

# Daily Pilot

FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2024 /// dailypilot.com

## District reacts to off-site image of swastika

Newport-Mesa Unified condemns antisemitism, opens investigation after photo of unidentified student appears online.

BY LILLY NGUYEN

In a notice sent Wednesday to parents of Newport Harbor High School students, the Newport-Mesa Unified School District condemned antisemitism after a photo of a student with a swastika on their forehead was circulated online.

District spokeswoman Annette Franco said the photo was taken off-campus and that the district became aware of the photo on Wednesday. No identifying information about the student was released, nor was Franco able to confirm whether or not the student would be suspended from attending classes.

"We are investigating and will take appropriate action," Franco said.

In the statement, the district stated antisemitism "in any form, has no place within our schools and we do not condone this type of behavior."

"As a district that values inclusivity, respect and understanding, we address such matters with diligence and sensitivity. We continue to combat hate by working with the OC Jewish Federation, maintaining our strong partnership with the LA and OC Museum of Tolerance and the No Place for Hate program," the statement reads.

"In times like these, we must come together as a community and continue to stand in solidarity against hate so that our district remains a kind and welcoming community for everyone," the district said.

This is the first incident reported this year, but Newport Harbor High School and the Newport-Mesa Unified School District has come under fire for previous incidents where swastikas were reported, including the 2019 party where students from three of the district's high schools were pictured around a beer-pong swastika, and more recently at Corona del Mar High School, after swastikas were spotted on a locker.

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Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**GUESTS WAIT** to be the first ones to let their dogs, large and small, chase each other in the new play area that opened at Moulton Meadows Park in Laguna Beach on Thursday.

## Bark in the park

Laguna opens new dog play area at Moulton Meadows Park.



**THE FIRST GUESTS** walk into the gates to let their dogs chase each other in the new play area at Moulton Meadows Park in Laguna Beach on Thursday.

BY ANDREW TURNER

If dogs could talk, then at least one of the dozens of four-legged friends on site at Moulton Meadows Park on Thursday morning surely would have said, "Open the gate!"

Public officials and community members gathered at the park, high atop the Bluebird Canyon neighborhood of Laguna Beach, for a ribbon-cutting ceremony marking the opening of a new dog play area.

Mayor Sue Kempf couldn't resist the low-hanging fruit in addressing the attendees, remarking that Moulton Meadows Park had "gone to the dogs."

Shortly thereafter, Cooper, Kempf's Goldendoodle, and Toby, Councilman George Weiss' West Highland terrier rescue, were among the dogs to christen the play area.

They were followed by dozens of dogs and their owners into the friendly confines, where they ran free of leashes and socialized among each other.

"What matters is the dogs are so happy," Joan Basombrio said. "... I love so much that it is a local thing. You probably won't have to share this with the whole world."

The dog play area provides another option for residents to exercise their pets. The commute between the new facility and Laguna Beach Dog Park, located at 20672 Laguna Canyon Road, is about six miles by car and

See **Park**, page A2

## Irvine man pleads guilty in bombing at Planned Parenthood

BY PAUL ANDERSON  
CITY NEWS SERVICE

A 22-year-old Irvine man pleaded guilty Thursday for his part in the firebombing of a Planned Parenthood clinic in Costa Mesa nearly two years ago.

Tibet Ergul acknowledged his participation in the firebombing of the clinic with a Molotov cocktail March 13, 2022, pleading guilty to conspiracy to damage an energy facility and intentional damage to a reproductive health services facility.

Scheduled for a May 30 sentencing, Ergul faces between five and six and a half years in prison with three years of supervised release and \$1,000 in restitution.

Co-defendant Chance Brannon, 24, of San Juan Capistrano, pleaded guilty Nov. 30 to conspiracy, malicious destruction of property by fire and explosive, possession of an unauthorized destructive device and intentional damage to a reproductive health services facility. The former Camp Pendleton-based Marine was scheduled to be

sentenced April 15.

A second co-defendant, Xavier Batten, 21, of Brooksville, Fla., pleaded guilty in January to possession of a destructive device and was scheduled to be sentenced May 15.

Batten helped and conspired with Brannon to firebomb the clinic with a Molotov cocktail from February through March 13, 2022, according to his plea agreement.

Brannon and Ergul put together the Molotov cocktail about March 12, 2022, in Ergul's garage, prosecutors said. Batten coached Brannon how to construct the fiery device, prosecutors said.

Brannon and Ergul ignited the device the following day and hurled it at the clinic's entrance, sparking a fire, prosecutors said.

Afterward, Ergul "bragged" to a friend and added he "wished he could have recorded the ignition," Assistant U.S. Attorney Kathrynne Seiden said at Thursday's hearing.

After the U.S. Supreme Court's

See **Pleads**, page A3



**RESIDENT ELIA HERNANDEZ** looks at posters of the \$6.5-million Oak View Beautification Project during a groundbreaking ceremony for the project on Wednesday.

Don Leach  
Staff  
Photographer

## Beautification project launches in H.B.'s Oak View neighborhood

BY MATT SZABO

The Oak View neighborhood is the most densely populated in Huntington Beach.

That can mean lots of cars — and also lots of children running around.

But millions of dollars of improvements are coming to beautify the predominantly Spanish-speaking neighborhood and make it safer.

The city held a groundbreaking

ceremony Wednesday for the \$6.5-million Oak View Neighborhood Beautification Project.

"Oak View has always been a community to be proud of," Huntington Beach Mayor Gracey Van Der Mark said at the ceremony. She thanked her comments in Spanish at the end of her speech. "We're going to make it an even better place to learn, play and come together."

The project is primarily funded by a \$5-million Caltrans grant

through Gov. Gavin Newsom's Clean California Initiative, with the city of Huntington Beach kicking in about \$1.5 million.

It will include myriad improvements on Oak and Ash lanes, including development of recreation areas, a habitat garden, pedestrian safety improvements, added street signage, enhanced lighting and landscaping and on-going litter and graffiti abate-

See **Project**, page A2



# New exhibit is 'Centered on the Center'

BY MATT SZABO

Adeola Davies-Aiyelaja might live in Loma Linda, but the Huntington Beach Art Center is starting to feel like home for the multidisciplinary artist.

Davies-Aiyelaja has two pieces — a large sculpture and a wall piece — on display at the art center's largest exhibition of the year, "Centered on the Center."

The show held its opening reception in late January and runs until March 16.

Plenty of Surf City locals are also entered in the non-juried, open call show, which allows for two pieces per artist and features about 200 local, regional and national artists in total.

Davies-Aiyelaja, who has a home studio and also works at the Makery in downtown Los Angeles, created the totem that greets visitors near the exhibition's entrance. It's called "Mother Earth, She Wears Her Golden Crown." The bottom part features a globe, which she said is symbolic for the quest for world peace.

She created her other piece, "Golden Elegance," when she was selected to participate in the Los Angeles Lakers' "In the Paint" program last year.

"Centered on the Center" has been a very impressive show, because it allows a lot of artists to be able to participate," Davies-Aiyelaja said. "Even though it's a salon style, it's still well-put together. The staff do a wonderful job of curating the show. I was really impressed with the groupings this year. That's hard to do when it's an open call."

Dan Meylor, 84, has been on the Huntington Beach Art Center Artist Council for more than a decade now. The Westminster photographer formerly documented homeless



Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**THE HUNTINGTON BEACH** Art Center's "Centered on the Center" exhibition features 200 artists, including Adeola Davies-Aiyelaja with her "Mother Earth, She Wears her Golden Crown" totem shown above.

people in Los Angeles for several years, and his craft and the art center have helped him find solace after his late wife passed away. In 2016, his work was part of an art center exhibition called "Time Lines," showing the various definitions of aging.

He has seen the Artist Council grow from about 75 people when he joined to 209 current active members. So too has the "Centered on the Center" blossomed since it began in 1996.

Meylor also has two pieces in this year's exhibition.

"It's a major show for the art museum," he said. "I think the quality of the work has really risen. It's much more expansive and diverse, with so many interesting expressions from different cultures. It's a real treasure for the city of Huntington Beach."

Huntington Beach City Councilwoman Natalie Moser feels the same way.

Moser, also a photographer, hosted the opening reception for this year's "Centered on the Center."

She said she plans to enter a piece in the annual "Inspired" exhibition, coming to the Huntington Beach Art Museum this fall.

"If you think about it, you have all of these individual artists who are maybe not working in isolation but working in their own space," Moser said. "All of a sudden, you have this show and it brings all of them together, all of this art and ideas and expression together in one place. They get to show their art and see each other's art and share that with their family and friends, especially on the opening night."

"It's just a really great opportunity for the community to come together, for artists to come together and for all of them to be able to share their ideas and the way they see the world, or whatever their subject is. As a photogra-



"CENTERED ON the Center" includes Veronica Preciado's Mexican wrestling mask "Zacatecas."

pher and artist myself, it's really cool to be a part of a Huntington Beach community that celebrates such diversity and creativity."

Davies-Aiyelaja, in her second year participating, said she appreciates the opportunity to showcase her work.

"Even though it's once a year, it also creates that longing to look forward to



**FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHER** Dan Meylor poses with some of the artwork in "Centered on the Center."



**WENDY SOTO GARCIA'S** "Zombie Bob" is featured in the "Centered on the Center" exhibit.

the show every year," she said. "My participation last year put it on my radar, put it on my calendar. Even if I don't get any notice from them, I go out searching for the notice."

Admission to the "Centered on the Center" community exhibition is free,

and the event is open to the public. For more information, contact the Huntington Beach Art Center at (714) 374-1650 or email [artcenterstaff@surfcity-hb.org](mailto:artcenterstaff@surfcity-hb.org).

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## Officials assure public about election security, accuracy

BY PAUL ANDERSON

California Secretary of State Shirley N. Weber went on a tour with reporters of the Orange County Registrar of Voters offices this week to assure the public about the accuracy and security of the county's election process with primary elections coming up on March 5.

With election skepticism growing as activists routinely call on the Orange County Board of Supervisors to go back to paper

ballots only and precincts instead of vote centers, the election officials tried to reassure the public of all the efforts that are taken to cut down on fraud, which they say is scarce.

Weber said Monday Orange County's system is much like all of the others throughout the state.

"The system itself is pretty consistent," she said.

She pointed to the large metal boxes used for voters to drop off ballots.

"This is enormous," she

said of the boxes. "If you touch it you can see how thick it is, how permanent it is. ... Sometimes you hear people talking about these boxes moving around the county, but they don't. They're steel boxes, basically drilled into the ground."

When asked what message she has for skeptics who continue to doubt the system's integrity, Weber said, "There will always be those who won't believe, but we also know that the results are verified over

and over."

Anyone who "has an issue or concern is welcome to" report it to their local registrar of the secretary of state's office, she said.

"We generally take that seriously," she said. "We don't just toss that off and say those things can't happen."

She added, "I always find it interesting that those who don't believe in the system, but they believe they got elected. ... It was working for you, but for everyone else it was fraud or

deception."

For those who tout a return to hand-counting paper ballots, Weber said it is a tremendously time-consuming task. She pointed out that hand-counting averages an error rate of 25%, compared to less than 1% for machine tallying.

"Hand counting is not the most accurate," Weber said. "There are some things good in the old days — maybe some kind of bread your mother made that was really good, but there are some things like

washing your clothes and running them through a wringer that are not very attractive at all to me. So we have to make sure when we go back to the good old days that we pick the ones that are really good days versus something we have nostalgic feelings about."

Orange County Supervisor Katrina Foley agreed about a return to the older style of paper ballot voting.

"We don't want to go

See **Election**, page A4



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**MEMBERS OF THE** Caltrans District 12 Maintenance and Operations group turn the first dirt on the \$6.5-million Oak View Beautification Project during a groundbreaking ceremony.

## PROJECT

Continued from page A1

ment. Bobi Hettick, Caltrans District 12 deputy director of maintenance and operations, congratulated Huntington Beach staff on winning the competitive bid to earn funding. A Fountain Valley resident, she said she's in Surf City often and can't wait to see how the beautification project helps the Oak View community.

"For us at Caltrans, safety is our No. 1 priority," she said. "Places where cars and pedestrians, bicycles and kids meet, those need to be safer for our neighborhoods. The improvements that this project is going to bring are going to make it safer for our most vulnerable users, which is

bicycles and pedestrians and especially the students and the parents from Oak View Elementary School."

The \$1.2-billion Clean California Initiative has included hundreds of projects across the state, Hettick said, including the state highway system but also local grant projects and tribal lands and parks. Since the program began in 2021, Caltrans Orange County has collected 84,000 cubic yards of litter and debris in Orange County, she said.

The Oak View neighborhood is bordered by Beach Boulevard, Gothard Street and Warner and Talbert avenues.

Tiffany Nowell, the director of the Oak View Family Resource Center, said these improvements are needed and welcomed by the people of the com-

munity.

"We have a very rich culture within these four streets that we want to be able to share with the rest of Huntington Beach," Nowell said. "As much as we are extremely proud of being Oak View, we also want to be a representation of Huntington Beach as a whole."

"This will help lift a lot of spirits. We're dealing with a major housing crisis, and we're still dealing with income inequality and unemployment. Those are things that are constantly challenging our community, so giving them a little bit of hope, that's what I feel the project will do."

Officials said the project is scheduled to be completed by this summer.

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## PARK

Continued from page A1

takes 15 minutes with limited traffic.

Dog owners at Moulton Meadows Park will be able to use the play area from dawn to dusk. It will be closed on Thursdays and during poor weather. Food and alcohol are not allowed

on site. The number of dogs will be limited to no more than three per adult.

State Sen. Dave Min (D-Irvine) secured \$300,000 in state funding for the project, which included new benches and fencing, a modified irrigation system, renovated turf and a new landscape buffer, as well as a pet drinking fountain.

Jon Gilmer, the contractor for the project, said he had never seen so many of the beneficiaries from his work at once.

"I'll tell you, when we were working here on this job, every morning between 7 and 8 o'clock, we had a

crew of at least 40 or 50 dog owners that would come by and check progress and ask about dates," Gilmer said. "When's this going to go in? 'What's going on over here?' 'Are you putting a bench in here?'"

"[They were] really involved in the project, so it was kind of fun working with them. We had a lot of residents that brought us coffee, brought us Cokes, brought us water, brought us cookies at Christmas time, so it was a really fun job to work on."

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**LAGUNA BEACH** City Council members George Weiss, Mark Orgill and Mayor Sue Kempf, from left, officially open the new dog play area with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Moulton Meadows Park.

Don Leach  
Staff  
Photographer

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PLEADS

Continued from page A1

ruling in June 2022 striking down abortion rights, Brannon and Ergul planned another firebombing of a clinic but backed out at the last moment when they saw law enforcement, Seiden said.

They also “discussed starting a race war by attacking an electrical substation with the goal of damaging the substation and disrupting the functioning of the power grid in Orange County,” prosecutors said.

In March 2023, Ergul identified a target and suggested going at 3 a.m. to a neighboring structure and hurling the Molotov cocktail at the substation, Seiden said.

Brannon had a thumb drive that looked like a dog tag necklace bearing the U.S. Marine Corps motto, “Semper Fidelis,” which contained a file with a “plan and gear list for targeting a Southern California Edison substation,” prosecutors said.

It also contained recordings of a 2019 mosque shooting in Christchurch, New Zealand, in which a white supremacist murdered 51 people and injured 40 others, prosecutors maintained.

The duo were also accused of discussing and researching “how to attack the parking lot or electrical room of Dodger Stadium on a night celebrating LGBTQ pride,” prosecutors said. They were arrested two days before Pride Night at the stadium, Seiden said.

Brannon and Ergul were both also charged with one count of possession of an unregistered destructive device and one misdemeanor count of intentional damage to a reproductive health services facility, a violation of the Freedom of Access to

Clinic Entrances Act, prosecutors said.

Brannon also agreed to pay about \$1,000 in restitution for damage to the building.

One official with Planned Parenthood of Orange & San Bernardino Counties said Thursday it was fortunate no one was harmed during the firebombing, which took place at around 1 a.m. on a Sunday, hours before the clinic opened for business.

“It was scary,” Nichole Ramirez, senior vice president of communications, recalled. “It is clear the intent of these folks was to intimidate.”

The incident caused the clinic, located on Nutmeg Place off Costa Mesa’s Harbor Boulevard, to delay its opening by about two hours. During that time, staff acted swiftly to reschedule as many as 30 appointments.

“Luckily, we were able to find available slots for those 30 patients at other health centers, and we were able to open roughly two hours later,” Ramirez said.

Officials also worked closely with the FBI, as well as the Costa Mesa Police Department to identify suspects captured by an on-site surveillance system that had recently been upgraded.

Ramirez said Planned Parenthood officials and staff are grateful to the agencies that responded and ultimately brought the bombing suspects to justice. She said she hopes it sends a strong message.

“You’re not going to intimidate our staff, patients and supporters,” she said. “We’re not going to stand for it.”

Daily Pilot reporter Sara Cardine contributed to this report.

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Legal Notices

CITY OF COSTA MESA NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Costa Mesa Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at City Hall Council Chambers, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, California and virtual locations on Monday, March 11, 2024 at 6:00 PM, or as soon as possible thereafter, to consider the following item:
Applicant/Agent: Christ Lutheran School/James Cleveland
Site Address: 760 Victoria Street
Zoning: Single-Family Residential (R1)
Description: Planning Application 23-15 is a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to allow for the renovation and expansion of an existing school ('Christ Lutheran School').

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: BRUCE WENDELL MARLOW

CASE NO. 30-2024-01379993-PR-LA-CMC
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of BRUCE WENDELL MARLOW.
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by JILL ELIZABETH MARLOW in the Superior Court of California, County of ORANGE.
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that JILL ELIZABETH MARLOW be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

NOTICE IN PROBATE CASES
The court is providing the convenience to appear for hearing by video using the court's designated video platform. This is a no cost service to the public. Go to the Court's website at The Superior Court of California - County of Orange (courts.org) to appear remotely for Probate hearings and for remote hearing instructions.
If you prefer to appear in-person, you can appear in the department on the day/time set for your hearing.



LEGAL NOTICE
OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF COSTA MESA GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT (PGPA-23-0001)- AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2015-2035 GENERAL PLAN - CIRCULATION ELEMENT BY ADDING A REFERENCE TO THE COSTA MESA PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN AND REVISING POLICIES UNDER GOALS C-1 TO C-12; AND REVIEW OF THE DRAFT COSTA MESA PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the following item:

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CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

Crossword puzzle grid with answers filled in: S T A G, T R A I N, G R A B, T I M E, Z E L D A, N O N E, U N I T, O N T O P, A S I A, B A D M I N T O N, P R I O R, A R E S, T E E, E N S, A L F R E, S C O T T, M O O R, T E A S E R A D S, A V O I D, H E R, R A M I E, T E T E A T E T E, D E E T, D R A C O, N E R D S, A S L, E R R, S H U N, C H I L D, E M P A N A D A S, R O M A, H E A R S, M I M E, I N O N, U P S E T, E V E N, D E S K, E S T E E, S A N D

Sudoku puzzle grid with numbers filled in: 1 8 2 6 9 4 5 7 3, 4 5 7 3 8 1 9 2 6, 9 6 3 2 7 5 1 8 4, 8 3 5 9 4 6 7 1 2, 6 9 1 7 5 2 3 4 8, 7 2 4 8 1 3 6 9 5, 2 1 6 4 3 7 8 5 9, 5 4 9 1 6 8 2 3 7, 3 7 8 5 2 9 4 6 1



GIRLS' SOCCER

Estancia soars to program's 1st CIF championship

BY MATT SZABO

ORANGE — The Estancia High girls' soccer program feels like a family.

Coach Josh Juarez brought in three alumni as assistant coaches this season. Many more will come back to catch their alma mater's matches throughout the campaign...

Before Saturday afternoon's CIF Southern Section Division 5 title match, Juarez also asked a few alumni to create short messages of support for the current players...

"I wanted the girls on the field to know who was supporting them, girls who have all been on the field and wanted the opportunity to play in this game," said Juarez...

The Eagles now sit on a new perch, higher than ever before. There's a new piece of hardware to bring to family dinner.

Sophomore Vanessa Pastrana scored twice in the second half Saturday as



James Carbone

THE ESTANCIA High School girls' soccer team and coaches pose for a picture after beating Campbell Hall for the CIF Southern Section Division 5 title at El Modena High School.

top-seeded Estancia beat No. 2 Studio City Campbell Hall 2-0 at El Modena High, winning the program's first CIF championship.

Pastrana scored in the 61st minute, assisted by freshman Paloma Vallejo, and the 71st minute as the Orange Coast League champion Eagles (22-3-1) sped toward the Division 5 crown and history.

"It's very emotional seeing that we've gotten this far, working hard to this point to win something big that we've all dreamed from the beginning," said Pa-

trana, who leads Estancia with 21 goals this season.

Estancia was seeded No. 5 in the CIF State Southern California Regional Division IV playoffs. Behind another goal from Pastrana, the Eagles won on the road at No. 4 Rancho Buena Vista on Tuesday.

Estancia plays at top-seeded Arroyo Grande in a Division IV regional semifinal match Thursday.

Campbell Hall (13-3-2), the Gold Coast League runner-up, put pressure on Estancia in the first half with players like senior Tea

Maltzman and junior Tyler Parouse. Yet the Eagles defense — featuring senior captain Ava Johner, fellow senior Sarah Hernandez and freshman Aisleen Avalos — did not break.

Sophomore goalkeeper Abigail McIntyre made five of her six saves in the first half for the winners, who were playing in their first CIF title match.

"I thought our goalkeeper really stepped up, kept us in the game and gave us a chance," Juarez said. "We've talked about it all year, even if we're struggling in a half,

can we get to halftime without giving up a goal? Then we make adjustments in the second half. I thought we were playing better ... and we kept pushing."

A Campbell Hall red card helped, as a Vikings defender was sent off in the 57th minute for unsportsmanlike conduct. Four minutes later, Pastrana broke through, dancing in the box before burying the shot into the right corner.

She struck again on another pass from Vallejo. Speeding up the right sideline, she cut back inside the defender and struck it with her left foot into the net.

"She had a stretch toward the end of our season where she wasn't scoring goals, and she takes that to heart," Juarez said of Pastrana, who scored the golden goal in the Eagles' 2-1 CIF quarterfinal win at Grand Terrace. "But we told her, even when she's not scoring, she's creating a lot just being on the field. She takes a lot of attention off other players. But when it was time to step up in the playoffs, she came through time and time again."

Juarez said he believed this could be a special season from the beginning. Last year, the Eagles fell in the second round of the Division 6 playoffs, but it was to eventual champion Ramona.

"It stung, losing that game and seeing that we

could have won," Johner said. "That drove us forward, for sure."

Three freshmen have played key roles, in Vallejo, Avalos and attacking midfielder Sophia Zarate. Vallejo and sophomore Jana Akins each have 13 goals.

It's all added up to a special season for the Eagles, and it will continue Tuesday in the CIF State Southern California Regional playoffs. Brackets will be released Sunday.

Johner feels the family atmosphere maybe even a bit more than most. Her mom, Claudia, played for the Eagles before graduating in 1993.

"We have so many connections and amazing girls who have come through and still support us," Ava Johner said. "It just feels like an extra support system for us when we're out there."

Her senior teammate in the back, Hernandez, said she thought as early as last summer that this might be a special season.

It was already that. Now, it's historic.

"I could tell that our chemistry was going to be really good this year," Hernandez said. "Everything's just so crazy, but it also feels like we earned it. All of the hard work this whole season, it feels like it finally paid off."

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ELECTION

Continued from page A2

back to those days," Foley said. "People voting in someone's garage may be nostalgic, but it's not as secure."

Orange County Registrar of Voters Bob Page noted that after every election 1% of the ballots are counted by hand as part of the process to audit the accuracy of the tally.

"That 1% manual canvas will take one or two

weeks," Page said. "It would take a lot more people and a lot more time to potentially hand count all of the votes."

Discrepancies found in hand counts usually are like someone marking a ballot with a highlighter

pen that could not be picked up by the machine but could be seen by the naked eye — but those are rare, Page said.

Orange County Dist. Atty. Todd Spitzer said he believes "fundamentally in our system" and that in Orange County, "I do believe it's working very, very well."

Spitzer said most of the election fraud allegations his office fields involve something amiss in signature gathering and candidates not living in the dis-

tricts in which they seek to be elected. The most common complaint involves electioneering when people campaign too close to the polls, he said.

Sometimes the prosecutors get complaints about double voting, but most of the time it is accidental, Spitzer said. It usually happens with a voter in mental decline who forgot they voted by mail and then showed up to vote on election day, he said.

So-called voter imper-

sonation "is extremely rare," Spitzer said.

"I can't speak for other counties, but I can say that in Orange County we do not have rampant voter fraud," Spitzer said.

But Spitzer warned against "making false allegations" of fraud to tarnish an opposing candidate.

"If you make false allegations we'll prosecute you for that," Spitzer said.

Paul Anderson writes for City News Service.

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Legal Notices NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE (Division 6 of the Commercial Code) Escrow No. 022691-TB

THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

- ACROSS 1 Without a date 5 Rail transport 10 Seize 14 "Your \_ is up!" 15 A Fitzgerald 16 Antonym of "all" 17 Apartment, for example 18 Ahead in the score: 2 wds. 19 Largest continent 20 Sport with shuttlecocks 22 Monastery leader 23 Greek god of war 24 Golf ball prop 26 Typography units 27 Actress Woodard 30 Paper towel brand 32 Othello, for one 33 Enticing promos 37 Steer clear of 39 That lady 40 Durable fiber 41 Private conversation 43 Bit of info, slangily 44 Malfroy of the Harry Potter novels 45 Fruity candy brand 46 Silent communication system, for short 49 Mess up 50 Refuse to talk to 52 Little one 54 Stuffed street food choices 59 Tomato variety 60 Listens to 61 Silent performer 62 Part of: 2 wds. 63 Knocked over 64 All tied up 65 News editor's post 66 \_ Lauder (cosmetics brand) 67 It gets in your shoes at the beach

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67

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.

Grid for Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

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

- 1 Ticket remnant singer 2 Nickname that drops "Chris" 8 "Doesn't matter to me": 3 wds. 3 Surrounding by 9 Siesta 4 Tie the knot: 2 wds. 10 Growl like a dog 5 Oily skin area, often 11 "The Jetsons" robot maid 6 Landlord's fees 12 Negatively charged particle: 2 wds. 7 Choral music

- 13 Stomachs 21 Intense anger 22 Flying Pan 25 Brand of camera or lip gloss 27 Amo, \_, amat 28 Zero in tennis 29 Ruler's length, often 30 Tend: 2 wds. 31 Product identifiers: 2 wds. 33 Uneasy feeling: 2 wds. 34 Made in the US: Abbr. 35 Needed recharging 36 Groups of reps 38 Had the gumption 42 Sailor 45 Convent figure 46 Unpleasantly bitter 47 Gleamed brightly 48 Prom rides 50 Bout of spending excess 51 " \_ makes waste" 53 Thin and wiry 55 Flag staff 56 Prima donna 57 Word at the end of a prayer 58 Put in the mail 60 Shade

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