

# Daily Pilot

SUNDAY, JULY 25, 2021 /// Now including Coastline Pilot and Huntington Beach Independent /// dailypilot.com

## Mariners Mile proposal back on agenda

The Newport council will further discuss the project that was initially approved by the Planning Commission.

BY LILLY NGUYEN

A controversial mixed-use project planned for Mariners Mile is returning to the Newport Beach City Council for further discussion Tuesday after council members continued the issue in April.

The project was proposed to replace an existing marine facility at 2510 and 2530 W. Coast Highway with a three-story development that would include 35 residential units and a one-story 11,266-square-foot boutique auto showroom.

Three of the 35 units would be designated as low-income.

The city's Planning Commission voted in February to approve the project, but Mayor Brad Avery pulled the project up for appeal to the City Council in March on the behalf of residents concerned about the potential impacts of the project.

Possible obstruction of views, increased traffic, potential safety hazards and the precedents the project on the 1.3-mile stretch of Pacific Coast Highway might set if approved were among the chief concerns mentioned by members of the public during the April meeting.

Mariners Mile was initially targeted for revitalization efforts by the city in 2011, but residents then expressed significant concerns that led to the abandoning of a potential master plan for the area.

This is the first mixed-use development to come to Mariners Mile since the city's last general plan update in 2006.

City staff said the hearing Tuesday will be the second one the council has held on the matter and that the project, helmed by property owner

See **Mariners**, page A2



Photos by Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

A NEW PACIFIC MARINE Mammal Center kiosk opened at Huntington Beach's Pacific City shopping center in support of the Laguna Beach nonprofit.

## L.B.'s Pacific Marine Mammal Center wades into new waters

BY SARA CARDINE

After 50 years of rescuing, rehabilitating and releasing cetaceans from Seal Beach to San Onofre, the Pacific Marine Mammal Center and its mission of ocean conservation is beginning to migrate beyond the cozy Laguna Beach canyon it calls home.

Leaders and volunteers of the local nonprofit celebrated the July 7 opening of a kiosk at Pacific City shopping center in Huntington Beach, where shoppers are able to purchase PMMC-themed attire, toys and other coastal commodities, and learn more about the cause.

"[We're] responsible for 52 miles of coastline, and 25% of our patients come from Huntington Beach, so it's great to have a presence and an educational hub in Huntington," spokeswoman Krysta Higuchi said Friday.

The small shop is manned by rotating shifts of volunteers working every Friday through Sunday, from 11:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., to spread the word of the work being done to preserve and protect species living along a



JULIETTE RAAD, right, volunteers her time at the Pacific Marine Mammal Center kiosk.

See **Center**, page A2

## McKechnie of Laguna inducted into Naval Academy class of 2025

BY ANDREW TURNER

Laguna Beach native Cole McKechnie was used to a life that threw twists and turns his way.

He spent about a decade in Europe, and a brief stint in Pennsylvania, before returning to the local seaside community where his mother grew up.

His family has now been back in Laguna Beach for six years, but a well-traveled childhood will embolden one to feed that wanderlust.

There will be big adventure and big responsibility in the future for McKechnie, who was recently inducted into the U.S. Naval Academy class of 2025.

McKechnie committed to the Navy men's water polo program ahead of fall signing day last year. A four-year varsity player, he helped the Santa Margarita Eagles win the Trinity League as a two-meter defender in the coronavirus pandemic-shortened season.

"He is not a kid who sits still," McKechnie's mother, Alyse, said. "If he is not playing water polo or doing his work, he is trying to sky-dive or spearfish or be with his friends."

Attending and competing for the Naval Academy comes with a five-year commitment of service time. There was already a family history in the Navy. McKechnie's maternal grandfather Winthrop Orgera (Naval Academy class of



Photo courtesy Phil Hoffmann

**COLE MCKECHNIE** committed to the Navy men's water polo program ahead of fall signing day last year.

1963) was in the military from 1963 through 1969, serving two tours in Vietnam on a carrier as a pilot.

Orgera fondly remembered a family picture of his grandson attending an Army-Navy football game watch party when he was just 2 years old.

McKechnie's father Chris noted that his son had always had an aptitude for history. Orgera echoed those sentiments when he recalled a visit to Normandy.

"When we were in Europe, we went on a trip to Normandy, and

See **McKechnie**, page A2

## LITTLE LEAGUE



### HUNTINGTON VALLEY'S

Justin Garcia hits against Villa Park in the third inning during the opening game of the Southern California state tournament on Saturday at Fountain Valley Sports Park.

Photos by Kevin Chang  
Staff Photographer

## Huntington Valley in familiar spot after losing state tourney opener to Villa Park

BY ANDREW TURNER

Coming off a momentous victory in the Section 10 tournament title game, Huntington Valley Little League finds itself in a familiar spot during the All-Star tournament season following Saturday's game.

Huntington Valley fell to Villa Park 4-0 in its opening game of the Southern California state tournament at Fountain Valley Sports Park. It marks the third time that Huntington Valley has lost its first game of a tournament during the Little League 12-and-under All-Star schedule.

Huntington Valley was able to play its way through the loser's



**LUKE MILLER** of Huntington Valley is safe at first base against Villa Park in the third inning.

See **Opener**, page A4



CENTER

Continued from page A1

stretch of coastline that encompasses Orange County's beachfront. All proceeds raised will

benefit PMMC, and the goal is that one month of sales will raise enough funds to cover the cost of fully rehabilitating one marine mammal patient, which typically ranges from \$2,500 to \$3,500.

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

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	O	P	I	N	E	I	R	E				
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S	T	I	R	C	H	U	R	N	D	R	I	P
H	O	T	T	R	U	N	K	L	A	G	E	R
P	Y	T	H	O	N	N	O	T	A	R	Y	
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A	U	N	T	V	E	R	G	E	F	A	L	K
N	E	T	S	S	T	E	E	D	K	N	E	E

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

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File Photo

HEALTHY RECOVERING sea lions slip and slide on the slick pavement at the Pacific Marine Mammal Center March 9.

CENTER

Continued from page A1

The new venture is a collaboration with Centennial Real Estate, which manages the oceanfront shopping complex and donated one of its available retail kiosks. With the addition of some Huntington Beach-themed merchandise and souvenirs, the hope is to attract the attention of tourists as well as locals already familiar with the rescue group.

Jen Williams, marketing director for Centennial, said she knew about PMMC but really came to learn more about the organization and its long history when she joined the Ocean Club, a newly formed women's auxiliary whose aim is to broker partnerships and brainstorm new ways to expand outreach and support for the nonprofit.

She loved the mission and the members so much she dove right in. When Pacific City was celebrating the May 26 opening of an on-site "Reading Reef" lending library for children, Williams invited the Pacific



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

PEOPLE CAN shop for Pacific Marine Mammal Center and H.B.-themed merchandise and learn more about what the nonprofit, now in its 50th year, does and how they can support the cause.

Marine Mammal Center to join in the fun.

"Once they saw the kiosk, they said, is there any way we could possibly do something like this?" Williams recalled.

"Since the ocean is our front yard, it just made sense we'd partner with a marine rescue center that focuses on ocean conservation — it was 100% right up our alley."

Creating a satellite presence beyond the current center's modest acreage is

an exciting prospect for an organization that began as Friends of the Sea Lion in 1971 with two lifeguards and a veterinarian rehabilitating seals and sea lions in a bathtub and has since rescued more than 10,000 animals.

"This partnership, and the way the Ocean Club is bringing new levels of philanthropy to PMMC, is just fantastic," Higuchi said.

"It's all about word of mouth, collaboration and community support and

we're so grateful."

For Williams, having the mammal center folks at Pacific City is a good fit and something Centennial would love to continue and possibly grow.

"It's an amazing organization and with the local volunteers, it's just a great fit," she said.

"I'd love to see them be a big part of Huntington Beach."

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MCKECHNIE

Continued from page A1

he was able to tell the guide about everything that had happened there, so he is well-versed ... in history," Orgera said. "We've talked quite a bit about the Academy and being in the service. I wasn't at all surprised that that was the route he chose."

About 1,200 candidates were selected from more

than 16,000 applications to become part of the Naval Academy's freshman class, according to a news release.

Currently, McKechnie is in the middle of plebe summer, a period intended to prepare the incoming Midshipmen for the start of their collegiate academic career. Plebes learn discipline in the six-week stretch, as they are to go without television, movies, internet or music during that time. They may only

make three phone calls during the duration of plebe summer.

His parents said that he made the decision to commit to the naval service academy completely on his own, and their belief is that the full schedule that he kept growing up will serve him well.

"He has known what he wanted to do," Chris said. "He has been coaching kids [in swimming] in this area, getting up at 6 o'clock in

the morning, and going and showing that work ethic that I think is consistent with what he's now gotten himself into.

"I think the athletics that he's been involved in, kind of the scheduling that he puts himself to, the rigor that he places upon himself, I think that those things have equipped him well."

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MARINERS

Continued from page A1

Mark Moshayed, has been significantly revised since its last presentation in April.

Among those changes are a reduction in size and a

different proposed use of the project's commercial space from a boutique auto showroom to a 5,096-square-foot office space.

Additionally, the original plans were for two buildings to be connected by a bridge between the residential and commercial to the roof deck. It is now proposed as a single structure interconnected by the W. Coast Highway lobby and the building has been elongated along W. Coast Highway and Avon Street, ac-

cording to city staff.

Another residential unit was also added, bringing the total number of units in the project to 36 with three still to be designated as affordable.

Its exterior architecture has also been updated to reflect a style similar to the Lido House Hotel on Newport Boulevard and the project now includes a 20-foot dedication along its Avon Street frontage to accommodate for the widening of that street.

City staff said the project is compliant with all applicable standards of Newport Beach's zoning code.

Also on Tuesday's agenda is the discussion of an assessment district for a roughly 50-block area in central Balboa Island for the undergrounding of overhead utilities and a study session item on council redistricting following the 2020 census.

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OPENER

Continued from page A1

bracket, and ultimately advance, in the District 62 and Section 10 tournaments.

“We can battle back like the times we did in districts and sectionals,” Huntington Valley center fielder Luke Miller said.

Huntington Valley is 9-0 in elimination games. Following the loss, the local team will be back in action on Sunday at 3 p.m. at Fountain Valley Sports Park.

“You never know with this group, to be honest with you,” Huntington Valley coach Clint Guth said. “It’s obviously going to be a lot tougher climbing out in state. There’s 10 teams here, and there’s 10 good teams.

“This is a game of inches. We hit balls right at guys today, and they had some stuff that just fell into some spots, so that’s baseball. Got to come back tomorrow.”

Miller led Huntington Valley offensively with two hits, including a bunt single in the third inning. Brendon Krans, Caden McNiven, Jonathan Vandagriff and Charlie Stubin each had one hit.

Huntington Valley had opportunities in the first two innings, but Villa Park starting pitcher Bennett Hansen was able to strand two runners in both of those frames.

“His nickname is Hollywood because the bigger the game, the bigger he pitches,” Villa Park coach Ben Hanna said.

Hansen pitched into the sixth inning, allowing six hits and striking out four.

Villa Park scored two runs in the third inning and added a pair in the fourth inning.

Second baseman Ben Hanna, who had two hits and two runs scored, hit a ground ball that got past a diving effort by shortstop Brady Guth and into center field.

Miller’s throw to third was on target, but the lead runner Dylan Malkemus was safe under the tag.

Austin Kalma dropped a



**VILLA PARK'S** Ben Hanna scores in the third inning on Saturday.

*Kevin Chang*

single into right field, one of three hits for the Villa Park third baseman, to score the first run of the game. A sacrifice fly by Owen Dunne made it 2-0.

Kalma added another run batted in the next inning on an infield single up the third-base line. He attributed his three-hit performance to practice.

“Just practicing, getting reps and swings whenever I can, and just seeing the ball really well,” Kalma said.

Villa Park coach Ben Hanna said that Villa Park Little League is one of the smaller leagues around, but his team continues to compete.

“This is only our second

appearance ever this far in the state tournament,” he said.

“Our Little League, we’re a very small Little League. We only had two major teams this year, so our team’s a collection of only 24 eligible players.”

Right fielder Ely Mason had an outfield assist, throwing out a runner at third base following a flyout in the fifth. It was one of several strong plays in the outfield by both teams.

“Our whole outfield, they have arms, so we can throw people out taking the bases,” Clint Guth said.

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THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

- ACROSS**
- 1 Dermatitis symptom
  - 5 Parody; satire
  - 10 Weather forecast
  - 14 Hamburg wife
  - 15 Fuddy-duddy
  - 16 Sheltered inlet
  - 17 Plant with fronds
  - 18 Hoodwinked
  - 20 Positive response
  - 21 Johnson & Ho
  - 22 Looks searchingly
  - 23 Give one's views
  - 25 Anger
  - 26 Pays tribute to
  - 28 Pitchfork parts
  - 31 Still whole
  - 32 Baby's utensil
  - 34 Gore & his dad
  - 36 \_-crazy; tired of confinement
  - 37 Old butter-maker
  - 38 Faucet problem
  - 39 Sizzling
  - 40 Footlocker
  - 41 Beer
  - 42 Deadly viper
  - 44 Signature certifier
  - 45 House member: abbr.
  - 46 Glossy-black bird
  - 47 Play a ukulele
  - 50 Salary
  - 51 Tit for \_
  - 54 Keeping for the future
  - 57 July birthstone
  - 58 Family tree member
  - 59 Threshold
  - 60 Actor Peter
  - 61 Butterfly catchers' needs
  - 62 Trusty mount
  - 63 ACL tear site
- DOWN**

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
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54						55	56				57			
58						59					60			
61						62					63			

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).

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

For answers to the crossword and Sudoku puzzles, see page A3.

- 1 Uncertain
  - 2 Koala's home
  - 3 U.S. state capital
  - 4 Any of Attila's men
  - 5 Silverware items
  - 6 Dried fruit
  - 7 Pitcher's joys
  - 8 Takes too much,
- for short
  - 9 Gender: abbr.
  - 10 Window covering
  - 11 Memo
  - 12 Think \_; ponder
  - 13 Marries
  - 19 Clothing protector

- 21 \_ bike; off-road cycle
  - 24 Do a bartender's job
  - 25 Common metal
  - 26 "Quiet!"
  - 27 " \_ of Old Smokey"
  - 28 White meat
  - 29 Colossal
  - 30 More devious
  - 32 Give the cold shoulder to
  - 33 Play on words
  - 35 Nimble
  - 37 Cut short
  - 38 Palm tree fruit
  - 40 Room motif
  - 41 " \_ Me Tender"
  - 43 Relies on
  - 44 Henpecked
  - 46 GE appliance
  - 47 Extend across
  - 48 \_ or false test
  - 49 Monthly expense
  - 50 Metal thread
  - 52 Competent
  - 53 Tricycle rider
  - 55 Winnebago's & others
  - 56 Nov. honoree
  - 57 Candidate killed in 1968, for short
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