

# Daily Pilot

FRIDAY, JULY 23, 2021 /// Now including Coastline Pilot and Huntington Beach Independent /// dailypilot.com

## Laguna calls on residents to limit water use

City officials are calling on a voluntary reduction to combat the ongoing drought conditions in the state.

BY ANDREW TURNER

Laguna Beach city officials are asking residents and local businesses to continue to fight persistent drought conditions by reducing the amount of water they use.

The appeal to the community comes after Gov. Gavin Newsom called on Californians to voluntarily scale back their water usage by 15% to combat dry weather conditions contributing to drought throughout much of the state. "We're concerned about what another dry year will bring, and because of that, we are asking residents to do simple, common-sense things to stretch our water supplies," Laguna Beach Mayor Bob Whalen said in a prepared statement issued this week.

"If we continue to get dry year after dry year, there's going to come a time when we will again be faced with mandatory reductions."

"Every gallon of water saved today is water that is available in our future, and I urge all Laguna Beach residents and businesses to do what they can do to reduce consumption."

Newsom has declared a regional drought state of emergency for 50 counties in the state. Southern California was not part of the area covered in that order.

Laguna Beach was named one of five national winners in the ninth annual Wyland National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation last year.

See **Water**, page A2

## ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

**VANGUARD AQUATICS BOYS TAKE GOLD, TWO SILVERS AT USA WATER POLO JUNIOR OLYMPICS** PAGE A4

## LITTLE LEAGUE



Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**JUSTIN GARCIA** steps on home plate surrounded by his teammates after hitting a walk-off home run during the Section 10 Little League all-star tournament championship game against Aliso Viejo on Wednesday.

## Walk-off home run lifts Huntington Valley to Section 10 crown

BY ANDREW TURNER

In the early innings, Huntington Valley Little League starting pitcher Justin Garcia's pitch count was steadily rising.

He only needed to see one pitch to send his team on to the state tournament.

Garcia hit a two-run, walk-off home run to give Huntington Valley a 4-3 win over Aliso Viejo in the Section 10 championship game on Wednesday at Fountain Valley Sports Park.

"I knew as soon as I hit it, I hit it out," Garcia said. "You could tell by my celebration."

Before his game-winning shot to left-center field, Garcia tossed

4% scoreless innings with eight strikeouts.

An 85-pitch limit loomed large over Garcia's start, especially after he threw 52 pitches through the first two innings. Brendon Krans charged a ground ball at third base to retire Tate Fettig with the bases loaded to end the second.

Second baseman Charlie Stubin was also a key in the field. He made all three putouts in a seven-pitch fourth inning for Garcia.

When Garcia was lifted for Ely Mason in the fifth, Stubin caught a line drive off the bat of Henry Drews to strand another runner in scoring position.

"I couldn't have done it without

him," Garcia said of Stubin's defense. "He made every single play that was at him, and everybody else. Everybody else did good."

Huntington Valley opened the scoring in the third. Brady Guth was hit by a pitch to lead off the inning. Luke Miller reached on a fielder's choice, and Krans homered to center field for a 2-0 lead.

The score stayed the same until the top of the sixth. Aliso Viejo ended the shutout when Avery Bateman scored on a two-out single by Chance Martin.

A bases-loaded walk by Brett Burror tied it up. Then Dylan Bright was hit by a pitch to give

See **Home Run**, page A4

**GARCIA HITS** the game-winning home run at Fountain Valley Sports Park on Wednesday.



## Costa Mesa to place tax liens on delinquent cannabis dispensaries

The City Council decided to shift some of the burden of the illegal operations to landowners, transferring long-owed city fines to the owner's property taxes.

BY SARA CARDINE

After issuing code violation notices and citations to illegal cannabis dispensaries and property owners — a practice that, in recent years, has racked up \$122,475 in unpaid fines — the city of Costa Mesa is upping its nuisance abatement game.

City Council members this week passed a resolution to place delinquent citations on the county's property tax roll as a lien against offending properties, meaning owners would have unpaid fines added to their property tax bills as a special assessment.

Failure to pay the tax for three consecutive years would allow the county's tax collector to sell the delinquent property.

"We've used code enforcement, we've partnered with the

D.A. We've done as much as we can that was currently on the books," Mayor Pro Tem Andrea Marr said of the move in a July 20 council meeting.

"This is an attempt by staff to give us another tool in [our] toolbox."

Finance Director Carol Molina explained when businesses are identified as operating without a license or violating the city's building and municipal codes, the business owner and owner of the site are fined and given 30 days to request an administrative hearing to resolve issues.

If no action occurs, the matter goes to the Finance Department, and those given citations are allowed another 30 days to correct the problem and pay fines, which may include additional delinquency fees.

At that point, the city may re-

quest the fees be added to the tax roll, but first the City Council must pass a resolution — the aim of Tuesday's discussion.

A list of delinquent dispensaries and property owners indicates 58 outstanding citations on 12 properties has so far accrued the \$122,475 in uncollected fines.

"These citations are older than 60 days and have greater than \$250 fees and fines," Molina told the council. "The cities have been provided multiple opportunities to pay these fines and directly contact Finance Department staff to handle these citations."

Molina and City Atty. Kimberly Hall Barlow assured property owner unaware an illegal dispensary is operating on



Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

**A BUSINESS** complex at 440 Fair Drive, a site of at least one illegal cannabis dispensary, has racked up \$18,700 in unpaid citations, city records indicate.

## Increase seen in hospital visits due to COVID

But county health officials are not yet considering a mask mandate despite the rise in new cases.

BY LILLY NGUYEN

COVID hospitalizations are climbing in Orange County, but county health officials aren't sounding the alarm just yet.

The Orange County Health Care Agency recently reported an increase in hospitalizations from the 126 cases reported on Tuesday to 143 cases on Wednesday.

The number of intensive care unit patients fell from 59 to 35 in that same time frame.

As of Thursday, data showed that hospitalizations were at 149 and intensive care units cases at 39 in area hospitals.

Another 304 cases were reported Thursday, bringing the total number of COVID-19 cases logged in the county to 260,289.

Two new deaths, both of residents not living in a care facility, were also recorded on Thursday. The total number of people that have died from COVID-19 in Orange County is now 5,138.

"We are seeing a gradual increase in hospitalizations and intensive care unit cases since the reopening of California, which we were expecting when mask requirements were lifted and physical distancing was reduced," Dr. Regina Chinsio-Kwong, county deputy health officer, said in an email Thursday afternoon.

Chinsio-Kwong said the rise in cases and hospitalizations in Orange County has been more gradual than in neighboring Los Angeles County, where new hospital admissions are up by 51.34% according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Comparatively, Orange County is seeing a 14.29% growth.

"We suspect this is primarily from the high vaccination rates we were able to achieve earlier on," Chinsio-Kwong said.

At least 73% of the county's adult population have received at least one vaccine, but Chinsio-Kwong said that the percentage of those who have been vaccinated is tapering off with an increase of only 3% of the adult population getting vaccinated in the last

See **Increase**, page A3

See **Liens**, page A3

# MARKETPLACE

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## Legal Notices

## Legal Notices

### CITY OF COSTA MESA PUBLICATION

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Costa Mesa Zoning Administrator will render a decision on Thursday, August 5, 2021, or as soon as possible thereafter, on the following item:  
**Application No. ZA-21-21 (PA-05-10 A1)**  
**Applicant/Agent:** TR Costa Mesa Courtyards, LLC / Tim Alborg  
**Site Address:** 1835 Newport Boulevard, Suite B-129  
**Zone:** PDC (Planned Development Commercial)

**Description:** Zoning Application ZA-21-21 (PA-05-10 A1) is a request for a Minor Conditional Use Permit (MCUP) to modify the existing CUP (PA-05-10) to allow deliveries of goods (including beer, wine, ice cream, snacks, hand sanitizer, pet food, toilet paper, and diapers) to be delivered 24-hours a day with deliveries of alcohol stopping at 2:00AM and resuming at 6:00AM. In store sales would remain the same as the existing approval with the retail storefront closing at 9:00 PM on weekdays and 10:00 PM on weekends and holidays. The MCUP would result in tenant improvements including the construction of a Dispatch/Stockroom at the rear of the suite, and modifying shelving within the store.

**Environmental Determination:** The project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) per CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 (Class 1), Existing Facilities.

**Additional Information:** For more information, call (714) 754-5245, or email [planning@costamesa.org](mailto:planning@costamesa.org). Planning Division staff are available from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Thursday and alternating Fridays, except specified holidays. There will be **no public hearing** on this request. Any written correspondence must be emailed to [planning@costamesa.org](mailto:planning@costamesa.org) prior to 12:00 PM on the day of the decision date (see above). The decision letter can be downloaded from the City's website following the decision date at: <http://www.costamesa.org/development>. If you challenge this action in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you, or someone else raised, prior to the decision date.

### NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:

**JOHN LELAND WITHERS, JR.**

**CASE NO. 18-021-010109-PR-A-C-CC**

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL, or estate, or both of JOHN LELAND WITHERS, JR.,

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by KRISTINE COUSINS, as the Superior Court of California, County of ORANGE.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that KRISTINE COUSINS be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 08/18/21 at 10:30AM in Dept. C08 located at 700 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE WEST, SANTA ANA, CA 92701.

### Notice to Probate Cases

(1) If you plan to appear, you must attend the hearing by video remote using the court's designated video platform. (2) Go to the Court's website at <http://www.courts.org/media-relations/probate-mental-health.html> to appear for probate hearings and for remote hearing instructions. (3) If you have difficulty connecting to your remote hearing, call 657-622-8278 for assistance.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner:  
**CHRISTOPHER B. JOHNSON, ESQ.**  
SBN 173521, LAW OFFICES OF  
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723.724.730/21  
CNS-3493506

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### CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH

#### NOTICE INVITING BIDS

Sealed bids shall be submitted electronically via [PlanBidBids](http://PlanBidBids) to the office of the City Clerk, 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660  
By **10:00 AM** on the 19th day of August, 2021,  
at which time such bids shall be opened and read for

#### OCEAN BOULEVARD SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS BETWEEN CARNAVAL AVENUE AND FERNLEAF AVENUE

**PROJECT NO. 18R26  
CONTRACT NO. C-7623-1**

**\$475,000  
Engineer's Estimate**

Approved by  
**James M. Houston  
Deputy FWD/City Engineer**

Prospective bidders may obtain Bid Documents, Project Specifications and Plans via [PlanBidBids](http://PlanBidBids):  
<http://www.planbidbids.com/jportal/jportal.cfm?CompanyID=22678>

Hard copy plans are available via  
Santa Ana Blue Print at (949) 756-1001  
Located at 2372 Morse Avenue, Irvine, CA 92614

Contractor License Classification(s) required for this project: "A" AND "C-27"  
For further information, call Patricia Aciniega, Project Manager at (949) 644-3347

#### NOTICE:

No contractor or subcontractor may be listed on a bid proposal for a public works project (submitted on or after March 1, 2015) unless registered with the Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to Labor Code section 1725.5 (with limited exceptions from this requirement for bid purposes only under Labor Code section 1771.1(a)).

No contractor or subcontractor may be awarded a contract for public works project (awarded on or after April 1, 2015) unless registered with the Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to Labor Code section 1725.5.

This project is subject to compliance monitoring and enforcement by the Department of Industrial Relations.

## WATER POLO



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

**VANGUARD AQUATICS** poses with the championship trophy after beating San Diego Shores in the Junior Olympics 16U title match at Irvine's Woollett Aquatics Center.

# Vanguard Aquatics boys take gold, two silvers at Jr. Olympics

BY MATT SZABO

IRVINE — The pipeline remains very strong for the Huntington Beach High School boys' water polo team. Nobody who was at Irvine's Woollett Aquatics Center on Tuesday could argue that.

On the club side, Huntington Beach-based Vanguard Aquatics put on a show in Session One of the USA Water Polo Junior Olympics.

Vanguard's 16-and-under boys won gold, defeating San Diego Shores 11-8 in the platinum division title match. Vanguard's Ryder Dodd and Zach Bettino, who will be a sophomore and junior respectively at Huntington Beach High, earned co-MVP honors.

Vanguard also won two silver medals. The 12-and-under boys lost 10-7 to Del Mar in the platinum title match, while the 18-and-under Black team fell to Bay Area-based CC United 13-0 in the final.

"Very proud, obviously," said Sasa Branasivljjevic, the head coach for the Vanguard 12U and 18U teams, as well as the Oilers boys' water polo team. "We're soaking it in, enjoying the moment. The work is coming to fruition, right? (I'm) stoked."

Dodd scored five goals in the 16U final, and Bettino, a left-hander, added four goals for Vanguard. Ethan Spoon and Finneas "Tas" Palcza added one goal each.

Vanguard had six players — Dodd, Bettino, Spoon, Palcza, Christian Hammonds and goalkeeper Jay Pyle, who played on both the 16U and 18U squads.

Hammonds had a team-best three steals and Pyle made 15 saves for the Vanguard 16U boys, who stormed to a 7-0 lead in the first half of the title match. San Diego Shores cut the deficit to three goals but could not get closer.

"Our upperclassmen are super-enthusiastic of our teamwork," said Palcza, an incoming sophomore at Huntington Beach High. "We've been pushing it together the entire year. It was relentless work, no matter what."

**Vanguard 12s, 18s take silver:** The Vanguard 12-and-under boys lost to Del Mar in the title match, their first defeat of the tournament.

Brooklyn Vega led Vanguard with four goals and three steals. Asa Chen, Leg-Cortell and Alden Gonzales also scored for Vanguard, while Daniel Constantine also had three steals.

Goalkeeper Morgan Crichton made 11 saves for Vanguard.

The 12U boys fell behind 5-1 at halftime but played better in the second half.

"We had a good attitude and played as hard as we could every time," Crichton said. "We could have kept up with them, but a lot of the time when we're down, our team shuts down. If we can learn to keep our heads up high the whole game, we can get them next time."

Del Mar goalkeeper Luke Anderson earned MVP honors and Jet Taylor scored a game-high five goals for the winners.

Meanwhile, Vanguard's 18U boys led much of the contest against CC United,

but they were outscored 6-2 in the second half.

UCLA-bound left-hander Ethan Crooks led Vanguard with four goals, while Tyler Padua, bound for UC Irvine, scored twice.

James Rozalis-Hill, Nikola Mirkovic, Matthew Morgan and Chase Dodd scored one goal each, while goalkeeper Gabriel Haddad made 11 saves.

"We ran out of steam, but we showed heart," Branasivljjevic said. "I mean, the entire tournament, for all the other teams that we beat we gave up 5.5 goals. In this last one, we gave up 13, so good job to CCU. They Mar in the title match, their first defeat of the tournament."

Branasivljjevic credited his graduating seniors for sticking around. The Oilers were believed to be one of the favorites to win the CIF Southern Section Division 1 title this season, but the coronavirus pandemic restricted them to a three-week season with no play-offs.

"We were able to just keep our heads down and retain motivation, look forward to this JO's, look forward to league," he said. "That's why I'm so proud of us."

CC United goalkeeper West Temkin, who made 11 saves in the final, earned MVP honors.

Vanguard's 18U Red team, composed of Mater Dei High players, also found its way to the podium and took bronze.

Session Two of the Junior Olympics, which features the girls' divisions and two mixed divisions, started Thursday.

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## HOME RUN

Continued from page A1

Also Viejo its first lead at 3-2.

"They know there's 18 outs in a game," Also Viejo coach Jeremiah Bencho said. "We've got to play all 18 outs, and they've done it in this tournament already two other times, and they were going to use every single out."

"They scored three runs with two outs, which was a testament to them. They went up there, had a plan at the plate, and really worked the count, made them come to us."

Bright fielded six ground balls at shortstop without making an error. He turned a pair of double plays, fielding the ball and taking it to the second-base bag before throwing it to first on both occasions.

Krains and Mason each had two hits for Huntington Valley. Simon Andersen also had an infield hit.

The Huntington Valley 12-and-under All-Stars have

gone 9-0 in elimination games this summer, which includes the District 62 and Section 10 tournaments.

The state tournament will also be held at Fountain Valley Sports Park. Huntington Valley opens against Villa Park on Saturday at 3 p.m.

"I've got to give it up to these boys," Huntington Valley coach Clint Guth said. "There's no quit in them, and I think they like to play from behind, but I would really say in this state tournament, I would rather not start off with a loss."

Stubin found it hard to explain his team's success in elimination games.

"We just play better when we have to win," Stubin said, ending his interview with a round of applause from onlookers when he said he thinks his team can make it to the Little League World Series.

There had been a build-up to 2020 for Huntington Valley Little League, which had a team that had gone as far as it could go in con-

secutive years.

Unfortunately for that group of kids and so many others, their final year together was wiped away by the coronavirus pandemic.

Holding his home-run ball in hand postage, Krains said, "I'm going to remember this for the rest of my life," which brings into focus moments that were missed last year. Krains is grateful to be back playing the game he loves.

"I feel so lucky," Krains said. "I mean, I'm with probably the best group I've been with in my life. It's so awesome."

In 2018, Gage Everson, a player on a team coached by Tony Armand, coined the phrase "drop tanks and bang" to describe his team's power at the plate following a win in the Section 10 tournament.

For Huntington Valley Little League, a new chapter is being written, one with more power displays and a fair for the dramatic.

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Twitter: @AndrewTurnerTCN

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SET ROAST JILLS  
ELEPHANT SANEST  
LOL FADE  
PUMA PARALEGAL  
OPEN OBAMA ADAY  
NONE SLIER RACE  
GNUS TEDDY MET

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