

# Daily Pilot

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Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**MICROJET PILOT** Torrey Ward stands next to his SubSonex JSX-2 micro jet during a press conference for the Pacific Airshow on Thursday.

## Pacific Airshow set to zoom back into Surf City

Three-day show begins today, as the sting over a controversial lawsuit settlement has some residents sitting it out.

**BY MATT SZABO**

Kevin Elliott's son is now 20 months old, and Elliott was quick to pull up pictures on his phone Thursday morning at a Pacific Airshow press event held at Lyon Air Museum in Santa Ana.

The name of Elliott's son is no surprise to anyone who knows him well: Jett.

"Future air show owner," said Huntington Beach Mayor Gracey Van Der Mark, smiling to the toddler's dad.

Elliott, the Pacific Airshow executive director, has always loved aviation. Growing up in the area, he would build and fly remote control airplanes with his own father in the garage and remembers spending plenty of afternoons flying gliders at Fairview

See *Airshow*, page A2



**PACIFIC AIRSHOW** executive director Kevin Elliott, at podium, is flanked by Huntington Beach Mayor Gracey Van Der Mark, microjet pilot Torrey Ward and T-33 pilot Greg Colyer, from left, during a press conference Thursday at Lyon Air Museum. The three-day air show opens today.

## F.V. City Council reverses course on raise

Two members change their votes on increasing member's monthly compensation to \$1,200, which passed on Sept. 3.

**BY ANDREW TURNER**

A month after the Fountain Valley City Council appeared poised to raise its monthly stipend to \$1,200 per month, the balance of the council rejected the pay increase during the second reading of the ordinance on Tuesday night.

Mayor Glenn Grandis and Vice Mayor Ted Bui, both of whom are up for reelection in November, joined Councilman Jim Cunneen in voting against the pay bump, which would have marked an increase of 140% from the current stipend of \$500.

Several votes have been taken on the matter by the council members. The panel passed on giving itself a raise 16 months ago, with Grandis, Bui and Cunneen casting the deciding votes in a 3-2 decision.

Grandis, who has repeatedly said he donates all of his earnings from serving on the council to autism charities, and Bui opened the door to a potential compensation increase by voting in the affirmative on Sept. 3.

Bui had suggested that the

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## ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



James Carbone

**CDM GIRLS' GOLF BATTLES BACK TO EARN SPLIT WITH NEWPORT HARBOR** PAGE A6

## Costa Mesa a wing-beat away from legalizing beekeeping at home

**BY SARA CARDINE**

Honeybees buzzing about backyards in Orange County have no idea or care where mankind has elected to draw lines demarcating one city from another, but for humans wishing to keep bees on their properties, such details are vital.

While many cities permit residential beekeeping, including

Huntington Beach, Laguna Beach, Fullerton, Santa Ana and Irvine, other cities, like Costa Mesa, have historically made such practices illegal.

But plans for change are on the wing, as the Costa Mesa City Council Tuesday lent initial support to an ordinance that would allow residents to keep and main-

See *Beekeeping*, page A3



File Photo

**BALLOT DROP** boxes will be available around Orange County for the Nov. 5 general election.

## Over 1.8 million vote-by-mail ballots ship out across O.C.

**BY ERIC LICAS**

Almost two million mail-in ballots loaded onto U.S. Postal Service trucks this weekend will reach local voters on Monday, and the Orange County Registrar of Voters, Bob Page, is confident he and 1,900 election season workers are ready to conduct an accurate and fair count.

According to data from the Registrar's office, more than 1.8 million registered voters in Orange County are being asked to

decide the race for the offices of president and vice-president as well as 170 other contests. Ten statewide initiatives and 30 local initiatives are also on this year's ballot.

The county will open 123 ballot boxes across the region Monday where voters can drop off their ballots through Nov. 5. Their specific locations can be found on the Registrar's website, [ocvote.gov](http://ocvote.gov). Select locations will

See *Ballots*, page A5

## South Coast Rep opens its season with musical comedy 'Little Shop of Horrors'

**BY SARAH MOSQUEDA**

South Coast Repertory in Costa Mesa opened its 2024-25 season with the cult classic "Little Shop of Horrors" the weekend of Sept. 21, and it's the first time the theater has produced the popular musical creature feature. Jenn Thompson directs the cult classic about a mean green plant monster from outer space, with showings just in time for the spooky season.

"I do think it is the perfect bite of a musical. It is equal measure funny, scary, thrilling, sexy, dangerous, all of those things," said

Thompson said in a statement. "The scale of it is perfect. It's accessible, it's relatable."

Most fans are familiar with the 1986 film of the same name that stars Rick Moranis, Ellen Greene and Steve Martin, but the seeds for "Little Shop of Horrors" were planted long before the success of director Frank Oz's film.

Its first iteration was as a campy 1960s horror film directed by Roger Corman, which inspired an off-Broadway version written by Howard Ashman and Alan Menken in 1982 and led to the 1986 film adaptation.

The musical follows two co-workers at Mushnik's flower shop on Skid Row; nerdy plant enthusiast Seymour and the lovely Audrey secretly pine for each other, though the latter is tied up in a relationship with a sadistic dentist. Seymour discovers a strange plant in the shop that promises to help him win Audrey's affections as long as he quells the plant's thirst for human blood.

The music takes cues from du-wop and Motown and remains a favorite today.

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Robert Huskey

**SOUTH COAST** Repertory presents the musical "Little Shop of Horrors" on the Segerstrom Stage Sept. 21 through Oct. 20.



## AIRSHOW

Continued from page A2

service charge, and guess who that goes to? The kids that are working. I know the owners of a lot of restaurants, and they've got their tables booked. I've got a table at BLK, they are sold out. They would never be sold out Friday, Saturday and Sunday at that restaurant, you know?

"I know people get all mad because the lot gets shut down and parking [costs] more. That money, I get it, it goes to the city coffers, but I look at all of these people that I know who are trying to run businesses and how much money it brings to them."

Ziegler said she was at the same BLK Earth Sea Spirits restaurant, located in Pierside Pavilion, during the air show's first year. She was sitting next to a group of Japanese people who spoke no English — that is, until the Air Force Thunderbirds showed up.

"They all started, in English, singing the theme song from 'Top Gun.'" Ziegler recalled with a laugh. "I mean, [the air show] inspires patriotism, in my opinion."

Torrey "Superman" Ward, from Van Nuys, is one of the civilian pilots flying in this year's event. Ward, who has been a pilot for 42 years, is flying at the Pacific Airshow for the first time in a Sub-Sonex JSX-2 microjet that weighs in at just 490 pounds.

"I am humbled to be at this air show," Ward said. "It's over water, and it's not a common environment for air show pilots to fly over water, so it's super-exciting."

Elliott is also looking forward to a good weekend, despite the controversy, especially if the pesky fog at the beach clears out each day. New features include short takeoff and landing (STOL) planes that will land on the beach during the show, allowing spectators to sit in and interact with the pilots.

"We're just trying to move this event forward," he said. "We're



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**MEMBERS OF** the Huntington Beach Fire and Marine departments listen to pilot Mark Foster as he talks about the parked B-25 behind him in preparation for the Pacific Airshow.

going to move past the baggage, and it may take a little bit of time. Hopefully time will heal these wounds, and people will realize that this is really a community event ... The air show should be

for everyone. This isn't an event for half the community, it's an event for everybody."

matthew.szabo@latimes.com  
Twitter: @mjszabo

## BEEKEEPING

Continued from page A1

tain beehives under certain conditions and with a city-issued permit.

Presented by Costa Mesa Police Lt. Stephanie Selinske, who manages the city's Animal Services Unit, a proposal was put together with input from members of an advisory Animal Services Committee, who presented their own recommendations to the council in May 2023.

Tuesday's draft law included several restrictions and requirements, such as limiting residential beekeeping to single-family lots larger than 3,000 square feet, requiring would-be apiarists to obtain permission from their adjacent neighbors and mandating them to post warning signs indicating the presence of active hives.

"It would be something to alert any city workers, Amazon drivers or anybody else coming on your property that you're keeping bees," Selinske said of the signage. "If you do have an allergy that could be lethal, it would at least be a warning."

The initial iteration of the ordinance also mandated home beekeepers to register with the county Agricultural Commissioner office and provide proof they had attended a beginners

beekeeping course from a reputable institution. They would also be required to pay a \$150 fee as part of a permitting process that would include review and home inspections by city staff.

Once obtained, the permit would be good for two years, at which time a beekeeper would have to essentially start the process all over again. Selinske said the law and its tenets were intended to ensure the safety of hive tenders and neighbors alike.

But several in the local beekeeping community, including professional rescuers and hive relocators with decades of experience, took a different view of the draft legislation when addressing the council in public comments.

They said warning signs would only make bee-friendly homeowners targets of harassment from those who feared the insects and maintained too-restrictive laws would simply inspire the continuance of unpermitted beekeeping.

"It's going to basically make it impossible to get a permit, and if you were to get a permit it would be so restrictive it would be difficult to continue beekeeping in your city" said Sean Crowley, a commercial beekeeper who's taught hundreds of students and authored best practices manuals adopted by Fullerton, Irvine and Santa Ana.

"As a long-term beekeeper I

would not be able to qualify, because I've never taken a beginners beekeeping class, yet I teach them up through an advanced level."

Several bee enthusiasts urged the council to loosen up the ordinance to make it more user friendly and to encourage people to become educated about bees and the vital role they play as pollinators of flower and food crops, rather than stoking fears of stings.

"This ordinance has been on the books for three years in January, and I'd love to see it pass soon," said Costa Mesa resident Alberta Mirisciotti, who runs Hey Honey, a licensed bee rescue and relocation business. "We know many people who do go underground, but I won't do that. I don't feel I should have to do that in my city."

Council members sided with speakers, supporting a motion from Councilman Loren Gameros to remove requirements mandating proof of education, neighbor notification and all zoning and size restrictions in Selinske's draft ordinance.

"I don't think we should require someone to attend a beekeeping course — I don't think someone is going to start willy nilly dropping bees in their backyards if they don't know what they're doing," he said. "I don't think anyone is going to try and drop a

beehive in their apartment living room or their balcony. If you have a smaller house, and you have a backyard, you should be able to keep bees."

Councilwoman Arlis Reynolds recommended adding language that would give anyone with currently illegal hives six months to comply and create a similar window for non-compliant people to come up to speed with the new law.

"I want to be sensitive to the scenario that folks may not be aware, immediately upon enacting an ordinance, that we have one," she said.

While some officials balked slightly at removing nearly all the guardrails from the original version of the law, they agreed the language could be refined when the ordinance returns to the council for a second reading.

Mayor John Stephens said he would not vote for the law unless it provided police and city staff the authority to deny a permit if they deemed it presented a medical threat to any resident.

"I don't think we should kid ourselves, there are people who are allergic to bees and could die if they get stung," he said. "If there is a legitimate health issue of a neighboring property, there shouldn't be bees, period."

sara.cardine@latimes.com  
Twitter: @SaraCardine

## MUSICAL

Continued from page A1

"Little Shop of Horrors" continues to feel invigorating, fresh and totally entertaining. I'm inspired by the musical's strong dramaturgy, it's dark and hilarious obsession with the cost of fame, and it's infectious and delightful score," South Coast Repertory artistic director David Ivers said in a statement. "Those components, in harmony with a terrific cast and creative team, make it a not-to-miss opener of our 61st season."

The show, which runs through Oct. 20, has an additional matinee performance scheduled on the final day of its run due to popular demand. There are also several special events planned, including post-show discussions with members of the cast on Oct. 10 and Oct. 18.

Tomorrow, "Inside the Season," hosted by South Coast Repertory's literary staff, shares in-depth interviews with cast members and artists from the production from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (tickets are \$14).

In September, South Coast Repertory partnered with Santa Ana's Frida Cinema for a screening of a special director's cut of the 1986 "Little Shop of Horrors" movie.

The musical production at South Coast Repertory features Emerson Boatwright as Seymour, Michelle Veintimilla as Audrey and Derek Manson as Dr. Orin Scrivello, the role played by Martin in the 1986 film. Thompson has experience directing classics, comedies and musicals and as a New York-based director she said has one other characteristic that makes her the right person to helm this production.

"I'm from the Lower East Side, so I feel at home on Skid Row."

sarah.mosqueda@latimes.com  
Twitter: @SarahNMos

### IF YOU GO

Tickets for "Little Shop of Horrors" range in price from \$40 to \$121 at the South Coast Repertory box office or at [scfta.org](http://scfta.org).

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## South Coast Repertory

"A jaw-dropping good time! ...impressive performances from the whole ensemble"

— ORANGE CURTAIN REVIEW

# LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

Book and Lyrics by **Howard Ashman**      Music by **Alan Menken**

Based on the Film by Roger Corman, Screenplay by Charles Griffith  
Originally Produced by the WPA Theatre (Kyle Renick, Producing Director)  
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Directed by **Jenn Thompson**

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Little Shop of Horrors is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. [www.mtishows.com](http://www.mtishows.com)

# JOAN

By **Daniel Goldstein**  
Directed by **David Ivers**

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**GIRLS' GOLF**

## CdM battles back to earn split with Newport Harbor

**BY ANDREW TURNER**

Multiple high school girls' golf matches were going on at once at Costa Mesa Country Club on Wednesday, and while nothing may have been as loud as the sound of passing carts, there was plenty of noise being made late in the Battle of the Bay.

Corona del Mar came from behind to rally past Newport Harbor, 221-227, on the front nine of the Mesa Linda course, earning a split with its crosstown rival in the Sunset League series.

It was as much an exercise in damage control as anything else that allowed for the comeback. Freshman Sophie Martin saw her ball drop into the hole after striking the flagstick on Nos. 7 and 8.

The first came from just off the green, a chip of about 40 feet from the apron. After playing a tee shot over the water hazard and past the green on the next hole, Martin again rattled in a shot from the rough.

"Really shocked," Martin said of what she was feeling when the shots went in from off the green. "I'm actually really, really awful at putting, and I was like in shock."

Corona del Mar (5-6, 3-6 in the Sunset League) finished with a flourish, winding up with five of the top eight scores to par in the nine-hole match.

Senior captain Bailey Kuo topped the Sea Kings' lineup in carding a score of 39,



**CORONA DEL MAR'S** Bailey Kuo attempts a chip shot on Wednesday during the Battle of the Bay against Newport Harbor at Costa Mesa Country Club.

which was four over par on the course. Junior Zixuan Li (42), freshman Adriana Bezrukov (45), Martin (45) and sophomore Anika Shorey (50) also factored into the scoring.

Senior Ilana Gaber also finished among the top 10 in individual scoring, sinking a 12-foot putt on No. 9 to close at 53.

"I think it felt really good because this is a school we were very close to," Gaber said of beating Newport Harbor, which won the previous meeting 223-226 on Sept. 10. "It was really important to focus on putts and keep track of other

people's scores, as well."

Corona del Mar coach Bryan Middleton said the Sea Kings were down by about a dozen strokes before mounting the comeback.

"Just play all the way through," Middleton said. "If you have a bad shot, shake it off and move on to the next one. You never know what can happen at the end of the match."

Kuo was exemplary in that regard, bouncing back from a double bogey on No. 4 to play her final five holes at one under par, the birdie coming on the par-three No. 8.

Newport Harbor senior Malia Cottriel finished as the medalist with a three-under-par 32. She put an opening-hole bogey behind her by stringing together four consecutive birdies on Nos. 5 to 8, two each of the par-three and par-five variety.

"I think that what's my goal this year, playing high school golf, is to be the first person in school history to be MVP of the league four years in a row," said Cottriel, who has claimed that title in the Wave League the past three before the return of the Sunset League this year.



**CORONA DEL MAR'S** Anika Shorey high-fives Bailey Kuo after a tee shot against Newport Harbor in the Battle of the Bay.

Cottriel added that she had nearly a decade of experience on the course, as she previously took lessons from John Ortega, the director of instruction at the club.

Junior Hazel Cottriel ended the round at even, an afternoon that included three birdies. The sisters have both committed to the University of Memphis women's golf program.

"That's a perfect ending for them, for them to play golf together," Newport Harbor coach Scott Tarnow said. "Malia will leave and be there for a year, and Hazel will then join and have someone to show her around and show her the ropes. Then she's going to get years of hanging out with her sister, and they do everything together, so couldn't have written a better script for them."

"Both of them are playing amazing. Malia, her last 81 holes on Mesa Linda, she's now 32 under par, which is ridiculous."

Juniors Colleen Raad (49) and Lucy Kirk (52), as well

as senior Madison Shinder (59) rounded out the scoring group for Newport Harbor (3-6 overall and in league). Sophomore Siena Salvucci finished at 61.

**ADDITIONAL GIRLS' GOLF RESULTS:**

**Estancia 251, Western 339:** Senior Landry Harder carded a four-over-par 39 to lead the Eagles over the Pioneers on Monday in a Coast League match on the Mesa Linda course at Costa Mesa Country Club.

Estancia improved to 8-0 overall and 6-0 in league.

**Valencia 213, Costa Mesa 291:** Kaavya Kotamraju shot a two-over-par 37 as the medalist for the Tigers on Monday in an Empire League match on the front nine of the Mesa Linda course at Costa Mesa Country Club on Monday.

Costa Mesa won by forfeit against Calvary Chapel on Wednesday, taking the Mustangs' record to 2-5 overall and 2-4 in league.

[andrew.turner@latimes.com](mailto:andrew.turner@latimes.com)  
Twitter: @AndrewTurnerTCN

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12:59

**Los Angeles Times TimesOC**

California State Parks seasonal lifeguard Sierra Fockler discovered a 14-inch Pacific football fish around 2:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 13, near the lifeguard station located at Crystal Cove State Park in Orange County. It's the second such case of the fish washing ashore over the last three years. (Courtesy of California State Parks)

Good morning. It's Wednesday, Oct. 25. I'm Carol Cormaci, bringing you this week's [TimesOC newsletter](#) with a look at the latest local news and events.

Watch where you're stepping on O.C.'s famed sands, because you may encounter a rare specimen of marine life. One, in fact, that has very sharp teeth.

That's what happened on a recent afternoon to lifeguard Sierra Fockler, who found a spooky-looking black angler fish, specifically a Pacific football fish, while she was walking near the lifeguard headquarters building on Moro Beach, located within Crystal Cove State Park.