

Daily Pilot

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2025 /// dailypilot.com



Courtesy of Daniel Harsadi

AUTHOR KEVIN KWAN poses with fans holding up his latest book release, "Lies and Weddings."

O.C. readers spend Lunar New Year with author Kevin Kwan

The author of 'Crazy Rich Asians' and its sequels reads from his latest book for an OC Public Libraries event at the Norma Hertzog Community Center.

BY SARAH MOSQUEDA

Author Kevin Kwan laughed as he shared his mother's concern for the turnout of his special appearance in Orange County, since the event fell on Lunar New Year.

"She said, 'Who is going to come to the O.C. to see you on Lunar New Year?'" said the Singaporean-born American novelist. "Asian parents are a very specific breed, but I was really lucky in that they were always supportive of my crazy schemes."

Thankfully, nearly 340 readers turned out for Kwan's literary event on Jan. 29 at the Norma Hertzog Community Center in Costa Mesa.

Presented by OC Public Libraries and partly funded through a grant from the California Department of Aging, the series features keynote speakers, like Kwan, in celebration of literacy. Kwan spoke with local journalist Jennifer Tanaka, took questions from the audience and signed copies of his books, which were made available for sale on site by Mysterious Galaxy Bookstore.

Kwan is the author of the international bestselling novel "Crazy Rich Asians," which has been translated into 40 languages. The subsequent books in the series, "China Rich Girl-

See **Kwan**, page A5



Sarah Mosqueda

KWAN, AUTHOR of "Crazy Rich Asians," discussed his recent book and upcoming projects with journalist Jennifer Tanaka at the Norma Hertzog Community Center in Costa Mesa.

NTSB cites faulty door in plane crash that killed Huntington Beach father and daughter

BY CITY NEWS SERVICE

An experimental amateur-built small plane that slammed into a furniture warehouse near Fullerton Airport, killing the pilot and his teenage daughter in the passenger seat and injuring 19 victims on the ground, had defects in a door that appears to

have contributed to the collision, the National Transportation Safety Board said in a preliminary report.

The Jan. 2 crash in the 2300 block of Raymer Avenue killed Pascal Reid of Huntington Beach and his 16-year-old daughter Kelly, a junior at Huntington Beach High School who played

varsity soccer, lacrosse and flag football at the school.

The collision sparked a fire and led to eight serious and 11 minor injuries.

The parts for the Vans Aircraft RV-10 were shipped to Reid between 2007 and 2008, the NTSB reported. It was assembled in 2011.

Before the accident, an acquaintance of the pilot saw Reid taxi the airplane from the pilot's hangar in the southeast corner of the airport, the NTSB said.

Surveillance video shows that the left door of the plane was in the down position, but "it was

See **Crash**, page A5

Laguna sounds alarm on fire safety

City officials reestablish wildfire mitigation committee in response to community concerns following fires in L.A.

BY ANDREW TURNER

In light of the January wildfires that devastated the Los Angeles area, Laguna Beach residents have been sounding the alarm with regard to a need to do more to protect the coastal community.

City officials have heard those growing concerns since the Palisades and Eaton fires, among others, broke out.

On Tuesday, the City Council took action to reestablish the wildfire mitigation and fire safety ad hoc committee, appointing council members Sue Kempf and Bob Whalen as its representatives.

"We need to recognize that we're all kind of in this together," Kempf said. "City government can't do everything here to keep us safe. We're going to do every single thing we can, but people are going to have to create defensible space around their homes, they're going to have to harden their homes, and we're probably going to take a very aggressive approach on this because this is a huge problem."

Kempf and Whalen served on the subcommittee that helped bring about the wildfire mitigation and fire safety plan in 2019. The plan allocated \$23 million for various short-term and long-term initiatives. A total of 46 projects spanning the areas of evacuation, fuel modification, infrastructure and notification measures are included in the report.

"We spent over \$20 million of your money to make this community safer than it was in 2018, and

See **Fire**, page A3

ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

EDISON GIRLS' SOCCER TOPS CDM TO ADVANCE TO SUNSET LEAGUE TOURNAMENT SEMIFINALS PAGE A5

THE CROWD: WOMEN OF CHAPMAN HOLD 38TH ANNUAL LUNCHEON PAGE A3

Roof collapse, flooding damage South Coast Rep storage



Robert Huskey | South Coast Repertory

A 4,500-SQUARE-FOOT section of roof on a production building maintained by Costa Mesa's South Coast Repertory collapsed Sunday, causing severe water damage, officials report.

BY SARA CARDINE

South Coast Repertory officials are cataloging the damage and potential loss caused by the partial roof collapse Sunday of a production building where painted scenes, approximately 100,000 costumes and decades of archival items are stored.

Suzanne Appel, managing director of the Costa Mesa theater company, said the collapse occurred in a portion of the 18,000-square-foot Santa Ana structure that houses a paint shop, where artisans work on custom creations for the organization's stages.

"We're really trying to assess the situation, in terms of what the damage is, not only to the facility but all the other production areas within the space," Appel said Thursday.

"But if you look into the area where the ceiling collapsed, it's



A SPACE IN Santa Ana that once served as a paint shop for South Coast Repertory is exposed after a roof collapse Sunday.

totally open to the elements — it's completely overwhelming."

Detoured by a fire alarm system at around 7:30 p.m. Sunday, during periods of high winds and rain in the area, the cave-in took out water pipes in the building, resulting in up to 4 inches of flooding in the building used by SCR as an ancillary facility since 1994.

With steel beams in place Thursday supporting the integrity of the structure, the roughly 4,500-square-foot area that comprised the paint shop has been red-tagged by building inspectors. Other areas of the building may be accessed but are not safe for

See **Damage**, page A3

Access to 1,000 Steps Beach reopens after Laguna landslide

BY ERIC LICAS

A landslide in Laguna Beach led to the temporary closure of a popular surf spot Friday morning.

The incident occurred at 1,000 Steps Beach at about 7:15 a.m., Laguna Beach officials reported in a social media post, which refers to the area as 9th Street Beach. A portion of the private walkway that snakes along the cliff side had collapsed, as seen in photos shared online.

About 500 cubic yards of earth came crashing down in the landslide, Laguna Beach officials said. No homes were damaged and no injuries were reported.

"This was a significant bluff collapse, and we responded with an abundance of caution to ensure no one was in harm's way," Laguna Beach Fire Chief Niko King said. "Luckily no one was hurt and while there is no immediate danger, it's important for everyone to stay clear of the closed area while assessments continue."

The beach as well as an adjacent portion of Pacific



Courtesy of the City of Laguna Beach

A LANDSLIDE IN Laguna Beach led to the temporary closure of 1,000 Steps Beach on Friday.

Coast Highway at the foot of 9th Avenue were temporarily closed, and people were advised to stay away from the area as crews made repairs. Streets were reopened and access to the beach had been restored as of 1:38 p.m. However, the portion of the beach immediately surrounding where the landslide took place remained off limits to the public until further notice.

Residents of three nearby homes were evacuated as a precaution. They have been allowed to re-

turn to their homes, and city officials say there is no threat to surrounding properties. A geologist will be assigned to further evaluate the stability of the bluff.

The beach is home to a reef break known for producing consistently rideable waves at all stages of the tide and year-round. It's practically walled off by sandstone cliffs that extend past the shoreline to the north.

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THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

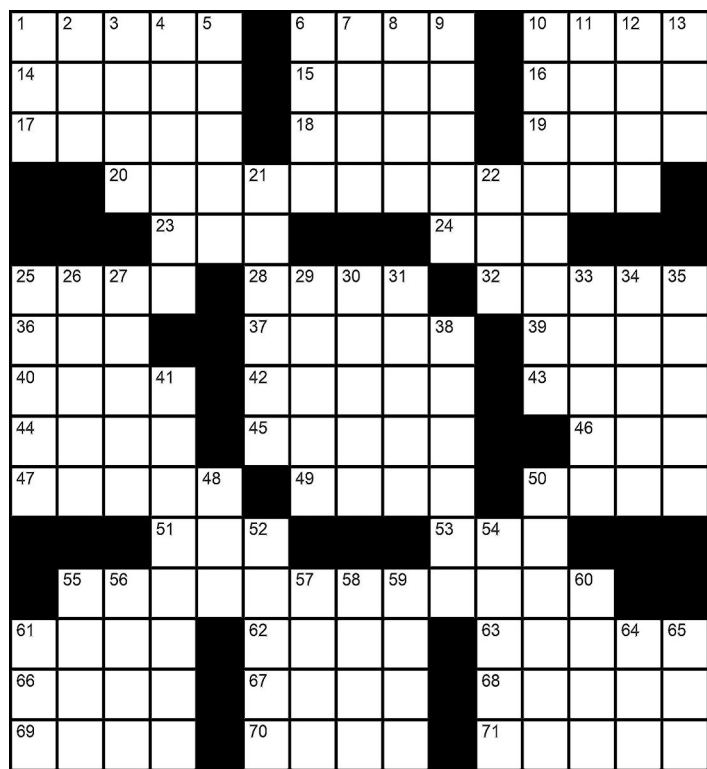
By Stella Zawistowski

ACROSS

- 1 "Cherrystone" mollusks
- 6 Lima's country
- 10 Medicine format
- 14 YouTube selection
- 15 "My turn!": 2 wds.
- 16 Largest continent
- 17 Play for time
- 18 Opera orchestras' places
- 19 Thick piece of bacon
- 20 Place to see a film: 2 wds.
- 23 Bear's shelter
- 24 _ and feather
- 25 _ or neuter
- 28 Totals
- 32 Allowed by Muslim law
- 36 Where spokes intersect
- 37 Dangerous virus
- 39 Bite-sized
- 40 Wrinkle-smoothing tool
- 42 Shows up
- 43 B&Bs
- 44 Make over
- 45 Breaks, as a bronco
- 46 Part of a lowercase i
- 47 Poll finding
- 49 Use a keyboard
- 50 Pronounces
- 51 Girl sibling, for short
- 53 Male sheep
- 55 Doctor's instruction
- 61 College official
- 62 Pork fried _
- 63 Omits
- 66 Has a cookie, say
- 67 Deploys
- 68 Release: 2 wds.
- 69 At no cost
- 70 Second to none
- 71 Writing class assignment

DOWN

- 1 Rite Aid competitor
- 2 Ignited
- 3 Actor Driver
- 4 Song
- 5 Work out, as a math problem
- 6 Organ part
- 7 Give off
- 8 Book after Judges
- 9 Distaught
- 10 Smoked beef at
- 11 Archipelago part
- 12 Untrustworthy person
- 13 Scientist's workplace
- 21 Bug
- 22 Sound of delight
- 25 Tee or tank
- 26 More pristine
- 27 Home
- 29 German WWII sub
- 30 "I Saw _ Kissing Santa Claus"
- 31 Take a nap
- 33 Model Evangelista
- 34 Rile
- 35 Shopping references
- 38 Confidently state
- 41 Hogwash
- 48 Talk smack about
- 50 Cigarettes, slangily
- 52 Thoroughly clean
- 54 Supermarket path
- 55 Fruit in some tarts
- 56 Evaluate
- 57 Travel upward
- 58 Covers in frosting
- 59 Noodge
- 60 Baby lice
- 61 Dictionary entry: Abbr.
- 64 Scottie Scheffler's group: Abbr.
- 65 Vegan milk variety



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.

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

For answers to the crossword and Sudoku puzzles, see page A5.

- 3 Actor Driver
- 4 Song
- 5 Work out, as a math problem
- 6 Organ part
- 7 Give off
- 8 Book after Judges
- 9 Distaught
- 10 Smoked beef at

- a deli
- 11 Archipelago part
- 12 Untrustworthy person
- 13 Scientist's workplace
- 21 Bug
- 22 Sound of delight
- 25 Tee or tank

Tribune Media Services

AROUND TOWN

Jewel Court marks new year

The Jewel Court at South Coast Plaza in Costa Mesa has been transformed by a Year of the Snake exhibit in celebration of the Lunar New Year, with events planned through Feb. 9.

Visitors to the shopping center can enjoy a 48-photo exhibit, "Nihao, China! See You in Guangdong," featuring the work of four award-winning Southern California photographers. The show was curated by GD Today in collaboration with the Chinese Consulate.

On weekends while supplies last, Year of the Snake paper lantern craft kits for

kids will be on sale at Carousel Court for \$8 each. Children have the option to either create the craft on-site or take it home to assemble.

Exhibit focuses on Zagros region

"Sparks of Light from the Zagros: The Sacred Landscapes of the Yezidi and Yarsan Communities" will open tomorrow from 2 to 6 p.m. in the McCormick Theater at UC Irvine's Samuel Jordan Center for Persian Studies and Culture, 4100 Humanities Gateway, Irvine.

The free exhibition, which runs through Friday, Feb. 7, explores the spiritual and cultural her-

itage of the Yezidi and Yarsan communities through the lens of their sacred landscapes in the Zagros region. Speakers on opening day include Ostad Ali Akbar Moradi, Ava Homa, Carlo G. Cereti, Gianfilippo Terribili and Ghiath Rammo.

Bausch to appear at library event

Friends of the Costa Mesa Libraries will present "A Love Affair With Writing," featuring author and Chapman professor Richard Bausch at 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 15, in the Adams Room of the Donald Dungan Library, 1855 Park

See **Around**, page A3

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THE CROWD | B.W. COOK

Women of Chapman hold 38th annual luncheon in support of the university

One final nod to the holidays as January fades into February: A long-standing tradition cherished by donors supporting Chapman University unfolded for a 38th holiday celebration luncheon held at the Balboa Bay Resort, Newport Beach.

Some 300 guests enjoyed "Christmas at the Ritz" hosted by the Women of Chapman, a 54-year-old philanthropic group currently led by **Lisa Hallaian**. Joining event chair **Kristi Jacob** were "Ritz" committee members **Donna Bunce**, **Adrienne Brandes**, **Janet Curci**, **Sue Hook**, **Kathy Hamilton** and **Kristin Martin**.

Also among the dedicated were **Leslie Cancellieri**, **Mona Lee Nesseth**, **Sheri Nazaroff**, **Donna Bianchi**, **Robin Follman** and **Cynthia De Baun**. Chapman liaison **Erin Peltier**, director of support groups at the university was front and center with current Chapman President **Daniele Struppa**.

Together, the committee and attendees rallied to raise some \$300,000 at the party amid the Balboa Bay Club's traditional holiday red, green and gold décor. To date, Women of Chapman have raised and donated more than \$10 million. Currently, the group is completing a \$1-million pledge to Chapman's Keck Center for Science and Engineering and also to the Harry and Diane Rinker Health Sciences Campus. An additional \$1-million pledge will fund Chapman Women's Student Assistance Fund.

A bit of backstory reminds readers of the for-



mer Newport Ritz Restaurant and its dynamic and talented, late founder Hans Prager. A fixture on the social scene for several decades, the Ritz at Fashion Island closed in 2014, but the legacy is etched in the memory of thousands of patrons who gathered for occasions of every kind under the tutelage and culinary expertise of Prager and his staff.

As a shout out to that legacy, every holiday season when "Christmas at the Ritz" is reinvented in a new location, the Prager menu is served, beginning with his famous "Ritz Egg" (scrambled egg, smoked salmon, topped with caviar and placed into a hollowed eggshell) and served with fine champagne (or a shot of vodka). Wild mushroom cappuccino soup follows, preceding an entree of either goose, braised short-ribs or Chilean seabass. Dessert is a showpiece as a profiterole tower is served at each table.

A wild and crazy live auction held at this year's event featured fabulous items, including celebrity-level travel to places including Aspen and New York City. There were dining experiences at Newport's finest dining rooms. A tour of the Reagan Library hosted by the late president's son Michael Reagan raised the bar. Spotted in the luncheon crowd of bidders were additional Women of Chapman event committee members **Jacqui Penner**, **Anita Seiveley**, **Marci Sorensen**, **Susan Tuttle**, **Susan Villeneuve** and **Holli Winterhalter**. **Shelly Angel** was there too, as were **Jane Bigcas**, **Sheral**



Photos by Tony Lattimore

GAYE BIRTCHER and guests celebrate with fellow Chapman University supporters at the Balboa Bay Resort, Newport Beach for the Women of Chapman annual fundraiser known as Christmas at the Ritz.

Burke, **Donna Di Bari**, **Barbara Eidson**, **Donna Hood**, **Michelle Highberg**, **Lauren Johnson**, **Melinda Kartsonis**, **Mikey Lares** and **Mary Murley**.

Highlighting the occasion came the announcement of a new university president to succeed Struppa upon his retirement at the end of this summer. The Chapman Board of Trustees selected **Matt Parlow** to serve as the 14th leader of the university. Rousing applause followed.

B.W. COOK is editor of the Bay Window, the official publication of the Balboa Bay Club in Newport Beach.



CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY President Daniele Struppa joins Lisa Hallaian, president of Women of Chapman at 38th Christmas at the Ritz held at Balboa Bay Resort.

DAMAGE

Continued from page A1

occupancy, staff confirmed. South Coast Repertory leaders have hired a remediation and restoration company to oversee the work that is going to be required in the coming days and weeks, according to Appel.

Officials believe the rest of the company's 2024-25 season can be staged without any major interruptions, including the children's program "The Incredible Book Eating Boy" (Feb. 28 through March 16) and Keiko Green's "You are Cordially Invited to the End of the World," which runs April 5 through May 3 as part of the Pacific Playwrights Festival.

However, a new location for painting and creating sets will likely have to be found. Appel, who came to South Coast Repertory in September, said staff and



Robert Huskey | South Coast Repertory

A PAINT SHOP in a Santa Ana building maintained by South Coast Repertory was ruined Sunday night when a roof collapsed from high winds and rain.

board members hosted a special appreciation dinner in the paint shop area just before Thanksgiving.

"I'm hopeful we'll get back there," she said Thursday. "Our team is really coming together to face this challenge, but it's a big one. It's going to be a long and extensive rebuild."

In an interview with City News Service, Appel said while the building was acquired 30 years earlier, SCR officials undertook "significant repairs" of the roof in 2020.

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FIRE

Continued from page A1

it is definitely safer, but is it safe enough? No, it's not safe enough," Whalen said. "We know we have more to do. We know we have to keep going, and we will keep going."

Among the recommendations implemented so far: The city has installed an emergency outdoor warning system, adopted guidelines for residential defensible space and placed several fire detection cameras in the open space.

"I think [in using the artificial intelligence] wildfire cameras we should cover our whole open space with them because you have to get to a fire within five minutes to really have a chance of putting it out," Mayor Alex Rounaghi said. "I know when we had these crazy winds, I was so nervous that there was going to be a fire that would start. I know we had people watching and stuff, but I think technology is a key solution."

A helicopter water refilling tank has been installed along the fire road, and a second tank is located at the water district property

of El Morro Elementary School in North Laguna.

An interactive map detailing evacuation routes for specific neighborhoods is available through the city's website. A search for the word "evacuation" pulled up a list of 20 neighborhoods with information about their evacuation routes, as well as helpful tips on types of evacuation orders and readiness for such situations.

About 30% of the city has yet to have its utility lines put underground, according to a city staff report, although several neighborhoods have recently agreed to become part of underground utility districts.

"There isn't going to be enough money to do everything we need to do," Whalen said. "I, and our council at the time, pushed in 2018 to get a sales tax measure, went to the ballot, primarily for fire safety measures, [but it] did not pass. I think we're going to have to have that conversation again as a community. Are we willing to spend a little bit more of our money to promote safety, preserve our homes, preserve our ability to get fire insurance? "It's really not too much

to say this is an emergency. We are in constant threat, and I think we can do more, and we need to do more."

In August, residents packed City Hall for a meeting that focused on fire insurance as rates for such coverage were skyrocketing and some companies were canceling policies for homes in vulnerable areas. It's unknown how many homeowners found replacement policies, but the timing of the meeting may have been fortuitous. Less than five months later, when the Palisades and Eaton fires destroyed about 16,000 homes in one of the nation's most expensive natural disasters to date, California's affordable home insurance crisis caught those who had not renewed or replaced their policies unprepared to rebuild.

Beyond restoring the ad hoc committee, the Laguna Beach City Council has also directed the committee members to work with the League of California Cities and state representatives as advocates for legislation that would exempt fuel modification, undergrounding and other wildfire measures from requirements of the Coastal Act

AROUND

Continued from page A2

Ave., Costa Mesa. Bausch's list of honors includes the 2004 PEN/Malamud Award for Excellence in the Short Story, the Dayton Literary Peace Prize for his novel "Peace" and, in 2013, the Rea Award for "achievement and influence on the art of the short story."

The first 25 attendees will receive a complimentary copy of "Peace."

Truffle-making class offered

The OC Fair & Event Center is offering Chocolate Bliss, a pre-Valentine's Day truffle-making class on Saturday, Feb. 8, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Center's Centennial Farm. Chef Vina DiBernardo will lead the class, which has a \$45 fee.

Participants will be giv-

en gift boxes in which they can present the treats they've created to the Valentine(s) of their choosing.

Tied-back hair and closed-toed shoes are required, and aprons are recommended. Parking is free. Reservations must be made by Monday, Feb. 3, at Centennial Farm Garden Classes.

New foundation director at GWC

Jennifer Mower, who most recently served as director of development for the Orange County Chapter of the Alzheimer's Assn., is the new director of the Golden West College Foundation. Mower began in her new role on Jan. 29, stepping into the position held for many years by Bruce Berman, who retired in June 2024.

In a statement, President Meridith Randall praised Mower's "experi-

ence with donor cultivation and corporate partnerships, in addition to her extensive connections in Orange County."

Symphony adds 3 board members

Pacific Symphony announced three new members have joined its board of directors: Arnold Holland, Patrick Johnson and Yassmin Sarmadi.

Holland has served since 2023 as the dean of the College of the Arts at CSU Fullerton, where he has been a professor of art since 1998. Johnson is the chief innovation officer and executive chairman of BioPhotas, Inc., a company he founded 13 years ago in Irvine. Sarmadi is the co-owner of the French restaurant Knife Pleat at South Coast Plaza and with her husband has been an active supporter of Pacific Symphony.

— From staff reports

Lawson, a longtime resident, called on the city to better integrate into the discussion its emergency disaster preparedness committee, a body he previously served in the role of chairman.

"We have done a great deal here, but nothing that you're going to do tonight, nothing that the city has done in the last 100 years is going to matter if we don't get the fire prevention piece right," Lawson added.

Resident John Thomas commented that his family lost a house in the Palisades fire. He said they lived in the house, which they had kept as a rental, until moving to Laguna Beach.

"We're all vulnerable here, regardless of whether

we think we're safe," Thomas said. "We all need to do everything that you're talking about in terms of hardening our homes. ... The similarities between the Palisades and Laguna are unsettling. They're striking. Three ways in, three ways out, open space, ocean. ... They needed an evacuation plan. You did one, which is great, but theirs didn't work."

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Legal Notices

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CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a tentative parcel map is scheduled for review by the Zoning Administrator of the City of Newport Beach on or after **Thursday, February 13, 2025**. The Zoning Administrator will consider the following application:

Pelican Fund LLC Residential Condominiums - A tentative parcel map for two-unit residential condominium purposes. An existing duplex has been demolished, and a new duplex is currently under construction. The tentative parcel map would allow each unit to be sold individually. No waivers of Newport Beach Municipal Code (NBMC) Title 19 (Subdivisions) are proposed.

The project is categorically exempt pursuant to Section 15315 under Class 15 (Minor Land Divisions) of the State CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) Guidelines.

All interested parties may submit written comments regarding the requested tentative parcel map to Cameron Younger, Planning Technician, at cyounger@newportbeachca.gov, 949-644-3228 or at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, California, 92660. Comments will be accepted until 12:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, February 12, 2025**. If you challenge this project in court, you may be limited to raising only the issues you or someone else raised in written correspondence delivered to the City, on, or before, the date of the decision. The project file may be reviewed at the Community Development Department Permit Center (Bay C-1st Floor), at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660.

For questions regarding this item please contact Cameron Younger, Planning Technician at cyounger@newportbeachca.gov, 949-644-3228 or at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660.

Project File No.: PA2024-0220	Activity: Tentative Parcel Map
Zone: Two-Unit Residential (R-2)	General Plan: Two Unit Residential (RT)
Location: 1611 and 1611 1/2 Cliff Drive	Applicant: Jones, Cahil and Associates Inc.

Legal Notices

Legal Notices



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on **Thursday, February 13, 2025**, at 10:00 a.m. or soon thereafter as the matter shall be heard, a public hearing will be conducted online via Zoom. The Zoning Administrator of the City of Newport Beach will consider the following application:

Bayshore Cafe - A request for a minor use permit to increase the hours of operation by one hour for an existing eating and drinking establishment, Bayshore Cafe. The current hours of operation are 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., daily, and the proposed hours of operation are 6 a.m. to 11 p.m., daily. No late hours (after 11 p.m.), live entertainment, or dancing are requested. If approved, this Minor Use Permit would supersede Use Permit No. UP2021-036, and all conditions of approval will be consolidated and incorporated into this amendment.

The project is categorically exempt under Section 15301 - Class 1 (Existing Facilities) of the State CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) Guidelines.

All interested parties may appear and present testimony regarding this application. If you challenge this project in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you raised at the public hearing or in written correspondence delivered to the City, at, or before, the public hearing. Administrative procedures for appeals are provided in the Newport Beach Municipal Code Chapter 20.64 (Appeals). The application may be continued to a specific future meeting date; if such an action occurs, additional public notice of the continuance will not be provided.

The agenda, staff report, and corresponding documents will be available by end of business day on the Friday preceding the public hearing and may be reviewed at the Community Development Department Permit Center (Bay C-1st Floor), at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660 or the City of Newport Beach website at www.newportbeachca.gov/zoningadministrator.

Please review the Zoning Administrator Agenda for Zoom participation instructions. Individuals not able to attend the meeting may contact the Planning Division or access the City's website after the meeting to review the action on this application. All mail or written communications (including email) from the public, residents, or applicants regarding an agenda item must be submitted by 12:00 p.m. on the business day immediately before the meeting. This allows time for the Zoning Administrator to adequately consider the submitted correspondence.

For questions regarding this public hearing item please contact Laura Rodriguez, Planning Technician, at 949-644-3216 and lrodriguez@newportbeachca.gov, at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660.

Project File No.: PA2024-0132	Activity: Minor Use Permit
Zone: Commercial General (CG)	General Plan: General Commercial (CG)
Location: 100 West Coast Highway, Suite 104	Applicant: Abolhassan Jassamzadej

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LEGAL NOTICE

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-6

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH, CALIFORNIA, DECLARING ITS INTENTION TO CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER GRANTING NON-EXCLUSIVE COMMERCIAL SOLID WASTE AND DIVERTIBLE MATERIALS HANDLING FRANCHISES

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Newport Beach ("City") finds and determines that the collection of municipal solid waste and divertible materials, including recyclable materials, food scraps, green waste, wood waste, construction and demolition debris, and all other materials that can be diverted from landfill disposal (collectively "Commercial Solid Waste") generated within the City is a vital public service;

WHEREAS, the City Council further finds and determines that the collection, transportation, storage, and disposal of municipal solid waste and the collection, transportation, processing, and diversion of processable municipal solid waste and divertible materials ("Commercial Franchise Services") is a matter of great public concern because improper control of such matters subjects the City to potential liability, damages and penalties, and may create a public nuisance, air pollution, fire hazard, infestation and other problems affecting the public health, safety and welfare;

WHEREAS, the non-exclusive franchises for the use of public streets to provide Commercial Franchise Services promotes the public health, safety and welfare by providing permanence and stability among those businesses wishing to provide such service and accountability to the City for compliance with current and future state mandates;

WHEREAS, on October 22, 2019, the City Council approved a new model franchise agreement in compliance with state law ("2020 Franchise"), which expires in the year 2027;

WHEREAS, the City has received applications from: (1) BC Hauling & Demolition, Inc.; (2) California Waste Services LLC, and (3) Greenleaf Engineering (collectively, "Proposed Grantees"), who wish to perform work under the 2020 Franchise;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article XIII (Franchises) of the City Charter, Chapter 12.63 (Solid Waste Management) of the Newport Beach Municipal Code ("NBMC"), and California Public Resources Code Sections 40059, 49300, and 49500 through 49523, or any successor statutes, the City is authorized to enter into non-exclusive franchise agreements for Commercial Franchise Services with private solid waste haulers;

WHEREAS, pursuant to City Charter Section 1301 (Resolution of Intention. Notice and Public Hearing), the City Council, prior to granting any franchise, shall pass a resolution declaring its intention to grant a franchise, stating the name of the proposed grantee(s), the character of the franchise, and the terms and conditions upon which it is proposed to be granted; and

WHEREAS, such resolution shall fix and set forth the day, hour and place when and where any persons having any interest therein or any objection to the granting thereof may appear before the City Council and be heard thereon.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Newport Beach resolves as follows:

Section 1: The City Council does hereby declare its intention to grant non-exclusive franchises, subject to the following general terms and conditions ("Non-Exclusive Franchise"):

- a. Effective date. March 27, 2025;
- b. Franchise fees. Sixteen percent (16%) of gross monthly receipts. Five and one-half percent (5.5%), shall be earmarked for the purposes of indemnifying and holding the City harmless from environmental liability associated with the franchisee's operations in the City. This portion of the franchise fee shall be paid into the City's Environmental Liability Fund. One-half percent (0.5%) shall be attributable to the maintenance and implementation of the City's Source Reduction and Recycling Element;
- c. Term. March 27, 2025, to October 7, 2027;
- d. Rates. The City shall not set franchisee's bin rates;

e. Indemnification. Franchisee shall indemnify and hold City harmless from penalties and damages for failure to meet state recycling requirements with respect to the portion of the Commercial Solid Waste stream collected by franchisee;

f. Diversion requirements. Franchisee shall divert the minimum amounts required by state law, of all processable municipal solid waste, recyclable materials, food scraps, green waste, and construction and demolition debris collected by commercial franchisee;

g. Disposal requirements. Franchisee shall dispose of Commercial Solid Waste, not otherwise diverted, in Orange County landfills pursuant to the City's waste disposal agreement with the County of Orange. City maintains the right to designate disposal facilities to be used by franchisee;

h. Billing. Franchisee shall be responsible for all billing and collection for its accounts;

i. Termination. A Franchise may be terminated pursuant to Section 12.63.140 (Solid Waste Management - Termination) of the NBMC if the Council finds that franchisee has failed to comply with, or to do anything required of the franchisee by Chapter 12.63 (Solid Waste Management) of the NBMC; has violated any provision of the ordinance granting the franchise; has violated any provision of the 2020 Franchise or any federal, state or local law or regulation applicable to franchisee's operations under the franchise; or if any provision of Chapter 12.63 (Solid Waste Management) of the NBMC or the 2020 Franchise is repealed or becomes or is declared to be invalid, and the City Council expressly finds that such provision constitutes a material consideration to the granting or continuation of such Non-Exclusive Franchise;

j. Application requirements. Prior to obtaining the 2020 Franchise, franchisee shall designate the specific Commercial Franchise Services for which it desires to apply and shall demonstrate competence in and compliance with the City's insurance, equipment, and diversion requirements with respect to those Commercial Franchise Services;

k. Public education. Franchisee shall meet City's requirements to implement recycling, diversion, and source reduction public education activities;

l. Recycling/diversion programs. Franchisee shall implement and provide recycling and diversion programs for all customers subject to California State Assembly Bills 939, 341, and 1826, Senate Bill 1383, and the California Green Building Standards Code, codified in the California Code of Regulations Title 24, Part 11 ("CALGreen");

m. Hauler representative. Franchisee shall designate a representative to assist in implementing State-imposed recycling and diversion programs; and

n. Compliance. Franchisee shall comply with all state, federal laws and regulations, terms and conditions of the 2020 Franchise, the City Charter and the NBMC.

Section 2: The City intends to grant the 2020 Franchise to the following entities:

- a. BC Hauling & Demolition, Inc.
- b. California Waste Services LLC
- c. Greenleaf Engineering

Section 3: The City Council shall conduct a public hearing on **February 11, 2025, at 4:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, in the City Council Chambers located at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, California, to consider granting the Proposed Grantees the 2020 Franchise.** Persons who have an interest in or objection to the granting of the 2020 Franchise to the Proposed Grantees may appear before the City Council and be heard at that date and time.

Section 4: The City Council finds the adoption of this resolution is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to Sections 15301 and 15308 of the CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, because the resolution does not change nor expand existing solid waste operations and facilities within the City. This resolution is also consistent with the goals of California State Assembly Bills 939, 341, and 1826, Senate Bill 1383 and The California Solid Waste Management Act, CALGreen, as well as the objectives of the City's Source Reduction and Recycling Element.

Section 5: The recitals provided in this resolution are true and correct and are incorporated into the operative part of this resolution.

Section 6: If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this resolution is, for any reason, held to be invalid or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of the remaining portions of this resolution. The City Council hereby declares that it would have passed this resolution, and each section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase hereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases be declared invalid or unconstitutional.

Section 7: This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by the City Council, and the City Clerk shall certify the vote adopting the resolution.

Section 8: Pursuant to City Charter Section 1301, this resolution shall be published in the City's official newspaper within fifteen (15) days of its adoption and at least ten (10) days prior to February 11, 2025.

ADOPTED this 28th day of January, 2025.

/s/ Joe Stapleton, Mayor

ATTEST: /s/ Leilani I. Brown, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
/s/ Aaron C. Harp, City Attorney

Attachment: 2020 Non-Exclusive Commercial Franchise Agreement Sample [viewable at: <https://ecms.newportbeachca.gov/WEB/DocView.aspx?id=3096808&dbid=0&repo=CNR>]

Legal Notices

Legal Notices

Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICE



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. or soon thereafter as the matter shall be heard, a public hearing will be conducted in the Council Chambers at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach. The City Council of the City of Newport Beach will consider the following item:

The City Council will consider approval of the revised Schedule of Rents, Fines, and Fees, which includes updates to the credit card processing fees for transactions across all departments. - The Council will discuss the addition of a credit card pass-through fee, which will be set by the third-party vendor handling the transactions.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that this action is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to Section 15060(c) (2) (the activity will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment) and 15060(c)(3) (the activity is not a project as defined in Section 15378) of the CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, because it has no potential for resulting in physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly.

Anyone wishing to attend the public hearing should check the February 11, 2025, meeting agenda on the City's webpage at newportbeachca.gov/agendas or contact the City Clerk at 949-644-3005 or cityclerk@newportbeachca.gov, during normal business hours, to receive information on how to attend this meeting. If you challenge the Fee Study Update in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you raised at the public hearing or in written correspondence delivered to the City, at, or prior to, the public hearing. As required by Government Code Sections 66016 and 66018, prior to the public hearing data indicating the amount of estimated cost required to provide the services, which is the basis for the proposed fees, will be provided by the City Clerk to any interested person. Please contact the City Clerk at 949-644-3005 or cityclerk@newportbeachca.gov if you would like to receive a copy of the report.

For questions regarding this public hearing item please contact Jessica Kan, Revenue Manager, at (949) 644-3153 or jkan@newportbeachca.gov.

/s/ Leilani I. Brown, MMC, City Clerk, City of Newport Beach

LEGAL NOTICE



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at 4:00 p.m., or soon thereafter as the matter shall be heard, a public hearing will be conducted in the City Council Chambers at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach. The City Council of the City of Newport Beach will consider the following application:

Christian Residence - A request for a waiver of City Council Policy L-2 (Driveway Approaches) in conjunction with the construction of a new duplex to allow driveway access to one of the two-car garages from 36th Street without providing one, additional, covered off-street parking space as required by City Council Policy L-2. The applicant also requests a coastal development permit to allow the demolition of an existing single-unit dwelling and the construction of a new 4,218-square-foot duplex with 999 square feet of garage space, including a two-car garage for each unit.

The project is categorically exempt pursuant to Section 15303 under Class 3 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines.

All interested parties may appear and present testimony in regard to this application. If you challenge this project in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you raised at the public hearing or in written correspondence delivered to the City, at, or prior to, the public hearing. Administrative procedures for appeals are provided in the Newport Beach Municipal Code Chapter 21.64 (Appeals). The application may be continued to a specific future meeting date, and if such an action occurs additional public notice of the continuance will not be provided. Prior to the public hearing the agenda, staff report, and documents may be reviewed at the City Clerk's Office, 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, California, 92660 or at the City of Newport Beach website at www.newportbeachca.gov. Individuals not able to attend the meeting may contact the Planning Division or access the City's website after the meeting to review the action on this application.

For questions regarding details of the project please contact Jerry Arregui, Assistant Planner, at jarregui@newportbeachca.gov, 949-644-3249, 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660.

Project File No.: PA2024-0105	Activity: Waiver of Council Policy L-2 and Coastal Development Permit
Zone: Two-Unit Residential (R-2)	General Plan: Two Unit Residential (RT)
Coastal Land Use Plan: Two Unit Residential (RT-E) (30.0 - 39.9 DU/AC)	Filing Date: July 2, 2024
Location: 3601 Lake Avenue	Applicant: Brandon Architects

/s/ Leilani I. Brown, MMC, City Clerk, City of Newport Beach

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Trustee Sale No. 176823 Title No. 95529502-55 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 06/26/2020. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On 02/21/2025 at 9:00 AM, Prime Recon LLC, as duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust recorded 07/01/2020, as Instrument No. 2020000311357, in book xx, page xx, of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of Orange County, State of California, executed by Gregory Hanojan, a married man as his sole and separate property, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK/CASH EQUIVALENT or other form of payment authorized by 2924(b), (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States), Hotel Fer a Anaheim, a DoubleTree by Hilton - 100 The City Drive, Orange, CA 92868, Auction.com Room. All right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County and State, described as: FULLY DESCRIBED IN THE ABOVE DEED OF TRUST. APN 139-481-66The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 1944 Flamingo Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, if any, under the terms of said Deed of Trust, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is: \$850,823.98 If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused a Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located. Dated: 1/14/2025 Prime Recon LLC Prime Recon LLC. may be attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained may be used for that purpose. Adria Durham, Vice President Prime Recon LLC 27368 Via Industria, Ste 201 Temecula, CA 92590 (888) 725-4142 FOR TRUSTEE'S SALE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL (800) 280-2832 NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (800) 280-2832 for information regarding the trustee's sale or visit this Internet Web site - www.auction.com - for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case: TS#176823. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. NOTICE TO TENANT: You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (800) 280-2832 for information regarding the trustee's sale, or visit this internet website www.auction.com or auction.com/sbl079 for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case TS#176823 to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. A-FN4832846 01/18/2025, 01/25/2025, 02/01/2025

GIRLS' SOCCER

Edison heads to Sunset League semifinals

BY MATT SZABO

Riley Crooks left Edison High School a few weeks ago to enroll at Texas A&M, where she will play college soccer.

Squint your eyes a bit, however, and see a freshman who has not only stepped up on the back line but even reminds one of Crooks a bit with her physical, ball-winning play and gritty nature.

Freshman Jaylen Maroney is 5-foot-11 and headed toward a bright future in soccer, volleyball or any sport she might choose.

"She's a freshman, but she's one of the loudest ones on our team," Edison senior captain Olivia Romero-Green said. "She's very respected on our team. One, she's good, but two, she's loud and aggressive and she wants to win. She brings the vibes up. She does remind me of Riley a little bit, in the sense that they're both aggressive and they want to win. They have that touch, they're really athletic and she's fast."

Maroney also now takes the free kicks for Edison. She picked a good time to find the back of the net for her first goal of the season.

Her low free kick laser in the 16th minute skipped in front of the CdM goalkeeper and in Thursday night, helping host Edison earn a 2-1 win over Corona del Mar in the quarterfinals



Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

EDISON GOAL SCORER Jaylen Maroney (19) celebrates with teammates after scoring against Corona del Mar on Thursday.

of the inaugural Sunset League tournament.

With the win, Edison clinched a top-four spot in the league and automatic berth into the CIF Southern Section playoffs.

No. 4-seeded Edison (11-7-2) advances to play at top-seeded Los Alamitos in the Sunset League tournament semifinals Monday night. The rivals have split two previous meetings, with the Chargers winning the Excalibur Tournament

final but the Griffins earning a 2-1 league win at Los Alamitos on Jan. 23.

No. 2-seeded Newport Harbor will host No. 3 Huntington Beach in the other Sunset League semifinal Monday, with the final to follow at the highest remaining seeded team on Wednesday.

The Sailors routed Fountain Valley 8-0 in another quarterfinal match, with Sadie Hoch netting a hat trick and Lily Achak netting

two goals. Huntington Beach blanked Marina 2-0 behind a pair of goals from Sienna McAthly.

Edison also got a second-half goal from Lauren Green in its win over CdM (13-6), with coach Kerry "Mac" Crooks saying that the junior striker played her best game of the season.

Green's goal, assisted by freshman Ayla Khoshbarie, came less than a minute after the Sea Kings



EDISON'S LOLA CODERRE (4) steals a ball from CdM's Jenna Hannum during Thursday's match.

had tied the score in the 52nd minute. Alex Cross' long free kick from the right was tapped into the goal by senior co-captain Lilly Borland.

"That was a great goal," CdM coach Bryan Middleton said, adding that his team had improved substantially since a 5-0 drubbing at Edison in league on Jan. 9. "I'm extremely proud of the team. We've lifted our level of play the last four games ... When you have [senior co-captain] Bella [Thomas] and Alex in the defense, you can create offense out of the outside backs."

CdM hosts either Marina or Fountain Valley in the league tournament consolation final on Wednesday.

Edison still earned the victory. Senior Jayden Rodriguez and juniors Kalea Black and Maile Izumita-Sousa were other leaders on defense for the hosts, who relish another chance at Los Alamitos.

"It's definitely an even playing field now," said Edi-

son senior Gabby Jenkins, a midfielder and another co-captain along with senior Lola Coderre. "The feelings are still definitely fresh with that loss, so I think that's going to motivate us even harder to play our best and just put our chances away."

Crooks said her team will have to play solid defense and create chances in transition. She doesn't doubt her squad, though, which has 10 remaining seniors even without counting Riley, her daughter.

"We've been keeping girls in the program, which is good," said Kerry Crooks, who had 14 seniors last season. "That's what you want. You want the girls to go through your program and keep the tradition. I think this team has done a good job of keeping up the pace and playing your game. They try to play soccer, instead of playing any sort of kickball or anything like that."

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CRASH

Continued from page A1

not flush with the fuselage," the NTSB reported.

Just after he took off Reid radioed "immediate landing required," the NTSB reported.

Reid was told to land on any runway, and he said he would try to land on runway 24.

One witness said the plane appeared to be flying at a high speed at takeoff, the NTSB reported.

"Once the airplane had departed the runway environment ... he realized its left door was open and up," the NTSB reported.

"He saw an arm reach up and pull the door down. By this time the airplane was far enough away that he could no longer discern what was happening, and he assumed the pilot was able to rectify the situation."

Multiple pilots who saw the plane reported that it was "flying lower than normal and banking aggressively left as it made the transition from downwind to base," the NTSB reported. "Three then saw the airplane roll aggressively again to the left for what they assumed was a turn to final, all stating that they could almost see the full wing profile, and were

concerned it may stall. The airplane then rolled right as its nose dropped, and dove toward the warehouse, where it collided in a fireball."

A "retrofit kit" for the door assembly that was recommended to be installed on the planes was sent to the pilot in January 2010, the NTSB reported.

"Examination of the airplane wreckage revealed that the pilot had made a series of modifications to the standard door-locking system, including the use of solid steel locking pins rather than the kit-supplied aluminum pins, along with replacement of the UHMW polythene door

blocks with chamfered aluminum blocks," the NTSB reported. "Additionally, the secondary safety latch had not been installed, and the door latch indicator system had been modified."

The LED warning lamps were designed to alert a pilot if a door wasn't fully shut, but on Reid's plane it "appeared that only two reed switches had been installed, with each mounted to the aft pillars of both doors. As such, the modified system would not have warned the pilot if the forward latch pins had failed to fully engage."

daily pilot@latimes.com Twitter: @TheDailyPilot



ONSCENE.TV

NTSB HAS cited a faulty door in a small plane crash through the roof of a commercial building just east of Fullerton Airport on Jan. 2, sparking a fire in the structure and leaving two people dead and another 18 injured.

KWAN

Continued from page A1

friend" and "Rich People Problems," both went on to be best sellers.

The film adaptation of "Crazy Rich Asians" in 2018 became Hollywood's highest-grossing romantic comedy in more than a decade and is credited with launching the mainstream careers of many actors cast in the production, like Awkwafina. Directed by Jon M. Chu and released theatrically in the United States by Warner Bros., the film was the first major studio project almost entirely cast with performers of Chinese descent in a present-day setting since "The Joy Luck Club" in 1993.

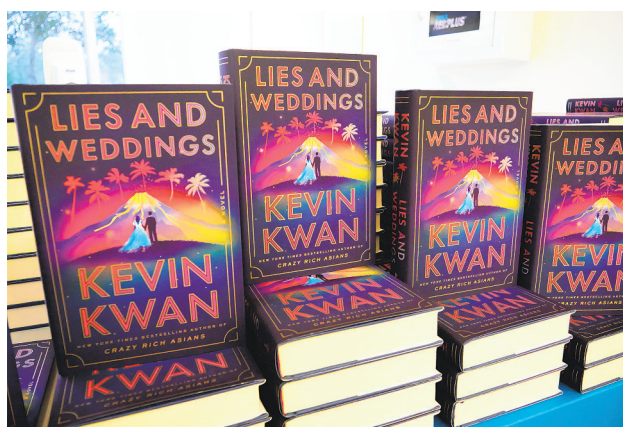
Kwan referenced the "The Joy Luck Club" and its author, Amy Tan, another Asian American writer, as a source of early inspiration.

"Amy Tan, she is amazing, and she is one of my heroes. Her book was life-changing for me," said Kwan. "Reading 'The Joy Luck Club' was one of the most intensely wonderful experiences of my life."

Kwan also maintained that the movie adaption of Tan's book was done at a level he strove for when his bestseller was adapted for the big screen.

"That movie was such a beautiful adaptation of a book and so to me that was the gold standard," said Kwan. "She was intensely involved in her movie, in fact she was one of the screenwriters. So watching her, I said I have to do the same thing. If Hollywood studios don't want to involve me, then they are not going to get to do this."

Readers have gravitated to Kwan's storytelling for its insight into modern, albeit lavish, Asian culture, but they have also found themselves pulled in by his knowledge and colorful de-



Courtesy of OC Public Libraries

COPIES OF author Kevin Kwan's latest release, "Lies and Weddings." Kwan is the author of "Crazy Rich Asians."

scription of popular foods from Singapore, Malaysia and Hawaii.

"I grew up in Singapore as a child, and I think Singapore is the original foodie country," said Kwan. "We literally ate five times a day; breakfast, lunch, high tea, dinner and supper was what my family did, so we were always food obsessed. When I moved to America, that just never ended."

While Kwan writes often about the food he loves, he also writes about food characters in his books love as a way of informing the reader a bit more about who they are and their tastes. As he read aloud

from his latest release, "Lies and Weddings," he elicited oohs and ahhs from the audience as he shared a scene in which two characters dine on what they consider a simple lunch.

"Barely two hours later, Arabella found herself at a table on the glorious outdoor terrace of Rosina's rooftop garden suite, alternately sipping champagne and chrysanthemum tea and enjoying a simple lunch of flame blue lobster with caviar, Sichuan-style mapo tofu with minced Iberico pork, lacquered abalone with ginger and butter and lime, lotus roots

with seasonal vegetables and golden garlic, braised boneless beef ribs flambe with wine, goji berries and radish in a stone pot and wok-fired rice noodles with wagyu beef and bok choy in a silky egg gravy," Kwan read.

Some readers have been inspired to visit the places Kwan writes about and use his books as a travel guide of sorts. The author's books include scenes at popular restaurants like Din Tai Fung and Tex Drive-In in Hawaii. Even an Orange County restaurant, Nick's in Laguna Beach, gets a shout out.

"I love their French dip sandwich," said Kwan. "That was my Laguna Beach discovery and I love it."

Kwan discussed upcoming projects and fielded questions about the anticipated movie sequel to "Crazy Rich Asians" and another film from his new book series in development.

"The first exciting news is that 'Sex and Vanity' is being made into a film by Sony, so right now we are furiously trying to rework the script and get that finalized, and if all goes well, perhaps it will film this year. There are two amaz-

ing actors that are already attached but I can't say who they are."

Kwan also spoke about plans to turn "Crazy Rich Asians" into a musical with Warner Bros. Theatre Ventures and Chu, who recently helmed the Broadway-musical-turned-Hollywood-blockbuster "Wicked," returning as director.

"The other exciting news is the 'Crazy Rich Asians' musical," Kwan said. "We have actually been working on it for five years now. A book-to-Broadway adaptation takes 10 years, believe it or not."

He also hinted at upcoming plans for both the big and small screen.

"In the meantime, Warner Bros. is also trying to do spinoffs."

At heart Kwan is a writer, and he spoke about his new series that borrows from classic literature with Asian American characters

at the center. He offered sage advice for anyone interested in writing a novel.

"Start with a page a day, and in a year you will have a book."

"A Slice of Literary Orange" series has more keynote speakers lined up throughout the year, including Erika L. Sanchez, author of the New York Times bestseller "I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter" on Feb. 3 at 6:30 p.m. at the Clifton C. Miller Community Center in Tustin and national best-selling author ReShonda Tate on Feb. 13 at 6:30 p.m. at the Norma Hertzog Community Center in Costa Mesa.

For more information on other events with "A Slice of Literary Orange," visit oc-pl.org.

sarah.mosqueda@latimes.com Twitter: @SarahNMos

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

Grid of crossword puzzle answers including words like CLAMS, PERU, PILL, VIDEO, IMPUP, ASIA, STALL, PITS, SLAB, MOVIE, THEATER, DEN, TAR, SPAY, SUMS, HALAL, HUB, EBOLA, MINI, IRON, COMES, INNS, REDO, TAMES, DOT, TREND, TYPE, SAYS, SIS, RAM, PRESCRIPTION, DEAN, RICE, SKIPPS, EATS, USES, LETGO, FREE, BEST, ESSAY.

Grid of Sudoku answers (numbers 1-9) arranged in a 9x9 grid.

Daily Pilot

A Times Community News publication.

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The Daily Pilot, established in 1907, is published Thursday through Sunday by Times Community News, a division of the Los Angeles Times. Subscriptions are available only by subscribing to The Times, Orange County.

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