

# Daily Pilot

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2023 /// dailypilot.com

## Officials clarify calendar stance in H.B.

City-issued list of monthly themes for early 2024 includes observances such as Black History Month.

BY MATT SZABO

Huntington Beach officials said Friday the city will recognize Black History Month, Women's History Month and other cultural observances in 2024, despite the City Council seemingly voting to the contrary earlier in the week.

The council passed an item 4-3 on Tuesday night to institute a 12-month calendar that will see each month dedicated to a specific theme. The language of the agenda item stated that any previous monthly themes or celebrations approved by earlier City Councils would be repealed and superseded.

Councilman Casey McKeon, the author of the item, indicated during the meeting that the city would not celebrate Black History Month in 2024, though it could be brought back to the calendar in future years. This came in response to a direct question from Councilman Dan Kalmick.

But Huntington Beach public

See *Stance*, page A4

## County survives season's strongest storm yet

Forecasts indicate some isolated showers may occur Saturday, but it looks like clear skies for Santa on Christmas Eve.

BY LILLY NGUYEN

While other parts of California saw substantial downpour from the slow-moving storm that crossed the state this week, Orange County largely escaped the brunt of it, weather officials said.

The winter storm, which brought with it lightning, was caused by a low-pressure storm system off of San Francisco Bay Area that made its way south. Locally, it left the greatest impact on coastal Huntington Beach, where rainfall records indicate 1.81 inches fell over four days. In Laguna Beach, rainfall records reflected about 1.19 inches and, in Anaheim, about 1.42 inches had fallen

See *Storm*, page A2



Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

MEMBERS OF the aviation battalion from Joint Forces Training Base Los Alamitos, Newport Beach Fire Department and city staff gather around gifts donated and collected for distribution as part of Operation Christmas at Newport Beach City Hall on Friday.

## Gift-gathering operation accomplishes its mission

Christmas came early this year for dozens of families at local military bases, thanks to the help and support of Newport Beach residents.

On Friday, excited parents looked on as bags of presents after presents were brought forward to military trucks, imagining the looks on their children's faces picking through the spoils, which included dolls, craft supplies, basketballs and even a bicycle. All had been collected through donation boxes set up at the city's public facilities throughout the month.

Rough estimates place this year's donations at around 3,000 — clearing last year's collection total of 2,000 by a mile.

The city of Newport Beach has partnered with organizers of Operation Christmas since 2005. The event is organized by Our Nation's Heroes Foundation and this month marked its 19th year of bringing the holidays to military families across Southern California.

— Lilly Nguyen



ARMY AVIATION battalion members from Los Alamitos decorate Fire Engine No. 63.



**LONGTIME ORGANIZER** Brad White makes comments during the gift drop-off and pick-up part of Operation Christmas outside Newport Beach City Hall.



Courtesy of Catherine Franklin

**MARTHA O'MEARA**, left, instructs children at this year's Christmas party at her Costa Mesa home. The children represent the fourth generation of party-goers at a tradition that began in 1970.

## Costa Mesa party has offered more than 5 decades of Christmas cheer

BY MATT SZABO

The Sunday before Christmas is always special for Martha and Jack O'Meara.

That's when they open their home to their neighbors in the Mesa Verde community of Costa Mesa for a Christmas potluck dinner and party.

They started the tradition in December 1970. Then, a funny thing started happening. People got older, and their kids had kids, and now those kids are starting to have kids too.

Four generations of people attended this year's 53rd annual Christmas party, which was held

on Dec. 17 (it's held a week early in years where Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday).

Jack O'Meara turns 93 and Martha turns 89 in the next couple of months, but their famous Christmas party rolls on. The only year it was canceled it was due to COVID-19 in 2020.

"Who knows how long this is going to go on?," wondered Catherine Franklin, the youngest of the O'Meara's three daughters.

At 56, she has been attending the party for literally her whole life. Now her three adult sons also join in.

**"To come together to celebrate Christmas is just an amazing opportunity. It's wonderful to see generations, people my parents' age down to young children."**

— Spencer Hill

See *Cheer*, page A3

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## MARKETPLACE

To place an ad, go to <http://timescommunityadvertising.com/>

City of Costa Mesa  
Orange County, California  
Notice Inviting Bids

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the City of Costa Mesa ("City") invites sealed bids, to be submitted electronically only, for the following project:

**WILSON, WAKEHAM, AND TEWINKLE PARKS BRIDGES REPLACEMENT PROJECT CITY PROJECT NO. 23-12**

1. **BID SUBMISSION AND OPENING:** Bids must be submitted electronically via the City of Costa Mesa's PlanetBids portal before the deadline of **January 30, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.** at which time or shortly thereafter the City Clerk will open bids electronically. The bid results will be posted online via PlanetBids. No paper bids or any other form of submittal will be accepted. Any bid received after the scheduled closing time for the receipt of bids will be rejected. The City is not responsible for and accepts no liability in the event a response is late due to any network, internet, or any other technical difficulty or interruption. It shall be the sole responsibility of the bidder to ensure that his/her/its bid is received by the deadline.

To access the bid documents and bid on this project, potential vendors and bidders must first register through the City's PlanetBids portal at: <https://www.planetbids.com/portal/portal.cfm?CompanyID=45476>.

2. **SCOPE OF WORK AND BID DOCUMENTS:** The scope of work generally consists of replacing six (6) pedestrian bridges within Wilson, Wakeham, TeWinkle Parks in the City of Costa Mesa per the project plans. The bridge replacement includes, not limited to, clearing and grubbing, demolition and haul-off existing bridges and abutments, procuring and installing new bridges, reconstructing bridge abutments, and PCC walkways.

The plans, specifications, and bid documents for this project can be obtained via the City's PlanetBids portal at: <https://www.planetbids.com/portal/portal.cfm?CompanyID=45476>.

Questions/Equivalent Material Requests regarding the bid documents will be received by the Engineer up to five (5) working days prior to the bid opening, **January 23, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.** Questions asked of the Engineer less than (5) working days prior to Bid Opening Date, may not be addressed.

It is the bidder's responsibility to ensure that the most current version of the solicitation, including any addenda, has been downloaded. Bids received without the applicable addenda will be rejected as incomplete.

3. **BID CONTENTS:** All bids must be submitted on the proposal form included in the bid documents. No bid will be considered unless it is made on the proposal form furnished by the City and made in accordance with the provisions of the bid requirements.

4. **BID SECURITY:** Each bidder must submit a certified check, cashier's check, or a bid bond, made payable to or in favor of the City of Costa Mesa, in an amount equal to at least ten percent (10%) of the total amount of the bid, to the Costa Mesa City Clerk **PRIOR** to the bid submission deadline. No bid will be considered unless such certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond is received by the City Clerk prior to the bid submission deadline.

5. **CONTRACTOR'S LICENSE:** A valid **California Contractor's Class "A" General Engineering Contractor OR Class "B" General Building Contractor License** issued by the California Contractors State License Board is required at the time the contract is awarded pursuant to California Public Contract Code section 3300. Each bidder must also be qualified as required by law at the time of the bid opening.

6. **PAYMENT BOND AND PERFORMANCE BOND:** A Payment Bond and a Performance Bond, each in the amount of 100% of the contract amount, will be required of the successful bidder prior to award of the contract.

7. **CITY'S RIGHT TO REJECT BIDS:** The City of Costa Mesa reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to reject any or all bids, or to waive any minor irregularities or informalities in any bid.

8. **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:** This project is subject to local, State, and Federal regulations and requirements, as detailed in the bid documents.

For all inquiries, please contact Administrative Secretary: Janet Zuazo, Public Works Department, via e-mail at [janet.zuazo@costamesca.gov](mailto:janet.zuazo@costamesca.gov).

Brenda Green, City Clerk  
City of Costa Mesa  
Dated: December 23, 2023

**ANNOUNCEMENTS / ENTERTAINMENT 500**

Religious Announcements

Thank you St Jude & Sacred Heart of Jesus for prayers answered-CM

**Sell your unwanted items the easy way! Place a Classified ad today! (714) 966-4600**

**MERCHANDISE 800**

Miscellaneous Merchandise

**Vinyl Records Wanted**  
\$\$\$ Top cash paid 4 all or part of collection. Jazz, Classical, Psychedelic, Blues 949-933-6777 Mike

**SELL your home through classified**

**NOTICE OF PUBLICATION LIEN SALE**  
West Coast Self Storage  
2059 Harbor Blvd  
Costa Mesa, CA 92627  
(949) 631-6666

In accordance with the provisions of the California Self-Storage Facility Act, Section 21700, et seq. of the Business and Professions Code of the State of California the under-signed will be sold at public auction conducted on [STORAGETREASURES.COM](http://STORAGETREASURES.COM) on **Dec 26, 2023**. The personal property including but not limited to: Personal and household items stored at 2059 Harbor Blvd, Costa Mesa, CA 92627, County of Orange, by the following persons:

Size	Name
10x15	Irma Herrera
5x5	Janet Wilson Knox

Property is sold "AS IS BASIS." There is a refundable \$100 cleaning deposit on all units. Sale is subject to cancellation.

Published: Dec 16, 2023 and Dec 23, 2023



**CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that on **Thursday, January 04, 2024**, at 6:00 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 Planning Commission of the City of Newport Beach will consider the following application:

**Campbell Animal Keeping Appeal** - An appeal of the Hearing Officer's July 13, 2023, decision to approve a reasonable accommodation to provide relief from Newport Beach Municipal Code (NBMC) Section 7.12.010 (Keeping of Livestock) to allow three chickens on a single-unit residential property within a single-unit residential neighborhood for an individual with a disability. The appellant is requesting to allow 10 chickens on a single-unit residential property where the keeping of chickens is prohibited.

The project is categorically exempt under Section 15303 - Class 3 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures) 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. 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/planning](http://www.newportbeachca.gov/planning). 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 5:00 p.m. on the business day immediately before the meeting. This allows time for the Planning Commission to adequately consider the submitted correspondence.

For questions regarding this public hearing item please contact Jenny Tran, Assistant Planner, at 949-644-3212 or [jtran@newportbeachca.gov](mailto:jtran@newportbeachca.gov), at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660.

Project File No.: PA2022-098

Activities: Reasonable Accommodation

Zone:	General Plan:
Santa Ana Heights Specific Plan (SP-7)- Residential Single Family (RSF)	Single Unit Residential Detached (RS-D)

Location:	Applicant:
1691 Orchard Drive	Mary Alice Campbell

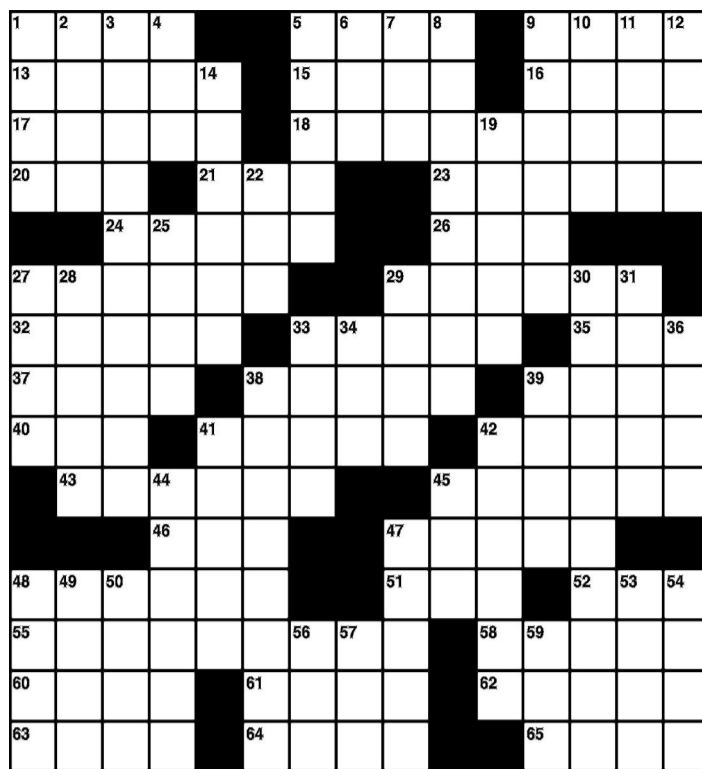
Tristan Harris, Secretary, Planning Commission, City of Newport Beach

## THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

### ACROSS

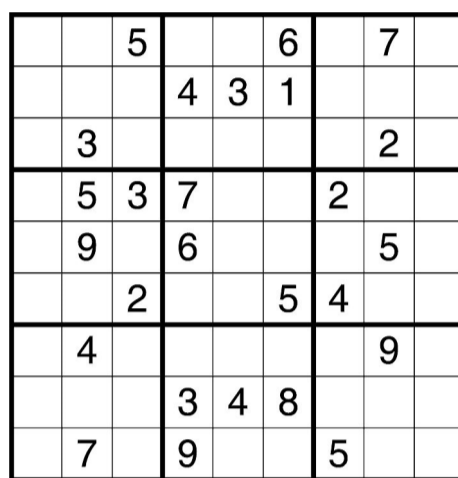
- 1 " \_ Harry Met Sally..."; '89 film
- 5 Louts
- 9 Moreover
- 13 Witch's spells
- 15 Public ruckus
- 16 Washerful
- 17 Preach
- 18 Sleeper's world
- 20 Brillo competitor
- 21 Feasted on
- 23 Popular candy bar
- 24 More ashen-faced
- 26 On a \_ with; equivalent to
- 27 Remained in a fretful state
- 29 Swiss convention city
- 32 Was incorrect
- 33 Melon casings
- 35 "What'll \_"; Irving Berlin song
- 37 Try out for a part
- 38 Market price
- 39 Chew like a mouse
- 40 Nocturnal flier
- 41 Clark & Martin
- 42 Avoid
- 43 Candidates' face-off
- 45 Some new family members
- 46 \_ mission; single-minded
- 47 Overly enthusiastic
- 48 Bedspring
- 51 Paid-for notices
- 52 AAA offering
- 55 Those living near the Louvre
- 58 \_ branch; peace offering
- 60 "Cast your bread \_ the waters..."
- 61 Run
- 62 "Don Quixote" or "Jane Eyre"
- 63 Mild oath
- 64 Urges
- 65 Put in the mail



## 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 A3.**

### DOWN

- 1 "Look \_ talking!"
- 2 Rescuer
- 3 Try the patience of
- 4 Tennis court divider
- 5 Law's partner, in phrase
- 6 Broadcast
- 7 Enemy
- 8 Headlong rush of animals
- 9 Attraction
- 10 Give to a borrower
- 11 Hourglass contents
- 12 Bookie's numbers
- 14 Made airtight
- 19 Complains

- 22 With 42 Down, "Cheers" actor
- 25 Thunderstruck
- 27 Belgrade native
- 28 "Don't \_ on me"; old flag words
- 29 African antelopes
- 30 Spiteful
- 31 "Better late than never," e.g.
- 33 Marathon
- 34 Type; variety
- 36 Has bills to pay
- 38 Liveliness
- 39 Large Asian desert
- 41 Delany & Perino
- 42 See 22 Down
- 44 Ho-hum
- 45 Defective
- 47 Ship rigging supports
- 48 Tater
- 49 Dad
- 50 Remove wrinkles
- 53 GE appliance
- 54 Tuesday, for one
- 56 "We \_ Family"; Sister Sledge song
- 57 Prefix for sense or fat
- 59 Spanish article

Tribune Media Services

# Pageant of the Masters puts out casting call for 2024

BY ANDREW TURNER

Between a well-attended Hospitality Night and five weekends of festive holiday happenings at the Sawdust Art Festival, Laguna Beach leaped into the Christmas spirit over the past month.

Soon enough, community members, some new and others longtime friends of the Festival of Arts, will turn their attention to another tradition in town. To land a role in the Pageant of the Masters, for some, may be up there at the top of a Christmas wish list.

A casting call has gone out for the Pageant of the Masters' next summer show. The theme for the 2024 living picture production will be "A La Mode: The Art of Fashion."

Those interested in answering the call, and potentially being cast in a tableaux vivant, can turn up at

the Festival of Arts grounds during one of three sessions from Jan. 5 through 7.

Prospective volunteers are encouraged to come by between 7 and 9 p.m. that Friday and Saturday, and between 2 and 5 p.m. that Sunday.

The qualifications deal not in naughty or nice, rather that a hopeful volunteer be the right height — along with various other measurements — to replicate the life-sized masterpiece they would portray on stage. There's also a little matter of being able to hold still for 90 seconds.

Sharbie Higuchi, the director of marketing and public relations for the Festival of Arts, called the volunteers the "heart and soul" of the living picture show.

"Volunteer at the Pageant and be part of something extraordinary," Higuchi said

in a statement announcing the casting call. "Not only is it a great way to spend your summer with family and friends, but also, by volunteering for the Pageant, students can earn credit towards community service requirements."

The casting call is open to volunteers ages 5 and up and those of all sizes. As an enticement, all who sign up to volunteer for the upcoming show will be entered into a drawing for two Disneyland tickets.

Volunteers are also needed backstage for a variety of responsibilities, including cast area coordination, headress, makeup and wardrobe.

"A La Mode: The Art of Fashion" will take the stage inside the Irvine Bowl from July 6 through Aug. 30.

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## STORM

Continued from page A1

through Friday morning. Meteorologist Stephanie Sullivan at the National Weather Service in San Diego said wind speeds reached highs of 15 to 25 mph.

Winds climbed to around 30 mph in the canyons near the Santa Ana Mountains, according to Sullivan.

"We've had some other weaker storms, but this was definitely the strongest one so far [this season]," Sullivan said. "Typically, December is when we start to get into the wetter part of the season, but it does vary. Some years, we see it a lot earlier in like October or November, but December is when we would start to see these stronger storms."

In terms of total rainfall, Sullivan said not much stuck out this week for Orange County, but what was notable was the sheer num-



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**AFTER A PASSING** rain squall on Friday, a double rainbow appears over the hills at sunset in Laguna Beach.

ber of lightning strikes that occurred just off the Southern California coast. In San Diego County, for example, she said 133 strikes were reported just off its coast in 24 hours alone.

While the weather does appear to be clearing up just in time for Christmas

Eve and Christmas Day, Sullivan said current forecasts indicate a possibility of some isolated showers into Saturday and potentially on Thursday or Friday of next week.

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Twitter: @lillybirds

**CHEER**

*Continued from page A1*

"[Martha] decks out the whole house," Franklin said. "Christmas trees, unique Santas, stockings in the hallway. I'm exhausted just looking at her, honestly."

There's a potluck dinner followed by Christmas singing, featuring children playing instruments. Martha gives every family a Christmas ornament she designed — a different one each year — before they depart the gathering of up to 100 people.

Martha O'Meara also leads the singing, while her husband has traditionally led a group of men who try to cause mischief during "The Twelve Days of Christmas."

Much of the party has moved outside, under tents, but it rages on.

Well, as much as 90-year-olds can rage. The party always starts at 5:30 p.m. and is usually over a couple of hours later.

"What can I say — it's marvelous," said Adriana Panaresi, who lives six doors down from the O'Mearas, the way it's been for 50-plus years.

Panaresi brings her trademark penne pasta to the Christmas party every year.

"Where we are, we do have a community, not just a sense of community," she said. "We all love it. The kids grew up together, they're still very close even though they have children of their own that are already grown up. It's absolutely fantastic."

Panaresi's daughter, Deanna Delaney, lives around the corner and now brings her own two sons to the gathering. Delaney was born in July of 1970, six months before the neighborhood gathering began, so she's also been attending for her whole life.

She and her husband are both in real estate. They definitely mention the O'Meara Christmas party



*Courtesy of Catherine Franklin*

**THE O'MEARA** ladies and longtime guests of 50-plus years are pictured in 2021. Back row: Catherine (O'Meara) Franklin, Susan O'Meara, Deanna (Panarisi) Delaney, Sam (Hill) Abramson; front/middle row: Fran Hill, Adriana Panarisi, Martha O'Meara, Cindy O'Meara.

whenever they show property in Costa Mesa on Chios Road, Lemnos Drive, Balearic Drive or Baltra Place.

"It's part of how I let everybody know that's interested in buying a house in the neighborhood about how great the neighborhood really is," Deanna Delaney said. "The Christmas party brings everybody together."

Spencer Hill, now 59, grew up in the house across the street from the O'Mearas. His mother passed away recently and his father is in a memory

care unit, so the house was recently sold.

"To come together to celebrate Christmas is just an amazing opportunity," Hill said, adding that he wished his family had that kind of tradition in Newbury Park, where they currently live. "It's wonderful to see generations, people my parents' age down to young children. The O'Mearas have been really good about keeping it local in the neighborhood but embracing new blood and the new families that come. The family that

bought my parents' house, they have two young kids, and I think they were there."

Yes, some of the names change but the tradition stays the same.

The O'Mearas wouldn't have it any other way.

"It's just been the same thing every single year," said Catherine Franklin, adding that her mother plans in advance what the ornament is going to be each year along with other details.

In 2018, Martha O'Meara had developed lung cancer

and was in the hospital in early December having part of her lung removed.

But that still didn't stop the show.

"We kept trying to convince her not to have it, but she just insisted," Catherine Franklin recalled. "She's

very strong and outgoing. She wanted to do it. I was like, 'OK, you're barely out of the hospital and you can barely breathe, but I guess we're going to do it.'"

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**CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS**

WHEN	OAFS	ALSO							
HEXES	RIOT	LOAD							
ORATE	DREAM	LAND							
SOS	ATE	MOUNDS							
PALER	PAR								
STEWED	GENEVA								
ERRED	RINDS	IDO							
READ	VALUE	GNAW							
BAT	DICKS	DODGE							
DEBATE	BABIES								
ONA	MANIC								
SPIRAL	ADS	TOW							
PARISIANS	OLIVE								
UPON	TROT	NOVEL							
DANG	YENS	SEND							

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

**Christmas Eve Worship**

Sunday, December 24th

You are invited to a very special Christmas Eve Service.

**Christ Church by the Sea**

Christmas Eve Morning Service at 10 a.m. & Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7 p.m.

1400 W. Balboa Blvd., Newport Beach, CA 92661

Pastor Paul Capetz

949.673.3805



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## HIGH SCHOOL ROUNDUP

## Huntington Beach girls' basketball team is heating up

BY ANDREW TURNER

The Huntington Beach girls' basketball team defeated Golden (Colo.) 41-32 on Thursday in the consolation final of the Dan Wiley bracket in the Nike Tournament of Champions.

Freshman Emma Miyai scored 22 points to lead the Oilers, earning all-tournament honors for the second time this season. She also collected those accolades in a tournament at Mission Viejo.

Senior Lauren Matsumoto added 13 points for Huntington Beach (9-4), which has now authored its third three-game winning streak of the season. The Oilers have won six of their past seven games.

Huntington Beach faces Anaheim on Wednesday to begin the Costa Mesa Classic.

**Irvine 69, Edison 49:** Junior Lauren Lai's 22 points led all scorers, as the Vaqueros topped the Chargers on Wednesday in a nonleague game at home.

Senior Mia Cassel paced the Chargers with 19 points. Sophomore Taylor Savage added 12 points and four assists for Edison

(1-13). Senior Allison Sotelo contributed nine points and seven rebounds.

Edison will host the 3rd annual Christina Mauser Memorial Tournament next week.

## BOYS' BASKETBALL

**Newport Harbor 63, Tesoro 53:** Riggs Guy provided 20 points and eight rebounds to spearhead a victory for the visiting Sailors on Thursday in the Orange County North-South Challenge.

Newport Harbor (11-2), which is ranked ninth in the CIF Southern Section Division 2A poll, has won eight games in a row.

## BOYS' SOCCER

**Edison 3, Palos Verdes 2:** Nathan Jackson scored twice for the visiting Chargers, who ran their season-opening unbeaten streak to seven matches with Wednesday's nonleague win.

Evan Crownfield also had a goal for Edison (6-0-1), which is ranked No. 7 in the CIF Division 1 poll.

Edison will compete in the Laguna Hills Hawks Invitational next week.

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Twitter: @AndrewTurnerTCN



File Photo

**HUNTINGTON BEACH'S** Lauren Matsumoto, seen against Edison on Jan. 26, scored 13 points in Thursday's win in the Nike Tournament of Champions. The Oilers have won six of their past seven games.

## STANCE

Continued from page A1

affairs manager Jennifer Carey called that a "miscommunication" on Friday. She released the calendar for the first quarter of 2024, which included the approved themes of "Founders' Legacy — Celebrating Huntington Beach's Ori-

gins" for January, "We Love Our Libraries — Huntington Beach's commitment to books, reading and learning" for February and "California's History — Before statehood to now, and what it means to be a Charter City" for March.

However, Black History Month and Women's History Month are also listed for February and March, respectively.

"The existing acknowledgments, tributes, holidays, cultural heritage months that we have already been acknowledging will still be acknowledged,"

Carey said. "It's just that the content that will be continuously distributed throughout the month will be related to that overarching, celebratory theme. I think there was, and understandably so, confusion in regard to the item. [It was discussed] that we have this one celebration and that's it, and that's simply not the case."

Carey said there will be a cohesive effort that her office would oversee in collaboration with a resident committee that will be established to decide themes for 2025 and future years.

McKeon said Friday that his agenda item was "misinterpreted in a way," adding that it was a pilot program that will be continue to be fine-tuned.

"When I kept saying nothing precludes [Black History Month] from happening in the future, what I was referring to was the overarching theme of the month," McKeon said. "It doesn't mean that we can't acknowledge Black history and those other themes within the month, but the overarching, celebratory theme of the month needs to be in the calendar. I'm trying to con-

dense this down.

"I think there's like 30-plus monthly themes that different departments have. So the genesis of this was to make it more meaningful and thoughtful, with all of the departments on the same page."

But Kalmick wasn't buying the claim that the dialogue from the dais was simply misunderstood.

"How could it have been a miscommunication?" Kalmick said Friday. "The video's clear, the action agenda is clear. We explicitly asked, 'Are we going to be celebrating this anymore?'"

and they said, 'No.' So I don't know how staff is managing that ... We asked [McKeon] four different ways, 'Does this mean we're not going to celebrate this?'"

"You can't just say, 'No, we're not going to do that' without bringing it back to a vote of the council. If Casey thought it was something different, that's not the staff direction and the understanding I had. They're going to have to bring it back [to the City Council], or it's illegal."

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