

Daily Pilot

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Photos by Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

STUDENTS AND PARENTS protest in front of the Huntington Beach City School District office on Wednesday. The district decided that its two middle schools, Dwyer and Sowers, will continue in an A.M./P.M. hybrid schedule this school year, instead of having students go back to class five days a week.

Middle school parents in H.B. protest lack of classroom time

The district does not plan to bring back students full-time at its two campuses this school year.

BY MATT SZABO

Parents and students frustrated that Huntington Beach City School District's two middle schools are not going back to full-time in-person instruction, held a protest outside of the district office on Wednesday morning.

The district's six elementary schools returned to full-time instruction in the last week, joining other area school districts, including Newport Mesa and Ocean View.

But more than 2,000 combined students at Ethel Dwyer and Isaac L. Sowers middle schools remain in an A.M./P.M. hybrid

model. The students are on campus for 140 scheduled minutes every weekday except Wednesday, when they're on campus for 96 minutes.

One of the protest attendees was Mike Ryan, a Huntington Beach resident whose daughter Maddy is a seventh-grader at Sowers Middle School. He said he has exchanged multiple emails with Huntington Beach City School District Supt. Leisa Winston over the issue in recent days, requesting specific numbers on the size of each classroom.

Ryan said he's concerned his



See **Protest**, page A2 **STUDENTS PROTEST** at the Huntington Beach City School District office.

Shohreh Dupuis Laguna's new city manager

The City Council unanimously decides on an in-house candidate to fill the role of the retiring John Pietig.

BY ANDREW TURNER

The Laguna Beach City Council voted unanimously during a closed session Tuesday night to name Shohreh Dupuis as the coastal community's next city manager.

Dupuis currently serves Laguna Beach in the role of assistant city manager. An executive recruiting firm had been brought in to conduct a national search to help fill the position, but the council decided the in-house candidate was the right fit for the top job in City Hall.

"I'm incredibly honored and overwhelmed with gratitude that the City Council has selected me to be the next Laguna Beach city manager," Dupuis said in a prepared statement in a news release issued by the city after the vote.

"I have a deep love and tremendous respect for this city, its residents, businesses, nonprofits and cultural arts organizations, and my colleagues and the city staff team, and am ready to tackle the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. I look forward to collaborating with all the voices of our city."

John Pietig, Laguna Beach's current city manager, announced earlier this year that he would be retiring in June. Dupuis is slated to begin working as the city's top executive on June 12.

Laguna Beach Mayor Bob Whalen said the search produced



Shohreh Dupuis

See **Manager**, page A2

Seniors behind on credits will have chance to graduate

BY LILLY NGUYEN

After the caps are thrown and the ceremony's over and done this June, Newport-Mesa seniors just a few credits shy of graduation will still be able to graduate — as long as they make it up this summer.

The Newport-Mesa Unified School District Board of Trustees unanimously approved a temporary waiver this Tuesday that will allow seniors within 20 credits of completing their graduation requirements to graduate if they obtain those credits from adult education or summer remediation programs recognized by the district and present them for

consideration before Sept. 30.

Those students won't be able to walk at graduation, said Assistant Supt. Sara Jocham.

The district is planning to hold in-person graduations this June, with the exception of those attending the 100% online Cloud Campus. Attendance at the graduations will be limited for safety concerns and masks and social distancing will be required.

"We've never [offered a similar graduation waiver] before," said Phil D'Agostino, director of student and community services with the district. "We ... all know there are some students who are COVID casualties."

D'Agostino said that during the pandemic there has been a potential for learning loss, especially for seniors that may need to hold jobs to help support their families or have had other responsibilities this academic year.

Secondary schools returned to full-day instruction on Tuesday with students attending four days a week. Only one day is left for remote learning, though which day that will be is up to the individual campuses.

"We just want to provide every opportunity possible for a student to obtain a diploma," D'Agostino said. "I think in the interest of compassion and



HONOR STUDENT

Jordan Galante dresses in her academic achievements with help from brother Zion who prepares her cap, as she prepares to watch the 2020 graduation ceremony via TV.

Don Leach
Staff Photographer

grace, this is a good thing to do." The district loosened guidelines on graduation in April last year, lowering the total number of credits required for graduation

from 230 to 220. Elective credits dropped from 80 to 70.

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Costa Mesans invited to point, click and catalog species at 'City Nature Challenge'

BY SARA CARDINE

Costa Mesa residents interested in documenting local plant and wildlife, wherever it may be — a backyard, park or school playground — can turn cellphone snaps into citizen science during an international City Nature Challenge, running Thursday through May 3.

Hundreds of cities across the globe will participate in the four-day challenge, which began in 2016 as a friendly competition between museum scientists in Los Angeles and San Francisco and has since become an international celebration of biodiversity.

Participants simply download the "iNaturalist" app to their smartphones and then point, click and catalog their photo observations into a database that is



A WESTERN BLUEBIRD pauses on a branch before continuing hunting for bugs at Fairview Park in Costa Mesa in September 2020.

File Photo

sorted by location and species.

The app uses image recognition to make suggestions users can click to confirm and submit. Once a listing has been received, other app users may search by plant, animal or city to see what's been cataloged in their area's "bioblitz." Scientists with the program will

pore through submissions in advance of a May 10 online information release on the observations and findings amassed by citizens in each participating city.

Cynthia D'Agosta, an administrator with Costa Mesa's Parks &

See **Species**, page A2

ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

HUNTINGTON BEACH GIRLS' TENNIS EDGES CORONA DEL MAR TO CLINCH OUTRIGHT SURF LEAGUE TITLE PAGE A3

360 CLINIC EXPANDS EFFORTS TO COMBAT COVID-19 BY PARTNERING WITH THE U.S. NAVY PAGE A2

GIRLS' TENNIS

Huntington Beach edges CdM to clinch outright championship in Surf League

BY MATT SZABO

This is, by all accounts, the best girls' tennis team in Huntington Beach High School history.

The Oilers had to go on the road Tuesday and take the Surf League title from Corona del Mar, one of the strongest programs in Southern California year in and year out.

The resulting match featured some very high-quality tennis, and some surprises.

But in the end, Huntington Beach had just enough to stand alone at the top.

The Oilers won eight singles sets and edged out a 9-9 (67-64 on games) victory, clinching the outright league title with one match remaining.

It's the second league title in program history for undefeated Huntington Beach (13-0, 5-0 in league), ranked No. 4 in CIF Southern Section Division 1. The Oilers won the Wave League title in 2019, but were bumped up to the top league in the Sunset Conference for this school year.

"It feels great," said Huntington Beach senior No. 1 singles player Kaytlin Taylor, who won 18 of 20 games in an easy sweep Tuesday. "I think our team has improved a lot this year, not only with new additions but also getting our doubles teams working on their doubles and stuff. I think we've done a lot better with that this year."

Freshman Yen Nhi Huynh also easily swept for the visitors, while her older sister Cindy, a junior, won twice in singles.

CdM freshman Sienna Brooks stunned Cindy Huynh 6-0 in the final round. The victory offered



Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

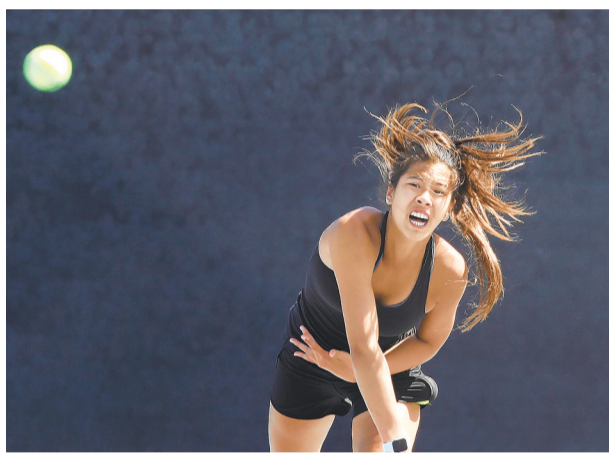
HUNTINGTON BEACH'S Kaytlin Taylor runs down a volley against Corona del Mar.

the Sea Kings (11-2, 3-2), ranked No. 5 in Division 1, a glimmer of hope.

"I told her to play on her terms and not let the stress and the pressure get to her too much," CdM coach Jamie Gresh said. "She was able to reset after a tough second round and she came out great with good energy, positivity. It shows what she's capable of."

But singles-strong Huntington Beach returned the favor in doubles soon after that. Junior Solaya Han and freshman Ella Weisman earned the Oilers' only doubles win of the afternoon, battling back for a 7-6 (7-5) victory over CdM's Hannah Jervis and Tori Varela.

Gresh put Jervis in doubles for the first time this season, making some changes after Huntington Beach won the teams' first league meeting by a more lopsided 13-5 score on March 18.



HUNTINGTON BEACH'S Cindy Huynh rips a serve.

It almost paid off in a doubles sweep. Jervis and Varela held a 5-4 lead over Han and Weisman in the tiebreaker, but Han ripped three straight forehand winners to give the Oilers the set.

The win proved key. Huntington Beach took a 9-7 sets lead into the final two sets of the match. The Oilers lost both of those

sets, but won enough games in them to earn the close victory.

"I knew just getting a win in doubles was going to be huge today, just the same as going 9-0 in singles was going to be big," Oilers coach Patrick Wright said. "Of course, we went 8-1, which was OK. That extra buffer of getting that win in dou-



CORONA DEL MAR'S

Alden Mulroy, right, celebrates a point with partner Sophia Andrei-Birca on Tuesday.

bles, that was huge."

Reese Kenerson and Jane Paulsen swept 6-0, 6-2, 6-4 at No. 1 doubles for CdM, improving to 34-0 this season. Alden Mulroy and Sophia Andrei-Birca swept 7-5, 6-0, 6-0, and Jervis and Varela also won twice.

"Doubles played great," Gresh said. "We just came up a tiny bit short."

Huntington Beach closes out Surf League play with a home match against Los Alamitos on Thursday, while CdM hosts rival Newport Harbor.

Taylor, a Cal State Fullerton signee, is ready for a big end of her high school tennis career — before another Huynh takes her place. Cindy and Yen Nhi's youngest sister is expected to play for the Oilers as a freshman next year and make an impact.

For now, Huntington Beach will enjoy seeing just how far its talent can take them.

"I'm really proud of our growth the past two years," Taylor said. "We've worked hard to be where we're at, and it's something to be proud of."

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HIGH SCHOOL ROUNDUP

H.B. boys' swimming tops Edison, now 8-0

The Huntington Beach High School boys' swimming team beat rival Edison 110-60 on Tuesday in a Wave League opener at home.

The Oilers, who won every event but one, improved to 8-0 overall this season. Edison fell to 5-2.

Freshmen Finneas Tas Palcza and Ryder Dodd each won two individual events for Huntington Beach. Tas Palcza won the 200-yard individual medley in one minute, 58.61 seconds, as well as the 100 breaststroke in 1:00.52. Dodd won the 100 butterfly in 51.38 seconds, and the 500 free in 4:42.55.

Dodd's older brother, senior Chase Dodd, won the 200 free in 1:44.70. Junior Caden Cunningham captured the 50 free (21.94) and 100 free (48.24).

Huntington Beach coach Ryan Camps said his team is gunning for its first league title since 1938.

"This group of boys has been practicing every day since September to meet our team goals," Camps said in a text message. "Our meet [Tuesday] was a reflection of their hard work."

Huntington Beach swims at Laguna Beach on Tuesday in continued Wave League action, while Edison is at Marina that day.

GIRLS' SOCCER

Edison 2, Corona del Mar 1: The Chargers scored two first-half goals in Tuesday's Surf League match at Corona del Mar High.

Jackie Peterson scored on Sophia Drake's assist, and freshman Harley Thomas scored a header assisted by Madison Klasey for Edison

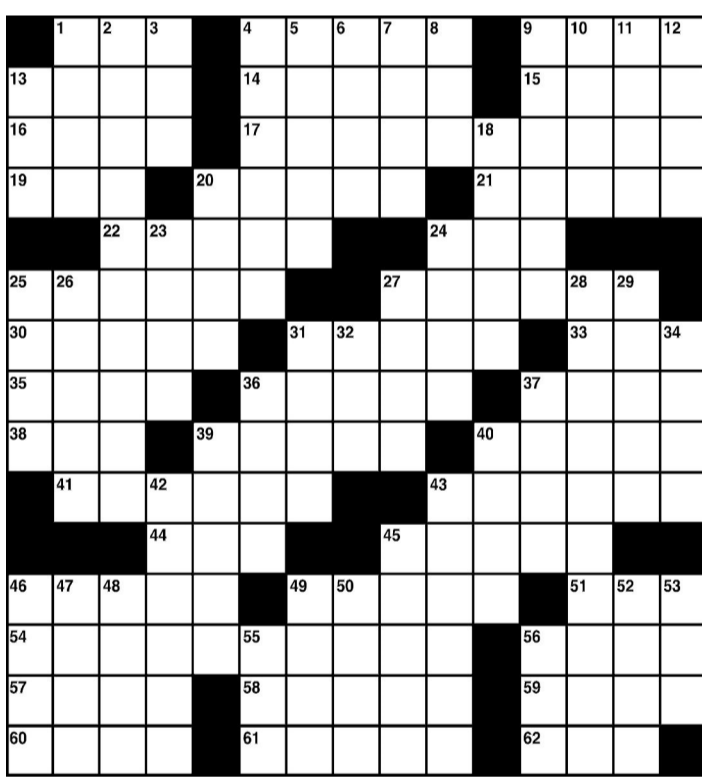
See **Roundup**, page A4

THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS

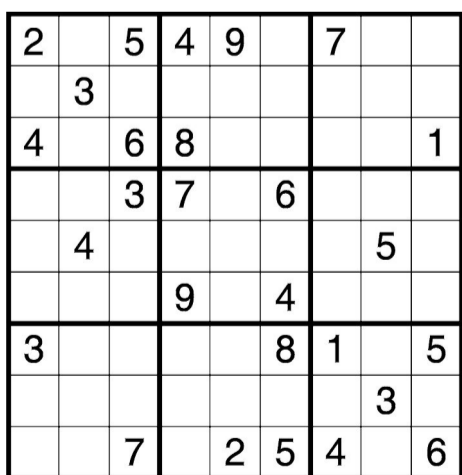
- 1 Dobbin's dinner
- 4 Stamp collector's book
- 9 Went _; left
- 13 Yearn
- 14 Egypt's capital
- 15 Actress Ward
- 16 New Testament book, for short
- 17 Circus emcee
- 19 Word with mask or lodge
- 20 Blacksmith's furnace
- 21 Contemplated
- 22 Uncouth; insensitive
- 24 Jungle gym piece
- 25 Sales talks
- 27 Garden pavilion
- 30 Asian nation
- 31 USNA newcomer
- 33 Ms. McClanahan
- 35 First of zillions
- 36 Spacious
- 37 Stuffed bread
- 38 "Wheel of Fortune" host
- 39 Hurricane winds
- 40 Praise
- 41 Pea or lentil
- 43 _ of; lacking
- 44 Van Winkle of fiction
- 45 Book leaves
- 46 Wanderer
- 49 _ up some rays; sunbathes
- 51 Fem. title
- 54 Joyful liveliness
- 56 Cries from those being fleeced
- 57 Prison room
- 58 Reason to take Prevacid
- 59 Ready to be picked & eaten
- 60 ACL tear site
- 61 Impoverished
- 62 Internet pop-ups



SUDOKU

By The Mephram Group

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



For answers to the crossword and Sudoku puzzles, see page A4.

- (Larry Bird)
- 2 Look forward to
- 3 "Certainly!"
- 4 Come _; find
- 5 Forest hideaways
- 6 Bob's "Road to Bali" costar
- 7 Exhort; incite
- 8 Diaper changer, often
- 9 Give confidence
- 10 Dampens
- 11 On a ship's sheltered side
- 12 Linear measure
- 13 Faux _; social blunder
- 18 Astonish
- 20 Collapse
- 23 Enlarge a hole
- 24 New family member

- 25 Lose it
- 26 Ride a Schwinn
- 27 Jewels
- 28 Member of the wedding party
- 29 _ order; needing repair
- 31 Put forth, as a question
- 32 "Thanks a _!"
- 34 Middle _; Syria's region
- 36 Fanny
- 37 Untainted
- 39 Docent or Sherpa
- 40 Beer containers
- 42 Actress Betty
- 43 Grocery store section
- 45 _ oneself; worked steadily
- 46 Whiplash site
- 47 Work animals
- 48 Horse/donkey offspring
- 49 Word in a store ad
- 50 Fairy tale opener
- 52 Atlas pages
- 53 90 degrees from NNE
- 55 Trot
- 56 Piece of lingerie

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