

Daily Pilot

THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2024 /// dailypilot.com

ELECTION 2024



Photos by James Carbone

A VOTER DROPS his ballot into the official drop box on Super Tuesday outside Huntington Beach City Hall.

Early returns in H.B. buoy council majority

Charter amendment measures regarding voter ID and city's flag policy remain in front, with third measure facing narrow defeat. Protect HB vows continued fight.

BY MATT SZABO

Voter identification requirements, a hot topic in Huntington Beach, could be coming to the coastal community as soon as 2026.

Measure A continued to garner "yes" votes in an update provided Wednesday night by the Orange County Registrar of Voters, as did Measure B, while Measure C continued to trail behind.

Huntington Beach Mayor Gracey Van Der Mark, who endorsed each of the measures along with her conservative majority City Council colleagues, expressed confidence Wednesday that voter support for Measures A and B would hold.

"A lot of the people I spoke to are pretty passionate about it," she said. "You feel very strongly, either one way or another. That got people to come to vote, whether they were in support or against. I'm just glad that the community's involved, and we gave them the option. It wasn't just seven council members one way or another. We gave the community the opportunity to voice how they



VOTERS CAST their votes on Tuesday inside Huntington Beach City Hall.

feel, and they made their voices heard at the ballot box."

In the most recent count, Measure A led 20,774 votes to 17,634 (54.1% to 45.9%), while Measure B led 22,337 to 16,064 (58.2%

to 41.8%). There were 19,864 votes against Measure C, and 17,905 in favor (52.6% to 47.4%).

See **Returns**, page A4

ELECTION 2024

Surf City voters weigh in on charter changes

Steel, Baugh, Dixon and Petrie-Norris lead respective races as O.C. Registrar of Voters Office tallies ballots.

BY LILLY NGUYEN

Early results indicate Huntington Beach voters approving two of three controversial measures floated in Huntington Beach on Super Tuesday, according to figures released Wednesday evening by the Orange County Registrar of Voters Office.

As of 5 p.m. Wednesday, 38,000 Huntington Beach votes had been tabulated. Measure A, which would require voter identification at the polls, appeared to be losing when the first wave of results was announced just after 8 p.m. Tuesday, but the tide turned later that night to about 54.2% votes in favor of the measure. By Wednesday evening that lead had dropped slightly to 54.1%.

Voters also appeared to be siding with the conservative majority of the City Council on Measure B, which would codify the city's flag ordinance into its charter, limiting the flying of flags on city property to government, U.S. military and POW/MIA flags, as well as the Olympic flag, and requiring unanimous City Council approval for the flying of any new flags. The measure maintained its early lead, growing from an initially reported 51.3% to 58.2% by Wednesday evening.

As of the latest numbers, about 52.6% of the voters had rejected Measure C, which would transition the city into a two-year budget cycle, update the processes to fill a council vacancy and allow the mayor to unilaterally cancel a meeting.

Discussion and debate over the much-contested measures have gone on for months as conservatives have argued for the necessity of the changes to the city's charter, partially to instill confidence in election results. Opponents of the ballot measures say they are

See **Voters**, page A5

Rideshare driver is suspect in fatal hit-and-run

A 47-year-old pedestrian was killed on Newport Boulevard early Sunday, and police say the driver, 43, fled the scene.

BY SARA CARDINE

Costa Mesa police on Tuesday arrested a 43-year-old rideshare driver who allegedly fled the scene after striking a female pedestrian walking near the intersection of Harbor and Newport boulevards early Sunday morning, causing a fatal injury.

Officers were called to the scene shortly before 12:30 a.m. Sunday, where they found a 47-year-old woman lying in a south-bound lane of Newport Boulevard, just south of Broadway Street, according to Costa Mesa Police Department spokeswoman

See **Suspect**, page A5



AMONG THE top women cyclists in Sunday's Taylor Elizabeth Clifford Memorial Grand Prix in Costa Mesa was former pro rider Laurel Rathburn, a San Diego resident who retired from the sport in 2018 at age 23.

Michael Khoe
Islandcyclist
Photography

Cyclists pedal to support memorial grand prix

BY SARA CARDINE

Hundreds of cycling enthusiasts and professional athletes pedaled to Costa Mesa Sunday for the Taylor Elizabeth Clifford Memorial Grand Prix, a daylong opportunity for riders to compete, rise up in the rankings and ride off with cash prizes.

Organized by Upland-based

Majestic Cycling, the 1.1-mile closed-circuit course featured a finish line near the intersection of Harbor Boulevard and Sunflower Avenue that transported more than 400 riders along nearby Cadillac, Scenic and Hyland avenues, temporarily closed to car traffic throughout the event.

Majestic owner Alfie Sanchez,

who organizes various races throughout California, said Sunday's event hearkened back to a similar grand prix cycling race held on the exact same streets in 1990.

"We actually started this back in November, trying to get everything together, chipping away at the permits," he said of the planning effort. "The city was very

supportive and excited to have something like what we're doing."

Sanchez explained the grand prix was named for the daughter of a dear friend in the cycling community, a Huntington Beach teen who died from an overdose the morning of March 2, 2005.

See **Cyclists**, page A4

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THU, MAR 7 THE BODEANS
 FRI, MAR 8 THE TUBES
 THU, MAR 14 COLIN JAMES
 FRI, MAR 15 THE FENIANS

- 3/7 THE BODEANS
- 3/8 THE TUBES
- 3/9 SUPER DIAMOND (NEIL DIAMOND TRIBUTE)
- 3/10 DOUG STARKS HIMSELF (MUSIC AND COMEDY)
- 3/13 REVEREND HORTON HEAT
- 3/14 COLIN JAMES
- 3/15 THE FENIANS ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION
- 3/16 ARMAGEDDON (DEF LEPPARD TRIBUTE) / MOTLEY 2 (MOTLEY CRUE TRIBUTE)
- 3/17 ROD THE MOD (ROD STEWART TRIBUTE) AND FRAMPTON COMES ALIVE (PETER FRAMPTON TRIBUTE)
- 3/21 X
- 3/22 X
- 3/23 THE HIGHWAYMAN SHOW (CASH, NELSON, JENNINGS, KRISTOFFERSON TRIBUTE)
- 3/24 NELSON
- 3/28 HERMAN'S HERMITS STARRING PETER NOONE
- 3/29 HERMAN'S HERMITS STARRING PETER NOONE
- 3/30 WAYNE NEWTON
- 3/31 LYNCH MOB - THE FINAL RIDE
- 4/4 THE KINGSTON TRIO
- 4/5 ULI JON ROTH - INTERSTELLAR SKY GUITAR TOUR
- 4/6 RONSTADT REVIVAL (LINDA RONSTADT TRIBUTE)
- 4/7 CINDERELLA'S TOM KEIFER
- 4/8 GILBERT O'SULLIVAN
- 4/10 JOAN OSBORNE ACOUSTIC TRIO
- 4/11 JIMMIE VAUGHAN
- 4/12 ROGER CLYNE & THE PEACEMAKERS
- 4/13 TINSLEY ELLIS
- 4/14 THE FABULOUS THUNDERBIRDS
- 4/18 SPONGE
- 4/19 RICHIE FURAY
- 4/20 GEOFF TATE
- 4/21 VONDA SHEPARD / JACK TEMPCHIN
- 4/25 ISRAEL VIBRATION & ROOTS RADICS
- 4/26 FIVE FOR FIGHTING WITH STRING QUARTET
- 4/27 KIDS OF CHARLEMAGNE (STEELY DAN TRIBUTE)
- 4/28 BOB ANDERSON (FRANK SINATRA TRIBUTE)
- 5/4 STEVE TYRELL



MAR 21 & 22 X
 SUN, MAR 24 NELSON
 MAR 28 & 29 HERMAN'S HERMITS
 SAT, MAR 30 WAYNE NEWTON

- 5/5 OINGO BOINGO FORMER MEMBERS
- 5/7 BLUES TRAVELER
- 5/8 JUDY COLLINS
- 5/9 CALIFORNIA GUITAR TRIO
- 5/11 PAT BOONE
- 5/15 MR BIG - THE BIG FINISH TOUR
- 5/17 JOHN CRUZ
- 5/18 VENICE
- 5/19 THE LETTERMEN
- 5/22 THE WAILERS
- 5/24 DSB (JOURNEY TRIBUTE)
- 5/26 BLACKHAWK
- 5/31 YACHTY BY NATURE
- 6/1 STEELHEART
- 6/6 HOWIE DAY
- 6/7 ROBERT JON & THE WRECK
- 6/9 GARY HOEY
- 6/14 AMBROSIA
- 6/15 CHEST FEVER (THE BAND TRIBUTE)
- 6/16 ELVIN BISHOP BIG FUN TRIO
- 6/21 DESPERADO (EAGLES TRIBUTE)
- 6/22 DESPERADO (EAGLES TRIBUTE)
- 6/27 THE BACON BROTHERS
- 6/29 SKELETON CREW (GRATEFUL DEAD TRIBUTE)
- 7/6 SHINE ON (PINK FLOYD TRIBUTE)
- 7/13 FAST TIMES - THE ULTIMATE 80s TRIBUTE!
- 7/20 Y&T 50TH ANNIVERSARY
- 7/27 BOB SCHNEIDER
- 7/28 BOBBY GRAY
- 8/3 CUBENSIS (GRATEFUL DEAD TRIBUTE)
- 8/17 PIANO MEN: GENERATIONS
- 8/31 MICK ADAMS & THE STONES (ROLLING STONES TRIBUTE)
- 9/8 AN EVENING WITH JOHN LYDON
- 9/14 JOURNEY USA (JOURNEY TRIBUTE)
- 9/15 BENISE: FIESTA!
- 9/22 JANE MONHEIT
- 9/27 DAVE MASON
- 10/3 ZEBRA w/SPECIAL GUESTS FUZZBUBBLE
- 10/18 GARY PUCKETT & THE UNION GAP



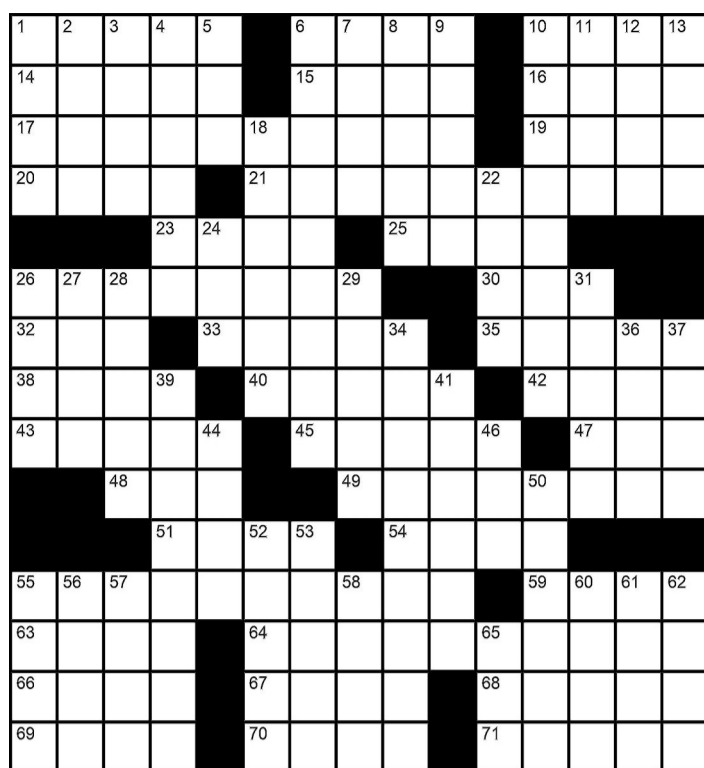
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THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

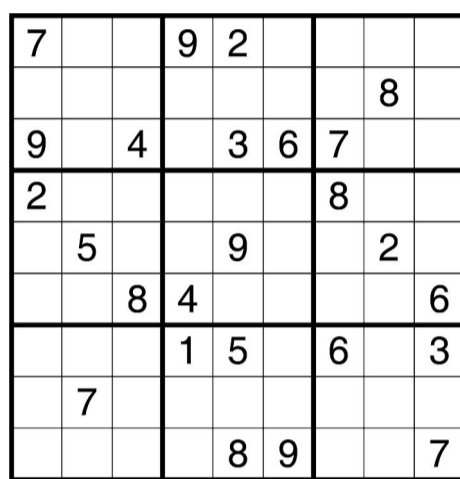
- ACROSS**
- 1 Police ID
 - 6 Radio letters
 - 10 Olympic champ Lipinski
 - 14 Big body of water
 - 15 Fertilizer chemical
 - 16 Undo
 - 17 Big name in animation: 2 wds.
 - 19 Japanese noodle type
 - 20 Takes a seat
 - 21 Cave-floor formation
 - 23 Cold one
 - 25 Football play start
 - 26 Lie motionless: 2 wds.
 - 30 Toothpaste formulation
 - 32 Not strict
 - 33 Mosaic bits
 - 35 Small porch
 - 38 Inch or foot
 - 40 Leans to one side
 - 42 Scotch and _
 - 43 Conductor Solti
 - 45 Native people of Alaska
 - 47 Sibling's nickname
 - 48 Might
 - 49 Easy to see
 - 51 Apple desktop
 - 54 Give up
 - 55 Language interpreter
 - 59 March Madness org.
 - 63 Loses light
 - 64 Lyric poet of old
 - 66 _ vera
 - 67 All tied up
 - 68 _ dish
 - 69 Annoying person
 - 70 Take a nap
 - 71 Tire feature
- DOWN**
- 1 Gift adornments
 - 2 Purple palm tree
 - 8 Senses
 - 9 Yucatan native
 - 10 Brass section members
 - 11 German auto
 - 12 Violent protest
 - 13 Diarist Frank
 - 18 Cry on finding something: 3 wds.



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.

- fruit
- 3 Upper-bod muscle
- 4 Literary Jay
- 5 Finish
- 6 Sydney's country
- 7 Tech in some vaccines
- 24 Philly summer hrs.
- 26 Socket filler
- 27 Country road
- 28 Assumed premise
- 29 Reese of "Harlem Nights"
- 31 Not taut
- 34 Fitness tracker stat: 2 wds.
- 36 Chief Norse god
- 37 Historian's study
- 39 Toy with tracks: 2 wds.
- 41 First-class
- 44 Workout spots
- 46 Teeny bit
- 50 Hand over
- 52 Change
- 53 Make a sculpture
- 55 Triple-targeted vaccine: Abbr.
- 56 Annoy
- 57 Singer Tori
- 58 Digits on the feet
- 60 Dove's shelter
- 61 Mysterious glow
- 62 Extremely dry
- 65 Well-suited

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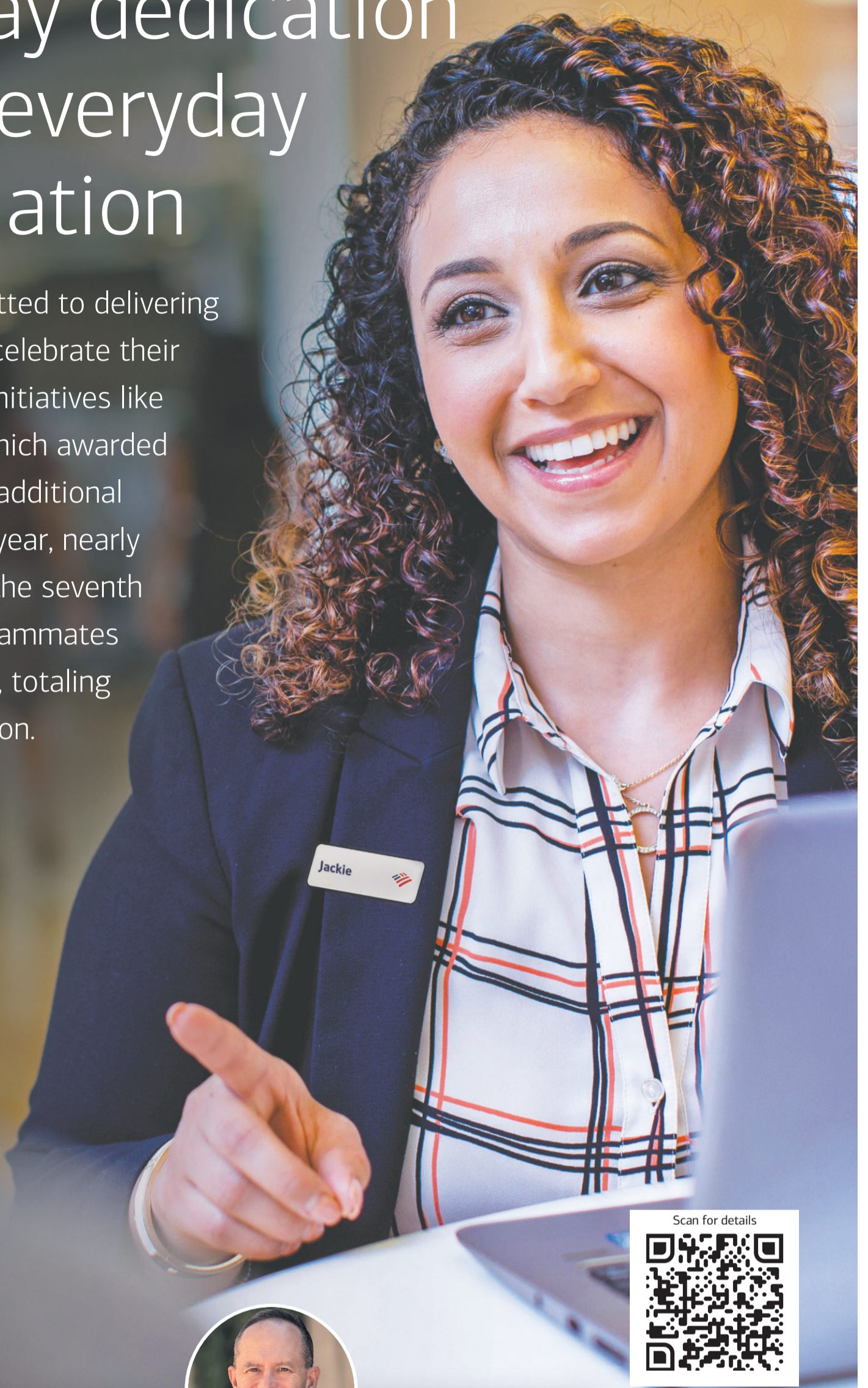
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ORANGE COUNTY SOCCER CLUB

Coach, players optimistic for 2024 season

BY MATT SZABO

Orange County Soccer Club held its media day at Championship Soccer Stadium in Irvine on Election Day.

The club already gave coach Morten Karlsen a vote of confidence well before Tuesday. In November, OCSC removed his interim tag and signed him to a multiyear contract.

The black and orange took off after Karlsen took over for Richard Chaplow in the middle of last season, moving from 11th place to second in the United Soccer League Championship Western Conference. They fell in the second round of the playoffs to eventual champion Phoenix Rising FC.

“Morten is very much a player-first coach, he likes to forge those close relationships,” said Peter Nugent, president of soccer operations and general manager of the club. “I think at the time, that’s what the group needed. Morten did a tremendous job last season, and we have full confidence that he can continue to take that on into 2024. For us, the big word that we used was ‘continuity,’ and that’s what we wanted to implement both on the coaching side and the player side.”

Nugent said Orange County Soccer Club brings back 16 players from last season, the most in club history.

The club is preparing for its home opener, March 23



Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

PLAYERS BRIAN ILOSKI, Ethan Zubak and goalie Colin Shutler, from left, attend media day for the Orange County Soccer Club at the Great Park Championship Soccer Stadium.

against Miami FC and also has some positive outside factors.

“Home” feels more like home than ever after the Irvine City Council reached a 10-year agreement with Orange County Soccer Club last fall to continue having its matches at Championship Soccer Stadium.

On Tuesday, the club announced a five-year partnership extension with Hoag as healthcare provider and front-of-jersey sponsor. There are also more branding opportunities to come, OCSC president of business operations Dan Rutstein said.

“The stadium will look

and feel very different this year, as a consequence of doing our 10-year deal,” Rutstein said. “This is our home now, and we can do things in our home that we couldn’t do in the stadium previously. It remains the city of Irvine’s stadium, but it’s Orange County Soccer Club’s home.”

On the field, Orange County lost prolific goalscorer Milan Iloski to FC Nordsjaelland but retains his brother, Brian, a midfielder who has been with the side since 2020.

A reporter at media day told him that he was four appearances away from 100 caps, and 16 away from the

club record for appearances set by Michael Orozco.

“I heard they’re building a statue for me,” Brian Iloski quipped. “It’s great being a part of this club for so long. I’m really looking forward to the year. We’re going to do what we can to bring another championship to Orange County.”

Orange County signed Corona native Ethan Zubak to bring some more firepower at forward, as well as Cameron Dunbar. Both are products of the LA Galaxy Academy.

Meanwhile, Bryce Jamison, who turned 18 in January, will also be looking to



PLAYERS TAKE questions during Tuesday’s media day for the Orange County Soccer Club.

make an impact. The Atlanta native played for the U.S. Youth National Team last year at the FIFA U-17 World Cup in Indonesia.

He used words like “electric” and “aggressive” to describe his style.

“It is a lot of fun,” Jamison said. “I’m just trying to win as much as I can, and these guys really help me out with that. They make it fun along the way, so I do enjoy it a lot.”

The defense is a strength as the club returns its core there including team captain Markus Nakkim, Dillon Powers, Ryan Doghman, Owen Lambe and goalkeeper Colin Shutler.

“From my standpoint, having all of those guys back, it’s a dream come true for me,” Shutler said. “I feel like we have such a great understanding of how each other play, and we can build off how we ended the year last year. The usual thing in the USL is a lot of turnover, and that’s defi-

nately different for us this year.”

The club always appreciates the support of its home fans at the 5,000-seat venue, and it’s a support that was present last year more than ever.

Rutstein said that between 2016 and 2022, OCSC only sold out two home matches at the stadium.

Last year, by contrast, the black and orange sold out their last seven home matches of the year. Rutstein said that OCSC is already trending toward a sellout for the home opener on March 23.

“Even in that playoff game that we lost, [the fans] were just so positive and just always behind us,” Shutler said. “It lifts us so much as a team. I feel like if they are behind us playing at home, we can beat absolutely anybody in this league.”

mattbew.szabo@latimes.com
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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.