

Daily Pilot

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SWAT TEAM members enter the former Sears building during a training exercise on Thursday at South Coast Plaza in Costa Mesa.

SWAT teams arrive – not for trouble but for training

Local officers flanked by BearCats and weapons drawn at South Coast Plaza may have looked menacing, but practicing tactical strategies keeps skills sharp.

BY SARA CARDINE

Police officers — rifles drawn and K-9s at the ready — descended upon Costa Mesa's South Coast Plaza Thursday, not for trouble but for training as the West County and Buena Park SWAT teams conducted drills at the site's vacant Sears building.

The scene may have looked menacing to the untrained eye, but getting teams together to practice coordination, communication

See **SWAT**, page A4



PARTICIPANTS practiced clearing out a building and worked on different scenarios SWAT team members might encounter while working in the field during Thursday's training exercise.

Photos by Kevin Chang Staff Photographer

Outdoor dining permits renewed

The Newport Beach City Council initially voted in June to extend the life of the emergency use permits through Sept. 6.

BY LILLY NGUYEN

The Newport Beach City Council voted this week to give restaurants a little more time to continue operating in parking lots, sidewalks and private and public property on their emergency temporary use permits as the pandemic continues.

Councilman Noah Blom recused himself due to his business interests.

The permits will be in effect through the end of the year, though the City Council previously extended their life through Sept. 6 in June with the intent of creating a transitional period for businesses as they recovered from the pandemic's impacts.

Under the process set forth, limited-term permits would be granted to restaurant owners based on the location of their business, parking availability and land use compatibility, determined by city staff on a case-by-case basis.

They would later be asked to amend their entitlements by way of conditional or minor use permits and, if their business was in the coastal zone, they would also need coastal development permits.

At least 24 applications for limited-term permits were received by the city, according to a report prepared for Tuesday's council meeting.

The extension now comes as the arrival and growth of the Delta variant in Orange County has complicated the ability for restaurants to comply with Cal OSHA Emergency

See **Permits**, page A4

County's first mobile mental health crisis unit is in H.B.



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

FROM RIGHT, Orange County Dist. Atty. Todd Spitzer, O.C. Supervisor Katrina Foley and Huntington Beach Mayor Kim Carr are joined by other elected officials in front of a Be Well OC mobile mental health crisis vehicle on Thursday morning at Huntington Beach Civic Center Plaza.

BY MATT SZABO

Huntington Beach is pushing forward in the area of mental health.

Be Well OC in Huntington Beach, a mobile crisis response team with two trained counselors, had a soft launch on Aug. 2. Since then, city officials said about 330 calls have been fielded.

They could be people who call 911 to deescalate a family dispute or due to other mental-health or behavior-related issues. Previously, the police department would field these requests.

The city formally introduced Be Well OC in Huntington Beach at a news conference on Thursday morning. It's the first mobile mental health response team in the

county.

"Our first responders do an admirable job of addressing these types of calls," Mayor Kim Carr said. "However, they receive over 15,000 calls like this every year [in Huntington Beach], and those calls divert time away from other public safety issues. Rather than continuing to send first responders to non-emergency mental health situations, Be Well OC will bridge that gap and serve the need immediately."

Carr emphasized that the police department has not been defunded. Instead, the city is partnered with Be Well OC through a one-year pilot program that costs \$1.5 million. City Manager Oliver Chi said the city was already looking into mobile response options

by summer 2020 and had researched a similar program called Crisis Assistance Helping Out On the Streets (CAHOOTS) in Eugene, Ore.

But then Chi met Marshall Moncrief over coffee and saw the benefits of a partnership. Moncrief is the chief executive of Mind OC, the nonprofit that operates Be Well OC.

"Twenty minutes into the conversation, it was like, 'Something is going to happen here,'" Chi said. "The movement that is Be Well, we have an opportunity here in Orange County to build a best-in-class, world-class mental health substance-abuse treatment program that currently just doesn't exist"

See **Mobile**, page A4

Man accused of dropping drugs into O.C. jail via drone pleads not guilty

BY SARA CARDINE

A 43-year-old Costa Mesa man was arrested Tuesday on suspicion of using a drone to air drop illegal drugs into the outdoor recreation of a local jail yard in the city of Orange, along with numerous other crimes, officials reported.

Investigators with the Sheriff's

Department's Custody Intelligence Unit were advised of a drone discovered carrying narcotics into an open space within the Theo Lacy Facility on Sunday. The drone was found carrying heroin, methamphetamine, Xanax pills and muscle relaxers, according to a release issued

See **Drone**, page A4

Cumbiaton comes to Segerstrom

An intergenerational cultural movement started in Boyle Heights makes its Orange County debut Friday.

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, Segerstrom Center for the Arts is hosting Cumbiaton on Friday for the group's first Orange County event.

Founded by Dj Sizzle Fantastic and Normz la Oaxaqueña, Cumbiaton is an intergenerational cultural movement that "utilizes music and art to heal and uplift oppressed hood communities." The duo started the movement in Boyle Heights with an event in 2017. But since then, the Cumbiaton vibes have grown and reached as far as San Francisco, Seattle and New York.

Sizzle Fantastic, also known as Zacil Pech, was born in Costa de Guerre and raised in Boyle Heights. She serves as director



Courtesy of Paolo J. Riveros and Julio Salgado

DANCERS PERFORM in front of an audience at a Cumbiaton event.

and resident DJ of Cumbiaton.

Normz La Oaxaqueña, or Normz Fajardo, is an Oaxaqueña raised in south central Los Angeles and the production manager of Cumbiaton.

The two friends have back-

grounds in social justice organizing and together host parties that center around "womxn, trans and queer people of color" both on the dance floor and in the DJ

See **Cumbiaton**, page A4

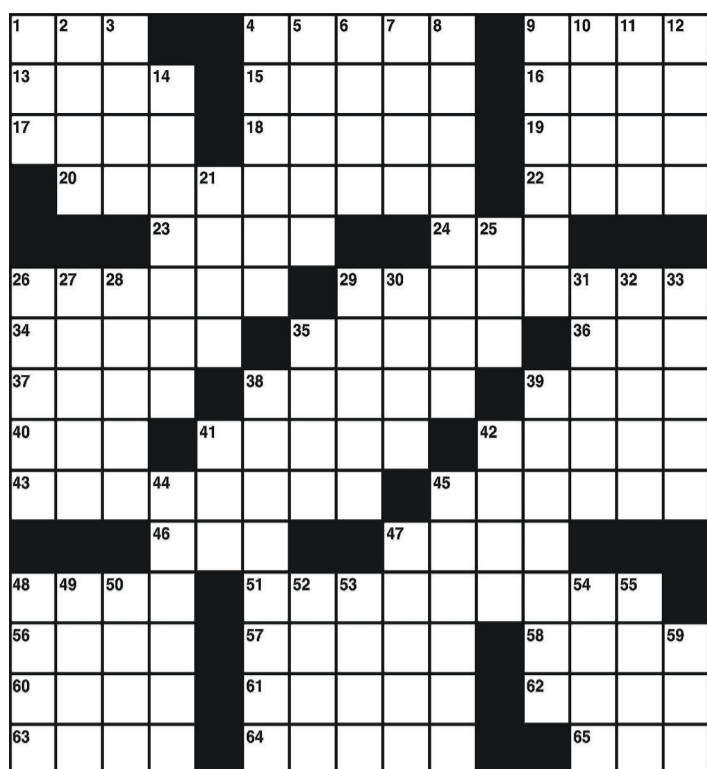
A DRONE carrying multiple illegal drugs was discovered Sunday in an Orange jail.



Courtesy of O.C. Sheriff's Department

THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews



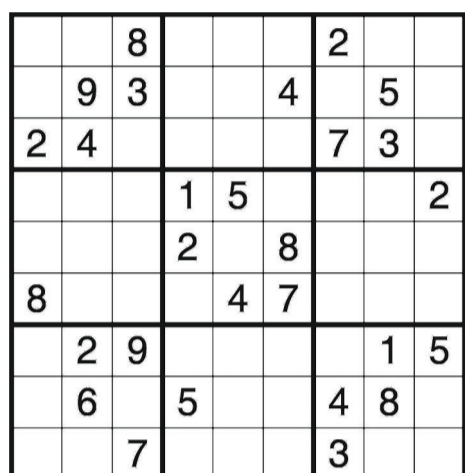
- ACROSS**
 1 J. Edgar Hoover's agcy.
 4 More qualified
 9 Dull-colored
 13 Crematory shelf supply
 15 Show to be true
 16 Remain optimistic
 17 _ Ness monster
 18 Became ashen
 19 Ugandan tyrant
 20 Cover up, as wrongdoing
 22 Tattered clothing
 23 Bona fide
 24 Dutch _ disease; tree malady
 26 Wild dog
 29 Relentless; persistent
 34 Do-nothing
 35 Mertz & Flintstone
 36 "People _ Funny" of old TV
 37 One not to be trusted
 38 Salaries
 39 Mob scene
 40 _ Miserables"
 41 Not dressed
 42 Hose down
 43 Isn't _ to; shouldn't
 45 Horse's gait
 46 "Ick!"
 47 Execute, old-style
 48 Give one's _; promise
 51 Pleasant lingering effect
 56 Eager
 57 Bouquet tosser
 58 British peer
 60 Collapsed
 61 Hope or Jessica
 62 Asian language
 63 Laurel or juniper
 64 Join, as a club
 65 Pkg. delivery svc.

- DOWN**
 1 Suffix for fear or joy
 2 Forehead
 3 _ along;

SUDOKU

By The Mephram Group

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



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

- advance slowly
 4 Request for a new trial
 5 Melee
 6 Actress Claudini
 7 12/24 & 12/31
 8 Raggedy Ann & Little Orphan Annie
 9 Jenna Elfman role
 10 Actress Downey
 11 "and on that farm there was _"
 12 Stein & Stiller
 14 One who avoids his duty

- 21 Wear's partner, in phrase
 25 Scale divisions; abbr.
 26 Sobule and Scott
 27 "Bye, Pierre!"
 28 Bracelet fastener
 29 Encouraged
 30 "All You _ Is Love"; 1967 song
 31 Sully
 32 Uneven
 33 Talk out of
 35 Phony
 38 Not needing dry cleaning
 39 Curl
 41 Yuletide party drink
 42 _ out; pealed
 44 Rainfall remnant
 45 Line of work
 47 Trimmed shrub
 48 Float on the breeze
 49 " _ There"; George M. Cohan song
 50 Irk
 52 Tarkenton or Drescher
 53 Slight coloring
 54 Waikiki's location
 55 Shawl or cape
 59 Fleur-de- _

Tribune Media Services



Susan Hoffman

CO-FOUNDERS KYLE KELLY, left, and Danny Nichols manage the stair exercise during Operation Open Water 9/11 Honor Challenge held Saturday at Sheue Field.

Operation Open Water moved to land this year

BY SUSAN HOFFMAN

Although the organization traditionally holds its special events on the beach, Operation Open Water's second annual 9/11 Honor Challenge took place on Sheue Field at Huntington Beach High School last Saturday due to a conflict with the Surf City Marathon.

Operation Open Water was created to help active military, veterans and first responders grow stronger mentally and physically by building fellowship through sharing ocean themed adventures.

The grassroots nonprofit organization headquartered in Huntington Beach was founded in 2020 by soldier and a surfer Kyle Kelly, a retired U.S. Army veteran, and Danny Nichols, a former pro surfer.

Originally from Texas, Kelly, who now lives in Oceano, Calif., lost his right leg below the knee following a roadside bombing in Iraq. He met Nichols during a veterans' surf event where the two men connected.

Nichols, a resident of Huntington Beach, is a businessman with a desire for service. He said the organization was established so they could help warriors rejuvenate and find peace.

"Operation Open Water 9/11 challenge is about bringing the community together to never forget the attacks from 9/11," Nichols said. "It's an opportunity to fuel mind and raise spirits and honor those who lost their lives [which] impacted all of us."

The community was invited to participate or cheer on the veterans, first responders and community members to take on six physical challenges to honor the 2,977 lives lost on 9/11/2001. The challenges included:

- 60 burpees for the law enforcement and port authority officers;
- 44 push-ups for the passengers on United Flight 93;
- 189 seconds of planking for those who perished at the Pentagon;
- 110 flights of stairs for the World Trade Center;

• 343-yard firehouse drag for the firefighters and emergency medical services personnel;

• 2,763-yard run for those who perished in the World Trade Center.

Kelly, an amputee who has medical retirement from the Army, participated in the workout stations during Saturday's challenge even though his training schedule had recently been on pause. The once single dad of a 14-year-old daughter, explained that since the birth of his new baby two months ago he hasn't had time to devote to his active exercise program.

"I'm normally very active four to five days a week, cardio, surf in the afternoon and weight training," Kelly said. "For me and others who have found themselves struggling with post-traumatic stress disorder and anxiety a regular fitness routine can give a positive impact on mental health."

SUSAN HOFFMAN is a contributing writer to the Daily Pilot.

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