

Daily Pilot

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Hoag, Newport extend pact

The 10-year extension is the fifth amendment to the development agreement, which was first approved in 1994.

BY LILLY NGUYEN

The Newport Beach City Council approved a 10-year extension to a development agreement with Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian on Tuesday, the fifth such amendment to the development contract.

According to a city staff report, the contract was established in 1994. Previous amendments made changes to the text to allow for greater flexibility on where existing entitled Hoag-related uses could be developed and contract extensions. The third amendment, made in 2019, came with the additional benefit of the hospital paying out \$3 million in equal installments to the city to address homelessness.

To date, \$600,000 has been paid to the city by the hospital.

Under the terms of the agreement, the contract would end in 2030, but the extension Tuesday will now push that to 2040.

Councilwoman Diane Dixon said the agreement protects Hoag's entitlement for future development in the area where it currently is located in lower Pacific Coast Highway. That protection prevents current and future city council members from potentially revoking that entitlement to address things like planning for future housing.

The proposed amendment considered this week would have called for Hoag to pay an additional \$3 million on top of the \$3 million called for with the 2019 amendment, with the payments made to the city in \$300,000 installments to be earmarked for homelessness services. Mayor Pro Tem Kevin Muldoon moved to cut the \$3 million down to \$1.5 million so the total outlay would be \$4.5 million instead of \$6 million.

"For those in the audience ... these are called development agreements [where] an entity or a private builder — in this case, Hoag — will spend money in exchange for preserving their rights to build something," Muldoon said. "Everyone knows I'm pretty much against these agreements in their entirety when it comes to private developers. I am especially when it comes to Hoag. They're such a pillar to the community."

"They did so much with COVID. I'd rather every dollar go toward better healthcare in the community than to a city that quite frankly is doing incredibly well due to high property tax revenue and due to federal funding that's been spent."

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Photos by Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

FOUNDER ROBBIE MCINERNY is shown seated inside WILLBO in Laguna Beach, a unisex clothing brand featuring the California lifestyle.

WILLBO startup opens shop in Laguna

BY ANDREW TURNER

In their youth, brothers Robbie and Will McNerny were known as the athletes in town.

The McNerny brothers, both of whom went on to play baseball for schools in the Pac-12, learned that life has a way of throwing curveballs.

Where they were once the big men on campus in the small town of Laguna Beach, new roles were in store.

"I think any great leader also knows how to follow, and that was something for me, as well," Robbie McNerny said when asked what he learned from his time as an athlete.

"The foundational lessons that I learned on the field and in the locker room, team-

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ROBBIE MCINERNY speaks to a customer visiting from Ventura after she purchased a black hat.

Costa Mesa students get down to business

BY MATT SZABO

Friday afternoon can be a tough time to concentrate for any student.

The students in Amy Meunier-Bogdan's fourth-grade class at Victoria Elementary School in Costa Mesa, however, count it as one of their favorite times of the week.

Their eyes are transfixed on the big screen in the front of the class every Friday at 1:15 p.m., as they hop on a Zoom call with some high-ranking business executives.

The 15-minute session each week — short enough for the attention span of a 9-year-old — allows the students to learn from employees of Costa Mesa-based artificial intelligence company Veritone.

Meunier-Bogdan came up with the idea as the school year began and her class was studying business during the first few



Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

AMY MEUNIER-BOGDAN, a fourth-grade teacher at Victoria Elementary in Costa Mesa, watches as her student Kylee Merron interacts with Veritone executives on a Zoom call on Oct. 22.

weeks of school. "We were talking about inventors and entrepreneurs, and they were just really having a lot of

fun with it," Meunier-Bogdan said. "They were learning about Thomas Edison, and the Wright Bros. Then we got into our cur-

rent inventions with things like Apple and Google, and we started talking about different types of public companies."

She mentioned to the kids that her husband, Scott, worked for Veritone as a senior vice president of operations. He was one of the founders of the company in 2014.

"I went home that night and I thought it would be so cool for these kids, especially since I'm in a lower socio-economic school, to have access to some of these influential business leaders," Meunier-Bogdan said.

About 64% of the students at Victoria Elementary are categorized as economically disadvantaged.

"I just thought it would be cool to pair these two up," Meunier-Bogdan said. "My students could hear more about the actual business world, and how great it

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Newport police hold first 'Trunk or Treat' Halloween celebration



Photos by Susan Hoffman

AXA ABTS, 4, (Cleopatra) with brother Axl Abts, 7, (mummy) fill their pumpkins with treats during the Trunk or Treat Halloween celebration.

BY SUSAN HOFFMAN

The Newport Beach police station parking lot looked a little different Friday night.

Instead of cars, there were robots, space cadets, skeletons, clowns, caped crusaders, winged fairy princesses, glittered butterflies, pint-sized firemen and police officers along with a jailbird.

Cleopatra was reincarnated and escorted by a mummy. Batgirl, the Incredible Hulk and Darth Vader were all there too.

As a way to make up for lost events during the pandemic shutdown, the Newport Beach Police Department held its first Halloween community family event, "Trunk or Treat" that included the Newport Beach Fire Department.

The Newport Beach Police Foundation sponsored the party. Newport police invited everyone to wear costumes and celebrate Halloween at the station at 870



DISPATCH OFFICER Chelsea Luitwieler decides on a Tootsie Roll pop flavor for Hulk and his Black Cat pal.

Santa Barbara Drive, which had displays and booths with trunks decorated by CSI, SWAT, Animal Control, Dispatch and more.

Newport press information Officer Heather Rangel explained that there had been only one community event, which was last summer, held by the police department during the pandemic.

"We went from hosting Citi-

zens' Academy classes, Open House and all in-person activities to state mandates requiring minimal activity," said Rangel, who is in charge of planning the Halloween party.

"This event gives us a chance to reconnect with our community in a fun way while providing a safe

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forum

COLUMN | **PATRICE APODACA**

A weighty issue that isn't often discussed

For the past several months I have been writing about some of the biggest, most pressing issues of our time: Climate change. An epidemic of hate. The opioid crisis. Inequality. The offshore oil spill. COVID, COVID and more COVID.

So for my next weighty theme I decided it was time to address another matter that threatens to upend life as I've known it.

I don't know what to do about my skinny jeans.

There's a stack of them in my closet, taunting me, teasing me, testing me. I've ignored them for a year and a half of slouchy, elastic-waisted living. Now we're told that it's time to put our big-girl pants back on, and I don't know exactly what that's supposed to look like.

Are skin-tight pants completely out of fashion now, or should I try to squeeze my pandemic-padded thighs back into them?

For me, this is a top-priority problem. If I can't figure out what to wear for any given situation, everything else just falls apart. Call me shallow, brand me as materialistic, I won't argue. My life only makes sense if I'm wearing a cute outfit.

Yet herein lies a contradiction. As much as I love fashion, I can't pretend that I even remotely understand it.

Yes, I'm well aware that I'm being manipulated by an industry that — no surprise here — just wants to sell me stuff. That's why the "must have" pieces of each season actually change almost daily, and why I'm bombarded by pop-up ads with subtle messages like "I have too many black boots," said no one ever!"

I get that I'm being played for a sucker. And I understand that my purchasing choices have consequences beyond my own selfish desire to look good. The apparel industry is notorious for exploiting low-paid labor and for wreak-

ing havoc on the environment.

I do try to take these factors into consideration, favoring brands that promise to treat workers fairly and operate more sustainably. Still, the guilt nags at me.

On top of all that — the transparent brainwashing techniques, human rights violations and terrible environmental record — do the fashion powers-that-be have to make it so confusing? And occasionally, also humiliating?

We're encouraged to express our individuality through fashion. But really?

It took me a long time to embrace the skinny jean trend. Peeling them on and off is taxing work, and I wasn't sure I was ready for the commitment to body-hugging couture, even if the well-made pairs did have the booty-enhancing properties of Spanx shapewear.

Once I commit to a look, though, I am all in, and that's exactly how it went with skin-tight pants. Dark wash, light wash, black, brown, white, even corduroy — you name it, I got it. I should have known better. Clothes lover though I am, far too often I'm behind the curve style wise, which is never the place anyone who cares as much as I do wants to be in the fashion world.

Worse still, my override enthusiasm has led me to some spectacular misfires, like the time I was so eager to wear a new fall ensemble — wool skirt and sweater — that I blithely ignored the fact that autumn in Orange County can be hellishly hot. By midday I was so feverish and itchy I almost lost my lunch.

Another memorable fashion fumble was underscored when I attended a "tacky" themed party and was awarded first prize for tackiest outfit. I had worn a dress that just a few years earlier I had

considered to be the essence of chic sophistication.

What had I been thinking? The dress was covered in multicolored, golf-ball-sized polka dots, for crying out loud. I conjure that uncomfortable memory whenever I get a little too sure of myself and am tempted to venture into more adventurous territory for my wardrobe.

There have been plenty of other ridiculous looks that I have willingly embraced and for which I'll be forever embarrassed — big hair and leg warmers in the 1980s, shoulder pads in the 1990s, and denim on denim with studded belt in the 2000s leap to mind. For anything prior to the '80s, I plead the stupidity of youth.

I will no doubt fall victim to the whims of fashion again. After all, the apparel industry is also adept at recycling and rebranding old styles, convincingly marketing them as cool modern updates.

Sweatpants have transformed into joggers. Culottes are the ancestors of today's skorts. Baggy jeans have been repackaged as relaxed fit or boyfriend jeans. Today's flared leg pants are reminiscent of the bell bottoms of the past.

Don't even get me started on waistlines, which are up, down, somewhere in the middle, I don't know. Just when I think I've got the elevation right, it changes again.

As always I'm running behind the fashion pack, trying to figure out where it's going. I've been thinking lately that I might invest in more high-waisted items. But then I read that hip huggers are coming back.

Heaven help us.

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

Newport Harbor Foundation works toward local control

Last week, 175 residents, political leaders and Newport Harbor supporters donated over \$550,000 to kick off the Newport Harbor Foundation. The foundation's goal is to return local control of our harbor to the city.

We celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Duffy Electric Boat. Duffy's passion for the harbor spans decades.

With 25 miles of frontage, almost 10,000 boats of all shapes and sizes, kayaks, paddle boards, sailing clubs and charter boats, the harbor resembles the 405 Freeway on a busy weekend.

An estimated 7 million visitors per year use Newport Harbor's complex ecosystem that generates an estimated \$1 billion per year of economic activity.

Our harbor is essentially a city within the city. We believe our harbor asset needs to be properly managed by the city.

Our mission is to "Take Back Our Harbor." It begins with Newport Beach creating our own Harbor Public Safety Department operated by our city, not the Orange County Sheriff's Department.

The foundation will raise over \$2.5 million to purchase and donate a fire boat and police boats to the city for a Harbor Public Safety Department.

This plan does not displace the Sheriff's Harbor Patrol. They will continue to use their Homeland Security grant to police the coastline for drug runners and immigrants attempting to enter the country illegally. They will be available for large-scale emergencies in the harbor through existing mutual aid agreements.

Our Harbor Public Safety Department will use the city's existing police, fire and lifeguards to make the harbor safe for residents and tourists. We believe local control of the harbor is best achieved by Newport Beach running the show.

If you agree, sign up for regular updates at newportharborfoundation.org.

Dennis Durgan

Chairman, Newport Harbor Foundation
Past Newport Beach Harbor Master

Thoughts on campaign to elect Newport mayor

It was rumored that a sizable number of proponents were going to attend the Oct. 12 Newport Beach City Council meeting to support Councilman Will O'Neill's "Elect a Mayor" plan.

However, the supporters never materialized, leaving instead an audience primarily of opponents. It was not unusually large, but sufficient in size to chasten the council members for considering putting the mayoral plan on the discussion calendar for a future date.

Not one person in the audience spoke in favor of electing a mayor. Instead, in measured and intelligent speeches, seven community leaders spoke against the proposal citing the fact that electing a mayor should be one vetted by the whole community, not just the council, before going on the ballot.

This, said one speaker, would allow for more careful consideration of the proposal. The failure of the proposal to meet the term limits of the City Charter, thus allowing the mayor to serve 16 uninterrupted years in leadership instead of eight, sets an unbelievably long period of control by one person. This coupled with the expanded power that the new proposal would give the mayor in relationship to the council could easily lead to authoritarian rule.

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

SARAH'S STORY



An ER Doctor Fights — and Defeats — Breast Cancer During Pandemic

Sarah worked on the front lines as an emergency room physician in the height of the COVID pandemic. Her world came to a halt when the mother of three found out she had an aggressive form of breast cancer. At Hoag, Sarah never felt like a number. Hoag saw her as a person, a mother and a fellow physician. Daily, she felt the support of a team fighting hard to get her back to being healthy for her family. Today, cancer-free, Sarah credits the care and support she received at Hoag for helping her defeat breast cancer once and for all.



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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Costa Mesa clinches first playoff berth since 2013

BY MATT SZABO

It came down to a matter of inches.

On Friday night, the Costa Mesa High football team was trying to beat crosstown rival Estancia in the Battle for the Bell game for the first time since 2013.

That would secure a third-place finish in the Orange Coast League and a trip to the postseason, also for the first time in eight years.

Nobody said it would be easy, but a late goal-line stand propelled the Mustangs to a 14-7 home win in the regular-season finale for both schools. Costa Mesa students rushed the field to celebrate.

Costa Mesa (5-5, 3-2 in league) got city champions medals from Costa Mesa United, and a postgame dinner at Newport Rib Co. The Mustangs also get to practice next week.

Estancia (4-6, 1-4), which finished in fifth place in league, saw its season more than likely end.

"It means a lot, because it's been a long time since we've had the bell," said Mesa senior running back Kobe Lemari, who scored the go-ahead 12-yard touchdown run with 1:30 remaining in the game.

"It's good to have it back. I thank my teammates and my coaches for making this happen. It's not just me; it's



Photo by James Carbone

THE COSTA MESA HIGH football team celebrates after winning the Battle for the Bell game against Estancia on Friday night, winning the matchup for the first time since 2013.

my teammates."

The margin was razor-thin. The Eagles drove the field and had a first-and-goal at the Costa Mesa one-yard line with 16 seconds remaining, after a 13-yard scamper by senior quarterback Cameron Knickerbocker. Estancia coach Mike Bargas used his final timeout.

Estancia ran an option, with Knickerbocker running right. He was met at the goal line by a group including John Simco, Kendrick Figueroa and Riley Weinstein.

Though the Eagles players initially celebrated, the referees said that Knicker-

bocker didn't get in. In the confusion, and without any timeouts, Estancia was unable to get another snap off before the clock hit zeroes.

The usually diplomatic Barga was furious after the game.

"They did not stop him," he said. "Worst officiating I've ever seen. I feel like we had to play against not only Costa Mesa but the officiating team as well. You know how I am, but that's a bunch of crap right there. They took the game away from our kids."

Bargas said he was also upset at a holding penalty called in the third quarter. The call negated a 25-yard

touchdown run by Noah Aires that would have given Estancia a 14-7 lead.

"I think our kids played hard, and our defense was good," he said. "I'm not going to call them unlucky breaks ... we had a lot of nemeses on this field. I'm all about victory with honor, and I love the officiating crews. But tonight, I hope these guys really study this film."

With the score tied 7-7, the game seemed destined for overtime late. Costa Mesa was faced with a fourth-and-14 situation from the Estancia 37-yard line, after junior quarterback Garrett Richards was

sacked by Estancia senior Marcos Linares.

But Richards went deep to his 6-foot-7 receiver, junior Riley Weinstein, who made a 20-foot catch in heavy traffic to keep the drive alive. A play later, Lemari found room rushing left and scored the go-ahead touchdown.

In the matchup between Weinstein and Estancia's 5-foot-6 cornerback Asa Davis, Davis held his own, but Weinstein delivered with the game on the line.

Weinstein said he and Davis are friends, and shared some good-natured trash talk before the game.

"Before the game, everyone was like, 'We're going to need you to make a big-time play,'" Weinstein said. "I knew it was coming. I knew I had to do something, had to beat him. I just went up for it, and I was not dropping that ball."

Costa Mesa struck first on a 12-play drive that concluded when Richards scored on a two-yard keeper. The Mustangs, who controlled the time of possession in the first half, led 7-0 at halftime.

The Mustangs almost had a 14-0 halftime lead. But on fourth-and-goal from the one-yard line midway through the second quarter, Richards was stuffed by Josh Romero. Oswaldo Sanchez recovered the fumble on the play.

Estancia tied the score on a one-yard touchdown run by Romero midway through the third quarter. The offenses sputtered, as the teams combined to turn the ball over on downs on three straight possessions before the Mustangs' eventual game-winning drive.

It may have been too close for comfort. But Costa Mesa, led by first-year coach Van Tuinei, owns the city again for the first time since 2013.

The Mustangs will find out their playoff division and first-round opponent when the CIF Southern Section releases the draws Sunday at 10 a.m.

"We knew it was going to come down to the wire, but not like that," said Tuinei, who played defensive end for four seasons in the NFL. "It was really close. It was a tough game, well-coached on both sides, but I'm glad our boys were able to pull it off. They had to dig deep for this one."

"I'm proud of them. They really wanted it, and the team that wanted it was going to win. I'm not going to take away [from Estancia]. They have a good team, they had a good game plan. But we also had a pretty good game plan against them, compared to the past. These kids stepped up."

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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Marina falls to Katella in Big 4 League finale with CIF berth at stake

BY ANDREW TURNER

ANAHEIM — Two teams with struggling offenses took the field at Glover Stadium on Thursday, and with everything to play for, something had to give.

As it turned out, the Katella High School football team got right with its ground game against Mar-

ina in a game that both teams had to win.

Gabriel Dawson accumulated 203 yards from scrimmage and two touchdowns to lead the host Knights past the Vikings 28-7 in the teams' Big 4 League finale.

Dawson dazzled in turning nine carries into 155 rushing yards. He showcased his speed to gain the edge on a 52-yard touchdown that came just 10 seconds after Marina's only score of the night.

In the second half, Dawson got the Knights out of the shadow of their own

goalpost with a 35-yard run, one on which he displayed patience and vision to negotiate an escape route from the battle in the trenches.

"They try to get me to stay patient, to see the holes, because you can't rush through," Dawson said. "I'm a patient runner, and once I hit it, I hit it."

Katella (5-5, 1-2) greatly improved its chances of qualifying for the CIF Southern Section playoffs — the pairings for which will be released on Sunday — by finishing the season with a .500 record, allowing the Knights to apply for an at-large berth.

Marina (3-7, 1-2) was left with the hope that Garden Grove (7-2, 2-0) would defeat Segerstrom (4-5, 1-1) on Friday, creating a three-way tie for second place in the league. That hope was dashed when Segerstrom earned a share of the league title by beating Garden Grove.

The Knights drove 70 yards on the opening drive of the contest, capping it with an 18-yard rushing touchdown by Aaron Ruiz.

Katella coach Juan Viramontes said he wanted his team to start the game with the ball to send a message that he had trust in their offense. It paid off.



MARINA'S AIDAN O'CALLAGHAN catches a pass against Katella on Thursday.

James Carbone

"No matter what, I wanted the ball, and I wanted to put these guys out there," Viramontes said. "I wanted to tell them and make a statement that we wanted to run the ball and just keep it going forward with them."

Anthony Fabian got the Vikings on the board with a goal-line run at the start of the second quarter, tying the score at 7-7.

In a flash, the Knights regained the lead with Dawson's long run down the right sideline.

The junior running back would add a 20-yard rushing score, and Daunte Bell scored on a quarterback keeper with just 16 seconds left in the half, stretching the Knights' advantage to 28-7.

Starter Brock Beaver (113 yards) and backup quarterback Peter Kim (119 yards) split the snaps for Marina, which scored just two offensive touchdowns across its three league games.

"It just seems like this

last month, the perfect storm keeps hitting us," Turley said. "Last week, I thought our [offensive] line did real well. We didn't provide any protection. It just seems like each week, there was something else we were misfiring on. We just kept struggling to bring it all together."

"It's hard. The kids were gutsy, they came out, they kept fighting. I'm very proud of the fact that they never stopped fighting."

Katella recorded seven sacks on defense, including 2½ sacks by Daniel Viramontes, who also had an interception and recovered a fumble for the Knights.

"It feels really good because the past two games, we've been really down," Viramontes, a junior defensive end, said.

"A lot of people have been talking down on us, and now we can finally show what [kind of] team we are."

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