



Photos by Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

**ARTIST JERROD MARUYAMA**, 50, of Irvine, holds a balloon with his animation at Disney's WonderGround Gallery in Downtown Disney in Anaheim. Maruyama is a digital illustrator and character designer who is featured at Disney's WonderGround Gallery this month.

## Character appeal

Digital illustrator Jerrod Maruyama's work featured at Disney's WonderGround Gallery.

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

As is true for many contemporary artists, the work of freelance illustrator Jerrod Maruyama can be found in a lot of places. His art can be viewed on Instagram and Tumblr. Prints, mugs and other merchandise featuring his character concepts are available on sites like Amazon and Shop Disney. But one place fans can find Maruyama's art that isn't inhabited by most other artists, but could be considered prime real estate, is on a balloon. At Disneyland.

"This is my balloon," Maruyama said proudly.

A purple balloon featuring mini versions of Alice from "Alice in Wonderland," Princess Jasmine from "Aladdin"



**ILLUSTRATIONS TITLED** "Magic Kingdom Cuties," left, and "Shanghai Disney Park Smiles" created by artist Jerrod Maruyama.

and the Beast of "Beauty and the Beast" bobbed in the air on a recent afternoon at Downtown Disney.

This month Maruyama, along with fellow artist Bill Robinson, is showcasing his newest art featuring the Mup-

pets at WonderGround Gallery at Downtown Disney District. WonderGround Gallery has been open for 12 years, offering unique gifts and souvenirs, and the boutique specializes in Disney-themed artwork and collectibles.

"It has been a little while since we have seen Muppet artwork at the gallery," Maruyama said. He and Robinson were part of an artist showcase on Saturday at WonderGround, giving fans the opportunity to meet them and have select merchandise signed.

"WonderGround is great because it brings in a lot of local artists and artists from around the country to do sort of a different take on Disney

See **Character**, page A2

## Fountain Valley joins in 85-bed shelter

Westminster, Garden Grove partner with FV. in plans to open Central Cities Navigation Center for the homeless.

BY ANDREW TURNER

Fountain Valley does not have a homeless shelter within the city limits, but the city is working toward ensuring its unhoused will have access to dedicated shelter beds in the future.

The city has entered a partnership with the neighboring cities of Garden Grove and Westminster to facilitate the creation of the Central Cities Navigation Center.

A parcel at 13871 West St. in Garden Grove has been identified for the development and operation of the navigation center.

The Fountain Valley City Council on Tuesday evening approved a \$940,000 loan from the city's general fund reserve to its housing authority. The funds will assist with the acquisition of the property, which comes with a price tag of \$5.65 million.

The loan will be repaid once Garden Grove has had its housing element certified, Fountain Valley deputy city manager and community development director

See **Shelter**, page A2

## ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**FOUNTAIN VALLEY TENNIS STARTED FROM THE BOTTOM, BUT NOW A POWERHOUSE**  
PAGE A9

## Girl Scouts of O.C. to expand access, programs with donation

BY SARA CARDINE

Sophie Harris lives in Corona del Mar, where most of her transportation needs are met by personal vehicles. But during a recent Girl Scout trip to San Francisco, she discovered the joys of mass transit.

"I liked the public transportation — we went on the trolleys and the cable cars," the 11-year-old recalled of her summertime adventure. "In Corona del Mar we don't get to do that a lot."

Lisa Anhalt, mother of two Scouts and leader of Newport Beach Troop 7483, said the trip was packed with new experiences for the girls and for the adults who supervised them.

"We were trying new foods. We rode all the public transportation — it was so much fun," she said during a troop activity at Newport Ridge Community Park. "The best

thing about Girl Scouts is it provides opportunities girls may not be able to have with their families.

Headquartered in Irvine, Girl Scouts of Orange County provides programs, activities and leadership skills for some 15,000 Scouts in 1,200 troops countywide. And now, thanks to a \$2.8-million commitment from noted philanthropist MacKenzie Scott, the nonprofit is supercharging its mission by expanding to serve more girls in more local communities.

Leaders of the organization were informed they were among 29 councils of the national organization personally selected by Scott to receive a portion of the total \$84.5 million in funding.

Chief executive Vikki Shepp said staff have drafted a plan to use the funding to build upon GSOC's All-Girl Initiative, launched in 2020 to expand ac-



**TROOP LEADER**

Lisa Anhalt leads Scouts in an art project during an Oct. 28 meeting at Newport Ridge Community Park. Girl Scouts of Orange County recently received \$2.8 million from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott.

Don Leach | Staff Photographer

cess to girls in underengaged communities, bolster career readiness and outdoor programs

and invest in research and staff and volunteer training.

Part of the contribution will be

used to establish a greater phys-

See **Donation**, page A3

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# N.B. candidates report last of fundraising totals

BY LILLY NGUYEN

Only a few more days remain before voters in Orange County finish casting their ballots in races for the leadership of their cities and beyond.

Locally, the Newport Beach City Council election touts eight candidates running in seven districts, though candidates are elected and represent the city at large.

Some candidates began fundraising as early as late last fall, while others began their efforts this year, shortly after final documents were received and filed by the city clerk to be placed on the ballot. Campaign finance documents prior to the election were last filed with the city by

Oct. 27.

Roughly \$1.3 million has gone into the election this year between all eight campaigns in Newport Beach this year compared to roughly \$956,000 spent by candidates and political action groups on the last midterm election in 2018.

Four seats are open for election in Districts 1, 3, 4 and 6. Mayor Kevin Muldoon and council members Diane Dixon and Marshall “Duffy” Duffield are terming out this year.

In District 1, which includes much of the Balboa Peninsula and West Newport, candidate Tom Miller raised an estimated \$566,372 this year. About \$425 was raised in monetary contributions between the last reported pe-

riod of Sept. 25 to Oct. 22.

Opponent Joe Stapleton raised \$188,693, with about \$15,100 contributed for that same September to October period.

Both Stapleton and Miller declared their campaigns early and announced similar war chests early on. Documents filed in January this year reported \$126,530 for Miller’s campaign and \$156,125 for Stapleton’s.

District 3, including neighborhoods around upper Newport Bay, will see a three-man race this Election Day. Planning Commissioner Erik Weigand is the frontrunner in terms of fundraising as of October with a reported



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

See **Totals**, page A4

**THE NEWPORT BEACH** city clerk’s office has received all campaign financial documents.

## SHELTER

Continued from page A1

Omar Dadabhoy said. Fountain Valley has already received certification for its housing element.

Dadabhoy added that the deal to acquire the future navigation center site is expected to close escrow next week.

Additionally, the council passed a memorandum of understanding that states the cities are committing to supporting the operation of the center for at least the next 10 years.

Plans for the navigation center include 85 shelter beds — 13 of which will be designated for use by Fountain Valley. Garden Grove, the purchasing entity, will have 50 beds, and Westminster will have 22 beds. The facility, which will be stationed on an 18,166-square-foot lot, will serve single adults and couples.

Amenities to be included at the site include separate dormitories for men, women and couples, a kitchen, a laundry room, a dining area and an outdoor space. Services will include one-on-one case management, as well as mental health resources and substance use counseling.

City officials estimate that startup costs for the shelter will be about \$13.6 million, including tenant improvements to convert the industrial building into a residential space.

In a letter addressed to Garden Grove City Manager Scott Stiles on Sept. 6, Orange County Chief Executive Frank Kim said he would recommend that the Board of Supervisors make a one-time allocation of \$5.3 million to support the navigation center. The county, which requested that the center have a capacity for 100 beds in certain situations, would also make annual contributions of \$625,000 for the first 10 years.

Dadabhoy said the city is projected to pay \$4.26 million over the first decade for operational costs. Housing authority funds are expected to account for \$2.5

million of that total.

“A lot of this is not being funded from the general fund, and we’re using our housing dollars to do it,” Fountain Valley Mayor Patrick Harper said. “... There’s a lot of efforts that are ongoing to really kind of tackle the homelessness issue in Fountain Valley. This is another step that we can take as a city to tackle the problem and help break the cycle of homelessness.”

The city plans to have an informational meeting regarding the Central Cities Navigation Center on Nov. 16 at 5 p.m. at the Fountain Valley Recreation Center.

Fountain Valley brought in City Net to help interface with its homeless community. In a presentation before the council on Tuesday, Police Chief Matt Sheppard said calls for service for related issues are still expected to mark an increase over last year. The city, which has utilized the Yale Navigation Center in Santa Ana, has had 36 street exits (individuals put into housing) since bringing on City Net in April, Sheppard said.

Sheppard also shared that the city had 38 unsheltered homeless individuals identified in its Point in Time count this year, up from 28 in 2019.

“We don’t have dedicated bed space at the shelters throughout Orange County, so that keeps us from using the one tool that we don’t like to use, and that’s the enforcement side,” said Sheppard, who has repeatedly advocated for outreach and engagement with the unhoused. “You got to have bed space available to your city, dedicated to the city of Fountain Valley, before you can utilize your enforcement actions to help people move along.”

“... We don’t like to use the arrest, but sometimes, some individuals need that ... leverage over them to help them make that decision that, ‘... Maybe I need to start accepting services and move into the [support] system.’”

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## CHARACTER

Continued from page A1

characters,” said Maruyama.

The 50-year-old artist grew up in the Bay Area, where he studied illustration at San Jose State. He worked as an art director, but when he began sharing his Disney fan art on social media his fan base grew.

Maruyama, who now makes his home in Irvine, was invited to show his work at WonderGround 10 years ago and has been invited back ever since. He attributes his popularity to his ability to make already cute characters even more adorable or even not-so-cuddly critters darling.

“I do have a certain style of drawing, and it varies, depending on the project,” said Maruyama. “What I like to do is boil it down to what the appeal is of that character is and try to highlight that but at the same time sort of simplify the physical look of the character.”

Maruyama said the appeal can be a costume, prop or even an expression.



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

**ARTIST JERROD MARUYAMA**, 50, of Tustin, poses with one of his illustrations titled “Main Street Treat” at Downtown Disney in Anaheim. Maruyama’s work is featured at Disney’s WonderGround Gallery this month.

“With the princesses, it is always the dress because the faces of my characters are pretty simple,” Maruyama said. “Like

Cinderella, the dress is very iconic. Everyone recognizes that dress. Everyone recognizes her updo. So if you added a glass

slipper, or mice, you are sort of enhancing that story that we are all familiar with, without it looking exactly like the character.”

He is especially excited about his new commission of Muppet work, since he considers himself a lifelong fan.

“I really grew up in that era of the Muppets, I started with Sesame Street,” said Maruyama. “Then ‘The Muppet Show’ and the films and everything that the Jim Henson Company represents. When the Muppets were acquired by Disney, it just kind of paved the way for me to be able to do this.”

Although Maruyama has also gotten creative with non-Disney characters and well-known personalities or celebrities like Count Chocula or Ina Garten, he is happy to get to work with a platform like Disney.

“Working with Disney, you get to work with characters everyone knows and loves, iconic characters that span generations. Our grandparents know these characters, and new kids know these characters,” Maruyama said. “Being associated with this company and working with Disney has been one of my biggest goals and one of my biggest accomplishments.”

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**COLUMN | PATRICE APODACA****A UCI program helps older adults embrace lifelong learning**

Elisabeth Frausto

**THE OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE** provides opportunities for members to learn together. It's one of 125 such institutes funded by philanthropist Bernard Osher.

**F**inally, a topic in education that isn't drenched in controversy.

The concept of lifelong learning is simple, understandable and impossible to view as anything but beneficial. Who could argue with the goal of improving the mind at any age?

It's also an idea with so much built-in flexibility that it's adaptable to pretty much anyone. Classroom learning not your bag? Try learning a new skill instead. Don't care for puzzles or games? Not a problem. Just read a book.

The point is, learning is good, and learning at every age should be encouraged,

whether it's for professional or personal reasons.

I have just one minor quibble — if you could even call it that. Too often lifelong learning is presented as something old folks should do to keep their brains from withering into decrepitude. The arguments in favor sometimes tread a little too closely to a take-your-medicine approach, rather than emphasizing the enjoyable and fulfilling aspects.

Granted, there is growing evidence of the health benefits of lifelong learning. Although the research isn't yet conclusive and more study is needed, many scientists believe that staying mentally active can help reduce the risk of age-related cognitive impairment.

The National Institute on Aging points to studies that show that engaging in “personally meaningful activities,” learning new skills, and taking part in such pastimes as music and writing might improve the health and quality of life of older people.

That's all great. If it comes down to it, I'd much rather listen to a concerto than take a pill.

But let's not skip over the other major reason we should keep learning as we age: It's fun.

If I'd had any doubts about this belief, my recent visit to UC Irvine's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute would have banished such thoughts.

OLLI, as it's commonly known, is one of 125 such institutes around the country that vary in size and structure but have all received funding from philanthropist Bernard Osher. Members join for a semester or a full year, which entitles them to attend as many classes as they want, space permitting. There's no age requirement, but most members are over 65. The oldest is 102.

There is one paid staff member; otherwise OLLI is run by a team of dedicated volunteers, led by President Lonnie Horn, a retired software developer who originally joined as a member, then assumed the leadership position in 2019.

Though affiliated with UC Irvine, operating under the auspices of the Division of Continuing Education, OLLI is located not on campus but inside the parking structure at the Amtrak Train Station a few miles away.

Don't let the location fool you. OLLI's lecture room and offices are comfortable and well-equipped, and its members are an engaged, enthusiastic bunch of learners who make me wish I had paid more attention back in my somewhat misspent college days.

“I just love coming here and learning all kinds of things,” said Kathie



Sybersma, a retired interior designer and OLLI member. “It brings a joy to life. It really does.”

There's always something new to look forward to.”

Sybersma rattles off an eclectic list of courses she has signed up for, covering topics such as women in science, rhythm and blues, rats (that's right, rats), 1960s media, Shakespeare and the Supreme Court. Presenters are often retired professors or others with expertise in various subjects.

OLLI's fall catalog reveals an array of interesting options, ranging from a lecture on the Roman Empire to writing workshops to seminars on health-related topics. The institute also offers field trips to such venues as the Reagan Presidential Library, the Broad Museum of Art and SoFi Stadium.

An excursion last spring to Planet 13, the superstore cannabis dispensary in Santa Ana, was so popular with members that it was offered again this fall. Horn and Sybersma recalled OLLI members receiving curious looks from younger customers when they showed up with extensive shopping lists and detailed questions for the “budtenders” behind the counters.

Like many institutions, OLLI took a hit during the pandemic. Membership prior to COVID-19 was nearing 800; now it's hovering around 300. Classes were offered online, but there were technical glitches aplenty. Those issues have been sorted, and now members have the option of attending in person or online, but Horn said that building back membership remains the foremost challenge.

Though the biggest motivation for joining OLLI is to learn, Horn emphasized other benefits that shouldn't be overlooked. “A big plus of OLLI is socialization,” she said. “It's easy for seniors to get isolated.”

Indeed, Sybersma said that she has participated in events where she didn't know anyone initially, but by the end of the day she had made many new friends. That is exactly what I had hoped to hear.

The ongoing pursuit of knowledge and insight is good for everyone. No argument there. But when it comes to seniors, it's vital that we see it as more than just an antidote for old age, a tonic to be swallowed along with the daily meds.

Learning makes life worth living. And learning that can be shared with others — even better.

**PATRICE APODACA** is a former Los Angeles Times staff writer and is coauthor of “A Boy Named Courage: A Surgeon's Memoir of Apartheid.” She lives in Newport Beach.

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## DONATION

Continued from page A1

ical presence in Santa Ana by opening a program center and to hire an arts program manager to build upon programming and an inclusion specialist to accommodate Scouts with diverse needs.

“This gift really benefits every girl in some way,” Shepp said Monday. “I know how important the [Scouting] experience is, and I want every girl to have that opportunity.”

Girls assembled last week in a multitroop activity at Newport Ridge Community Park, where they decorated pumpkins and penned cards and letters to first responders. Scouts huddled together at picnic tables, the backs of their vests emblazoned with badges that hinted at what the organization offers its members.

Some heralded completion of units related to storytelling, kindness, self-defense, hiking and climbing. Others advertised trips to national parks in Death Valley, New Mexico and Utah.

Laila Mork, a leader for Newport Coast's Troop 5381



Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**GIRLS FROM** Newport Beach Girl Scouts troops 7483 and 5381 write letters to veterans and first responders at Newport Ridge Community Park.

and the mother of two Scouts, said the news about Scott's donation has been spreading among members and volunteers.

“It's big news around here — I'm very excited,” she said. “This means more experiences and leadership opportunities for more girls. We're only reaching about 3% of the girls in our area.

[Girl Scouts] is so great for the girls who are in it, but who are we missing?”

Mork hopes the funds can help provide more regular meeting spaces for troops that often rely on relationships with schools and other groups that run local facilities. Anhalt said she'd love to see more outdoor events and outreach

into underserved communities.

“I think Girl Scouts is great for all girls, and every girl should have access to it if they choose to be in it,” she said. “I would like all the girls in the world to learn leadership skills and make friendships and have those experiences.”

Aside from the many in-

terpersonal skills and opportunities Girl Scouts affords its members, it's also just fun, say the Scouts.

“It's something outside of school you can do to not be bored, like sports,” said Mia Balabanian, a 12-year-old Cadette who attends Corona del Mar Middle School. “I've done a lot of sports activities and things like camping — there was this whole hiking trip to Crystal Cove. [This] is like a community you can just go to.”

Amari Agren, a sixth-grader at Andersen Elementary School, agrees. She recalled singing holiday carols to seniors in a care facility and earning badges related to acting and endangered animal protection.

“Say you have a bad day at school,” she said. “Then, you go to a Girl Scout meeting, and it makes you feel better. I'll stay in it as long as I can.”

“They don't judge you,” chimed in Sophie, the rapid transit fan. “You can be comfortable.”

Shepp said her team is working to make Scott's donation go as far as possible to impact the greatest number of girls in Orange County and accelerate the organization's efforts to do more, with more, for more well into the future.

“This life-changing gift for our organization is a starting point, not an ending point,” she said.

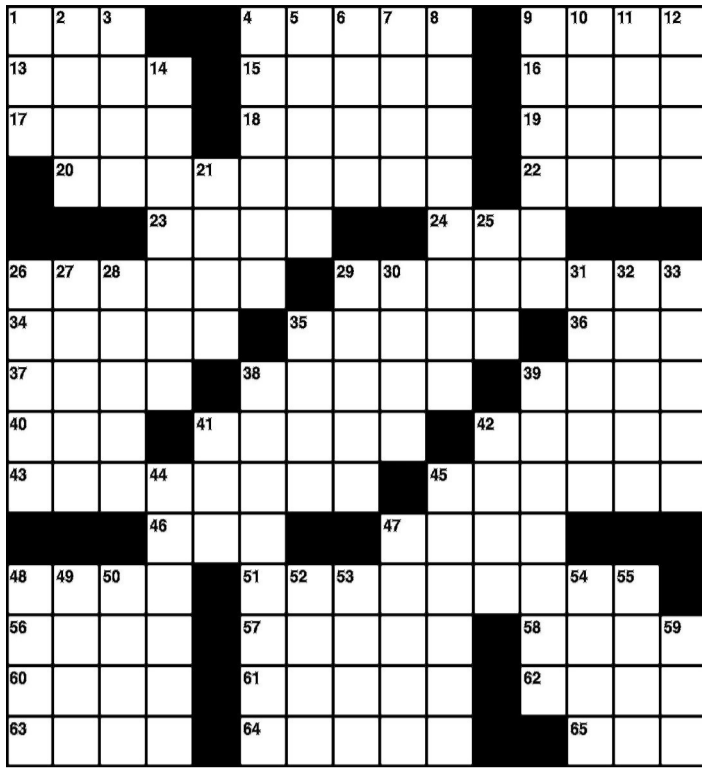
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**GIRL SCOUTS** from Newport Beach troops 7483 and 5381 salute one another during an Oct. 28 meeting.

**THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE**

By Jacqueline E. Matthews

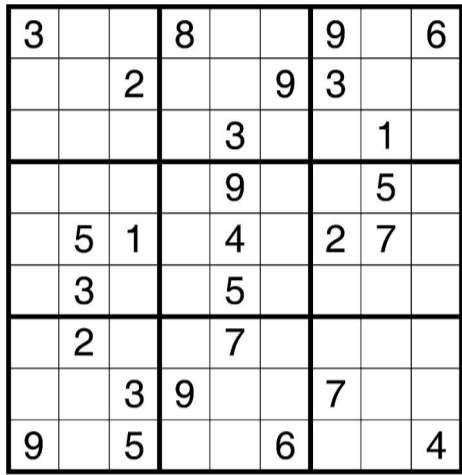


- ACROSS**  
 1 "Come \_\_, come all!"  
 4 Marsh  
 9 Close noisily  
 13 No longer here  
 15 Accelerator or brake  
 16 Comic actress Imogene  
 17 Lucie's dad  
 18 Row of shrubs  
 19 Consumer  
 20 Indigestion  
 22 Not as much  
 23 Cooper or Busey  
 24 Maple tree secretion  
 26 Resistant to infection  
 29 Punishes  
 34 Sleep disturber  
 35 Ostracizes  
 36 \_\_ Van Winkle  
 37 Clueless  
 38 Nursery purchase  
 39 Music's Lady \_\_  
 40 Pub pint  
 41 Winter coating  
 42 Walk leisurely  
 43 Clothes closet  
 45 Baffling questions  
 46 Rip off  
 47 \_\_ on; visit  
 48 "\_\_ Heartache"; Bonnie Tyler song  
 51 Auditorium's sound quality  
 56 Part of a house  
 57 \_\_ out; utter impulsively  
 58 Musical symbol  
 60 As easy as falling \_\_ log  
 61 Lariat  
 62 Chew like a beaver  
 63 "Phooey!"  
 64 Word of welcome  
 65 Place for an iris
- DOWN**  
 1 Weird

**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](http://sudoku.org.uk).



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

- 2 In \_\_ of; lacking  
 3 As \_\_ as pie  
 4 Globe's shape  
 5 Emotional  
 6 Inserts  
 7 Biblical wise men  
 8 Agreeable  
 9 Carve
- 10 Suffer defeat  
 11 Large spades  
 12 One of the planets  
 14 Repugnance  
 21 Window piece  
 25 Pack animal  
 26 Husband's sibling

- 27 Cash  
 28 Scrooge, for one  
 29 Run after  
 30 Seek prey  
 31 Remove errors  
 32 African nation  
 33 Follows ASPCA advice  
 35 Neat freak's opposite  
 38 Likely  
 39 Baby waterbird  
 41 To and \_\_  
 42 Shed feathers  
 44 "NCIS" & "Blue Bloods"  
 45 Parish leader  
 47 Use foul language  
 48 Common metal  
 49 Bean curd  
 50 \_\_ as a baby's bottom  
 52 Hatfields or McCoys  
 53 Remove from power  
 54 Dunce cap's shape  
 55 Command to Fido  
 59 Lamb's mother
- Tribune Media Services

**43 coyote sightings reported in H.B. over the past 3 months**

BY ERIC LICAS

A team of volunteers formed earlier this year to conduct "coyote yard audits" in response to reports of the feral canines in human-inhabited areas of Huntington Beach have been busy handing out tips to residents and businesses near recent sightings, police said Thursday.

Over the past three months, 43 coyote sightings have been reported in Huntington Beach, according to the city's police department spokeswoman, Jessica Cuchilla. Some have occurred near the intersections of Warner Avenue and Edwards Street as well as Brookhurst Street and Indianapolis Avenue.

Huntington Beach's Wildlife Watch has performed the audits, which were designed to help homeowners identify things they might be doing to inadvertently invite coyotes and other wildlife onto their property. Auditors look for things like pet food left outside, ripe fallen fruit on the ground, food residue on outdoor grills and unsecured garbage bins because coyotes are known to be scavengers with a diverse diet.

Volunteers also recommend keeping bushes and



Courtesy of the Huntington Beach Police Department

**A COYOTE PRINT** spotted by residents in Huntington Beach is seen in a photo shared by the city's police department on Twitter Thursday, Nov. 3.

hedges trimmed to eliminate places where wildlife might be able to take shelter on their property. Pet owners are advised to keep their critters indoors because coyotes are known to prey on small animals.

The team has also been performing outreach and handing out educational materials at community meetings throughout the city.

Huntington Beach's Wildlife Watch is an extension of a program set up by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to prevent con-

flict in the face of increasingly common interactions between humans and wild animals. It consists of five volunteers and was put together in July based on input from officials from the state agency and residents who attended a town hall earlier this year regarding a growing number of coyote sightings in the area.

That meeting took place May 9, nine days after a 2-year-old girl from Chino Hills was bitten by a coyote while visiting Huntington Beach Pier.

See *Coyote*, page A9

**TOTALS**

Continued from page A2

\$83,570 raised to-date. Weigand is followed by candidate Amy Peters, who reported roughly \$3,800 for this calendar year. Fellow candidate Jim Mosher did not report any contributions.

Weigand also raised about \$1,550 last year. No other fundraising in 2021 was reported by Peters or Mosher.

The last competitive race this November will

be in District 6, which includes Corona del Mar. The seat for that district is currently occupied by Councilwoman Joy Brenner, who is vying to keep a hold on that seat against Planning Commissioner Lauren Kleiman.

Campaign documents for both campaigns report Brenner raised about \$22,694 and Kleiman about \$17,075 for the fall time period. Documents filed indicate that to-date both have raised \$91,310 and \$87,839 respectively. Brenner reported contrib-

utions totaling \$18,554 in 2021. No documents were reported for Kleiman prior to July.

Candidate Robyn Grant is running unopposed in District 4, which includes the Eastbluff and Bonita Canyon neighborhoods, and will be elected this November, but her campaign records report \$67,180 in funds raised. This is in addition to the \$60,298 that Grant's campaign raised last year.

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Jyoti Malhotra, M.D., M.P.H.  
Associate Professor, Department of Medical  
Oncology & Therapeutics Research



MAILBAG

# Motel 6 project would add needed housing to Costa Mesa

Recently I've seen common misconceptions about affordable housing being used to describe the Motel 6 development in Costa Mesa. As a resident of Costa Mesa for the last nine years and as the president of Community Development Partners, a local affordable housing developer working on the Motel 6 development, I find it pertinent to lay out some of the facts of the project located at 2274 Newport Blvd.

The Motel 6 development will include 88 units of affordable housing. Of this there will be 30 units for veterans struggling to find housing, 10 units for those struggling with mental illness and at-risk of losing housing (Mental Health Services Act or MHSA-eligible tenants), and 48 units set-aside for very low-income seniors. Project Based Veterans Affairs Supporting Housing (VASH) Vouchers will accompany the veteran units along with case-management services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs. The 10 MHSA units will have case management services provided by the county. The 48 units for very low-income senior units will have resident services provided by our nonprofit partner Mercy House Living Centers. All residents will also have access to these services provided by Mercy House. Wrap-around case management and resident services improve a resident's ability to stay in housing long term, which is the goal of permanent housing.

The Motel 6 development is not a shelter. Shelters provide short-term sanctuary. The Motel 6 development is permanent rental housing with no requirement that tenants need to leave. Like most apartments, residents will have a lease that is 12 months in length, with the ability to renew each year.

Costa Mesa is committing \$5 million in federal funding that the city receives from the federal government to provide affordable housing. This funding includes federal ARPA and HOME funds that the city receives and administers in part to provide affordable housing. The city has not spent any of those funds to date. By committing those funds to this project, CDP can leverage approximately \$10.7 million from the

state Project Homekey program, \$4.5 million from the county federal tax credits and a bridge loan from Century Housing, a nonprofit lender for \$7.9 million. These leveraged funds will help get the project completed. The city's \$5 million commitment will help provide 88 units of much needed affordable housing within Costa Mesa.

## Rebuttal to an open letter to NMUSD community

I would like to correct the misrepresentation of Newport-Mesa Uncensored. Twenty-one faculty of Newport Harbor High signed an open letter published in the Daily Pilot claiming that our group "equated 10 of [their] colleagues with being pedophiles" and that I am the leader of the group. Both of these claims are blatant falsehoods. We entrust these 21 signatories with the education of our children, and the fact that they brazenly bent the truth for political means only adds to our concerns about the politicization of our classrooms. Critical Race Theory and gender ideology have permeated our schools while academic performance has declined. Over the past five years, per pupil spending in the Newport-Mesa Unified School District has increased 67% to \$23,367 and today, 41% and 52% of students are failing to meet English-language arts and math standards, respectively, according to the state's 2021-22 Assessment of Student Performance and Progress report.

Newport-Mesa Uncensored is a group of concerned taxpayers who care about education. We have identified library books with sexual content, textbooks with CRT and, most recently, a Social and Emotional Learning program (RULER) that provides ideologically driven therapy to students without parental consent. Evidence is on our Instagram — @newportmesauncensored. Through attorney Craig Alexander, who represents the Center for

American Liberty, we will continue to advocate for the next generation.

**Bill Dunlap**  
Newport-Mesa Uncensored  
Newport Beach

## Stephens knows what to do for Costa Mesa

When COVID-19 hit in early 2020, many cities in Orange County used reserves to balance their budgets, while the city of Costa Mesa showed a small surplus that first year of the pandemic. Fast action by Mayor John Stephens and the City Council to reduce expenses allowed the city to show the surplus and surpluses have followed in the years since.

Costa Mesa has continued to show surpluses while at the same time the mayor and council approved financial assistance for local businesses and residents. They knew that by helping businesses and residents during the hard times Costa Mesa would rebound faster and stronger as the local economy began to rebound.

We are seeing the benefits of that policy today. Current year projected revenue is \$26 million (19%) more than three years ago. Costa Mesa has a solid economic base and Mayor Stephens is working to expand and diversify that base so the city can continue to expand and improve services for the residents.

Mayor Stephens' opponent says that Costa Mesa needs "saving." He cherry picks one financial metric and from that predicts doom and gloom. Financial health of a city is not predicated on only one metric.

Mayor John Stephens has proven that he can help manage Costa Mesa's finances. He is working hard to not only do just that but is also actively involved in helping lead the many other initiatives the city is undertaking to improve the daily lives of city residents. I support John Stephens for mayor of Costa Mesa.

**Ralph Taboada**  
Costa Mesa  
Taboada is a member of the Finance and Pension Advisory Committee.

## Prop. 1 could mean later-term abortions

The strong support for Proposition 1 expressed in a letter to the Daily Pilot by Rev. Dr. Sarah Halverson-Cano and 24 other members of the Faith Community in Orange County raises questions and concerns from me, one person of faith. Dr. Halverson writes that Proposition 1 will "enshrine the right to an abortion in California ..." but does not acknowledge that it could significantly expand that right beyond the current limitation of viability. The language of Proposition 1 places no limits on reproductive freedom, right to choose or right to privacy. And recently passed legislation signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom to make California a sanctuary state for those seeking abortions could in the future oblige all who pay taxes to finance anyone seeking a late-term abortion that can cost thousands of dollars.

Dr. Halverson's statement "Proposition 1 will protect access to abortion for the most vulnerable among us ..." Clearly, concern for the vulnerable does not extend to the child who is soon to be born. It never does for anyone advocating abortion on demand.

Dr. Halverson states she is "particularly troubled that one religious perspective has been imposed upon others." As just one person, am I allowed to question the imposition of a constitutional amendment that some believe would enshrine the right to end the life of a baby who would survive without the benefit of extraordinary medical care?

I ask all voters, people of all faiths and people who do not subscribe to any faith to join me and vote no on Proposition 1.

**Linda Cone**  
Yorba Linda

## Voters should opt against PAC mailers

There are those who say that democracy is at stake in the upcoming election. For the most part, those observers are talking about the national elections.

But one could say that undemocratic elections have been the rule in Newport Beach for at

## HOW TO GET PUBLISHED

Send an email to [erik.haugli@latimes.com](mailto:erik.haugli@latimes.com) and include your full name, hometown and phone number (for verification purposes) with your submission. All letters should be kept to 350 words or less and address local issues and events. The Daily Pilot reserves the right to edit all accepted submissions for clarity, accuracy and length.

least a decade.

First of all, if you look around at surrounding cities, you will discover that they always have more candidates running for council than Newport Beach. Huntington Beach has 18, Laguna — which is much smaller than Newport — has seven candidates running for three seats, six are running in Irvine for two seats, seven are running for two seats in Fountain Valley and so forth. Actually this upcoming election in Newport Beach has more candidates than I can ever remember — eight candidates for four seats, one running uncontested.

Because Newport usually has fewer candidates it means that there is less choice — choice being a quality of democracy.

There are four things we could do in Newport Beach to make all City Council elections more democratic. First of all, lowering the cost of running for office would make a big difference. It costs approximately \$125,000 to \$200,000 now to run. Secondly, running for council takes enormous energy because the candidates are running at large. They have to get elected from the entire population rather than just their area. This also takes an enormous amount of time and money.

Finally, the most discouraging element to keep candidates from running in Newport is because we have allowed Political Action Committees to control our elections through the candidates that they support and help finance.

These PACS send out disgrace

See *Mailbag*, page A8



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## PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY presents



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A 2017 *BBC Music Magazine* Award-winner, the Smetana Trio returns in a performance of radiant grandeur and focused precision. Hear works by Rachmaninoff, Smetana and Martinů. Tickets start at \$38.



NOV 20

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3PM | SOKA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Christmas in Vienna showcases these gifted musicians with voices of unforgettable beauty in an extraordinary program featuring Austrian folk songs, popular songs, classical masterpieces, and, of course, holiday favorites. Tickets start at \$45.

DEC 19

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# Culinary expert Nigella Lawson visiting Irvine

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

Nigella Lawson wants you to consider the anchovy.

"Anchovies, as strong and emphatic as they can be, can also work very subtly in a dish," she said.

The British cookbook author, food writer and cooking show host has built her career on sharing her own cooking experiences and culinary wisdom, and anchovies are among her recommendations.

"You can put them in the beginning of a stew and very few people if any will say, 'There is anchovy there,'" Lawson said. "They will just notice it gives a bit of salt, but not salt that is stinging but rounder — a deeper note."

Her latest cookbook, "Cook, Eat, Repeat" features a chapter titled "A is for Anchovy," in which she discusses all of the tiny fish's superior qualities.

Anchovies are among the topics you can expect to hear about this month when Lawson makes an appearance at the Irvine Barclay Theatre on Nov. 26. As an added bonus, the event will be moderated by KCRW's Evan Kleiman.

"What I like about a live event is that it is just that," said Lawson. "And what determines the second half completely are the questions from the audience, and I have no idea what they are going to ask."

Lawson said the spontaneity makes for a more authentic dynamic, which she emphasized on her first TV series, "Nigella Bites," and subsequent broadcast series since.

"When I do my television shows, I am never scripted. I say right from the beginning, it is so much better to speak than to perform."

Lawson will be discussing "Cook, Eat, Repeat" which, besides anchovies, gets to the heart of cooking. The book isn't broken down in the traditional sense



Courtesy of the Irvine Barclay Theater

**FOOD WRITER** and cooking show host Nigella Lawson will be in Irvine on Nov. 26.

with appetizers, entrees and desserts but instead examines cooking in a way that is at once broad and detailed.

"It is something of a reflection on cooking, on the nature of cooking. It begins to some extent with what a recipe is and what people expect from it," said Lawson. "And what it can deliver and what it can't."

Lawson has written 12 best-selling books. Her latest was published in 2020, but she is only now touring with it since COVID-19 restrictions didn't allow for book tours. She wrote it during London's lockdown, which Lawson said accounts for its length.

"My books tend to have a lot of writing in them, this one a particular amount partly because I wrote it during lockdown, and therefore it could not be contained."

Lawson, who began her career as a journalist reviewing books and restaurants, said food writing touches on so many other parts of our identity and our culture.

"For me, one of the great

joys of writing about food is writing about life in a sense," said Lawson.

Another chapter that

might be as polarizing as anchovies is titled "A Loving Defense of Brown Food."

"I think maybe in the Instagram age, food that looks bold and beautiful finds more favor, and sometimes there is more dwelling on the appearance than the taste," said Lawson. "Where as we know a lot of the food that isn't quite so ripe for a photo op has a lot of flavor and resonance in terms of memories."

Lawson's opinions are not backed by a desire to simply offer a hot take but

the product of years of culinary experience and wisdom, which she still humbly insists doesn't make her a chef.

"I am a home cook," Lawson said firmly.

Tickets for Nigella Lawson featuring KCRW's Evan Kleiman on Nov. 26 at 7:30 p.m. are available at [thebarclay.org](http://thebarclay.org).

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# MemorialCare Orange Coast Medical Center Provides Comprehensive, Award-Winning Lung Care

By **Samer Kanaan, M.D., F.A.C.S.**  
thoracic surgeon, Lung Program  
MemorialCare Orange Coast Medical Center



MemorialCare Orange Coast Medical Center's comprehensive Lung Program offers patients a full complement of services to help detect, monitor and treat lung disease—from common conditions such as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), to lung cancer. Orange Coast Medical Center was recently recognized by *U.S. News & World Report* in its list of Best Regional Hospitals with high-performance rankings in Pulmonology & Lung Surgery and COPD.

When it comes to lung cancer, the most important first step to detecting it is through a low-dose CT lung cancer screening and having a dedicated thoracic nurse navigator who provides support to patients through their medical journey. The good news is that the inclusion criteria has recently changed to allow those starting at age 50 to qualify for lung screening.

To be eligible for a Lung Cancer Screening, patients must meet the below criteria:

- The patient must be a current or former smoker who quit within the past 15 years
- For Medicare reimbursement, patients must be age 50-77
- For most private insurances, patients must be age 50-80
- The patient must have a 20-pack-year smoking history
- Patients must be asymptomatic for lung cancer

When patients are referred for a low-dose CT lung cancer screening at Orange Coast Medical Center, they are referred to a program with "Screening Center of Excellence" status through the GO2 Foundation, a national organization committed to best practice, education and research for lung cancer. Thoracic nurse navigator, Robin Philips RN, MSN, BSN, PHN, works with patients to provide education, appointment coordination and support.

When further testing is needed, MemorialCare Orange Coast Medical Center offers a range of diagnostic testing options from PET (positron emission tomography) scans to CT-guided biopsies. A PET scan enables imagers to see where cancer is in the lung and whether it has spread. A CT-guided biopsy is a technique in which

a radiologist uses a CT scan to guide a needle into the lung and take samples from lung nodules to determine if cancer is present. MemorialCare Orange Coast Medical Center also specializes in endobronchial ultrasound bronchoscopy (EBUS) used to diagnose different types of lung disorders.

For patients, it's comforting to know that once they are part of Orange Coast Medical Center's lung screening program, Philips will remind them of follow-up screenings. If a screening shows an abnormal finding, Orange Coast Medical Center's team of experts are there on the spot to make new recommendations for the patient. If surgery is needed, less-invasive robotic lung cancer surgery is available for faster recovery with minimal pain.

Orange Coast Medical Center also has a tumor board comprised of oncology-related experts who meet weekly to discuss the latest trends in oncologic treatments, clinical trials and studies. Patient cases may be presented to the board for their input. Patients and their referring physicians appreciate it when their case is presented to the room of eight-12 experts who can make the best recommendations for a patient's unique case.

From Orange Coast Medical Center's supportive lung screening program and nurse navigator to low-dose CT screenings, a multitude of diagnostic testing capabilities, surgery options including robotic surgery, and a tumor board that meets to discuss the latest updates in treatment, Orange Coast Medical Center provides a comprehensive Lung Cancer Treatment Program aimed at providing high-quality care. For more information, visit [MemorialCare.org/lungcancer](http://MemorialCare.org/lungcancer).

  
**MemorialCare**  
Orange Coast Medical Center

MAILBAG

Continued from page A6

ful "hit pieces" on candidates who challenge their candidates. This is what allows them to play an oversized role in our elections. Because who wants to run for City Council, knowing that they might be subjected to these despicable attacks?

Although it is a nonpartisan election, literature from political parties is tolerated. These undemocratic practices have allowed power groups to take over. It is too late this election to correct most of these practices. However, one democratic change is still possible. You

can reject those candidates who have been financed by the PACS and/or have gained votes from the disgusting "hit pieces" being leveled at their opponents. It is very gullible to think that the candidates of the large PACS have no control over their campaigns.

Fortunately, we do have independent candidates who have not let the distasteful fliers discourage them. This alone shows their strength and perseverance, qualities you will need to have as a council member in Newport Beach. And these independent candidates are Tom Miller, Jim Mosher and Joy Brenner.

The election of these

candidates alone can go a long way to help diminish the power of political PACS and open Newport Beach up to more democratic governance.

Lynn Lorenz
Newport Beach

Why does anyone support Blake?

Laguna Beach voters probably have noticed the many Peter Blake banners and signs around town but should note how many are on empty storefronts and construction sites.

Seeing all those signs on those empty stores should remind voters that Peter has been on the City Council for four years and has blamed others for this blight but has done nothing to solve it.

There are large Blake banners on the Mo Honarkarowned buildings along North Coast Highway between Cliff and Jasmine streets and on the Hotel Laguna where he is the operator. There is a Blake banner on that monstrosity in the canyon, the Dornin project, and on buildings owned by Joe Hanauer. Banners on construction sites tell voters that many of Blake's supporters are developers.

Do we really want to reelect an ineffective council person, one who favors development and is a bully to boot?

Johanna Felder
Laguna Beach

nity and her tireless commitment to educational excellence. She worked collaboratively with teachers, staff and fellow parents. On campus, Lisa mentored younger moms who were serving for the first time, and she gained the students' affection on campus.

An elected official is held to a much greater standard of accountability and public trust.

This is not achieved by gaining political favors or hiding behind online provocateurs and bullies. It is built by leading thoughtfully and without seeking favors. It is built by years of caring for our kids and our schools. Only one candidate in Trustee Area 4 can be that committed steward of students and be that positive voice for parents.

Please vote for Lisa Pearson for the NMUSD school board in Trustee Area 4.

- Newport Beach residents Liz and Ray Kennedy, Carol and Gary Crane, Cosby and Bob Ctvrtlik, Colleen and Tony Premer, Kelly and Jim Neiger, Dana and Steve Neiger, Tina and Tom Neiger, Mary Ann and Greg Haly, Sue Ellen and Paul O'Connor, Tracey and Royce Sharf, Vicky and Eric Fults, Molly and Tim Britt, Dana and Brian Flood, Jane Jones, Julie and John Guida, Carolyn and Steve Shaw, Regina and Joe Jennings, Suzanne and Cam Woods

lations to David Beek, Citizen of the Year and Mario Marovic, Business Person of the Year, two well deserved and outstanding people. Your efforts are much appreciated. Thanks also to Steve Rosansky and the Chamber, the celebration of what is right about this community was just what the doctor ordered.

Thomas C. Edwards
Newport Beach

H.B. City Council should choose its attorney

It's time that Huntington Beach get in sync with the rest of Orange County municipalities and appoint its city attorney rather than depend on its citizens to cast a vote for a politician campaigning for the office. Most of us who live in Surf City have little knowledge about the city attorney's office, its duties or even who currently holds the office.

First and foremost the city attorney's office has as its sole client the elected council of the city. Therefore, it stands to reason that this client should be the one to choose who its legal representative is.

Ben Miles
Huntington Beach

Porter would fight for constituency

The Daily Pilot published a letter criticizing ads run by Rep. Katie Porter as she seeks reelection to Congress. Regrettably, everything in it is wrong.

It asserts that since California already protects a woman's right to choose to continue a pregnancy, her support for abortion rights is just empty talk. Not so. If the Republican Party succeeds in prohibiting abortion nationwide, as it intends to do if it can, that could override California law. Scott Baugh will vote to criminalize abortion even here in California. Katie Porter will vote against that bill and for a law protecting the right to abortion in every state.

It claims that taxes and the summer blend are why gas prices are so high, and that the evidence fails to support Rep. Porter's fight against Big Oil's price-gouging. Wrong again. The staggering profits oil companies just admitted they earned this year show what we must pay for gasoline is vastly greater than the actual cost to produce it profitably. Scott Baugh will do nothing to stop modern-day robber barons from collecting windfall profits. Katie Porter will continue to lead the charge against oil companies' greed.

And it claims Rep. Porter's fight to lower the price of prescription drugs would discourage innovation and development. Nonsense. Drug companies continue to demand enormous prices for drugs developed decades ago and far more than what will encourage the search for new drugs and give Big Pharma a fair return. Scott Baugh would join his Republican Party's unanimous vote against making life-saving insulin and other drugs affordable. Katie Porter will continue to fight to lower the cost of healthcare.

Finally, if you have a retirement savings account, please do check whether that money is enough to replace Social Security and Medicare, if Republicans succeed next year in taking it away. Scott Baugh will vote with his Republican Party to undo these programs that provide you benefits you earned working all your life. Katie Porter will, as she has year after year, vote to protect Californians' retirement, health and bodily autonomy from those who will try to take them away.

Jim Toledano
Costa Mesa

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

Crossword puzzle grid with answers filled in.

Sudoku puzzle grid with numbers filled in.

A hometown pick for NMUSD

There's never been a more compelling time for respected, responsible leadership in our NMUSD schools. In the Corona del Mar area, we have the choice between a political climber who is connected to a group that has attacked our student organizations, our teachers and even our parents — or a longtime parent leader who is respected in our community for her years of selfless volunteerism and for her commitment to being a positive voice for students and parents.

Lisa Pearson knows education, knows leadership and knows our community because she has lived here for 30 years. Her endorsements are from local parents, business leaders, community leaders and the Newport Beach Police Assn. These groups are vested in our schools and only want them to improve, and our dedicated police officers know who can be tasked to prioritize school safety.

Our years volunteering at Corona del Mar High School on the Boosters, Foundation and PTA, alongside Lisa, showed us what servant leadership looks like. No other candidate in her race has the depth nor the experience that matches her exceptional integrity, her ceaseless dedication to her commu-

Working quietly for their community

If you like me had grown tired of negative campaigns, crazy accusations and doomsday headlines then the Chamber of Commerce celebration on Oct. 28 congratulating and recognizing the Citizen of the Year, David Beek, and Business Person of the Year, Mario Marovic, was just what this city needed. You saw the best of our Newport Beach community. People who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes and until now unrecognized as they strove to do what was best for our wonderful city without seeking recognition or power. They merely did it to make our city a better place. And they have. Congratu-

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Franklin Edmund Vranicar
February 25, 1937 - October 7, 2022
Franklin Vranicar passed away peacefully on October 7, 2022 at his home in Corona del Mar. As an avid mariner, pilot, and car lover, Frank led an active life well into his eighties. Born in Joliet, Illinois, Frank was one of four children and is survived by his twin sister, Francele Zator.
After graduating from Xavier University, Frank attended Officer Candidate School and was trained as an Army aviator. He flew helicopters while he was based at Fort Meade in Maryland, where he met Patricia Ward, who was a stewardess for United Airlines. Frank and Pat were married in 1961 and returned to Joliet, Illinois where their three daughters were born. The family lived briefly in Louisiana where Frank flew for Petroleum Helicopters, Inc. An opportunity to work for Los Angeles Airways, a helicopter passenger airline, brought the family to Southern California in 1966. Later, Frank had a successful career in sales, working for Zellerbach and Pak West Paper & Packaging, during which time he also served in the California Air National Guard.
It was in the ocean off Orange County that Frank found his passion for boating and spending time on the water. The family spent many summers, vacationing at Catalina Island and Frank and Pat were members of Capistrano Bay Yacht Club in Dana Point and Balboa Yacht Club in Newport Beach. When not in the air or on the water, Frank enjoyed driving one of the many vintage cars he collected throughout his lifetime.
Frank had twelve grandchildren and one great grandchild, who recall their grandfather flying overhead in one of his airplanes. He logged 10,455 hours in the air throughout his lifetime, volunteering for the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, flying across country to Oshkosh in Wisconsin, Sun 'N Fun in Florida, and participating in formation flying events. He was a member of the EAA Warbirds of America, AOPA, the National Aeronautics Association, and the Quiet Birdmen. He also enjoyed sharing stories of his helicopter appearance in the 2002 Godzilla film.
True to form, Frank passed away on 10-7, radio signal code for Out of Service - Off Duty. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Pat, and daughters, Sally Cannon and Tracy Nicks. He was predeceased by his daughter, Jill Wilke. A private funeral mass and burial at Miramar National Cemetery will be held in December.
Friends and family are invited to join in celebrating Frank's life on Thursday, December 29 at 2 p.m. at the Balboa Yacht Club.
Gifts in memory of Frank Vranicar may be made to the following:
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## HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS

# Fountain Valley tennis started from the bottom, but now a powerhouse

BY MATT SZABO

Harshul Patel remembers his early days as Fountain Valley High tennis coach with a smile.

Patel took over the Barons boys' and girls' programs in 2011. In those days, every time that Fountain Valley would earn a significant win, he would take the players to the nearby Costco food court to celebrate.

"Every time we'd beat the teams that we'd never beat, like San Clemente or Irvine or Beckman, I'd always buy them food at the food court," he said.

Though there are certainly legions of people who swear by the hot dogs at said food court, the journey was practical as much as anything else. It helped Patel feed many kids for a small amount of money.

Patel knows that tennis is a privileged sport, but many of his players are not country club babies. Far from it.

"I never talk to anybody about this," he said. "Only the captains of our team know how many kids we have struggling this year, how many kids are not going to pay a single dime. We don't do fundraising where kids had to come out and do car washes or something else to survive."

If the Barons tennis program came from humble beginnings, so did Patel. He first picked up a tennis racquet at the age of 14 in his hometown of Ahmedabad, India. At the time it was a large commitment for the family that Patel and his younger brother, Jay, who now coaches tennis at Westminster High, should learn the sport.

"It was a very, very tough time for our family," said Harshul Patel, who immi-

grated to America in 1997. "A racquet was costing 7,000 rupees and our dad's salary was 5,000 rupees a month. I had decided whenever we settle down and whenever we do good financially, I will always go back and help the needy. That's how high school tennis came in the picture."

Patel, now 47, has managed to build the Barons into a powerhouse. There have been milestones in the last few years that illustrate that point.

His boys' and girls' teams have combined to win four league championships since 2018. The girls had not finished atop the league since 1991.

In 2018, the Barons boys won the CIF Southern Section Division 2 title, the program's first CIF crown. Three years later, Patel guided a girls' team devoid of star players to its first CIF championship match.

Fountain Valley's girls shared the Wave League title with Los Alamitos this season. Ranked No. 1 in Division 2 for much of the season, they earned the No. 4 seed, and hosted the Archer School of Los Angeles in the second round on Friday.

Keep in mind that the Barons have just three tournament players. All are in singles, including junior transfer Gisele Rico, freshman Jaslyn Nguyen and sophomore Katelyn Nguyen. Last year, only Katelyn Nguyen played tournaments.

"Coach is right about how some of us have struggled," said senior co-captain Rene Do, who plays doubles. "He's definitely been there every step of the way and finds ways to support us and make it so that we can continue to play tennis, even when



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**FOUNTAIN VALLEY** head coach Harshul Patel has built a successful tennis program since joining the Barons in 2011. Patel first picked up a tennis racquet when he was 14.

girls are having financial issues. Our team is very close-knit ... and I feel like a lot of those teams that have tournament players, they don't really have that because they're there to win for themselves, basically. For us, it's a team effort to work together."

Patel said 80% of his players started off in his camps. Some of his varsity players, like Do, started off their journey on froshoph before progressing the program.

His dedication is unmatched. He makes the 45-minute drive from Rancho Santa Margarita each day, and he said he's received "lucrative" offers to coach other private schools in Orange County. But Patel said he wants to keep giving back at Fountain Valley as long as he can.

Fountain Valley High athletic director and boys' basketball coach Roger Holmes appreciates that.

"He puts in so much time and energy into the program, so it's great that they get the payoff with the success they've had," Holmes said. "He's been a staple on campus now for 12 years."

This year's team has bounced back after a rebuilding year last season. Do said she takes pride in the fact that the Barons improved from an 18-0 blowout loss against Huntington Beach last year. This year, Fountain Valley played the Surf League champion Oilers much closer, falling 11-7.

"We came off the high of being in the finals, and we just kept getting destroyed every match," fellow senior co-captain Melody Hom said with a laugh. "We just lost all our seniors. I think coach has done a really good job of building us back up again."

That's what Patel does. Fountain Valley earned three of the six medals at

the Wave League finals, including a doubles finals appearance by freshman Kendra Ly and sophomore Anh Thu Truong.

But what's more important to him is the team's academic excellence. Do has a 4.6 grade-point average, and Hom a 4.4. Patel said the team's average GPA among the starters is around a 4.2.

That can translate into smarts on the court, plus Patel has a built-in scouting report. His oldest daughter, Aditi, is a senior tennis player at Tesoro High, so he is more than familiar with many of the top tournament players.

When his Fountain Valley girls get big victories now, they now get taken out for different treats like boba tea or ice cream.

Patel smiled again. "We upgraded ourselves," he said.

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## COYOTE

Continued from page A4

She suffered lacerations to her face and now panics when she is around dogs, according to attorneys representing her family.

Police responding to reports of the attack shot and killed two coyotes found nearby. DNA tests confirmed that one was the animal that bit the child.

No other attacks on humans have been reported in Huntington Beach since then, Cuchilla said. However, at least one pet was either injured or killed by a coyote in the past 90 days.

Huntington Beach is one of several cities that have formed coyote-management plans in response to the growing prevalence of wildlife in urban settings. Some call for the formation of hazing teams to actively search for and scare away coyotes if they are known to frequent a certain area.

Earlier this month, officials in Fountain Valley amended the city's municipal code to ban not just feeding but any physical contact with wildlife. That change came about four months after another 2-year-old girl was bitten by a coyote at Mile Square Park. The animal involved in that attack was euthanized.

Wildlife that have displayed aggressive behavior to humans are typically deemed too much of a threat to be kept alive and are put down. Relocation is not an effective solution for coyotes that have become too comfortable in urban settings but are otherwise docile. They are capable of traveling great distances and typically find their way back to their preferred habitat.

The most humane and effective way to keep coyotes away is to keep them from wanting to come onto your property and getting used to being near humans in the first place, according to Fish and Wildlife officials.

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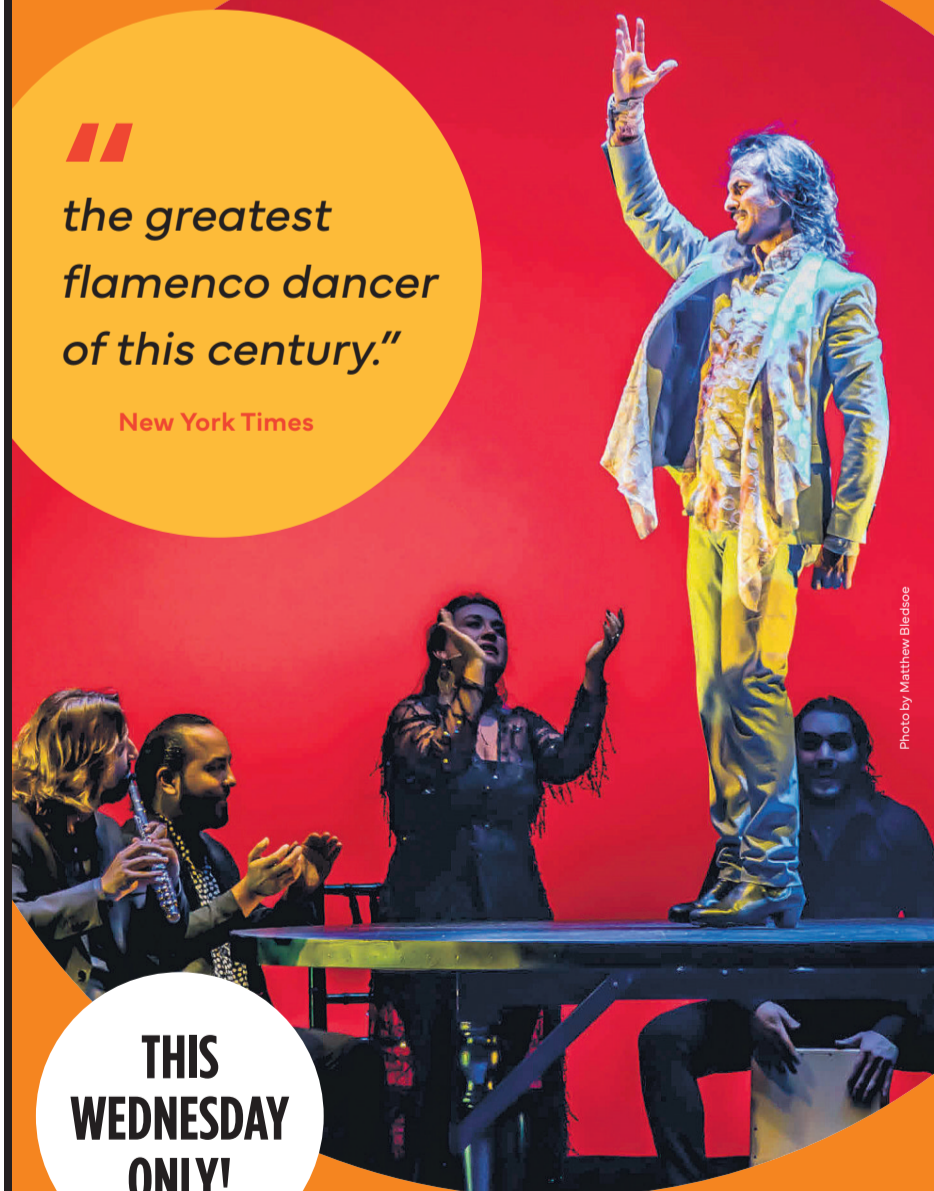
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