

Daily Pilot

SUNDAY, MAY 30, 2021 // Now including Coastline Pilot and Huntington Beach Independent // dailypilot.com

Police target speeding, modified exhausts

Local agencies, including more than 50 law enforcement personnel, carry out a joint operation to address those issues.

BY ANDREW TURNER

Local police departments took part in a joint enforcement operation on May 23, as law enforcement agencies up and down the Orange County coastline look to address the issues of speeding and loud and modified exhaust vehicles.

The Huntington Beach, Laguna Beach and Newport Beach police departments all joined in the effort, which saw more than 50 motorcycle officers and other law enforcement personnel focus on those issues.

Additional county police departments were involved, as well as the Orange County Sheriff's Department, the California Highway Patrol, four investigators from the California Department of Motor Vehicles and four referees from the California Bureau of Automotive Repair.

During the operation, 445 vehicle stops were made for violations, according to a news release. A total of 348 citations were handed out for vehicle code violations, including loud or modified exhaust.

Bureau of Automotive Repair referees inspected 44 cars for modified exhaust infractions, and 16 vehicles were referred to DMV investigators for potential registration violations.

The operation also saw four drivers cited for speeds that exceeded 100 miles per hour.

Another four traffic stops resulted in arrests. Two of those were related to the possession of narcotics, and one each for a DUI and an unlicensed driver.

"Loud exhaust and speed violations continue to compromise the safety and quality of life of our residents," interim Laguna Beach Police Chief Jeff Calvert said in a statement. "Consequently, we are left with no choice but to take a zero-tolerance approach to enforcement. We appreciate this unprece-

See **Police**, page A2



Photos by Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

JENNIFER DZIOBA, 41, of Huntington Beach, co-owner Stevie Feters, 34, and Angie Jenkins, 60, of Cypress, from left, do push-ups for 90 seconds during the 10th annual push-ups for charity event.

Push-ups give boost to military nonprofit

BY ANDREW TURNER

A lively crowd showed up for the 10th annual installment of a push-ups for charity event at Recoup Personal Training in Costa Mesa on Saturday morning.

Participants showed their muscle and helped raise money for the Boot Campaign, a nonprofit whose mission statement is to "honor and restore the lives of veterans and military families through individualized, life-improving programs."

Throughout the late morning and into the early afternoon, people put their palms on the mat and did as many push-ups as they could within 90 seconds. Pledges were taken for the push-ups produced.

Coming into the event, Mattison Feters, the owner of the Costa Mesa-based gym, said that the annual fundraiser was closing in on \$250,000 raised for military charities since its inception. He said it reached that goal on Saturday.

He then proceeded to pound



JENKINS POSES with friends during the push-ups for charity event on Saturday. Jenkins completed 81 push-ups in 90 seconds.

out 75 push-ups with his hands placed on top of two separate medicine balls. He asked that donors take the degree of difficulty into consideration when making their pledges for that round.

Feters went into business with his wife, Stevie, and their business partner Bo Wind. The gym opened in 2020. He said that he feels that taking care of

veterans after their service time is a missing piece to the puzzle.

That was the motivation for this annual fundraiser, which started out supporting the Wounded Warrior Project for the first four years and has now raised money for the Boot Campaign for the past six events.

"We feel strongly about how

See **Push-ups**, page A2

Public hearing planned on H.B. budget

The city's proposed spending plan for the fiscal year 2021-22 totals \$424.4 million.

BY MATT SZABO

A new day of the week, a new venue and a new fiscal year budget will all greet the Huntington Beach City Council on Tuesday.

The council is moving its meetings from Mondays to Tuesdays, starting next week. Also, the meetings will no longer be virtual for the first time in 2021.

The seven City Council members will meet at City Hall at 6 p.m. Tuesday as COVID-19 restrictions continue to loosen. Additionally, 50 members of the public will be allowed to attend in person.

Those wishing to attend in person must either wear a mask, provide evidence of COVID-19 vaccination or provide either a negative COVID-19 PCR test from the past 48 hours or a same-day negative rapid antigen test.

A public hearing on the 2021-22 fiscal year budget will take place. The proposed budget was first delivered to the City Council by City Manager Oliver Chi on May 11.

It was discussed, along with the five-year capital improvement program, at a City Council study session on May 17.

The proposed 2021-22 fiscal year budget is \$424.4 million, an 18% increase over the 2020-21 adopted all funds budget of \$359 million.

According to a staff report prepared by city Chief Financial Officer Dahle Bulosan, a large portion of the increase is due to added investment in essential infrastructure and equipment, restoration of COVID-19 temporary cost-saving measures and the establishment of a pension liability fund.

General fund revenue is projected at \$228 million, with large increases expected in sales tax and transient occupancy tax revenues.

"Most of the increases from these two revenue sources are attributable to the projected positive impacts resulting from widespread COVID-19 vaccinations, loosening

See **Budget**, page A2

ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

LAGUNA BEACH BOYS' BASKETBALL MOVES INTO QUARTERFINALS WITH WIN AT CROSSROADS
PAGE A4

APODACA: MISINFORMATION ABOUT STATE CURRICULUM STYMIES EFFORTS TO PROVIDE ETHNIC STUDIES
PAGE A2

'Airplane Park' reopening plans take wing

BY SARA CARDINE

Plans to reopen Costa Mesa's Lions Park — referred to as "Airplane Park" by generations of locals but officially named for the beloved Harbor-Mesa Lions Club fish fries held there — are taking wing in advance of an unveiling this summer.

The long-closed space is currently being outfitted with new play equipment, landscaping and irrigation, lighting, concrete pathways and new restrooms. But a mainstay for the past 60 years, a Korean War-era Grumman F9F Panther jet, is staying put.



WORKERS install the rubber flooring at Lions Park on Friday.

Scott Smeltzer Staff Photographer

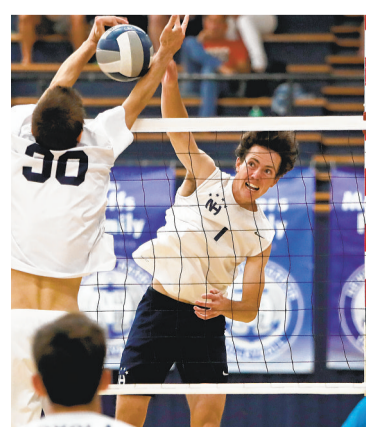
A handful of volunteers led by Costa Mesa police Capt. Vic Bakkila convened Friday morning at the still-fenced off playground

area to put the finishing touches on the aviation-themed attrac-

See **Park**, page A4

BOYS' VOLLEYBALL

Newport Harbor upsets Loyola to reach third straight CIF final



NEWPORT HARBOR'S Brendan Read, right, battles Loyola's Sean Kelly during the second set of Saturday's CIF playoff match.

BY ANDREW TURNER

For the third consecutive post-season, the CIF Southern Section Division 1 boys' volleyball championship match will feature Newport Harbor.

The Sailors staged a comeback at home to pull off the upset of top-seeded Los Angeles Loyola 22-25, 25-17, 25-18, 25-12 on Saturday in the semifinals.

Senior outside hitter Brendan Read had 16 kills, three blocks and two service aces to lead the Sailors, who fed off a raucous home crowd after the first set and rode the wave of momentum to the finish.

"It's really hard in this sport to get energy when your whole team is flat," said Read, a Pepperdine com-

mit. "When you have the fans and you're at home, the fans help you a lot, getting the energy that you need. It's a big plus. Fans help us so much."

His opposite and brother Jake Read contributed eight kills for Newport Harbor (14-3).

Junior setter Cole McKibbin distributed 37 assists to go with 1½ blocks, senior outside hitter Rees Clasen had 11 kills and two aces, and sophomore libero Luca Curci also had a pair of aces.

Loyola (13-1) was all over the net in the first set, as the Cubs combined for seven blocks. Teddy Terrill (seven kills), a USC-bound middle blocker, had all three of his blocks in

See **Newport**, page A4



Photos by Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

NEWPORT HARBOR players celebrate after upsetting top-seeded Los Angeles Loyola 3-1 in the semifinals of the CIF Southern Section Division 1 boys' volleyball playoffs in Newport Beach on Saturday.

COLUMN | **PATRICE APODACA**

Misinformation about state curriculum stymie efforts to provide ethnic studies

Perhaps we can take it as a sign that California really is close to containing the spread of COVID-19 that we seem to be arguing less about the perils of online education and the pace of schools reopening, and are increasingly returning to battles over what students are taught.

In particular, the small but vocal contingent of haters of ethnic studies and anti-bias education are back in the news, revving up the controversy again just as school districts throughout the state are considering a new curriculum. And surprise, surprise, there's a lot of misinformation being tossed about.

The controversy was reignited in March, when the state Board of Education adopted an ethnic studies model curriculum for high schools. The nearly 900-page document — the product of four years of work, four drafts, grueling debates and a great deal of compromise — is actually not a fixed curriculum but a set of guidelines laying out goals and principles.

Importantly, the framework, the first of its kind in the nation, is strictly voluntary. It is up to school districts to decide which parts of the suggested lesson plans and instructional ideas they will use.

Last September, Gov. Gavin Newsom vetoed a bill that would have made ethnic studies a requirement for high school graduation, saying that the proposed curriculum in the legislation was “insufficiently balanced and inclusive.” The bill has been reintroduced.

I think it's safe to say that no one is or will be 100% satisfied with the model curriculum. Even after all the tinkering and rewriting to address the concerns of various constituencies, it will still be viewed by some as little more than left-wing propaganda, while others are convinced that the board caved to right-wing interests.

And while the suggested lesson plans are intended to teach students about the histories, struggles and contributions of diverse groups, including Black, Latino, Asian, Native American, Jewish, Armenian and Sikh communities, the end result has left some critics underwhelmed by the treatment of the effects of racism.

The curriculum, some contend, offers little more than a bland study of multiculturalism.

These arguments will continue to play out and will no doubt influence the development of both ethnic studies and social jus-

tice teaching standards going forward. Curriculum is not static. It evolves over time, hopefully in this case for the better.

But here's the problem with the angriest, loudest voices in the room right now — the kind of voices that prompted the Los Alamitos Unified school board to move a recent meeting online after the local police department expressed safety concerns.

At the meeting the board voted unanimously to approve a set of social justice standards, intended to promote such qualities as kindness and inclusivity. So, hardly radical stuff. The proposed curriculum for a high school ethnic studies elective for the district is due for a vote in June, and a similar uproar will undoubtedly be heard.

Some people — who probably represent a small but noisy minority — aren't the least bit interested in learning more about ethnic studies, anti-bias education and efforts to help students think critically about our history and society. They are not debating the finer points of particular programs and standards.

No, the critics who are getting the most attention are the ones who simply don't approve of the very concept behind this sort of education in the first place



Allen J. Schaben | Los Angeles Times

STUDENTS LEAVE campus after a day of in-class learning at Los Alamitos High School in October. The Los Alamitos Unified school board recently held a meeting online to avoid in-person protesters against social justice teaching standards, which the board ultimately adopted.

— or at least the version that exists in their imaginations.

To their way of thinking, it's the idea of offering ethnic studies or social-justice education in schools that angers them. They believe such educational goals inherently mean that students are being set up to be brainwashed into believing that all white people are evil racists. End of discussion.

They often bandy about, absent any deep examination, controversial terms such as “critical race theory,” a frequently misunderstood way of considering how race and racism

are embedded in institutional and systematic inequities.

The trouble is that some of the misinformation often repeated by those who are stridently opposed to any rethinking of how we teach history could be influencing the viewpoints of others. That's why it's vital, as school districts make their decisions in the months ahead, for all of us to learn what is actually being proposed before making our own judgments.

Again, I'm not suggesting that the state's ethnic studies framework — or any school curriculum or program for that matter — is

perfect. That's an impossible standard to uphold. Nor am I saying that criticism should not be heard. Of course it should.

But any concerns that are raised should be based on what is actually in the curriculum. We must look at what the standards really say and what districts are considering doing, and not succumb to conspiracy theories about hidden agendas and influence campaigns.

And keep in mind that hundreds of school districts already offer ethnic studies electives. Or, as is the case at Newport-Mesa Unified, “ethnic studies are woven throughout our history [and] social studies courses,” according to district spokesperson Annette Franco.

A deeper, more inclusive study of our complicated history has been a long time coming. We'd be a whole lot better off if we all took part in the discussion about the best means of achieving that goal, rather than joining a knee-jerk faction trying to stop it altogether.

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.

PUSH-UPS

Continued from page A1

they spend their fundraising to care for service members,” Fetters said of the Boot Campaign.

Jason Borne, 36, of Houston is a veteran ambassador for the Boot Campaign. He said the organization is focused on bridging the gap for veterans upon their return to civilian life.

“What the Boot Campaign does is they provide personalized treatment for veterans, really a customized pipeline of recovery that they put them through to really solve the problems,” Borne said.

“One of the things that I've said in years past at these events is there's plenty of people on social media ... that raise awareness — which is great. Awareness is nice, it's part of the process, but we can



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

CO-OWNERS Mattison Fetters, right, his wife Stevie, center, and Bo Wind at the push-ups for charity event on Saturday.

be aware of something and not do anything about it ... Boot Campaign is trying to do the 'now what.' ”

There was also the popular veteran round, which saw four military veterans line up side-by-side and combine for 279 push-ups in their allotted time. Kevin Whitney, 31, of

Mission Viejo partook in the veteran round. He said he served in the Navy from 2009 to 2013. Now, he is the owner and broker of Whitney Realty, which made a \$500 donation to the cause.

The event traditionally has been held on Armed Forces Day, but Whitney

remarked that the timing could not have been better on Memorial Day weekend.

“Research of PTSD is very lacking, so it's amazing you have a nonprofit that fully supports and raises money for PTSD research with military [personnel] and veterans,” Whitney said. “I've got to support it.”

Will Thompson, 45, of Costa Mesa is a member of the gym and a local artist. He brought paintings to the push-ups for charity fundraiser that were largely coastal creations, and he planned to donate 20% of the proceeds.

Thompson said he had already sold some of his work as of the early afternoon, adding, “I just like the idea of helping people out and helping out veterans.”

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BUDGET

Continued from page A1

public health orders and the reopening of businesses for indoor dining and shopping,” the report reads.

The proposed budget includes 962.25 full-time equivalent employees, which is an increase of four employees.

The new positions include an administrative aide and administrative analyst in the Public Works department, a principal administrative analyst in the Administrative Services department and a deputy director of homeless and behavioral services.

The city charter requires the public hearing before the budget can be adopted. It also requires that the budget be adopted by June 30, prior to the fiscal year beginning on July 1.

For those not in attendance, Tuesday's meeting can be watched on channel HBTV-3 or online at

huntingtonbeach.legistar.com. Residents may send comments on agenda items to supplementalcomm@surf-city-hb.org.

Communications received by 2 p.m. Tuesday will be distributed to the council prior to consideration of agenda-related items.

Residents are encouraged to submit comments during the meeting via Zoom, though in-person attendees will speak first.

The Webinar ID is 971 5413 0528 and can be reached via the Zoom app or by calling (669) 900-6833 and entering the ID.

Individuals will be placed in a holding queue and prompted to speak when the city clerk announces their name or the last three digits of their phone number.

Time for remarks is limited to three minutes.

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The City of Huntington Beach Seeks Personnel Commission Applicants

Applications are currently being considered to fill three (3) vacancies on the City of Huntington Beach Personnel Commission. The vacancies are for the term of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023. The Personnel Commission acts in an advisory capacity to the City Council and City Manager regarding determination of hearing procedures and selection of hearing officers, personnel administration investigations, appeals on grievance matters, appeals from decisions related to the employer-employee relations resolution, reviews impasse matters, and performs other functions as may be prescribed by ordinance or resolution. The Commission meets monthly on the third Wednesday at 5:30 pm. Interested applicants are encouraged to complete a City of Huntington Beach Application for consideration by first review date of Monday, May 31, 2021. For an application, please visit the City's official website at www.huntingtonbeachca.gov and click on *Government* and then on *Boards and Commissions*. An application can be completed online or downloaded and submitted to the City Council Office located at City Hall. For more information, contact John Clark, Director of Administrative Services at (714) 536-5586 or Sandy Henderson, Senior Personnel Analyst at (714) 960-8828.



Susan Jahn Noonan

May 16, 1940 - May 11, 2021

May 16th, 1940 to May 10th 2021, Susan Jahn Noonan, 80, passed away peacefully with her family at her side after undergoing a five year battle with bone marrow cancer. Susan was born in New York, NY, the daughter of Carol Lyons Jahn of Tampa, FL, and Frederick S. Jahn of Vienna, Austria. She was baptized Catholic at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York, NY. She grew up in Beverly Hills, Ca, and graduated from Marymount High School in Briarcliff, NY for two years, and then went on to earn a Bachelor's Degree at Marymount College in Palos Verdes, Ca. Susan was preceded in death by her former husband, James E. Noonan in 2005, whom she was married to for 30 years. She is survived by her daughter, Stephanie Noonan Manser of Newport Beach, married to David Manser; daughter, Jennifer Noonan of Newport Beach; her brother Stephen Jahn of Ventura, CA, and wife, Brenda; Step-daughter, Kelly Noonan Stern of Kailua-Kona, HI; Step-Son, Jym Noonan of Palm Springs, CA. Additionally, she is survived by six grand-children, Patrick Stern, Devon Stern, Raven Noonan Giacinto, Hannah Manser, Molly Manser, Lilah Manser; Nephew, Colin Jahn, and Niece, Ashley Jahn Whiteman, both of Los Angeles, CA., as well as their children and many extended family and friends. Susan spent the majority of her adult life living in Newport Beach, CA, where she raised her children, and then enjoyed a successful 25 year career as a Real Estate Agent for Coldwell. She attended St. John Vianney Chapel on Balboa Island where she was a Eucharistic Minister. Susan was the epitome of a "social butterfly!" She was determined to keep socializing even during the heightened time of Covid19! She truly embraced LIVING and refused to fear death! She kept a very active social life playing Bridge, attended Knitting Club, Book Club, and Investment Club as well as dining with friends regularly! She enjoyed seeing performances at the Newport Theatre Arts Center that she affectionately called, "The Little Theatre." Susan loved socializing so much that she viewed going to Hoag Cancer Center for treatment as another social opportunity to visit with nurses, caregivers, and fellow patients at the center. Susan especially loved hanging out at Ruby Beach on Balboa Island where she would enjoy watching her grand-children frolic and play in the Newport Bay. Susan was known for her warmth, friendships, big small and infectious laugh! Susan will truly be missed by all that knew her, loved her, and were touched by her! Funeral Services will be at St. John Vianney Chapel, 314 Marine Ave, Balboa Island, Ca 92662 at 12:00 on June 3, 2021. A celebration of life will follow at Muldoon's Irish Pub, 202 Newport Center Dr., Newport Beach, CA 92660. .

POLICE

Continued from page A1

dedicated collaboration with our law enforcement partners, and we look forward to sustaining this enforcement effort through the end of the year.”

The Laguna Beach Police Department has written more than 2,700 tickets for violations pertaining to the issues of speeding and loud or modified exhaust since May 2020, Laguna Beach police officials said in the release.

Huntington Beach police also released a statement that said the department will be increasing its enforcement efforts with regard to loud or modified exhaust vehicles and street racing during the summer.

On the evening of the joint enforcement operation, Huntington Beach police said that two arrests were made for reckless driving, two vehicles were impounded, and there were 17 traffic tickets issued.

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Daily Pilot

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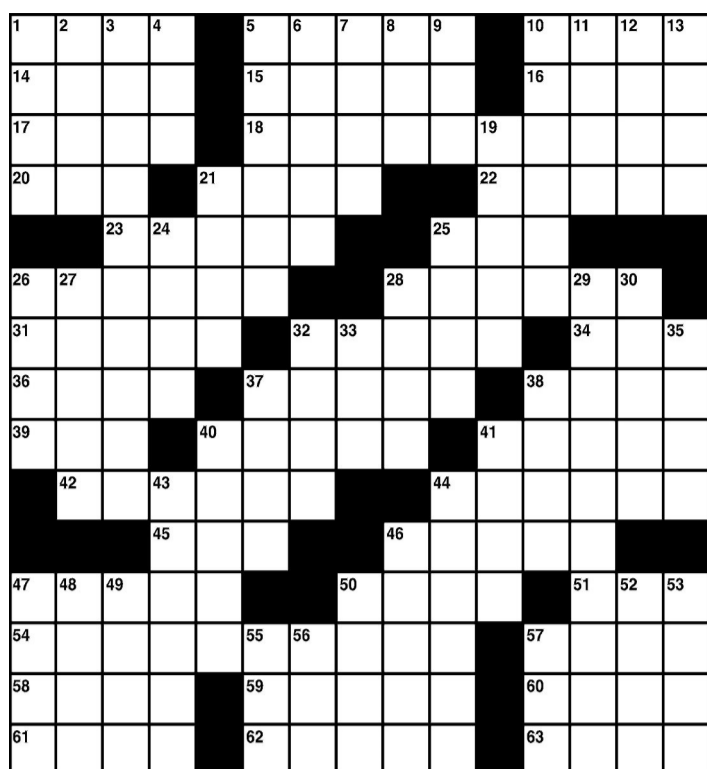
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THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

- ACROSS**
 1 24/7 auction site
 5 Attire for judges
 10 Use a dagger
 14 _ off; bolted
 15 Eliminate an error
 16 Dubuque's state
 17 Fans of Big Bird
 18 Riders
 20 "What Kind of Fool _?"
 21 Healthy
 22 Williams & Kaufman
 23 Wears at the edges
 25 "It Happened _ Night"; Clark Gable film
 26 Prickly plants
 28 Bamboo shoot munchers
 31 Legal
 32 Nuts
 34 Haul
 36 Zealous
 37 Follows orders
 38 Recipe verb
 39 Sheep's remark
 40 Ice cream concoctions
 41 Pebble
 42 Animals in the Andes
 44 In need of a haircut
 45 Martini ingredient
 46 Military blockade
 47 Rattled
 50 Even, as a score
 51 _ over two is one
 54 Impolite
 57 _ mein; Chinese dish
 58 Cemetery division
 59 Primary school grade
 60 "_ Comes the Sun"; Beatles song
 61 Sutures
 62 African nation
 63 Aggravates
- DOWN**



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.

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

For answers to the crossword and Sudoku puzzles, see page A4.

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Singer James | 7 Foundation |
| 2 Sound of an explosion | 8 Suffix with host or lion |
| 3 Phony | 9 Observe |
| 4 Simple reply | 10 Endorsed, as a check |
| 5 Gives back money loaned | 11 Three- _ sloth |
| 6 Exams given before a panel | 12 Out of kilter |
| | 13 Singing voice |

- 19 Governess
 21 "B.C." cartoonist
 24 Bug killer
 25 Mighty trees
 26 Tell another's secret
 27 Opponent
 28 Okra & snap peas
 29 On the whole
 30 Seeking damages from
 32 Youngsters
 33 "Cat _ Hot Tin Roof"
 35 Zane or Lady Jane
 37 Mournful sound
 38 Male animal
 40 Hit hard
 41 Get rid of
 43 Proxies
 44 Lunch follower, in Madrid
 46 Actress Spacek
 47 Game officials
 48 Sickly-looking
 49 Cold flakes
 50 Harbor bird
 52 Labor
 53 Is in the red
 55 Candidate killed in 1968, for short
 56 Whopper
 57 Actor McBride

Tribune Media Services

HIGH SCHOOL ROUNDUP



TRENT DOUPHNER of Huntington Beach smashes the ball past Newport Harbor's Rees Classen (8) during the Tesoro Tournament on Feb. 24, 2020.

Don Leach
 Staff
 Photographer

Huntington boys' volleyball edges Servite in five-set thriller

The Huntington Beach High School boys' volleyball team advanced via a high-wire act, defeating Servite 25-22, 22-25, 22-25, 25-21, 16-14 on Saturday in a CIF Southern Section Division 2 semifinal match.

Trent Douphner had 31 kills to lead the Oilers (14-4) in their comeback victory.

Huntington Beach will face the winner of the other semifinal, which featured Beckman at top-seeded Santa Barbara. The Oilers will be on the road for the championship game next Saturday.

Marina 3, Downey Warren 1: Daniel Purtell had 26 kills to lead the host Vikings to a 25-18, 19-25, 25-22, 25-23 win on Saturday in the Division 4 semifinals.

Aidan Patterson added 22 kills and two service aces, and Dyllan Nguyen handed out 55 assists for Marina.

Marina (9-5) will be at home for the Division 4 championship match next Saturday. The Vikings will play either Laguna Hills or Cerritos Valley Christian.

BOYS' BASKETBALL
Fountain Valley 60, Compton 56: Jeremiah Davis had 31 points, eight rebounds and three assists to lead the Barons on the road in a CIF Southern

Section Division 2AA second-round game.

Roddie Anderson added five points, 10 rebounds and five assists for Fountain Valley. Preston Amarillo had six points and seven assists, JJ Gray scored seven points, and Aden Casarez chipped in with nine points.

Fountain Valley (14-2) plays at San Pedro Rolling Hills Prep (9-2) in the quarterfinals on Tuesday. Third-seeded Rolling Hills Prep defeated Hesperia 67-51 at home in its second-round game.

Marina 63, Lompoc Cabrillo 46: The visiting Vikings earned the win in a Division 3A second-round game on Friday night.

Marina (13-7) will be at home for the first time this postseason for a quarterfinal tilt with No. 4-seeded Santa Fe Springs St. Paul (12-1) on Tuesday. St. Paul took out visiting Woodbridge 57-43 in the second round.

Riverside Arlington 58, Sage Hill 50: The Lightning lost at home in the second round of the Division 4A playoffs.

Sage Hill (14-8) was the second-place team in the Academy League this season.

Arlington (13-6) advances to play host to No. 3-seeded Los Angeles Pilibos (16-3) on Tuesday

in the quarterfinal round.

Costa Mesa 69, Hawthorne 55: Giovanni Quero had a team-high 20 points to go with four assists to lead the visiting Mustangs in the second round of the Division 5AA playoffs on Friday night.

Nathan Schipper added 18 points for Costa Mesa, and Blake Wolf also had 13 points and eight rebounds.

Costa Mesa (13-6) will return home for its quarterfinal game against No. 3-seeded El Monte (11-3) on Tuesday.

El Monte won on the road against Rancho Alamitos 49-33 in the second round.

BOYS' LACROSSE
Corona del Mar 15, Agoura 9: The host Sea Kings won their second-round match in the Division 1 playoffs on Friday.

Corona del Mar (13-3) advances to play St. Margaret's in the quarterfinals on Tuesday.

Foothill 12, Newport Harbor 5: The Sailors were eliminated on Friday in the second round of the Division 1 playoffs.

Newport Harbor (8-11) was the third-place team in the Sunset League this season.

Foothill will go on to face Tesoro in the quarterfinals.

— From staff reports



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BOYS' BASKETBALL

Laguna Beach wins at Crossroads, reaches quarterfinals

BY ANTHONY CIARDELLI

SANTA MONICA — The Laguna Beach High School boys' basketball team defeated Santa Monica Crossroads 49-34 Friday night to advance to the quarterfinals of the Division 2AA playoffs in a game where Laguna fended off multiple quick-strike comeback attempts from Crossroads.

Laguna Beach head coach Bret Fleming said his senior class came up big in a big moment.

"I don't think a lot of people gave us much chance coming up here," Fleming said. "We lost a starter to a wrist injury last week, so we were playing undermanned, but it was fun. We have some senior kids that have been through stuff before. They keep other guys calm on the court. It was expected that they showed some leadership, and I thought they did."

Laguna Beach senior and Army West Point signee Nolan Naess led the way with 17 points, including a pair of three-point shots. He added two assists, a block and a steal for Laguna.

Willie Rounaghi hit three three-point shots, including a buzzer-beater from halfcourt to end the first half. He also had a team-high five assists.

Rounaghi felt a rush of self-assurance after his shot to close out the first half.



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

WILLIE ROUNAGHI of Laguna Beach, left, makes a move on Ocean View's Ramon Lopez on Feb. 12, 2020.

surance after his shot to close out the first half.

"It just gave me a confidence boost," he said. "I was missing a lot of open shots I should've hit in the first half and then seeing that one went in, it was just a huge boost. It put us up seven to end the half."

Crossroads senior TJ Muhammad led the Roadrunners in scoring with 14 points, while junior Charlie Michaels matched Rounaghi for a game-high three three-pointers.

"We turned the ball over quite a lot," Crossroads head coach Anthony Davis said. "We gave a good, well-coached team too many chances. They did great stopping the fast break, they did great clogging up the middle for our big man. They did a great job."

Laguna Beach (16-3) and Crossroads (10-2) played a tight game early, with neither team managing to pull away by more than seven points.

The Breakers' seven-point half-time lead evaporated quickly in the third quarter.

That's when Michaels hit a three-pointer, followed by two nearly identical steals by Muhammad that he finished

with layups to tie the score at 22. Crossroads then took a 24-22 advantage, its final lead, before Laguna stormed back.

Naess scored nine of his 17 points in the second half, while the Laguna offense took advantage of an overaggressive Crossroads defense and multiple unforced errors in the fourth quarter.

For Naess, his team's resilience is its hallmark.

"It feels so good," Naess said. "I can't think of anything better for my senior year. We just bounce back really well. Even though we may take a hit every once in a while, we come back even stronger."

Rounaghi also credited his team's ability to withstand Crossroads' comeback attempt.

"Right after they made that run and we came back and got up by eight, I thought it was over right then," Rounaghi said.

Laguna Beach visits Santa Margarita for Tuesday's Division 2AA quarterfinal. Santa Margarita finished the season as the division's second-ranked team.

Laguna Beach is in search of its first CIF Southern Section title since 1962.

ANTHONY CIARDELLI is a contributor to Times Community News.

NEWPORT

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Game 1.

James Eadie, who had five kills and five blocks overall for Newport Harbor, responded to the physicality of Loyola thereafter. He had four blocks over the next two sets, which the Sailors won comfortably.

Newport Harbor coach Eric Vallely is in his second year and first full season as the head coach of the Sailors after taking over for the retired Rocky Ciarelli. He said "it means everything" to get to the finals with the boys on his roster after his first season at the helm was cut short.

"These guys have really bought into the program, the plan that we had set forth, really going back to when we were shut off last year, so for about a year and a half now, and they have stuck with it," Vallely said. "They worked hard in the weight room every single day, especially when we had no idea whether there was going to be a season."

"It's all those little things of staying together, working out together, remaining positive and hopeful that I think really leads to this team's success."



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

NEWPORT HARBOR players are stormed by supporters after upsetting Los Angeles Loyola in Saturday's semifinals.

They work so hard, and they never cease to amaze me."

Dillon Klein led the Cubs with 12 kills and two blocks, and Cooper Robinson added seven kills and two blocks.

The Division 1 bracket was an exclusive one, with just eight teams competing for the title in the top division. Having spent the first two rounds at home, No. 4-seeded Newport Harbor will be on the road in the finals and will face No. 2-seeded Manhattan Beach Mira Costa in the finals next Saturday.

Mira Costa defeated Corona del Mar on Saturday night.

Clasen was having flashbacks to the 2019 season, when Newport Harbor beat Mira Costa in both the CIF Division 1 final and the CIF State Southern California Regional Division 1 championship matches.

The season before, the Sailors fell to the Sea Kings in the Division 1 final.

"It's exciting," Clasen said of his team's playoff run. "I was on this team two years ago. I was on the bench, but that run two years ago was something special."

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PARK

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tion.

Purchased for the bargain price of \$1 by Ted Tanner, a local and retired U.S. Air Force lieutenant colonel who served in the South Pacific during World War II, the jet has since been coated with layers of cement for safety purposes.

But before that, its dials, knobs and cockpit contraptions delighted generations of would-be pilots and adventurers, said volunteer Cindy Brenneman.

"The kids used to play on it when it was metal. It had all the gadgets," Brenneman said, stenciling the word "Navy" in blue painter's tape on the structure's rear fuselage.

Bakkila admitted he, too, harbored fond memories of the old Panther.

"I grew up in Irvine and would get to play on this if I was a good boy at the beach," he said. "Everybody knows this plane."

Pete Carolan, a retired Navy SEAL who in 1970 was tasked with retrieving astronauts from the failed Apollo 13 mission upon splashdown, dedicated his Friday morning to painting the cockpit window and leading edges of the wings.

The first model airplane he assembled as a third-grader was an F9F Panther, he recalled. But whether modeling or painting concrete planes in city parks, Carolan approaches such tasks with a sense of reverence.

"You've got a jet here, and it represents the United States," the veteran said. "So, you want to make it look as prestigious as possible for people, especially going into Memorial Day."



Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

THE NORMA HERTZOG Community Center at Lions Park could open this summer, after City Council members in 2017 approved a \$36.5-million renovation plan that also included construction of a new Donald Dungan Library.

About five years had gone by since the concrete aircraft was last touched up. Early iterations of its paint job had been randomly applied (Bakkila recalled one unappealing shade of yellow) but more recently, attention has been paid to sticking with historically accurate markings and tones.

Himself a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve, Bakkila attributes the shift to longtime Costa Mesa Al Bernstein, who worked on an aircraft carrier during his service in the Navy and remembered hauling those exact models across the high seas.

Now, volunteer painters work alongside an image of a real plane to ensure numbers and logos are appropriately placed. Sue Lester, who's lived in the city for 11 years, said she sees the service as a way to honor the nation's veterans and preserve history for future generations.

"Seeing things from the past gives us the opportunity to have conversations with people who are younger, and I like that,"

Lester said, her paint roll loaded up with white paint. "If I can be part of helping preserve something like that, count me in."

The Lions Park playground work was made possible by the dedication of \$1.78 million from the Costa Mesa City Council last September. It's one of many upgrades at the location in recent years.

In May 2019, the city celebrated the opening of the new 23,355-square-foot Donald Dungan Library, built on the site of the former Neighborhood Community Center.

A new center, converted from the former library branch and named after Norma Hertzog, the city's first female City Council member and mayor, will be completed later this year.

Both projects have been estimated to cost \$36.5 million. Originally slated for completion by spring 2020, the projects were delayed due to the pandemic, but work has since resumed.

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