

# Daily Pilot

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## H.B. City Council spar on list of liaisons

For the second year in a row, Councilman Dan Kalmick is not placed as a council liaison for any boards or committees.

BY MATT SZABO

To the majority go the spoils, at least in terms of the Huntington Beach City Council.

Mayor Gracey Van Der Mark presented a revised council liaisons list for boards and committees at Tuesday night's meeting. One name was again conspicuously absent from all of them.

For the second straight year, Councilman Dan Kalmick was not selected as council liaison for any of more than 30 city, citizen or community boards or committees.

Kalmick's council minority colleagues, Natalie Moser and Rhonda Bolton, are on two each — the Huntington Central Park Collaborative and the Huntington Beach Council on Aging. Meanwhile, Van Der Mark herself sits on a vast majority of the boards and commissions.

Van Der Mark and Mayor Pro Tem Pat Burns both said Friday they simply don't trust Kalmick, who was passed over as mayor last year in favor of Tony Strickland after the conservative majority set aside a 1991 resolution that would have given the gavel to Kalmick, as he was next in line.

"He's trying to get on the [Orange County Sanitation Board of Directors] because this is an election year," Van Der Mark said. "He's using those residents on Rhone Lane [who are battling OC San] as political capital, and that's disgusting. I am just so angry about that ... He did nothing three years ago, and now he's claiming he's going to do something now. I'm not going to allow Dan Kalmick to use the Rhone residents to prop himself up politically."

Burns is currently in his second year as Huntington Beach's representative on the OC San board.

Kalmick said he was an alter-

See **List**, page A3

## GIRLS' BASKETBALL



James Carbone

THE SAGE HILL girls' basketball team, seen in the Troy Classic Dec. 8, will begin CIF Southern Section Open Division playoffs at Mater Dei today.

## Sage Hill girls ready for another run with the best

**"I'm always hoping that they have the best high school memories possible. ... The way that the story should end is them winning it, and we're hoping that they do it."**

— Brian Barham  
Portola coach on this Sage Hill team

BY ANDREW TURNER

The Sage Hill girls' basketball team had done its part, or so it thought, producing a resume that had set it up for its final playoff appearance with its core group of seniors.

Nothing short of brilliant to close out the regular season, the Lightning rattled off a 14-game winning streak that remains intact heading into the CIF Southern Section Open Division playoffs.

Sage Hill had risen to No. 4 in recent section polls, moving in front of Mater Dei in three sets of rankings beginning with the Jan. 16 release, which would have given the Lightning two home playoff games in the eight-team, pool-play format.

When the rankings came out on Sunday afternoon, however, Sage Hill (24-2) appeared in the bracket with the No. 5 seed next to its name, scheduled to open on the road Saturday against Mater Dei (23-5), seeded fourth.

"We scheduled hard, played solid teams and thought that our body of work warranted us playing two home games," Sage Hill coach Kerwin Walters said. "We respect Mater Dei and are looking forward to a great matchup."

Sage Hill will now go on the road twice in pool play, scheduled to travel against the two teams it lost to this season. That includes a Valentine's Day date with top-seeded Chatsworth Sierra Canyon (27-1).

This postseason will mark the

final games in the prep careers of Emily Eadie, Kat Rigeheimer, Annabelle Spotts and Zoie Lamkin, a core four that stepped in and made an immediate and indelible impact after being brought up under the tutelage of the late Kobe Bryant. They led Sage Hill, along with veteran guard Isabel Gomez, to its first section title as freshmen and then a state title the next year.

Sophomore Amalia Holguin, a dynamic guard, was the last of Bryant's pupils to reach high school last year, when the Lightning first qualified for the Open Division.

They have done so while carrying the heavy hearts of having lost coaches, teammates and

See **Ready**, page A4

## ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



James Carbone

**MATER DEI BOUNCES LAGUNA BEACH GIRLS' WATER POLO IN OPEN DIVISION QUARTERFINALS** PAGE A4

## Lido House Hotel expansion project OK'd

BY LILLY NGUYEN

Construction for the Lido House hotel expansion project in Newport Beach will begin in about nine months now that the plans were approved Thursday by the Coastal Commission, according to owner Bob Olson.

The hotel opened in April 2018 in the footprint of what was Newport Beach City Hall. The expansion will now push into the old firehouse property on 32nd Street, adding roughly 15,000 square feet to the property.

"We're very happy that the Coastal Commission approved our expansion plan," said Olson. "We are adding five guest

cottages on the back. The cottages have been a great success for the hotels and the community. What they will be are two bedrooms, two and a half bathrooms, full kitchens, a rooftop barbecue — everything that you need to live at the beach in Newport Beach. What we did last time was have five different local interior designers design each cottage in their own interpretation of the lifestyle of Newport Beach, and we are looking forward to doing that with the next five."

Olson said construction would be conducted in phases to limit impacts to guests.

See **Hotel**, page A3



Drew A. Kelley

THE EXTERIOR of the Lido House hotel, which opened in April 2018. This week the Coastal Commission gave its approval to a plan the Newport Beach City Council approved in October 2022.

## South Coast Plaza gets mythical makeover to mark new year

A CENTERPIECE DRAGON display at South Coast Plaza's Jewel Court is one highlight of a Lunar New Year celebration that runs through Feb. 25.

Don Leach  
Staff Photographer



BY SARA CARDINE

Paying homage to cultural traditions while stepping confidently into a year anticipated to bring good fortune, nobility, strength and success, South Coast Plaza officials Thursday kicked off the Year of the Dragon in a celebration of epic proportions.

Lavishly decorated in hues of red and anchored by an intricately rendered centerpiece design of a dragon holding a pearl to symbolize wisdom and energy, the complex's Jewel Court was the epicenter of this year's festivities, which continue through Feb. 25.

Debra Gunn Downing, executive director of marketing, said the Costa Mesa complex aims each year to provide exclusive and culturally relevant Lunar New Year experiences for visitors, whether they actively participate in the 19-day celebration or just come to observe.

"From limited-edition products from our boutiques and specially created menus by world-class chefs at select restaurants to our spectacular centerpiece, South Coast Plaza is the must-visit destination for the Year of the Dragon," Gunn Downing said in a statement ahead of Thurs-

See **Makeover**, page A4

**COMMENTARY**

# Measures A, B and C will harm Surf City

As former members of the City Council, we had hoped that with experience and time, the current Huntington Beach City Council majority would govern without controversy and divisiveness in the community. We had hoped that by working with the community many issues of concern would be settled.

However at meeting after meeting they have continued to bring forward new controversial items, which bring more division and continue to cast our city in a negative light. When the newly elected City Council members took office they immediately broke with protocol and selected a new person to be mayor, then they eliminated the participation of the Greater Huntington Beach Interfaith Council involvement in the invocation, banned the Pride flag from being flown from city facilities, eliminated important citizen boards and committees, gutted the Human Dignity Statement and established a book banning committee. Citizens came down to City Hall in the hundreds to protest during public comments, but have been largely ignored.

When the new council members came into office in late 2022 they were given a gift of a well run city with many fine institutions. Huntington Beach has a great park system, a beautiful and famous library system, a senior center, miles of beautiful beaches, thousands of acres of wetlands saved and restored, history remembered at the Newland House, a sound financial position and a well educated, experienced staff.

Since then, the city has lost five department heads

and our city manager. This council has attacked our much-loved libraries by bringing book-banning to our city.

Now four members of the council have placed Charter Amendments A, B and C, on the March 5 ballot at a cost of over \$450,000. Placing these on the primary ballot is a wasteful expenditure of taxpayer funds. If they had waited for the general election the costs would have been much less, as at that time there would be

**When the new council members came into office in late 2022 they were given a gift of a well run city with many fine institutions ... a sound financial position and a well educated, experienced staff.**

more cities dividing the costs.

Ballot measures A, B and C are costly and wasteful. Measure A would require voter I.D. when voting. One provides I.D. when you register to vote, and the state does not allow requiring voter I.D. at the polls, so this measure is inconsistent with state law. The state attorney general warned the City Council that Measure A would result in legal action if it passes. Yes, yet another lawsuit at great cost to the city. The supporters of this measure cry voter fraud! There have been no cases of voter fraud prosecuted in Orange County. The county election process has been praised for how well it is run. If this passes the county may not allow our city to participate in the county-run elections,

thus costing Huntington Beach millions to set up its own system. City staff is unable to even estimate the total cost of this measure, yet the council placed it on the ballot anyway.

Measure B puts a flag policy into our charter. The council already updated a flag ordinance less than a year ago. Measure B would require a unanimous vote of the council before any commemorative flag (other than the Olympic flag) could be flown from city facilities. No other

policy requires a unanimous vote of the city. This is just a sneaky way of making it as hard as possible for future councils to fly the Pride flag at City Hall in June.

Measure C is more administrative than the other two but still should receive a no vote. It includes the right for the mayor to unilaterally cancel meetings, which should be the decision of the entire council.

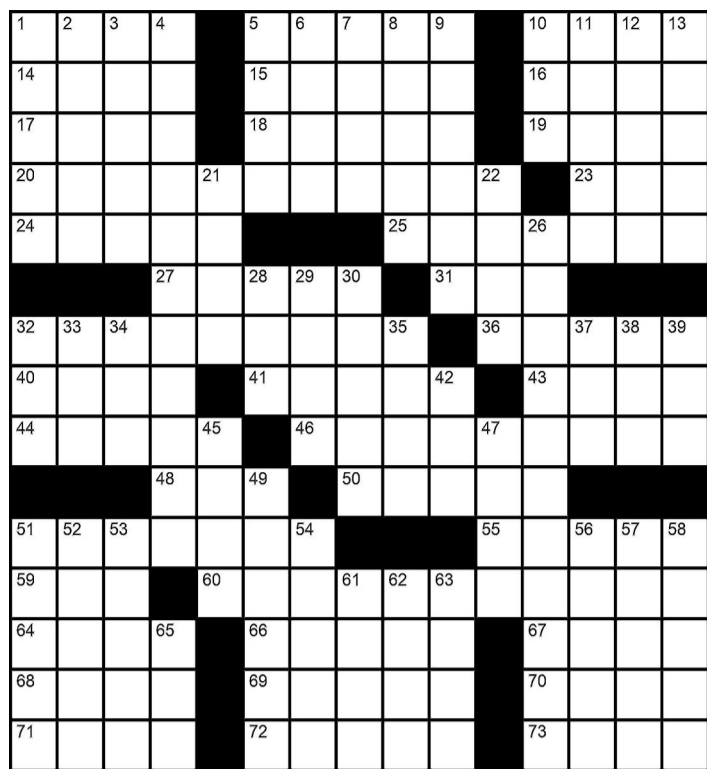
Huntington Beach voters, please join all of us in voting "no" on ballot measures A, B, and C.

Former Huntington Beach City Council members  
Connie Boardman, Kim Carr, Debbie Cook, Shirely Dettloff, Jill Hardy, Linda Moulton-Patterson, Joe Shaw, Victor Leipzig and Grace Winchell.

## THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

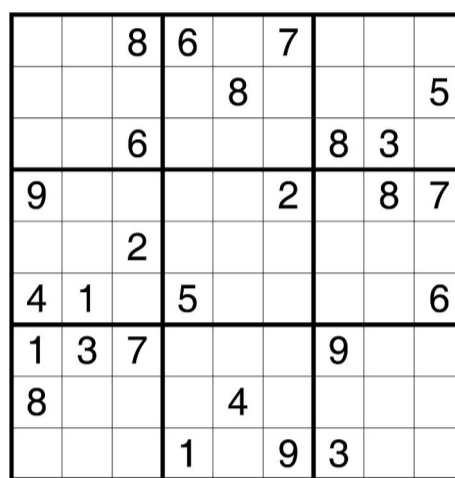
- ACROSS**  
 1 Country's McEntire  
 5 Go into  
 10 Kid's summer destination, often 14 \_\_\_ of Sandwich  
 15 Certain nibbling  
 16 All done  
 17 Citation abbreviation  
 18 Poker challenge  
 19 Use one's chompers  
 20 Magician's deceptive skill  
 23 Primus bandleader  
 24 Hunter's trap  
 25 Starting points in Frisbee golf  
 27 Croc's kin  
 31 Not nearby  
 32 Get-togethers for little kids  
 36 Currently  
 40 Pepper's partner  
 41 \_\_\_-name product  
 43 Kick out of the company  
 44 Harbor opening  
 46 Beekeepers, more formally  
 48 Plopped on the sofa  
 50 Water balloon's sound  
 51 Royal residences  
 55 Dude  
 59 Big-eyed bird  
 60 Blood vessels  
 64 Form of address  
 66 Cabbage  
 67 Poems of praise  
 68 "Bearded" flower  
 69 Remove pencil lead  
 70 Akin to  
 71 Penny  
 72 Pays to use  
 73 Right on a map
- DOWN**  
 1 Fishing gear  
 2 Consumed  
 3 Brazilian actress  
 Sonia  
 4 Medical



## SUDOKU

By the Mephram Group

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



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

procedure that looks for food sensitivities  
 5 "National Velvet" author Bagnold  
 6 Kind  
 7 Sports squad  
 8 Brilliant display  
 9 Respite from pain

10 Corn on the \_\_\_  
 11 City northwest of Madrid  
 12 Handed (out)  
 13 Overhead barbell exercise  
 21 Enjoy a novel  
 22 Tidy  
 26 Cream puff by another name

28 Page in a Web browser  
 29 \_\_\_ vez ("again" in Spanish)  
 30 Brings in, as the harvest  
 32 Pitchfork-shaped letter  
 33 PC linkup  
 34 Each and every  
 35 Small cut  
 37 Talk trash about  
 38 Skill  
 39 "Sure!"  
 42 Lentil-based dish  
 45 Old baby powder ingredient  
 47 Tennis's Nadal, to fans  
 49 Ad meant to pique interest  
 51 Stand-up performer  
 52 Clued in  
 53 Done in  
 54 Tire in the trunk  
 56 Chef Bastianich  
 57 Onion-like symbols of Wales  
 58 Good thing to have  
 61 "Terrible" tsar  
 62 All at sea  
 63 Caustic chemicals  
 65 Denver winter hrs.

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# Winter Sale Event

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**LIST**

Continued from page A1

nate on the OC San district board in 2021, soon after being elected to the City Council.

"They had walked us through and said, 'Hey, we have an issue [regarding the Rhone Lane easement]," Kalmick said Friday. "We all got information in September of last year saying, 'Hey, we're going to move on this shortly.' I said, 'I'm not on the board, but let us know what the final plan is and let us know before you do it.' They never did.

"Pat Burns is the city representative on that board, so I don't understand how that turned into that they don't trust me. We briefed staff and went out there with all of the crew. This isn't something I kept secret."

Kalmick said there was nothing to do three years ago because OC San had yet to move on the easement issue.

"We told them in 2021 to



File Photo

**HUNTINGTON BEACH** City Council members Dan Kalmick, from left, Natalie Moser, Gracey Van Der Mark, then-Mayor Tony Strickland and Casey McKeon listen to residents speak during a council meeting last August.

go away, if you don't need [the easement] let's come back later," he said. "We didn't hear anything about it again until I got briefed in September 2023. It's not because it's an election year I want to do something, it's because I'm representing the people of Huntington Beach. They're just making up excuses because of

what's currently in front of them ... They don't trust me because they're scared of me."

Then-Mayor Kim Carr was the Surf City representative on the OC San board in 2021.

"We just never heard anything back," Carr said. "As far as I was concerned, this was dead ... [the as-

sertion against Kalmick by Van der Mark] is a false narrative. It's mean, it's vindictive, it's not true."

The chasm between the four majority council members and three minority members remains deep. Burns, in his comments Tuesday night, referenced talking to Kalmick while walking into City Hall from the parking lot early last year.

Burns said when he told Kalmick he wished the council members could get along better on the dais, Kalmick responded that it was just politics.

"He goes, 'That's politics,' then he leans out the door and says, 'And I believe in it,'" Burns said. "I'm just standing there going, 'Are you kidding me?' Oh well.

"Dan's about self-service, and I'm all about community service. I'm not a politician, I'm not going to work for votes ... I like being professional on the dais whenever possible. We're not going to agree on a lot of things, but you don't have to be nasty or snippy about it."

five additional cottages for a total of 10 cottages after the full build-out," said assistant city manager Seimone Jurjis. "We look forward to Lido House hotel's continued success in the hotel market."

lilly.nguyen@latimes.com  
Twitter: @lilibirds

Kalmick said the conversation happened after the initial council vote to only allow government or U.S. military flags to be flown on city property. He said he used the term "cowardly," which he knew would upset Burns, a former long-time police officer.

"What they did was cowardly," Kalmick reiterated Friday. "They should have just come out and said, 'We don't want to fly the Pride

flag' ... but instead they went through a three-meeting process to create bad public policy and now a bad charter amendment.

"This is politics. That's what I meant. I'm not being mean to you, I'm saying your policy is stupid ... The policy was cowardly ... and the fact that Pat called me a liar during [Tuesday night's meeting] is a violation of

See **List**, page A4

**HOTEL**

Continued from page A1

"We think it's a great addition to Lido House, and [the hotel] has been what we feel is a tremendous success," he said. "We competed for tearing down the old City Hall back in 2013 and we won that, and I think the community would say that we delivered more than what our proposal set out. We've had great reception from our local community as well as our regional community and worldwide travelers.

"We're very proud to have delivered what we do and continue to want to make it better in every way that we can, and so this is a big step towards that."

In addition to the cottages, the project will include more storage space, expanded breakout meeting rooms, a greenhouse room with seating, expan-

sion of three hotel rooms and an enclosed area with a rooftop terrace. The City Council approved the plans in October 2022.

As part of their approval on Thursday, the Coastal Commission required an amendment be made to the city's local coastal program to increase the allow-

able development limit for properties at 3300 Newport Blvd. and 475 32nd St. from 103,470 square feet to 118,572 square feet in addition to other clerical edits.

"We are pleased that the California Coastal Commission has approved the Lido House hotel project expansion, which will add

**CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS**

R	E	B	A		E	N	T	E	R		C	A	M	P
E	A	R	L		N	I	E	C	E		O	V	E	R
E	T	A	L		I	C	A	L	L		B	I	T	E
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I	R	I	S		E	R	A	S	E		L	I	K	E
C	E	N	T		R	E	N	T	S		E	A	S	T

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



**Philip L. Schlegel, D.D.S.**

May 6, 1930 - January 30, 2024

Philip L. Schlegel, DDS passed away peacefully at home on Jan 30th, after a brief illness. He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Willa, of Corona del Mar; his son, Kurt, of San Francisco; his daughter, Heidi and husband, Sami Saab of San Francisco; his daughter, Kristen and husband, Barry Cobbs of Rogers, Arkansas; two grandsons, Emerson and Sam Cobbs; and one granddaughter, Zazie Schlegel; many nieces and nephews; and two beloved dogs, Eli and Suzie Q.

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