

Daily Pilot

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2023 /// dailypilot.com



Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

A BOAT TURNS at the Balboa Island Bridge on opening night of the 115th annual Newport Beach Christmas Boat Parade Wednesday evening.

Flotilla brings light to Newport Harbor

In many parts of the country the magic of winter holidays might be heralded by the first arrival of snow, ice skating atop a frozen lake or cuddling under blankets during a festive sleigh ride.

In the city of Newport Beach, however, Christmas arrives by boat.

What started in 1908 as an Independence Day celebration conjured up by an assortment of small boat and ferry operators — who amassed a small illuminated procession consisting of a gondola and canoes — has since become a wintertime tradition cherished by thousands.

Newport Beach's 115th annual Christmas Boat Parade kicked off Wednesday with a fireworks show as a flotilla of nearly 100 watercraft decked out in holiday lights floated from Lido Isle through Newport Harbor in a dazzling display.

Sponsored by the Commodore Club of the Newport Beach Chamber of Commerce, the parade will recur nightly through Sunday, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Participants will follow a 14-mile course in Newport Harbor with more than 53 viewing locations on the waterfront.

Wednesday's opening night featured a Holiday Market showcasing more than 35 local makers, food vendors, live music, entertainment, photo opportunities and kid activities.

Riding in the grand marshal boat were Hallmark Channel stars Andrew Walker and Nikki DeLoach, who've appeared together in at least five Hallmark productions but have many more credits to their names.

Other grand marshals during the following nights of the parade include first responders from the Newport Beach Police and Fire departments on Friday and a lineup of former Pasadena Tournament of Roses Rose Queens Saturday.

Corona del Mar High School's drumline will lead the procession on its final night Sunday, when fireworks will be set off from the Balboa Pier, closing out another chapter in the storied local tradition.

For more, including special priced viewing opportunities and a digital event program, visit christmasboatparade.com.

— Sara Cardine



THE "MERRY GRINCHMAS" boat turns around at the Balboa Island Bridge in Newport Harbor.



A DUFFY BOAT travels near the Balboa Island Bridge on opening night of the 115th annual Newport Beach Christmas Boat Parade.

Tourism report outlines efforts, goals

Visit Laguna Beach stresses environmental stewardship in look at last year's accomplishments, future plans.

BY ANDREW TURNER

Visit Laguna Beach, the city's marketing arm, has been increasing its efforts to advance the cause of environmental stewardship, according to an annual report presented to the City Council during its meeting Tuesday.

"I'm very happy with the work that's been done, particularly in the last year, by Visit Laguna on taking on more of a stewardship role, as opposed to kind of a marketing role," Mayor Pro Tem Alex Rounaghi said. "You don't really need to market Laguna Beach. What we need to do is preserve Laguna Beach and the beauty of what makes it so special."

Among the efforts to achieve that goal is a partnership with the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics that got underway in April, calling on the public to be partners in environmental sus-

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Hearing center opens space in H.B.

New Hearing Center of the Future features a rare training ground for West Coast hearing care professionals.

BY MATT SZABO

Like many medical issues, early screening can be a benefit to detect hearing loss.

According to the Hearing Loss Assn. of America, it takes the average person seven years from the time they suspect they might have a hearing loss to the time they seek treatment.

One local option to get on top of things recently opened in Huntington Beach, where leading hearing care retailer HearUSA has opened a new Hearing Center of the Future.

The center features include state-of-the-art technologies, interactive displays and expert advice from licensed hearing care professionals, or HCPs. The new location also features a HearUSA

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ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



Andrew Turner

FOUNTAIN VALLEY WRESTLING PLACES FIRST AT MANN CLASSIC PAGE A4

BROCK PAZ'S TWO GOALS LEAD CDM BOYS' SOCCER OVER SAGE HILL PAGE A4

Food drive draws kids eager to help other kids

BY SUSAN HOFFMAN

Like trick-or-treaters one might encounter on Halloween, a slew of kids could be seen running from car to car Tuesday filling their bags with food items retrieved from the trunks of 22 vehicles parked in the lot at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Newport Beach.

They were there for a unique food drive and fundraiser called Trunk & Pack, hosted by beek, a locally owned footwear company founded by Kenna Florie and Birgit Klett. The duo partnered with Project Hope Alliance, an organization that serves the needs of homeless children in Orange County.

"From the beginning we focused our charity on giving back to children, with a hyper focus on feeding children," said Florie. "For ev-

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CO-FOUNDERS of footwear company beek, Kenna Florie, right, and Birgit Klett, hand out instant oatmeal and chewy fruit snacks to kids volunteering to collect food for homeless children during the Trunk & Pack food drive Tuesday.

Susan Hoffman

REPORT

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tainability.

Also, a collaboration with the Surfrider Foundation has led to quarterly beach cleanups, and the Pacific Marine Mammal Center is using the Visit Laguna Beach visitors center for a gift shop while renovations continue on its primary location in the canyon.

Overnight room rentals bring in the money to cover the work, with businesses in the tourism marketing district — comprised of local lodging establishments — paying an annual self-assessment of 2% of their gross revenue in exchange for promotional benefits.



Allen J. Schaben | Los Angeles Times

A VIEW OF Treasure Island Beach and the Montage Laguna Beach in Laguna Beach in September 2020.

The projected assessment year is just shy of \$3.5 million, according to the re-

port, including a balance of \$259,578 left over from previous years.

Visit Laguna Beach will receive \$1.6 million of that total for its sales, marketing and communications efforts, as well as the administration and operations budget. The rest of the budget is allocated to the arts, Visit Laguna Beach president and chief executive Rachel O'Neill-Cusey said.

Funding generated from the assessments is used to support programming for the Arts Commission, Laguna College of Art and Design, Laguna Playhouse, Laguna Art Museum and grants for the cultural arts.

Visit Laguna Beach is responsible for programming

related to the tourism marketing district, while the city collects the assessments on a quarterly basis. The tourism marketing district is in effect for an initial five-year period that runs through June 30, 2025.

Visit Laguna Beach's website refers to the town as "Southern California's premier coastal destination" and points interested parties to the arts, outdoor activities, hotels and restaurants, and annual events.

A couple of residents speaking during public comments during the City Council meeting called on the organization to make efforts to attract overnight visitors, as opposed to campaigns that would bring in

visitors from nearby cities.

Resident Chris Catsimanes said day-trippers add to the issues in town by crowding streets, taking parking spaces in the neighborhoods and trashing beaches.

"You can't keep them away, but you can surely keep from advertising to those people," Catsimanes said. "You can advertise internationally, you can advertise statewide or nationally, but why on earth should you want to be attracting more and more of those kinds of people that do nothing but cause a lowering of the quality of life and cost us money?"

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HEARING

Continued from page A1

HearAcademy Learning Center, one of just two in the country, where current HCPs can stay up to date on new technologies, and those looking to forward their careers can participate in the Hearing Instrument Specialist (HIS) Apprenticeship Program.

The other HearAcademy Learning Center opened in Pam Beach Gardens, Fla. earlier this year, so the Surf City location serves as a West Coast hub, said Dr. Katherine Yeh, a HearUSA doctor of audiology who works there. Recently, a representative from Widex hearing aids made an appearance to show off the product and how to program it and make adjustments.

"Every couple of months or so, we have a deep dive," Yeh said. "There are students who come in and go through training. We have a whole classroom in the back and they're trained to make sure they're ready for their licensing exam, and they get sponsored by an HCP too to kind of show them the ropes. You have to have a sponsor for about a year, and then you can take the exam to become a licensed hearing aid dispenser."

Yeh works with hearing aid dispenser Vanessa Espinoza to see patients at the Huntington Beach location all day. She performs a comprehensive hearing test on potential patients, consisting of three parts — tones, words and



James Carbone

DR. KATHERINE YEH holds a pair of "insert headphones," what a patient would use to have their hearing tested, at the recently opened HearUSA Hearing Center of the Future in Huntington Beach on Thursday.

full sentences with background noise.

She will then go over options for hearing aids if necessary, either behind-the-ear or in-ear models. HearUSA is contracted with Kaiser medical insurance, Yeh said, but will work with different insurance companies and third-party groups.

She added that purchases come with a three-year warranty.

"I always have a demo pair ready," Yeh said. "It's very immediate, which is good. We can do same-day fits. If they're willing to move forward and they want to try it out, we can fit them and they can go home with a pair today."

Though hearing aids are expensive, they are less cumbersome than they used to be. Espinoza has been with the company as an HCP for six years, but in the industry for nearly two decades.

"We're not the cheapest out there, but we're also not the most expensive, from my experience," Espinoza said. "I've seen people

go up to like \$12,000 on hearing aids. We never really do that. Even if you didn't have insurance, we would still give you promotional pricing."

HearUSA moved out of its previously listed Huntington Beach location, which was technically near the city border and in Westminster, earlier this year. The new space has a layout to accommodate the learning center, which also accommodates employees from the corporate office in Florida.

"It's still very new, but it's giving [the apprentices] an opportunity to learn everything and get ready for the practical exam and the written test, too, which is a little bit harder to pass," Espinoza said. "They learn how to go inside of people's ears, what to look for, how to make impressions of ears for people that need ear molds, how to repair hearing aids in office, reading hearing tests."

"It's an actual classroom setting, which is pretty exciting."

The company also offers room for growth, she said, as many of the HCPs start as front desk staff before working their way up.

"It's good, because then clients get to see you grow too," Espinoza said. "It's a familiar face, somebody that they're comfortable with and they've been seeing for years."

HearUSA also has several other Orange County hearing centers, including one in Costa Mesa.

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California State Parks seasonal lifeguard Sierra Fockler discovered a 14-inch Pacific football fish around 2:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 13, near the lifeguard station located at Crystal Cove State Park in Orange County. It's the second such case of the fish washing ashore over the last three years. (Courtesy of California State Parks)

Good morning. It's Wednesday, Oct. 25. I'm Carol Cormaci, bringing you this week's TimesOC newsletter with a look at the latest local news and events.

Watch where you're stepping on O.C.'s famed sands, because you may encounter a rare specimen of marine life. One, in fact, that has very sharp teeth.

That's what happened on a recent afternoon to lifeguard Sierra Fockler, who found a spooky-looking black angler fish, specifically a Pacific football fish, while she was walking near the lifeguard headquarters building on Moro Beach, located within Crystal Cove State Park.



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HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS

F.V. wrestling places first at Mann Classic

BY ANDREW TURNER

If the top of the leaderboard held a surprise, it certainly did not come from among the schools duking it out for the team title at the end of the Mann Classic at Marina High.

Behind the strength of four individual champions, the Fountain Valley wrestling team surged in the final round Saturday to claim first in the tournament by a narrow margin of 220.5-217.5 over Servite.

Hunter Jauregui (106 pounds), Hercules Windrath (150), Khale McDonnell (175) and Ryland Whitworth (215) won their weight classes for the Barons.

The Friars, with four finalists, were unable to pick up any team points within those matches, the drama remaining until Villa Park's Santiago Benitez pinned Servite's Brandon Bass in the second period of the heavyweight division final to bring the event to a close.

A decision in favor of the Friars would have been enough to assure at least a share of the tournament title for Servite.

"I'm so blessed to be part of this team," Jauregui said. "I think that this is where I'm meant to be. I feel a special connection with everyone on our team. I think everyone's such a great wrestler, everyone works really hard, we have good team chemistry. Every day we go to



Andrew Turner

FOUNTAIN VALLEY'S Hunter Jauregui, left, and Newport Harbor's Rikki Villasenor square off in the 106-pound final of the Mann Classic on Saturday.

practice, we're ready to wrestle.

"We all just put in our effort, and we just support our team. We want the best for our team. I think everybody works hard. I don't think anybody on our team doesn't give 100%,

and I love that about my team."

Jauregui, Windrath and Whitworth have each gone undefeated through the first two tournaments of their season, also running the table in Westminster's Cossarek Classic, where

Fountain Valley placed third as a team.

Newport Harbor made waves, presenting itself as an upstart contender with its third-place showing in the 42-team tournament. Demian Pryima edged out Huntington Beach's Gavvin

Stephens with a 7-6 decision in the 132-pound final.

Pryima acknowledged the Sailors appear to be on the upswing, but he didn't attribute the success to a specific aspect of the program.

"I think everything just breeds winning, at this point," Pryima said. "It's like more of a result of everything."

Rikki Villasenor (106) and Ayden Solomon (165) placed second in their respective divisions for the Sailors, as each was defeated by fall in the third period.

Corona del Mar has had the edge over crosstown rival Newport Harbor of late, but the Battle of the Bay is expected to be a tightly-contested affair this time around. The rivals will square off with the Golden Singlet on the line on Jan. 17 at CdM.

The Sea Kings did not insert all of their regulars into the brackets, and CdM went on to place 11th as a team.

Antonio Aramburu, the lone finalist for CdM, managed to finish off Xingyu Chen of Rancho Cucamonga Los Osos as the clock was expiring in the first period of the 157-pound championship match.

"They have a good team," Aramburu said after seeing Newport Harbor's performance in the two-day event. "They're young. I'm confident in our team. I think we can win it. It will definitely be closer than other years, but I want to keep the Golden Singlet for four years."

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Legal Notices

BSC 224376 NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: ILA SUE BUSCAINO 30-2023-01360037-PR-PW-CMC

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: **ILA SUE BUSCAINO.**

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by **David M. Harmon** in the Superior Court of California, County of **ORANGE.** **THE PETITION FOR PROBATE** requests that **David M. Harmon** be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

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

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

A HEARING on the petition will be held on **Jan 25, 2024 at 1:30 p.m. in Dept. CM06** located at: 3390 HARBOR BLVD. COSTA MESA, CA 92626

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 (occourts.org) to appear remotely for Probate hearings and for remote hearing instructions. If you have difficulty connecting or are unable to connect to your remote hearing, call 657-622-8278 for assistance. If you prefer to appear in-person, you can appear in the department on the day/time set for your hearing.

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

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

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

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BOYS' SOCCER

Brock Paz's 2 goals lead CdM over Sage Hill

BY ANDREW TURNER

The Corona del Mar boys' soccer team defeated visiting Sage Hill 5-1 on Wednesday, a line score that, on the surface, told little of two programs whose respective goals are not so far apart.

Both programs look to build after introducing a number of new faces to the fold, and after both missed the playoffs a season ago, their coaches have new aspirations in mind.

"I think automatic playoff berth is the way to go, to always be sure, but you only play six games in [the Surf] League," said CdM coach Eddie Bairam after the Sea Kings were left out of the playoffs with an 11-6-3 record at the end of last season. "It's really difficult. You're playing Edison and Los Al and [Newport] Harbor. It's a local rival and two of the powerhouses in the [Sunset] Conference, so it's going to be tough. "It's going to be difficult, but

you know, it's a challenge, and that's why we play."

Still among their ranks are goalkeeper Matt Wood and midfielder Brock Paz, both four-year varsity players for CdM (3-1-2) who have developed a special bond. Paz said it was Wood who taught him how to do a back flip, and he performed one in celebration of a critical second-half goal.

Clinging to a 2-1 lead, Paz rolled a wet ball through Sage Hill goalkeeper Max Van Dooren (two saves), as the Sea Kings regained a two-goal advantage with 15 minutes left in the contest.

"It felt awesome," Paz said of the Sea Kings matching a season-high with five goals scored. "After them getting that one goal and then going into the second half, I kind of just talked to the team, and I said, 'We got to get in there. First five minutes, we got to get a goal.'

"They just got a goal, so they can get one more and tie it up. I'm stoked. Every-one kind of went in full attack mode, our defense, as well."

Two minutes later, Ryan Peloso had found the back of the net, the second sequence in which Sage Hill (4-1-1) had conceded in the immediate aftermath of a CdM scoring strike. Logan Walsh bolted in off the left wing and scored in the right-side netting for the game's final tally.

"I felt like the goalkeep-

ers, for key moments, for us came up strong," Bairam said of the tandem of Sean Shirvani and Wood. "I thought theirs was a bit unfortunate with that third goal. I thought that took the stuffing out of them a little bit. We were 2-1 up. We weren't looking too composed in the middle of the second half."

Van Dooren made a couple of stops early on, including a denial of a bruising shot by Paz in transition in the 13th minute.

The Sea Kings got on the board in the 24th minute, as Rodrigo Fabregas crossed a ball in from the right edge for Bryce Roberts, who slid in and touched the ball into the back of the net.

Paz doubled the lead a minute later, Peloso playing the ball into space behind a Sage Hill back line that was playing high. The senior midfielder won the race and cashed in.

Sage Hill coach Raphael Alves said scheduling CdM was about exposing his team to another level of play. The Lightning went 0-7-1 against Pacific Coast League competition last season. Alves added he wants to break the ice in the win column more than once this time around.

Freshman striker Jack Weisberg scored on a rising left-footed shot in the 40th minute for Sage Hill, which already has more wins than it had all of last season. The Lightning came in with a four-game winning streak — twice against Capistrano Valley Christian, the others against Cerritos Valley Christian and Tarbut V'Torah.

"It is great, for me, because they tried as much as possible," Alves said of his team's effort against CdM. "Even though they got affected after the goals, it's something to learn. They need to work with that, to understand that the game model we're applying is staying there regardless of the opponent or whatever happened."

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