

Daily Pilot

SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 2021 /// Now including Coastline Pilot and Huntington Beach Independent /// dailypilot.com



Photos by Raul Roa | Staff Photographer

CHRIS PUCCIO of Costa Mesa plays pickleball at Worthy Park in Huntington Beach on Thursday. The sport has grown in popularity recently.

Pickleball players hope to make sport a big dill

A Huntington Beach group recently launched a new website and is preparing for its summer tournament.

BY MATT SZABO

Talk with Diana Abruscato, president and founder of the all-volunteer Surf City Pickleball Society of Huntington Beach for any length of time, and it's obvious how much she loves the sport and wants to be an ambassador.

Abruscato has been involved with pickleball since about 2013. In that time, she's seen the sport's popularity grow exponentially.

It's accessible for all ages, and fairly cheap to play. There always seems to be action at the four pickleball courts that the city installed at Worthy Park, located at 17th and Main Street, in 2017.

"The sport started in Huntington Beach



PLAYERS ENJOY

late afternoon pickleball at Worthy Park in Huntington Beach on Thursday.

with four players, and 24 players were playing in 2007," Abruscato said. "Now we've seen over 2,000-plus players come through our courts just in the last five or six years."

During the coronavirus pandemic, Abruscato has used the extra time to her advantage. She installed a board of directors

for the nonprofit Surf City Pickleball Society last June.

The group's website, surfcitypickleball.com, also was recently launched.

That should help the society cater to a younger audience, as will the school pro-

See **Pickleball**, page A4

Surf City Nights return to Huntington Beach

BY MATT SZABO

Surf City Nights are back. The venerable Tuesday night street fair returned this week to downtown Huntington Beach, with about 50 vendors set up along three blocks of Main Street between 5 and 9 p.m.

Restrictions are easing across Orange County, which moved into the red tier for reopening on Sunday and has case numbers that suggest the orange tier could be soon to follow. Surf City Nights had been shut down since March 2020 due to the coronavirus.

Sean Dick, who owns Red Beard's Hot Sauce with his wife, Carolyn, set up shop on the second block, at the corner of Main Street and Olive Avenue in front of the Wet Dog Tavern.

"I thought the energy was outstanding," Dick said of the first week back. "It was fantastic. It really felt like the street fair used to be, that was the best part about it. They brought us back when they first started the farmers market, and that was about three months ago. Now that they opened it up for the



Courtesy of Kevin Hall

CUSTOMERS SHOP on Tuesday night at Surf City Nights street fair, which returned this week.

street fair, everybody came out. "The foot traffic was just steady all night long. I think people were just dying to get out of the house and go have something to do again."

Jaime Strong, the marketing manager for the downtown Business Improvement District,

said there were fewer vendors at Surf City Nights than before COVID-19, since restaurants downtown have built patios outside to encourage outdoor dining.

"We're utilizing the space that we have on Main Street to coexist with the outdoor dining pati-

os," she said. "We're putting vendor booths between them where we can. It's a positive that we're working together, and it actually creates a really unique flow."

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LCAD to resume in-person classes

The Laguna school announced this week it is planning to bring back on-campus learning for the fall 2021 semester.

BY ANDREW TURNER

Laguna College of Art and Design plans to bring back in-person classes for the fall 2021 semester, the school announced this week.

"The entire teaching and staff community are eager to return to campus and welcome our students," Hélène Garrison, chief operating officer and provost at LCAD, said in a statement issued Wednesday. "If there is any gift to be found from this pandemic, it is the even deeper commitment and appreciation of LCAD's mission to support our students.

"Every conversation and decision has focused on how we can work with our students one-on-one to meet their needs, and we look forward to the day when we can do so face-to-face, in person."

Garrison added the school would not be mandating that students and staff get vaccinated to return to campus.

In the fall 2020 and spring 2021 terms during the coronavirus pandemic, the college has offered limited use of campus facilities. Students had to have appointments for studio space and the LCAD Fabrication Lab.

Health and safety protocols implemented by the college have included requirements for physical distancing and masks, as well as regular sanitation of touch points. The college still plans to have a virtual commencement ceremony on May 21. Jonathan Burke, who recently retired as president of the college, is expected to be the keynote speaker.

Orange County progressed to the red tier regarding its coronavirus transmis-

See **LCAD**, page A4

Man sentenced for attempted murder of N.B. attorney

BY LILLY NGUYEN

A former doctor has been sentenced to eight years to life in state prison with the possibility of parole after a jury found him guilty of attempting to kill a Newport Beach attorney.

Richard Lee Austin, 69, received the sentence on Friday at the Central Justice Center in Santa Ana. Austin was convicted in September last year of attempted murder. He was convicted in a previous trial in 2018 of the stalking and attempted kidnapping of attorney Limor Lehavi.

Austin was previously tried for attempted murder, but two juries were unable to agree on if Austin intended to murder Lehavi when he confronted her with a gun at her office.

The origins of the case date back years, beginning with an altercation that Austin had with another driver following a car accident. The driver claimed damages.

Austin then sued his car insurance company, arguing that his policy should have covered the costs. Lehavi defended the insurance company and won.

Austin then filed a lawsuit against Lehavi personally, which she won.

Prosecutors said that Austin became "obsessed" with Lehavi.

In 2017, Austin appeared at Lehavi's office in Newport Beach after she switched firms and called to the office under a pseudonym several times.

Lehavi said last year that he claimed he was from Chicago and had been referred to her, but her receptionist saw his caller ID and alerted Lehavi.

Worried about her and her family's safety, Lehavi said she was accompanied by her coworkers to her car. There, she saw Austin in a rental car. He took off when he saw Lehavi with her coworkers, who then called the police to report the incident.

Austin was arrested in May that year. He is next scheduled to appear in court on April 5 for a hearing on the relinquishment of firearms.

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ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:

HIGH SCHOOL ROUNDUP: HUNTINGTON BEACH HIGH GIRLS' TENNIS TOPS CORONA DEL MAR PAGE A4

HUNTINGTON BEACH POLICE OFFICER CHARGED WITH IMPERSONATING OTHER OFFICER ONLINE PAGE A2



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

Huntington Beach police officer charged with impersonating other officer online

BY MATT SZABO

A Huntington Beach Police Department officer has been charged with imper-

sonating a fellow officer online, according to a news release issued Friday by the Orange County district attorney's office.

Steven Tennant of Yorba Linda, 32, is charged with two misdemeanor counts of internet impersonation for the purpose of harming, in-

timidating, threatening and defrauding. If convicted of both counts, he faces a maximum sentence of two years in Orange County Jail, according to the release.

The district attorney's office said Tennant is accused of posting a fellow officer's photo and personal cell-phone number on the dating website *doublelist.com*, on Sept. 20 and 26, 2020. The other officer was made aware of the ads when he started receiving texts from unknown numbers referencing the internet postings that featured his picture and phone number.

The ads were posted after the other officer began dating Tennant's ex-girlfriend. The Huntington Beach Police Department initiated an investigation after the officer reported the harassment to a supervisor.

"Impersonating another individual on the internet is not a joke," Orange County Dist. Atty. Todd Spitzer said in a statement. "It is a crime that could result in serious harm. This is not boys will be boys or cops will be cops behavior. It is curious and beyond disturbing that a sworn police officer would engage in such reckless behavior to endanger the safety of a fellow officer."

Tennant is scheduled to be arraigned on May 5 at the Orange County Central Justice Center in Santa Ana.

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Raul Roa | Staff Photographer

THE Huntington Beach Police Department on Nov. 20, 2020.



David Max Stone

August 25, 1932 - March 10, 2021

Be kind, everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle. (Plato) Question everything. We are only limited by imagination. (Einstein)

David Max Stone passed away peacefully at his Balboa Island home on March 10, 2021 at the age of 88, with his loving daughter Susan and caregivers Paulina and John by his side. David was born in Pasadena, California on August 25, 1932 to Elsie Pettitt Stone and John Henry Stone. David lived a long and full life. He lived his early years in Pasadena, frequently visiting the Balboa Peninsula, moving there at the age of twelve. He graduated from Newport Harbor High School in 1950. Following high school, David was drafted into the Army during the Korean War and did basic training at Fort Ord near Monterey. He married JoAnn Israelson on February 4, 1955, and while attending Cal State University Long Beach, David worked nights to support he and JoAnn as a licensed captain onboard the Balboa Island ferry. Soon, David and JoAnn started their family. Together they welcomed with love their three children: Jeffery Stone (Stacy), Susan Burt (Ed), and Sandra Larkin.

After graduating college, David started his long and successful real estate career initially as a real estate appraiser for the OC Department of Right-of-Way. He then worked as a real estate lender for Victoria Savings and Loan in Riverside, California, leading to a partnership in the development of his first apartment building in 1967. Along with two partners, David co-founded Income Property Services in Orange County, the predecessor company of Western National Properties, which he co-founded in 1981. WNP grew to be one of the largest apartment development and management companies in the nation.

His passion for boating lead to many wonderful years of day sailing and racing in regattas. With his son Jeff by his side, David had many successes on the family's Ranger 33 Puff, Islander 30 Flying Colors, and custom Britt Chance Design 3/4 Ton Eclipse. Together with his crew, David won the Hugh Angleman series five consecutive years, the Humphrey Bogart series, and many other regattas. Over the years, David enjoyed his friendships and the comradery of yachting at Newport Harbor Yacht Club. David continued his passion for boating by building two power boats, Coaster and Crosser, later acquiring Solaia in 2007. David married Sandra Howarth in 2004. Together they shared many happy years traveling the world on Crosser and Solaia, visiting more than fifty-five countries on four continents and logging more than 130,000 miles at sea, the equivalent of five times around the earth.

Lovingly known as Grandpa Max, David was blessed with seven grandsons: Clayton Stone (Julie), James Bohan, Bradley Stone, Joseph Bohan, Gregory Stone (Jaimee), Scott Stone, and Jack Larkin, along with six great grandchildren: Charlotte, Elizabeth, Theodore, Grayson, Margaret, and Dallas Stone.

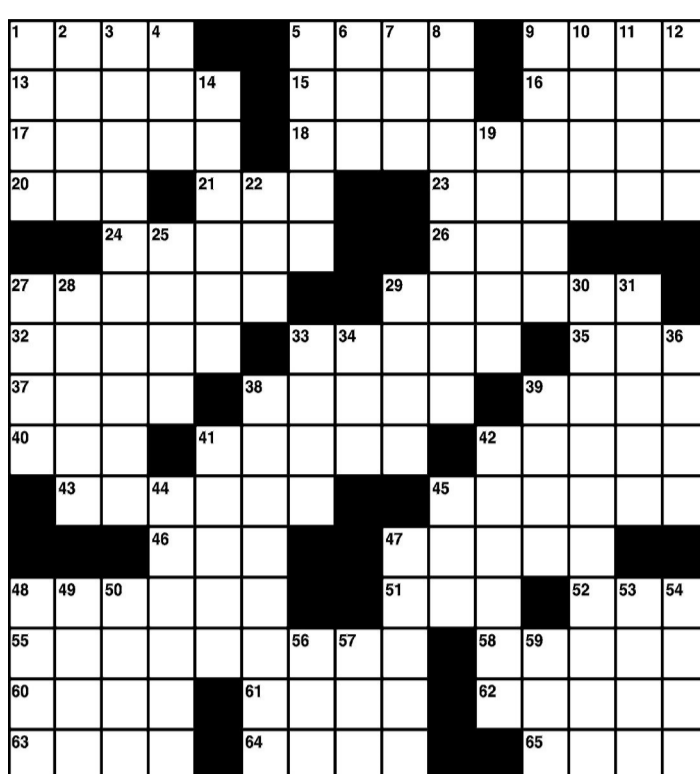
Throughout his business career and world travels, David had the opportunity to meet many interesting people. In his later years, he enjoyed sharing his travels with family and friends. David will be remembered for his great sense of humor, his generosity, his wisdom, and his skillfulness at defeating problems with quiet confidence.

He will be greatly missed by those who knew and loved him. Smooth sailing Dave, Dad, Grandpa Max!

THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

- ACROSS**
 1 Slimy garden pest
 5 Cabbage dish
 9 Kill flies
 13 Makes sharp
 15 Wailea Beach's island
 16 Foot part
 17 First phase
 18 Provoke
 20 "Old MacDonald" verse ending
 21 "20/20" network
 23 Slip away, as time
 24 Press a mouse button
 26 Calf's place
 27 Crony
 29 Calm
 32 Usurer's offerings
 33 Wet
 35 Bullring shout
 37 Diminishes
 38 Young animals
 39 Canine command
 40 Have poor health
 41 Destroy slowly
 42 Multi-room booking
 43 Would be lost without
 45 Paprika & cumin
 46 _ Internet; by means of the Web
 47 Specialty
 48 Like a no-nonsense teacher



For answers to the crossword, see page A4.

- 51 Lincoln, for short
 52 Commercials
 55 Down-to-earth
 58 _ macaroni; mac-and-cheese pasta
 60 Family tree member
 61 "My mistake!"
 62 Spicy sauce
 63 NBA team
 64 Short letter
 65 "Pussycat, Pussycat, where have you _?"
- DOWN**
 1 Clog or loafer
 2 Actress Anderson
 3 Not at all friendly
 4 "_ whiz!"
 5 Slap

- 6 Fail to keep up
 7 Part of summer: abbr.
 8 Like modern electronic devices
 9 Ben or Fred
 10 Coat or shawl
 11 Doesn't just sit there
 12 "My Country, 'Tis of _"
 14 Laundry problems
 19 On the ball
 22 A-E connection
 25 Camera's eye
 27 Bug that hops
 28 Batman's sidekick
 29 Location
 30 Hard to miss
 31 Thrill
 33 Frame of mind
 34 Obsolete
- 36 Where to find pupils
 38 Genesis event
 39 Formal attire
 41 Official decree
 42 Binges
 44 Gets rid of a tenant
 45 Bawl
 47 True or _ test
 48 Stretch across
 49 Faithful; loyal
 50 Diatribe
 53 Prescribed amount
 54 Graceful waterbird
 56 Pigeon's cry
 57 Tenement bldg. unit
 59 Sci. classroom, at times

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HIGH SCHOOL ROUNDUP

Huntington Beach girls' tennis tops CdM

Kaitlyn Taylor, Cindy Huynh Nguyen and Yen Nhi Huynh Nguyen all swept in singles as the Huntington Beach High girls' tennis team beat Corona del Mar 13-5 on Thursday in a Surf League opener. It is believed to be the

first time the Oilers (6-0) have beaten the Sea Kings (5-1) in girls' tennis.

The doubles teams of Solyana Han and Ella Weisman, as well as Maggie Rae Walker and Sophie Jin-Ngo, each won twice for Huntington Beach.

Reece Kenerson and Jane Paulson swept in doubles for CdM.

BOYS' WATER POLO

Laguna Beach 9, Corona del Mar 6: William Kelly scored six goals for the Breakers in Thursday's Surf League match.

Frank Laptin made 13 saves for Laguna Beach (4-4, 2-4 in league).

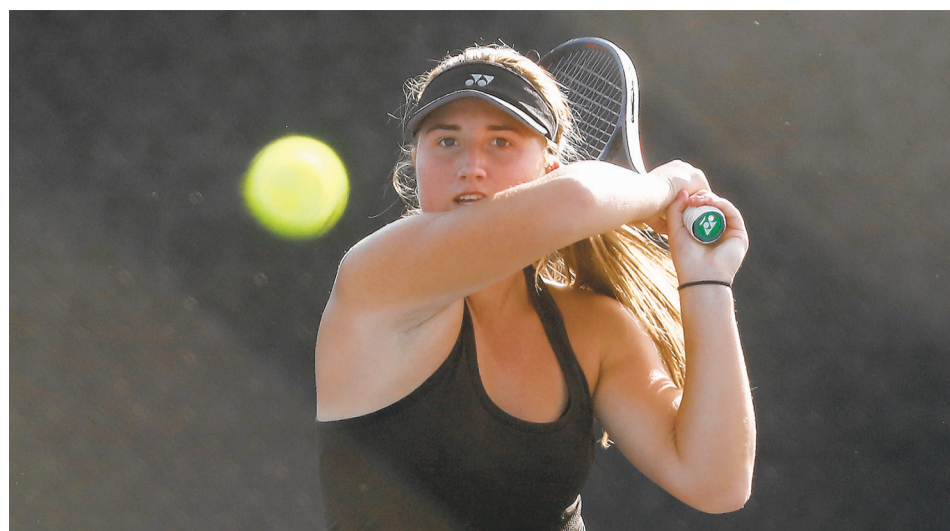
Dylan Hamm led CdM (1-5, 0-5) with three goals.

Estancia 21, Saddleback 1: Mateo Evans, Dane Dodge, Noah Gniffke and Micah Gniffke all scored three goals for the Eagles in Thursday's Orange Coast League match on the road.

Peyton Watkins made 10 saves for Estancia (8-0, 2-0).

GIRLS' WATER POLO

Huntington Beach 18, Fountain Valley 0: The Oilers finished off an undefeated Wave League campaign Thursday night in a road match. Jericho Callender scored



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

HUNTINGTON BEACH HIGH girls' tennis senior Kaytlin Taylor, shown playing against Corona del Mar in 2019, swept the Sea Kings at No. 1 singles in Thursday's Surf League match.

four goals for Huntington Beach (7-0, 6-0), while Carley Anderson had three goals and three assists. Morgan O'Connell, Sierra Cavano, Hana Homme and Susie McClintock each had two goals.

Goalkeeper Jillian Hemming made seven saves to preserve the shutout of Fountain Valley (0-6, 0-5).

Laguna Beach 16, Corona del Mar 5: Molly Renner and Emma Lineback each scored four goals for the Breakers in Thursday's Surf League finale at CdM.

Lela McCarroll scored three goals for the league champion Breakers (7-0, 6-0).

Estancia 19, Saddleback 4: Connie Guzman scored five goals for the Eagles in Thursday's Orange Coast League road match.

Isabel Kehoe and Caroline Conner both scored four goals for Estancia (5-1, 2-0).

GIRLS' SOCCER

Corona del Mar 2, Woodbridge 2: Peyton Vovan scored twice for the Sea Kings in Thursday's non-league match at CdM.

Alexa Conti, Morgan Corcoran, Isabella Almaraz and Maddie Rosen provided strong defense for CdM (2-2-2).

Newport Harbor 0,

Tesoro 0: The Sailors are 1-0-1 after Thursday's non-league draw at home.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Pacifica Christian Orange County 64, Laguna Beach 20: Freshman guard Annika Jiwani had 26 points to lead the host Tritons in their nonleague season opener on Thursday.

Jiwani made six three-pointers in the contest. Pacifica Christian also received 14 points from Lauryn Ham and 10 points from Nola Mihaly-Garvin.

The Tritons go on the road to face Whittier Christian on Tuesday.

— From staff reports

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PICKLEBALL

Continued from page A1

grams that Abruscato has helped coordinate in Surf City.

"We offer youth camps through the city of Huntington Beach, so youth involvement is becoming more and more," she said.

"Since my involvement in 2013, I've been able to get it into all our grade schools, middle schools, high schools and at Golden West College. As far as who can play, it's basically for all ages and all skills. It's for everyone, and that's the beauty of it."

She added it's not un-

common to see a grandparent playing with a visiting grandchild on one of the courts around the city.

On Friday morning, Abruscato and a few other Surf City Pickleball Society volunteers painted lines and donated a net for a court at Coast High School. She said eight dual-use pickleball and tennis courts were also launched at Edison High in 2019.

Surf City Pickleball Society treasurer Cat Navetta got involved with pickleball at about the same as Abruscato.

"We started out carrying our pickleball nets to these painted lines on the basketball courts," Navetta said.

"We loved it so much. Over the years we dedi-

cated time to help teach new people how to play pickleball, provide them paddles before they bought their own, welcome them and help them figure it out.

"We put a paddle in their hand and let them start going at it. Those people come back week after week until they grow and find other places to play as well, but they all love the sport."

Abruscato said she's aware that more public courts are in high demand in the city, adding that she appreciates the city's support of pickleball so far.

"You know, Rome isn't built in a day," she said. "The city's working on it. I'm just out there teaching and expanding pickleball in Huntington."

The annual Surf City Pickleball Tournament, which is run by the society and debuted in 2016, is scheduled to return at Murdy Park from Aug. 6-8.

Abruscato said an event called Pickleball on Fire, in which firemen and pickleball players will play together to benefit the Huntington Beach Fire Outreach Foundation, also is in the works.

The reason for all of the time and effort invested is simple to Surf City Pickleball Society secretary Brenda Patterson.

"There's a lot of interest, a lot of socialization," Patterson said. "Pickleball is just a great sport."

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LCAD
Continued from page A1

sion on March 14. The Orange County Health Care Agency reported 14 coronavirus deaths and 127 new infections for the county in data released Friday.

During the pandemic, the county has had 4,536 deaths attributed to the virus and a cumulative case count of 249,308.

Hospitalizations in the county are at 206, with 44 of those patients being treated in intensive care units.

The county reported 14,079 more tests for the virus on Friday, bringing the total number of tests administered countywide to 3,227,549. The healthcare agency estimates that 240,681 people in the county have recovered after contracting the virus.

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