

# Daily Pilot

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2020 // Now including Coastline Pilot and Huntington Beach Independent // dailypilot.com



Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**HANNA JACKSON**, left, senior class president, and Connor Beneville, tech commissioner, greet fellow students returning to Costa Mesa High School on Monday, the first day back to school for secondary students in the Newport-Mesa Unified School District.

## For the first time since March, secondary students return to Newport-Mesa Unified schools

**PRINCIPAL DR. JACOB HALEY** greets a new student and steers her to her first class at Costa Mesa High.



The first cohort returned to campuses across Newport Beach and Costa Mesa on Monday. The second cohort will begin on Thursday.

BY LILLY NGUYEN, SARA CARDINE

Cars flowed into the Costa Mesa High School one after another — one car door would open, one student would get out. Teachers and employees were checked for their temperatures, each clad in masks as students hustled across campus to beat the first-period bell.

Monday was the first day “back” to school for thousands of secondary students in the Newport-Mesa Unified School District.

At the campus entrance early Monday morning, Hanna Jackson was beaming be-

See **Schools**, page A4

## Laguna chooses Thompson as next police chief

BY ANDREW TURNER

Laguna Beach has chosen Robert Thompson as its next police chief, city officials announced late Monday.

Thompson currently serves in the same role in Dixon, a town of around 21,000 people just outside of Sacramento.

He will replace retiring Laguna Beach Police Chief Laura Farinella, and he is scheduled to start on Jan. 18.

Farinella was the first female

police chief of the Laguna Beach Police Department.

“I am excited and humbled by this opportunity and committed to continuing the strong community-oriented policing programs in Laguna Beach,” Thompson said in a statement. “I enjoy engaging community leaders, business owners and citizens while creating an environment of public trust in the police department, and where employees feel connected to the community they serve.”

The city’s search for its next police chief included both internal and external applicants, the statement said.

In making the announcement, city officials said that Thompson has more than 26 years of experience in the field of public safety. He spent eight years as a police officer with the St. Louis (Mo.) Police Department.

Thompson then joined the



See **Chief**, page A4 Robert Thompson

## First ‘Jeopardy!’ episodes since host Alex Trebek’s death feature contestants from Orange County

BY MATT SZABO

The show goes on for the long-running game show “Jeopardy!” after longtime host Alex Trebek died Sunday morning.

Trebek, who had hosted the popular game show where contestants must answer clues in the form of a question since 1984, died after a battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 80. The first two episodes to air after his death are scheduled to feature Orange County contestants.

Ben Lewis, a 28-year-old data scientist from Costa Mesa, won Monday night’s show with a total of \$44,401.

He competed on Tuesday night against two other players including Greg Marrero, a 48-year-old school administrator from Huntington Beach. Getting the Final Jeopardy answer correct, Marrero emerged as the winner, with Lewis finishing second.

Lewis and Marrero each taped their episodes in September, they said.

“I’ve wanted to be on essentially all my



Courtesy of Jeopardy Productions, Inc.

**COSTA MESA RESIDENT** Ben Lewis, right, stands on the set of the game show “Jeopardy!” along with host Alex Trebek in September. Lewis appeared on the show Monday night, a day after Trebek died, winning the contest with \$44,401.

See **Jeopardy!**, page A2

ELECTION 2020

## 48th District goes to Steel

Rep. Harley Rouda, from Laguna Beach, concedes election to O.C. Board of Supervisors chairwoman a week after Election Day.

BY MATT SZABO

U.S. Rep. Harley Rouda conceded the hotly contested race for California’s 48th Congressional District seat to Republican challenger Michelle Steel on Tuesday.

The incumbent Rouda, a Democrat from Emerald Bay in Laguna Beach, trailed Steel by more than 7,700 votes as of Tuesday.

Steel, the chairwoman of the Orange County Board of Supervisors, had 199,133 votes, or 51.00% of the total. Rouda had 191,341 votes, or 49.00%.

Steel’s win represented a victory for the Republican Party in Orange County, which was once solidly red but has been purpling in recent years. Rouda was the first Democrat to win the seat, which was formerly held by Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-Costa Mesa), in 2018.

Steel, 65, will be one of the first Korean American women in U.S. Congress, along with incoming Marilyn Strickland, a Democrat from Washington who is of Korean American and Black heritage.

Steel posted a video to her Facebook page thanking her supporters and staff during her campaign.

“To the staff, volunteers, interns, supporters, citizens and constituents who voted for me, know that you weren’t voting for a person, but for the idea that the American Dream is alive and well in Orange County,” Steel said.

“Minorities who might not look like you or talk like you can come

See **Steel**, page A4

## O.C. will conduct an audit of presidential ballots

The voluntary procedure has nothing to do with President Donald Trump’s claims of voter fraud, the registrar of voters says.

BY HAYLEY SMITH

Orange County has announced that it will conduct a voluntary audit of its 2020 presidential election ballots to ensure the integrity of results.

The risk-limiting audit is not required under California law, the Orange County registrar of voters said, but the procedure is meant to provide “strong statistical evidence” that the outcome of the election is correct.

“Conducting a risk-limiting audit is an excellent way to audit elections and provide an important check on the integrity of the election process,” Registrar Neal Kelley said in a news release. “This is a valuable opportunity to utilize the enhanced auditing capability of Orange County’s voting system, while at the same time ensuring that the outcomes are true and correct.”

Nearly 54% of Orange County’s ballots were cast for Joe Biden in the 2020 presidential election, according to data from The Times, while 44% voted for Donald Trump.

Although President Trump has called for recounts in several states amid claims of large-scale voter fraud, Kelley said Monday that the audit is not the same thing as a recount.

Instead, the audit will use an algorithm to help identify and randomly

See **Audit**, page A4



Photos by Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

A WOMAN WALKS into a Nordstrom Local service hub in Newport Beach on Tuesday.

# NORDSTROM OPENS NEW SERVICE HUB IN NEWPORT ON WESTCLIFF DRIVE

BY LILLY NGUYEN

A new Nordstrom service hub opened in Newport Beach on Friday, the first of two such service hubs announced in late October.

Another hub is planned for Manhattan Beach and is expected to open in the coming months.

The 1,193-square-foot service hub in Newport Beach, located at 2043 Westcliff Drive, will offer shoppers services such as order pickup, contactless curbside pickup, alterations, styling tips and free gift wrapping.

It also allows customers to return items and recycle packaging.

Service hubs will also include a clothing drop-off. Donated clothing will be distributed to a local non-profit.

The addition of the two service hubs are now the fourth and fifth such locations in Southern California. Other service hubs are located in Melrose, Brentwood and downtown Los Angeles.

Caroline Mattingly, a spokeswoman for the company, said Los Angeles is one of Nordstrom's largest markets with 14 full-sized stores and 30 Nordstrom Rack stores.

These services are also available at Nordstrom full-line stores, but Mattingly



A NEW NORDSTROM Local service hub offers curbside services in Newport Beach. It opened Friday.

said the local service hubs allow the company to be "closer to our customers."

"Opening Nordstrom Local service hubs in the Los Angeles area is part of the continuation of our market strategy in one of our largest markets to provide customers with greater access to merchandise selection and faster delivery while increasing convenience and connection through our services," Ken Worzel, chief operating officer at Nordstrom, said in a statement.

Worzel said shoppers that use the services at Nordstrom Local's spend more than 2½ times more than other customers.

The company also announced it would be expanding services at its

stores. Shoppers can now pick up their online orders at any Nordstrom Rack store and customers in Southern California will be able to shop digitally at stores throughout their areas and pick up their purchases at the store of their choosing the next day. Nordstrom cardholders in Southern California are also now eligible for free two-day home delivery.

The company also stated that later this year that shoppers would also be able to pick up their online orders from Nordstrom Rack and HauteLook at service hubs and at their nearest Nordstrom location.

lilly.nguyen@latimes.com  
Twitter: @lilibirds

## THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

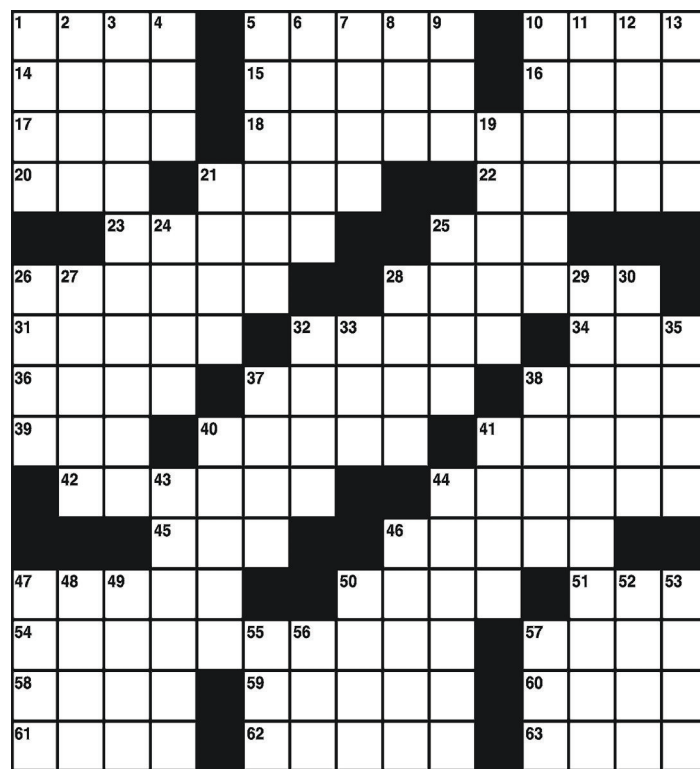
By Jacqueline E. Mathews

### ACROSS

- 1 Chip accompaniments
- 5 Long seat
- 10 Family member
- 14 \_ canal; no-fun procedure
- 15 Stood
- 16 Jungle beast
- 17 Went \_; malfunctioned
- 18 Signed up
- 20 Halloween decoration
- 21 Curves
- 22 Quick
- 23 Near tears
- 25 City transport
- 26 Gift from a crocheter
- 28 Most resentful
- 31 Boston hockey player
- 32 Fodder storage towers
- 34 Deuce
- 36 Signals to actors
- 37 Abhors
- 38 Expanded
- 39 Prefix for mount or member
- 40 Tough fibrous tissue
- 41 TV's "\_ Acres"
- 42 House of worship
- 44 NFL team
- 45 Cake ingredient
- 46 "If it's not one \_, it's another!"
- 47 Love in Paris
- 50 "Phoey!"
- 51 Your, in the bible
- 54 Cylindrical pasta
- 57 "Slow down" command
- 58 Black- \_ Susan
- 59 Scout's award
- 60 Frau's husband
- 61 Be impudent
- 62 Startle; scare
- 63 "Chestnuts roasting \_ open fire"

### DOWN

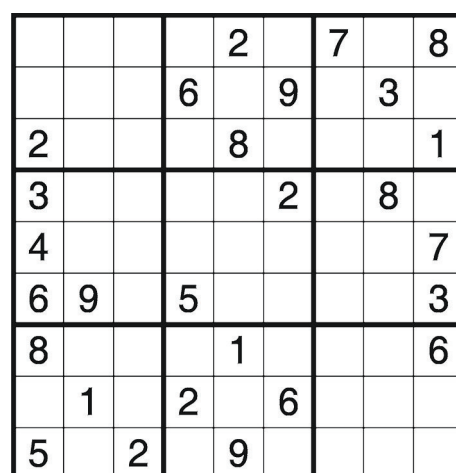
- 1 Dull in color
- 2 Cedar Rapids' state
- 3 European language
- 4 Animal enclosure
- 5 Like a wasteland
- 6 Standing straight
- 7 Eggy drinks
- 8 Ted Danson TV series
- 9 "For \_ a Jolly Good Fellow"
- 10 Polite person's word
- 11 Haughtiness
- 12 Wordsworth or Whitman
- 13 Mayberry resident
- 19 Christmas Eve 2020: abbr.
- 21 As comfortable



## SUDOKU

By The Mephram Group

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit [sudoku.org.uk](http://sudoku.org.uk).



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

- 4 Animal enclosure
- 5 Like a wasteland
- 6 Standing straight
- 7 Eggy drinks
- 8 Ted Danson TV series
- 9 "For \_ a Jolly Good Fellow"
- 10 Polite person's word
- 11 Haughtiness
- 12 Wordsworth or Whitman
- 13 Mayberry resident
- 19 Christmas Eve 2020: abbr.
- 21 As comfortable

- \_ old shoe
- 24 Fraternity letters
- 25 Unhappy audience cries
- 26 Opening quartet
- 27 Orange or peach
- 28 Slaughtered
- 29 Fortify
- 30 Twitter post
- 32 Rational
- 33 Ending for favor or meteor
- 35 Possesses
- 37 Sledding spot
- 38 Big smile
- 40 Steeple
- 41 Put on weight
- 43 Coconut candy bar
- 44 Sharp shrill cry
- 46 Latin American dance
- 47 Big spades
- 48 Angelou or Rudolph
- 49 Dollar bills
- 50 Numskull
- 52 Group dance
- 53 Knitter's purchase
- 55 Units of weight: abbr.
- 56 Once around the track
- 57 "The Man \_ Shot Liberty Valance"; '62 film

Tribune Media Services

## MAILBAG

### Thank you to Newport voters

I am honored to be joining the Newport Beach City Council. The privilege and responsibility is not a task I take lightly. I thank the voters for their support and encouragement as we work to keep our city the jewel that it is.

I appreciate the work and knowledge that Councilman Jeff Herdman has given to the city over these last four years. I look forward to putting the tumultuous nature of the election behind us for the strength and unity of our great city. We are a stronger Newport together.

To my wife and son, thank you for your strength and resilience



Noah Blom

throughout this contentious election. Politics, I have learned, is a full-contact sport where even family and business are thrown into the arena. The support of my family and friends has been the guiding light during this process. Thank you for the love, dedication and work that has defined our campaign. Positivity and hard work have been the backbone of our home and our restaurants, and we will look to lead the city with the same approach.

Thank you to all of our staff and patrons for keep-

## HOW TO GET PUBLISHED

Send an email to [erik.haugli@latimes.com](mailto:erik.haugli@latimes.com) and include your full name, hometown and phone number (for verification purposes) with your submission. All letters should be kept to 350 words or fewer. The Pilot reserves the right to edit all submissions for clarity and length.

ing heads high and smiles bright. We build our future together.

We are in a time of external pressure and uncertainty as a city, from the pandemic and homelessness to state housing and forced regulatory agencies, and the list goes on. We must face these challenges with creativity and intelligence if we are to maintain the character and charm of our villages. Our strength will be in tackling our issues together.

My table is always open. I have and will always be open to meeting with anyone. Great discourse creates great ideas. I welcome both criticism and comment, advice and anecdote, as great knowledge comes from reflecting on our own lives and striving to be better. I love this city and will never stop working to keep Newport great. Thank you again for your support and love.

Noah Blom  
Newport Beach

### Letter about Rouda was unfair

It was disappointing the Daily Pilot Mailbag published the recent William Phinizy letter, considering its hyperbolic and misleading content.

It was the same inaccurate message Phinizy and his counterpart Russ Neal peddled in several Orange County publications for many weeks.

The Washington Free Beacon Phinizy cited is a publication strongly biased toward conservative causes and has a reputation for mendaciousness and fear-mongering. Typically, it uses descriptive terms like "fanatical" or

"radical," and Phinizy did the same.

There is much to be afraid of with Michelle Steel. How can anyone expect her to be a strong voice in Congress when she can't even stand up to a few misguided "anti-mask bullies" at a Board of Supervisors meeting?

Or support an O.C. health officer who received death threats? Or who in a June board meeting famously uttered some ineffectual twaddle about "species discrimination" when comparing mask wearing between dogs and humans?

As supervisor, Steel downplayed COVID-19 and promoted canceling a mask mandate, exacerbating our crisis. Here's what fearful and an indication of Michelle Steel's failed leadership: 62,830 infected, 1,512 dead, and still rising.

Mark Scott  
Huntington Beach

### Setting the record straight

I am not a moderate Republican as stated in the Daily Pilot on Nov. 1 (Could Dana Rohrabacher's old seat flip red in Orange County? Experts say it's a close call).

I would never tell a reporter what political party I am affiliated with. I am, indeed, a moderate voter and was backing Harley Rouda, who is also a moderate, for Congress.

I believe that is where the confusion came in. The most important fact mentioned was that I am concerned about climate change, which should worry us all.

Lizanne Witte  
Laguna Beach



Courtesy of Jeopardy! Productions, Inc.

HUNTINGTON BEACH resident Greg Marrero, right, appeared on "Jeopardy!" Tuesday night.

## JEOPARDY!

Continued from page A1

life, but I haven't auditioned prior to this," Lewis said. "The online test is open every January, and I always seemed to miss it somehow. This year, I happened to take it and qualify there."

Lewis said he watched Monday night's "Jeopardy!" episode with his parents and girlfriend, and was going to try to organize a Zoom watch party with some of his college friends from UC Berkeley.

Lewis said his interactions with Trebek were limited to the show only due to COVID-19 protocols, but he had a great time, without giving away just how he did.

"I feel very fortunate to have been on the show prior to his passing, but obviously it's a huge loss for everyone who's ever watched or appeared on the show, the cast and crew, his family," Lewis said.

"He's just really irreplaceable in the hearts and minds of trivia buffs every-

where. I'm glad to have been on [Monday night's] episode, but I know that it's going to be an emotional episode for essentially everyone watching."

Lewis competed Tuesday against Marrero as well as Melissa Givens, a voice professor and singer originally from Buffalo, N.Y.

Marrero said this was his third time auditioning for "Jeopardy!" but his first time making it on the show. He first auditioned for a teen tournament more than 30 years ago, he said, and he auditioned again in 2006.

"I watched it very religiously when I was younger," Marrero said. "When I go and visit my parents, my mom is usually watching the show. It's fun to sort of go back and reminisce, yell out the answers just like I did when I was younger."

He said he first put the news that he would be on Tuesday's show on social media on Saturday. The next morning, he got a flood of texts after Trebek had died.

"It was just so unexpected, [for it to happen] the

very next morning," Marrero said.

"I just feel very lucky that I was able to participate in the show while Alex was there. He was very friendly, energetic, he was sharp as a tack. I feel really blessed that I was able to meet him. He was still in his prime, and clearly he was doing what he loved all the way up until the end. It was a really special experience."

Marrero said that Trebek seemed to get a kick out of the fact that he had also auditioned to be on "Jeopardy!" as a teenager.

"I think the best part of the magic of him was that he was able to do that with thousands of people over his career, make each person feel really seen and like they were a unique individual," Marrero said. "That was really great."

According to Sony Pictures Entertainment, which produces the game show, Trebek's last day in the studio was Oct. 29. His final episode hosting the show will air on Christmas Day.

matthewszabo@latimes.com  
Twitter: @mjszabo



Rod Lamkey | AP

**JUSTICE AMY** Coney Barrett speaks during her Senate Judiciary Committee confirmation hearing on Capitol Hill on Oct. 13. June Casagrande writes there is a legitimate grammatical basis for using “declarative questions” to get answers from Supreme Court nominees.

**A WORD, PLEASE | JUNE CASAGRANDE**

# What, exactly, is a declarative question?

Simple, declarative questions — that’s the best way to get answers from a Supreme Court nominee, a news commentator insisted recently. Just ask declarative questions.



doesn’t matter how the clauses are joined, whether they’re coordinated with a coordinating conjunction like “and” or whether one of the clauses is subordinated with a subordinating conjunction like “while”: Betty sang the national anthem while Jimmy played drums.

I scoffed and filed the term in the corner of my mind home to “jumbo shrimp” and “military intelligence.” An oxymoron. A contradiction in terms. Nonsense.

Obviously, declarative sentences can be much more complex: Betty sang the national anthem while Jimmy played drums using the drumsticks his father gave him for his ninth birthday in lieu of the dirt-bike Jimmy had begged for repeatedly. But these are all declarative sentences. They all state something.

But now, after doing a little research, I know better. “Declarative question” is neither nonsensical nor a contradiction in terms. Instead, it’s a mashup of two basic concepts: declarative and interrogative sentences.

Interrogative sentences in English are fascinating. Sometimes they follow a formula common in other languages that turn a statement into a question by swapping positions of the subject and verb: The statement “You are serious” becomes a question when you invert the subject and verb: Are you serious? But you can’t always do that in English. That is, you don’t normally form a question out of “Clem slept” by asking “Slept Clem?” Instead, we often use “do” or some form of it, which functions as something called a “dummy operator.”

All sentences come in one of four forms: declarative, interrogative, imperative or exclamatory.

A declarative sentence is a simple statement: You eat gluten.

An interrogative sentence is a question: Do you eat gluten?

An imperative sentence is a command: Eat gluten!

An exclamatory sentence is an exclamation: Gluten! Exclamatory sentences are oddballs because they needn’t meet the usual criteria to qualify as a sentence. A complete sentence normally contains both a subject and a verb. But an exclamatory sentence need not. It can be a single word or multiple words that don’t contain both a subject and a verb: What a beautiful day!

Declarative, interrogative, imperative and exclamatory aren’t just labels. They’re not just fancy words for statements, questions, commands and exclamations. Instead, these concepts are useful for understanding the grammar.

A declarative sentence doesn’t just state something. It does so by following a specific syntax that dictates the arrangement of the words. The simplest form for a declarative sentence is just a subject plus an intransitive verb (a verb that doesn’t take an object): Betty sang.

A slightly more complex declarative sentence would use a transitive verb (which does take an object): Betty sang the national anthem.

Declarative sentences can contain more than one clause, as well: Betty sang the national anthem and Jimmy played drums. It

inversion process works for past tense forms that use an auxiliary, for example “have” in “You have eaten dinner,” which we can invert to ask, “Have you eaten dinner?” Still other times interrogatives are formed using question words like “when” and “why.” When did Clem sleep? These are all interrogatives.

Imperatives — commands like “Eat!” — may not look like complete sentences, but they are. That’s because in the syntax of an imperative, the subject is implied: “Eat!” means, literally, “(You) eat!”

So now that we know declaratives are statements and interrogatives are questions, we can ask: What, exactly, is a declarative question? You may have already guessed the answer. A declarative question is a statement made into a question by adding a question mark at the end.

Ben likes cheese. Ben likes cheese?

You’re serious. You’re serious?

You parked in the back. You parked in the back?

So, declarative questions are legit? Yes, declarative questions are legit.

**JUNE CASAGRANDE** is the author of “The Joy of Syntax: A Simple Guide to All the Grammar You Know You Should Know.” She can be reached at [JuneTCN@aol.com](mailto:JuneTCN@aol.com).

## Daily Pilot

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**CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS**

D	I	P	S		B	E	N	C	H		P	A	P	A
R	O	O	T		A	R	O	S	E		L	I	O	N
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8	4	9	7	1	5	3	2	6						
7	1	3	2	4	6	8	9	5						
5	6	2	8	9	3	1	7	4						

# MARKETPLACE

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**LEGAL NOTICES**  
1300

**Name Change**  
**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR A CHANGE OF NAME**  
**CASE NO. 30-2020-01164140**  
**Petitioner or Attorney (name, state, bar, and address):**  
 HANNAH MISHA VOGEL  
 24411 Ridge Route Drive, Suite 200, Laguna Hills, CA 92651  
**TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED:**  
 Petitioner, HANNAH MISHA VOGEL filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
**Present Name**  
 HANNAH MISHA VOGEL  
**Proposed Name**  
 SAMANTHA MISHA VOGEL  
**THE COURT ORDERS** that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.  
**NOTICE OF HEARING**  
 DATE: 12/09/2020  
 TIME: 8:30 AM  
 DEPT: D100  
 ROOM: Window 44  
**The address of the court is:** SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
 COUNTY OF Orange  
 700 Civic Center Drive West  
 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county.

**Name Change**  
 Dated: 10/08/2020  
 Hailey McMaster  
 Deputy Clerk  
 Published in the Daily Pilot 10/28, 11/04, 11/11 & 11/18/2020

**ANNOUNCEMENTS / ENTERTAINMENT**  
500

**Religious Announcements**  
 Thank you St Jude & Sacred Heart of Jesus for prayers answered-CM

**EMPLOYMENT**  
1500

**Employment**  
 Senior Character Artist. Develop characters based on project art & technical specifications. Req. 4 yrs exp in job or 4 yrs exp in rel. occup. Jobsite: Irvine, CA. Send resume ref#19282 to K. Finnsson, Blizzard Entertainment Inc., PO Box 18979, Irvine, CA 92623.  
 Data Scientist. Research & develop state-of-the-art machine learning & statistical modeling solutions to understand system performance & key business behaviors, etc. Req. Master of Statistics or rel. field. Jobsite: Irvine, CA. Send resume ref#19271 to K. Finnsson, Blizzard Entertainment Inc., PO Box 18979, Irvine, CA 92623.

**Legal Notices**

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: MATTHEW W. RHORER**  
**30-2020-01167417-PR-LA-CJC**

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of **MATTHEW W. RHORER** A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by **STEPHEN P. RHOHER** in the Superior Court of California, County of **ORANGE**. **THE PETITION FOR PROBATE** requests that **STEPHEN P. RHOHER** be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

**THE PETITION** requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

**A HEARING** on the petition will be held on December 09, 2020 at 10:30 a.m. in Dept. C6 located at 700 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE WEST, SANTA ANA, CA 92701

**(1) If you plan to appear, you must attend the hearing by video remote using Microsoft Teams; (2) Go to the Court’s website at <http://www.occourts.org/media-relations/probate-mental-health.html> to appear for probate hearings; and for remote hearing instructions; (3) If you have difficulty connecting to your remote hearing, call 657-622-8278 for assistance.**

**IF YOU OBJECT** to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

**IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR** or contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

**YOU MAY EXAMINE** the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for the Petitioner:  
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 BSC 218983

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: GWENDOLYN D. JOHNSON, aka GWENDOLYN DANIELSON JOHNSON, aka GWEN JOHNSON**  
**30-2020-01167614-PR-PW-CJC**

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of **GWENDOLYN D. JOHNSON, aka GWENDOLYN DANIELSON JOHNSON, aka GWEN JOHNSON** A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by **DARLYNN MORGAN** in the Superior Court of California, County of **ORANGE**. **THE PETITION FOR PROBATE** requests that **DARLYNN MORGAN** be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

**THE PETITION** requests the decedent’s will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

**THE PETITION** requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

**A HEARING** on the petition will be held on December 09, 2020 at 10:30 a.m. in Dept. C6 located at 700 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE WEST, SANTA ANA, CA 92701

**(1) If you plan to appear, you must attend the hearing by video remote using Microsoft Teams; (2) Go to the Court’s website at <http://www.occourts.org/media-relations/probate-mental-health.html> to appear for probate hearings; and for remote hearing instructions; (3) If you have difficulty connecting to your remote hearing, call 657-622-8278 for assistance.**

**IF YOU OBJECT** to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

**IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR** or contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

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## SCHOOLS

Continued from page A1

hind her mask as she greeted classmates stepping onto campus for the first time since schools shuttered in March.

Hanna, the senior class president, said she felt it was safe for her to return to campus because no one in her family was at high risk of contracting the virus.

But that wasn't the case for some of her friends, who decided to be part of the at-home schooling cohort.

"A lot of people are doing it because they're going to see their relatives for the holidays and don't want the risk," the 17-year-old added. "So, they're waiting until after the holidays to come back."

The day after the district reopened its secondary campuses, the Orange County Health Care Agency on Tuesday recorded 267 new cases of coronavirus and three deaths, bringing Orange County's cumulative case count to 62,830 and fatalities to 1,512.

Area hospitals reported they were treating 224 individuals for COVID-19, including 79 in intensive care units.

Although Hanna has visited campus periodically for water polo practices since September, she said she and others were leery about the district's previous plans to reopen secondary campuses Oct. 12, which was later postponed after district officials said they weren't prepared for the move.

The extra month seems to have given officials more time to work out logistics and communicate more clearly with families, Hanna said.

"Before, no one seemed to know what was going on. Now there seems to be a plan in place," Hanna said. "It's going to feel weird and different [today], but I think it's going to be safe if everybody does what they're supposed to."

Senior Natalie Arzmani said the "weirdest" part of her morning was leaving her house.

Pam Dickey, a special education instructional assistant, said on her way into the building she was feeling a little apprehensive but couldn't wait to work directly with students again.

Newport-Mesa Unified is still hashing out an agreement with its classified employees union — whose representatives previously



**ABOVE, STUDENTS** leave the Corona del Mar High and Middle schools campus following the first day back of in-person learning for Newport-Mesa Unified School District students on Monday. Below, Corey Delahunt, with campus safety, directs foot traffic at the end of the school day.

Photos by Scott Smeltzer  
Staff Photographer

claimed workers lacked adequate supplies and training — regarding Monday's reopening. It executed a memorandum of understanding with its teachers union last week.

"Our administrators have been really good about being above board and getting us what we need," Dickey said of the school's safety precautions and protective equipment supply. "I'm super excited to see the kids in person. I think we're ready."

For Costa Mesa High School Principal Jake Haley, the extra month helped him and other site administrators figure out how to accommodate two different cohorts of learners and make already suitable site

plans even more solid.

"Our plan is a great one. We're doing everything we can do to keep people safe but, obviously, we can't control what happens outside our bubble," Haley said. "I keep telling families we're all in this together — every decision we make impacts everyone."

Identifying a third, stay-at-home group was crucial to meeting the needs of all families but also addressing issues of overcrowding while providing a learning option should kids fall ill or need to self-isolate.

In the three ZIP Codes that fall within Newport-Mesa Unified School District's boundaries, there are reportedly 176 children under 18 who have tested

positive for the coronavirus, agency figures indicate, although not all attend NMUSD schools.

Among those, 111 are between the ages of 15 and 18.

"It's looking out for those students who were asking to stay at home if maybe they had a cough or symptoms," he said. "Also, we have some families who weren't prepared to come back yet, so we wanted to make sure we supported them too."

As of Tuesday evening, the district's COVID-19 online dashboard reported 25 confirmed cases of the virus at school sites, a number that includes students and staff. Six were on the Costa Mesa Middle and High School campus, while

four were reported at Newport Harbor High School, two at Corona del Mar Middle and High schools and one at Ensign Intermediate School.

Another three cases of the virus were reported at non-school facilities owned by the district, according to the dashboard.

At Corona del Mar High School, new principal Josh Hill said Monday was different than what he expected his first day to be.

"I had this idea of thousands of students and the excitement that surrounds that first day and just, we didn't have the numbers that we have," Hill said. "But I was so happy to see students again. It was a smaller number than we

normally have because we have cohorts going on, but it was just as exciting and great to see in-person."

"We've been doing it in distance learning, but it's different when they're physically, actually on campus. It just transforms the whole environment of the school. It's very exciting. Not quite what I expected, but at the end of the day? I'm very satisfied," he added.

Corona del Mar Middle School principal Rebecca Gogel said that the first day went "extremely smoothly" and that her staff didn't have any issues with students not wanting to wear masks, but they did have to remind some of them a few times to socially distance.

"It was just so great to see kids in real life. We really missed them. That's the joy of the job and the work that we get to do is with kids, so the energy came back," Gogel said.

Catherine White, 12, said it was her first day at her new school. She'd gone to Andersen Elementary the year before.

"I thought it was going to be way more stressful than I thought, but it was not stressful at all," Catherine said. "I think it's way more fun than the first day of Zoom school."

Catherine said she wasn't as nervous Sunday night, but that she was worried when Monday morning came that she might embarrass herself somehow. She said it was stressful and she was scared, but her day turned out pretty well.

For eighth-grader Chloe Kwon, Monday turned out pretty well, she said. She got to see her friends again, and there were fewer people in the classrooms.

Natalie Gurney, 12, said she helped represent students in the discussions on how to keep campuses safe for in-person instruction. She said it was "really cool" that they got student input on reopening and that they were able to voice what their concerns were.

Natalie said she had a good first day back and that it was exciting to see all her teachers for the first time and her friends in person again.

"Even though we had to social distance and wear masks, I think it was better than online learning," she said.

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## CHIEF

Continued from page A1

Federal Bureau of Investigation, where he worked in the Sacramento Division for 15 years.

From there, he became the police chief for Dixon in March 2017. His tenure in Dixon was defined by establishing core values, community engagement and investment in the development and growth of officers, Laguna Beach city officials said.

"Rob's success at working collaboratively with the community, his colleagues and the police department really set him apart from other candidates," Laguna Beach City Manager John Pietig said in the release.

Farinella announced her plan to retire in March, and

her last day was to be in July. She continued to serve as Laguna Beach's police chief while the city's search to fill the role was ongoing.

In March 2015, Farinella was brought on as the 16th police chief of Laguna Beach.

Farinella's achievements in Laguna Beach include a record-low crime rate and the addition of the department's first school resource officer. The city also added full-time jailers and beach patrol officers.

A foot patrol for downtown Laguna Beach and a police presence at Main Beach and Heisler Park through community outreach booths also were highlights of Farinella's tenure.

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## STEEL

Continued from page A1

from humble beginnings and not only have a place in this Republican Party, but can be elected to Congress from the best district in the best state in the union. That's what I will be taking with me to Washington, the notion that conservative ideas transcend gender, race, religion or nationality."

Steel said that when she gets to Washington, she will be "a force for smaller government and lower taxes that you can count on."

Rouda, 58, said in a statement that he was a productive new member of Congress because he worked with Republicans instead of demonizing



**U.S. REP.-ELECT** Michelle Steel, the Orange County Board of Supervisor chair, and outgoing Rep. Harley Rouda, who lost his bid for reelection to Congress, representing the 48th District, which covers coastal Orange County.

Steel and Rouda  
campaigns

them, and he did not give in to partisan politics.

"We ought to have a political system that is built on facts, rewards honesty and strengthens the bonds that tie us to each other, rather than

ripping them to shreds," Rouda said. "While one campaign ends today, another is just beginning. I look forward to having voters compare my opponent's two years in Congress with my accom-

plishments on November 8, 2022.

"There is surely more work to do. Let's do it together."

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## AUDIT

Continued from page A1

select high-risk ballots to be checked against what was recorded. High-risk ballots might include those in precincts in which voting outcomes were close, or where there was a different turnout than expected, Kelley said.

The procedure will be performed in conjunction with a hand tally of votes from 1% of all precincts — something that has been required of all California counties since the 1960s — and is meant to help streamline that process.

"I have been a champion of [risk-limiting audits] from the beginning because the reality is that it is much more scientifically sound in terms of finding ballots that might be a problem, and then count-

ing those that are most at risk," Kelley said. "Statistically, it makes sense."

Long a Republican stronghold, Orange County's political makeup has undergone a tectonic shift in recent years.

Its 2016 support of Hillary Clinton marked the county's first time voting for a Democratic presidential candidate since Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1936. In 2019, the county's number of registered Democrats surpassed that of Republicans for the first time since a brief blue burst in the 1970s.

But there are plenty of indications that the GOP remains a viable force in the area, which houses the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and famously nurtured the political career of Ronald Reagan.

Last month, a rally in Newport Beach brought



Allen J. Schaben | Los Angeles Times

**BILLIE MONTAGUE**, 2, puts an "I voted" sticker on her nose while for waiting for her mother, Ashley Montague, at Marina Park Community Center in Newport Beach on Election Day.

throng of Trump supporters to the Pacific Coast Highway, and on Saturday, Trump supporters gathered again at the Huntington Beach Pier to protest Biden's projected win.

Despite the president's accusations of fraud, Kelley said the results of Orange County's risk-limiting audits have been consistently on target: Their audit of the 2020 primary elections

found that not one vote was off.

"This is something the public doesn't understand," Kelley said. "A federally certified voting system cannot have a known error of more than 1 in 10 million ballots cast. Tell me, other than maybe medicine, where you have that kind of strict reliance on accuracy. ... I'm standing behind it for a reason. The system is precise."

The first step of the audit will be the establishment of a random seed, which will take place at 9 a.m. Friday at the registrar of voters office in Santa Ana. The seed is a number consisting of at least 20 digits, and each digit will be selected by sequential rolls of a 10-sided die.

Randomly selected members of the public will take turns rolling the die, or staff members if no

members of the public are present.

"Establishing the seed in this manner results in a properly random, and verifiable, selection of individual ballots of examination and audit," the registrar said, "and ensures the integrity and statistical validity of the risk-limiting audit."

The election results to be audited will be published on the Orange County registrar of voters website prior to the seed ceremony, and the seed will be published immediately after it is established, officials said. It will include local and statewide contests as well as the presidential election.

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