

Daily Pilot

SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2020 /// Now including Coastline Pilot and Huntington Beach Independent /// dailypilot.com

Text messages reconstruct copter crash

Recently released by the National Transportation Safety Board, they document the flight that killed Kobe Bryant, his daughter and seven others.

BY NATHAN FENNO

The text messages followed Kobe Bryant's helicopter on a quiet Sunday morning five months ago. "Wheels up," the broker who arranged the flight messaged as the Sikorsky S-76B left John Wayne Airport in Santa Ana at 9:06 a.m.

Veteran pilot Ara Zobayan would transport Bryant, a Newport Coast resident, his 13-year-old daughter, Gianna, and six others on their way to

basketball games at the Mamba Sports Academy in Thousand Oaks. Zobayan, a Huntington Beach resident, was Bryant's favorite pilot. The retired Lakers star called him "Mr. Pilot Man." "Just started raining lightly here," one of Bryant's drivers messaged from Camarillo Airport, the helicopter's destination, at 9:33 a.m.

The same group had flown without incident to

See **Messages**, page A2



Photos by Raul Roa | Staff Photographer

ALYSSA SKOBIS, 22 of Downey is baptized in the Pacific Ocean by Salt Costa Mesa Church leaders Joe Ferguson, left, and his wife Taylor Ferguson, during the weekly Saturate OC worship event held north of the pier in Huntington Beach on Friday.

In Huntington Beach, a revival with church at the ocean's edge

ASHLEY RAKES,

28, of Orange is prayed over after she was baptized on Friday.



BY HILLARY DAVIS

There's a revival taking place on the sand at Huntington Beach.

On Friday, at least 200 evangelical Christian faithful gathered near life-guard tower 20 to hear the word and be motivated to spread it.

They sang and raised their hands skyward in praise. Several walked into the cool waves of the Pacific to be baptized at sunset.

Three girls, best friends from a youth group at Influence Church in Anaheim Hills, waded into the water

See **Revival**, page A4



Michael Owen Baker | Associated Press

KOBE BRYANT and daughter Gianna, seen at a Lakers game on Dec. 29, died less than a month later when the helicopter they were traveling in to one of her basketball games crashed into a hillside in Calabasas.

West Nile Virus cases confirmed in mosquitoes and bird samples found in Orange County cities

BY SARA CARDINE

Three mosquito samples collected in Anaheim, Cypress and Garden Grove on Wednesday tested positive for West Nile Virus, accounting for the first positive samples in Orange County this year, according to the county's Mosquito and Vector Control District.

Mosquitoes were collected in Cypress at Cerritos Avenue and Lexington Drive, in Anaheim at East Sycamore and East streets and at Garden Grove Boulevard

and Stafford Street in Garden Grove.

District officials confirmed in a release Thursday that one dead bird, collected in Irvine, had also tested positive for the virus.

"West Nile virus positive mosquito samples indicates that the virus is active in Orange County and there is an increased risk for residents to become infected with WNV through a mosquito bite," Robert Cummings, Director of Scientific Services for the district, said in the statement.

Humans are typically infected with the virus when bitten by an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes become infected by feeding on birds that already have the virus.

Currently, no human infections have been confirmed in Orange County, the release stated.

District staff are continuing to conduct surveillance and inspections and will employ control measures in select areas to prevent mosquito breeding. Workers will post West Nile advisory signs to alert residents in

affected areas of high virus activity.

In order to prevent mosquito bites, residents are encouraged to dump and drain containers of water at least once each week, clean and scrub bird baths and pet water bowls weekly and keep potted plant saucers free of excess water.

To learn more about West Nile Virus, visit ocvector.org/west-nile-virus.

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Bride, groom swept into sea during photo shoot



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

TREASURE ISLAND BEACH at the Montage Resort in Laguna Beach. A bride and groom in the midst of a photo shoot were swept off the rocks and into the ocean and had to be rescued by Laguna Beach lifeguards.

BY LILLY NGUYEN

A bride and groom were swept to sea in the midst of a photo shoot, but they were rescued by Laguna Beach marine safety officials.

On June 30, at around 6 p.m., the couple had been standing out on a rock outcropping at Middleman's Beach, between Goff Cove Beach and Treasure Island Beach, when a set of waves swept them out into the waters.

Lifeguards responded from the Goff tower. The first lifeguard on the scene, Camron Hauer, swam out to the conscious male victim, but saw the female victim floating face-down in the water.

Hauer subsequently left the rescue tube with the male victim before swimming out to rescue the female victim. Both victims were returned to shore with the assistance of other lifeguards.

Both victims were fully dressed, Marine

Safety Capt. Kai Bond said.

"In this case, the male was wearing a suit with shoes and the female was wearing a full wedding dress," Bond said, "that makes that rescue much more difficult to perform with that added weight, especially since [Hauer] had to rescue [the] second victim without a rescue tube."

The couple were subsequently transported to Mission Hospital in Laguna Beach, but were later released, Bond said.

"It can be dangerous in that area," Bond said. "The issue was that they were in a location and they weren't paying attention to the surf and because they weren't paying attention in this location, a set of waves came and swept them off the rock."

Hauer will be honored at next Tuesday's City Council meeting with a proclamation by the city for his rescue.

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Scholarships awarded in honor of late CdM grad Matt Olson

BY MATT SZABO

Matt Olson is remembered in the Corona del Mar High School community as a kind and caring person.

Olson, a 2019 CdM graduate who was captain of the boys' volleyball and basketball teams, died on Aug. 24, 2019, just days before starting his freshman year at USC. He was hit by cars while walking on the 110 Freeway, according to the California Highway Patrol.

Out of tragedy, the Olson family found a way to pay forward Matt's giving nature. The M.O. 23 Forever Scholarship Fund, which has his jersey number in the name, was started soon after his death. From that fund, nearly \$10,000 was recently awarded to seven CdM and Newport Harbor graduates.

Austin Chandler of CdM won a \$2,300 scholarship, while Ella Jacobs and Michelle Kalili each received \$1,000 scholarships. Aldrich Jimenez of Newport Harbor took home a \$2,300 scholarship, while Sailors graduates

See **Olson**, page A3



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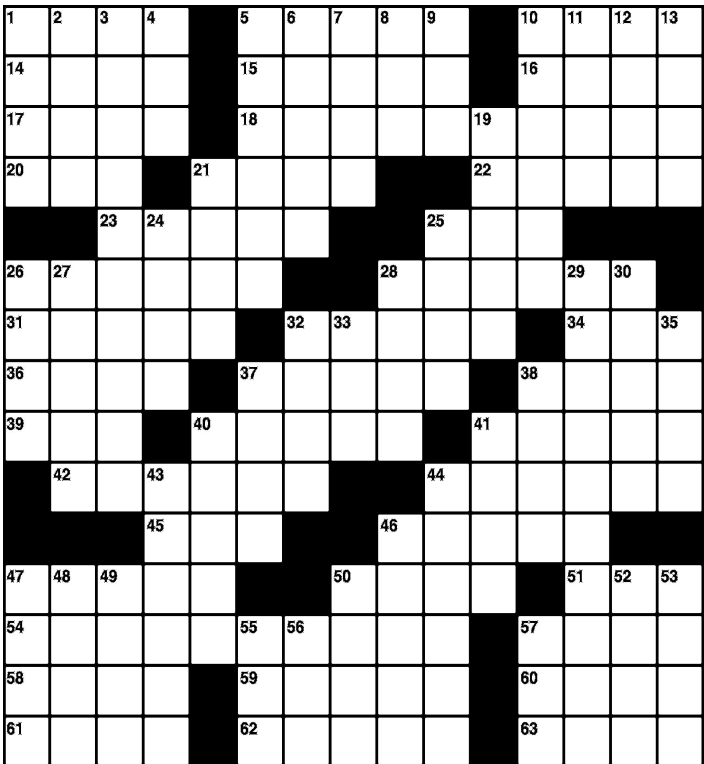


THE DAILY
COMMUTER
PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS
1 _ up; shredded
5 Book of maps
10 Commanded
14 Feels remorse about
15 Sawyer or Keaton
16 Call it _; quit & go home
17 Playwright's divisions
18 Operate a guillotine
20 Fraternity letter
21 _ a soul; nobody
22 Like capitol roofs
23 Hotel bookings
25 Bic product
26 Stimulates the economy
28 Lawn-covered
31 Subdues
32 Iron alloy
34 1950s high school dance
36 Certain votes
37 Hard to climb
38 Dumbbell
39 Cartoon dog
40 Use your brain
41 Hamelin's visitor
42 Engraver
44 Awkward situation
45 Tupperware cover
46 Free-for-all
47 Furry swimmer
50 Hay bundle
51 Encycl. vol., perhaps
54 Bum
57 Come _; find
58 Steep rugged rock
59 One's strong point
60 Neighbor of Bolivia
61 Actor's award
62 Apprehensive feeling
63 Part of BA

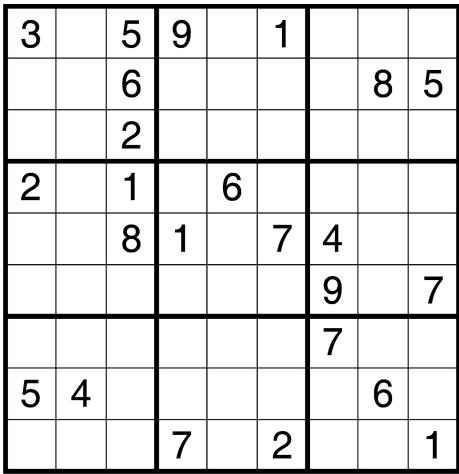
DOWN
1 Catch in a snare
2 Cry from a flu shot clinic
3 Pensioner's state of life



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.

4 Curvy mountain road	sticks
5 TV's "The _ Family" (1964-66)	11 Eve's man
6 Levels	12 Palm tree fruit
7 Frilly	13 Wide-_; naive
8 Actress Ortiz	19 Perfect
9 Two months hence: abbr.	21 _ off; dozes
10 Bandleaders'	24 Aces, often
	25 Get ready, for short
	26 Nighttime

twinkler
27 Name on a check
28 Computer _; expert tech
29 Small store owner
30 Alpine goatherd's song
32 _ up; agitate
33 Two and eight
35 Tiny skin opening
37 Backyard outbuilding
38 Numbered cubes
40 Elementary school grade
41 Stack
43 Church leaders
44 Bit of hamster food
46 Soda shop orders
47 " _ in Love with Amy"
48 Semester or trimester
49 Reds or Browns
50 Titanic's downfall
52 _ Worth, TX
53 Wildebeests
55 One _ kind; unique thing
56 Got first prize
57 _ tree; cornered

Tribune Media Services

MESSAGES

Continued from page A1

the same destination a day earlier — and Zobayan flew Bryant on the route at least 10 times last year.

A text message thread among the broker, charter company and drivers accompanied each flight. The smallest details mattered, like reminding the drivers that Bryant's backpack was stashed in the back of the blue and white helicopter. "Land?" another broker employee texted at 9:48 a.m., three minutes after the flight had been scheduled to arrive.

"Not yet," the driver responded a minute later.

Thirteen minutes of silence on the thread masked growing alarm.

"Ara, you okay," the broker messaged at 10:02 a.m.

The pilot didn't respond.

The text messages are among more than 1,700 pages of interview transcripts, emails, studies and pictures released by the National Transportation Safety Board on June 17 that document the flight that slammed into a fog-covered hillside in Calabasas on Jan. 26, killing all nine people on board. A previous report by the NTSB didn't find any engine or mechanical failure.

The new batch of records doesn't draw any conclusions about the accident. But they provide a minute-by-minute account of Bryant's last flight from Zobayan's girlfriend, mechanics who worked on the S-76B, air traffic controllers, pilots, employees of the charter company and broker, a personal assistant for the family and eyewitnesses to the crash.

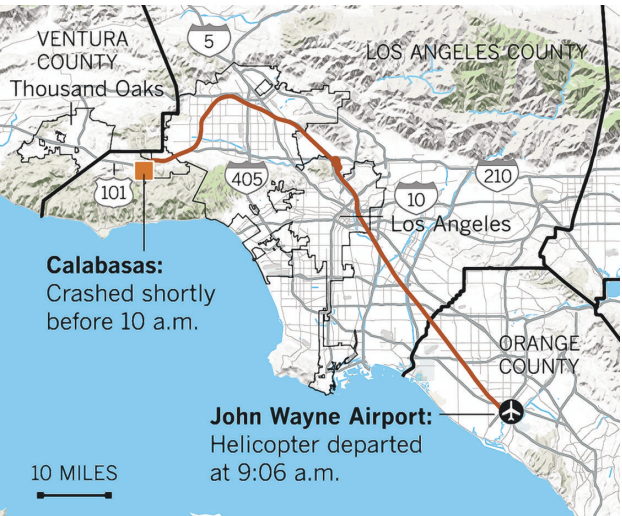
The previous night, Patti Taylor from OC Helicopters, the broker that arranged Bryant's flights and ground transportation, reviewed the plan. "Weather look ok tomorrow?" she messaged the group.

"Just checked and not the best day tomorrow but it is not as bad as today," Zobayan responded.

The departure had moved from 9:45 a.m. to 9 a.m. so Bryant could watch another team play. They would return around 3 p.m.

"Advised weather could be issue ..." Taylor added. "Copy," Zobayan said. "Will advise on weather early morning."

Tess Davidson, Zobayan's girlfriend of seven years, told investigators that he reviewed weather through an app on his iPad called ForeFlight the night before each flight and didn't hesitate to cancel a charter if conditions weren't right. "He would not be pres-



Sources: Flightradar24, Nextzen, OpenStreetMap

AFTER TAKING OFF in Orange County, the helicopter flew northwest and then crashed shortly before 10 a.m. near Las Virgenes Road, south of the 101 Freeway, in Calabasas.

sured into flying," she said.

Island Express canceled 150 flights because of weather last year, according to investigators. Some of them involved high-profile clients such as Kylie Jenner and Clippers star Kawhi Leonard. In the two days before the accident, weather forced the cancellation of 13 flights. Bryant wasn't immune from weather-related scheduling issues, either.

"There was often times where perhaps we had to fly [Bryant] one way but couldn't fly him back due to weather that came in or had to cancel or had to delay it," Taylor, the broker, told investigators. "Now, make no mistake, he didn't like being told no, but we told him no."

She echoed Zobayan's girlfriend: "Ara could never be pressured to fly if it wasn't correct."

Kurt Deetz, a former Island Express pilot who had flown Bryant, told investigators Bryant left weather issues to the pilot because "he assumed you're doing your job."

Bryant had an unusual level of comfort with Zobayan. In interviews with investigators, colleagues described the chief pilot for Island Express as personable, detail-oriented and thoughtful enough to buy a new drill for one of the company's mechanics as a surprise and diapers for the child of another employee.

He woke up around 6 a.m. each day without the aid of an alarm clock, rarely drank alcohol and had more than 8,500 hours of flight time. Though other pilots had been cleared to fly the Bryant family, they wanted Zobayan.

The pilot regaled colleagues with stories of flying Bryant around Southern California. Actor Lorenzo Lamas, who also worked as an Island Express pilot, recalled Zobayan telling him about transport-

ing the Bryant family to San Bernardino International Airport on Thanksgiving. Much to Zobayan's surprise, Bryant returned to the helicopter a few minutes after landing. He had forgotten the stuffing. Zobayan flew him back to John Wayne Airport to collect the side dish.

Whitney Bagge, vice president for Island Express, told investigators the relationship between Zobayan and Bryant became a friendship. Taylor said Bryant trusted Zobayan "with his girls and family, which was paramount to him" and the interactions between pilot and client were "very warm and friendly and joking."

Bryant's widow, Vanessa, sued Island Express and Zobayan's estate in Los Angeles County Superior Court in February, alleging the company "permitted a flight with full knowledge that the subject helicopter was flying into unsafe weather conditions." Surviving members of the three other families who lost members in the accident have also filed lawsuits. An attorney for the company has called the crash a "tragic accident."

At 7:30 a.m. on Jan. 26, Zobayan texted the group that the weather was "looking ok." Taylor followed up about the weather 50 minutes later. Zobayan responded, "Should be OK." Ric Webb, the OC Helicopters owner, chimed in: "I Agree."

Zobayan flew the S-76B from Long Beach to John Wayne Airport, landed at 8:39 a.m., then reviewed the upcoming flight with Webb on the ForeFlight app.

"He swiped his finger that he was going to go east and north of the clouds," Webb told investigators. "At no time did he imply or show that he was going to go in the clouds."

The NTSB's operational factors and human performance report said, "Evidence of the accident pilot receiving a weather briefing from an approved source could not be determined."

The eight passengers arrived at the Atlantic Aviation ramp: Bryant and Gianna; Orange Coast College baseball coach John Altobelli, his wife, Keri, and their daughter, Alyssa; Sarah Chester and her daughter, Payton; and Christina Mauser. Gianna, Alyssa and Payton were teammates. Mauser, an Edison High School alumna, was an assistant coach.

The helicopter followed the 5 Freeway toward Los Angeles, circled Glendale for 12 minutes, then flew along the 101 Freeway toward Thousand Oaks.

At 9:44 a.m., Zobayan told the air traffic controller he was west of Van Nuys and planned to climb above the layer of clouds.

"Uh, we climbing to 4,000," he said a minute later.

"And then what are you gonna do when you get to altitude," the controller asked.

There was no response. The controller asked several more times. No response.

The helicopter crashed into a hillside amid dense fog near Las Virgenes Road and Willow Glen Street at 9:45 a.m.

A witness emailed the NTSB that "there was zero visibility past the point where I saw it disappear into the low cloud at the trailhead" and she "found it peculiar they flew directly into heavy clouds so close to hills ..."

See **Messages**, page A3

Brad Evans Foundation
Announces 2020 Scholarship Award

In June 2020, by Zoom, the Brad Evans Foundation awarded its annual U.C. Berkeley scholarship to **Newport Harbor High School** senior **Zach Forbath**.

Zach will enter Cal this fall majoring in economics. He plans on a career in business.



Zach Forbath
U. C. Berkeley



Besides being an outstanding student, Mr. Forbath earned many accolades for his school involvement and community work. Zach is looking forward to being a Golden Bear.

The Evanses join with his family and friends in wishing him a wonderful and rewarding freshman year!

Harbor View School PFO
selects two for

Brad Evans Memorial Scholarships

In May of 2020, the **Harbor View PFO - Brad Evans Memorial Scholarships** were awarded to Corona del Mar seniors **Lucy Millman** and **Aiden Holmes**. Lucy will enter Tufts University majoring in political science or public policy and Aiden will study bio-medical engineering and play Div.1 soccer at Boston University.

The HV PFO and the Evans family wish them both the very best as they embark on their college careers.

After Brad died in 2001, the HV PFO lovingly renamed its scholarship in his honor and memory. It is awarded to outstanding CdM seniors who attended Harbor View Elementary School. Brad Evans was the recipient the PFO scholarship upon his graduation from CdM.



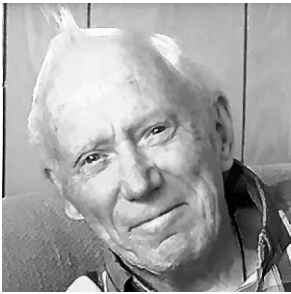
Lucy Millman
Tufts University



Aiden Holmes
Boston University

For more information about either of these two programs, or to make a contribution, please visit the web site at bradevansfoundation.org

LAAT705702-1



Keith L Conway

August 19, 1927 - June 25, 2020

Keith L. Conway passed away, surrounded by his loved ones, at his home of 60 years in Laguna Beach, California. He was 92.

Keith was born on August 19, 1927 in Pontiac, Michigan. After graduating from High School, he volunteered for the armed forces at the close of World War II and was stationed in Germany. He received his B.S. Degree in Aeronautical Structures at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. In 1952, Keith accepted a job offer from Douglas Aircraft in California. Keith married his wife Joyce on January 7, 1955, and five years later they had four daughters.

In 1961, Keith accepted a job at Ford Aerospace in Newport Beach, California, where he worked in the Tactical Missile Operation department. He moved his family to Laguna Beach where he purchased property and designed a house. After 25 years, Keith retired early from Ford Aerospace at age 58.

Keith enjoyed tennis, travelling, reading Harry Potter books, kayaking, vintage airplanes, and glider rides. He also had an HO model train collection.

Keith loved Laguna Beach and was very involved in the community. He delivered "Meals on Wheels" in his 1967 Mustang convertible for over 20 years. He volunteered at the Homeless Shelter, fire patrol, and El Morro Elementary School reading to the students. Keith was a regular Bridge player at the Susi Q Senior Center. He was very active in the Lutheran church.

Keith was a kind and respected man. His sense of humor will be missed but never forgotten. Keith is survived by his wife, Joyce, of 65 years; his daughters, Valerie (Gary), Kathy, and Sandy (Grant); grandchildren, Kendra, Mallory, Brittany, Aaron, Sutton, Rachel, and Kory; and great-grandchildren, Trystan, Kennedy, and Lucas. Proceeded in death by his daughter, Terry.

Services to be determined at a later time. <https://www.mccormickandson.com/obituaries/Keith-Conway/>

Contributions in Keith's name can be made to the Laguna Beach Susi Q Senior Center <https://www.thesusiq.org/>



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

CORONA DEL MAR High School's Matt Olson (23) reacts as Tyler Flood clenches his fists, after the Sea Kings won a set against Mira Costa in a nonleague match on March 12, 2019.

OLSON

Continued from page A1

Skylar Sepulveda, Daphne Chong and Stephen Vasquez were each awarded \$1,000 each.

The money came from individual donations as well as donations from the National League of Young Men and Backhouse Fragrances, said Shannon Eusey, who helped the Olson family set up the scholarship fund. As part of the application process, seniors had to write an essay about a time they performed an act of kindness where they felt they made a difference to the people involved.

The Euseys lived across the street from the Olsons in the Port Streets community of Newport Beach for nearly Matt's whole life, Shannon Eusey said, and each family had four children.

Matt is survived by his older brother, Drew (CdM class of 2013), and sister, Taylor (class of 2015), as well as his parents, Rex and Darby. His younger brother, Troy, will be a senior at CdM this fall and plays basketball and volleyball, like Matt did.

"Matt was such a great kid," Shannon Eusey said. "He was an incredible human being, and we just wanted to be able to honor those who lived by what Matt lived by. He showed kindness to anybody and

everybody. He was always so gregarious and kind and loving. He just exuded great character in everything he did."

Matt Olson was also involved in the Best Buddies Club at CdM and served as vice president for two years.

Drew Olson said Thursday that the family was touched by the community's support and enjoyed reading the scholarship applications.

"We definitely see ourselves doing [the scholarships] for the foreseeable future," he said.

"It was nice to hear other people's perspectives in their essays. We actually enjoyed it. We kind of got all of these essays and we were like, 'Oh gosh, we've got to read through all of these,' but it actually became nice. For myself, it was nice to see the culture at CdM and what they've been doing in recent years."

Danielle Whisenand of the Backhouse Fragrances candle company didn't know Matt Olson well. She said she had met him a couple of times, though her daughter Amra Barton, who played tennis at Newport Harbor before graduating this year, was close to him.

Whisenand said she felt compelled to help after he died. On Sept. 17, 2019, which would have been Matt Olson's 19th birthday, she donated 100% of her company's online sales to the M.O. 23 Forever Schol-

arship Fund and raised thousands of dollars.

"I just feel like he was such a special person in his community," Whisenand said. "For two weeks, I could not sleep, so I felt like I had to do something. His birthday was so shortly after he passed, which I'm sure was such a hard day for his mom, so I just wanted to do something. That was a way I could honor him, and the response from the community was just incredible."

Chandler, Matt Olson's former teammate on the CdM volleyball team, will relish winning the scholarship. Like Olson was, Chandler is a middle blocker, headed to Pepperdine next year.

Chandler said this year's CdM volleyball team wanted to win the CIF Southern Section Division 1 title in Olson's memory, though the season was cut short due to the coronavirus pandemic. Olson's number was on the volleyball uniforms in remembrance.

"I was so excited," Chandler said of the moment when he found out he got the scholarship. "My mom [Kristen] called me, and she was bawling crying. It just means a lot to me ... I want to carry on his legacy of kindness and everything he lived for."

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Twitter: @mjszabo

MESSAGES

Continued from page A2

Another witness emailed the agency: "We heard the helicopter flying normally, but couldn't really see it because it was extremely foggy and low clouds. I was thinking to myself of why a helicopter would be flying so low in very bad weather conditions. Then, all of a sudden, we heard a large BOOM."

The NTSB's aircraft performance study said the helicopter banked left and away from the 101 while communicating with the controller. When Zobayan said the helicopter was climbing, it was actually descending. According to the study, the pilot "could have misperceived both pitch and roll angles."

"When a pilot misperceives altitude and acceleration it is known as the 'somatogravic illusion' and can cause spatial disorientation," the report said. In other words, acceleration could cause a pilot to sense his vehicle was climbing when it was not.

At 9:49 a.m., Taylor, the broker, asked Bagge, the Island Express vice president, to check on the helicopter's location. Its tracking had stopped at 9:45 a.m. on Spidertracks, the application the company used to follow its aircraft.

"Patti was extremely



THE CRASH carrying Kobe Bryant and eight other passengers is shown.

Christina House
Los Angeles Times

concerned," Webb told investigators. "The drivers saying, 'Is the helicopter there? Where is the helicopter?'"

Zobayan would usually text "landed" to the group when the helicopter arrived, followed by a driver messaging "passengers on board" and another text when they reached the final destination.

The company tried to raise Zobayan on the radio and his phone. No answer.

Bagge took a screenshot of the flight circling over Glendale. She figured that's why it was late.

"It looks like he got held up in airspace or Kobe wanted to look at something over there, which wasn't uncommon," she told investigators.

Bagge kept refreshing the tracker. It didn't change. She prayed the tracker was just broken, but told Angel Perez, a ground operations manager for the company, to pull its emergency response manual.

"Angel attempted calling

Ara and [director of operations] Garret [Dalton] a few times with no success and both went to voice-mail, I text him back right away, 'Go to the Emergency Response Manual now,'" Bagge wrote in an account provided to the NTSB.

Camarillo Airport hadn't seen the helicopter.

They reached Dalton, who drove toward Calabasas. Around 10 a.m., Zobayan's girlfriend woke up and followed her morning routine of texting him. The message didn't go through.

At 10:22 a.m., following one of the procedures in the manual, a different Island Express helicopter was ordered to the last known location of the missing aircraft. But five minutes later, they told the helicopter to turn around.

A crash had been confirmed in the same area where the tracker stopped.

NATHAN FENNO is a staff writer with the Los Angeles Times.

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

T	O	R	E		A	T	L	A	S		B	A	D	E
R	U	E	S		D	I	A	N	E		A	D	A	Y
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S	P	E	N	D	S			G	R	A	S	S		Y
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E	M	M	Y		A	N	G	S	T		A	R	T	S

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



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*U.S. News & World Report


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MAILBAG

Orange County’s elected leaders can blame themselves for the increase in coronavirus cases

MARCOS ESCUTIA of Costa Mesa wears a unique face mask at the Newport Pier on May 7.

Raul Roa Staff Photographer



In this jabberwocky world of Orange County politics, where down is up and up is often down, don't be surprised if our local leaders try to start blaming someone else for the upsurge in coronavirus cases.

They will undoubtedly shift the blame for opening the economy too soon.

Why would they do that? Because they can. They can be as illogical and as wrong as they want and still manage to get many of their constituents to believe their upside-down reasoning.

Let's not forget who was putting pressure on Sacramento to open the economy prematurely, weeks before it actually opened: a council member from Newport Beach and a group of local business leaders.

Who defied the order to close down the beaches while other beach cities in California followed state guidelines? The majority of the members of the Newport Beach council, along with a handful of other Orange County beach leaders.

Who would not support the decision of the county health officer when she was getting personal threats for making masks mandatory? And when she was replaced, who put pressure on the new health officer to nullify the mandatory orders at the heights of the coronavirus surge?

Who gave in to the demands of the illogical and unscientific declarations of the minority crowd who showed up at the meeting to demand that mask orders be rescinded? You guessed it: a majority of the Orange County Board of Supervisors.

Most of the local city councils sat idly by and watched the single most important defense that we have against the coronavirus, the face mask, be taken off the table. Once again the governor had to step in to set things straight. Local governments are in charge of enforcement, and yet there seems to be none in place.

That is why people continue to go “maskless” and the numbers are soaring now in Orange County.

Recalcitrant local business and political leaders, who are focusing on the upcoming elections, are taking the truth and reality and twisting it every way they can, trying to gain the advantage. They even complained that the governor overreacted in hustling to get hospitals ready, pointing out that they were almost empty.

Let's not forget their failure to support science and health leaders and their continuous rebellious nature against those who are working to do the right thing. Let's not let them get away with it by reminding them that they are doing the wrong thing.

Lynn Lorenz
Newport Beach

If Pence can wear a mask, you can too

Given all the controversy over face coverings, here are 10 things that are easier to do than wearing a COVID-19 mask:

1) holding your breath for eight minutes; 2) sticking your hand in a garbage disposal (when it's running); 3) driving 100 mph down PCH blindfolded; 4) pushing a 500-pound boulder a mile uphill; 5) babysitting 12-month-old sextuplets; 6) eating 72 hot dogs in 10 minutes; 7) surfing the Wedge on a 30-foot day; 8) walking down Huntington Beach's Main Street naked; 9) kissing a rattlesnake in the hills above Laguna Beach and 10) drinking Clorox bleach as an antidote to the coronavirus.

C'mon, people. Even the vice president is doing it now. Wear a damn mask!

Denny Freidenrich
Laguna Beach

Daily Pilot

A Times Community News publication incorporating the Huntington Beach Independent, Coastline Pilot, Orange Coast Daily Pilot and the Newport Harbor News Press combined with Daily Pilot

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LEGAL NOTICE
UPDATED IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT NOTICE OF FILING OF REPORT AND OF A TIME AND PLACE OF A HEARING THEREON RELATIVE TO HAVING SEWER CHARGES FOR CERTAIN PARCELS OF LAND COLLECTED ON THE TAX ROLL AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE is hereby given that a report has been filed with the Secretary of the Irvine Ranch Water District relative to having sewer charges for certain parcels of land within the District collected on the tax roll. Said report contains a description of each parcel and the amount of the charges for each parcel for Fiscal Year 2020-21. Said report is on file with the Secretary of the District at the District Office and is available for public inspection on the District Bulletin Board located at 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine, CA or at www.IRWD.com. This report is filed pursuant to Section 5473 of the Health and Safety Code of the State of California.

NOTICE is further given that Monday, the 13th day of July, 2020, at the hour of 5:00 p.m. of said day (or as soon thereafter as is reasonably practicable) is the time fixed by the Board of Directors for hearing and consideration by the Board of all objections or protests, if any to the report. Due to Covid-19 this public hearing and meeting will be conducted as a teleconference pursuant to the provisions of the Governor's Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20, which suspend certain requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act. To virtually attend the public hearing and meeting, please join online via Webex using the link and information below.

Updated Webex Link:
<https://irwd.my.webex.com/irwd.my/j.php?MTID=m54206a613497257e47cf0d63708b213a>
Updated Meeting Number/Access Code: **126 101 0500**
Updated Meeting Password: **FVdbt5b53x6 (38328725** from phones and video systems)

Dated: July 12, 2020

/s/ Leslie Bonkowski, District Secretary, Irvine Ranch Water District

Religious Announcements

Thank you St Jude & Sacred Heart of Jesus for prayers answered-CM

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HUNDREDS gather for the weekly Saturate OC worship event in Huntington Beach, on Friday.

Raul Roa Staff Photographer

REVIVAL
Continued from page A1

together to be baptized, again.

“Someone came up and prayed for me and I felt like God spoke to me and I thought, why not?” said Bridgette Mayse, 16.

Annika Miller, 17, said

dipping into the sea again was for her “a reawakening of boldness.”

With the continuing coronavirus pandemic, traditional indoor church services have been interrupted or reimagined, either voluntarily or by government decree. On the beach, there were no pews or steeple. Gulls and paragliders

soared overhead instead.

The seaside outreach movement is called Saturate OC and co-organizer Jessi Green calls it a “ripple-effect” revival, not one led by a single preacher. They came to Huntington's shore to feel the spirit and, as it is written in 2 Corinthians 3:17, and Green started to recite and the crowd enthusiastically filled in, “where the spirit of the Lord is there is freedom.”

Radley Arnold, 25, was in town from Kansas to visit his girlfriend, who wanted to take him to service on the beach. Worship is all the more important during the pandemic, he said, with its restrictions on gatherings.

Arnold has been studying Christianity but wasn't planning to get baptized that evening. A preacher called out for people who wanted to go to the water, and he then felt the urge to stand.

“I feel completely different,” Arnold said, his wet hair glistening. Green said she and her husband moved to Orange County from New York after having a vision of a mass baptism at the Huntington Beach Pier while here on vacation. Saturate OC draws together several local ministries for its outreach. They were there last Friday too, and will return on the remaining Fridays in July. They hope to draw 2,000 disciples who can fan out to bring in 50,000 believers.

“The church,” Green called into a microphone to cheers, “has left the building.”

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