

# Daily Pilot

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 2024 /// dailypilot.com

## Charges fly over air show deal in Surf City

Council clashed about the settlement Tuesday, after agreeing to waive attorney-client privilege to discuss it in detail.

BY MATT SZABO

Did a controversial multimillion-dollar settlement reached last year save the popular Pacific Airshow for Huntington Beach, as then-Mayor Tony Strickland put it?

Or was it “criminal,” as Councilwoman Natalie Moser claimed?

Council members sparred over the settlement, released in full last month after a judge ruled in favor of plaintiff Gina Clayton-Tarvin, for about an hour at Tuesday night’s meeting.

In the end, the panel voted to look at an agenda item brought forward by Councilman Casey McKeon to evaluate city tax-sharing with big business throughout the city.

“This is common practice,” McKeon said. “I don’t think it’s fair to just nitpick one event, so let’s put it all out on the table.”

The city’s finance department was asked to bring back a report

See *Air*, page A2

## Supes share updates on O.C.’s finances

Affordable housing and homelessness top the challenges named at a State of the County luncheon in Newport.

BY ERIC LICAS

County Supervisors Katrina Foley and Don Wagner painted a rosy picture of Orange County’s finances while acknowledging ongoing challenges associated with the shortage of affordable housing and rising homelessness, among other issues, during the second annual State of the County Luncheon held in Newport Beach on Friday.

The event was hosted by the Newport Beach Chamber of Commerce at held the Pendry Hotel. As many as 480 attendees working in the fields of healthcare, tourism, property development and more packed a banquet hall, rubbing elbows with elected officials like the evening’s featured speakers, Foley and Wagner, as well as Orange County

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### ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**U.S. OPEN OF SURFING HEADS INTO WEEKEND WITH 32 HOPEFULS REMAINING** PAGE A3



Photos by James Carbone

**FAMILIES BRING** their children to the universally accessible playground during a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Fountain Valley Sports Park Friday.

## Fountain Valley celebrates its new playground for all



**CHILDREN PLAY** on the Home Plate Slide at the universally accessible playground.

BY ANDREW TURNER

The festivities had been underway for some time when Fountain Valley Mayor Glenn Grandis called for a most unusual moment of silence on Friday morning.

As expected, he got collaboration from the grownups, but a gaggle of giggles came from the kids at play adjacent to the ongoing ceremony.

The moment demonstrated the cause for celebration, children of all abilities enjoying themselves throughout the finished universally accessible playground.

“All the kids laughing, the music, the playing, this is what it’s all about,” said an emotional Grandis, who has been outspoken about being a parent of a son with autism.

A couple hundred people visited the playground ahead of and during the ribbon-cutting event, including one surprise visitor for Community Services

See *All*, page A3

## Pacific Chorale welcomes amateurs in festival

BY SARA CARDINE

Two hundred amateur singers will have the opportunity Sunday to flex their vocal cords before a live audience on a world-class stage, as Pacific Chorale hosts its annual Choral Festival at Costa Mesa’s Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall.

Each year organizers extend an open invitation for adults of any experience level to participate in what operates like a mini-boot camp of rehearsals that begin Friday evening and continue all through Saturday, with one full dress rehearsal just before the big show.

Mixed in among the parents and grandparents, hobbyists and those who lend their vocal talents to smaller ensembles or church choirs are 80 professional members of the Costa Mesa-based chorus, who will be led by Grammy Award-winning Pacific Chorale Music Director Robert Istad.

“It’s a huge undertaking,” Istad said of the festival, co-sponsored by Segerstrom Center for the Arts and the city of Costa Mesa, which began in 2008 and is now in its 15th year.

“It really allows the organization to reach out to members of the singing community, to connect them with our singers and me and to give them access to



Courtesy of Pacific Chorale

**AMATEUR SINGERS** perform during a 2023 Choral Festival at Costa Mesa’s Segerstrom Concert Hall, presented by Pacific Chorale. Two hundred amateur singers will be part of a performance Sunday.

the beautiful Segerstrom Concert Hall — it’s amazing.”

Singers are accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis, with no auditioning necessary, meaning once the online registration period begins, spaces fill up in an

instant. Those who make the cut are sent recordings of the piece that will be performed, to help them prepare ahead of time.

This year’s selection is Haydn’s “Mass in Time of War (Missa in tempore belli),” composed in

1796 as Napoleon’s army threatened war with Austria, Istad explained.

“It was meant for people listening and participating in it to

See *Amateurs*, page A4

# AIR

Continued from page A1

by the council's scheduled Sept. 17 meeting. A potential problem: Sunny Han, the city's chief finance officer, is resigning, leaving that department hamstrung and continuing the recent exodus of top city officials, Assistant City Manager Travis Hopkins announced Tuesday night.

"Our CFO's last day is the end of the month, and we have to do recruitment," Councilman Dan Kalmick said. "I don't know if there's any capacity to achieve this goal in the time frame and still be able to manage the city ... There's one or two people left in the entire finance department at this point."

Minority council members Kalmick, Moser and Rhonda Bolton had brought forward an item seeking to determine the total cost to the city of the Pacific Airshow settlement. A substitute motion

from Strickland asked for a second financial survey of the air show's economic impact, separate from the one commissioned by Visit Huntington Beach and released in 2020.

The substitute motion passed 4-3 by the conservative majority, over Moser's objections that it wasn't the same thing as what the original agenda item asked for.

The discussion featured disclosure of some past closed-session talks about the settlement, after City Atty. Michael Gates made the rare move of asking for attorney-client privilege to be waived. The City Council unanimously agreed.

"This narrative has been developed by Dan Kalmick, Natalie Moser and Rhonda Bolton over the past few months about how they didn't have the information they wanted," Gates said Friday. "Everything's been confidential, and I haven't been able to defend the city or defend the actions of the greater

City Council. The minority has essentially been able to get away with being able to say whatever they want, and there's no ability to respond to it."

Gates said every question a council member had about the agreement was answered at the time.

He further accused the council minority of being political in their intentions and having a "personal ax to grind" with air show operator Code Four and Kevin Elliott. Kalmick, Moser and Bolton are all seeking to retain their seats this year.

"It just reeks of political opportunity because they're running for reelection," he said. "I think they think that this issue is favorable to them."

But Moser said Friday she, Kalmick and Bolton have been vocal against the settlement agreement ever since it was announced in May 2023. They voted against it in closed session.

"We have done every-

thing responsible public servants can do in this situation, and we have been fighting for our residents," she said. "I think that we called it out at the time, when they were doing their press conferences. We were saying, 'This is not OK, this is criminal,' out loud. We weren't hiding."

"Let's back up here," she continued. "Why did we even have a settlement agreement at all? I think we would have won in court because we're not the responsible party. We never said, 'You can't have an air show here.' That never happened."

Moser said she has never seen a list of damages sustained by Code Four when the last day of its 2021 air show was canceled due to an oil spill, leading to its lawsuit against the city. Also, she said, as far as the settlement agreement, all she saw in closed session was a term sheet.

"I never saw the signed or executed settlement agreement in closed ses-



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**A 2023 SETTLEMENT** agreement with the Pacific Airshow continues to rankle H.B. City Council's minority members, who believe the panel's conservative majority may have made a gift of public funds. The latter voted Tuesday for the city to seek a second survey of the show's economic impact.

sion," she said. "I don't trust [Gates], so I asked for a copy of it. I'm glad I double-checked."

Rather than giving her a copy, Gates invited her to his office to review the document.

"When there's confidential information, we don't essentially leak it out to public officials that are subject to public records requests," he said. "We never give confidential documents to other public officials to have in their possession."

Moser's response was that it shouldn't have been a confidential document.

"It's a signed, executed contract, which should become a public document at that time," she said. "It's all agreed upon. He can say that, but it always should have been made available, not just to me, but to everyone."

The council minority has called for the state attorney general to investigate the settlement and what it calls a potential gift of public funds.

In May, the California Joint Legislative Commit-

tee voted to have the state auditor examine the settlement.

The Pacific Airshow is currently without a long-term contract with the city or even a contract for this year as it awaits a full California Environmental Quality Act study and addresses concerns brought forward by the California Coastal Commission.

Still, the settlement agreement does provide a blueprint. Section 2B of the agreement says that future air show events will be "consistent with the terms of this agreement."

"It's a term sheet that was signed and is legally binding," Moser said. "You can say that it's not a long-term agreement, and it's not yet, because we do have to have the [environmental impact report] and do the long-term agreement ... but the future agreement will expressly provide the same benefits to Pacific Airshow that the city conferred under this settlement."

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### CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that on **Thursday, August 22, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.** or soon thereafter as the matter shall be heard, a public hearing will be conducted in the Council Chambers at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach. The Planning Commission of the City of Newport Beach will consider the following application:

**UPTOWN NEWPORT DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT SECOND AMENDMENT-** An amendment of the Uptown Newport Development Agreement No. DA2021-003 (DA) to allow excess park in-lieu fee credits to be applied towards applicable public benefit fee obligations as specified in the DA for residential projects located within the Uptown Newport Planned Community (PC-58).

**NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN** that all significant environmental concerns for the proposed project have been addressed in the previously certified Environmental Impact Report No. ER2012-001 (SCH No. 2010051094), First Addendum No. ER2012-001, and Second Addendum No. ER2020-001, and that the City of Newport Beach intends to use said document for the above-noted project, and further that there are no additional reasonable alternatives or mitigation measures that should be considered in conjunction with said project. Copies of the previously prepared environmental documents are available for public review and inspection at the Planning Division or the City of Newport Beach website at [www.newportbeachca.gov/ceqa](http://www.newportbeachca.gov/ceqa).

All interested parties may appear and present testimony regarding this application. If you challenge this project in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you raised at the public hearing or in written correspondence delivered to the City, at, or before, the public hearing. Administrative procedures for appeals are provided in the Newport Beach Municipal Code Chapter 20.64. The application may be continued to a specific future meeting date; if such an action occurs, additional public notice of the continuance will not be provided.

The agenda, staff report, and corresponding documents will be available by end of business day on the Friday preceding the public hearing and may be reviewed at the Community Development Department Permit Center (Bay C-1st Floor), at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660 or the City of Newport Beach website at [www.newportbeachca.gov/planningcommission](http://www.newportbeachca.gov/planningcommission). Individuals not able to attend the meeting may contact the Planning Division or access the City's website after the meeting to review the action on this application. All mail or written communications (including email) from the public, residents, or applicants regarding an agenda item must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on the business day immediately before the meeting. This allows time for the Planning Commission to adequately consider the submitted correspondence.

For questions regarding this public hearing item please contact Rosalinh Ung, Principal Planner, at (949) 644-3208 and [run@newportbeachca.gov](mailto:run@newportbeachca.gov), at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660.

**Project File No.:** PA2024-0078  
**Activity:** Second Amendment to Development Agreement No. DA2012-003

**Zone:** PC-58 (Uptown Newport Planned Community)  
**General Plan:** MU-H2 (Mixed Use District Horizontal 2)

**Location:** 4311 Jamboree Road, North side of Jamboree Road, between MacArthur Boulevard and Birch Street

Tristan Harris, Secretary, Planning Commission, City of Newport Beach

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### Legal Notices

**CITY OF LAGUNA BEACH: ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 1705 RELATED TO MAINTENANCE OF PROPERTY AND NUISANCE ABATEMENT IN THE COMMERCIAL DISTRICT**  
Ordinance No. 1705 titled "AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAGUNA BEACH, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING SECTIONS 7.24.030 (MAINTENANCE OF PROPERTY) AND 7.24.050 (NUISANCE ABATEMENT AUTHORITY) OF THE LAGUNA BEACH MUNICIPAL CODE TO FURTHER REGULATE PROPERTY MAINTENANCE WITHIN THE CITY AND DETERMINING THE ORDINANCE TO BE EXEMPT FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT UNDER CEQA GUIDELINES SECTION 15301" was introduced at the City Council meeting of July 23, 2024, and is scheduled to be adopted on August 13, 2024, on the following 5-0 vote: AYES: Orgill, Weiss, Whalen, Rounaghi, Kempf; NOES: None; ABSENT: None, ABSTAIN: None.  
Ann Marie McKay, City Clerk

### Legal Notices

**CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that on **Thursday, August 22, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.** or soon thereafter as the matter shall be heard, a public hearing will be conducted in the Council Chambers at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach. The Planning Commission of the City of Newport Beach will consider the following application:

**Tanar's Tobacco Appeal** - An appeal of the Zoning Administrator's May 30, 2024, decision to deny a minor use permit to allow a Type 20 (Off-Sale Beer & Wine) Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) license at an existing tobacco retail store. The Type 20 (Off-Sale Beer & Wine) ABC license would allow the existing retail business to sell beer and wine for off-site consumption. No other changes to the operation are requested and no construction is proposed. No on-site consumption of alcohol is proposed as part of the project.

A project which a public agency rejects or disapproves is statutorily exempt and not subject to review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article 18, Section 15270 (Projects Which Are Disapproved) of the CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3.

All interested parties may appear and present testimony regarding this application. If you challenge this project in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you raised at the public hearing or in written correspondence delivered to the City, at, or before, the public hearing. Administrative procedures for appeals are provided in the Newport Beach Municipal Code Chapter 20.64 (Appeals). The application may be continued to a specific future meeting date; if such an action occurs, additional public notice of the continuance will not be provided.

The agenda, staff report, and corresponding documents will be available by end of business day on the Friday preceding the public hearing and may be reviewed at the Community Development Department Permit Center (Bay C-1st Floor), at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660 or the City of Newport Beach website at [www.newportbeachca.gov/planningcommission](http://www.newportbeachca.gov/planningcommission). Individuals not able to attend the meeting may contact the Planning Division or access the City's website after the meeting to review the action on this application. All mail or written communications (including email) from the public, residents, or applicants regarding an agenda item must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on the business day immediately before the meeting. This allows time for the Planning Commission to adequately consider the submitted correspondence.

For questions regarding this public hearing item please contact Jenny Tran, Associate Planner, at [jtran@newportbeachca.gov](mailto:jtran@newportbeachca.gov) or 949-644-3212, at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660.

**Project File No.:** PA2023-0032  
**Activity:** Minor Use Permit

**Zone:** MU-W2 (Mixed-Use Water)  
**General Plan:** MU-W2 (Mixed Use Water 2)

**Location:** 2233 West Balboa Boulevard  
**Applicant:** dba Tanar's Tobacco

Tristan Harris, Secretary, Planning Commission, City of Newport Beach

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### Legal Notices

**SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL) CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso): 24VEC00197**  
**NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (AVISO AL DEMANDADO):** Miguel Santos Marcela, Samy M. Gerages and DOES 1-25, inclusive  
**YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE)** Gonzalo García Rojas

**NOTICE!** You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center ([www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp)), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site ([www.lawhelpcalifornia.org](http://www.lawhelpcalifornia.org)), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center ([www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp)), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. **NOTE:** The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

**¡AVISO!** Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.

Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California ([www.sucorte.ca.gov](http://www.sucorte.ca.gov)), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de extensión de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services ([www.lawhelpcalifornia.org](http://www.lawhelpcalifornia.org)), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California ([www.sucorte.ca.gov](http://www.sucorte.ca.gov)) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. **AVISO:** Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos extensos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 o más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

**The name and address of the court is:** (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): Van Nuys Courthouse East 6230 Sylmar Ave. Van Nuys, CA 91405

**The name, address, and telephone number of the plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is:** (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): F. Jay Rahimi, Esq. (SBN 305286), Los Angeles Legal Solutions, 17200 Ventura Blvd., #115, Encino, CA 91316, 818-510-0555

**Date: 01/16/2024**  
David W. Slayton Executive Officer/  
Clerk of the Court (Secretario)  
A. Salcedo Deputy (Adjunto)  
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## CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

B	L	T	S	C	A	S	K	A	D	M	I	N
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**U.S. OPEN OF SURFING****32 hopefuls remain for weekend matchups****BY MATT SZABO**

San Clemente's Jett Schilling won the World Surf League World Junior Championships in Oceanside in January.

Now the 20-year-old finds himself further up the coast, trying to make his mark at the U.S. Open of Surfing on the south side of the Huntington Beach Pier.

"Doing well out here would be the ultimate goal in life," Schilling said Friday. "I mean, to have my name on the list like everyone else would be huge."

He's off to a good start at the Challenger Series event.

Schilling won the final round of 32 heat of the day as the event advances to the bracket stage over the weekend.

In doing so, he took out Eli Hanneman of Hawaii, last year's U.S. Open men's champion, who finished third in the four-man heat and failed to advance.

San Clemente's Sawyer Lindblad, last year's U.S. Open women's champion, also was eliminated in the round of 32 on Friday.

The town still has two other men's surfers in contention, in Crosby Colapinto and Kolohe Andino. Colapinto, the top seed, finished second in his heat Friday to advance. Andino, who is trying to find his championship form again, caught a late wave to edge out a win on Friday in the heat immediately preceding Schilling's heat.

"It's really good to see Kolohe doing well," Schilling said. "He's a veteran now, and to have a guy like him make it, it just fires me up too."



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**MIGUEL PUPO** of Brazil completes a very high air reverse as he advances out of the round of 32 in the U.S. Open of Surfing at the Huntington Beach Pier on Friday.

Jarvis Earle of Australia surfs against Ian Gouveia of Brazil in the round of 16 on Saturday. In winning his heat on Friday, Gouveia qualified for the Championship Tour.

Other matchups include Riuru Ito of Japan against Miguel Pupo of Brazil, and Alan Cleland of Mexico against Michael Rodrigues of Brazil. Colapinto surfs against Ian Gentil of Hawaii, while Caio Ibelli of Brazil faces George Pittar of Australia.

Dakoda Walters of Australia surfs against Marco Mignot of France, Andino

goes against Morgan Cibilic of Australia and Schilling faces Jackson Bunch of Hawaii to close out the round.

That Schilling-Bunch heat is a rematch of the World Junior Championships final.

"It should be a fun one," Schilling said. "He's a good friend, but it could be a ri-

valry, for sure."

On the women's side, Isabella Nichols of Australia had to really grind out a heat win. In fact, she thought she lost as she walked back up the beach.

"It was an interesting situation," she said. "It's not that the loudspeaker wasn't loud enough. I think I just was so focused on what I

was doing, and I must have heard the score wrong. Ever since then, I was just in fight mode."

It wasn't pretty, but Nichols earned a two-wave score of 9.70, advancing along with Amuro Tsuzuki of Japan, who recored a 9.60. She said to win a heat like that, fighting tooth and nail to do so, was rewarding.

Nichols, who is currently atop the Challenger Series rankings, will also surf in the final round of 16 heat, going against Alyssa Spencer from Carlsbad.

Huntington Beach is one of her favorite tour stops.

"The atmosphere is amazing," Nichols said. "It feels like there's a lot of energy in the air, so everyone loves coming here. It's for sure the one I want to win the most."

Other women's round of 16 matchups include: Ellie Harrison (Australia) vs. Luana Silva (Brazil); Kirra Pinkerton (San Clemente) vs. Nadia Erostarbe (Spain); Tessa Thysson (France) vs. Sophia Medina (Brazil); Sally Fitzgibbons (Australia) vs. Erin Brooks (Canada); Lakey Peterson (Santa Barbara) vs. Bronte Macaulay (Australia); Keala Tomoda-Bannert (Hawaii) vs. Yolanda Hopkins (Portugal); and Bella Kenworthy (San Clemente) vs. Tsuzuki.

Action at the U.S. Open of Surfing continues Saturday, beginning at 7:30 a.m.

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**ALL**

Continued from page A1

Director Rob Frizzelle.

Frizzelle had been sharing a personal story about his eldest son, Will, sharing the field with special-needs children when Westminster 11-year-old Mila Lent, the girl from his tale, turned up.

"She got to go up and hit a ball off the tee, and he pushed her to first base," Frizzelle said. "That doesn't sound like a lot, but when he realized that she gets the exact same satisfaction [out of] hitting a single as he does in baseball, the light clicked immediately, and he realized, 'Mila is no different than me.'"

"And then he said, 'Mila,

we're leading off, and we're stealing second,' because he loves to steal second, too."

Mila is bound to a wheelchair with a rare neurological condition called hemimegalencephaly, her mother Marcela said. Frizzelle called her "the star of the show" upon realizing the happy coincidence, and those in attendance applauded.

City officials had hoped the playground would be completed in spring, but a series of atmospheric rivers earlier in the year resulted in the delay. The project was expected to cost a total of \$1.72 million when plans for the playground were approved by the City Council in January 2023.

The play area has a combination of nature- and sports-themed equipment. The slide area, which is equipped with transfer decks, appears as a waterfall that leads into a river on the surface.

There are also opportunities for parallel play at the swing-set and zipline areas, with accessible seating available at each.

A quiet grove provides an opportunity for the over-stimulated to gather themselves rather than having to leave the park, Frizzelle added.

John Borack, chairman of the city's advisory committee for persons with disabilities, referred to the playground as a symbol of "inclusion" and "acceptance."

The event featured additional fun for the youngsters, including balloon artists and face painting.

"I cannot imagine a better backdrop for today than looking behind me and seeing the some hundred kids and families all enjoying this space," said Matt Taylor, the president of the Fountain Valley Community Foundation. "When you hear the laughter, when you even hear the little toddlers crying ... I know it's working because people are out here having a great time. They're out here experiencing their families, and they're creating memories that will last a lifetime."

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James Carbone

**FOUNTAIN VALLEY** Mayor Glenn Grandis talks about the universally accessible playground at Fountain Valley Sports Park. "This is what it's all about," Grandis said.

**FINANCES**

Continued from page A1

Dist. Atty. Todd Spitzer, U.S. Rep. Lou Correa and others.

The luncheon opened with an introduction from Chamber president and chief executive Steve Rosansky, delivered alongside plates of chicken or fish served over quinoa, faro, baby kale, cauliflower and roasted garlic lemon dressing, as well as cups of chocolate pot de crème. That was followed up by a comprehensive synopsis. Then, the meat of the discussion began with a beaming synopsis of the county's financial situation from Foley.

"We have healthy fiscal reserves," she told luncheon attendees. "We are prepared for any catastrophic event. We are super funded in all of our reserve categories. And for those of you who have been following pensions over the years, we will be fully funded in our pensions by 2033."

She went on to highlight major improvements slated in the county's \$2.6-billion, seven-year capital improvement plan. These include the modernization of landfills to allow for the capture and repurposing of greenhouse gasses, \$590 million of investment for deferred maintenance and upgrades to John Wayne Airport, \$133 million set aside for parks and libraries, \$842 million for roads, flood channels and bike lanes and other improvements.

Wagner echoed Foley's optimism for Orange County's immediate future, but they both also acknowledged a broad field of challenges ahead. Some of those may wind up directly



Eric Licas

**ORANGE COUNTY** Board of Supervisors Chair Don Wagner and Supervisor Katrina Foley address attendees of the second annual State of the County Luncheon in Newport Beach.

hood of financial troubles trickling down to the local level, Foley and Wagner said the county and lawmakers remain committed to confronting lingering crises, including the rising cost of housing, potentially pricing future generations out of Orange County. They said local leaders are exploring ways to cut down red tape to make the process of creating homes, including multifamily developments, more efficient.

"What I think will be a challenge next year is getting the same level of state money because of the budget crisis in Sacramento," Wagner said. "What I worry about is that if that level of funding doesn't come through next year there are going to be programs that are at risk, there are going to be cuts that are going to have to be made on these state programs and there's going to be pressure on us to backfill them."

Regardless of the likeli-

hood of financial troubles trickling down to the local level, Foley and Wagner said the county and lawmakers remain committed to confronting lingering crises, including the rising cost of housing, potentially pricing future generations out of Orange County. They said local leaders are exploring ways to cut down red tape to make the process of creating homes, including multifamily developments, more efficient.

"Property taxes are through the roof because homes are selling for so much," Foley said. "Now that has its problems as well. We know that, for our kids, it's going to be hard ... we have to make sure we're planning for a future so we have a workforce that can take care of us when we're no longer running with the

wolves."

In the battle against homelessness, the supervisors touted Orange County as a leader in the development of supportive housing. Foley said they are in the process of producing another 1,800 units of housing for the homeless. Lawmakers have also been successful in cutting down barriers preventing veterans from getting into vacant units available through the U.S. Veterans Affairs Department. Service members as well as the elderly constitute two of

the largest growing demographics in the homeless population.

"It is true that we are not going to arrest our way out of homelessness," Wagner said. "It is also true that there are people out there on the streets who need and deserve a compassionate approach. But you can arrest your way out of vagrancy."

He went on to highlight county and city leader's efforts to address homeless encampments while encouraging those displaced toward support services and, if applicable, treatment for mental health and addiction-related issues. Wagner also made reference to a recent U.S. Supreme Court's decision clearing the way for municipalities to enforce anti-camping laws regardless of

whether shelter beds are available. While they have no intention of "rounding up" communities of homeless people at large, the ruling gives authorities more leverage to get people into treatment, Wagner said.

"In my view, there's nothing compassionate about letting someone sleep under a bridge because they're delusional," Wagner said.

"Though our homeless numbers are creeping up, they're not up percentage-wise as high as we've seen in the rest of the state," he added. "So, this approach of making sure there are beds available ... bringing resources to the table to help people, works."

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Courtesy of Pacific Chorale

**PACIFIC CHORALE'S** annual Choral Festival gives amateur singers a chance to perform at the Segerstrom Concert Hall in Costa Mesa after three days of intensive rehearsal. This year's 15th annual free concert takes place Sunday.

**AMATEURS**

Continued from page A1

have this cathartic experience, where they could express their worry and wishes for peace," he said of the work, known for its use of militaristic-sounding timpani drums.

John Middlebrooks, a 69-year-old Irvine resident who's been singing since his college days and has performed with various choral and ensemble groups, first joined in the Choral Festival in 2019 with wife Deborah and immediately returned in 2022, when the event returned from a pandemic hiatus.

A self-described "serious amateur" and regular attendee at Pacific Chorale performances throughout the year, Middlebrooks said the brief rehearsal period, culminating in an appearance on the Segerstrom stage, provides a nice creative jolt.

"This is ideal for me, because it's just intense for three days, and then you walk on stage and have a pretty respectable performance. I like that," he said Friday. "If you want to do top quality lite, this weekend is a real

treat."

In addition to Orange County residents like Middlebrooks, some singers travel to Costa Mesa from other states and even nations to perform in the annual festival, according to Istad.

"There are people who fly in from Europe for this and [from] all over the United States, and part of it is the camaraderie," he said. "There's one group of friends who only see each other throughout the year at this event."

For amateur choral singer Diana Hensley, the festival is a not-to-be-missed event. In fact, the Costa Mesa resident has participated in each event since its inception, after hearing about it from a choir director.

"He told us about it and said he was going to be singing in it, so I went and loved doing it," Hensley, 86, said Thursday. "It's really great. You get to know some of the singers and appreciate the music together. They say you breathe together and your hearts start beating together — I read that that happens."

Istad confirmed that fact, saying that singers typically inhale at similar

points within a musical piece and so fall into a rhythmic synchronicity with one another that adds to the vocal harmony a chorus produces.

Another experiential element of large group singing is an audible overtone, described by listeners as a sort of ringing sensation or vibration that cannot be captured in a recording of a live event.

"The only way you can experience that phenomenon as a human being is to be in that space, live," he said. "It's a very profound artistic experience. It's bigger than a choral festival — it's about what happens when a community comes together."

"It fills me with hope for the future," Istad continued. "If we can do that in three days, imagine what you could do in other areas and other avenues of our lives."

The 15th annual Choral Festival takes place Sunday at 5 p.m. at the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall, 600 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa. Tickets are free, but registration is required and available online.

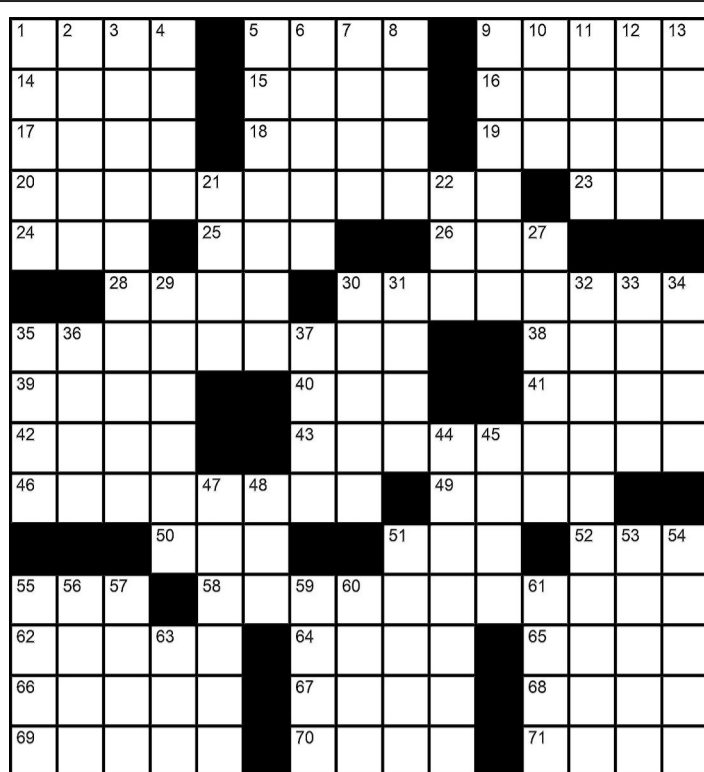
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**THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE**

By Stella Zawistowski

**ACROSS**

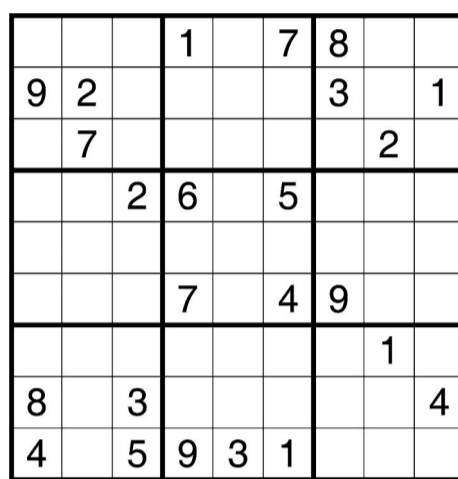
- 1 Crunchy sandwiches
- 5 Wine holder
- 9 Exec's helper
- 14 Easy victory
- 15 Burn-soothing plant
- 16 Swap
- 17 Land area unit
- 18 Created
- 19 Varieties
- 20 Place to raise cows: 2 wds.
- 23 Took a chair
- 24 Right-angle shape
- 25 Shade tree
- 26 Cleaning appliance, for short
- 28 Rubik of games
- 30 Store patron
- 35 Stair railings
- 38 Unadorned
- 39 Cool treats
- 40 Eminem's genre
- 41 With no warranty: 2 wds.
- 42 \_ and forth
- 43 "Everything's ready": 3 wds.
- 46 Cyclists' part of a road: 2 wds.
- 49 Facts and figures
- 50 Dictionary entry: Abbr.
- 51 Climbing plant
- 52 Obtain
- 55 Crunch muscles
- 58 Cinderella had two
- 62 Coke and Pepsi
- 64 Manager
- 65 Bible part
- 66 Kid's vehicle, for short
- 67 Sad
- 68 Rectangle part
- 69 Family car
- 70 Tournament ranking
- 71 Said "not guilty," e.g.



**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 A2.**

**DOWN**

- 1 "\_ yourselves!"
- 2 From the area
- 3 Snug-collared top
- 4 Editing mark
- 5 King Arthur's court
- 6 Warning sound

- 7 Scotch and \_
- 8 Very perceptive
- 9 To boot: 2 wds.
- 10 Lacking moisture
- 11 Atlas parts
- 12 "Why, the very \_!"
- 13 Hatchling's

home

- 21 Microscope part
- 22 Rite Aid rival
- 27 Shade of blue
- 29 Put at stake
- 30 Shipping box
- 31 Mail-delivery group: Abbr.
- 32 Rubdown product: 2 wds.
- 33 Buffalo's lake
- 34 Take it easy
- 35 Lettuce type
- 36 Purple berry
- 37 "\_ go brag!"
- 44 Gave counsel to
- 45 Potato chip brand
- 47 Abate
- 48 Fore and \_
- 51 Magazine unit
- 53 Slowly destroy
- 54 Sounded disapproving
- 55 Performs in a play
- 56 Tiresome person
- 57 Lost traction
- 59 Flows back
- 60 Flag support
- 61 Baking unit: Abbr.
- 63 Gordon Sumner, \_ Sting

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