

Daily Pilot

FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2023 /// dailypilot.com



Photos by Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

JUNE SALAZAR, a transitional kindergartner at Golden View Elementary School, receives a copy of the book "The Jester Has Lost His Jingle" in recognition for being a top reader in her class from Ocean View School District Supt. Michael Conroy and board president Patricia Singer.

OVSD students read to support local hospitals

BY MATT SZABO

Over the last three weeks, Abby Wakeland has been focused.

Abby, a fifth-grader at Golden View Elementary School in Huntington Beach, dove right into a read-a-thon going on throughout the Ocean View School District. She read all three books of "The Hunger Games" trilogy, mowing them down with the tenacity of a Katniss Everdeen.

"I like reading a lot," Abby said. "I just think it's really fun, and I like reading fiction books because I like imagining what the story's about, the characters

and stuff."

The districtwide goal of the read-a-thon, done in partnership with the Jester & Pharley Pfund, was to promote literacy via reading to help books and dolls get donated to children in four local hospitals.

That mission hit home with Abby, who said her grandmother is a three-time cancer survivor. She was the top reader at Golden View in the three-week period, with 1,505 minutes logged.

She and her classmates at Golden View attended an assembly Wednesday morning, celebrating the completion of



ANGIE RAMIREZ, a fourth-grader, runs to collect an award for time spent reading at Golden View Elementary on Wednesday.

See **Read**, page A3

Laguna Beach partners with Be Well OC

BY ANDREW TURNER

Laguna Beach has entered into a partnership with Be Well Orange County for mobile mental health services.

The Be Well OC mobile response program is expected to lighten the load on law enforcement and emergency medical service members. It will interface with the community and provide crisis intervention support when matters don't require emergency personnel to handle a call for service.

By a unanimous vote of the Laguna Beach City Council, the city agreed to an initial two-year term with Be Well OC for the services through fiscal year 2024-25. The mobile response team will begin serving the community in July.

"We are available to respond to all mental health, substance use-related, homeless-related, social services-related challenges in an effort to try to alleviate law enforcement of the burden of those calls to keep them active and available for what they're designed to do, and that's to enforce the law and keep the community safe," Marshall Moncrief, chief executive of Be Well OC, said. "What we've learned is this works best subservient to law enforcement, and so law enforcement, in this case, oversees our program. We would be reporting in to the chief on how he wants this to operate."

"In the cities that we're active, 80% of the time, we're able to meet people's needs where they

See **Partners**, page A4



Courtesy of the city of Laguna Beach

LAGUNA BEACH city officials and Be Well OC team members pose in front of a Be Well OC mobile response team van.

Inspiration takes root at South Coast Plaza garden show

BY SARA CARDINE

Spring is on full display at South Coast Plaza, where visitors were seen Thursday carrying shopping bags filled with plants and flowers, their heads full of ideas for how to bring the spirit of the season to their own backyards.

The Southern California Spring Garden Show — an annual tradition now in its 33rd year — has transformed the Costa Mesa shopping complex into a veritable garden of colorful and rare plant species, home decor and landscaping displays intended to ignite a spark of creativity.

Held in the Crate and Barrel/Macy's Home Store wing of the plaza, the event began Thursday and will run through Sunday on all three floors of the building.

"The show, overall, is really to give inspiration to the local community on the availability of new products in the garden industry," said Stephanie Shermoen, who manages the home and garden displays. "We also try to bring in unique vendors and things you may not be seeing everywhere."

Carol Younger, a senior horticulturist with Sherman Library & Gardens, led a tour of the various and rare species of palm trees planted on the 128-acre site.

She explained how more than 75 varieties of palms can be observed on the property, from small clusters of pygmy date palms from Laos to the towering Cuban royal palms lining Costa Mesa's Bear Street.

"This is probably the biggest collection of royal palms outside of Florida and the tropics,"

Younger told visitors. "The next time you drive down Bear Street, you're going to see these Cuban royal palms and look at them in a different way."

Many of the trees were acquired from the estate of A.J. Vance, who began collecting exotic palms at his canyon estate off Sunset Boulevard in the 1940s. In the years following his 1984 death, they were transplanted with help from the Palm Society of Southern California.

"It's very rare to have such a unique and diverse collection here in a shopping plaza," said Younger, who leads another tour Sunday at 11 a.m.

Inside, shoppers perused the botanical offerings of some 35 vendors, including local and in-

See **Garden**, page A4



Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

ANDY PHILLIPS, from Andy's Orchids in Encinitas, with Mandana Habibi Thursday at the 33rd annual Southern California Spring Garden Show at South Coast Plaza in Costa Mesa.

Trial begins for fatal C.M. shooting

A 42-year-old Santa Ana man is accused of killing 1, wounding 4 others in a road rage incident on Thanksgiving last year.

BY ERIC LICAS

Prosecutors alleged during opening statements Thursday that a man facing charges of first degree murder and attempted murder became enraged when the truck the victims were riding in grazed his side view mirror in Costa Mesa, then followed them before killing one and wounding four others.

The shooting on Thanksgiving, Nov. 24, 2022, happened outside of an apartment complex at 732 W. Bay St. The man who died, Lucas Rivera-Velasco, 30, of Costa Mesa, was a landscaper who had been celebrating a rare day off with five other people at Costa Brava, a Mexican restaurant about 1.5 miles away, Deputy Dist. Atty. Daniel Feldman told jurors Thursday.

The group of six were playing loud music and telling jokes as they were on their way to one of their homes. They had no idea the tan truck they were riding in had made slight contact with a black truck driven by the defendant, Lee Q. Walker, 42, of Santa Ana, Feldman said.

"Lucas Rivera-Velasco was murdered over minor, trivial, and as it would later become known to everyone, nonexistent property damage," Feldman said.

Walker was headed to the beach with his family. His 4-year-old son had asked for Chicken McNuggets along the way, and the defendant was becoming increasingly frustrated after pulling up to several McDonald's restaurants that were closed for the holiday, his girlfriend at the time and the mother of their child, Denise Segura, recalled from the witness stand Thursday.

See **Trial**, page A2

ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

FOUNTAIN VALLEY SOFTBALL STRIKES FIRST IN KEY TWO-GAME SET WITH EDISON
PAGE A4

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

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Jean Watt, councilwoman, activist remembered in N.B.

BY LILLY NGUYEN

Few can imagine today's Newport Beach without Jean Watt.

"We used to joke that Jean was our queen. Whatever she wanted you to do, you couldn't say no to Jean," said Susan Skinner, herself a community activist and the daughter of Nancy Skinner, who ran Watt's 1988 campaign for the Newport Beach City Council and was one of Watt's closest friends.

"If she asked you, 'Would you be the captain for this neighborhood?' The only answer was yes," Susan Skinner recalled.

Watt died Sunday at her Newport Beach home at the age of 96.

In 1974, she was one of two founding members of Stop Polluting Our Newport, now known as Still Protecting Our Newport and by its original acronym. She was also a co-founder of the Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks and is credited with spearheading the 1985 settlement agreement between the county of Orange, the city of Newport Beach and the Airport Working Group, which, among other items, required John Wayne Airport to change its behaviors around noise and establish an annual passenger cap.

She was also the founder for the Friends of the Newport Beach Animal Shelter, a member of the City Council from 1988 to 1996 and, most recently, a founding member of the fledgling Newport Beach Housing Trust, which hopes to help facilitate affordable housing in the city in such a way that is a good fit for the community.

Watt was born and raised in Pasadena but spent her summers in and around Newport Beach. She and her husband, James, would later move full time to the city in 1953, where she's been ever since. Her husband died in 1992.

Activist and SPON member Nancy Scarbrough said she's learned more and more about Watt's impact since her death as more articles have been published about her many contributions. She and Watt became acquainted about five or six years ago.

Scarbrough and both Skanners noted what they



File Photo

FORMER NEWPORT BEACH City Councilwoman Jean Watt passed away Sunday at the age of 96.

described as Watt's unique ability to bring people together to work on the same cause, a skill that Scarbrough said people called "Wattling."

"You didn't know you were going to be walking into a meeting and then coming out of it with signs and a new position, but you'd be happy about it," Scarbrough said on Thursday. "She wasn't forcing people to do things they didn't want to ... and she did it in a really gentle way. It wasn't aggressive at all. It was just something in her demeanor that made it a very pleasant experience. She was just asking."

One of Watt's greatest skills, Scarbrough said, was her ability to sit down in a room full of people with opposing viewpoints on a topic and, after listening, manage to provide an organized, thoughtful and achievable plan that no one else in the room knew could exist.

Nancy Skinner said Watt had excellent organizational skills and knew what it was that she wanted to accomplish.

"I've known Jean for probably 60 years and she's one of my best friends all these years," Nancy said. "Honestly, she did her homework. She'd always research and study things, and she'd never come to anything unprepared."

Councilman Erik Weigand said he met Watt when he was still serving on the Planning Commission. He grew up in Newport Beach, and had heard about Watt through her efforts with the Newport Beach Animal Shelter. He described her loss as one for the entire city. Weigand

said he visited her a few months ago to talk about the Newport Beach Housing Trust and hear her ideas.

"She had some great ideas and the fact that ... we're sitting at her dining room table and her, knowing that she's in her 90s, is pretty neat. That's a pretty cool thing to have somebody that you could talk to in those terms, and she was always just so nice and respectful, and even though you disagreed with her on certain things — and there were things I disagreed with her on — you could walk through it and you could approach her and there wasn't animosity," Weigand said.

He said Watt had a talent for grassroots activism, and he appreciated her ability to do the work but never seemed to want to take credit for any of it.

Scarbrough said Watt had a great love for the Girl Scouts of the USA, jigsaw puzzles and "Jeopardy!" When she last saw Watt on the Thursday before her death, the two had planned to have lunch together the following Wednesday. When Scarbrough suggested meeting up on Monday, she said Watt batted away the suggestion, saying that she had a bridge game to play.

"She never really slowed down," Scarbrough said.

There are no immediate plans for a memorial service or celebration of life, but Weigand said that the next Newport Beach City Council meeting on April 25 will be adjourned in Watt's memory.

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Legal Notices

THE LAGUNA BEACH CITY COUNCIL will hold a hybrid virtual/in-person Public Hearing in the City Council Chambers, located in City Hall at 505 Forest Avenue, to consider: **City Council review of the Design Review Board approval of Design Review 22-2256 and Coastal Development Permit 22-2257 for grading, new prefabricated spa, entry stairs, landscaping, lighting, new outdoor fireplace and patios in the R-1 (Residential Low Density) zone at 1902 Ocean Way.** Councilmember George Weiss has requested a review of the Design Review Board's approval of Design Review 22-2256 and Coastal Development Permit 22-2257 for grading, new prefabricated spa, entry stairs, landscaping, lighting, new outdoor fireplace, and patios. SAID PUBLIC HEARING to be held **Tuesday, May 2, 2023, at 5:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard.** For additional information, contact City staff: **Daniel Latham, Assistant Planner, at (949) 464-6612 or dlatham@lagunabeachcity.net, applicant Rory Foubister, Architect, (949) 436-2286 or rory@foubisterarchitects.com.** You may also communicate comments about the proposed application to members of the City Council, whose names and e-mail addresses are listed on the City's website (www.lagunabeachcity.net). **Comments may be made via teleconferencing during the hearing, in writing prior to the hearing (when emailed or mailed to the City Clerk's office), or in person in Council Chambers. Written correspondence should be delivered to City Hall by noon the day before the hearing; however, in order to allow sufficient time for Councilmembers and staff to review and consider your comments, it is recommended they be submitted to the City Clerk's office on or before 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 26, 2023. Procedures for participating in the hybrid virtual/in-person meeting are on the City's website linked to the meeting agenda.** If, in the future, you wish to challenge the subject matter in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you (or someone else) raised at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City Council at or prior to the Public Hearing. Michelle Dulalia, Senior Office Specialist

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: DARIN STOCKHAM 30-2023-01319609-PR-LA-CMC

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: **DARIN STOCKHAM**
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by **SHARON G. BRAYSHAW** in the Superior Court of California, County of **ORANGE**.
THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A HEARING on the petition will be held on **May 25, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. in Dept. CM06** located at 3390 Harbor Boulevard Costa Mesa, CA 92626
(1) If you plan to appear, you must attend the hearing by video remote using Microsoft Teams; (2) Go to the Court's website at <http://www.occourts.org/media-relations/probate-mental-health.html> to appear for probate hearings; and for remote hearing instructions; (3) If you have difficulty connecting to your remote hearing, call 657-622-8278 for assistance.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) **four months** from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) **60 days** from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. **Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.**
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Attorney for the Petitioner: GLENN M. HORAN, ESQ. (SBN: 110703) LAW OFFICES OF GLENN M. HORAN 3080 BRISTOL STREET, STE. 630 COSTA MESA, CA 92626 714-540-6001 gmh@gmhoranlaw.com

Published in the DAILY PILOT on: 4/21/2023, 4/28/2023; and 5/5/2023

CLASSIFIED
It's the solution you're searching for—whether you're seeking a home, apartment, pet or new occupation!

TRIAL

Continued from page A1

She said he cussed after she told him she heard what sounded like the victims' vehicle striking the back of their truck. Then, he retrieved a 9-millimeter handgun from his center console.

"I told him ... 'just don't,'" she said. "I was pleading with him [to] 'please put it away.'"

She snapped a photo of the tan truck's license plate and begged her boyfriend to let police handle things, but "he wasn't hearing me," she said. He would later ask her to delete that picture.

When they stopped at a left turn light at 19th Street and Harbor Boulevard,

Walker got out of his truck and knocked on the other vehicle's driver side window. Segura was unable to recall whether he had the gun with him at that point.

The men inside kept the window up and were primarily Spanish speakers, so they did not understand what he was trying to shout at them, Feldman said. They drove on when the signal turned green, and thought nothing further of the interaction.

Walker continued to follow them in spite of his family's protest. His son began to cry when he parked in the middle of the street as two men in the truck in front of them were getting out.

Surveillance footage from multiple cameras

played in court Thursday showed Walker approach the vehicle's open passenger side doors before firing into it. Relatives of Rivera-Velasco present as the video played winced when they heard eight gunshots ring out, then wiped tears from their eyes.

"I asked him, 'What did you just do?'" Segura recalled. "His son was screaming his head off at this point. [Walker] just said 'I'm sorry. I [expletive] up.' He kept saying that."

Walker got back into his truck and drove Segura to her mother's house. He turned himself in to police the following morning. No damage was found on his vehicle upon later inspection, Feldman said.

Costa Mesa police officer George Maridakis was one of the first emergency responders to arrive at the scene of the shooting that evening. The truck was still running and music was blaring out of its stereo when he got there.

The officer testified that he saw Rivera-Velasco lying face up in the street near the rear of the vehicle. He had been shot once in the groin and once in the head, Feldman said.

Three other wounded men were on their backs or sides on the sidewalk, Maridakis said. A fifth who had been shot in the shoulder was sitting in the back seat.

The only person with them who wasn't struck by gunfire was Jaime Nieto-Milan. Miladakis said he would later see him tugging at another officer's sleeve in an attempt to direct more attention to his fatally wounded friend.

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Daily Pilot

A Times Community News publication.

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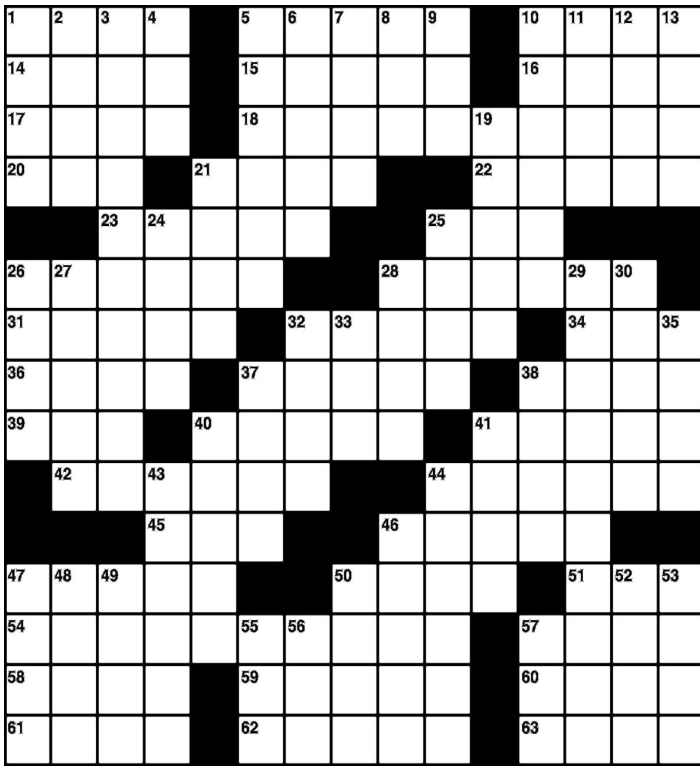
The Daily Pilot, established in 1907, is published Wednesday through Sunday by Times Community News, a division of the Los Angeles Times. Subscriptions are available only by subscribing to The Times, Orange County.

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THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

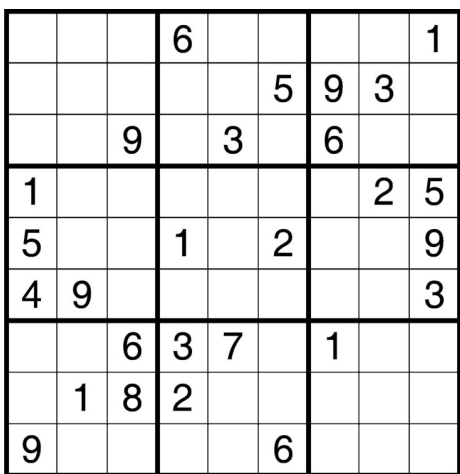
- ACROSS**
 1 Empty spaces
 5 _ hug; family embrace
 10 Gross
 14 Villain
 15 Line of travel
 16 Second to _; unequalled
 17 _ canal; dental procedure
 18 Tailor's job
 20 _ McMuffin; fast-food breakfast
 21 Mimics
 22 Angry speeches
 23 Carnival attractions
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 26 Goes on a shopping spree
 28 Confined
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 32 Israeli seaport
 34 "Peter _"
 36 Too
 37 _ mignon
 38 Half a sextet
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 40 Fishing line holders
 41 Electrical problem
 42 Hateful
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 46 See-through
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 50 Flat-bottomed boat
 51 Under the weather
 54 Permanent giver
 57 Ma, for one
 58 "I couldn't _ less!"
 59 Chivalrous
 60 Owned by us
 61 Foam
 62 Snouts
 63 Does drugs
- DOWN**
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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 A2.

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Cheney | Indian |
| 2 Very eager | 9 Part of MPH |
| 3 Advanced; made headway | 10 Still whole |
| 4 _ up; arrange | 11 Quarter, for one |
| 5 Small fruits | 12 Shoelace problem |
| 6 Film parts | 13 Hankerings |
| 7 Pitcher's delights | 19 Game venue |
| 8 Western U.S. | 21 Does first-grade |

- math
 24 Three _ nine is three
 25 Skillful
 26 "Get lost!"
 27 Salk's target
 28 Holiday desserts
 29 Very funny
 30 Twosomes
 32 Rushes
 33 100%
 35 Memo
 37 TV's "Family _"
 38 You, to Shakespeare
 40 Cut of pork
 41 Slaughtered
 43 Has _; isn't okay emotionally
 44 Verizon store display
 46 Climb
 47 Basics
 48 Boyfriend
 49 Kids' play area
 50 Only child's lack
 52 Early harp
 53 Gambler's woe
 55 Sleepover spot
 56 Pigeon's cry
 57 " _ Can't Hurry Love"; Supremes song
- Tribune Media Services



A STUDENT cheers for an award recipient during an assembly at Golden View Elementary on Wednesday in Huntington Beach.

Scott Smeltzer
 Staff
 Photographer

READ

Continued from page A1

"Reading Makes a Difference" campaign. The read-a-thon was held at five OVSD elementary schools and two middle schools, all of which scheduled assemblies this week.

Ocean View School District Supt. Michael Conroy and Board of Trustees President Patricia Singer were on hand to congratulate the students.

Overall, the Jester & Pharley Phund executive director Amy Hastings said OVSD students read 463,392 minutes — or nearly 8,000 hours. A total of 275 "The Jester Has Lost His Jingle" books and 125 Jester & Pharley dolls will be donated to four local hospitals, including Fountain Valley Regional Hospital, Huntington Beach Hospital, Children's Hospital of Orange County and Miller Children's Hospital Long Beach.

Five classrooms at Golden View had every student participate in the read-a-thon, Hastings said.

"One of our big goals for our school this year is showing respect toward others and kindness," Golden View Principal Lori Florgan said. "It really was nice to tie that in, so the kids can learn empathy and compassion toward other kids who might not have the same privileges of everyday liv-

ing. It was a great lesson for them."

"The Jester Has Lost His Jingle" tells the story of a jester who awakes one morning and finds that laughter is missing in his kingdom. He and his helpmate, Pharley, set off on a quest to find it. The book was written and illustrated by David Saltzman, a Palos Verdes native who was a senior at Yale University when he died of cancer in 1990, at the age of 22.

The book was eventually published by Saltzman's family in 1995, and soon earned a spot on the New York Times Best Sellers list. His mother Barbara, a former longtime entertainment editor at the Los Angeles Times, started the nonprofit the Jester & Pharley Pfund in 2000.

More than 178,000 participants since then have read for hours to donate "Jester" books and dolls to patients in their communities.

Adrienne Feilden, a child life specialist at Fountain Valley Regional Hospital, said that Hastings first reached out to her nearly a decade ago.

"We've had the book in our play room and with our kiddos for that many years," Feilden said. "Everybody loves them, the dolls also. The dolls can become a comfort item that kids and teenagers take home, and remember that it was comforting for them when they were in the hospital."

The top readers at other OVSD schools included Audrey Lhen Bandola, a fourth-grader at College View Elementary; Yara Deek, a fifth-grader at Star View Elementary; Arielle Valadez Cortez, a fifth-grader at Westmont Elementary; Lincoln Kaki-moto, a fifth-grader at Lake View Elementary; Taylee Tran, a seventh-grader at Vista View Middle School, and Demond Orozco, a seventh-grader at Spring View Middle School.

"If we could get more sponsorships, we'd do this in every school district, certainly in L.A. and Orange counties," Barbara Saltzman said. "I knew when I first saw David's rough sketches for the book and when he was talking to us about it, and then when we saw it, that this book had universal appeal."

Her message to the students at Golden View Elementary on Wednesday was simple, yet profound.

"I hope that you continue your reading," Saltzman said. "Like David, you'll find that reading opens so many doors and windows in your life and you can learn so much. I hope that you will continue to be kind and caring and compassionate, and be friendly to people. If you can see if they're having a bad day, just be there for them."

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The state of what's next. **Los Angeles Times**

Orange County's Tony Award-winning Theatre

WORLD PREMIERE Starts Sunday!

Coleman 가족 MILWAUKEE

By **Charlie Oh**
 Directed by **Chay Yew**
April 23 - May 14

Jenn, Michelle and Joey look back at the summer of 1972, when their Korean American family piled into the Buick for an All-American road trip.

Recommended for Ages 14+

FEATURING

Paul Juhn

Jessica Ko

Jully Lee

Tess Lina

Ryun Yu

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WORLD PREMIERE Starts Next Week!

Goodbye, Tehran. Hello, Tehran-geles.

away آواز

Written and performed by **Michael Shayan**
 Directed by **Moritz von Stuelpnagel**
April 29 - May 27

Get ready for the time of your life with this hilarious and deeply personal tribute to the playwright's mother, deliciously portrayed by the person who knows her best—her son.

Recommended for Ages 16+

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HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL

Barons strike first in two-game set with Chargers

BY ANDREW TURNER

For the past month, the Fountain Valley High softball team has figured its season would depend on the outcome of its home-and-home set against Edison.

The rivals were set to square off in the first of their Sunset League meetings on March 21, when a rainstorm inserted itself into the drama. The sides agreed to play twice in a three-day span late in the season, with the first of

those contests coming Thursday.

Production from the bottom of the order proved key, as Fountain Valley earned a 3-1 road victory over Edison to keep its hopes alive for an automatic playoff berth via league play.

The Sunset League — featuring seven teams this season — will see its top four finishers clinch playoff berths. Huntington Beach (21-4, 9-1) will visit Los Alamitos (19-3, 7-1) on Monday in a game that figures to determine the league champion.

It gets crowded after that, with Marina (19-7, 7-4), Edison (14-10, 5-4) and Fountain Valley (13-9, 5-5) vying for the two remaining spots. The Barons host the Chargers on Saturday at 10 a.m.

Fountain Valley coach Rick Aldrich said his team had been talking about the importance of beating Edison since the rainout.

“It was huge,” Barons left fielder Delaney Mondino said of the win. “We wanted to win this game so bad.”

Desperate times called for aggressive maneuvers on the base paths. Mondino set the table for the top of the order with an infield single to start the seventh. She then went from first to third on a sacrifice-bunt by Kira Velasco, never breaking stride and making it with a dive.

“As I was getting to second, I was looking over at third to see if anyone was covering,” Mondino said. “There was no one there, so as I was halfway there, I saw the left fielder coming in. I just picked up the speed a little bit and then [dove] in.”

Center fielder Samantha Estrada brought her in with a single through the left side of the infield, adding to the Barons’ lead heading into the Chargers’ final at-bats.



Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

FOUNTAIN VALLEY'S Jenna Bixler, center, is congratulated at home after scoring the game's first run in a Sunset League softball game against Edison on Thursday.

Edison attempted to rally, getting hits from McKenna Prijatel and Amanda Johansen to bring the winning run to the plate. Emme Fischer, who had hit a line-hugging homer to left to tie the score at 1-1 in the fourth, represented the winning run, but Courtney Kols struck her out. Pinch hitter Sienna Rievley grounded to first to end the game.

Jenna Bixler, Marissa Sardinas and Mondino, the bottom three in the order, each scored a run for the Barons. Fountain Valley opened the scoring without the benefit of a hit in the third. Bixler walked, stole second, advanced to third on a flyout by Sardinas, and came home on Mondino's groundout to Edison shortstop Sara Witt.

The Barons would also have an immediate answer following the Fischer home run, her second of the season.

Sardinas ended up with a hustle double after banging

a ball off the wall to lead off the fifth. Center fielder Jacy Booth played the carom well, but Sardinas slid in underneath the tag.

Mondino made another productive out with a ground ball to the right side, and Velasco scored Sardinas with a flyout to shallow right field.

“I had to clear my mind,” Sardinas said of leading off the inning after the score had been tied. “I had to soften my hands. I just had to think ‘middle, middle, middle.’ I just was looking for a single, anything just to help out my team, anything just to get a run.”

Kols held the Chargers to one run on nine hits. She struck out three and walked one.

Witt had two doubles and a diving catch to rob Sardinas of a base hit with the bases loaded in the sixth. Booth also had two hits for Edison.

“It was a great game,” Edison coach Mandee Farish said. “I can't be that upset.



BARONS pitcher Courtney Kols delivers a pitch against Edison on Thursday.

Obviously, I don't like to lose, but all in all, it was a good game, a hard-fought game by both teams. You can see the intensity. That's what I think both teams brought was simply really good intensity, and I'm excited for Saturday to see what happens.”

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NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

LAGUNA BEACH CITY COUNCIL

The Laguna Beach City Council will hold a hybrid virtual/in-person Public Hearing in the City Council Chambers, located in City Hall at 505 Forest Avenue, to consider: Zoning Ordinance Amendment 21-8238 and Local Coastal Program Amendment 21-8239 amending Laguna Beach municipal code, to repeal and replace Laguna Beach Municipal Code Chapter 25.17 (Second Residential Units) with Chapter 25.17 (Accessory Dwelling Units and Junior Accessory Dwelling Units) as modified and approved by the California Coastal Commission on February 9, 2023, and exemption from California Environmental Quality Act. The amendments apply City-wide. SAID PUBLIC HEARING to be held Tuesday, May 2, 2023, at 5:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter. For additional information, contact City staff: Kevin Parker, AICP, Associate Planner at (949) 464-6632 or kparker@lagunabeachcity.net. You may also communicate comments about the proposed application to members of the City Council, whose names and e-mail addresses are listed on the City's website (www.lagunabeachcity.net). Comments may be made via teleconferencing during the hearing, in writing prior to the hearing (when emailed or mailed to the City Clerk's office), or in person in Council Chambers. Written correspondence should be delivered to City Hall by noon the day before the hearing; however, in order to allow sufficient time for Councilmembers and staff to review and consider your comments, it is recommended they be submitted to the City Clerk's office on or before 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 26, 2023. Procedures for participating in the hybrid virtual/in-person meeting are on the City's website linked to the meeting agenda. If, in the future, you wish to challenge the subject matter in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you (or someone else) raised at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City Council at or prior to the Public Hearing. The proposed Municipal Code amendments are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15060(c)(2) and 15061(b)(3) in that the proposed amendments are not anticipated to result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, nor will the proposed changes have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Additionally, Public Resources Code Section 21080.5 and Section 15265(c) of the State CEQA Guidelines shift the burden of CEQA compliance to the California Coastal Commission in connection with preparation or amendment to a Local Coastal Program (LCP). The Coastal Commission's LCP review and approval procedures have been found to be functionally equivalent to the environmental review process. 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.

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS No. CA-22-914039-BF Order No.: 150-2321802-05 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 11/23/2007. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state, will be held by duly appointed trustee. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. **BENEFICIARY MAY ELECT TO BID LESS THAN THE TOTAL AMOUNT DUE.** Trustor(s): Joseph A. Del Signore and Michaela O. Del Signore, Husband and Wife as Joint Tenants Recorded: 11/30/2007 as Instrument No. 200700709066 of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of ORANGE County, California; Date of Sale: 5/1/2023 at 1:30PM Place of Sale: At the North front entrance to the County Courthouse located at 700 Civic Center Drive West, Santa Ana, CA 92701 Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$2,789,687.69 The purported property address is: 112 KINGS PLACE, NEWPORT BEACH, CA 92663 Assessor's Parcel No.: 049-202-41 **NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS:** If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. **NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER:** The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call 916-939-0772 for information regarding the trustee's sale or visit this internet website <http://www.qualityloan.com>, using the file number assigned to this foreclosure by the Trustee: CA-22-914039-BF. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the internet website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. **NOTICE TO TENANT:** You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call 916-939-0772, or visit this internet website <http://www.qualityloan.com>, using the file number assigned to this foreclosure by the Trustee: CA-22-914039-BF to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. **NOTICE TO PROSPECTIVE OWNER-OCCUPANT:** Any prospective owner-occupant as defined in Section 2924m of the California Civil Code who is the last and highest bidder at the trustee's sale shall provide the required affidavit or declaration of eligibility to the auctioneer at the trustee's sale or shall have it delivered to QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION by 5 p.m. on the next business day following the trustee's sale at the address set forth in the below signature block. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address or other common designation, if any, shown herein. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, including if the Trustee is unable to convey title, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the monies paid to the Trustee. This shall be the Purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Trustor, the Trustee, the Beneficiary, the Beneficiary's Agent, or the Beneficiary's Attorney. If you have previously been discharged through bankruptcy, you may have been released of personal liability for this loan in which case this letter is intended to exercise the note holders right's against the real property only. Date: **QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION** 2763 Camino Del Rio S San Diego, CA 92108 619-645-7711 For NON SALE information only Sale Line: 916-939-0772 Or Login to: <http://www.qualityloan.com> Reinstatement Line: (866) 645-7711 Ext 5318 QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION - TS No.: CA-22-914039-BF IDSPub 01849922 4/7/2023 4/14/2023 4/21/2023

GARDEN

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terrestrial growers, hobbyists and nonprofit organizations, whose wares ranged from California natives and orchids to succulents and even carnivores.

Jessica Aleman, owner of the Costa Mesa plant shop Mellowist Plantlife, sells ethically sourced plant pots, apparel and gardening tools catered to succulent lovers. For the show, she brought plants raised by local growers and placed into unique pottery pieces with an artsy twist.

She and husband DJ got into planting 12 years earlier as a way to unwind and began showcasing their passion on social media. As their following grew, they opened a brick-and-mortar store to share “the Tao of plants” with more people.

“[Gardening] causes us to slow down — we need to see what happens to the plant,” Aleman said of the practice. “It’s about being present, and I feel like people are looking for that more than ever in their lives.”

A few stalls down from Mellowist, Bonnie Person showed off an elegant display of rare ferns, orchids



Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

JESSICA FAHMY, center, a volunteer with the Verdant Vivariums, speaks to Charlene Hanrahan, left, Sue Schairer and Debbie Gilmore at the 33rd annual Spring Garden Show.

and terrarium plants she sells at Verdant Vivariums in Fountain Valley. Her jewel orchids were recently featured by Martha Stewart.

“Terrariums were really popular in the ‘60s and ‘70s but they’re definitely coming back,” said Person, a former landscape gardener at Disneyland. “It’s a little world if you landscape it right.”

Verdant Vivariums operates out of a warehouse that’s open to the public on Wednesdays and Thursdays, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and features an array of terrarium plants and an-

imals, including brightly colored dart frogs.

Nearby, Laguna Beach residents and friends Sue Garber and Wens-day Garcia admired Person's collection of hanging tassel ferns. The pair have been coming to the show for years.

“We try to make it through the whole thing without buying anything, then we’ll go back,” Garber said, confessing that they’d both already purchased plants on their first loop.

“[Plants] are kind of one-of-a-kind, so when you find one you like, it might not be there if you go back,”

Garcia explained.

Tustin resident Omair Khan, a self-described “plant guy,” was seen carrying a box with two potted succulents and a squat cactus beginning to sprout cream-colored flowers.

“It runs in the family — my grandfather was a big plant enthusiast,” Khan said of his interest. “I come here every year. This is actually my second round; I already put some plants in the car.”

Traci Williams came from Los Angeles to attend the show and wore a T-shirt with a cartoon figure on a bike surrounded by plants that read “Plants Armstrong” for the occasion.

“I love the uniqueness of it all. And I always find something,” Williams said. “My niece once said, ‘Why would you go shop for flowers at a mall?’ I said, ‘Until you experience it, you don’t know.’”

The 33rd annual Southern California Spring Garden Show runs through Sunday at South Coast Plaza’s Crate and Barrel/Macy’s Home Store wing, 3333 Bear St., Costa Mesa. For more, visit southcoastplaza.com/gardenshow.

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PARTNERS

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are and stabilize the situation where they are,” Moncrief continued. “Sometimes, that’s at a park bench with somebody struggling with homelessness. Sometimes, that’s in the living room of a multi-million-dollar home and a very well-resourced family. Mental health challenges and related challenges don’t discriminate, and we’re available to serve anybody regardless of their socioeconomic status.”

The program will provide coverage in the form of two crisis counselors for 12 hours per day, seven days a week. It will cost \$839,828 annually with an additional \$35,556 in start-up costs. City staffers said the pilot program is fully funded for the first two years.

Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris secured \$1.5 million in state funding to support the program. The city also received \$405,111 in CARES Act funds from the county for the crisis intervention program.

Be Well Orange County

also has contracted services operating in Anaheim, Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Irvine and Newport Beach.

The City Council also directed staff to return with a report on the program following the first year of implementation and to explore options for long-term funding.

“The good thing here is that when you look at the cities that are doing this program, it kind of spans different supervisorial districts,” Councilman Alex Rounaghi said. “The key there is how do we get to

three supervisors that are supporting using the [Mental Health Services Act] dollars?”

“I think that we should be really proactive about working with the county to get a long-term, dedicated revenue stream. ... I think Marshall’s exactly right, that this is important, that it’s not a county program, but it’s a local program, but I think it should be funded by the county [Mental Health Services Act] dollars.”

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