

Daily Pilot

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2020 // Now including Coastline Pilot and Huntington Beach Independent // dailypilot.com



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

RUTH MALAGON, left, the family and community coordinator for the elementary program at Shalimar Learning Center, hands a learning packet to Sindia Chavez, center, with her daughter, Andrea, 2, and son, Marco, 8, on Tuesday. The center is accepting donations for basic food items.

Shalimar Learning Center comes to the rescue for panicked parents

BY FAITH E. PINHO

Emeteria Hernandez walked through the empty supermarket aisles, hunting for food, hand sanitizer and Clorox wipes for her family.

Nothing. The month-old memory still brings fresh tears to her eyes.

"I thought the world was going to end," said the 41-year-old cook, through the Spanish translation of Ruth Malagon. "And I didn't have food for my [three] kids."

That afternoon, she received a call from Myrna Zornoza, an educator at the Shalimar Learning Center, the Costa Mesa-based founding facility of the education nonprofit Think

Together.

"What do you need?" asked "Ms. Myrna," as Hernandez affectionately called her after two years of parenting classes for her and after-school teen classes for her son, Jeremy.

Soon, Hernandez received the first bins from Think Together, filled with food, sanitizer and soap. The next week, more food came. Then more food, soap, toothpaste and \$100 gift cards.

In the age of the coronavirus, local organizations that offered one kind of service — such as Think Together's educational programs after-school and during the summer — have found themselves pivoting to serve

See *Shalimar*, page A2

"Every time I feel like I'm going to fall into depression, I remember all the words that they've taught me. To always try and stay positive."

— Emeteria Hernandez

41-year-old cook and mother of 3 children

See *Closure*, page A4

Laguna to reopen city beaches, some trailheads starting Monday

BY LILLY NGUYEN

Laguna Beach is reopening its beaches and some trailheads for morning hours on Monday, following direction given to city staff at the city's special City Council meeting Tuesday.

At the meeting, the City Council received an update on activity over the last weekend, where unseasonably warm temperatures drew beachgoers out from their homes in spite of the statewide stay-at-home order. The city previously closed its city beaches in March, but this closure excluded Orange County-owned beaches.

Some South Laguna residents said during public comment that Aliso Beach, which remains open though its parking is closed, was inundated with visitors.

City staff pointed to actions also being considered by Newport Beach and those taken by San Clemente, which began the process to reopen its beaches last weekend for active use only, such as walking, running, swimming or surfing.

All trailheads will be reopened except for the Alta Laguna trailhead and beaches will be reopened on weekdays between 6 and 10 a.m. for active use only, following direction by City Council on Tuesday night. This direction only affects city beaches.

Directions included that City Manager John Pietig could close both trailheads and beaches if amenities were being overwhelmed or neighborhoods were being impacted.

Waters at the beaches will also

be closed after hours.

The vote was unanimous.

Residents weighing in on the conversation leaned on both sides of the argument, with several wanting to phase in the openings of beaches while those in opposition argued for the maintained closures contending that opening the beaches would bring an influx of visitors from out of town.

Councilwoman Toni Iseman asked if it would be possible for the city to explore the option for the city to gain control of the total coastline from the county, which Pietig said the city has explored before and could be discussed again.

lilly.nguyen@latimes.com
Twitter: @lillibirds



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

ONLY A LIFEGUARD and sailboat occupy Main Beach on Sunday while Laguna Beach city beaches remained closed due to the coronavirus pandemic. The City Council decided some trailheads and beaches in the city will reopen on weekdays between 6 and 10 a.m. starting Monday.

ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

COSTA MESA HOTELS BRIGHTEN COMMUNITY DURING CORONAVIRUS TIMES PAGE A2

ORANGE COUNTY REPORTS 2 NEW DEATHS DUE TO COVID-19 PAGE A2

MAILBAG: NEWPORT BEACH COUNCILMAN'S LETTER PUTS ECONOMY AHEAD OF SAFETY PAGE A3

Newport coronavirus survivor donates antibody-rich blood to fight COVID-19

BY SARA CARDINE

Newport Beach resident Glenn Walcott isn't especially fond of needles, but Tuesday morning found him hooked up to a centrifuge machine at Irvine's Hoag Health Center, where the 51-year-old father of two donated antibody-rich plasma to help patients battling COVID-19.

He thinks he may have become infected with the novel coronavirus during a ski trip to Vail, Colo., in mid-March he'd booked with a group of buddies.

The morning of their March 12 arrival, Walcott got a message from the hotel where they'd be staying indicating an employee had been diagnosed with the virus a week earlier and was being treated off site.

"We had 12 to 13 guys scheduled to go on this trip and the day of, four of them bailed," Walcott said.

Two days later, the hotel



GLENN WALCOTT donates 840ml of plasma to the San Diego Blood Bank on Tuesday.

Raul Roa
Staff
Photographer

stopped offering hot meals. The ski slopes closed to guests that Sunday as Walcott bid his friends farewell and headed home.

As a precaution his wife, Michelle, made up the guest bedroom so he could self-quarantine — just in case. When he woke up on Monday with a fever and body aches, he knew he had the virus.

"I couldn't get out of bed," he said, recalling severe body aches. "It went from zero to 60 right away."

Walcott pulled through, thanks to overall good health and a regimen of juices, tonics and vitamins supplied by his wife. A March 18 coronavirus swab test confirmed 11 days later he had, indeed, been infected.

The good news? During his recovery, Walcott's immune system had generated antibodies that could help protect him from becoming reinfected with SARS-

See *Blood*, page A4

School closure fuels protest

As trustees vote to shutter Huntington Beach's Perry Elementary, community outrage mounts over perceived discrimination.

BY JULIA SCLAFANI

Huntington Beach City School District officials unanimously voted to shutter an elementary school that disproportionately serves an ethnic and socioeconomic minority within the district boundary, leaving community members lamenting that the decision will disproportionately hit already-disadvantaged students and a legal aid organization suggesting the closure may constitute a violation of a state anti-discrimination law.

The board of trustees voted in a special meeting held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday to adopt a school closure task force's recommendation to close Joseph R. Perry Elementary School.

On April 12, a district-selected task force voted 7-4 to recommend shuttering Perry, at 19231 Harding Lane, in an effort to right the district's budget woes and justified by declining enrollment at the campus.

"Anyone can skew this to meet their agenda, but I know that in my heart that I have followed the guidelines that were laid down by this board in evaluating, not just this school closure, but our budget issues, and I feel strongly that at this time ... we have no option to vote but to close the school," board member Shari Kowalke said before casting her vote.

Board member Diana Marks called the engagement by parents and residents indicative of "how awesome of a district we have"

County reports 2 new deaths due to COVID-19

BY ANDREW TURNER

Two new deaths were reported in Orange County as a result of COVID-19, per updated statistics released on Wednesday by the Orange County Health Care Agency.

The death toll due to COVID-19 has now reached 44.

There were 108 new cases reported, bringing the total to 2,252, which includes the deceased. The number is a four-day high for the county since it had 120 on Saturday.

In three of the past four days, new cases have surpassed 100. Before that the county hadn't had a day with more than 100 since April 1, when 104 new cases were confirmed.

The 2,203 new COVID-19 tests administered are second only to Sunday's total of 2,267, which was 1,000 more tests provided than any previous date by HCA Public Health Lab and commercial labs. A total of 29,940 people have been tested for the coronavirus.

As of Tuesday, 175 people were hospitalized with COVID-19 — 70 of those are in an intensive care unit. There were 22 of 25 eligible hospitals that contributed to that data in the latest report.

People ages 45-54 account for 19% of cases in the county. Seventeen percent of cases fall in the age brackets of 25-34 and 55-64, respectively. Fifteen percent of cases range from ages 35-44, and 11% are ages 65-74.

Exactly half of the 44 deaths reported in Orange County have involved people 75 or older.

Santa Ana has had the most cases of any city in the county with 330, followed by Anaheim with 316.

Locally, Huntington Beach has had 214 cases, Newport Beach 97, Costa Mesa 38, Laguna Beach 37 and Fountain Valley 31.

Updated figures are posted daily at ocovid19.ochhealth.info.com/coronavirus-in-oc.

andrew.turner@latimes.com
Twitter: @ProfessorTurner

Costa Mesa hotels brighten community

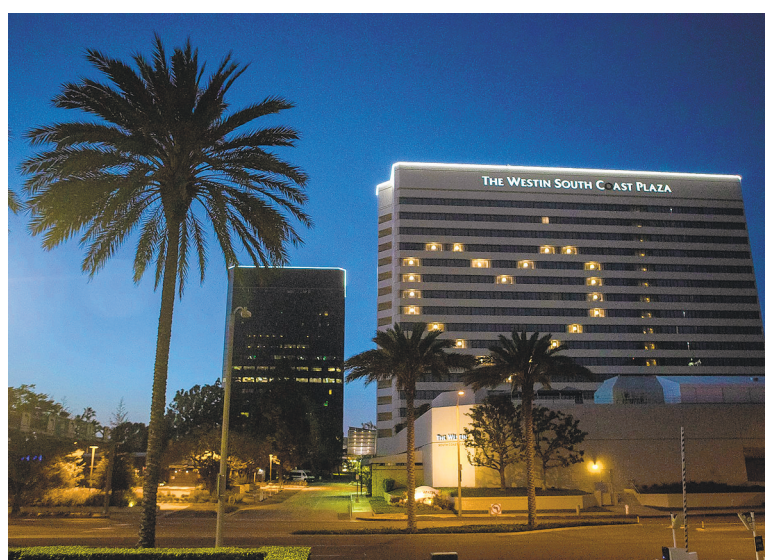
In the spirit of togetherness, several hotels in Costa Mesa emblazoned their empty guestrooms with lights in the shape of hearts or positive messaging this week.

Beginning Monday evening and lasting through Friday, the Avenue of the Arts Costa Mesa, Crowne Plaza Costa Mesa Orange County, DoubleTree By Hilton Orange County Airport, Hilton Orange County/Costa Mesa, and The Westin South Coast Plaza are brightening the community. Most chose a heart shape to send a positive message to the community.

Hotels are struggling to survive during the decimated economy. In Costa Mesa, occupancy rates are hovering around 10% to 15%, according to city officials. Typically this time of year, they are closer to 80%.

Across the globe, hotels are preparing for a seismic shift for when guests return, including masked staffers, more visible cleaning and, in some instances, white-gloved service.

In a recent news release, South Coast Metro Alliance, the nonprofit grouping of property owners and businesses in the South Coast Metro urban cen-



Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

THE WESTIN South Coast Plaza lights windows in the shape of a heart in Costa Mesa on Tuesday. See more photos at dailypilot.com.

ter, promoted the ramped-up cleaning protocols of area hotels in light of the coronavirus.

"The hotels in the South Coast Metro have always been focused on the well-being of their guests and neighbors," South Coast Metro Executive Director Diane Pritchett said in a statement. "They are open

during this crisis and want to express their heartfelt thanks and best wishes to all of the first responders and other essential personnel going above and beyond the call of duty as we persevere through the pandemic and emerge stronger on the other side."

— From staff reports

Laguna school district adopts 'flexible, no harm' interim grading policy

BY LILLY NGUYEN

The Laguna Beach Unified School District Board of Trustees received an update Tuesday morning on the grading system — one that does "no harm" to its students in light of the COVID-19 pandemic that led to schools shuttering through June.

The district is made up of two elementary schools, one middle school and one high school.

For secondary school students, which includes sixth through 12th grades, teachers will be adopting a combination of the traditional grading system in conjunction with credit or no-credit. Regarding the traditional grading, district Supt. Jason Vioria said students can receive A, B or C grades, and the intent being that students can poten-

tially improve their grades but won't disadvantage them.

On the other hand, the credit and no-credit system provides an opportunity for students who are struggling to keep up with the workload to receive credit for the class.

Those that aren't participating will not receive credit, but the hope is to provide additional opportunities during summer or credit recovery so they can receive full credit for the course, Vioria said.

For grades in transitional kindergarten through fifth, teachers will not be assigning marks or grades because of the degree of variation between students on accessibility, support and independence. Teachers will be providing narrative summaries that focus on facts as related to student

engagement, level of participation in distance learning and performance on assignments.

Elementary students operate on a trimester system. The grades for the first two trimesters will appear on their report cards, but for the third trimester, which just began when the schools transitioned into distance learning, no grades or marks will appear for the third trimester on progress toward standards or effort.

"We'll just be providing narrative summaries that will inform parents in terms of anything they may want to work on with students during the summer or the teachers for the following year," Deputy Supt. Leisa Winston said.

Winston said teachers would be aware if a student couldn't access distance

learning and acknowledge that they will need to assess student progress "and they're going to meet them where they are."

"[District staff] think from a 'do-no-harm' model, this is the best approach we have," Vioria said.

Board members were in consensus that the grading system adopted by the district was sufficient, though board member Dee Perry raised additional concerns on whether or not sophomores and juniors in high school would be at a disadvantage for admissions because of grade-point average calculations for UC schools.

Perry also asked if grades could affect scholarships for students.

For colleges, the credit or no-credit system indicates that the student passed the class, but does not factor

into the calculation, Vioria said. He added that assigning of credit or no credit would be on a case-by-case basis and expects most students will receive A's, B's or C's. Vioria said he expects to see more guidance from universities for fall admissions.

Board member James Kelly recommended that the district keep the policy as simple as possible, adding that he felt "colleges will be bending over backwards as far as to make [admissions] work."

"Every scenario's going to be unique depending on the student's access issues or simply their ability to manage their course load at home," Vioria said.

He added that the district needed to be realistic in knowing that not all homes were the same and that not all parents would be able to

support their children because they may need to work.

"That's part of the reason for 'do no harm,'" Vioria said, "... and so, are you punishing a student simply because it's harder for them to organize digitally? Which, it is hard for kids to create an organizational system.

"When we're at school and the bell rings, they get up and go to the next class. They know that this is their system. When they're left, you're talking about teenagers and younger kids, that when they're left to try and figure it out on their own, that is why this system needs to be flexible so we can respond to those situations and aren't doing harm to those students."

lilly.nguyen@latimes.com
Twitter: @lilibirds

SHALIMAR

Continued from page A1

the ever-changing requests in an increasingly needy population.

The Shalimar Learning Center had just hit 25 years of offering educational services to about 120 families in its predominately Latino and low-income neighborhood in Westside Costa Mesa, called Shalimar. The center, which operates out of an apartment in Shalimar, was the go-to after-school place for nearly 250 neighborhood children whose parents worked multiple jobs. At different points, it also provided translation services for families, as well as all-around academic support and college and career guidance.

But then the coronavirus blew through, decimating the jobs of 100% of the center's participating parents.

"Just all of a sudden, boom, they're done," said Randy Barth, Think Together's CEO.

At Shalimar, he said, many of the parents were hourly workers — housekeepers, gardeners, restaurant and hotel workers — without severance benefits. Some were undocumented and, at the time, ineligible for federal stimulus aid.

Suddenly, the needs bot-



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

MELISSA ARAMBULA, left, family and community coordinator for the teen center, gives Lilia Altamirano a bag of food and \$100 debit card at Shalimar Learning Center.

tomized out. Without jobs or with severely reduced hours, parents didn't have enough gas to drive to their children's schools to pick up meals. Cell phone and internet bills went unpaid — and with them, the ability to participate in online learning.

Hernandez went from cooking five days a week at 2145 pizzeria in Costa Mesa down to nine hours per week. Her husband was let go from his day job cooking at The Pizza Bakery in Newport Beach. The family began relying solely on his evening job, which brought in 25 paid hours per week — and on Think Together.

"What everybody was talking about was, 'We're so scared, what are we going to do?'" said Melissa Arambula, 35, family and community coordinator for Shalimar. "A lot of that came from having food on their table. They were all losing their jobs. It was just a lot."

"We immediately started transition," she added. "Academic support can wait; we need to meet basic needs right now."

The center is accepting donations for basic food items, such as milk, eggs, bread and tortillas as well as nonperishable items. It has also set up the "Shalimar Relief Fund," to finance the \$100 debit gift cards that families get every week to help cover basic necessities such as groceries or gas. Fortunately, Think Togeth-

er's director of philanthropy Darcie Schott said, individual giving has ticked upward, as has company matching donations.

"[Shalimar] does represent some of our lower-income families and students, yet they're very bright students and that community is in the shadows of some of the wealthiest communities and neighborhoods in Southern California," Schott said. "There's recognition of that and ownership and accountability."

Now that the initial shock has passed, the center continues to expand its offerings to help families in other ways, such as supplying STEM and arts supplies for home learning, flushing out a distance learning after-school option, translating information from the city and district schools.

Perhaps now more than ever, Hernandez draws on Ms. Myrna's parenting lessons.

"Every time I feel like I'm going to fall into depression, I remember all the words that they've taught me," Hernandez said. "To always try and stay positive. To be strong in every moment. To try to make it through the difficult times that come our way in life." To donate to the Shalimar Relief Fund, visit: thinktogether.org/shalimarrelieffund.

faith.pinho@latimes.com
Twitter: @faihepinho

THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

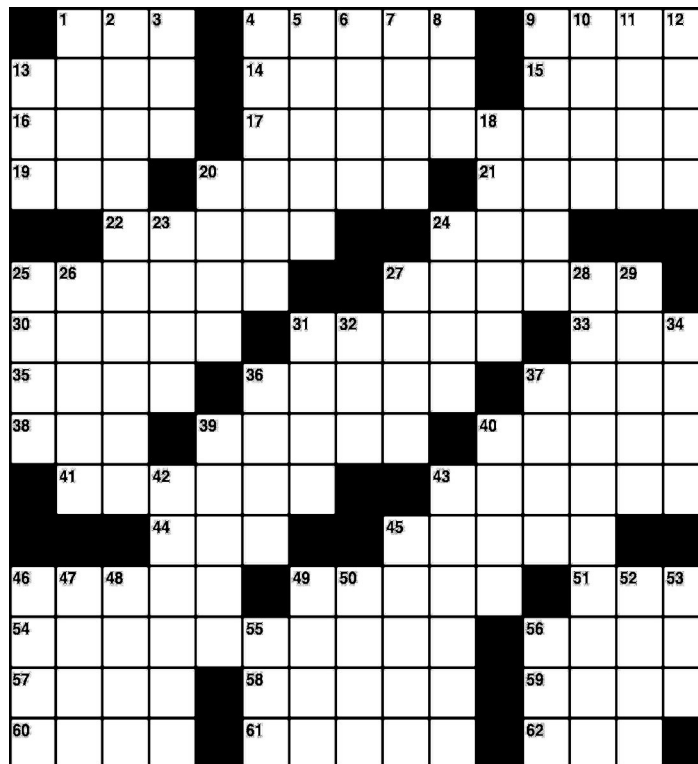
By Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS

- 1 Cleopatra's killer
- 4 Climb
- 9 Cain raiser
- 13 "Guilty" or "Not guilty"
- 14 Dickens' "A Christmas ___"
- 15 Music's Lady ___
- 16 ___ well that ends well"
- 17 Bamboozled
- 19 Change from brunette to blonde
- 20 One of the vital signs
- 21 Tenant's contract
- 22 Mr. Gable
- 24 Unknown John
- 25 Tennessee team
- 27 Frank
- 30 Reveille's message
- 31 Residence
- 33 Tennis court divider
- 35 Late July babies
- 36 Wild felines
- 37 Sandwich type
- 38 "Inside Politics" network
- 39 Cradle rockers, often
- 40 Cut off
- 41 Prose writings
- 43 Umpire's cry
- 44 Internet pop-ups
- 45 Less than 5 feet tall
- 46 Stadium
- 49 Like a tightwad
- 51 As pretty ___ picture
- 54 Cash register operator
- 56 Share a border with
- 57 Vexes
- 58 Ointment
- 59 Escape
- 60 SAT, for one
- 61 Lazybones
- 62 Man's nickname

DOWN

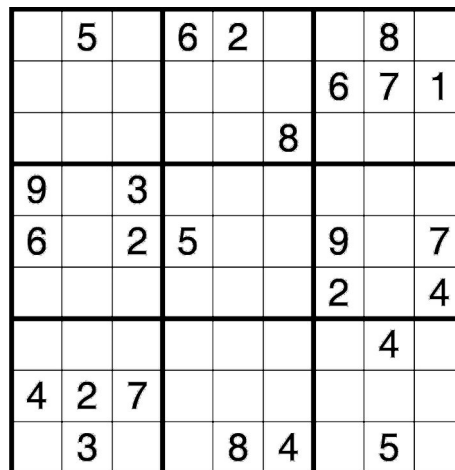
- 1 Supportive friend
- 2 Choices



SUDOKU

By The Mepham 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 A3.

- 3 Faux ___; blunder
- 4 Scrubs
- 5 Fill in window frame cracks
- 6 Word with liberal or graphic
- 7 ___ one's nerve; chicken out
- 8 Large tree
- 9 Shared the same opinion
- 10 Statistics
- 11 Suffic for percent or pack
- 12 Created
- 13 Upholsterer's item
- 18 "Home ___";

- blockbuster 1990 film
- 20 Window part
- 23 Damsel
- 24 Root beer brand
- 25 Powder
- 26 "Goodnight, ___"
- 27 Swindles
- 28 Sure to happen
- 29 Shortstop Jeter
- 31 Goals
- 32 Dangerous viper
- 34 ___ up; shredded
- 36 Big name in potato chips
- 37 Frankfurt fellow
- 39 As ___ a wet hen
- 40 Word in a red octagon
- 42 Least loony
- 43 Salt container
- 45 Begin a tennis game
- 46 "Be that ___ may..."
- 47 Uncommon
- 48 BPOE folks
- 49 Not indecent
- 50 Satan's realm
- 52 Filed charges against
- 53 Dined
- 55 Sines for Jorja Fox, once
- 56 Near the rear of a plane

Tribune Media Services

Jim Jennings
Custom Masonry Inc
Since 1989
www.jimjenningsmasonry.com

Specializing in:
Installation of Brick, Stone, Slate Patios & Entries
Patio & Yard Drainage

Make Old Patio Look New
Repair Stucco, Stone or Loose Brick
Pressure and Acid Wash.

Concrete & Masonry Repairs

The secret to good masonry repair comes from knowing exactly what kind of material was used and where to get it now. All used Brick, common brick, slate and stone are not the same.

LET JIM'S 51 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE WORK FOR YOU

(949) 645-8512
www.jimjenningsmasonry.com

forum

MAILBAG

Councilman's letter puts dollars ahead of safety

Re "It's time to reopen Orange County" (April 24): Councilman Kevin Muldoon suggests we prepare a plan to reopen the county soon but he doesn't offer any details for such a plan, which is particularly important because Newport Beach has one of the highest number of COVID-19 cases per 10,000 population in Orange County.

Second, Muldoon asks, "Do we show courage as Americans or are we governed by fear?" but rather than offering encouragement he does some of his own fear mongering with the warning.

"Our economy will fall into a deep recession" he wrote. "If our economy crashes, increased crime, depression, suicides, domestic violence and homelessness will be inevitable."

Come on councilman, you can do better than this.

Charles Mooney
Costa Mesa

Approach puts profit over people

I must respectfully and vociferously disagree with Newport Councilman Kevin Muldoon, who cloaks his profits-over-people, pro-business rhetoric with concern for workers in general. It is neither scientific nor safe to put the general public at risk for the economy's sake.

Tim Geddes
Huntington Beach

Newport attracts the unmasked

One need only visit the beach areas to see how



Allen J. Schaben | Los Angeles Times

AN AERIAL VIEW of thousands of people enjoying a day at the beach in Newport Saturday amid a stay-at-home and social distancing mandate to stave off the coronavirus pandemic.

many people are not wearing masks. That is going to add to our high contagion count in Newport.

Lynn Lorenz
Newport Beach

Stay home to defeat the virus

By following the steps suggested by public health professionals and epidemiologists, we are doing our small part to help our city, county, state and nation through this exceedingly difficult time.

Make a commitment to protecting your community: Stay safe and stay home.

Steve Shepherd
Huntington Beach

Protesters are blind to the truth

A recent issue of the Daily Pilot featured an article about 16-year-old Rylen Schmid from New-

port Beach making her positive contribution to the COVID-19 pandemic by making needed face masks ("Newport Beach teenager sews hundreds of masks to help hospitals and others battle coronavirus," April 17).

The next page reported a protest that claims COVID-19 is a hoax and a lie ("For protesters in Huntington Beach, social and economic restrictions are political; COVID-19, a 'hoax,'" April 17).

The protesters obviously not following the 6-foot rule also were not wearing masks.

One thing is for sure: these protesters will not be needing the services of people like Rylen Schmid.

Bill Spitalnick
Newport Beach

Protests as contagious as pandemic

Protests against science and medicine have be-

come as contagious as the pandemic assaulting our nation.

Mike Robbins
Anaheim

Next time, try releasing butterflies

I was appalled to see an

article in the Daily Pilot talking about someone celebrating their birthday by releasing paper lanterns ("Lanterns light up the sky to help Huntington Beach girl celebrate sweet 16," April 15).

I envision palm trees, brush and even roofs going up in flames as these lanterns descend back to Earth.

Even if the flame extinguishes before the lantern settles down, they might get tangled in trees or power lines. At the very least, they are litter. Who is going to follow these and pick them up once the return to Earth?

I'm sorry this person's birthday had to fall during these trying times, but releasing objects which cause more harm than good is not the solution. Next time, release butterflies or something which doesn't impact the environment. And, please, no balloons.

Kathy Hanson
Huntington Beach

Of course Trump supports the demonstrators

Is anyone surprised that an unmasked Donald

Trump is siding with unmasked protesters? Which is more important, "liberating" Orange County's beaches, restaurants and other small businesses or saving lives?

Denny Freidenrich
Laguna Beach

A poem from a fourth-grader

Kids & parents locked in the house while kids can only see their friends through screen. What does it mean?

Missing their teachers & going to school, being outside & jumping in pools, swimming around not a care in the world. What does it mean?

Thanking the heroes who are fighting the battles to keep us healthy & safe. What does it mean?

Holding our loved ones close to our heart, thinking about when this will end & we can restart. What does it mean?

This is what it means to be in quarantine.

Lily Tomalas
Newport Beach

— The writer is a 10-year-old fourth-grader at Newport Heights Elementary School.

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

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

Monarch Coast
Financial

PRIVATE MONEY LENDING
Loans Secured by Real Property Equity

Fast Answers and Fast Fundings

We're Very Creative with Payment Structure

Direct Lender and Servicer

- Residential Investment
- Apartment / Multi-Family
- Mixed Use / Commercial
- Primary Residential Bridge
- Investment Acquisition / Refinance
- \$50,000 to \$3,000,000
- 6 to 60 Months Terms
- 1st 2nd 3rd Lien Position
- State of California Only
- All Borrower Entity Types

(949) 784-0397

KEVIN BUDDE | President
20151 SW Birch St., STE 230, Newport Beach, CA
KBudde@monarchcoastfinancial.com
www.monarchcoastfinancial.com
CA DRE Broker LIC# 00831552

ASSISTED LIVING ~ MEMORY CARE

JOIN US FOR A
VIRTUAL TOUR

IMAGINE A SENIOR LIVING LIFESTYLE WITH ALL OF THE SUPPORT AND STABILITY YOU COULD NEED.

Just a few services and amenities we offer...

- Intimate neighborhood settings
- Signature Namaste Care Programs
- Secured freedom, with park-like settings and walking paths
- Scenic drives and full activities program
- Personalized dining experience
- All-inclusive rates

PACIFICA
SENIOR LIVING
NEWPORT MESA
Memory Care
License # 306004640

949.629.3125

2891 Bear Street
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
PacificaNewportMesa.com

PACIFICA
SENIOR LIVING
SOUTH COAST
Assisted Living • Memory Care
License # 306004480

949.505.9905

2619 Orange Avenue
Costa Mesa, CA 92627
PacificaSouthCoast.com

TWO GREAT LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU!

What clogs your drain is your business. Unclogging it is ours...

50+ years of Plumbing Excellence

Mr. Rooter
PLUMBING
a neighborly company

We'll Beat Most Competitors Coupons!
Serving Orange County and LA County LIC# 767047

CLEAR ANY DRAIN

\$65

Through proper access point with coupon. Not valid with other offers.

FREE sewer camera inspection with any drain service.

Through proper access point with coupon. Not valid with other offers.

\$150 Clean Mainline from Roof

Through proper access point with coupon. Not valid with other offers.

Coupons Available at Participating Locations.

Serving Orange County and LA. County

714-635-7473
626-813-4325
www.mrrooter1.com

CLOSURE

Continued from page A1

during her remarks before affirming her support for the vote.

Though she was “saddened” by it, she said “we can’t go back and change” earlier decisions and “I don’t want to repeat mistakes that were made in the past.”

More than 300 participants were logged on to the online meeting, where board members heard public comments read by district staff before perfunctory comments.

Board member Paul Morrow criticized his colleagues for not considering all district campuses to be cut, though. For the sake of moving forward, he voted for the closure.

Superintendent Greg Hauk reiterated that HBCSD “has had a structural defect for some time,” referencing the \$6.8 million in budget cuts anticipated for the 2020-21 school year.

Some parents accused the district of setting up Perry to fail by passing over the site for updates and allowing enrollment to dwindle.

They attribute that to the district’s unrestricted transfer policy across district schools, and to what one parent called “school shopping” by families of incoming students.

Perry, the only of the district’s seven primary schools located in the north part of the district, stands apart from others for the socioeconomic and racial makeup of its geographic tract.

According to Public School Review, Perry has 373 students, representing declines of 20% over five school years.

Perry’s current roster of teachers, numbering 15, according to the school’s website, have similarly dwindled.

Perry parent Valeria Espinoza learned about the proposed school closure from her son Aaron Ramirez’s kindergarten teacher only two weeks ago. She



Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

JOSEPH R. PERRY Elementary School in Huntington Beach is closing down after a trustees’ vote.

was stunned that she hadn’t heard earlier.

Perry was where she said she enrolled 18 years ago as a fifth-grader after her family moved to Huntington Beach from Michoacán, Mexico.

At the beginning of this year, her son was nervous about starting kindergarten.

“He would cry, he was so scared to go to school,” Espinoza remembers. Now, while confined to distance-learning amid COVID-19 precautions, she said he asks, “When am I going to go back to school?”

Espinoza said she never received any phone or mail communications about the school closure or the district’s task force formation.

Some parents aren’t native English speakers. Espinoza didn’t find relevant information in Spanish, either.

Over the weekend, she went door to door, talking to neighbors who were likewise in the dark about the process that might displace their kids from their familiar — and accessible — campus.

Before the coronavirus pandemic closed schools for the rest of the school

year, Aaron relied on school-provided transportation to get to Perry, since both parents work, Espinoza said. She worries about not knowing where her family’s new home school will be and how Aaron will get to school.

Many in Espinoza’s Amberleaf neighborhood worry about transferring their kids to another school and losing contact with their students’ familiar faculty, she said.

She went door to door to collect signatures on a paper petition, mindful that not all low-income households are online.

“Where I live, everyone has a kid at Perry,” Espinoza said, adding that she collected 120 signatures on Saturday.

On Sunday, she put the petition on *Change.org*.

“My goal was for all the Hispanic community to sign it and for me to present it to the board so that they could hear our voice,” Espinoza said.

Some in her Latino community worry that alternate schools might not be friendly to their children.

“They fear that they are not going to be welcome at another school for the fact

that we are Hispanic,” Espinoza said. “They are afraid of how teachers or even students are going to treat us.”

Four days after going online, more than 2,400 people had signed the online petition protesting the closure.

The Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund and League of United Latin American Citizens also made appeals to the school board.

On Monday, MALDEF doubled down on an earlier request that the board postpone the vote and reiterated concerns that the school consolidation process presented unnecessary obstacles to participation. The application for participating was only available online, in English, and required a resume, the letter pointed out.

“These requirements are unnecessary for a task force member to adequately fulfill the role, and, instead, served as impediments preventing community members served by Perry Elementary from participating in such an important decision” wrote MALDEF staff attorney Deylin Thrift-Viveros.

It also argued that the closure would incur a burden on the district’s most disadvantaged students to travel farther to their newly assigned school.

MALDEF accused the district process of being out of compliance with the Education Code’s mandate by failing to represent the ethnic and socioeconomic composition of the district and noted that the decision might constitute a violation of state law that prevents discrimination in state-funded programs, regardless if, on its face, the decision seems neutral in its intent.

Oscar Rodriguez submitted a written comment for Tuesday’s meeting on behalf of two cousins who attend Perry.

Rodriguez stressed that there are “thousands that will be affected.” He reflected on how the school closure task force, and even Tuesday’s meeting, left out a portion of the community disproportionately represented by Perry families.

“Thousands of parents are unable to participate due to digital and language divide,” Rodriguez’s statement said.

The district has been debating closing one of its seven elementary schools for more than a year. Perry was first on the table in October 2018.

The latest decision comes less than a year after a previous school closure task force unanimously determined that Perry should not be closed. At the time, the board unanimously agreed.

Adding to the uncertainty, the vote was made without determining new school tracts for displaced students, leaving many students and their families unsure of what comes next.

Perry parent and high school teacher Kurt Christensen has been active in opposing the closing of any district school for two years now.

The proximity to Perry was part of what drew Christensen, himself a product of HBCSD, to buy a house in their current

neighborhood.

“You know, we both have to work and that’s one of the reasons we chose to buy where we are,” he said. “But I would not be so upset if there was a school that was just blocks or a mile away, like you see in South Huntington Beach.”

An often-repeated argument against the shuttering of Perry is that the southern part of the district has elementary campuses that are much closer to each other.

“So we have no school in the northeast portion of the school district. You know, this is our school,” he said.

The potential commute to Peterson Elementary would be nearly two miles, a giant leap from the few hundred yards his kids previously walked to Perry.

Would he feel comfortable with his first- and fourth-graders crossing Yorktown, Adams and Indianapolis avenues on bikes? No.

“We’re a working family. My wife works ... Our kids walk to school, sometimes they ride their bikes, but we’re talking about a huge distance that would cross three or four major streets,” Christensen said.

The entire process has his family considering moving out of the district — or even out of the city — to retain the ability to send their kids to a neighborhood school and, hopefully, shield themselves from impending school closures.

“It is a race issue, that’s what comes down to,” said Christensen, who teaches in a low-income school district elsewhere in Orange County. The district he teaches in “would never allow something like this to happen. There’s much more support” for low-income communities within its borders, he said.

“I’ve been a teacher for over 20 years, I’m not going to send my kid to a bad school,” Christensen said. “I know that this is a fantastic school with fantastic teachers.”

julia.sclafani@latimes.com

BLOOD

Continued from page A1

CoV-2.

People who develop antibodies against a disease may be in a unique position to help others by donating “convalescent” plasma, says Claudine Van Gonka, public relations manager for the San Diego Blood Bank, which provides blood and plasma to hospitals throughout Orange and Los Angeles counties.

“Historically, it has been shown to have properties that help people recover a little faster, and it could be used as a prophylactic for some people who don’t have symptoms,” she said.

Individuals who have tested positively for the novel coronavirus and have been asymptomatic for at least 28 days can donate plasma for use by patients with serious cases of COVID-19, the disease caused by the virus.

Walcott got the OK from his doctor, who arranged Tuesday’s donation at Hoag.

In a March 19 White



Raul Roa | Staff Photographer

PHLEBOTOMIST PAUL POSEY retrieves bags of plasma taken from Newport Beach resident Glenn Walcott at Irvine’s Hoag Health Center Tuesday.

House briefing, U.S. Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Stephen Hahn said transfusing sick patients with the blood of the recovered was not a proven treatment but something that could hold promise.

“This is a pretty exciting area,” Hahn said. “Collect the blood, concentrate that, and have the ability, once it’s pathogen-free — that is, virus-free — to be

able to give that to other patients. And that’ll be a bridge to other therapies that will take us three to six months to develop.”

Van Gonka said because patients have had to be symptom free for nearly a month to qualify as a donor, it’s been a challenge to draw enough convalescent plasma to meet the high demand of hospitals.

“We have a lot of hospital partners who’ve been asking for it, so it will literally fly off the shelf once it’s been tested,” she added.

As of Monday, the blood bank had collected 62 pints of antibody-infused plasma.

Walcott’s one-hour donation session collected nearly two pints, enough to help four COVID-19 patients. He can continue to donate plasma every 28 days.

Antibodies testing capabilities are beginning to widen the pool of donors by allowing even those who’ve never been tested for coronavirus to determine if they may have already been infected and recovered.

For Walcott, who braved his preternatural dislike of needles and blood draws to help others, donating plasma is a no-brainer.

“I was hesitant going in, but it was fun,” he said. “There’s a 100% chance of me going back in 28 days.”

sara.cardine@latimes.com
Twitter: @SaraCardine

\$300 INSTANT REBATE

WHOLE HOUSE FANS!*

POWER PROMOTION

LIMITED TIME OFFER

#1 Installer of Whole House Fans in SoCal!

Solatube’s Whole House & Attic Fans.

- 2-hour, same-day installation
- Save on air conditioning costs
- Quiet operation

Ask us about our other Great Products

Solatube Daylighting

Garage Fans

(888) 274-8701

www.SolatubeHome.com

Se habla español

*on select Whole House Fans. Offer ends 5/31/2020

Lic.# 847890 ©2019 Solatube International, Inc.

Daily Pilot

A Times Community News publication incorporating the Huntington Beach Independent, Coastline Pilot, Orange Coast Daily Pilot and the Newport Harbor News Press combined with Daily Pilot

CONTACT US

David Carrillo Peñalosa
City Editor
(714) 966-4612

Raymond Arroyo
Advertising Director
(714) 966-4608

TCN Legal Phone
888-881-6181

TCN Legal Email
LALegal@latimes.com

COMPANY INFO

The Daily Pilot, established in 1907, is published Wednesday through Sunday by Times Community News, a division of the Los Angeles Times. Subscriptions are available only by subscribing to The Times, Orange County.

© 2020 Times Community News. All rights reserved.