

Daily Pilot

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Don Leach | Staff Photographer

PARENTS AND STUDENTS demonstrate outside Laguna Beach High School on Friday, where they protested a proposed 4x4 learning model.

Protest at Laguna Beach High

BY ANDREW TURNER

The coronavirus pandemic required school districts and families to adapt their learning models so that education could carry on safely.

Over the last year-plus, the Laguna Beach Unified School District has seen a couple of transformations, and it is now looking into another.

District stakeholders were invited to partake in a pair of online community forums — one for Thurston Middle School and one for Laguna Beach High School — on Monday.

Following the hourlong sessions, concerned parents decided to organize a protest in opposition to one of the new schedule proposals, known as the 4x4 learning model.

Under such a plan, students would be allowed to sign up for up to four classes per semester. They would have a different set of classes in the fall and the spring.

Several dozen people showed up to demonstrate on Park Avenue in front of Laguna Beach High School and the district office on

Friday afternoon. As the Laguna Beach Unified School District mulls over new learning schedules for the upcoming school years, dozens of concerned parents demonstrate against the 4x4 learning model.

Friday afternoon.

With the pandemic pushing students into distance learning to end the previous school year, followed by a two-class trimester system this year, some parents pointed to learning loss as a reason why more continuity must be a point of emphasis.

“A lot of people are feeling like there’s learning loss, and we get it because it was COVID,” said Lisa Temesvary, 54, who has twin daughters heading into high school. “Now we need to catch up, and we need a regular year so that we can get back on track and everyone can make sure that they fill in the gaps that they didn’t get this last year.”

A group of demonstrators expressed similar concerns in October, when a protest was held on Main Beach for the district to reopen its secondary schools.

On Friday, about 60 people showed up, many of them with signs in hand. Some

drivers that passed by honked in support of the message. At various points, the demonstrators chanted, “We deplore 4x4!”

Lynea Rodriguez, 46, said she is worried that secondary students would be asked to complete a full year of coursework in a short amount of time.

“The trimester was a disaster, 100% a disaster,” Rodriguez said. “So anything is better. However, just adding one more month is not a solution.”

Laura Sextro, 46, said she has a daughter who took an AP class in the first trimester. Noting the lag time between the end of the class and the AP exam in May, she questioned how well that served the students.

In the event that the 4x4 model is chosen, she said it would be more of the same, adding that her family has considered leaving

See **Protest**, page A2

Boy, 6, fatally shot on 55 Freeway in Orange

The gunman fled after the shooting near West Chapman Avenue, police said. The child died after being rushed to the hospital.

BY RICHARD WINTON

A 6-year-old boy was fatally wounded Friday when a gunman opened fire on the 55 Freeway in Orange on Friday during a road rage incident, according to the California Highway Patrol.

The suspect fled immediately after the shooting near West Chapman Avenue as police officers and paramedics responded to the gunfire shortly after 8 a.m., authorities said.

The boy’s mother was traveling on the northbound freeway with her child in the booster seat when the shooting occurred, CHP officials said. Witnesses reported hearing a gun shot from a white sedan right before the child’s mother pulled her vehicle over to the shoulder.

“This was an isolated road rage incident,” said CHP Officer Florentino Olivera. He said the driver of the white sedan shot into the back of the mother’s Chevy Cruze sedan and then fled.

The suspect was last seen heading north on the 55 Freeway, which was shut down for hours. The northbound lanes were reopened about noon.

Paramedics rushed the injured child to nearby Children’s Hospital, authorities said. Authorities later

See **Shot**, page A4

Laguna police chief resigns after just 4 months

BY LILLY NGUYEN

Laguna Beach Police Chief Robert Thompson has resigned, just four months after taking the helm of the department.

City officials confirmed Friday evening that Thompson and the city of Laguna Beach agreed to terminate their employment relationship. Thompson will officially leave the city’s service on May 28 and continue to be compensated through the end of June.

Effective immediately, Capt. Jeff Calvert — a member of the Laguna Beach force who has been in law enforcement for 24 years — will be acting as the interim police chief.

“The public safety of our community is paramount and I have full faith that Captain Calvert will guide the Laguna Beach Police Department through this transition to ensure community and police force safety,” said City Manager John Pietig in a statement.

City officials said the statement released Friday would be the only statement released or made by all involved parties.

The reasons for Thompson’s resignation were unclear and requests for comment were not immediately answered. Thompson first stepped into his role as the city’s police chief on Jan. 18 this year to replace retiring former Police Chief Laura Farinella.

Thompson was selected from 47 candidates that applied for the job and only 10 went on to be interviewed by a panel of professionals and city executives, according to Pietig in February.

He was previously the police chief in Dixon, Calif.



Robert Thompson

O.C. records 37 new coronavirus infections



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

A WORKER directs appointment holders into a COVID-19 vaccination super POD site at the Orange County fairgrounds in Costa Mesa.

BY CITY NEWS SERVICE

Orange County, which moved this week into the least-restrictive tier of the state’s COVID-19 economic reopening blueprint, has reported a small uptick in coronavirus-related hospitalizations and logged four more fatalities.

The county also reported 37 new infections, increasing the cumulative caseload to 254,919.

Two of the newly reported deaths occurred this month and the other two last month, bringing the Orange County death toll from the pandemic to 5,038. Hospitalization numbers due to the virus increased from 70 Wednesday to 75 Thursday, with the number of intensive care unit patients ticking up from 15 to 22.

Orange County Supervisor Lisa Bartlett

said the increase in hospitalizations should not be considered a red flag.

“It’s not big enough of a spike to be concerned about,” she told City News Service. “I think we have to expect relative to COVID that you can’t expect to have declining numbers and metrics day after day.”

The fatalities logged Thursday increased the death toll for May to four and April’s tally to 38.

The death tolls in February and March remain at 581 and 180, respectively. The death toll for January, the deadliest by far during the pandemic, stands at 1,537. December was the second deadliest month, with 932 fatalities.

Orange County on Wednesday officially entered the least-restrictive yellow tier of

See **Virus**, page A5

FLAG FOOTBALL

Matt Leinart organization adding a girls’ league

BY MATT SZABO

Flag football for girls has always been somewhat of a novelty.

They enjoy playing it, until they get to high school and pursue their “real” sport. Flag football has been nonexistent for them in those high school years, save for the occasional powder puff game.

Matt Leinart Flag Football League is working to change that.

The organization has announced that it is sponsoring a 10-team high school girls’ flag football league in Orange County this fall. The school-based league would be the first of its kind in Southern California.

Leinart, who played quarterback at Mater Dei High and USC before a seven-year NFL career, noted that the NAIA instituted women’s flag football at the college level this spring. His youth league, founded in Newport Beach in 2010, has welcomed all-girls teams and coed teams the last several years and runs in conjunction with the NFL Flag Football program.

But the league has stopped after eighth grade, which has meant game over for the girls. League President Ryan Bertoni said



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

HUNTINGTON CHRISTIAN’S Riley Crooks runs for a touchdown after an interception during an eighth-grade girls’ flag football game against Calvary Chapel on Thursday.

See **Flag**, page A5

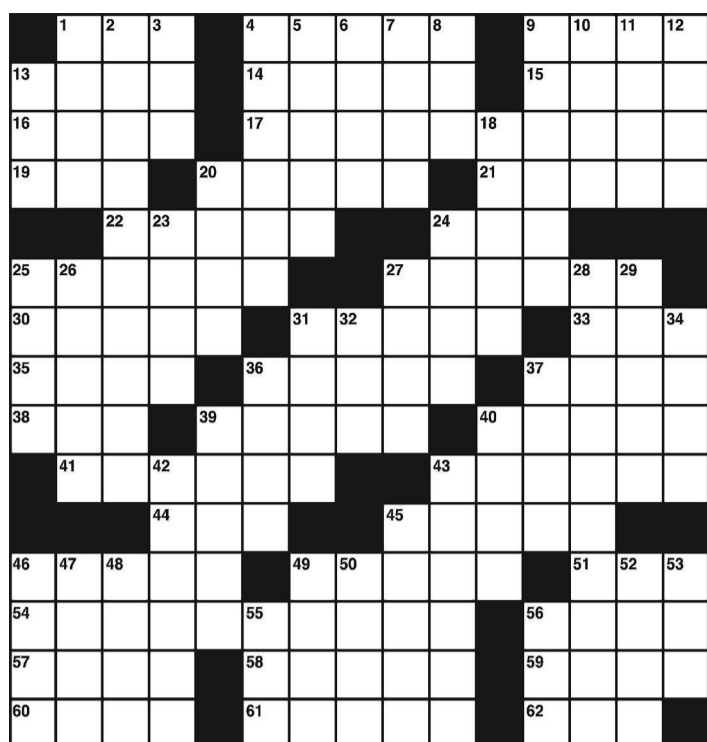
lillynguyen@latimes.com
Twitter: @lilibirds

THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

- ACROSS**
 1 Winter mo.
 4 _ de menthe; sweet liqueur
 9 Boast
 13 Skirt style
 14 Stockpile
 15 Warren or Holliman
 16 Snatch
 17 Help
 19 Post-wedding title: abbr.
 20 Makes a sweater
 21 TV's "All _ Family"
 22 Locality
 24 Opponent of Foreman & Frazier
 25 Peace agreement
 27 Gets some shut-eye
 30 Long-winded
 31 Clutches
 33 _ eye steak; tender cut of beef
 35 Out of town
 36 Gives the cold shoulder to
 37 Fly alone
 38 "Ready, _ go!"
 39 Black suit
 40 Engine
 41 Winger & Messing
 43 Golf _; links
 44 Animal with horns
 45 _ Reese
 46 Keyboard instrument
 49 Beg
 51 Word attached to night or knee
 54 Some Scandinavians
 56 Carve in stone
 57 Son of Adam
 58 "Little Orphan _"
 59 Film critic Rex
 60 Award for "Cheers"
 61 _ like; appears to be
 62 Commercials

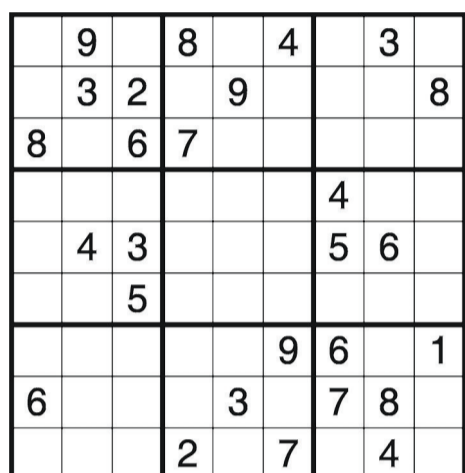
- DOWN**
 1 Actor Jamie
 2 Try the patience of
 3 High chair accessory
 4 Uncertain; iffy
 5 Ms. O'Donnell
 6 Compass direction
 7 Med. scans
 8 Wynn & McMahon
 9 Brimless cap
 10 Angry speech
 11 Foot part
 12 Delight
 13 "The Dirty Dozen" production co.
 18 Mah-jongg pieces



SUDOKU

By The Mepham 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.



For answers to the crossword and Sudoku puzzles, see page A5.

- 20 Perry of pop
 23 Singer _ Gaga
 24 Mont Blanc's range
 25 It was, to a poet
 26 Oared
 27 Bro & sis
 28 Lengthened; stretched out
 29 Cylindrical towers
 31 Wildebeests
 32 Massage
 34 Use a drill
 36 Close noisily
 37 Aretha's music
 39 Wading bird
 40 Microscopic fungus
 42 Strong & husky
 43 Finishes
 45 Sturdy fabric
 46 _ or twice; seldom
 47 Meander
 48 Dismal; unsmiling
 49 Forest tree
 50 "Penny _"; Beatles song
 52 King toppers
 53 Impressive degree, for short
 55 House fuel, for many
 56 Historical period

Tribune Media Services

AROUND TOWN



Raul Roa | Staff Photographer

HOAG MEMORIAL Hospital Presbyterian's emergency entrance in Newport Beach. The facility has named Reza Joolhar its nurse of the year.

Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian names Reza Joolhar nurse of the year

Reza Joolhar, a float pool nurse that spent the last year as a charge nurse for one of Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian's COVID-19 units, was named the hospital's nurse of the year on Monday.

With a more than a 20-year history with the hospital, officials said that Joolhar has served as a mentor and role model to many of his colleagues.

"We are proud to recognize Reza Joolhar as our nurse of the year," said Rick Martin, vice president of patient care services and chief nursing officer, in a statement.

"Not only did he provide exceptional care for the patients, but he was a tremendous leader for our nurses during an extremely challenging time. His dedication is a true representation of our entire team of [registered nurses] at Hoag who are committed to providing outstanding care to our community."

necessary.

National Donut Day was first celebrated in 1938 in Chicago and is traditionally marked on the first Friday of June.

Macy's treats foster youth to private shopping experience

In recognition of Foster Care Awareness Month, Macy's South Coast Plaza will host 15 foster youth Saturday morning for an in-store private shopping experience.

Orangewood Foundation, based in Santa Ana, is partnering with Macy's for the event.

Earlier this week, Macy's South Coast Plaza and Mission Viejo stores held a virtual event to help guide the foster youth on how to select "wear-to-work" styles and to learn about how to prepare for a job interview.

After the participants select new clothing items Saturday, the store will provide each of them with a Macy's gift card.

proposed budget is currently up online for the public at newportbeachca.gov/budget.

The meeting Tuesday will also include a review of resources and service levels to maintain city beaches. As part of proposed consent calendar action, the council is also expected to schedule a public hearing on the budget for June 8.

The current fiscal year, 2020-21, will end on June 30.

'Comedy by the Stage Door' Saturday night

David Rusiecki hosts an outdoor stand-up comedy showcase Saturday night featuring Richard Weiss, Donna Maine and Denise Shue at the Stage Door Repertory Theatre, 1045 N. Armando St., Suite B, Anaheim, 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$15; advance purchase required. stage-doorrep.org.

Randy's Donuts to mark National Donut Day June 4

To mark National Donut Day, Randy's Donuts will offer customers free glazed buttermilk bites from 6 a.m. to noon on June 4, while supplies last.

All locations of the chain will participate, including the one recently opened in Costa Mesa. No purchase is

Newport City Council to begin budget hearings

The Newport Beach City Council will be reviewing the proposed budget for the next fiscal year on Tuesday at 4 p.m. The

Jazz Trio plans streaming event

This jazz trio led by pianist Ron Kobayashi is joined by vocalist Andrea Miller in a concert filmed at the Irvine Barclay Theatre. Streaming now through May 31.

Virtual access tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at thebarclay.org.

— From staff reports

PROTEST

Continued from page A1

the district.

Freshman Elliott Leeds, 14, said a healthy percentage of the students at the high school participate in athletics. He said he believes the 4x4 learning model would do those students a disservice.

"It's just so tough because it's focusing only on the people that don't do any ... sports or anything," Leeds said. "Yes, they do get a little easier with that, but the people who are athletes, they lose an elective, and that's just terrible

"We've already been at a huge disadvantage this year with the trimester, and we want our kids to get the education that we paid for with our tax dollars and that we feel they deserve ..."

for us."

When the Newport-Mesa Unified School District looked into implementing the 4x4 model last summer, the board approved it by a 5-2 vote. It then went back on its decision, with only Estancia choosing to move

Shelley Spessard
 LUBSD district spokeswoman

forward with 4x4 learning.

Laguna Beach school district spokeswoman Shelley Spessard said the district's secondary schools are exploring schedules, including block scheduling and the 4x4 model. She said the schools are connecting with stakeholders via virtual community forums, a thought exchange with students, staff and parents, and discussion with other districts.

Spessard added a decision on a new learning model for the secondary schools has not been made, it will be a site-led decision, and both schools plan to follow the same structure.

"As an educational institution, we are working to do what's best for our students and ensuring, especially coming off the pandemic, that we have a place

See Protest, page A4

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AAA Travel Alerts: Many travel destinations have implemented COVID-19 related restrictions. Before making travel plans, check to see if hotels, attractions, cruise lines, tour operators, restaurants and local authorities have issued health and safety-related restrictions or entry requirements. The local tourism board is a good resource for updated information. **Unless otherwise indicated:** Rates quoted are accurate at time of publication and are per person, based on double occupancy. Airfare, taxes, fees, surcharges, gratuities, transfers & excursions are additional. Advertised rates do not include any applicable daily resort or facility fees payable directly to the hotel at check-out; such fee amounts will be advised at the time of booking. Rates, terms, conditions, availability, itinerary, taxes, fees, surcharges, deposit, payment, cancellation terms/conditions & policies subject to change without notice at any time. Cruise rates capacity-controlled. Advance reservations through AAA Travel required to obtain Member Benefits & savings which may vary based on departure date. Rates may be subject to increase after full payment for increases in government-imposed taxes or fees & supplier-imposed fees. Blackout dates & other restrictions may apply. Not responsible for errors or omissions. Your local AAA club acts as an agent for Pleasant Holidays®. CST 1016/02-80. To learn how we collect and use your information, visit the privacy link at AAA.com.

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Sarah "Helen" Romero
 August 10, 1929 - May 18, 2021

Sarah "Helen" Lawson Romero was born in Appleton City, Missouri. Raised on a farm with 7 siblings, Helen was the oldest girl and helped to raise the "littles ones." It was here that she learned how to cook and feed a large family. At the age of 19 she left Missouri and eventually landed in southern California where she soon met Harold Romero. They married in 1955 and settled in Costa Mesa where they lived for 66 years and raised their family. Helen was employed in food services with the Newport Mesa Unified School District for 30 years. Her talent with cooking fed many parishioners at St. Joachim's parish and the neighboring community. She passed those talents on to her children who then developed their own love of cooking and feeding others. She is remembered for her generous spirit, warm heart and hospitality. Survived by husband Ruben "Harold" Romero, children Charles, Debbi Romero-Holman (Mary Kay), Robert (Linda), Julia Brooks (Tom) and grandsons Lawson and Aaron. Services will be held at St. Joachim's Catholic Church in Cost Mesa on Tuesday, May 25 at 10:45, followed by burial at Pacific View cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations made by email in Helen's name to The Giving Farm or Share Our Selves.

FOR THE RECORD

In the story "Banning Ranch oil field a future park?" that ran in the May 21 edition Orange County Supervisor Katrina Foley was misidentified as "Kristina" Foley.

forum

COMMENTARY | GEOFF WEST

Costa Mesa faces a watershed moment with One Metro West

In 2016, in response to what many perceived as out-of-control development in the city, supported and encouraged by the then-City Council, a few well-intentioned residents of Costa Mesa chose to place a stranglehold on development in the city by creating and placing Measure Y on the 2016 General Election ballot, which passed by an overwhelming 68%. That citizen-generated initiative requires that any proposed development that includes certain items, such as a General Plan amendment or an increase in density of specific percentages, triggers a requirement that it be placed before the voters for a confirmation before it can commence. With more than four years behind us it appears to have been successful. City officials have said publicly that many developers have been discouraged by the Measure Y constrictions and have simply chosen to take their development dollars elsewhere. Moreover, there are those who feel the constrictions of that measure will lead to widespread blight in Costa Mesa.

One potential survivor is One Metro West — a planned mixed-use development tucked into an industrial area in the northwest corner of the city. This project, which has been percolating for a few years, includes 1,057 much-needed dwelling units — some of them meeting the “affordability” standard — plus some retail and office uses. It also includes a big chunk of parkland that would be open to the public. If approved as-is it will certainly trigger Measure Y. It seems to be a very desirable project, one that’s in the right place at the right time, but has been met by strident opposition by some of the folks credited with the success of Measure Y.

Enter the state of California and the onerous Regional Housing Needs Assessment numbers. The state requires every municipality to plan for a specific number of new dwelling units within a prescribed eight-year period. During the most recent period Costa Mesa’s number was two units. The current arbitrary num-



A RENDERING of One Metro West from April 2020.

Courtesy of Brent Stoll

ber imposed by the Southern California Assn. of Governments is 11,760! This is a completely unreasonable number for a city that in its current General Plan update is described as 99% built-out. Accomplishing the planning for those units will certainly require extensive rezoning and probably the demolition of existing structures to accommodate those dwelling units.

Keep in mind, the state does *not* require the actual building of those dwelling units — it requires the city to plan for them and to show good faith efforts to accomplish those goals. However, if the city fails to show that required good faith the state may, under the force of law, impose stringent fines, withhold grants and actually forbid the city to manage its own development — the state would take over that process. Measure Y, in its current form, is a barrier blocking the city from complying with the RHNA demands, but there may be relief on the horizon.

Currently AB1322 is floating around the legislature in Sacramento and may soon be sent to the Senate, then on to Gov. Newsom. This bill, as I understand it, can provide relief from citizen-generated initiatives that preclude municipalities from complying with the statutes governing the creation of the housing elements required by cities and counties. Again, as I understand it, this bill could permit cities to modify local ordinances like Measure Y to allow the municipality to comply with state laws, including ignoring those initiatives completely. A quotation

from the text of the bill gives us a clue: “It is the intent of the Legislature that this act only be applicable to local measures related to land use that constitute a substantial obstacle to the local governing body’s adoption or implementation of a timely, substantially compliant housing element.”

California cities are under the gun from the state to create Housing Elements that comply with state rules, and the clock is ticking — they’re due in October. The clock also ticks on the One Metro West project, which will soon appear before the Costa Mesa City Council for consideration. If members approve it, Measure Y requires it to be placed on the ballot. Either the developer would have to pay for a special election or wait until the 2022 general election. If AB1322 is passed this summer, it would almost certainly have to be done on an emergency basis in order for municipalities to utilize it to comply with the housing element requirements this year. If it were to be made effective Jan. 1, 2022, for example, it would be of absolutely no use for this cycle.

If the city tries to generate a ballot measure for 2022 to modify or eliminate Measure Y, it would be too late to provide relief for this RHNA cycle.

Costa Mesa is at a crossroads. Measure Y, for all its good intentions, is proving to be a barrier for any kind of growth. Without remediation the city will likely lose much of its tax base and wither. It’s time for action.

GEOFF WEST lives in Costa Mesa.

MAILBAG

O.C. Board of Ed gives the public a venue to share misinformation

Re: Citing parental rights, O.C. Board of Education weighs in against nonexistent vaccine mandates, TimesOC, May 9. After devoting much of the article to random citizens doing and saying inane things, you finally make the following three statements: The county is dealing with how to educate the public to combat vaccine hesitancy, California’s recent success against the virus has been the public’s willingness to get vaccinated, and some may still be hesitant for a number of reasons, some of which may be fueled by misinformation.

All three perfectly summarize the situation. But why isn’t TimeSOC educating the public instead of quoting Joe Public saying ignorant things?

If vaccinations are helping combat the virus, why are you burying the lead?

If misinformation is a problem, why include a bunch of misinformation in the article? While you finally get around to squeezing in some quotes from the one board member with half a brain (Ms. Gomez) and an actual medical professor, it’s too little too late. Do a better job! Society needs you to.

Dave Courdy
Huntington Beach

Let me get this straight, the Orange County Board of Education (which has no authority at all, according to your article), is still given a public forum to spew lies and misinformation about COVID-19 vaccines *and* to pass a ridiculous resolution about digital vaccine passports.

I guess the words “Orange County” and “education” are truly oxymoronic (assuming the O.C. Board of Education even knows what that means)!

Carl J. Doerksen
Mission Viejo

Thanking Foley

I want to thank Orange County Supervisor Katrina Foley for voting against “the pause” regarding the voluntary program to develop a digital record of COVID-19 vaccination. I was so sorry to hear about the hundreds of ill-informed protesters, including those who are comparing the development of this convenient service to the horrors of the Nazi extermination of Jews. Such a digital record is extremely valued by the hard-hit hospitality and entertainment industries locally and worldwide. This technology will make it much easier to open our city, state and country to travel and attend events with ease and safety. (Note that even though I have been fully vaccinated since March and display no symptoms, I will still be required to test for the coronavirus upon returning to California after a future trip to Mexico.)

I appreciate that we have at least one clear-thinking supervisor who is not afraid to stand up for our rights to safely open our businesses by voluntarily sharing that we have been vaccinated — not only to protect ourselves from COVID-19 but to prevent its spread.

Lorraine Crawford
Huntington Beach

Reaching immunity

Absent a full court press by homegrown businesses and the local Republican Party, I am afraid Orange County will not reach herd immunity by the Fourth of July (Vaccine resistance may hobble Orange County’s July 4 herd immunity goal, Daily Pilot, May 16).

What would this “all hands on deck” campaign look like? Con-

See *Mailbag*, page A4

Spring Sale Event

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Tommy Bahama
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THE CROWD | B.W. COOK

Local celebrity chef returns to Bravo's 'Top Chef'

O.C. foodies take note: Local celeb chef **Amar Santana**, chef-owner and business partner of **Ahmed Labbate** of both Vaca and the Hall Global Eatery at South Coast Plaza and Broadway in Laguna, returns to the new television season of "Top Chef" on Bravo.

Santana, widely acclaimed and known for bold, robust flavors, will serve on the show as a judge joining past "All Star" alumni chefs.

Ralph Opacic, founder and executive director of Orange County School of the Arts announced his retirement as of July 1. More than three decades of dedication to arts education in Southern California began when Opacic was a young man following his dream of pursuing a music career.

He soon discovered that his real passion was inspiring young people from the next generation to pursue an arts education in order to grow and develop their talent.

With a bachelor's degree in music, Opacic first landed a job as choir director at Los Alamitos High School, transforming the program from some 30 students to more than 300. In 1987, securing a state grant, he embarked on the journey that would lead him to create an arts school containing a secular educational curriculum with a "world class" arts curriculum.

First opening in Los Alamitos, OCSA would eventually settle in Santa Ana in 2000, where it re-



Courtesy of Lee Healy

CHEF AMAR SANTANA of Vaca and the Hall Global Eatery, South Coast Plaza, with "Top Chef" host and executive producer Padma Lakshmi. Santana will return to the show this season.

mains. In 2017 OCSA was named one of California's Gold Ribbon Schools. It is also recognized as an Arts School National 2017-2022 Exemplary School.

Opacic will be followed by **Teren Shaffer** as executive director. Shaffer currently holds the position of executive vice president for the Foundation Board.

The USC-UCLA athletic rivalry is alive and well all over SoCal, and it will be in full focus June 11 at Pelican Hill Golf Club. The fourth annual Rivals Cup, benefiting Kure It Cancer Research Foundation is being labeled USC vs. The World. So, it's not just

UCLA this summer on the greens, all university rivals challenging USC are invited.

Tournament proceeds will still benefit USC Norris and UCLA Jonsson Cancer Centers, two of the most vital and respected medical centers treating cancer patients and doing research on the West Coast.

Newport's much-admired jewelers **Idit** and **Moti Ferder** of Lugano Diamonds will once again step up with sponsorship. They join underwriters Rolex Watch and Aston Martin of Newport Beach. The Friday golf event and dinner is being chaired by dedicated volunteers **Burton Young** and Kure It Board Chair **Todd Perry**.

Local Child advocate **Christina Ruiz** will be honored with the Children's Friend Award at the upcoming 35th annual Childhelp Fashion Show and Luncheon set for June 14 at Balboa Bay Resort, Newport Beach.

Ruiz is a respected advocate for victims of abuse, homelessness and sex trafficking. "As a female business owner Christina Ruiz provides training and education development services for foster families, law enforcement and children's programs, including Childhelp staff," said **Christine Johnson**, who handles publicity for Childhelp Orange County.

Major donors **Michael** and **Jacquie Casey** will be honored with Childhelp's Inspirational Award. Michael Casey made his fortune by getting in on the



ALEXA AND Debra Violette, Childhelp Members attending a past Childhelp Luncheon and Fashion Show held at The Balboa Bay Resort. This year's live event will take place June 14 at Balboa Bay Resort.

Courtesy of Christine Johnson



MIKE MCOWEN, 2020 Rivals Cup Closest to the Pin winner Mike Joseph, Joseph Cokington at Pelican Hill Golf Club, Newport Coast.

Courtesy of Tony Lattimore

ground floor of the American coffee craze and wife Jacquie is intent on sharing a nice portion of their good fortune with children in need. She has been a devoted Childhelp volunteer and advocate for years.

The live fashion show luncheon will again be produced by South Coast Plaza. It has been a landmark fashion presentation on the California Riviera for at least two decades. SCP executives will team up with couture boutiques including Lafayette 148 New York, Diptyque Paris and many more presenting a spectacular afternoon on the runway.

For tickets and information go to childhelp.org. If you want to watch some

great local tennis in Newport over Memorial Weekend, don't miss the Roy Emerson Adoption Guild Classic.

The 60-year tradition unfolds at Palisades Tennis Club, sponsored by the Orange County Breakers.

Four days of tennis, parties post event and a deluxe silent auction benefiting the Adoption Guild in support of Holy Family Adoption and Foster Care in the O.C. is a much loved local early summer tradition.

Tickets and event information at adoptionguild.org.

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



JOY WHITLOCK-ESTRADA and Pam Pharris, Childhelp Members, enjoy a previous Childhelp Luncheon and Fashion Show. This year event will take place June 14th at The Balboa Bay Resort.

Courtesy of Christine Johnson



Courtesy of Tony Lattimore

FIRST-PLACE WINNERS of the 2020 Rivals Cup Scottie Upshall (former professional hockey player), Anaheim Ducks star Ryan Getzlaf, PJ McKaig and Hossein Karimi with Rivals Cup Chair Burton Young, president Sperry Equities, course sponsor at Pelican Hill Golf Club.

VIRUS

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the reopening blueprint, which allows for greater attendance for many businesses such as movie theaters and gyms, while museums, zoos and aquariums can open at full capacity.

For the first time bars and distilleries can open indoors. Theme parks such as Disneyland can expand capacity.

"I think it is definitely a welcome reprieve from COVID, and many of our businesses will be thrilled to have more capacity," Supervisor Katrina Foley told CNS on Tuesday. "And, in general, our community worked so hard to get to this point, wearing the masks, social distancing, getting vaccinated. And it's working."

"The vaccines have dramatically reduced the spread of COVID in our community, and we are so close to herd immunity. We just need to keep encouraging people to get vaccinated," she added.

Orange County chief executive Frank Kim said the move to the yellow tier is "a continuation of the trends that we've seen over the past two weeks."

After the county moved up to the orange tier in mid-March, officials saw the average number of

daily new infections had "plateaued" to about three per 100,000 residents, Kim said.

"We moved past the plateau," Kim said. "It's a testament to how effective vaccines are."

Kim said officials kept a close eye on the numbers after moving into the orange tier and wondered, "Will there be a bump in case rates? And we haven't seen that."

The county established a mobile vaccine site in Santa Ana last weekend for clients of CalOptima, the county's insurance provider for lower-income residents, and about 800 inoculations were administered, Kim said.

"We're going to be there for the next three or four weeks in a row," he added.

Officials have seen a decline in vaccine demand at public and private sites. Foley suspects it is an issue of access for many.

"It's hard to go during the day when you're working, so I do have to keep reminding people no appointments are necessary at the Orange County fairgrounds and it's so easy to just drive up, walk up," Foley said. "You can get it all done in 30 minutes."

Foley said it is also important to emphasize that the vaccines have been vetted by scientists.

"If we can just make sure

everybody understands that the vaccines are safe and effective and went through the appropriate trials," Foley said. "And the scientists are confirming it's highly effective at stopping the spread of COVID."

According to the weekly state data released every Tuesday, the average for the county's daily case rate per 100,000 people dropped from 1.8 last week to 1.5. The overall test positivity rate improved from 1% to 0.9%, and the county's Health Equity Quartile rate, which measures positivity in hot spots in disadvantaged communities, declined from 1.2% to 0.9%.

The Discovery Cube Orange County, a children's museum in Santa Ana, announced Thursday that it would reopen on May 28.

The Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum reopened Wednesday for the first time since the pandemic closed it last year. That move, however, was planned regardless of whether the county moved up to the yellow tier.

"After 14 challenging months, we couldn't be more pleased to welcome visitors to the first presidential library in the county to reopen its doors," said Nixon Foundation President Hugh Hewitt.

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FLAG

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there are about 300 girls who play among the 3,500 total kids in the organization, which has eight different leagues including ones in Costa Mesa, Huntington Beach and Newport Beach.

"We thought, how cool would it be to try to bridge the gap?" Leinart said. "In eighth grade, these girls love playing and they can't play anymore. Maybe they go back to soccer, volleyball, whatever other sport they want to play. Maybe they don't play a sport at all, and they just go to high school."

"We've seen the passion that these girls play with, and how much fun they're having. Why can't they have an opportunity to play flag football at the high school level as well?"



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

HUNTINGTON CHRISTIAN receiver Morgan Drotter makes a catch for a touchdown against Calvary Chapel at Huntington Christian school on Thursday.

Leinart said an all-girls camp held April 17 at Bonita Creek Park, which featured Dr. Jen Welter, was very successful. Welter is an advisory board member for the organization who was the first female to

coach in the NFL, for the Arizona Cardinals during their 2015 training camp.

"Can we get enough girls to want to play and participate?" Leinart said. "The

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CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

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GIRLS' TENNIS

Fountain Valley falls in CIF Division 3 title match

BY MATT SZABO

VILLA PARK — It's ironic, in a way, that a team void of standout junior players could make it to the finals of the biggest tournament in high school tennis.

The Fountain Valley High School girls' tennis team just had a special thing going this year.

The Barons captured the Wave League crown, their first league title since 1991. They not only advanced past the second round of the CIF Southern Section playoffs for the first time, but they made it all the way to the Division 3 title match.

On a windy Friday afternoon, though, No. 2-seeded Fountain Valley ran into a buzz saw.

Top-seeded Villa Park swept in singles and earned a 14-4 win in the Division 3 title match at Villa Park High.

The scrappy Barons' season ended, but at a height the program had never seen before in Coach Harshul Patel's 12-year tenure. They came a long way from finishing last in league as recently as last year.

Fountain Valley's Paige Ngo, one of six seniors, broke down in tears after talking about what being on the team meant to her.

"I definitely credit our team spirit and bonding," she said. "Even though we didn't win today, we still are walking off with the best friendships we could have ever made."

Villa Park (18-2) was too strong in singles. Grace Gamal, Morgan Shaffer and Jordyn Kuo combined



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

FOUNTAIN VALLEY coach Harshul Patel, left, speaks as he, team captain Kaylee Tran and assistant principal Kelly Skon accept the CIF Southern Section Division 3 title runner-up plaque against Villa Park on Friday.

to win 18 of 19 games. Coach Ron Metcalf said that also happened in the Spartans' 15-3 Division 3 semifinal win over Valencia.

Sidney Shaffer and Elianna Vu swept at No. 1 doubles for Villa Park, and Aubrey McGrew and Nikki Tran won twice at No. 3 doubles.

The Shaffer sisters are the daughters of former La Quinta High star Debbie Graham Shaffer,

who was the nation's top collegiate player at Stanford in 1990 and went on to win five WTA Tour doubles titles.

The hosts led 5-1 after the first round, and had clinched the match with a 10-2 lead after two rounds.

"That's a tough team," Patel said. "You've got to give credit to them, because they do so much work outside [of school]. When

they come into high school tennis, they get rewarded. For us, we didn't have anything like that playing in our favor, but then we go out and perform at a very high level. For us, personally, it's a really big deal, because we're competing against really good teams and good players."

Fountain Valley (17-5) was led by the No. 1 doubles team of senior captain Kaylee Tran and junior

Emily Tran, who won twice. Seniors Paige Ngo and Christy Chau won once at No. 2 doubles, as did senior Skylar Ngo and sophomore Iris Chau at No. 3 doubles.

Freshman Sophie Vu, junior Nghi Trinh and senior Tiffany Hoang battled in singles all match long.

Kaylee Tran is the only one of the six seniors who spent four years on varsity.

"No matter the result, we were going to be proud of ourselves," she said. "Ultimately, we're a team full of players who aren't really expected to win big tournaments. To make it here in itself was a big enough accomplishment for us, and to win would have just been a great bonus."

"It means the world [to make the CIF finals]. When you leave your high school, you want to know, 'I made an impact, I did something.' I want people to remember what we did as a team."

Gamal said taking it match-by-match was key for Villa Park, which won its second CIF crown in program history. The Spartans also won the Division 2 title in 1995.

Several members of the Fountain Valley boys' tennis team came Friday to root on the girls.

Patel will coach the boys Saturday, as they play on the road against No. 2-seeded Studio City Harvard-Westlake in the first round of the Open Division playoffs.

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Don Leach | Staff Photographer

HUNTINGTON CHRISTIAN quarterback Maddy Drotter throws to sister Morgan for a touchdown against Calvary Chapel at Huntington Christian school on Thursday.

FLAG

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answer is yes. We know we'll get enough girls out there, and it'll be competitive as hell, for sure."

The seven-on-seven high school girls' league would run in September and October, and games would take place at 3 p.m. on weekdays. Leinart said the eventual goal is to see it become a CIF Southern Section-sanctioned sport.

It is unclear which Orange County high schools will be selected for the inaugural year of high school girls' flag football, though Leinart said there have been preliminary talks with some schools. What is clear is that there is plenty of local interest for such a league.

Edison High girls' soccer coach Kerry "Mac" Crooks made a Facebook post this week to try to gauge interest for the Chargers. Crooks knows her daughter Riley, an eighth-grader at Huntington Christian School who will be a freshman next year at Edison, wants to play in the Matt Leinart league.

Riley plays soccer but also has been playing flag football for four years. She currently plays in a private schools league, going both ways — offense and defense — and lining up at running back due to her speed.

"There's so many good things about football," Kerry Crooks said. "It just brings all kind of sports together. Their quarterbacks are softball players, and they've got volleyball players out there. She makes a lot of friends in all different groups. It's awesome."

Suzanne Audiss of Corona del Mar has two

daughters who also play soccer.

Her older daughter, Sarah, is a sophomore on the Sea Kings' varsity basketball team. Her younger daughter, Grace, has been playing flag football for years through Friday Night Lights, a competitor of Matt Leinart Flag Football.

Grace is currently in eighth grade and plans to play soccer for CdM next year. Football would be fun, too.

"We had one coach that got so mad that his boys lost to us, he threw a whole cooler and water spilled all over," Suzanne Audiss said. "Our girls purposely wore skirts and pigtailed ... and they just had a blast. Now the boys are getting too big, outsize the girls, and the parents are afraid that the kids are going to get hurt. So, a girls' league would be super fun."

Bertoni said Matt Leinart Flag Football is trying to find a niche that allows the high school girls to play as many sports as possible. He added that discussions he's had indicate the NCAA will likely be adding women's flag football as a sport within the next three or four years.

"With that kind of momentum, it's just natural to create the platform for these girls to continue from youth to high school," Bertoni said. "Hopefully in three or four years, these girls are getting Division I scholarships to all of the top colleges in the country."

High schools interested in participating can contact Leinart's brother Ryan Leinart at (949) 422-5864, for more details about starting a team.

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HIGH SCHOOL ROUNDUP

Volleyball teams head to CIF quarterfinals

BY ANDREW TURNER, MATT SZABO

Liam Phinzy had a team-high 11 kills to lead the Huntington Beach High School boys' volleyball team to a 25-18, 26-24, 25-19 win over visiting Thousand Oaks on Thursday in the second round of the CIF Southern Section Division 2 playoffs.

Drake Goering added nine kills for Huntington Beach (12-4), which plays at Burbank Burroughs (8-1) in the quarterfinals on Wednesday.

Burroughs swept Valencia at home in its second-round match.

No. 1 Marina 3, Redlands 0: The Vikings shared the load offensively in picking up a 25-10, 25-14, 25-17 win on the road on Thursday in the second round of the Division 4 playoffs.

Top-seeded Marina was led by Daniel Purtell and Broc Coward with six kills apiece. Michael Torrez contributed five kills, and Aidan Patterson had four kills. Dyllan Nguyen handed out 29 assists to go with four kills.

Joseph Nunez had a team-high 11 digs for Marina (7-5), which will travel to face Pacifica Christian Orange County in a quarterfinal match on Wednesday.

Pacifica Christian Orange County 3, Katella 0: Knox Vail had 17 kills to lead the Tritons to a 25-14, 25-22, 25-20 win on Thursday in a second-round match of the Division 4 playoffs at Pacifica Christian High School.

Danny Dillon added eight kills, Briton Proctor had six kills, and Miller Clark had five kills for the Tritons.

Bennett Penticuff had five kills, three service aces and seven digs for Pacifica Christian (12-7), and Dan DeMars had a team-high 15 digs.

BOYS' TENNIS

Calabasas 15, Corona del Mar 3: Logan Friedman and Jack Cross won two doubles sets for the Sea Kings on Thursday in the first round of the CIF Southern Section Open Division playoffs on the road.

Max Krykunenko won one singles set for CdM, which finishes its season



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

CAYMAN LAFONTAINE of Huntington Beach (2) blocks the kill of Newport Harbor's Brendan Read (1) during the Tesoro Tournament on Feb. 24, 2020.

12-2.

Sage Hill 12, Oak Park 6: Grant Gallagher, Adam Hung and Shaan Sakraney each won two singles sets for the Lightning in the first round of the CIF Southern Section Division 1 playoffs Thursday at home.

Sage Hill (13-4) hosts Claremont in the second round Friday.

Laguna Beach 16, Tesoro 2: Ian MacLaughlin, Taro Sakai and Brad Aryeh all swept in singles for the Breakers in the first round of the CIF Southern Section Division 2 playoffs Thursday at Laguna Beach High.

Laguna Beach (12-3) hosts Riverside King in the second round Saturday.

Ocean View 12, Covina 6: Nick Chumacero's singles play helped the Seahawks prevail in the first round of the CIF Southern Section Division 5 playoffs Thursday at Ocean View High.

Andrew Oldag and Lucas Salama shined in doubles for Ocean View (11-3), which plays at Valley View High in Moreno Valley in the second round Saturday.

Costa Mesa 9, Westminster 9 (Costa Mesa wins on games, 75-65): The host Mustangs prevailed in the first round of the CIF Southern Section Division 5 playoffs on Thursday.

Orange Coast League champion Costa Mesa (10-2) plays at Pomona Garey in the second round Saturday.

Riverside Norte Vista 14, Estancia 4: The Eagles finished their season 5-7 after losing Thursday in the first round of the CIF Southern Section Division 5 playoffs

on the road.

GIRLS' GOLF

Estancia 269, Orange 311: Yvette Kamau of Orange was the medalist with a four-over-par 39 in an Orange Coast League match at River View Golf Course in Santa Ana.

Estancia finished the season at 10-2 overall and in league, which was good for second place behind league champion Westminster.

The Orange Coast League finals will take place at Costa Mesa Country Club on the Mesa Linda course on Monday and Tuesday.

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Laguna Beach 53, Edison 34: Nolan Naess scored 18 points as the Breakers clinched a share of the Surf League title Thursday night at Laguna Beach High.

Willie Rounaghi and Chase Hall each added 10 points for Laguna Beach (14-3, 5-1 in league) in the league finale.

The Breakers shared the title with Los Alamitos, which also finished 5-1 in league.

Laguna Beach, ranked No. 7 in CIF Southern Section Division 2AA, awaits Sunday's release of the playoff brackets.

Fountain Valley 59, Huntington Beach 41: Jeremiah Davis had 22 points and five rebounds as the Barons won their Wave League finale Thursday at Huntington Beach High.

Roddie Anderson had 10 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists for league champion Fountain Valley (12-2, 6-0 in league). Elijah

Nelson added seven points for the Barons, who finished undefeated against Sunset Conference teams.

Huntington Beach fell to 6-12, 2-4 in league.

Fountain Valley is ranked No. 6 in CIF Southern Section Division 2AA. Playoff brackets are released Sunday.

Marina 58, Corona del Mar 47: The Vikings finished in second place in the Wave League with Thursday's win at home.

Brad Fronck scored 11 points for Marina (11-6, 4-2 in league).

Hudson Bond led CdM (5-13, 0-6) with 18 points.

Costa Mesa 70, Santa Ana 57: Aiden Spallone had 22 points and 10 rebounds for the Mustangs in Thursday's Orange Coast League finale at home.

Costa Mesa (11-8, 8-2 in league) finished second in league and awaits the CIF playoff brackets Sunday.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Calvary Chapel 55, Estancia 25: The Eagles dropped to 5-11 overall and 4-6 in the Orange Coast League following Thursday's game at home.

Estancia finished the season in fourth place.

Santa Ana 42, Costa Mesa 36: The road victory for the Saints allowed Santa Ana (5-6, 5-5) to surpass Estancia for sole possession of third place in the Orange Coast League in Thursday's season finale.

Costa Mesa (3-13, 3-7) wound up in fifth place.

BASEBALL

Corona del Mar 6, Newport Harbor 2: Matt DeCrona earned the Wave League victory for the Sea Kings over their rivals Thursday at CdM.

DeCrona allowed two runs and four hits in 4½ innings for league champion CdM (18-5, 7-1 in league). He struck out four and walked one.

Blake Butcher earned the save and also launched his sixth home run of the season for the Sea Kings, finishing two for three with three runs batted in. Nico DiFerdinando also homered.

Newport Harbor fell to 11-11 overall, 3-5 in league.

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