

# Daily Pilot

THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2023 // dailypilot.com



Photos courtesy of Orange County Supervisor Katrina Foley's office

**MEMBERS OF** the Orange County Sheriff's Department Explorers program participate in a U.S. flag-folding ceremony Wednesday.

## Ceremony pays tribute to the Stars and Stripes

BY SARA CARDINE

Old Glory — in all its glory — took center stage Wednesday at Irvine's William R. Mason Regional Park, where citizens joined with elected officials, veterans and first responders to recognize Flag Day and the U.S. Army's 248th birthday.

Attendees were seeing stars as speakers shared the history and traditions of Flag Day, an observance intended to honor the first adoption of a national flag by the Second Continental Congress on June 14, 1777.

Although Woodrow Wilson issued a presidential proclamation in 1916 that set aside that same day each year as a time to honor the flag, it wasn't until Congress finalized the observance under Harry Truman in 1949 that the national holiday was born.

A field of flags provided a visual reminder of the long history of the U.S. Army, initially formed as the Continental Army in 1775.

Fifth District Orange County Supervisor Katrina Foley, who



**U.S. VETS** coordinator and veteran Juan Garcia, from left, with O.C. Supervisor Katrina Foley and state Sen. and veteran Josh Newman cut a cake honoring the U.S. Army's 248th birthday.

began hosting the Flag Day commemoration ceremony last year, said she hoped the display inspired feelings of patriotism.

"It's important for members of our community and for future generations to know our American cultural experience and the history of America," she said.

Remarks were provided by Army veterans state Sen. Josh Newman (D-Fullerton) and Juan Garcia, a peer support coordinator for U.S. VETS, a service organization that assists homeless and at-risk veterans.

Orange County Sheriff's Department and Irvine Police Department explorers demonstrated the proper folding of the national standard.

The American flag is not just a flag — several rules surround its display and disposal. If the banner is flown overnight, it must be illuminated. If faded or tattered, it may be handed over to a local fire department or veterans organizations for retirement.

If displayed alongside other flags, it should be positioned to

See *Tribute*, page A4

## Suspects charged in clinic bombing

Reward offered in the March 2022 Molotov cocktail attack on Planned Parenthood healthcare facility leads to arrests.

BY CITY NEWS SERVICE

Two Orange County men — including a U.S. Marine stationed at Camp Pendleton — were arrested Wednesday morning on federal charges of firebombing a Planned Parenthood clinic in Costa Mesa last year.

Agents with the FBI and the Naval Criminal Investigative Service arrested Tibet Ergul, 21, of Irvine, and Chance Brannon, 23, of San Juan Capistrano, who is an active-duty Marine.

The two were expected to make their initial appearance in federal court in Santa Ana on Wednesday afternoon.

They are accused of hurling a Molotov cocktail at the entrance of the Planned Parenthood at 1520 Nutmeg Place in the early hours of March 13, 2022, according to an affidavit from FBI Special Agent Jennifer Hirsch. About two hours later, the two returned to the clinic, she added.

The clinic "was forced to close and cancel dozens of appointments," Hirsch said. Clinic employees told investigators about 30 appointments had to be rescheduled.

A day after the attack, Ergul "texted an acquaintance, taking credit for the fire and noting that he wished he 'could've recorded the combustion,'" Hirsch said.

Ergul sent a photograph to an "acquaintance" showing "his gloved hand holding the Molotov cocktail from inside Brannon's car," Hirsch said.

Surveillance video from the clinic shows the two approach the building about 12:55 a.m., Hirsch said. They wore hooded sweatshirts and masks, Hirsch said.

The estimated damage to the

See *Bombing*, page A4

## 'Hateful' fliers left in yards after Pride video stirs debate

BY ERIC LICAS

People living near Edison High School found fliers demonizing both the LGBTQ+ and Jewish communities Wednesday, the morning after controversy surrounding a student-produced video promoting Pride month stirred debate at a school board meeting.

The fliers feature a pentagram, star of David and the words "The LGBTQ+ movement is Jewish" in rainbow-colored font. Residents in the area of Hamilton Avenue and Bushard Court found them in plastic bags weighted with rocks to keep them from blowing away in the wind and started bringing copies of the apparent hate speech to patrol officers Wednesday morning, Huntington Beach police spokeswoman Jessica Cuchilla said.

"I want to be abundantly clear, the messaging contained within these fliers is completely unacceptable and does not reflect the values or ideas we believe here in Huntington Beach," Mayor Tony Strickland wrote in a statement Wednesday. "Hateful rhetoric or prejudice of any kind is inexcusable and we have zero tolerance for it within our community."

Investigators were working to determine the source of the fliers. Their distribution was limited to a small, "isolated" area, Strickland said.

The neighborhood the anti-

See *Fliers*, page A4

## Mr. Irrelevant plans to 'keep pushing forward'

BY ANDREW TURNER

The story of the underdog has been told time and again, and it never seems to get old.

Certainly not in Newport Beach, where organizers are gearing up for another round of Irrelevant Week activities that are just around the corner.

Desjuan Johnson, a defensive

end out of Toledo, became the 48th member of the Mr. Irrelevant fraternity when the Los Angeles Rams selected him with the 259th and final pick of the NFL Draft in late April in Kansas City.

Having appeared before the community already at the Balboa Island Parade on June 4, the real fun reaches its pinnacle on Monday, June 26, when Johnson is set to appear at the Lowsman Banquet at the Cannery Restaurant.

Melanie Salata-Fitch, the chief executive of Irrelevant Week, said the banquet is already sold out.

"We are looking forward to Irrelevant Week this year because it makes everything worthwhile when Mr. Irrelevant is a nice guy and an appreciative guy, because then all our work to celebrate him, it makes it worth it," said Salata-Fitch, recounting her first impression of Johnson. "We were able to see him for a short time during the parade. Actually, the day that he arrived at Rams camp, I drove out to the valley and introduced myself to him, and both times, he's a very friendly, nice, appreciative young man."

Irrelevant Week has been known to try to accommodate celebrity meet-and-greets and



Courtesy of Mr. Irrelevant

**DESJUAN JOHNSON**, the 48th Mr. Irrelevant, waves as he rides on the back of a convertible during the Balboa Island Parade on June 4.

other wild requests as part of the festivities. Johnson voiced no such wishes, although he is looking forward to attending Disneyland with family members the Friday preceding the banquet.

Many a Mr. Irrelevant have put themselves at the mercy of the judges during the annual surfing lesson, a staple of the Newport Beach welcome. Reminded of a now viral video that surfaced of DJ Khaled wiping out while attempting to hydro-

foil surf, Johnson hopes he can do better.

"He couldn't stand up on it," Johnson chuckled. He will get his chance on Saturday, June 24 at 30th Street Beach at 9 a.m.

Hearing his name called in the draft was far from irrelevant for Johnson, who cited the Rams trading for the last selection as being particularly meaningful to him. Los Angeles traded back seven spots with the Houston

See *Forward*, page A4



Courtesy of Thomas Hauge

### ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:

**TRELLIS, BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF LAGUNA BEACH NAMED NONPROFITS OF THE YEAR**  
PAGE A3

**NEWPORT AQUATIC CENTER HAS A RECORD-SETTING YOUTH NATIONALS** PAGE A3

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THU, JUN 15  
**JULIAN MARLEY**



SUN, JUN 18  
**PURE PRAIRIE LEAGUE**



SUN, JUN 25  
**THE WAILERS**



WED, JUN 28  
**JOHN CRUZ**

- 6/15 JULIAN MARLEY / *TOMORROW'S BAD SEEDS*
- 6/16 AL JARDINE AND HIS ENDLESS SUMMER BAND
- 6/17 AMBROSIA
- 6/18 PURE PRAIRIE LEAGUE
- 6/23 TINA TURNER TRIBUTE FEATURING DEBBY HOLIDAY
- 6/24 PRINCE AGAIN (*PRINCE TRIBUTE*)
- 6/25 THE WAILERS
- 6/28 JOHN CRUZ "*WE DO IT ISLAND STYLE*"
- 6/29 YYNOT (*RUSH TRIBUTE*)
- 6/30 THE SWEET
- 7/1 MICK ADAMS & THE STONES
- 7/5 LYLE LOVETT AND HIS LARGE BAND
- 7/7 THE FABULOUS THUNDERBIRDS
- 7/8 HENRY KAPONO
- 7/12 JIMMY WEBB
- 7/14 ROBERT JON & THE WRECK / GETHEN JENKINS
- 7/15 SHINE ON – PINK FLOYD EXPERIENCE
- 7/16 TONY BENNETT SONGBOOK  
(*TRIBUTE FEAT. MARK VERABIAN*)
- 7/19 THE JERRY DOUGLAS BAND
- 7/20 DAVID NAIL
- 7/21 CLASSIC ALBUMS LIVE:  
*FLEETWOOD MAC RUMOURS*
- 7/22 Y & T
- 7/28 SPACE ODDITY (*DAVID BOWIE TRIBUTE*)
- 7/29 KIDS OF CHARLEMAGNE (*STEELY DAN TRIBUTE*)
- 8/2 ERIC GALES
- 8/4 PABLO CRUISE
- 8/5 HONK / JACK TEMPCHIN
- 8/6 MICHIGAN RATTLERS
- 8/11 THE HIGHWAYMAN SHOW
- 8/12 JOURNEY USA (*JOURNEY TRIBUTE*)
- 8/13 THE RAT PACK
- 8/18 SPYRO GYRA
- 8/19 MADELEINE PEYROUX
- 8/23 JEFF "SKUNK" BAXTER
- 8/25 SUPER DIAMOND (*NEIL DIAMOND TRIBUTE*)
- 8/26 SUPER DIAMOND (*NEIL DIAMOND TRIBUTE*)
- 8/31 GILBY CLARKE AND THE KEEF RICHARDS
- 9/1 BANG TANGO / ENUFF Z'NUFF
- 9/2 THE PETTY BREAKERS (*TOM PETTY TRIBUTE*)
- 9/8 ULI JON ROTH  
- *INTERSTELLAR SKY GUITAR TOUR*
- 9/14 THE MAN IN BLACK (*JOHNNY CASH TRIBUTE*)
- 9/15 DON McLEAN  
*'THE AMERICAN PIE' 50TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR*



FRI, JUN 30  
**THE SWEET**



WED, JUL 12  
**JIMMY WEBB**



FRI, JUL 14  
**ROBERT JON & THE WRECK**



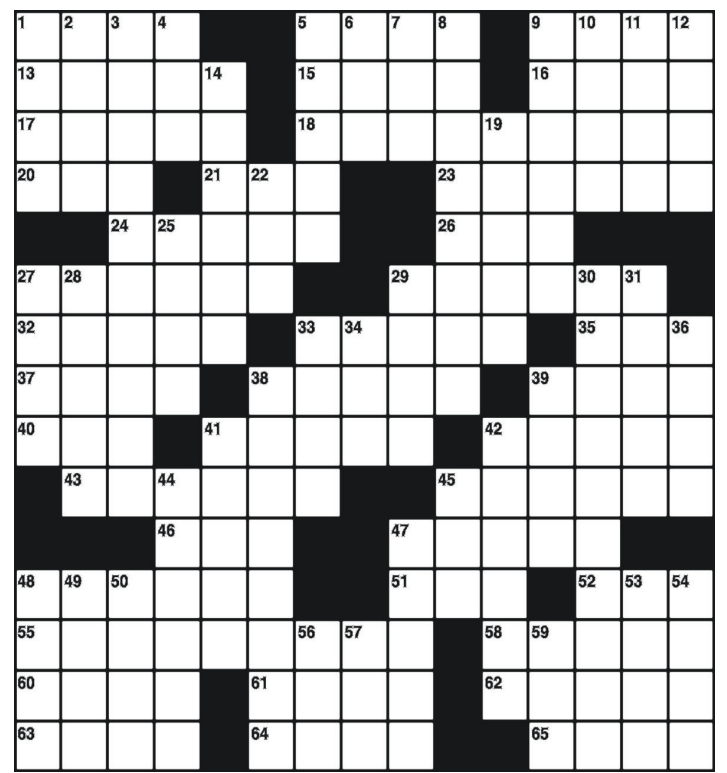
WED, JUL 19  
**THE JERRY DOUGLAS BAND**

- 9/16 THE FENIANS – HALF WAY TO ST. PATRICK'S DAY
- 9/17 BENISE: FIESTA!
- 9/20 PHANTOM PLANET
- 9/21 KEIKO MATSUI
- 9/22 AL STEWART / THE EMPTY POCKETS
- 9/23 BEATLES VS STONES - A MUSICAL SHOWDOWN
- 9/24 MOLLY HATCHET
- 9/28 KOFI BAKER'S CREAM FAITH
- 9/29 JOHN WAITE
- 9/30 GARRISON KEILLOR TONIGHT
- 10/5 GEOFF TATE'S BIG ROCK SHOW
- 10/6 BULLETBOYS WITH SPECIAL GUESTS XYZ
- 10/7 RONDSTADT REVIVAL (*LINDA RONDSTADT TRIBUTE*)
- 10/8 LOUIE CRUZ BELTRAN
- 10/12 CRYSTAL BOWERSOX
- 10/13 DESPERADO (*EAGLES TRIBUTE*)
- 10/14 DESPERADO (*EAGLES TRIBUTE*)
- 10/15 JOURNEYMAN (*ERIC CLAPTON TRIBUTE*)
- 10/18 FUNNIEST HOUSEWIVES (*COMEDY SHOW*)
- 10/19 PAT TRAVERS BAND
- 10/27 PIANO MEN (*BILLY JOEL AND ELTON JOHN TRIBUTE*)
- 10/29 MARTIN SEXTON
- 10/31 OINGO BOINGO FORMER MEMBERS
- 11/1 RIDERS IN THE SKY  
(*ACOUSTIC WESTERN COWBOY MUSIC AND HUMOR*)
- 11/5 BEN OTTEWELL / IAN BALL
- 11/9 THE YOUNG DUBLINERS
- 11/12 WISHBONE ASH
- 11/15 LEONID & FRIENDS (*CHICAGO TRIBUTE*)
- 11/16 LEONID & FRIENDS (*CHICAGO TRIBUTE*)
- 11/18 ABBAFAB (*ABBA TRIBUTE*)
- 11/22 QRST (*QUEEN/RUSH/STYX TRIBUTE*)
- 11/26 ARETHA STARRING CHARITY LOCKHART
- 11/30 THE MUSICAL BOX  
- *SELLING ENGLAND BY THE POUND*
- 12/1 THE MUSICAL BOX  
- *SELLING ENGLAND BY THE POUND*
- 12/2 LEE ROCKER OF THE STRAY CATS
- 12/8 GENE LOVES JEZEBEL / BOW WOW WOW

## THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

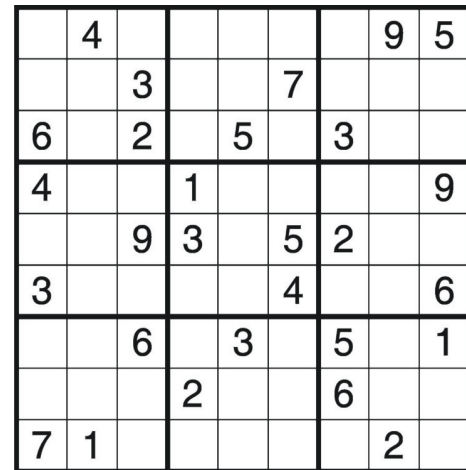
- ACROSS**
- 1 Peter, \_ and Mary
  - 5 Old Testament book
  - 9 Learn by \_; memorize
  - 13 \_ tube; pool toy
  - 15 \_ bunting; Colorado's state bird
  - 16 Be a breadwinner
  - 17 Fisher, for one
  - 18 Rubbed the wrong way
  - 20 Change colors
  - 21 Londoner's raincoat
  - 23 Shoves
  - 24 Din
  - 26 Paid athlete
  - 27 Numbskulls
  - 29 Hopper or Weaver
  - 32 Ambushes
  - 33 Sightseeing trips
  - 35 Cow's comment
  - 37 Boo-hoos
  - 38 Young horses
  - 39 Potato
  - 40 Laundry soap
  - 41 Yes-man
  - 42 Buy stuff
  - 43 Old story
  - 45 Planks
  - 46 "\_ Me Call You Sweetheart"
  - 47 Baez & Rivers
  - 48 Motor
  - 51 Acorn bearer
  - 52 Not quite sane
  - 55 Off-the-rack
  - 58 Banks or Els
  - 60 Hit the ceiling
  - 61 "Pygmalion" or "Cats"
  - 62 Passed out cards
  - 63 "\_ Trek"
  - 64 Conway & McGraw
  - 65 Dog bane



## 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).



**For answers to the crossword and Sudoku puzzles, see page A3.**

### DOWN

- 1 Like Hamelin's piper
- 2 Actor Griffith
- 3 Obviously true
- 4 Ring around the collar
- 5 Wonderland visitor

- 6 Deface
- 7 Bobby the Bruin
- 8 Boat captains
- 9 Motive
- 10 Court pledge
- 11 Shade provider
- 12 "All's well that \_ well"
- 14 Sends in

- payment
  - 19 Revolves
  - 22 Primitive transport
  - 25 Klutz's word
  - 27 "\_ Boy Girl Thing"; 2006 film
  - 28 Wryly amusing
  - 29 Obligation
  - 30 Cold and businesslike
  - 31 WA's Puget \_
  - 33 Warty amphibian
  - 34 Obsolete
  - 36 Chances
  - 38 Disdain
  - 39 Extend across
  - 41 Undersized
  - 42 Very wet
  - 44 Motorless plane
  - 45 Feathery scarf
  - 47 Baby kangaroos
  - 48 Goofs up
  - 49 Orderly
  - 50 Music's Lady \_
  - 53 Do a manicurist's job
  - 54 Sheep's milk cheese
  - 56 Baba of fiction
  - 57 Water barrier
  - 59 NFL official
- Tribune Media Services



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USROWING YOUTH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

A record-setting trip for Newport Aquatic Center

BY MATT SZABO

They came, they saw and they made history.

Eleven graduating senior girl rowers of the Newport Aquatic Center program certainly went out strong last weekend at the USRowing Youth National Championships in Sarasota, Fla.

The women's varsity eight finished in third place Sunday, medaling for the first time in program history after crossing the line in 6 minutes, 31.55 seconds, about three seconds behind champion Marina.

other local senior in the boat, which also included Lauren Brown of Canyon High and Huntington Beach High juniors Sydney Harris, Charlotte Dozier and Julia Channel.

Olivia Aceves of Los Alamitos High and Chloe Sorensen of San Juan Hills High, also both juniors, made up the rest of the winning octet.

"I think we were all super-excited," said Hykes, bound for the University of Michigan, in a phone interview. "That was our goal going into nationals, to get a medal. The NAC women had never done that before, so it was really cool getting to see all of our hard work this season pay off. It was definitely years in the mak-

ing.

"Throughout my high school career, we were really building momentum. It was really cool to see the program improve consistently. I went from getting ninth place at nationals in this event my sophomore year, to getting third in this event."

NAC's JV eight women's boat, undefeated throughout the season, also medaled for the first time in program history after placing second in 6:43.14. Senior leaders for that boat included CdM graduates Kat Odeen and Ruby Srinivasan, and Newport Harbor alumna Michaela Banta.

The NAC Under-17 four-person boat placed second in 7:32.12, and the third



Courtesy of Thomas Hauge

THE NEWPORT Aquatic Center women's varsity eight medaled at Youth Nationals for the first time in history.

varsity eight boat was the fastest "3V" in the country after finishing in 7:02.00.

"To have success across all the boats that we brought was really a great thing to be a part of it, getting to see the program as a whole see so much success after the season," Hykes said.

Newport Aquatic Center's men's varsity eight boat also placed third in the

country, in 5:53.55. The eight included Travis O'Neil, Kian Aminian, Augie Laster, Cooper Sitzman, Evan Guild, Brennan Duntley, Nick Gonzalez, Charlie Talley and coxswain Eva Hauge.

"The men's youth eights field has gotten deeper and faster than last year," NAC men's coach Nick D'Antoni said in a text message. "The defending national champs

from Greenwich [Conn.] didn't even make the final, and neither did last year's other medalists and fourth place crew. We were the only crew to repeat as medalists from last year's final and we overcome an early-season loss of 11 seconds to the team from Marina, beating them out for a medal by 1.5 seconds.

"It was a great season of building speed, trying new things and looking for new ways to improve. Very proud of how far all the boys came and how determined they remained throughout the entire season."

O'Neil and Aminian also won gold in the youth pair competition, finishing in 6:52.69, about six seconds better than the second-place tandem.

It's the eighth national title for the NAC men's team and first in the pairs competition, D'Antoni said.

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Pair of local nonprofits recognized as best of the year

BY LILLY NGUYEN

Trellis and the Boys & Girls Club of Laguna Beach were among area organizations receiving recognition as part of the California Nonprofit of the Year initiative, which seeks to highlight nonprofits that state legislators believe are doing excellent work in their districts.

Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris recognized Trellis on May 22 during Love Costa Mesa Day, a citywide initiative through which the organization brings together volunteers to contribute to and help in their community. Trellis'

executive director, Ian Stevenson, was welcomed in Sacramento with other nonprofits to be recognized for their work last week.

"Trellis is truly worthy of recognition for the work they do in the community, especially through their neighboring initiatives like Love Costa Mesa and Labors of Love," Petrie-Norris said in a statement. "Trellis has shown incredible leadership, working alongside Orange County cities and leaders to provide services that address homelessness, food insecurity, elderly isolation, and educational challenges, as well as promote good neighbor-



Courtesy of the office of Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris

ASSEMBLYWOMAN COTTIE PETRIE-NORRIS, fourth from left, poses for a picture with members of Trellis on Love Costa Mesa Day on May 22.

ing throughout our cities."

Trellis, founded in 2013, partners with the city of Costa Mesa to host Love Costa Mesa Day, for example, and helped in the or-

ganization of a similar event in nearby Newport Beach last October. It has also partnered with the city through its Community Impact Team, which helps

homeless individuals learn skills while contributing to local projects.

"Thriving communities are built at the city and county levels. We have spent the last 10 years uniting the municipality, neighborhoods, schools, and faith communities of the city of Costa Mesa," Stevenson said in a statement.

Also honored was the Boys & Girls Club of Laguna Beach by state Sen. Dave Min for the 37th State Senate District.

Min said in a statement that the organization, which has eight sites in Laguna Beach and the Saddleback area, provides support, mentorship and life skills for the children that it cares for, and described the Laguna Beach chapter as a "pillar of the community."

"We are profoundly honored to have been nominated a Nonprofit of the Year by Senator Dave Min. Our Boys & Girls Club is grateful for his leadership, service to community, and all his efforts advocating for young people," Pamela Estes, chief executive officer of the Boys & Girls Club of Laguna Beach, said.

"It truly takes a 'village' and because ours cares so much, we're able to serve over 3,000 youth during and after school each day."

Friends of the Newport Beach Animal Shelter was recently honored by Assemblywoman Diane Dixon as the nonprofit opened the city's first permanent animal shelter.

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CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

Grid of crossword and sudoku answers with words like PAUL, AMOS, ROT, EARN, etc.

Grid of sudoku answers with numbers in a 9x9 grid.

MARKETPLACE

Legal notices section containing multiple notices for estate administration, probate, and other legal matters.

Daily Pilot contact information including address, phone numbers, and email addresses for various staff members.

