

Daily Pilot

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2022 // dailypilot.com



James Carbone

PARTICIPANTS JOINED a walk/run Sunday at Huntington Beach High School's Sheue Field for the 9/11 Honor Challenge presented by Operation Open Water. It was one of multiple commemorations of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people.

Orange County 9/11 tributes mark 21 years of remembrance

BY SARA CARDINE

Orange County residents and officials joined first responders Sunday in a series of local tributes held to mark 21 years since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks killed nearly 3,000 people and as a symbol of solidarity and remembrance.

The Orange County Fire Authority held its annual remembrance ceremony at 8:30 a.m. at the agency's headquarters at 1 Fire Au-

thority Road in Irvine. Dist. Atty. Todd Spitzer participated in the event, at which honor guard members conducted a bell-ringing ceremony.

"Lives were lost, and heroes were born that day. Ordinary people were transformed into extraordinary people to save the lives of strangers," Spitzer wrote on Twitter. "God bless our firefighters, our police officers and our military — and God bless America!"

Locally, Huntington Beach's Operation

Open Water — an affiliation of surfers, adventurers and advocates who support first responders, military service personnel and veterans — held its third annual 9/11 Honor Challenge at Huntington Beach High School.

About 100 people assembled at the school's Sheue Field Sunday afternoon to participate in the tribute, during which participants charged up and down the bleach-

See **Tributes**, page A6

N.B. fire might have been electrical

Investigators look into cause of 4-alarm blaze at Promontory Point, while tenants say manual alarms failed.

BY SUSAN HOFFMAN

An investigation continues this week into the cause and origin of a four-alarm fire that damaged four units at the Promontory Point apartment complex in Newport Beach and injured two firefighters Sunday morning, according to Newport Beach Fire Department officials.

Natalie May, fire services coordinator for the department, said in a written statement the call reporting the fire was first received at 10:30 a.m.

"It was upgraded to a two-alarm and then a three-alarm by 11:04 a.m.," May wrote. "The fire started in a single [apartment] and worked its way up into the common attic area and started to make its way through a few units, causing fire extinguishment efforts to be difficult."

She noted due to the day's high temperatures and humidity levels brought by Tropical Storm Kay, the firefighters were struggling to keep cool. As a result, the call was upgraded to a four-alarm fire at 11:44 a.m. to pull in additional

See **Fire**, page A2

H.B. officials deny Pacific Airshow organizer subsidy

BY MATT SZABO

The Huntington Beach City Council has denied a parking offset subsidy to Pacific Airshow organizer Code Four for this year's airshow, which is set to take off the weekend of Sept. 30 through Oct. 2.

In doing so with its vote at the Sept. 6 meeting, the City Council moved away from a precedent that had been established in previous years. The vote to deny the subsidy this year was 6-1, with Councilman Erik Peterson the dissenting vote.

"I'm not a big fan of subsidizing events, when we never see books," Councilman Dan Kalmick said. "We have to take their word for it, that they're not able to sustain this ... I think that if you're



Raul Roa

PHOTOGRAPHERS TAKE aim at the pattern created by the Canadian Forces Snowbirds at the Great Pacific Airshow in 2019. The show returns Sept. 30.

going to do a show after four or five years now, you've got to stand on your own two feet."

Code Four chief executive Kevin Elliott said Tues-

day's vote is the latest City Council action that has frustrated him, with the Huntington Beach resi-

See **Subsidy**, page A2



Photos by Sarahi Apaez

CHRISTY HERNANDEZ of Saints Simon & Jude Catholic Church performs during the Blessing of the Waves on Sunday. The event recognizes the spiritual qualities of water.

Blessing of the Waves bands Huntington Beach all together

The ocean can be a unifying thing in Surf City — and it was just that Sunday morning, as city officials and religious leaders gathered for the 14th annual Blessing of the Waves at the Huntington Beach Pier.

The event, which seeks to recognize the spiritual qualities of water, is organized each year by the Greater Huntington Beach Interfaith Council.

Rabbi Stephen J. Einstein of Congregation B'nai Tzedek performed the invocation, before religious

leaders from across the city offered their prayers. Blessings were given for both the waves and the event's attendees.

Huntington Beach Mayor Barbara Delgleize, celebrating her birthday on Sunday, offered some words. The event also served to celebrate local surfing legend Brett Simpson, a two-time U.S. Open of Surfing winner who was inducted into the Surfing Walk of Fame this summer.

Guests enjoyed music from the Huntington Beach Marine Safety Band, "Crew

52," and Father Mike Rizzon of Saints Simon & Jude Catholic Church performed the benediction.

The Blessing of the Waves was originally started as a Catholic-led event through the Diocese of Orange in 2008, before the Greater Huntington Beach Interfaith Council started organizing it in 2013.

In part, the event recognizes how the ocean is a common theme in many religions.

— Matt Szabo

Bicyclist killed in N.B. accident

A bicyclist died after being struck by a vehicle in Newport Beach Sunday morning, and the driver suspected of hitting him was arrested on suspicion of homicide and hit-and-run.

The crash was reported at about 8:30 a.m. on Jamboree Road at Bayview Way, Newport Beach police officials said in a news release. Bystanders were tending to the man who was hit when officers arrived, but he died at the scene.

The bicyclist was later identified as Randon William Cintron, 43, of Costa Mesa, Orange County Sheriff's Sgt. Scott Steinle said.

The driver allegedly left without stopping to help the victim, police said. She was detained less than 2 miles away, near Corona Del Mar High School and arrested.

She was identified as Adriana Bernal, 36, of Anaheim by Costa Mesa police. She was held in lieu of over \$1 million bail as of Tuesday, according to inmate records.

Additional information about the crash was not immediately released.

City News Service contributed to this report.

— Eric Licas



Courtesy of Cory McDougal

A WOODEN CROSS, flowers and messages of condolence serve as a memorial where Randy Citron was struck and killed by an alleged hit and run driver Sunday, Sept. 11, while riding his bike along Jamboree Road at Bayview Way.



RABBI STEPHEN EINSTEIN of Congregation B'nai Tzedek blows the shofar during the 14th annual Blessing of the Waves ceremony in Huntington Beach on Sunday.

N.B. forum focuses on e-bikes, development

BY LILLY NGUYEN

Six of Newport Beach's City Council candidates were in the hot seat Monday night as residents grilled them for their thoughts on e-bikes, traffic safety and development during a forum held in the youth center of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church.

Hosted by the Newport Heights Community Assn., the forum was the fifth to date that's been held ahead of the Nov. 8 election, when four of the seven seats on the City Council will be on the ballot.

Council members in Newport Beach represent individual districts but are voted in at large. The Newport Heights and Cliffhaven communities are in District 2, which is represented by Councilman Brad Avery, who was reelected in 2020.

Seven of the eight candidates running appeared at the church Monday night. Lauren Kleiman, who is running for election in District 6, which encompasses Corona del Mar, was absent.

Robyn Grant, who is running in District 4, which includes the Eastbluff and Bonita Canyon communities, ceded her time to the other candidates as she is running unopposed in her district.

The forum was moderated by Newport Heights Community Assn. board



SIX OF the eight Newport Beach City Council candidates listen as moderator Jed Robinson sets out ground rules for the Newport Heights Community Assn. forum Monday night. It's the fifth community forum for the election candidates so far.

Lilly Nguyen

member Jed Robinson and was broken down into two parts. Each candidate was allowed five minutes to introduce themselves to the community and to state their goals for the city. Fol-

lowing that, candidates were given one minute each to answer questions submitted by the audience.

Candidates were asked their opinions on a range of topics, including the re-

development of Mariners Mile, the regulation of e-bikes and the creation of a center similar to the OASIS Senior Center in Newport Heights. They were also asked to weigh in on local

traffic concerns and what form a potential development on lower Castaways should take.

Councilwoman Joy Brenner called attention to the city's circulation plan, not-

ing it would be come before the City Council at its next regular meeting on Sept. 27. She suggested residents in Newport Heights come out to weigh in on the policies proposed.

Brenner suggested traffic be diverted away from the neighborhoods, which the other candidates generally agreed with.

Planning Commissioner Erik Weigand, who is running for election in District 3, said the biggest upcoming projects on Mariners Mile relate to the Ardel property — about eight acres of harbor-front property sold to real estate investors Manouch and Mark Moshayedi in 2016. Some of those projects have already been proposed.

"We have to engage the property owner from a community perspective and we have to find a solution that fits," said Weigand. "We have to have a good community discussion and we have to work with the applicant and that has to form consensus. You can't just go and oppose, oppose, oppose. You have to find some solutions."

Fellow candidates were generally supportive, calling for community members and developers to communicate with one another.

E-bikes and e-bike safety

See **Forum**, page A5

SUBSIDY

Continued from page A1

dent now questioning whether he will even continue directing the Pacific Airshow after this year.

"The City Council has been trying to chop me at the knees," Elliott said in a phone interview Monday. "For whatever reason, I couldn't tell you ... but they've caused us millions and millions and millions in dollars in financial damage."

"This is about a lot more than the parking offset. That was simply just another punishment in a long line of punishments that's been handed out by this council."

The city has raised parking rates at the beach every year since the airshow started in 2016, to help offset the staffing costs owed by the event organizer. In 2018, the Economic Development Committee came to a consensus to again assist as Code Four took over organizing the airshow. That same year, the City Council adopted a resolution that made parking rate modifications in support of the event permanent.

In 2019, the panel unanimously approved a parking subsidy of no more than \$110,000.

"The only private business that we underwrite by charging more for parking to offset public safety is the airshow," Councilman Mike Posey said. "It was my belief and understanding that 2019 was the last time we were going to do it."

Councilwoman Kim Carr agreed it was clear to her in 2019 that the subsidy would not be a permanent thing.

"I'm somebody who's pretty accustomed to selling sponsorships and knows a lot about this," Carr said. "This is an event that brings 1.5 million people to Huntington Beach, and if you can't monetize this, then I don't know what to say. I've sold events that were a 10th of the size of this ... We want him to be successful, and we've done our part, but there has to be a point where you get out of the nest and learn how to fly."

To date, the city has waived a total of \$86,425 in permit-related fees and provided \$296,094 in parking offset revenues, according to a presentation by Huntington Beach director

of community and library services Chris Slama. But Code Four will now be on the hook for an estimated \$256,963 owed to the city for this year's show, including staffing costs, various permit fees and reserved parking space and campground sites.

Elliott sent an email Tuesday afternoon, a couple of hours before the meeting, requesting a removal of the parking offset cap that was approved in 2019. That rubbed a couple of the council members the wrong way.

"One of the things that I really dislike is getting an email at 4 o'clock on the day of a meeting," Kalmick said. "The agenda has been out for a week, and we're getting last-minute emails, asking for things that are different ... I got no calls from Code Four talking about this issue."

Elliott said he only sent the last-minute email because he found out that morning that the item was going to be on the agenda, when Peterson contacted him.

"The city's modus operandi is basically to stonewall you until you're up against a wall, then bring



Spencer Grant

THE U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds do a fly past over Huntington Beach Pier during last year's Pacific Airshow. This year's show is set to take off the weekend of Sept. 30 through Oct. 2.

you in front of the council and make you look like [a jerk] for having to send an email that afternoon," he said. "No accounting was given for the last four years that I've been trying to get the city to approach this event differently."

The Pacific Airshow is the No. 1 airshow in the country by attendance. In 2019 the

show generated more than \$105 million of economic impact in Huntington Beach alone, according to a study commissioned by Visit Huntington Beach.

But it has run into misfortune in recent years. It was canceled in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Last year, city officials canceled the last day of the

airshow after an oil spill off the coast of Huntington Beach. Elliott said the city has made no attempt to rectify the situation with him.

Additionally, the city has had five city managers or interim city managers since Elliott took over production

See **Subsidy**, page A5

FIRE

Continued from page A1

firefighters from nearby communities. May estimated that 24 units and 65 personnel were on the scene battling the fire, which was knocked down at 12:16 p.m. Sunday.

Senicia Burke, the tenant of 461 Promontory Drive West, said in an interview the fire started in her apartment, which she shares with her daughter, while she was at the grocery store.

"My whole house is gone," Burke said. "The Newport Beach fire marshal told me that foul play had been ruled out and that it was an electrical fire that started in the kitchen."

Burke, who saw the smoke billowing into the sky as she left the market to head home, said that to her knowledge nothing had ignited in her unit. She also noted the smoke alarm delayed in going off and there were no overhead fire suppression sprinklers in the unit.

"My home is burnt down, and there is nothing left," Burke said. "I do believe in my heart it was from construction a few months ago that was done, due to mold, and had caused water leaking in sunroofs and windows. Mine was the only unit where we had to move out when water came through the walls during the rain."



Photos by Susan Hoffman

AN INVESTIGATION to find the cause of a four-alarm fire at a Newport Beach apartment complex is underway. A tenant says she was told the fire was electrical in origin.

And the fire yesterday started in the walls."

"I'm emotional and don't know where to start. I'll move on, and we are safe," she said.

A spokesperson for the Irvine Co., which operates the Promontory Point complex, did not return email or phone requests for comment.

Christine Fugate, who lives two doors down from the apartment where the fire started, said she didn't hear any fire alarms go off in her building. She said strangers passing by saw smoke and called the fire department.

"A family driving by hit

their horn and screamed, 'Get out, get out,'" Fugate said, adding it was the noise they made that allowed her to escape to safety.

"I'm so upset, no fire alarms, I'm still shaking," Fugate said. "People who don't even live here called [911]. I'm really scared."

Since 2007, state fire code has required structures with two or more dwelling units, such as apartments, to have indoor automatic sprinkler systems, according to NBF Life Safety Specialist James Gillespie, who is also a professor of fire technology at San Diego Miramar Col-

lege.

Promontory Points' building permits were issued in the 1970s, when sprinklers were not required.

"The apartment complex is protected with stand pipes with preconnected hoses in cabinets," said Kevin Bass, Newport Beach Fire Department's fire marshal. "Although fire sprinklers are now required for [individual] apartments, this project is 'grandfathered' since it was built in conformance to code at the time of construction."

"There are fire sprinklers in various areas within the apartment complex, in-



FIREFIGHTERS ON scene at Promontory Point blaze that broke out Sunday morning. Two firefighters were injured.

cluding sprinkler coverage for some patios, in parking garages, the leasing office, etc.," Bass said. "But fire sprinklers do not uniformly protect this apartment complex."

Bass noted there are smoke alarms inside all of the apartments at Promontory Point.

"These smoke alarms are designed to notify the residents of smoke within their individual dwelling unit, but they do not send out a signal to warn other residents nor dispatch an emergency response," he said. "At the time of construction, fire detection systems were required to notify the occupants of smoke, and the existing individual smoke alarms comply with this standard."

Bass said some of the Promontory Point units are also protected with smoke detectors that send a signal

to a fire alarm panel, which in turn relays the signal to dispatch emergency responders. The apartment units affected by Sunday's fire had been equipped with both individual smoke alarms and smoke detectors.

"My office has received several reports that the fire alarm system was not functioning when the manual pull stations were activated," the fire marshal said. "I will follow up with the investigator assigned to this incident to determine if the fire alarm system was operating."

According to May, the fire services coordinator, the two firefighters who were transported to a hospital for heat-related treatment Sunday have since been released.

Susan Hoffman is a contributor to the Daily Pilot



Believing is the first step

We're empowering entrepreneurs
to take the next one

In the last decade, more than 50% of all new businesses created were diverse-owned.* It's why Bank of America has taken an innovative, industry-leading approach to help fuel growth by supporting mission-focused equity funds, Community Development Financial Institutions and Minority Depository Institutions, including Affordable Housing Clearinghouse, Momentus Capital and The 22 Fund.

These partners help women entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs of color establish and grow their businesses, create jobs and improve financial stability in local communities across the country.



We know that it takes more than a great idea to start and keep a business running. My teammates and I in Orange County want to make sure every big believer has the opportunity to achieve and reach their goals.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allen".

Allen Staff
President, Bank of America Orange County

What would you like the power to do?[®]

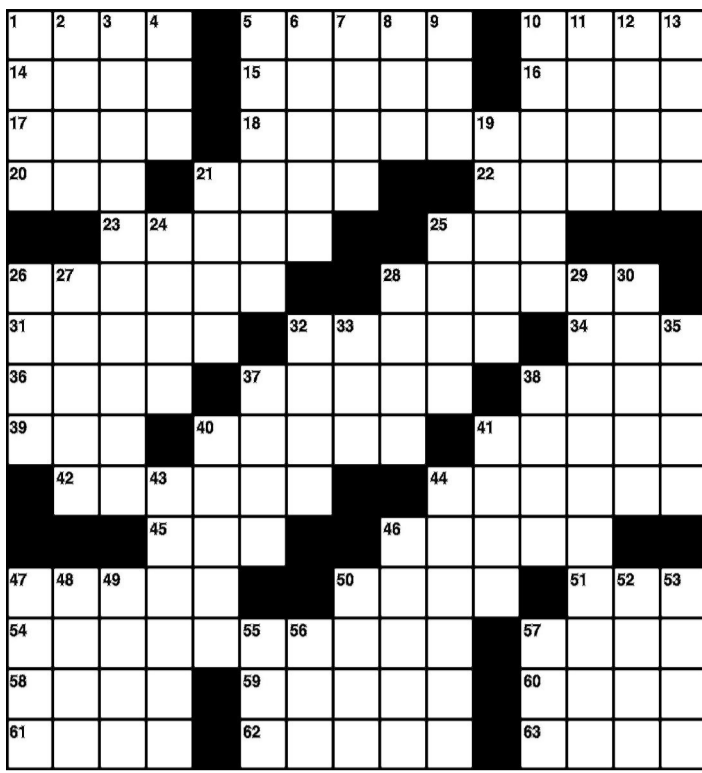
Learn more at bankofamerica.com/orangecounty

THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS

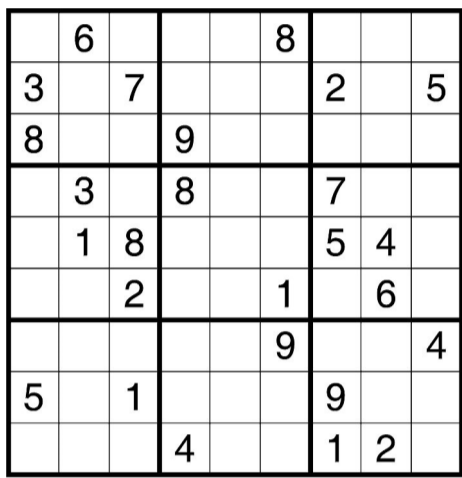
- 1 As _ as a button
5 Shopping areas
10 Close friend
14 Declare
15 Spend the last of
16 Tempt
17 Backside
18 Songfests
20 On a _ with; equivalent to
21 "Begone!"
22 Fathers of mules
23 Mount Fuji's location
25 Go quickly
26 "_ in the Hat"
28 Filthy; squalid
31 Broadcaster
32 Pandemonium
34 Ping-Pong table center
36 Riles
37 Young dog
38 Battle memento
39 Gen. Robert E.
40 Disgrace
41 Stringed instrument
42 Dresser compartment
44 Barbra Streisand's age
45 Hightailed it
46 Hidden storage place
47 Disdain
50 In this place
51 JFK's Attorney General
54 Walker
57 Heartless
58 Goes on to say
59 Dishwasher cycle
60 Barge _; enter uninvited
61 Cozy home
62 _ up; fed the kitty



SUDOKU

By The Mephram Group

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit sudoku.org.uk.



For answers to the crossword and Sudoku puzzles, see page A6.

DOWN

- 1 Nag
2 Part of the eye
3 Sad movie
4 Slip up
5 Capital of Oman
6 Chinese or Thai
7 Church season
8 Schlep
9 Hot tub
10 Nighttime shop window sign
11 Attila's men
12 Encourage
13 Disarray

- 19 Wild animal hideaways
21 Shadowbox
24 Many hardware stores
25 Earring shape
26 Kite feature
27 Employed
28 Buyer's delight
29 Babbling
30 Passed out cards
32 Blacken
33 Skirt's edge
35 Cafeteria item
37 "_ Harry Met Sally"; 1989 film
38 Exhale audibly
40 Waterbirds
41 Evil habit
43 Take into custody
44 Merited
46 Stop
47 Reach across
48 Hand over land
49 Likelihood
50 _ at; insinuate
52 Destiny
53 Recognize
55 Refrain opener
56 _ Tin Tin
57 Prefix for step or spell

Tribune Media Services

FORUM

Continued from page A2

were at the top of the mind for many at the forum, who asked what could be done.

District 3 candidate Amy Peters said she felt parents needed to be involved and educated in e-bike safety to keep kids from getting hurt, adding that she knew personally that children were speeding past stop signs and not abiding by traffic laws.

"... [E-bikes] are not going to go away, but there's restrictors you can put on these bikes, just like a golf cart. You can only go 14 miles an hour," said Peters. "There are legal limits, but these kids don't think, and their parents need to know the truth and need to know that it's their responsibility too."

Candidates also agreed on the issue of enforcement.

District 1 candidate Joe

Stapleton said the matter of e-bike safety was not only one that concerned children who use them but adult users too. He said he cycles regularly through the city and he noticed "major" problems with circulation in Newport Beach.

Candidate Tom Miller said he and his wife live on the Balboa boardwalk, where they see e-bikes every day. He also agreed that education and enforcement are important, but he felt the Newport Beach Police Department is understaffed, which makes enforcement of bicycle rules a challenge.

"They have crime to deal with. They have homelessness to deal with. My position is let's increase the police department, create more enforcement. We have to change the behavior on these e-bikes because the probability of outlawing them is pretty slim, so let's change the behavior first,"

said Miller.

Community watchdog and District 3 candidate Jim Mosher said he believes there are ways for bicyclists and pedestrians to get along, but he noted the revolving discussion in Newport Heights around sidewalks and bike lanes. Some audience members asked what candidates thought of speed bumps, sidewalks and street lamps.

Mosher advised Newport Heights residents to attend the Sept. 27 meeting on the city's circulation element to "see what the policies are that the council may be adopting in two weeks and how they impact [sidewalks and bike lanes]."

The next candidates forum will be held by Speak Up Newport at the civic center community room Wednesday. It begins at 5:15 p.m.

lilly.nguyen@latimes.com
Twitter: @lillibirds

SUBSIDY

Continued from page A2

of the airshow, which he said has made it difficult to coordinate a unified group effort. He said the Afterburner Music Festival, which was introduced last year and ran concurrently with the airshow, had to be canceled this year because the city didn't give him final approval until June.

Elliott said that was too late to promote the multi-million-dollar festival.

"It sort of felt like I took on this airshow for the benefit of the community, when no one else wanted to," he said. "I saved it, you know. I'm not trying to be

a martyr or anything, but the City Council clearly has a very short memory ... They didn't have the authority to cancel the event, and they canceled it anyway.

"We love our ocean, I love my city, I want to do what's right. If that means canceling the event, that's totally cool. But you can't make tough decisions and leave the businesses and the patrons out in the cold, and that's what they've done to me."

The Pacific Airshow has expanded to Australia next year, with the Pacific Airshow Gold Coast set to debut in August 2023. Additionally, the Huntington Beach event is now broadcast online due to a part-

nership with Hulu.

Still, Elliott said the help is needed to subsidize such a large event.

"It's awesome what we're doing, but admittedly, corporations aren't exactly lining up to cut seven-figure checks right now," he said. "It's tough times. Automakers can't even make cars, and there's shelves empty at the grocery store. We're not over this COVID situation yet, and the idea that we're going to have companies lining up with bags of cash to subsidize this event that brings a tremendous benefit to the city is insane to me."

matthew.szabo@latimes.com
Twitter: @mjszabo

FOR THE RECORD

A story published Sunday, Sept. 11 previewing the upcoming release of the Orange County Human Relations Commission's annual hate crime report featured an incorrect title for Orange County Board of Supervisors Chairman Doug Chaffee.

Keep up with L.A. Times, wherever you are.

As a print subscriber, you have free unlimited digital access on our app.

Our easy-to-use digital design allows you to find what you're looking for quickly. Download the app and never miss a thing.

- Stay informed 24/7 with award-winning journalism.
Experience our upgraded app.
Get access to the eNewspaper with easy navigation, searchable archives and offline reading.
Easily manage your account and subscription.

Download the L.A. Times app



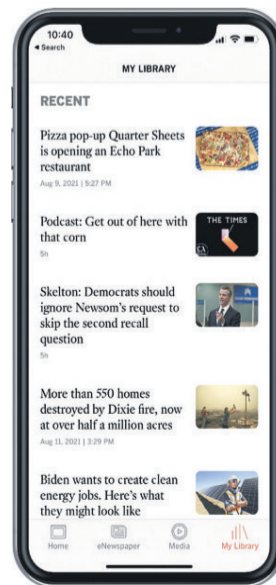
Access today's top stories.



Navigate the newspaper with searchable archives and offline reading.



Listen to our podcasts and watch exclusive video content.



View your recently read and saved stories.



The state of what's next. Los Angeles Times

