

Daily Pilot

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Vaccine resistance may delay county's July 4 goal

Health officials were hoping to achieve herd immunity by Independence Day, but Labor Day is becoming a more realistic target date.

BY SARA CARDINE

Operation Independence — Orange County's goal to reach herd immunity against COVID-19 by the Fourth of July holiday — may be a bust if those hesitant to get vaccinated don't act soon.

Touted as a target by which health officials would complete a countywide vaccination program, the dream is fading fast as the demand for first doses plummets and vaccine shipments from the state are turned away.

"If we want to get to herd immunity by July 4, we'd need at least 600,000 people in our community to want to get a COVID vaccine between the beginning of this week and July," Dr. Regina Chinsio-Kwong, a deputy health officer for the Orange County Health Care Agency, said Thursday.

OCHA reports about 54% of the county's 3.2 million residents over age 16 have so far received at least one dose of the vaccine, a far cry from the 70% required to meet the lowest threshold for herd immunity.

The demand for appointments has declined 75% since April, causing the agency to announce last week it would shutter its four remaining super vaccination point-of-dispensing sites as of June 5 and instead concentrate efforts on community and mobile clinics.

Chinsio-Kwong said the agency has turned down its weekly allocation of Moderna and Johnson & Johnson shots for the past two weeks, so supply would not exceed demand.

If such trends continue, the once-vaunted goal of returning Orange County residents to prepandemic levels of health and safety will not be achieved until much later in the calendar year.

"At the current rate of people coming in for their first doses, realistically, we're looking at Labor Day," Chinsio-Kwong

See *Goal*, page A6



Photos by Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

JIM WASKO is the owner of the new Crab Cooker in Newport Beach. The restaurant is getting ready to open in this summer after a total rebuild.

Owner of popular Crab Cooker looks to reopen this summer



GARRETT SICKELS with Richard & Richard Construction, looks at the lights in the Crab Cooker.

The Newport restaurant closed in 2018 for rebuilding. And yes, the 12-foot taxidermy great white shark will be there to greet guests.

BY LILLY NGUYEN

Jim Wasko initially thought the reconstruction of the Crab Cooker would have taken a year, or maybe as long as 18 months, back when he shut down the iconic Newport Beach seafood restaurant in 2018 and it went under the wrecking ball.

Instead, it's taken nearly three years, Wasko said in an interview Friday, to give the venerable restaurant its sea legs once again.

Plumbing issues caused an eight-month delay that involved an intensive re-engineering of the restaurant's foundation in 2019. Then Wasko had to deal with the ar-

See *Crab*, page A6

ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

F.V. BOYS' BASKETBALL CLINCHES SHARE OF FIRST LEAGUE TITLE IN 8 YEARS
PAGE A8

APODACA: 3 ORANGE COUNTY RESIDENTS WHO FIGHT AGAINST THE SPREAD OF HATE PAGE A3

Laguna Beach council to consider return of summer concerts at Tuesday meeting

BY ANDREW TURNER

The Laguna Beach City Council at its meeting scheduled for Tuesday will consider a return of some summertime performances.

After the council previously suspended spring and summer concerts on March 9, the council will consider a proposal from the Arts Commission with a handful of city-funded events.

The performances include Music in the Park at the Festival of Arts on four summer Sunday afternoons, as well as Sunset Serenades each Friday evening in September.

See *Laguna*, page A3



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

LAGUNA BEACH Mayor Bob Whalen and council members Toni Iseman and George Weiss begin a meeting of the Laguna Beach City Council.

SoCal plein air painters to host Newport show and sale in June

BY SARA CARDINE

After a year of hosting events and shows almost completely online, members of the Southern California Plein Air Painters Assn. — a club for people who create art in nature — have been itching to get back to the great outdoors.

For more than two decades, the organization has been a haven for artists who prefer painting *en plein air*, a practice that allows painters to observe the natural colors and light effects of an open landscape.

Members typically showcased their works in an annual outdoor exhibit that let attendees not only purchase paintings, but also see the al fresco art pieces created in real time. But the coronavirus forced SOCALPAPA to an online format last year, according to show director Diane Prendergast.

"COASTAL BREEZE,"

a plein air painting created by Costa Mesa artist Diane Prendergast on a recent trip to Cambria.



"Technically, I think our 20th anniversary was last year," Prendergast said Thursday. "We were planning a big celebration, but then COVID."

As the pandemic dragged on, and public parks and gardens remained closed to the visiting public, local artists set up easels where they could, drawing inspi-

ration from backyards, parks and beaches.

Newport Beach's Environmental Nature Center, a 5-acre outdoor classroom bustling with activity before the pandemic, periodically allowed tiny groups of distanced and masked painters to

See *Painters*, page A2



Photos courtesy of Diane Prendergast

ARTISTS AMANDA FISH, left, and Linda Lawler enjoy painting "en plein air" at Newport Beach's Environmental Nature Center in March.

THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

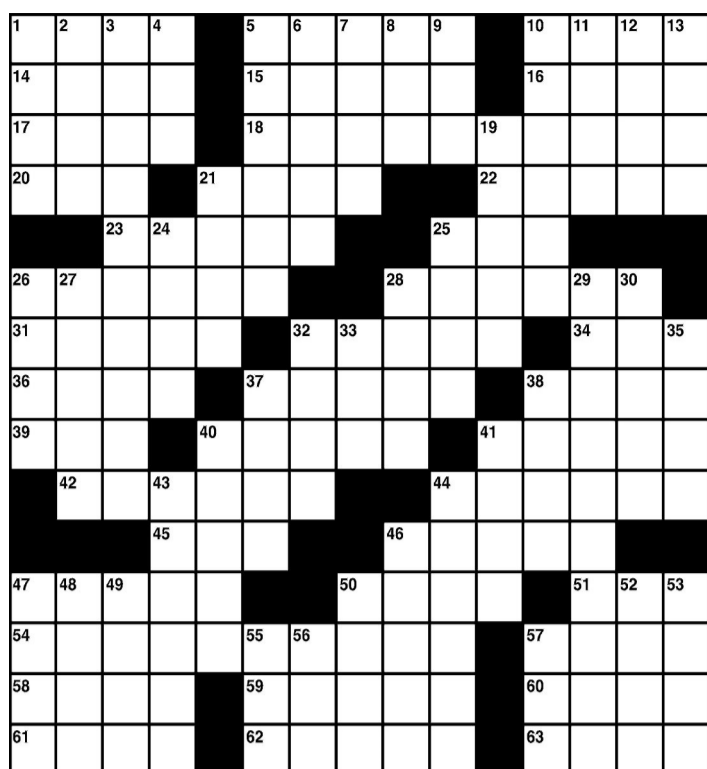
By Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS

- 1 Dry as a desert
- 5 _ throat; bacterial infection
- 10 Do a farmer's job
- 14 Beasts of burden
- 15 Depart
- 16 _ reviews; great critiques
- 17 Ending for gab or song
- 18 Smitten
- 20 Amt. of vanilla to add
- 21 TV's "Empty _"
- 22 Wedding cake levels
- 23 Uneven
- 25 "_ Now or Never"
- 26 Short-horned grasshopper
- 28 Eerie
- 31 Nervous
- 32 Beard remover
- 34 Reiner or Estes
- 36 Skillful
- 37 Lucifer
- 38 Carousel or Ferris wheel
- 39 Thee
- 40 "Wonderful!"
- 41 Flood barrier
- 42 Unreliable people
- 44 Military awards
- 45 Auction offer
- 46 Wet
- 47 Mistake
- 50 Jeff & Beau, to Lloyd
- 51 _ de cologne
- 54 Skin mole
- 57 Kitten's cries
- 58 Farm building
- 59 Like Roma Downey & Liam Neeson
- 60 Minstrel's instrument
- 61 Ran fast
- 62 Window pieces
- 63 Middle C & A-flat, e.g.

DOWN

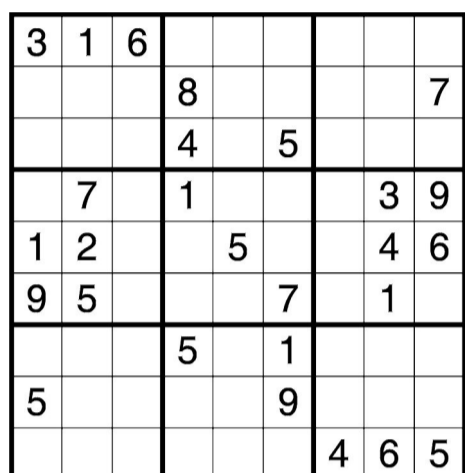
- 1 Like a baby's skin
- 2 Old ladies?
- 3 Courteous



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 A6.

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 4 Suffix for exist or differ | hamster |
| 5 Most devious | 10 Glorify |
| 6 Past, present or future | 11 Overdue |
| 7 Huck Finn's float | 12 Go _; review |
| 8 Per-n or Longoria | 13 Says "I do" |
| 9 Hound or | 19 Say |
| | 21 Too inquisitive |
| | 24 Autumn leaf color |

- 25 Sunbeam appliance
- 26 Disney's "_ and the Tramp"
- 27 _ these days; eventually
- 28 Old Russian ruler's title
- 29 Detective
- 30 Alpine warble
- 32 Knocks
- 33 Feasted
- 35 Birds' partner, in phrase
- 37 Brought charges against
- 38 Team from Ohio
- 40 Avoid by going around
- 41 Garlands
- 43 Be plentiful
- 44 Calendar pages
- 46 Antlered animal
- 47 Flows back
- 48 Bring in the harvest
- 49 Infrequent
- 50 Twirl
- 52 Amiss; wrong
- 53 Employs
- 55 High-pitched bark
- 56 M#laga Mrs.
- 57 Third Mon. in Jan. honoree

Tribune Media Services

AROUND TOWN:

Pacific Airshow to debut new Growler flight team

The Pacific Airshow in Huntington Beach will host the U.S. Navy Growler Legacy Flight Demonstration Team for the first time this fall, the show announced recently.

The team's two EA-18G Growler aircraft will join in formation with the North American T-28 Trojan Navy aircraft from the Vietnam War era for a three-ship salute to the history and tradition of Naval aviation.

The Pacific Airshow, which debuted in Huntington Beach in 2016 and returns Oct. 1 to 3, will also feature the U.S. Navy Blue Angels celebrating their 75th anniversary among other highlights.

Laguna Live! presents Summer Jazz Series

A summer series of jazz music performances will run weekly into the month of June, and it is being brought to the public by Laguna Live!

The series is bringing artists in for virtual concerts each Wednesday, which are live streamed and can be seen on Facebook at 6 p.m. on the day of the show. It began on May 12 with Elena and George Gilliam Quintet.

Still to come in the lineup are Adam Bravo Quintet (May 19), John Noreyko's TUBOP (May 26), Jason Fabus Quintet (June 2), Peggy Duquesnel and Friends (June 9), Kevin Hicks Quintet (June 16) and

Brian Clancy Quintet (June 23).

The virtual concerts are free and are being put on with the help of the Music Performance Trust Fund and American Federation of Musicians Local 7.

Those interested in viewing the shows can visit lagunalive.org to RSVP for each respective event.

Blind Children's Learning Center raises \$125,638

The Santa Ana-based nonprofit Blind Children's Learning Center, which helps prepare children with visual impairments and disabilities for a life of independence, recently raised \$125,638 through its 17th annual Destination Independence Walk.

Proceeds will be used to serve children and families served by the nonprofit in three areas of focus: academic and mobility support, family support services and early intervention.

This year's event took place in a relay format, allowing participants to engage with one another in a safe, socially distanced manner.

Walkers could choose to walk in person during an April 18 in-person walk at Mater Dei High School or on their own time virtually.

Some 340 walkers, organized into 42 fundraising teams, collected funds from 657 donors who responded in support of children with visual impairments and their families.

— From staff reports

PAINTERS

Continued from page A1

work among its 15 native California landscapes during the long closure.

With the center planning to reopen in June, it seemed like the perfect place to hold this year's SOCALPAPA Art Show and Sale, which takes place June 5 and 6 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and features art demonstrations, an exhibit and live musical performances.

"It's an amazing place — they've got redwood trees there and palm trees and nature trails," Prendergast said of the venue. "There's so much room there, you can really spread out."

The Newport Beach location is ideal for plein air painting, which challenges artists to capture a scene as light changes with the shift-

ing sun and as they contend with weather, wind and distractions from passersby. But the allure of the format is undeniable, Prendergast said.

"You really get to study your subject," the Costa Mesa artist added. "You can really see so much more when you're painting outside than you can when you're working from a photo or flat screen."

Environmental Nature Center Executive Director Bo Glover said in a May 4 release the center was only too happy to lend its acreage to this year's show.

"This event is the perfect opportunity to welcome the public back to the center after a long absence, at the culmination of spring while it's bursting with life," Glover said.

"Nature has always been an inspiration to artists, and the focus on Califor-

nia's biodiversity makes [this] the perfect place to feature art showcasing our state's amazing beauty and uniqueness," he continued.

Attendees will not only be able to watch artists create works outdoors, but will also be able to take home paintings created during the two-day exhibition.

A portion of the art sales will benefit the Environmental Nature Center.

Live music will also be featured, with the Sweetwater Creek Band performing Celtic and Bluegrass tunes on Saturday and the Velvet Bow String Duo offering classical and folk music on Sunday.

The Environmental Nature Center is at 1601 E. 16 St., in Newport Beach.

To learn more, visit socalpapa.com or enccenter.org.

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forum

COLUMN | **PATRICE APODACA**

3 Orange County residents who fight against the spread of hate

Pete Simi is an associate professor of sociology at Chapman University.

Peter Levi is a rabbi and regional director for the Anti-Defamation League.

Kim Carr is the mayor of Huntington Beach.

These three people are different in many respects. Yet they all felt from a young age a deep desire to work for causes that are bigger than themselves, a calling that would define the course of their lives and, hopefully, make the world just a little bit kinder, more tolerant and inclusive.

They are, each in their own way, going to battle against hate. It's a daunting, uphill fight, one that has shown itself to be particularly challenging in recent times as we experience a steady increase in hate-related activity.

As Simi said, it sometimes feels as if the struggle against racism, anti-Semitism, anti-LGBTQ sentiment and other forms of bigotry amounts to "two steps forward and three steps back."

Nonetheless, Simi remains committed to doing whatever he can to promote tolerance and understanding.

And that's a good thing, for if we're ever going to move Orange

County, and the nation at large, away from the most disreputable aspects of our history and from the plague of hatred that continues to infect hearts and minds, perseverance is required.

Simi is a noted academic who has devoted his career to studying extremist groups and violence, his research taking him deep inside the psyches of white supremacists to explore their developmental influences and craft strategies to respond.

His book, "American Swastika: Inside the White Power Movement's Hidden Spaces of Hate," cowritten with Robert Futrell, includes interviews with white supremacists and details how hate groups cultivate new members.

Hate is an insidious force that must be confronted, Simi said.

"We need to address it not as a fringe problem but as a problem of society. It didn't just appear. These are people who are homegrown."

Part of the problem, he said, is that we as society have indulged and excused an everyday type of racism that can act like a gateway drug to more poisonous outcomes.

Such casual racism is sometimes introduced in the home through seemingly offhand

remarks and intolerant attitudes.

Simi's interview subjects were often raised in such an environment and then grew into angry adolescents and adults who felt compelled to take their prejudices to a more extreme level, saying that their "parents didn't have the courage to take the next steps."

Undoing such influences isn't easy and must be approached in a multifaceted manner.

Such is the challenge undertaken by Levi, who as a rabbi and for the past five years as the ADL's regional director, has long been drawn to and involved in social causes.

Though the ADL is widely known for combating anti-Semitism, the organization is committed to defeating all forms of bigotry and to promoting fair treatment for everyone.

Anti-Semitism, Levi said, is often "the canary in the coal mine. When you see anti-Semitism, you see other intolerance."

Changing that script, he said, requires ensuring that we have accessible means of reporting hate-related incidents and that law enforcement agencies have the resources and training needed to address hate crimes and homegrown terrorist threats.

Securing accurate data is critical to making sound policy decisions about where to direct such resources, he noted.

Another piece of the effort involves calling on public officials to denounce unequivocally white supremacy and to strengthen hate crime laws and the enforcement of existing laws. And it falls on all of us to speak out against intolerance wherever we see it and in support of those who are targeted by hate groups.

The most important element in the fight against hate is education. As Simi observed, "This isn't a problem we can arrest our way out of."

It's often said that people aren't born with hate; they learn it. It stands to reason, then, that they can also be taught to love and accept others who are different from them and that bigotry can be unlearned. Anti-bias curriculum is key and must begin with the youngest students.

"No one is born a bigot," said Levi. "Let's disrupt that pattern."

Mayor Carr probably doesn't think of herself as a disrupter but she is trying to change the narrative for a city long known as a haven for white supremacists. She hopes to accomplish

that not through confrontation but by promoting a welcoming, inclusive environment.

"One of the things I've learned over the past couple of years is to not call people out but call them in," she said. "Rather than dwell on the past and negativity, really listen to the stories of people affected by hate and racism. Listen to their stories so that we can better understand how to make changes."

A couple of examples of that effort are the recent vote by the Huntington Beach City Council to fly the LGBTQ pride flag at City Hall and a city-sponsored picnic at Central Park intended to promote cultural diversity.

"This is more powerful than some leaflets that were dropped off trying to recruit people for the KKK," she said. "The way we're going to combat this is to focus on the positive."

Three people. Three different approaches to turning back the scourge of hate. All are needed, but they can't do it alone. It's time for the rest of us to step up.

PATRICE APODACA is a former Los Angeles Times staff writer and is coauthor of "A Boy Named Courage: A Surgeon's Memoir of Apartheid." She lives in Newport Beach.

LAGUNA

Continued from page A1

Also included were a Circus Bella event and a "Welcome Home Concert," to be held in late September and late October, respectively.

A staff report said that the "Sunset Serenades" concerts have happened on Fridays at Heisler Park since 2008, running from 5:30 p.m. to sunset

at the amphitheater.

The performances are being recommended for approval on the condition that state and county guidelines concerning COVID-19 allow for the events to take place.

The council is expected to begin the meeting by honoring John Pietig, the retiring city manager, with a proclamation.

The proclamation acknowledges Pietig for 32 years of public service. He spent 20

years serving the community of Laguna Beach, where he was an assistant city manager for 10 years before serving as city manager for the past decade.

Prior to the regular meeting, a budget workshop will take place. City staff will give a presentation to the council regarding the proposed budget for the fiscal year 2021-22.

The budget workshop is scheduled to run from 3 to 5 p.m., with the regular meet-

ing of the City Council to follow at 6 p.m.

The public is invited to give input during this session.

The council is then scheduled to adopt the budget on June 15.

Laguna Beach City Council meetings are currently being held in a hybrid format that allows for public participation in person and online.

Members of the public who come to Council Chambers

may wait in line to speak on a subject of interest and then exit the building. A face covering is required while speaking in person.

The meeting can be accessed virtually via Zoom at [laguna beachcity.zoom.us/j/99558809825](https://laguna-beachcity.zoom.us/j/99558809825), and it can also be viewed by tuning in to Cox cable channel 852.

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42nd Annual Les Miller Scholarship Recipients



CONGRATULATIONS to Costa Mesa's most talented and highest performing graduating seniors and local college students who are being awarded through the Costa Mesa Chamber of Commerce's 2021 Les Miller Scholarship Program!!

These students were nominated by their teachers and principals for their outstanding academics and community involvement. Continue to shine!!

COSTA MESA HIGH SCHOOL




ALEXIA LEAL
GPA: 4.23

School Activities: member of the NHS (2017, 2019-2021), Science Fair, Football Club, Fitness Club, Work Service at a senior home (in Belize), Work Service with the Hands in (Defense Attorney)

Community:
- Church Youth Group
- Youth Bible Camp
- Teacher's Assistant for Children's Church
- Church Choir
- Teen Helper for Vacation Bible School

College Plans:
My post-graduation plans are to attend a 4-year university (still deciding on which one).



HARTLEY TRAN
GPA: 4.58

School Activities: UCI Regents' Scholarship, National Honors Society Member, AP Scholar with Distinction, Kiwanis Scholar Athlete, Varsity Tennis Player and Captain, MESA Day Competition, OCC Math Meet, Key Club, Varsity tennis

Community:
Youth Science Fellowship Program at UCI Cancer Research Institute, USTA Team Tennis

College Plans:
Most likely going to attend UCI. Plan to double major in computer science and applied math. Plan to study further for a master's degree in CS




LUKA GOGORISHVILI
GPA: 4.57

School Activities: Student Board Member, Superintendent's Student Advisory Committee member, Male Youth of the Year at CMHS, Science Student of the Year 2019, Science Student Medallion.

Community:
UCI FAB Camp, Johns Hopkins Summer Medical Intensive Program, University of Michigan Biotechnology Camp, OCC Spanish Dual-Enrollment, University Lab Partners Molecular Biology Lab Techniques Program; Medical Innovation, Research, and Entrepreneurship Program.

College Plans:
Attend a 4-year university, currently UCLA, and major in molecular biology or similar.



NIKOLAI DOWNS
GPA: 4.45

School Activities: 2020 Boys State Delegate, Copresident of CMHS VEX Robotics club, Varsity Track and Field, Captain of CMHS Linkbot

Community:
robotics, VEX and Linkbot robotics, Track, cross country, National honors society, space club.

College Plans:
Used car salesman at Track Motors, volunteer for Katrina Foley campaign, community volunteering and fundraisers through Newport Mesa church

College Plans:
Attending a four year college in California for computer engineering



HEYWARD BRADFORD
GPA: 4.28

School Activities: Trumpet Section Leader - Marching Band; Quarter Master - Marching Band; Co-President - National Honor Society; President - Lettuce Club; Assistant Stage Manager

Community:
- Theatre (The Crucible), Marching Band/Advanced Band, Jazz Band, Drumline, Theatre Pit Orchestra, Theatre Tech, National Honor Society, Key Club, JV Volleyball, Track and Field, Lettuce Club

College Plans:
California Leadership Academy, Chapman University Honor Band Festival

College Plans:
Attend a four-year university as a Communications major and pursue a career in public relations or advertising



NATHAN VUONG
GPA: 4.38

School Activities: Marching Band Low Brass Section Leader, Marching Band Vice President, Marching Band President, Key Club Secretary, Key Club Vice President

Community:
Marching Band, Jazz Band, Key Club, Boys Basketball, Boys Volleyball, Track and Field

College Plans:
Key Club related events (DCM, OTC, etc.)
Kelly's Closet

College Plans:
Attend a 4 year and study to become an athletic trainer.




HOLLIS WELLING
GPA: 4.38

School Activities: Vice-President of Drama Club, Co-President of Big Brothers Big Sisters Club, Student Advisor for Simon Scholars Program, Seal of Biliiteracy for Spanish, Recipient of Math Achievement Award

Community:
and Performing Arts Award, International Thespian Society Varsity Dance Team, Drama, Space Club, School Site Council

College Plans:
Big Brothers Big Sisters, National Honors Society

College Plans:
Attend Mount Holyoke College and anticipating majoring in Economics or International Relations




CATHERINE PHAM
GPA: 4.43

School Activities: National Honor Society Treasurer, Asian Culture Club President, Space Club Publicist, 2019-2020 Student Board

Community:
Representative Volleyball, Yearbook

College Plans:
Volunteered at Qoheleth Ministries' Feed the Hungry, Club Volleyball, represented CMHS at NMUSD board meetings

College Plans:
Go to University and study biology




JASMINE DIAZ
GPA: 4.51

School Activities: Founder and co-president of space club, co-president of NHS, treasurer of asian culture club, varsity dance team captain. Varsity letter in Girls Volleyball. Mustang award

Community:
semi-finalist for science (2019) and math (2020); Mustang award recipient for science (2018) and performing arts (2018 & 2020). California girls state delegate (2020), Dance team four years, G. Volleyball four years, ACC, NHS, space club

College Plans:
Volunteer at qoheleth ministries, volunteer for the volleyball program, tutor children (2019-), 7 Leaves Cafe employee (2020-)

College Plans:
Study Molecular and cellular biology



FERNANDO MENDOZA LÓPEZ
GPA: 4.41

School Activities: Varsity Volleyball letter, Chapman Presidential Scholarship, Cal Grant, AP Scholar with Honor Award

Community:
Varsity Boy's Volleyball team, Space Club

College Plans:
Altar Serving at St. John the Baptist, helping out at CMHS smART Camp, helped setting up CMHS Día De Los Muertos party

College Plans:
To go to a 4 year and study to become an athletic trainer.



CASSY PAUL
GPA: 4.3

School Activities: Space Club Secretary, Big Brothers Big Sisters Publicist and Co-President, CSF scholarship, AP Scholar Award, and Varsity Scholar Athlete - Cheer (Stunt), Mentor for Big Brothers Big

Community:
Sisters program, National Honors Society, and Stunt/Sideline Cheer, Teacher's Assistant for middle school Yearbook.

College Plans:
Work as a preschool gymnastics coach, summer gymnastics camp counselor, assistant to sports rehabilitation physical therapist.

College Plans:
Attend UC Santa Barbara or UC San Diego for physiology.



ALEXIS LITVAK
GPA: 4.43

School Activities: Varsity Softball Captain (2 years) OC All-League MVP Pitcher Costa Mesa Kiwanis Club Athlete of the Month Orange Coast League Scholar Athlete, Varsity Softball (4 years)

Community:
National Honors Society (3 years) Gay Straight Alliance (3 years)

College Plans:
Girl Scouts: volunteered at Second Harvest Food Bank, helped organize and run a weekend camp and other events for younger Girl Scouts, 100+ hours of community service.

College Plans:
Attending Cal Poly San Luis Obispo for Architectural Engineering



JARED ALONZO
GPA: 4.25

School Activities: Key Club: Member for 2 years and President senior year. E-Sports Club: Club Secretary, MESA: Went to UCI to participate in the MESA day bridge event and achieved first place. Solar Cup Boat Team, CMHS Tennis Team: Achieved 17-1 record in 2019., Asian Culture Club.

Community: MESA Award: first place, Key Club Community Service Events: DCMs, Rose Parade set-up, Beach Boomba Beach clean up, Kelly's Closet, Dog toys from old clothing, PB & J sandwich making, Hygiene kit workshop

College Plans: My post-graduation plan is to attend University of California, Irvine (UCI), major in aerospace engineering



DYLAN OLIVER
GPA: 4.45

School Activities: ASB Junior Vice President, ASB Treasurer, Keppin it Reel Club Co-founder/Treasurer, President of the Wilderness Club, Member of Delta Program, Member of NHS Varsity Football and Soccer Captain, Awards and Honors: Principal's Highest Achievement Award, English Student of the Year Award, Honor Roll, Frosh/Soph Football Coaches Award, Frosh/Soph Soccer Coaches Award, Frosh/Soph Volleyball Captains Award and Coaches Award, Principal's Honor Roll, Varsity Football Orange Coast All-League Honorable Mention, Junior Varsity Soccer Coaches Award, Junior Varsity Volleyball Most Valuable Player and Captains Award, ASB Certificate Award, PLTW Certificate Award, Football Orange Coast All-League Academic Team, Soccer Orange Coast All-League Academic Team, Volleyball Orange Coast All-League Academic Team, Football Special Teams Player of the Year and Orange Coast, All-League Second Team, American Legion Boys State Costa Mesa High School Delegate, Orange Coast Scholar Athlete, National Junior Honor Society, Delta Program, ACE, Mentoring Program, National Honor Society, STEM Club.

Community: Community Service Hours 138

College Plans: plan to attend a 4-year university and will be majoring in Civil and Environmental Engineering



BLAKE WOLF
GPA: 4.36

School Activities: Principal Academic Honor Roll, College Board AP Scholar Award, Varsity Basketball Captain, National Junior Honor Society, California Scholastic Federation, PLTW, Delta, ASB Athletics Commissioner, National Honor Society, Varsity Boys Basketball, No Place for Hate Club Founder, Robotics Club Treasurer, STEM Club

Community: Mariners HSM, Northcutt Elementary Volunteer, NHS Community Service Projects, ASB Community Service Projects, Beast Up Athletics Basketball Coach, No Place For Hate Club

College Plans: Attend a four-year university studying mechanical engineering.



LANDON STEIN
GPA: 4.33

School Activities: Principal Academic Honor Roll, College Board AP Scholar Award, Varsity Basketball Captain, National Junior Honor Society, California Scholastic Federation, PLTW, Delta, ASB Athletics Commissioner, National Honor Society, Varsity Boys Basketball, No Place for Hate Club Founder, Robotics Club Treasurer, STEM Club

Community: Food Drives, Large Trash Pickup, Impulse Drum and Bugle Corps, Beach Cleanups

College Plans:
Go to a four year university

EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL



PAULINA ENRIQUEZ VAZQUEZ
GPA: 4.0

School Activities: ASB, Wellness Commissioner, Secretary, Vice President, Community Service Club, Treasurer, President, Superintendent Student Advisory Committee, Committee Member, Newport-Mesa Unified School District Board, Student Board Member, PTSA Liaison, Principal's Honor Roll, Student of the Year, Citizenship Award, Daughters of the American Revolution Award, California Scholastic Federation, Carsons Scholarship, Above and Beyond Award, Key Club, Community Service Bronze Award, National Honors Society, Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizens Award, Community Service Club, PTSA, Make-A-Wish Club, Guitar class, ASB, Physics Club

Community:
California Elementary School as a Teacher's Assistant, Mesa-Verde Library, Summer Recreation On Campus for Kids, Summer Engineering Academy, Girls Inc. of OC (Grad Lab and Generation Giga Girls), Save Our Youth (SOY), Chicano Latino Youth Leadership Project (CLYLP), Early College High School, National Honors Society

College Plans:
Attend UC San Diego majoring in Speech and Language Services



BENJAMIN MOSCOSO
GPA: 3.96

School Activities: ASB House Commissioner, SALT Club Student Leader Citizenship Award, Film Club Vice President, Principal's Honor Roll, Student of the Year - U.S. History California Scholarship Federation, Beginning & Intermediate Guitar, Journalism Club, National Honor Society

Community:
Worship Leader at The Crossing Church

College Plans:
Will be attending Chapman University Majoring in Journalism (or Broadcast Journalism at Chapman) and Marketing



ANDREW SPALLONE
GPA: 4.0

School Activities: ASB: Freshmen Rep, Treasurer and Fundraising Commissioner, Vice President, President, Community Service Club: Member, Historian, Physics Club President, PTSA liaison to ASB, National Honors Society, California Scholastic Federation, Honor Roll and Citizenship, Daughters of the American Revolution Award, Student of the Year, School Site Council, Superintendent Student Advisory Committee, Alcala Undergraduate Merit Scholarship, Guitar Class for 2 years, Physics Club, Community Service Club, SALT Club, PTSA

Community:
Kids Games, Envision Engineering Camp, Early College Teacher's Assistant, Beach Cleanups, Surf City Marathon, Ambassador Leadership Summit, Power One, National Honors Society Tutor, Southern California PGA Junior

College Plans:
Attend UC San Diego



MELISSA TRISNA
GPA: 3.96

School Activities: Treasurer of Key Club/Community Service Club, Secretary of Interact Club, Valedictorian Scholar, Junior

Community:
Academic Honors, Principal's Honor Roll Award, Student of the Year for Physics, Student of the Year for MATH C120- Trigonometry, 3rd Place in State Competition for the Tests of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics, & Science (TEAMS), California Scholarship Federation Member, International Club, Technology Student Association, Environmental Festival, AVID, Interact Club, Varsity Women's Tennis Team, National Honor Society, Dance

College Plans:
A Home 4 Ever Pet Rescue, Mother Teresa Catholic Church, Catholic Heart Work Camp, Girls Inc. of Orange County, Museum of Life and Science, Children Coordinator for Indonesian Bible Study, Assistant Tennis Coach at TGA Premier Sports

College Plans:
Attend UCLA majoring in Civil Engineering with a specialization in environmental engineering

ESTANCIA HIGH SCHOOL

ANIKI SCOTT
GPA: 4.43

School Activities/Honors:
Captain of my Club team for 5 years, Senior Captain EHS Varsity Girls Soccer, Link Crew Leader, various Honors, and AP courses. Girls Estancia Soccer, Club Soccer, Girls Volleyball, Australia Club, HOSA, Leo's Club, Lyceum, Link Crew, WASC, CSF

Community:
Referee Soccer matches, Elite Goalkeeping Academy Coach, Scoreboard boys and girls volleyball at EHS, trash pick up, food drives, Volunteer at middle schools/elementary, babysitting.

Future Plans:
Attend UCLA majoring in Pre-Human Biology and Society.

BRITNEY EBERGENYI
GPA: 4.40

School Activities/Honors:
Student Board Member, Officer in ARK Club, Captain of Color Guard, Principal's Honor Roll, Simon Scholar.

Community:
Student Board Member, Link Crew Leader, Lyceum Academy, Color Guard (Captain), Estancia Medical Academy and HOSA, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, ARK (Act of Random Kindness) Club

Community:
4 years with Big Brothers/Big Sisters - mentoring elementary schoolers.

Future Plans:
Plan on attending UC, Irvine as a biology major in pursuit of a medical career.

CARTER GRUEBEL
GPA: 4.34

School Activities/Honors:
I was president of the robotics club and co-president of the engineering club. I have participated in EHS Track and Field and Cross Country teams, Robotics Club, Engineering Club and Lyceum Academy.

Community:
I volunteered at California Elementary School's Annual Halloween Hoot. I also work at Sprout's Farmers Market.

Future Plans:
I plan to attend UC, Santa Cruz and major in Computer Science. From there I would like to work for a company such as Blizzard Entertainment or EA.

CASANDRA CORRIGAN
GPA: 4.16

School Activities/Honors:
D.A.R. Youth Citizen Award, Captain of the varsity volleyball team for 2 years, Captain of the water polo team for 1 year and Principal's Honor Roll, EHS Volleyball, Water Polo, Swimming and Softball teams, a member of Girls Empowering Girls Club, Link Crew Leader for two years.

Community:
Volunteer at Church's vacation Bible school and my barn's horse camp. I love to make a difference in kid's lives and make sure they have fun!

Future Plans:
Attending Pepperdine University and majoring in Psychology.

CRYSTAL ARELLANO
GPA: 4.12

School Activities/Honors:
Principal's honor roll, oc scholar athlete, coach's award soccer, second team, OC All League, ROP

Student of the Quarter. Varsity soccer 4 years, Lyceum Academy 4 years, Surf Club Freshman year, CSF member 4 years, construction.

Community:
Track and Field scoring, CDI volunteer/internship, Club soccer, Indoor soccer league, TeWinkle community service, zoom community service

Future Plans:
I have committed to Texas Christian University, where I will be majoring in business and minoring in communications.

ISABEL KEHOE
GPA: 4.44

School Activities/Honors:
Leo's Club Treasurer, Leo's Club Vice President, Art Club Publicist, Orchestra Concert Master, Captain of EHS Tennis team, Team Captain of JV Swim Team.

Link Crew Leaser, CSF President (senior year), Estancia's Leo Club, Water Polo, Swim, Tennis, and Golf Teams, Construction Design and Build Team, Art Club, Orchestra, and Lyceum, Link Crew, Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Community:
Volunteering at Saint Joachim Parish, Leo's Club. Outside Activities: Lions Club International Student Speaker Contest, Babysitting.

Future Plans:
I plan on attending UCLA as a Business Economics major. I hope to become a lawyer in the future.

LEIANI DANG
GPA: 4.22

School Activities/Honors:
Captain of the Volleyball Team (for two years), awarded Offensive Player of the Year for Volleyball. HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America),

Estancia Medical Academy, Lyceum Academy, WASC Committee, CSF, Medical Nursing Internship, EHS Volleyball Australia Club, Student Leadership Series (and placed #1)

Community:
CERT (Community Emergency Response Team), Peer Court, Volleyball scoreboard, 2 jobs (PacSun and Pipeline), CPR Certified, babysitting

Future Plans:
I plan on attending UC, Irvine or UC, Santa Barbara as a Biology major. I hope to also attend medical school and become a pediatrician.

NATALIE SPAS
GPA: 4.44

School Activities/Honors:
I have received Principal's Honor Roll every semester since freshman year, as well as the Scholar Athlete Awards. I was also awarded membership of the National Society of Leadership and Success my senior year. I also placed first in the Orange Coast and CSF (California Scholarship Federation) since my freshman year.

League for 300m hurdles my sophomore year. I have been treasurer of Key Club since my junior year. I have been doing ballet for 13 years, even competing at the national level. I have been on the Varsity tennis team since my sophomore year. I was part of the Varsity track and field team my freshman and sophomore year as well. I have been a member of Key Club and CSF (California Scholarship Federation) since my freshman year.

Community:
I volunteered at Hoag Hospital throughout my junior and senior year. I also volunteered at a Japanese elementary school. I assisted in planning the Kelly's closet event my junior year and have also participated in community service projects through Key Club babysitting.

Future Plans:
I still have not decided between attending university on the East Coast for Journalism or abroad in Japan for Architecture.

RENEE RAINES
GPA: 4.28

School Activities/Honors:
Honor Roll all 4 years, MVP Volleyball 2019, MVP Swim 2018, ROP Student of the Quarter, ROP Distinguished Student.

Australia Club, HOSA, EHS Volleyball and Swim Teams, CSF, Lyceum Academy

Community:
Volunteered at a local Elementary School

Future Plans:
Undecided on which college to attend, but will major in Health Sciences

RYAN RAY
GPA: 4.30

School Activities/Honors:
Spokesperson for Estancia Engineering program Student Speaker on Engineering for District "State of the Schools" event. Stephen J. Pinney Technology Award, NMUSD Robotics Competitions - 1st and 2nd place awards (lead designer), Lyceum Academy Cohort 2021, Accepted for Australian Exchange Program - trip canceled due to COVID. Estancia Volleyball 4 years (Varsity Letter as a sophomore, JV MVP Award, Varsity Most Improved Player, Scholar-Athlete, All-League, Captain). Voted All-League Dream Team, Basketball 2 years (Coaches Award, Scholar-Athlete), CSF Member, Estancia Engineering Pathway, Robotics Club, UCI Energy Invitational (Electric Car Competition), Volleyball, Basketball, Australia Club, FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes)

Community:
World Robot Olympiad Volunteer Judge and Referee at the USA Championships, Balboa Bay Club Volleyball, 3 years, Mariner's Church group and volunteer leader for Vacation Bible School, Mariner's Church sound, lighting tech, and live video camera operator for 5,000-person multimedia production. Assistant in Middle School Robotics classes, Competitive Kart Racing.

Future Plans:
Future plans include college, UCSD or University of Utah. Focus on mechanical and aeronautical engineering.

SAMANTHA ALCALA
GPA: 4.21

School Activities/Honors:
Simon scholar, scholar athlete, Principal's honor roll Cross Country, track and field and cheer

Community:
Altar server, karate, Big Brothers, Big Sisters Mentorship program

Future Plans:
Attending UC Santa Cruz and majoring in Computer Science

MILA TRAN
GPA: 4.53

School Activities/Honors:
Vice President of Key Club, Lyceum, Best Buddies, Link Crew Leader, Principal's Honor Roll, Student of the Quarter for Chemistry and AP US History, Link Crew Leader.

Best Buddies, Lyceum Academy, Key Club.

Community:
Ronald McDonald Family Room Charity - raised \$500 for charity

Future Plans:
Attending UC, Berkeley in the College of Letters and Science

VALERIA ZECUA
GPA: 4.28

School Activities/Honors:
President and Treasurer of the Acts of Random Kindness Club, Secretary of Key Club, Simon Scholar Scholarship Recipient, Scholar Advisor for EHS Simon Scholars, Communications Committee: The Lyceum Academy, Link Crew, OC Big Brothers/Big Sisters Workplace Mentoring, Girl's Inc., Grad Lab Program, Acts of Random Kindness Club, Key Club, Dance Club, World Culture's Club, Cru Club, WASC Visiting Committee Focus Groups member, Simon Family Foundation Communications Committee.

Journalism subcommittee intern, Link Crew Leader. Caregiver for children at the Crossing Church, Tutor after school in the library, Server at Special Education dances.

Future Plans:
I plan to attend a 4-year University. I am in the process of deciding which one. I will be majoring in Linguistics/Language Science in order to enter a Master's Program for Speech and Language Pathology.

ROBERT GRAHAM
GPA: 4.37

School Activities/Honors:
Principals Honor Roll, Student of the Quarter for French 3, CSF, Link Crew Leader, Australia Club, Varsity Basketball (Captain 12th grade), Volleyball 1 year, PTSA member, Link Crew Leader, Basketball and Volleyball

Community:
worked shot clock in basketball game, CERT training, camp counselor at summer camp, worked at car dealership.

Future Plans:
Major in Business at Cal Poly, SLO.

GUADALUPE OLIVARES MENDOZA
GPA: 4.31

School Activities/Honors:
Best attitude as a member of Estancia High School Link Crew Program November 2017 - Kiwanis, Key Club Exceptional Service Certificate - Principal's Honor Roll Orange County Scholar Athlete for track and field and Junior Varsity Soccer, Estancia High School Track and Field Rookie of the Year, Sophomore Homecoming Princess, Student of the Quarter for AP World History in academic excellence - Great Debates Rebuttal for Montana's Team - Kiwanis/Key Club Exceptional Service Certificate - Estancia High School Girls JV Soccer Most Offensive Valuable Player - Girls Inc. Externship Program Certificate of Completion - Simon Scholarship Foundation Program Acceptance and Scholarship, Kiwanis, Key Club at Estancia High School Above & Beyond Award, 2019-2020 - Girls Inc. of Orange County National Scholars Writing Program as Nominee, 2020, Lyceum Academy, Key Club, Track and Field and Soccer.

Community:
Girls Inc.

Future Plans:
Attend UCLA as undeclared life sciences

MONTE VISTA

JAYA MAYNE
GPA: 3.64

School Activities/Honors:
Principal's Honor Roll, Pony Club certified to C2 level, trainer at Sabo Eventing, student position at Next Level Eventing, Kris Belford Ferguson Memorial Award recipient.

Community:
Teaching eventing barn competitor lessons to youth, interning for Tamié Smith Eventing Center, fundraising for horse riding events, coaching young riders through Pony Club, certified rider and trainer.

Future Plans:
Continue to compete in horseback riding, be a mentor to younger riders, and earn a position on developing rider teams to one day compete at the olympics.

ORANGE COAST COLLEGE

VANGUARD UNIVERSITY

KAI XUAN GAN
GPA: 4.0

School Activities/Honors:
Secretary, OCC Honors Student Council, Secretary, OCC Psi Beta Honors Society, Secretary, OCC Inter-Club Council, Student Representative, Instructional Planning Council, Student Representative, Student Services Planning Council, Student Representative, Foundation Scholarship Committee, OCC Honors Program Certification, Robert B. Moore Outstanding Student Leader Award Recipient, Donald A. Ackley Memorial Scholarship Recipient, Second Place (Poster Presentation), OCC Giles T. Brown Symposium, Notetaker for Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSPS), Food Rider of OCC Food Riders Club for delivering recovered food to Share Our Selves, Volunteer Crisis Counselor at Crisis Text Line, Pirate Involvement Fair, Senior Day, OCC International Multicultural Day, OC Children Book Festival, Inter-Club Council End-of-Semester Luncheon

Future plans:
I am planning to attend UCLA as a Psychology major with my educational goal of embarking on the research in Psychology. I hope to raise public awareness on mental disorders, and to improve community's psychological well-being in term of mental health.

MATTHEW KALIHI SERENO
GPA: 3.94

School Activities/Honors:
Emergency Medical Technician, Orange Coast College, Honors in Action Event Coordinator, Phi Theta Kappa Chapter, Internationally Distinguished Chapter

Member, Phi Theta Kappa, Co-Chair of Internationally Distinguished Honors in Action Project, Phi Theta Kappa, Student Leader Award Recipient, Waltmar Foundation Award Recipient, Phi Theta Kappa Chapter Scholarship Recipient, President, Phi Theta Kappa, Co-Chair of Academic Development, Psi Beta, Certified Tutor, Orange Coast College, Second Place (Poster Presentation), OCC Giles T. Brown Research Symposium, Research Presenter, UCI's California Community College Research Symposium, Research Presenter, Western Psychological Association's 2021 Annual Convention, President of Internationally-Distinguished Chapter Officer Team Award, Phi Theta Kappa, President of Internationally-Distinguished Chapter Award, Phi Theta Kappa, President of Top 100-ranking Chapter Among all International Chapters Award, Phi Theta Kappa, 2nd All California Academic Team, Phi Theta Kappa, OCC Garrison Fellow, Volunteered as a basic life support provider for CARE Ambulance Services at the Orange County Marathon and the Fountain Valley Emergency Room, Boys and Girls Club of Santa Ana Pumpkin Drive, Phi Theta Kappa Book Drives, Coast Day, Pirate Involvement Fair, and Senior Day (Phi Theta Kappa and Research Journal Club at Orange Coast College), Note Taker for Disabled Students Programs and Services, Bylaw review for Phi Theta Kappa and Psi Beta, Tutor of Writing, Introduction to Psychology, Elementary Spanish, Biopsychology, Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences, History of the United States Before 1876, Critical Thinking in Philosophy, Honors American Government, and Abnormal Psychology at Orange Coast College's Student Success Center

Future plans:
I will attend University of California, Irvine (UCI) in the Fall of 2021 as a Psychological Science Major. Thereafter, I hope to become a clinical psychologist and/or research scientist, and/or professor, and/or a legal/forensic/business consultant by earning a Master's in Clinical/Personality/Social Psychology followed by Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology or a Psy.D. I also hope to have a family, and I imagine that I will need to omit some of those and/or to get that one done.

JOE CONTRERAS
GPA: 3.5

School Activities/Honors:
SGA Freshman Senator (1 year) SGA VP of Finance and Policy (1 year) SGA President (2 years) VU Rec Intramural

Official (3 years) Vanguard Athletics Public Address Announcer/ Play-by-play Commentary (4 years) Provost Scholarship Recipient The Renaissance Collective Intern Faithlife Media Intern Philippines Mission Team 2018 Puerto Rico Mission Team 2019 Washington DC Mission Team 2019 Zion Trip 2019 Mock Rock Participant 2020 and 2021 VU 100 Celebration

Community:
OC First Assembly of God, Youth Leader & Volunteer Pacifica Christian HS, Public Address announcer and play-by-play commentary

JASMINE SOTO
GPA: 3.957

School Activities/Honors:
Frontline Leader Worked at the University Library (4 years) Psi Chi Honor Society Awarded the Presidential Scholarship (4 years), Train new Library employees; Participated in Run for Mercy Volunteer usher at Lyceum Theatre VU Scholars Day (with research on the correlation between basic needs and life satisfaction) Able Club; El Puente Club

Community:
Volunteer at church by helping with meal preparations for Brothers and Sisters Ministry I hold a leadership position at my church in the Children's ministry Help the youth ministry at church by providing lectures on mental health and resources on where to get help.

Future Plans:
Currently, I am planning on taking a bit of time off from school and focusing full time on my ministry at church. However, I do plan on entering into a graduate program at Fuller when I am ready to do so. The program I am currently interested in the most is the PhD program Fuller Seminary offers although I have also thought about the Psy.D. program from Biola University as well. For now, though, I will placing all of my effort and energy into what the Lord has given me at my church and seeing what He'll do through me the rest of this year.

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CRAB

Continued from page A1

rival of the pandemic shortly afterward.

"We couldn't have more than 10 people on a job [at one time]," Wasko said of the construction work last year. "Everything had to be spaced out. You could have guys on the roof, but you couldn't have people in the same vicinity [because of social distancing]. With a year of that ... and we're still being affected of it to some extent, some of it's loosened up, but it was kind of a double whammy."

But things are starting to look up as work begins to close on the Crab Cooker, Wasko is aiming to open the doors and start handing out disposable plates full of food again, hopefully no later than July.

"It feels fabulous," said Wasko, laughing. "It's been a long haul from the original damage and figuring out what we're going to do to correct the problem. There's the permitting proc-

ess, the design, the planning — it's a lot of red tape."

The Crab Cooker is a landmark on the Balboa Peninsula that began operating at the same location, on Newport Boulevard at 22nd Street, in 1951.

The building's foundation suffered irreparable damage in 2014 during the construction of the Vue Newport condominium development next door. The city said the Crab Cooker's building, which was originally built in 1938 for another business, was still safe to occupy. But when Wasko began looking into renovations, he determined it was more cost-effective to demolish and rebuild.

Wasko owns and operates the Crab Cooker with his family. He is the son-in-law of the eatery's late founder Bob Roubian.

The restaurant has another location in Tustin — they've been at that site for about 30 years, Wasko said — that has continued operating through the pandemic, jumping through the same hoops that other



Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

JIM WASKO, Crab Cooker owner, looks around at the interior of the restaurant on Friday.

businesses have contended with throughout the last year. It's currently operating indoor dining at 50% and offering outdoor dining.

Wasko said the Tustin location has come close to record sales recently, but he and his family have gone

without pay during the pandemic in an effort to keep their employees on board. The restaurant's to-go and delivery sales have also become more robust in the past year, helping to keep the business afloat.

But not a day goes by

that Wasko doesn't hear from customers who want to know when the Newport Beach location will open again.

"I'm working on that day by day," he said.

The hope is to reopen no later than the first week of

July, but he said he'll have a firmer date to offer patrons soon. Once the work is complete, they'll be able to walk through the doors and see the 12-foot taxidermy shark hanging in the dining room again. They'll also find the same menu items that have become favorites with guests over the years.

"What [people] can expect is the same old family recipes that we've had in the past. The same guys that made the chowder in Newport are making it in Tustin and the same guys are baking the bread," Wasko said. "The chowder, the bread, the potatoes — they're the same people and we'll bring back a lot of the same broiler guys."

"They can look forward to the same food and the same friendly faces that they've seen in the past. We're not changing anything," he said. "We just want to be back in business, serving the beautiful people of Orange County."

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Twitter: @lilibirds

GOAL

Continued from page A1

said.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration's approval Monday of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for children ages 12 to 15 — which opened appointments to an estimated 159,392 Orange

County adolescents — could spur efforts to reach herd immunity.

Still, even if every child from age 12 to 15 were to receive the Pfizer vaccine, that would only account for 4.9% of Orange County's total population.

OCHA began offering appointments to younger residents on Thursday through

its Othena smartphone app, in what Chinsio-Kwong referred to as a "soft launch."

Because of its approval for use by younger populations, Pfizer is the only vaccine allocation the agency is still accepting. A batch of 28,000 doses arrived on Thursday, Chinsio-Kwong reported.

Huntington Beach resident Emma Jeffery didn't wait for official word to drop before booking an appointment for her 14-year-old daughter, Tegenn.

Born with a congenital heart defect, the teen's health condition kept her family on pins and needles throughout the pandemic, even after Jeffery, her husband, and 16-year-old son had gotten their vaccinations.

"We haven't gone inside a grocery store for the last 15 months. We haven't even been to a restaurant," she said. "We've literally been like a little island in our house."

So, about an hour after Jeffery saw people on Facebook talking about vaccines being made available to those under 16, she'd already scheduled an appointment at a CVS pharmacy in Fountain Valley.

"I was continuously checking my tabs on the computer — it was exactly like getting a concert

ticket," she said. "I was desperate for her to get the shot."

Julia Bendis, a professional matchmaker who lives in Rancho Santa Margarita, was vaccinated at the county's Soka University super site in early March but had to wait much longer for her 15-year-old son, Nikolas, to become eligible for a shot.

When she heard Thursday's news, she got online right away, scheduling Nikolas for a slot next week at a Laguna Woods Rite Aid — one week before his 16th birthday.

"If this is something we're going to have to get every year, we might as well get it now," she reasoned.

A much harder sell was Nikolas' 21-year-old brother Tyler, a UC Santa Cruz junior who's maintained skepticism about the vaccine. It took some convincing from his parents for him to change his viewpoint.

"We told him he was probably not going to be

able to go to college in person or participate in an internship he'd gotten," she said Thursday. "So, he's actually going for his first dose tomorrow — I'm thrilled."

Chinsio-Kwong said as vaccine interest slides, health officials are urging Orange County's vaccinated residents, like Bendis, to start having serious conversations with friends and loved ones still hesitant about receiving a shot.

"There needs to be a grassroots effort in the community to reach out to those who may still have questions," she said. "[Because] the community knows best what barriers and challenges are still present and need to be overcome."

If Orange County truly wants to achieve independence from COVID-19, she added, that's the best and only hope.

sara.cardine@latimes.com
Twitter: @SaraCardine

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

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BOYS' BASKETBALL

Fountain Valley clinches share of first league title in 8 years

BY MATT SZABO

By any metric, the Fountain Valley High School boys' basketball team had a breakthrough season in 2019-20.

The Barons advanced to the CIF semifinals for the first time in program history, before making the semifinals of the CIF State Southern California Regional Division III playoffs — as the No. 15 seed.

Prior to that run, however, Fountain Valley had to deal with the disappointment of not winning the Wave League. That honor went to Laguna Beach.

"That was one of our things, coming back this year," coach D'Ceon Bryant said. "Although it was a historic run, we still haven't won league. We've never won a tournament, so what have we truly won?"

Fountain Valley, which brought back nearly its whole lineup from last year, was able to mark another item off the checklist after Friday night.

Junior point guard Roddie Anderson scored 19 points as the Barons

topped visiting Marina 71-52, clinching at least a share of the Wave League title.

"We're coming in with a chip on our shoulder," Anderson said. "We didn't win league last year, and we want that title this year. And we don't want to share it with anyone; we're greedy."

It's the first league title since 2013 for Fountain Valley (10-2, 4-0 in league).

With two league games remaining, the Barons can claim it outright with a victory over Corona del Mar on Tuesday.

Marina (9-7, 2-2) fell into a second-place tie with Huntington Beach. The Vikings host the Oilers on Tuesday in another crucial game to help determine the league's second automatic bid into the postseason.

Junior guard Aden Casarez scored 15 points, all on five three-pointers, for the Barons on Friday. Sophomore guard J.J. Gray added 10 points off the bench, including two makes from downtown himself.

Sophomore guard Macarthy Morris scored eight points and seniors Preston

Amarillo and Jeremiah Davis each scored six points apiece in a well-rounded effort for Fountain Valley, ranked No. 8 in CIF Southern Section 2AA.

It was the second big win in three nights for the Barons, who beat Laguna Beach 49-44 in a Sunset Conference crossover game Wednesday night behind 26 points from Anderson.

The Breakers, currently ranked ahead of Fountain Valley at No. 3 in Division 2AA, moved up from the Wave League to the Surf League this season.

"Our thing all year has been one game at a time, be in the moment and be intentional about what we're doing," Bryant said.

"I think we've done that so far. We had a little dip where we weren't sure about identities ... Guys were kind of going rogue, and that's not what we wanted. We had a talk the other day about buying into your identity, buying into your role, and I think guys are starting to do that."

Fountain Valley, which beat Marina 71-66 in the



FOUNTAIN VALLEY'S Roddie Anderson sinks a running jumper during a Wave League basketball game against Marina on Friday.

Don Leach
Staff
Photographer

teams' first league meeting three weeks earlier, pulled away from the Vikings in the second half Friday.

Marina, ranked No. 5 in Division 3A, tried to rally. Back-to-back three-pointers by Robert Aguirre and Eric Hodgkins pulled the Vikings within 43-39 with 2:30 remaining in the third quarter.

Hodgkins led the visitors with 17 points, while A.J. Robinson scored 10.

Fountain Valley immediately responded. Casarez made a deep three-pointer, then Gray's put-back gave the Barons a nine-point lead headed into the fourth quarter.

The plays were the start of a 17-5 run, capped by Davis' steal and slam dunk midway through the fourth quarter.

Marina coach Nick Racklin, who started three juniors and a sophomore, said

his team has been close late in several Sunset Conference games but unable to finish.

"That's kind of been our M.O. a little bit," Racklin said. "We're battling. Tonight got away from us a little bit in the third quarter. Just two or three plays in a row in the third, and we just sunk."

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BOYS' VOLLEYBALL

Four Sunset Conference teams earn seeds in CIF playoffs; Back Bay rivals appear in Division 1

BY ANDREW TURNER

The CIF Southern Section released the pairings for its boys' volleyball playoffs on Saturday, revealing that six local teams have qualified for the postseason.

All six teams finished the regular season ranked in their respective divisions, with four Sunset Conference teams securing top-four seeds in their brackets.

The Back Bay rivals both make appearances in an exclusive Division 1 bracket that features just eight teams and begins play on May 26.

Third-seeded Corona del Mar (8-2) and No. 4 Newport Harbor (12-3) shared the Surf League championship this season.

In their playoff opener, the Sea Kings will play host to Trinity League champion Mater Dei (14-1).

The Sailors will also open at home against South Coast League champion San Clemente (11-1). Newport Harbor handed San Clemente its only loss in the season opener on the Sailors' home floor 25-15, 25-22, 20-25, 25-21.

As usual, the strength of the Surf League was respected. Even as an at-large selection, Huntington Beach (9-4) will be the No. 2 seed in the Division 2 draw.

The Oilers oppose Downey (8-3, San Gabriel Valley League No. 2) in a first-round match on the road on Tuesday.

It has been some time since Marina (5-5, Wave League No. 2) has made a playoff appearance, but the Vikings are the top seed in Division 4. Marina will be at home on Tuesday against San Gabriel (7-1, Almont League No. 2).

First-year head coach Ryan Parker, who has been with the Marina program for four years, said that moving senior Daniel Purtell from setter to outside hitter has provided a boost for the Vikings. The addition of freshman setter Dyllan Nguyen allowed for the move to take place.

"We've got a lot of experience, along with as good of a talent pool as I think we've had since I've been with the program," Parker said. "We've been battling with some really good teams and taking care of business when we need to take of business against some lower-level teams."

"I told them from the very beginning, we weren't coming into the season trying to win our first league game in however long. We were trying to win league, get into playoffs, and take a shot at a state championship."



CORONA DEL MAR'S Vanis Buckholz hits against Newport Harbor's James Eadie during a Surf League boys' volleyball match on April 20.

Scott
Smeltzer

Marina has not played a match since its April 30 loss to Huntington Beach due to a COVID-19 case within the program. Parker said that the team has been unable to practice going into the playoffs as a result.

Also competing in Division 4, Pacifica Christian Orange County (San Joaquin League No. 2) will travel to take on Anaheim (4-5, Orange League No. 1) on Tuesday.

The Tritons are making their first appearance in the CIF playoffs since a wild

card round loss to Sage Hill in 2018.

Estancia (5-4, Orange Coast League No. 2) will be on the road at Mountain Pass League co-champion Palm Desert Xavier Prep (5-1) in the first round of the Division 6 playoffs on Thursday.

The main draw of the Division 6 bracket spans four rounds. The Eagles will be competing in their first postseason since 2017.

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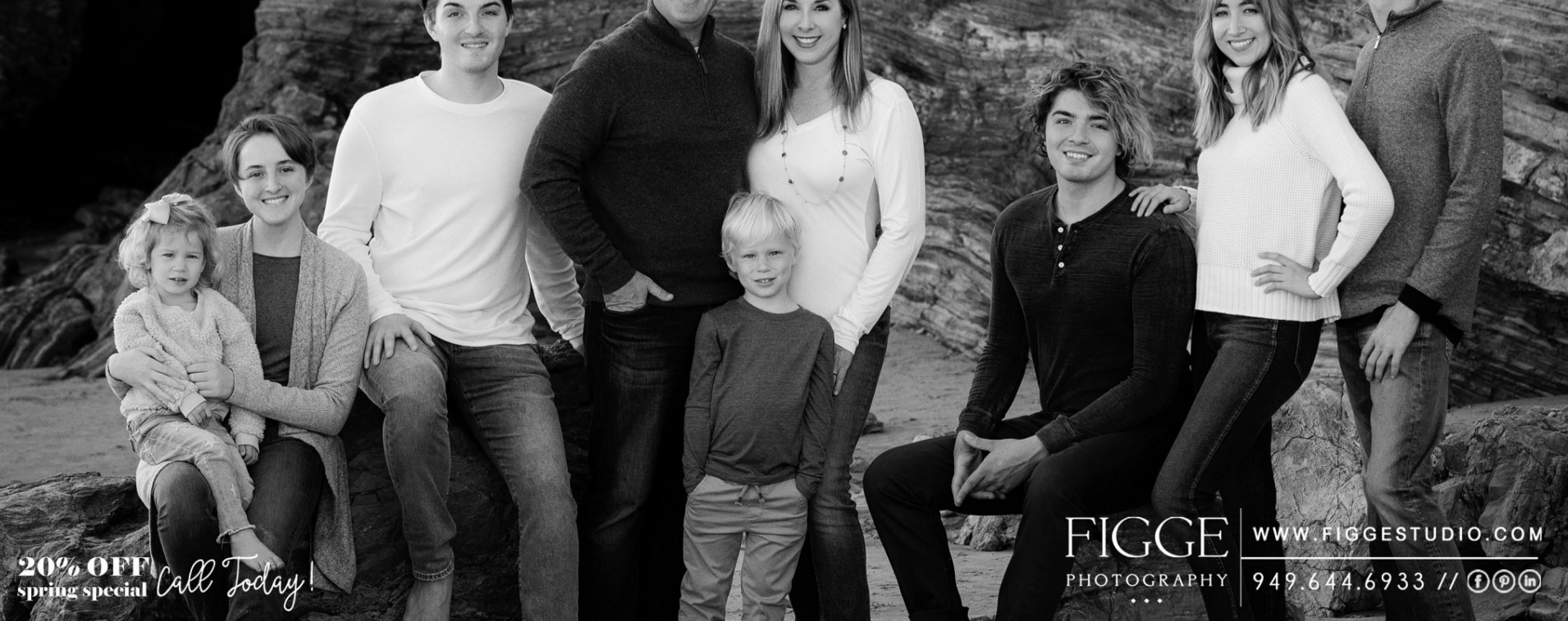
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