

Daily Pilot

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CLASS OF 2020 GRADUATION



Photos by Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

ALEXANDRA LOPEZ, 17, bottom right, is celebrated by family and friends as they gather at her home in Santa Ana on Friday to watch a virtual graduation ceremony for Los Amigos High School's class of 2020. More than 500 viewers watched the livestream of the commencement ceremony.

'STRENGTH AND RESILIENCE': Los Amigos puts on a virtual graduation for seniors

BY ANDREW TURNER

Both students and staff agreed that an online graduation went beyond anything they could have imagined.

Certainly, it was not the commencement ceremony of their dreams, but the virtual graduation put on by Los Amigos High School and the Garden Grove Unified School District provided many of the heart-warming moments expected of such an occasion.

Dr. Amy Avina, the principal of Los Amigos, acknowledged during the virtual livestream that many of her students have gone through struggles and urged them to not let those challenges define them.

"Do not carry these disappointments with you into the future as heavy burdens which turn into resentment," Avina said. "Instead, let these past few months and years shape you into warriors of strength

See **Los Amigos**, page A5



LOS AMIGOS HIGH'S class of 2020 graduates Alexandra Lopez, 17, left, and Karen Arzola, 17, center, watch their virtual graduation ceremony at Lopez's home in Santa Ana on Friday.

Working Wardrobes starts rebuilding effort

BY SARA CARDINE

Since a fire destroyed its Irvine headquarters in February, Working Wardrobes — a nonprofit that helps connect residents with job coaching and sets them up with appropriate work attire — has been gearing up for a serious makeover.

And now the transformation has begun.

Officials, volunteers and supporters celebrated Tuesday the opening of a 12,000-square-foot clothing donation center in Irvine. Locals turned out with professional outfits, shoes, jewelry and accessories in hand, ready to be donated.

The opening of the facility marks an important first step in a \$2.67-million rebuilding plan that will help the organization recoup, and even expand upon, what was lost in the fire, said founder and chief executive Jerri Rosen.

"We've taken a warehouse and created this wonderful,



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

DONORS AND staff members unload clothing at Working Wardrobes new donation center in Irvine on Tuesday.

warm and engaging environment for our donors," Rosen said. "This is like the point of entry for donors to learn about what we're doing at Working Wardrobes."

Tuesday's ceremony marked the beginning of several new developments on the horizon for

the nonprofit organization — a new career center in Santa Ana is scheduled to open after the Fourth of July weekend thanks, in part, to more than \$1 million in donations.

Four retail clothing stores in Costa Mesa, Tustin, Laguna Niguel and Garden Grove are

due to reopen to the visiting public later in July, after a four-month hiatus necessitated by the coronavirus pandemic.

The group is looking forward to holding a grand-reopening celebration in late September.

"A lot has happened, and it's happened in a very short period of time," Rosen said of the effort. "This is taking 30 years and condensing everything into five months of rebuilding."

Rosen said the cause of the fire — which broke out in the early morning hours of Feb. 2 and resulted in \$12 million in property and content loss — was never determined.

"It was an old building and not in the best condition," she added. "We just knew we needed to rebuild and not at that location."

Immediately following the disaster, employees and volunteers found a temporary home at a Goodwill facility in Santa

See **Rebuilding**, page A4

8 new deaths in county due to COVID-19

The healthcare agency also reports 167 additional confirmed cases on Friday.

BY ANDREW TURNER

Orange County reported eight deaths and 167 new confirmed cases of the coronavirus Friday in the latest COVID-19 update provided by the Orange County Health Care Agency.

In total, the county has seen the disease result in 210 deaths, with 98 of those fatalities involving a skilled nursing facility resident. Cumulative cases of the coronavirus in the county to date stand at 8,153.

There were 668 tests administered for the coronavirus in the last day, bringing the total number of tests performed to 174,298. Friday's numbers marked a steep drop in reported tests, as it was the first time since April 20 (788 tests)

See **Deaths**, page A5

Dr. Fauci to speak to UCI grads

BY LILLY NGUYEN

Graduation is Saturday for more than 7,400 students at UC Irvine.

For the commencement of the UCI School of Biological Sciences, graduates learned Thursday of a surprise speaker: National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Dr. Anthony Fauci.

All graduating students will be participating in a recorded commencement event with individual school receptions and celebrations to follow.

For the UCI School of Biological Sciences, that includes hearing from Fauci and Wajdie Ahmad, an Orange County-

See **Fauci**, page A4

ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

HUNTINGTON BEACH'S JAKE VOGEL SELECTED BY DODGERS IN MLB DRAFT PAGE A2

VISITORS AND RESIDENTS WILL SOON BE ABLE TO WALK THE PROMENADE ON FOREST PAGE A3

Defense raises the possibility of judge bias in surgeon rape case

BY HILLARY DAVIS

Attorneys for the Newport Beach surgeon and his girlfriend accused of serially drugging and raping several women in the doctor's seaside home are arguing for the judge assigned to the case to step aside because of a possible bias toward an alleged victim's attorney.

The motion to disqualify Orange County Superior Court Judge Gregory Jones from the case against Dr. Grant Robicheaux and Cerissa Riley came the morning of a scheduled hearing Friday to determine if the O.C. district attorney's office would continue to prosecute the case in light of D.A. Todd Spitzer's unsuccessful attempt to have Jones drop all charges against the pair for insufficient evidence. The state attorney

general's office could take the case instead.

The allegation of judicial bias stems from a closed-door meeting between Jones and Matt Murphy, a former deputy district attorney and current victims' rights lawyer, the day before the February dismissal hearing.

Noting Jones' own observations of politics "infecting" the case, which became a flash point in the pitched election battle between Spitzer and predecessor Tony Rackauckas, the attorneys said proceedings must be "transparent, unbiased and neutral."

"In many ways, the appearance of justice is no less critical to the public's trust in the judicial system than justice itself," wrote attorneys Philip Kent Cohen, Scott Borthwick and Shawn Holley. "In this case, that trust has been eroded

based upon the actual bias and the appearance of such bias that exists between this court and an attorney for a number of the alleged charged and uncharged victims in this case, Matt Murphy."

Murphy told the Orange County Register Friday that he was legally required to meet privately with Jones because the bid by Spitzer's office to "advance the hearing without providing notice to the victims created an ethical dilemma concerning my representation of one of my clients." He denied any wrongdoing.

Jones said from the bench Friday that he needed time to respond to the defense team's motion and rescheduled the hearing for June 19.

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Allen J. Schaben | Los Angeles Times

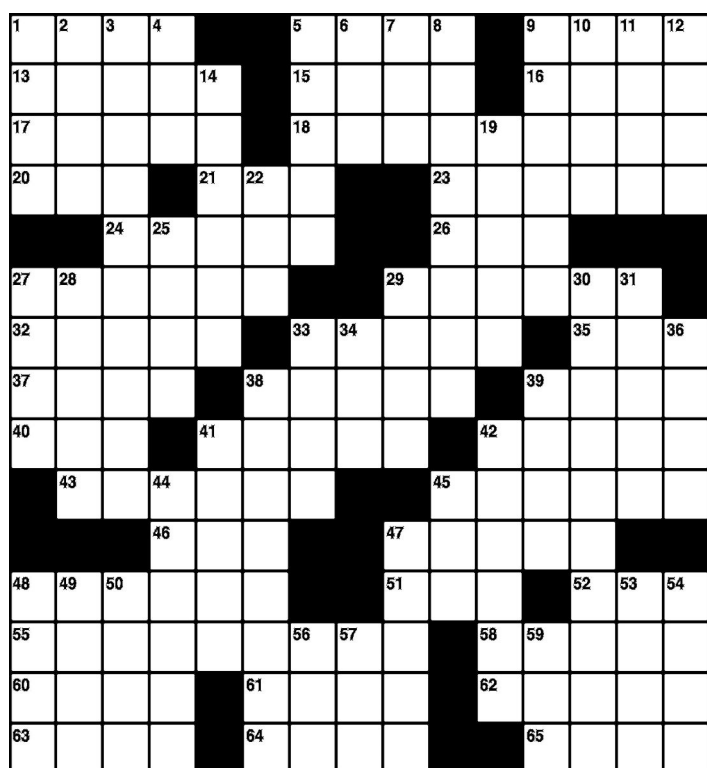
DR. GRANT ROBICHEAUX and girlfriend Cerissa Riley listen to his attorney, Philip Kent Cohen, during a news conference in 2018.

THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS

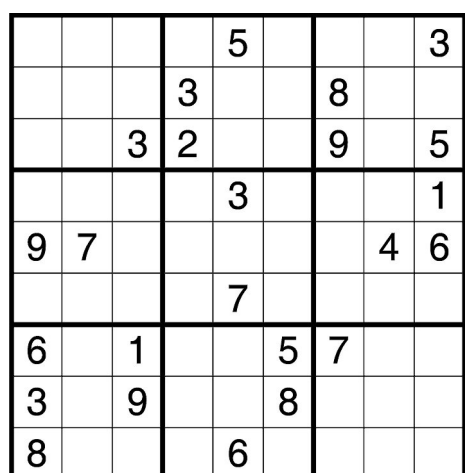
- 1 _ in; contribute to a fund
- 5 Grand _; 4-run homer
- 9 Pillow cover
- 13 Read between the _
- 15 Curly cabbage
- 16 Rubber tube
- 17 Alter to make fit
- 18 Pakistan's capital
- 20 Become united
- 21 Pamplona cheer
- 23 Beauty parlors
- 24 Gung ho
- 26 _ dos, tres
- 27 Declare not guilty
- 29 Not late
- 32 Waken
- 33 See-through, as hosiery
- 35 As _ as a beet
- 37 "All _ Jazz"; musical film
- 38 Bessie Smith's music
- 39 Actor Bridges
- 40 Just _ there; did nothing
- 41 Smooth & shiny
- 42 Word after pot or rump
- 43 Archie, to Prince William
- 45 Horse-drawn carriage
- 46 Guitarist Paul
- 47 "Terrific!"
- 48 Takes an extra base
- 51 Brian _ of "Chicago Med"
- 52 Elec. current unit
- 55 Helper
- 58 Orange Muppet
- 60 Work with yarn
- 61 Metal fastener
- 62 Plato's "S"
- 63 Has a feast
- 64 Hearts or Monopoly
- 65 Beverage in a stein



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 A3.

- DOWN**
- 1 Lobster's pincer
 - 2 Stay out of sight
 - 3 Not good enough
 - 4 Get-up-and-go
 - 5 Downhill racer
 - 6 Spanish article
 - 7 Laundry soap

- 8 Uses a yardstick
- 9 Greeting that means "Peace"
- 10 Tramp
- 11 As slippery _ eel
- 12 Rx items
- 14 Slender cigar
- 19 Splendid home
- 22 Allow

- 25 Smallest continent: abbr.
- 27 Linkletter & others
- 28 Composer George M. _
- 29 Quick look
- 30 Set up beforehand
- 31 Provoke jokingly
- 33 Killed
- 34 Cry's partner, in phrase
- 36 Off-_; not on the clock
- 38 Grace before meals
- 39 Drill a hole
- 41 Beach souvenir
- 42 Indian currency
- 44 Braids
- 45 Girl's nickname
- 47 In _; fashionable
- 48 "Oh, for Pete's _!"
- 49 Bluefin or albacore
- 50 Go out
- 53 Silent actor
- 54 Juicy fruit
- 56 Battery size
- 57 Basketball hoop edge
- 59 Curved bone

Tribune Media Services

BASEBALL

Huntington Beach High's Jake Vogel is selected by L.A. Dodgers in MLB Draft

BY ANDREW TURNER

Huntington Beach High School baseball coach Benji Medure can remember being a Dodgers fan from the time he was a small child, watching games and listening to the voice of Vin Scully on a little television in his grandma's kitchen as early as age 2.

Medure experienced a thrill unlike any other when Jake Vogel, the standout center fielder for the Oilers, was selected by the Dodgers in the third round (100th overall) in the Major League Baseball Draft on Thursday.

"I've been a huge fan," Medure said. "But [I have] never had a player, one of my players, play in their organization, so this is a first."

Vogel, who graduated from Huntington Beach High on Wednesday, has a decision to make, as he has committed to play college baseball at UCLA.

On the decision facing Vogel, Medure said that while he feels Vogel is ready to play professional baseball, either choice would be a good option. He added that playing for a college program like UCLA under head coach John Savage is also "worth its weight in gold."

For his high school career, the speedy Vogel posted a .350 batting average with 12 home runs, 12 triples and 22 doubles in 74 varsity games. He scored 59 runs, had 43 runs batted in, and reeled off 31 stolen bases.

Vogel was named a 2020 Perfect Game All-American and was selected to participate in the Area Code Games in 2019. He earned All-CIF



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

HUNTINGTON BEACH HIGH'S Jake Vogel homers against Fountain Valley on March 15, 2019. The Dodgers made Vogel a third-round choice in Thursday's MLB Draft.

Southern Section Division 1 honors in 2019. He was also a repeat selection to the Daily Pilot Baseball Dream Team as a junior.

It was his sophomore season when Vogel became Huntington Beach's starting center fielder and leadoff hitter, but he was also called up for the playoffs as a freshman.

In 2019, he helped Huntington Beach advance to the Division 1 semifinals, hitting a game-winning home run at Aliso Niguel in the quarterfinals.

The coronavirus pandemic canceled the majority of the high school and college baseball seasons this year, and the MLB Draft was shortened to just five rounds.

In a small sample size as a senior, Vogel made the impression he might have hoped for scouts. He hit for the cycle in his

last game in a 16-4 win against a previously unbeaten Laguna Beach team.

Medure noted that Vogel's hot streak at the plate started the game before.

"We played Corona del Mar the Friday before that," Medure said. "He was three for four, and he missed the cycle by a double, so he was seven for his last eight, and he almost hit for two cycles, was his final sendoff in high school. That's pretty cool. That is about as good as you can end your career right there."

Huntington Beach recently had Nick Pratto (Kansas City Royals, 14th overall) and Hagen Danner (Toronto Blue Jays, 61st overall) selected out of high school in the same draft in 2017.

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Laguna Beach visitors and residents will soon be able to walk the Promenade on Forest

BY LILLY NGUYEN

Lower Forest Avenue in Laguna Beach is shutting down for the summer for a pilot program called the Promenade on Forest, which will provide a space where patrons can eat and interact safely while allowing restaurants the space availability to operate at sustainable levels.

The city will be holding a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 8 a.m. Monday.

The program is one of several recommendations approved by the City Council to be implemented in an economic recovery and business development plan to revitalize the city's local economy as the coronavirus pandemic has caused the cancellation of at least one of Laguna Beach's main summer festivals and ahead of a prospective \$12-million loss in city revenue.

The Promenade on Forest will close off the stretch of Forest Avenue between Coast Highway and Gleneyre Street through Sept. 7.

"The Promenade on Forest pilot program seeks to create an environment that allows for public social interactions with family



Photo by Spencer Grant

SHARON AND David Richards window shop at Pacific Gallery on Forest Avenue on Small Business Saturday.

and friends from a physical distance, while allowing local businesses to reopen safely," Laguna Beach Assistant City Manager Shohreh Dupuis said in a statement.

The goal of the program was to support local businesses by expanding customer seating and merchandise display areas on lower Forest Avenue, the city said.

Discussion on the pilot program grew contentious in recent meetings, with some residents in favor of the program while others pointed to issues of parking, restrooms and city spending. Some speakers also asked why lower For-

est Avenue specifically should be closed when other restaurants in the city would be unable to access the same spaces because of their locations elsewhere.

It is estimated to cost \$248,703.

The Promenade on Forest will operate between 9 a.m. and 10 p.m. Maintenance staff will also be on-site to disinfect the area.

Members of the public can view a livestream of the ribbon-cutting ceremony at facebook.com/laguna-beachgov or attend in-person.

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Huntington Beach considers more outdoor options for businesses

BY HILLARY DAVIS

Huntington Beach is considering closing a block of downtown to vehicular traffic for the summer to help businesses expand outdoors and bounce back from pandemic closures.

The proposal, which is up for City Council consideration Monday, would make Main Street between Walnut and Olive avenues for pedestrians only so several decks known as "parklets" could temporarily jut into the road, allowing adjacent restaurants and shops on both sides of Main to expand. The parklets would make up some of the interior space lost to physical distancing requirements still in place to slow the spread of the coronavirus as businesses reopen after weeks of shutdowns.

With council approval, the city would spend

\$175,000 to have a private vendor, Torrance-based Choura Events, build out and furnish the decks. The project would be covered by Huntington's \$1.7-million share of federal CARES Act recovery funds. The Downtown Business Improvement District could also chip in funds.

Seven decks would offer extra space for shopping and communal take-away dining for the several eateries on the street from July 1 through Labor Day, Sept. 7. In doing so, the decks would temporarily knock out 19 curbside parking spaces — although city staff say that the area can absorb the parking loss because even with the increased activity, downtown won't be back to pre-pandemic normal just yet.

Planter boxes, string lighting, artworks and performances would soften

and spruce up the setting. The plan could also use the parking lot for the still-closed International Surfing Museum for small-scale events.

The parklet stimulus could generate about \$76,000 for the city through parking revenues and sales taxes just from the block's restaurants, according to a staff report.

The parklet proposal is in addition to a permitting program that allows businesses to temporarily expand onto sidewalks or other adjacent private or public property to maintain their usual occupancy.

Monday's meeting starts at 5 p.m. and will be broadcast live on huntingtonbeach.legistar.com and the HBTV-3 cable television channel.

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CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

C	H	I	P		S	L	A	M		S	H	A	M	
L	I	N	E	S		K	A	L	E		H	O	S	E
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2	9	6	8	5	7	4	1	3
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7	8	3	2	4	1	9	6	5
4	6	8	5	3	9	2	7	1
9	7	5	1	8	2	3	4	6
1	3	2	6	7	4	5	8	9
6	4	1	9	2	5	7	3	8
3	2	9	7	1	8	6	5	4
8	5	7	4	6	3	1	9	2

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