

Daily Pilot

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UNITED STATES NAVY Blue Angel Pilot Lt. Cmdr. Cary Rickoff greets a member of the ground crew after a practice flight during the welcoming ceremony for the 2021 Pacific Airshow at the Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base on Thursday.

Ready for takeoff in H.B.

The 3-day Pacific Airshow, which features flyovers of the U.S. Navy Blue Angels, Thunderbirds and Canadian Forces Snowbirds, is taking place this weekend.

BY MATT SZABO

Huntington Beach Mayor Kim Carr's words at the podium seemingly became softer and softer.

The United States Air Force Thunderbird jet revving up to her left only got louder and louder.

Carr paused her speech and smiled. Sometimes, on this early fall weekend, its best to just watch and listen to the spectacle.

The Pacific Airshow held a welcome ceremony for its military performers on Thursday afternoon at the Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos. The airshow roars to life beginning Friday morning at the beach in Surf City, continuing through Sunday afternoon.



MEMBERS OF the U.S. Navy Blue Angels flying team take flight during the welcoming ceremony for the 2021 Pacific Airshow.

Photos by Don Leach Staff Photographer

Pacific Airshow director Kevin Elliott, a Huntington Beach native, promises an event that's bigger and better this year. He joked with Carr about changing Huntington Beach's nickname from Surf City to Airshow City, maybe just for this weekend.

For the second time in history, North

America's three jet teams — the Thunderbirds, U.S. Navy Blue Angels and Canadian Forces Snowbirds — will perform at the same airshow.

"If you add them up, it's six Blues, six

See **Takeoff**, page A2

Trucking firm owner pleads guilty

Prosecutors allege the Newport Beach man ordered illegal repairs that killed an employee, in addition to other charges.

BY CITY NEWS SERVICE

A 63-year-old man who owns several trucking companies in Newport Beach has pleaded guilty to ordering illegal repairs that killed an employee, in addition to tax evasion and fraudulently using COVID-19 pandemic relief while out on bail, federal prosecutors said Thursday.

Carl Bradley Johansson of Newport Beach pleaded guilty Wednesday in federal court in Los Angeles, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Johansson served a 15-month federal prison sentence previously, after a welder who worked from him died in a tanker explosion in 1993, according to prosecutors. He established one of his Corona-based companies, National Distribution Services Inc., which was in operation from 2009 through 2015, but then created Wholesale Distribution Inc. after two more welding explosions at NDSI in 2012 and 2014 so he could keep operating cargo tanks, prosecutors said.

His company lacked certification to do in-house welding repairs on its cargo tanks, but he and co-defendant Enrique Garcia, 46, of Pomona, who served as Johansson's shop manager, assigned two welders to repair a cargo tank on May 5, 2014. The tank they worked on had not been cleared of fumes and crude oil, so it blew up the next day and killed one of the company's workers. Another was seriously injured.

Johansson also admitted that from May 2014 through April 2018 he conspired to foil a federal investigation into the May 6, 2014, explosion by lying about the illegal welding repairs.

See **Trucking**, page A2

THE NEWPORT BEACH Central Library on Avocado Street.



Don Leach Staff Photographer

City Council studies Newport library project

BY LILLY NGUYEN

A proposed library lecture hall project returned to the Newport Beach council dais Tuesday for discussion after nearly two years in conceptual development by committee.

Last talks of the project were in November 2019 when the City Council took first looks at the lecture hall and provided some direction to city staff and the library lecture hall design committee and hired consultant and Newport Beach architect Bob Coffee.

At the time, the proposal was for a 7,000-square-foot, single

story lecture hall that would include fixed auditorium-style seating for at least 275 people and a room for 50 portable overflow seats. It would also include a ticket booth, lobby, kitchen, "green room," audio-visual control room and restrooms, plus a sloped floor for improved sight lines and advanced audio-visual equipment.

It is proposed to be located next to the library courtyard and positioned closely to the offices of library staff and the Friends Room, which opened with the Central Library in 1994.

See **Library**, page A4

School garden paradise regained

BY SARA CARDINE

For students at Costa Mesa's Rea Elementary School, a garden cultivated in recent years by science teacher Monique Sweet and kids across all grade levels had become not only an outdoor classroom but a place of peace.

Young learners spent untold hours tending to plants or spreading soil in one of the garden's raised wooden beds. Over time, it evolved into a place where classroom lessons on roots, seeds and the water cycle were imparted under sunny skies.

"Some kids really gravitate toward it. Some kids are just curious," Sweet said of the area. "They get to pick and harvest everything and take it home. It gives them something to connect to that's real life."

But that idyllic picture was shattered sometime over Labor Day weekend, when vandals ransacked the garden, smashing fruits and vegetables, uprooting delicate tendrils and stealing pieces of equipment from storage sheds on the property.

Sweet got a call from Rea Principal Duane Cox the Tuesday



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

SCIENCE TEACHER Monique Sweet, right, directs students replanting vegetables Thursday at Rea Elementary School in Costa Mesa.

students and staff returned to campus after the break. The garden was in ruins, he told her, and the police were filing a report.

"It was probably the low point of my teaching career — I was devastated," she said. "[But] when I presented to students what happened, they immediately wanted to come in and clean it up. They wanted to rebuild."

Still reeling from the shock of

seeing the destruction of something so beloved, the teacher went on social media and shared a video explaining what happened. That act had an enormous ripple effect, explained Cox.

"People have come through and made offers of donations," the school's principal said. "The Costa Mesa Police [Assn.] do-

See **Garden**, page A4



Edison High holds delayed Hall of Fame ceremony

BY MATT SZABO

The coronavirus pandemic pushed the ceremony back a year. For the members of the Edison High School Alumni Hall of Fame class of 2020, though, it was worth the wait.

William Wang, Dan Kerins, Lisa Guerrero, Kelly Gallagher, Erin Tomblin Appleman and brothers Roger and Scott Wojahn were all inducted in a ceremony Wednesday night in the Edison cafeteria. Tomblin Appleman and Roger Wojahn couldn't be in attendance, but their prerecorded speeches were shown.

The event, emceed by former Edison athletic director Bruce Belcher, was livestreamed by Edison. Guerrero, who was known as Lisa Coles when she graduated from Edison in 1982, is used to speaking in front of a camera. She is the chief investigative correspondent for "Inside Edition," and previously spent more than a decade as a nationally recognized sports reporter who broadcast from seven Super Bowls and five World Series.

She said her nickname while at Edison was "Q-tip," and she was bullied for a time growing up after her mom died when she was 8. But she found a spot as a member of the Chargers' drill team, eventually becoming a Los Angeles Rams cheerleader.

"I wonder what I would tell my freshman self," Guerrero said. "I



KELLY GALLAGHER, left, and Bruce Belcher, right, unveil the newest plaques to Edison High School's Hall of Fame as Dan Kerins, Lisa Guerrero and William Wang look on Wednesday. The ceremony was pushed back a year.

Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

would say, 'Q-tip, Edison is going to be hard.' But you will find achievement, you'll find success, you'll find your tribe and you will get through it ... I am so proud to be a Charger."

Kerins, Edison class of 1979, has also made a name for himself in

the world of sports. More specifically, he's run a football pool for about 30 years that has raised nearly \$83,000 for former and current Chargers and members of the south Huntington Beach community.

Wang, a 1982 Edison graduate

who lives in Newport Beach, has had a distinguished career in the electronics industry. He founded the television brand VIZIO in Fountain Valley in 2002.

Gallagher (class of 1976) is an award-winning author and teacher, who taught English at

Magnolia High in Anaheim for 35 years. Appleman (class of 1985) has coached the Yale University women's volleyball program since 2003, winning 10 Ivy League championships during that time.

Appleman said in her taped speech that her father told her in eighth grade that she could play tennis or golf, "because they make money." But she played volleyball at Edison, where she was coached by the late Dave Mohs, who now has a tournament named in his honor.

"Volleyball is what I picked, and thankfully I've been able to make a career out of it," Appleman said.

The Wojahn twins, who graduated from Edison in 1974, went on to form Wojahn Bros. Music together in Santa Monica. They have written and produced music for national and global companies, as well as artists including Vince Gill, Buddy Guy and Shawn Colvin.

Scott Wojahn, who now lives in Cincinnati and said he was returning to campus for the first time since graduating, gave special thanks to Belcher and long-time Edison teacher and football coach Dave White.

"In seventh grade, [White] taught me how to make Nestle's strawberry milk one day after school," Wojahn said. "That was pretty much instant friendship."

matthew.szabo@latimes.com
Twitter: @mjszabo

TRUCKING

Continued from page A1

In August 2014, he was ordered to stop using about 37 cargo tanks because a federal agency deemed them unsafe, but he kept using them to transport gas and ethanol anyway.

He then converted the NDSI to operate as WDI to get around the order to stop using the cargo tanks.

He also failed to file income tax returns from 2012 through 2017 to evade detection of the conspiracy and failed to report \$1.1 million in income and instead used the money to pay for personal expenses

like renting a home in Corona for \$12,000 a month and to pay for his children's tuition.

Johansson failed to pay \$298,562 in federal income taxes.

While out on bail in the tanker case, he received a COVID-19 relief Paycheck Protection Program loan of \$436,390 last year. Instead of using the money to keep his workers on staff, he laid most of them off but rehired many of them late last year. He moved around 21 employees from among his companies to make it appear he kept workers on the payroll.

He did the same thing with another PPP loan for \$231,527 in March of this

year. In total, the loss in pandemic relief was \$667,917.

The companies, Western Distribution LLC, WDI and NDSI, pleaded guilty as well on Wednesday, prosecutors said.

Another co-defendant, Donald Cameron Spicer, 69, of Fullerton, who worked as safety manager for Johansson's companies, pleaded guilty Aug. 16 to the illegal repairs on cargo tanks and to defrauding the federal transportation department and is scheduled to be sentenced Feb. 14.

Garcia is scheduled to go on trial Jan. 18.

matthew.szabo@latimes.com
Twitter: @mjszabo

TAKEOFF

Continued from page A1

Thunderbirds and nine Snowbirds," Elliott said. "You have 21 jets for 2021. So, we're calling this year the 21-jet salute. We could all use something to celebrate."

The show also features four additional demonstration teams. They include the Air Force F35-A demo team, led by Capt. Kristin "Beo" Wolfe, the first female to command the team.

It is free to the public, though there are also ticketed options available. The schedule is available by downloading the app. There is also the Afterburner Music Festival, set on the beach on Friday and Saturday nights after the last jet has landed.

Thursday afternoon's event followed a similar welcome Thursday morning at John Wayne Airport, for the show's civilian performers.

It featured speeches not only from Carr, but O.C. Supervisor Katrina Foley, state Assemblywoman Janet



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

BRIGADIER GEN. COL. Michael Leeney swears in 21 U.S. Army recruits during the airshow's welcoming ceremony.

Nguyen and Los Alamitos Mayor Mark Chirco.

Media and elected officials watched demonstrations from the Thunderbirds, as well as the Navy Leap Frogs and Army Golden Knights parachute jumpers.

The event also had a future soldier enlistment ceremony led by Brigadier Gen. Michael Leeney, featuring 21 total new recruits of the Army, Army National Guard and the Air Force.

That was meaningful to Nguyen, a Vietnamese

American member of a military family whose brother Robert served in the U.S. Marine Corps in Iraq.

She said she spoke no English and was on food stamps when she came to America at age 5, before becoming a state senator decades later.

"Only in America can this happen," she said. "It's so cool to see all of the military branches here today and this weekend."

matthew.szabo@latimes.com
Twitter: @mjszabo

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ASHOT RANG OUT
A PLAY IN ONE MAN

WORLD PREMIERE
by Richard Greenberg
directed by Tony Taccone
Featuring David Ivers
Oct 2–Nov 6, 2021

After a long period of isolation, an actor returns to the stage, alone and shaken. This is his story—his moment of reckoning—about what led to his seclusion. Along the winding journey, he draws inspiration from movies and theatre, reflects on missteps and unravels mysteries of love. Artistic Director David Ivers takes the stage in a compelling new play written specially for him by one of SCR's most celebrated legacy playwrights. High school and up.

THE 2021/22 SEASON CONTINUES WITH

LAST STOP ON MARKET STREET
by Cheryl L. West
based on the book by Matt de la Peña & Christian Robinson
music & lyrics by Lamont Dozier & Paris Dozier
directed by Oanh Nguyen
Jan 7–23, 2022
Theatre for Young Audiences and Families
Ages 4 and up

WHAT I LEARNED IN PARIS
by Pearl Cleage
directed by Lou Bellamy
Feb 12–Mar 12, 2022
On the Segerstrom Stage
High school and up

DON'T PAY FULL PRICE. SAVE—WITH A SEASON TICKET!

CO-WORLD PREMIERE
CLEAN
by Christine Quintana
with Spanish translation & adaptation by Paula Zelaya Cervantes
directed by Lisa Portes
Mar 20–Apr 10, 2022
On the Julianne Argyros Stage
Part of the Pacific Playwrights Festival
High school and up

OUR TOWN
by Thornton Wilder
directed by Beth Lopes
May 7–June 4, 2022
On the Segerstrom Stage
Ages 12 and up

TIGER STYLE!
by Mike Lew
directed by Ralph B. Peña
May 15–June 12, 2022
On the Julianne Argyros Stage
High school and up

THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

- ACROSS**
1 Major leaguer
4 Talking-animal tale
9 Sport with mallets
13 Period of time
15 Narrow street
16 " _ the Roof"; 1962 song
17 In a _; stunned
18 Cursor mover
19 Short-necked duck
20 Boisterous behavior
22 Singer Williams
23 Bylaw
24 " _ Be Home for Christmas"
26 Messy
29 Pesky kid brother, at times
34 Underground plant parts
35 Exhales audibly
36 "Zip-a-Dee-_-Dah"
37 Fisherman's hope
38 Leigh or Jackson
39 Film genre
40 Hardwood tree
41 Baskin-Robbins shelf supplies
42 Short and to the point
43 Unnecessary
45 Gerritsen and Harper
46 Massage
47 Exhausted
48 Monotonous speaker
51 Vastness
56 Change for a

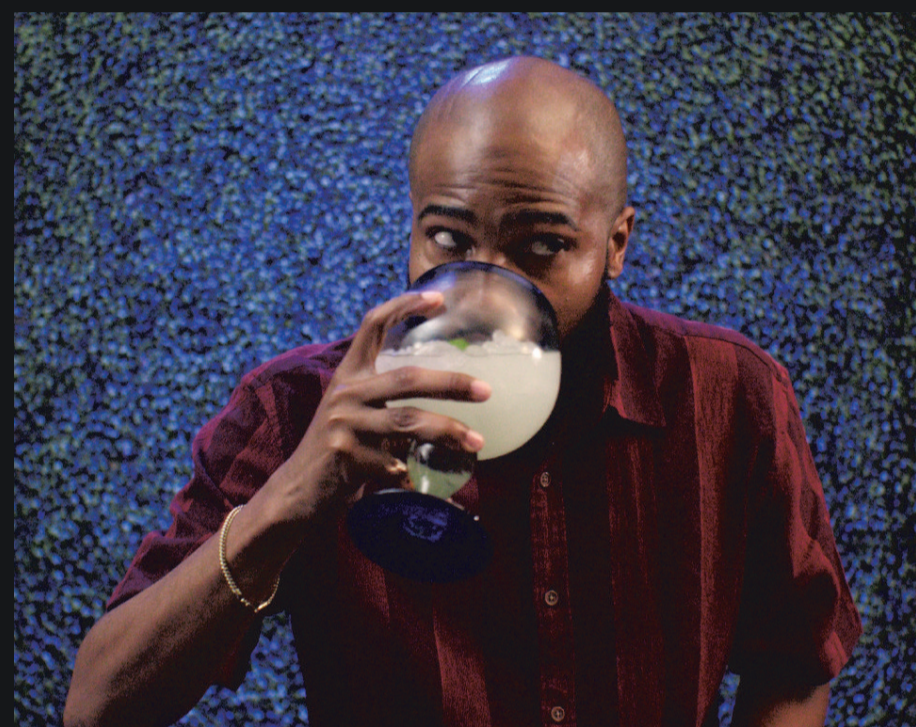
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63						64					65		

For answers to the crossword, see page A4.

- five
57 San _ , CA
58 Ark builder
60 TV's " _: New Orleans"
61 Grandfather, for one
62 Actor Gordon
63 Opposite of admit
64 Hornet homes
65 Mountain _; soft drink choice
- eggs in one basket"
10 _-minded;
willing to reconsider
11 Heavy burden
12 Part of SRO
14 Do over, as a manuscript
21 Clothing
25 "Viva _ Vegas"; film for Elvis
26 Of the city
27 Nap disturber
28 _ max; fully
29 Fork parts
30 4, 5 & 6, for kindergartners
31 Smells
32 Commotion
33 AI and Tipper
35 Without
38 46th U.S. president
39 Settling in
- 41 Actor Gulager
42 Pekoe & oolong
44 Like evening gowns & tuxes
45 Pavarotti & Caruso
47 Father children
48 Close connection
49 _ in a while; occasionally
50 Jockey's strap
52 " _ High City"; Denver
53 Pharmacy supplies
54 Warty amphibian
55 Ivy League school
59 Fell a tree
- Tribune Media Services

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