

Daily Pilot

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Laguna looks to hire out trolley services

City Council members green-light plan to come to a five-year agreement with LAZ Parking when services resume in June.

BY ANDREW TURNER

Laguna Beach will be turning over its trolley service to a contractor when operations resume.

The Laguna Beach City Council unanimously approved a plan to execute an initial five-year agreement with LAZ Parking to provide drivers and dispatchers to staff the city's trolley service.

The contract could have a value of up to \$1.93 million in the first year, and over the life of the agreement, the cost could be \$10.6 million.

The city plans to resume its summer trolley service on June 25. The contractor would also provide services for the off-season weekend trolleys and a neighborhood service. City staff plan to return to council in the summer to discuss a pilot program for an on-demand residential transit service.

Michael Litschi, a deputy director of public works for the city, said in a presentation before the council on Tuesday that about 80% of the funding required for the trolley service comes from state and local grants. The rest of the funds come from the city's parking fund, predominantly accrued from public parking lots and meters.

Laguna Beach's trolley service had been using part-time employees in the city's public works department, many of whom were school bus drivers who worked on weekends and during summer breaks.

The lack of flexibility with the part-time employees led to chal-

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Susan Hoffman

PENNY'S PUP WASH groomers Lindsay Brown, left and Marylou Kaegebein, with clients.

No paws for dog groomers

Safety protocols and customer need has kept business booming despite the pandemic, owners say.

BY SUSAN HOFFMAN

Even pets need regular grooming. Just ask Karen Mahmalji, owner of TOP DOG, a "barkery," bath and boutique at Pacific City in Huntington Beach.

"By the time May and June [of 2020] came around, we were inundated with a lot of matted dogs," Mahmalji said. "The dogs also had overgrown nails and dirty ears, which are all bad for dogs' health."

Pacific City had become a ghost town during the initial March and April shutdown of the coronavirus pandemic, and TOP DOG was the only store open. Mahmalji said business tanked during those two months. "We never closed a single day," she said. "We can claim a little bit of good fortune being able to stay open. Since we sell specialty dog food we are considered essential."

With the grooming service part of the store,

customers who happened to bring their dogs along to pick up food could easily hand them off in a safe environment.

Standard deep-cleaning protocols, masks and hand sanitizer helped prevent TOP DOG from having issues with COVID-19. Neither of the two groomers or four salespeople got sick, Mahmalji explained. "Groomers are probably the cleanest people with their hands constantly in soap and water," she said. "It's an extremely clean profession — groomers are washing dogs 40 times a day, 20 minutes at a time."

The first shutdown also affected Savanna Fluter, who three years ago started Grooming for Good, a mobile pet grooming service that serves Newport Beach and Costa Mesa and donates 10% of its grooming fees to a different local rescue facility each month.

Though she had to cancel appointments and put everything on hold during the first month or so of the pandemic, business has increased since then, Fluter explained. "We've had a crazy influx of calls during the pandemic

See **Groomers**, page A2



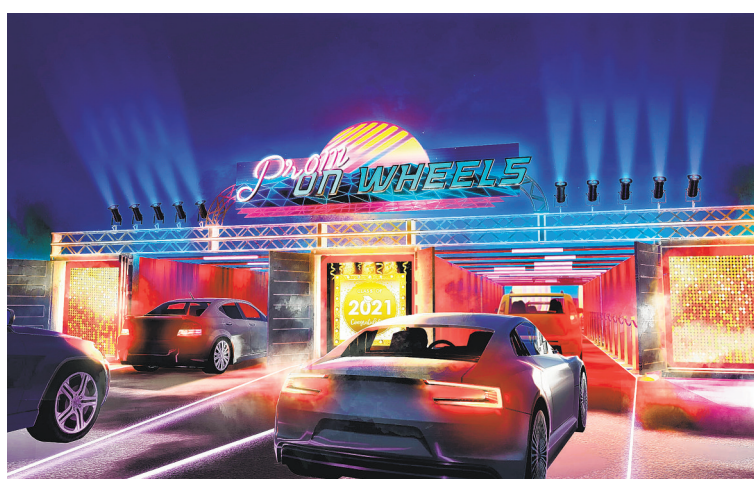
Susan Hoffman

SAVANNA FLUTER, owner of Grooming for Good, at work trimming one of her dog clients in her mobile grooming van.



Courtesy of TOP DOG

KAREN MAHMALJI, owner of TOP DOG, plays with some of her dog customers.



Courtesy of First Class Events

A RENDERING of Prom on Wheels, a drive-through prom developed by Newport Beach event planner Hollie Keeton for O.C. fairgrounds. Keeton recently canceled the event, when coronavirus cases began to ebb.

Prom on Wheels at fairgrounds canceled as in-person proms poised for comeback

BY SARA CARDINE

If there's anything Hollie Keeton has learned in 25 years of pulling off large-scale productions as owner of Newport Beach's First Class Events, it's that the show must go on.

That lesson was driven home last spring, when the coronavirus pandemic began dropping atomic bombs on even the best laid plans. Keeton was organizing 50 different high school proms when she began to see the writing on the wall.

"Every single one of them can-

celed," the Newport Beach resident recalled. "I, like everybody, was completely in the spin cycle — I had no idea what to."

Her first instinct was to postpone the events to later in the year. But as the pandemic wore on, and plans for 30 winter formal dances were dashed, Keeton knew she would have to rettool.

She'd noticed the proliferation of drive-through experiences, saw how they allowed people to celebrate in a safe and distanced manner. So, she attended all the drive-through events she could muster, taking notes on what

worked and what didn't, so she could craft a version for her own clientele.

The result was Prom on Wheels, an O.C. fairgrounds extravaganza that would let teens motor through a 1-mile wonderland, from a glowing red carpet light tunnel to five themed prom zones, complete with life-sized props, stages and special effects.

"I figured if I could take the key elements of what's important for a prom and put it into a drive-through format...it could be the

See **Proms**, page A5

Julie Perlin Lee named Laguna Art Museum executive director

BY ANDREW TURNER

The Laguna Art Museum has chosen Julie Perlin Lee as its next executive director.

A national search to fill the position was conducted by the museum following the retirement of Malcolm Warner, who served in the role from January 2012 through December of last year.

"I got excited because I could see that there was a board unified in their vision to increase the recognition and visibility of the museum," Lee said of joining the Laguna Art Museum. "Having that sort of energy in a board was exciting for me."

For Lee, 43, who will be heading the Laguna Art Museum after being at the Catalina Island Museum since 2016, it will be a homecoming of sorts, as much of her life has been spent in Orange County.

She earned a bachelor's degree in art history, a master's degree of fine arts in exhibition design and

a certificate in museum studies from Cal State Fullerton. In her youth, Lee said she also attended Kaiser Elementary School in Costa Mesa. Her local ties also include a stint as a student at Orange Coast College.

In her schooling, Lee studied a wide range of art history in the Americas.

"I really was captivated by the Mexican muralist movement, and I had a fabulous class in 20th century Latin American Art," Lee said. "I really fell in love with just learning more about how the arts were developing concurrently in the other side of the Americas, along with us."

Earlier in Lee's career she worked at the Bowers Museum in Santa Ana as the vice president of collections and exhibition development.

While there from 2008 to 2016, she contributed to multiple publications and scholarly articles, including *A Legacy of Bounty: Paintings from the Bowers Museum* and *Traditions and Transitions: Tribal Art from North America*.

So where did Lee discover her passion for art and museum work? That moment has always been clear to her.

"I have a very specific moment," Lee said. "I was very fortunate, and I still am very fortunate that I have a grandmother who I am very close to, and when I was a young teen, she took me traveling as a gift for graduating junior high."

"We went to the East Coast, and as soon as we went into those Smithsonian museums, I think even the National Gallery of Art in particular, I had just this profound moment, like, 'This is what I'm going to do. This is where I want to be, and this is what I want around me my whole life.'"

As for her goals for the museum, Lee said she would like to

See **Lee**, page A5



LAGUNA ART MUSEUM selected Julie Perlin Lee to succeed Malcolm Warner as its executive director.

Courtesy of David Michael Lee



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forum

A WORD, PLEASE
JUNE CASAGRANDE

Shining a light on tricky past tenses

No matter how long you've been speaking English, no matter how hard you've worked to perfect your grammar, some past tense verbs can stump you.

For example, the day after you decide to grin and bear it, would you say "I grinned and bore it?" Beared? Borne?

That shiny car you saw yesterday, would you say it shined as it drove by? Or it shone? Would you say you weaved baskets or that you wove them?

The questions are frightening, but luckily the answers aren't far out of reach. Dictionaries list past-tense and past participle forms for every irregular verb. So you can always look them up — if you know how.

Here are four verbs with tricky past tenses.

Bear. When your verb has homonyms, its dictionary entry can feel like a maze. When you look up "bear," for example, you have to skim past all the entries for the animal before you see "bear, verb." Under that verb entry you'll see "bore / borne also born / bearing." This is how dictionaries list past forms for irregular verbs: first the simple past tense, then the past participle, then the progressive participle. That past participle is the one that goes with "have," "has" or "had." The progressive participle is the "ing" form. Sometimes you'll see multiple options listed, which means you can choose. So now you can see that yesterday you grinned and bore it. In the past, you have grinned and borne it. If you prefer, you can even say you have grinned and born it.

Bare. Skim past the adjective form of "bare" in your dictionary and at the verb entry you'll see just "bared; baring." There's no past participle — just the simple past tense and the progressive participle. This is the dictionary's way of telling you that the simple past tense and the past participle are the same. So you would say, "Yesterday, I bared my soul" and "In the past, I have bared my soul."

Shine. Some verbs are

both transitive and intransitive. Transitive means they take an object: "I'll shine a light on this subject." Intransitive means no object: "That high-gloss paint really shines." At the entry for "shine," Merriam-Webster's says the simple past tense can be "shone" or "shined."

Both are fine. The past participle can also be "shone" or "shined." But you have to skim down to the definition for the transitive verb to see this note: "past tense and past participle: shined." That means "shined" is the only option when your verb takes an object: Yesterday you shined a light on something. In the past you have shined a light. But if your verb doesn't take an object, you have two options: The car's paint job shone or shined. In the past, the car's paint job has shone or shined.

Weave. This verb also has both transitive and intransitive forms, but there's no note saying their past tenses are different. So just use the past tense forms listed right after the entry word: "wove or weaved; woven or weaved." That first pair shows your options for the simple past tense. Yesterday I wove a basket. Yesterday I weaved a basket. Yesterday my car wove in traffic. Yesterday my car weaved in traffic.

Those are all fine. For the past participle, you could use "have woven" or "have weaved." But there's one catch. Merriam's has a second definition for "weave." It's an intransitive verb meaning "to move waveringly from side to side; sway."

Personally, I don't see how swaying is so different from the zigzagging your car does when it weaves, so it's hard to understand why this "weave" has a separate dictionary entry. But for the record, that "weave" has only one option for the past tense or past participle. In every instance, it's "weaved."

JUNE CASAGRANDE is the author of "The Joy of Syntax: A Simple Guide to All the Grammar You Know You Should Know."

COMMENTARY | TYLER MATEEN

Proposed signs part of revitalization

The pandemic has taken a devastating toll on many businesses locally and throughout the country. As coronavirus cases continue to drop, vaccinations increase and businesses slowly begin to reopen, it is more crucial than ever that we support local businesses that have suffered a year of economic setbacks.

At Triangle Square, we are committed to supporting our tenants and helping attract new businesses to the area. We also plan to refresh and revitalize the center and in turn the heart of downtown Costa Mesa.

However, the center lost a significant business, Keys on Main, which was a casualty of the prolonged shutdown and now leaves the community with fewer entertainment options. Additional closures may be coming, underscoring how much local businesses need our support.

We need to work together as business owners, the community and the city to support local restaurants, shops and services so we can help those who have been heavily impacted by the pandemic. Coming together as a community is what will help bolster businesses, bring back jobs and encourage new businesses to come to Costa Mesa.

Part of the revitalization plan at Triangle Square is a proposed digital signage plan that went to the city Planning Commission a year ago, with community



Courtesy of Selbert Perkins Design

A RENDERING shows an LED billboard proposed for the dome at Triangle Square in Costa Mesa.

outreach to local residents beginning prior to that. It is more critical now than ever that we support our tenants and other local businesses on the economic road to recovery from the pandemic.

We plan to reestablish Triangle Square as Costa Mesa's premier dining and entertainment destination and our existing as well as potential tenants have all expressed an overwhelming interest and support for the signage program.

Before the proposal went to the Planning Commission last year, in-depth research and rigorous studies were performed, and Caltrans had already approved the plan, deeming that it would have no safety impact on traffic.

Triangle Square's lighting consultant, Long Beach-based Lighting Design Alliance, took steps to ensure the safety of Costa Mesa commuters by

proposing a lower foot candle — or brightness — than what is allowed by the city.

The signage will be no brighter than adjacent traffic signals or ambient lighting in nearby neighborhoods from streetlamps and residential lighting. The signage would be dimmed to alleviate any safety concerns in inclement weather, such as fog.

The proposed signage uses the latest digital technology to ensure a smooth and subtle transition from static image to static image, meaning the images are not moving, blinking or animated. To provide further safety precautions, Triangle Square has proposed lengthening the transition period from image to image from the legally allowed eight seconds to 20 seconds, more than doubling the allowed time an image can change.

In response to communi-

ty concerns about the size and height of the signage, Los Angeles-based design firm Selbert Perkins has lowered the placement of the proposed signage on the dome at Newport Boulevard and 19th Street. In addition, the size has been reduced by half the size of the existing banner, lessening the visibility from nearby homes.

We want to reassure the community that per the development agreement there are strict guidelines for advertising, prohibiting cannabis, vape, adult businesses or other inappropriate advertising.

Our team meticulously researched, designed and presented to the city a safe and state-of-the-art digital signage plan that provides safety measures well above and beyond allowable guidelines for brightness, transition and display length of images.

It is more critical now than ever before that we support local businesses as they recover from the pandemic, and that we come together as a community to help our local economy by stabilizing businesses, providing more jobs and drawing new businesses to Costa Mesa.

Questions about this proposed improvement to Triangle Square can be sent to hello@triangle-square.community.

TYLER MATEEN is a principal with Cannon Commercial, which owns Triangle Square.

MAILBAG

Triangle Square doesn't deserve exemption

I'm responding to the commentary about the Triangle Square LED billboard sign proposal (above). Reading owner Tyler Mateen's commentary, I feel he hasn't heard the concerns of Costa Mesa residents and businesses.

He never addressed the current traffic flow issues and safety concerns brought on by the distraction of flashing signs.

The sign proposal would allow the mall to bypass a city ordinance prohibiting such displays. Asking for an exception was arrogant and is one-sided in the mall's favor, along with the proposal to not pay the city for three years, craft a 60-plus-year agreement (longer than a mortgage and most marriages) and allow third-party advertising that will only hurt the tenants there and confuse drivers.

Mateen's defense for proposing LED billboard lighting is we need to help other businesses right now. He is giving an answer to the wrong question being asked.

What has Triangle Square done in the recent past to work with and help businesses in Costa Mesa? What is Mateen's marketing plan and budget beyond donating to political campaigns to try to allow this exception? And offering the city a commission from third-party advertising? The mall's website is archaic (old postings) and not kept

updated. Retail has changed, and Las Vegas/L.A.-style video signage is not going to resurrect the mall. He needs a new marketing plan.

Dale Luther
Costa Mesa

Since about 2010, several owners of Triangle Square have tried to convince Costa Mesa officials that electronic billboards would somehow boost patronage of that shopping center. On Monday the Planning Commission will once again hold a hearing on the monster that keeps rearing its ugly head.

This time the owner is trying to sell the city on a proposal that is supposed to compensate us for the installation of three LED eyesores, which will distract drivers at this location. The intersection of 19th Street and the 55 freeway is one of the busiest in the city and also the most dangerous.

The current draft of the development agreement is one-sided toward the owner of Triangle Square. It does not identify a community benefit, such as a park, fire station, library or other improvement which is typically found in these agreements.

There is a proposal for the owner to pay for the privilege of blighting Costa Mesa, but there is no guarantee the city will ever see much money, as payment

will begin one year after the date the sign ordinance is changed to allow the billboards. Then, the city will receive \$150,000 per year for 30 years.

Also included in the tease is a chance the city will get additional funds, but those will only be paid when the owner crosses a threshold of \$1 million in net income in an "operating year." However, there is no guaranty that the city will receive those funds because if the owner decides not to operate continuously for 12 months, that will not constitute an "operating year."

The proposal also includes 20 seconds of free advertising per billboard every five weeks for the city. This offer by the owner is practically worthless and is a poor way for it to treat its partner (the city) in this venture.

Since the billboards would be in violation of the city's current sign ordinance, the Planning Commission must grant the owner an exemption. That entitlement is worth millions and it will increase the asking price for property when it hits the market.

Meanwhile, the city gets a meager \$150,000 per year plus 10% of revenue over \$1 million as payment for turning our downtown into Las Vegas.

This is a bad business deal for the city. Please contact your district planning commissioner and vote "No!"

Cynthia McDonald
Costa Mesa

Bicyclist's death raises questions

Traffic problems continue to plague Newport Beach, particularly in the Newport Heights area where drivers often exceed the speed limit. They whiz by stop signs as if they weren't there.

Last week we lost one of our own, Ernest Adams, who was riding his bike near Newport Harbor High in broad daylight on March 28 when he was struck by a suspected DUI driver. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to his wife, Lynda Adams, and his family who have been active community members for decades. Neighbors

would often see Lynda and Ernie enjoying the front yard in their Newport Heights' home.

You can walk down Riverside Drive to Pacific Coast Highway any day of the week and witness the often excessive speed of the passing cars. Drivers reluctantly only slow down or stop for the crosswalk if you are an assertive pedestrian. Because there are few sidewalks in the area, which hosts two community schools, pedestrians often have to walk on the side of the street, making popular thoroughfares particularly dangerous for them as well as cyclists. This already critical situation threatens to get a lot worse with the new developments being planned for Mariners Mile. Walking on streets without sidewalks, next to traffic driving at excessive speeds is already a daunting experience, unsuitable for a residential community. It is a problem that should be resolved before proposed redevelopment in that area receives the "green light" to proceed. Solutions for traffic problems now and in the future definitely need to be met with transparency.

Lynn Lorenz
Newport Beach

Embracing the diversity of people and pies

When I moved to Newport Beach from L.A. in 1976, I remember noticing that almost everyone had blond hair and blue eyes. It was extraordinary, having moved from a city with more diversity than most. It didn't take me long to realize that there was something amiss here in this coastal paradise.

My first boyfriend, a blond surfer, told me that he "didn't like Black people" because his uncle had been killed by a Black man. A girlfriend told me that she didn't like to eat Mexican food because she "didn't like Mexicans." There was a large group of evangelical Christians pulling lonely teenagers like myself into their Saturday evening rock concerts at Calvary Chapel, every evening ending in an altar call for conversions. I

See **Mailbag**, page A5

Judith Lynn Pierpoint

August 10, 1941 - February 2, 2021

Judith Lynn Pierpoint of Huntington Beach, CA left this world on Tuesday, February 2, 2021. Born in Los Angeles, CA on August 10, 1941 to Edward and Catherine Mondon, Judy leaves behind her sisters, Janet Friedrich and Susan Mondon, as well as her niece and nephew, Molly Schiessl and Edward Schiessl and two grand-nephews and a grand-niece.

Judy attended University of Colorado and had a long career in purchasing. She was an effortlessly elegant decorator and a generous host. Her home was always open to friends, family and travelers from around the world. Judy was a devoted sister, aunt and great-aunt. She loved animals, the beach, travel, gardening, reading, crosswords, cooking, needlepoint, applique and quilting. Judy was gracious, generous and witty to the end, a great conversationalist and was always ready and willing to help any person or creature in need.



Geraldine Jane Briggs (Glover)

April 18, 1936 - March 27, 2021

Geraldine "Geri" Briggs died peacefully in her home, surrounded by loved ones. She fought valiantly against cancer, determined to see her first great-grandchild and the marriage of one her grandchildren. An Orange County native, Geri was born and raised in Anaheim and lived most of her life in Newport Beach and Emerald Bay, Laguna Beach. Geri was a graduate of Anaheim High School, Occidental College and the University of Redlands.

A devoted scholar and educator, Geri earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in education and taught for over 30 years in the Newport Mesa USD, known as both Mrs. Weddington and Mrs. Briggs. Even after retiring, she continued donating her time by volunteering in the classrooms of all her 10 grandchildren.

Geri was happiest hosting dinners for family, playing tennis and bridge, or getting together with her girlfriends. 'Le Girls.' Geri was best known for her kind heart, generosity, warmth toward newcomers and neighbors, frankness and honesty, and her signature martini in hand at happy hour.

Geri is survived by her sister Gretchen Lee (Preston Lee), her daughter, Jane Weddington Flagg, ten grandchildren and her first great-child, Milo Weddington Curtis.

Geri's life was honored and celebrated privately by her family in her home.

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MAILBAG

Continued from page A4

don't recall ever seeing a single person of color at these events.

Something started to slowly shift though, over the last 40-plus years. Latino and Asian people together now make up the majority in previously white Orange County, and mosques and temples have

sprouted up alongside the evangelical chapels.

Personally, I love it. I welcome it. I know I am not alone; I have found true friendship and camaraderie among like-minded people in the Newport Beach Women's Democratic Club. We all agree there is nothing more beautiful and more interesting than the diversity of humanity, and we stand against hate and for our

communities of color.

As a white woman, I try hard to understand what's going on in a racist's mind: It must be an attitude of scarcity. I would invite my white brothers and sisters to rethink your attitude of scarcity and create a new mindset of abundance. We are not sharing a single pie, we are baking a multitude of different kinds of pies — together. There will always be a variety and there will always be enough.

When I saw KKK fliers distributed in Newport and Huntington Beach last week, and the anticipated "White Lives Matter" rally this weekend, I felt physically ill. How, why are we being dragged back to the 1920s when the KKK found a welcome home here? How do those of us who embrace diversity, who oppose all hate and racism, respond appropriately?

With love and compassion. What else can we do? We cannot fight fire with fire. We need to extinguish the flames of hatred with the cooling waters of love.

There is a counter-protest planned this weekend. I plan on being there. Maybe I'll even bring some pies — peach pies, blackberry pies, apple pies, pecan pies, cherry pies. Because diversity is a beautiful thing. And pies are good.

Laura Oatman

President, Newport Beach Women's Democratic Club

PROMS

Continued from page A1

most epic experience ever," Keeton said.

A certain school could block out some time, so students could celebrate with teachers and administrators as photos and videos of classmates were projected on walls along the way.

Keeton described Prom on Wheels' grand finale, a huge Coachella-like staging area where students could watch as their school's prom court and royalty were presented. Hearing the pitch, 10 schools booked dates for the O.C. fairgrounds fete, running April 15 through June 5.

In a global pandemic, however, there are no guarantees. And so, just as quickly as the rising tide of coronavirus had scuttled Keeton's earlier plans, its rapid ebbing began to spell disaster for Prom on Wheels.

"I started this project right after Christmas. I didn't think we were going to have in-person events in the next three months," Keeton said. "But there was an announcement we were looking to be moved into the orange (reopening) tier. Once that announcement was made, everything changed."

Schools began backing out as the prospect of in-person proms became conceivable. Meanwhile, the O.C. fairgrounds began preparing for the March 31 debut of a new county-run COVID-19 vaccination super site that might edge out Prom on Wheels.

At the start of the month, Keeton made the difficult decision to cancel Prom on Wheels — but she still had an ace up her sleeve.

She'd simultaneously been developing a traveling "Senior Spectacular" event, outdoor celebrations for schools wanting to host their own socially distanced, on-campus senior soirees.

Like Prom on Wheels, the smaller productions would resemble a nighttime carnival, with LED lights and themed zones. Students could dance to live music on tiny, distanced platforms, play games and go on rides without interacting too closely.

"You still get the dancing, you get the deejay, you see all your friends and get all the activities," the event planner said.

The mother of a Newport Harbor High School junior and an Ensign Intermediate School seventh-grader, Keeton is now reaching out to schools looking for outdoor party

options.

Newport-Mesa Unified School District officials announced last week they would hold in-person graduations and promotions for most secondary schools, barring a shift in virus trends. On Tuesday, the district approved returning middle- and high-schoolers to full-day instruction for four days per week, starting April 26.

While no word has been issued on proms and other senior activities, district spokeswoman Annette Franco said Friday site administrators were putting their heads together.

"We have guidance for outdoor events, so I think every school is trying to figure out how to apply that," she added. "Some schools are in talks right now about modified, in-person proms, but I don't know that anyone has gotten into the planning yet."

For anyone in need of a safe, fun alternative for seniors, First Class Events will be there.

"It's been such a labor of love," Keeton said of her year of planning, pivoting and reinventing. "In a lot of ways, it's a love for my business, but also for the communities I serve who have been so good to me."

sara.cardine@latimes.com
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CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Walk-off TD lifts Edison over CdM in fifth OT

BY ANDREW TURNER

From the snap, PJ Campbell darted to the back of the end zone.

Once the senior wide receiver from Edison High School wrapped both hands around the ball, the rest of the Chargers made their way over.

Campbell's 25-yard touchdown reception from Braeden Boyles on the first play of Edison's possession in the fifth overtime ended a thriller, as the Chargers walked away with a 44-41 win over Corona del Mar in an unforgettable Sunset League football game at Huntington Beach High School.

"It was a crazy game," Campbell said. "Words can't even explain the atmosphere that was going on after that last play. It was hard-fought defense, hard-fought offense. We just came out on top, and it was awesome."

The overtime sessions had a little bit of everything. Corona del Mar (3-2, 2-2 in

league) got the ball first, and sophomore quarterback David Rasor used his legs to get the go-ahead score, making it 28-21.

Edison (4-1, 3-1) found itself on life support on the next possession. Backed up at the CdM 12 on a fourth-down play, Chargers coach Jeff Grady drew up a fade to the end zone for Tyler Hampton.

Boyles got the pass away to his left, and the 6-foot-4 junior went up and got it for the game-tying touchdown.

"I knew we had a little bit to go, and we needed a big play," Hampton said. "They said they were going to throw it up to me, and I just knew I had to go up there and get it, be the only one to come down with it."

Hampton's teammates thoroughly enjoyed the highlight-reel-worthy catch. Edison offensive lineman Ryan Easterday, the left tackle, indicated he felt the play could be on the ESPN segment, "You Got Mossed."

"I have never played a



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

EDISON HIGH quarterback Braeden Boyles is surrounded by teammates after scoring a rushing touchdown in the third quarter against Corona del Mar on Friday night.

game like that ever," Easterday said. "That was five overtimes of just grit and sweat and blood, and that was the best game I ever played."

"Hats off to CdM. They're an amazing team. It feels great to get revenge on them from last year."

CONTACT US

To report scores of high school and college games, or other newsworthy items from youth to pro sports, contact the Daily Pilot sports staff.

Matt Szabo, Sports Reporter
(714) 966-4614, mattbew.szabo@latimes.com
Andrew Turner, Sports Reporter
(714) 966-4611, andrew.turner@latimes.com

O.V. earns its first outright league crown

BY MATT SZABO

Ocean View High School senior Connor Marsh can laugh about the one "B" grade he's gotten in high school so far.

It came his sophomore year, in Advanced Placement World History.

"I worked really hard in high school to succeed as much as I could," said Marsh, whose 4.66 cumulative grade-point average has him tied for second in Ocean View's senior class of 2021.

Marsh had a big Friday.

First he found out that he was accepted to his dream school of Stanford University. Then later, he and the 16 other seniors on the Seahawks' football team laced up their cleats for the final Pac 4 League football game of their careers.

Ocean View had to work for it, but earned a 14-13 home victory over rival Westminster, clinching the first outright league title in program history. Ocean View shared league titles in 1989 and 2018.

The Seahawks (3-2, 2-0 in league) won the "Battle of the Bugle" game over the Lions (0-4, 0-1) for the third straight year. In doing so, they finished out the short



Raul Roa | Staff Photographer

OCEAN VIEW'S Connor March runs the ball in Friday's game against Westminster in Huntington Beach.

league campaign undefeated. The Pac 4 League has just three teams this spring, as Godinez opted not to play.

"This group's special, in the sense that I don't think anyone has ever spent as much time with their seniors, ever," Ocean View coach Luis Nuñez said. "Our seniors usually are gone in November. We've held onto them, and we're here in April. It's a special group, man."

Marsh didn't play much until this year, but he has made the most of his opportunity. This was his second straight game with both a long touchdown run and an interception at outside linebacker on defense.

He also played a big role in Ocean View's 28-21 comeback win at Laguna Beach last week in its league opener, with an 80-yard touchdown run along with a flea-flicker touchdown pass from Michael Da Rosa in the final minute to complete the comeback.

On Friday night, he added

an 87-yard touchdown run.

Marcus Cianca's 54-yard scamper for a score in the second quarter also helped the Seahawks earn a 14-0 halftime lead.

But Westminster, which blanked the hosts in the second half, would not go away.

Westminster's Tadan Smith reached for the end zone and scored on a four-yard touchdown run midway through the third quarter. The visitors then looked to draw even in the fourth quarter, after quarterback Isaac Amosa took things into his own hands on a 25-yard touchdown run with 5:28 left in the fourth quarter.

An Ocean View penalty on the extra-point attempt brought the ball closer to the end zone, and the Lions elected to go for two. Isaiah Perez ran right, but he was swallowed up by the Ocean View defense before he could give Westminster its first lead.

dailypilot@latimes.com
Twitter: @DailyPilotSport

Estancia gets past Laguna to halt streak

BY ANTHONY CIARDELLI

Senior night is a special night for any high school athlete, but for the Estancia High School football team and its seniors, it is a night they will remember for more than one reason.

Estancia defeated Laguna Beach 28-10 Friday at Jim Scott Stadium for its second victory of the season and its first against the Breakers since 2015.

"They've had our number for a while," Estancia head coach Mike Bargas said. "We are blessed. I was telling the kids it's been nine months to get to this point. We are so fortunate to get out here and get the win. These guys played with confidence tonight. I'm really happy for the seniors. It could've been nothing, but here we are on the football field."

Appropriately on senior night, an Estancia senior stole the show.

Senior running back Lucas Pacheco ran for 301 yards and three touchdowns on 31 carries for Estancia. The Eagles (2-3) ran only a handful of plays in which Pacheco didn't touch the ball.

"It feels amazing,"



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

ESTANCIA'S LUCAS PACHECO breaks through the defense for a big gain against Ocean View on March 12.

Pacheco said. "I wish we could play like this every night. We just had a fire built up from the last couple games."

Pacheco wasn't the only senior to contribute for Estancia. Luke Hutchinson, a wide receiver turned quarterback, completed a touchdown pass to sophomore receiver Oswaldo Sanchez in the winning effort. Hutchinson completed six of nine passes for 11 yards, three of which came on his second-quarter connection with Sanchez that gave the Eagles a lead they wouldn't surrender.

"Our whole team came to perform today," Hutchinson said. "I stepped up and I knew all the pass plays already. I knew my receivers and timing, so I knew what I could get done and we got it down tonight."

Hutchinson, Sanchez and Dion Kerkhoff also contributed on the defensive side of the ball. Each added key interceptions,

Hutchinson's in the end zone, to thwart Laguna Beach.

Laguna Beach (1-3) relied heavily on quarterback Will Bingham, who completed 22 of 40 passing attempts for 209 yards but threw three interceptions.

Senior running back Jackson Golden had the only Laguna Beach touchdown, an 86-yard kickoff return.

Despite the loss and a difficult season for Laguna Beach, Golden has valued the chance to play games in his senior season.

"It was absolutely huge when I heard the news that we would play," he said. "Just one game would've made my year, the fact that we had five, win or lose, the fact that you get to play is amazing. I'm thankful for that every day."

Estancia wraps up its season Friday against Costa Mesa, while Laguna Beach finishes at Westminster.

dailypilot@latimes.com
Twitter: @DailyPilotSport

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