

# Daily Pilot

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2021 /// Now including Coastline Pilot and Huntington Beach Independent /// [dailypilot.com](http://dailypilot.com)

## CROSS-COUNTRY



Photos by Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

**PACIFICA CHRISTIAN'S** Ulysses McMahan (396) and Ian Cross (393) compete against Downey Calvary Chapel's Dakota Dreher (295) during the Crean Lutheran Invitational cross-country multi-dual meet in Irvine on Saturday. It was among the first high school competitions since March.

## HAPPY TOGETHER

With a rare return of high school sports Saturday, Laguna Beach and Pacifica Christian Orange County competed in dual meets at Crean Lutheran High School.

BY ANDREW TURNER

The return to the racecourse could not have been a more welcome happening for those assembled for a series of cross-country dual meets at Crean Lutheran High School on Saturday morning.

Some local cross-country teams saw their first action of the season, among the first high school sports competitions seen in the state of California since the start of the coronavirus pandemic last March.

The meet featured six schools (three dual meets) with an on-campus course. Laguna Beach and Pacifica Christian Orange County were part of the field, along with the host Saints, Downey Calvary Chapel, Santa Ana Calvary Chapel and St. Margaret's.

Results came secondary on a day when the resolve shown by the student-athletes was rewarded with a chance to don school colors and share the course with an opponent.

Pacifica Christian's boys' team topped Downey Calvary Chapel 19-39 in the opening race. Tritons junior Ulysses McMahan crossed the finish line in 17 minutes 26.8 seconds to hold off Dakota Dreher (17:37.2) of the Grizzlies.

"Really grateful, honestly," McMahan said of getting to compete for his school this year. "It's already tough with everything that's going on in the world, and to be able to hang out with teams and share the joy, even though we're different schools, we got to have fun together."

See **Happy**, page A5



**ABOVE:** Laguna Beach's Melanie Falkowski, Grace Wilson and Colette Reed (from right to left) compete against St. Margaret's on Saturday.

**LEFT:** Laguna Beach's Christopher Drews (348) and William Goodwin (351) compete against St. Margaret's during the Crean Lutheran Invitational.

## Laguna, San Diego settle on 2019 spill

The 1.4M-gallon sewage spill, due to a corroded valve stem on a pipe, closed about 16 miles of O.C. coastal waters.

BY LILLY NGUYEN

The city of Laguna Beach announced Thursday it has reached a settlement agreement with the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board in response to a Thanksgiving sewage spill.

The 1.4-million-gallon spill occurred in 2019 and originated from the Laguna Beach city sewage system. City staff that December said that it occurred about 3,600 feet from Coast Highway, near Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park. The cause was later determined to be a corroded 3-inch valve stem on a sewage pipe. It closed about 16 miles of Orange County coastal waters over Thanksgiving weekend.

About 1.3 million gallons of untreated raw sewage was discharged into Aliso Creek and about 430,000 gallons were discharged into the Pacific Ocean by way of Bluebird Beach, according to the settlement.

As part of the \$1.5-million

See **Spill**, page A6

## Book lover says 'aloha' with her free library

BY SARA CARDINE

Huntington Beach resident Carole Suzuki will be the first one to tell you she's a bit of a book nerd.

The daughter of librarian Henry DuBois, who worked at city and college libraries for 46 years, Suzuki still holds cherished early memories of her father reading to her and her sisters. In fact, she still owns many of the books he read.

"I've always had a kind of passion for children's literature," she said. "The library was huge for me growing up. I read all the classic series, all the Judy Blumes. Books were just such a part of my childhood."

Suzuki carried on that tradition for sons Kenny, now 20, and 18-year-old Kyler, reading to them at bedtime and taking them to the library at every opportunity.

A former preschool teacher

See **Library**, page A6

## Defense tech company to open HQ in old Times printing plant

BY ROGER VINCENT, SAM DEAN

Anduril, the defense tech company started by virtual reality pioneer Palmer Luckey in 2017, is moving into a new corporate campus in Costa Mesa — in the shell of the former Orange County bureau and printing press of the Los Angeles Times.

The 640,000-square-foot transaction is one of the largest office leases in Orange County history, the real estate brokers involved said, and comes at a time when the region's office rental market has finished one of its worst years since the Great Recession.

The complex, dubbed "the Press" by its developers, is owned by Invesco Real Estate, an Atlanta-based real estate investment manager, and San



EYRC Architects

**A RENDERING** of the new headquarters of defense tech company Anduril, which is moving into the former Orange County office and printing plant of the Los Angeles Times.

Francisco developer SteelWave. The Press is being developed by SteelWave and 5-Ronin, an Orange County development firm.

The owners prepared the Press to house multiple

tenants, but Anduril snagged the whole former plant — and then some. In addition to all 450,000 square feet in the former

See **Plant**, page A5

## Orange County reports 33 more COVID-19 deaths, 739 new cases

BY ANDREW TURNER

Orange County reported 739 new coronavirus infections and 33 deaths from COVID-19, the disease caused by the virus, on Saturday in data released by the Orange County Health Care Agency.

The pandemic has seen the loss of 3,312 lives countywide, while the cumulative case count is now 237,077.

Hospitalizations due to the virus numbered 1,164 as the weekend began, with 347 of those patients being treated in intensive care units.

There were also 18,824 tests for the virus reported within the last day, which took the number of tests administered in the county during the pandemic to 2,767,050.

The healthcare agency



**NURSING STUDENT** Angela Huynh works at a COVID-19 testing super-site at the O.C. Fair & Event Center.

Raul Roa Staff Photographer

estimates that 197,272 people in the county have made a recovery after battling the virus.

Orange County, which is in the purple (widespread) tier, is sporting seven-day averages of 39 daily new cases per 100,000 residents and a testing positivity rate of 10.9%. Those statistics come with a seven-day lag.

In order to move into the red (substantial) tier, Orange County would need to see a testing positivity rate of 5% to 8% and four to seven new cases per 100,000 people.

Heading into Super Bowl weekend, some of the latest public service an-

See **COVID-19**, page A5

## COLUMN | PATRICE APODACA

## Law professor sees college as a way to reduce recidivism

**K**eramet Reiter has always had a passion for social justice, possibly inherited from her parents, who served in the Peace Corps in the 1960s.

It was as an undergraduate at Harvard that she found an outlet for that passion, when she volunteered to teach at a

nearby prison. Nervous at first and uncertain how her incarcerated students would react to a young woman offering to help educate them, Reiter was pleased when her fears were not realized.

"People were incredibly respectful," she said. "I was amazed by how engaged and interested my

students were."

That experience led to a lifelong commitment to advancing educational opportunities in prisons, a journey that has taken her from the East Coast to UC Berkeley, where she attended law school and earned a PhD in jurisprudence and social policy.

An associate professor at UC Irvine's School of Law since 2012, Reiter is now spearheading an important effort to expand educational opportunities for the state's prison population.

Encouraged by California's decision in 2014 to begin budgeting for prisoners to work toward associate degrees offered through the state's community college system, Reiter saw a chance to go a step further and create the means for inmates to earn bachelor's degrees through in-prison classes.

Her efforts culminated in an announcement late last year that UCI would partner with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to design an in-prison Bachelor of Arts program.

Dubbed Leveraging Inspiring Futures Through Educational Degrees, or LIFTED, the program will be piloted at the Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility in San Diego.

Though a similar in-prison program is currently offered through Cal State Los Angeles, LIFTED will be the first of its kind among the UCs.

Simply put, this is a great idea that benefits not just the prisoners who participate but all of us.

Educational programs like this can help reduce recidivism. They have been shown to be successful in breaking the cycle of releasing poorly educated, low-skilled former inmates back into society, where they struggle to find jobs and are far more likely to become repeat offenders if their opportunities remain limited.

There is even evidence that providing education to inmates benefits future generations; children of parents with a college

education are more likely to attend college themselves.

A 2019 report by the Vera Institute of Justice and the Georgetown Center on Poverty and Inequality found that former prisoners with higher education levels were more likely to find employment and less likely to return to prison, "potentially improving social and economic outcomes for their communities, families and themselves while leading to significant savings to states."

Indeed, from an economic standpoint, investing in prison education is a no-brainer.

California spends more than \$13 billion annually to incarcerate approximately 125,000 prisoners. The California Legislative Analyst's Office estimated that in 2018-19 it cost an average of \$81,203 annually for each inmate.

Those numbers are unsettling. But now consider that 41% of incarcerated individuals never graduated from high school, a far higher percentage than in the general population.

Research shows that helping prisoners get a good education has proven economic benefits. Most notably, a comprehensive and influential study conducted by the Rand Corp., which reviewed decades of data on correctional education and outcomes, found that every dollar spent on prison education saves nearly five dollars in reincarceration costs over three years.

That's largely because, the same study found, formerly incarcerated individuals who participated in prison education programs were 43% less likely to reoffend and return to prison.

I'd call that a healthy return on investment.

"Ninety-five percent of people in prison will come home and be our neighbors," Reiter said. "Giving them an education is the best investment. It actually has documented benefits."

The plan is for LIFTED to launch with about 25 incarcerated students who are currently working on their associate's degrees in sociology. After matriculating, and if they meet the UC academic standards, those students will enroll in in-prison classes in fall 2022 — assuming COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted by then — that will set them on the path toward earning B.A.s in sociology.

Once the framework is in place, Reiter hopes to expand LIFTED by offering other majors and opening the program to more students.

"The vision is that this will become integral to the UC system," she said.

For now, part of Reiter's challenge in realizing that vision is financial.

Though the state provides funding for the in-prison associate's degree initiative, there is no such funding source for bachelor degrees. So far, she has managed to cobble together enough money from existing UC programs that assist low-income students and from fundraising.

But for LIFTED to grow, it will need more funding from a reliable source.

That's a goal we should all support, and not just because giving prisoners a chance to turn their lives around is the right thing to do. It's also a very smart thing to do.

**PATRICE APODACA** is a former Los Angeles Times staff writer and is co-author of "A Boy Named Courage: A Surgeon's Memoir of Apartheid." She lives in Newport Beach.

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Bryan Cobb	Hsld gds/furn
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Wieslaw Olszewski	Hsld gds/furn,tv/stereo equip/off furn/mach/ equip

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**LED signs at Triangle Square could be trouble**

As a member of the Costa Mesa Bikeway and Walkability Committee, I recently participated in a Zoom during which a consultant hired to facilitate the new Pedestrian Master Plan presented a slide program. The one slide that hit me right between the eyes was titled, "Primary Collision Analysis."

According to the consultant's data, collected between July 2015 and June 2020, two areas in Costa Mesa were high-density pedestrian-involved collisions: West 19th Street and Triangle Square — along Harbor and Newport Boulevards.

The sole purpose of business signs is to attract attention. The three LED signs proposed by the owner of Triangle Square will do just that — distract the many thousands of drivers who pass through those intersections every single day. Crashes will increase every single day. Death or injuries will follow every single day. Pedestrians will fall every single day.

The Costa Mesa Planning Commission will be voting at the first meeting of February to either approve or deny the LED signs. The commissioners need to hear from you.

Just. Say. No. to LEDs at Triangle Square.

**Flo Martin**  
Costa Mesa

The Costa Mesa Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at 6 p.m. Monday to approve a new sign program for Triangle Square, which includes three giant billboards totaling 2,600 square feet. Council chambers are closed due to COVID-19. Directions for public participation are included on the agenda on the city website.

We may need to change



Courtesy of Selbert Perkins Design

**A RENDERING SHOWS** an LED billboard being proposed for Costa Mesa's Triangle Square, which petitioning residents say could distract drivers and create light pollution.

the Costa Mesa entry sign on the 55. "Welcome to Costa Mesa, where we care if you die by COVID-19, but not if you get hit by a car."

For almost a year we have been told by city officials to love our neighbors, wear masks, isolate and "care" for others. We should.

Yet here we are, residents fighting since April, against three giant billboards for three busy Triangle Square intersections, which if approved will greatly increase the risk for accidents and someone's death, due to distracted drivers looking at the flashy billboards.

That these three giant billboards are even being considered by the city shows a "care-less" attitude toward the lives and safety of Costa Mesa pedestrians, drivers and bikers who will be forced to compete with distracted drivers. If officials approve these billboards, they are being negligent. The city will be responsible for deaths and damages from accidents.

City officials are in denial that drivers will be distracted. This is a powerful argument for them to vote down the billboards. Common sense and scientific

data support our opposition. Drivers under the influence of alcohol leaving nearby bars add to the risk.

Residents do not want these billboards. The three giant billboards go against Costa Mesa's small town, peaceful character. We do not aspire to be Las Vegas or Times Square. An online petition opposing the billboards has more than 500 signers.

We fought and won this battle 10 years ago. But this is another David and Goliath battle. We need four "no" votes on the Planning Commission and four "no" votes on the City Council.

If you care about Costa Mesa and oppose these billboards, please contact city officials before noon on Monday.

**Wendy Leece**  
Costa Mesa

Note: The writer is a former Costa Mesa city council member and NMUSD board trustee.

**Thoughts for Tito Ortiz on COVID-19**

Re: "Tito Ortiz keeps mayor pro tem title in Huntington Beach," Daily Pilot, Feb. 3: No, Mr. Ortiz,

**HOW TO GET PUBLISHED**

Send an email to [erik.haugli@latimes.com](mailto:erik.haugli@latimes.com) and include your full name, hometown and phone number (for verification purposes) with your submission. All letters should be kept to 350 words or fewer. The Pilot reserves the right to edit all submissions for clarity and length.

this is not an issue of politics; it is an issue of behavior. Wear a mask. Watch your distance. Wash your hands. This is the scientific trilogy of actions that will keep us — you, me and our community members safe from COVID-19 until vaccinations can provide us with "herd" immunity. You must be a leader on this matter. Set an example or please step aside.

Another thought comes to mind: Will you be (or have you been) vaccinated? Or are you among the science deniers that identify as anti-vaxxers?

**Ben Miles**  
Huntington Beach



**Eleanor Arnold Fraser**

April 30, 1926 - January 24, 2021

Eleanor (Ellie) Arnold Fraser, a resident of Newport Beach since 1949, passed away with her daughters by her side on January 24, 2021. Born and raised in Brookline, Massachusetts, she is remembered for her grace, radiance, and hospitable, loving manner.

A Bostonian at heart, Ellie was proud of her New England heritage dating back to the 1700's. Her father, Norman Augustus Arnold, was an opera singer in Boston and he encouraged Ellie's love of music from a young age. She sang in many choral groups in Boston from youth until her 20's. Her mother, May Elva Arnold, would welcome Ellie's friends to their home for evenings of music and fun. It was her mother that instilled the importance of kindness and a welcoming demeanor.

Upon graduating Brookline High School and during the early years of World War II, Ellie began a career in customer service at Sears Roebuck in Boston. The year 1946 would change the direction of Ellie's life. She met a handsome Naval officer, David Ladson Fraser from Spartanburg, South Carolina, during a dance at the Officers Club on the Boston Commons. After a courtship of correspondence, they were married in Boston on August 6, 1949. Leaving her devoted mother and aspirations of a singing career behind, Ellie and David honeymooned on a cross country trip to California where David had begun his career in Yacht Brokerage. Ellie's Bostonian habit of wearing her hat and gloves along the streets of Corona del Mar caused quite a stir in the quiet beach community.

Ellie and David settled in the Cliff Haven Community in 1951 and would remain in their home for 70 years. While David built his business Fraser Yachts, Ellie raised three daughters and became active in the growing community of Newport Beach. She was an early member of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church where she inspired many through the choir with her beautiful soprano voice. She was also a member of the Newport Harbor Service League, which sponsored community programs through volunteer efforts at the Coffee Garden at Sherman Gardens in Corona del Mar. These women were instrumental in the transformation of the Service League into the Junior League of Orange County. Her Service League friendships remained strong well into Ellie's 90's with the women forming a Garden Club and an Investment Club in which Ellie remained active.

Many girls in the Newport Heights community were lucky enough to have Ellie as their Brownie and Girl Scout leader for troops 23, 28 and 48. She was an adored favorite mother to so many kids who were fortunate to grow up in Newport Beach from the mid 1950's through the 1970's.

After raising her family, Ellie returned to retail life, enjoying many years in the Personnel and Human Resources Department at Robinsons in Newport Beach. She also pursued her New England heritage and became an active member of the Colonel William Cabell Chapter of the DAR in Newport Beach. One of her other favorite philanthropies was her patronage of the Decorative Arts Society.

Ellie enjoyed many years traveling overseas with David for his business and yachting endeavors, which included many cruising opportunities around the world. She also treasured 65 years of friendships made at the Newport Harbor Yacht Club. Her favorite pastime, however, was simply being together with her family at home.

Ellie is predeceased by her husband David Ladson Fraser, who passed away on January 6, 2021. She is survived by three daughters, Laurie Booth (Barry) of Newport Beach, Diane Strollo (Rick) of Orcas Island and Jennie Heinke (Keith) of Newport Beach. She also leaves four grandchildren, Jeannette Palisou (Phil) of Costa Mesa, Diane Booth of Las Vegas, Hilary Elliott (Rob) of Dallas, Emily Heinke of Seattle; and two great-grandchildren.

Ellie was the finest example of a loving, caring mother, teaching the importance of family unity. She is greatly missed and her passing has left a huge void in the hearts of her family. A small family memorial is planned at a later date.

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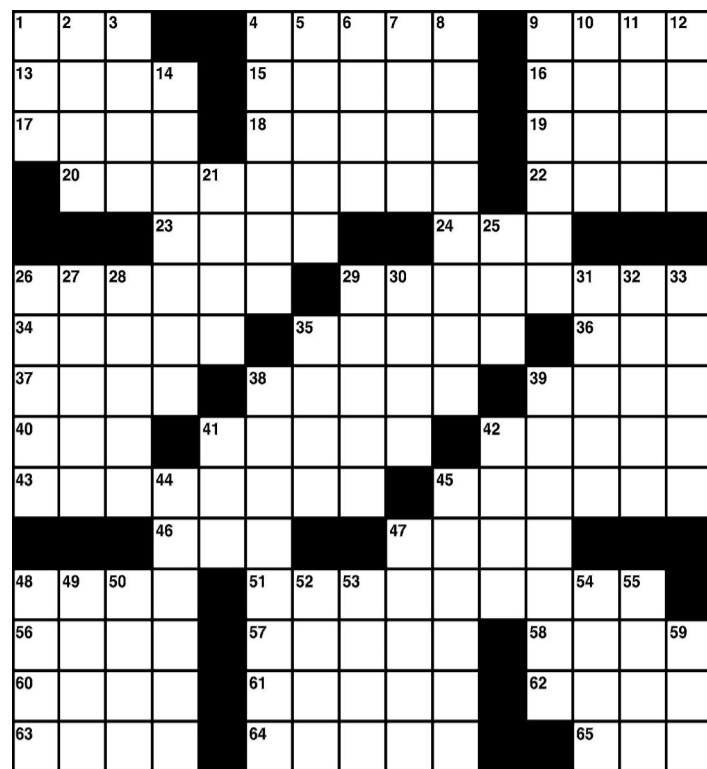
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**THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE**

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

**ACROSS**

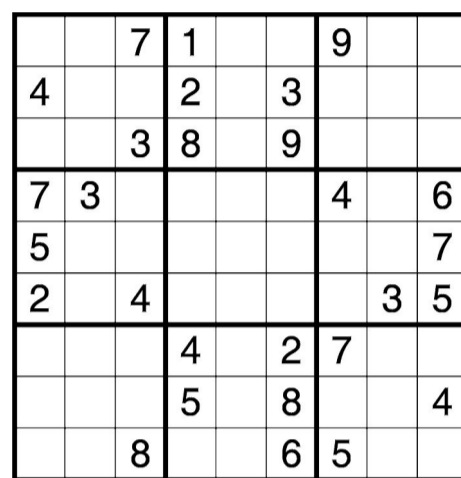
- 1 Like an introvert
- 4 Page of music
- 9 Group of actors
- 13 London restrooms
- 15 "it isn't very pretty what \_ without pity can do."
- 16 Canyon bounceback
- 17 Pair of oxen
- 18 Stiff
- 19 Harness strap
- 20 High degree
- 22 Catch sight of
- 23 Abnormal chest sound
- 24 Dangerous critter
- 26 Peaceful
- 29 Acute food poisoning
- 34 Hen's comment
- 35 Ore seeker
- 36 Flowery accessory
- 37 Actress Sheedy
- 38 Half-\_; not well-planned
- 39 Cause of bad luck
- 40 Actor Marvin
- 41 Carousels & roller coasters
- 42 Bring to an end
- 43 Put in harm's way
- 45 Pot \_; cook's hand protector
- 46 "Love \_ Many-Splendored Thing"
- 47 Peppercorn container
- 48 Tallies up
- 51 Suit filer
- 56 Unfeigned
- 57 Britain's dollar
- 58 Dumbo's "wings"
- 60 Classic board game
- 61 Cyclist Armstrong
- 62 Clothing fastener
- 63 Bro & sis
- 64 Go into



**SUDOKU**

By The Mepham Group

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



For answers to the crossword and Sudoku puzzles, see page A6.

65 Fellow

**DOWN**

- 1 \_ as a fox
- 2 Parka feature
- 3 \_ Ono
- 4 Prisoner's hope
- 5 Repair \_; patch one's flat

- 6 Caesar's garb
- 7 Silly annoying person
- 8 Beholden; obligated
- 9 Breakfast order
- 10 Large diamonds
- 11 Send a parcel

- 12 Actor Danza
- 14 Surprise party requirement
- 21 Army vehicle
- 25 " \_ Father, Who art in heaven"
- 26 Climb
- 27 Actress Burstyn
- 28 Reigned
- 29 Motorcyclist
- 30 Smallest bills
- 31 Classic by Homer
- 32 Right thinking
- 33 Small kitchen appliance
- 35 Created
- 38 New York City
- 39 Bread spreads
- 41 Shot givers, often: abbr.
- 42 Young horse
- 44 Theater walkways
- 45 Block; impede
- 47 Chop finely
- 48 Rainbow shapes
- 49 Lunch spot
- 50 Apply finger paint
- 52 Bank offering
- 53 Family tree member
- 54 Sharp tooth
- 55 Hamburg wife
- 59 007, for one

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**HAPPY**

Continued from page A1

It was an enjoyable meet for Laguna Beach junior Melanie Falkowski, too, but not without a bit of trepidation, as she was running in just the third race of her career. She said she suffered a stress fracture her freshman year and was limited to one race as a sophomore.

Falkowski took close to two minutes off her previous 3-mile personal-best time, winning her race in 18:20.7 and leading the Laguna Beach girls over St. Margaret's by a count of 25-30. The Breakers pushed the first three runners across, with Grace Wilson (18:37.9) and Coco Reed (18:39.5) coming in behind her.

"I'm so excited to be out here," Falkowski said. "I honestly didn't know if this day was going to come, and I'm so excited to see everyone do so well. It's just an amazing experience to know that amidst a pandemic, something we've never been through before, we're still able to push so hard."

The trio of Jackson Adelman (15:36.1), Calvin Capelle (16:00.9) and Everett Capelle (16:16.0) grabbed the top three spots in the boys' race between the schools, as St. Margaret's notched a 20-35 win over Laguna Beach.

Christopher Dews (fourth, 16:39.7) and



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

**ST. MARGARET'S** Jackson Adelman finishes against Laguna Beach during the Crean Lutheran Invitational cross-country multi-dual meet in Irvine on Saturday.

William Goodwin (fifth, 16:39.8) led the Breakers.

"These kids have been training since August, so I think it's phenomenal that they get a chance to actually come out and race and put the uniform on for their school," Laguna Beach boys' cross-country coach Scott Wittkop said.

Crean Lutheran athletic director Eric Olson recalled that the last sporting event held at the campus had been a boys' volleyball match that was live-streamed with no fans onsite.

Spectators at Saturday's event were asked to watch from their cars. Olson was apologetic to parents and thankful for their under-

standing of the protocols. The finish line was put in an area of the track that was visible from the parking lot, and the course also made several trips past the parked vehicles as it looped between the track and an adjacent field.

"We're just stoked to be able to provide an opportunity for these kids to be able to run," Olson said. "They've been practicing so hard, without knowing a start date and practicing and preparing. Some of these kids are real elite, and that's really difficult to keep that motivation. I really admire them all for sticking it out and working through it."

Jeff Haspell officiated the meet and spoke to the sense of community that had been missing with high school sports on the sideline.

"That's the thing is it's reacquainting with all the coaches that are your friends, that you've learned to appreciate and respect as leaders in their schools, and just the whole comradeship of it all because you work with these guys," Haspell said. "You both have the same purpose, trying to keep the athletes growing physically, mentally and spiritually."

andrew.turner@latimes.com  
Twitter: @ProfessorTurner

**PLANT**

Continued from page A1

Times complex, a new building of 190,000 square feet will be constructed just west of the existing structure to serve as the company's research and development hub. A parking garage will be added.

Anduril is not sharing financial details of the deal, but Matt Grimm, the company's co-founder and chief operating officer, said that the new office "will be our home and headquarters here in Orange County for the next decade-plus."

Grimm said that Anduril, which currently employs 400 at its headquarters in Irvine and satellite offices in Boston, Seattle, Washington and London, is on track to hit a head count of 700 by the end of 2021. It expects to have 1100 employees by the end of 2022 and keep growing at a similar clip into the future.

Fueling that growth has been a steady stream of major defense and border-security contracts.

In July, the Department of Homeland Security awarded Anduril a contract for as much as \$250 million to expand its virtual border wall program, which links a series of electronics-packed sensor towers and lightweight drones along the U.S.-Mexico border via powerful artificial intelligence software that simplifies surveillance. The company landed an even larger contract with the Air Force, for as much as \$950 million, in September, after demonstrating that the company's software could use sensors and drones to autonomously detect and react to a simulated threat.

And at a time when many companies are shutting down their offices and hiring new employees to work remotely, Grimm said that Anduril's business requires a physical location.

"Big portions of what

we do make it literally impossible to go to a full remote workforce," Grimm said. The hardware engineers building drones and surveillance equipment need to work with industrial machinery on-site, work on classified contracts needs to be conducted securely, and potential customers need to check out Anduril's products in person, he said.

The office lease is the largest in the last 15 years in Orange County in size, according to real estate brokerage Newmark Knight Frank, and the largest ever in Costa Mesa.

Orange County is known for its conservatively designed, suburban-style office parks, but tech companies in the region have been looking for something more dramatic.

As a former printing and distribution hub for The Times, the Press complex includes a defunct rail spur and gas station. Grimm said that the rail line is being converted to a park for employees, and the gas station will become the site of the campus' coffee shop.

SteelWave and Invesco bought the Press site and an adjacent parcel on Harbor Boulevard from Tribune Real Estate Holdings and Kearney Real Estate Co. in 2017 for \$65 million. Tribune Real Estate is a subsidiary of Tribune Media Co., former owner of The Times.

The new owners dubbed it the Press, a name that plays off the property's history as a newsroom and printing plant beginning in 1968. The makeover designed by EYRC Architects included the addition of two floors inside a portion of the high-ceilinged industrial building, while striving to keep "the grittiness and character" of the place intact, said Jonathan Hastanan, a managing director at SteelWave.

**ROGER VINCENT AND SAM DEAN** write for the Los Angeles Times.

**COVID-19**

Continued from page A1

nouncements aimed at mitigating the spread of the virus have incorporated football. The California Department of Public Health put a post on Twitter that said, "Don't fumble. We're almost in the end zone."

The NFL also invited 7,500 vaccinated health-care workers to attend the Super Bowl, which will feature the host Tampa Bay Buccaneers against the de-

fending champion Kansas City Chiefs.

Here are the latest cumulative coronavirus case counts and COVID-19 deaths for select cities in Orange County:

- Santa Ana: 42,752 cases; 582 deaths
- Anaheim: 39,585 cases; 609 deaths
- Huntington Beach: 9,692 cases; 156 deaths
- Costa Mesa: 8,301 cases; 92 deaths
- Irvine: 9,573 cases; 55 deaths
- Newport Beach: 3,419 cases; 55 deaths

- Fountain Valley: 3,212 cases; 54 deaths
- Laguna Beach: 749 cases; fewer than five deaths

Here are the case counts by age group, followed by deaths:

- 0 to 17: 24,255 cases; one death
- 18 to 24: 32,871 cases; six deaths
- 25 to 34: 47,582 cases; 37 deaths
- 35 to 44: 37,107 cases; 74 deaths
- 45 to 54: 38,068 cases; 217 deaths
- 55 to 64: 29,749 cases;

- 440 deaths
- 65 to 74: 14,829 cases; 633 deaths
- 75 to 84: 7,440 cases; 792 deaths
- 85 and older: 5,023 cases; 1,112 deaths

Updated figures are posted daily at [occovid19.ochealthinfo.com/coronavirus-in-oc](https://occovid19.ochealthinfo.com/coronavirus-in-oc). Information on the COVID-19 vaccine in Orange County can be found at [occovid19.ochealthinfo.com/covid-19-vaccine-resources](https://occovid19.ochealthinfo.com/covid-19-vaccine-resources).

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**SPILL**

*Continued from page A1*

agreement, Laguna Beach will pay \$785,780 to a state-wide account for environmental cleanup and abatement projects. About \$748,277 in administrative civil liability will be satisfied through the complete implementation of an "enhanced compliance ac-

tion," which the city said will be an infrastructure improvement project that will connect the North Coast Interceptor with the South Coast Water District's Lift Station No. 2.

City officials say the improvement project will allow the city and SCWD to bypass flow along Aliso Creek in the event of a future emergency or maintenance.

A statement from the city issued Thursday said an agreement was able to be reached due to the city's response and "proven ongoing diligence to improve its wastewater system over the last 20 years."

"The San Diego Water Board prosecution team has been working closely with the city of Laguna Beach to reach this settlement and provide it for

public comment," said Chiara Clemente, enforcement coordinator for the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board, in an email Friday. "We are encouraged by the steps the city is taking to minimize the likelihood of a similar event in the future."

Clemente said Friday that the regional water district began its 30-day public comment period on the agreement and will be accepting written comments until 5 p.m. March 12. Upon completion of that period, the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board will hold a public hearing to consider authorization of the agreement.

"Through this agreement, the city is able to partner with the South Coast Water District to implement a capital improvement project that will help strengthen both our systems and also provide safeguards to better prevent similar-type incidents from happening again," said Laguna Beach City Manager John Pietig in a statement.

"Moving forward, an extensive assessment of the NCI system has resulted in options which the city will discuss with the public in workshops beginning in February 2021," Pietig said.

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



**CAROLE SUZUKI**, of Huntington Beach, has set up a Little Free Library outside her home.

*Raul Roa Staff Photographer*

**LIBRARY**

*Continued from page A1*

who is now a social worker for the Regional Center of Orange County, the 51-year-old knows the value of literacy on developing minds and how a good book, in just the right hands, can open new worlds.

So, as her December birthday approached, Suzuki wished to build a Little Free Library outside her home, at 9222 Heatherton Circle, that would be stocked with treasures for young and old alike.

She figured during the pandemic and with most libraries limited to curbside pickups and virtual story time, people might miss the serendipity of browsing for titles.

"Right now, we can't go

anywhere, we're stuck," she said. "But with reading you can go anywhere."

Dotting suburban landscapes with more frequency since 2009 — when Wisconsinite Todd Bol crafted a schoolhouse-shaped "library-on-a-stick" as tribute to his schoolteacher mom and spawned a movement — more than 100,000 Little Free Libraries exist worldwide today.

Visitors are invited to take a book and share one, replenishing the inventory organically. Libraries are built, named and registered to a searchable map maintained by the nonprofit at [littlefreelibrary.org](http://littlefreelibrary.org).

Suzuki's structure, the "Little Aloha Library," is one of 24 listed in Huntington Beach. It resembles the home she shares with handyman husband Derek, whose Hawaiian heritage inspired the décor of the homestead as well.

To gussy things up, he covered the library in siding and rigged up some solar lighting, topping things off with a pineapple doorknob. A bottle of hand sanitizer affixed to the post keeps transactions clean.

"Anything we do together always starts off with modest intentions, and then it goes overboard," Derek Suzuki said of his wife's enterprise. "I'm all in if it makes her happy."

Carole Suzuki advertises the library on Facebook and Instagram, posting "shelfies" and accepting donations from a growing fanbase, some of whom travel there by vehicle. On the inside cover of each book is a custom-made stamp, a pineapple at its center, that reads: "Provided by Little Aloha Library. Aloha and Mahalo!"

Derek Suzuki described the "Aloha Spirit" as an attitude of respect, love and harmony among all beings.

"It's a community thing — you love your people, you love one another, you give and give back," he said, professing how amazed he is that his wife's library incorporates a similar spirit. "Even though my wife's a haole (non-native Hawaiian), she's been incorporated into the tribe."

DuBois, now retired and living in Fountain Valley, said Friday he's thrilled his love for books and reading has been passed down to his daughter and to see how the neighborhood is embracing the library.

"It's really quite an attractive manifestation of the Little Free Library concept," he said. "I've been surprised at how it's resonated and the response she's had — I'm really gratified by that."

[sara.cardine@latimes.com](mailto:sara.cardine@latimes.com)  
Twitter: @SaraCardine

**CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS**

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**CONTACT US**

**Carol Cormaci**  
City Editor  
[carol.cormaci@latimes.com](mailto:carol.cormaci@latimes.com)

**Raymond Arroyo**  
Advertising Director  
(714) 966-4608

**Address**  
10540 Talbert Ave., Suite 300 West, Fountain Valley, CA 92708

**Business Office**  
(714) 966-4600  
**Newsroom**  
(714) 966-4699  
**Sports**  
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**TCN Legal Phone**  
888-881-6181  
**TCN Legal Email**  
[LAlegal@latimes.com](mailto:LAlegal@latimes.com)

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