

# Daily Pilot

THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 2021 /// Now including Coastline Pilot and Huntington Beach Independent /// dailypilot.com



Photos by Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

**DISCOVERY CUBE** Tuesday announced the sale of its Ocean Quest property, the iconic Balboa Fun Zone, to Chartwell Real Estate Development.

## Balboa Fun Zone sold to Costa Mesa real estate firm

BY LILLY NGUYEN

The Balboa Fun Zone is now under new ownership.

Discovery Cube, a nonprofit that oversees the children's museum and science centers in Santa Ana and Sylmar, announced Tuesday that it intended to sell the Balboa Fun Zone property — where its marine educational facility, Ocean

Quest, is located — to Costa Mesa real estate firm Chartwell Real Estate Development.

The museum initially announced its intention to sell the property in December last year due to the financial impacts of COVID-19. Henry Pyle, an operating partner at Chartwell, said the firm moved to make an offer almost as soon as it was announced that Discovery Cube

was looking for buyers.

Pyle, who led the acquisition on the behalf of the Pyle family, said in an interview Wednesday that the decision was personal.

"The [Balboa] Fun Zone is definitely probably one of the most iconic landmarks in Newport Beach and, for sure, on Newport Harbor," Pyle said. "My dad grew up in the 1960s on Balboa Island, going to the Fun

Zone. Then, I grew up on Balboa Island ... in the '90s."

"It has an incredibly special place in our hearts and incredible historic relevance for the city of Newport Beach," Pyle said.

"We really just jumped on the opportunity to be able to take part in such an iconic landmark, and we're really looking forward

See **Fun Zone**, page A2



VISITORS AT the Balboa Fun Zone in Newport Beach on Wednesday.



THE BALBOA Fun Zone was built in 1936 on an old boatyard.

## Report released on the in-custody death of man held at Theo Lacy Facility in Orange

BY LILLY NGUYEN

The Orange County district attorney's office released the investigation and findings on the in-custody death of Michael Lane Gilreath, 61, on Tuesday, nearly a year after the fact.

Gilreath died on May 18, 2020, and the autopsy ruled his death as a suicide by hanging, according to the report submitted to Orange County Sheriff Don Barnes on April 29, 2021, by investigators.

Gilreath was arrested by the Newport Beach Police Department on April 26, 2020, on suspicion of burglary, attempted burglary and for being a felon in possession of ammu-

munition.

Gilreath was transferred to the Theo Lacy Facility in Orange on May 1 that year and remained in quarantine with other new inmates.

The report indicates that Gilreath's cellmate, who is unnamed in the report, tested positive for COVID-19 10 days later.

Gilreath was then relocated to a "higher" quarantine section of the facility, where a fellow inmate housed directly next to him described Gilreath as someone who was quiet,

See **Report**, page A3

## Costa Mesa undoes the strings on a mask mandate that netted few citations

BY SARA CARDINE

A mandate requiring facial coverings for all who enter Costa Mesa — in place for more than a year and fuel for frequent debates between pandemic rule followers and anti-maskers — was repealed Tuesday in favor of less strict state guidelines.

City Manager Lori Ann Farrell Harrison imposed the measure in April 2020 to help curtail the spread of the coronavirus after declaring a local state of emergency that March. In a social media campaign last summer, signs warning "No Mask = \$100 Fine" inspired some residents to post bare-faces photos in a dare to local police.

While members of the city's

code enforcement team regularly cited local businesses, including some individuals inside those establishments, for failing to comply with the order, such transgressions netted few citations by members of the Costa Mesa Police Department.

Aside from the Nov. 17 arrest of a man who reportedly entered a grocery store on the 1800 block of Newport Boulevard without a mask and became confrontational with police officers, only one other citation was issued by police.

Spokeswoman Roxi Fyad confirmed a citation was issued on Sept. 2 at a location on the 400 block of Fair Drive, after an indi-

See **Mask**, page A3



File Photo

A SIGN in November 2020 along Fair Drive warns that "no mask = \$100 fine" in Costa Mesa. City lawmakers on Tuesday repealed the mandate.

## H.B. city attorney, council clash

Michael Gates questions how a \$2.5-million age discrimination lawsuit in which he is named as a defendant was settled.

BY MATT SZABO

Tuesday night's Huntington Beach City Council meeting featured the sudden resignation of Mayor Pro Tem Tito Ortiz, but another oddity took place just minutes before that.

Huntington Beach City Atty. Michael Gates took the rare step of speaking before the council during public comments.

The move came in the aftermath of the city recently settling a \$2.5-million lawsuit that alleged age discrimination, naming Gates and the city itself as defendants.

Neal Moore, 75, a former senior deputy city attorney who resigned in 2018, was paid \$1.5 million in the settlement dated May 21. Scott Field, 64, a current senior deputy city attorney, was paid \$1 million. Officials said the case cost the city about \$1.5 million fighting the complaint, which originated in 2019.

In the lawsuit, Moore and Field said that Gates had made a concerted effort to push out older and disabled attorneys since being elected in 2014.

The lawsuit said that Gates assigned older attorneys unachievable tasks and unrealistic deadlines, subjected them to unwarranted scrutiny and falsely accused them of poor performance, among other accusations.

As is standard with cases against the city, talks were done in closed session, unseen by the general public. Council members Dan Kalmick and Mike Posey had introduced an item for Tuesday's agenda that would require Gates

See **Attorney**, page A3

## Costa Mesa approves cannabis fee schedule

BY SARA CARDINE

Exactly how much revenue Costa Mesa might generate from retail cannabis businesses under voter-approved Measure Q remains to be seen, but a new fee schedule approved by the City Council this week estimates new permits could earn an annual \$668,040.

Council members Tuesday gave the initial sign-off on an ordinance regulating cannabis dispensaries, a plan that has been repeatedly refined by elected officials and the city's planning commissioners.

The language will come back for a second reading and then be put to a vote that will trigger a 30-day waiting period before becoming law, at which point

See **Cannabis**, page A5

## ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**COSTA MESA BOYS' BASKETBALL UPSETS EL MONTE TO REACH DIVISION 5AA SEMIFINALS** PAGE A2

**BOYS' BASKETBALL**

# Costa Mesa upsets El Monte to reach Division 5AA semifinals

**BY CHRISTOPHER PIAZZA**

The Costa Mesa High School boys' basketball team knew that a win on Tuesday night meant that its season remained alive and it could secure what is believed to be its first CIF Southern Section semifinal appearance.

Despite trailing throughout the game, the Mustangs rallied in front of their home crowd to beat No. 3-seeded El Monte 67-61 in the quarterfinals of the Division 5AA playoffs.

Junior Aiden Spallone paced the Mustangs (14-6) with 14 points, six assists, four rebounds and three steals. Senior Gio Quero contributed 13 points along with a couple of assists.

"It's exciting and it's never been done before," Quero said of reaching the semi-

finals. "To be part of history, it's really beautiful."

Before making history, the Mustangs, with first-year head coach Jesse Mercado at the helm, needed to figure out a way to stifle El Monte (11-4), especially its senior trio of Kacey Romero, Joshua Penunuri and Yahir Martinez-Ruiz.

Costa Mesa's zone defense allowed those three El Monte players to hit open looks from beyond the three-point arc. However, Penunuri got into foul trouble after picking up two early fouls.

Spallone and senior Blake Wolf gave the Mustangs the lead in the second quarter with a couple of driving layups, but the lead was short-lived.

The El Monte senior trio took over with a 10-0 scor-

ing run. *See Costa Mesa, page A6*



**COSTA MESA'S**  
Aiden Spallone hits a three-point basket late in the game during the quarterfinals of the CIF Southern Section Division 5AA playoffs on Tuesday at Costa Mesa High.

*Don Leach Staff Photographer*



*Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer*

**DISCOVERY CUBE** announced in December that it intended to sell its property due to the financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The new owners are longtime residents of Newport Beach and plan to continue to operate the property as the Balboa Fun Zone.

## FUN ZONE

*Continued from page A1*

to being good stewards of the Balboa Fun Zone legacy," he added.

The Balboa Fun Zone was built in 1936 by Al Anderson on an old boatyard and has exchanged owners in the years since. Visit Newport Beach, the city's tourism arm, describes it as one of the oldest and "last great coastal amusement areas" in Southern California.

Anderson would later sell the property in 1972. It would then be sold to Jordan Wank in 1985 after changing hands between lending institutions. Wank then bulldozed down the old Balboa Fun Zone and by 1986 rebuilt it into what currently stands on the Balboa Peninsula, according to the Balboa Fun Zone's website.

It would change hands again to Balboa Fun Zone Rides, Inc. in 1994 before eventually being purchased

by the Newport Harbor Nautical Museum in 2005. The Discovery Cube acquired the property after merging with local non-profit ExplorOcean in 2016.

"Selling the Fun Zone was a difficult decision for the museum, but we were fortunate to partner with Chartwell and the Pyle family who value the historic elements of the Fun Zone and are focused on bringing new life to this iconic local landmark," said Discovery Cube Chief Executive Officer Joe Adams in a statement.

The deal is expected to be finalized later in the coming months, and details as to what would be the final price for the property were not confirmed as of Wednesday. Officials from both organizations confirmed, however, that the Balboa Fun Zone will continue operating this summer through the change in ownership.

As part of the agreement, the real estate firm is allowing the Discovery Cube's

marine education vessel, the Dylan Ayres, to continue docking at the Balboa Fun Zone.

Pyle said future plans for the block-long waterfront property are still up in the air for potential future improvements, but the family intends on preserving the Balboa Fun Zone while attempting to renovate and breathe new life into the area where possible.

Pyle said he felt both Chartwell and the Pyle family were honored being entrusted with this next chapter of the Fun Zone's history.

"When we're looking at real estate in our backyard like this and at the places where we grew up, it's just that they're very inherently important to us, just as kind of local, iconic landmarks ... we truly believe that it can be a sustainable and great property just being the Fun Zone," Pyle said on Wednesday.

[lilly.nguyen@latimes.com](mailto:lilly.nguyen@latimes.com)  
Twitter: @lilibirds

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND NOTICE CONCERNING INTENTION OF MESA WATER DISTRICT TO ADOPT WATER SHORTAGE RESPONSE ORDINANCE**

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

MESA WATER DISTRICT  
Thursday, June 10, 2021  
3:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the agenda permits  
Board Meeting Room, Mesa Water District  
1965 Placentia Avenue, Costa Mesa, California 92627  
(In person public attendance permitted)

The Board of Directors (Board) of Mesa Water District (Mesa Water or District) invites the community to attend a public hearing for the purpose of receiving information and providing public comments regarding Mesa Water's proposed Water Shortage Response Ordinance (Ordinance).

Any person desiring to make comments, or present information, to the Board may make an oral presentation at the public hearing, or may submit written comments for the Board's consideration by sending or delivering them to the District office (at the above-referenced address) prior to the conclusion of the public hearing. Any written comments must be received not later than the conclusion of the public hearing in order to be considered.

For information on the Board meeting format, and how to participate in such Board meeting/public hearing, please visit Mesa Water's internet website at <https://www.mesawater.org/> and view information under the heading "Board Meeting Agendas and Minutes" or contact the District Secretary, as discussed below.

The proposed Ordinance will be discussed and comments will be received at such time and place.

A copy of the draft Ordinance will be available for review on Mesa Water's internet website beginning May 27, 2021. For more information, or if you would like assistance in presenting your comments to the Board at the public hearing, please contact Denise Garcia, District Secretary, by email [DistrictSecretary@mesawater.org](mailto:DistrictSecretary@mesawater.org) or telephone (949) 631-1205.

**NOTICE CONCERNING INTENTION OF MESA WATER DISTRICT TO ADOPT WATER CONSERVATION/WATER SHORTAGE ORDINANCE**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** pursuant to California Water Code Section 31027(b)(2) that the Board of Directors (Board) of the Mesa Water District intends to adopt a Water Shortage Response Ordinance (Ordinance). Mesa Water District's Board Secretary has determined that due to the length and complexity of the Ordinance that it is not feasible to prepare a fair and adequate summary of the proposed Ordinance.

The proposed Ordinance will set forth various water use guidance, limitations and restrictions consistent with Mesa Water District's 2020 Urban Water Management Plan, including, but not limited to, the Water Shortage Contingency Plan incorporated therein. The full text of the proposed Ordinance will be: (i) posted at the Mesa Water District's business offices located at 1965 Placentia Avenue, Costa Mesa, California 92627, not later than May 27, 2021; (ii) copies of the full text of the proposed Ordinance will be available at the above-referenced business offices from May 27, 2021, to June 10, 2021 for public inspection upon request during normal business hours; and (iii) the full text of the proposed Ordinance shall be available for review and/or download on the internet at: <https://www.mesawater.org> from May 27, 2021, to June 10, 2021.

The Mesa Water District Board shall consider adoption of the proposed Ordinance at a meeting of the Board scheduled for June 10, 2021, at 3:30 p.m. at the Mesa Water District Board Room located at 1965 Placentia Avenue, Costa Mesa, California 92627. Such consideration, and possible adoption of the proposed Ordinance, is expected to occur immediately following the conclusion of the Public Hearing referenced above.

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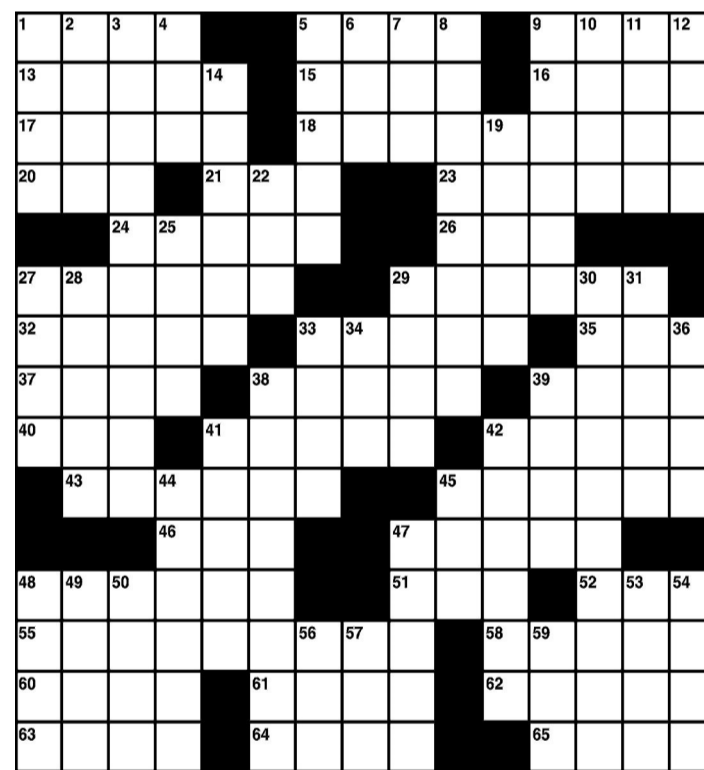
## THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

*By Jacqueline E. Mathews*

**ACROSS**

- 1 Killed
- 5 Lunch orders
- 9 Carve initials, e.g.
- 13 Poisonous
- 15 Brewer's oven
- 16 Diagnostic test
- 17 Lessen
- 18 Competitive edge
- 20 Derek & others
- 21 Go bad
- 23 Hairpiece
- 24 Donahue & Esposito
- 26 Houston, for one
- 27 Thick lubricant
- 29 Nativity set figurine
- 32 Uncanny
- 33 Aroma
- 35 Mai tai ingredient
- 37 Dark greenish-blue
- 38 Casino draws, for short
- 39 Taj Mahal's roof
- 40 Toward a ship's stern
- 41 Leaves out
- 42 Pieces of furniture
- 43 Nasal partition
- 45 Beer mugs
- 46 Star of "Barney Miller"
- 47 Wild animal
- 48 Horrify
- 51 Chew & swallow
- 52 Ending for lemon or lime
- 55 Narrow escape
- 58 Subsided
- 60 "From \_ to Eternity"
- 61 Share a border with
- 62 Healthy lunch
- 63 Chatters
- 64 Cribbage board markers
- 65 Ms. Lamarr

**DOWN**



## 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).

8	9			6	1			
7	2							
		7	9					
2	6		8		7			
	8	4	6	1				
3		5		9	6			
		6	2					
				5	3			
6	4			2	9			

**For answers to the crossword and Sudoku puzzles, see page A5.**

- 1 Take a \_ at; attempt
- 2 "Rio \_"; John Wayne film
- 3 Really peeve
- 4 Half-\_; ding-a-ling
- 5 Prize fights
- 6 Drink like a dog
- 7 Recipe amt.
- 8 Western hats
- 9 Dig up before reburial
- 10 Mouse catcher
- 11 Candy \_; seasonal treat
- 12 NY's \_ Park; FDR's hometown
- 14 Shade of red
- 19 \_ beef; Sunday entrée, perhaps
- 22 "Grand \_ Opry"
- 25 Icy precipitation
- 27 "\_ grip!"; cry to the hysterical
- 28 Coral ridges
- 29 New York team
- 30 Lucrative
- 31 Person
- 33 Skinny
- 34 Officer with a badge
- 36 Make a \_ of; clutter up
- 38 Yarmulke or zucchetto
- 39 "That \_ it!"; cry of frustration
- 41 Like old bread
- 42 Virginia & others
- 44 \_ out; gets rid of gradually
- 45 Red, Black or Yellow
- 47 Waist accessories
- 48 Sore
- 49 "Not guilty," for one
- 50 White meat
- 53 Deceased
- 54 Whirlpool
- 56 Presidential nickname
- 57 Drag along
- 59 "Phooey!"

Tribune Media Services



Gary Coronado | Los Angeles Times

**MICHAEL LANE GILREATH** died in custody at the Theo Lacy facility on May 18, 2020.

**REPORT**

Continued from page A1

kept to himself and only interacted with deputies to be let in and out of his cell.

On May 18, investigators said that Gilreath was removed from his cell at approximately 11 a.m. to participate in a video court hearing and returned by noon.

He was seen on video moving in his cell until

12:26 p.m. A deputy later discovered Gilreath unresponsive in his cell. Gilreath was declared dead later that afternoon.

“Although the [Orange County Sheriff’s Department] owed Gilreath a duty of care, the evidence does not support a finding that this duty was in any way breached, either intentionally or through criminal negligence,” wrote investigators in the report. “It was not foreseeable that

Gilreath would take his own life while he was in custody.”

Court records indicate that Gilreath pleaded not guilty to both felony charges and the one misdemeanor charge on April 28, 2020.

The D.A.’s office also released reports on two other deaths in-custody on Tuesday.

lilly.nguyen@latimes.com  
Twitter: @lilibirds

**ATTORNEY**

Continued from page A1

to perform an analysis of the settlement agreement, including all costs incurred, but that item was pulled from the agenda Friday.

“Records show that City Council was consulted about the lawsuit in closed session 10 times over the course of two years,” Gates said during his public comments Tuesday. “While of course, I’m not going to reveal any closed session discussions ... clearly council conferred on this lawsuit repeatedly.”

Gates criticized Kalmick and Posey for “bringing this lawsuit back to center stage for more public scrutiny,” and claimed it was a political stunt.

The settlement will be paid with insurance money as it is funded by the Big Independent Cities Excess Pool Joint Powers Authority, Gates said. Outside counsel was used for the case, Gates said, but was approved by the City Council. He is only authorized to spend \$100,000 on outside attorneys without the council’s approval.

Kalmick said Wednesday in a phone interview that there was no war waged against Gates or the city attorney’s office. He noted that he has been on the council for six months, not two years.

“Events have occurred, and I don’t have enough information about what’s happened in the past,” he said. “I’ve been briefed once on this, and it was like pulling teeth to get other information. We had outside counsel that was running this ... I asked to have the conversation in closed session, and it was not met kindly by Mr. Gates, to say the least.

“I hadn’t seen the settlement, and the settlement was agreed to. I don’t know the process because no one’s explained it to me, and I’ve asked ... I’m reacting to the situation. I’ve been trying to understand better how this lawsuit was resolved, and how we spent \$1.55 million to defend a discrimination case that we’re never getting back.



Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

**MICHAEL GATES** addresses the City Council on Tuesday.

I’m trying to get to the crux of why we spent so much money on this and why there wasn’t an offer to settle early on, especially since our insurance company picked up the tab for the \$2.5-million settlement.”

Later in Tuesday’s meeting, Gates again clashed with the City Council over the size of his office in discussions over the 2021-22 fiscal year budget.

Council members including Kalmick and Mayor Kim Carr discussed taking away one of Gates’ two chief assistant city attorneys to help fund a new deputy director of homelessness and behavioral services position.

One of the chief assistant city attorneys left about six months ago, Carr noted, and the position has not been filled.

“We have a department that has a total of 11 people but three managers,” Carr said. “My concern is that we have this org chart that really doesn’t work now ... I’ve been opposed to hav-

ing two chief assistant city attorneys since 2019, so I think I’ve been very consistent here.”

After discussion, it was decided that one of the positions would instead be downgraded to a senior trial attorney position as opposed to removed entirely, saving the city about \$14,000 a year.

Gates said he has already streamlined his office from 15 to 16 employees when he was elected to the current total of 11.

“It feels like a full assault on what we’re doing in the city attorney’s office,” Gates told the Daily Pilot Wednesday. “We do fantastic work, and we’ve really turned the office around over the course of the last six years ... These attacks by council are merit-less and purely political. Any attempt to undermine what we’re doing or take resources away is nonsensical, and it doesn’t serve the public.”

matthew.szabo@latimes.com  
Twitter: @mjszabo

**MASK**

Continued from page A1

vidual entered a business complex without a facial covering.

City staff could not provide details Wednesday on the total number of businesses cited by code enforcement officers during the pandemic.

Farrell Harrison told City Council members Tuesday while the mask mandate was a bold move made to protect residents, recent downward virus trends and changes in health recommendations made in advance of a complete re-opening of California businesses on June 15 made it

an appropriate time to consider amending the order.

“With the easing of the restrictions that all are accompanying the reopening of the economy, we wanted just to revise our mask mandate so that we’re consistent with the state,” she said.

Instead, residents will be advised to follow recommendations put forth by the California Department of Public Health. As such, fully vaccinated individuals will not be required to wear facial coverings in most situations starting on June 15.

Unvaccinated residents will be asked to wear masks outdoors when social distance cannot be main-

tained and in indoor settings outside of their own homes, according to state guidelines.

Councilman Manuel Chavez, elected in November 2018, looked back on the necessity of imposing a mask mandate during a global crisis and found in its repeal a fitting bookend.

“We were one of the first cities to push for a mask mandate, because we care about the citizens of Costa Mesa and were doing our best to ensure everyone’s safety. [And now], we’re going back to normalcy, or as normal as we can be,” he said.

sara.cardine@latimes.com  
Twitter: @SaraCardine

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SAT, JUN 12 **RITA RUDNER**  
SUN, JUN 13 **TERESA JAMES**  
SUN, JUN 20 **POKEY LAFARGE**  
FRI, JUN 25 **STEVE TYRELL**

- 6/4 HONK
- 6/5 SHINE ON (PINK FLOYD EXPERIENCE)
- 6/10 THE DELVON LAMARR ORGAN TRIO
- 6/11 DELGADO BROS / FAMILY STYLE
- 6/12 RITA RUDNER
- 6/13 TERESA JAMES & THE RHYTHM TRAMPS
- 6/17 FLEETLOOK BACK / PHIL VANDERMOST
- 6/18 EVERLY BROTHERS EXPERIENCE
- 6/19 PIANO MEN (BILLY JOEL & ELTON JOHN TRIBUTE)
- 6/20 POKEY LAFARGE
- 6/24 ALBERT LEE
- 6/25 STEVE TYRELL
- 6/26 ABBAFAB
- 6/27 THE SPINNERS
- 7/2 SKELETON CREW (GRATEFUL DEAD TRIBUTE)
- 7/3 WILD CHILD 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
- 7/8 STRANGELOVE (DEPECHE MODE TRIBUTE)
- 7/9 KELLY BOWLIN & THE BEALE STREET PLAYERS
- 7/10 LEE ROCKER OF THE STRAY CATS
- 7/11 CREED BRATTON
- 7/15 HENRY KAPONO
- 7/17 THE HIGHWAYMAN SHOW
- 7/23 BEATLES VS STONES
- 7/24 YOUNG DUBLINERS
- 7/25 KEB MO
- 7/29 THE MARSHALL TUCKER BAND
- 7/30 THE RISING (BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN TRIBUTE)
- 7/31 MISSING PERSONS
- 8/1 SUBURBAN SKIES
- 8/6 THE MOTELS
- 8/7 THE BABYS
- 8/13 HONK
- 8/14 BERLIN
- 8/20 THE TUBES
- 8/21 THE SMITHEREENS WITH VOCALIST MARSHALL CRENSHAW
- 8/26 BRIAN REGAN
- 8/27 YACHTLEY CREW
- 8/28 YACHTLEY CREW
- 8/29 THE 5TH DIMENSION
- 9/1 TONY ORLANDO
- 9/3 LED ZEPAGAIN (LED ZEPPELIN TRIBUTE)
- 9/8 BUDDY GUY
- 9/11 TOMMY CASTRO
- 9/17 SAVOY BROWN
- 9/18 WILD CHILD (DOORS TRIBUTE)
- 9/23 BILLY BOB THORNTON & THE BOXMASTERS



SUN, JUN 27 **THE SPINNERS**  
SAT, JUL 10 **LEE ROCKER**  
SUN, JUL 11 **CREED BRATTON**  
SUN, JUL 25 **KEB MO**

- 9/25 THE FENIANS (HALFWAY TO ST PATRICKS DAY CELEBRATION)
- 10/1 VENICE
- 10/3 WAILERS
- 10/8 JD SOUTHER
- 10/9 DESPERADO (EAGLES TRIBUTE)
- 10/10 GEOFF TATE
- 10/13 FRANK MARINO AND MAHOGANY RUSH
- 10/14 JOHN HIATT & JERRY DOUGLAS BAND
- 10/16 TAPE FACE
- 10/23 OINGO BOINGO FORMER MEMBERS
- 11/4 FIREFALL
- 11/7 ATLANTA RHYTHM SECTION
- 11/11 JD SIMO / GA-20
- 11/12 FIVE FOR FIGHTING W/STRING QUARTET
- 11/13 SUPER DIAMOND (NEIL DIAMOND TRIBUTE)
- 11/20 WHICH ONE’S PINK?
- 11/26 LA GUNS
- 11/27 METALACHI
- 12/2 THE PLATTERS
- 12/4 DSB (JOURNEY TRIBUTE)
- 12/9 LEONID & FRIENDS (CHICAGO TRIBUTE)
- 12/10 JOHN MAYALL / WALTER TROUT
- 12/12 ROBERT CRAY
- 12/17 AMBROSIA
- 12/18 BERLIN
- 12/19 GARY “HO HO” HOEY
- 12/23 AN EVENING W/ DAVID BENOIT CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS
- 12/26 BUCKCHERRY / JETBOY
- 1/7 QUEEN NATION (QUEEN TRIBUTE)
- 1/8 QUEEN NATION (QUEEN TRIBUTE)
- 1/15 THE BLASTERS
- 1/22 JOAN OSBORNE / THE WEEPIES
- 2/6 AN EVENING WITH DAMIEN ESCOBAR
- 2/12 OTTMAR LIEBERT & LUNA NEGRA
- 2/13 KINGSTON TRIO
- 3/10 KENNY WAYNE SHEPHERD
- 3/13 GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA
- 4/2 Y&T
- 4/16 MARC COHN
- 4/17 MARC COHN



THU, JUL 29 **MARSHALL TUCKER BAND**  
SAT, JUL 31 **MISSING PERSONS**  
FRI, AUG 6 **THE MOTELS**  
SAT, AUG 7 **THE BABYS**

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## HIGH SCHOOL ROUNDUP

## Marina boys' basketball reaches CIF semifinals with upset victory

Eric Hodgkins made the game-winning layup with three seconds left, as the Marina High School boys' basketball team upset No. 4-seeded Santa Fe Springs St. Paul 60-59 on Tuesday night in the CIF Southern Section Division 3A quarterfinals at Marina.

Hodgkins' layup came off an out of bounds play and went through the hoop with three seconds remaining. He finished the game with 14 points, and Kyle Magdangal also scored 14 points.

AJ Robinson scored a game-high 17 points for Marina (14-7), which hosts top-seeded Los Angeles Shalhevet in a Division 3A semifinal game Thursday at 7 p.m.

"This team is fully bought in," Marina coach Nick Racklin said in a text message. "They care about each other, and they don't care who scores. Our chemistry is at an all-time high."

**No. 2 Santa Margarita 42, Laguna Beach 34:** Nolan Naess scored a game-high 19 points for the Breakers in Tuesday's CIF Southern Section Division 2AA quarterfinal game on the road.

Jackson Sirianni added six points for Surf League co-cham-



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**MARINA'S ERIC HODGKINS**, shown driving for a layup against Fountain Valley on May 14, made the winning basket in Tuesday's upset victory.

pion Laguna Beach, which finished its season with a record of 16-4.

Second-seeded Santa Margarita improved to 15-5.

**No. 3 San Pedro Rolling Hills Prep 48, Fountain Valley 47:** The Barons' standout season ended

after losing a back-and-forth CIF Southern Section Division 2AA playoff quarterfinal game Tuesday on the road.

Fountain Valley, the Wave League champion, finished its season 14-3. Third-seeded Rolling Hills Prep improved to 10-2.

## WRESTLING

**No. 2 Corona del Mar 39, No. 3 Thousand Oaks 38:** J.J. Strapp had a walk-off victory by fall in the 126-pound match on Tuesday to send the host Sea Kings, the defending CIF Southern Section Division 6 dual meet wrestling champions, back to the finals.

Angelo Gonzalez (106), Luke Villaluz (138), Antonio Aramburu (152), Dylan Wood (182) and Emilio Franco (285) also recorded pins for CdM.

Zion Hernandez (145) added a victory by decision.

Corona del Mar (8-1) will have its chance to repeat as Division 6 champion when it travels to Western (17-0) on Saturday at 1 p.m.

**No. 1 Western 42, Newport Harbor 22:** The visiting Sailors bowed out of the CIF Southern Section Division 6 dual meet wrestling championships in the semifinals against the top-seeded Pioneers.

Aidan Gassel (182) authored the lone pin for Newport Harbor. Joshua Martinez (138) had a victory by major decision, and the Sailors also got wins by decision from Micah Van Grol (106), Kobey Khan (120) and Avery

MacKinnon (145).

Newport Harbor, the second-place team in the Wave League, ends its season with a record of 4-6.

A win for the Sailors would have set up a Battle of the Bay tilt for the title.

## BOYS' LACROSSE

**Corona del Mar 7, No. 4 St. Margaret's 4:** Logan Ip, Ty Caffarelli and Lucas Newton all scored twice for the Sea Kings in the quarterfinals of the CIF Southern Section Division 1 playoffs Tuesday at CdM.

Goalie Grant Giuliano made four saves for CdM (14-3), which will play at top-seeded Los Angeles Loyola in a semifinal game Friday.

## GIRLS' LACROSSE

**No. 1 Foothill 19, Newport Harbor 2:** The top-seeded Knights rolled in the quarterfinals of the CIF Southern Section Division 1 playoffs Tuesday at Newport Harbor High.

Olivia Gritzmacher scored both goals for Newport Harbor (15-6), and goalie Lucy Valdes made seven saves.

— From staff reports

## COSTA MESA

Continued from page A2

ing run. Sophomore Christian Dasca and freshman Jordan Martin managed to bring the Mustangs to within three points before halftime. Martin had 11 points and 12 rebounds in the win.

Costa Mesa made adjustments to attempt to stop El Monte's senior standouts, especially Romero, who finished with a game-high 28 points.

"We went to our bread-and-butter, man-to-man defense, and picked up on [Romero]," Mercado said. "That was a big difference in the second half, where we locked him up and made his shots a little bit tougher."

The Mustangs' second-half defense fared better against Romero, but Penunuri got into his rhythm and scored consecutive three-

pointers. El Monte had its biggest lead of the game at 39-31 halfway through the third quarter.

At that point, Costa Mesa's fortunes turned around and the offense clicked. Quero and Wolf hit back-to-back three-pointers, while Martin continued to use his reach in the paint to grab rebounds and put up shots. Wolf finished with 12 points and 10 rebounds.

Another Quero three-pointer capped an extended 17-4 run for Costa Mesa, which saw the eight-point deficit flipped to a Mustang five-point lead with less than a minute until the final quarter. El Monte tied the game at 48-48 just before the third-quarter buzzer.

"We've been able to go far in this postseason because we work hard and [try] not to get down on ourselves," Spallone said. "We keep playing our game and stop the run and turn it in our favor."

In the fourth quarter, the Mus-

tangs came away victorious because of their gritty play and Dasca's clutch free throws.

"It didn't come down to X's and O's," Quero said. "It just came down to playing with your heart. We just gave it our all. We all have the same goal and that just keeps pushing us even when we're tired."

For Mercado, he knew that his team wanted to win for each other, and he made sure to acknowledge it.

"I've got a great group of kids, they're eager to learn and they do it together," Mercado said. "The more they want, the more I try to give, and it's fun when they want it more."

The Mustangs will host No. 2-seeded Valley Village Valley Torah on Friday at 2:30 p.m.

**CHRISTOPHER PIAZZA** is a contributor to Times Community News.



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**COSTA MESA** head coach Jesse Mercado draws up a play late in fourth quarter during the quarterfinals of the CIF Southern Section Division 5AA playoffs against El Monte on Tuesday night at Costa Mesa High.

A new podcast from the reporter behind 'Dirty John' and 'Detective Trapp.'



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