

Daily Pilot

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2020 /// Now including Coastline Pilot and Huntington Beach Independent /// dailypilot.com



Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

RICHARD AND Andrea Dunn are shown with a photograph of their late son Julian, who died of medulloblastoma, a type of brain cancer, in 2013.

Julian's Lego Corner lives on at CHOC with the help of Newport community

BY LILLY NGUYEN

Julian Dunn liked cracking jokes. Every time he'd go to a doctor's appointment, he'd come with a little piece of paper in-hand with the latest. Doctors and nurses alike would gather with bated breath, waiting for Julian's expert delivery before bursting into laughter.

Julian liked quoting episodes of *SpongeBob SquarePants*, too. Once, one of his nurses was leaving and saying her goodbyes when Julian repeated a line: "Don't stop being adorable now, you hear?"

"It was something that Patrick would say," said his mother, Andrea Dunn, referring to the starfish character in the animated TV series. "It was so funny. It caught her off-guard. She was speechless."

See **Julian**, page A4



JULIAN DUNN, pictured here, loved playing with Legos. His parents launched a fund at CHOC called "Julian's Lego Corner" in his memory.

Courtesy of Andrea Dunn

How did Costa Mesans vote on Nov. 3? Orange County registrar results show 87.8% of all voters cast ballots

BY SARA CARDINE

Figures showing how Costa Mesa residents voted in the Nov. 3 election have been released by the Orange County Registrar of Voters — which tabulated 54,122 ballots cast in person, by mail and during early voting, representing 87.8% of all registered voters.

This year's election also saw a high turnout in the county overall, with 87.3% of all registered voters casting ballots, a 25% increase over turnout in the 2016 presidential election and 36% increase over 2012, county officials reported.

Costa Mesa voters overwhelmingly supported Democratic candidates in national and state

elections, figures indicate.

In the presidential race, Joe Biden received 7,748 more Costa Mesa votes than Donald Trump, with 29,804 local ballots cast in his favor, compared to the president's 22,056. The trend followed county patterns, which showed 814,009 votes cast in Biden's favor to Trump's 676,498.

County voters and Costa

Mesans parted ways, however, in the race for the 48th Congressional District, which pitted Orange County Supervisor Chairwoman Michelle Steel against Democrat incumbent Harley Rouda, according to a statement of votes cast released Nov. 25 by the registrar.

See **Ballots**, page A4

Newport Aquatic Center seniors keep on paddling, in search of a season

BY MATT SZABO

Corona del Mar High School senior Melissa MacKenzie is a motivated individual, and that goes beyond her talent as a rower at Newport Aquatic Center.

NAC coach Garrett Pickard remembers last year, when he was training for an ultra-marathon and took the team on a four-mile mountain run.

"I thought I was going to be able to just cook everyone, and Melissa just absolutely destroyed me," Pickard said. "There was nothing I could do to keep her from beating me on this four-mile run. I was like, 'Holy [crud]!' They're really good athletes in a lot of different ways. They have really made me suffer to try and beat them, and that's pretty awesome."

On the water, MacKenzie has kept putting in the work as a member of the NAC women's varsity eight boat, even if she and her teammates are unsure if they will have a season next spring due to the coronavirus pandemic.



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

ROWERS Melissa MacKenzie, Fiona Batstone, Miya Miskis and Gabby Babbins compete for the Newport Aquatic Center women's varsity eight boat.

MacKenzie is one of two team captains, along with Newport Harbor High senior Gabby Babbins.

MacKenzie recently signed to row at UCLA and Babbins at Clemson. The other senior rowers on the varsity eight also recently

made their college decisions, with Harbor seniors Miya Meskis and Bella Tobin headed to Cal and SMU, respectively. Newport Beach resident Fiona Batstone, a senior at Tarbut V'Torah, will row

See **Aquatic**, page A4

Shopoff Realty Investments sells its 0.95-acre lot in Newport Beach for \$26.26M

BY LILLY NGUYEN

Shopoff Realty Investments announced in November that it sold a 0.95-acre lot within its uptown Newport Beach property for \$26.26 million.

The property, purchased by USA Infrastructure Investments, a real estate investment firm based in Dallas, Texas, will be used to develop a 66-unit luxury condominium project. It will be designed by Lucien Lagrange Studio and developed by USA Infrastructure Investments.

It is expected to have six stories and amenities such as a fitness center, pool, underground parking and a state-of-the-art air management system. Condominium units are expected to average 2,200 square feet. Shopoff first purchased the 25-acre lot in 2010.

"With approved entitlements in place, this site will provide USAI an ideal starting point for a residential development,"

Orange County reports record for one day

The 746 cases currently hospitalized related to the coronavirus are a single-day high during the pandemic.

BY MATT SZABO

The Orange County Health Care Agency on Friday reported 746 cases currently hospitalized due to the coronavirus, a single-day high during the pandemic.

Of those cases, 195 were in intensive care units.

Overall, 1,234 new coronavirus cases were reported Friday in the agency's latest update regarding the respiratory disease.

Additionally, 17 deaths were reported due to COVID-19, bringing the county's death toll to 1,603 since the pandemic began. Just one of the 17 deaths was a skilled nursing facility resident; 16 were residents not living in a facility.

Orange County remains in the purple, most restrictive tier for reopening. Gov. Gavin Newsom announced Thursday a limited regional stay-at-home order for regions in which the available intensive care unit capacity falls below 15%.

As of Friday, the data showed that Orange County had 20% of ICU beds available, in line with the Southern California region as a whole, which has 20.6% capacity.

There have been 82,887 cumulative cases of COVID-19 in the county, including deaths, while an estimated 61,500 people have recovered to date.

See **Record**, page A3

ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



Spencer Grant

SURF CITY MARATHON PUSHED BACK TO SEPTEMBER DUE TO COVID-19 PAGE A2

COMMENTARY: GOVERNOR'S TALK ON ENVIRONMENT FALLS SHORT WHEN IT COMES TO POSEIDON PROJECT PAGE A3

Shopoff Realty Investments President and CEO William Shopoff said in a statement.

"In fact, the Uptown Newport master development has already seen great success in its for-rent residential development, One Uptown, and with proper execution, we anticipate subsequent housing developments will realize the same positive result."

Officials at Shopoff said the company secured entitlements in 2013 for 1,244 residential units, 11,500 square feet of commercial and retail space and two one-acre parks. The first phase of the master planned development is expected to include a community park and 458-unit One Uptown Newport apartments.

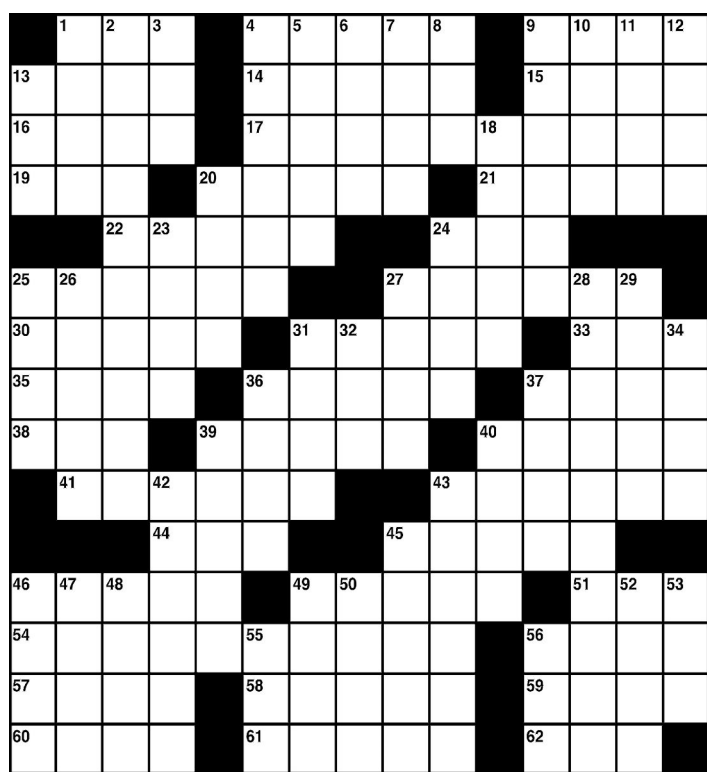
It is expected to include an additional 30 condominiums in addition to restaurant and retail space.

lilly.nguyen@latimes.com
Twitter: @lilibirds

THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

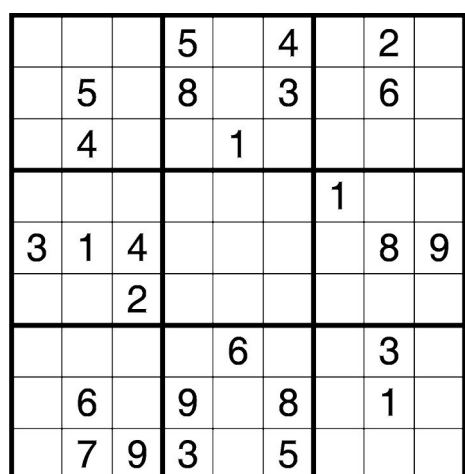
- ACROSS** 1 Stir-fry pan
 4 Rub enough to make sore
 9 Lost vital fluid
 13 Be partial to
 14 Monty & Arsenio
 15 "Penny _"; Beatles song
 16 Friendly nation
 17 Aid
 19 Not _ long shot
 20 "_ of Old Smoky"
 21 Stranger
 22 Term of affection
 24 HST, _, JFK, LBJ
 25 Miner's tool
 27 Wild animals
 30 Brings under control
 31 Nonsense
 33 One of Attila's men
 35 _ annual basis; yearly
 36 Of _ mind; sane
 37 _ to stay; permanent
 38 Took first prize
 39 Submitted question
 40 Smithy's furnace
 41 Personal problems
 43 Beyond help; done for
 44 Veggie casing
 45 Ford subcompact of the '70s
 46 Kilt fold
 49 Get up
 51 Black or Bering
 54 Isolation for germ control
 56 Take a _ at; attempt
 57 Uncommon
 58 Edmonton hockey player
 59 Prince Louis' mum
 60 NBA team
 61 Woman's attire
 62 "_ a jungle out there!"
- DOWN**
 1 Crafty



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 A3.

- 2 Sooners
 3 Important; pivotal
 4 _ No. 5; classic perfume
 5 Swift
 6 In addition
 7 Wilson of 1970s TV
 8 Feminine ending
- 9 Fan parts
 10 Terra firma
 11 Suffix for correspond or refer
 12 Source of soft leather
 13 Blood analysis site
 18 December 4

- 20 Small bills
 23 Baker's need
 24 Landowner's paper
 25 Store away
 26 Asian capital city
 27 Emaciated
 28 Heat regulator
 29 Sudden increase
 31 Soil turners
 32 Start of the Lord's Prayer
 34 In _; poor
 36 Took to court
 37 Hilarious person
 39 Affirmative action word
 40 Isn't _ of; dislikes
 42 Tires in the trunk
 43 Small restaurants
 45 Glass company orders
 46 OT filler
 47 Oahu banquet
 48 Deserve; merit
 49 Recipe verb
 50 Scramble piece
 52 Breaks a fast
 53 Presidential nickname
 55 Silent assent
 56 Enjoy a winter sport

Tribune Media Services



RUNNERS RACE ALONG the Surf City Marathon course in 2017.

Spencer Grant

Pandemic pushes Surf City Marathon to Sept. 11, 2021

BY MATT SZABO

The Surf City Marathon, run in Huntington Beach every year on Super Bowl Sunday, has been pushed back to Sept. 11, 2021, due to the ongoing novel coronavirus pandemic. The marathon weekend, which also includes a half marathon, 10K, 5K and beach mile runs, was set to take place Feb. 6 and 7 next year. Event organizer Motiv Sports announced on the marathon website that it is committed to a live event but that it would be too difficult to pull off in February due to soaring COVID-19 numbers. Motiv Sports plans to combine the Surf City Marathon and Surf City 10 into one event in September 2021. The Surf City 10 was scheduled for Sept. 12 this year but canceled due to COVID-19. "In case you are wondering why we are combining the events instead of keeping them separate, both of our Surf City events require the complete closure of the Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) in Huntington Beach," event organizers wrote on the Surf City Marathon website. "Completely closing PCH requires a lot of coordination and cooperation with the California Department of Transportation, the city of Huntington Beach, local businesses and the local residents. "Closing it multiple times in the fall would place too heavy of a bur-

den on those stakeholders. Attempting to host the Surf City Marathon in the spring or summer, before vaccines are widely available, was deemed too risky. Combining the events in September is our best option to ensure a live event takes place." The Surf City Marathon typically draws 2,500 runners to its 26.2-mile course. It would be celebrating its 25th year in 2021. Organizers said those who have already registered would be automatically transferred to the Sept. 11 date. They also have the option of deferring to the 2022 race, scheduled for Feb. 6, 2022. matthew.szabo@latimes.com Twitter: @mjszabo

Bob Whalen, George Weiss to be sworn in on the Laguna City Council Tuesday

BY ANDREW TURNER



Courtesy photos

The Laguna Beach City Council meeting on Tuesday will see the swearing in of the new council, pursuant to the results of the Nov. 3 election. Bob Whalen, who has served as mayor the past two years, will retain his seat on the council, while George Weiss will be joining the five-person council. The Orange County Registrar of Voters certified the city's election results on Nov. 25. There were 16,667 ballots cast in La-

guna Beach, and Weiss beat out Ruben Flores by 131 votes for the second of two available seats on the council. A mayor and mayor pro tem will also be selected from among the council by its members for the coming year at the meeting. Ann Marie McKay will become Laguna Beach's new city clerk, succeeding Lisette Chel-Walker. Election results show that McKay defeated Mariann Tracy by 420 votes. The council will also re-

view its representation for a number of organizations and subcommittees, and it will consider if any revisions should be made. The regular meeting is scheduled to begin at 5 p.m., and members of the public can participate over Zoom at laguna-beachcity.zoom.us/j/92224931057 or call into the meeting at 669-900-9128. The meeting can also be viewed live on Cox cable Channel 852. Comments may be submitted to the city clerk by email at LcheL@laguna-beachcity.net. It is requested that comments be sent by 3 p.m. on Monday to give council members time to review them. andrew.turner@latimes.com Twitter: @ProfessorTurner

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ANNOUNCEMENTS/ENTERTAINMENT 500

Religious Announcements

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The City of Huntington Beach Seeks Personnel Commission Applicants

Applications are currently being accepted to fill three (3) vacancies on the City of Huntington Beach Personnel Commission. The vacancies are for two-year terms ending June 30, 2022. The Personnel Commission acts in an advisory capacity to the City Council and City Manager regarding the determination of hearing procedures and the selection of hearing officers, personnel administration investigations, appeals on grievance matters, appeals from decisions related to the employer-employee relations resolution, reviews impasse matters, and performs other functions as may be prescribed by ordinance or resolution. The Commission meets monthly on the third Wednesday at 5:30 pm. Interested applicants are encouraged to complete a City of Huntington Beach Application for Appointment by no later than Wednesday, December 16th, 2020. Please access the application online via the City's official website at www.huntingtonbeachca.gov, click on Government and then on Boards and Commissions. Please complete the application online, then download or printout the completed application, and submit it to: henderson@surfcity-hb.org or mail it to: City of Huntington Beach, Attn: Sandy Henderson, H.R. Dept., 2000 Main St., Huntington Beach, CA 92648. For more information, contact Sandy Henderson in Human Resources at (714) 960-8828.

Miscellaneous Merchandise

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Legal Notices

CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given in accordance with California Government Code Section 50050 that the City of Newport Beach is holding the following unclaimed funds in the Asset Forfeiture Fund. If these funds are not claimed by January 28, 2021, these funds will become the property of the City of Newport Beach. If you have a claim against these funds, please contact the Finance Department, 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660, phone (949) 644-3025. Satisfactory proof of identification and an approved proof of claim form is required before release of funds. The claim form is available upon request, and requires the claimant's name, address, telephone number, social security number or taxpayer identification number, amount claimed, and the grounds upon which the claim is based.

Check Date	Check Number	Amount	Payee
08/26/15	0167	\$1,150.41	Olivares, Luis Villegas
08/26/15	0168	\$1,784.64	Santana-Pineda, Fredy

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COMMENTARY | GARRY BROWN

Governor's talk on environment falls short when it comes to the Poseidon project

Orange County sees past Poseidon's efforts to buy support for its desalination boondoggle. Why can't Gov. Newsom?

Poseidon Water, a large water development company, has been pushing to build a \$1.4-billion water desalination plant in Huntington Beach. Like Poseidon's underperforming, high-cost plant in Carlsbad, the plant and its inflated water would be paid for by ratepayers.

In an independent review of Orange County's water needs, the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) prepared its Water Reliability Study, which showed the Poseidon project as the least cost-effective and most "financially risky" of several water supply alternatives reviewed. With many better alternatives available, the report showed that the project is not needed.

So, did Poseidon rescale its project to make it more affordable or address its other problems? No.

Poseidon instead spent more than \$300,000 to try to buy the election of three new MWDOC board members to silence its critics. This level of spending for MWDOC elections is unprecedented.

But Orange County voters saw through Poseidon's cynical at-

tempt to buy the election.

So what about Gov. Newsom? Based on Newsom's 2019 Water Resilience Portfolio, you'd think the governor would be highly skeptical of the Poseidon project.

After all, the portfolio prioritizes "water efficiency, conservation and reuse" to meet California's ongoing water needs and indicates that desalination should be part of the mix only "where it is cost-effective and environmentally appropriate" and consistent with the state's Ocean Plan. But the Poseidon project meets none of the governor's own criteria:

1. Not cost-effective: According to a Municipal Water District of Orange County study in 2018, Poseidon water would cost more than twice as much as the current supplies it would replace. This runs counter to the affordability principle at the heart of California's Human Right to Water (HRW) policy. When it reviewed the project, the UCLA Luskin School of Innovation concluded that "the Poseidon agreement will likely make drinking water for disadvantaged households in Orange County moderately to severely less affordable. It would yield no offsetting HRW benefits as compared to the continued pursuit of alternative local water supplies ..."
2. Environmentally destructive:



A VIEW OF the AES Huntington Beach Generating Station and the Magnolia Marsh Ecological Reserve in Huntington Beach.

Allen J. Schaben | Los Angeles Times

By failing to use the environmental protection technology prioritized in the state's Ocean Plan, Poseidon's proposed desal plant would kill 108,000,000 ocean organisms each year, according to a presentation of the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board.

3. Polluting: Seawater desalination is the most energy-intensive way to provide water. As California tries to fight climate change, Poseidon would cause the release of tons of unnecessary greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. And Poseidon's water would degrade Orange County's prized groundwater resources with boron. In spite of this, Newsom's ac-

tions seem to indicate he'd be willing to do just about anything to fast-track Poseidon's desalination project, including manipulating the state's environmental review process.

In the midst of active lobbying from Poseidon, Newsom removed William von Blasingame from the Santa Ana Regional Water Board in October. We find it more than suspicious that Newsom would replace the water board member with the most expertise about large infrastructure projects at such a critical time.

So why does Newsom support Poseidon even though the project neither makes financial or environmental sense? Could it be the \$25,000 that

Poseidon contributed to Newsom's inaugural parties? Could it be that Poseidon hired Newsom's friends and a former staff member to lobby in support of the project? Or could it be a failure to really look under the hood to see whether the project makes any sense at all?

Whether Newsom's actions will save Poseidon from an embarrassing defeat before the regional water board remains to be seen.

If Poseidon passes this test, the project then goes to the Coastal Commission for review. When Poseidon cries that Coastal Commission members also ask tough questions about the project, will Newsom weaken another important California environmental protection entity and sell out the coast to help his Poseidon friends?

Gov. Newsom often talks a good game about protecting the environment. But his actions don't measure up — especially when special interests like Poseidon come calling on him. Poseidon's fate will tell us a lot about how much Newsom cares about protecting the environment, low-income Californians and other water ratepayers.

GARRY BROWN is the founding director of Orange County Coastkeeper.

MAILBAG

Newport Beach's future mayor may be exemplary

This has certainly been an eventful and most challenging year for city government in Newport Beach.

Mayor Will O'Neill's year of service is drawing to a close according to custom, and I would think that he would feel a sigh of relief. I am sure that to our City Council and mayor that this last year seemed like a long one.

We are thankful for Mayor O'Neill's dedicated service during an extremely demanding year and look forward to the passing of the guard to the Mayor Pro Tem Brad Avery, as is the custom.

Brad and Joy Brenner are the only two members of council who have not had the opportunity to be mayor, while others have served twice. Yet we know that both of them would be exemplary mayors. And Brad would be representing a district from which a mayor has not come in a long time.

Although the procedure for the selection of mayor has changed since the early 1900s, the original policy to change officers each year was consolidated with many others and appears on page 11 of the City Charter which reads: "Effective with the selection of the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem during November of 1984, it is the policy of the City Council that the Mayor and Mayor Pro-Tem election shall occur every year thereafter. The election shall take place pursuant to Section 404 of the City Charter."

Although the intent of the council who wrote the amendment to the charter was for mayors to serve only one term, there were four in the '90s who served two terms. However, since 2008, no mayor has served more than one year, albeit some have come back to serve after a hiatus.

Lynn Lorenz
Newport Beach

Steel's replacement

It is unfortunate that Orange County's Second Supervisorial District (my district) has always been considered a partisan prize that has usually gone to the strongest but not necessarily most competent Republican running. It is the curse of its GOP registration advantage. This has condemned the nonpartisan constituents of roughly 10 communities in the district

to suffer neglect and misrepresentation for decades. The special election to replace Michelle Steel is shaping up as another partisan bar fight.

Wouldn't it be amazing if we had a choice among the candidates who would fairly, honestly and competently represent this district for the next two years?

A choice like Fourth District Supervisor Doug Chaffee who pledged to treat others as "human beings" and not just votes or markers. A choice who would solve problems and join in solutions instead of partisan posturing. I am still waiting for that choice to declare. It's a choice we all deserve.

Tim Geddes
Huntington Beach

Steel campaign signs

Julie Bixby's response to my earlier letter is both ill-informed and presumptuous.

In its original form, the crux of my letter submitted to the Daily Pilot was to point out the numerous Steel campaign signs still up well after the deadline for their removal was just the latest in a series of city of Huntington Beach zoning code violations; including, but not limited to, their placement on street medians or in excess of height limitations.

Irrespective of who put them there, I contacted the Steel campaign and made them aware of the signs prior to the election, yet its members did nothing to remove or relocate them. I also contacted the Huntington Beach Code Enforcement Office to notify them of the signs.

Lastly, to infer I've not done my part in cleaning up campaign signs is incorrect and a personal affront. In point of fact, I've picked up scores of signs, including fishing them out of our waterways, and dutifully recycled them. However, I will not risk life and limb trying to retrieve them from the Beach Boulevard median while 50-mph traffic whizzes by, nor will I carry a ladder around to try to reach and remove signs placed 10 feet high on sidewalk lampposts. For safety's sake, I pray Ms. Bixby does not attempt this either.

And yes, as of Dec. 3, several Steel campaign signs remain on the Beach Boulevard median and on some sidewalk lampposts.

Mark Scott
Huntington Beach

AROUND TOWN

Newport Beach Film Festival seeks volunteer reviewers for April event

The Newport Beach Film Festival is looking for volunteer reviewers for April's film festival.

Reviewers will be able to screen films remotely. Festival organizers said they'll be rolling out a new platform called Eventival, which will "enhance the process along with options for watching movies from different devices."

The festival is tentatively scheduled for April 8-15.

For more information and to volunteer, visit newportbeachfilmfest.com and click the tab to participate at the top of the homepage. To find the application to be a volunteer reviewer, select volunteer on the dropdown list. For additional questions, contact reviewer coordinator Dorothy Kraus at Dorothy.Kraus@NewportBeachFilmFest.com.

'After the Beatles' drive-in movie coming to Huntington Beach

The Huntington Beach Academy for the Performing Arts will be presenting two drive-in movie screenings of "After the Beatles: The Solo Years" on Saturday.

The film is produced by APA students and will be shown in the First Christian Church parking lot at 5 and 8 p.m.

For more information, visit hbapa.org/ see.

Matter of Craft in Huntington Beach offering six-packs during fundraiser

Huntington Beach's Matter of Craft Bottle Shop, Tap Room and Scratch Kitchen has partnered with BraveOnes Foundation for a fundraiser to support the nonprofit's Meaningful Meals program.

Matter of Craft is offering a "Beers for Cheer Six-Pack," featuring craft brews and a Brewer's Notes video tasting guide, for \$40. A quarter of the money, \$10, will be donated directly to BraveOnes Foundation's Meaningful Meals program, which provides meals to families and employees at Children's Hospital of Orange County, Waymakers youth shelter and skilled nursing facilities throughout Huntington Beach and Orange County.

The Beers for Cheer Six-Packs are available to order through Dec. 31 through Matter of Craft's website, matter-of-craft.com. They can be picked up from the restaurant during business hours, or during the Curbside Kick-Off celebration on Tuesday from 5 to 7 p.m.

— From staff reports

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

W	O	K		C	H	A	F	E		B	L	E	D		
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4	2	8	1	6	7	9	3	5
5	6	3	9	4	8	7	1	2
1	7	9	3	2	5	6	4	8

RECORD

Continued from page A1

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

- Santa Ana: 16,041 cases; 333 deaths
 - Anaheim: 13,862 cases; 349 deaths
 - Huntington Beach: 3,523 cases; 91 deaths
 - Costa Mesa: 2,801 cases; 47 deaths
 - Irvine: 2,923 cases; 15 deaths
 - Newport Beach: 1,533 cases; 26 deaths
 - Fountain Valley: 932 cases; 21 deaths
 - Laguna Beach: 349 cases; fewer than five deaths
- Here are the case counts by age group, followed by deaths:
- 0 to 17: 6,902 cases; one death
 - 18 to 24: 12,074 cases; four deaths
 - 25 to 34: 17,511 cases;



Photos by Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

ESTANCIA HIGH head football coach Mike Bargas wears a mask while conducting practice in Costa Mesa on Nov. 19.

- 22 deaths
- 35 to 44: 13,135 cases; 39 deaths
- 45 to 54: 13,447 cases; 122 deaths
- 55 to 64: 10,066 cases; 224 deaths
- 65 to 74: 5,097 cases; 314 deaths
- 75 to 84: 2,619 cases; 349 deaths
- 85 and older: 1,979

cases; 528 deaths

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

For information on getting tested, visit ochealthinfo.com/covid-19-testing.

matthewszabo@latimes.com
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Daily Pilot

A Times Community News publication incorporating the Huntington Beach Independent, Coastline Pilot, Orange Coast Daily Pilot and the Newport Harbor News Press combined with Daily Pilot

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CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

Pursuant to Section 15085 and 15087(a), Title 14, California Code of Regulations, as Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act, the City of Newport Beach is providing notice that it has released a Draft Environmental Impact Report to assess the potential environmental effects associated with the following project:

Lower Newport Bay Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD) Construction Project

The proposed project is located within Lower Newport Harbor, Newport Beach, California.

The purpose of this notice is to notify any interested parties that the Lead Agency, the City of Newport Beach, has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the proposed Lower Newport Bay Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD) Construction Project ("Project"), and to solicit comments on the environmental issues and alternatives addressed in the DEIR (California Environmental Quality Act [CEQA] Guidelines §15082).

Project Description: The goal of the proposed Project is to improve navigation in Newport Harbor and identify a safe and effective disposal location to manage dredged sediments. Natural processes result in the movement and accumulation of sediment within Newport Harbor which must be dredged periodically to maintain channel depth for safe navigation. The Federal Channels are maintained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The remainder of the Harbor is managed and maintained by the City and Orange County. USACE conducts annual bathymetric surveys to determine the amount of sediment that has accumulated in the Federal Channels and to assess the need for maintenance dredging. The most recent sediment sampling effort conducted in 2018 and 2019 determined that most of the material was determined suitable for disposal at a permitted open ocean location (or nearshore). However, dredging in the Main Channel and channel offshoots will expose some sediment that has been determined to be unsuitable for ocean disposal and therefore requires an alternate disposal location. Therefore, dredging of these areas is not feasible without also identifying a practicable management option for the unsuitable sediment.

To manage the unsuitable material, the City proposes to construct a CAD facility in the central portion of the Lower Harbor between Bay Island, Lido Isle and Harbor Island where dredged sediment unsuitable for open ocean disposal or nearshore placement can be contained. Clean material suitable for beach nourishment generated from constructing the CAD facility will be transported and disposed at an approved open ocean disposal site or along the nearshore ocean beaches. The City is also proposing to allow maintenance dredging in sections of Newport Harbor outside the Federal Channels to re-establish safe navigation.

Environmental Impacts: With the incorporation of mitigation measures, the proposed Project would result in either no project-level impacts or less-than-significant project-level impacts to the following resource areas: aesthetics; agriculture and forestry resources; biological resources; cultural resources; energy; geology and soils; greenhouse gas emissions; hazards and hazardous materials; hydrology and water quality; land use and planning; mineral resources; noise; population and housing; public services; recreation; transportation; tribal cultural resources; utilities and service systems; and wildfire. The project would not result in significant and unavoidable impacts.

Document Availability: The DEIR and technical appendices are available for public review beginning December 4, 2020 and ending January 20, 2021. The DEIR is available on the City's website at www.newportbeachca.gov/ceqa. It is also posted on the State Clearinghouse's website at <https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/2019110340/2>.

Hard copies of the DEIR and technical appendices are available at the following Newport Beach Public Library locations:
Central Library, 1000 Avocado Avenue, Newport Beach, CA 92660
Crean Mariners Library, 1300 Irvine Avenue, Newport Beach, CA 92660
Balboa Library, 100 East Balboa Blvd., Newport Beach, CA 92661
Corona del Mar Library, 410 Marigold Avenue, Corona del Mar, CA 92625

In addition, hard copies of the DEIR and technical appendices are available for review at the City of Newport Beach Public Works Department counter which is located in the Civic Center at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, California 92660.

Please submit all comments or other responses to this notice in writing by mail or e-mail no later than January 20, 2021 to: City of Newport Beach, Public Works Department, Chris Miller, 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, California 92660, cmiller@newportbeachca.gov, (949) 644-3043

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JULIAN

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That's how Dunn, a Newport Beach resident, remembers Julian. Joyful, funny, spirited, always looking outward to focus on others — even as he himself was being treated for medulloblastoma, a malignant, cancerous tumor that forms in the cerebellum.

"He brightened up the lives of other people," Dunn said. "That was who he was. He always thought of other people and he always wanted to have fun. He appreciated life and everything he had."

Julian was diagnosed in 2008 and was in and out of the hospital for five years. Throughout it all, he had his family and his Legos, which were a way for the Dunns to judge Julian's strength after surgeries and a way for Julian to pass the time while he was in treatment.

Julian died in 2013 at age 9, but Dunn and her husband, Richard, a former sports editor and writer for the Daily Pilot, decided to start a fund at Children's Hospital of Orange County in his memory called Julian's Lego Corner.

"Julian's Lego Corner began at CHOC in 2014," Brianne Ortiz, manager of CHOC's Chere Mari Lulhere Child Life department, said in a statement. "It helps bring joy, play and creativity to children and teens coping with serious and complex medical conditions."

"With Legos, kids can design and build anything within their imagination. This program helps supplement our ongoing work to normalize the hospital environment for children and their families," Ortiz added. "These Legos can be a comforting distraction

during a child or teen's hospitalization." In September, \$16,000 has been donated to Julian's Lego Corner, in no small part thanks to the efforts of the Dunns' neighbors.

The Roberts, who along with three other families, own Sgt. Pepperoni in Newport Beach and Aliso Viejo and live just up the street from the Dunns, organized a fundraiser. Their daughter, Lauren, who is now a junior at Pacifica Christian Orange County High School, attended Mariners Elementary School with Julian. They were in the same class for third grade.

Sgt. Pepperoni recently wrapped up its third annual campaign for Julian's Lego Corner. This year, all the proceeds from the pizza of the month and Sweet Things for a Sweet Cause, a campaign led by Lauren who bakes and sells desserts at Sgt. Pepperoni's for year-round, went straight to the CHOC fund.

Jeff Roberts, Lauren's father, said the ownership group this year decided to donate 100% of the proceeds from the September campaign because they'd felt fortunate that the community had come out to support the restaurant even as the pandemic continues and restaurants are forced to close, then reopen and close again.

"It's our way of giving back the great gift we've received through this pandemic," Roberts said. "We've really been able to roll through this environment because we're pizza. We've had a decline in sales, but it hasn't been detrimental."

That's the basis of how Sgt. Pepperoni operates, said Lauren's mother, Erica Roberts. "We're a community-centric restaurant that was brought together by friendships and family,"



JEFF AND

Erica Roberts pose with their oldest daughter Lauren, 16. The Roberts helped run a campaign at their restaurant to raise money for Julian's Lego Corner.

Scott Smeltzer
Staff Photographer

Erica Roberts said. "Through those friendships, we want to help people where we can."

But, it's not the first time that the Roberts have tried to help — the first time was with a lemonade stand. Several, actually.

Lauren said she doesn't remember specifically why she decided that she wanted to start a lemonade stand in 2009, but she remembers not understanding what was happening.

She was young, just in kindergarten when Julian was diagnosed.

Erica Roberts said Lauren had gone to a musical fundraiser for Julian called "Jammin' for Julian" with her father and said she wanted to help when she got home.

She knew how to make lemonade and bake cookies because she cooked with Roberts. Her first stand made about \$8. They eventually took the stand to Balboa Island, where they collected more than \$1,000 for Julian.

"When you go through something like this, it really affects every aspect of your life," Andrea Dunn said. "It really helps when you're surrounded by support like that."

After Julian died, Lauren said she thought her efforts were best spent on continuing to try to help. The Roberts organized Lego drives for donations and,

now, continue to organize similar fundraisers.

"I kind of realized that it became a bigger picture of just how many people Julian brought in the community together and just because he's no longer physically with us," Lauren said.

"He made such an impact on so many people's lives. I decided I didn't want to stop."

Neither do the Roberts, who said they and their children are committed to helping support the fund for as long as the Dunns want.

"Kids can really do something so powerful with their voices," Erica Roberts said, "but we [as parents] have to give them the opportunities to do those things."

Lauren said she wants to encourage other young people to do the work, adding that the only difference between her and any other teenager is that she went out and started fundraising.

"This all started with a lemonade stand," she said.

"Something that might not seem like a big deal can mean the world to other people. Something as little as a Lego box can totally change someone's life or bring them joy," Lauren said. "Get out there and act on what you intend and what you want to do."

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BALLOTS

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Steel ultimately walked away with 51% of the vote over Rouda's 48.94%. But Costa Mesa voters picked the incumbent over the challenger, casting 29,137 ballots for Rouda and 23,364 for Steel.

Costa Mesa also leaned Democratic in the race for California's 37th Senate District — where challenger Dave Min beat out Republican incumbent John Moorloch by a margin of 2,874 local votes — and in the state's 74th Assembly District, where Democrat incumbent Cottie Petrie-Norris earned 3,252 more votes than challenger Diane Dixon.

In the race to determine the fate of Measure Q, a ballot initiative calling for the legalization of retail cannabis sales and delivery, 33,291 Costa Mesa residents voted for passage, comprising 65.17% of the vote, compared to 17,793 opposed. Final vote totals con-



Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

VOTERS MAKE their way to the Costa Mesa City Hall voting center to cast their ballots on Election Day, Nov. 3.

firmed the reelection of incumbent Mayor Katrina Foley, who led in a pack of five mayoral candidates with 25,833 votes for a 52.22% win. Councilwoman Sandy Genis earned 11,158 votes, while challenger Wendy Leece ended with 5,751 votes, compared to Quentin "Q" Pullens' 5,161 ballots and 1,564 votes cast for Al Melone.

Outgoing Mayor Pro Tem John Stephens congratulated

Foley on her victory Tuesday during his last council meeting, pointing out she was the only council candidate who earned a majority of the vote in her race.

"She got almost as many votes as Measure Q, which is saying something," he quipped.

Stephens ran for an open council seat in District 1 but was edged out by challenger Don Harper, who earned

4,437 votes — just 323 more ballots than the incumbent's 4,114. A seat representing Costa Mesa's Council District 2 went to newcomer Loren Gamera, who ultimately earned 3,962 votes, ahead of candidate Ben Chapman, who figures show earned 2,436.

In the 6th council district, Costa Mesa Planning Commissioner Jeff Harlan ended up with 4,612 ballots cast in his favor, with challenger Jeff Pettis collecting 1,997 votes.

Making a motion at Tuesday's City Council meeting to certify election results, Councilman Manuel Chavez marveled at the democratic process.

"Democracy matters," he said. "This is why we vote, and this is the sacred part of being a democracy, is that we respect the result the votes."

Council members agreed, certifying the county returns Tuesday in a 7-0 vote.

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AQUATIC

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at USC.

Other members of the varsity eight include Sailors juniors Sheya Lavin and Chloe Zollman, as well as Orange Lutheran junior Skylar Wilkison. The coxswain is Hannah Hykes, a Newport Harbor sophomore.

"For [the season] to get cut off was definitely a tough moment, but over the summer we still kept training," said MacKenzie, the younger sister of former CdM girls' tennis standout Roxy MacKenzie.

"We learned from the past seniors how to be good leaders ... so now that it's our senior year and we're in a pandemic, it's super-important to be on our 'A' game for the classes below us. We want to represent the NAC varsity women the best we can, so we can really bring honor to the past girls who did the same thing."

The returning team members seemed poised for a breakthrough season last spring, after winning the Faultline Face-Off Invitational regatta in Orinda in March and helping Newport Aquatic Center sweep at the Cal Cup the following

weekend.

These wins came after an impressive 11th-place showing at the Head of the Charles regatta in Massachusetts in October 2019.

But the pandemic hit, and its effects have been devastating to the rowing community. Last year's squad, which included leaders like Maddy Seybold (now at Stanford), Olivia Krum (Michigan) and Paige Bryant (Columbia), aimed to be the first NAC varsity women's eight to make nationals since 2016.

"We don't know if they're going to get to prove themselves in the water, which is super-disappointing," Pickard said. "Last year, we were poised to go to the national championship and do well. We certainly would have been medaling at our regional championship had we got to go and do that."

Still, Pickard, a 2010 Newport Harbor High graduate who rowed at Orange Coast College and the University of Washington, has been impressed with the returning group's resolve. After doing virtual training through June, they recently returned to varsity eight practices in mid-October, though he said he is unsure that will continue after Orange County returned to the purple tier for reopen-

ing. He said the club plans to reassess the situation every two weeks.

This on-again, off-again ebb and flow has been difficult for the seniors, who are still doing their best to provide leadership to the younger grades. "Even some of the best girls, like Miya and Melissa, they've had some mental hiccups for sure," Pickard said. "It's definitely been hard. You can see they're a little frustrated, because there's not really a particular goal in sight, and they're very goal-oriented kids."

And for a club like Newport Aquatic Center, which has produced national championships in its junior men's rowing program, the women's boat has had to work hard to earn respect.

"We're just kind of getting in that position of respect from them," Babbin said.

"The women's team hasn't really been viewed as important as the men's team until, I would say, these past few years. We just want to pass off the wisdom that we've obtained over the last four years, and just help out the younger girls with workouts and that stuff. Most of the seniors commit [to row in college], which is definitely a reward for all of your hard work. All of the girls here are some of

the most hard-working people I've ever met."

Pickard said he is hopeful the team will row at the San Diego Crew Classic in March, which has yet to be canceled and is a top event for college and junior rowing teams alike.

Until then, there will be few days off, pandemic or no pandemic. MacKenzie said she has been inspired by program graduates like Edison High alumna Raina Walencewicz, now at Cal, and Peyton Matthews, a Newport Harbor product who went to SMU. Both were seniors when MacKenzie was a freshman.

"Even if we don't know if there's going to be a season in the spring, we're still going to keep working at our personal bests," MacKenzie said.

"It's really awesome to see everybody grow as a whole, as a program. When everybody's working hard, it really brings that sort of energy to the team as a whole. Even if it's the very bottom person of the program, they're pushing their hardest, and that's what makes it an inclusive environment. We bring a positive attitude toward loving the process of training."

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