilty," Strickland said. "Based on what I read, he should resign, but at the same time I haven't heard any of the major information. I would think that the Board of Supervisors have more information than we do, and they haven't moved forward on this."

He still ended up voting with his colleagues, with Burns as the only holdout.

"In law enforcement, of which I was for 30 years, evidence is very crucial," Burns said. "Right now, I don't have the evidence ... no arrest has been made."

Do's chief of staff, Chris Wangsaporn, declined comment Wednesday but said he'd forward a request for comment to Do, who did not immediately respond.

Do did not attend last week's Board of Supervisors meeting. His fellow supervisors Katrina Foley and Vicente Sarmiento have also called for his resignation. So have state Sen. Janet Nguyen and Cypress City Councilwoman Frances Marquez — the two candidates running for his seat in November, as he terms out in December.

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EIR

Continued from page A1

comment on the matter as it is reviewed by the Planning Commission and then possibly the City Council for approval.

Resident Holly Jarvis said she believed the surfing lagoon and its multistory buildings would be an "eyesore" in a letter to the council read by her fiancé, Bill Grabowski, at last week's meeting. Grabowski noted the project would appar-

ently reduce the number of holes at the golf course, which "has served the city and community well and provides a recreation for many of our youth at a reasonable price," he said.

The cost of surfing sessions at wave pools can range from as low as \$65 per hour to upwards of \$400 per hour. The Kelly Slater Surf Ranch in the Kings County city of Lemoore, which is about 100 miles away from the ocean, is accessible by invitation only and costs about

\$70,000 to rent out for a day, according to Wavepool Mag.

It and many other wave pools deliver reliably rideable waves in places without decent surf spots nearby. In comparison, the site of the proposed surf lagoon in Newport Beach is about 6 miles from beginner-friendly surf spot Blackies and less than 10 miles away from enormous barrels at the Wedge.

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KNOW

Continued from page A1

ing the ordinance and its potential implications for our members," Rubio wrote. "Accordingly, we respectfully request that Ordinance 4326 be voted down and not put into effect, until specific terms and conditions that could impact our members have been clearly identified and discussed with our leadership team."

Bolton said during the meeting she didn't think it was appropriate to pass the ordinance since that process with the union had not taken place, but the vote still went forward.

Huntington Beach Deputy City Atty. Connor Hyland said those who didn't follow the ordinance would be issued an infraction, rather than be charged with a misdemeanor. Hyland fielded questions about the ordinance during the meeting in the absence of City Atty. Michael Gates.

Kalmick called the ordinance "ridiculous and not in our wheelhouse."

"We need to be working on our budget, we need to

be working on recruitment of executive staff, recruitment of a city manager, not trying to solve, again, solutions to problems that don't exist ... I haven't had a single parent write in and say, 'We have a problem and need you to solve it,'" Kalmick said.

Ordinance No. 4326 also states the city attorney could file litigation with the state over AB 1955, either on behalf of the city itself or a parent of a student in a Huntington Beach public school.

Bolton questioned whether the city attorney could represent a private individual. Hyland responded that the council has in the past authorized the city attorney's office to represent individuals who weren't city employees or elected officials, though he couldn't think of examples off the top of his head.

Moser offered a detailed breakdown of her misgivings about the ordinance, including that she didn't think a child's gender identity or expression was a city affair.

"Despite the narrowing of this ordinance from the original proposal to apply

only to educators within city facilities, it remains deeply problematic," Moser said. "This ordinance represents a significant overreach of our jurisdiction, a misuse of public funds and a politically motivated attempt to insert government into the private lives of our residents."

She said the ordinance could put transgender and gender non-conforming students at greater risk, while creating an atmosphere of fear and division.

Van Der Mark did not speak in detail on the subject during Tuesday night's meeting but opened up during an interview Wednesday with the Daily Pilot.

She said the ordinance is in direct opposition to state Assembly Bill 1955, which was approved by California Gov. Gavin Newsom in July. The bill prohibits requiring public school educators to disclose a student's sexual

orientation, gender identity or gender expression to anyone, including parents, without the student's permission. However, the educators may initiate a conversation with parents if they choose.

"We're not going to give up on our rights to raise our own children," Van Der Mark told the Daily Pilot. "They're claiming that this is government overreach, but AB 1955 is the actual overreach. We're pushing

back. We wouldn't be doing any of this if the governor wouldn't have overstepped with AB 1955."

She further shared that she was drawing on her own experience as a teenage parent when considering the ordinance.

"I was afraid to tell my parents when I was pregnant," she said. "I was terrified because I knew that this was going to hurt for them

See Know, page A4



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

PUBLIC SPEAKER Barbara Shapiro walks away from the podium with her sign during Tuesday's Huntington Beach City Council meeting.

Daily Pilot advertisement containing contact information for Carol Cormaci, Beth Raff, Sara Cardine, Eric Licas, Sarah Mosqueda, Gabriel San Román, Matt Szabo, and Andrew Turner.

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

Crossword puzzle grid with answers filled in, including words like INTERNATIONAL, STOCKS, and THUNDERSTORMS.

Sudoku puzzle grid with numbers filled in, including the sequence 6 9 8 1 3 2 7 5 4.

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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Estancia earns third Battle for the Bell win

BY MATT SZABO

The Estancia and Costa Mesa high school football teams are not used to playing each other in Week One.

But with the Orange Coast League no longer in existence, the cross-town rivals split ways this year. Estancia finds itself in the Sigma League, while Costa Mesa is in the Tango League.

The teams matched up earlier than usual on Friday night at Jim Scott Stadium.

As it turns out, ribs taste just as good in August as they do later in the fall.

Estancia made the plays when it needed to pull out a 13-0 victory, its third straight Battle for the Bell win.

The Eagles (1-0) rode a dominant ground game to the win, as junior running back Jeff Brown had 218 yards rushing and a pair of touchdowns. Then, they rode to Newport Rib Co. for the customary meal awarded to the champion of the rivalry game.

"I'm just glad to get the win and get this off our back," Estancia coach Mike Bargas said. "There's a lot of emotion, a lot of periphery stuff. I'm just happy that we won again. It's nice to come

out of this thing with a win."

Bargas said the team calls Brown "CMC Westside," a nod to San Francisco 49ers star running back Christian McCaffrey and playing on the westside of Costa Mesa.

Both have blonde hair. McCaffrey will be a consensus No. 1 pick in fantasy football drafts this Labor Day weekend.

"I think he is a big inspiration," said Brown, listed at 5-foot-9, just two inches shorter than the NFL star. "He's obviously one of the best running backs in the league. I'm not a Niners fan, but I can still respect him."

It was easy to respect the rushing attack of the Eagles. Brown ran behind an offensive line consisting of left tackle Gustavo Rodriguez Mora, left guard Roland Bennett, center Roberto Moreno, right guard Braulio Aragon and right tackle Erney Casillas.

"We had some gaps open, and he's a slasher," Bargas said. "That's pretty cool to see. We tried to expose them for where their weaknesses were at, and he did a nice job. The line also stepped up too, they were pretty confident out there."

Costa Mesa (1-1) actually threatened to strike first, putting together a drive on

its opening possession highlighted by a 35-yard pass from junior quarterback Andrew Waiss to senior receiver Logan Glabb. But a 32-yard field goal attempt was blocked by Estancia senior Jorge Castor Cortinas.

The Eagles went 80 yards on their ensuing drive, capped by a three-yard touchdown run from Brown.

Costa Mesa's Xavier Bennett recovered a muffed punt near midfield later in the second quarter, but the Mustangs were unable to score. The visitors committed nine penalties in the first half alone, negating a running attack that was solid with sophomore back Gavin Garza.

"We shot ourselves in the foot so many times," Costa Mesa coach Gary Gonzalez said. "We could move the ball on them, but it was penalty after penalty. You can't do that against a team like them. They're well-coached, and it's a rivalry game, the energy is high on both sides. We've got to play a good game to beat those guys. The message this week was to really dial it in and execute, and I don't think we were able to execute as good as we could."

Brown ran it in from 11

*Don Leach | Staff Photographer*

ESTANCIA'S JEFF BROWN (22) runs around the end for big gain during the annual Battle for the Bell football game against cross-town rival Costa Mesa on Friday night.

yards out early in the fourth quarter. Though the conversion kick was missed, the insurance score was more than enough for the Eagles, who drove into the red zone at the end of the game before going into victory formation on the final play.

Estancia senior quarterback Heriberto Sanchez Martinez had junior Ben-

nett Molica as his favorite target. Sanchez Martinez also displayed the ability to scramble, tallying 31 yards on three carries.

"He's a new quarterback, so we had to adjust a lot to his ability to roll out of the pocket and throw the ball," said Estancia senior receiver and team captain Joseph Zarate Groth. "He managed to handle the

pressure very well. He's got wheels. We didn't even know he had them, either."

The shutout victory meant Estancia got to ring the bell after the game and gather momentum from its first game of the season. The Eagles play at Katella tonight.

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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Huntington Beach falters late against Trabuco Hills

BY ANDREW TURNER

Huntington Beach has shown itself to be nothing short of an offensive juggernaut, but the Oilers have yet to stop the opposition this season.

It caught up with them in their second game, as a two-touchdown lead evaporated in the second half.

Junior quarterback Tristan Zale connected with senior wide receiver Ryan Luce on the go-ahead 54-yard touchdown with 5:31 remaining, and Trabuco Hills held on to beat host Huntington Beach 42-38 in the nonleague game.

"They lined up with their safeties all the way down, so I saw him one-on-one on the outside, and I knew where I was going with the ball right when the snap happened," Zale said.

Zale threw for 331 yards and three touchdowns for Trabuco Hills, which also topped Huntington Beach

*James Carbone*

HUNTINGTON BEACH'S Steel Kurtz (12) makes a catch for a touchdown against Trabuco Hills on Friday.

31-28 in a tight game on its home field last season. He added two rushing touchdowns among his three carries. Luce made 10 receptions for 169 yards and two touchdowns.

Huntington Beach (1-1) drove to the Mustangs' 14-yard line before stalling out. Sophomore quarterback

Brady Edmunds, bothered by pressure from senior defensive end Tyler Schmaltz and senior defensive tackle Cash Nicholls, was unable to complete a pass for the first down to senior wide receiver Niko Lopez.

After opening with a 56-42 win against Orange, the Oilers appeared well on

their way to another near-unstoppable night. Junior wide receiver Troy Foster took the opening kickoff back 91 yards for a touchdown.

Before long, Huntington Beach had mounted a 21-7 lead two minutes into the second quarter after Edmunds fired touchdown passes of 24 yards to junior wide receiver Steel Kurtz and 5 yards to Foster.

Edmunds threw for 350 yards and four touchdowns, including a 9-yard score to Lopez that lifted Huntington Beach to a 31-21 halftime edge. His lone interception, brought in by junior cornerback Christian Box, came during a second half in which the offense produced just one scoring drive.

"I don't think it's anything that's not fixable," Huntington Beach coach Brett Brown said of the defensive struggles. "We missed some tackles and a couple of times couldn't get off the

field on third down, but our defense did have some big stops. ... "We know that we have a high-powered, explosive offense. We can't turn the ball over, and we've got to get off the field on third down. I think if we do those things, we're a really good football team."

Trabuco Hills took the lead for the first time when Zale found senior tight end Mikey Gray for a 6-yard score to make it 35-31 with three minutes to go in the third quarter.

Senior wide receiver Alex Kiernan had three catches for 106 yards for the Mustangs, and junior running back Landon Pompey rushed 20 times for 100 yards and a touchdown.

"[Kiernan] is a great receiver," Luce said. "We love him. He's fantastic. We've also got Mikey Gray, great player. We throw the ball to me three times, and then they focus on me, and then we go right to Alex for an-

other three catches. The defense doesn't know what to do when there are so many weapons out on the field."

Huntington Beach answered via its own emerging offensive threat, as senior wide receiver Faris Shehadeh broke free of a tackle for a 27-yard touchdown for a 38-35 lead with 7:29 remaining. It came after the Oilers were able to get a fourth-down stop at their own 26-yard line, junior outside linebacker Logan Gray and junior defensive end Gavin Seguin combining to tackle Pompey.

"A lot of it is Brady," said Shehadeh, who made seven catches for 116 yards. "He puts the ball right on the money. Our route tree, it's made for someone to get open, and it's just my job to make the play. When I have the chance to make a play, that's just what I do."

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to realize that my life was going to become a lot more difficult. But at the end of the day, I sat down with them, we had a conversation. We were frustrated, there were tears, there were discussions back and forth. After we processed through our feelings, we said, we're going to figure this out.

"What [AB 1955] is doing is robbing the parents of that opportunity. The teachers would become judge, jury and executioner."

Public comments Tuesday night were largely mixed on the issue. One longtime resident who

asked not to be identified said her brother committed suicide six weeks after his 19th birthday, leading her to become involved in suicide prevention.

"In our city, LGBTQ kids need a comfortable place, a safe place to figure it out, and it should be in their own hometown of Huntington Beach," she said. "Your actions are causing H.B. children to become paranoid in their own hometown."

A couple of speakers identified themselves as members of the organization Gays Against Groomers, and they said they supported the ordinance.

"We urge you to vote yes on this ordinance and

move forward to defend parents' rights," said Joey Maceseib, who identified himself as the outreach and events coordinator for the organization's California chapter. "When you are called homophobic, when you are called transphobic, remember the words of Margaret Thatcher. When they attack you personally, they do not have a single political argument left."

The council first called for the ordinance at its last meeting on Aug. 6. The ordinance would be scheduled to come back for the final reading at the next council meeting on Sept. 17.

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*Don Leach | Staff Photographer*

DON MCGEE, right, gets applause from the audience after speaking at the podium during public comments at Tuesday's meeting.

PAY*Continued from page A1*

Fountain Valley has a population of approximately 54,893, according to a staff report.

A raise for council mem-

bers came under consideration by the panel 15 months ago, when then a 3-2 vote struck it down. Mayor Glenn Grandis and Vice Mayor Ted Bui flipped their votes this time, joining Councilwoman Kim Constantine and Councilman Patrick Harper in the majority.

Katy Wright and Rudy Huebner, both of whom are running for the City Council in November, were among the members of the public who spoke during Tuesday's meeting.

"I really call into question why this item is even an agenda item when, in my opinion, that money can be far better spent on repairing our infrastructure, it could be better spent on addressing our unhousehold population, and at the very least, it could be better spent on investing in services or programs that are going to benefit the community as a whole," Huebner said.

Wright took another point of view. "I would posit that it

would be selfless of you to approve getting the pay increase for the position you all hold," Wright said.

"You're not all going to be here forever," she continued. "Someone else is going to be here, and you're all going to be afraid to [say], 'Hey, we deserve some more money.' You all do deserve some more money. I may never sit in the seats you carry. I've totally endorsed you guys getting a raise."

Grandis, who is up for reelection along with Bui,

said he was "swayed" by Wright's testimony. In a discussion on the same subject in June 2023, Grandis said he donates all of his salary as a council member to autism charities, and he reiterated that stance.

"I will not accept a penny for being on council," Grandis said. "I donate 100% of what I make. That's my choice. I'm not saying that's for everybody, I'm not judging anybody else, but [Wright is] right. There's going to be young

people coming up in the future that maybe this does make a difference for them."

Bui suggested that the county average of \$1,453 per month would be fair.

Councilman Jim Cunniff cast the lone dissenting vote, stating that he was fine with the stipend remaining at \$500 and that he considered serving on the council to be a "volunteer position."

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