

Daily Pilot

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\$50K reward offered in 1993 killing

Officials have reopened cold case of landlord and former teacher convicted of molestation who was stabbed to death.

BY SARA CARDINE

Gov. Gavin Newsom is offering a \$50,000 reward for information leading to an arrest and conviction in the 1993 murder of Alan Schwalbe, a gay rights activist and real estate investor found stabbed to death in his Costa Mesa home.

The death is one of four cold cases in Orange and San Diego counties that have perplexed law enforcement officials and for which similar rewards are being offered, according to an announcement Friday.

Schwalbe's body was discovered the afternoon of Aug. 11, 1993, inside his home on the 300 block of 22nd Street in unincorporated Costa Mesa, the Los Angeles Times reported at the time of the incident.

He was found lying in a pool of blood on the kitchen floor, having been stabbed in the upper body several times. Nearby, the tap of a kitchen sink was still running, a reporter noted.

The 61-year-old was actively involved in various Democratic and LGBTQ+ organizations and was an outspoken advocate for gay rights and fair housing. He served on the board of the Fair Housing Council of Orange County from 1975 to 1985 and was a landlord of several properties in Orange, Los Angeles and San Diego counties, according to The Times.

Schwalbe was a teacher at Rea

See **Reward**, page A3

Fire training facility in line for upgrades

Tower at fire station in Costa Mesa, built in 1966, will be torn down and rebuilt with help from \$2.5M state grant.

BY SARA CARDINE

After receiving \$2.5 million from the state in 2022 to help renovate a 57-year-old fire training facility, Costa Mesa is finally ready to get to work, even though more funding will be needed to complete the project.

Costa Mesa City Council members are poised Tuesday to approve a \$3.5-million public works agreement with Stanton-based construction company Caliba, Inc. to begin work, after receiving bids in February.

The Governor's Office of Emergency Services, in conjunction with the office of state Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris (D-Irvine), earmarked \$2.5 million in the state's 2021-22 budget to allow Costa Mesa Fire & Rescue to upgrade the existing training tower facility at Fire Station No. 4 on Placentia Avenue.

Caliba was determined to be the lowest bidder at \$3,486,000 after another company, Global Builders, Inc. of Los Angeles, withdrew a lower bid for unspecified reasons, according to a staff report for Tuesday's meeting.

See **Fire**, page A3



Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE city of Newport Beach, the county of Orange and the Irvine Co. stand on the dock of the Balboa Marina Public Pier during Friday's ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Newport opens its latest and largest public pier

BY MATT SZABO

Newport Beach debuted its newest — and largest — public pier on Friday morning with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Officials from the city of Newport Beach, the Irvine Co. and the county of Orange gathered to celebrate the opening of Balboa Marina Public Pier.

The new pier is located just south of Coast Highway and west of Bayside Drive.

"Here in Newport Beach, we have the largest recreational harbor west of the Mississippi," Newport Beach Mayor Will

O'Neill said. "More access is important, and this is a long time coming. We're really excited, because we know that what this is going to do is not just increase all of the opportunities people have to be in our harbor, but also open up a new gateway to our city, to allow more folks to come here, enjoy themselves and go and shop local."

The Balboa Marina Public Pier features 26 new private Irvine Co. docks as well as new public docks that can fit up to 12

See **Pier**, page A5



ABOVE: Newport Beach public works director Dave Webb stands next to a public dock marker post as he addresses the audience at Friday's ceremony.

RIGHT: Assemblywoman Diane Dixon hands a certificate of recognition to an Irvine Co. representative at Friday's ceremony.



Jones, Mancuso enter race for Laguna council

BY ANDREW TURNER

Election day is more than seven months away, but a couple of longtime residents have already announced their candidacies for the Laguna Beach City Council in November.

Hallie Jones and Judie Mancuso will be among those running to fill two seats up for grabs on the five-person municipal governing body. Those seats are currently filled by George Weiss and Bob Whalen. Neither incumbent has entered the race as of yet.

As it does for many in the community, public safety tops the list of priorities for Jones, whose personal experience includes losing the family home in the Canyon Acres neighborhood during the 1993 fire.

"I remember clearly being at the high school and watching the smoke rise and knowing that it was my neighborhood that was

in jeopardy," Jones said. "I have never forgotten even the smell of smoke that lingered in this town for days after that fire."

Jones views continued undergrounding of utility lines and providing defensible space for firefighters as ways to prevent catastrophic wildfire.

Formerly the executive director of Laguna Canyon Foundation, Jones now serves as executive vice president and chief program officer at Crystal Cove Conservancy. She said she feels her experience as a nonprofit leader and her background in dealing with open space and marine conservation issues could provide value to the council.

Jones, who serves on the Orange County Parks Commission, added she wants to foster "smart development."

"How do we streamline things at City Hall and promote devel-



Courtesy of Hallie Jones



Courtesy of Judie Mancuso

TWO SEATS are open on the Laguna Beach City Council in the November election. Hallie Jones, left, and Judie Mancuso have both announced their candidacies in the race.

See **Race**, page A3

H.B. resident is one of two convicted in 2019 beating death of homeless victim

BY PAUL ANDERSON

Two men were convicted Wednesday in the brutal beating death of a homeless man in Westminster.

Christian Huerta, 24, of Huntington Beach and Andrew Holguin, 26, of Midway City were both convicted in the June 20, 2019, killing of 45-year-old Duc Le.

Jurors, who deliberated for about a day, convicted Holguin of second-degree murder and Huerta of voluntary manslaughter. A non-jury trial will begin next Tuesday before Orange County Superior Court Judge Steven Bromberg to determine if the killing was done to

benefit a gang.

Holguin is facing at least 15 years to life in prison while Huerta is facing at a minimum three, six or 11 years in prison. The two have been in custody since 2019.

If Bromberg rules they killed the victim for the benefit of a gang then another 10 years could be added to the punishment.

Another suspect, Jeffrey Andrade, remains at-large, and a fourth defendant is being tried as a juvenile.

Le's body was found at about 10 p.m. June 20 on Locust Street just south of Westminster Boulevard, police said.

Half of Le's ribs were broken along with his jaw, Deputy Dist. Atty. Lisa

Harris said in her opening statement of the trial.

The assailants "saw an easy target" in Le, a "homeless man sleeping on a couch," Harris said.

One witness saw "them punching and kicking, and at first didn't know a human being" was the target, she noted.

Then the witness saw the attackers "drag him across the street" and through a construction site as "his hair came out of his scalp," Harris said.

The victim's ear was nearly torn off, the prosecutor added.

At some point, something "came over" Holguin and he "bashed [Le] over

See **Convicted**, page A6

AROUND TOWN

'Tartuffe' comes to Laguna stage

The Laguna Playhouse is presenting a transfer production from North Coast Repertory Theatre of "Tartuffe" by Molière. Previews begin April 17; the play runs through May 5.

Richard Baird will direct the comedy, translated to English verse by Richard Wilbur. Performances are set for Wednesdays through Fridays at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Sundays at 1 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. There will be added performances on Thursday, April 25 at 2 p.m. and Tuesday, April 30 at 7:30 p.m. There will be no 5:30 p.m. performance on Sunday, May 5.

Tickets range from \$45 to \$84 and can be purchased online at lagunaplayhouse.com or by calling (949) 497-2787. Group discounts are available by calling (949) 497-



Courtesy of Aaron Rumley

KATIE KAREL, left, Bo Foxworth and Shante DeLoach in North Coast Repertory Theatre's "Tartuffe." Laguna Playhouse will host the production beginning April 17.

2787, Ext. 229. Prices are subject to change.

Laguna Playhouse is located at 606 Laguna Canyon Drive, Laguna Beach.

Exhibit gears up on lowriders

The Huntington Beach Art Center is gearing up for "Rasquachismo," a multimedia art exhibition

devoted to the "aesthetics and transformative power of lowriders," according to organizers. Laura Black is the curator.

It will be on view from Saturday, April 6 until Saturday, June 1. Visitors to the exhibition will find paintings, a lowrider piñata, print-making and

See **Around**, page A3

THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

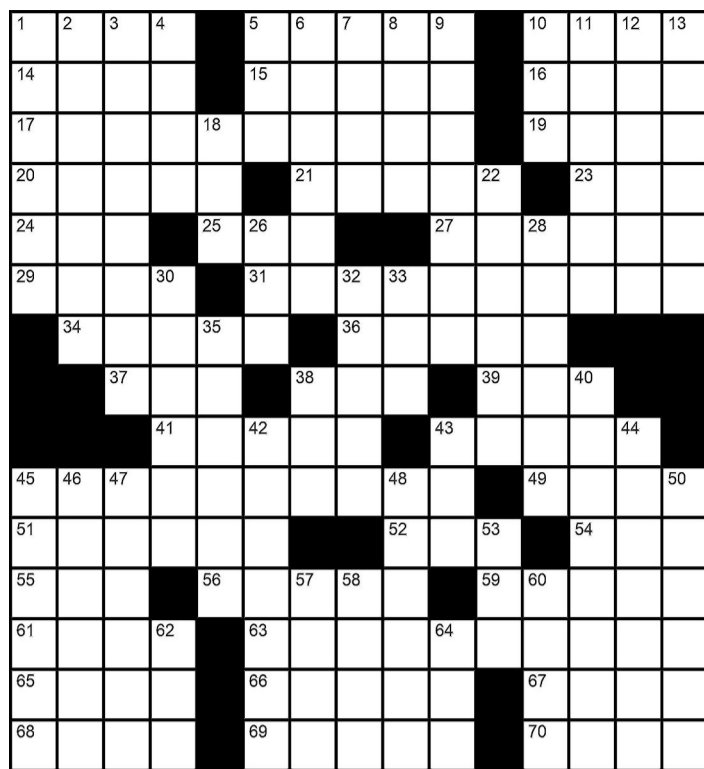
By Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS

- 1 Sword part
- 5 _ knots (natural Black hairstyle)
- 10 " _ girl!"
- 14 Opera solo
- 15 Wilson of the Beach Boys
- 16 Second-person possessive
- 17 Hard-to-please fairy tale character
- 19 Exploding star
- 20 Wedding attendee
- 21 Comes into contact with
- 23 "Awesome!"
- 24 Belief system
- 25 Relaxing resort
- 27 Remember
- 29 Observed
- 31 "No lie?": 3 wds.
- 34 Sassy talk
- 36 Co. divisions
- 37 Thurman of "Kill Bill"
- 38 Attempt
- 39 TV panel type
- 41 French goodbye
- 43 Has on
- 45 Monk's practice
- 49 Christmas tune
- 51 Scientific _
- 52 Spike of films
- 54 Edinburgh "no"
- 55 Pizza order
- 56 Big swell
- 59 Hearty soups
- 61 Setback
- 63 Gamer's passwords: 2 wds.
- 65 Unlovely fruit
- 66 Fork-tailed seabirds
- 67 Enemies
- 68 "Over here!"
- 69 Kafka creation
- 70 Render null

DOWN

- 1 Savory Scottish dish
- 2 Awakens
- 3 List with a Save
- 4 Young 'uns
- 5 OPEC unit
- 6 Pleasant smells
- 7 Pleasant
- 8 Give or _
- 9 Remove, as a backpack
- 10 Author Rand
- 11 Out of bounds: 2 wds.
- 12 Tiny South Pacific nation
- 13 Fit for farming
- 18 "I'll show you how _ done"
- 22 Inhabit
- 26 Water _ (oral



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.

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

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

- care brand)
- 28 X-ray alternative
- 30 Football's "Broadway Joe"
- 32 Dash to the end zone, for short
- 33 "Yo!"
- 35 Hams' devices
- 38 Golf prop
- 40 Gave a boring speech: 2 wds.
- 42 Formally admits
- 43 Lil'
- 44 Sushi wrapping
- 45 Intensifies: 2 wds.
- 46 Living things
- 47 Takes without permission
- 48 Washes
- 50 Not as much: 2 wds.
- 53 Key near Tab
- 57 Actress Perlman
- 58 Infectious bug
- 60 Vegan's protein source
- 62 "Shoo!"
- 64 Checkers at JFK

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AROUND

Continued from page A2

original photography that capture the lowrider spirit. The featured artists are William Camargo with Alkaid Ramirez, Justin Favella, Stephanie Mercado, Arturo Meza II, Aaron Moctezuma, José Manuel Flores Nava, Juliana Rico, Alicia Villegas-Rolon and Cora J. Quiroz.

A public reception is set for 6:30 to 9 p.m. April 6 and will be preceded that afternoon by a car show that will run from 2 p.m. until dusk in the center's parking lot, 538 Main St., Huntington Beach. Admission is free. Gallery hours are noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, noon to 8 p.m. Thursday, noon to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

OCC Horticulture will host annual Spring Plant Sale

The Horticulture Department at Orange Coast College will host its annual Spring Plant Sale on Fridays April 5 and 12, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. both days.

The public is invited to visit the horticulture program's garden nursery to purchase plants that have been produced by students. "It's full circle for the students," Horticulture In-

structor and Lab Coordinator Joe Stead said. "They get ownership of the plants and see the seed out to the customer."

Edible plants such as tomatoes, peppers, strawberries and cooking herbs, as well as other household greens and flowering selections will be available at the sale. All proceeds will go toward student scholarships and projects.

The college is located at 2701 Fairview Road, Costa Mesa. Park in Lot H or G.

Caltrans plans work on PCH

Unless rain or an emergency forces a rescheduling, Caltrans plans to be working on Pacific Coast Highway, between Warner Avenue and Seal Beach Boulevard from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily, April 1 through 5.

The project will include concrete barrier removal, replacement and removal of curb ramps, and underground electrical work. Lanes will be closed as the work proceeds.

Sur pegged as H.B.'s director of human resources

Marissa Sur was selected this week as the director of

See **Around**, page A6



ALAN JAY SHWALBE was found killed in unincorporated Costa Mesa in August 1993. DNA and other forensic evidence from the scene had been analyzed over the years, but have so far failed to identify any suspect or motive.

Photo courtesy of the Orange County Sheriff's Department

REWARD

Continued from page A1

Elementary and TeWinkle Middle schools in Costa Mesa and at Corona del Mar High School in Newport Beach from 1961 until 1974, when he was convicted on 11 charges of child molestation and resigned.

A deputy district attorney who prosecuted the case told the Los Angeles Times in 1993 Schwalbe reportedly hired two

male teenage students to clean apartments he owned, then watched pornographic movies and engaged in intercourse with them. He was sentenced to serve six months in jail.

Anyone who may have information about the murder is encouraged to contact Investigator Bob Taft with the Department's Cold Case Detail at (714) 647-7055 or cold-case@ocsheriff.gov.

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RACE

Continued from page A1

opment that aligns with our community values?" Jones said. "How do we promote development that aligns with the things that we hold dear — our natural environment, the arts community, our small businesses, and our quality of life?"

Mancuso has run for the City Council twice before in Laguna Beach, which she has called home since 1995. She most recently ran against Assemblywoman Diane Dixon (R-Newport Beach) in the state's redrawn 72nd district in 2022.

Although Dixon won at the ballot box, Mancuso considered it far from a to-

tal loss. She didn't want Dixon to run unopposed for the seat, and she said the value of running was "priceless."

"When people were like, 'Oh, I'm sorry you lost,' I was like, 'No, no. I did not lose. Yes, I'm not an Assembly member, and I lost in that aspect, but I feel like I'm a winner.'

"Coming off of that and now having that name recognition — 90,000 people voted for me. A whole bunch of them were in Laguna Beach."

After running for office at the state level, Mancuso still sees opportunity in entering a local race. As founder and president of the nonprofit Social Compassion in Legislation, she has seen several of the bills

they have sponsored lead to similar changes in policy in other states. The advocacy group concerns itself with animal and environmental issues.

"That's the opportunity that I see in Laguna Beach," said Mancuso, who has been the vice chair of the city's environmental sustainability committee since 2019. "... We can also be a model for all of these other cities."

Mancuso has a long list of issues she would like to tackle, including public health and safety, where she sees infrastructure as essential.

"There shouldn't be any more sewage spills, and if we can identify why these sewage spills are happening, we have to fix them so

that they stop happening," Mancuso said. "We have to shine a light on water quality and throw whatever we need to throw at it to make sure that the water is clean and safe, we're not adding to it."

She believes the city's infrastructure needs to be able to support not only the residents, but it needs to account for the waves of visitors that flock to Laguna Beach annually, too. That includes addressing public parking and restrooms.

Mancuso would also like to focus on accountability, fiscal responsibility and transparency in government, as well as the issue of affordable housing.

andrew.turner@latimes.com
Twitter: @AndrewTurnerTCN

FIRE

Continued from page A1

Caliba's bid was estimated to be 63% higher than an engineer's estimate of \$2.14 million, due to a rise in construction costs, the report indicated.

A third bidder, Costa Mesa-based Kazoni Construction, submitted a quote for \$7.103 million and later protested the less expensive bidders, claiming the two firms failed to meet certain requirements from the city, did not provide contractor names and presented "troubling" bid spreads. However, a city attorney advised the firm's protest was without merit, and it was rejected.

Authorizing City Manager Lori Ann Farrell Harrison to execute the agreement with Caliba will allow for the initial phases of the renovation project — the purchase and installation of a prefabricated tower on the training grounds and the demolition of an existing tower and grading work on the property.

Additional work proposed for Fire Station No. 4 include a structure with restrooms and showers, a water recirculation system that will allow for the recovery of water used during training exercises and the installation of a carport with solar panels, along with smaller miscellaneous projects not specified in



File Photo

A TRAINING TOWER at Costa Mesa's Fire Station No. 4, built in 1966, will be torn down and rebuilt with help from \$2.5 million in state funding secured by Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris (D-Irvine) in 2022.

the city's report.

The council's vote Tuesday will also authorize Farrell Harrison to enter into a \$347,241 professional services agreement with Los Angeles firm STV, Inc. for construction management and support services associated with the project and to potentially seek a bond or other avenues to close the \$1.5 million funding gap that remains.

Speaking in an interview in June 2002, Costa Mesa Fire Chief Dan Stefano said the renovations could potentially allow fire agencies to cross-train with members of law enforcement.

"The goal of this facility is, as we rebuild, to have a high-technology, upgraded facility that allows for training in the safest man-

ner possible, taking into consideration environmental concerns and providing an opportunity for our regional partners to join," Stefano said.

The training center upgrades are subject to the city's Community Workforce Agreement, which includes a 35% local hire provision prioritizing employees who live in, or graduated from, Costa Mesa as well as veterans, graduates of an authorized apprenticeship training program and Orange County residents at large. The City Council in March 2023 awarded a Professional Services Agreement (PSA) to the Pasadena-based Solis Group to administer compliance with that program.

Also Tuesday, the City Council is scheduled to:

Give a second reading to an ordinance establishing affordable housing requirements for new residential development projects and adopt a fee resolution creating an in-lieu fee schedule to accompany the regulations.

Introduce in a first reading a draft ordinance modifying portions of city retail cannabis laws adopted in 2021, continuing a discussion from a March 19 council meeting.

The City Council meets at 6 p.m. in Costa Mesa City Hall's Council Chambers, 77 Fair Drive.

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Religious Announcements



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CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on **Thursday, April 11, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.** or soon thereafter as the matter shall be heard, a public hearing will be conducted online via Zoom. The Zoning Administrator of the City of Newport Beach will consider the following application:

Hollins Residence - A request for a modification permit to allow an 832-square-foot, 46% addition to an existing 1,390-square-foot, single-unit residence with a 394-square-foot attached two-car garage that is considered legal nonconforming due to the existing interior garage dimensions. The modification permit is required because the applicant proposes an addition of more than 10% of the existing square footage of the residence without altering the garage for compliance.

The project is categorically exempt pursuant to Section 15303 under 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 in regard to this application. If you challenge this project in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you raised at the public hearing or in written correspondence delivered to the City, at, or prior to, the public hearing. Administrative procedures for appeals are provided in the Newport Beach Municipal Code Chapter 20.64. The application may be continued to a specific future meeting date, and if such an action occurs, additional public notice of the continuance will not be provided.

The agenda, staff report, and corresponding documents will be available by end of business day on the Friday preceding the public hearing and may be reviewed at the Community Development Department Permit Center (Bay C-1st Floor), at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660 or the City of Newport Beach website at www.newportbeachca.gov/zoningadministrator. **Please review the Zoning Administrator Agenda for Zoom participation instructions.** Individuals not able to attend the meeting may contact the Planning Division or access the City's website after the meeting to review the action on this application. All mail or written communications (including email) from the public, residents, or applicants regarding an agenda item must be submitted by 12:00 p.m. on the business day immediately before the meeting. This allows time for the Zoning Administrator to adequately consider the submitted correspondence.

For questions regarding this public hearing item please contact Jerry Arregui, Planning Technician, at jarregui@newportbeachca.gov, 949-644-3249 or at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660.

Project File No.:	Activity:
PA2024-0030	Modification Permit
Zone:	General Plan:
Single-Unit Residential (R-1)	Single Unit Residential Detached (RS-D)
Coastal Land Use Plan:	Filing Date:
Single Unit Residential Detached - (RSD-C - 10.0 - 19.9 DU/AC)	February 16, 2024
Location:	Applicant:
125 Via Jucaur	John Morgan

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

H	A	F	T	B	A	N	T	U	A	T	T	A
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7	5	1	2	6	4	8	3	9

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Legal Notices



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a tentative parcel map is scheduled for review by the Zoning Administrator of the City of Newport Beach on or after **Thursday, April 11, 2024**. The Zoning Administrator will consider the following application:

Huang Residential Condominiums - A tentative parcel map for two-unit residential condominium purposes. An existing duplex will be demolished, and a new duplex will be constructed. The tentative parcel map would allow each unit to be sold individually. No waivers of Newport Beach Municipal Code (NBMC) Title 19 (Subdivisions) are proposed.

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

All interested parties may submit written comments regarding the requested tentative parcel map to Jerry Arregui, Planning Technician at jarregui@newportbeachca.gov, 949-644-3249 or at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, California, 92660. Comments will be accepted until 12:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, April 10, 2024**. If you challenge this project in court, you may be limited to raising only the issues you or someone else raised in written correspondence delivered to the City, on, or before, the date of the decision. The project file may be reviewed at the Community Development Department Permit Center (Bay C-1st Floor), at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660.

For questions regarding this item please contact Jerry Arregui, Planning Technician, at jarregui@newportbeachca.gov, 949-644-3249 or at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660.

Project File No.: PA2024-0042	Activity: Tentative Parcel Map
Zone: Two-Unit Residential (R-2)	General Plan: Two Unit Residential (RT)
Location: 715 Poinsettia Avenue	Applicant: Matthew Watson



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on **Thursday, April 11, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.** or soon thereafter as the matter shall be heard, a public hearing will be conducted online via Zoom. The Zoning Administrator of the City of Newport Beach will consider the following application:

Shahbazi Residence - A coastal development permit (CDP) to allow the demolition of an existing single-unit dwelling and construction of a new 4,724 square-foot two-story single-unit dwelling and an attached 678-square-foot three-car garage. The project includes raising the height of the existing bulkhead. The project also includes landscaping, hardscaping, and site walls. The project complies with all applicable development standards and no deviations are requested. All improvements authorized by this CDP will be located on private property.

The project is categorically exempt under Section 15303 under 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 or before the public hearing. 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. Administrative procedures for appeals are provided in the Newport Beach Municipal Code Chapter 21.64. A fee is not required to appeal any final action on a coastal development permit to the Planning Commission. The project site is located within the appeal area of the coastal zone; therefore, final action by the City may be appealed to the California Coastal Commission.

The agenda, staff report, and corresponding documents will be available by end of business day on the Friday preceding the public hearing and may be reviewed at the Community Development Department Permit Center (Bay C-1st Floor), at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660 or the City of Newport Beach website at www.newportbeachca.gov/zoningadministrator. **Please review the Zoning Administrator Agenda for Zoom participation instructions.** Individuals not able to attend the meeting may contact the Planning Division or access the City's website after the meeting to review the action on this application. All mail or written communications (including email) from the public, residents, or applicants regarding an agenda item must be submitted by 12:00 p.m. on the business day immediately before the meeting. This allows time for the Zoning Administrator to adequately consider the submitted correspondence.

For questions regarding this public hearing item please contact Melinda Whelan, Assistant Planner at 949-644-3221, mwhelan@newportbeachca.gov or at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660.

Project File No.: PA2023-0195	Activity No.: Coastal Development Permit
Zone: R-1 (Single-Unit Residential)	General Plan: RS-D (Single Unit Residential Detached)
Coastal Land Use Plan: RSD-B (Single Unit Residential Detached) - (6.0 - 9.9 DU/AC)	Filing Date: October 25, 2023
Location: 51 Linda Isle	Applicant: David Bailey Architect

Legal Notices



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH PUBLIC NOTICE ORDINANCE SUMMARY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on March 26, 2024, the City Council of the City of Newport Beach, California, adopted an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-6

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING SECTION 10.08.030 (USE OF PUBLIC PROPERTY FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES) OF THE NEWPORT BEACH MUNICIPAL CODE

The Ordinance amends the Newport Beach Municipal Code to authorize impoundment of equipment, goods, materials, merchandise and property by authorized City employees, for a minimum of 30 days if said equipment was involved in the unauthorized use of public property for commercial purposes. City officials may also impound these items if it reasonably appears a person abandoned these items on public property.

This Ordinance was adopted by the City Council of the City of Newport Beach, California, at a regular meeting thereof on the 26th day of March, 2024, by the following vote:

AYES: Mayor Will O'Neill, Mayor Pro Tem Joe Stapleton, Councilmember Brad Avery, Councilmember Noah Blom, Councilmember Robyn Grant, Councilmember Lauren Kleiman, Councilmember Erik Weigand

NAYS: None

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

Dated this 27th day of March, 2024.

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



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on **Thursday, April 11, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.** or soon thereafter as the matter shall be heard, a public hearing will be conducted online via Zoom. The Zoning Administrator of the City of Newport Beach will consider the following application:

Residences at 1300 Bristol Street Affordable Housing Implementation Plan Amendment - Picerne Group requests an amendment of an Affordable Housing Implementation Plan (AHIP) that is a part of the approved Residences at 1300 Bristol Street Project. The existing AHIP requires the provision of 24 residential units (30%) of the 77 base units be set aside for affordable housing, of which 12 units (15%) would be set aside for low-income households and 12 units (15%) for very-low-income households. The proposed amendment would reduce the total number of residential units set aside for affordable housing from 24 units (30%) to 12 units (15%). All 12 affordable housing units would be set aside for very-low-income households.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that all significant environmental concerns for the proposed project have been addressed in a previously approved CEQA Addendum No. 5 (ER2022-001) that the City of Newport Beach intends to use said document for the above-noted project, and further that there are no additional reasonable alternatives or mitigation measures that should be considered in conjunction with said project. Copies of the previously prepared environmental document are available for public review and inspection at the Planning Division or the City of Newport Beach website at www.newportbeachca.gov/ceqa.

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

For questions regarding this public hearing item please contact Rosalinh Ung, Principal Planner, at 949-644-3208 and rung@newportbeachca.gov, at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660.

Project File No.: PA2024-0039	Activity: AHIP Amendment
Zone: Newport Place Planned Community (PC-11)	General Plan: MU-H2 (Mixed Use Horizontal 2)
Location: 1300 North Bristol Street	Applicant: Picerne Group

Legal Notices



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH PUBLIC NOTICE ORDINANCE SUMMARY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on March 26, 2024, the City Council of the City of Newport Beach, California, introduced an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-7

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH, CALIFORNIA, TERMINATING ONE NON-EXCLUSIVE FRANCHISE AGREEMENTS FOR COMMERCIAL SOLID WASTE

The Ordinance would terminate non-exclusive commercial solid waste franchise agreements with Haul-Away Rubbish Service Co.

This Ordinance was introduced by the City Council of the City of Newport Beach, California, at a regular meeting thereof on the 26th day of March, 2024, by the following vote:

AYES: Mayor Will O'Neill, Mayor Pro Tem Joe Stapleton, Councilmember Brad Avery, Councilmember Noah Blom, Councilmember Robyn Grant, Councilmember Lauren Kleiman, Councilmember Erik Weigand

NAYS: None

Second reading of Ordinance No. 2024-7 will occur at the April 9, 2024 City Council meeting. If adopted on April 9, 2024, the Ordinance shall become final and effective 30 days after adoption.

Dated this 27th day of March, 2024.

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



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on **Thursday, April 11, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.** or soon thereafter as the matter shall be heard, a public hearing will be conducted online via Zoom. The Zoning Administrator of the City of Newport Beach will consider the following application:

Boultinghouse Residential Condominiums - A tentative parcel map and coastal development permit for two-unit condominium purposes. A single-family residence has been demolished to allow for a new duplex to be constructed. No waivers of Title 19 (Subdivisions) are proposed. The tentative parcel map will allow each unit to be sold individually. A coastal development permit is required because this property is in the coastal zone.

The project is categorically exempt under Section 15315 under Class 15 (Minor Land Divisions) 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 or before the public hearing. 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. Administrative procedures for appeals are provided in the Newport Beach Municipal Code Chapters 19.12 and 21.64. A fee is not required to appeal any final action on a coastal development permit to the Planning Commission. The project site is located within the appeal area of the coastal zone; therefore, final action by the City may be appealed to the California Coastal Commission.

The agenda, staff report, and corresponding documents will be available by end of business day on the Friday preceding the public hearing and may be reviewed at the Community Development Department Permit Center (Bay C-1st Floor), at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660 or the City of Newport Beach website at www.newportbeachca.gov/zoningadministrator. **Please review the Zoning Administrator Agenda for Zoom participation instructions.** Individuals not able to attend the meeting may contact the Planning Division or access the City's website after the meeting to review the action on this application. All mail or written communications (including email) from the public, residents, or applicants regarding an agenda item must be submitted by 12:00 p.m. on the business day immediately before the meeting. This allows time for the Zoning Administrator to adequately consider the submitted correspondence.

For questions regarding this public hearing item please contact Jerry Arregui, Planning Technician, at jarregui@newportbeachca.gov, 949-644-3249 or at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660.

Project File No.: PA2023-0239	Activities: Tentative Parcel Map and Coastal Development Permit
Zone: Two-Unit Residential (R-2)	General Plan: Two Unit Residential (RT)
Coastal Land Use Plan: Two Unit Residential (RT-D 20.0 - 29.9 DU/AC)	Filing Date: December 20, 2023
Location: 1207 West Bay Avenue	Applicant: Amber Miedema

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Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICE



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at 4:00 p.m., or soon thereafter as the matter shall be heard, a public hearing will be conducted in the City Council Chambers at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach. The City Council of the City of Newport Beach will consider the following application:

Residences at 1400 Bristol Street Project - The Applicant is requesting approval for the demolition of two existing office buildings and the development of 229 apartment units atop a 422-space parking structure and a pedestrian bridge that extends from the proposed project over the Spruce Street right-of-way to the approved Residences at 1300 Bristol Street Project ("Project"). The following approvals are requested to implement the Project as proposed:

- General Plan Amendment (GPA)** - A request to change the existing General Plan land use designation of subject property from General Commercial Office (CO-G) to Mixed Use Horizontal 2 (MU-H2) and add 64 dwelling units to Anomaly 16 of the General Plan Table LU2 (Anomaly Locations) to accommodate the Project;
- Planned Community Development Plan Amendment** - An amendment to the Newport Place Planned Community (PC-11) Development Plan (PC Text) to include the project site within the Residential Overlay;
- Major Site Development Review** - A site development review in accordance with the Newport Place Planned Community and Section 20.52.80 (Site Development Reviews) of the Newport Beach Municipal Code (NBMC), for the construction of the Project;
- Affordable Housing Implementation Plan** - A plan specifying how the Project would meet the City's affordable housing requirements, in exchange for a request of 50% increase in density. The Applicant seeks six development standard waivers related to park land dedication, building setbacks, building height, private open space for each residential unit, common open space for the entire Project, and overall residential project density pursuant to Chapter 20.32 (Density Bonus) of the NBMC and Government Code Section 65915 (Density Bonus Law), and two development concessions related to the mix of affordable units and partial park in-lieu fee payment, pursuant to Chapter 20.32 (Density Bonus) of the NBMC and Government Code Section 65915;
- Development Agreement** - A Development Agreement between the Applicant and the City, pursuant to Section 15.45.020 (Development Agreement Required) of the NBMC, which would provide the Applicant with the vested right to develop the Project for a term of 10 years and to provide negotiated public benefits to the City;
- Traffic Study** - A traffic study pursuant to Chapter 15.40 (Traffic Phasing Ordinance) of the NBMC; and
- Addendum to the 2006 General Plan Update Program Environmental Impact Report (Addendum)** - Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Addendum addresses reasonably foreseeable environmental impacts resulting from the Project.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that pursuant to Public Utilities Code Section 21676(b), the City Council will also consider overriding the ALUC's January 18, 2024, determination that the Project is inconsistent with the 2008 John Wayne Airport Environs Land Use Plan. On February 14, 2024, the City provided the ALUC and the State Department of Transportation of Aeronautics Program a copy of the proposed decision and findings.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the City has prepared the Residences at 1400 Bristol Street Project EIR addendum to the previously certified General Plan Update Program Environmental Impact Report SCH# 2006011119. To address reasonably foreseeable environmental impacts resulting from the proposed development, the City has determined that an addendum to the previously certified Program EIR is warranted pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Once completed, the document will be made available at the Planning Division and may also be accessed online at www.newportbeachca.gov/ceqa.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that on December 7, 2023, by a vote of (6-0), the Planning Commission of the City of Newport Beach recommended that the City Council approve the Residences at 1400 Bristol Street Project.

All interested parties may appear and present testimony in regard to this application. If you challenge this project in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you raised at the public hearing or in written correspondence delivered to the City, at, or prior to, the public hearing. Administrative procedures for appeals are provided in the Newport Beach Municipal Code Chapter 20.64. The application may be continued to a specific future meeting date, and if such an action occurs additional public notice of the continuance will not be provided. Prior to the public hearing the agenda, staff report, and documents may be reviewed at the City Clerk's Office, 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, California, 92660 or at the City of Newport Beach website at www.newportbeachca.gov. Individuals not able to attend the meeting may contact the Planning Division or access the City's website after the meeting to review the action on this application.

For questions regarding details of the project please contact Liz Westmoreland, Senior Planner, at 949-644-3234 or lwestmoreland@newportbeachca.gov.

Project File No.: PA2022-0296	Activity No.: General Plan Amendment, Planned Community Development Plan Amendment, Major Site Development Review, Affordable Housing Implementation Plan, Traffic Study, Development Agreement, Environmental Impact Report Addendum
Zone: Newport Place Planned Community (PC-11)	General Plan: General Commercial Office (CO-G)
Location: 1400 and 1420 Bristol Street (North)	Applicant: The Picerne Group

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

Legal Notices



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at 4:00 p.m., or soon thereafter as the matter shall be heard, a public hearing will be conducted in the City Council Chambers at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach. The City Council of the City of Newport Beach will consider the following application:

Residences at 1401 Quail Street Project - The applicant is requesting approval for the demolition of an existing office building and associated surface parking and landscaping at the project site and construct 67 for-sale condominium units atop a 146-space parking structure (Project). The following approvals are requested to implement the Project as proposed:

- General Plan Amendment** - A request to change the existing General Plan Land Use Designation of the Property from CO-G (General Commercial Office) to MU-H2 (Mixed-Use Horizontal);
- Planned Community Development Plan Amendment** - An amendment to the Newport Place Planned Community (PC-11) to include the property within the Residential Overlay;
- Major Site Development Review** - A site development review in accordance with the Newport Place Planned Community (PC-11) and Section 20.52.80 (Site Development Reviews) of the Newport Beach Municipal Code (NBMC), for the construction of the project;
- Tentative Vesting Tract Map** - A Vesting Tentative Tract Map No. 19261 pursuant to Title 19 (Subdivisions) of the NBMC for condominium purposes of 67 dwelling units;
- Affordable Housing Implementation Plan** - A program specifying how the Project would meet the City's affordable housing requirements, in exchange for a request of 27.5% increase in density. The applicant seeks four development standard waivers related to park land dedication, building setbacks, and building height, pursuant to Chapter 20.32 (Density Bonus) of the NBMC and Government Code Section 65915 (Density Bonus Law). The applicant also seeks two development concessions related to the mix of affordable units and a waiver of a portion of the required park in-lieu fees, pursuant to Chapter 20.32 (Density Bonus) of the NBMC and Government Code Section 65915;
- Development Agreement** - A Development Agreement, between the applicant and the City, pursuant to Sections 15.45.020 A.2.a (Development Agreement Required) of the NBMC, which would provide the applicant with vested right to develop the project for a term of 10 years and provide negotiated public benefits to the City; and
- Addendum to the 2006 General Plan Update Program Environmental Impact Reports (Addendum No. 8)** - Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Addendum addresses reasonably foreseeable environmental impacts resulting from the project.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that pursuant to Public Utilities Code Section 21676(b), the City Council will also consider overriding the ALUC's January 18, 2024, determination that the Project is inconsistent with the 2008 John Wayne Airport Environs Land Use Plan. On February 14, 2024, the City provided the ALUC and the State Department of Transportation of Aeronautics Program a copy of the proposed decision and findings.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the City has prepared the Residences at 1401 Quail Street Project EIR Addendum No. 8 to the previously certified General Plan Update Program Environmental Impact Report SCH# 2006011119. To address reasonably foreseeable environmental impacts resulting from the proposed development, the City has determined that an addendum to the previously certified Program EIR is warranted pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Once completed, the document will be made available at the Planning Division and may also be accessed online at www.newportbeachca.gov/ceqa.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that on December 21, 2023, by a vote of (6-0), the Planning Commission of the City of Newport Beach recommended that the City Council approve the Residences at 1400 Bristol Street Project.

All interested parties may appear and present testimony in regard to this application. If you challenge this project in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you raised at the public hearing or in written correspondence delivered to the City, at, or prior to, the public hearing. Administrative procedures for appeals are provided in the Newport Beach Municipal Code Chapter 20.64. The application may be continued to a specific future meeting date, and if such an action occurs additional public notice of the continuance will not be provided. Prior to the public hearing the agenda, staff report, and documents may be reviewed at the City Clerk's Office, 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, California, 92660 or at the City of Newport Beach website at www.newportbeachca.gov. Individuals not able to attend the meeting may contact the Planning Division or access the City's website after the meeting to review the action on this application.

For questions regarding details of the project please contact David Lee, Senior Planner, at 949-644-3225 or dlee@newportbeachca.gov.

Project File No.: PA2023-0040	Activity No.: General Plan Amendment, Planned Community Development Plan Amendment, Major Site Development Review, Tentative Vesting Tract Map, Affordable Housing Implementation Plan, Development Agreement, Environmental Impact Report Addendum
Zone: Newport Place Planned Community (PC-11)	General Plan: General Commercial Office (CO-G)
Location: 1401 Quail Street	Applicant: Intracorp Homes

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

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THE CROWD | B.W. COOK

David Wetzel to take the helm of Serving People in Need

Most men reaching midlife after rising through the ranks of the business world and reaching success in both career and personal life seek refuge on a golf course, tennis court or, if fortunate enough, a white sand beach on an island in the middle of a warm blue ocean.



David Wetzel, retiring president of Farmer Boys Restaurants, is not among those men. Instead, the lifelong Orange County resident with a bachelor's degree from Redlands University and an MBA from Chapman University, reached a tipping point upon the college graduation of the youngest of four children he and his wife Kathleen raised.

"It was time for an intentional life change," Wetzel said. "Over many years of running restaurants I witnessed people facing the most serious challenges of homelessness, hunger and addiction coming into our restaurants seeking help.



DAVID WETZEL is the new executive director of Costa Mesa nonprofit Serving People in Need.

So many had not had a meal in days. I saw this every day. Sadly, walking on the sidewalk, I walked past the same people struggling daily."

With Kathleen's blessing, Wetzel said farewell to overseeing dining rooms and drive-throughs at Farmer Boys, and with the additional support of the team he left behind, enrolled in a yearlong course of study at UC Irvine on nonprofit management and leadership.

His goal was to help others by supporting a

community nonprofit serving the most vulnerable of O.C. people, like so many he had come to know over the years who were living on the streets outside of his restaurants.

"One man I came to know lived under the 91 Freeway overpass near our main office in Riverside," Wetzel recalled. "I saw him every day for over three years, rain or shine, under a sleeping bag in the same spot. To me this is unconscionable in our time, and with all we have and can accomplish to help those in need."

Then Wetzel discovered Serving People In Need (SPIN), the Costa Mesa-based agency placing unhoused, or those on the cusp of becoming unhoused, into permanent housing. In addition to SPIN's primary mission, case workers at SPIN follow up with clients on matters specific to individual challenges with employment, childcare, health and wellness, and more.

Wetzel is taking the helm of SPIN, following in the leadership role established over more than three decades by the late Jean We-

gener, its former executive director. Diving in, he will manage and expand a multimillion-dollar annual fundraising effort, and a staff of caregivers, case-workers and community volunteers who share the inspiration and motivation to make a difference for a population in ever-expanding need in O.C.

Previously, SPIN's new executive director served a volunteer church-based organization called Corazon, with the mission of building homes for the neediest in Mexico.

"We build a house in a day," Wetzel reported. "It's not large; very basic, four walls, two windows, a door, and a roof. Up at 4 a.m., we work hard all day to complete the project. By sunset we hand over a key to the new occupants and literally experience a life transformation. Talk about an emotional moment."

Wetzel comes to SPIN with that same kind of personal connection to service. He says leading SPIN will not be a job but rather a calling, an intentional career change in order to be a part of the solution in helping to address a glaring, urgent



Photos courtesy of Serving People in Need

THE WETZEL FAMILY gathers with their pet dog.

and growing need in our community.

"We must seek to understand the life challenges facing each person uniquely within the scope of an agency whose mission is to turn around lives and preserve families, he said. "There are many parts to solving the obstacles facing the unhoused. The equation often faces bureaucratic challenges, and a blanket approach clearly does not work. We need to understand individual circumstances and provide specific solutions

for people dealing with matters of life crisis."

Wetzel joins SPIN as its first major fundraising campaign launches April 24 with the "Help Them Home" outreach working in conjunction with the Orange County Community Foundation.

Wetzel can be reached at davidw@spinoc.org. To learn more about the work of SPIN, visit spinoc.org.

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

PIER

Continued from page A1

smaller, Duffy-sized vessels or several larger vessels. The public docks are free for public use for up to three hours and offer opportunities to visit popular restaurants, trails and recreational activities nearby.

The pier has been more than a decade in the making. City Harbor Commission chairman Steve Scully said a Harbor Commission study in 2013 identified a couple of critical locations for public access.

"With the construction of the Central Avenue Pier



Don Leach / Staff Photographer

THE BALBOA Marina Public Pier debuted Friday during a ribbon-cutting ceremony in Newport Harbor.

in 2016 and this location today, all of you have provided critical safety assets and access to Newport

Harbor," Scully said. "There's nothing like Newport Harbor in the western United States, if not the

country. We have such an incredible history of unmatched saltwater recreation for a remarkable city and a dynamic economy. Through these significant improvements like this brand-new public dock, our city continues to build opportunities for more access to our harbor, for everyone to enjoy this crown jewel that we call Newport Harbor."

The project is a public-private partnership, with part of the pier's water area located on tidelands owned by the county. Estimated at \$9 million, it was financed and constructed by the Irvine Co., as part of a deal with the California

Coastal Commission that allows for expansion of the adjacent private marina.

The County Board of Supervisors voted to grant control of the tidelands property to Newport Beach in 2022. The city will own, maintain and operate the new pier.

Supervisor Katrina Foley, whose Fifth District spans 31 miles of coastline south to San Clemente, attended Friday's ribbon cutting and gave comments, as did state Assemblywoman Diane Dixon.

"I think the Irvine Co. did an amazing job of building this out," Foley said. "I remember about a month ago I was on an

electric boat with my family, and we were sort of touring around here and went into the little public dock area. It's easy, accessible and really a fun way for the community to enjoy these public tidelands."

Foley said she asked for the inclusion of an accessible lift for the new pier.

"It's important to include our disabled community members who still want to enjoy the water and all of the beauty that being on the bay and in the ocean brings, in terms of mental health and wellness," she said.

matthew.szabo@latimes.com
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AROUND

Continued from page A3

human resources in Huntington Beach, after previously serving as a human resources manager in Newport Beach.

In her role, Sur will be responsible for directing, planning, organizing and managing the personnel functions and programs of Huntington Beach. She will oversee programs and services including employee relations, labor negotiations, recruitment and selection, classification and compensation, training, benefits and more.

Sur has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Cal State Long Beach.

New director of Costa Mesa Parks & Community Services named

Brian Gruner, a 24-year veteran of municipal gov-

ernment, has been appointed as Costa Mesa's new Director of Parks & Community Services, it was announced this week by City Manager Lori Ann Farrell Harrison.



Brian Gruner

Gruner, who started as part-time recreation leader has extensive experience in the management of Parks, Recreation and Community Services, including the oversight of multimillion-dollar budgets, capital improvement projects, strategic planning, community

outreach, partnership development and arts and cultural programs.

He most recently served as superintendent of parks and recreation for the city of Fairfield, Calif. He has also worked for Laguna Woods Village and the city of Mission Viejo.

"I'm excited to be relocating back to Orange County and being part of the city of Costa Mesa team," Gruner said. "Having grown up in Orange County, I have fond memories of Costa Mesa from competing in tennis tournaments at the Costa Mesa Tennis Center, enjoying the Orange County Fair and swap meets, shopping at South Coast Plaza, playing golf at the Costa Mesa Country Club and enjoying the natural beauty of Fairview Park."

Gruner holds a bachelor's degree from Cal State Fullerton in business management and a master's in business administration from the University of Phoenix.

First responders' Picklefest set for Newport Beach

Club founder Sean Bolletieri will host the second annual First Responders Picklefest Saturday, April 13, at the private Tennis + Pickleball Club at Newport Beach, 11 Clubhouse Drive.

All first responders are welcome and encouraged to create a team and play for the Ultimate Picklefest Championship.

For more information, call (949) 759-0711.

\$1,300 raised for pediatric cancer research at Tour de Saddleback

The Tour de Saddleback on March 23 drew 302 participants who rode through Orange County while raising more than \$1,300 for Irvine-based Pediatric Cancer Research Foundation, officials announced this



Ashley Mackin-Solomon

THE TENNIS + Pickleball Club of Newport Beach plans its second annual Picklefest for first responders on April 13.

week.

The tour took riders through Laguna Hills, Santiago Canyon, Rancho Santa Margarita and Irvine. The ride started and finished at Irvine Valley College.

"With this only being our second year of producing the Tour de Saddleback, I couldn't be more

thrilled with the outcome," said Mike Bone, president and chief executive of Spectrum Sports Management, which produces the annual event. "It was amazing to see so many people enjoying the beauty of our community while raising funds for a great organization."

— From staff reports

CONVICTED

Continued from page A2

and over again with his skateboard, and if he wasn't already dead yet he certainly was now," Harris said.

Then one of the men told the witness, "Go buy us a beer," she said.

The witness was so frightened he complied, according to the prosecutor.

Investigators recovered surveillance video from the 14100 block of Locust Street. But it was surveillance video from La Aguila Market that "broke the case open" because it was so much clearer, Harris said.

The witness who bought the beer was seen in the video so police questioned him and he initially denied knowing anything about it, Harris said.

"He was terrified about what he had seen," said the prosecutor.

The witness identified

Huerta, Holquin, the juvenile and Andrade.

"What he's consistent about is these four people in the surveillance video were the ones who murdered Duc," Harris said.

A Westminster officer recognized Huerta in the market's video, and probation officers identified the juvenile and Andrade. Another detective also identified Andrade.

Another witness, who was 14 at the time, also spoke with investigators and was uncooperative, but he was given limited immunity from prosecutors, Harris said.

Holquin's girlfriend was tracked down through cell-phone records, and she said he told her that he and his friends had killed the victim, Harris said.

Holquin's attorney, Roger Sheaks, argued the beating was spontaneous and that the attackers did not form any intent to kill the victim.

"Never in a million years

the kid you heard on the stand formed an intent to kill anybody," Sheaks argued. "And it's that intent that is driving this case or not."

The victim's attackers "didn't even know the guy was hurt that bad," Sheaks said. "How are they supposed to know? ... We had to have an expert come in and tell us how he died."

Sheaks said much of what Holquin testified to in the trial "was corroborated by other independent evidence."

The defense attorney accused Lopez of "shading all of his testimony to protect Andrade and himself."

"It seems like the idea was to beat him up" and not kill the victim, Sheaks said.

Sheaks argued for involuntary manslaughter and noted that his client was drinking heavily the night of the attack.

"This is immaturity that went too far," he argued.

"It's drunken, stupid, young adult nonsense."

Huerta's attorney, Joel Garson, said his client was on trial because police decided he was "guilty by association," and that Huerta was seen on surveillance video after the attack nearby with the other accused suspects.

Garson accused police of "ignoring contrary evidence" in their investigation when some suspects offered differing accounts.

Garson focused on the statements Carlos Orantes made to police.

Orantes initially said he wasn't there but later admitted he was at the crime scene.

Orantes initially identified Holquin as a suspect but later said he did not recognize Holquin, Garson said. In another interview, Orantes fingered Holquin, the juvenile and Andrade as suspected attackers, Garson said.

But Orantes did not say

Huerta participated in the beating, Garson said.

In court papers, Garson said Ricky Lopez came forward after the ex-wife of a "disgraced" Westminster officer tipped investigators that Lopez was at the crime scene. Lopez, who was 14 at the time, was questioned by police, Garson said.

Garson said Le was notorious in the neighborhood for masturbating in public, but even though a pathologist said she saw what appeared to be semen on the victim, it was never tested.

"This has been known since 2019," Garson said. "They could have tested it last week."

Garson also argued that police bullied Lopez, threatening to lock him up on \$1 million bond and then began shaping his statements to fit their theory.

"They tell him, 'Don't worry, we want you to be a witness,'" Garson said. "Why would police do that?"

Because they had their minds made up."

Le was killed for no apparent reason, the prosecutor said in closing arguments.

"We're talking about a 45-year-old man sleeping on a couch, and he was brutally murdered," she said.

Harris argued that Holquin punched the slumbering Le a few times and then circled back to his friends to "brag" about it, prompting them to ask why he didn't wait for them.

Harris noted that the attackers also dragged the victim across the street and back. "And the beating continued," she said.

The victim was born in Vietnam before emigrating to the United States, she added.

Prosecutors said Le had mental health issues and would drift in and out of homelessness.

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Los Angeles Times TimesOC



California State Parks seasonal lifeguard Sierra Fockler discovered a 14-inch Pacific football fish around 2:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 13, near the lifeguard station located at Crystal Cove State Park in Orange County. It's the second such case of the fish washing ashore over the last three years. (Courtesy of California State Parks)

Good morning. It's Wednesday, Oct. 25. I'm Carol Cormaci, bringing you this week's [TimesOC newsletter](#) with a look at the latest local news and events.

Watch where you're stepping on O.C.'s famed sands, because you may encounter a rare specimen of marine life. One, in fact, that has very sharp teeth.

That's what happened on a recent afternoon to lifeguard Sierra Fockler, who found a spooky-looking black angler fish, specifically a Pacific football fish, while she was walking near the lifeguard headquarters building on Moro Beach, located within Crystal Cove State Park.