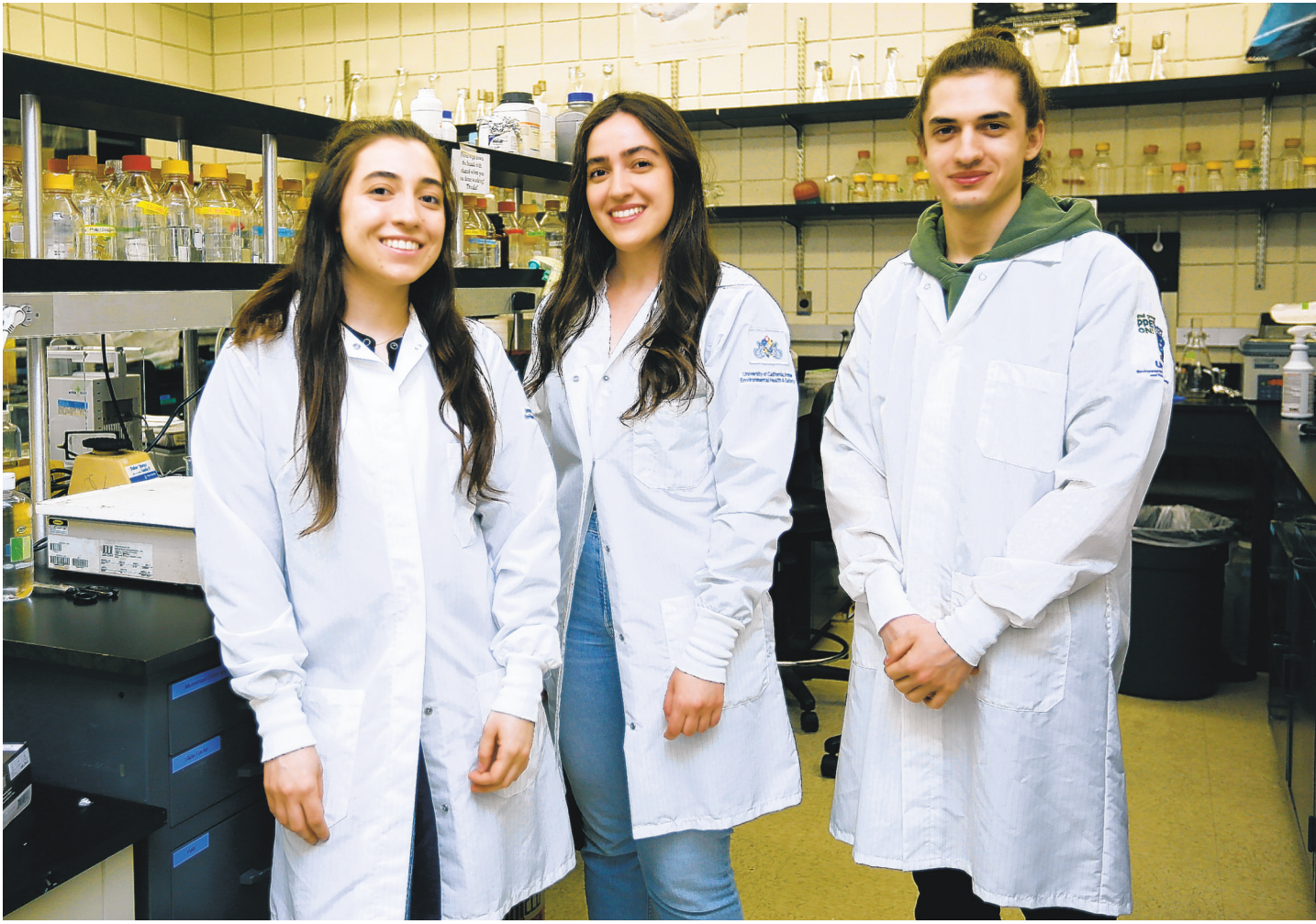


Daily Pilot

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2020 /// Now including Coastline Pilot and Huntington Beach Independent /// dailypilot.com



Photos by Raul Roa | Staff Photographer

FROM LEFT, siblings Wedad, 25, Lamees, 26, and Sammy Alhassen, 23, at a laboratory on the UC Irvine campus where they are doctoral students.

For a trio of UC Irvine doctoral students, work and research is all in the family

BY LILLY NGUYEN

Siblings that work, study and live together are siblings that stay together — at least, that's the case for the three youngest of eight children in the Alhassen family.

Around UC Irvine, Lamees, 26, Wedad, 25, and Sammy Alhassen, 23, are known as the “three siblings,” and they not only share an on-campus apartment but also an interest in pharmacology, the subject of each student's doctorate.

“We come from a really big family. We are a total of eight, and for my dad, education has always been really, really important for him and that's kind of the reason why, for us, we moved onto wanting to do a PhD,” Lamees said.

“All of us are about a year apart from each other, so that's kind of the reason why we all ended up going to the same high school, middle school, kind of the same



See **Family**, page A2 **WEDAD**, left, and Lamees Alhassen work on a solution for injection at a UC Irvine laboratory.

O.C. seeks housing aid from the state

It would allow conversion of three motels into permanent shelters. Meanwhile, coronavirus cases climb another 287 in the county.

BY LILLY NGUYEN

Applications have been filed with the state by Orange County's Community Resources department for a share of the \$600 million in state grant funding that would allow the county to convert three motels to permanent housing for the homeless.

County supervisors signed off on a request for \$60.6 million from the state's Project Homekey — not to be confused with Project Roomkey, which initially launched in April to secure 15,000 hotel and motel rooms to provide short-term shelter for vulnerable homeless people during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Orange County Health Care Agency reported that 147 of the 44,212 cases and one of the 815 deaths to date in the county have been people experiencing homelessness.

Orange County United Way reported in 2019 that 6,860 people in the county are homeless.

Through Project Homekey, the state provides \$600 million in grant funding to both cities and counties to purchase and rehabilitate hotels, motels, vacant apartment buildings and others to convert into permanent, long-term housing. It is also available to other local public entities, such as housing authorities.

Eligible uses are to provide housing for individuals and families experiencing homelessness or at risk of experiencing homelessness and are impacted by the pandemic.

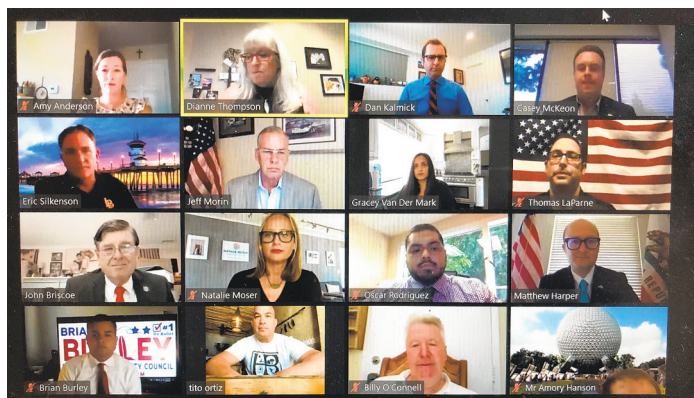
About \$550 million comes out of federal coronavirus aid relief funds and an additional \$50 million comes out of California's general fund to supplement the acquisition of properties and initial operating funds.

Applications are due Sept. 29. Priority applications were due Aug. 13.

County officials said Tuesday that three applications were submitted for Housekey funding for properties that in-

See **Housing**, page A3

H.B council candidates participate in online forum



Screenshot by Matt Szabo

ALL 15 Huntington Beach City Council candidates attended Tuesday's virtual Zoom forum that last two hours.

BY MATT SZABO

Perhaps the most well-known of this fall's Huntington Beach City Council candidates was out of the country on Tuesday.

Former mixed martial arts star Tito Ortiz said he was on vacation in Mexico, planned before the novel coronavirus pandemic.

Technology still helped him attend a virtual Zoom forum hosted by the Huntington Beach Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by the Robert Mayer Leadership Academy.

Each of the 15 candidates at-

tended the online forum, which lasted two hours and was open to the public.

They're vying for three available spots on the City Council, with the election set for Nov. 3.

None of the candidates is currently on the council, though Matthew Harper and Billy O'Connell have served previously.

The other candidates include, in alphabetical order: John Briscoe, Brian Burley, Sonya Green, Amory Hanson, Dan Kalmick, Thomas LaParne, Casey McKeon, Jeff Morin,

See **Forum**, page A4

ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

ORANGE COUNTY SC EXTENDS STREAK TO THREE WITH WIN OVER LAS VEGAS LIGHTS FC PAGE A4

Orange County congressman delivers pro-USPS messages

BY HILLARY DAVIS

Marie Gunton recently reached out to her congressman with a grievance.

As a seller on Etsy, she shipped a yard of specialty fabric first-class from Seal Beach to Indianapolis on July 24. Her buyer planned to make masks to protect against COVID-19, but by Aug. 3, the parcel still wasn't there.

Gunton asked a postal clerk why it might be held up. She said she was told that in addition to the impacts of the pandemic and recent cutbacks by Postmaster Gen. Louis DeJoy, the new directive was to focus on premium Priority Mail.

Gunton considered that a “hijacking.” That's what she told Rep. Harley Rouda (D-Laguna Beach) and what she said again Tuesday at a local rally to defend the U.S. Postal Service.

“My story is not unique,” she said at the rally, held outside the Costa Mesa post office on Adams

Avenue. “The disruption of our mail is a malicious act that affects us all.”

From a podium fashioned from shipping boxes, Rouda said nobody needs to take his word for it that removal of blue curbside outgoing boxes and elimination of overtime are a plan to suppress the vote in November that could unseat President Trump.

“No, you don't have to take my word for it. Take the president's word for it, one of the few times you can,” Rouda said. “He actually said it. He admitted that the reason that these changes were being made was to cut down on the ability for mail-in voting.”

Trump said last week he would block a funding boost for the postal service to handle an expected influx of mail-in ballots this fall to limit voting by mail during the ongoing pandemic.

No evidence supports the president's allegation that mail-in bal-

See **USPS**, page A3



Raul Roa | Staff Photographer

VALERIE HONN, a resident of Orange and a 32-year postal carrier who recently retired, holds a sign after a Save the USPS rally at the Camelback Street post office in Newport Beach on Tuesday.

H.B. police receive grant to fight alcohol-related harm

BY MATT SZABO

The Huntington Beach Police Department has received a \$62,302 grant from the California Alcoholic Beverage Control in order to address alcohol-related harm in the community. The grant strengthens local law enforcement efforts by combining the talents of local police officers and ABC agents, Sgt. Jake Knox of the Special Enforcement Team

said. ABC agents have expertise in alcoholic beverage laws. "This is important to the city of Huntington Beach in order to increase protection for youth and to shut down problem locations that can reduce the quality of life in neighborhoods," Huntington Beach Police Chief Robert Handy said in a release. The grant, which is valid for 2020-21, is one of more than 50 awarded in California to local law

enforcement agencies, through ABC's Alcohol Policing Partnership. The funds will be used to reduce the number of alcoholic beverage sales to minors and obviously intoxicated patrons, Knox said, as well as illegal solicitations of alcohol and other criminal activities like the sale and possession of illegal drugs. "The program has helped improve safety in communities we

serve," said Eric Hirata, who was appointed as ABC director last month by Gov. Gavin Newsom. "We've seen a real difference in the communities where the grant program resources have been invested." Alcohol is not permitted on beaches in the city but is served in bars and restaurants on Main Street and surrounding areas downtown, as well as certain locations in Central Park.

The Huntington Beach Police Department conducted DUI/driver's license checkpoints on both Friday and Saturday nights in the city. According to arrest logs, nine people were arrested in the city over the weekend for driving under the influence, and nine more were arrested for disorderly conduct involving alcohol.
matthew.szabo@latimes.com
Twitter: @mjszabo

FAMILY

Continued from page A1

thing with college." Their five older siblings have careers in engineering

— environmental, civil, structural and aerospace — and architecture. Lamees, Wedad and Sammy took general education classes in tandem with their high school courses ahead of their undergraduate degrees, and Wedad said that the three worked together until Lamees graduated. "For us, it became almost like we have our own study partners," Wedad said.

All three of the siblings received their bachelor's degrees early at UC Riverside but completed their master's degrees at UC Irvine, UC Berkeley and UC Berkeley. Lamees, the oldest of the three siblings, said she had initially gone into biomedical engineering because she had wanted to go to medical school.

But she decided to take a year off following her undergraduate work to pursue research, which she now felt was her true passion. She met Amal Alachkar, an associate professor in pharmaceutical sciences, and Olivier Civelli, the Eric L. and Lila D. Nelson Chair in Neuropharmacology at UC Irvine.

The trio now works at the laboratory together but are pursuing different research topics as their doctorate projects.

Wedad said she had initially wanted to pursue architecture because of her father, Tarif Alhassen, but changed her mind in high school.

She said she always wanted to do something in science and help others and went into biomedical engineering because she was interested in the classes Lamees was taking. The two are 11 months apart.

Wedad said she saw herself teaching and researching but didn't want to be hands-on with patients.

She and Sammy ended up helping Lamees and other researchers.

"For me, I'd always had my mind set on bioengineering, but after I was working in that lab and I started to work on more projects," Wedad said.

"You can bridge the gap between bioengineering and pharmacology, and for me it was more so, 'I want to do both of those at the same time with my research.'"

Sammy said all three of them had the same start,



Photos by Raul Roa | Staff Photographer

SAMMY, left, and Wedad, along with sibling Lamees, are the three youngest of eight children in the Alhassen family.

but he had been debating between civil and mechanical engineering.

He knew he wanted to do math and felt he was good at it, but he was also interested in biology and science.

He followed his sisters' path because he felt both of his interests came together in biomedical engineering.

Lamees said she is studying the extract of a plant called *Corydalis yanhusuo*, which she said could be used in conjunction with pain medications such as opioids to lessen the likelihood of dependence.

Wedad said she is mapping brain circuits to see how they relate to schizophrenia with the hope that new therapeutics

could be developed for treatment.

Sammy said he is working on projects involving mental and movement disorders that could provide a new understanding of certain chemicals in the human body. His main focus is pursuing treatments and a possible cure for Parkinson's disease.

The three live together and try to avoid talking about their research at home. That isn't always successful.

Lamees said that though all three projects are different, they use similar techniques.

She tries to stress they keep work and home separate, but that has become more difficult with the pandemic, which shut down



WEDAD ALHASSEN prepares testing samples.

their lab for a month in March.

"When we're in lab, I feel like we talk a lot about research and say like, 'Hey, this is what I'm doing. These are the issues I'm having. What do you think?'" Wedad said.

"Usually when we come home, sometimes we don't [talk about research], but sometimes, I'll be like, 'Lamees, can we talk about this, this and this?'" Wedad said, laughing, "and she's like, 'Wedad. I'm at home. Let's relax. Let's not bring research home.'"

"Lab work ends up being talked about at home, which I don't mind, but for the most part, we like to keep it where we can come home, de-stress, relax and not have to worry about any problems we run into for research," Lamees said, "but then again, we signed up for a PhD program, and we're basically married [to] our projects, so that's all we constantly think about."

The trio describes the Alhassen family as close, with Lamees and Wedad recalling memories of a large, shared backyard between their family and neighboring aunts and uncles in West Covina.

Sammy said the family had moved by the time he was young, but he remembers doing homework and workbooks with his father. Tarif Alhassen still lives in West Covina.

Wedad said she remembers the workbooks, which would come during the summers. They would have to finish their activities for the day before they could go play.

"It was always that balance between, 'Your education is very important, that's something that nobody can take away from you, so focus on that,' and then you can also have fun whenever else," Wedad said.

"I think that's one thing that has always been instilled in us. It's all fun, but education is very, very important."

"You need to establish yourself, because the one thing our dad wants to leave us with is not a bunch of money, not a bunch of whatever," Wedad said.

"He wants to leave with education and be able to go and be independent, find our job, make our own money and be able to live off of that. He never wanted to hand anything to us."

Lamees said she felt her older siblings followed in the footsteps of their father, an architect, while she, Wedad and Sammy leaned more toward biology.

"It's always been the young three who always wanted to stick together and work together and kind of build something out of nothing," Wedad said.

"For [our family], I think they're more so just proud [of us]. I don't think they think anything of it. We're all really, really close. In the end, I think that they love that we're together. They don't have to worry because we can take care of each other."

lillynguyen@latimes.com
Twitter: @lillbirds

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Proposed Flood Hazard Determinations for the City of Huntington Beach and Unincorporated Areas of Orange County, California, and Case No. 20-09-0545P. The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) solicits technical information or comments on proposed flood hazard determinations for the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), and where applicable, the Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report for your community. These flood hazard determinations may include the addition or modification of Base Flood Elevations, base flood depths, Special Flood Hazard Area boundaries or zone designations, or the regulatory floodway. The FIRM and, if applicable, the FIS report have been revised to reflect these flood hazard determinations through issuance of a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR), in accordance with Title 44, Part 65 of the Code of Federal Regulations. These determinations are the basis for the floodplain management measures that your community is required to adopt or show evidence of having in effect to qualify or remain qualified for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. For more information on the proposed flood hazard determinations and information on the statutory 90-day period provided for appeals, please visit FEMA's website at www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/bfe, or call the FEMA Mapping and Insurance eXchange (FMIX) toll free at 1-877-FEMA MAP (1-877-336-2627).

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE (Division 6 of the Commercial Code) Escrow No. 204314-CS

(1) Notice is hereby given to creditors of the within named Seller(s) that a bulk sale is about to be made on personal property hereinafter described.
(2) The name and business addresses of the seller are: **LST&V LLC, 2263 FAIRVIEW ROAD, SUITE L, COSTA MESA, CA 92626**
(3) The location in California of the chief executive office of the Seller is:
(4) The names and business address of the Buyer(s) are: **SANTIAGO'S TACOS Y MARISCOS INC, 2263 FAIRVIEW ROAD, SUITE G, COSTA MESA, CA 92626**
(5) The location and general description of the assets to be sold are: **FURNITURE, FIXTURES AND EQUIPMENT** of that certain business located at: **2263 FAIRVIEW ROAD, SUITE L, COSTA MESA, CA 92626**
(6) The business name used by the seller(s) at said location is: **VALENTINO'S PIZZA**
(7) The anticipated date of the bulk sale is **SEPTEMBER 4, 2020**, at the office of **R ESCROW, 1205 E CHAPMAN AVE, ORANGE, CA 92866** Escrow No. **204314-CS**, Escrow Officer **CANDICE SILVA**
(8) Claims may be filed with Same as "7" above.
(9) The last date for filing claims is: **SEPTEMBER 3, 2020**
(10) This Bulk Sale is subject to Section 6106.2 of the Uniform Commercial Code.
(11) As listed by the Seller, all other business names and addresses used by the Seller within three years before the date such list was sent or delivered to the Buyer are: **NONE**.
DATED: **AUGUST 11, 2020**
TRANSFEREES: **SANTIAGO'S TACOS Y MARISCOS INC, A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION**
ORD-21060 DAILY PILOT 8/19/2020

NOTICE OF INTENDED TRANSFER OF RETAIL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE UNDER SECTIONS 24073 AND 24074, CALIFORNIA BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE

Licensee(s) Name(s): **NEW LUCKY ENTERPRISES LLC**
Premises Address(es) To Which The License(s) Has/Have Been Issued: **1654 SANTA ANA AVE, COSTA MESA, CA 92627-3850**
Licensee's Mailing Address: **32 LOS INDIOS, IRVINE, CA 92618-8863**
Applicant(s) Name(s): **KDS ENTERPRISES INC.**
Proposed Business Address: **1654 SANTA ANA AVE., COSTA MESA, CA 92627-3850**
Mailing Address of Applicant: **17691 MANCHESTER AVE, IRVINE, CA 92614**
Kind of License Intended To Be Transferred: **OFF-SALE BEER AND WINE**
Escrow Holder/Guarantor Name: **C. GULL ESCROW INC.**
Escrow Holder/Guarantor Address: **11060 ARTESIA BLVD, STE H, CERRITOS, CA 90703**
Total consideration to be paid for business and license, including inventory, whether actual cost, estimated cost, or a not-to-exceed amount): **CASH \$407,500.00**
PROMISSORY NOTE(S) \$407,500.00
TOTAL AMOUNT \$815,000.00
The parties agree that the consideration for the transfer of the business and the license(s) is to be paid only after the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control has approved the proposed transfer. The parties also agree and herein direct the above-named escrow holder to make payment of distribution within a reasonable time after the completion of the transfer of the license as provided in Section 24074 of the California Business and Professions Code.
Date signed: **8/13/20**
KDS ENTERPRISES, INC.
S/ Dave Bhalla
S/ Krishna Miglani Bhalla
Licensee(s)/Transferor(s)
Date signed: **8/13/2020**
S/ Scott P. Bhalla
Applicant(s)/Transferee(s)
8/19/20
CNS-3389875#
DAILY PILOT

THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS
1 Drinks slowly
5 Breakfast bread
10 Earned a speeding ticket
14 Young animal
15 Typo
16 Booming instrument
17 Take _; subtract
18 Weak and indecisive
20 "To whom it _ concern"; letter opener
21 Off _; not on the job
22 Collect lots of
23 "Oh, give me a home _ the buffalo"
25 Hors d'oeuvres table bowlful
26 Lombard or King
28 Midwest state
31 Excuse
32 Bangkok folks
34 Police officer
36 Like fast-food orders
37 Coin toss call
38 Permanent mark
39 "Silence!"
40 Free-for-all
41 Take potshots
42 Clothing
44 _ Knight and the Pips
45 Tree subject to disease
46 Complaint
47 Shopper's binge
50 Smile broadly
51 Org. for Hawks

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54					55	56				57		
58						59				60		
61						62				63		

For answers to the crossword, see page A3.

& Hornets
54 Downtown thoroughfare
57 Fawn's father
58 Thomas Kinkadee's paintings
59 Sicker than before
60 Not at all ruddy
61 Western author Zane
62 Proprietor
63 Poor box offering
DOWN
1 Illegal way to make money
2 Herbert Hoover's state of birth
3 Dramatist
4 Pig's home
5 Professor's

status
6 Deliver an address
7 Fighting force
8 Weep
9 Attempt
10 55-cent items
11 Wild feline
12 Diminishes
13 TV's "Happy _"
19 Arthritis symptoms
21 Sandwich shop
24 Tramp
25 Speaker's platform
26 Hit Broadway musical
27 Luau greeting
28 _ smoothie; healthy shake
29 Not done on purpose
30 Full of suds
32 Story

Tribune Media Services



Screenshot by Hillary Davis

REP. HARLEY ROUDA speaks at the Costa Mesa post office on Adams Avenue Tuesday. To his right are Costa Mesa Mayor Pro Tem John Stephens, Mayor Katrina Foley and Councilwoman Andrea Marr.

USPS

Continued from page A1

lots lead to widespread voter fraud.

Rouda said he was nonplussed by the announcement Tuesday that DeJoy, a major Trump donor who was appointed to the postmaster spot in May, had suspended equipment removal to "avoid even the appearance of any impact on election mail."

"Really?" Rouda said. "We are way past that."

He said the postmaster should put back the equipment or add more.

Costa Mesa Mayor Katrina Foley said that when she was in college, she wanted to contact her father, who was working as an engineer on a barge in the sea outside Seward, Alaska. All she could put on the envelope was his name and city.

After two weeks, the postal service had found her dad.

"This is a neutral institution. It should not be politicized," she said. "We should rely on the post office for our families, for our seniors, for medicine, for paychecks and for our small businesses so they can stay in business."

Sonia Canchola, a representative of the American Postal Workers Union, listed the equipment removed from post offices

statewide, including 74 of the bar code readers that scan mail-in ballots. Without those large machines, the workers have to scan ballots manually.

She said they would. "We treat those ballots as V.I.P. first-class mail," added her colleague Keisha Lewis, president of the Garden Grove-based branch of the National Assn. of Letter Carriers.

Both women urged voters to return their ballots without delay once they hit mailboxes in early October.

"We want to deliver to small businesses. We want to deliver medication. We want to deliver packages to the military," Lewis said at another rally Tuesday, this one at the Newport Beach post office on Camelback Street. "Most of all we want to deliver the ballots this election."

Canchola said if the postal service can handle Christmas cards, it can still handle small parcels of fabric. Eventually.

Gunton, the Etsy seller, said she sent another yard to her customer in Indianapolis using Priority Mail. It arrived in two days.

The original first-class package arrived in Indiana almost a month after it left Seal Beach, on Aug. 23.

hillary.davis@latimes.com
Twitter: @dailypilot_hd

HOUSING

Continued from page A1

clude a 60-unit motel for \$13.4 million, a 72-unit motel for \$12.7 million and a 20-unit motel for \$2 million. Officials did not disclose the names or locations of the motels.

Mechelle Haines, a spokeswoman for the Orange County Community Resources department, said the county is currently in final negotiations and would need state approval on applications and awarding of funding before the locations could be disclosed.

County officials said they anticipate word on approval this month or in September.

Haines said referrals to units will be handled through the county's coordinated entry system, which connects homeless individuals and families to appropriate services and housing interventions. This will be done in coordination with the county's continuum of care.

"Initially, properties can be operated as interim housing until the property converts to permanent housing, which can take up to five years," Haines said.

"Once properties are converted to permanent housing, leases are imple-

mented and individuals are allowed to stay per the terms of the lease like any apartment unit."

On Tuesday, the Orange County Health Care Agency reported another 287 cases and five new deaths in the county.

The deaths included two skilled nursing facility residents, two assisted living facility residents and one resident not living in a facility.

The agency reported 6,282 new tests, bringing the total to 560,104.

The number of currently hospitalized cases is 409, with 124 of those cases currently in intensive care units.

An estimated 35,421 have recovered to date.

Here are the latest cumulative coronavirus case counts and COVID-19 deaths for select cities:

- Santa Ana: 8,639 cases; 210 deaths
- Anaheim: 7,568 cases; 189 deaths
- Huntington Beach: 1,956 cases; 56 deaths
- Costa Mesa: 1,439 cases; 14 deaths
- Irvine: 1,349 cases; 12 deaths
- Newport Beach: 955 cases; 14 deaths
- Fountain Valley: 427 cases; eight deaths
- Laguna Beach: 153 cases; less than five deaths



A MAN sleeps on the sidewalk in Costa Mesa.

Don Leach

And here are case counts followed by deaths, by age group:

- 0 to 17: 2,953 cases; zero deaths
- 18 to 24: 6,579 cases; three deaths
- 25 to 34: 9,704 cases; 12 deaths
- 35 to 44: 7,155 cases; 25 deaths
- 45 to 54: 7,238 cases; 70 deaths
- 55 to 64: 5,324 cases; 105 deaths
- 65 to 74: 2,605 cases; 169 deaths
- 75 to 84: 1,475 cases; 180 deaths
- 85 and older: 1,149 cases; 251 deaths

By race/ethnicity:

- Latino: 10,462 cases; 347

- White: 6,201 cases; 257 deaths
- Asian: 1,865 cases; 112 deaths
- Black: 317 cases; 13 deaths
- Unknown: 20,450 cases; nine deaths
- Other (includes Pacific Islander, American Indian and multiple races): 4,917 cases; 77 deaths

Updated figures are posted daily at ocovid19.ochealthinfo.com/coronavirus-in-oc. For information on getting tested, visit ocovid19.ochealthinfo.com/covid-19-testing.

lilly.nguyen@latimes.com
Twitter: @lillibirds

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

S	I	P	S	T	O	A	S	T	S	P	E	D		
C	O	L	T	E	R	R	O	R	T	U	B	A		
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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

CONTACT US

David Carrillo Peñaloza
City Editor
(714) 966-4612
Raymond Arroyo
Advertising Director
(714) 966-4608

TCN Legal Phone
888-881-6181
TCN Legal Email
LALegal@latimes.com

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Address
10540 Talbert Ave., Suite 300 West, Fountain Valley, CA 92708
Business Office
(714) 966-4600
Newsroom
(714) 966-4699
Sports
(714) 966-4612
Email
david.carrillo@latimes.com
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PRO SOCCER

Orange County SC extends win streak to three

BY ANDREW TURNER

IRVINE — When Orange County Soccer Club was last at home three weeks ago, Coach Braeden Cloutier indicated his team was still working its way into match shape.

Orange County had recorded its first victory of the season that night, and it had only played three matches at that point.

Only two matches have been played since, but the points have started to pile up for Orange County.

Aodhan Quinn scored in the 69th minute, lifting Orange County over Las Vegas Lights FC 1-0 on Saturday night at Championship Soccer Stadium at the Great Park in Irvine.

The decisive strike came on a left-footed, grounded shot inside the left post, as Brian Iloski found Quinn at the end of a combination passing play for the attempt from the center of the box.

“A great little two touches from him to find me, great vision from him,” Quinn said of Iloski. “I didn’t think he saw me, but then I was lucky enough just to be in a good position, and it was an easy tap-in.”

Orange County (3-0-2, 11

points) remains undefeated and has earned three straight shutout victories. For the season, Orange County has conceded just one goal.

“The one thing that I think gets probably overshadowed a little bit is the back line,” Cloutier said. “I know Frederik [Due] was big for us against San Diego, but our back four and our keepers have been fantastic. Clean sheets win championships, and we know that. We put a lot of emphasis in keeping ourselves organized and compact, and we’ve been really good so far.”

In the Group B standings in the United Soccer League, Orange County is tied with San Diego Loyal (3-3-2) with 11 points, although Orange County has played three less matches thus far.

Phoenix Rising FC (5-1-1) is in first place with 16 points. In two matches against Phoenix earlier this season, Orange County went 1-0-1.

“We have many positive things to build off,” Iloski said. “Obviously happy with the recent results, three in a row, clean sheets, so that’s a positive sign.

“Now, we’re just trying to capitalize on more of our opportunities, and look to [score] some more goals, especially early on.”

Due, who had recorded consecutive clean sheets for Orange County, left the contest at halftime. Cloutier said the move was precautionary due to groin tightness. He was relieved by Aaron Cervantes.

The back line of Nathan Smith, Michael Orozco, Rob Kiernan and Kevin Alston helped preserve the shutout, surrendering a single shot on goal. Due went up with one hand to make the stop on Las Vegas’ Bryan de la Fuente in the 13th minute.

Diego Lopez, an 18-year-old forward standing 6-foot-1, made his first start for Orange County. He availed himself for scoring opportunities in the first half, but he was thwarted in his efforts to get on the scoresheet.

Iloski controlled the ball against two defenders near the left corner flag, freeing himself to send a pass across the six-yard box to Lopez, whose close-range shot was deflected over the cage by Las Vegas goalkeeper Edward Delgado in



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

ORANGE COUNTY Soccer Club midfielder Aodhan Quinn, left, competes against Las Vegas Lights midfielder Seth Moses during the first half on Saturday at Championship Soccer Stadium in Irvine. Quinn scored the only goal of the game in the 69th minute.

the 20th minute.

Nearing the end of the first half, Lopez again took aim at the goal on a partial breakaway on the right side, but left back Jordan Murrell recovered to block two shot attempts.

“I’m really happy that I got the opportunity to start, especially in my debut, and just having that support [from] my teammates and that they uplifted me,” Lopez said.

“That really helped me

get confidence on the field early on, and obviously, I had two opportunities that I wish went in. Unfortunately, they didn’t go in.”

andrew.turner@latimes.com
Twitter: @ProfessorTurner

FORUM

Continued from page A1

Natalie Moser, Oscar Rodriguez, Eric Silkenson and Gracey Van Der Mark.

Each candidate made opening and closing statements and was asked his or her opinion on two questions posed by moderator Dianne Thompson.

The first question was how each candidate would plan to take care of maintenance needs at some of the 77 parks in the city, with the revenue challenges due to COVID-19.

Rodriguez, who said he tries to run at Central Park every day, said he would

prioritize emergencies, while Moser talked about dealing with the homelessness problem to alleviate some of the strain on the parks.

Harper, who served as Huntington Beach mayor in 2013-14, warned against the dangers of overpromising funds.

Burley, who is also a fiscal conservative, said it was important to keep spending enough of the budget on infrastructure, per the city charter.

“It takes good financial leadership at the executive level, but more importantly, it takes financial discipline and responsibility from among the City

Council members to be able to make a difference on this issue,” Harper said.

LaParne touted his experience in Eagle Scouts and said he wished to implement a “Save our Parks” program to make local parks a priority, while Silkenson, O’Connell and McKeon each brought up the benefits of branding and corporate sponsorship opportunities for the parks.

“We talk about the skate park, and it’s the Vans Skate Park,” Silkenson said. “Why not Home Depot Lake Park?”

Kalmick said a parks conservancy is the solution, while Briscoe called the parks “shabby.”

“What children need today are flat, level playing fields,” he said. “We need to provide what those families need, and we’re not.”

The second question Thompson presented was whether or not the candidates would have cast any votes that differed from decisions made in the last year by the council majority.

Several candidates, including LaParne, Van Der Mark, O’Connell and Morin, criticized the City Council’s handling of the “Pipeline project.”

The city had tabbed 15311 Pipeline Lane as a site for a homeless shelter, but after protests and be-

ing sued due to the proposed project’s location in a strictly industrial area, the council voted to sell the property for a loss of nearly \$80,000.

“I believe that those oversights did postpone a shelter from going up, and it prevented our law enforcement from enforcing the laws and keeping our community safe,” Van Der Mark said.

Harper and Silkenson said they opposed council members’ approval of raises for city staff in April during the coronavirus pandemic.

Moser said she disagreed with the council voting to sue the state over beach

closures, a case the city ended up losing. She agreed with Kalmick that a mask mandate should be in place during the pandemic.

“If we wear a mask, we can get open,” Kalmick said. “We need to make sure it’s enforced, like Costa Mesa is doing.”

Burley and McKeon indicated that they would have voted with Councilman Erik Peterson to deem every business essential during the pandemic.

More candidate forums are expected as the election gets closer.

matthew.szabo@latimes.com
Twitter: @mjszabo

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