

# Daily Pilot

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2021 /// Now including Coastline Pilot and Huntington Beach Independent /// dailypilot.com

## U.S. OPEN OF SURFING



Photos by Raul Roa | Staff Photographer

**HUNTINGTON BEACH'S** Kanoa Igarashi advances to the quarterfinals by ousting Kade Matson at the U.S. Open of Surfing on Saturday.

## Igarashi, Conlogue bid for third titles Sunday

BY JOE HAAKENSON

For Kanoa Igarashi and Courtney Conlogue, it's a case of been there, done that.

But don't be fooled. Igarashi and Conlogue are still just as hungry for a U.S. Open crown as they were before each of them won their first one. Or their second.

Huntington Beach's Igarashi and Santa Ana's Conlogue were the men's and women's winners of the 2018 U.S. Open, the second title for each.

Both will vie for a third championship Sunday when finals day commences on the south side of the Huntington Beach Pier.

No woman has ever won three U.S. Open titles, and only one man — Cardiff's

See *Surfing*, page A4



**COURTNEY CONLOGUE** advances to the women's semifinals by defeating Bettylou Sakura Johnson.

## Violations of Brown Act in Laguna, D.A. says

Cited are the City Council's closed session meeting on June 29 and the subsequent leak of confidential information.

BY ANDREW TURNER

The Orange County district attorney's office weighed in on the matter of a closed session meeting held on June 29 by the Laguna Beach City Council, finding substantial evidence that council members violated the Brown Act.

For the closed session discussion of note, which concerned the Hotel Laguna, the evidence points to the council falling short regarding public notice of the agenda item or in detailing the scope of the matter, Senior Department Dist. Atty. Steven Schriver wrote in a letter addressed to Councilman George Weiss on Sept. 21.

Additionally, the letter states that in choosing to discuss confidential information with members of the public, there is significant evidence of a potential violation of the Brown Act by Weiss.

Weiss admitted to disclosing information from the closed session in a meeting with environmental activist Mark Fudge and former Laguna Beach mayor Paul Freeman.

By a vote of 3-2, the Laguna Beach City Council censured Weiss at its meeting on Aug. 10.

Schriver underscored the seriousness of the matter in writing that Brown Act violations undermine transparency in government and faith in the legislative process.

The Brown Act allows for select items to be discussed in closed session, including for litigation. The closed session item in question was regarding potential litigation.

In a phone interview on Friday, Weiss reiterated his belief that he did not commit a Brown Act violation because he maintains that litigation was not discussed during the closed session.

"Litigation was not discussed, but it

See *Brown Act*, page A4

## Newport council to consider a number of topics

Items up for discussion include library lecture hall plans and whether to approve a mental health response team.

BY LILLY NGUYEN

In addition to a hearing about the Residences at Newport Center, the Newport Beach City Council will also hear conceptual plans for a new lecture hall in the city's public library Tuesday.

The city awarded a \$638,000 design contract in 2019 for the standalone, 325-seat hall adjacent to the city's Central Library on 1000 Avocado Ave. The project saw its first steps in October that same year, and initial estimates placed the cost for the project at around \$7.6 million — about \$7 million for construction and around \$623,000 for its design.

Funding would come from a mix of public and privately raised dollars. All key features, officials said, would be improvements over the Friends Room, a smaller space that opened in 1994 with the Central Library.

The Public Works, Library Lecture Hall Design Committee and Library Foundation will be

See *Newport*, page A3

## Man arrested after Orange DUI crash kills Huntington Beach motorcyclist

BY SARA CARDINE

A Long Beach man was arrested Tuesday on suspicion of vehicular manslaughter following a DUI collision in Orange that killed a Huntington Beach motorcyclist, and coroner's officials Friday were still working to notify the victim's family.

Officers with the Orange Police Department were called to a stretch of The City Drive, near the I-5 freeway, at

10:15 p.m. Tuesday, where a Harley Davidson motorcycle collided with a Toyota SUV that was attempting to exit the freeway, according to a news release issued Wednesday.

The driver of the motorcycle was pronounced dead at the scene.

The Orange County coroner's office on Friday had not yet released the man's name, pending notification of next of kin.

Police reported the victim

was an adult male from Huntington Beach.

A preliminary investigation determined the motorcyclist failed to stop at a red light, resulting in the collision. However, the driver of the Toyota remained on scene, where it was determined he had been driving under the influence.

Eric Paul Granit, 50, of Long Beach was booked at the Orange County Jail for vehicular

See *Crash*, page A3

## ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

**BOYS' COURSE RECORD FALLS AT DANA HILLS INVITATIONAL**  
PAGE A5

## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

### Laguna tops Calvary Chapel behind Arntz's 4 rushing TDs

BY ANDREW TURNER

Health has not always been on the side of the Laguna Beach High School football team this season, but so far, the Breakers have managed.

A career game for Jack Arntz, the Breakers' third-string running back, is evidence that the Breakers have taken the next-man-up mentality to heart.

Arntz rushed for 187 yards and four touchdowns, leading Laguna Beach to a 42-7 win over Calvary Chapel on Friday in a nonleague game at Guyer Field.

"It was a team win," Arntz said. "Our line fought their [butts] off. I had huge gaps to run the ball all night, so really, it was a team effort. The line was outstanding tonight."

In what was projected to be a shootout, the Breakers' defense put that story line to bed early. Following an opening drive touchdown, Laguna Beach (5-1) forced a turnover on downs near midfield the first time the Eagles had the ball.

David Dworakowski provided the pressure and got the hit on Calvary Chapel quarter-



Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

**LAGUNA BEACH'S** Jack Arntz stiff-arms Calvary Chapel's Gavin Ghahyasi during Friday's game.

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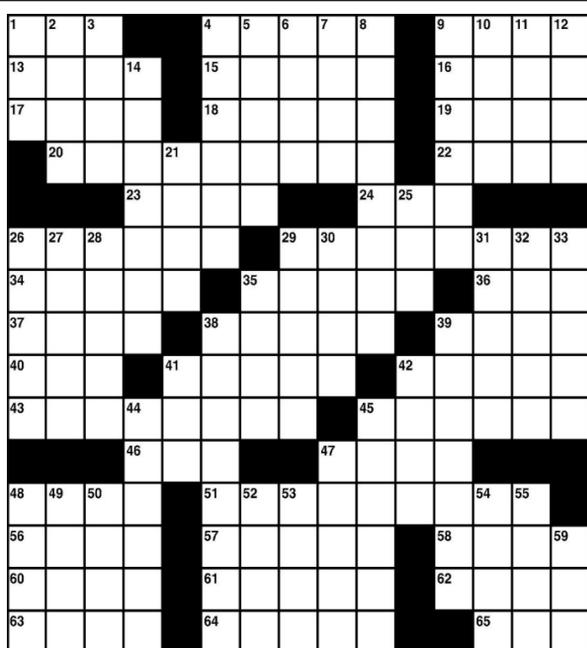
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**THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE**

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

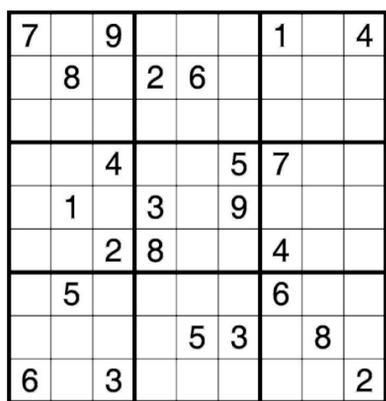
- ACROSS**  
 1 Singer Tillis  
 4 Opened one's eyes  
 9 \_ A; ambitious personality  
 13 Student's ordeal  
 15 William Jennings \_; loser to McKinley  
 16 Circle dance  
 17 Midmorning  
 18 Paper money  
 19 Peepers  
 20 Neighbor of Kentucky  
 22 Reproduction  
 23 Reason to study  
 24 Business deg.  
 26 Come \_; find  
 29 Thwart deliberately  
 34 Item of clothing  
 35 \_ over; ponders  
 36 \_ Jose, CA  
 37 Female birds  
 38 \_-eyed; very observant  
 39 Noisy  
 40 Suffix for count or lion  
 41 Soothe, as another's fears  
 42 Stick out  
 43 Not as wobbly  
 45 Gave shape to  
 46 Swamp  
 47 No longer hungry  
 48 "Jeremiah \_ bullfrog"  
 51 Vital  
 56 Lie next to  
 57 Facial hair  
 58 Deadly reptiles  
 60 Run away  
 61 Cyclist  
 62 Part of an egg  
 63 Cruz & others  
 64 Word of welcome  
 65 Door opener



**SUDOKU**

By The Mephram Group

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



**For answers to the crossword and Sudoku puzzles, see page A6.**

- DOWN**  
 1 Guys  
 2 Leave the stage  
 3 Superman's Lois  
 4 Mother superior  
 5 Place for a watch  
 6 Olive & her brother Castor  
 7 \_ smoothie; healthy shake  
 8 Musical group  
 9 Seuss' "\_ in the Hat"  
 10 Ma, for one  
 11 Make ready for surgery  
 12 Effortless

- 14 Trusted advisers  
 21 Home of twigs  
 25 Derek & Diddley  
 26 Blaze residue  
 27 Torso  
 28 Wash off soapsuds  
 29 Cake ingredient  
 30 Actress Sheedy  
 31 \_ as the hills  
 32 Shotgun caliber  
 33 Concluded  
 35 Gender  
 38 Qualified to be chosen  
 39 Night song  
 41 Needless bother  
 42 Leave suddenly  
 44 Subsidies  
 45 Homicide  
 47 Part of USAF  
 48 Float on the wind  
 49 Isn't \_ to; can't  
 50 Dragged into court  
 52 Signify  
 53 Huff and puff  
 54 Room recess  
 55 Story  
 59 Heaven above

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**AROUND TOWN**

**OCMA welcomes 8 new trustees**

The addition of eight new trustees to the Orange County Museum of Art (OCMA) was announced Tuesday. This brings the number of the museum's board members to 32. Joining the board are

Barbara Bluhm-Kaul, Phillip J. Bond, Idit Feder, Sean Green, Linda P. Maggard, Cheryl Kiddoo, Robert Olson and Lucy Sun, representing a range of philanthropic and professional expertise, according to museum officials. They have joined under the leadership of Heidi Zuckerman, chief execu-

tive and director of the museum, who took the helm in February. In October 2022, the museum will open in its new home: a building at Segerstrom Center for the Arts designed by Morphosis under the direction of architect Thom Mayne and Partner-in-Charge Brandon Welling. — From staff reports

**CRASH**

Continued from page A1

manslaughter while intoxicated. Granit was released from the Men's Intake Center on Wednesday afternoon after posting bond, according to an on-line prison inmate locator maintained by the Sheriff's Department.

**STANTON MAN KILLED IN HUNTINGTON CRASH**

Meanwhile, another motorcyclist killed in a collision on Huntington Beach's Beach Boulevard Wednesday was identified Friday by the Orange

County coroner's office as Timothy Bertram, 54, of Stanton.

Bertram was riding a Harley Davidson on Beach Boulevard, just north of Adams Avenue shortly before 4:30 p.m., when a Toyota SUV driven by a 90-year-old Huntington Beach man took a left turn across northbound lanes of traffic, striking the motorcycle, police reported.

The Stanton man was pronounced dead at the scene, marking the second motorcycle fatality to occur in Huntington Beach in an 11-day period. Meghan Wautlet, 22, of

Huntington Beach died on Sept. 11 after the Harley Davidson, on which she was a passenger, collided with a vehicle making a legal U-turn on Pacific Coast Highway near Bolsa Chica State Beach.

Tuesday's DUI collision is being investigated by Orange Police Department's Major Accident Investigation Team. Anyone who may have witnessed the incident or the events leading up to it is encouraged to call the Orange Police Department at (714) 744-7444.

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**NEWPORT**

Continued from page A1

doing a presentation during the study session, which begins at 4 p.m. in council chambers, on current plans and the prospective scheduling and costs for review. Council is expected to provide direction on the concept designs in addition to a memorandum of understanding between the city and Library Foundation for formal approval and review at a later date.

Additionally as part of its formal meeting, which will begin at 6 p.m. Tuesday, council members will consider approving a mobile crisis response team to aid residents and transient individuals experiencing mental health crises.

A similar effort was made in nearby Huntington Beach, which launched its own mobile response team partnered with Be Well OC, a countywide mental health initiative, earlier this month.

Currently, the city's fire and police departments respond to around 4,500 calls for service annually in relationship to mental health crises. City staff said that while there has been success in these areas, "It has become apparent that dedicated resources with the skill set to manage mental health issues among the homeless and resident population would be beneficial and more cost effective."

Newport Beach is expected to partner with Mind OC, the nonprofit that operates Be Well OC. A staff report prepared

for Tuesday's meeting indicates that the first year for the program is expected to cost around \$1.2 million but that a resident anonymously donated the cost of the van and initial set-up costs for the program, reducing the first year's cost to \$1.1 million.

About \$717,079 in CARES Act funding will be used for calls for service specifically related to COVID-19 for people of low-to-moderate incomes.

The balance of program costs — \$376,101 — will be paid for by the city's general fund.

City staff are expected to pursue grants, donations and other such opportunities to offset future costs.

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A new state-of-the-art medical research facility at the University of California, Irvine will bring together the brightest minds across disciplines to share knowledge, collaborate on research, and enhance the health and wellness of the community, both locally and globally. Supported by a \$30 million gift from Professor Robert A. Mah and Dr. Adeline Yen Mah through their philanthropic organization, the Falling Leaves Foundation Medical Innovation Building will be one of the largest facilities of its kind in the West. UCI extends our deepest gratitude to the Mahs and looks forward to advancing our shared vision of a healthier tomorrow.

See the full story at [m.uci.edu/dp](http://m.uci.edu/dp).

**UCI** University of California, Irvine



**BRILLIANT FUTURE**  
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COMMENTARY | MICHAEL J. STAMOS

# Why bother to get vaccinated?

No one thinks they will get a severe case of COVID-19 until they get it.

To that end, more people died from COVID-19 in the United States during just the last week of August than during the 9/11 attacks, and more than 5,000 Orange County residents have died from COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic.

Just a week earlier, the Food and Drug Administration granted formal approval to Pfizer/BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine, Comirnaty. Similar approval for Moderna's vaccine is coming shortly and booster shots are on the horizon.

Vaccines are the best protection against getting the disease and spreading it, so why isn't everyone getting vaccinated?

With improving vaccination numbers, life was beginning to feel more normal as summer began. Unfortunately, the numbers weren't enough to stop the Delta variant.

As we head into the winter months with an unpredictable flu season, some people are questioning why bother to get vaccinated if there are breakthrough infections? The simple answer is

that the vaccine saves lives!

Breakthrough infections have a dramatically lower likelihood of leading to hospitalization or death compared to infections in unvaccinated people.

Beyond the fact that the vaccine is the best protection you have if you are exposed to COVID-19, deciding to remain unvaccinated has a number of other drawbacks.

Across the country, state and local governments have developed ordinances that will require proof of vaccination to enjoy a few activities.

These new ordinances restrict indoor spaces to use by vaccinated people only and include bars, restaurants, spas and fitness centers, retail stores, concerts, sporting events and movie theaters. The federal government is implementing vaccine requirements for all businesses with more than 100 employees and new requirements for federal employees and contractors.

In California, by order of the Department of Public Health, all indoor events with more than 1,000 attendees must require proof of vaccination or a negative

COVID test. Without a vaccine it is harder to travel internationally, with dwindling options for the unvaccinated.

And schools are beginning to implement vaccination requirements — all L.A. Unified School District students 12 and older must be fully vaccinated by January. This action will help keep our schools open, with students and teachers in the classroom.

In addition to preventing the risk of severe illness, including hospitalization and death, vaccines also prevent the long-lasting problems related to COVID-19.

Many formerly infected COVID-19 patients report lingering fatigue, intermittent fever, shortness of breath, cough, joint pain, muscle pain, headache, chest pain, a "brain fog" which includes difficulty thinking and concentrating, and depression. In addition, many recovered COVID-19 patients report health issues with their heart, lung, kidney, skin, teeth and nervous system after infection with the coronavirus.

However, let's focus on the good news. The vaccine is safe, effective and officially approved.

Thanks to emergency use authorization, 350 million mRNA doses had already been given in the United States and more than a billion doses worldwide.

In Orange County, more than 1.8 million residents are fully vaccinated and more than 200,000 are awaiting their second dose. What followed those vaccine rollouts was a dramatic decrease in the spread of the virus, and no red flags regarding vaccine safety.

If you are pregnant or considering becoming pregnant, it is especially crucial that you receive the vaccine. COVID-19 illness can be more severe in pregnancy. On the bright side, COVID-19 vaccines are safe for pregnant women and recommended by the CDC for all women who are pregnant, considering becoming pregnant or breastfeeding.

Importantly, the vaccine protects unborn children by allowing mothers to pass along immunity to the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

By getting the vaccine, you are also protecting the most vulnerable including those whose immune systems are not strong enough to battle COVID-19. This

means if you come into contact with an unvaccinated child battling cancer, you are much less likely to expose them to a virus they just can't fight.

We all want this pandemic to end. The best way to achieve this is for 75% to 85% of the population to be vaccinated. If we don't achieve this level of vaccination the virus will evolve and continue to spread.

The high spread of COVID-19 cases allows the virus to grow and mutate into stronger variants like the Delta variant. In just over five weeks, the Delta variant became responsible for 95% of COVID-19 cases across the United States. The Delta variant is twice as contagious and capable of producing more severe illness. It's a reminder that we must do all that we can to stop this pandemic.

With a highly contagious disease, our actions affect those around us. We must encourage everyone to be fully vaccinated to protect ourselves, our friends, our loved ones and our society.

**DR. MICHAEL J. STAMOS** is the dean of the UC Irvine School of Medicine.

## SURFING

Continued from page A1

Rob Machado — has won three.

Igarashi will surf against Brazil's Lucas Silveira in a quarterfinal heat that will begin about 9:30 a.m., while Conlogue will surf a semifinal heat starting at approximately 10:30 a.m. against Caitlin Simmers of Oceanside.

Conlogue beat 15-year-old Bettylou Sakura Johnson of Hawaii in the quarterfinals Saturday morning to set up Sunday's heat against the 16-year-old Simmers.

Going up against the young groms is something that is not lost on the 29-year-old Conlogue — she was just 16 when she won her first Open title in 2009.

"Obviously it's the next generation and I was there quite awhile ago," Conlogue said.

"It's exciting to see. I've been watching Caity, and actually had a coaching session with the U.S. surfing team and was mentoring her one day. She's a great talent and I am really happy to see her evolving and improving, and I'm very impressed with Betty and her surfing as well.

"It's our job to elevate and inspire the next generation, so they better step up, or else we're not doing

our job right."

The niceties, however, end at the shoreline. Conlogue's competitive drive and determination belies her genial out-of-the-water personality.

So winning a third Open isn't any less desirable for Conlogue, a Sage Hill School graduate who finished No. 9 in the world this year.

"My knowledge is way higher now but I'm just as inspired to win another one," she said.

"It's not any dimmer of a light. I'm loving where I'm at. I got really rejuvenated on my Tahiti trip, I'm feeling really inspired to keep elevating myself and kind of hitting a second — actually not a second, probably more like a third — wind. Just hitting a new rhythm and I like the way it's feeling."

Igarashi is still a week shy of his 24th birthday, but already has six seasons on the World Surf League Championship Tour.

That experience, along with years in the water on the south side of the pier, paid off in his Round of 16 heat Saturday against up-and-comer Kade Matson of San Clemente.

Igarashi won the heat with a two-wave score of 13.60 to Matson's 12.74. But it did not come easily, as Igarashi took off on a mediocre wave with about nine



**KADE MATSON** comes up short in the round of 16 against Kanoa Igarashi.

Raul Roa  
Staff  
Photographer

minutes remaining, handing priority over to Matson. That meant Igarashi had to allow Matson to take any wave he wanted.

Matson, though, still needed a score of 7.04 to move into the lead, and no significant sets rolled through in the remaining minutes, allowing Igarashi to advance.

"It's a lot of trust, having the confidence I can adapt to any kind of situation," Igarashi said.

"Kade is a good enough surfer to get a seven, eight, nine on any given wave. So

I was ready to strike back. Obviously defense is important but when you don't have priority you can't really do it, so I tried to stay on the offense the whole heat."

It's all a part of Igarashi's laid-back approach to this year's Open, one in which he refuses to fall prey to pressure.

"Yeah, to be honest with you, I just kind of free-styled it, winged it a little bit," he said.

"I wanted to adapt to the situations I would be put in and I got put in a few situa-

tions where I made a few errors and had to make some important decisions toward the heat, and I'm glad the cards fell the right way. It's nice to use this heat as a boost into finals day."

The big upset of the day came in the women's quarterfinals where Hawaii's Gabriela Bryan beat Caroline Marks, who finished No. 6 in the world and was one of two women on the U.S. Olympic surf team.

Bryan will face fellow Hawaiian Coco Ho in the

other women's semifinal about 10 a.m. Sunday.

Besides the Igarashi-Silveira heat, the other men's quarterfinals will feature Encinitas' Jake Marshall vs. Australia's Callum Robson, San Clemente's Kolohe Andino vs. Long Beach's Nolan Rapoza, and Australia's Liam O'Brien vs. San Clemente's Griffin Colapinto.

Surfing is scheduled to begin at 8:05 a.m.

**JOE HAAKENSEN** is a special contributor to Times Community News.

## BROWN ACT

Continued from page A1

was the topic of that meeting on ... [June] 29, and clearly litigation was never discussed," Weiss said.

"Only thing that was discussed was the Hotel Laguna and taking a vote to rescind the stop-work orders."

City Manager Shohreh Dupuis said that Laguna Beach city officials were not contacted in advance of receiving the letter on

Sept. 23.

Dupuis added that the city has since reached out to the Orange County district attorney's office — both by phone and by email — to request a meeting on the subject.

"In our view, as the city attorney indicated in open session, we don't believe there was a violation of the Brown Act," Dupuis said.

"I think that we could have been able to show them that we didn't violate the Brown Act if we had a chance to talk to them, but

they didn't talk to any of us. They didn't talk to the city attorney, or me, or any of the other four council members."

As a result of the findings, Schriver wrote that additional measures should be taken by the council while conducting closed session to avoid further action being taken by the district attorney's office.

The council will have to record its closed session meetings for a period of six months and keep those re-

cordings for a year.

The recommended actions also state that meeting agendas should be accurate and provide proper notice of discussion topics.

The letter did acknowledge that the council will fully discuss the June 29 closed session at its Aug. 24 meeting.

"When we came out on Aug. 24 and we discussed that in open session, we discussed the fact that there was threat of litigation, both from the Coastal Commission and also from

Mr. [Mohammad] Honarkar himself and his attorney," Dupuis said.

"That's why it was listed as [litigation]. What we discussed in the closed session was related to what options we have now that there is a threat of litigation regarding allowing the hotel to open or not.

"We weren't seeking any kind of direction. We were just informing the council of what we were going to do, but it came across that we were asking for a vote, and that's why on Aug. 24,

we came out in open session and reiterated the decision."

Weiss viewed the findings as a victory for the people, particularly with respect to transparency.

"I'm happy it happened," Weiss said. "I'm not happy about the way that it happened, but I'm happy that there's going to be some accountability and there's going to be more open city council meetings."

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## CROSS-COUNTRY

## Boys' course record falls at Dana Hills Invitational

BY ANDREW TURNER

DANA POINT — For Southern California cross-country runners, events such as the Dana Hills Invitational provide numerous opportunities, including a chance to test oneself against a wider range of competition.

Few possibilities get a cross-country runner excited as much as when a fast time is on the table, and that is always in play at the South Orange County-based meet.

Carlsbad Sage Creek's Bryce Gilmore set a course record in running 14 minutes 13 seconds to win the boys' invitational race on Saturday morning at Dana Hills High School.

The record had belonged to Pasadena's Jesus Gutierrez since 1983, when he posted a time of 14:16.

Gilmore had hoped to be pushed in the competition, and he was by Dana Hills' Jai Dawson until the latter fell during the race.

"I was aiming for that course record, hoping that I would have someone to push it with me, and I did for most of the race, and that helped a ton," Gilmore said.

"Coming across with 400 [meters] to go and [to] see the time and know I can get it, it helped push me that last 400 even more, and just coming across the finish line was kind of a sense of relief to know that I did it."

Fountain Valley's Benjamin Prado was the leading local in the race, crossing the finish line in seventh in 15:00.2.

Following the girls' invitational race, Barons senior Kaho Cichon showed pure jubilation at the fact that she was not denied in her quest to break the 17-minute performance barrier.

Cichon, a talent in the 800 meters, showed off that closing speed in mov-



Photos by Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

**FOUNTAIN VALLEY** senior Kaho Cichon (969) finishes third in the Division 1 girls' invitational race of the Dana Hills Invitational on Saturday at Dana Hills High School.



**FOUNTAIN VALLEY** senior Benjamin Prado (957) competes in the Division 1 boys' invitational race

ing up a couple of positions late. The course finishes with about the last 500 meters being contested on the track inside of the Dana Hills football stadium.

"I'm honestly so happy because I thought this was going to be my last chance being able to break 17 [minutes], and I honestly know if I broke it," said Ci-

chon, who finished third with a time of 16:58.0. "I'm really happy that I was able to achieve my goal."

As the meet continued, additional local teams made appearances in the grade-level races. The Newport Harbor girls showed that they could be a force to be reckoned with in the years to come, as two of the Sailors' underclassmen notched

top-five finishes in Division 2.

Emma Scheumann placed fourth (19:13.4) in the sophomore race, and Keaton Robar was fifth (19:34.0) in the freshman heat.

"I feel like at these big meets, there's just a lot of pressure, and I get a lot more nervous," Scheumann said. "But I definitely enjoy having more

people to race with and getting to make friends at the starting line, at the finish, and getting to meet people from different parts of SoCal."

A late bid to claim victory in the combined race for senior and junior girls in Division 3 came up a fraction of a second short for Ocean View's Elizabeth King (18:55.7) versus San Diego Clairemont's Alexis Noble (18:55.6).

The Seahawks senior expressed some frustration after the race for landing on the same time that she posted at the Woodbridge Invitational the week prior.

Nevertheless, King found reasons to be positive, especially after coronavirus precautions resulted in a cross-country season with exclusively dual meets last school year.

Ocean View participated

in a dual meet circuit featuring only Huntington Beach Union High School District teams in the spring.

King noted that there were a lot of familiar faces around the grounds that she had not seen for some time.

"Walking in, I was saying hi to everyone," King said. "I recognized so many people that I haven't talked to in so long."

Costa Mesa had two seniors place fifth in their respective Division 3 grade-level races in Edward Rodriguez (16:33.1) and Angeles Alatorre (19:48.4).

The Mustangs also had freshman Lindsey Patino Gomez earn third place in the combined sophomore and freshman race with a time of 20:23.2.

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## Daily Pilot

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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

# Turnovers cost F.V. in loss to Aliso Niguel

BY MATT SZABO

ALISO VIEJO — Playing a complete game will definitely be a priority for the Fountain Valley High football team headed into Sun-set League play.

The Barons have battled in each of their five non-league games, but struggled after the intermission.

That trend continued Friday night, as host Aliso Niguel cruised to a 44-15 victory in its homecoming game.

“We just need to learn how to finish,” said Barons junior running back/linebacker Abdel Habibeh, who had a career-high 138 rushing yards and a touchdown in the latest setback. “We’ve had multiple games this season where we can’t finish in the second half.”

Fountain Valley (1-4), which has lost four straight games, was tied deep into the first half. But Aliso Niguel (4-2) used a three-yard touchdown run from Chase Christner to pull ahead with 2:54 remaining in the half.

The Barons went three and out, but a bad punt snap made things worse. The punter couldn’t get the kick away, and was tackled at the Fountain Valley 12-



Photos by Spencer Grant

FOUNTAIN VALLEY’S Caine Elroy, Michael Rocha and Wasseem Homsy pursue Chase Christner.

yard line. Three plays later, Wolverines quarterback Shaun McCaughren found Keegan Shone on a nine-yard touchdown pass, and the hosts took a 20-7 halftime advantage.

Aliso Niguel then came up with four second-half interceptions — two by Mikey Laderer and one each by Cade Mahaffey and Justin Zeppa — to quickly pull away. Laderer’s second in-

terception and Zeppa’s pick were both returned for touchdowns.

“We can’t give up big plays,” Fountain Valley first-year coach David Gutierrez said.

“We have to make them work for it. We continued to play defense all the way through the fourth quarter. It’s tough with the turnovers, but we have to be able to deal with it. It’s experience, getting in those mo-

ments when it’s a quick turnover and now we have to fight and try to hold them to three [points].”

Gutierrez said the Barons, who were coming off a bye week, played without four starters due to coronavirus protocols. Habibeh, who had missed the last two weeks with an Achilles injury, also was tasked with playing inside linebacker for Fountain Valley.

He said he enjoyed it,



BRYAN YOAN of Fountain Valley looks for room to run.

adding that he hadn’t played both ways since his freshman year.

“I like hitting people hard,” Habibeh said. “The first half tonight, I think we did really well. The second half, we really just need to take care of the ball. We were put in some tough positions on the defensive side, because of turnovers.”

Fountain Valley junior quarterback Owen Tomko accounted for the Barons’ first-half score, hooking up with a wide-open Tyler Nowicki for a 38-yard touchdown on fourth down.

When Habibeh scored a rushing touchdown in the fourth quarter, though, it was Fountain Valley’s first second-half score since their season-opening win against Valencia.

Defensively for the Barons, junior lineman Michael

Rocha had three tackles for a loss, and junior linebacker Caine Elroy had one tackle for a loss. Senior Wasseem Homsi and junior Matthew Mena combined to force a fumble.

Christner also caught a touchdown pass for Aliso Niguel, while fullback Jack Gill rumbled for a 43-yard touchdown run to supply the game’s first points.

Fountain Valley opens Sun-set League play with a game at Huntington Beach on Friday night.

“We’ve just got to watch the film, see what we did wrong and talk to our guys,” Gutierrez said. “Our guys are still fighting out there. They’re very proud to be Barons and we’re proud of them as well.”

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



LAGUNA BEACH’S Jacob Diver stretches for the end zone while being tackled by Calvary Chapel’s Jackson Pellkofer.

Photos by Scott Smeltzer Staff Photographer

LAGUNA

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back Ian Capuano to force the incompletion.

Three plays later, Laguna Beach was back in the end zone again, this time on a 40-yard touchdown pass by Will Bingham to Jacob Diver, who capped his night with three catches for 53 yards and two touchdowns.

“I feel like I can rely on every throw,” Diver said of his connection with Bingham. “Every throw is going to be that ball that I’m able to catch. It’s never a ball really overthrown, really underthrown. It’s always good deliverance.”

Arntz had four touchdowns before halftime, at which time the Breakers led 35-7. All of them were from no more than seven yards out.

The longest gain of the game for Arntz came on his first carry, a 49-yard run on which he was caught from behind.

Laguna Beach coach John Shanahan was im-

LAGUNA BEACH

quarterback Will Bingham follows through with a pass.



pressed by the offensive output when told that Arntz, while he did not showcase breakaway speed, topped 200 total yards. He also had two receptions for 24 yards.

“I’d have never bet that he would get anywhere close to that,” Shanahan said of Arntz. “You know, he’s our third running back ... He’s just done a great job. He’s accountable.”

“That’s the kind of human being he is. You can always count on him to do the right thing, be in the right spot, say the right

thing. That’s impressive tonight.”

Nick Rogers and Bella Rasmussen each finished with 22 rushing yards, receiving a large portion of their respective workloads in the second half.

Dworakowski made three catches for 50 yards and also recorded a sack. Ryner Swanson made two catches for 31 yards, and Aidan Moss had two grabs for 23 yards.

Capuano was able to get on track late in the second quarter. He had a 33-yard completion to Jackson Pellkofer. That, combined with a roughing-the-passer penalty, got Calvary Chapel down to the Laguna Beach 20. The drive ended with Capuano finding Court Franklin in the right corner for a one-yard touchdown.

Calvary Chapel (4-1) averaged 48 points per game entering the contest. Eagles coach Pat McInally said he felt that it will take three wins in Orange Coast League play for his team to make the postseason.

“We’ve got to do our best, so hopefully just give a little more resistance to Santa Ana than we did this week, so we have to play better,” McInally said. “We just need to play a good game. Our goal is the playoffs, and obviously we’re not going to play anyone like Santa Ana in the playoffs.”

“Laguna was a good test. That was a playoff team, and we just didn’t have a good night.”

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