

Daily Pilot

SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2020 /// Now including Coastline Pilot and Huntington Beach Independent /// dailypilot.com

'Hopefully we can get back to living'



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

MANAGER CARMALIT GREEN looks out at Troy Lee Designs and Race Shop store in Laguna Beach as Stage 2 of reopening businesses begins.

Retail reopenings in O.C. bring people out

Orange County shopping centers spring to relative life Friday as California enters Stage 2 of reopening.

BY HILLARY DAVIS, LILLY NGUYEN, SARA CARDINE, ANDREW TURNER

Beach House Laguna Beach doesn't have an online store. Friday was its first day back in business.

Although it was limited to curbside and pick-up service, owner Melanie Harrison said "we figured, today's the first day we could open ... so get the doors open. People start noticing."

She said she was in favor of a slow reopening and wasn't ex-

pecting big numbers Friday.

"As a store owner, you feel helpless. So, when there's this little window, you're like, 'Oh, my God, I've got to give it a try,'" Harrison said. "And [soft reopening] is something, but I'm not expecting huge numbers. I'm being honest. It's just been really tough for all of us small businesses. So, we're trying to capitalize on Mother's Day. The first sale I had was for Mother's Day. She bought a platter."

That platter was part of a return for retail and a nudge

toward normalcy, as California entered Stage 2 of reopening Friday with the permission of Gov. Gavin Newsom. Florists, bookstores, music stores, toy stores, clothing shops and sporting goods stores, among other lower-risk businesses, can reopen for curbside pickup. Manufacturers and suppliers that provide goods for those businesses also will be allowed to resume operating.

Across Orange County, consumers came out for more than the bare essentials.

In Newport Beach, Erin Kelly

was happily selling Legos to children at The Wee Loft, the toy store she's run in Corona del Mar for eight years.

"It's like the cloud has lifted — [or] it's about to lift," she said.

COSTA MESA

Shopping centers in Costa Mesa sprang to relative life Friday as locals took advantage of deals and offers presented by area businesses.

Duke Edukas, who owns and

See **Retail**, page A4



Raul Roa | Staff Photographer

THE GRIM REAPER, also known as Spencer Kelly of Huntington Beach, holds a sign advising people at Pier Plaza in Huntington Beach on Friday.

Group's protest backs Newsom

Indivisible OC 48 stages demonstration to bring attention to those following the governor's stay-at-home orders.

BY MATT SZABO

For the second straight Friday, a protest was held near the Huntington Beach Pier.

This one was far smaller in scope than the stay-at-home protest last week that brought at least 2,500 protesters to Main Street and Pacific Coast Highway in Huntington Beach.

And that was part of the point, event organizer Aaron McCall of Costa Mesa said.

McCall said the three-person counter-protest in Pier Plaza, put on by the left-leaning group Indivisible OC 48, was put together to bring attention to all of the people who are following Gov. Gavin Newsom's stay-at-home orders during the novel coronavirus pandemic.

Spencer Kelly of Huntington Beach wore a Grim Reaper costume, holding a scythe and a sign that read, "Brought to you by the

See **Protest**, page A5

O.C. reports 5 new COVID-19 deaths

BY MATT SZABO

Five new deaths have been reported in Orange County due to the coronavirus, according to updated figures released Friday by the Orange County Health Care Agency.

That brings the county's COVID-19 death toll to 71, including 16 residents of skilled nursing facilities.

There were 153 new cases reported Friday, which is the second-highest single-day total since the pandemic began. Only on May 1 were there more new reported cases in the county, 161.

There are now 3,240 cumulative cases of the coronavirus in the county, which includes 316 skilled-nursing-facility residents and 251 Orange County jail inmates.

Of the cases, 188 people are currently hospitalized, including 74 in intensive-care units. Those numbers come with 22 of 25 eligible

hospitals reporting.

This week California launched a COVID-19 testing website, to help residents find community testing sites near them and schedule appointments.

A total of 812 new tests were reported administered Thursday, the lowest number since April 27, and 46,372 cumulative tests have been issued to date.

People in the age demographics of 25 to 34 and 45 to 54 remain the largest number of positive COVID-19 tests in the county, with 18% of cases in each age range. Those ages 55 to 64 make up 16% of the cases, while people 35 to 44 are 15% of the cases.

In terms of deaths due to COVID-19, 28% of them in Orange County have come in people ages 75 to 84, and 24% have been in those 85 and older.

Males account for 54% of positive tests in the county and 58% of

the deaths.

Here are the latest case counts for select cities, with their numbers per 10,000 residents:

- Anaheim: 472 (13.1 cases per 10,000 residents)
- Santa Ana: 456 (13.5 cases per 10,000 residents)
- Huntington Beach: 242 (11.9 cases per 10,000 residents)
- Irvine: 140 (5.0 cases per 10,000 residents)
- Newport Beach: 105 (12.0 cases per 10,000 residents)
- Costa Mesa: 47 (4.1 cases per 10,000 residents)
- Fountain Valley: 41 (7.2 cases per 10,000 residents)
- Laguna Beach: 40 (17.1 cases per 10,000 residents)

Updated figures are posted daily at occovid19.ochealthinfo.com/coronavirus-in-oc.

matthew.szabo@latimes.com
Twitter: @mjszabo

ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



Allen J. Schaben | Los Angeles Times

11-YEAR-OLD, HUNTINGTON BEACH SKATEBOARDER SKY BROWN EYES 2021 OLYMPICS PAGE A2

COAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT RECEIVES \$14 MILLION IN FEDERAL AID PAGE A5

OBITUARY

Ronald Birtcher, who helped transform O.C., dies at 89

Along with Henry Segerstrom and Donald Bren, he contributed to Orange County's growth.

BY ROGER VINCENT

Ronald Birtcher, a real estate developer who helped transform Orange County in the decades after World War II from an agricultural community to one of the most densely populated regions in the state, has died. He was 89.

Birtcher and his brother Art also built large-scale projects in Los Angeles County, including the Pacific Design Center in West Hollywood and the Los Angeles Wholesale Produce Market downtown.

He died April 21 at his home in Napa, Calif., of heart failure, his son Brandon

Birtcher said.

Ron Birtcher was born Feb. 24, 1931, in Orange, where as a youngster he worked in the orange groves lighting smudge pots to keep crops from freezing overnight. His father, Fayette, and his uncle Cecil owned a citrus packing plant that was among the first to produce frozen concentrate for orange juice.

In the 1950s, Birtcher joined his father in a Corona del Mar construction and development business that pioneered a now-widespread building technique of creating concrete walls in molds on the ground, then tilting them up into place.

"Southern California boomed after the war when a lot of men and women coming back decided to stay and build their careers," Brandon Birtcher said.

"Dad had relationships with citrus-grow-

ing families whose properties were in prominent paths of progress, so he began to design and lay out master-planned business parks in the early 1950s. Many of his joint ventures were with the grove owners of the day."

In 1961, Ronald Birtcher and his brother founded family partnership Birtcher Pacific that went on to construct, develop, market and manage more than 40 million square feet of properties in the U.S.

Much of their work was in Orange County, where the Birtchers became prominent figures in the real estate industry at a time when the population was rapidly increasing and commercial firms were moving in, making the county increasingly more cosmopolitan.

See **Birtcher**, page A4



Courtesy of Birtcher family

RONALD BIRTCHER in the early 1980s.

HGTV star Tarek El Moussa gets \$2.705 million for Costa Mesa home

BY JACK FLEMMING

Tarek El Moussa, star of HGTV's "Flip or Flop," and his girlfriend, Heather Rae Young of Netflix's "Selling Sunset," have quietly wrapped up an off-market sale in Costa Mesa, shedding their modern farmhouse for \$2.705 million.

That's \$430,000 more than El Moussa paid in 2018 and \$130,000 over his asking price, records show.

"I realized the value of my home was the highest it had ever been and now would be a great opportunity to sell," El Moussa said. "I also realized the prices would not stay this



Grant Rivera

BUILT IN 2015, the modern Costa Mesa farmhouse opens to a private backyard with a lounge, swimming pool and spa.

high, which prompted my decision to take advantage and sell high, sit on

the sidelines for a year or two, and later buy low." Unsurprisingly, the

HGTV star made some changes during his stay, touching up the floor-to-ceiling fireplace in the living room and the massive marble island in the kitchen. An expansive open floor plan with whitewashed beams, walls of glass and clerestory windows anchors the 3,000-square-foot home.

Elsewhere are four bedrooms and four bathrooms, including a master suite under dramatic vaulted ceilings.

Most of the common spaces open to an outdoor living room with a lounge and dining area. Past that, a fire pit overlooks a swimming pool

and spa. A grill and bar complete the scene out back, and the garage tacks on an electric car charging station in front.

The property, which was built in 2015, sits about two miles from the water in Eastside Costa Mesa.

Jason Oppenheim and Heather Rae Young of the Oppenheim Group held the listing. Tim Smith and John Yasko of the Smith Group represented the buyer.

"I reached out to a few local agents to let them know that Tarek was selling his home. The agents brought their clients over that same day and we had two offers, over-asking, by

the next morning," said Young.

A staple in the Orange County real estate scene, El Moussa has flipped homes across Southern California for his hit show "Flip or Flop," which is set to air its ninth season this summer. His other properties include a 50-foot yacht with two bedrooms and two bathrooms.

Young stars in Netflix's "Selling Sunset," a reality series that focuses on luxury listings marketed by the Oppenheim Group. Its second season will premiere on May 22.

JACK FLEMMING is a staff writer with the Los Angeles Times.

Street racing is broken up at Costa Mesa, Santa Ana border

BY ANDREW TURNER

A street takeover involving an estimated 500 cars was broken up by police on Tuesday night near the border of Costa Mesa and Santa Ana.

Costa Mesa police spokeswoman Roxi Fyad said in an email that officers were dispatched and responded to reported activity of vehicles racing and nearby onlookers in the area of the Sunflower Avenue and Sakioka Drive intersection. The response came at approximately 7:54 p.m.

Santa Ana police Cpl. Anthony Bertagna said that approximately 500 cars were racing and doing doughnuts in intersections. While the Costa Mesa and Santa Ana police departments did not report any arrests, Bertagna said that one driver fled and was not caught after crashing a car into the center median of Bristol Street during a pursuit.

Bertagna connected the incident to a tradition called "cruising," which he said typically begins Easter Sunday and runs through

the rest of the year.

"In the old days, it was the car clubs that would dress up the older cars that people put a lot of money into, and they would congregate at various locations," Bertagna said. "It was mainly car clubs, which in the last couple years, morphed into a lot of the street racers are coming out, as well."

Bertagna said the street racing was not out of the ordinary, although he noted such activity mostly happens on the weekends and that the larger volumes usually come out in the summertime. He said his department has even closed major streets like Bristol, Main and Harbor Boulevard on Easter Sunday to put a stop to it.

"What occurred is not unique," Bertagna said. "The fact that there were 500 people there in the middle of the week is out of the norm, but again, it was Cinco de Mayo. Whether that was the reason they were there or not, I don't know."

andrewturner@latimes.com
Twitter: @ProfessorTurner

AROUND TOWN

Mother's Day drive-in concert at Bayside Restaurant in Newport

Bayside Restaurant in Newport Beach is hosting a drive-in concert in its parking lot this weekend to celebrate Mother's Day.

The restaurant will be offering takeout and 50% off on selected wine bottles. Food will be available Friday through Sunday for takeout and curbside orders from 4 to 8 p.m. Ron Kobayashi & the Parking Lot Trio will be playing Friday and Saturday from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The restaurant will have special hours for Sunday and will be open for takeout and curbside orders from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The M Street Band will be playing Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Virtual Newport Beach Garden Tour

The annual Newport Beach Garden Tour is going virtual this year.

The tour, now in its 24th year, is the biggest fundraiser for Newport's nonprofit Sherman Library & Gardens. But with the coronavirus pandemic making in-person gatherings inadvisable, a video production company has captured residential botanical scenes and stories from gardeners that will be posted on Sherman Gardens' website Saturday for ticket holders.

Ticket holders will also receive an invitation to a Summer Garden Party



BASS PLAYER

Frank Schatz of Tracy Longstreth & the Blues Makers band perform outside of the Bayside Restaurant during a drive-in concert in Newport Beach on Thursday.

Don Leach
Staff
Photographer

at Sherman Gardens planned for Aug. 29.

Tickets start at \$50 and can be purchased at thesherman.org. Proceeds will support children's education programs.

UC Irvine launches COVID-19 website

UC Irvine released a comprehensive resource site to provide Orange County and other regional communities with information on the coronavirus pandemic that has swept through the county.

The website, oc-covid19.org, offers information derived from the university's academic and healthcare research and practices, ranging in stories on the latest medical and research breakthroughs made on the

virus to expert-based articles on how to cope during social distancing. Content ranges from community updates, podcasts, advice and resources for distance learning for parents and other answers to basic questions on COVID-19.

"There is appropriate concern and uncertainty about COVID-19, particularly how we should act today and what our lives will be like in the future. As a premier public institution, UCI is committed to sharing accurate information about the disease and its impact," Dr. Steve Goldstein, vice chancellor of health affairs, said in a statement. "Our aspiration is for this new site to be a valued resource that informs, engages and reassures Orange County residents and those they love."

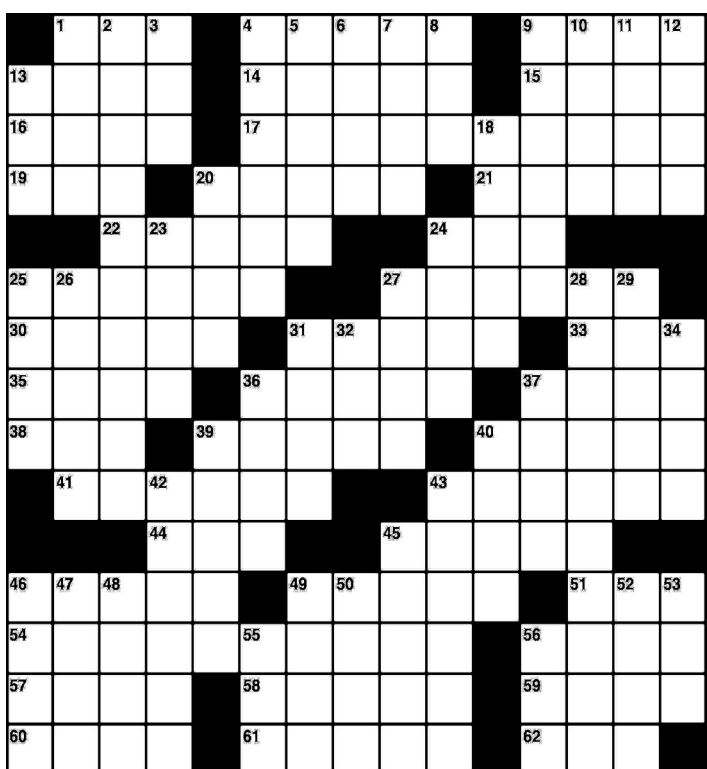
— From staff reports

THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS

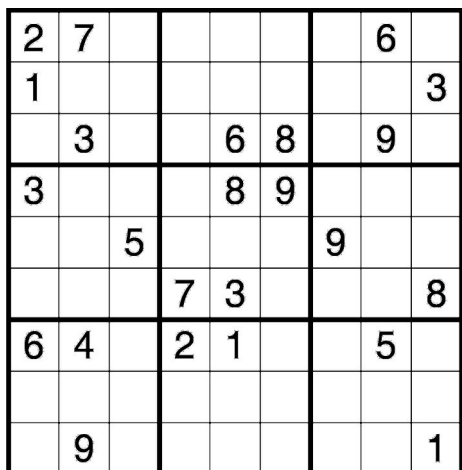
- 1 Record speed letters
- 4 Pool toys
- 9 Bothersome person
- 13 Yogi, for one
- 14 "The _ State"; Hawaii
- 15 Controversial rights org.
- 16 Ringing _; tinnitus
- 17 Bolster
- 19 Injection site, often
- 20 Malt shop order
- 21 Decay over time
- 22 Prefix for view or act
- 24 Mexican one
- 25 Pricey car
- 27 Plumber's tool
- 30 Brontë or Dickinson
- 31 Sweater dings
- 33 "If I _ a Hammer"
- 35 Barn baby
- 36 Brief stop
- 37 Plato, for one
- 38 Poke _ at; ridicule
- 39 _ Monica, CA
- 40 Large fruit
- 41 Classic baby toy
- 43 Net protector
- 44 Bacardi product
- 45 Tureen utensil
- 46 Play a banjo
- 49 Unrefined oil
- 51 Hoopsters' assn.
- 54 Doing well
- 56 "By the Time _ to Phoenix"
- 57 Force out of office
- 58 Avoid
- 59 Common tear site
- 60 Golf shop purchase
- 61 " _ Caroline"; Neil Diamond hit
- 62 Genesis boat



SUDOKU

By The Mephram Group

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit sudoku.org.uk.



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

- 5 Sanctuary table
- 6 Piece of silverware
- 7 You, to Shakespeare
- 8 Word with Antonio or José
- 9 _ saint; heavenly guardian
- 10 Yodeling effect
- 11 Snow toy
- 12 Ditty
- 13 "Who Wants to _ Millionaire"
- 18 Kelly & Siskel
- 20 Stick around
- 23 Not valid
- 24 Encourage
- 25 Beau Bridges' brother

- 26 Frenchman's love
- 27 "Jeremiah _ bullfrog..."
- 28 Ill-fated U.S. space shuttle
- 29 2nd-largest Vietnamese city
- 31 Of sound mind
- 32 Almond or pecan
- 34 Ålborg resident
- 36 Part of the hand
- 37 TV's "Let's Make a _"
- 39 Baffle with a hard question
- 40 A la _; with ice cream
- 42 Relies on
- 43 Gizmo
- 45 Sudden forward rush
- 46 Dick and Jane's dog
- 47 Supported by the facts
- 48 Jack's love in "Titanic"
- 49 Noisy bird
- 50 Carousel or Ferris wheel
- 52 Bird's bill
- 53 \$20-bill spewer
- 55 Bradley & Begley
- 56 "There _ tavern in the town..."

Tribune Media Services

Huntington Beach skateboarder Sky Brown, 11, eyes 2021 Olympics

BY MATT SZABO

Many kids have dreams of competing in the Olympics.

At 11 years old, Huntington Beach resident Sky Brown is more ready than most to make those dreams a reality.

Brown, the youngest professional skateboarder in the world, hopes to qualify for the 2021 Olympics in Tokyo. Even though the Olympics were delayed by a year due to the novel coronavirus pandemic, the half-pipe prodigy is trying to stay positive and see the glass as half full. Competing in Japan would carry special meaning to Brown, who was born there and lives there part-time.

Skateboarding is set to make its Olympic debut in Tokyo. Brown plans to compete for Great Britain and would be the youngest athlete to compete for that country at the Summer Olympics. She will be 13 years and 11 days old when the Games begin July 23, 2021.

Brown has nearly 500,000 Instagram followers and is sponsored by brands including Nike and Hurley. Her father Stu is from Britain, and her mother Mieko is from Japan. The family includes her younger brother Ocean, 8, who also skates.

Sky Brown recently answered some questions in an email interview.

Question: How does it feel to be 11 years old and trying to get ready for the Olympics? Can you believe it?

Answer: I know it is pretty crazy that I get to be in this situation. It is really cool to meet all the athletes. But I don't really think about my age and my size, I just think about skating. It's all about doing my best and having FUN.

Q: Are you excited to compete on that big stage,



Allen J. Schaben | Los Angeles Times

SKY BROWN of Huntington Beach at the Dew Tour Long Beach event in June, 2019. Brown could be Britain's youngest-ever Summer Olympian in 2021.

especially in Japan and with 2021 being the first year with skating as an Olympic sport?

A: Yes, I am so excited that the Olympics and even more excited that it's being held in Japan since I am from there and a lot of my friends/family live there. On top of that, it's even cooler that it'll be the first time the Olympics has skateboarding and I'm participating!

Q: I understand skateboarding legend Christian Hosoi, who lives in Huntington Beach, has been an influence for you. How do you like living in Huntington Beach and fitting in with that skater and surfer culture?

A: Huntington Beach is awesome. It has really good skate parks and amazing waves. People are really friendly. It's perfect for me. Christian has been a family friend and part of my family since I was very small.

Q: How have you been keeping busy during the coronavirus? Is it tough for you to stay at home?

A: I'm actually quite busy even if I'm just at home. I'm doing a lot of school and having interviews on the phone.

It's hard because I can't really go to skate, but I've been surfing a lot. But we

have to think about elderly people or people already sick because it's risky for them. So we've been staying at home and will continue to find things to do at home.

Q: What is your relationship like with your brother?

A: We are really tight. He is my best buddy. We do everything together. And it's nice to have him because he always makes things so fun.

Q: How important is it for you to try to be a good role model for other girls?

A: It's been really important for me ever since I was little. I would be always be the only girl at the skate park or in the ocean.

I always think that girls are sometimes scared to do what they want to do. Girls sometimes think, "He can do it because he is a boy, and I can't do it because I'm a girl." It's my dream to change that! I want it to be, "I'm a girl so I CAN do it."

Q: What is your favorite skateboarding trick that you do?

A: Kick flip indy, because I like to kick flip and I like to air.

Q: If you could describe yourself in one word, what would that word be?

A: Passionate.

matthewszabo@latimes.com
Twitter: @mjszabo

forum

COMMENTARY | **MARICELA RIOS-FAUST**

Domestic violence victims need improved access to electronic requests for protective orders

An historic economic downturn, drastic shifts in social practices, challenges in accessing healthcare: the obvious impacts of COVID-19 are being felt across California.

But one of its lesser-realized consequences is the challenge of keeping survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault safe during this unprecedented public health crisis.

Superior court systems are either closed or offering limited access to protective orders under COVID-19 restrictions. Nonprofit agencies providing legal services to survivors are working overtime to fill the gaps in access created by these closures.

For survivors of relationship violence during this pandemic, having access to legal services and advocacy is vital. Some abusive partners are using public health restrictions to gain even more power and control by banning child visitations, keeping victims homebound entirely, or even spreading misinformation about the pandemic as a scare tactic.

Reports from China during its widespread lockdown, as well as studies from past crises, confirm what we already know. Social isolation, financial stress and decreased access to services lead to elevated rates of relationship

violence and sexual assault.

Under the Domestic Violence Prevention Act, survivors must be able to request domestic violence restraining orders to protect themselves and their children.

Many courts are providing e-file systems and drop boxes for submitting documents. For example, Orange County provides an online portal for restraining order applications, which are then reviewed by a judge. However, some counties do not offer e-file options and are encouraging victims to seek protection by contacting law enforcement.

This is not a viable option for every victim. Those who do not have a safe place to go outside the home may not feel comfortable calling law enforcement for help.

Yet even with e-file and drop box services in place, the more significant issue is language access. When non-English speaking victims are isolated and cannot access legal support, they cannot file restraining order requests since these documents are only available in and must be submitted in English.

In situations that could mean life or death for victims and their children, being able to file critical paperwork in a survivor's native language is essential.

As we anticipate relationship



STUDENTS FROM Fountain Valley High School share pins in support of Human Options during a workshop in 2017 intended to get students talking about relationships, types of abuse and other topics.

Don Leach
Staff
Photographer

violence numbers to continue rising as COVID-19 restrictions extend through May, this lack of language accessibility will continue to be a barrier for survivors.

At Human Options, our dedicated team of bilingual legal advocates is available to walk survivors through the process of requesting a domestic violence restraining order along with education.

Additionally, they can help clients with education, direct

services, and referrals (including to pro bono attorneys) to meet their domestic violence legal needs. Services are available via phone, video chat or in-person to meet the needs of the individual survivor.

Human Options also operates a 24/7 hotline to provide support, education, and referrals to survivors any time of day or night.

As an essential organization supporting victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, we

are joining the call from organizations statewide to ensure victims have access to justice without delay.

If you or someone you know is a victim of relationship violence, call 9-1-1 if they face immediate danger or contact Human Options at (800)-854-3594.

MARICELA RIOS-FAUST is the chief executive officer of Human Options, an Irvine nonprofit organization.

MAILBAG

Fog of despair lifts with each sunrise and sunset in O.C.

Sitting home, along with the rest of the world, anxiously watching the news, stressing out, checking my phone, constantly worrying about running out, of all stupid things, toilet paper.

Having spent my entire morning in unsuccessful pursuit of the stupid stuff, tears of frustration falling down my face, I finally start to laugh. To think, not too long ago my biggest concern was the neighbor's tree blocking my ocean view.

I look over at my dog, who is blissfully unaware of the chaos outside, as only a dog can be, and instead is just thrilled with this, all these additional walks. At least I think he is.

This gives me pause, and suddenly I have had enough of this panic nonsense and make a conscious decision to make lemons out of lemonade.

I turn off the news and turn instead to YouTube to listen to some oldies, to remind me of how things used to be and how they will never, ever be the same again.

The fog of despair is beginning to lift. I watch the sun rise and set each day now from my deck, feeling so grateful to be momentarily insulated from all the wretchedness outside.

And, on a positive note, I have now completely forgotten to worry about where my next roll of toilet paper is coming from. I feel hope, not despair.

And while everyone else seems to feel REM's "It's the End of the World as we know it," I have chosen instead to embrace hope and the mantra of Bob Marley that "Every little thing's gonna be alright."

Suzi Scallon
Laguna Beach

from each other, if that. I had no idea how many people were out of their houses and actually on the town, clearly oblivious to what is going on in the rest of the world.

The latest figures regarding how many cases of the virus in Orange County are published every day and Newport has been among the top. It has been proposed that it's because Newport is wealthier, and the residents can afford the tests.

That may be true, but I think what is truer is that the bubble that we have lived in has been breached, and we now know that things that happen in the world can actually affect us. We have lived a lovely life inside that bubble, but now we have to put our big boy/girl pants on and face reality.

So get off the skateboards, the bikes, stop talking on the street, and if you have to talk, stay at least 6 feet away. Don't kill anyone by refusing to exit the bubble.

Sandy Asper
Newport Beach

Thank you, substitute teachers

Re "Huntington Beach Union High School District extends campus closures to May," (March 31): The article did not mention that regular teachers and full-time employees of the HBUHSD would continue to get paid during the high school campus closures that now have been extended.

Many believe it will be longer than originally planned. A shoutout to the many dozens of substitute teachers who are not being paid and who have already missed canceled assign-

ments over the past three weeks.

They may not see paychecks for quite some time. These subs cannot obviously find similar teaching work elsewhere. In these uncertain times, these dedicated educators will be needed more than ever when classes resume sometime this year. Their contributions should be recognized as well.

Tim Geddes
Huntington Beach

Assess federal response when voting

We are all living through frightening and harrowing times.

Fortunately, California was quick to decide to close schools, quarantine and make stay-at-home orders. The most disturbing fact is that didn't have to happen: Intelligence reports were ignored.

We must remember that we are just a little under 180 days away from Election Day. This is not a letter to endorse a candidate.

Rather I would implore us all to make a choice that objectively looks at what has happened.

How our federal government, sworn to protect the citizens, has taken the intelligence briefings, how many staff were available to lead through a pandemic, how medical supplies have been made available and distributed.

Further, how testing has been provided to give an accurate picture of the extent of infection. Why didn't we accept the World Health Organization test used in Germany?

How we assess the federal response, leadership and instructions from the top for the whole country. These are the questions

that I would ask us all to consider in the 2020 presidential election.

Margaret Mooney
Costa Mesa

Hoag should sever ties with Providence

I applaud Hoag's decision to sever ties with the Providence St. Joseph Health

system. Back in 2012, when the partnership was established, some feared the acquisition was an attempt by the Catholic Church to restrict patient access to abortion and birth control.

Hoag provides healthcare for a diverse community. Good hospitals deliver the services its patients need and want, not what the hospital's owners choose to provide.

Richard Alexander
Costa Mesa

HOW TO GET PUBLISHED:

Email us at john.canalis@latimes.com. All correspondence must include full name, hometown and phone number (for verification purposes). The Pilot reserves the right to edit all submissions for clarity and length.

Time to pop the Newport bubble

I had to drive out on the Peninsula recently, and granted it was a gorgeous day.

The water looked beautiful when I glanced between houses, and I really wanted to get out and walk on the beach.

But I didn't, because people are dying all over the country and even though in Newport Beach it doesn't appear that way, it's so tragically true.

I was shocked. There were dozens of people riding their bikes on the boardwalk. They were skateboarding. People were standing about 3 feet away

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New Listing | Lido Isle | 120 Via Quito
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Lido Isle | 208 Via Orvieto
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Newport Beach | 323 Vista Suerte
\$1,574,900 | 4 BR, 2.5 BA | **Web# NP19264950**



In Escrow | Lido Isle | 545 Via Lido Nord
\$3,495,000 | 4 BR, 4.5 BA | **Web# NP19118725**



Just Sold | Newport Beach | 99 Pelican Court
\$1,320,000 | 3 BR, 3 BA | **Web# NP20029784**



Alison McCormick
The McCormick Group | Lic. Assoc. R.E. Broker
M 949.355.4104 | O 949.270.0440 Ext. 524
Alison.McCormick@elliman.com
DRE# 00607959

