

Daily Pilot

SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2025 /// dailypilot.com



Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

KELLY MILLER, Visit Huntington Beach president and chief executive, opens the tourism summit held May 8.

H.B. touts growth, examines headwinds at tourism summit

BY MATT SZABO

The Visit California official visitor's guide for 2025 features actor John Stamos, a self-described "California boy."

Look closer, and locals will recognize the iconic Huntington Beach Pier in the background of the cover shot, which was taken at the Paséa Hotel and Spa.

Huntington Beach remains a big part of the state's tourism industry. Visit Huntington Beach hosted its biannual tourism summit on May 8 at another hotel across from the ocean, the Hyatt Regency Huntington Beach Resort and Spa.

"Huntington Beach does such a great job," said Caroline Beteta, Visit California's president and chief executive. "I can't emphasize enough how important it is for Huntington Beach to be fully funded, to take advantage of the platform that we present to the



MEMBERS OF the Visit Newport Beach team, including Ashley Johnson in yellow, arrive to the tourism summit at the Hyatt Regency Resort and Spa in Huntington Beach.

See **Tourism**, page A3

Man convicted of fatal DUI that killed boy

BY PAUL ANDERSON

A 64-year-old man was convicted Thursday of a drug-fueled collision that killed a 12-year-old boy crossing a Costa Mesa street on his bike.

Richard David Lavallo of Long Beach was convicted of second-degree murder in the Dec. 6, 2020 fatal collision with Noel Bascon at Junipero and Arlington drives.

Senior Deputy Dist. Atty. Casey Cunningham told jurors in closing arguments that Lavallo failed a field sobriety test, showing them how he was unable to stand on one leg.

"He almost fell," Cunningham said. "He is stumbling around."

Police also saw he had "red eyes" and "blisters on the tongue," which indicated drug usage and impairment to drive, Cunningham argued, adding that

investigators initially thought he was high on marijuana but found that he had actually taken methamphetamine.

"He chose to consume methamphetamine prior to getting behind the wheel," Cunningham said. "He well knew his act was dangerous to human life."

Cunningham also pointed to the testimony of the boy's father, Glen Bascon, who saw his son get run over.

Bascon testified that he and his son went out for a bike ride about 5 p.m. that day but he soon realized it was getting too dark, so he decided to return home.

Bascon said he was nearly across the street in the crosswalk when he saw Lavallo's truck "coming fast."

"I was screaming to make him

See **DUI**, page A5

Costa Mesa mulls a balanced budget

The Costa Mesa Council considered a \$186.9 million general fund budget for the year ahead.

BY SARA CARDINE

Costa Mesa officials this week considered the city's financial future, reviewing a 2025-26 budget proposal that appears to be fully balanced but which assumes a nearly \$7 million mandated earmark for capital projects would go unfulfilled.

With the theme "Focused. Efficient. Resilient," the \$224.4 million all-funds budget projects \$186.9 in general fund revenue — a \$3 million decrease from anticipated revenues forecast in the 2024-25 budget adopted last June — but still sets aside \$101.7 million for public safety.

Finance officer Peter Diminich said in a study session Tuesday trends and forces in the national economy, particularly a series of proposed international tariffs, are creating a cloud of uncertainty among consumers that could play out locally in the months and year ahead.

"It's negatively impacting the soft data, and soft data are things like consumer confidence and things with opinions and survey-based data. In the near term, we're seeing a negative bias there," Diminich told the council members, indicating confidence levels were as low as they were during the COVID pandemic.

Locally, Costa Mesa is projected to take in about \$75.1 million in sales tax, \$6.4 million lower than this year's budget, and an estimated \$63 million in property taxes, an increase of 4%.

Revenue from collected fees and charges should bring in \$13.2 million, while the city is anticipat-

See **Budget**, page A3

ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

COSTA MESA BASEBALL RALLIES PAST KAISER IN CIF OPENER PAGE A6

CHASE SHIPP, CORINNA RUFFINI MEDAL AT CIF STATE DIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS PAGE A5

Virginia Way underground utility district formed in South Laguna

BY ANDREW TURNER

The Laguna Beach City Council this month gave the go ahead for the formation of a new utility undergrounding project, this time along a key stretch of roadway in South Laguna.

The project will remove six utility poles and associated overhead wires along Virginia Way between 3rd Avenue and 5th Avenue, which city officials identified as a key evacuation route.

Just over an hour after it was presented with a comprehensive update on the current and future plans for wildfire mitigation and fire safety on May 6, the City Council adopted a resolution to establish the district.

The project will qualify for credits under the California Public Utilities Commission Rule 20A program, according to a city staff

report. The CPUC states such work must be in the public interest and may eliminate a heavy concentration of overhead lines, involve a street with a high volume of traffic, or benefit a civic or public recreation area or area of unusual scenic interest.

Pierre Sawaya, the city's capital program manager, said the Rule 20A program has been proposed to sunset, although the city had a balance of \$857,979 in program credits from San Diego Gas & Electric.

"While the city had previously accrued credits on an annual basis, from SDG&E in this case, there are no additional credit accruals moving forward for such projects," Sawaya added.

The program credits will fund land survey, design engineering



LAGUNA BEACH has formed an underground utility district along Virginia Way between 3rd Avenue and 5th Avenue.

Andrew Turner

See **Utility**, page A4

4 arrested on suspicion of murder related to H.B. death

BY SARA CARDINE

Huntington Beach police Thursday announced the arrest of four men on suspicion of murder in the death of a 29-year-old Anaheim man in September outside a restaurant in the city's downtown area.

Victim Rozzalle Lamont Hellens, of Anaheim, was found outdoors near Longboard Restaurant & Bar on Main Street at around 2 a.m. on Sept. 15. He had sustained significant injuries that resulted in his death, police reported.

The 200 block of Main Street was closed off for the next six hours as officers processed the crime scene. Detectives from HBPD's Major Crimes Unit led the investigation, but no information on the suspect or what may have led to the homicide was made available to the public in the days and weeks that followed.

But in a release Thursday, police indicated personnel from the department's investigations division, working with SWAT officers and members of a crisis negotiation team, had booked four Huntington Beach men.

Arnaldo Steven Malaca, 33; Michael Cardoso, 29; 25-year-old Roberto Lopez and Jesus Torres-Martinez, 22 were identified as the suspects booked on suspicion of murder, conspiracy to commit murder and criminal street gang activity.

In addition to the three felony charges, Malaca was also booked for allegedly carrying a concealed firearm, although police did not clarify whether a gun was used in the homicide.

Thursday's release followed a public advisory notice issued Wednesday afternoon, informing residents about SWAT and detective activity occurring in an undisclosed location in Huntington Beach's Oak

View neighborhood.

The activity, which HBPD spokeswoman Jessica Cuchilla confirmed Thursday took place in the vicinity of Beach Boulevard and Slater Avenue, pertained to "a prior investigation" and did not constitute a threat to public safety, according to the notice.

It is still unknown whether Hellens knew his alleged attackers, who are all due to be arraigned in Orange County Superior Court on Friday. All four suspects are being held on \$1 million bail, HBPD reported.

Anyone with information related to this investigation is asked to call Major Crimes Unit Detective Sgt. Anthony Pham at (714) 878-5640. To remain anonymous, contact the OC Crime Stoppers at (855) TIP-OCCS (855-847-6227).

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H.B. deputy city manager resigns to work for former mayor Tony Strickland

BY MATT SZABO

Jennifer Carey isn't necessarily leaving Huntington Beach, just moving down the street.

The city's deputy city manager is resigning from that post to accept a job as chief of staff for Republican state Sen. Tony Strickland, who represents District 36.

Carey said she did not know Strickland prior to his election to the Huntington Beach City Council in 2022, but that changed when he was mayor the following year.

"I had the opportunity to work very closely with him his first year here in Huntington Beach, and we built a really great relationship quickly," she said. "Because



File Photo

JENNIFER CAREY was promoted to Huntington Beach's deputy city manager in January.

of that partnership that we had early on, I am really looking forward to doing a lot more with Tony. I have a lot of faith and trust in his leadership."

See **Deputy**, page A5

THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

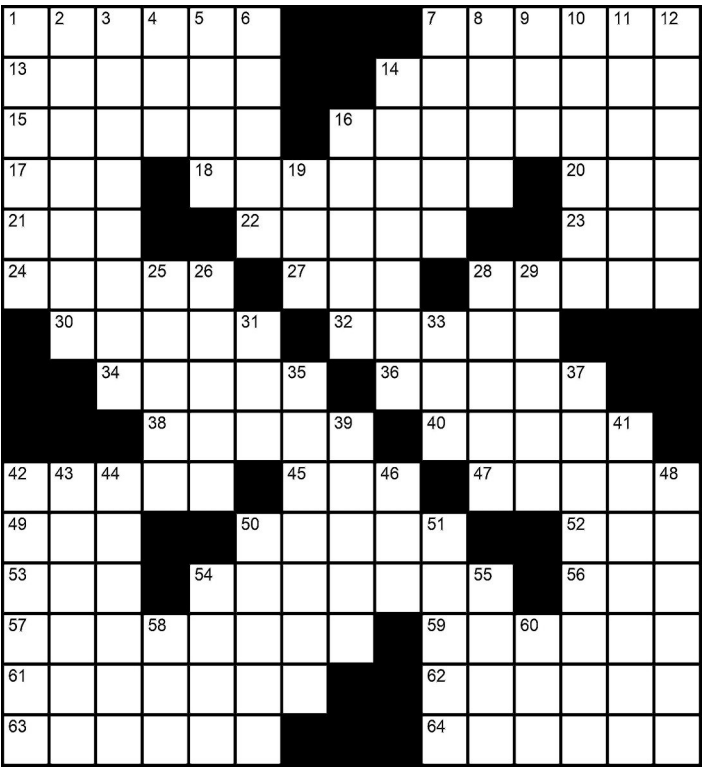
By Stella Zawistowski

ACROSS

1 Italian brandy
7 Loose trash
13 Depends (on)
14 Actress Dietrich
15 "Quaking" trees
16 26.2-mile race
17 School support group: Abbr.
18 Leaves the premises
20 Tolkien tree creature
21 Possesses
22 Hammer and screwdriver
23 _ your grievances
24 Indian stringed instrument
27 Prefix that means "three"
28 Omega-6 _ acids
30 Intersection points
32 Toward the center
34 Kingdom
36 Passover meal
38 Comedian Richard
40 Ready to play, as a violin
42 Jogging paces
45 Part of a lowercase i
47 Lost color
49 D.C. politician, for short
50 Sandwich shops
52 _ Dhabi
53 Nickname for President Lincoln
54 "Hockey hair" styles
56 Sticky black stuff
57 Gives comfort
59 Not remote
61 Opening for a climber's foot
62 Units of bread
63 Emphasize
64 Author Dave

DOWN

1 Statistical diagrams
2 Add varnish again
3 Pork taco variety: 2 wds.
4 Sliced dessert
5 Be unresolved
6 Good thing to have
7 Pub game
8 Pitching stats: Abbr.
9 Crunchy sandwich: Abbr.
10 Put in the microwave
11 Part of the plot:



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.

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

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

3 wds.
12 Guard
14 Miami MLB team
16 New Zealand native
19 Cooking vessel
25 Highly skilled
26 Raises
28 Sick and tired: 2 wds.
29 Boxing venue
31 Cunning
33 Tennis barrier
35 Walked on a runway
37 Sister or cousin
39 _-Royce (car brand)
41 Expert in arguing
42 Parcels of land
43 Start up again
44 Act before the headliner
46 Even score
48 Coercion
50 Loses sharpness
51 Took without permission
54 Cows' sounds
55 Kiss, to a Brit
58 "That's what _ said"
60 Droop

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BOYS' VOLLEYBALL

Sage Hill surges into second straight final

BY ANDREW TURNER

Sage Hill hadn't had a storied history in boys' volleyball when it swept in and claimed the program's first CIF Southern Section championship last year.

It will have a chance to add to the trophy case this weekend, but it took a lot of improvement in the second half of the season and a bit of luck for the Lightning to get the opportunity to find out if they could indeed strike twice in the CIF finals.

Deep into the spring, Sage Hill was still trying to find itself, buried behind the eight-ball from a slow start that had as much to do with who wasn't on the floor as anything else.

Jackson Cryst, named the CIF Division 5 Player of the Year in the Newport Coast-based private school's run to the title last season, was a late arrival because of yet another deep postseason run — this time on the basketball court.

The basketball season carried into the first week of March, as the Lightning reached the Division 3AA section final with Cryst serving as their two-way difference-maker at center. Sage Hill lost the title game to Palmdale Knight, then made a first-round exit in the regional playoffs.

Even the return of Cryst, who had an eye-popping 54 kills against San Marino in the Division 5 championship game a year ago, didn't spell immediate success for the Lightning. A five-game losing streak to open the season had made it an uphill battle. Struggles within the Pacific Coast League only added to the

pressure.

Sage Hill's 11-11 record with a week remaining in the regular season had its playoff hopes teetering, the standard of a .500 record or better for at-large qualifier consideration very much in play.

All the Lightning have done since then is rattle off seven wins in a row, including a five-set win to kick it off versus Portola on April 17.

Junior outside hitter Ryan Manesh described the agonizing moment of the team waiting on the release of the playoff brackets to find out if their season would continue.

"We knew that we had to [get] the wildcard," Manesh said. "I was actually on the CIF Southern Section Instagram page. I knew that the brackets would come out that day, so I was like refreshing, refreshing, and then I saw it popped up. ... I saw we were in the bracket, and as soon as I saw it, I sent it to the group chat, and then we all got super pumped."

The Lightning were "hungry to repeat" as CIF champions, Manesh said, and with a straight-sets win over visiting Crean Lutheran on May 10, Sage Hill earned a spot in the Division 4 final.

Sage Hill (18-11) will travel to Santa Barbara (20-10) for the championship game, which is scheduled for 1 p.m. on Saturday.

"There was an 'aha moment,' I think, really at that Portola game, where it's like, 'We're back.' We're still the same team that won CIF last year, but even better — different tools," Cryst said. "It just took time to

find it, so it didn't feel like, 'Oh, we have to win this game, and this game, and this game.' Every game, we're finding something new. Every game, we're developing and becoming tighter knit as a team."

Cryst has committed to continue playing in college at Long Beach State, which beat UCLA to win the Division I national championship on Monday. The senior outside hitter said he watched Long Beach State take down Pepperdine to advance to the title game on Saturday, before stepping onto the court for the Lightning's semifinal against the Saints. He was taking notes.

"Something I've learned from [Long Beach State coach] Alan Knipe, he actually said it in his press conference before the semifinal, you don't want to peak at the beginning," Cryst said after the win over Crean Lutheran. "You want to be able to play your best volleyball at the end, and I think that's what we're doing. I think every game it's getting better. I think [the Saints] were pretty similar to [Simi Valley] Royal, who we just played on the road, except this time, we swept them instead of winning in five [sets], so I think we're on a really good trajectory."

Cryst provided 20 kills and three service aces in a 25-21, 26-24, 25-18 win over Crean Lutheran. Manesh tacked on 13 kills, including the match-clinching blast from the right pin.

The Lightning have found their form under the tutelage of first-year coach Jordan Hoppe, a Wisconsin transplant who competed locally at Concordia Uni-



James Carbone

SAGE HILL'S Ryan Manesh (5), seen against Fullerton in April 2024, had 13 kills in the semifinals against Crean Lutheran on Saturday.

versity in Irvine.

Hoppe also addressed the quarterfinals win at Royal, calling the feeling "amazing" to emerge victorious in the fifth set.

"Our hearts were racing," Hoppe commented. "You could tell it was very tangible in the gym, just being an away crowd. We just knew the stakes. Funny enough, Dylan Han, our right side [who] played libero last year, he steps up and makes two just absolutely icing-the-cake blocks. ... That's the stuff you hope for when you have a team, [for] guys to step up and make those moments happen."

Manesh shared his thoughts on where the Lightning have improved with Hoppe at the helm.

"I think one thing that he's completely changed

this year is our offense," Manesh said of Hoppe. "He's taught us to run quicker balls, and that faster offense has given us one-up [or] no-up blocks, and that's allowed us to play at a way higher level than we did last year."

Connor Gapp, a pin hitter during the title run last year, took on setting duties this season. The versatile junior contributed 23 assists, six kills and two block assists.

"I'm used to being on the right side, I play beach a lot, so my hands are good enough to set," Gapp said. "I decided to put my head down and learn how to set, so I could end up helping set this season. It's where I needed to be, so I could help our team the most. ... It's hard to adjust and learn a new position in such a

short time. That's maybe why we were losing a lot of the games at the start. ... It ended up being fun."

Junior Jonathan Ye also distributed 15 assists to go with two aces, his contributions affording the Lightning the opportunity to keep Gapp available as a hitting option in a few rotations. Han had four kills and a solo block, Carson Ellis totaled 2½ blocks, Justin Liu registered 1½ blocks, and Ethan McNutt supplied a pair of aces.

"I didn't have a lot of time with the guys to really develop and form the culture that we're forming," Hoppe said. "Now that we kind of are going, it's going good, and it's just only getting better and better."

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TOURISM

Continued from page A1

industry."

Visit HB's president and chief executive, Kelly Miller, said his organization has taken advantage of a raise in the Tourism Bid Improvement District rate from 4 to 6%, which went into effect last July. That means that Visit HB gets a 6% cut from local hotels to fund its efforts in marketing Surf City.

"They send the money in, the city collects it and it comes to us," Miller said. "There are no local tax dollars that residents pay to fund tourism visitor marketing in Huntington Beach."

The words "cautiously optimistic" could describe the prospects for Huntington Beach and the state as a whole for 2025, though "headwinds" was another word often used at the tour-



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

GUESTS ARRIVE to the May 8 tourism summit at the Hyatt Regency Resort and Spa in Huntington Beach.

ism summit. International tourism is expected to suffer with the strength of the U.S. dollar, as well as tariff policies instituted by President Trump.

According to a Tourism Economics forecast released earlier this month, about 267.8 million people

are expected to visit California this year, a drop of 0.7%. Beteta said her organization is looking at investing more in domestic travel as it prepares for its next board meeting on June 3.

She added that 83% of the state's visitor spending is domestic.

"I'm going to take that as good news, as we have to look at shifting and managing the global environment right now," Beteta said. "There's a lot of places, like Hawaii for example, that don't have the accessibility of the domestic market, much less an in-state market. With 40 million Californians, we can always turn to the backyard in times of crisis."

Huntington Beach saw \$580 million in visitor spending in 2024, a new record, per the Visit HB Visitor Economic Impact Overview. The city welcomed 2.34 million non-Orange County visitors, a 4.4% increase over the year before, and tourism accounts for nearly 10% of the city's total employment.

Tommy Martinez from Tripadvisor offered positive thinking for the future of Surf City during his talk about millennial and Gen Z travel trends.

The percentage of Gen Z and millennials surveyed who considered coastal beaches as an ideal vacation spot were 64% and 65% respectively, according to the Tripadvisor Travel through Life report for 2024. A sizable percentage of those generations surveyed also considered mountain ranges and rural countryside as interesting places to visit.

"It's completely different," Martinez said. "When I was in the Y2K era, it was all [Las] Vegas, all the time."

Cindy Decker from Tourism Economics presented attendees with information on drivers and roadblocks for travel, while Miller also engaged in a sit-down discussion with U.S. men's volleyball national team coach Karch Kiraly. The event was attended by city leaders including Mayor Pat Burns and City Manager Travis Hopkins.

Miller and Kiraly dis-

cussed the news that Honda Center in Anaheim has been announced as the indoor volleyball venue for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. Miller noted that Huntington Beach, though not selected as an Olympic venue, is the closest beach to nearby Disneyland, at just more than 11 miles away.

He called the Tripadvisor survey numbers reassuring.

"The beach is a huge, huge destination driver, and we have that," Miller said. "We have a quarter of the beaches in Orange County."

The summit concluded with Hayley Barg, culture and engagement manager at the Waterfront Beach Resort, a Hilton Hotel, receiving the Surf City USA Industry Leader Award for her contributions to the local tourism community.

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BUDGET

Continued from page A1

ing \$9.8 million from an 8% transient occupancy tax levied on hotel stays and \$3.6 million from the 7% tax on retail cannabis sales.

The cannabis tax revenue will help raise \$242,200 to fund the city's Arts and Culture Master Plan, the expenses of which this year are anticipated to be \$416,990. Another \$242,200 will be put toward a first-time homebuyers program that will have amassed \$628,912 by next July.

Meanwhile, among \$186.9 million in expenditures 54% will go to public safety, with 33.6% going to Costa Mesa Police Department and 20.8% planned for the city's fire department.

A proposed all-funds capital improvement program budget of \$16.7 million represents a decrease of \$11.2 million, or 40%, from the adopted 2024-25 budget. Another \$12 million in bond funding, separate from the general fund, is anticipated to be spent sometime later this year for the renovation of the city's Fire Station No. 2.

Other capital improvement projects anticipated in the year ahead include active transportation improvements on Adams Avenue, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure upgrades,

new security lighting in parks throughout the city and a pedestrian safety festival.

But the commitments fall short of the 5% of general fund revenue that is mandated to be earmarked for such projects under the city's Capital Asset Needs (CAN) ordinance, passed in 2015.

Molina on Tuesday recommended the city allocate \$2.2 million in funds that have accumulated from prior payments into the capital improvement fund toward infrastructure projects, but indicated she will be recommending the city seek an exemption from the mandates of the CAN ordinance, which would require a nearly \$7 million set-aside.

"We are, at this moment in time, requesting to enact an emergency exception clause, due to the economic downturn, which would need the super-majority approval of the City Council," Molina said.

The council recently approved a similar exemption in the current fiscal year, using \$2.9 million to close a budget gap and voting to replenish the CAN fund incrementally over the next five fiscal years. Should council members make a similar move in 2025-26, the city would be on the hook for nearly \$10 million in repayment to the fund.

Mayor John Stephens —



File Photo

WITH THE theme "Focused. Efficient. Resilient," the \$186.9 general fund budget for 2025-26 represents a \$3 million decrease from the current fiscal year's budget adopted last June.

who indicated he would have voted against the CAN ordinance if he'd been on the council in 2015 — said he believes the city should either adhere to the ordinance or consider amending it or repealing it altogether.

"We're going through an exercise, but it's not realistic. I'm dubious that we will be able to perform what we're putting out as a plan," he said. "If it is a law, I think we've got to follow it and be genuine about it."

Council and staff mulled other ways to increase the city's revenues, including potential fee increases at its Golf Course and Tennis Center, revising Costa Mesa's fee schedule and float-ing a ballot measure in 2026 to increase the transient oc-

cupancy tax.

They also considered ways to decrease expenditures by possibly cutting more vacant positions, reducing consultant contracts and revisiting multiple programs in the 2025-26 mid-year budget revision process.

"I really appreciate the thoughtful consideration given, given our economic downturn and a lot of uncertainty ahead," Councilwoman Arlis Reynolds told staff. "I also appreciate that the budget was developed to not use our [\$60 million] reserves. We don't know what's ahead and I'd like to have a little bit of a buffer."

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Robert B Smith

August 12, 1945 - May 7, 2025

Robert was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, and son, and a longtime resident of Newport Beach. Known to his friends as Bob, he influenced the lives of many through his work, friendship, and kindness.

Born in Columbus, Ohio to Robert and Jennie Smith, he moved to Seal Beach with his family in 1957, and he attended Huntington Beach High School. He majored in public speaking and psychology at Cal State Long Beach where he was a member of Sigma Pi and was elected associated student body president in 1966. In college he met the love of his life, Carmen Bowman, and they married in 1967.

A life-long learner and teacher, he taught psychology at Orange Coast College from 1972 to 2004. In addition to education, Bob was actively involved in real estate development, serving as project manager for the Old Town Irvine restoration project and later as project manager of Discovery Science Center, Santa Ana.

Bob was extremely proud of his children and grandchildren and would spend as much time with them as possible. He enjoyed traveling and new experiences, and he cared deeply about improving people's lives. Most recently he started a men's group at the Oasis Center in Corona del Mar to discuss "man's third act," as he called it, about how to live well in old age. He also was a commissioner on the Newport Beach Arts Commission, and he helped obtain many sculptures for the sculpture garden at the Newport Beach city hall.

Bob's steady wisdom and warmth will be missed by all who knew him. He is survived by his wife, Carmen, their sons, Robert and Adam, three grandchildren, Ava, Olivia and Colin and two brothers, David and Dan.

Memorial services are pending and will be announced at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please send donations in Robert's name to the Newport Beach Arts Foundation.

MARKETPLACE

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LEGAL NOTICES 1300

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR A CHANGE OF NAME

CASE NO. 01479055

**Petitioner or Attorney
(name, state, bar, and
address):**
Regina Luisa Faison
26402 Kilkarney, Lake
Forest, CA 92630

**TO ALL PERSONS
INTERESTED:**
Petitioner Regina Luisa
Faison filed a petition
with this court for a
decree changing names
as follows:

Present Name
Regina Luisa Faison
Proposed Name
Renee Grace Faison

THE COURT ORDERS
that all persons
interested in this matter
appear before this court
at the hearing indicated
below to show cause,
if any, why the petition
for change of name
should not be granted.

Any person objecting
to the name changes
described above must
file a written objection
that includes the reasons
for the objection at least
two days before the
matter is scheduled to be
heard and must appear
at the hearing to show
cause why the petition
should not be granted.

If no written objection
is timely filed, the court
may grant the petition
without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING

Legal Notices

Name Change

DATE: 6/25/2025
TIME: 1:30pm
DEPT: D-100
ROOM:

**The address of the court
is:** SUPERIOR COURT OF
CALIFORNIA County of
Orange 700 Civic Center
Drive West, Santa Ana,
CA 92701 A copy of this
Order to Show Cause
shall be published at
least once each week for
four successive weeks
prior to the date set for
hearing on the petition in
the following newspaper

Legal Notices

Name Change

of general circulation,
printed in this county.
Dated: May 01, 2025
Judge David J. Hesselstine
Judge of the Superior
Court

Published in the Daily
Pilot 05/03/25, 05/10/25,
05/17/25, 05/24/25

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DIVING

Chase Shipp, Corinna Ruffini medal at CIF State Championships

BY MATT SZABO

Laguna Beach High senior Chase Shipp and Newport Harbor junior Corinna Ruffini each medaled at the CIF State Diving Championships on Thursday at Clovis Olympic Swim Complex.

Shipp, bound for Harvard, finished fourth place in the boys' competition with 509.55 points. Ruffini, a University of Houston commit, was fifth in the girls' competition with 451 points.

Shipp, making his third appearance at the CIF State Championship meet, earned his best finish. He was seventh last year as a junior and sixth as a sophomore.

The two-time CIF Southern Section champion said in a text message that his dives felt less consistent than they had been lately, but he couldn't complain about fourth place.

"As I close out my high



NEWPORT HARBOR'S Corinna Ruffini, shown competing at the CIF State diving qualifier, earned fifth place at state finals.

James Carbone

school dive career I especially want to thank my coach, Curt Wilson, for his steadfast support," Shipp said. "I'm looking forward to seeing the next group of Laguna divers on the podium at CIF: Go Beach!"

Ruffini earned her first medal at the state meet, as she finished 14th last year as a sophomore.

"It was a super fun meet with some good competition!" she said in a text message. "I've been pretty sick all week and haven't

been able to practice at all, so I really surprised myself with my performance since I wasn't feeling my best. I'm hoping that next year I can come back in better health and hopefully take the title as state champ!"

Newport Harbor junior Violet Carone finished 11th at state finals in the girls' competition, while Edison sophomore Allison McNichols placed 18th.

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HIGH SCHOOL ROUNDUP

Marina softball mashes at the plate in CIF opener

BY ANDREW TURNER

Ava Kim homered and drove in three runs, as Marina tallied a dozen hits en route to a 10-0 win over visiting Arcadia on Thursday in the first round of the CIF Southern Section Division 3 playoffs.

Liz Byer supplied three hits, two runs scored, and a run batted in. Gabby DiBenedetto, Mia Valbuena and Byer each had a double.

Byer, DiBenedetto and Valbuena each picked up multiple hits in the contest. The Vikings scored nine runs in the third inning, and the game was called after five innings with the mercy rule in effect.

Valbuena allowed just three batters to reach base safely (one hit) while recording 12 strikeouts in a complete game.

Marina (15-13) plays host to Sea View League champion San Clemente (21-7-1) on Saturday at 3:15 p.m.

Huntington Beach 8, Covina Charter Oak 7: Morgan Drotter and Tea Gutierrez homered for the visiting Oilers, who scored the first

six runs of the game, then held on to win in the first round of the Division 1 playoffs on Thursday.

Maleah Humble, Zariah Billinger and Gutierrez each had three hits for Huntington Beach (22-7), which also got two-hit performances from Bree Carlson, Willow Kellen and Drotter.

Humble had a pair of stolen bases and scored twice. Gutierrez scored three times.

Huntington Beach plays host to Chino Hills (20-8) on Saturday at 11 a.m.

Both sides are co-league champions. The Oilers shared the Sunset League title with Los Alamitos, while the Huskies matched Etiwanda for the best record in the Baseline League.

Long Beach Poly 5, Edison 1: The visiting Chargers were held to six hits on Thursday in the first round of the Division 4 playoffs.

Aubrey Catron had two hits to lead Edison (11-15), while Kaila Arakaki and Savannah Fisher each drew a pair of walks.

Sophia Hannappel, Elina Garcia, Hannah Stolba and Fisher each had one hit.

Los Amigos 15, Capistrano Valley Christian 7: Alina Mendez had three hits, four runs batted in and two runs scored to lead the Lobos past the Eagles at home on Thursday in the opening round of the Division 7 bracket.

County, triggering an upgraded charge from manslaughter to murder.

Lavalle's attorney, Jennifer Ryan of the Orange County Public Defender's Office, said her client "felt awful" when the collision occurred. The defendant's wife, who was in the passenger's seat of the truck, told police the methamphetamine police found belonged to her, Ryan said.

Lavalle told officers that he had been working the whole day up on a ladder and had a bad back and hip to explain some of his difficulty standing on one leg and balancing as well as other field sobriety tests.

Another officer had the defendant do more field sobriety tests after he had been sitting "on a cold curb" for an hour, the defense attorney said, who maintained the child's death was an accident, not a murder.

Lavalle, who is scheduled to be sentenced June 27, was convicted in August 2009 of armed bank robbery in federal court and sentenced in April 2010 to 35 months in federal prison, according to court records. He was returned to prison for another year when he violated terms of his supervised release in 2013. He was also convicted of robbery in Los Angeles County in June 2018, court records show.

PAUL ANDERSON writes for City News Service

DEPUTY

Continued from page A2

Carey, who holds a bachelor's degree in political science and master's degree in communication from Arizona State University, began working for her hometown in 2021 as the public information officer for the Huntington Beach Police Department.

In January 2022, she was promoted to public affairs manager, and served as acting deputy manager for six months last year before being named to the role in January.

Carey, 39, said her final day with the city will be Tuesday, and she will begin working for Strickland

a week later. She will be based at his Huntington Beach district office.

"It was a difficult decision to leave, but I know that I made the right choice going with Senator Strickland's office," she said. "It isn't fully leaving Huntington Beach, it's being able to serve in a different capacity."

Strickland resigned from the City Council earlier this year and won a special election in District 36, which includes most of coastal Orange County as well as the Los Angeles County cities of Artesia, Cerritos and Hawaiian Gardens. He avoided a runoff election by receiving more than 50% of the votes in the primary election.

Strickland said in a statement that he was happy to have Carey on board.

"We are lucky to have Jen join our team," he said. "She is extremely talented and will serve the people of Senate 36th District well. During my time on the City Council, Jen was a fantastic employee for the city of Huntington Beach, as I had the opportunity to experience firsthand her leadership when we worked together to improve the city."

Carey said Huntington Beach is in the process of onboarding a new city spokesperson in the coming weeks.

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<div><p>CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING</p><p>NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Thursday, May 29, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. or soon thereafter as the matter shall be heard, a public hearing will be conducted online via Zoom. The Zoning Administrator of the City of Newport Beach will consider the following application:</p><p>Zak Residence – A modification permit to allow an addition to an existing single-unit dwelling that is greater than 10% of the existing square footage. The existing single-unit dwelling is nonconforming due to the dimensions of the existing garage. Title 20 (Planning and Zoning) of the Newport Beach Municipal Code (NBMC) limits additions to a maximum of 10% of the existing gross floor area when a residence has nonconforming parking. The addition includes 390 square feet on the first floor and 710 square feet on the second floor (1,100 square feet total), which is a 24% addition. The addition otherwise complies with all applicable development standards and no other deviations are requested.</p><p>The project is categorically exempt under Section 15301 – Class 1 (Existing Facilities) of the State CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) Guidelines.</p><p>All interested parties may appear and present testimony regarding this application. If you challenge this project in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you raised at the public hearing or in written correspondence delivered to the City, at, or before, the public hearing. Administrative procedures for appeals are provided in the Newport Beach Municipal Code Chapter 20.64. The application may be continued to a specific future meeting date; if such an action occurs, additional public notice of the continuance will not be provided.</p><p>The agenda, staff report, and corresponding documents will be available by end of business day on the Friday preceding the public hearing and may be reviewed at the Community Development Department Permit Center (Bay C-1st Floor), at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660 or the City of Newport Beach website at www.newportbeachca.gov/zoningadministrator.</p><p>Please review the Zoning Administrator Agenda for Zoom participation instructions. Individuals not able to attend the meeting may contact the Planning Division or access the City's website after the meeting to review the action on this application. All mail or written communications (including email) from the public, residents, or applicants regarding an agenda item must be submitted by 12:00 p.m. on the business day immediately before the meeting. This allows time for the Zoning Administrator to adequately consider the submitted correspondence.</p><p>For questions regarding this public hearing item please contact Melinda Whelan, Assistant Planner, at 949-644-3221 and mwhelan@newportbeachca.gov, at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660.</p><table><tr><td>Project File No.: PA2025-0051</td><td>Activity: Modification Permit</td></tr><tr><td>Zone: PC 43 (Upper Castaways)</td><td>General Plan: Single-Unit Residential Detached (RS-D)</td></tr><tr><td>Location: 34 Castaways North</td><td>Applicant: Oscar Almandaraz</td></tr></table></div>	Project File No.: PA2025-0051	Activity: Modification Permit	Zone: PC 43 (Upper Castaways)	General Plan: Single-Unit Residential Detached (RS-D)	Location: 34 Castaways North	Applicant: Oscar Almandaraz	<div><p>CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING</p><p>NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Thursday, May 29, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. or soon thereafter as the matter shall be heard, a public hearing will be conducted online via Zoom. The Zoning Administrator of the City of Newport Beach will consider the following application:</p><p>Evans Residence - A modification permit to allow an addition to an existing 2,930-square-foot single-unit dwelling that is greater than 10% of the existing square footage. The existing single-unit dwelling is nonconforming due to the dimensions of the existing garage. Title 20 (Planning and Zoning) of the Newport Beach Municipal Code (NBMC) limits additions to a maximum of 10% of the existing gross floor area when a residence has nonconforming parking. The total addition includes 409 square feet, which is 14% addition. The addition otherwise complies with all applicable development standards and no other deviations are requested.</p><p>The project is categorically exempt under Section 15303, of the State CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) Guidelines under Class 3 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures).</p><p>All interested parties may appear and present testimony in regard to this application. If you challenge this project in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you raised at the public hearing or in written correspondence delivered to the City, at, or prior to, the public hearing. Administrative procedures for appeals are provided in the Newport Beach Municipal Code Chapter 20.64. 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The Zoning Administrator of the City of Newport Beach will consider the following application:</p><p>Eleve Longevity Lounge - A request for a minor use permit to allow the operation of a health and wellness lounge within a 3,726 square-foot tenant space within an existing office building. The project includes a proposed waiting area, eight therapy rooms, an office, a changing room, and two restrooms. The health and wellness lounge will offer services that include red light beds, saunas, cryotherapy, salt room, and intravenous therapy. The requested hours of operation are 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday to Friday and 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Late-hour operations (after 11:00 p.m.) are not proposed.</p><p>The project is categorically exempt under Section 15301 under Class 1 (Existing Facilities) of the State CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) Guidelines.</p><p>All interested parties may appear and present testimony regarding this application. If you challenge this project in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you raised at the public hearing or in written correspondence delivered to the City, at, or prior to, the public hearing. The application may be continued to a specific future meeting date, and if such an action occurs additional public notice of the continuance will not be provided. Administrative procedures for appeals are provided in the Newport Beach Municipal Code Chapter 20.64 (Appeals).</p><p>The agenda, staff report, and corresponding documents will be available by end of business day on the Friday preceding the public hearing, and may be reviewed at the Community Development Department Permit Center (Bay C-1st Floor), at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660 or at the City of Newport Beach website at www.newportbeachca.gov/zoningadministrator.</p><p>Please review the Zoning Administrator Agenda for Zoom participation instructions. 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This allows time for the Zoning Administrator to adequately consider the submitted correspondence.</p><p>For questions regarding this public hearing item please contact Jerry Arregui, Assistant Planner, at 949-644-3249, jarregui@newportbeachca.gov or at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660.</p><table><tr><td>Project File No.: PA2025-0022</td><td>Activity: Minor Use Permit</td></tr><tr><td>Zone: Mixed-Use Water (MU-W1)</td><td>General Plan: Mixed Use Water 1 (MU-W1)</td></tr><tr><td>Location: 2901 West Coast Highway, Suite 100</td><td>Applicant: Jennifer Karsting, Eleve Health</td></tr></table></div>	Project File No.: PA2025-0022	Activity: Minor Use Permit	Zone: Mixed-Use Water (MU-W1)	General Plan: Mixed Use Water 1 (MU-W1)	Location: 2901 West Coast Highway, Suite 100	Applicant: Jennifer Karsting, Eleve Health
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Location: 2901 West Coast Highway, Suite 100	Applicant: Jennifer Karsting, Eleve Health																			

BASEBALL

Costa Mesa rallies past Kaiser in CIF opener

BY MATT SZABO

The Costa Mesa High baseball team has enjoyed historic levels of success this season.

Costa Mesa navigated a trip into a new league, and ended up as undefeated Golden West League champions. After winning the Orange Coast League last year, it's the first time the program has produced back-to-back league titles.

The Mustangs also have a single-season record 23 wins, surpassing last year's mark by one.

"Most of these kids on this team have played with us for three or four years," said Coach Jim Kiefer, who has nine seniors on the squad. "It's a very experienced team now. So, to see them get to this point and this level, play as well as they have is very rewarding for all of our coaches and for them, too."

That success has led to a much higher playoff division for the CIF Southern Section playoffs under the new competitive equity model. Mesa jumped from Division 6 last year to Division 3 this year.

Any doubts were erased after a big sixth inning Thursday against visiting Fontana Kaiser.

"After today, I guess we can compete in D3," senior outfielder Aiden Comte said with a smile after the Mustangs rallied for a 5-3 win in their playoff opener at home. "It feels good to be at the top and be able to produce."

Costa Mesa (23-6) will play at San Juan Hills in the second round on Tuesday.

The Mustangs were flummoxed for much of Thursday's game against Zeke Isaak Cortez, the ace senior left-handed pitcher for Kaiser (17-10).

"He's the kind of left-hander you see in the playoffs," Kiefer said. "He was sharp."

The visitors took a 3-0 lead in the top of the fourth inning with Aldo Garcia providing the big hit, fisting a single into shallow left field to score a pair of runs.

Costa Mesa brought in junior Will Morales, who blanked Kaiser for 2 1/3 innings and earned the win. The Mustangs rallied in the bottom of the sixth.



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

COSTA MESA'S Omar Gutierrez (44) is mobbed by teammates after scoring a run to tie the game against Kaiser on Thursday.

Mateo Navarro and Owen Dever led off with back-to-back singles. Cortez got an infield pop up and a strikeout, but Costa Mesa wasn't done. The No. 9 hitter, Omar Gutierrez, walked to load the bases and flip the lineup.

Wylan Rottschafer was hit by a pitch, forcing in a run. Comte followed with a first-pitch single up the middle, driving in two and tying the score.

"I saw that there was a big hole in the middle," Comte said. "That's basically my attack every time, try to just kill the pitcher with hitting it right back to him. I guess I hit it just well enough."

Mesa senior Will Clark had a good at-bat, fouling off a few pitches before depositing a single to right to score two more runs. Cortez was pulled at 109 pitches, but not before the Mustangs had surged into the lead.

"We just played our game," Clark said. "We've had some tougher opponents this year, and that's really helped us in these close games. We're able to chip away and come back. It feels great."

Rottschafer worked around a one-out infield single in the seventh inning to earn the save.

Navarro and Dever both had a pair of hits for the winners, and Grady Jackson also had a single. Senior catcher Jack Shafer was stout behind the plate, throwing out a pair of runners at second base.

It all added up to a feel-good win for the Mustangs, who will now try to advance past the second round of CIF for the first time in the seniors' tenure.

Laguna Beach 7, Fontana Summit 5: The Breakers earned

the road win in the first round of the Division 1 playoffs on Thursday.

Laguna Beach took a 5-0 lead in the second inning, as Thomas Gonzales' single scored two runs and a double by Becker Sybirski scored two more runs. Lucien Reed was two for four with a triple and RBI for the Breakers.

Gonzales got the win in relief, allowing two runs in four innings.

Pacific Coast League champion Laguna Beach (25-3) hosts Norco in the second round on Tuesday.

Santa Margarita 2, Newport Harbor 0: The Sailors were blanked Thursday in their Division 1 opener, ending a standout season.

Brennan Bauer pitched a three-hit complete game shutout for Santa Margarita. Wyatt Gahm, Adam Martin and Keoni Wun collecting the lone hits for Newport

Harbor (22-7), which set a program single-season record with its 22 wins.

Santa Margarita will play at No. 3-seeded Huntington Beach in the second round Tuesday. The Oilers had a first-round bye.

Riverside Hillcrest 4, Ocean View 2: The No. 4-seeded Seahawks couldn't hold an early lead and were upset in the first round of the Division 5 playoffs Thursday.

Carson Sulsona was two for three with a run batted in for Ocean View. JT Lewis struck out 11 batters in 5 2/3 innings of work, giving up three earned runs.

Ocean View, the Empire League runner-up, finished its season 12-17.

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