

# Daily Pilot

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2023 // dailypilot.com



Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**CHRIST CHURCH** by the Sea rededicated its stained-glass windows at last Sunday's services after they were damaged a few months ago.

## Church's faith restored along with stained-glass windows



**ALL THE STAINED-GLASS** windows that were replaced at Christ Church by the Sea now have a protective plastic covering to prevent them from being shattered.

BY LILLY NGUYEN

In a show of faith and hope, the stained-glass windows that adorn Christ Church by the Sea have been rededicated and replaced nearly six months after their initial destruction sent glass scattering across the church's interior.

On Sunday, Rev. Paul Capetz, a senior pastor at the church, said the church decided to take a brief departure from normal services to welcome a crowd of about 50 people. Not all of them were members of the congregation, but all of them were members of the Newport Beach community.

Capetz saw faces from the City Council, residents who donated to the restoration work, and some of the original windows' donors or their children.

"It was an extremely beautiful service. We rededicated the windows and we rededicated the sanctuary, and I went around and explained the symbolism of each of the windows that had been broken. They're not

See **Windows**, page A3

## Family looks for Laguna resident

Mohammad Ala, 71, from the Top of the World neighborhood, was last seen on Aug. 15 in Downey, police say.

BY ANDREW TURNER

Laguna Beach authorities are requesting the public's assistance in locating resident Mohammad Ala.

Ala, 71, went missing on Aug. 15. He was driving home from Long Beach to Laguna Beach, when he missed an exit along his route.

The vehicle he was driving was a gold 2006 Toyota Avalon (license plate: 5TKD181), which he was last seen driving on Firestone Boulevard at the 605 Freeway in Downey at 9:24 a.m. on Aug. 15, according to the Laguna Beach Police Department.

At the time of his disappearance, Ala was wearing denim pants, a gray shirt, black shoes and possibly a straw hat. Ala stands at 5 foot 8, weighs 125 pounds, has green eyes and receding white hair.

Ala's sister, Mina, said there was no knowledge of where her brother or his car had gone. She said records did not reflect any credit card activity, either. His in-

See **Resident**, page A4

## Police arrest pair in N.B. homicide

Police say they arrested on Tuesday 2 suspects, from Brea, in a Sept. 30 stabbing that left a 46-year-old man dead.

BY LILLY NGUYEN

Two suspects were arrested on Tuesday on suspicion of robbery, with one of those suspects believed to be responsible for the murder of a Newport Beach man, police said.

Newport Beach police said they responded to a call reporting a man who was down and bleeding at 1:36 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 30, near 34th Street and Seashore Drive. Upon arrival, officers located the victim, who appeared to have a stab wound, and transported him to a local hospital, where he later died of his injuries. That victim has been identified as Robert Tamaccio, 46, of Newport Beach.

Officers, detectives and crime scene investigators subsequently launched a homicide investigation in collaboration with other

See **Homicide**, page A2

## Weekly scoop of Cherries Jubilee stirs lasting friendship

BY SUSAN HOFFMAN

Sal Minutella loves the made-to-order ice cream from Atomic Creamery in Fashion Island, but most of all he loves the people who run the store. He and his wife, Adriana, became frequent customers of the '50s-style ice cream shop shortly after they moved to Newport Coast from New Jersey four years ago.

"Sal and Adriana would come and sit at a table inside, usually on Sundays, so we got to know them since they became regulars, like a fixture. We also met their son and [other family members] whenever they visited," said Kari Leasure, co-owner of the six-year-old business with her husband, Josh. "We had casual chats and had a lot in common, being from the same region on the East Coast.

And since neither of our families lived here, we sort of adopted each other, which is kind of nice."

Josh Leasure recalls how Sal began reaching out ahead of visits to Atomic Creamery, which ensured his favorite flavor would be in the day's lineup.

"He started calling me for ice cream orders, which is special because we don't normally do orders over the phone," Josh said, explaining that Sal always wanted Cherries Jubilee, one of three rotating "Nostalgic Flavors" ordinarily available on a specific day.

"Sal would call the store and say, 'Hey, we're coming down to get some ice cream, and he didn't have to tell me what kind [he wanted]. If Sal was coming

See **Friendship**, page A2



Susan Hoffman

**ATOMIC CREAMERY** owner Josh Leasure presents friend and customer Sal Minutella with his favorite ice cream, Cherries Jubilee.

## Boys' water polo: Big third quarter sparks Sailors over Oilers

BY MATT SZABO

The Newport Harbor High boys' water polo team will be going for its third straight CIF Southern Section Open Division title next month, but league play comes first.

The Surf League is not exactly a walk in the park, or maybe a swim in the ocean is more appropriate for the aquatically inclined Sailors.

Newport Harbor played at rival Huntington Beach on Wednesday and saw the host Oilers put up a very competitive fight — for a half.

But the Sailors' seven-goal blitz in the third quarter helped them earn a 16-7 Surf League win and move into outright first place halfway through league play.

Senior defender Gavin Appeldorn scored a season-best four goals for Newport Harbor (14-2, 3-0 in league). Appeldorn was cast into more center play Wednesday as the Sailors' UCLA-bound senior standout Peter Castillo was out sick, coach Ross Sinclair said.

Appeldorn and senior centers Trey Smith and Owen Tift combined for eight goals for the Sailors, ranked No. 2 in CIF Southern Section Division 1. Huntington Beach is No. 8.

"Obviously, it's tough not having Peter, but we talked about 'next player up,'" Sinclair said. "I thought they did a really good job of that. We're a deep team, played 12 guys, a lot of different little rotations and stuff. There's a role and responsibility that everyone has to fulfill regardless of who you

are, and I thought we did a good job of picking up the slack."

Sophomore Connor Ohl, a transfer from Brunswick School in Connecticut, scored three goals for the winners. They all came in succession the third quarter, the first two assisted by Quinn Bartlett and Mason Netzer, respectively, and the third coming off a foul.

"He's fitting in really well," Sinclair said. "He works really hard, counters extremely hard, shoots the ball well. He's just an athletic kid. You're in the saw a glimpse of that there in the third quarter, but there's also things that people don't see. His length, he's causing tips on entry passes, making them lob into center, allowing the crash

See **Polo**, page A4



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**NEWPORT HARBOR'S** Gavin Appeldorn (2) makes an interior pass during the Sailors' Surf League match against Huntington Beach.



CROSS-COUNTRY

# Local running talent shines in Central Park Invitational

BY ANDREW TURNER

In less than a month, the Sunset Conference cross-country teams will meet to determine which of them may advance to the CIF Southern Section post-season meets.

The Central Park Invitational, held Saturday on the same course, provided a preview of sorts for how some of the area's top distance runners might fare.

Huntington Beach senior Makenzie McRae placed second in 17 minutes 7.7 seconds, her best time in four starts in prep competition on her home course.

"I haven't raced in a couple weeks, so leading up to it, I was pretty excited," said McRae, who noted Saturday's competition was her second time racing this season. "This is my home course. I've raced here since I was like 8 years old or something, so I know it pretty well."

Huntington Beach finished fourth as a team, and while not appearing in the section's new rankings that dropped Monday, the program is just two years removed from a run to the



Andrew Turner

**HUNTINGTON BEACH** senior Makenzie McRae finished second in the Central Park Invitational on Saturday.

state meet.

Freshman Sydney Rubio could have the Oilers dreaming about the possibilities, her fourth-place showing in 17:16.6 signaling

that McRae has a running mate and Huntington Beach has a power couple atop its lineup.

"My team definitely helps," Rubio said. "They're

really good at cheering on and stuff while I'm trying to push through. I like my team a lot."

Joining in on the fun in the top five was Corona del

Mar senior Melisse Djomby-Enyawe. The long-time ace of the Sea Kings placed third in 17:13.8.

Corona del Mar, which placed ninth as a team, is ranked No. 10 in the Division 3 poll. Djomby-Enyawe is embracing her new role as elder stateswoman of the group.

"It's definitely fun because everyone's fresh, so everyone is motivated for now," Djomby-Enyawe said. "It's just like a different atmosphere, environment, but I really like it. Honestly, I can't wait to see what we do with state and other meets."

"Although it's different because they have to rely on me instead of me relying on the other girls, it still is enjoyable."

The local trio was overshadowed only by the phenomenal performance from Trabuco Hills junior Holly Barker. The Laguna Hills transfer crossed the finish line in a blistering time of 16:07.1.

A new face is making waves for Corona del Mar on the boys' side. Junior Max Douglas was just four seconds off the pace in a

race that featured three runners finishing in under 15 minutes.

Douglas, who placed second in 14:55.7, said he was playing football last year before deciding to trade in his pads for running shoes this fall.

Sophomore Kevin Steinman, a prominent figure in the Sea Kings' formula last year, finished fifth in 15:04.2.

"I don't believe so," Douglas said when asked if there was a better duo in the Sunset Conference at present. "By the time we get to state, I believe everyone's going to want to watch out for us. Kevin's a great runner. I wouldn't be here without him. He pushes me every day, and I love having him on the team."

Fountain Valley placed fifth to lead the local boys' teams on Saturday. Senior Diego Alonso (18th, 15:27.3) set the pace for the Barons.

Huntington Beach finished seventh, led by senior Jacob McQuirk's fourth-place jaunt in 15:03.6.

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## WINDOWS

Continued from page A1

just works of art, but they're religious symbols," said Capetz. "I was deeply moved. I think everyone was deeply moved. That was what everyone told me, at least."

Replacement of the windows cost close to \$60,000.

On April 15, Newport Beach police arrested San Dimas resident Nicolas Alexandro Briones on suspicion of felony vandalism after reports came in from a neighbor at around 2:45 a.m. of a possible incident in the 1400 block of Balboa Boulevard. Briones was

charged with vandalism of religious property and vandalism resulting in \$400 or more. He pleaded not guilty to both charges.

Court records do not indicate when he is next scheduled to appear in court, but there have been hearings on whether or not Briones is mentally fit to stand trial.

Records also indicate Briones was recently charged with assault with a deadly weapon other than a firearm for an incident in April.

Of Briones, Capetz said, "We do not seek vengeance on the man who destroyed our windows. He is severely mentally ill and the district attorney explained to me

... all we want for him is healing. Healing — so he can get his life on the right path again, and so, we're hoping that we might at some point be able to meet and talk with him and his family and see what we might do for him and them."

"I don't want to make him out to be evil." Capetz said the replacement of the windows is a means to close the chapter on the incident and marks a return to "business as usual." He said he felt the replacement was a sign that the congregation and community at large believed in the church's future in a time where he knows fewer and fewer people are

showing up to services, support churches financially or are turned off by Christianity — all for good reasons in many cases, he said.

"But we're trying to buck these trends," he said.

Capetz said insurance covered about \$30,000 of the cost and the other half had to be raised. A GoFundMe effort brought in some donations, and the rest came from private donors both locally and from afar. Capetz said the church was receiving checks from people because of the story's reach, and he received a \$500 donation from a man who wanted to make up for having broken an unrelated

window in college.

One of the kids at nearby Newport Elementary School, who used to go to preschool at the church, donated everything he had accumulated in his piggy bank.

"People were just spontaneously good to us. The vandalism itself demoralized us deeply, and it kind of reminded us how bad people could be, but the generosity of so many donors, especially people who are not connected with our church, encouraged us once again to have faith in at least some people," Capetz said.

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Don Leach

**ALL BUT TWO** windows on the street-facing side of the church were destroyed in April. Rev. Paul Capetz described the new windows as brighter and vibrant.

## THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

### ACROSS

- 1 Secondhand
- 5 Fang poison
- 10 Ignore
- 14 Hired vehicle
- 15 Preposterous
- 16 Lawn mower brand
- 17 "Heidi" setting
- 18 Uprisings
- 20 Pronoun
- 21 Novak & Basinger
- 22 Nervous
- 23 Bront' or Post
- 25 Actress Joan Van \_
- 26 Do a shoemaker's job
- 28 Messy home
- 31 Firebug's crime
- 32 Climb
- 34 Ho-\_: boring
- 36 Become a member of
- 37 Head coverings
- 38 Short note
- 39 Hustle and bustle
- 40 Merchandise
- 41 Papers to be filled out
- 42 Junior naval rank
- 44 Saunters
- 45 Dads
- 46 Vital vessel
- 47 Buddy \_
- 50 Dressed
- 51 To and \_
- 54 Rote learning method
- 57 Store away
- 58 Bug's nemesis
- 59 Supple
- 60 Lowly laborer
- 61 Phoenix team
- 62 Bread recipe verb
- 63 Limbs

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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54						55	56					57		
58						59						60		
61						62						63		

## 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](http://sudoku.org.uk).

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

For answers to the crossword and Sudoku puzzles, see page A4.

### DOWN

- 1 Bryce Canyon's state
- 2 Black Friday event
- 3 Smile or frown
- 4 Prefix for like or mount
- 5 Manly
- 6 Opponent
- 7 Takes into custody
- 8 Afternoon hour
- 9 Singer Tillis
- 10 Smells awful
- 11 Give a \_; care
- 12 Coffee dispensers
- 13 Like a busybody
- 19 T-shirt size

- 21 Drying oven
- 24 " \_ River, wider than a mile"
- 25 Feels miserable
- 26 Malay prince
- 27 Eat away at
- 28 Writing tablets
- 29 From that day on
- 30 Delicious
- 32 In just a bit
- 33 MA's Cape \_
- 35 Playwright Hart
- 37 Greedy people
- 38 Majority
- 40 Fairy tale ogre
- 41 20th-century U.S. president
- 43 Drives too fast
- 44 Complained
- 46 Hilo greeting
- 47 Goofs
- 48 Gentleman caller
- 49 Rotate
- 50 Give a ticket to
- 52 Hotel booking
- 53 Possesses
- 55 Type; variety
- 56 Cheap metal
- 57 Refreshing spot

Tribune Media Services

# South Coast Repertory

The cost of Quixote's Mero. Photo: Jenny Graham SCR.

by **Octavio Solis**  
Directed by **Lisa Portes**  
**NOW - Oct. 28**

From one of the storytellers behind the film *Coco* comes a modern take on *Don Quixote* bursting with imagination and Tejano music. Featuring Herbert Siguenza of Culture Clash. *Recommended for ages 14+.*

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## QUIXOTE NUEVO

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Directed by **Khanisha Foster**  
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In this groundbreaking American classic, each of the Youngers, a Black family, has a different view of how to spend their father's life insurance settlement to better the family. *Recommended for ages 13+.*

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## A RAISIN IN THE SUN

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**A CHRISTMAS CAROL**

Adapted by **Jerry Patch**  
Directed by **Hisa Takakuwa**  
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