

Daily Pilot

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2020 /// Now including Coastline Pilot and Huntington Beach Independent /// dailypilot.com



Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

KINDERGARTNERS ARRIVE on Monday for the first day of in-person learning at Top of the World Elementary School in Laguna Beach.

Laguna Beach elementary school students begin return to campus

BY ANDREW TURNER

The first day of school is a milestone for young children and their parents.

It was time to rise and shine Monday morning, as the Laguna Beach Unified School District began welcoming students back to campus at Top of the World and El Morro, the district's two elementary schools.

Many of the old standbys remained in a year that has been anything but traditional — the fresh haircuts, the oversized backpacks and the commemorative pictures.

After months of staying home together with their children because the coronavirus pandemic shut down schools in March, some parents found it hard to let go, and certainly not without a goodbye hug.

"It was a tough one," Tiffany Frey, 44, said of sending her first-grade son, Maddox, 6, off to class at Top of the World Elementary School. "It's hard because we have been together for so long. I'm excited for him, and he's excited, too, but at the same time, the new normal was for everyone to be together."

As the first step of the district's staggered reopening plan, transitional kindergarten to second-grade students were first to resume in-person learning in the hybrid model. Students in grades three through five will come back on Wednesday.

See **Class**, page A3



STAFF MEMBER

Marlo Gensma greets and prescreens a kindergartner as students return for in-person learning at Top of the World Elementary School.

Remote learning continues at colleges

Orange Coast, Coastline and Golden West campuses to stay closed.

BY SARA CARDINE

Students attending Coast Community College District schools won't have to worry about parking passes or commuting to class, at least for the foreseeable future, as district officials recently announced distance learning will continue through spring semester.

In a video message delivered Thursday to more than 40,000 students enrolled at Orange Coast, Coastline and Golden West colleges, CCCD Chancellor John Weispfenning said a decision had to be made to give faculty time to prepare spring semester plans.

"Unfortunately, the threat from the COVID-19 remains with us," Weispfenning said. "In the current environment, the only safe path for spring 2021 is to continue on-line instruction and support services, with limited exceptions."

"The steps we take toward returning to campus will be measured and deliberate, with health and safety in mind, so that we can avoid the problems experienced by higher education institutions across the country," he continued.

College campuses closed in March, forcing students to finish the school year remotely.

In May, district leaders made the difficult decision not to resume in-person learning in the fall semester.

See **Remote**, page A2

Bicyclist, 68, collides with tow truck, dies on scene

A 68-year-old Costa Mesa resident was killed Friday night after the bicycle he was riding collided with a tow truck on the 2900 block of Harbor Boulevard, police officials reported.

The victim has been identified as James Blauer of Costa Mesa, Kelly Keyes, supervising deputy director for the Orange County coroner's office, confirmed Monday. A cause of death had not been determined Monday as an autopsy was still pending.

Costa Mesa Police Department's Major Accident Investigation team was dispatched to the scene at around 11:30 p.m. Friday night, according to a release issued Saturday. Upon arrival, officers located Blauer and determined he was deceased.

The driver of the tow truck was not injured in the collision and remained on scene to cooperate with investigating officers. It was determined the driver was not under the influence of alcohol or drugs at the time of the incident. No arrests were made.

An investigating is still ongoing. Anyone who may have additional information is asked to call CMPD traffic investigator Darren Wood at (714) 754-5264.

— Sara Cardine

NEWPORT BEACH FILM FESTIVAL PIVOTS ONLINE AFTER MONTHS OF DELAYS IN LIGHT OF COVID-19

BY LILLY NGUYEN

The Newport Beach Film Festival, in its annual tradition, was scheduled for April when the first sweeping statewide closures shuttered movie theaters and called for its postponement.

The festival, now in its 21st iteration, was then rescheduled for August, with organizers planning to take precautionary measures such as physical distancing, no-contact temperature checks for attendees, single-use food con-

tainers, sanitizing stations and thorough cleaning of theaters between screenings.

But, as Orange County remained — along with dozens of other counties — on the state's watchlist through late August, the festival was postponed a second time.

Now in October, movie theaters are able to operate indoors in Orange County at 25% capacity or 100 people, whichever

See **Festival**, page A4



PEOPLE

wait in line at the Edwards Big Newport 1 during opening night of the Newport Beach Film Festival on April 25, 2019.

Photo by Christine Cotter

Topping out ceremony held for Orange County Museum of Art

BY ANDREW TURNER

The Orange County Museum of Art is one step closer to realizing its expansion.

A topping out ceremony was held at the construction site on the Segerstrom Center for the Arts campus on Tuesday in Costa Mesa.

"The topping out ceremony is particularly significant in construction because it marks the pinnacle of the structural phase and the transition to the finishes, both exterior and interior," Carlos Gonzalez, the regional executive officer of Clark Construction Group, said.

Shortly before the final structural beam, signed by people affiliat-

ed with the project, was lifted and put into place, Gonzalez spoke about the symbolism of a live tree accompanying it to the top of the steel structure.

"It will carry a live tree that will signify life for the building, the cultural life of the art that will be housed in the museum, and life for those of us that have had the privilege of being a part of the project," Gonzalez added.

Brandon Welling, a managing partner of Morphosis, the designing architectural firm for the museum, said that he envisioned the building serving as the final piece of the puzzle to complete the Segerstrom Center for the Arts.

"The overall form of the build-

ing is kind of balancing creating iconic, strong presence for the museum in the complex, as well as being sensitive to the idea that we're integrating into an existing campus ... for the arts," Welling said. "We're trying to create something that is strong and has presence but is not overpowering to the other institutions and buildings that are located there."

Welling added that the new Orange County Museum of Art building will be approximately 53,000 square feet with about 25,000 square feet of galleries.

Segerstrom Center for the Arts already contains Segerstrom Hall,

See **Museum**, page A4



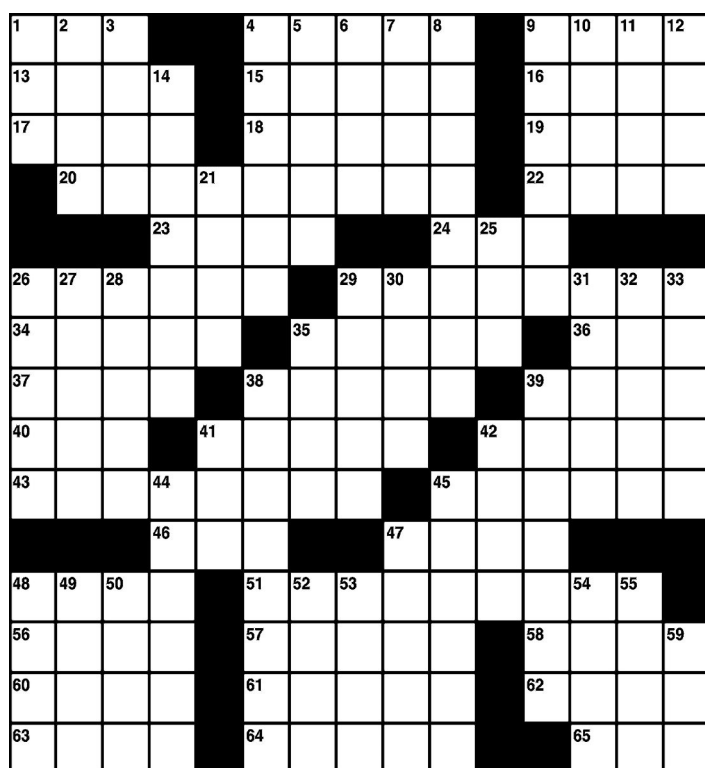
Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

DAVID EMMES, a trustee with the Orange County Museum of Art, signs a beam at the site of the new location during a topping out ceremony.

THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

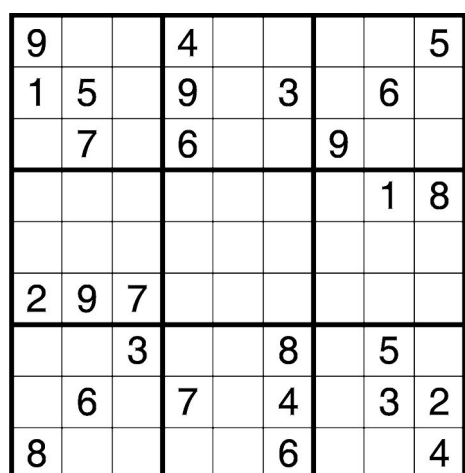
- ACROSS**
 1 Small number
 4 _ drop of a hat; promptly
 9 _ milk; nonfat drink
 13 America's national trees
 15 Reaction to a corny joke
 16 Vermin
 17 Peter, Paul & Mary, e.g.
 18 Send in payment
 19 Dollar bills
 20 Capable of being penetrated
 22 At _ with; opposed to
 23 Was sorry for
 24 Untrustworthy one
 26 Support, as a ruling
 29 Moves like a snake
 34 Lurk
 35 Duplicate
 36 _down; dilapidated
 37 Tootsie _; ball-shaped suckers
 38 Fire bell's sound
 39 Toothpaste container
 40 Arden or Plumb
 41 Hillside
 42 Syrup flavor
 43 Lucille Ball & Raggedy Ann
 45 Sheen
 46 Word attached to drums or drops
 47 Pillar
 48 Cola or root beer
 51 Quarantining
 56 _ the moon; elated
 57 Wanderer
 58 Tidy
 60 _ and haws; hesitates
 61 Cream of the crop
 62 Long stare
 63 "Step _!"; cry to a slowpoke
 64 Lugged 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.

- DOWN**
 1 Little child
 2 Bend out of shape
 3 " _ from Muskogee"
 4 Concurred
 5 Tire groove pattern
 6 Grave
 7 " _ to the Chief"
 8 Joining, as a club
 9 _ out; remove wrinkles
 10 Compassionate
 11 Like petits fours

- 12 Disarray
 14 Heartaches
 21 _ over; contemplate
 25 Consumed
 26 Higher of two
 27 Show to be true
 28 Had great expectations
 29 High-five sounds
 30 Only
 31 Burst forth
 32 Russia's dollar
 33 Look of contempt
 35 Lump of dirt
 38 Woodwind instrument
 39 Sampling
 41 Body of water
 42 Has to
 44 Publisher William Randolph
 45 Drunk
 47 Piece of china
 48 NYC art district
 49 Pizzeria appliance
 50 Actress Moore
 52 Fly alone
 53 Fail to mention
 54 Tide type
 55 _ Strip; Palestinian area
 59 Part of a royal flush

Tribune Media Services

Fountain Valley police officer broadsided in on-duty car crash

An on-duty Fountain Valley Police Department officer was involved in a car crash early Sunday morning while on the way to assist another officer on a traffic stop, police said. A police statement said the driver of a white 2017 Nissan Pathfinder, traveling westbound on Slater Avenue at Magnolia Street, ran

a red light at 3:02 a.m. Sunday. The driver, described as a 37-year-old Buena Park man, broadsided the patrol vehicle, police said. Fountain Valley police Sgt. Donald Farmer said the driver was arrested and released from custody, pending an investigation. He did not specify possible charges, but said the arrest

was in relation to the crash. Police said the officer suffered minor injuries and the other driver no injuries. Both went to local hospitals and were released, the statement said. Names of those involved were not released, as police said that the investigation is ongoing.

— Matt Szabo

REMOTE

Continued from page A1

Now, with Orange County coronavirus cases holding steady — 120 new infections were reported Monday, the county's 28th day in a "substantial transmissions" category set by the state — officials maintain health and safety are top priorities. "The writing was on the wall," Tim McGrath, president of Golden West College in Huntington Beach, said Monday. "There's so much uncertainty about how to hold classes, we just thought it would be best to start [spring semester] virtually." Leaders of the three campuses are communicating the news to students whose educational or living plans have been put on hold by the continuation of distance learning. Meanwhile, reports of infections throughout the district are steadily trickling in. Coast Community College District spokesman Erik Fallis reported Monday 15 district employees have tested positive for the coronavirus, 10 of whom reported not having been on campus or district property the week prior. Contact tracing has been implemented for the other five cases. Another 25 employees who reported being potentially exposed either

tested negative or self-quarantined without a test, according to the district. One employee's status was still pending. Among 40,596 students enrolled in CCCD schools, Fallis said 33 reported either a positive test or possible coronavirus exposure, though the vast majority of those reports came from students who have been learning online. So far, no reports of transmission on campus or of fatalities or serious disabilities stemming from COVID-19 have been made. Some allowances are being made throughout the district for students enrolled in work certification programs and courses considered essential, or where limited in-person lab coursework is required for completion. Students in Golden West's criminal justice, nursing and automotive programs may receive some face-to-face learning, with masks and distancing required, according to McGrath. Orange Coast College President Angelica Suarez said exceptions will be made across 13 programs on the Costa Mesa campus, including radiology, aviation, construction and cardiovascular technology. "Our faculty are so creative and innovative in looking for solutions that allow students to have certain experiences, even if they're scaled back," she said.

Measures are being taken to support and protect students who have been living on campus since OCC opened its 814-bed student housing complex, the Harbour, last month. The student health center is open with limited hours, and a food distribution program offers free groceries to students in need. The Harbour is about 50% occupied. Dr. Madjid Niroumand, vice president of student services at Orange Coast, estimated about 360 students moved in fall semester, while another 50 or 60 are anticipated in January. Those who meet certain income criteria may be able to reduce their monthly rent by \$400 through the school year. "We're working on a campaign to help students with a financial need stay at the Harbour," Niroumand said, indicating reductions would be made possible through the school's annual Pirates' Promise program. Suarez said leaders are doing what they can to make learning meaningful while keeping everyone safe. "I know it's not the same. We love being on campus — that's who we are," she said. "But we're making the best of the situation and want students to know we're here to support them."

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RESTAURANT WEEK Uncorked

THE BUNGALOW

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 Fifty Dollars Per Guest – Three Courses Included
 Please choose one selection from each course

FIRST COURSE SELECTIONS
 Corn Chowder
 Fresh corn, Applewood smoked bacon
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 Greens, hearts of palm, olives, feta, red onion, bay shrimp, tarragon vinaigrette
 Classic Caesar Salad
 Chopped hearts of romaine, herb croutons, tomato, shaved Manchego

ENTRÉE SELECTIONS
 Prime Filet Mignon
 Eight ounce prime filet mignon, Yukon Gold mashed potatoes, fried shallots
 New York Strip
 Fourteen ounce prime New York strip, horseradish potato gratin
 California Chicken Breast
 Pan-seared chicken breast, oven-roasted tomatoes, avocado, Yukon Gold mashed potatoes
 Double Pork Chop
 Thick cut grilled all natural pork chop, creamy caramelized onion barley risotto, creamed kale, sherry sauce
 Miso Marinated Chilean Sea Bass
 Soy glaze, coconut rice, stir-fried vegetables, mushrooms, lemongrass ginger beurre blanc
 Blackened King Salmon
 Yukon Gold mashed potatoes, avocado relish, honey jalapeno beurre blanc

ENTRÉE SELECTIONS – TEN DOLLAR SUPPLEMENT
 Bone-In Rib Eye
 Sixteen ounce prime bone-in rib eye, Yukon Gold mashed potatoes, fried onion strings
 Australian Lobster Tail
 Ten ounce, drawn butter, grilled lemon, Yukon Gold mashed potatoes

DESSERT SELECTIONS
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 Fresh whipped cream, raspberry coulis
 Vanilla Crème Brûlée
 Vanilla custard, fresh raspberries
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*Residency agreement and terms apply. Valid for new residents who sign a lease by November 30, 2020. See Community Sales Director for complete details. Offer expires November 30, 2020.

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Laguna Beach standout Nolan Naess commits to Army

BY ANDREW TURNER

After all school athletic competitions had ended for the evening, on more than one occasion, Laguna Beach High School boys' basketball standout Nolan Naess would stick around.

He could be seen working outside of team activities with none other than Breakers coach Bret Fleming.

The extra work paid dividends last week, as Naess committed to Army.

Naess, a 6-foot-8 senior forward, said he was also interested in UC San Diego, Navy and Idaho State.

"They have great leadership," Naess said of his commitment to Army. "When you graduate from Army West Point, you're going in as an officer into the

military, and you just learn how to be a leader."

A starter for the Breakers since his freshman year, Naess has been taking lessons from Fleming since the summer prior to entering high school.

"Each time I went in with [Fleming], my goal was just to get a little bit better each time," Naess said. "Coach Fleming looked at me recently, and he was like, 'Do you realize how much better you've gotten over this time?'"

"I didn't really realize it at the time, but I looked back, and I saw just how much better I've gotten, and that was really the goal with those shooting sessions. I really worked at the stuff that I wasn't very good at, like shooting off the dribble and shooting in general."

As a junior, Naess excelled to the tune of 19.3 points, 6.1 rebounds and 2.4 assists per game. He earned Wave League MVP honors in leading Laguna Beach, which finished last season 21-8 overall and 6-0



Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

NOLAN NAESS, a Laguna Beach High senior, committed to the Army men's basketball program.

in league play.

Naess was named to the Daily Pilot Boys' Basketball Dream Team after collecting accolades throughout the season, including all-tournament team selec-

tions in the Godinez Grizzly Invitational, the Gary Raya SoCal Elite Classic and the Torrey Pines Classic.

After seeing his sister, Piper, go through the re-

cruiting process en route to signing with Cal Poly San Luis Obispo for beach volleyball, Naess had an idea of what to expect. The impact of the coronavirus pandemic resulted in much

of his communication with coaches happening over FaceTime and Zoom.

Naess, who enjoys mathematics, said that he is considering studying cyber security in college.

Looking ahead to what could be a modified senior season should health and safety guidelines allow, Naess is hoping to have one more run with teammates Willie and Arthur Rounaghi and Chase Hall, with whom he grew up playing the game.

He also has a younger brother, Griffin, a sophomore who plays basketball. It could provide some memorable moments if they see the floor together.

"I would love to play with Griffin because we've been talking about that since we were little, how we were going to be throwing lobs to each other in high school," Naess said. "I can dunk, but I don't know about getting lobs."

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Mechanical Engineer II needed by AECOM Technical Services, Inc. in Orange, CA to lead the preparation of HVAC deliverables such as presentation materials, calculations, drawings, specifications, & reports. Requires valid PE license, EIT certification, or completion of FE exam. Mail resume to M Pyon, Mechanical Mgr, AECOM, 999 Town & Country Rd, Orange, CA 92868. Refer to Job #4787266.

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Bids Wanted

Bids Wanted

CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

Sealed bids shall be submitted electronically via PlanetBids to office of the City Clerk, 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660 By 10:00 AM on the 29th day of October, 2020, at which time such bids shall be opened and read for

CONCRETE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM
Contract No. 7892-1

\$685,000
Engineer's Estimate

Approved by
James M. Houlihan
Deputy PWD/City Engineer

Prospective bidders may obtain Bid Documents, Project Specifications and Plans via PlanetBids: <http://www.planetbids.com/portal/portal.cfm?CompanyID=22078>

Hard copy plans are available via Mouse Graphics at (949) 548-5571 659 W. 19th Street, Costa Mesa, CA 92627

Contractor License Classification(s) required for this project: "A" or "C-8"
For further information, call Ben Davis, Project Manager at (949) 644-3317

NOTICE:
No contractor or subcontractor may be listed on a bid proposal for a public works project (submitted on or after March 1, 2015) unless registered with the Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to Labor Code section 1725.5 [with limited exceptions from this requirement for bid purposes only under Labor Code section 1771.1(a)].

No contractor or subcontractor may be awarded a contract for public work on a public works project (awarded on or after April 1, 2015) unless registered with the Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to Labor Code section 1725.5.

This project is subject to compliance monitoring and enforcement by the Department of Industrial Relations.

Bids Wanted

LEGAL NOTICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO. 2161

Professional Design Services for Orange Coast College Chemistry Building

COAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
Purchasing Department
1370 Adams Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA 92626

The Coast Community College District ("District") is requesting proposals from qualified persons, firms, partnerships, corporations, associations, or professional organizations ("firms") to provide architectural services during the pre-design, design, bidding, construction, and post-construction phases of the Chemistry Building at Orange Coast College.

The RFP shall be submitted via the PlanetBids Vendor Portal for the District. Only electronic submissions will be accepted. It is the responsibility of the Proposer to submit the response by the proper time. Proposals received after the closing date and time will not be considered and will not be allowed by the system.

ALL RESPONSES MUST BE RECEIVED BY
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2020 BEFORE 2 P.M.

Questions regarding this RFP may be directed by email to purchasing@mail.cccd.edu.

RFP document can be found at:
<https://www.planetbids.com/portal/portal.cfm?CompanyID=36722&BidID=77167>

Governing Board, Coast Community College District
County of Orange, California

By: John M. Eriksen
Director of Purchasing

Published in the Daily Pilot on: October 7, 2020; October 14, 2020

MUSEUM

Continued from page A1

Seegerstrom Concert Hall, Samueli Theater, Morr Theater and the South Coast Repertory.

Sarah Jesse, the interim director and CEO of the museum, told guests in attendance and those viewing the ceremony virtually that \$53 million of the expected \$75 million needed to complete the project has been raised.

She also said that nine lead donors have made donations of at least \$1 million to the project. The donors are Noella and James Bergener, Henry Davis and Christina Fazzone, Cynthia and Stephen Fry, Jennifer and Anton Seegerstrom, Jim and Pam Muzzy, Jeri and Danny McKenna, Hal Struck, the Seegerstrom Foundation and a donor who wants to remain anonymous.

The project, which broke ground in September of 2019, is now expected to be completed in 2022, Jesse said. "We've made so much progress on construction during this time of quarantine, and we've done it in a way that has kept all of the workers safe and healthy," Jesse said in an interview prior to the ceremony.

"That's been a really important priority for us, and we're happy that we were able to achieve both a ton of progress and also keep everybody safe."

Mark Perry, the chairman



Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

SOREN STUFKOSKY, left, and Brad McGlothlin watch as the final beam is put into place during Tuesday's ceremony.

of the board for Seegerstrom Center for the Arts, marveled at the progress that has been made in a year often defined by the negative impact of the coronavirus pandemic, saying, "We've not wasted a crisis."

"We're getting closer to completing the eighth wonder of the world, and it really is," Perry added. "There's nowhere you have a collection [of the visual and performing arts] like this, so we're one day closer to making that happen, to celebrating together the completion."

Jesse also stated that the building will reflect the museum's values as a public space.

"It's a very community-oriented, very public building in the design itself," Jesse said. "It also provides us with this platform to showcase our world-class collection."

"The galleries for the first time will really allow us to show the collection at all times, and I think it will be a real discovery for our local community to learn what a wonderful and important community asset it is."

Costa Mesa Mayor Katrina Foley appeared to find it inspiring to witness the investment in the community at a time of economic hardship.

"There's 350 people working on this site [and] more than \$73 million is being invested into our community with this project," Foley said. "The amount of investment in our local community is so fitting right now when we are really struggling economically, and so to see this progress continue, I think it gives hope for a better future."

andrew.turner@latimes.com
Twitter: @ProfessorTurner

FESTIVAL

Continued from page A1

number is fewer. The county is currently in the red or "widespread" tier, which is the second-most stringent tier of the state's reopening guidelines.

But Todd Quartararo, co-founder of the Newport Beach Film Festival, said that out of an abundance of precaution, they ultimately decided to pivot to a wholly virtual festival instead.

The Newport Beach Film Festival kicked off online Thursday but will continue through Sunday and it includes 40 feature-length narrative and documentary films in addition to 231 short films.

The festival also includes what it calls "industry talks," which are a series of discussions with industry professionals such as Don Burgess and Corinne Bogdanowicz. Industry talks are free and open to the public.

nally postponed to August as a physical festival," Quartararo said.

"Due to multiple shutdowns and an abundance of caution, the festival moved to a virtual format. The health and safety of our filmmakers, attendees and sponsors is of the utmost importance."

Quartararo said that a physical festival would normally have "incredible" moviegoer experiences and visitors would be able to go to live question-and-answer forums in addition to enjoying after parties and Newport Beach.

But, in light of the pandemic, organizers felt that having a virtual version of the festival was a way for the festival to still showcase its 2020 lineup while keeping visitors safe.

Organizers said an average of 56,000 people attend yearly.

"We look forward to returning to as best to normal as possible next year with a physical festival for April 8 [through] 15, 2021," Quartararo said. "However, we have found some benefits of the virtual format with its ability to attract a new audience."

"We are currently looking at incorporating some virtual elements to our festival next year," Quartararo said.

Full Newport Beach Film Festival passes are available for \$75 and tickets to individual screenings are \$10 at newportbeachfilmfest.com.

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Daily Pilot

A Times Community News publication incorporating the Huntington Beach Independent, Coastline Pilot, Orange Coast Daily Pilot and the Newport Harbor News Press combined with Daily Pilot

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