

Daily Pilot

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2025 /// dailypilot.com



Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

AMALIA HOLGUIN (10) leads the Sage Hill celebration with teammate Alyssa Cuff (22) after winning the CIF State Southern California Regional Division I girls' basketball title against Los Angeles Windward on Tuesday.

Sage Hill executes late to win regional final

The Lightning go on an 11-0 run to end the game and win a second regional championship in four years.

BY ANDREW TURNER

Sage Hill's season is going the distance.

Amalia Holguin made sure of that with a five-point spurt taking the Lightning from a one-possession game to an eight-point lead inside of two minutes.

Moments later, Holguin and her teammates hoisted a championship plaque in the air.

Second-seeded Sage Hill closed out Los Angeles Windward 52-41 in the CIF State Southern California Regional Division I final, claiming the program's second regional title in four years.

It means Holguin will return to the Golden 1 Center in Sacramento, where she rooted on her

See [Final](#), page A6



SAGE HILL'S Amalia Holguin (10), Alyssa Cuff (22), Eve Fowler (42) and Addison Uphoff, from left, begin the celebration as they run off the court in the final seconds after defeating Windward on Tuesday.

Police release body cam footage depicting Feb. 1 fatal shooting of homicide suspect

BY ERIC LICAS

Police released footage Monday of a pursuit last month involving a homicide suspect shot and killed by officers after he sped past bystanders in a small

SUV to the end of Newport Beach Pier and allegedly brandished a firearm.

The violent series of events unfolded on Feb. 1, and began with reports of a shooting at 2:40 a.m. in the city of Menifee. Respond-

ing officers found the body of 38-year-old Temecula resident Storm Wolf inside a pickup truck.

Detectives identified her boyfriend, Jose Velasquez, 45, of Menifee, as the primary suspect in the killing. They tracked his

cellphone signal to his ex-wife's house near the 1400 block of North Freeman Street in Santa Ana.

Dispatchers informed police in

See [Body cam](#), page A3

Pat Burns talks business at annual H.B. mayor's breakfast

BY MATT SZABO

Huntington Beach Mayor Pat Burns has said several times publicly since taking office in 2022 that he doesn't consider himself a politician.

A longtime police officer and one of five boys in a large family are attributes that he feels better describe him.

In fact, his speech at Wednesday morning's annual mayor's breakfast at the Senior Center at Central Park was partially anti-government, or at least big government.

"We've got to curb the regulations," Burns told the audience of more than 100 city government and business leaders. "I'm all about small government. I don't like government. We're going to

GUESTS

ATTEND the annual Mayor's Breakfast at the Senior Center in Central Park on Wednesday.



screw up anything we touch, and it's been proven time in and time out."

Burns, about three months into his year-long term as mayor, made headlines when he displayed a bust of President Donald Trump on the dais during the Jan.

21 City Council meeting. A month later, the Council then approved a "MAGA" plaque at the Central Library to celebrate its 50th anniversary.

The mayor's breakfast was

See [Mayor](#), page A6



Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

HUNTINGTON BEACH Mayor Pat Burns speaks to the local business community and leaders at the annual Mayor's Breakfast at the Senior Center in Central Park on Wednesday.

District approves cuts to OCC children's center

Cuts come as parents and staff devised a plan to prevent displacement and layoffs.

BY SARA CARDINE

District officials Monday approved a downsizing of classes and staff at a longstanding Orange Coast College children's center — citing insufficient revenue and changing student needs — and rejected a proposal drafted by parents and teachers to save it.

Now, left with less than four months to find alternative child care, parents of more than half of the students enrolled at the Harry and Grace Steele Children's Center are hoping to find a means of maintaining the center they love so dearly, but time is running out.

Madjid Niroumand, OCC's vice president of student services, explained the need to reduce programs from five classes to just two Monday during a meeting of Coast Community College District trustees, who oversee the programs and budgets of the Costa Mesa campus.

The move would displace nearly 60 infants, toddlers and young preschoolers and necessitate the layoff of at least eight instructors. Coast officials had to approve the proposed staff reductions, among others, before a March 15 deadline.

Niroumand said OCC has been paying more than \$500,000 annually to subsidize a program created in 1969 as a childcare solution for students and staff at the Costa Mesa campus, but is today mainly populated by the children of parents from the broader community.

He projected a shortfall of up to \$700,000 in the fiscal year ahead and attributed the center's deficit, in part, to unionized employees earning an average of \$115,000 in

See [OCC](#), page A2

ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



J.R. Lizarraga

HUNTINGTON CITY BEACH TO HOST WANGO TANGO CONCERT IN MAY PAGE A5

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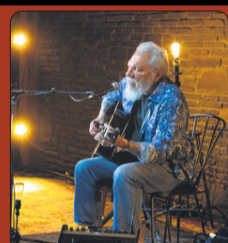
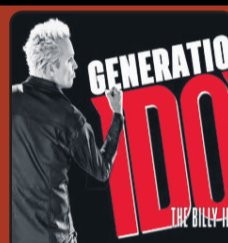
FRI, MAR 14
THE FENIANS

MAR 15 & MAR 16
WALTER TROUT

FRI, MAR 21
THE THIRD MIND

WED, MAR 26
RUSSELL HOWARD

- 3/13 **SONS OF CREAM**
FT. KOFI BAKER, MALCOM BRUCE, ROB JOHNSON
- 3/14 **THE FENIANS (ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION)**
- 3/15 **WALTER TROUT**
- 3/16 **WALTER TROUT**
- 3/21 **THE THIRD MIND**
FT. DAVE ALVIN, JESSE SYKES, MARK KARAN, VICTOR KRUMMENACHER, MICHAEL JEROME
- 3/22 **KING'S X**
- 3/26 **RUSSELL HOWARD**
- 3/27 **TURN THE PAGE**
(BOB SEGER & THE SILVER BULLET TRIBUTE)
- 3/28 **NEW WAVE 80s PARTY**
(MUSIC OF BILLY IDOL, THE PRETENDERS AND THE CURE)
- 3/29 **SUPER DIAMOND (NEIL DIAMOND TRIBUTE)**
- 3/30 **COLIN JAMES**
- 4/1 **JORMA KAUKONEN**
- 4/2 **ANDERS OSBORNE**
- 4/3 **OUR HOUSE**
(MUSIC OF CROSBY, STILLS, NASH & YOUNG)
- 4/4 **THE SMITHEREENS WITH JOHN COWSILL**
- 4/5 **HERMAN'S HERMITS FT PETER NOONE**
- 4/6 **HERMAN'S HERMITS FT PETER NOONE**
- 4/7 **LEARNING TO FLY (A TOM PETTY TRIBUTE)**
- 4/10 **JACKLY**
- 4/11 **DON CARLOS**
- 4/12 **MIRAGE (TRIBUTE TO FLEETWOOD MAC)**
- 4/13 **BOBBY GRAY**
- 4/18 **WILD CHILD (DOORS TRIBUTE)**
- 4/19 **KEVIN NEALON**
- 4/24 **THE WAILERS**
- 4/25 **TOM GREEN (COMEDY TOUR)**
- 4/26 **PIANO MEN: GENERATIONS**



THU, MAR 27
TURN THE PAGE

FRI, MAR 28
NEW WAVE 80s PARTY

SUN, MAR 30
COLIN JAMES

TUE, APR 1
JORMA KAUKONEN

- 5/2 **IN THE AIR TONIGHT (PHIL COLLINS & GENESIS TRIBUTE)**
- 5/3 **THE OCEAN BLUE**
- 5/8 **ROBERT CRAY**
- 5/9 **ROBERT CRAY**
- 5/10 **SHINE ON (THE LIVE PINK FLOYD EXPERIENCE)**
- 5/11 **ISRAEL VIBRATION & ROOTS RADICS**
- 5/15 **ALL FIRED UP (PAT BENATAR TRIBUTE)**
- 5/16 **RONSTADT REVIVAL (LINDA RONSTADT TRIBUTE)**
- 5/17 **DEAD MAN'S PARTY**
- 5/18 **THE DAY THE MUSIC DIDN'T DIE**
- 5/22 **FOGHAT**
- 5/23 **RICHIE KOTZEN**
- 5/24 **QUEEN NATION (RE-IMAGINED SYMPHONIC ROCK SHOW)**
- 5/29 **THE WAR & TREATY**
- 5/30 **YACHTY BY NATURE**
- 5/31 **KIDS OF CHARLEMAGNE (STEELY DAN TRIBUTE)**
- 6/1 **KEN GARCIA**
- 6/6 **THE WINEHOUSE EXPERIENCE**
- 6/7 **YYNOT (TRIBUTE TO RUSH)**
- 6/13 **BUFFETT BEACH**
- 6/14 **DON MCLEAN**
- 6/15 **LIVE DEAD & BROTHERS (AN ALL-STAR CELEBRATION OF GRATEFUL DEAD & ALLMAN BROTHERS)**
- 6/21 **CLASSIC ALBUMS LIVE: DAVID BOWIE'S ZIGGY'S STARDUST**
- 7/4 **THE ULTIMATE ROCK BAND: THE GREATEST ROCK HITS OF ALL TIME**
- 7/19 **FAST TIMES**
- 7/26 **VENICE**
- 8/28 **TAB BENOIT**
- 8/30 **MISSING PERSONS**
- 9/7 **BENISE (25 YEARS OF PASSION)**
- 9/20 **WHAT'S NEW PUSSYCAT**
- 11/7 **DUSTBOWL REVIVAL**
- 11/15 **Y&T**
- 11/16 **GEOFF TATE'S OPERATION: MINDCRIME (THE FINAL CHAPTER)**

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THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

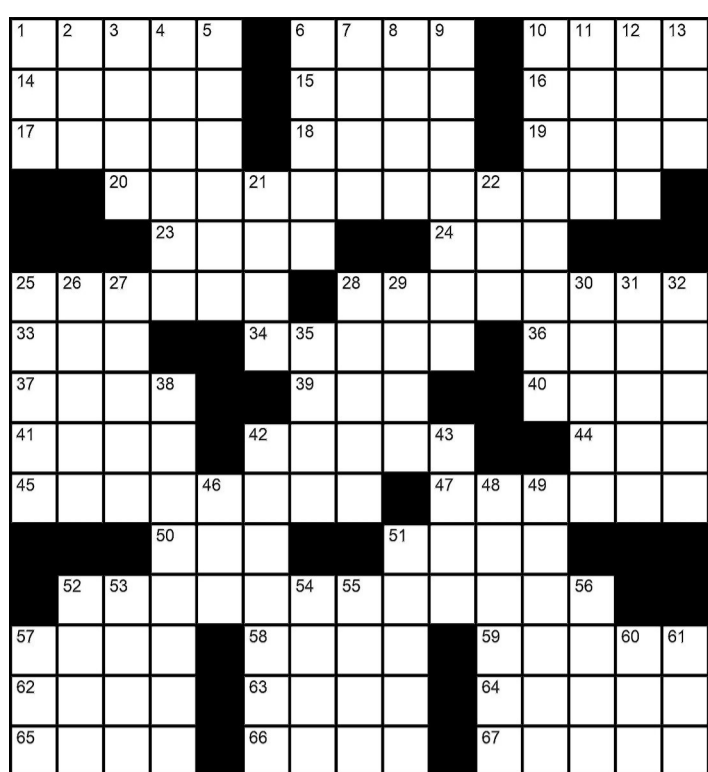
By Stella Zawistowski

ACROSS

- 1 Gem weight unit
- 6 Since: 2 wds.
- 10 Ran in the wash
- 14 By yourself
- 15 Brazilian berry
- 16 Roam around
- 17 Internet diaries
- 18 Subway rodents
- 19 Microwave _
- 20 Celestial light show: 2 wds.
- 23 Low in fat
- 24 Amusing
- 25 School assignment, often
- 28 Fantastic
- 33 Adam's mate in the Bible
- 34 Go off course
- 36 "Frozen" queen
- 37 Wedding cake level
- 39 "For _ a jolly good fellow"
- 40 Impertinence
- 41 Get hold of
- 42 _ Valley, California
- 44 Place
- 45 Responded
- 47 Fails to hit
- 50 Actress Gardner
- 51 Be dull
- 52 Saying in other words
- 57 Daring
- 58 Debtors' notes: Abbr.
- 59 Staircase parts
- 62 "Anything _?"
- 63 Unclothed
- 64 Wipe the data from
- 65 Beneficial
- 66 Graph paper pattern
- 67 Damascus' country

DOWN

- 1 Taxi
- 2 "It's _ or nothing"
- 3 Part of a house
- 4 Dundee who trained Ali
- 5 Perfume sample



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.

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

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

- bottle
- 6 Brother of Moses
- 7 "The Lion King" villain
- 8 Granola grains
- 9 Seafood cookout: 2 wds.
- 10 Young Girl
- Scouts
- 11 Adore
- 12 At any time
- 13 Lion's home
- 21 Consumes
- 22 "_ Missing Hearts" (Celeste Ng novel)
- 25 "Parks and Rec"
- actress
- 26 Bottled water brand
- 27 Quick looks
- 28 Tire surface
- 29 Sunrise's direction
- 30 Envelope parts
- 31 Magazine unit
- 32 Groups of actors
- 35 "My country, 'tis of _"
- 38 Compensated
- 42 Arranging in folds
- 43 Insurance plans: Abbr.
- 46 Actress Mendes
- 48 "Bearded" flowers
- 49 Security guard
- 51 Situated (in)
- 52 Game on horseback
- 53 As well
- 54 Appointed time
- 55 Designer Gernreich
- 56 Equipment
- 57 Entreat
- 60 Tire measurement: Abbr.
- 61 Go out to _

Tribune Media Services

OCC

Continued from page A1

salary and benefits. "This is something that is really creating an unsustainable structure for the children's center at Orange Coast College to meet its revenues," he said. Effective July 1, the program would be pared down to two preschool classrooms with four teachers and up to 48 students as well as a director and a support position. Enrollment priority would be given first to the children of OCC students, then to campus employees. Among 105 kids currently enrolled at the center, 20 are children of the college's students, while 17 belong to faculty and staff members. Niroumand said the shift would return the focus back to the center's intended clientele. "The purpose of this plan is to ensure we realign our service offerings to be prudent with our financial projections but also be true to our core mission, which is supporting our students," he said. However, the shift would also eliminate the primary source of revenue that comes into the Harry and Grace Steele Children's Center — the tuition paid by the parents who would be turned away. Parents and staff members packed Monday's board meeting. Some testified to the vital role the center plays, not just for students with children but for those enrolled in OCC's Child Development and Education Department, which incorporates the facility into its curriculum. Others, organized under a "Steele our School Back" campaign presented a counter-proposal they say would restore the center to solvency over the course of a year or more. Huntington Beach parents Nadia and Will Prioleau drafted the plan alongside a core group of staff members using financial figures, salaries and teacher-to-student ratios. The two-pronged approach involves shifting two employees in the infant



Courtesy of Orange Coast College

PARENTS SERVED by the OCC Harry and Grace Steele Children's Center are protesting proposed program cuts at the Costa Mesa site that would impact teachers and enrollment.

program, slated for layoffs, into one currently unused preschool classroom, allowing for the addition of 20 more kids and the associated tuition. Those who are now enrolled in the infant program would age into the toddler class, allowing the infant class to sunset without displacement. It also calls for increasing tuition rates for the children of community parents. A market analysis of similar programs with a 10-mile radius found OCC's infant program tuition was 51% below market average, while preschool enrollment cost 34% less than similar programs, the group reported. A survey of about 70 parents determined 90% would be willing to pay up to \$200 more per month per child. Another 10% of respondents indicated they'd need more information, but none were opposed to higher tuition. "We know the program is in demand — there are 133 families on the wait list," Nadia Prioleau told the board. "So, we can raise tuition. That's OK with everyone; we've proven that with data." The counter proposal prepared by the Prioleaus and some of the school's staff was sent to Coast CCD trustees on Saturday. But board members Monday did not discuss it, saying they were obligated to consider the needs of community college students first and foremost. Board Chair Elizabeth Dorn Parker said the Asso-

ciated Students of OCC, which traditionally funded the children's center budget shortfall, is strapped trying to provide food, textbooks and mental health counseling to students. Parents offering to pay more in a moment, she added, does not ensure stability. "It's not the way I thought we would go, but it's the way we must go. We're rightsizing across every campus," Dorn Parker said. She spoke of how she had been turned away several years ago when she sought spaces for her own children in the school, "so I understand the absolute magical part that this center has played.... But I also understand we cannot deficit fund this. [And] we cannot have a one-year plan."

Will Prioleau said Tuesday he was disappointed the board didn't seriously consider the counter proposal, voting instead to continue deficit spending by subsidizing the care of OCC students' children while cutting off the center's main source of revenue. "We have a simple solution. We put it in front of them ahead of time and none of them at the meeting reacted to it," he said, adding that the group will continue to seek help and partnerships to reverse course before July. "It's the wrong thing to do financially, and it's obviously disrupting people's lives, so there's no real upside."

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Raindrops over Laguna



STORM CLOUDS open up for a few hours after a steady rain at Main Beach Park on Wednesday.



A WOMAN walks under a steady rain on Beach St. and Ocean Ave. in downtown Laguna Beach on Wednesday.



Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

A MOM and daughter walk quickly along Beach St. at Ocean Ave. under a steady rain in downtown Laguna Beach on Wednesday.

Trial begins for man accused of sexually assaulting 2 girls

BY PAUL ANDERSON

Atty. Alyssa Marie Staudinger said. The victim's sister said she was first assaulted once in second grade when she was 7 or 8, Staudinger said. Their mother was a young mom, who gave birth to one daughter when she was 17 and the other when she was 19, the prosecutor said. Their biological father was "not in the picture" and was living in Mexico, Staudinger said. The victims' mother began dating the defendant when she was 23 while he lived in the Los Angeles area and she lived in Costa Mesa with other relatives, Staudinger said. One of the girls said she was in bed sleeping when the defendant first sexually assaulted her and told her not to tell anyone, Staudinger said. "She doesn't tell for years," the prosecutor said. "She doesn't tell her mom

or her sister." Saavedra told her sister when she was in second grade to "turn around," so she excitedly thought she was about to get a gift, Staudinger said. When it became apparent she was being assaulted, she said she had to go to the bathroom and the defendant let her go, Staudinger alleged. The girl did not tell anyone right away, but a couple of days later confided in her sister, who was "very protective" of her younger sibling, Staudinger said. The older girl "decided it was time to tell their mother," Staudinger said. Their mother, however, did not go to police, but, instead, "interrogated" her daughters and then drove to Los Angeles to confront the defendant, Staudinger said. The girls' mother, on the way home, told her daughters

the defendant was "sorry," and promised he wouldn't "do it again," the prosecutor said. "The abuse stopped for a year," Staudinger said. Saavedra resumed molesting the older sister and then molested the other girl while they lived in Costa Mesa, Staudinger said. "The typical pattern it falls into is when they went to sleep," the prosecutor said. As the older girl resisted him, he would "use more physical force on her" as she got older, Staudinger said. When the older girl was in seventh grade, she told an eighth-grade boy in her drama class about the abuse in December 2021, Staudinger said. Over the next four to five months, her classmate prodded her to tell someone, but she was discouraged and felt no one would

believe her, Staudinger said. At some point, the boy "nearly dragged her to the principal's office," to report the allegations, Staudinger said. When police went to question Saavedra at his job at a fast food restaurant in Newport Beach, he told them the older girl was "sexually aggressive" and came on to him, but he pushed her away, Staudinger said. He also told investigators he hugged the sister once while aroused, Staudinger said. Bobby Shui of the Orange County public defender's office said his client and the mother of the girls worked together at the fast food restaurant. The mother was his boss, he added. The two lived in a crowded house and worked the same shift so there were

no opportunities to commit the attacks, Shui said. The defense attorney said the older accuser is "non-binary" and uses the pronouns "they" and "them." She is into anime and her theater class, and the other girl "admits she has anger issues," Shui said. The older accuser, who is now 15, bonded with her classmate over anime and Shui added that he "watches a lot of crime shows" on TV. The older victim's classmate and her mother encouraged her to get a rape kit analysis at a hospital, but she refused, Shui said. "There's no forensics," Shui said. The case relies on "unreliable witness testimony," Shui said. "At the end of this case, nothing's going to add up."

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1 wounded in Corona del Mar shooting

BY CITY NEWS SERVICE

A shooting in Newport Beach left one person wounded Sunday evening. Officers responded near the Corona del Mar Main

Beach around 10:12 p.m. that night to reports regarding shots fired, according to the Newport Beach Police Department. The victim was taken to a hospital for non-life-

threatening injuries and later discharged. A description of any possible suspect was not immediately released. Anyone with information regarding the shoot-

ing was urged to call NBPD Detective Kyle Markwald at (949) 644-3762.

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BODY CAM

Continued from page A1

that city that Velasquez was armed with a handgun and driving a silver Honda CRV. He fled when a pair of police officers tried to pull him over at 6:36 a.m., officer Natalie Garcia, a Santa Ana Police Department spokeswoman, said in a community bulletin posted to YouTube.

Officers chased him through multiple cities and wound up in Newport Beach. Footage posted on social media showed patrol vehicles following the suspect's CRV as it drove onto the pier, racing past several people who were out fishing or strolling on a Saturday morning.

There were about 20 bystanders nearby when pursuing officers eventually cornered Velasquez at the end of the pier. Moments later, he got out of the SUV holding a Glock 9mm pistol and police responded by opening fire at least two dozen times, as seen in body-worn camera footage.

Velasquez collapsed, and was still breathing and holding the gun in his right hand immediately after he was wounded, according to Garcia. He did not respond to commands from officers, prompting them to fire a 40mm less lethal



Courtesy of the Santa Ana Police Department

SANTA ANA police chase an SUV driven by a homicide suspect down Newport Beach Pier on Feb. 1. He later exited the vehicle holding a handgun, and was then shot and killed by officers.

round at him before approaching. He was taken into custody, then pronounced dead at the scene of the shooting at 7:24 a.m. Detectives believe the gun in his possession was the same one used to kill Wolf, Garcia said.

Santa Ana police have been reviewing the matter to determine whether their officers acted in line with the department's policies, but the investigation is not complete, SAPD Chief Robert Rodriguez stated in

Monday's community briefing. The chase and shooting have also been under investigation by Newport Beach police and the Orange County district attorney's office. The latter will determine if any allegations of wrongdoing on the part of officers may be warranted.

No bystanders or officers were hurt during the incident.

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Brian Kevin Theriot

February 15, 1957 - February 11, 2025

Brian Kevin Theriot, a celebrated athlete of Newport Harbor High School and UCLA, passed away on February 11, 2025, leaving behind a legacy that will be remembered for generations. A self-proclaimed "Legend," Brian's achievements and impact spoke for themselves, leaving an indelible mark on all who knew him. His life was a testament to breaking records, challenging limits, and inspiring the future.

Born to Richard and Edna Theriot, Brian was raised with the values of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. He often credited his success to his parents, his grandparents Jim and Hazel, and the coaches and teammates who shaped his journey.

Brian's athletic prowess emerged early, leading him to become one of UCLA's greatest middle-distance runners. As a UCLA graduate, he excelled in the 800 meters (1:45.7), the mile (3:56), and the 1500 meters (3:36). Serving as the UCLA Track and Field Captain in 1980 and contributing to the NCAA Team Championship in 1978, his impact on the sport was profound. He held seven records at Newport Harbor High School and earned a full athletic scholarship to UCLA.

His accomplishments extended well beyond his collegiate years. Brian was a former senior class record-holder for the 800 meters and recorded an impressive 8:48 in the two-mile event under coach Bob Larsen. His versatility was further highlighted by his 46.9-second performance in the 400 meters. During the 1980s, he was consistently ranked among the top ten in the U.S. for the 800 and 1500 meters by Track and Field News. A three-time Olympic Trials competitor, Brian was a finalist in the 1984 and 1988 USA Olympic Trials for the 1500 meters and secured a bronze medal in the 800 meters at the 1984 U.S. Track and Field Championships in San Jose, CA. His career spanned 13 years on the world-class track and field circuit in Europe, competing in prestigious events in Zurich, Berlin, Nice, Paris, and the Oslo Golden Mile.

Beyond his own athletic achievements, Brian devoted his life to building a strong foundation for his four children. He spent countless hours coaching, mentoring, and guiding them, taking immense pride in their successes. His passion for coaching extended to the community, where he mentored over 2,000 young athletes through Boys and Girls Clubs, shaping future generations with his wisdom and dedication.

Brian is remembered by his family as a man who faced life's challenges with unwavering determination and resilience. He is survived by his children: Trevor Theriot, Danielle Theriot, Brian Theriot Jr., and Christina Theriot.

A celebration of Brian's life will be held on March 14 at 5:00 PM at Elks Lodge of Newport Beach.

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