

Daily Pilot

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Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

JANDY PONVANIT, 9, attempts to retrieve a Japanese capsule toy during the opening night of the OC Japan Fair at OC Fair & Event Center.

O.C. fairgrounds plays host to Japan Fair, pumpkin patch

BY SARA CARDINE

A destination for family-friendly entertainment and activities, not only during the Orange County Fair but all year round, Costa Mesa's O.C. fairgrounds has been a busy scene this weekend, hosting two events that offer a little something for everyone.

Friday evening saw the return of the OC Japan Fair, a three-day celebration that intends to introduce local residents to the customs, cultures and traditions of the "Land of the Rising Sun."

Masataka Taguchi, a Huntington Beach event coordinator, organized the festival in 2009 as a means of blending the long-standing traditions and art forms of his own native culture — including Japanese flower arranging, or ikebana, and live kimono models — with modern trends quickly gaining traction among younger generations.

"This is about having an opportunity to

See **Fair**, page A2



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

VISITORS TAKE a train ride during Seasonal Adventures on Friday at the O.C. fairgrounds.



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

ZOE MCCLAIN, 4, left, and her sister, Keilani, 2, of Long Beach spin in circles as they enjoy a ride during Seasonal Adventures on Friday.



ALEX YAO prepares his booth for customers during the opening night of the OC Japan Fair

Scott Smeltzer
Staff Photographer

Event a building block for young women

Construction 101 day in Newport Beach introduces girls to career opportunities in the industry.

BY ANDREW TURNER

Breaking barriers can be intimidating, but McCarthy Building Companies has been attempting to aid young women who think that a career in the construction industry might just be what they are looking for.

For the past few years, the McCarthy Partnership for Women has been offering a Construction 101 day, geared toward introducing high school girls to the opportunities available to them.

High school students and their mentors convened at the McCarthy office in Newport Beach on Saturday, marking the third annual Construction 101 event. It had been canceled last year due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The participants made their way around to four stations, each helmed by a different

See **Building**, page A4

Patriot's Day Parade organizers eye March 5 for event

After this year's celebration was canceled, planners are hoping it goes off next year without a hitch.

BY SARA CARDINE

Organizers of the Laguna Beach Patriot's Day Parade — held to honor the nation and the contributions of hometown heroes — announced Friday they are officially seeking nominations for honorees for the 55th annual event, scheduled for March 5.

Started in 1967 by the Patience Wright chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the parade honors those who serve their country and their community and aims to instill in young generations a sense of civic pride, duty and service, organizer Sandi Werthe said Friday.

"It keeps us together," she said

See **Parade**, page A2

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Edison hangs on to earn key Sunset League win over CdM

BY MATT SZABO

The two runs couldn't have been more different, but each time, Edison High senior running back Troy Fletcher drove a stake into the heart of Corona del Mar.

Fletcher's 55-yard touchdown run up the middle late in Friday night's Sunset League football showdown put the Chargers back up by two scores.

Then, with Edison trying to run out the clock, his second effort allowed him to gain two yards on third-and-one in the final minute.

Edison held for a 28-20 victory at Huntington Beach High, which means that the Chargers will likely finish second in the league for the second straight year.

"We started off to a quick start, and then both defenses tightened up in the second half, big-time," Edison coach Jeff Grady said. "We just came up with plays when we

needed to make plays. We didn't play extremely clean but we got it done."

Edison (5-4, 2-1 in league) never trailed in the second half and was able to bounce back from last week's close loss to likely back-to-back league champion Los Alamitos.

Senior quarterback Parker Awad threw three touchdown passes in the first half for the Chargers, to Nico Brown, Austin Hurley and Tucker Tripp.

Edison had just one running play in the first half. Besides that play, it was Awad airing it out for 255 passing yards in the first half alone.

"He's getting better and better each week," Grady said. "He's got a good feel for the pocket. He did a good job of stepping up, keeping his eyes downfield and hitting

See **Edison**, page A6



EDISON'S TROY FLETCHER runs upfield under pressure from Corona del Mar's Christian Brooks.

Scott Smeltzer
Staff Photographer

FAIR

Continued from page A1

promote Japanese food and culture," said Taguchi, who moved to the United States from Hyogo Prefecture, near the city of Osaka, in 1998.

As such, the fair features taiko drum performances, tea ceremonies and sake tastings as well as events centered around animation and cosplay.

With a theme of "The Skills of Japan," this year's celebration showcases more than 100 vendors and presenters highlighting the best in Japanese food, culture, music, technological innovations and art.

The event began as a one-day celebration, but attendance soon swelled to a point where organizers felt they could expand into a weekend-long format.

"Every year, it's getting bigger and bigger and more popular," Taguchi said. "Since 2015 it's also been a nighttime event, where more young people come. But we also focus on fam-

ilies with kids."

OC Japan Fair continues Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the O.C. fair-ground's Los Alamitos Building and Lot I.

Admission is \$10, or free for children age 6 and under as well as seniors over 65. On-site parking costs \$10. For more information, visit oc-japan-fair.com.

FALL FUN AND ADVENTURE FOR KIDS

This weekend also brought locals a little taste of fall fun, as the annual "Seasonal Adventures Pumpkin Patch" continued into its second week with gourds galore, mechanical rides and inflatable slides, mazes and obstacle courses geared for families and young children.

Organizer Rob Lambert said the event debuted at the fairgrounds in 2019 but was canceled last year due to the pandemic. Now, Seasonal Adventures is back and much bigger than before.

"We've made the lot twice as big — we added a

train, an inflatable corn maze and a haunted slide," he said Friday, adding that this year's attendance has already outpaced 2019 by about 200%.

With a host of kid-centered activities, including a petting zoo with goats, pigs, chickens and rabbits, the feel of the attraction is not so much frightening as it is friendly.

"We really cater to the little kids," Lambert said. "We try to make it a fun and safe family event, where everything is happy and positive."

Seasonal Adventures Pumpkin Patch runs through Oct. 31 on Lot C. It is open Monday through Thursdays from 3 to 9 p.m., Fridays from 3 to 10 p.m. and on the weekends from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Admission is free, with tickets for individual attractions available for purchase.

Parking costs \$10. For more information, visit seasonaladventures.com.

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THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS

- 1 TV's " _ the Nation"
- 5 _ by; supported 10 Nudge
- 14 "I'm _ late and a dollar short"
- 15 Texter's need
- 16 Down the _; at a future date
- 17 Unusual
- 18 Remorse
- 20 English letters
- 21 Youngsters
- 22 "Easy _"; Peter Fonda film
- 23 Sorority letter
- 25 Restroom door word
- 26 Passenger ships
- 28 Cuts of beef
- 31 Boxer De La Hoya
- 32 Rose Parade entry
- 34 FedEx rival
- 36 Fishing worm
- 37 Slumbered
- 38 Abbr. in some high school names
- 39 Sup
- 40 Virginia, for one
- 41 Small restaurant
- 42 Young swan
- 44 Illness
- 45 Unrefined
- 46 Paramour
- 47 Poe or Bergen
- 50 Garden access
- 51 Mistaken
- 54 "Nonsense!"
- 57 Largest tribe in South Africa
- 58 "Little Boy _ come blow your horn"
- 59 Self-assurance
- 60 Burden
- 61 Chocolate candy store
- 62 Grand home
- 63 Poems of praise

Down the _; at a future date

17 Unusual

18 Remorse

20 English letters

21 Youngsters

22 "Easy _"; Peter Fonda film

23 Sorority letter

25 Restroom door word

26 Passenger ships

28 Cuts of beef

31 Boxer De La Hoya

32 Rose Parade entry

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58 "Little Boy _ come blow your horn"

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61 Chocolate candy store

62 Grand home

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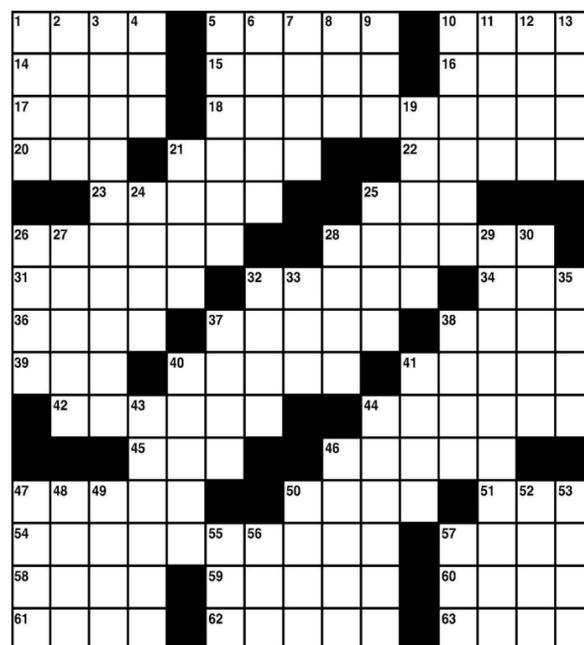
18 Remorse

20 English letters

21 Youngsters

22 "Easy _"; Peter Fonda film

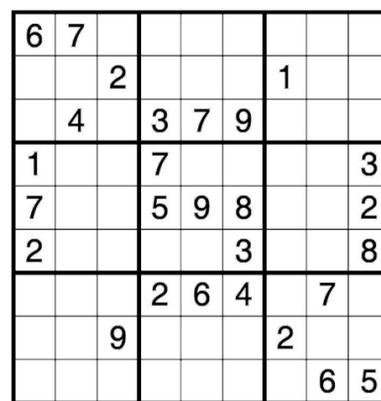
23 Sorority letter



SUDOKU

By The Mephram Group

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



For answers to the crossword and Sudoku puzzles, see page A4.

- 3 U.S. state capital
- 4 Place for an iris
- 5 Bits of parsley
- 6 Bara of the silents
- 7 Fumbler's word
- 8 Late bedtime
- 9 Animal's hideaway

- 10 Treeless expanses
- 11 Watermelon casing
- 12 Back in the day
- 13 Forest animal
- 19 Special goody
- 21 Actress Deborah

- 24 Source of protein
- 25 Castle protection
- 26 Frontal _; part of the brain
- 27 Sir _ Newton
- 28 Mountaineer's need
- 29 Do a 180
- 30 Miles per hour
- 32 Not singing in tune
- 33 Allow
- 35 Light on one's feet
- 37 One-dish meal
- 38 Stack
- 40 Catch in a trap
- 41 Actor Annable
- 43 School transcript entries
- 44 Goose or Hubbard
- 46 Lariat
- 47 Decreases
- 48 Valley
- 49 Stickum
- 50 Put on weight
- 52 Chimney pipe
- 53 Make a scene
- 55 Record letters
- 56 _ number on; treat badly
- 57 Bronx tourist stop

Tribune Media Services

PARADE

Continued from page A1

of the spirit of patriotism. "I have a flag outside my house every day, and several of my neighbors do as well. It's important for us to support our country."

The parade takes place the first Saturday in March. Organizers were lucky in 2020 to have been able to pull off one last show before pandemic closures were put in place.

After being forced to cancel this year's celebration out of an abundance of caution, Werthe said she and her colleagues are trying to remain optimistic plans for the year ahead will hold.

"We're just going to cross our fingers and toes and hope everything turns out for the best," she added. "This [year] is important to us, because 55 is a good number. We'd like to keep it going."



File Photo

ORANGE COUNTY Sons of the American Revolution at the Laguna Beach Patriot's Day Parade in 2020. Organizers announced next year's event will take place March 5.

Next year's theme will be "Toward Community and Unity." Locals are invited to nominate someone they know in one of several honoree categories, including Grand Marshal, Citizen of the Year and Artist of the Year. A special category, Patriot of the Year, is open to current or former members

of the U.S. military. Nominations, with honorees' background and local affiliations, may be emailed to shworthy@cox.net by Nov. 1. Updates will be posted online at lagunabeachparade.org.

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forum

COLUMN | **PATRICE APODACA**

It's time to end offshore oil drilling once and for all

I've been through several waves of emotions since learning that an offshore oil spill fouled Orange County's treasured waters, beaches and wetlands. We're told that there are seven stages of grief, but anger has infinite varieties, and I've cycled through many of them in the past several days.

The bottom line is that I'm mad as hell about the oil spill, and I think everyone else should be too.

It's the kind of anger that comes from being misled, ignored and condescended to for far too long by an industry that chases profits with scant regard for the destructive consequences.

This is an anger that derives not from some irrational reaction to events beyond our control; rather it is a logical response to a disaster that was entirely predictable and preventable.

Like many of my fellow residents of coastal Orange County, I first knew that something was wrong on the evening of Friday, Oct. 1, when a strange, tar-like odor permeated the air. As we have since learned, the smell emanated from a ruptured oil pipeline near an offshore rig that has since poured an estimated 131,000 gallons of crude into the water.

But as the oil slick spread toward the coastline and toxic globs began polluting county beaches and estuaries, we also learned that there may have been troubling delays in shutting down the leaking pipeline and in notifying authorities.

At news conferences, Martin Welcher, the chief executive of Amplify Energy, the Houston-based owner of the oil platform, resembled a character straight from a central casting call for a corporate suit. He followed the typical playbook for obfuscation, sidestepping reporters' pointed questions about the timeline of events and issuing vague promises of a thorough investigation.

This unsatisfactory response was from the leader of a company with a

history of bankruptcy and whose subsidiary, Beta Operating Co., the platform operator, was fined by federal regulators in 2013 and 2014 for violations that led to the injury of workers and was issued 125 violations found by federal inspectors.

It speaks to the inordinate power of the fossil fuel industry that a company with a checkered history was operating a 41-year-old pipeline — arguably long past the equipment's sell-by date — right off our coastline. It's not surprising that an accident occurred in what is inherently a dangerous business that is often undertaken without sufficiently rigorous oversight.

Yet while there have been no new oil drilling leases given off the California coast in about 50 years, there are still more than 1,200 active oil and gas wells, and the state continues to give permits for drilling covered by old leases.

Oil spills are more common than you might realize, with thousands occurring in U.S. waters every year. Most are small and receive little to no publicity, but even the small ones are harmful to the environment.

The larger spills, as we've sadly witnessed, are ecological disasters, and there have been 44 of those since 1969, according to Pete Stauffer, environmental director for the Surfrider Foundation, a San Clemente-based organization dedicated to protecting oceans and beaches.

"There's a damaging impact on fish and wildlife and plankton," Stauffer said. "The inner tidal is particularly sensitive. Oil is very difficult to remove from marshlands.

"Those effects can linger for years."

The economic toll is also severe, and includes not just the costs of cleanup but also the damage to local businesses that rely on a healthy ocean and shoreline environment.

So yes, we have a right to be angry. But any outrage is wasted unless it's channeled into positive energy.

We know what needs to happen. Offshore oil drilling must be

banned, once and for all. It's simply too risky, too expensive and too harmful. This has been apparent for decades; perhaps now we can finally do something about it.

It's been suggested that this latest spill is garnering more attention than others because it occurred off the shores of a wealthy and influential county with world-famous beaches. Whether that's true or not, we could certainly use whatever power we do have to work for needed change.

Some might contend that stopping all offshore drilling would be too costly and complicated, but that argument rings hollow considering the terrible price we pay for continuing. How many more images of birds coated in oil and clumps of poisonous sludge washing up on the sand are we willing to endure?

Last weekend I checked out the shoreline in Huntington Beach. In many ways, it seemed like just another beautiful day in paradise. There was a pleasant, early fall breeze, and the waves crashing on the beach exuded a calming sense of normalcy, even as workers in white uniforms toiled away, cleaning up a mess that should never have happened.

Gazing out at the water, I could see in the distance a long line of massive cargo vessels seemingly stalled at sea, a common sight in recent months as operations at local ports remain backlogged. Questions have been raised about the possibility that it was a ship's anchor that caused the pipeline to rupture.

Even if that turns out to have been the case, any attempt to deflect responsibility should be swiftly and unequivocally denounced. It's not the ships that don't belong in the water.

The oil rigs must go.

PATRICE APODACA is a former Los Angeles Times staff writer and is coauthor of "A Boy Named Courage: A Surgeon's Memoir of Apartheid." She lives in Newport Beach.

MAILBAG

Readers respond to oil spill off the coast

Whenever an ecological disaster occurs, there is always a hue and cry about the damage to the flora and fauna, the killing of the birds and fish. Yet when there is an opportunity to anticipate this environmental destruction and prevent it, there is no specific interest.

This is what is taking place with Poseidon's plan to build a \$1.4-billion desalination plant in Huntington Beach.

The process involves the use of approximately 100 million gallons of ocean water derived from as far south as Dana Point to as far west as Palos Verde and forcing it through membranes, extracting the salt, in the process killing all the minute sea creatures such as fish eggs, larvae, newly hatched fish to produce 50 million gallons of fresh water and then dumping the salt and chemicals back into the ocean, creating a dead zone through which fish, including whales will not swim.

The sea birds which are dependent on the food chain for sustenance will cease to exist, but that will be considered collateral damage.

The California Coastal Commission will soon meet to determine whether to approve Poseidon's request for final approval and can avert another ecological environmental disaster from taking place.

Richard C. Armendariz
Huntington Beach

I have a monitor on my main water supply at my house that alerts me whenever I have a leak (it cost \$200). I was very disappointed to find out

that the leak detection system for an underwater oil pipeline relies on residents calling authorities to report the foul odors and boaters and the Coast Guard reporting oil slicks on the water days after the leak began.

Do you think that it would be prudent to require monitors and automatic shut-offs on all oil pipelines?

Steve Brahs
Costa Mesa

I've had a number of political highs in my life — like shaking hands with presidential candidate John F. Kennedy at the San Francisco Airport in 1960, serving as Bill Honig's Orange County fundraiser when he successfully ran for State Superintendent of Public Instruction in 1982 and '86, or being then-Sen. Barack Obama's "wing man" for nearly an hour when he visited Newport in 2007 — but none have come close to when I represented the beach cities of San Clemente, Laguna, Newport and Huntington Beach and the Orange County supervisors in the "No on Offshore Oil Drilling" campaign in 1985.

Back then, the Reagan administration had its sights set on drilling off the California coastline, so when 22 local Republican mayors publicly rejected the idea here in Orange County, I knew our collective mission to protect the ocean and local beaches for future generations was secure.

That is, until this past weekend's oil spill affecting Huntington Beach,

See *Mailbag*, page A4

what's happening at



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BUILDING

Continued from page A1

company in the construction industry.

For its part, McCarthy had the girls pour concrete into a mold that, when dried, created an image of a construction worker that they could take home.

Hilti provided the chance for the students to work with power tools, and in particular, an automatic screwdriver that was used to put screws through a drywall.

The structure had been designed to look like Rosie the Riveter, a long-time symbol of women in the workforce.

There were also stations that taught the students how to work with electrical switchboards, as well as teach safety practices for operating a crane.

Manasi Pitkar, preconstruction director and Construction 101 committee leader for McCarthy, said that the goal of the program is to get women thinking about the possibility of a career in the field.

It already has some success stories.

Joy Gonzalez, 20, of Pine Mountain Club, who now works for the electrical contractor AJ Kirkwood and Associates,



KIM CAMACHO-PACHECO, left, an Estancia High School student, learns to build a switch receptacle, guided by Erica Torres, right, with AJ Kirkwood & Associates.



MICHELLE ORDONEZ, from right, with McCarthy Building Co., and Alexa Hupalo each pot a succulent plant.

Photos by Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

Inc., attended the initial Construction 101 event.

Gonzalez said her father worked in the construction industry, and it had always been her ambition to work in a male-dominated field. She still has dreams of becoming a pilot.

"You look at a movie and you only pay attention to the actors," Gonzalez said.

"I like knowing that I'm like the directors in the back of the building. The people that designed it, that's incredible, but now

I get to bring power to it."

For Estancia High School junior Kim Camacho-Pacheco, it was a class offering that served as the spark that ignited her passion for construction.

She said that she had been considering ceramics before winding up in the class.

Kim has now attended all three of McCarthy's Construction 101 days.

"I didn't think that construction would have been something for me, but as I kept on staying in that class, I learned many things, and what keeps me going is the women in construction," Kim said. "Seeing women work in construction keeps me more inspired."

Kim added that if she sticks with construction classes at Estancia through her senior year, she will become the first female student to receive a medal at graduation for construction.

"It's super cool because I want to be able to inspire young women and freshmen to join construction and tell them, 'This is for girls, too. This is not only for guys,'" Kim said. "That's why I want to see more girls join."

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MAILBAG

Continued from page A3

Newport and Laguna. It pains me beyond words to read about the ecological disaster that has killed wildlife and forced beaches to close.

I was a junior at USC when the massive 1969 oil spill turned Santa Barbara beaches black with tar balls. Its impact was felt for decades.

I know Rep. Michelle Steel has sent a letter to President Biden requesting a major disaster declaration for Orange County. As far as I am concerned, word from the White House can't come soon enough.

Denny Freidenrich
Laguna Beach

Citizens of Huntington Beach rightly place a huge premium on local control of local resources to solve local problems. The city response to the recent oil spill is a prime example: The city did not rely on federal officials or Amplify Energy for instructions — had they done so, oil would have infiltrated every sensitive wetland along our coast. The City Council (led by Mayor Kim Carr) and city management team deserve kudos for deploying city resources in a critically timely fashion to safeguard our most important and most fragile environmental commonwealth!

This is what local control looks and feels like. It is a shame that the most proactive and effective members of the council are facing the threat of recall on the incorrect and deceptive premise that the council is a passive tool looking out for nefarious, hidden interests. We are all very fortunate that even in the face of that distraction, the vast majority of the elected leadership of the city saw their duty clearly and acted to protect our — and their — home.

Galen T. Pickett
Huntington Beach

Vaccine rates an embarrassment

It is not only alarming but also indicative of a certain political mindset that relatively wealthy areas such as Newport Beach and San Clemente have vaccination rates below the state norm. In an Oct. 5 article in the California section of the L.A. Times, "COVID vaccine disinformation a big reason behind low inoculation rates, officials say," it is acknowledged that "California and the country have made significant progress in their inoculation efforts." The article goes on to point out that in California's third most populous county, Orange County, health officials expressed concern about low rates among "neighborhoods along the coast, such as in Newport Beach, Huntington Beach and San Clemente."

In relatively wealthy areas, the low vaccination rates can mostly be attributed to misinformation and more prominently to the politicization against all governmental efforts to abate the pandemic. A negative attitude toward the state's effort to do so became apparent from the very beginning in these three beach communities. Protests, locally displayed negative attitudes toward statewide health efforts and simply nonaction when it came to providing any leadership of their own for fighting the pandemic are characteristic of these three communities' local leaders as well as the O.C. Board of Supervisors. In contrast to these three beach cities, there are inland and farming communities who have achieved through hard work higher rates of vaccination.

It is incomprehensible to me and a majority of Americans how supposedly educated communities could be undermining national efforts to rid the country of this terrible scourge. At these moments, it certainly does not make me proud to be from a city and a county which show such a lack of understanding and empathy.

Lynn Lorenz
Newport Beach

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

F	A	C	E	S	T	O	O	D	P	R	O	D		
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Mary "Jane" Werner

September 15, 1929 - August 11, 2021

Mary "Jane" Werner, born September 15, 1929, lived quite a life. The daughter of Frank and Lois Denton, she was born into the Quaker faith amongst the gentle hills of Orange County, Indiana in the tiny town of Paoli along with her beloved younger brother Frank (1934-1951). In her youth, she developed a lifelong love of learning and basketball. She graduated from Paoli High as class valedictorian which earned her a full scholarship to Indiana University. In college, Jane's passion for reading led her to major in history and library science, along with admission into the Phi Beta Kappa National Honor Society. At IU, she also met her best friend and eventual husband, a fellow Hoosier named Forrest Werner. Their first date was at the Orange County Fair near Paoli. Nearly 65 years later, one of their last dates was at the Orange County Fair in California. They moved their family out west in 1960, settling in Costa Mesa where she and Forrest lived for over 50 years. Jane became the librarian at Santiago High School in nearby Garden Grove. It was a job she enjoyed for 30 years, making her mark on countless students by creating a library space brimming with warmth and curiosity, which was named after her in 1991. In retirement, she was active in many organizations including the California Retired Teachers Association (CaRTA), P.E.O., Indiana University Alumni Club, Costa Mesa Democratic Club, local Delta Kappa Gamma chapter and president of UCI Town & Gown, and church Deacon. She passed on her love of learning to her four children, Cathey, Cynthia, Forrest III and Frank, each of whom grew up to become recognized educators themselves. They loved traveling and instilled that love to their children and grandchildren with many family vacations. Together Jane and Forrest visited all 50 states and explored every corner of the globe, including Russia and Egypt. Among her only travel regrets: "not making it to Antarctica with Forrest." To them, life was an adventure. Jane loved decorating her home with the theme of the month. She was an impeccable dresser with a soft spot for St. John Knits and an avid theater goer. But most of all, she loved to get her huge family together. Nothing lit her up more. To her ten grandchildren and two great grandchildren, she was everything a grandma is supposed to be. She would get a huge smile whenever a grandchild called or came to visit. Full of joy and wisdom, always patient and there to listen, a rowdy cheerleader ever ready with a hug. Looking back on her life, Jane often marveled at "how a girl from a small town in Indiana could've done so much." But she'd also tell you that of all her accomplishments, it's the close-knit, loving family she leaves behind that she's proud of the most.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, October 24 2pm at the Presbyterian Church of the Covenant 2850 Fairview Road Costa Mesa. CDC guidelines for indoor gatherings will be observed.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that remembrances be made to the scholarship fund at UCI Town and Gown, With Hope Foundation for Suicide Prevention or the Democratic Party of Orange County. Knowing that she was making a difference always made her smile.

“ I chose to fight,
so I came to Hoag.”

SARAH'S STORY



An ER Doctor Fights — and Defeats — Breast Cancer During Pandemic

Sarah worked on the front lines as an emergency room physician in the height of the COVID pandemic. Her world came to a halt when the mother of three found out she had an aggressive form of breast cancer. At Hoag, Sarah never felt like a number. Hoag saw her as a person, a mother and a fellow physician. Daily, she felt the support of a team fighting hard to get her back to being healthy for her family. Today, cancer-free, Sarah credits the care and support she received at Hoag for helping her defeat breast cancer once and for all.



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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Newport gets key victory over Huntington Beach

BY ANDREW TURNER

When things did not break their way during a tough nonleague schedule, the Newport Harbor High School football team knew it had another path to the playoffs.

Newport Harbor coach Peter Lofthouse told his players that the Sunset League represented a new season, and the Sailors have done what they had to in order to put themselves in contention.

Running back Payton Irving scored three touchdowns to lead Newport Harbor to a 45-27 win over Huntington Beach on Friday in a Sunset League game at Davidson Field.

"After Edison, we've been stressing that this was going to come down to a three-game season," Lofthouse said. "Getting that Fountain Valley game, now getting the Huntington Beach game, I just think like anything, you start getting that snowball moving and it keeps getting bigger and bigger, and you start playing with more confidence."

"We've never felt that our record is indicative of the quality of our team, and so we lost some tough games to some really good football teams."

Newport Harbor (3-5, 2-1) has Corona del Mar (6-2, 1-2) and Los Alamitos (7-1, 3-0) remaining on the schedule, so the Sailors have their work cut out for them.

In the pandemic-shortened season, the Sailors and Sea Kings played in a defensive struggle that Cdm won 10-7 on April 2.

Newport Harbor will hope that its defense can again make some plays in the Battle of the Bay ri-



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

JOHNNY CHAIX of Newport Harbor blocks a punt by Tyler Moses, which led to a touchdown during Friday's game.

valry game next Friday.

Special teams went the way of the Sailors against Huntington Beach (4-4, 1-2).

Johnny Chaix blocked two punts in the first quarter. The first led to a six-yard touchdown pass by AJ Guitron-Moore to Irving. Chaix made the scoop and scored himself on the second to give Newport Harbor a 14-0 lead.

Connor Chenier, who had 2½

sacks for the Sailors, described the emotion of watching big plays unfold on special teams.

"So pumped up," Chenier said. "You go from making a good play, they've got to punt it, and to make it an even better play, it makes us so pumped up, ready to attack."

Irving finished with 163 rushing yards and 71 receiving yards. Guitron-Moore threw for 165 yards and three touchdowns to go with

an interception.

Kashton Henjum had a receiving touchdown for the Sailors. Newport Harbor put the game away with a 25-yard touchdown from Guitron-Moore to Josiah Lamarque on a fourth-and-six play with 4:57 left.

"AJ threw a great ball," Lofthouse said. "Josiah ran by the corner, and so we're very confident in those guys' abilities to make those

plays in those tough spots."

Lofthouse said that he did not name Guitron-Moore as the starter until Thursday, but teammates say the latter has been putting in the work to gain their trust.

"The kid's a stud," Irving said of Guitron-Moore. "He's been staying 30 minutes after practice with our receivers just working on that timing, getting it so they can perfect their craft, and it's worked out perfectly."

AJ Perez threw for 271 yards and four touchdowns to lead Huntington Beach offensively. Hideo Ray and Tyler Moses each surpassed 100 yards receiving with two touchdowns. Perez was also the Oilers' leading rusher, gaining 51 yards on the ground.

Huntington Beach would have assured itself at least a .500 record with a win, which would have made the Oilers eligible to receive an at-large selection into the CIF Southern Section playoffs.

The Oilers finish the season with games against league-leading Los Alamitos and Edison (5-3, 2-1).

"There's no quit in these guys," Huntington Beach coach Brett Brown said.

"They're going to battle no matter what happens. We lean on our playmakers and tonight they made plays. We just didn't make enough, and we didn't get stops when we needed to, and we didn't move the chains when we needed to, as well. I think if we fixed the special teams stuff, that game is going down to the wire."

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EDISON

Continued from page A1

check-downs. Check-downs went a long way tonight."

Indeed, check-downs to Fletcher did prove key in beating Corona del Mar (6-2, 1-2). He finished with 180 yards from scrimmage, with six carries for 77 yards and the touchdown and five catches for 103 yards.

"Every time we put pressure on [Awad] and he scrambled, he dumped it to the running back, and that guy's a nightmare," Cdm coach Dan O'Shea said. "It was well-designed by Edi-

son, for sure."

Edison senior defensive end Austin Grbac, who said he and his brother Cody missed last week's loss to Los Alamitos due to coronavirus contact tracing, returned in a big way Friday night with a game-high four quarterback sacks. Still, the Sea Kings remained in the game until the end.

But the Edison defense stiffened in the red zone. Cdm had to settle for three field goal attempts by Colin Pene; two were successful.

"We were not able to convert touchdowns down in the red zone, and that was the game," O'Shea said. "It was just two champion programs going head to



Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

EDISON'S NICO BROWN makes a fingertip grab in the end zone for a touchdown against Corona del Mar on Friday.

head. That was a fierce battle physically and emotion-

ally for both sides, but the big difference for us was needing to convert touchdowns down in the red zone."

Pene's 23-yard field goal with 5:53 left in the fourth quarter brought Cdm within 21-13. But three plays later, Fletcher burst up the middle on his 55-yard scamper.

"It felt great," Fletcher said. "I knew it was going to hit sooner or later. The line just did their thing, and it was a wide-open hole. All I had to do was run through it."

Cdm responded, as junior quarterback David Rator found Evan Sanders on an 11-yard touchdown pass

with 1:48 remaining. But Edison recovered the on-side kick, and Fletcher's third-down run helped the hosts run out the clock.

Senior defensive tackle Hudson Letterman had two tackles for a loss for Edison.

Cdm senior safety Tyler Brown had a second-half interception, but the Chargers were still able to show off an impressively versatile passing attack. Fletcher, Brown, Hurley, Tripp and Tyler Hampton all had at least 40 yards receiving.

"We have weapons everywhere," Fletcher said. "We have high jumpers with Hampton, deep threats with Nico and Ashton, and Tucker is just a well-rounded receiver. It's hard to cover all of them. One of them is always going to be open."

Both teams prepare for rivalry games next Friday. Edison plays Fountain Valley in the Battle for the Bell game at Orange Coast College, while Cdm plays at Newport Harbor in the Battle of the Bay game.

Edison has won 16 straight Bell games against Fountain Valley, while Cdm looks to beat Newport Harbor for the ninth straight year.

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LET'S TALK.



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