

Daily Pilot

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H.B. council may seek outside legal help

City attorney Michael Gates responds in a letter that the proposed action directly defies the city charter.

BY MATT SZABO

Huntington Beach is the only city in Orange County that elects its city attorney instead of hiring one approved by the city council.

Michael Gates was first elected by Surf City voters in 2014, and he ran again unopposed four years later. But the City Council might soon begin seeking outside legal advice if Mayor Barbara Delgleize, Mayor Pro Tem Mike Posey and Councilman Dan Kalmick have their way.

A potentially explosive agenda item for Tuesday night's last City Council meeting of 2021, introduced by Delgleize, Posey and Kalmick, seeks to allow the council to select and procure the services of an outside legal firm that would report to and support the panel.

The agenda item states there are multiple times that the council "has been uncomfortable with the quality and accuracy of the legal advice provided by the city attorney."

"Of particular note, we are not asking for any changes to be made in the city attorney's office," the item reads. "We are simply asking that the City Council assert our rights under the city charter to obtain professional legal support for the City Council when we collectively believe that the city needs another legal opinion, in addition to the advice being provided by the city attorney."

Gates has responded by publicizing a four-page letter, in which

See *Legal*, page A3



RYDER KIRKSPIERS, 10, sprints to the snow at the holiday Snow Land event sponsored by Torelli Realty Saturday at Balearic Park in Costa Mesa.

Winter wonderland settles on Balearic Park in Costa Mesa

The annual Snow Land event has been bringing neighbors together since 1989, thanks to the efforts of local Realtor Valerie Torelli.

BY SARA CARDINE

Snow came to Costa Mesa's Balearic Community Center early Saturday morning, not through Mother Nature's hand but through the work and planning of Realtor Valerie Torelli, who created her first Snow Land in 1989 and never looked back.

Torelli recalled seeing the city of Costa Mesa blowing snow in the park for an employee event in the late 1980s and becoming

See *Snow*, page A3



KATE THOMAS, 10, forms a snow angel as her mother, Erica, left, takes a picture.

Photos by Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

Bicycle Santas on a roll again after 2020's pandemic-forced hiatus

Trish Hurley and Sean Canova have been gathering bikes for needy families during Christmas for close to 15 years.

BY SUSAN HOFFMAN

After getting sidelined last year following the pandemic shutdown, the bicycle Santas are rolling back into action.

Trish Hurley and Sean Canova have been gathering bikes for families in need during Christmas for close to 15 years.

The inspiration behind their Bicycle Santa philanthropic effort is their shared joy of owning bikes as when they were kids.

"As a child, my bike got me to school and to friends," Hurley said. "After the whole COVID thing, the bike drive has given us the ability to forge ahead and help us get back to who we are as a community," Canova said. "It creates action and momentum for both of us ... giving a kid something they would never dream of getting."

What began with one or two bikes from a giving tree in Ca-



Susan Hoffman

BICYCLE SANTAS, also known as Trish Hurley and Sean Canova, pose with 80 bikes on Thursday during the distribution at the Tustin Family Resource Center. The pair have been gathering bikes for almost 15 years.

nova's Training Zone gym in Costa Mesa has grown to more than 100 bike donations each year. Their last bicycle donation of 130 bikes to FaCT (Families And Communities Together, Orange County) was in 2019.

FaCT is a public-private partnership between the Orange County Social Services Agency

and Charitable Ventures. Their mission is to prevent child abuse before it occurs by providing family strengthening resources. Among their offerings are parenting classes, family support services, information and referral services, domestic violence

See *Bicycle*, page A8



Raul Roa | Staff Photographer

THE FOUNTAIN VALLEY City Council is set to consider the future of short-term rentals in the city when it holds its meeting on Tuesday.

Fountain Valley leaders to take a look at future of short-term rentals

BY ANDREW TURNER

With its new chain of command established earlier this month, the Fountain Valley City Council will return its attention to community issues when it convenes Tuesday.

New Mayor Patrick Harper and the rest of the five-person governing body are set to consider the future of short-term rentals in the city.

Two study sessions preceding

See *Rentals*, page A8



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Candlelight Service 7:00pm

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AROUND TOWN

Molly Unger tapped to head South Coast Plaza

Orange County resident Molly Unger has been named the new general manager of South Coast Plaza, it was announced last week.

Unger, who has more than 25 years of experience in retail and shopping center management, is the first female general manager in South Coast Plaza's 54-year history. She has taken on the role long held by David Grant, who recently announced his retirement.

"We are delighted to have Molly on board," said Anton Segerstrom, partner at South Coast Plaza, in a news release announcing the hiring. "Her extensive knowledge and experience in shopping center management and her dedication to excellence are critical as we look to the future."

Unger holds a psychology degree from the University of Arizona and an executive education certificate from the UCLA Anderson School of Management.

"I am thrilled to join South Coast Plaza at an exciting time in its history," Unger stated in the release. "I look forward to taking part in shaping the center's future while continuing its storied tradition of quality."

OC Fair announces its 2022 theme: 'Feel the Sunshine'

The OC Fair announced this week that "Feel the Sunshine" will be the theme of the 2022 annual event which is scheduled for July 15 to Aug. 14. Tickets are on sale now.

Advance ticket purchase will again be required with limited capacity, which will be open Wednesdays through Sundays during its month-long stint. Attendance at this year's event was pegged at 1,055,770, according to OC Fair officials.

Tickets are also on sale for the first OC Fair concerts announced for Pacific Amphitheatre and the Hangar. Live music performances include Steve Miller Band, ABBA LA and Bee Gees Gold, Which One's Pink?, 24K Magic and a new show, LA Sound Machine.

For more information, visit ocfair.com.

Pacific Marine Mammal Center receives estate gift

Pacific Marine Mammal Center in Laguna Beach announced Thursday that it was the recipient of a gift in the amount of \$105,000 from the estate of the late Al Roberts.

Roberts, who passed away on Feb. 7, co-founded Jillson and Roberts Gift Wrap, and he was a former president of the AIDS Services Foundation of Orange County.

"Throughout his life, Al dedicated himself to several philanthropic causes in and



Courtesy Pacific Marine Mammal Center

PACIFIC MARINE Mammal Center in Laguna Beach has received a \$105,000 gift from the estate of Al Roberts.

outside of the Orange County community," Pacific Marine Mammal Center chief executive Peter Chang said in a statement.

"However, his love for Laguna Beach shined the brightest, and the Pacific Marine Mammal Center was extremely fortunate to be the recipient of his kindness throughout the years. His gracious legacy of support that he leaves behind will enable us to continue our meaningful work in marine mammal and ocean conservation with a specific emphasis on our education programs geared toward developing our youth to be the next generation of scientists, biologists, veterinarians, and conservationists."

OCC receives grant for its School of Photography

The William, Jeff and Jennifer Gross Family Foundation awarded a \$450,000 grant to the Orange Coast College School of Photography, the college announced Friday.

The funds will be used to create the Jeff Gross Photography Endowment, which will aid the school in buying and repairing photography equipment for students. Gross has worked as a staff photographer for Getty Images.

Another plan for the endowment is to offer tutoring services that put entry-level students under the tutelage of advanced photography students.

"More and more, the photography program is relying [on] 'one-time funds' to purchase and repair equipment, and this leads to a kind of boom-or-bust situation," Blade Gillissen, a professor of photography at OCC, said. "An endowment like this can provide our students with year-in and year-out consistency."

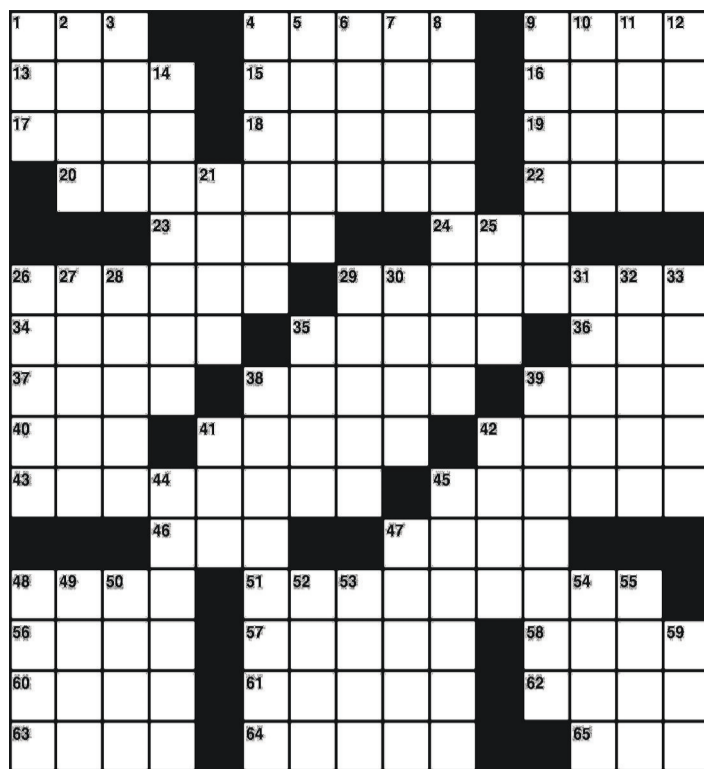
—From staff reports

THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

- ACROSS**
- 1 Gobbled up
 - 4 "Silent night, holy night, _"
 - 9 In _; jokingly
 - 13 Forty-niner's lure
 - 15 Respond to a stimulus
 - 16 Stiff in the joints
 - 17 Cook in an oven
 - 18 Crowbar
 - 19 Teacup defect
 - 20 Bold outlaw
 - 22 "The _ Ranger"
 - 23 Acting award
 - 24 _ down; reclined
 - 26 One _; airman's insignia
 - 29 Sanctity
 - 34 Fish-eating birds
 - 35 Cut off
 - 36 Wager
 - 37 Actor Griffith
 - 38 Ali or Tyson
 - 39 Musical symbol
 - 40 Holiday dessert
 - 41 Funt or Ludden
 - 42 Dawn
 - 43 Short-legged terriers
 - 45 Nasal growths
 - 46 "Rumor _ It"; 2005 film
 - 47 Barn baby
 - 48 "and on that farm, there _ pig"
 - 51 Haunted house sound
 - 56 West, for one
 - 57 Barely discernible
 - 58 Cuisine
 - 60 Racer Earnhardt
 - 61 Complete; total
 - 62 Times long past
 - 63 Peepers
 - 64 Actor Denis
 - 65 Jennings of "Jeopardy!"

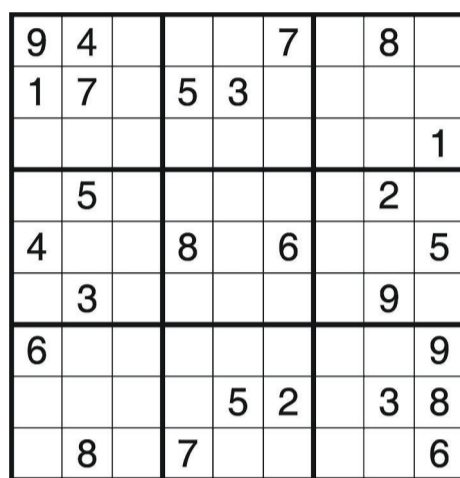
- DOWN**
- 1 Phone inventor's initials
 - 2 Frog's cousin
 - 3 Actress Sommer
 - 4 Dahl or Francis
 - 5 Not at all trusting
 - 6 Volcanic flow
 - 7 Starbucks _ Latte Macchiato
 - 8 Baby carrier
 - 9 Actress Smith
 - 10 Reverberate
 - 11 Part below the knee
 - 12 Do clerical work
 - 14 Fate
 - 21 Tootsie _; filled suckers
 - 25 Melody
 - 26 Open-handed



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 A6.

- blows
- 27 Pick-me-up
- 28 _ Drive; famed Beverly Hills street
- 29 Evil spells
- 30 Kitchen appliance
- 31 Blackish wood
- 32 Arrange
- 33 _ down; resigns a position
- 35 Part of a shoe
- 38 Joyous
- 39 Invalidate
- 41 TV's "One Day _ Time"
- 42 _ up; absorb
- 44 River through London
- 45 Robert Frost's specialty
- 47 "Nothing could be _ than to be in"
- 48 Get your feet wet
- 49 Call it _; quit working
- 50 Garage _; weekend event
- 52 Loathe
- 53 Meter maid of song
- 54 Breakfast _; kitchen recess
- 55 Puncture badly
- 59 Cub Scout group

Tribune Media Services

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Laguna updates its tree removal and planting policy

BY ANDREW TURNER

Laguna Beach updated its policies regarding public tree removal and planting Tuesday, establishing a process for public input and notification.

Members of the public will be able to request for a tree to be planted and suggest the type of species to be included at a specified location.

The Laguna Beach City Council unanimously approved the new look tree removal and planting policy following a presentation from city arborist Matthew Barker.

Once a request is made for a tree to be planted, a site assessment will be conducted by the director of public works, or their designee, who will determine whether the proposed location is suitable for a tree to be planted.

The findings should account for various criteria, including how close the tree to be planted would be to other trees, conflicts with infrastructure and potential impacts to sight lines that fall under the city's record of views. Proposed tree plantings will be marked by a wooden stake with a

yellow ribbon.

"Many factors figure into this critical selection such as recommendations made by council-adopted guidelines, proximity to other trees, neighborhood objections and potential conflicts with infrastructure, pedestrians [and] vehicular traffic," Barker said.

Parties to be notified in the event of a recommendation for a tree to be planted include property owners within 500 feet of the site, who will be mailed notices.

The recommendation will also appear on the city's website, and those on the interested parties subscription list will receive an email.

The policy also states that the city will contact properties not within 500 feet of the proposed location if they are in the record of views and their view could be significantly compromised.

"This process you've established is a pretty deliberate process," Councilman George Weiss said.

"People are going to be informed. People can select. People can recommend removal if something's in decline, so it's a very open process where people can



LAGUNA BEACH updated its policy for public tree removal and replacement on Tuesday.

*Don Leach
Staff
Photographer*

argue if ... there are residents who oppose it based on view considerations."

Those impacted and interested will be notified whether there is consideration of a new tree to be planted or an existing tree is being replaced, Barker added.

Councilman Peter Blake referred to Laguna Beach as an ocean community, and he wanted to avoid planting trees that would block a view at any point in their growth cycle.

"My only concern on all this [is] any tree that would be planted would never have the

ability to block a view, under any circumstances, even if we're replacing a like tree," Blake said. "If it were a tree that would, during its growth cycle, block a view in this town, that tree cannot be planted."

The council ultimately decided to add language stating significant view impairment would be minimized when planting trees in new locations.

Public input on proposed tree plantings will be taken for 21 days, after which the city will furnish a final recommendation on the site and species that will ap-

pear on the city website.

Following the final recommendation, a council member shall have the opportunity to request that the tree planting appears on the agenda for the next City Council meeting.

If such a request is not made within two days of the recommendation, the tree may be planted.

The agenda item was considered on the day a storm rolled through with heavy rain and strong winds.

Sue Kempf, who became the newly appointed mayor at the start of the meeting, said she had safety concerns after a branch fell on a car in the city staff parking lot.

"I think you just need to be careful because every time we have a major tree failure, it's usually a eucalyptus tree," Kempf said.

"Like for like in some circumstances is fine, but if you're going to replace a eucalyptus tree that fell over in the street, please don't put another one in."

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SNOW

Continued from page A1

inspired to create her very own neighborhood winter wonderland.

"I called the city and said I'm going to pay for it and sponsor it and take it to the next level," she said. "And we've never missed a year until last year, when they wouldn't let us do it."

Balearic Snow Land is one of several Torelli Realty-sponsored events throughout the year, along with annual neighborhood garage sales, an Easter egg hunt, Fourth of July parade and an in-house pumpkin patch, where clients can score a free gourd during Halloween.

But for people who live in Costa Mesa's Mesa Verde neighborhood, Balearic Snow Land is a prime opportunity to get out and meet one another, enjoy wintertime treats



SEAN NORRIS sprinkles snow over his daughter, Kayla, 6, during the annual holiday Snow Land event on Saturday.

*Kevin Chang
Staff
Photographer*

and take photos with Santa Claus.

In years past, Saint Nick has made his arrival by fire engine and, for several years, landed on site via helicopter. On Saturday, with the pandemic still wearing on, Santa's grand entrance included a convertible and fire department escort.

In addition to trouncing through nearly 50 tons of

snow, kids enjoyed a bounce house, cookie decorating, pony rides and a petting zoo. It's not an elaborate fete, Torelli said, just something intended to generate a little holiday spirit.

"It doesn't have to be big," she added. "It just has to be from the heart."

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LEGAL

Continued from page A1

he claims that the item directly defies the city charter.

"By our charter, the people elected to choose the city's legal counsel," he said. "By the same vote, the people of Huntington Beach have elected to not allow City Council its own choice of legal counsel. If you do not like it, locate to a city that has a form of government more to your liking, or, propose such a vote to the people of Huntington Beach for a change — but do not abuse this form of government."

"Your attempts to circumvent the charter are not only offensive to your fiduciary duties to the city, [they] undermine the will of the people of Huntington Beach who adopted the charter, who ratified the

See **Legal**, page A6



We're here with incisionless essential tremor (ET) treatment.

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forum

COLUMN | **PATRICE APODACA**

Tough times countered optimism in the past year

For this column, my last of 2021, I decided to review everything I had written during the past year. I wanted to refresh my memory about where we were a year ago — at least according to my accounting — and how events developed over the past 12 months.

Around this time last year I referred to 2020 as “the year that everything broke.” As you might recall, it was a dark time, on the cusp of a deadly winter, with a lonely and diminished holiday season providing limited respite from our troubles.

Yet even then I also expressed hope that 2021 would be a healing time. After all, COVID-19 vaccines were on the way, and with them a reason to believe that we would soon be moving into a restorative phase. We’d be able to see friends and family that we’d desperately missed, go to restaurants, maybe resume traveling.

To a large extent, that scenario did play out. As the vaccines rolled out, so too did our confidence in the relative safety of returning to many of the normal activities that had been sharply curtailed due to the risk of infection. For a few months in the spring and summer, the storm clouds parted and the sun shone brightly. Happy days were here at last!

But if we’d been listening we would have heard the health experts warning that the coronavirus wouldn’t leave us without a fight, and that infections and deaths probably were not going to continue on a straight downward path. We were still likely to have a bumpy journey out of the pandemic.

Of course, they were right. And here we are, a year later, with our current situation still maddeningly complicated. Too many people, swayed by an abundance of misinformation, have refused to be inoculated, while in some countries access to vaccines remains limited — problems that have fueled spiking infections in certain areas.

As the virus has continued to circulate, more mutations have gained a



toehold. As of this writing the newly identified Omicron variant is stoking worries over the possibility that it could be more transmissible than other variants or more resistant to the vaccines — or both.

Many of our thoughts during the year were also focused not just on the virus itself but on the significant ways that it changed our lives.

One of the biggest concerns was the impact on a generation of students whose learning had been se-

verely disrupted because the pandemic forced them into months of online education and social isolation.

... Here we are, a year later, with our current situation still maddeningly complicated.

verely disrupted because the pandemic forced them into months of online education and social isolation.

As students took a jagged path back to classroom teaching, schools were thrust into yet another new paradigm — trying to figure out where the kids stood academically and emotionally, how to blend the best bits of online instruction with the classroom experience, and grappling with conflicting demands by anxious parents.

There have been reports recently about the intense stress felt by students and teachers now that most are back in the classroom. There has been enormous pressure to compensate for the difficulties of virtual education, recover a sense of normalcy and fit in with peers in a setting that now feels somewhat unfamiliar. Many have spoken up about attention problems in class and difficulties in focusing on assignments and communicating effectively in face-to-face interactions.

As this year concludes, the jury is still out regarding how deep and long lasting the learning losses will prove to be and whether the toll on social and emotional development will linger or will largely dissipate in the months and years ahead.

For now, perhaps the one true thing we can say about education is that it will take a lot more than schools

opening their doors in order to recover and move forward with purpose.

COVID-19 wasn’t the only distressing topic of the year, and I felt compelled to address many of these grim developments, including climate change, the epidemic of hate, inequality, the opioid crisis, mental health concerns, the decline of print journalism and the oil spill off the coast of Orange County.

I didn’t even get around to writing about other relevant subjects, such as

the supply chain woes that have some of us wondering if the Christmas gifts we ordered will arrive on time.

Nor did I indulge in my usual allotment of the happier stories and upbeat themes that I enjoy interspersing with the more somber topics. Perhaps one of my New Year’s resolutions should be to lighten up a bit.

Yet even as I strike another solemn note, as the year comes to a close I remain stubbornly determined to look ahead with hope.

I hope that those who haven’t yet been vaccinated will finally realize that the vaccines are the safest and surest way to put the pandemic behind us.

I hope that the tensions and divisions that have plagued us for the past few years will lessen in the coming year so that we can work together to build a brighter future.

I hope that everyone has a joyful holiday season, in whatever expression that might take.

And I hope we can summon enough goodwill to carry us through the coming year.

PATRICE APODACA is a former Los Angeles Times staff writer and is coauthor of “A Boy Named Courage: A Surgeon’s Memoir of Apartheid.” She lives in Newport Beach.

MAILBAG

Comments about the elected-mayor proposal in Newport

In Newport Beach there has been limited public discussion on the charter amendment for electing the mayor which will be voted upon in the not so distant future. Where is the “give and take” so valuable when looking into such a major change?

Most of the discussion items have not been bantered back and forth orally but in writing. Some of that written discussion has been in the newspapers as well as communication which has been put on the Public Portal of Newport Beach. People can submit comments on council agenda items before a meeting, and the city clerk posts them there. The following remarks made in opposition to the Charter Amendment set before the people on Oct. 26 and passed that evening by council members, were displayed on the portal under “Correspondence - Oppose.”

“We are extremely opposed to this proposal and the strong-arming and overreaching it reveals.”

“I oppose using taxpayer money for a special election for mayor.”

“... when we have City Council members that ‘team up’ together to represent special interests — the last thing we need is a mayor who is bought and sold to serve those interests.”

“... the language the council is being asked to consider adding to a future ballot is very unlikely to be that which would result from a more thoroughly and openly debated consideration of the

matter.”

“I am against an elected mayor ... for a lot of reasons, but most of all to ... preserve the history and small town feel of the Newport Beach community.”

“What a waste of time and city resources to use this process with a special election.”

“It would mean that any newcomer to Newport Beach could simply arrive for the purpose of running for and possibly becoming mayor, without any prior experience or knowledge of our city.”

“I urge you to please not give way to such a blatant attempt to seize the City Council’s power and monopolize it in a purely self-serving move.”

“I’m for waiting until our scheduled election in 2022 for voting on the election mayor issue. I believe the money could be spent more wisely like helping the homeless.”

“Such a serious alteration to our political system should be well considered and be a movement by the citizens, not a movement of the politically connected.”

There are approximately 320 pages of letters from writers in support of and in opposition to the election of the mayor.

First of all, the large number of letters shows what an important issue this is to the city of Newport Beach. If you go to that public website, ecms.newportbeachca.gov, you will find letters for and against the proposal.

Lynn Lorenz
Newport Beach

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A WORD, PLEASE | JUNE CASAGRANDE

A language term that's perfect for the holidays

It was just weeks before Christmas 2021 when I heard a word I probably should have learned decades ago: "clitic." It's a language term. I'm supposed to know those. But this one has eluded me till now — just in time to explain the "t" in my cheery holiday "t'was."



instead of standing on its own, the clitic influences the pronunciation of a neighboring word. So in "t'was," you have "t" representing the word "it," but it's pronounced like it's all a single word, "twazz."

them, too. For example, clitics are standard ways of expressing pronouns in French, like how "je," which means "I," attaches to an auxiliary verb like "ai": J'ai vu un cheval (I saw a horse).

"have" and "be," most modals don't have past-tense forms. "I have gone" can become "I had gone" because "has" has a past tense form. "Must" doesn't have a past tense form. To put a "must" statement in the past, you have to change another part of the verb: I must go, I must have gone.

though "badly" is OK here, the most grammatical choice is "bad" because of the special properties of copular verbs. A copular verb expresses being, seeming or the senses. And unlike a regular action-oriented verb that might be followed by an adverb, "Bob works happily," a copular verb reflects back on the subject — a noun like Bob. "Bob is happy. Bob seems happy. Bob feels happy."

JUNE CASAGRANDE is the author of "The Joy of Syntax: A Simple Guide to All the Grammar You Know You Should Know." She can be reached at JuneTCN@aol.com.

LEGAL

Continued from page A3

elected city attorney multiple times, and who elected us. In reality, it is a flagrant attack on our democracy."

sel. But Gates said in an interview that it is being taken out of context in this case. He pointed to a 1981 California Court of Appeal analysis of the charter (O'Connor v. Hutton) that states that any attorneys hired are to help the existing city attorney, and would be under his or her supervision.

"I'm not going to let his petty vindictiveness and ambition violate the city's charter or violate the will of the people. It's just not going to happen."

owed the Kennedy Commission \$3.5 million in lawyers' fees for a court battle that dates to 2015, when the city amended the Beach and Edinger Corridor Specifics Plan.

payer-paid-for broadcast resources to try to embarrass the City Council," Posey said. "That should be a pause to any reasonable person. Is the city attorney really giving good legal advice to the City Council, when he wants to attack the City Council?"

discrimination against Gates and his office. Posey and Kalmick had introduced an item for a subsequent council meeting that would require Gates to perform an analysis of the settlement agreement, including all costs incurred, but the item was pulled.

Posey added that Tuesday's agenda item only seeks the ability to get a second opinion, not usurp Gates' authority. "I just don't understand how that is unreasonable," he said. "Every private citizen, when they speak to an attorney and get legal advice, they usually get more than opinion. Especially if the opinions you have been getting are usually not great."

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Sudoku grid with numbers: 9 4 2 1 6 7 5 8 3, 1 7 8 5 3 4 9 6 2, 5 6 3 2 8 9 7 4 1, 8 5 1 9 7 3 6 2 4, 4 9 7 8 2 6 3 1 5, 2 3 6 4 1 5 8 9 7, 6 2 5 3 4 8 1 7 9, 7 1 9 6 5 2 4 3 8, 3 8 4 7 9 1 2 5 6

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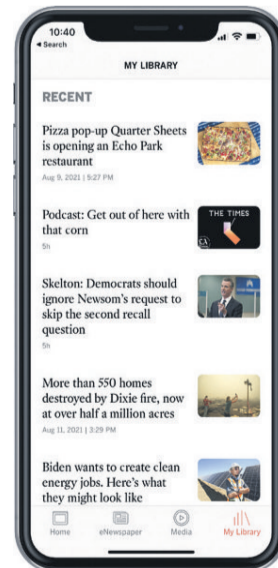
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“ I chose to fight,
so I came to Hoag.”

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GIRLS' WATER POLO

Laguna Beach tops Mater Dei to stay undefeated

BY MATT SZABO

MISSION VIEJO — The Laguna Beach High girls' water polo team graduated one of the more impressive senior classes in recent Orange County history.

Eleven players from the class of 2021 went off to play in college. The Breakers return no starters this winter, besides junior goalkeeper Lauren Schneider.

Unfortunately for opponents, Laguna Beach doesn't believe in rebuilding years.

The Breakers, who won back-to-back CIF Southern Section Division 1 titles in 2019 and 2020, were favored last school year too before the coronavirus pandemic canceled the postseason. And, even with several new faces, they began this season still top-ranked in Division 1.

Laguna Beach continued a stellar early season Friday, using two fourth-quarter goals from senior Lela McCarroll to earn a 7-6 non-league victory over Mater Dei at Capistrano Valley High.

The Breakers (7-0) handed the Monarchs (5-1), who are tied for second in the Division 1 poll with Newport Harbor and Orange Lutheran, their first loss of the season. Laguna Beach also earned an 8-7 win over Orange Lutheran on Dec. 11.

"Even the girls that you didn't see playing in the games last year, they're still playing year-round, playing club," Laguna Beach coach Ethan Damato said. "They've got a lot of experience,

**LELA MCCARROLL**

of Laguna Beach scores the go-ahead goal against Mater Dei on Friday.

I just ripped it," McCarroll said. "I had to ... Because we had so many seniors leave last year, we really had to step into their shoes and become a new team.

"Ethan's really been helping us do that at practice. I went from being a sub on the bench not playing at all my freshman and sophomore year, and now I'm in the water playing every single minute. It's really exciting."

Damato credited the defensive effort of Schneider and junior set defender Cleo Washer. Senior Isabel Foley, making her first start of the season with sophomore standout Ava Knepper still out sick, also stepped up to contribute three first-half assists.

Carver said there is pressure in holding the top spot, but agreed with her coach that it's a confident group. Last year's senior class included her older sister Rachael, while her younger sister Kara is a freshman on the team.

"Being behind [the class of 2021] has definitely been tough, but I would say I learned a ton from them," Hannah Carver said. "Now it's like rewarding, because I feel like they've made me a good player. Even though I didn't get many minutes my junior year, I feel confident going into those games. At practice, I played against some of the best."

Laguna Beach plays at Foothill on Tuesday. The Knights are ranked No. 7 in Division 1.

Don Leach
Staff Photographer

this group ... They expect to win. That doesn't mean they're going to win every game, but I think the expectation for us is to be really good at what we do.

"I don't think it really matters who's on our team. Expectations always stay the same."

Senior Hannah Carver and junior Charlotte Riches added two goals each for Laguna Beach, while Schneider made eight saves.

Senior Ava Houlahan, the field player who played the most last year, recorded three steals and played solid defense against Mater Dei senior standout Genoa Rossi.

Rossi, bound for UCLA, scored a power-play goal in the match's first minute but didn't score

again.

Laguna Beach had a 5-2 half-time lead after McCarroll's redirect goal from center, assisted by Myha Pinto, with nine seconds left in the second quarter.

But Mater Dei used a third-quarter surge, which included a pair of goals from senior Grace Klingler and one from junior Olivia Krotts off a field block, to tie the score at 5-5 entering the final period.

"We made some uncharacteristic mistakes," Damato said. "But in the fourth quarter, I thought we really rebounded well and moved the ball really well.

"I thought we had four or five good possessions in a row to start the fourth quarter. We controlled

things on defense and kind of changed the tempo of the game."

McCarroll, a four-year varsity player bound for Marist College whose twin brother Logan is a senior for the Mater Dei boys' water polo team, hurt the Monarchs late.

She buried a near-side shot assisted by Houlahan to give the Breakers a 6-5 lead with 5:18 remaining.

McCarroll's wet cross-cage goal with 3:33 left then gave Laguna Beach a 7-5 lead. The insurance goal helped; after Klingler scored with 13 seconds left to bring Mater Dei within one, all the Breakers had to do was play keep away to secure the win.

"I was on the four-five side and

RENTALS*Continued from page A1*

this meeting have led to the council requesting that city staff return with options outlining how the city would either allow for short-term rentals with some regulation or outlaw them in the Fountain Valley municipal code.

A staff report notes a substantial rise in the popularity of short-term rentals, attributing that increase to websites such as AirBNB, VRBO and Booking.com. The number of short-term rentals in Fountain Valley have multiplied by a factor of 15 since 2011.

The report defines a short-term rental as a residential property, including a room within a house, that is available for rent for less than 30 days. There are roughly 175 such properties listed within Fountain Valley, city officials said.

Fountain Valley does not address short-term rentals in its municipal code, but the city has taken the position that the properties operating as such are doing so illegally because it is not expressly permitted.

In its report, city staff considers the benefits and drawbacks of allow-

ing short-term rentals, and a list is included of the stances taken on short-term rentals by other Orange County cities.

Huntington Beach, for example, allows room rentals only, except in the Sunset Beach area. Out of nine Orange County cities listed that allow for short-term rentals in some capacity, only Buena Park and Huntington Beach require an on-site operator.

Per the staff report, short-term rentals are prohibited in Brea, Garden Grove, Irvine, Santa Ana, Tustin, Villa Park and Yorba Linda.

Allowing for short-term rentals would provide another source of income for homeowners. The city would be able to regulate those operations, require registration and licensing, and collect transient occupancy tax if the council chose to permit short-term rentals.

Concerns about moving ahead with short-term rentals include the possibility that property values would decline and there could be nuisances in neighborhoods such as noise and parking issues.

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BICYCLE*Continued from page A1*

abuse services.

The bike endeavor begins with a Walmart shopping spree where Canova and Hurley select a good portion of the bikes, helmets and locks, which are paid for through Hurley's private charitable organization, Miles of Smiles. The remaining bikes, helmets and locks are donated by current and former clients of Canova's gym, where they are dropped off.

There has been a lot of demand for bikes during the pandemic, so inventory levels are not high at retail outlets. Also, according to the Wall Street Journal, the cost of a bike has increased about 54% since 2019.

"It was a little more challenging this year," Hurley said. "There was a shortage of bikes and we couldn't be selective like in the past, so we bought whatever they had on the rack."

Canova explained the effect the bike drive has had on his gym clients over the years. "I'm seeing people drop off bikes who haven't been to the gym in years," Canova said. "It's because it was part of their lives when they were member."

"A lot of effort went into



Susan Hoffman

AT THE TUSTIN Family Resource Center on Thursday, FRC representatives lined up to accept donated bikes to be distributed among all 16 Orange County facilities.

finding the bikes and now [having to spend] more than two years ago," he continued, describing the donors as "stoked."

Kyle Garnier, who moved to Orange to be near his business, Harry's Marine Engine Services, has since been inconsistent with his training schedule with Canova in Costa Mesa, yet he found the time to drop off three bikes.

"One of my mechanics who had been adopted went all over town to all the bike stores that were empty before he found them in Garden Grove," Garnier said. "He took them home and assem-

bled them that night and brought them in the shop the next day all ready to go. I've never seen him so excited to get the bikes and put them together; it really hit home for him."

FaCT's program director, Candice Staples, said, "From our perspective ... this year is even more significant because the return of the bike drive symbolizes a return to normalcy. We are thrilled to help facilitate this effort with the support of Trish, the Hurley Family, and Sean Canova and Training Zone OC."

On Thursday 80 bikes were equally distributed among the 16 family re-

source centers. The representatives then loaded the bikes into trucks and vans to be transported back to their locations where adult and youth sizes are matched to recipients based on family need.

"The impact of this donation is monumental," Staples said. "Adults and teens are able to utilize their new bikes as a mode of transportation, while youth can experience their first taste of independence on two wheels... along with the added benefit of physical fitness for all."

SUSAN HOFFMAN is a contributor to Times Community News.

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