

Daily Pilot

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2020 // Now including Coastline Pilot and Huntington Beach Independent // dailypilot.com



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

THE OPERATOR of the O.C. Market Place tried to pull out of its lease agreement due to the coronavirus shutdowns, claiming hardship beyond its control. But the O.C. Fair & Event Center Board says the swap meet location can open anytime.

O.C. Market Place vendors left hanging as operators, fair board haggle over reopening

BY SARA CARDINE

A 21-acre parking lot portion of Costa Mesa's sprawling Orange County fairgrounds, home of the O.C. Market Place since 1969, has remained quietly shuttered during the coronavirus pandemic.

But a battle over its reopening has been brewing for months.

Some of the 400 vendors who ordinarily peddle wares at bustling weekend swap meets, and who rely on that income, say they are the hapless victims of a dispute that has been locked in an impasse since May.

Jeanine Robbins and husband Mike run

Paradise Cigars out of a mobile humidor that has become a swap meet staple since the business opened in 1979.

Weekend sales have been a mainstay for the couple, who had to file for unemployment following a March 12 coronavirus closure.

"Here we are now in August, and it's been five months we haven't worked," said Robbins, who lives with Mike in Anaheim. "It's devastating — we desperately want to be able to reopen."

At the heart of the argument is Spectra, a food service and hospitality business that has operated the weekend parking lot attraction since 2016, when the company en-

tered a lease with the 32nd District Agricultural Assn. run by the Orange County Fair & Event Center Board. The rental agreement runs through August 2024.

Spectra last year generated \$6,938,600 in revenue to the district — paying around \$2 million in rent for the Market Place space and handing over more than \$4.83 million from food and beverage concessions made inside the fairgrounds, according to financial figures provided by fair officials.

But since the O.C. Market Place was closed in March, Spectra has been trying to

See Market, page A7

Reported virus cases in O.C. top 39,000

Sixteen more deaths are announced on Saturday bringing the total number in the county to 720.

BY LILLY NGUYEN

As healthcare workers protested this week for better protections and Orange County reached a single-day high of 32 deaths on Thursday, the county reported another 322 cases on Saturday, bringing the total number of COVID-19 cases to 39,076.

Of the 39,076 cases to date, 1,798 are skilled nursing facility residents, 489 county jail inmates and 144 individuals experiencing homelessness. Sixteen new deaths were also reported, which includes one skilled nursing facility resident; one skilled nursing staff; three assisted living facility residents and 11 other residents.

The total number of COVID-19 related deaths in the county is 720.

The county also reported 6,871 tests on Saturday, bringing the cumulative total to 459,479, but county officials have noted that issues with the state's current CalREDIE electronic system, which gathers state testing data from laboratories, may result in a lower number of daily COVID positive cases received and tests reported.

State officials said Friday that the state was in the process of developing a new coronavirus tracking system. State officials said a server outage for CalREDIE on July 25 led to a delay of records coming into the state's lab reporting system and that the state would be

See Virus, page A2

Bruce Brown highlights Newport film fest

BRUCE BROWN, center, is the subject of "A Life of Endless Summers: The Bruce Brown Story" at the film festival.

Don Leach
Staff
Photographer



BY HILLARY DAVIS

The Newport Beach Film Festival is pivoting again in response to the coronavirus pandemic, with a premiere held drive-in style next week plus a virtual Lifetime Achievement ceremony that can hold cinephiles over until the full festival can move ahead.

The debut screening of "A Life of Endless Summers: The Bruce Brown Story" — a spiritual sequel

See Festival, page A2

Historic ordinance back before Laguna council

BY LILLY NGUYEN

The historic preservation ordinance is returning to the Laguna Beach City Council for adoption following a majority vote in July.

In a 4-1 vote with Councilwoman Toni Iseman dissenting, the City Council passed the ordinance to a second reading scheduled for this Tuesday at

See Laguna, page A7



A VIEW of the Hotel Laguna at 425 South Coast Hwy. from the ocean at Main Beach.

Don Leach
Staff
Photographer

ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



File Photo

SIGN UP FOR TIMESOC NEWSLETTER

Three times a week, we'll bring you the latest on Orange County from Orange County, with the best of all the journalism from the Daily Pilot, the Los Angeles Times and TimesOC. The TimesOC newsletter will keep you up to date on the county's diverse communities and shifting political landscape, its coastlines and environment and how it's grappling with issues from immigration to education, from housing to healthcare. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, expect us to deliver the news that matters most to your community — from business to entertainment to science to food — and explore what it means for you. We'll also equip you for your weekends in Orange County, from its beaches to the future of high school sports. You can sign up at latimes.com/oc-newsletter. The newsletter will debut Aug. 17.

Local families react to Stanford athletic department cuts

BY ANDREW TURNER

A month ago, Eric Beatty woke up to find that he had been extended a Zoom meeting invitation on short notice.

If that was a surprise, it was nothing to how he felt after sitting through it.

Stanford University made the decision to discontinue 11 varsity sports — including men's volleyball, Beatty's sport — following the 2020-21 season. The announcement was made in an open letter from university President Marc Tessier-Lavigne, Provost Persis Drell and athletic director Bernard Muir on July 8.

"We now face the reality that significant change is needed to create fiscal stability for Stanford Athletics, and to provide the support we believe is essential for our student-athletes

to excel," the statement said. "In that context, we are writing today with some extremely difficult news. In consultation with the Board of Trustees, we have made the decision to reduce the breadth of our athletics programs and staffing."

Stanford will also cut its varsity sports programs for men's and women's fencing, field hockey, lightweight rowing, men's rowing, coed and women's sailing, squash, synchronized swimming and wrestling.

"Only around two or three guys from our team actually participated in the Zoom meeting, but we were all just kind of in shock that we were blindsided with this decision," said Beatty, an outside hitter for the Cardinals who graduated with a degree in management science and engineering this year.

Beatty, a 2016 graduate of Huntington Beach High School, said that the men's volleyball program drafted a petition to gain support toward reinstating men's volleyball, adding that more than 34,000 signatures had been collected so far. The program has also been engaged in fundraising efforts with the alumni as it tries to create its own endowment. Banding together with the other sports might be the best way forward.

"Through the talks that we had with the athletic director and people part of the athletic department, it became clear that they wouldn't be able to just bring back men's volleyball," Beatty said. "It would at least have to be in conjunction with another women's sport to satisfy

See Stanford, page A6



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

COSTA MESA HIGH volleyball standout Mason Tufuga, center, is accompanied by his mother Yvette and father Mai, as he signs his letter of intent to play for Stanford University on Nov. 13, 2015.

THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

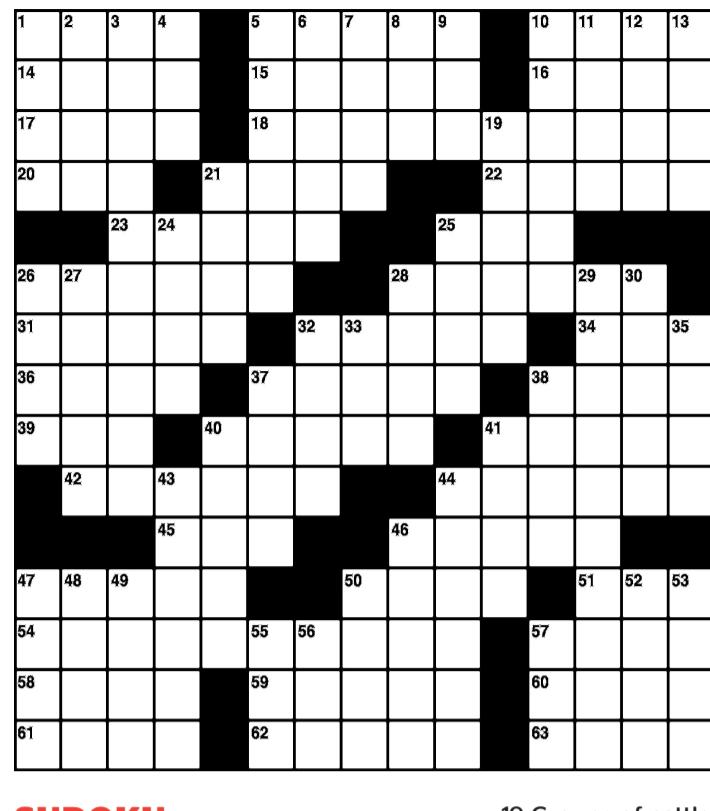
By Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS

1 "the night before Christmas"
5 Voucher used as cash
10 Puncture
14 Engrossed
15 out; eliminate gradually
16 "I've Got You Under My Skin"
composer Porter
17 Catch a glimpse of
18 Mariner's beacon
20 -shattering; painfully loud
21 Tourette's symptoms
22 Glitch
23 See eye;
agree
25 Curved band of sparks
26 NBA team
28 Tediously familiar
31 Chinese or Laotian
32 By and bounds; rapidly
34 Angeles
36 Oscar hopeful
37 Plumbing problems
38 Clippety-
39 up; arrange
40 Outperforms
41 Letter from Greece
42 Spread gossip
44 Glowing
45 "If I a Hammer"
46 Steam bath
47 Detest
50 Shrewd
51 Keyboard key next to Q
54 Limits; borders
57 Neat
58 Encourage
59 Use a chisel
60 Seep out
61 Casual shirts
62 Chirping sound
63 Vane letters

DOWN

1 Nursery purchase
2 "Jeremiah _



SUDOKU

By The Mephaph 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.

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

For answers to the crossword and Sudoku puzzles, see page A8.

bullfrog"	8 Suffix for child or fool
3 Increase in monetary value	9 Hamster or hound
4 Piglet's home	10 Blacken
5 Banana _; ice cream treats	11 Travel agency offering
6 One of the Marx Brothers	12 Additionally
7 Dustcloths	13 Thirst quencher

19 Groups of cattle

21 Harbor bird

24 Part of a date

25 European range

26 Football maneuver

27 Fall flower

28 Thousand _, CA

29 Unproven charge

30 Canine, for one

32 "Judge not ye be judged"

33 Polish off

35 Squabble

37 Element whose symbol is Pb

38 Facial feature

40 Goatee or Vandyke

41 or false test

43 Verizon store display

44 hounds; tracking dogs

46 Sifting device

47 Lie next to

48 Use a drill

49 Enormous

50 Telegram

52 Sculptor's tool

53 Farewells

55 Go on stage

56 Uncooked

57 Disabled car's need

Tribune Media Services

VIRUS

Continued from page A1

working through the backlog of information.

Of the 491 currently hospitalized cases, 167 are currently in intensive care units, but the county reported Saturday that 32% of ICU beds are available and about 63% of ventilators remain available.

Approximately 29,568 cases have recovered.

Here are the latest cumulative coronavirus case counts and COVID-19 deaths for select cities:

- Santa Ana: 7,496 cases; 192 deaths

- Anaheim: 6,682 cases; 171 deaths

- Huntington Beach: 1,753 cases; 51 deaths

- Costa Mesa: 1,274 cases; 13 deaths

- Irvine: 1,225 cases; 10 deaths

- Fountain Valley: 376

cases; 10 deaths

- Laguna Beach: 142 cases; less than five deaths.

And here are case counts followed by deaths, by age group:

- 0 to 17: 2,378; zero

- 18 to 24: 5,810; two

- 25 to 34: 8,755; 10

- 35 to 44: 6,373; 24

- 45 to 54: 6,379; 67

- 55 to 64: 4,687; 90

- 65 to 74: 2,312; 141

- 75 to 84: 1,315; 162

- 85 and older: 1,034; 224

By race/ethnicity:

- Latino: 9,360; 308

- White: 5,692; 222

- Asian: 1,684; 99

- Black: 291; 10

- Unknown: 17,601; 14

- Other (includes Pacific Islander, American Indian and multiple races): 4,450; 67

Updated figures are posted daily at occovid19.occhealthinfo.com/coronavirus-in-oc.

For information on getting tested, visit occovid19.occhealthinfo.com/coronavirus-in-oc



Kevin Chang

Staff Photographer

RESPIRATORY

therapist Christina Rodriguez speaks outside Fountain Valley Regional Hospital's emergency room on Thursday.

19.occhealthinfo.com/covid-19-testing.

lillynguyen@latimes.com

Twitter: @lillibirds

to action sports cinema and deep relationship with the Brown family, it is the ideal film to celebrate a legendary filmmaker in an iconic setting."

Admission to the Thursday screening is \$75 per car and includes a goodie bag. The showing doubles as the kickoff event for the Lot Drive-In Summer Movie Series, continuing weekly through Aug. 30. Tickets are available at newportbeachfilmfest.com.

"The 21st annual Newport Beach Film Festival is Southern California's largest lifestyle film festival and fastest growing in the United States, bringing 50,000 attendees to our shores annually," said Gary Sherwin, president and chief executive of Newport Beach & Co.

"We applaud Gregg and the team for their incredible commitment to keep the spotlight on film, filmmakers and Newport Beach despite these unprecedented times."

hillary.davis@latimes.com

Twitter: @dailypilot_hd

FESTIVAL

Continued from page A1

to the seminal 1966 surf documentary "Endless Summer" — will be on Thursday at 8 p.m. on the upper level of the parking structure between Bloomingdale's and Nordstrom at Fashion Island.

Two days prior, the festival, in partnership with Variety magazine, will honor actor Eugene Levy ("Schitt's Creek," the "American Pie" franchise, "SCTV") with a pre-recorded show to be streamed on the Newport Beach Film Festival website.

The first-ever NBFF Lifetime Achievement Award presentation, featuring "Schitt's Creek" costars and other celebrity guests, shows at noon Tuesday on newportbeachfilmfest.com.

"A Life of Endless Summers: The Bruce Brown Story" is directed by the late Brown's son, Dana, and is a tribute to the man behind the iconic surf film

newportbeachfilmfest.com.

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forum

COMMENTARY | MICHAEL HURWITZ, MD

The benefits of face masks are beyond dispute

At Hoag Hospital, we value our employees, our physicians and our community.

We demonstrate that value by following the best available science. The Hoag team has closely adhered to CDC guidelines throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Initial assumptions that the novel coronavirus could only be transmitted by those exhibiting symptoms gave way in April to the realization that infected people without symptoms were unknowingly spreading the disease to others. The CDC responded to this new information by calling for universal masking in public spaces.

The evolution of the CDC guidance should not erode our confidence in public health experts nor the scientific data upon which they rely. Rather, it reflects the best of our ability to quickly assimilate new information and

adapt accordingly. We now know that infected people expel the coronavirus into the air around them when they breathe, speak and cough. The virus travels in droplets and in aerosol spray and lingers in the air. It is beyond dispute that face masks prevent coronavirus transmission.

It is unfortunate that wearing face masks has become politicized and that so many have invoked their personal freedom to subject others to risk while rejecting this simple act of civic responsibility.

The Rev. Peter Marshall, U.S. Senate chaplain, said, "May we think of freedom not as the right to do as we please but as the opportunity to do what is right."

The modern Hippocratic oath continues: "I will remember that I remain a member of society, with special obligations to all my fellow human beings, those sound



A JOGGER and a wildlife photographer wear masks as they enjoy the afternoon at Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve in Huntington Beach on May 20.

Raul Roa
Staff
Photographer

of mind and body as well as the infirm." Physicians are bound by the Hippocratic oath to not just "do no harm" but to act to prevent disease and protect the

health of the public. We have a duty not only to our individual patients but to our society. The medical staff of Hoag Hospital takes this oath seriously and is

committed to the health and well-being of our community.

MICHAEL HURWITZ is the chief of staff at Hoag Hospital.

A WORD, PLEASE | JUNE CASAGRANDE

Lowercase treatment in newswriting can humble 'important' words

If you're writing about the president of a company, do you write his title with a capital P? What if he's the president and founder?

What if he's the chief executive officer, which everyone knows stands for CEO and not ceo? Do you capitalize the name of a local restaurant's signature chili-spice fried chicken or their beef Wellington? And what's up (literally) with bloody marys?

In a written work, too many capital letters can be the hallmark of an amateur — or a sales pitch. Companies like to treat their products, properties and people as if they're all proper names even when they're not. Timid writers seek to oblige, uppercasing words out of fear of dishonoring someone's title or trademark.

But if you want your writing to

look more like professionally edited work, you should do the opposite. Newswriting shuns the idea that news articles should be deferential to business. If a nationwide restaurant chain wants everyone to refer to their spicy shrimp tacos as Spicy Shrimp Tacos, too bad.

If the same three words in a generic sense can describe the tacos, that's how most news publications lean. Obviously, that doesn't work with a dish like Hula Pie because hula pie in the generic sense doesn't mean anything.

So the only times you'll see a traditional news outlet treat a product as a proper name is when the name can't be interpreted as generic description.

This goes double for "the company." Yes, a court filing or other legal document would designate a company as "the Company." But outside of a court of law, you don't have to capitalize it.

Titles are harder. A senator is lowercase. But when you're using the title immediately before her name, it's uppercase: Sen. Jane Doe.

Representative can be abbreviated, but it's capitalized before a name: Rep. John Smith. House speaker, senate majority leader, minority whip and chairman are all capitalized when they're used as part of the name, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. But they're lowercase when referring to her as just the speaker of the house. Ditto that for the president.

Business titles are far less likely to be capitalized. You may be the founder, chief executive officer and president of your company, but unless your employees call you Founder Jones or President Rodriguez, these terms are always lowercase.

New terms like COVID are difficult because there's no consensus yet on how to write them. The Associated Press Stylebook

calls for uppercase COVID and COVID-19 and lowercase coronavirus. AP made waves recently when they decided their style would now capitalize Black as a race. The backlash was nothing short of hysterical.

Some terms are capitalized when they're new, like internet, but over time get incorporated into the language as generic terms. Most tech terms, including email and web, are usually lowercase now.

Food and drinks pose some of the trickiest capitalization conundrums. The name Bloody Mary, according to Wikipedia, is associated with several different historical figures. And if you're referring to Queen Mary I of England as Bloody Mary, obviously that's capitalized because it's a nickname.

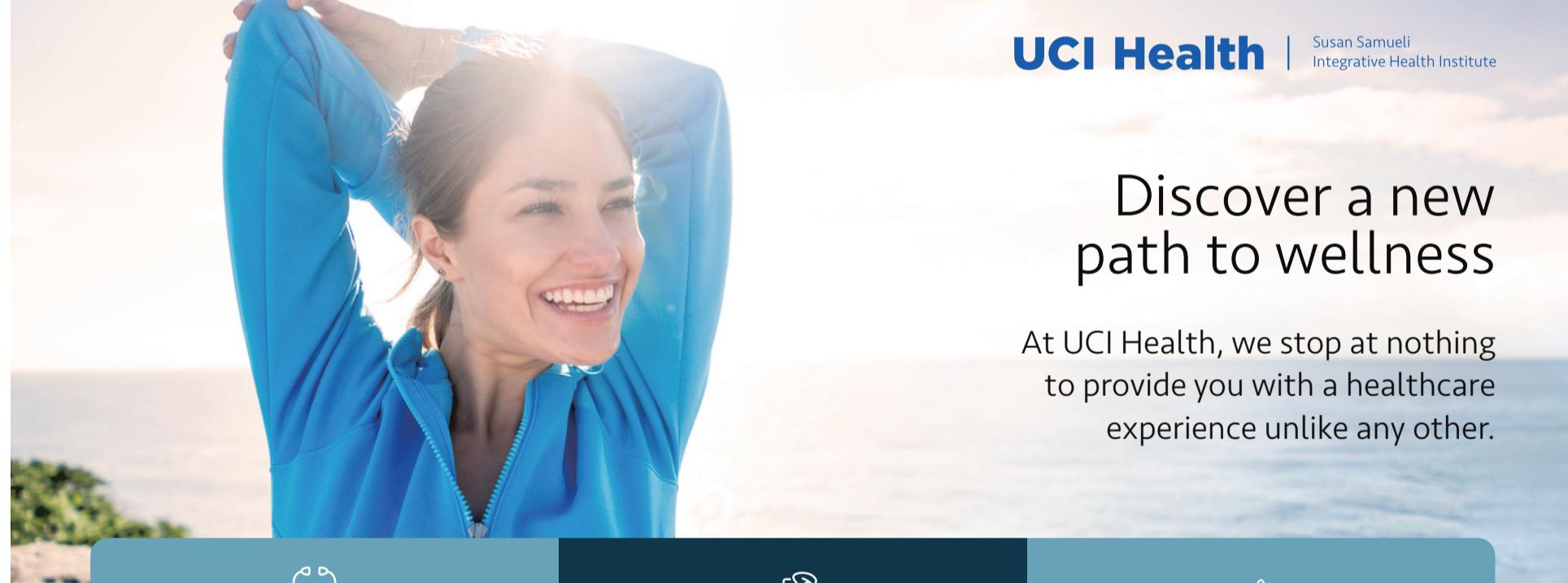
But since the drink was invented, the name has less and less to do with any person. That's why, even though many legitimate

authorities would capitalize the name of the cocktail, Associated Press Style calls for lowercase bloody mary.

Some food and drink names are more flexible. You can lowercase french fries to comply with AP style, or you can dub them French. Sparkling wines from the Champagne region of France are Champagne in AP style, but other publishers call them champagne.

Brazil nuts, Cobb salad, Brussels sprouts, Buffalo wings, beef stroganoff and beef Wellington follow no clear pattern for capitalization. If you don't want to buy the AP guide, you can check a dictionary or just search for the term on the website of a major newspaper and follow their lead.

JUNE CASAGRANDE is the author of "The Joy of Syntax: A Simple Guide to All the Grammar You Know You Should Know." She can be reached at JuneTCN@aol.com.



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| Susan Samueli
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forum

MAILBAG

City leaders are letting Balboa Island lose its charm

I fell in love with Balboa Island, Corona del Mar and the Fun Zone when I was 10, like thousands upon thousands of other children, not the least my own children and grandchildren.

Balboa Island and surroundings offer memories that indeed last a lifetime, maybe especially so because those vacation weeks are brief and precious, so families fill them with nothing but fun. It has always been obvious the area was created in the 1920s to be a vacation mecca, with the peninsula as the young adult party place and the island for families with young children swimming in its protected beaches.

I have been watching the area change for decades, feeling helpless to stop mansionization of the island. The rich folks who buy or build the three-story monsters do so for bragging rights, never go to the beach or cross the ferry, are often absentee owners, and after three years get bored, sell the place and buy somewhere else to brag about.

Our cottages are quickly disappearing. I personally watched two developers stand in front of 202 Amethyst Ave., haggle over which would get it, and saw it bulldozed in 15 minutes for a mansion. It never made it to the MLS. This happens a lot.

The city is the wolf watching the henhouse, benefiting always from much higher property tax per parcel.

For every mansion, there's one less cottage for families on vacation and one less family helping Marine Avenue merchants survive, not to mention the loss of charm the island cottages have evoked for a century.

Then there's the evisceration of the Fun Zone. First the city approved the demise of the bumper cars to build the museum no one goes to and will surely fail. Then it took out the iconic merry-go-round, probably the last in Newport Beach, while Paris, France, has merry-go-rounds in practically every park.

Then it took out the beloved Penny Arcade and allowed the



Don Kelsen | Los Angeles Times

THE FERRIS WHEEL circulates in the background as a ferry shuttles cars and pedestrians between Balboa Peninsula and Balboa Island in 2015. A reader writes that there have been too many changes on Balboa Island.

restaurant around the corner to take the space. How can a restaurant afford that real estate? The big picture as I see it is for the Fun Zone to fail to make way for condos, and the Fun Zone will become as boring as Lido and the other five SFR islands. But the property tax haul will be enormous, as with the mansions.

Now the City Council is considering an ordinance where owners must reside in their short-term rentals. That's impossible on its face and they know it. I have long known I'd have a lot more income if I rented my two cottages out full time, because short-term has a lot of costs, not the least the city's transient taxes.

But I find joy in the faces of the families I rent to, especially the summer repeats with their ecstatic children. Short-term rents allow my family to come on Easter and Boat Parade weeks and time in between renters to do touch-ups beyond what my excellent manager oversees.

The rich folk who don't want the summer parking and traffic knew it was a vacation paradise when they purchased on the island and are utterly selfish and

heartless if they want vacations to stop. I think they're behind this. Or worse, maybe it's the city itself.

Lynn Stewart
Balboa Island

Short-term lodging still popular choice

After months of public debate, the Newport Beach City Council passed phase one of the Short-term Lodging (STL) ordinance on July 14. This ordinance includes a few new good-neighbor policies, encouraging owners and operators to screen STL guests to assure that they are neighborhood-friendly.

The council recognizes the long tradition of STL as part of the city's landscape and economic engine for nearly 100 years, beginning when Balboa was promoted as a holiday destination.

This tradition continues today generating income for the city, owners and businesses, generated from rentals primarily on the Peninsula and Balboa Island.

During the summer months

8 million to 10 million people visit Newport Beach, most of them for day trips. During the summer these day visitors strain resources and take up most of the available street parking. At the same time, overnight guests contribute to the vibrancy of the neighborhood, buy mementos, frequent local businesses and restaurants, and rent bikes and surfboards, among other things. STL guests generate millions of dollars, translating into sales tax and transient occupancy tax.

The police department and lifeguards do a remarkable job of policing, navigating traffic, watching over beachgoers and people enjoying the ocean. Most residents on Balboa Island and the Peninsula beach community understand summer is a busy time and there are impacts on parking. However, all STL properties must have at least one parking space on site.

Newport Beach is one of the most highly regulated cities in the country for STLS. All are licensed via a permit process and are mandated to pay transient occupancy tax just like hotels, exceeding \$4 million a year.

Most "rental home" owners hire management companies responsible for the balance between the visiting guests and residents, assuring owners that guests adhere to the noise ordinances and abide by policies stipulated in the contracts all visitors sign.

Each visiting STL guest is given information including owner and management company contact information, city ordinances related to gatherings and noise, street sweeping schedules and other pertinent material.

Residents and visitors have the same goal: to enjoy the beach, the bay and all inherent recreational opportunities while taking care to be good neighbors.

Short-term lodging continues to be a popular choice for generations of families to enjoy our Newport Beach Paradise.

Craig Batley
Newport Beach

Michelle Steel's video shows her bigotry

Mary Brown's letter (Mailbag, July 26) seems to indicate that she is upset that Rep. Harley Rouda's voting record is 100% in accord with that of Nancy Pelosi.

I wonder if she would be irritated if Michelle Steel (the erstwhile Republican candidate for this November's 48th Congressional District) voted in lockstep with Trump if she were to be elected. She seems to feel that Rouda wants to defund the police (he does not) and that he is a "socialist" (he is not) and needs to be held "accountable" (whatever that means.)

I also wonder if she is aware of Michelle Steel's video that shows her bigotry.

In the video she states that she removed her daughter from college at UC Santa Cruz because her daughter now felt gay marriage was OK. Steel sent her daughter for "brainwashing" (Steel's own words) to Mary-

See Mailbag, page A5

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forum

MAILBAG*Continued from page A4*

mount for a year and then to Vanderbilt. Obviously Steel isn't for equality in marriage.

In this day and age we should all be careful about sending someone like Steel with this bigoted mindset to Congress.

Lawrence Freedman
Newport Beach

**Thank you
for the Mailbag**

I want to thank the Daily Pilot for its renewed interest in publishing letters to the editor when there is space in the newspaper.

I look forward to all points of view, and many of my friends and neighbors do as well. It may interest you to know that there is great pass-along readership of the Mailbag and further scrutiny of all parts of the paper (articles, commentaries and even ads).

Whenever we come across an advertiser (e.g. Figge Photography, which a friend of mine has used, Merrill Gardens, where an acquaintance of mine stays, or UCI Health, which I have used), we applaud them. The readership of issues with letters also helps get greater exposure for columnists and contributors like June Casagrande.

I also applaud the highlighting of the Mailbag (e.g. "Also from the Daily Pilot," July 20) on the front page. I have a renewed interest in rereading the issues containing letters (which I save), and it often leads to greater appreciation of the writing staff (like the great local Sports reporting of Matt Szabo and Andrew Turner).

I am making sure that all of my chums from the old Huntington Beach Independent readership are tuned in to the wider focus of the Daily Pilot. Kudos again and keep up the good work!

Tim Geddes
Huntington Beach

**Thoughts on schools
in Orange County**

Maybe the headline should have been "Keeping schools

**HOW TO GET
PUBLISHED**

Email us at erik.haugli@latimes.com. All correspondence must include full name, hometown and phone number (for verification purposes). The Pilot reserves the right to edit all submissions for clarity and length.

closed has a teachers union link (Push for reopening Orange County schools without masks has pro-charter school links, July 16),

I'm sure that if the governor hadn't protected teachers' incomes (except for charter school teachers) the union could find a way to open the schools. The American Academy of Pediatrics, the CDC and Harvard University researchers agree that the kids need to be back in school. Why is it that 22 countries in Europe have allowed students to return to the classroom without any spike in COVID-19?

I keep hearing "follow the science." The science says kids need to be in school. I think school administrators and teachers are smart enough to figure it out. It's not rocket science.

Wear masks where appropriate, socially distance and wash your hands. These are policies that should be put in place by the local school districts as the O.C. Board of Education stated and keep the state and federal politicians out of it. I trust the educators more than I do the politicians whose motives are questionable.

Jerry Piersall

Costa Mesa

The recent decision by the trustees of Newport-Mesa Unified School District to pass the 4x4 model is misguided in so many ways.

First, the fact that the board didn't listen to their constituents (we the parents and students in the district) is disheartening at a minimum and as elected officials a true dereliction of duty on their part. It was clearly evident throughout the meeting last week

that this vote was 'in the bag' long before the meeting took place.

From the hand-picked speakers (teachers and administrators) to the outright disregard for the factual representation by the student body, it was clearly evident that something else was at work.

As I thought about the rationale for their decision, I kept harkening back to the fact that this model helps no one. It was evident that once distant learning was put in place, some teachers mailed it in for the remainder of the spring session with little to no accountability.

The vote last week only enhances that line of thinking. The constricted class schedule will force all parties (students and teachers) to work at a much faster pace, increasing anxiety of all parties involved regardless of learning level. In addition, the limit on classes will create a crowding out effect for programs such as the arts, yearbook, ASB, language, and P.E.

It has been widely reported that AP students will be severely impacted by the break between class and year-end testing. Let's not forget that upper-level students, many who are college bound, will have to explain to universities why they only took three to four classes instead of the usual six to seven.

These students will be at a distinct disadvantage versus other students from other districts, possibly losing out on a coveted spot at their college of choice. And for those who are in support of this model claiming a safer environment, the reduction in students that teachers interact with does not guarantee a safer option.

There are plenty of other options to keep teachers, administrators and students safe and still provide a rich learning environment for our kids. NMUSD must do better.

I know that while I felt helpless last week watching, I do have one last power and that is at the voting booth. I will be exercising that right the next time I vote if this pattern continues.

Steve Shaw

Newport Beach

**Wearing masks
should be mandatory**

I agree with Dr. Michael Hurwitz ("The benefits of face masks are beyond dispute," July 28). On the one hand, the vast majority of medical experts believe wearing a face covering helps prevent the spread of COVID-19. On the other hand, those who refuse to wear a mask say it is perfectly legal for them to "just say no."

With these two thoughts in mind, here's my question: Shouldn't we be doing everything possible to slow the spread of the coronavirus? If you answer yes, then I suspect you are wearing a mask. If you object to the word "everything," then I'm guessing you aren't wearing one. Which begs another question: Why not pass a federal law requiring every citizen to do his or her part in the war on COVID?

At 71, I'm old enough to remember the good ol' days of driving without a seat belt. The objections to enacting the federal Motor Safety Law in 1968 were virtually the same then as they are now to wearing a mask. In the end, Congress decided the health and safety of all Americans outweighed an individual's right to drive any which way he or she wanted.

The old phrase, "You don't bring a knife to a gun fight," applies to our current battle against COVID-19. Simply put, attacking the virus piecemeal — state by state, county by county, city by city — isn't working. We need a unified, national plan to break the back of this virus. It's time everyone, and I mean everyone, buckle up and join the fight. Wear a mask.

Denny Freidenrich

Laguna Beach

Our nation is under brutal attack. The enemy is COVID-19. Within a span of less than five months, we have had more than 4 million wounded and 150,000 dead.

The simplest way to combat this enemy is for every resident of our country to wear a mask in public — outdoors, indoors, on airplanes, in buses and trains, in places of business, in any public space where there are other hu-

man beings. Yes, it is that simple. Yes, there is total unanimity on this issue in the scientific community, notwithstanding nonsensical political pronouncements to the contrary.

It is unfathomable as to why so many in our midst are so churlish about this simple minor inconvenience, which is guaranteed to save tens of thousands of lives and get our economy back on track.

If COVID-19 was actually a foreign nation attacking us, those refusing to wear a mask would be considered enemy collaborators and dealt with accordingly. It is the height of absurdity for right-wing media, the White House and its many enablers to glorify these petulant brats as protesters fighting for their freedom against an oppressive government.

Let us reaffirm our pledge of allegiance — that we are one nation, indivisible. Please listen to science. Please, don't let our corrosive politics divide us to such an extent that tens of thousands of our fellow citizens are doomed to die as collateral damage. Stop being COVID collaborators!

Jamshed Dastur
Balboa Island

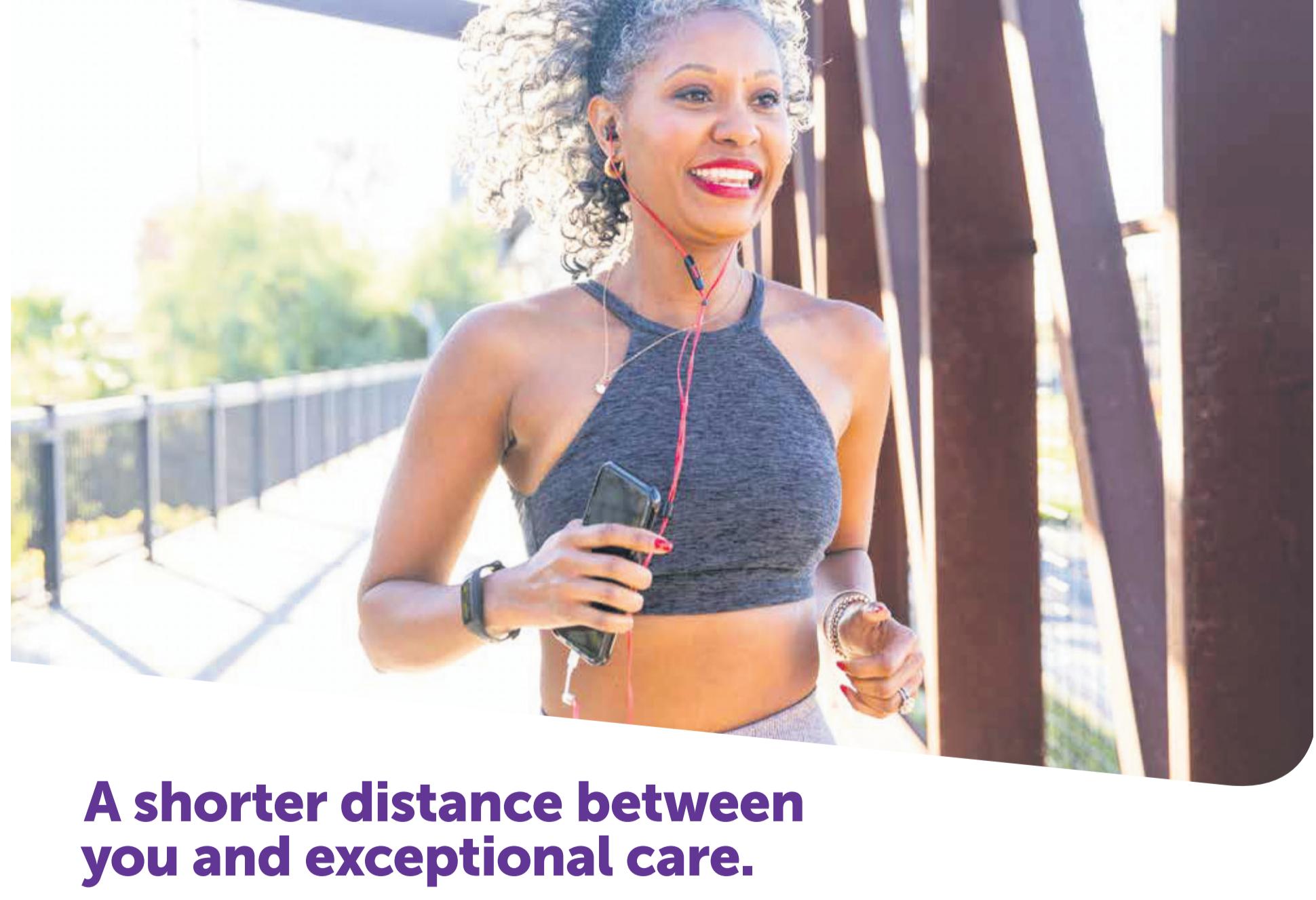
**Poseidon desal water
project is all wet**

For the past 20 years Poseidon has sought to force the Orange County Water District into a one-sided contract whereby Poseidon will produce 50 million gallons of fresh water daily, which the district will buy at a price set by Poseidon whether or not the water is needed.

If this is such a great idea, why has Poseidon found it necessary to contribute millions of dollars to elected officials to gain their support and is offering to dredge the entrance to the Bolsa Chica wetlands to gain that support? This dredging will only take place if their permit is approved but will be kicked off if the permit is denied.

Desalinated water is much more expensive than the water purchased from the Metropolitan Water District, which costs \$900

See Mailbag, page A6



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STANFORD

Continued from page A1

Title IX obligations, and then there were other obligations that had to be met.

"We were kind of sensing that it wasn't a situation where they could pick and choose certain sports just because of their popularity or just because of their alumni support to get back. It would almost have to be a situation where we created a big enough endowment to bring all 11 sports back."

In addition to financial considerations, the national level of sponsorship of the sports factored into which sports would be discontinued.

The 11 sports that were cut were all sponsored by less than 22% of the more than 350 Division I schools, the university

statement said. Nine of the sports were sponsored by less than 9% of such institutions.

The Tufuga family is deeply rooted in volleyball, as Mai and Yvette first met each other on a volleyball court. Their kids, Mason and Malia, both played volleyball at Costa Mesa High School, and each has gone on to join their respective volleyball programs at Stanford.

Yvette Tufuga said she had immense gratitude to the university for accepting her two children as scholar-athletes, but she was disappointed to hear about the cuts to the athletic department.

"We feel deep disappointment in Stanford's decision to remove men's volleyball and 10 other varsity sports without inviting key figures of these sports [or] their

alumni to troubleshoot the situation and see how our growing sport can be salvaged at such a prestigious and seemingly wealthy university," she said. "We fear there could be a ripple effect in men's volleyball, which continues to be more prominent on the West Coast while steadily gaining national popularity."

Mason Tufuga, who is majoring in communications, said he saw time at outside hitter, opposite and setter while playing for the Cardinal from 2017 to 2019. After taking last year off, Tufuga is planning to play in the upcoming year.

Stanford has said that it will honor all existing athletics scholarship commitments, as well as the contracts of coaches impacted by the decision. Support staff members losing their

jobs will receive severance pay.

All impacted sports will also have the opportunity to compete at the club level, provided that there is sufficient student interest and the programs can be financially self-sustaining.

The Intercollegiate Sailing Assn. (ICSA) had Stanford as the No. 1 team in its coed rankings to finish the fall. The coronavirus pandemic wiping out the spring schedule turned out to be just the first blow to the program.

Jacob Rosenberg, a 2016 graduate of Sage Hill School, learned to sail at Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club. He competed for the Cardinal in college, and he also earned his degree in management science and engineering this year.

"The cuts saddened me deeply," Rosenberg said. "This is a resilient team

and program that will continue to find ways to support and fund the team, but it's a tough blow after the [college admissions] coaching scandal last year to COVID-19 ending the season this year. Now to this news, being demoted to club after winning a national championship this year, being ranked number one when season was canceled, and having both the men's and women's college sailors of the year."

Jack Parkin, who has appeared locally in the Governor's Cup Youth International Match Racing Championships, and Michelle Lahrkamp earned the National Sailor of the Year honors, determined by the ICSA.

Sammy Pickell, a 2018 graduate of Corona del Mar High School, also competed for Bahia Co-

rinthian Yacht Club growing up. She was named ICSA All-American crew as a sophomore.

"It does surprise me," Pickell said of the sailing program being discontinued at the varsity level. "This year, we had our best year ever. We were number one, had two National College Sailors of the Year for the first time in program history, and won a national championship in match racing, among other successes."

"One of our alumni, Luke Muller, just recently qualified for the Tokyo 2021 [Olympic] Games. Regardless of the reasons Stanford chose in cutting sports, our team definitely didn't have any issues maintaining athletic excellence."

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MAILBAG

Continued from page A5

to \$1,100 an acre foot while Poseidon's desal water costs \$2,600 an acre foot (their figure), so you can expect a rate hike. The water is not needed, unnecessary and too expensive and will cause extreme sea-life mortality.

Richard C. Armendariz
Huntington Beach

As former chair of the Huntington Beach Planning Commission, I presided over 40 hours of Poseidon's hearings. I offer four reasons why the Regional Water Board should reject the project and a suggestion.

1. Hidden Tax. If Poseidon is approved, the citizens of Southern California may pay the largest hidden tax in my lifetime. This hidden tax is the difference consumers will pay, because Poseidon is an international corporation and has profits guaranteed for its 35- to 50-year lifespan. Consumers will pay up to six times more for their water! Plus there is an annual 3% price escalator clause! These estimates are the best we can do as Poseidon's term sheet *does not include actual prices!* Would you buy a house if the seller could decide upon the price after the contract was signed?

2. Desalination wins the

most expensive water prize.

Current groundwater costs \$450/acre foot, while ratepayers of Poseidon's Carlsbad plant pay \$2,800/acre foot. Poseidon's water is already 6.2 times more expensive than O.C. groundwater.

3. We don't need Poseidon. In 2018 the O.C. Water District report shows O.C. in a uniquely favorable situation when compared to the Carlsbad area: a) Orange County is on top of an aquifer; b) O.C. has the Santa Ana River, another source of fresh water; c) 12 years ago, Orange County began to reclaim waste water and replenishes the aquifer daily; and d) over the last 20 years conservation has helped to shrink demand.

4. Ratepayers may be forced to buy unneeded water (and then pump it into the ground). Poseidon wants to produce more water than the region needs and force us to purchase their expensive water and dump it into the aquifer. This is precisely what the groundwater replenishment system has been doing for 12 years (and at much cheaper rates).

When we want a desalination plant, we should construct one that is cheaper to build and operate. So what is the "secret sauce" that lowers construction and operating costs?

It's a municipal utility (just like the O.C. Water and Sanitation

districts). cheaper to build, because it would be right sized for the region's needs, not for Poseidon's profits. A utility is cheaper to operate because it won't need to raise rates to generate profits for directors and shareholders.

The people of Orange County should be outraged at the prospect of this hidden and completely unnecessary tax.

Randy Kokal
Huntington Beach

Climate change bill is promising

I've done a little investigation on Curt Abdough's commentary in the Daily Pilot, "Climate change bill would prevent catastrophe worse than the pandemic."

The science-based facts bear him out. A recent study into the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, conducted by Columbia University economists, concluded that carbon emissions in the atmosphere would be reduced by nearly 40% in 12 years.

Digging a little further, I found that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the world's most recognized body of scientists working on climate change, last year warned that humankind may have only another decade to drastically reduce carbon emis-

sions if we hope to avoid the worst consequences of global warming, meaning the threatened collapse of a livable biosphere.

That puts my grandchildren and everyone else's grandchildren in unacceptable peril. The writer of this commentary has made a strong case for this bill. All five Orange County members of Congress are co-sponsoring this measure.

Let's waste no more time. Ocean reefs are acidifying, sea levels are rising, hurricanes and droughts are getting more severe, wildfires are claiming more lives and homes, carbon-polluted air is filling more lungs. Readers should urge public officials at all levels to support this bill before time runs out on us all.

Tom Osborne
Laguna Beach

I was very encouraged to read Curt Abdouch's commentary in the Daily Pilot regarding the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act.

I was particularly encouraged because HR763 seeks and expects support from Democrats and Republicans alike. We need to have actions that show Congress can work together for the good of America. Creating over 2 million jobs that will bring about a clean-energy economy is a very positive step. The aspect of putting mon-

ey into people's pockets at a time of high unemployment and beyond will be very advantageous, particularly for low- and middle-income Americans.

I hope others will join me in writing to our members of Congress. Their bipartisan support of HR763 will help get our planet moving in the right direction.

Anne Caenn
Laguna Beach

COVID-19 can be a death sentence

I suppose I've long been under a mistaken impression. I assumed courts were in place to ensure justice.

How is exposing inmates to a potentially fatal virus (some of whom may be incarcerated while awaiting trial) and jail personnel (who work to make a living) possibly be considered justice?

To ensure justice, we must not inflict what could amount to a death penalty on people who have not been convicted of a crime or who face misdemeanor charges. Nor should we endanger jailers by mandating they serve without appropriate safeguards.

I don't know the solution but I recognize injustice that is as obvious as this.

Ben Miles
Huntington Beach



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MARKET*Continued from page A1*

terminate its leasing agreement, citing a "force majeure" clause that states either party can exit the contract if unable to perform for 90 days or more due to extreme circumstances.

Executive Vice President Richard Schneider explained in a May 20 termination letter the coronavirus shutdown forced Spectra's hand.

"Anticipating that the stay-at-home order, or other government restrictions, will prevent the Outdoor Marketplace from reopening by June 12, the purpose of this letter is to notify the Association that Spectra is hereby terminating the agreement, effective [June 20]."

O.C. Fair & Event Center chief executive Michele Richards, however, was not content to accept the termination.

In a May 27 letter, she claimed the Market Place was, in fact, allowed to reopen under allowances given Orange County retailers by the state on May 23.

"Spectra is authorized to resume operation of the O.C. Marketplace immediately," Richards wrote. "Spectra remains obligated to perform under the terms of the rental agreement, including making all rent payments required under the agreement."



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

JEANINE ROBBINS and husband Mike run Paradise Cigars out of a mobile humidifier that has become a swap meet staple since the business opened in 1979. "It's devastating — we desperately want to be able to reopen," Jeanine said.

mental Health Division, confirmed by email Friday that outdoor swap meets and flea markets, along with food operations there are, in fact, allowed to reopen as Stage 2 businesses under state guidelines.

Stephanie Singleton, a program manager for the Orange County Environ-

mental Health Division, confirmed by email Friday that outdoor swap meets and flea markets, along with food operations there are, in fact, allowed to reopen as Stage 2 businesses under state guidelines.

Fairgrounds spokeswoman Terry Moore confirmed Friday the last rental payment from Spectra was for

the month of March, in the amount of \$171,666.

During the June 25 OCFEC board meeting, Robbins and other vendors pleaded with officials to do something to allow them to resume business.

Some suggested the fair board offer Spectra rent relief to ease any claim of

listed having been modified or demolished in addition to new properties, city staff said in February.

Over 30 public workshops and meetings have been held since work began to update the city's historical preservation program in 2015.

The City Council also adopted a resolution adopting a negative declaration for the project, which states that the planned program will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment.

On Tuesday, the council will be considering adoption of an ordinance to

amend current city code on the historic preservation program in addition to a resolution to make changes to the city's local coastal program and request certification by the state Coastal Commission.

PROMENADE ON FOREST EXTENSION

The City Council will also be considering extension of the Promenade on Forest pilot program, which opened to the public in June as part of the city's economic recovery and business development plan.

Extension of the pro-

gram would be through Jan. 30 with the council to revisit the matter at their first scheduled meeting in January.

Councilmembers approved the closure of lower Forest Avenue — between Coast Highway and Glenneye Street — through Sept. 7 and the promenade includes six dining decks, 41 dining tables and intermittent retail displays to allow for patrons to safely eat, shop and interact while allowing businesses to operate.

In a report prepared by city staff for Tuesday's meeting, staff referenced

the July 1 order that shuttered indoor dining.

"It is unclear how long the closure will last; however, it is feasible to assume that restaurants may be subjected to diminished occupancy rates for an extended period and the reduced occupancy may jeopardize the long-term viability of local restaurants," city staff said.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has continued to worsen since the initial approval and it appears public gatherings will continue to be modified for the foreseeable future."

Estimated costs to ex-

pend the program through January is \$119,000. Approximately \$98,500 is related to sanitation and safety services.

The remaining \$20,500 would be allocated to additional furniture, replacement of damaged assets and printing COVID-19 related materials such as circulation arrows and regulatory signs.

City staff said the Arts Commission's special programs budget would also contribute \$12,500 for two live performances a week.

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LAGUNA*Continued from page A1*

the reluctance of preservationists.

The ordinance amends the city's current inventory of historic structures from 1981, which the city's historic preservation ordinance — first adopted in 1989 — acknowledged. The ordinance provided incentives to owners to maintain those properties.

Efforts to update the historic register began in 2013 as the register became outdated, with many of the structures

tend the program through January is \$119,000. Approximately \$98,500 is related to sanitation and safety services.

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HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' LACROSSE**Newport Beach's Case named All-American**

BY MATT SZABO

Campbell Case has the talent in girls' lacrosse, but she also lives in Southern California in a sport that is still East Coast dominated.

That did not stop Case, a Newport Beach resident, from receiving a big honor this week.

Case, who plays attack and recently graduated from St. Margaret's Episcopal School, was named an Under Armour Girls' Lacrosse Senior All-American.

She was the only girls' player who lives west of Illinois to make the 44-player team.

"It was definitely a dream come true," Case said. "I was really excited about it. I had played in the underclassman tournament that they offer leading up to it, so I had been able to represent the West team. But finding out that I actually made the senior games was a dream come true."

Case, who is bound for Johns Hopkins University, would have been on the South roster for the annual Senior All-America Game in Maryland originally scheduled for Saturday, but it has been canceled due to COVID-19.

"I'm definitely happy that West Coast lacrosse is getting some recognition,"



said Case, whose older brothers, Mason and Davis, each played soccer at Corona del Mar High School and UC Berkeley. "There's been some absolute athletes coming out of Orange County and the West Coast."

Case was a four-year starter at St. Margaret's and helped the Tartans win back-to-back U.S. Lacrosse Southern Section titles in 2018 and 2019. The sport was set to transition to an official CIF Southern Section sport with championship playoffs this spring, before the season was canceled because of COVID-19.

As a junior, Case scored 31 goals in just 12 matches for St. Margaret's, despite missing time in the middle

of the season with a left ankle injury.

First-year St. Margaret's coach Mollie Stevens said she appreciated Case's work ethic, and her leadership on a younger Tartans team this year.

"She's just the most positive player and an amazing teammate," said Stevens, who was a four-year starter at the University of Florida and earned All-American honors as a senior captain in 2017. "We had a lot of first-year players on St. Margaret's this year, and she was kind of like a player-coach. The girls weren't afraid to ask her questions, either. I mean, it's pretty intimidating when you have a player like Campbell Case on your team, and she was

just so welcoming and friendly and really helped those first-year players grow."

The Tartans (1-2) played just three matches this spring, but Case scored seven goals in a 13-9 win over Westlake Village Westlake on March 4.

"I'm from Maryland, so I'm used to big lacrosse states around me, but we're just at such a big disadvantage out here now until it continues to grow," Stevens said.

"But I'm so excited that she got [All-American]. She's so deserving. It's really nice to see that she was recognized the way she should be, and wasn't just pushed off the map because of being a California girl."

Case hopes to play for Johns Hopkins as a freshman next spring.

The university announced recently that it will offer only online classes to undergraduates this fall, due to the continuing coronavirus pandemic.

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Scott Smeltzer
Staff
Photographer

ST. MARGARET'S
graduate
Campbell Case
was recently
named an
Under Armour
Girls' Lacrosse
Senior
All-American.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Don Leach | Staff Photographer

OCEAN VIEW'S Bella Caiazzo drives to the basket against Santa Ana's Melina Rueta on Dec. 3, 2019.

**O.V.'s Caiazzo
All-Golden West
first-team choice**

Bella Caiazzo, a junior shooting guard for the Ocean View High girls' basketball team, earned first-team All-Golden West League honors.

A second-year starter, Caiazzo became a top option on the offensive end for the Seahawks.

Junior guard Emma Beard earned second-

team all-league honors for Ocean View.

Ocean View finished the season at 7-21 overall and 1-9 in the league. The Seahawks ended in a tie for fifth place with Western (5-18, 1-9).

Garden Grove senior forward Sandra Balandran, who averaged 17.1 points per game, was named the Golden West League MVP. She led the Argonauts (17-9, 10-0) to the league championship.

—From staff reports

**All-Express
first-team honor
to Wondercheck**

Pacifica Christian Orange County High's Charis Wondercheck earned a spot on the All-Express League first team in girls' basketball.

Wondercheck started at point guard as a freshman this season, helping the Tritons (10-10, 7-3 in league) to a share of second place in the league with La Verne Lutheran (14-8, 7-3). Pacifica Christian lost to Santa Monica Pacifica Christian 54-34 in the first round of the CIF

Southern Section Division 5AA playoffs.

Junior guard Anna Eddy was named to the all-league second team for Pacifica Christian O.C., and Nola Mihaly-Garvin received honorable mention honors.

Brethren Christian had junior guard Kylie Allison on the second team, while sophomore forward Rachel Peters was honorable mention.

The Warriors (6-14, 4-6) finished in fourth place.

Connelly junior point guard Nina Menzogopian was named the Express League MVP after leading the Koalas (15-2, 10-0) to the league championship. Koalas' Megan Marrujo earned the league Coach of the Year award.

—From staff reports

**Mesa's Harmon
repeats as
first-team pick**

Costa Mesa High junior small forward Tarah Harmon repeated as a first-team All-Orange Coast League girls' basketball selection, and Estancia senior guard Pamela Cabezas made the first team.

Harmon averaged 16.1 points and eight rebounds per game for the Mustangs, who went 7-15 overall and 5-5 in the league. The third-place Mustangs lost at Carpinteria 62-29 in the first round of the CIF Southern Section Division 4A playoffs..

Sophomore center Lorelei Hobbis made the second team, averaging 5.2 points, 13.7 rebounds and 2.5 blocked shots per contest.

Junior forward Alejandra Meza was a second-team honoree for Estancia (3-25, 1-9), which finished in last place in league play.

Saddleback sophomore guard Kendrah Lopez was named the league MVP. The Roadrunners (19-9, 10-0) won the league crown.

—From staff reports

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