# Daily Pilot

#### SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2025 /// dailypilot.com



Courtesy of the Hilbert Museum

HILBERT MUSEUM co-founder Mark Hilbert playfully puts his hat on the bronze sculpture of his likeness. The bust, which includes his late wife and museum co-founder Janet Hilbert, is in the lobby of the museum's North Building.

## Hilberts honored with bust unveiled at the art musuem

#### **BY SARAH MOSQUEDA**

The shared legacy of Mark Hilbert and his late wife, Janet, is now officially set in bronze. The likeness of the longtime Newport Beach residents and founders of the Hilbert Museum of California Art at Chapman University in Orange is captured in a bronze bust created by sculptor Juan Rosillo to preside over the 22,000-square-foot space housing the 5,000 piece Hilbert Collection.

The bust was unveiled by Chapman University President Daniele C. Struppa and Mark Hilbert this week during a ceremony and lunch with Chapman leadership, muse-

With Janet, who passed away in December, Mark established the museum in 2016 through a gift of artwork and funds to Chapman. Last year, the museum reopened after undergoing a three-year expansion project that tripled the museum's footprint.

"It was always our vision to be able to show more of our Hilbert Collection to the public and create more lifelong fans of California art," Mark said in a statement. "We're grateful to Chapman University for giving us this platform, and for helping make our dream come true. With this latest unveiling at the Hilbert Museum, Janet and I can remain here in spirit indefinitely to meet the next generation of and other visionaries committed to capturing the wonders of the Golden State. My only regret is that my beloved Jan is not here to see and enjoy this.'

In addition to housing what is considered to be one of the largest troves of California narrative art, the Hilbert Museum also features private collections of Disney and other animation art, works by American illustrators. Native American arts and American design.

The Hilbert legacy bronze is set in the lobby of the museum's North Building.

sarah.mosqueda@latimes.com

## H.B. man given 30 years to life for killing

**O.C. Superior Court** Judge Gary Paer said that if he could have, he would have given a harsher sentence.

#### **BY PAUL ANDERSON**

A 37-year-old transient was sentenced Friday to 30 years to life in prison by an Orange County Superior Court judge who said if he could he would have punished the defendant even more for killing a homeless woman and then decapitating her and burying her in the backyard of his family's Huntington Beach home.

Antonio Padilla was convicted Feb. 18 of second-degree murder in the June 30, 2022, killing of 60-year-old Regina "Gina" Marie Lockhart.

Lockhart was a "well-known transient" in the city, Senior Deputy Dist. Atty. Janine Madera told jurors in her opening statement of Padilla's trial.

"She frequented Beach Boulevard and Slater Avenue," Madera added. "She was a veritable fixture.'

Orange County Superior Court Judge Gary Paer declined a request from defense attorney Daniel Kim of the Orange County Public Defender's Office to not consider a prior strike for Padilla

in sentencing. Paer noted the defendant was convicted of a violent felony and that the prior conviction was 11 years ago, so it was not "extremely remote. ... And that prior strike was one of violence.'

The prior strike conviction was a felony assault, but Madera said he also "split the head open of his mother," but it wasn't reported.

Padilla's crime showed a "high

Twitter: @SarahNMos

## Costa Mesa earmarked a slice of cannabis tax revenue for the arts. Where is it going?



City of Costa Mesa

COSTA MESA'S ARTventure, an annual juried exhibition of community art, is one of the city's efforts to showcase local artists.

#### **BY SARA CARDINE**

When Costa Mesa officials drafted the city's retail cannabis ordinance, they agreed to dedicate one-half cent of the 7-centper-dollar tax toward the implementation of an Arts & Culture Master Plan. But until recently. it's been unclear where the money's going.

Adopted in 2021, the same year as the cannabis law was crafted following the passage of Measure Q, the arts master plan took years to create as public input was sought on how citywide art and cultural events, programs, policies and staffing might be developed over a five-year period.

The document comprised existing events — like a utility box

art program and the annual ARTventure — and also called for new commitments, such as establishment of the seven-member Arts Commission and creation of a full-time arts specialist. hired in 2022 at an annual salary of \$120,000.

Some saw the tax earmark as a shot in the arm for local arts, including Costa Mesa Mayor John Stephens, who helped draft the recommendation as part of a council-appointed cannabis ad hoc committee.

"Everybody, I think, realized it was a good thing to put money behind — here's a fund to hopefully spur and inspire some investment into public art,"

See Cannabis, page A4

degree of cruelty" and it was done while he was on probation,

Paer said.

Paer said he would not con-

See Sentence, page A2

#### **ALSO FROM** THE DAILY PILOT:



Courtesy of Packard Motor Club

**THE CROWD: COASTAL ORANGE COUNTY TEEMS WITH ACTIVITY THIS SPRING PAGE A2** 

### Vox Kitchen shakes up South Coast Plaza in Costa Mesa

#### **BY SARAH MOSQUEDA**

After nearly two years, Vox Kitchen & Bar opened at South Coast Plaza on April 7.

"We signed the lease two years ago and the project took about a year and [a] half to finish," said Viet Nguyen, Kei Concepts' chief executive.

The Kei Concepts company includes several popular restau-rants like Súp Noodle Bar, Nep Cafe, Kei Coffee House and ROL Hand Roll Bar.

Most of the restaurants in the Little Saigon-based hospitality group are located in the Fountain Valley and Westminster area, including the original Vox Kitchen. The Pan-Asian fusion concept is inspired by Nguyen's time working as a restaurateur and executive chef in Las Vegas and Los Angeles.

"I worked all over the country and when I came back to Orange County, there was not much of the food scenes I was used to,' said Nguyen.

Nguyen incorporated Latin American dishes into the Vox menu, which also offers egg fried rice and spicy noodles.

"I love Peruvian food. The whole entire time I was working in L.A., that was something that was comforting," said Nguyen. "We would go out and eat Peruvian food at least twice a week."

The menu includes dishes like chifa fried rice - a take on the Chinese Peruvian dish arroz chaufa — made with garlic, scallions, sesame, fried egg and aji, the spicy green sauce containing aji peppers, popular in Latin American cuisine. The most recognized Peruvian dish, lomo saltado, is a signature at Vox, on the menu with saltado shaken fries, served with roasted tomato, red onion,

See Kitchen, page A4



**CEVICHE**, FILET garlic noodles, mushroom fried rice and spicy

wontons are on the menu at the recently opened Vox Kitchen & Bar at South Coast Plaza.

Courtesy of Vox Kitchen & Bar



Courtesy of Briana Harper

**DALE PARKER** works on decorations for the annual Picklenose Halloween House display at his home in Costa Mesa. The beloved community father, husband and neighbor died Wednesday after falling from a ladder.

#### Community mourns death of neighborhood fixture, co-founder of Halloween tradition

#### **BY ERIC LICAS**

The creator of a homunculus with a bulbous, wart-covered snout that has been spooking local kids as part of of a nearly 30-year old Halloween tradition in one Eastside Costa Mesa community died unexpectedly Wednesday.

Since 1995, Dale Parker and his wife Colleen Hanson, along with their children Davis Parker and Josh Hanson, have been staging an elaborate display in the yard of their home at the corner of Wilson Street and Westminster Avenue that has come to be known as the Picklenose Halloween House. As many as 3,000 people have shown up in their quiet residential neighborhood each Halloween in search of family-friendly jump scares.

The event gets its name from one of the ghouls that

SENTENCE

Continued from page A1

horror show home. Picklenose is a small, turquoise and lavender-furred gremlin hidden in the display each year who telepathically (via a secret loudspeaker) taunts children from his coffin. He was made by Parker, as were many of the other skeletons, witches and ghosts that take up residence on his family's lawn each October,

calls the set of the annual

"Dale put so much love into our Halloween decorations, aiming to bring spooky laughs to the community," his wife said in a post on the Picklenose Halloween House Facebook page. "It's a family event that takes a month to put together."

He was constantly out front decorating his yard or working on projects, usually in flip-flops with a lit

See **Fixture**, page A3



small band

gathered on

of people

the corner of Bris-

tol Street and Ave-

nue of the Arts in

Costa Mesa to protest the recent performance of

the Renée and Henry

While protests are as

the Israel Philharmonic at

Segerstrom Concert Hall.

much a part of the Ameri-

pie, driving past, I couldn't

can foundation as apple

help but question the objective of standing in

opposition to a philhar-

monic orchestra. Music,

after all, is one of human-

kind's most enduring gifts

unifying people across

ages.

borders, throughout the

The concert, produced

Foundation, was brilliant. Music director and conductor **Lahov Shani** led the orchestra in an inspi-

rational program that began with a rousing performance of both the U.S. and Israeli national anthems. The "Star-Spangled Banner" and "Hatikvah" blended with explosive hope and promise.

Max Bruch's "Kol Nidrei" followed, heightening the emotional pull of the evening. Leonard Bernstein's "Halil" and then Tchaikovsky's "Symphony No 6 in B Minor" capped the evening concert that ended in multiple standing ovations, and then an encore. A special nod to principal cellist **Haran Meltzer.** 

#### **CARS ARE THE STARS**

Lockhart was last seen on surveillance video about 9 a.m. the day of her death at Primo Liquor, at a Walgreens and a Chevron station, Madera said. The Packard International Motor Car Club will bring its most elegant and historic display of what many auto collectors and historians consider the finest American cars ever built to a show at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Newport Beach, Saturday, May 8, from 8 a.m. to noon.

Upwards of 40 outstanding cars, Concours d'Elegance quality, dating from the 1920s to the 1950s, will be on display. The Packard Club is headquartered in Santa Ana and is a nonprofit social organization dedicated to the preservation of these remarkable examples of automotive engineering and art. The event is free to the public.

#### **CELEBRATING VETS**

The Balboa Island Museum is planning its popular annual Memorial Day

questioned him about maggot-infested bloody blankets he was holding,

BBQ in the Park honoring local veterans. The museum, working with sponsors including the Balboa Island Improvement Association (BIIA), the Louis and Gladyse Foster Family Foundation, Rusty's Chips, 501 Park Avenue, and more, will produce the Monday, May 26 celebration at 115 Agate Ave., Newport Beach. Volunteers will serve your favorite barbecued burgers, dogs, SPAM and chili. Free to all vets; \$15 for adults, \$10 kids. To learn more visit biia.org.

#### A HOLE IN ONE FOR CHILDHELP KIDS

The Newport Beach Country Club welcomes Childhelp's Rich Saul Memorial Golf Classic on April 28. The 13th anniver-

See Crowd, page A4

When police questioned Padilla, he was dishonest and "tried to distance him-



Courtesy of Packard Motor Club

**A 1940** Packard Darrin, one of the classic automobiles that will be featured at the Packard International Motor Car Club car show to be held on May 8 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Newport Beach.

## Coastal Orange County teems with activity this spring

sider probation for Padilla, whom he described as a "frequent flier in the criminal justice system" and who had been imprisoned three times before.

"I view Mr. Padilla as a threat to public safety," Paer said. "If I had more time to give him, I would give him more time. I view for a very long time and we won't have to worry about him killing someone again, cutting off their heads and burying them."

him as dangerous. Hope-

fully, he'll be off the streets

Padilla has 1,000 days of credit behind bars awaiting sentencing.

Paer even wrestled with how to handle Padilla's probation terms for "shooting up" the Huntington Beach police station with a pellet

#### Jim Jennings Custom Masonry Inc.

Serving Newport Beach, Costa Mesa for 55 years. SPECIALIZING IN:

- New Patios & Entries
- Drainage Expert: New or Repair
- · Masonry & Concrete Repair.
- · Grind High-spots caused by tree roots, etc.
- · Remove & Replace sections of concrete,
- brick or stone

#### 714-796-9144

State License# 827800

www.jimjenningsmasonry.com

that he would still be liable for restitution to the police.

the probation violation so

"There's no good reason to let him slide on that," Paer said.

Paer also noted how "vulnerable" the victim was given her difference in size with the defendant. She was 5-foot-4 and weighed only 70 pounds, according to Madera.

She was also an alcoholic who visited the local emergency room multiple times before her death, Madera said. She sought treatment for alcohol poisoning and injuries from falls, she added.

Lockhart was in "regular phone contact" with her mother, Donna Ashbaugh, Madera said in the trial. She had a boyfriend, Rick Bernhardt, who was also homeless, the prosecutor added.

<section-header><text><text><text>

1852 McGaw Ave. Irvine, CA 92614

Emilia Martinez Jaramillo, who worked in a taco food truck, saw Lockhart about 4:30 p.m. that day, Madera said. Lockhart appeared to be in distress, so Jaramillo "asked her if she needed any help and the victim kept walking" away, Madera said.

Padilla was also a transient and would sometimes flop at his parents' backyard shed for their doublewide trailer home at 7850 Slater Ave., near Beach Boulevard, Madera said.

Padilla's mother, Rosario Cendejas, began noticing a fetid odor around the shed on the July Fourth weekend, according to Madera. The defendant's sister, Lolita Guevara, who also lived in the family's mobile home, started sniffing the foul odor around July 7 or July 8.

She also noticed about that time that her brother had shaved his head, Madera said.

In her closing argument, Madera said the body had to have been hidden before it was buried. It was probably hidden for about 10 to 11 days before he buried it, according to Madera.

"It might have been that he hid her in that trash can, possibly behind the dryer," Madera said. "And only the defendant was strong enough to move the dryer."

The large dryer would have obscured the trash can from his family, Madera argued.

The victim was hog-tied to fit her in the trash can, Madera said.

On July 10, the defendant's mother saw him digging a hole in the backyard and also heard "loud noises" in the metal shed, Madera said. The defendant was attempting to fill the hole with concrete and the smell worsened.

When Padilla's mother

he "threatened her," prompting Cendejas to call 911, Madera said.

When officers responded and checked the backyard, they told Padilla's mother and sister the source of the foul smell was probably a dead animal and advised them to clean the shed.

Cendejas went to work on cleaning the shed, using bleach on the ground that wiped out some forensic evidence, but investigators were later able to recover the victim's DNA on it, Madera said. The defendant's mother also found a patch of scalp with hair that was from the victim.

Cendejas also found some old Vans shoes missing laces, the prosecutor said. She again called police on July 16 and when she told officers about her son's digging, they began investigating and "unearthed the body," Madera said.

Lockhart was hog-tied with the shoelaces "and she had been decapitated," Madera said. "Her head was found underneath her body.'"

Investigators found a knife in the shed that had the DNA of the defendant and the victim, Madera said. The decapitation was a "clean cut," meaning the head was slashed off without "hesitation," Madera said.

Investigators believe the victim was decapitated and hog-tied after she had died, Madera said.

The pathologist who examined the body ruled out natural causes for the death such as liver disease and other maladies associated with alcoholism, Madera said. The pathologist could not rule out suffocation or strangulation as possible causes of death.

The beheading made it difficult for the experts to determine if the victim had been choked to death, Madera said. self from the shed," and "denied smelling any odor" and "denied talking to his mother about the odor," Madera said.

The defendant's sister, Lolita Guevara, last year told investigators she recalled hearing "screaming" from someone with a "raspy voice" before the awful smell surfaced, Madera said.

"The sound was quickly muffled," Madera said. "She was so upset, she circled the date on her calendar and told her husband about it." But she didn't tell investigators about it when the body was found, Madera said.

On March 12, 2024, the defendant posted crime scene photos of the victim's head and decapitated body on his jail cell "as a trophy," Madera said.

Dr. Aruna Singhania of the Orange County coroner's office listed the cause of death as "undetermined," Kim said during the trial.

"She noted no signs of struggle, no signs of external trauma" on the body, Kim said.

Lockhart's "health was deteriorating," Kim said.

In one of her hospital visits prior to her death, she suffered seizures for two minutes and had to be stabilized with medication before her release, Kim said. She sought aid for alcohol poisoning and overdose on June 24, 2022, Kim said.

Lockhart was back in an emergency room again on June 25 and June 26, 2022, Kim said.

In the last surveillance video to capture footage of the victim, she was seen toting two liters of vodka, Kim said. When the food truck employee saw her, she was clutching her stomach in pain.

dailypilot@latimes.com Twitter: @TheDailyPilot WWW.DAILYPILOT.COM

#### **DAILY PILOT | COASTLINE PILOT | HUNTINGTON BEACH INDEPENDENT**

1300-

OF NAME

Name Change

92648

as follows: Present Name

Aleiandro Frevre

Proposed Name

ex Freyre

Legal Notices

CA 92804

CA 92661

. BEACH, CA 92661

\$340,000.00

Control.

Seller(s)/License



Courtesy of Briana Harper

DALE PARKER and his wife, Colleen Harper, pose for a photo in front of an annual Halloween display at their home in Costa Mesa. Parker died Wednesday after falling from a ladder.

#### FIXTURE

*Continued from page A2* 

stogie in hand, neighbors Briana Harper and Elizabeth Reed said. The woody, sweetly acrid smell of cigar smoke became a familiar calling card to children curious about the next holiday display and other neighbors eager to chat with him.

'Whenever you walked by their home, you could always count on him to say hello," Reed said.

Parker was busy with yardwork Monday when he fell from a ladder, injuring his back, his wife said in a Facebook post. He fell into a coma and then died on Wednesday. He was "surrounded by his loving family" in the hospital in his final moments.

Friends created a Go-FundMe page shortly after Parker was injured with the intention of covering part of his medical expenses. But now any funds raised will also be used to help support his family as they plan his funeral.

Parker's neighbors have been in shock in the wake of his death. They described him as a beloved, constant fixture in the community and say they can hardly fathom his absence.

"You just always knew that if he was out there and on patrol nothing was going to happen to your house," Reed said.

eric.licas@latimes.com Twitter: @EricLicas



A Times Community News publication. **CONTACT US** 

Carol Cormaci **Executive Editor** carol.cormaci@latimes.com

**Nicole Charky-Chami Deputy Editor** nicole.charkychami @latimes.com

**Beth Raff** Advertising Manager (424) 225-9928 beth.raff@latimes.com

Reporters

@latimes.com Matt Szabo, Huntington Beach and Sports matthew.szabo@latimes.com

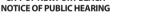
gabriel.sanroman

Andrew Turner, Laguna Beach and Sports andrew.turner@latimes.com

10540 Talbert Ave., Suite 260 West, Fountain Valley, CA 92708



**CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH** 



SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2025 A3 To place an ad, go to http://timescommunityadvertising.com/ Name Change Name Change Legal Notices Legal Notices Classified is CONVENIENT LEGAL NOTICES change of name of general circulation, for Should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons whether you're buying, selling, or just looking, classified has printed in this county. Dated: 03/17/2025 5. Gonzales Deputy Published in the Daily what you need! Pilot 03/22/25, 03/29/25 **ORDER TO SHOW** To advertise in 04/05/25, 04/12/25 for the objection at least CLASSIFIED **CAUSE FOR A CHANGE** two days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear go to timescommunitvadvertising.com Sell your unwanted items CASE NO. 25FL000253 at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court **CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH** the easy way! Place a Petitioner or Attorney (name, state, bar, and address): NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Call (714) 966-4600 Classified ad today! Put a few words to work for you. (714) 966-4600 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Thursday, April 24, Alejandro Freyre 811 Delaware Unit 1, Huntington Beach, CA 2025, at 10:00 a.m. or soon thereafter as the matter may grant the petition without a hearing. **NOTICE OF HEARING** shall be heard, a public hearing will be conducted online Legal Notices Legal Notices via Zoom. The Zoning Administrator of the City of Newport Beach will consider the following application: 92648 **TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED:** Petitioner Alejandro Freyre filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: DATE: 04/28/2025 TIME: 8:30AM Luke's Lobster – A request for a minor use permit (MUP) to operate a new "Take Out Service, Fast Casual" eating DEPT: L64 ROOM: N/A The address of the court is: SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA drinking establishment within an existing commercial structure. The applicant proposes minor tenant improvements to convert the existing 365-County of Orange 341 The City Drive South, Orange, CA 92868 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published square-foot space from a bicycle repair and retail business into an eating and drinking establishment with **CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH** no seats. The proposed hours of operation are from NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., daily, and no alcohol service is THE COURT ORDERS at least once each week for four successive weeks NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Thursday, April 24, proposed. that all persons interested in this matter 2025, at 10:00 a.m. or soon thereafter as the matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated prior to the date set for The project is categorically exempt under Section 15301 – Class 1 (Existing Facilities) of the State CEQA (California shall be heard, a public hearing will be conducted online hearing on the petition in via Zoom. The Zoning Administrator of the City of below to show cause, if any, why the petition the following newspaper Environmental Quality Act) Guidelines. Newport Beach will consider the following application All interested parties may appear and present testimony Legal Notices Valencia Residence- A request for a modification regarding this application. If you challenge this project in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues permit to allow the construction of retaining walls at a maximum height of 17 feet when measured at the base you raised at the public hearing or in written of the wall (finished grade) where the Newport Beach Municipal Code (NBMC) limits the height to 8 feet. The NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE AND OF INTENTION TO TRANSFER ALCOHOLIC correspondence delivered to the City, at, or before, the public hearing. The application may be continued to a retaining walls will allow the applicant to excavate the BEVERAGE LICENSE specific future meeting date; if such an action occurs, sloping hillside in the rear of the property for future (U.C.C. 6101 et seq. and B & P 24074 et seq.) additional public notice of the continuance will not be provided. Administrative procedures for appeals are development of accessory structures Escrow No. 255187-CS Notice is hereby given that a bulk sale of assets and a provided in the Newport Beach Municipal Code Chapter transfer of alcoholic beverage license is about to be made. The names and address of the Seller/Licensee The project is categorically exempt under Section 20.64 (Appeals). The application may be continued to a 15303 – Class 3 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures) of the State CEQA (California specific future meeting date; if such an action occurs, are: BALBOA SALOON INC., 700 EAST BAY AVENUE, additional public notice of the continuance will not be NEWPORT BEACH, CA 92661 Environmental Quality Act) Guidelines. provided. The business is known as: BALBOA SALOON The names and addresses of the Buyer/Transferee are: ELYSIUM GROUP, INC., 2338 RAMM DRIVE, ANAHEIM, The agenda, staff report, and corresponding documents will be available by end of business day on the Friday 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 preceding the public hearing and may be reviewed at The assets to be sold are described in general as: FURNITURE, FIXTURES AND EQUIPMENT and are the Community Development Department Permit Center (Bay C-1st Floor), at 100 Civic Center Drive, correspondence delivered to the City, at, or before, the ocated at: 700 EAST BAY AVENUE, NEWPORT BEACH, public hearing. Administrative procedures for appeals Newport Beach, CA 92660 or the City of Newport Beach are provided in the Newport Beach Municipal Code website The kind of license to be transferred is: Type: ON-SALE Chapter 20.64 (Appeals). The application may be www.newportbeachca.gov/zoningadministrator. Please GENERAL PUBLIC PREMISES now issued for the premises located at: 700 E. BAY AVENUE, NEWPORT continued to a specific future meeting date; if such an review the Zoning Administrator Agenda for Zoom action occurs, additional public notice of the participation instructions. Individuals not able to ontinuance will not be provided. attend the meeting may contact the Planning Division The anticipated date of the sale/transfer is JUNE 2, 2025 at the office of: R ESCROW CORPORATION, 1205 or access the City's website after the meeting to review the action on this application. All mail or written The agenda, staff report, and corresponding documents E. CHAPMAN AVE, ORANGE, CA 92866 will be available by end of business day on the Friday communications (including email) from the public, The amount of the purchase price or consideration in preceding the public hearing and may be reviewed at residents, or applicants regarding an agenda item must be submitted by 12:00 p.m. on the business day connection with the transfer of the license and the Community Development Department Permit business, including the estimated inventory, is the Center (Bay C-1st Floor), at 100 Civic Center Drive, nmediately before the meeting. This allows time for the sum of \$340,000.00 which consists of the following: DESCRIPTION, AMOUNT: CASH THROUGH ESCROW Newport Beach, CA 92660 or the City of Newport Beach Zoning Administrator to adequately consider the vebsite submitted correspondence. www.newportbeachca.gov/zoningadministrator. Please review the Zoning Administrator Agenda for Zoom It has been agreed between the Seller/Licensee and For guestions regarding this public hearing item please the intended Buyer/Transferee, as required by Sec. participation instructions. Individuals not able to attend the meeting may contact the Planning Division or access contact Daniel Kopshever, Assistant Planner, at 949-644-24073 of the Business and Professions Code, that the 3235 and <u>dkopshever@newportbeachca.gov</u>, at 100 consideration for transfer of the business and license the City's website after the meeting to review the action Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660. is to be paid only after the transfer has been on this application. All mail or written communications (including email) from the public, residents, or applicants approved by the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Activity: Project File No.: regarding an agenda item must be submitted by 12:00 Minor Use Permit PA2025-0016 DATED: APRIL 4, 2025 p.m. on the business day immediately before the meeting. This allows time for the Zoning Administrator BALBOA SALOON INC., Buyer(s)/Applicant(s) ELYSIUM GROUP, INC., A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION Zone: (MU-W2) General Plan: (MU-W2) to adequately consider the submitted correspondence Mixed-Use Water Mixed-Use Water 2 ORD-3623676 DAILY PILOT 4/12/25 For questions regarding this public hearing item please Applicant: Alan Limon. Location: contact Jenny Tran, Associate Planner, at jtran@newportbeachca.gov or 949-644-3212, at 100 329 Marine Avenue NRM Real Estate Advisers Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660

> Project File No.: PA2025-0012 Zone: Newport Ridge (PC53) Planned

Community

Location: 10 Whitesands Drive

Legal Notices Legal Notices



Sara Cardine, Costa Mesa

sara.cardine@latimes.com

Eric Licas Newport Beach eric.licas@latimes.com

Sarah Mosqueda, TimesOC sarah.mosqueda @latimes.com

> Gabriel San Román, TimesOC

The Daily Pilot, established in 1907, is published Thursday through Sunday by Times Community News, a division of the Los Angeles Times, Subscriptions are available only by subscribing to The Times, Orange County.

© 2025 Times Community News All rights reserved.

#### **CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS**

1	F	Т	S		Т	0	W	Ν		F	U	L	L
0	L	Ι	0		0	В	0	Е		0	н	T	0
W	А	L	L	0	W	Ţ	Ν	G		L	0	Ν	G
А	Т	Т	Ţ	С				R	U		н	Е	S
		Е		С	Е		В	0	Ν				
	А	D	Ι	U	М		А	Ν	Ι	М	А		S
			Т	R				Ι	Т				С
	<u> </u>										-	-	Е
						Ν			_				Ν
E	A		_	_					100,100		E	Ν	Т
	0				E			_	_			1	
			Ν	-	т	0	۸	-					Ŧ
-								5					Т
	_	<u> </u>			_		_		_		· ·		E
D	D	3		E	А	1	3			Y	5	0	Ν
	0		0	0		٨		7	-4		6		$\mathbf{r}$
)	9	•	3	S	5	4		/			0	4	2
	7		2	S	)	5		6	3	8	8	4	4
-	6		8	Э	3	2		1	5	;	9	5	7
2	3	-	7	5	;	1		9	8	3	4	(	ô
)	4		1	6	;	8		3	2	2	7	ļ	5
3	5		6	4	-	7		2	9	)	1		3
7	2	ļ	5	1		6	8	8	4	-	3		9
3	1		4	7	7	9	ļ	5	6	;	2	8	8
;	8		9	2	2	3		4	7	•	5	1.	1
		0       L         W       A         T       A         E       L         M       P         P       H         E       A         M       P         H       E         B       S         I       K         D       D         J       G	O $L$ $I$ $W$ $A$ $L$ $A$ $T$ $T$ $T$ $A$ $D$ $P$ $H$ $W$ $B$ $S$ $E$ $I$ $A$ $S$ $I$ $I$ $P$ $D$ $D$ $S$ $I$ $I$ $P$ $I$ $I$ $P$ $I$	$\circ$ $\downarrow$ $\downarrow$ $\downarrow$ $\land$ $\downarrow$ $\downarrow$ $\downarrow$ $\land$ $\uparrow$ $\uparrow$ $\downarrow$ $\uparrow$ $\land$ $\downarrow$ $\downarrow$ $\uparrow$ $\land$ $\downarrow$ $\downarrow$ $\uparrow$ $\land$ $\downarrow$ $\uparrow$ $\downarrow$ $\land$ $\downarrow$ $\uparrow$ $\downarrow$ $\land$ $\downarrow$ $\uparrow$ $\downarrow$ $\land$ $\land$ $\uparrow$ $\downarrow$ $\land$ $\land$ $\land$ $\downarrow$ $\land$ $\land$ $\land$ $\downarrow$ $\land$ $\land$ $\land$ $\bullet$ $\bullet$ $\land$ $\land$ $\bullet$ $\bullet$ $\land$ $\land$ $\bullet$	$\circ$ $\downarrow$ $\downarrow$ $\circ$ $w$ $A$ $\bot$ $\downarrow$ $\circ$ $A$ $T$ $T$ $\downarrow$ $\circ$ $A$ $T$ $T$ $I$ $\circ$ $T$ $A$ $D$ $I$ $U$ $T$ $A$ $D$ $I$ $U$ $T$ $A$ $D$ $I$ $U$ $P$ $H$ $G$ $R$ $R$ $P$ $H$ $G$ $R$ $I$ $P$ $H$ $G$ $R$ $I$ $R$ $G$ $R$ $I$ $R$ $R$ $G$ $R$ $I$ $R$ $R$ $G$ $R$ $I$ $R$ $R$ $G$ $R$ $G$ $R$ $G$ $G$ $R$ $G$ $G$	$\circ$ $\circ$ $\circ$ $\circ$ $\circ$ $\land$ $\circ$ $\circ$ $\circ$ $\land$ $\top$ $\top$ $\circ$ $\circ$ $\land$ $\top$ $\top$ $\circ$ $\circ$ $\land$ $\land$ $\top$ $\circ$ $\circ$ $\land$ $\land$ $\circ$ $\circ$ $\circ$ $\land$ $\land$ $\circ$ $\circ$ $\circ$ $\bullet$ $\land$ $\circ$ $\circ$ $\circ$ $\bullet$ $\land$ $\circ$ $\circ$ $\circ$ $\bullet$ $\land$ $\circ$ $\circ$ $\circ$ $\circ$ $\bullet$ $\bullet$ $\circ$ $\bullet$ $\circ$ $\circ$ $\circ$ $\bullet$ $\bullet$ $\circ$ $\bullet$ $\circ$ $\circ$ $\circ$ $\circ$ $\bullet$ $\bullet$ $\bullet$ $\bullet$ $\bullet$ $\circ$	O $L$ $I$ $O$ $W$ $I$ $A$ $L$ $L$ $O$ $W$ $I$ $A$ $T$ $I$ $O$ $W$ $I$ $A$ $T$ $I$ $O$ $W$ $I$ $A$ $D$ $I$ $U$ $M$ $M$ $E$ $L$ $T$ $R$ $A$ $N$ $M$ $P$ $T$ $R$ $A$ $N$ $M$ $P$ $M$ $G$ $R$ $A$ $N$ $G$ $M$ $P$ $G$ $N$ $E$ $A$ $T$ $G$ $M$ $P$ $G$ $R$ $M$ $G$ $G$	O $L$ $I$ $O$ $B$ $O$ $W$ $A$ $L$ $L$ $O$ $W$ $I$ $N$ $A$ $T$ $T$ $I$ $C$ $E$ $B$ $B$ $T$ $A$ $D$ $I$ $C$ $E$ $B$ $B$ $T$ $A$ $D$ $I$ $U$ $M$ $A$ $A$ $E$ $L$ $T$ $T$ $R$ $A$ $N$ $A$ $M$ $P$ $T$ $T$ $R$ $A$ $N$ $I$ $P$ $H$ $G$ $R$ $A$ $N$ $I$ $R$ $R$ $A$ $S$ $A$ $L$ $T$ $R$ $R$ $N$ $I$ $R$ $R$ $A$ $S$ $A$ $L$ $T$ $R$	O $L$ $I$ $O$ $B$ $O$ $B$ $O$ $E$ $W$ $A$ $L$ $L$ $O$ $W$ $I$ $N$ $G$ $A$ $T$ $T$ $I$ $C$ $E$ $B$ $O$ $T$ $A$ $D$ $I$ $U$ $M$ $M$ $N$ $E$ $L$ $T$ $R$ $A$ $N$ $S$ $I$ $M$ $P$ $I$ $T$ $R$ $A$ $N$ $S$ $I$ $P$ $H$ $G$ $R$ $A$ $N$ $I$ $T$ $P$ $H$ $G$ $R$ $A$ $N$ $I$ $T$ $P$ $H$ $G$ $R$ $A$ $N$ $I$ $T$ $R$ $S$ $R$ $I$ $T$ $S$ $R$ $I$	O $L$ $I$ $O$ $B$ $O$ $E$ $W$ $A$ $L$ $L$ $O$ $W$ $I$ $N$ $G$ $A$ $T$ $T$ $I$ $C$ $E$ $W$ $I$ $N$ $G$ $T$ $A$ $D$ $I$ $U$ $M$ $M$ $A$ $N$ $I$ $T$ $A$ $D$ $I$ $U$ $M$ $M$ $A$ $N$ $I$ $T$ $A$ $D$ $I$ $U$ $M$ $M$ $A$ $N$ $I$ $P$ $H$ $G$ $R$ $A$ $N$ $I$ $T$ $A$ $N$ $I$ $I$ $A$ $N$ $I$ $I$ $A$ $N$ $I$ $I$ $A$ $N$ $I$	0       L       I       0       M       0       B       0       E       0         M       A       L       L       0       W       I       N       G       L         A       T       T       I       C       C       E       B       0       N       0         T       A       D       I       U       M       A       N       I       M         T       A       D       I       U       M       A       N       I       M         T       A       D       I       U       M       A       N       I       T         M       P       I       T       R       A       N       I       T       M         P       H       I       G       R       A       N       I       T       A         P       H       I       S       A       I       T       S       E       R       P         I       I       S       I       T       S       A       S       I       T       N         I       I       S       I       T	0       L       I       0       0       0       0       0       0       0       1       0       1       0       1       0       1       0       1       0       1       0       1       0       1       0       1       0       1       0       1       0       1       0       1       0       1       0       1       0       1       0       1       0       1       0       1       1       0       1       1       0       1       1       0       1	0       L       I       0       W       0       B       0       E       0       H       I         W       A       L       L       0       W       I       N       G       L       0       N         A       T       T       I       C       E       B       0       N       0       I       N         T       A       D       I       U       M       A       N       I       M       A       L         E       L       T       R       A       N       S       I       T       A       L       I         M       P       T       R       A       N       S       I       T       A       I       I       V       I       S       I       I       V       I <td< td=""></td<>

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Thursday, April 24, 2025, 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:

**Camp James** – A request for a limited term permit (less than 90 days) and coastal development permit (CDP) to allow the operation of an outdoor summer camp for children on a portion of the Newport Dunes property. The camp will operate between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., on weekdays, from June 9, 2025, through August 15, 2025. The camp will offer recreational programming including drama, dance, martial arts, sports, swimming, boating, and nature education to approximately 400 children per week. The camp will use temporary facilities including a portable office, portable restrooms, tables, canopies, storage bins, and a stage. All temporary structures will be removed after expiration of this limited term permit. No permanent improvements to the property are proposed.

The project is categorically exempt under Section 15304 under Class 4 (Minor Alterations to Land) of the State CEOA (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, at, or prior to, the public hearing. 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. Administrative procedures for appeals are provided in the Newport Beach Municipal Code Chapters 21.64 (Appeals). 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 at the City of Newport Beach website

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 prior to 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, Assistant Planner, at 949-644-3249, jarregui@newportbeachca.gov or at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660.

<b>Project File No.:</b> PA2025-0003	<b>Activity:</b> Limited Term Permit, Coastal Development Permit	For question contact Dan 3235 and
Zone:	General Plan: Parks and	Civic Center
Newport Dunes (PC48)	Recreation (PR)	Project File PA2025-002
Coastal Land Use Plan:	Filing Date:	1712025 002
Parks and Recreation (PR)	January 9, 2025	Zone: (MU Mixed-Use V
Location:	Applicant:	wixed-Use v
1131 Back Bay Drive	Phillip Ravenna, Newport Dunes Resort	Location: 329 Marine A
		529 WIdTITIE /



Activity:

Applicant:

Mark Valencia

Modification Permit

General Plan: Single Unit

Residential Detached (RS-D)

#### **CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH** NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Thursday, April 24, 2025, 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:

Jasper Coffee – A request for a minor use permit (MUP) to operate a new "Take Out Service, Fast Casual" eating and drinking establishment within an existing commercial structure. The applicant proposes minor tenant improvement to convert the existing 326-squarefoot space from a bicycle repair and retail business into an eating and drinking establishment with no seats. The proposed hours of operation are from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 o.m., daily, and no alcohol service is proposed.

The project is categorically exempt under Section 15301 Class 1 (Existing Facilities) 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, at, 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 20.64 (Appeals). 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

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.

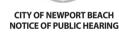
ions regarding this public hearing item pla Daniel Kopshever, Assistant Planner, at 949d <u>dkopshever@newportbeachca.gov</u>, at ter Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660 ile No.: Activity: Minor Use Pern

0021	
MU-W2)	General Plan: (MU-W2)
se Water	Mixed-Use Water 2
<b>::</b>	<b>Applicant:</b> Alan Limon,
ne Avenue	NRM Real Estate Advisers

For questions regarding this public hearing item please contact Laura Rodriguez, Assistant Planner, at Irodriguez@newportbeachca.gov or at 949-644-3216, at 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660.

lease -644- 100	Project File No.: PA2024-0214	Activity: Coastal Development Permit
nit	<b>Zone:</b> Single-Unit Residential (R-1)	<b>General Plan:</b> Single Unit Residential Detached (RS-D)
	<b>Coastal Land Use Plan:</b> Single Unit Residential Detached - (10.0-19.9 DU/AC) (RSD-C)	Filing Date: November 21, 2024
	Location:	Applicant:

1036 West Ocean Front Brandon Architects



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Thursday, April 24, **2025, 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:

HFO 2 LLC Residence - A request for a coastal development permit (CDP) to allow the demolition of an existing single-unit dwelling and construction of a threestory 5,032-square-foot single-unit dwelling with an attached 729-square-foot three-car garage. 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 - 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 rovided in the Newport Beach Municipal Code Chapter 21.64 (Appeals). 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 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.

#### CROWD

Continued from page A2

sary outing is named for the late former Los Angeles Rams center Rich Saul. The Childhelp Classic is celebrating its 43rd year on the Orange Coast and will be co-chaired this season by Debra Violette and Catherine Caporaso. Eileen Saul, Rich Saul's widow, will act as tournament coordinator.

Organizers expect to raise more than \$600,000 benefiting the work of Childhelp in O.C., saving the lives of the most abused and neglected children in need. Platinum title sponsors of the golf tournament are Jacquie and Michael Casey, joining executive sponsors the O'Connell Family Foundation and the Cleo A. Bluth Family Charitable Foundation. To learn more, visit childhelp.org.

#### **ANNE AND JOHN WORTMANN** RECOGNIZED

They are calling for "All Hands on Deck!" Newport Sea Base will host its Good Sea Scout awardees Anne and John Wortmann on May 16 at a reception in support of youth involved in the various programs

offered at Sea Base. More than 10,000 local youth participate in Sea Base marine-focused experiences annually. John Wortmann is a Newport Beach Commodore, and the chairman of the Board of Governors for Balboa Bay Club, among many other civic and charitable endeavors supported by both he and wife Anne, the Pasadena Rose Queen in 1976. For ticket information, sponsorship outreach and more, contact Elena **Garcia** at (714) 546-4990 x121 or Elena.Garcia@scouting.org.

#### **A LIFE OF MILITARY AND COMMUNITY SERVICE**

April 5 marked Leo "Marty" Schlocker's 100th birthday in Newport Beach, his home since 1964. The WWII Army veteran was an enlisted member of the 513th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 17th Airborne Division attached to Gen. George Patton's Third Army. Wounded and captured by the German Army during the Battle of the Bulge, Schlocker discarded his dog tags that indicated his Jewish religion, fearing death, and was sent to Stalag 9B as a prisoner of war.

Following his service,



Courtesy of Packard Motor Club

THIS 1932 Packard 901 will be among the vintage cars on display May 8 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Newport Beach.

Schlocker returned to the U.S. and served 23 years with the Los Angeles Police Department, 25 years in the Army Reserve, and 30 years with the L.A. Airport Authority as superintendent of operations. A lifetime member of the Newport Beach Elks Lodge 1767,

Schlocker joined his wife, Pamela, family and friends celebrating his 100th, and a lifetime of family, community and national service.

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



Jan Landstrom

LEO "MARTY" Schlocker and his wife, Pamela, are all smiles as they prepare to cut the cake at Marty's 100th birthday celebration.

#### KITCHEN

#### Continued from page A1

rice, thick-cut French fries and choice of protein like chicken thigh or filet mignon. The crab congee is also a standout, with sweet crab crowning the silky, savory rice porridge along with scallions, fried garlic, shimeji mushrooms and a soft, buoyant egg yolk.

Expanding into South Coast Plaza, one of Orange County's premier shopping destinations, is a strategic initiative for Nguyen and his team. While the chifa fried rice, saltado shaken fries and congee have sold well at Vox in Fountain Valley over the last seven years, Nguyen is introducing some new dishes at the Costa Mesa location.

"When you come to South Coast Plaza, we actu-

ally have a new and updated menu," Nguyen said. "We are planning to launch a few more things on the menu and make it more encompassing.'

A rich seafood scampi, for example, with shrimp, bay scallops, fish and tender calamari luxuriating in flavorful white wine broth that's served with ciabatta rolls for dipping is exclusive to South Coast Plaza. There is also a children's menu with options like garlic butter noodles and egg fried rice, and Nguyen said the kitchen wants to develop a focus on accommodating diners that may have food allergies or restrictions.

"In the past, we focused on what is traditional, how we understand this dish, but now we are getting into more offerings like brown rice, gluten-free and some vegan options," said Nguyen. "We think that will be great for everyone who loves to dine out but can't because of dietary restrictions. That is what we are going to focus on for the next few years.'

The space seats 92, including seating on the patio and at the outer bar, which is located near the escalator and where Nguven said they plan to launch a happy hour. Guests can sip cocktails with a Peruvian slant like a lima sour, made with Pisco, lychee and cucumber or a chifa old fashioned that adds Chinese five-spice and cinnamon to the classic whiskey cocktail.

Vox Kitchen & Bar is located in the Crate & Barrel wing in the former Mezzet Mediterranean Cuisine spot and joins another exciting new addition refreshing the dining options on the Plaza's Bear Street side. Japanese brand Ramen Nagi opened just last month and drew long lines over the weekend.

Vox's long-awaited opening is well-timed too, considering Nguyen is needed in Aliso Viejo, where construction is beginning on Vox's third location at The Commons at Aliso Viejo Town Center.

"Trader Joe's is there, 99 Ranch Market is opening up, Philz Coffee is opening up and Daiso is there, so we will be next door to some great brands," Nguyen said.

Vox Kitchen & Bar is open daily from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. at South Coast Plaza at 3333 Bear St., Suite 118 in Costa Mesa.

sarah.mosqueda @latimes.com Twitter: @SarahNMos



Courtesy of Vox Kitchen & Bar

#### **CANNABIS**

Continued from page A1

Stephens said Thursday. "My view was we'd see some great public art.'



**THE DAILY** COMMUTER PUZZLE By Stella Zawistowski

VOX **KITCHEN** & Bar's signature

Now, with more than \$3.3 million in total revenue having so far been generated from the legal sale of marijuana, the application of the arts funding is not so visible.

Parks & Community Services Director Brian Gruner explained during an April 3 Arts Commission meeting the cannabis tax funds were not being accumulated for a special purpose, but were going into the city's general fund, from which arts programs and initiatives have historically been covered.

Gruner told commissioners while city leaders initially projected the cannabis tax revenue would be sufficient to fund the total implementation of the master plan's programs - around \$8 million annually — actual income has been less robust. possibly due to a cap placed last year on the number of dispensaries allowed to do business.

"Currenlty, the tax revenue coming in is not sufficient to basically fund the arts master plan, so the council has been supplementing additional funds from the general fund to help offset that," he said. "The council has been very, very supportive of the arts, and they certainly make that a priority to continue the funding, at least for the next fiscal vear.'

Total implementation of the five-year plan — which began July 2021 and ends in June 2026 — is estimated to cost \$1,941,700, including a projected cost for next fiscal year of \$457,300, according to figures provided by Gruner at last week's commission meeting.

But given the arts master plan funding constitutes 1/14 of the total cannabis tax taken in, the city would have to earn \$27,183,800 in revenue

City of Costa Mesa

A UTILITY BOX art wrap program is included in Costa Mesa's Arts & Culture Master Plan.

from dispensaries for arts and culture programs to be fully funded.

By contrast, figures provided in the 2024-25 adopted budget show only \$420,967 in arts-related cannabis taxes will have been collected by June 30.

That the earmark is being returned to the city's general fund came as a surprise to resident Jim Fitzpatrick, a former planning commissionerturned-cannabis-consultant who makes frequent appearances at public meetings to decry what he sees as waste and misspending at City Hall.

"Measure Q came after the Arts & Culture Master Plan. [The arts tax] was never intended to fund it," Fitzpatrick said during the Arts Commission meeting. "It was always intended to be incremental, over and above, to do more for the City of the Arts. Now [staff] is saying they're having to supplement it with the general fund. They've got it backwards."

City Finance Director Carol Molina, in the throes of preparing next fiscal year's budget, deferred questions about the cannabis tax to Costa Mesa spokesman Tony Dodero,

who clarified that the city's intention was that the revenue would be the sole funding source for programs identified in the document.

"Ultimately, the money from Measure Q is supposed to totally fund the master plan, but at this point it's not. And, because of that, for the last three years the city's been taking money out of the general fund to fund the master plan," Dodero said Wednesday.

Stephens said while that's not exactly what he envisioned when the council approved the tax set-aside, he doesn't think of using the general fund to pay for arts programming as a "subsidy."

"My vision was that it would be tangible, that people would be able to see a tangible art piece and trace it back to the cannabis art funds," the mayor said Thursday. "But it's still obviously an additional source of funds we didn't have before. If that allows us to get [an arts specialist], that wasn't what I was thinking — but I don't disagree with that."

sara.cardine@latimes.com Twitter: @SaraCardine

ACROSS

1 Presents 6 City's smaller cousin 10 F on a gas gauge 14 Folded sheet of paper 15 Double-reed instrument 16 Akron's state 17 Gulping down 19 Taking lots of time 20 Home's storage area 21 Hurries 23 \_ homo (Biblical phrase) 25 U2's lead singer 26 Citi Field or Petco Park 29 Hamsters, horses, and hares 33 Snakelike fish 34 Conveyance 36 \_ semper tyrannis 37 Guitar attachment 38 "I Can" rapper 39 "\_\_ heard of him" 40 Speed measurement: Abbr. 41 Italian ice confection 45 Lion's home 46 Flaky seasoning: 2 wds. 48 Large snake 50 Sagacious **51** Domesticated 52 Not in class 55 Hiking path 58 Similar to 59 "Shh! Don't tell!": 3 wds. 64 Scissors sound 65 Have to have 66 Glow brightly 67 Probability 68 Has a meal 69 Big name in supermarket chicken DOWN 1 Some significant

			23			24		25						
26	27	28						29				30	31	32
33				34			35					36		
37						38						39		
40				41	42				43	44		45		
46			47					48			49			
			50					51						1
52	53	54							55			56	57	
58			$\square$		59	60	61	62						63
64					65					66				
67			$\square$		68					69				

#### **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.

		0		4				
		3		4				
		2					8	
4	6		3			5		7
	3		5		9	8		
		6	4		2		1	
7				6	8		3	9
	1					6		
				3		7		

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

others: Abbr. 2 Des Moines' state 3 Not hilly 4 Leaned 5 Ask for 6 Haul from behind 7 Sash with a

kimono 8 Got a gold medal 9 Colorful gin cocktail 10 "\_ Prison Blues" 11 "We're in trouble!" 12 Part of a poem

27 Arizona city 28 First Greek letter 30 All kidding \_ 31 Pep (up) 32 Fragrance 35 A Bobbsey Twin 41 Financial profit 42 "Goosebumps" author: 2 wds. 43 Udder parts 44 Part of a couch 47 Uses a broom 49 -keen 52 As well 53 Tie tightly 54 Lose traction 56 Colored eye part 57 Former "Tonight Show" host Jay 60 Breakfast brew 61 Ready to go 62 Product plugs 63 Six plus four

13 Captains' diaries

22 Yard or meter

24 Flow (from)

McCartney, for

26 Lines of

stitches

18 Happen

25 Paul

one

Tribune Media Services