

Daily Pilot

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Susan Hoffman

249 FLAGS were installed on the grass at Newport Beach Civic Center for Flag Day on Friday.

Even as anti-Trump protesters across the nation participate in “No Kings” demonstrations Saturday, including several such gatherings in Orange County to counter the military parade the president has called for in Washington, D.C., a couple of traditional local Flag Day ceremonies are planned.

The occasion will be marked in Newport Beach on Saturday, with a community Flag Day event hosted by Sara Weber, a member of the City Council, to celebrate the 250th birthday of the U.S. Army.

The event, which starts at 11:30 a.m. and runs until noon, will feature 250 U.S. flags that were installed Thursday on the Newport Beach Civic Center lawn.

Newport Beach resident Keira Wilkes will sing the national anthem, the presentation of colors will be led by Commander Brian Fleming of American Legion Newport Harbor Post 291 and the flag-folding ceremony will be overseen by Orange County Boy Scouts.

Assemblywoman Diane Dixon

Flag Day salutes to mark Army’s 250th birthday in Newport Beach, Dana Point

While “No Kings” protests are planned across the U.S. Saturday to counter President Trump’s military parade in Washington D.C., some more traditional Flag Day events will be held in Orange County.

(R-Newport Beach) will address those gathered for the event. Following her remarks, Weber will introduce veteran Angelo Pasciuti.

Parking is available adjacent to the Newport Beach Civic Center, 100 Civic Center Drive, in the parking structure.

Farther south along the coastline, Baby Beach in Dana Point will be the venue for O.C. Supervisor Katrina Foley’s annual Flag Day festivities, also on Saturday and also featuring 250 American flags.

This ceremony is to honor of all military personnel, firefighters, police officers, medical personnel, and other first responders, according to organizers.

Hours are 2 to 4 p.m. The ceremony will be led by Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9934. Baby Beach is located at 34451 Ensenada Place.

“No Kings” demonstrations are also planned to take place along the coast, from Seal Beach to Dana Point, according to organizers, including one in Newport Beach.

— Daily Pilot Staff

Costa Mesa offers Latinos assurances amid ICE activity

Costa Mesa officials assured residents police will not enforce immigration laws, a far cry from earlier stances.

BY SARA CARDINE

As federal immigration enforcement efforts ramp up throughout Orange County, officials in Costa Mesa, where Latinos comprise nearly 36% of the population, this week reassured residents the city’s police department would not enforce immigration laws or investigate residents’ legal status.

In a community message issued Tuesday on behalf of Mayor John Stephens and Mayor Pro Tem Manuel Chavez, leaders reaffirmed the city’s commitment to the safety of all residents.

“We stand firmly by our core values of inclusivity and compassion for all members of our diverse community,” read the statement, which promised safe harbor to peaceful protesters while offering a warning to those who might use a demonstration to justify acts of violence, vandalism or property damage.

“The Costa Mesa Police Department cannot and will not enforce immigration laws nor investigate immigration status,” the message continued. “If there is a crime that needs to be reported, or if you are in need of officer assistance, our police department is here for you, regardless of immigration status — do not hesitate to call for help.”

The proclamation comes amid reports this week of enhanced ICE

See **Message**, page A3

Ozomatli celebrates 30 years, returns to F.V.

The genre-defying band kicks off the OC Parks Summer Concert Series at Mile Square Park.

BY MATT SZABO

Los Angeles-based band Ozomatli is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, and those in Orange County have not one, but two chances to see the eclectic, multi-genre act perform.

Ozomatli will be playing a free concert at Mile Square Park in Fountain Valley on Thursday at 6 p.m., kicking off the OC Parks Summer Concert Series.

Ulises Bella, who plays saxophone and provides vocals, is one of six founding members that is still at it three decades later.

“It’s a trip,” Bella said in an interview with the Daily Pilot. “When we were younger, when we were kids, none of us thought

that this was going to last that long. When you’re younger, you’re thinking maybe the band would last a couple of years, maybe it would last 10 years. Now we’re at 30, and it’s incredible. It’s a testament to the chemistry of the members of the band, and our commitment to the music and to ourselves as a group.”

The band will return to Orange County on Aug. 3 for an OC Fair show at the Pacific Amphitheatre in Costa Mesa, along with X and Los Lobos.

The shows are part of Ozomatli’s “30 Revolutions” tour. A hometown anniversary show was scheduled for Saturday night at the California Plaza in downtown L.A., but Bella said it has been postponed due to the curfew and ICE raids in the city.

Bella said Ozomatli, a band whose origins are steeped in ac-

See **Ozomatli**, page A4



Courtesy of Pretend City Museum

GIRL SCOUT Ellen Townsend, 17, greets visitors at a Pretend City special summer exhibit the Youth Board and Girl Scouts organized to educate youth about mental health and healthy habits in 2024.

INSIDE: CLASS OF 2025 GRADUATIONS

See pages A2, A5 and A6 for full coverage



Don Leach / Staff Photographer

GRADUATE ADAM KIRKORN crowd surfs during a dance circle at the 2025 Edison High commencement ceremony on Thursday.

Pretend City Museum program helps build future leaders

Pretend City’s Youth Leadership Board contributes to the community while learning skills for the future. The museum will break ground in July on a larger, permanent home at Irvine’s Great Park.

BY JESSICA PERALTA

Clara Cestone had two graduations this year — from Santa Margarita Catholic High School in Rancho Santa Margarita and from Pretend City’s Youth Leadership Board, where she served as president. And now she heads to Stanford University in the fall.

“I definitely lacked a lot of leadership, public speaking and technical skills,” Cestone said about what she learned while leading the group. “I can send an amazing chain of emails now. I didn’t even have the confidence to write my name on a paper and send it to someone before the Youth Board.”

“It definitely transformed me from your more introverted personality to an extroverted, which I think is always great.”

Founded in 2009 as part of Pretend City Children’s Museum in Irvine, the Youth Leadership

See **Pretend**, page A3

Class of 2025

HUNTINGTON BEACH HIGH

Jessica Flores was a dedicated member of the Huntington Beach Academy for the Performing Arts, multi-sport scholar athlete and more.

But more than individual accomplishments, the Huntington Beach High Class of 2025 graduate recognized the power of the Oilers family in more tangible ways.

"I've come to realize that everyone has their own story," Flores said Wednesday during her student speech at the Huntington Beach High commencement ceremony. "We all go through hardships and successes. I personally lost someone very important to me one year ago, my dad, and it was by the love from teachers and friends on this campus and God who helped carry me through it."

Huntington Beach celebrated its graduating seniors during the ceremony at 'Cap' Sheue Field, with 686 seniors turning their tassels as part of the school's 119th gradu-

ating class.

Flores gave her senior speech as a duet with Kai Wong. Another talented senior, Laurel Brookhyser, sang the national anthem. Earlier this year, Brookhyser was named Miss Fountain Valley Teen.

Huntington Beach ASB President Emma Trepina served as the master of ceremonies. Four members of the APA Music, Media and Entertainment Technology (MMET) program — Storm Anderson, Owen Mitchell, Jake Young and Talan Carthey — entertained their fellow graduates and the crowd with a rendition of Journey's "Don't Stop Believing."

Huntington Beach Principal Brenna Orr echoed Flores' thoughts about relying on each other for strength, presenting the class for graduation to be accepted by district Board of Trustees member Duane Dishno.

— Daily Pilot Staff



James Carbone

GRADUATES JUMP for joy and cheer for their fellow graduates as they receive diplomas.



Don Leach / Staff Photographer

GRADUATES DANCE and sing to the senior song "Revival" during commencement.

EDISON HIGH

The graduates of Edison High School gathered in the corner of 'Cap' Sheue Field on Thursday afternoon to vibe to music.

An Edison High musical group comprised of Saxon Baltzer, Ava Coggins, Kayla Do, Koa Hord, Sam Johnson and Nathan Lopez performed "Revival," by Zach Bryan.

The song definitely encourages dancing, so the Chargers got one last dance in together before heading out into the world as the Class of 2025. Edison graduated 430 students during the ceremony.

Edison ASB President Ben Berger shared remarks with the crowd.

"As difficult as the low points or the not-so-fun times of high school were, I can say I wouldn't trade them for the world," Berger said. "Seating charts that placed me farther from my friends brought me closer to new ones. My time spent riding the bench on [the] baseball [team] may not

have been so fun, but I grew my friendships and character through those inactive innings."

Tobias Robertson and Kyle Huang were the other student speakers for Edison, while the Edison choir performed the national anthem.

Edison Principal Danny Morris honored the magna cum laude and summa cum laude graduates, who were wearing gold gowns, as well as eight who will be enlisting in the military following graduation.

"Thank you to all in the stands for being here today, one last time before it's time to go," Morris said. "Thank you for the early mornings, the late nights, the pep talks and even the tough love. Graduates, they have been your ride-or-die squad since day one, and no matter how far you go from here, they'll always be your home team."

— Daily Pilot Staff

OCEAN VIEW HIGH

Ocean View High School Principal Robert Rasmussen, in his fourth year in charge, knows that the Class of 2025 is the first that he's seen through an entire high school career.

"Every graduating class is special to me," Rasmussen said last August, on the first day of the school year. "Being able to watch them grow and mature throughout those high school years is one of the reasons I became a teacher."

The Seahawks' Class of 2025 flew the coop, so to speak, on Wednesday.

Ocean View, the smallest of the six comprehensive high schools in the Huntington Beach Union High School District, definitely has no shortage of school pride with

its slogan, "You can't spell 'love' without 'OV.'"

Ocean View celebrated its 291 graduates on an on-campus commencement ceremony.

Mayra Chavez Casillas addressed her peers with a speech as the senior class president, while Gabrielle Singer and Santiago Valle also gave speeches as senior senate representatives.

Angelina Bado, Matthew Bonilla, Brian Bui and Jacsiry Munoz were the Seahawks' other four senior graduation speakers. Tyler Babikian played the national anthem, while Dulce Rabano sang the alma mater.

— Daily Pilot Staff



Courtesy of Huntington Beach Union High School District

AN OCEAN VIEW graduate poses with Principal Rob Rasmussen during commencement.

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Class of 2025



Photos by James Carbone

MARINA HIGH'S graduates high-five with their diploma in hand on Thursday.



MARINA HIGH School's Senior Speaker Janai Brown addresses the crowd during the commencement ceremony.

MARINA HIGH

The Marina High School choir club sang "Seasons of Love" during the Vikings' commencement ceremony on Thursday at Boswell Field in Westminster.

One season is over for the Class of 2025, and another will be beginning.

Marina graduated 498 seniors during the ceremony.

Janai Brown was the Vikings' senior speaker, while Joshua Chang White, who graduated summa cum laude, also addressed his classmates and invited guests.

Sarah Davis performed the national anthem.

Tim Floyd concluded his first year as Marina principal this year, and the Vikings had another year of academic and athletic success.

Notably, the boys' tennis team advanced to its first CIF title match in program history. Senior Trevor Nguyen, bound for UC San Diego, was the Vikings' No. 1 singles player and again formed an elite doubles team with junior David Tran. The squad also had four other senior starters who graduated Thursday, including Darren Le and Justin Nguyen, who will room together at UCLA in the fall.

— Daily Pilot Staff

LAGUNA BEACH HIGH

Laguna Beach put the finishing touches on its school year by saying goodbye and good luck to 193 seniors during its commencement ceremony on Thursday evening at Guyer Field.

Following community tradition, the class of 2025 got a head start on the celebration on Tuesday, when the procession of the graduates to Main Beach took place.

Julian Reichel added to his legend at Laguna Beach as the valedictorian. The striker helped the Breakers win the CIF Southern Section Division 4 boys' soccer title this season, the fourth for the program and first since 2002.

Reichel delivered a valedictory address focused on encouraging those fortunate enough to grow up in the community to drive success not just for themselves.

"Now, we not only have the power to decide where we will go, what we will pursue, and who we become, but we have the power to catalyze change," Reichel said. "I am sincerely proud of our work up to this point, and I'm inspired by the achievements of my peers. I truly believe in our capacity to be more than ourselves and help others prosper."

Lauren Norrix drew the vocal assignment for the national anthem, and Reyna



MEMBERS of the Laguna Beach High Class of 2025' happily step across the sidewalk to Main Beach Park on Tuesday.

Shahrestany led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dee Perry, the president of the board of education for the Laguna Beach Unified School District, accepted the candidates for graduation at the commencement ceremony.

— Daily Pilot Staff



Don Leach / Staff Photographer

LAGUNA BEACH High graduates join the celebratory cap toss on the sand.

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING LAGUNA BEACH CITY COUNCIL

The Laguna Beach City Council will hold an in-person Public Hearing in the City Council Chambers, located in City Hall at 505 Forest Avenue, Laguna Beach, to consider: **AMENDMENT TO THE CITY'S MASTER FEE SCHEDULE: A City initiated request to amend the City's Master Fee Schedule. LOCATION: Citywide APPLICANT: City of Laguna Beach SAID PUBLIC MEETING to be held Tuesday, June 24, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter.** For additional information, contact City staff: Shannon Espinoza, Finance Manager, at 949-497-0319 or sespinoza@lagunabeachcity.net Comments may be made in writing prior to the hearing (when emailed or mailed to the City Clerk's office) or in-person in Council Chambers during the public hearing. In order to allow sufficient time for members of the City Council and staff to review and consider your comments, written comments will be accepted for consideration up until the close of business (i.e., 5:30 p.m.) on the business day before the date on which this public hearing is scheduled; however, it is recommended they be submitted to the City Clerk's office on or before 5:00 p.m. five days prior to the scheduled hearing. If you challenge this application in court, you may be limited to those raised in the public hearing or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Laguna Beach prior to, or at, the public hearing. **CEQA:** This project is categorically exempt pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines, Section 15378(b) (4) (creation of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities. *Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons with a disability who require a disability-related modification or accommodation in order to participate in a meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, may request such modification or accommodation from the City Clerk's Office at (949) 497-0705 (telephone) or (949) 497-0771 (facsimile). Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to assure accessibility to the meeting.*

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CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on **Thursday, June 26, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.** or soon thereafter as the matter shall be heard, a public hearing will be conducted online via Zoom. The Zoning Administrator of the City of Newport Beach will consider the following application:

Gelato Del Mar - A minor use permit to allow a gelato shop (take-out service, fast casual) within an existing two-story commercial building. The applicant is proposing minor modifications to the interior of the building. No late hours (after 11:00 p.m.) or alcohol service are proposed as a part of this application.

The project is categorically exempt pursuant to Section 15301 under Class 1 (Existing Facilities) of the State CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) Guidelines.

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 prior to, the public hearing. The application may be continued to a specific future meeting date, and if such an action occurs, additional public notice of the continuance will not be provided. Administrative procedures for appeals are provided in the Newport Beach Municipal Code Chapter 20.64 (Appeals).

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/zoningadministrator. **Please review the Zoning Administrator Agenda for Zoom participation instructions.** 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 12:00 p.m. on the business day immediately before the meeting. This allows time for the Zoning Administrator to adequately consider the submitted correspondence.

For questions regarding this public hearing item please contact Kyle Benalcázar, Planning Technician, at kbenalcazar@newportbeachca.gov, 949-644-3227 or at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660.

Project File No.: PA2025-0038
Activity: Minor Use Permit
Zone: Mixed-Use Water (MU-W2)
General Plan: Mixed-Use Water 2 (MU-W2)
Location: 226 Marine Avenue, Unit A
Applicant: Supachai Kiatkwankul, Varisco Design Build Group

Project File No.: PA2024-0233
Activity: Minor Use Permit
Zone: Mixed-Use Water (MU-W2)
General Plan: Mixed-Use Water 2 (MU-W2)
Location: 326 Marine Avenue, Suite A
Applicant: Ali Sadeghi, Celine

Project File No.: PA2025-0076
Activity: Minor Use Permit
Zone: Mixed-Use Water (MU-W2)
General Plan: Mixed-Use Water 2 (MU-W2)
Location: 2210 Newport Boulevard, Suite 101
Applicant: Chandler Clerk, Peninsula Village LLC



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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Celine Facial Spa - A request for a minor use permit (MUP) to allow the operation of a facial spa establishment within a 740 square-foot tenant space, in a mixed-use building. The project includes minor tenant improvements to create a reception and waiting area, three treatment rooms, and one restroom. The facial spa establishment will offer a variety of facial hydration and rejuvenation services and ancillary botox services. The hours of operation are proposed from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., daily.

The project is categorically exempt under Section 15301 under Class 1 (Existing Facilities) of the State CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) Guidelines.

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 prior to, the public hearing. The application may be continued to a specific future meeting date, and if such an action occurs, additional public notice of the continuance will not be provided. Administrative procedures for appeals are provided in the Newport Beach Municipal Code Chapter 20.64 (Appeals).

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For questions regarding this public hearing item please contact Jerry Arregui, Assistant Planner, at 949-644-3249, jarregui@newportbeachca.gov or at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660.

Project File No.: PA2025-0076
Activity: Minor Use Permit
Zone: Mixed-Use Water (MU-W2)
General Plan: Mixed-Use Water 2 (MU-W2)
Location: 2210 Newport Boulevard, Suite 101
Applicant: Chandler Clerk, Peninsula Village LLC

Project File No.: PA2025-0076
Activity: Minor Use Permit
Zone: Mixed-Use Water (MU-W2)
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Class of 2025



Don Leach / Staff Photographer

GRADUATES GATHER for a group picture as they cheer to families in the audience.

FOUNTAIN VALLEY HIGH

Fountain Valley High gave a grand send-off to its seniors on Wednesday, as the Barons shared a shining moment together during their commencement ceremony at Orange Coast College's LeBar Stadium.

Before the event was over, 796 students heard their names called — the largest graduating class in the Huntington Beach Union High School District this year.

"Seniors, as you embark on your next adventure, remember the lessons you've learned within these walls," Principal Paul Lopez said. "Remember the friendships you've forged, the resilience you've built, and the dreams you've dared to chase. You are prepared, you are capable, and you are ready."

Lopez shared that Uy Pham gained admittance into Harvard, while Jacqueline Nguyen is headed to the Massachusetts

Institute of Technology.

Kayla Nguyen, the ASB president, urged the graduates to consider who they have become beyond roles they fulfilled on campus.

"My fellow graduates, who are you today?" she asked. "I'm not talking about titles like sports captains or club president, I'm talking about the person beneath those titles. That's who you really are. As you walk down the stage, think about who you've become throughout high school."

Lily Ogle performed the national anthem, and Hannah Querry and Avery Thepsisombath led their peers in a recital of the school's alma mater.

The Fountain Valley Royal Regiment band did the honors in providing the processional and walk-out music.

— Daily Pilot Staff

VALLEY VISTA HIGH

Under a cloudless sky, families filed into the quad on Thursday at Valley Vista High, eager to mark a milestone for those whose futures were not always so clear.

Eighty-nine students walked across the stage and had their future aspirations announced to the crowd before receiving their diplomas. They were greeted by loved ones as they traversed a center aisle to take their seats, the traditional "Pomp and Circumstance" pumping through speakers as they proceeded through the lawn.

Valley Vista, the Huntington Beach Union High School District's continuation school, serves students in the 11th and 12th grades.

Student speakers Rauan Marques Gonçalves and Reese Reynolds both addressed the trials and tribulations, the former saying the Valley Vista class of 2025 was "en-

joying the view" after journeying down the "road not taken."

Reynolds couldn't believe she was giving a graduation speech after attending her fourth high school, but she encouraged her classmates to show resolve in whatever life had in store for them.

"Life won't be easy," Reynolds said. "There will be moments when it feels like everything's falling apart, but when that happens, you just keep moving. Pick up the broken pieces, carry them with you, and trust that one day you'll reach a place where you can start putting it back together again."

Principal Stacy Robison presented the candidates for graduation. Diana Carey, the clerk of the district's board of trustees, was on hand to accept the class.

— Daily Pilot Staff



James Carbone

VALLEY VISTA High School graduate Iris Ford makes a fist bump during graduation.



Courtesy of Sage Hill School

TONY TAN celebrates graduating from Sage Hill School with the Class of 2025.

SAGE HILL SCHOOL

Wilkins Town Square on the Sage Hill School campus was teeming Friday, June 6 with family, friends and faculty, all assembled to witness the 148 graduating seniors accept their diplomas from Head of School Patricia Merz.

"The person you are today is the result of not only your successes but how you responded when things did not go as expected," Merz said in her address to the class. "...Unexpected moments will continue to shape your life. They are not something to fear but rather something to embrace and learn from. The lightning will strike you again. Sometimes it will startle you. Sometimes it will light the path ahead. And sometimes it will simply remind you that you are alive and capable of so much more than you imagined."

The departing graduates have been accepted to 69 colleges or universities in 23

states, Washington, D.C. and the United Kingdom, according to school officials.

Irvine resident Fiori Lee and Courtney Tetteh-Martey of Newport Coast, deemed exceptional students who gave much to the school community during their time on campus, were announced as the recipients of the 2025 Head of the School award.

Student speaker Anna Gabriel of Corona del Mar also addressed the crowd.

"The truth is, the best parts of life — the ones you carry with you — are never the easy ones," Gabriel told her classmates. "They're the ones that ask something from you. Your time, your heart, your courage."

Student Council President Fiori Lee was given the honor of ringing the school gong, a Sage Hill tradition, which was followed by the release of celebratory green and white confetti.

— Daily Pilot Staff

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