

# Daily Pilot

SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2025 /// dailypilot.com

## Park debuts new play area

Following a \$900,000 renovation, San Miguel Park boasts attractions that are accessible to people of all abilities.

BY ERIC LICAS

A vision of a more inclusive Newport Beach sparked by a young resident who spoke out on behalf of her nonverbal sister six years ago came to fruition with the dedication Wednesday of the city's first playground designed to be accessible to people with disabilities.

The \$900,000 renovation of San Miguel Park's 5,500-square-foot play area has a long tube slide that visitors with mobility issues can reach via a spiraling belt of suspended play mats, instead of stairs or ladders. It also includes a wee-saw, a reimagined version of a see-saw that has seats with back support, and many other attractions.

The wee-saw was Alanis Portillo's favorite part of the new playground. The 22-year-old always loved being at playgrounds, but as she got older it became more and more difficult for her to use traditional park equipment, and her family increasingly worried about her getting hurt, her mother, Perla Portillo, said.

Her sister, Alexis Portillo, told the Daily Pilot it was "so devastating for me, to see that she kind of just had to stand around and

See **Park**, page A3

## Costa Mesa motel may become affordable housing

Mesa Motel, at 2205 Harbor Blvd., has sat vacant since 2022.

BY SARA CARDINE

A plan to convert a shuttered Costa Mesa motor inn into 46 units of affordable housing for low-income tenants, a project that's been eyed by the city for years, will be considered by the Planning Commission in a hearing Monday.

Formerly the site of the Mesa Motel — located at 2205 Harbor Blvd., between Wilson and Victoria streets — the .58-acre property has been vacant since 2022. But that could change if city planners approve a conditional use permit that would allow the work to be-

See **Motel**, page A3



Photos by Eric Licas

**THE ORANGE COUNTY** Makapo Aquatics Project's outrigger rowing team trains with a brand new canoe in Newport Harbor Thursday. The organization promotes the inclusion of adaptive athletes in competitive paddling.

## Canoe therapy

O.C. outrigger team christens new custom wa'a for inclusion of disabled athletes.



**SPINAL CORD** injury survivor Janet Wu trains with the Orange County Makapo Aquatics Project outrigger paddling team in Newport Harbor Thursday.

BY ERIC LICAS

Janet Wu played basketball, softball and ice hockey in college, but admits she let athletics fall to the wayside as she settled into a career as a computer programmer. Yet her competitive instinct possessed her as she sat in a hospital on her 28th birthday nearly 20 years ago, shaking her out of a malaise in the wake of her transverse myelitis diagnosis.

The auto-immune disease ate away at the fatty sheath protecting her spinal cord. She couldn't even get from her bed to a wheelchair without the aid of paramedics who took her to what she described as a "physical therapy boot camp."

In just three months she learned how to get around with a walker. She left the facility on her own two feet.

Reclaiming her independence brought out her inner athlete. The Pasadena resident sought out more opportunities to challenge herself, connecting with a broad network of other people she could relate to in the process.

"It's difficult at first, but once you meet

See **Canoe**, page A4

## Pacific Symphony's future music director returns with a lively dose of Beethoven

BY MATT SZABO

Dun, dun, dun, DUN!  
The opening notes of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony are iconic, but Alexander Shelley promises that the piece has much more in store.

The next artistic and music director of the Pacific Symphony

returns to Costa Mesa next week, conducting the symphony for the first time since he was named as Carl St. Clair's successor last November.

Shelley will lead three shows beginning Thursday night at Segerstrom Concert Hall, featuring Beethoven's Fifth Symphony as well as his Piano Concerto No. 5,



**ALEXANDER SHELLEY** was announced as the next Pacific Symphony artistic and music director by CEO John Forsythe, right, at Segerstrom Concert Hall last November.

Don Leach

which is also known as the "Emperor" concerto. Shelley is set to serve as music director designate in 2025-26, before

See **Music**, page A4



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**KIDS FROM** the Boys & Girls Club of Laguna Beach help plant a California sycamore with city arborist Matthew Barker on Thursday.

## Laguna Beach celebrates Arbor Day with native tree planting

BY ANDREW TURNER

Laguna Beach waited longer than expected for its annual Arbor Day celebration, but dozens took part in the educational activities available at Aliso Beach Park on Thursday afternoon.

It marked the eighth annual ceremony held by the city, which has traditionally included a native tree planting. On this occasion, a California sycamore was planted in the ground.

"I did the hard work, digging the enormous planting hole, but everything's prepped and then all the kids helped out with putting all the dirt in there," said Matthew Barker, the city arborist.

The lessons shared along the way included tamping down the soil.

Community organizations were also there to share their knowledge of environmental matters. Among the groups in attendance were Citizens' Climate Education,

Crystal Cove Conservancy, Laguna Art Museum, the Laguna Beach Garden Club, the Laguna Beach Urban Tree Fund, Laguna Canyon Foundation, Laguna Greenbelt Inc, LOCA Arts Education, Pacific Marine Mammal Center and Village Laguna.

Public works personnel and West Coast Arborists, a city contractor, were also on hand, as were the Friends of the Hortense

See **Tree**, page A3



THE CROWD | B.W. COOK



Ann Chatillon

**GEORGIA JACOBSON**, from left, Angela Cord, guest speaker Peter Dunham and DARTS President Adrienne Garrison pose during the organization's spring luncheon.

# ‘Chic’ was the word as Decorative Arts Society marks its 30th anniversary

Style and substance joined hands as the Decorative Arts Society (DARTS) gathered some 200 patrons for its 30th anniversary spring luncheon at Newport Beach Country Club. This chic event was chaired by **Angela Cord** and **Georgina Jacobson**, supported by tabletop design co-chairs **Sharon Henwood** and **Molly McCray**. Therein lies the “chic” factor. Since DARTS at-

tracts advocates with passion for the decorative arts, 21 local designers decorated with considerable artistry their individual luncheon tables in the country club's dining room. Upon entering, the setting produced excitement similar to the raising of a velvet curtain on an anticipated Broadway show. The first table vignette viewed was created by **Ann Dennis** of Ann Dennis Designs. Centered with an enormous blue and white ceramic ginger jar bursting with white blooms, Dennis beauti-

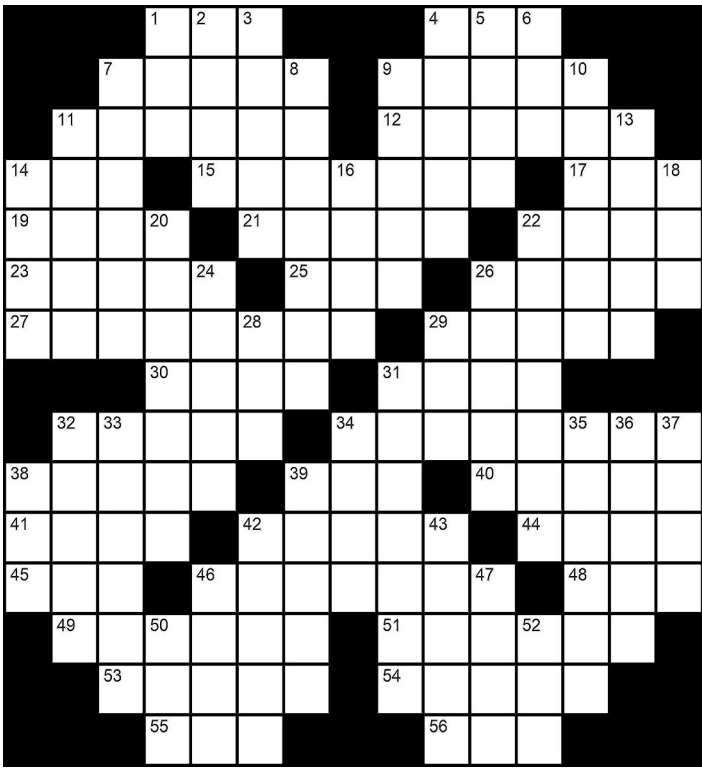
fully coordinated the table settings, linens, candles and silver service. Truly, all 21 settings were magazine worthy. Design kudos to **Anne Michaelsen**, **Brooke Wagner**, **Jess Jones**, **Elizabeth Brooke**, **Pamela Nast** and **Kelly Nutt** were among the very talented decorators participating. Major DARTS supporter Lugano also created a spectacular table. No precious gems affixed to the silver service, but boss **Stuart Winston** held court with right-hand man **Bill**

See **Crowd**, page A3

THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Stella Zawistowski

- ACROSS**  
1 Barcode: Abbr.  
4 Jamaican music genre  
7 Got up  
9 Handles very roughly  
11 Motorcycle brand  
12 Gave consent  
14 MLB official  
15 Withdrew, as consent  
17 YouTube posting, for short  
19 Parakeet's snack  
21 Monica of tennis  
22 Put in the mail  
23 Fortune-teller's deck  
25 \_-relief sculpture  
26 Big  
27 Tree-planting celebration: 2 wds.  
29 Brings on staff  
30 Doe or stag  
31 The \_ Piper  
32 Dossiers  
34 Historical French prison  
38 Climbing plants  
39 Congeal  
40 Actress Tatum  
41 Liberal-\_ college  
42 Fourth-down plays  
44 Consumes  
45 Afternoon drink in England  
46 Make believe  
48 Sportage maker  
49 Climbed, as a mountain  
51 Sandwich with sauerkraut  
53 The ones over there  
54 Unclothed  
55 TV spots  
56 Small barrel



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).

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|   |   | 6 | 9 | 4 | 1 |   |   |
|   |   |   | 5 | 9 |   |   |   |
|   | 9 |   | 6 |   |   | 5 |   |
|   |   |   | 2 | 7 |   |   |   |
|   |   | 2 | 4 |   |   | 6 |   |
|   | 5 |   | 6 |   |   | 1 | 4 |
|   | 7 |   |   |   |   |   | 9 |

For answers to the crossword and Sudoku puzzles, see page A3.

- DOWN**  
1 Potato chip brand  
2 Rain very hard  
3 Some colas  
4 Philosophers, for example  
5 Member of an Iraqi minority  
6 Bitter beer  
7 Excellent  
8 Seedy place to drink: 2 wds.  
9 Manufacture  
10 Very harsh  
11 Lipstick stain

- 13 Fender dents  
14 Sofia Kenin's group: Abbr.  
16 Oil of \_  
18 1950s President: Abbr.  
20 Idle drawings  
22 Fish in a tin  
24 Oaks and pines  
26 Deceive: 2 wds.  
28 \_ Moines, Iowa  
29 That guy's template  
32 Gives a pink slip to  
33 Undamaged  
34 Aptitude  
35 Didn't hold water  
36 Ancient Rome's language  
37 Actress Pataky  
38 Big wine container  
39 Napped leather  
42 Urge  
43 Move stealthily  
46 Walk heavily  
47 Composer Ellington  
50 "I've got it!"  
52 Entreat

Tribune Media Services

FOR THE RECORD

An obituary in Thursday's paper, "Jean Forbath opened eyes to those in need," incorrectly stated Forbath died early Monday. She passed late Sunday night.

Tommy Bahama

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## CROWD

Continued from page A2

Peters and other associates. Winston had just returned from opening the latest Lugano boutique in Chicago as the international jewelry purveyor spreads its unique style across the globe.

Front and center for the 30th anniversary celebration was DARTS president and sponsor **Adrienne Garrison** with fellow sponsors **Sally Crockett**, **Ashley Fisher**, **Hyla Berte**, **Kristin James**, **Pam Howard**, **Pam Muzzy**, **Randa Phair**, **Janet Curci**, **Britt Meyer**, **Barbara Belveal**, DARTS founding member **Mary Anna Jeppe**, Argyros Foundation and the platinum underwriter Kling Family Foundation.

Special luncheon guest and speaker was interior designer **Peter Dunham**, based in Los Angeles and well known for his fabric and wallpaper design collection. Dunham charmed the crowd, including devoted DARTS patroness **Sandra Ayres**, who held a cocktail reception for DARTS members days in advance of the anniversary affair. **Barbara Glabman**,

**Marion Palley**, **Leslie Cancelleri**, **Laraine Eggleston**, **Madeline Hayward**, **Evelyn Kroener**, **Maureen Madigan**, **Toni Berlinger** and **Kitty Canada** were all present as well.

While the artistry of the design style brought the “wow” factor, the DARTS charity focus delivered the substance. In 30 years, the group has raised and donated more than \$4.5 million through their annual speaker program to gift to 52 Orange County charities serving the needs of women, children and families. This list is long and impressive, absolutely worthy of print. Here it is, in alphabetical order:

Alzheimer's Orange County, American Red Cross, Beyond Blindness, Boys and Girls Club of Buena Park, Boys Hope Girls Hope, Breast Cancer Solutions, Build Futures, Casa Teresa, Casa Youth Shelter, Caterina's Club, Decorative Arts Trust, Down Syndrome Assn. Orange County, Environmental Nature Center, Families Forward, Family Support Network, Fristers, Girls Inc., Hoag, Homeless Intervention Services of Orange County, Hope Harbor, Human Options, Illu-



Ann Chatillon

**DARTS ADVOCATES** Ashley Fisher, from left, Jessica Jones, Monica Peterson and Sally Crockett at the 30th anniversary DARTS luncheon held at Newport Beach Country Club.

mination Foundation, Orange Coast Interfaith Shelter, Intervention Center for Early Childhood, Laguna College of Art and Design, Laura's House, Make-A-Wish Orange County and the Inland Empire, Mariposa Center, Mary's Path, New Directions for Women, Pretend City Children's Museum, Project Hope Alliance, Project Scientist, Project Self-Sufficiency, Providence Speech and Hearing Center, Radiant Futures, Share Our Selves, South County Outreach, SPIN Serving

People in Need, Taller San Jose/Hope Builders, Templo Calvario CDC, the Teen Project, Thomas House Family Shelter, Veterans First, Wayfinders, WISE-Place, Women Helping Women, Women's Transitional Living Center, Youth Employment Services and Youth Employment Center.

Hats off to the remarkable style and substance of the Decorative Arts Society.

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



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**VOLUNTEERS WITH** Citizens Climate Education work with a youngster packing soil at an Arbor Day celebration in Laguna Beach.

## TREE

Continued from page A1

Miller Garden and the Laguna Beach chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

“It was a great turnout,” Barker said. “A lot of kids, which is great. We partner with the Laguna Beach Boys & Girls Club. Usually, they'll do environmental activities leading up to [Arbor Day], and then they come and enjoy all the activities and crafts and giveaways and prizes and games that all the exhibitors put on for the kids.

“I work with the Laguna Beach Unified School District, where many of the Boys & Girls Club kids attend one of those schools, and we do a youth art contest.” The prizes included a Lomi kitchen compost appliance for the first-place winner, with bonsai juniper trees going to those that earned honorable mention.

“The winner did a watercolor painting on can-

vas of a fantastical tree island — like a floating tree island,” Barker said. “It was quite lovely and unique. We had three honorable mentions. One of them wrote a poem, and then a couple others did some really unique drawings. These are 6-, 7-, 8-, and 9-year-olds, so the work that they do is quite impressive for kids that age.”

The event was held at Boat Canyon Park last year. Barker, who started in his position in February 2021, said he tries to move the tree planting ceremony around to account for trees that had to be removed. Last year, a non-native pine that died was replaced with a Torrey pine.

Laguna Beach had planned to host its Arbor Day event on March 6, but the event was postponed due to rain. It was rescheduled to align with the national Arbor Day date, which fell on Friday.

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## PARK

Continued from page A1

watch and wasn't able to play with the other kids. That is the main reason I wanted to start this... Because I knew she wasn't the only one who struggles with this.”

Alexis was in sixth grade when she approached civic leaders about installing an ADA accessible swing at Coastal Peak Park. She raised an issue that “had escaped the attention of everyone on the dais,” said Will O'Neill, the former mayor, in his final remarks at as a member of the City Council.

“But here was someone who came forward with a problem, offered a solution and made sure the lives of people in the city improved,” O'Neill said. “We're better off as a community when we have the Alexis Portillos of the world coming up and solving problems.”

Swings designed for use



Courtesy of the city of Newport Beach

**MAYOR JOE STAPLETON** (center left) and Alexis Portillo (center right) join Newport Beach City Council members and city staff cut the ribbon to the newly renovated playground at San Miguel Park.

by people with or without disabilities went up in four parks as a result of the suggestion by the young resident, now a Corona del Mar High senior planning to soon begin college at Chapman University. Ultimately, plans were made for the renovation at San Miguel Park.

“This is a place where children and all of those who play can grow and connect together,” Mayor Joe Stapleton said Thursday. “On behalf of the entire city of Newport Beach and our entire City Council, I would like to thank the families, advocates and city staff who helped bring this dream to

life. You've made Newport Beach a more inclusive, joyful place for everyone.”

Alanis Portillo grinned from ear to ear as she, her mother, sister and the mayor tested out the wee-saw together Thursday. Councilman Erik Weigand swung from columns of rope, showing off his climbing skills to his 10-year-old twins, a daughter and son. Councilwoman Robyn Grant laughed as she clung to a set of metal bars to steady herself on a spinning platform. About a dozen children made repeat trips down the tube slide and back up the spiraling ramp of its tower.

“There's very limited parks that have an all inclusive feel, that are accessible for children to go on ramps of feel safe on playgrounds, very few in all of Orange County,” Perla Portillo said. “This was a blessing. She's probably going to be here every day.”

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## MOTEL

Continued from page A1

gin.

The proposal is being put forth by Laguna Niguel-based Ahura Investments, LLC, a firm associated with physician Nikan Khatibi, chief executive and medical director of the Ahura Healthcare Corp., which will serve as the owner and property manager of the site.

It calls for the motel rooms to be rebuilt into a suite of mostly single-occupancy residences that will include sleeping and living accommodations as well as kitchenettes, complete with a refrigerator, prep area, sink and microwave. The site would also include one manager's unit.

City leaders have considered the underused parcel as a place that could accommodate affordable housing, going back to at least 2021, when officials sought to acquire, rehabilitate and convert Mesa Motel and a Motel 6 on Newport Boulevard through the state's Project Homekey program.

While the Motel 6 project was approved for 87 units of permanent supportive housing for at-risk individuals, and subsequently developed at a cost of about



File Photo

**THE MESA MOTEL** in Costa Mesa, seen in 2021, shuttered one year later and has since remained vacant.

\$49 million, the Mesa Motel property never moved forward as a Homekey project.

Since then, the city has approved, under the program, the conversion of rooms at the Travelodge by Wyndham Orange County Airport/Costa Mesa, at 1400 Bristol St., into 76 studio and one-bedroom apartments, at the cost of about \$48 million.

Both those projects are funded through a combination of state grants, city matching funds and earmarks from the county and other sources.

Residents of the Mesa Motel complex would qualify as very-low income, earning about 50% of Orange County's area

median income of \$127,800 — amounting to about \$50,250 for a single individual, according to figures from the California Department of Housing and Community Development.

Forty-two of the units would be single occupancy, while the other four residences would allow for two occupants. Tenancy would be secured through an annual lease and priority would be given to those living and/or working in Costa Mesa, seniors, veterans and individuals with disabilities, according to a staff report for Monday's meeting.

The commercially zoned property contains two ex-

isting two-story buildings with a total area of 28,286 square feet. The new plan qualifies for a state housing density bonus and, due to its location near transit lines, does not have to conform to Costa Mesa's parking standards, and includes 27 spaces and one bicycle rack, compared to the 42 stalls that would otherwise be required.

Planning commissioners will consider whether to grant a conditional use permit that would allow the General Business District-zoned parcel to accommodate a use similar to a motel or hotel.

Monday's Planning Commission meeting starts at 6 p.m. at Costa Mesa City Hall, 77 Fair Drive. For more, visit [costamesaca.gov](http://costamesaca.gov).

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# Daily Pilot

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## CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

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



# CANOE

Continued from page A1

one group you just kind of network from there because everybody knows everybody else,” Wu told the Daily Pilot near the dock at the Newport Aquatic Center Thursday. “It’s empowering... I’ve been able to try all of these different activities that I never would have thought of trying to do before my disability.”

One of the groups who have welcomed her is the Orange County Makapo Aquatics Project, a non-profit offering people with physical and intellectual disabilities the chance to learn, train or compete on outrigger paddling teams. They have helped push for the inclusion of adaptive athletes in sanctioned events, and have also provided real world insight aiding the design of canoes and gear for those with special needs.

On Thursday the plucky notes of a ukelele and Hawaiian prayers accompanied the blessing of a custom double-hull canoe known in Hawaii as a wa’a,



Eric Licas

**JANET WU** gets into a brand new outrigger canoe to train with the Orange County Makapo Aquatics Project in Newport Harbor Thursday. The organization promotes the inclusion of adaptive athletes in competitive paddling.

which was obtained with grant funding made possible by advocates for adaptive athletes, the Hartford and Move United, according to Makapo’s executive director, RJ De Rama. It features a variety of modifications like seats that make it easier for

people with walkers or crutches to get in and out and also allows blind athletes to sit closer to a spotter or those with intellectual disabilities to stay near a coach or guardian. “They were so generous. I’m about to cry,” De Rama said of the partner organi-

zations supporting Makapo during Thursday’s christening ceremony. “They saw something in what we’re doing.” Makapo’s athletes dubbed the canoe *Marco Polo*, and will use it to compete in the Crystal Pier Outrigger Race, organized

by the Southern California Outrigger Racing Assn. on May 3 in San Diego. And for weeks, Wu has been making the roughly hour-long trek from her San Gabriel Valley home to the Newport Aquatic Center to train with her teammates.

She only joined Makapo about three months ago, but her commitment to paddling and easygoing personality quickly won the camaraderie of those she trains with. That’s why the organization and their supporters surprised her with her own one-seater outrigger canoe so she can practice solo and continue to grow as a paddler.

She gasped Thursday and could hardly believe her eyes as she wrapped her arms around her new vessel. She thanked those present Thursday for what is sure to become a well-loved tool granting Wu freedom on the water.

Canoes are regarded as more than just objects in Polynesian cultures; some believe they are imbued with spirits of their own and treat them like members of the family, De Rama said. Canoes, like the adaptive equipment those with

disabilities use to navigate their daily lives, were central to the prosperity of many island communities.

“There’s so many more people that we can help now with this canoe,” De Rama said. “Last year we helped over 450 people with disabilities. This year we’re going to raise that to 700. And in terms of the impact this is going to do for the community, we’re going to take these boats all over so thousands can see what we’re doing. The ultimate goal is to get this program here at the NAC into other canoe clubs all over the world, hopefully. This is the beginning.”

Makapo Aquatics, named after the Hawaiian word for blind, originated in 2006 with an all-blind paddling team trained by Newport Aquatic Center Executive Director Billy Whitford, which competed in the 18-mile Queen Liliuokalani Outrigger Canoe race in Kona, Hawaii. They expanded their mission to welcome all adaptive athletes around 2014, De Rama said.

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## Beverly Childs

1928 - 2025

Beverly passed away peacefully on April 19, 2025, in the comfort of her home. She was 96 years old.

Born in Santa Ana, California, Beverly lived a life marked by kindness, and quiet strength. A graduate of Stanford University, where she studied Spanish, Beverly embodied a lifelong curiosity for the world and its people—one that would later carry her across continents on countless adventures with her husband Bob.

Beverly was the cornerstone of her family, a steady presence known for her patience and caring nature. She is survived by her three children—daughter Gail, and sons Blake and Mike—and her beloved grandchildren and great-grandchildren: Mark, Amy, Gavin, Aaron and Cillian. Each carries her adventurous spirit and sense of wonder in their own unique way.

She valued health and exercise throughout her life. In her early years, you might have found Beverly and Bob playing beach volleyball—a tradition that later turned into spirited tennis matches. If you asked her, she’d smile and say she won more often than not, and few would dare to disagree.

Beverly’s sense of adventure never faded. The memories she collected became the fabric of a well-lived life.

Beverly lived with elegance and warmth. Her legacy is not only in the places she went or the milestones she reached, but in the way she made others feel cared for.

She will be missed beyond measure.

# MUSIC

Continued from page A1

fore taking full leadership the following year.

“I’m so excited,” Shelley said in a Zoom interview this week from London before flying to California. “We don’t need analogies or metaphors, but if you’re taking over a great sports team as coach or manager, I feel like that. I just can’t wait to get to know the players closer, to start working with them and dig into music. And with that, to build a relationship with the audience.”

Next week’s concert will open with Chinese American composer Tan Dun’s “Jubilation” from his symphony Heaven Earth Mankind, composed to celebrate Hong Kong’s 1997 re-

turn from rule under the United Kingdom to China. The performance will include the Southern California Children’s Chorus, which holds rehearsals at nearby Mater Dei High School, as well as the orchestra.

“Singing this music that includes Beethoven but is also of our time, that feels like a microcosm of how I want it to feel in the auditorium moving forward,” said Shelley, 45, who is currently the music director of the National Arts Centre Orchestra in Ottawa, Canada. “I think it already does. It feels like a community space that belongs to everybody, but it’s intended as a sign that I very much want that to continue. Having those kids there who are the future and are from our community, that’s an im-



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**MEMBERS OF** the Pacific Symphony perform last November.

portant thing for me.”

The “Emperor” concerto will follow, before the intermission, showcasing concert pianist George Li, an American who at 29 has already long been known as a

gifted international performer.

“I’m so thrilled to be performing Beethoven’s ‘Emperor’ concerto in Orange County next week!” Li said in an email interview. “What I love about the piece is the balance between expression, form and utmost grandeur that permeates throughout. The piece is filled with scales and arpeggios, but the listener never feels like they are pure exercises. Each iteration is filled with dramatic purpose and intention, building in momentum and phrasing. It is a piece filled with joy and brightness, and I can’t wait to perform it soon.”

The concert continues with Iranian Canadian composer Iman Habibi’s “Jeder Baum spricht,” German for “Every Tree Speaks,” a reflection on environmental challenges. It then concludes with Beethoven’s Fifth Symphony.

Shelley said he would compare the Fifth Symphony to visiting places like Machu Picchu or the Sistine Chapel. He added that Beethoven was the first to start a symphony in a minor key, which sounds sad and dark, and end in a major key.

“Traditionally, they used to say, this is a sad symphony and we’re going to have a sad experience,” Shelley said. “Or, this is a happy symphony and we’re going to have a happy experience. He said, ‘I believe so fervently in the transformative power of human nature, that we can hope and we can obtain and we can aim for transformation spiritually and emotionally.’ He depicted that struggle in music, and it resonated through history.”

Shelley said he has conducted the Fifth Symphony many times in many places, but still finds it very exciting to perform.

“I think it’s because I have a relationship with it that is about that transformative power,” he said. “Other people might think it’s majestic or dignified, like a museum piece, and they’ll have their own relationship. To me, it’s really vibrant and very human and alive.”

The three-date show runs Thursday through Saturday at Segerstrom Concert Hall, with tickets available at [pacificsymphony.org](http://pacificsymphony.org). The concert includes a preview talk with KUSC midday host Alan Chapman at 7 p.m.

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NOTICE OF VACANCIES


The City of Newport Beach is currently accepting applications to fill the following upcoming vacancies:

- Finance Committee (four seats – terms are for one-year, expiring on June 30, 2026)**  
Meetings are as necessary, on weeknights or weekdays (M-Th), at a time convenient for the Committee at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach
- Water Quality/Coastal Tidelands Committee (four seats – terms are for four-years, expiring on June 30, 2029)**  
Meetings are on the first Thursday of each month at 3:00 p.m., unless otherwise noticed, at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach.

All applicants must be qualified electors of the City, none of whom shall hold any paid office or employment in City government (Section 702 of the City Charter).

The deadline for filing applications is **noon on Wednesday, May 14, 2025, or until the vacancies are filled.** The application and additional information about the Boards and Commissions can be found at <http://www.newportbeachca.gov/vacancy> or by calling 949-644-3005. The application and information about the Boards and Commissions can also be accessed through the City’s website at <http://www.newportbeachca.gov/bcc>.

For more information, contact the City Clerk’s Office at 949-644-3005.



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH  
PUBLIC NOTICE  
ORDINANCE SUMMARY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on April 15, 2025, the City Council of the City of Newport Beach, California, adopted an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-5

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING SECTION 15.02.095 (SECTION 105.3.4) OF THE NEWPORT BEACH MUNICIPAL CODE RELATED TO TIMEFRAMES FOR COMPLETION OF CONSTRUCTION

The Ordinance removes the sunset provision and amends Section 15.02.095 of the Newport Beach Municipal Code. The amendment also introduces additional criteria for applicants seeking further time extensions.

This Ordinance was adopted by the City Council of the City of Newport Beach, California, at a regular meeting thereof on the 15th day of April, 2025, by the following vote:

AYES: Mayor Joe Stapleton, Mayor Pro Tem Lauren Kleiman, Councilmember Michelle Barto, Councilmember Noah Blom, Councilmember Robyn Grant, Councilmember Sara J. Weber, Councilmember Erik Weigand

NAYS: None

The Ordinance shall become final and effective 30 days after adoption.

Dated this 16th day of April, 2025.

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

SALES EVENTS

**GARAGE SALES**  
300

Garage and Yard Sales

25th Annual College Park South garage sale. 40+. Sat 4/26 8a-2p. Costa Mesa neighborhood of 550 homes. SOUTH of Fair at Harbor & Fairview. One day only. Map & list of homes at [facebook.com/lindahartmanrealestate](http://facebook.com/lindahartmanrealestate). Linda 949-644-2144

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/ENTERTAINMENT**  
500

General Announcements



Rise & Rebuild: A Guide to Building Resilient Homes and ADUs

If you’ve been affected by recent wildfires and are looking for guidance on rebuilding, IE General Builders is here to help. Join us for a special community meetup! This Saturday, April 26th at 10am-2pm, Keynote Speaker will begin at 11am located at 550 W. Loma Alta Dr. Altadena, CA

Our experienced team provides clear guidance, expert recommendations, and complimentary services—site visits, property assessments, and budget estimates—to help you recover efficiently and confidently. Visit us at: [www.IEGBHomeBuilders.com](http://www.IEGBHomeBuilders.com)

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