

NEWPORT BEACH



PHOTOS BY JEFF GRITCHEN — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Alexander Hernandez hangs out at the beach during the 13th Annual Miracles for Kids ‘Surf & Paddle’ Summer Camp in Newport Beach on Thursday, during the program that treats critically ill children and their families to a free day in the sun.

Miracles for Kids’ summer camp paddles around the Back Bay

By Jeff Gritchen
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While much of the country was sweltering in unbearable heat, Dante Lopez was trying to stop his chattering teeth as he emerged shivering from the water at Newport Dunes on Thursday.

Lopez joined his five siblings, including older brother Dylan, who suffers from leukemia, in enjoying a morning of water activities and splashing around in the calm waves during Miracles for Kids’ “Surf & Paddle” Summer Camp in Newport Beach. This is the 13th year the nonprofit is treating critically ill children and their families to a free day of “fun in the sun.”

Betsy Espinosa, mother of the five siblings, said the camp “is a good distraction” for Dylan “from his pain.”

About 20 kids started their day at the Newport Aquatic Center. They paddled to Newport Dunes, where they played games



Volunteers and campers paddle in the Back Bay during the 13th Annual Miracles for Kids ‘Surf & Paddle’ Summer Camp in Newport Beach on Thursday.

and climbed on a giant inflatable water park, and then paddled back to the aquatics center for lunch.

Alexander Hernandez, 9, who is in remission from a 3.5 year battle with leukemia, said he likes to surf,

adding that last year, “I tried my best.

“I’m brave,” he said, “because I’m not scared of the water.”

Miracles for Kids has two paddle days planned in July and a learn-to-surf day in

August at Bolsa Chica State Beach. Throughout the year, the group serves children with life-threatening illnesses and their families with programs providing financial aid, basic needs and housing.

THEME PARKS

Disneyland Park plans spectacular 70th anniversary

By Brady MacDonald
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Disneyland Park appears to be gearing up for its 70th anniversary celebration in 2025 to rival the yearlong parties for the 50th and 60th anniversaries that brought new or returning parades, fireworks shows and nighttime spectaculars along with themed decor, food and merchandise.

Disneyland cast members will launch 70th anniversary preparations with a “Road to the 70th” backstage party on Wednesday — the Anaheim theme park’s 69th birthday.

Disneyland employees — known as cast members in Disney parlance — will celebrate the Road to the 70th with backstage photo ops, Porto’s Bakery treats, puzzle contests, tours of Walt Disney’s fire station apartment and other activities.

While Mickey Mouse never misses a chance to celebrate a significant milestone, it’s still far too early to start saluting the septuagenarian park’s eighth decade — even by Disneyland standards.

When will the 70th anniversary celebration officially start? How long will it last? What’s the theme?

Disneyland officials have not yet re-

leased any details on the 70th anniversary celebration.

However, the early cast member kickoff suggests the 70th anniversary will be a big party on par with the 50th and 60th anniversary celebrations that each stretched for more than a year.

Disneyland’s 70th anniversary might feel a lot like Disney’s 100th anniversary — when the park celebrated the company’s centennial in 2023. A 70th anniversary is known as a platinum anniversary — the same metallic color

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REAL ESTATE

29-acre housing project gets OK

Shopoff Realty Investments moves ahead on plans to build 250 homes, a hotel and park

By Michael Slaten
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A 29-acre hotel and housing development in southeast Huntington Beach won approval Wednesday from the California Coastal Commission.

Irvine-based Shopoff Realty Investments owns the land of the former Magnolia Tank Farm — the name comes from the oil storage tanks that once stood there — and the company wants to build 250 homes, a hotel and park space.

Bill Shopoff, CEO of Shopoff Realty, said after the meeting that they are thrilled it won approval.

“We are dedicated to seeing this project come

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The former site of the Magnolia Tank Farm is located where Banning Avenue meets Magnolia Street in Huntington Beach.

2024 ELECTIONS

Judge rules city must revise voting measure on noncitizens

Order says Santa Ana must eliminate any prejudicial language from ballot

By Jonathan Horwitz
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Orange County Superior Court Judge Kimberly Knill ruled Thursday that a Santa Ana ballot measure asking voters to decide whether to allow noncitizens to vote in municipal elections will need to be rewritten before ballots are printed in August.

Knill made clear that this case is not about whether noncitizens should be able to vote in municipal elections, a right she said has been established by case law in certain circumstances in city elections. Rather, the case is about whether specific language city officials used to draft the ballot measure is prejudicial and could sway the

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ANAHEIM

Lawsuit alleges police officer raped woman in her residence

By Sean Emery
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An Orange County woman in a newly filed lawsuit alleges that an Anaheim police officer raped her at her home several months after the officer spotted her at an In-N-Out restaurant and ran her license plate number in order to get in touch with her.

Anaheim Officer Carlos Romero — who is currently off-duty in the midst of an internal department investigation and is facing a criminal charge for the alleged misuse of a DMV database — is now also facing public allegations

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