

ENVIRONMENT



PHOTOS BY MINDY SCHAUER — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

California Coastal Cleanup Day is celebrating 40 years Saturday, a statewide effort aimed at not just sprucing up the beaches but also rivers, lakes and waterways inland to stop debris before it hits the coast.

A NEW CHANCE TO HELP CLEAN LOCAL BEACHES

Milestone: Annual day to pick up trash, protect shores turns 40



From left, Neville Islam, 11; Meera Parikh, 13; and Neville's brother Naveed Islam, 10, take a bundle of tangled plastic wires to the trash during the cleanup.

By Laylan Connelly
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It's a year to toast the coast, a perfect excuse to celebrate major environmental milestones aimed at protecting one of the state's most valued resources — and also an opportunity to give a helping hand this weekend.

The annual California Coastal Cleanup Day campaign and the Surfrider Foundation are both marking 40 years in 2024, while Orange County Coastkeeper celebrates 25 years since it was founded.

All were started by passionate people who saw a growing problem — water-quality issues and pollution plaguing the coast — and wanted to find ways to galvanize the public to help.

As the statewide Coastal Cleanup Day approaches Saturday, here's a bit of history from each of the environmental efforts and ways you can get

BEACHES » PAGE 6

Events: Want to help for Coastal Cleanup Day? Here are a few events.

By Bailey Kanthatham and Laylan Connelly
Southern California News Group

California Coastal Cleanup Day, an annual event where people gather in communities to stop trash before it hits the ocean, returns Saturday with events throughout Orange County.

There are dozens of cleanups planned; here's a sample of a few locally where volunteers can participate. Unless otherwise noted, the cleanups start at 9 a.m. and go until about noon; most organizers will provide bags and gloves. Bringing water bottles, hats and sunscreen is encouraged.

Brea Creek Channel

The city of Brea will host a cleanup from 7 to 11 a.m.; meet at the Brea Creek Channel at 175 S. Madrona Ave. Volunteer check-in will take place on the lower level of the downtown park-



Students from San Juan Hills High School remove a box-spring from San Juan Creek during the annual California Coastal Cleanup Day on Sept. 23, 2023, at Descanso Park in San Juan Capistrano.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL GOULDING

ing structure, adjacent to the channel.

Descanso Park, San Juan Capistrano

The city of San Juan Capistrano

will stage a cleanup at Descanso Park, 32506 Paseo Adelanto. Park at City Hall or Paseo Adelanto, not on private property.

EVENTS » PAGE 6

SANTA ANA

City Council continues discussion of 3,750-home Related Bristol project

By Destiny Torres
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The City Council took a first look Tuesday at Related Bristol, which could transform a sleepy shopping center at one of Santa Ana's busiest intersections in the South Coast Metro area into a mixed-use neighborhood with thousands of apartments and retail and public spaces.

Dozens of residents showed up to Tuesday's public hearing, the major-

ity of whom spoke in support of the project. Council members also spoke briefly about the project and then decided to continue the hearing to their Oct. 1 meeting for more consideration.

Related Bristol is a proposed two-block development of up to 3,750 residential units, a 250-room hotel, a 200-unit tower for senior living and up to 350,000 square feet of restaurants and shops, as well as a grocery store and 13 acres of park space. If ap-

proved, developer Related California, based in Irvine, estimates the construction, which would be broken into phases, could be completed in about 10 years.

Related California is proposing to pay the city of Santa Ana \$18 million to be used for affordable housing projects throughout the city, in lieu of designating any of its planned residential as affordable units. The developers also have offered a \$22 million "com-

PROJECT » PAGE 7



COURTESY OF RELATED CALIFORNIA

A rendering shows an aerial view of Related Bristol, a proposed mixed-use development in Santa Ana. The two-block development would feature residential apartments, a hotel, senior living units and retail space. If approved, the project could break ground by 2026.

HUNTINGTON BEACH

City Council approves housing

Former Magnolia Tank Farm to have 250 homes and a hotel

By Michael Slaten
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The Huntington Beach City Council gave unanimous support Tuesday to a 29-acre development in southeast Huntington Beach that will add 250 homes and a hotel near the coast.

The project has worked through approvals for years; Tuesday's vote accepts changes the California Coastal Commission approved in July, including setting aside some affordable rentals among the housing units for hotel workers.

"We are grateful to the city of Huntington Beach for their support of this project, which we believe will be a fantastic addition to the city, brightening this historically blighted stretch of the coast," Bill Shopoff, CEO of Shopoff Realty, which owns the site, said in a statement.

The nearly beachfront project — it is just 2,000 feet from the shoreline — will see around 200 for-sale homes built, as well as a 50-unit affordable housing complex, which will set aside half of its units for hotel workers, a 215-room hotel and 19,000 square feet of retail space. Shopoff said in July that the earliest homes could finish construction is 2027.

The hotel would have 25% of its rooms set aside to be rented out at affordable rates.

That historically blighted coast Shopoff referred to is the oil storage tanks the site once housed. It is still broadly called the Magnolia Tank Farm.

Mauricio Escobar, a geologist and consultant for the project, said oil wells built at the site in the mid-1950s were abandoned in 1972 before the 25 million-gallon oil tanks were built. The site was

HOUSING » PAGE 7

BEACHES

Memorial and paddle-out planned for Hoffman

Gathering at Doheny Beach to honor late surf clothing industry pioneer

By Laylan Connelly
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A memorial and paddle-out ceremony are planned to celebrate the life of Walter Hoffman, an early-era big wave charger and board builder who helped kick-start the surf clothing industry.

The gathering at Doheny State Beach in Dana Point will kick off at about 1 p.m. with the memorial service, followed by a paddle-out at 4:30 p.m. Friday. Hoffman died July 9 at age 92.

Hoffman and his brother, Philip, who went by "Flippy," are sons of Rube Hoffman, who started California Fabrics in 1924, and followed their father into the industry — in their own way.

They spent their younger years in the Los An-

MEMORIAL » PAGE 7



Hoffman

Protest

FROM PAGE 1

prosecutors — Tiffany Willoughby-Herard, an associate professor of Global & International Studies, and Jonathan Brook Haley, a lecturer with the School of Humanities.

Willoughby-Herard and Haley could not be immediately reached for comment.

It wasn't clear from court records if Haley, Willoughby-Herard or any of the other people charged in connection with the protests have hired or been appointed attorneys.

The demonstration at UCI came during a wave of protests at college campuses across the country related to the Israel-Hamas war.

At UC Irvine, tensions with campus leaders came to a head after a small group of protesters barricaded themselves inside the Physical Sciences Lecture Hall.

Officers in riot gear from more than a dozen local law enforcement agencies were called in to clear the group

from the lecture hall, along with a much larger group of around 500 protesters at a makeshift pro-Palestinian campus encampment nearby.

Police took 47 people, including 27 students, into custody while clearing the protests. The students were later placed on interim suspension.

"The right to peaceful assembly is a constitutional right and we encourage (protesters) to exercise their right to peaceful assembly on any issue," Orange County District Attorney Todd Spitzer said in a statement.

"However, criminal activity which transcends peaceful assembly will not be tolerated," he said. "As such, the Orange County District Attorney's Special Prosecutions Unit has spent months reviewing evidence to determine what, if any, crimes were committed by (protesters) at UCI following the lawful dispersal order issued by UCI police."

Tents erected by protesters stood for more than two weeks, beginning in late April, before the confrontation involving po-



Police detain a woman as pro-Palestinian supporters clash with police as they move to remove the protesters and encampment at UC Irvine in Irvine on May 15.

PAUL BERSEBACH
STAFF
PHOTOGRAPHER

lice and protesters. Students within the makeshift camps — at the beginning numbering several dozen — crafted homemade posters and zines, prayed together and chanted in length in support of the Palestinian people.

The protesters wanted the university to divest from companies and institutions with ties to Israel and weapons manufacturers, to support an end to the Israeli occupation of the Gaza Strip and to reinvest funds toward students and workers, among other demands.

On the afternoon of May

15, the crowd swelled to 500 people, according to university officials, expanding the footprint of an encampment in front of the Physical Sciences Lecture Hall comprised of pop-up tents, wood pallets and other fortifications. As a small group barricaded themselves inside the actual hall, UCI issued an emergency campus wide alert referring to a "violent protest" in the area.

In the aftermath, UC Irvine Chancellor Howard Gillman described himself as "brokenhearted" and argued that the university had exhausted "all possible al-

ternatives before resorting to police intervention."

The resulting crackdown drew criticism in the campus community. Some faculty members argued that by calling in additional law enforcement campus leaders had violated the protesters' rights to free speech and assembly, and had jeopardized their workplace safety.

The delay between the arrests and decisions related to criminal charges has left the impacted students in an academic no-man's land, some have said, particularly on the eve of the

campus' fall term. A student arrested on May 15 — whose name was not among the list of defendant's released by prosecutors on Wednesday — recently told a Southern California News Group reporter that "the process is the punishment."

Last month, five undergraduate students who had been suspended indefinitely by UC Irvine for participation in various pro-Palestinian protest activities on the campus sued the UC Regents and Gillman, alleging that their suspensions "constitute a clear violation of the university's own rules and the minimum standards of due process applicable to public institutions."

A national analysis by the New York Times in late July found that more than 3,100 people had been arrested in connection to pro-Palestinian protests and encampments on college campuses. But the paper also found that many of the charges had been dropped, even though students faced additional potential consequences such as being barred from campus or not receiving their diplomas.

Lawsuit

FROM PAGE 1

the law at its meeting on Tuesday, in closed session.

AB 1955 supporters have emphasized that the law still allows teachers to talk to parents about their children's gender identity but prohibits school districts from forcing them to tell.

The council also gave final approval at its Tuesday meeting to an ordinance

declaring Huntington Beach as a "Parents Right to Know City." It gave Gates the power to sue the state on behalf of a parent who lives in the city "alleging violations of their rights" due to AB 1955.

"While the city's new ordinance allows for the possibility of the city to work directly with plaintiffs to represent them in such a legal action, in this instance, the city is pursuing its own interests while working jointly in the lawsuit with

the individual plaintiffs, who are presented in the lawsuit under pseudonym to protect their identities," Van Der Mark said.

The lawsuit gives anecdotes from nine unnamed "parent plaintiffs" detailing how their children had questions about their gender identity and began using different pronouns or a name different than their given name.

The Attorney General's Office said in a statement Bonta "is committed to pro-

viding his unwavering support to ensure every student has the right to learn and thrive in a school environment that promotes safety, privacy and inclusivity" and referred to a previous statement he gave in support of AB 1955's enactment.

"Our schools should be safe havens for all students, not places where some are marginalized for simply being who they are," Bonta said. "Amidst the growing assault on LG-BTQ+ rights in California

and across the nation, it's crucial that schools take the necessary steps to create an environment where every student feels valued and affirmed for who they are. The SAFETY Act reaffirms students' constitutional and statutory rights not to be subjected to forced outing at school, and it also reaffirms that forced outing policies and any form of retaliation against teachers, parents, and allies who protect students against such constitutional and statu-

tory harms are a clear violation of state law."

The California Department of Education declined to comment on the lawsuit.

The state and the city have both sued each other several times over the last few years. Both sued each other in 2022 over Huntington Beach's refusal to allow more housing to be built, in separate state and federal lawsuits. The state in April sued the city over its plans to implement voter ID in city elections.

Housing

FROM PAGE 3

remediated in recent years to clear its soil of contamination, Escobar said.

Escobar said the state Department of Toxic Substances Control has issued a clean closure letter allowing homes to be built.

Next door is also the former Ascon Landfill, which received industrial waste until 1984. A cleanup of the property is underway.

A Department of Toxic

Substances Control official told the Coastal Commission in July that the Ascon Landfill is not releasing contaminants outside of its boundaries. Remediation is expected to take until 2026.

Some residents and local environmental activists sought to never see the Magnolia Tank Farm property developed, raising concerns about the site's proximity to Ascon and potential risks of future sea level rise. Ray Hiemstra, associate director of policy and projects for Orange County Coastkeeper, raised those

concerns in a letter to the City Council urging them to reject the project and look at other sites to build housing.

The City Council first approved the project in 2021, but needed to vote on it again to accept the changes made at the Coastal Commission meeting.

"We have some of the strictest environmental safety laws in the world here in California," Councilmember Tony Strickland said Tuesday. "If this passed state muster, you can be assured that it is safe."

The project taking years to get required approvals is a good example of why housing is so expensive in the state, Strickland said.

Councilmember Pat Burns called the Magnolia Tank Farm project a responsible development. Burns said he looked for a reason to say no to the project and asked opponents to provide counter evidence regarding the site's risk of exposing people to toxic chemicals.

"Nobody could give me anything," Burns said. "It was more emotion."



JEFF GRITCHEN — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Former site of the Magnolia Tank Farm, where Banning Avenue meets Magnolia Street in Huntington Beach.

Memorial

FROM PAGE 3

geles area, but by the '40s, the family was spending summers in Laguna Beach, where the teenage brothers enjoyed the laid-back beach lifestyle — surfing big redwood boards, diving for abalone and having bonfires on the sand after long, cold ocean sessions, before the days of wetsuits.

Hoffman joined the Navy during the Korean War and because of his water skills, was sent to Hawaii to be a lifeguard at Pearl Harbor. It was there he met other surfers who would spend summers in Waikiki and winters braving the big waves on the North Shore.

Hoffman was also one of the early-era board makers, using balsa wood and other materials, long before fiberglass and foam were introduced to the craft. In 2021, Hoffman was inducted into the International Surfboard Builders Hall of Fame in Huntington Beach for his early boards that helped pave the path for big-wave surfing.

Hoffman and brother Flippy were also inducted into the Surfing Walk of Fame in 2006 for their contribution to the surf cul-



PHOTO BY MICHAEL FERNANDEZ

Surfboard shaper Walter Hoffman, center, is inducted by Herbie Fletcher, left, during the 21st Annual International Surfboard Builders Hall of Fame on Oct. 9, 2021.

ture, namely their impact on surfwear.

Following his time in Hawaii, Hoffman learned the fabric business and bought a home on Beach Road in Dana Point in the '50s. The brothers took the train from San Juan Capistrano to Los Angeles to help, and eventually take over, the family operations. Their father's company,

later renamed Hoffman California Fabrics, International, was already a big player in the textile industry, but his sons, with a love for the Hawaiian islands and surfing, would bring "their own special vision and talents" to the company.

Hoffman California Fabrics pioneered the Hawaiian-infused aesthetic of

California surf clothing and became the primary textile provider to the surf wear industry, supplying big brands such as Ocean Pacific, Quiksilver, Gotcha, Billabong and O'Neill.

Hoffman was also the patriarch of a family tree of surf influencers, including raising step-daughter Joyce Hoffman, a champion women's surfer who broke barriers in the '70s, and as grandfather to Christian

and Nathan Fletcher, two well-known fixtures in the surf world.

Plans were already in the works before Hoffman's death for a statue honoring him and Flippy Hoffman, who died in 2010, to join Joyce Hoffman's bronze statue at the Waterman's Plaza, where a collection of Dana Point icons are honored for their early-era contributions.



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Project

FROM PAGE 3

munity benefit payment" to be spent at the direction of the City Council.

The Santa Ana Planning Commission unanimously approved the project last month, meaning all that is left is for the City Council to make the final approval.

Councilmember Johnathan Hernandez said he wants to see a community workforce agreement between the developer and local labor unions.

"Without this agreement,

we cannot assure that Santa Ana residents will have priority when it comes to the jobs that will be created throughout the construction of this project," Hernandez said. "What we are looking for to have in Santa Ana is good-faith negotiations with our labor partners."

Hernandez said the project should move forward, "but not without every trade at the table."

Mayor Valerie Amezcua also asked for more information about the construction truck routes proposed by the developers to ensure residential neighbor-

hoods in the area are not disrupted.

"I think it's important for us to know the truck routes, and how that is going to affect our residents," Amezcua said. "How are we notifying the residents? What are we doing for sound? What will be the time that they will be driving? I think it's really important that we get those questions (answered)."

The Santa Ana City Council meeting is scheduled for 4:30 p.m. on Oct. 1, in the City Council Chamber, 22 Civic Center Plaza. Meetings are also streamed at YouTube.com/@CityofSantaAnavideos.