

# Daily Pilot

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2021 /// Now including Coastline Pilot and Huntington Beach Independent /// dailypilot.com

## Rally in Newport supports striking miners

A demonstration outside the BlackRock corporate office building aims to show solidarity with Alabama mine workers.

BY ANDREW TURNER

About two dozen people demonstrated outside the BlackRock corporate office building in Newport Beach Thursday morning to support mine workers who have gone on strike in Alabama.

In April, about 1,100 employees of Warrior Met Coal walked off the job to fight for issues such as better wages, affordable healthcare and reasonable rest and time off.

As part of their call for action, demonstrators decided to take their grievances to the offices of BlackRock, a private equity firm with shares in the mining company.

Michael Dalpiaz, international District 22 vice president for the United Mine Workers of America, said similar protests were being held outside of BlackRock offices around the world, including in Boston, Denver, New York City, Washington, D.C., and Melbourne, Australia.

"Wherever they are, we're going to be, because they own the mine, and they're screwing the workers," Dalpiaz said. "So wherever they are, we'll be there, because people on that street and in that building need to know what BlackRock's all about."

"A lot of investments, a lot of our people invest their money into that place, and I'll tell you, if I had a nickel in BlackRock, it would be gone by now because of how they treat their people. That's wrong. It's unethical, and they shouldn't do it."

Demonstrators wore shirts and held signs that said, "We Are One," with the United Mine Workers of

See *Miners*, page A4

## South Coast Plaza renews 40-year tradition



Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**THE 96-FOOT** white fir tree lights up in front of the Westin Hotel during South Coast Plaza's 40th annual tree-lighting event on Thursday night.



**SANTA CLAUS** prepares the audience for the tree-lighting ceremony at Town Center Park.

BY SARA CARDINE

Locals eager to kickstart the holiday season turned out Thursday to Costa Mesa's South Coast Plaza for the lighting of a 96-foot white fir tree in a celebration that, 40 years running, has become a beloved tradition.

Resplendently decked out in 94,000 colorful lights, which came to brilliant life with the flick of a switch, the white fir tree fulfilled a mission months in the making.

Debra Gunn Downing, South Coast Plaza's executive director of marketing, said the mighty evergreen was transported from Shasta County in October, arriving on the back of a long flatbed truck after a 600-mile journey.

Since then, busy hands had been stringing lights in preparation for the big day, which included sweet treats and carolers, a

See *Tradition*, page A4

## Huntington elementary school receives 24-bike donation



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

**ALL KIDS BIKE** ambassador Michael Clark performs for kindergarten students at College View Elementary School in Huntington Beach.

BY MATT SZABO

Mike Clark had just finished a BMX bike riding show at College View Elementary School last month when opportunity knocked.

The Huntington Beach resident, a professional BMX rider, just needed someone to open the gate so he could exit the campus. College View Principal Elaine Burney obliged.

"We were leaving the show and the principal came out to unlock the gate," Clark said. "I was like, 'Have you ever heard of All Kids Bike?' ... It's just crazy how the universe aligns."

Clark is an ambassador for the program, and that conversation led to 24 new Strider balance bicycles for College View kindergarten students. They were delivered

Thursday morning to the Ocean View School District school, through a partnership with the nonprofit All Kids Bike and International Motorcycle Shows Outdoors.

IMS Outdoors has a show this weekend at the Orange County fairgrounds, the last of eight tour stops across the country. At each tour stop, it is donating \$5,000 worth of Strider bikes to a local school.

College View Elementary was the lucky school in this region.

The bicycles, constructed without pedals at first — similar to a motorcycle — so the students can first learn balance, will now be part of College View's kindergarten physical education curriculum. Teachers have received training.

"Especially this year, the kin-

dergartners haven't left their homes," College View kindergarten teacher Lisa Banuelos said. "They haven't had any experience with anything. So, this is just huge. It's a dream come true."

Holly Hamasaki, another kindergarten teacher at the school, said many of her students live in places where they might not be able to ride bicycles, such as apartment buildings.

"They might not have access to bikes, so that was really important, but it will also be a great part of our PE program," Hamasaki said. "I'm excited. The program was really easy to learn, so we're excited to get started."

Clark did tricks on a bike Thursday for the students, before the white Strider bikes were

See *Donation*, page A2

## UC Irvine lab assistant receives settlement in lawsuit against union

BY LILLY NGUYEN

A class action lawsuit filed by a UC Irvine lab assistant in July was dismissed Tuesday after a settlement was reached between her and the University Professional and Technical Employees that refunded dues collected from her paycheck after she left its membership in June last year.

The lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court in July and named both the University of California system and the union as defendants.

The lab assistant's attorneys argued that the university system negligently deferred to the union on whether the university collects dues from employee paychecks, which then allegedly led to the union denying a re-

quest from lab assistant Amber Walker after she resigned from it.

Court documents stated that Walker was a part of the union in 2018.

When she sought to end her membership she was told to mail a revocation letter to the union during a specified period of time to stop the collection of dues from her paycheck, according to the complaint. Walker said she did so in January within the required time period, but received an email in March that said her photo was incomplete without her photo identification.

The form, according to Walker, did not have any indication that providing identification was necessary.

See *Lawsuit*, page A2

## Fun Zone Festival for Balboa Island Museum raises \$50,000

BY SUSAN HOFFMAN

Three hundred guests attended the Balboa Island Museum's annual fundraiser, a carnival-themed party held last Friday at the Balboa Fun Zone that was sold out, according to organizers.

The Fun Zone Festival featured live music, food stations from local restaurants, a silent auction, a bumper car-photo booth, carnival games and a stilt walker.

There were also retail exhibitors selling a variety of items, ranging from balsamic vinegar to custom jewelry and artwork. They donated 20% of their sales to the museum for the opportunity to gain exposure and sell their goods inside the building.

Among the retail exhibitors was the newly opened Balboa Is-



Susan Hoffman

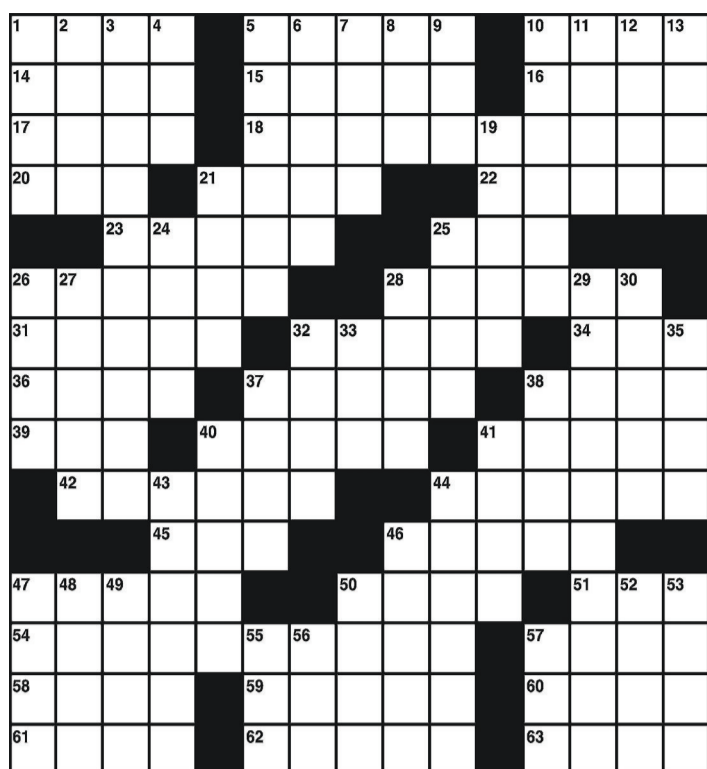
**STILT WALKER SUZE-Q** hams it up with Dennis Bress during the Balboa Island Museum Fun Zone Festival last Friday night.

See *Fun Zone*, page A4



**THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE**

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

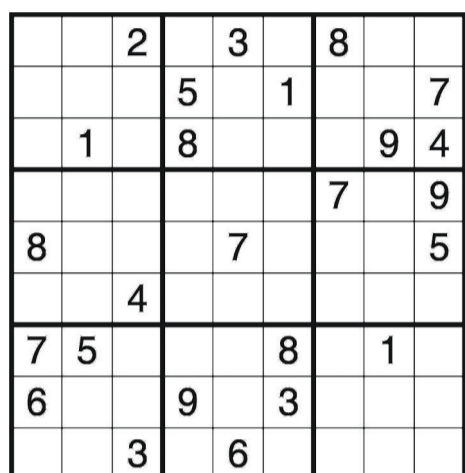


- ACROSS**  
 1 Larch or laurel  
 5 Lopsided  
 10 Suffix for profit or reason  
 14 Takes first prize  
 15 Layered rock  
 16 Quick haircut  
 17 Pieces of legislation  
 18 Confidence in one's own worth  
 20 "Pipe down!"  
 21 Shopper's delight  
 22 Light brown hue  
 23 \_ now; so far  
 25 One of the Seven Dwarfs  
 26 Free and easy  
 28 Become cheerful again  
 31 Go out on \_; risk being wrong  
 32 Alley cat  
 34 Carp  
 36 Tell another's secret  
 37 Embezzle  
 38 Daddy  
 39 Sasha, to Malia  
 40 Disreputable; fishy  
 41 Kit Kat layer  
 42 Give a job to  
 44 Bell tower  
 45 Cut off  
 46 Delhi dollar  
 47 Remove the top from  
 50 Tap a baseball  
 51 "NCIS" network  
 54 Leading the way  
 57 "\_ on it!"; cry to a slowpoke  
 58 In the past  
 59 Soft creamy candy  
 60 Man of the Haus  
 61 In apple-pie order  
 62 Waterbirds  
 63 Uptight

**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 A4.

- DOWN**  
 1 "\_ the night before Christmas"  
 2 Well-to-do  
 3 Zeal  
 4 Feminine suffix  
 5 Attack  
 6 Beach souvenir  
 7 Curly cabbage  
 8 Aide to Santa  
 9 Itty-bitty  
 10 Criticize harshly  
 11 Make tea  
 12 Claim against property  
 13 Acting award  
 19 Building level  
 21 Take a \_ at; try

- 24 Like gums shot with Novocain  
 25 Pass out cards  
 26 Taxis  
 27 Kate's TV roomie  
 28 Priest's advice  
 29 \_ by; indifferent to  
 30 Daily delivery  
 32 Remain  
 33 Actor Danson  
 35 City in Indiana  
 37 Mail division  
 38 Ashen  
 40 Incline  
 41 Cried  
 43 Venus, for one  
 44 \_ cord; elasticized tie-down  
 46 Ladder parts  
 47 Come \_; find  
 48 Two, three and four  
 49 \_-Cola  
 50 \_ one's time; wait  
 52 North Sea ship danger  
 53 Lively  
 55 File drawer, perhaps  
 56 Have remorse for  
 57 That lady

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Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**STUDENTS FROM** Orange County School of the Arts perform Christmas and holiday classics during South Coast Plaza's tree-lighting ceremony at Town Center Park on Thursday.

**TRADITION**

Continued from page A1

holiday production from Orange County School of the Arts and, as always, the appearance of Santa Claus.

Hosted by actor Matthew Morrison, from the hit TV show "Glee," Thursday's celebration marked a triumphant return to an in-person format after last year's tree lighting went virtual during the wintertime coronavirus surge.

The 2020 event was livestreamed, and Misty Copeland, of American Ballet Theatre danced a scene from "The Nutcracker" for an online-only audience,

while viewers enjoyed the fun from a distance.

Gunn Downing said while nothing could compare to an in-person celebration, locals were still grateful to be able to mark the occasion.

"We received an overwhelming positive response before and after the event from our community expressing their gratitude that we found a way to honor the tradition and didn't cancel our tree lighting," she added.

"That conveyed to us how important this 40-year tradition is to our community."

Gunn Downing expressed hope that the re-

turn of an in-person celebration, and the merry-making that is sure to follow in the month ahead, brings a little more joy to the world.

"We hope that the event brings families cheer and gives them a feeling of hope, especially after the difficulties people have faced during the pandemic," she said, sharing her own wish for the season.

"I wish everyone good health and a safe and joyous holiday season filled with wonderful moments with loved ones."

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**MINERS**

Continued from page A1

America logo on them. Orange County Supervisor Katrina Foley addressed the crowd and called for the workers to be taken care of.

"We've been through so much in the last 21 months," Foley said. "And the fact we cannot get a company that is employing people who are doing the most difficult work — life-threatening work, health-threatening work — to be able to support their workers is just tragic, especially at this point in time."

"To have to be on strike for nearly a year, right before the holidays, as the pandemic has continued to rage through our country is just unacceptable, and so that's why I came out today."

Gloria Alvarado, the executive director of the Orange County Labor Federation, said several labor groups came out to support the mine workers.

"The reality is this is all



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

**MIKE DALPIAZ**, United Mine Workers of America International vice president of District 22, speaks on what he says are unfair labor practices for Warrior Met Coal workers during a rally at the BlackRock office in Newport Beach.

really about labor," Kaitlin White of the Assn. of Flight Attendants said. "Labor supporting labor and being a part of helping each other."

"We're at a time where we're slowly making it harder and harder to earn a living wage, and the Association of Flight Attendants believes that people shouldn't have to struggle.

Workers should be appreciated by their companies, no matter who we work for."

D'Andre Wright, vice president of external affairs for Warrior Met Coal, said the company had no comment on the matter when reached by phone about the protests Thursday.

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**FUN ZONE**

Continued from page A1

land Gallery.

"It's a way to gain visibility within the community and let them know there is a fine art gallery on Agate Avenue," said Kim Rossall, gallery owner and island resident. "We also wanted to support Balboa Island Museum and Fun Zone."

The \$150 per person ticket price included two drink tickets, four carnival game tickets and food. Guests mostly dined outdoors at tables that were set up on the raised patio where they could enjoy the live music.

Balboa Island resident Bob Olson said he especially liked the venue chosen for the party. "The Balboa Island museum connection is a great revival between the fun zone and the museum."

Irma Grime, also of Balboa Island, said the event was even better than she'd



Susan Hoffman

**KIM ROSSALL**, from left, owner of Balboa Island Gallery, with artisans Chuck and Diana Rogers during the Balboa Island Museum Fun Zone Festival last Friday night.

expected, with its "food, entertainment and camaraderie with my neighbors."

To top off the evening, which raised \$50,000, Orange County District 2 Supervisor Katrina Foley presented the museum with a check in the amount of \$20,000 on behalf of the District Two Arts Related Small Business & Non-Prof-

it Grant Relief Program.

According to Shirley Pepys and Ellen Goodman, who publicized the event, the museum has exceeded its \$100,000 fall fundraising goal, having so far raised \$125,000.

**SUSAN HOFFMAN** is a contributor to Times Community News.

**CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS**

T	R	E	E	A	S	K	E	W	A	B	L	E			
W	I	N	S	S	H	A	L	E	T	R	I	M			
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5	9	2	7	3	4	8	6	1
4	6	8	5	9	1	3	2	7
3	1	7	8	2	6	5	9	4
1	3	5	6	8	2	7	4	9
8	2	6	4	7	9	1	3	5
9	7	4	3	1	5	2	8	6
7	5	9	2	4	8	6	1	3
6	8	1	9	5	3	4	7	2
2	4	3	1	6	7	9	5	8

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