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# DAILY PILOT

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**Wednesday, October 19, 2011**

Orange Coast Daily Pilot

## City Life

### Students need help from district

**O**n the website for each school in the Newport-Mesa Unified School District, there is a School Accountability Report Card that has valuable information, including salaries, test scores, expenditure per pupil and more.

The report card also includes the "Academic Performance Index Ranks."

I like these because they show where a particular school rates compared with similar schools in the state on a 1-to-10 scale. A 1 means the school's API score is in the lowest 10% of all schools in the state, according to the district's website. A 10 means the school's API score is in the highest 10% in the state.



**Steve Smith**

One year ago, I wrote, "At Pomona, Whittier and Wilson elementary schools, the latest reported Academic Performance Index rankings (2008) all have a statewide ranking of 2 on a scale from 1 to 10. Whittier has gone backward, having ranked as high as 4 in 2006. In 2006, Pomona and Wilson ranked 1 and 2, respectively" ("City Life: Education as an investment").

Since then, the next year of API rankings have been posted. So how did Pomona, Whittier and Wilson perform? I'm very sorry to report that their 2009 scores are, once again, all 2s.

Unfortunately, you have to dig for this important information because it sure isn't going to be posted on the district's home page, and you sure aren't going to hear anyone from the district pointing it out. Instead, you are going to read spin.

On Sept. 1, the Daily Pilot reported: "[API] scores in Newport-Mesa Unified increased nine points to 830 of the 1,000-point scale in 2011, but nearly half of the district's elementary schools had declines, state data released Wednesday show" ("District's API score up, but some schools have dipped").

That group of declining elementary schools includes my three targets from last year: Wilson, Whittier and Pomona, which ranked among the lowest performers.

Let's pause for a moment to underscore that I reported API rankings while the Pilot reported API test scores. Together, however, they make the powerful statement that these schools have again failed. Worse, you won't read a single word of accountability from any of the district's trustees or from Supt. Jeffrey Hubbard.

Instead, you'll read this from Assistant Supt. of Secondary Education Charles Hinman, as reported in the Pilot's story: "If you look at our API score district-wide, longitudinally, we have eight straight years of growth. So

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## Small Business



Photo by STEVEN GEORGES

**BUSINESS:** Hillary Niblo, owner of Magnolia Mews Consignments on Old Newport Boulevard in Newport Beach. The shop specializes in eclectic, second-hand items.

### 'Old things have a soul'

Newport Beach consignment shop works with about 75 consignors to provide an eclectic variety.

**BY SARAH PETERS**

**NEWPORT BEACH** — If home furnishings could speak, newly opened Magnolia Mews Consignments would be a place to tell their stories.

Tucked into what owner Hillary Niblo described as a "small but mighty space" at

314 Old Newport Blvd., the 750-square-foot consignment shop is a stage for paintings, baubles, home decor and furnishings bursting with intimate stories of times gone by.

"I've always felt like old things have a soul," said Niblo, 45, who grew up on Lido Isle and attended Newport Harbor High School. "I'd like to tell their story and be able to bring them to life."

In working with about 75 consignors, Niblo has a mix that include modern items, original pieces from local artists, and objects dating back

to the 19th century.

From brooches to custom leather furniture, they all have their own hidden narratives, she said.

A white vintage Charles S. Kahn lucite evening bag, \$95, was uncovered in an old wedding trunk; it was once the finishing touch to a bridal ensemble and a small upholstered wooden chair, \$75, that may have belonged to a child's bedroom set, Niblo said.

Other items include a 19th

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## 2010 Accident

### Report: Speed a factor in crash

Driver may have been distracted and not noticed big rigs in time, CHP officer says of crash that killed former cheer coach.

**BY MIKE REICHER**

A speeding teenage driver caused a fatal collision last year that killed a former Corona del Mar High School cheerleading coach along with three others, according to a recently released California Highway Patrol investigation report.



Wendy Rice

Wendy Rice died in the fiery Aug. 8, 2010, crash outside Bishop when her van was hit by a driver who lost control of an SUV.

Rice, 35, was the cheerleading director, coach and choreographer at CdM from 2001-08.

While driving at least 85 mph, Natalie Nield, 17, of Carlsbad swerved toward the southbound shoulder of Highway 395 to avoid a big rig passing another truck, according to CHP Officer Dennis Cleland.

The report states that Nield's Ford Expedition then spun out of control, crossed the southbound lanes, flipped over and caught fire when it hit the center divider. It

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## Focus Dance Center

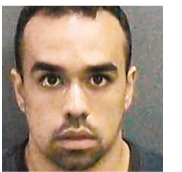
### Police seek sex assault victims

Dance instructor charged with two felony counts involving 15-year-old girl he met while teaching.

**BY LAUREN WILLIAMS**

**COSTA MESA** — Police are searching for any additional victims of a dance instructor accused of sexually assaulting an underage student, police said Tuesday.

Brandon Christopher Marriott, 21, of Westminster is charged with two felony counts of sexual penetration of a minor and one felony count of oral copulation of a minor. He allegedly assaulted a female dance student he met while teaching at the Focus Dance Center in Irvine.



Brandon Marriott

Marriott is accused of assaulting a 15-year-old on two occasions between July and August, according to a joint news release from the Costa Mesa Police Department and the Orange County district attorney's office.

Marriott allegedly took the teen to a movie and then assaulted her in his car, which was parked in Costa Mesa, according to the release. The girl's parents allegedly discovered text messages from Marriott and reported them to Costa Mesa police.

Marriott was arrested Friday, and is being held in Orange County Jail on \$100,000 bail. He was arraigned in an Orange County Jail courtroom in Santa Ana on Tuesday.

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## John Wayne Airport getting full-body scanners

TSA spokesman says the exact installation date for the security devices is difficult to predict.

**BY MIKE REICHER**

The Transportation Security Administration plans to install full-body scanners at John Wayne Airport in the coming months, federal officials confirmed Tuesday.

Scanners are planned for all three terminals, including the new Terminal C set to open in November.

Travelers randomly selected to undergo the body scans can opt to walk through the tradi-

tional metal detectors and receive a manual pat-down instead.

A recent public backlash about the machines' graphic depictions prompted the TSA to change the images the scanners produce. The millimeter wave machines — the ones that are planned for JWA — now create generic images for all passengers.

The TSA bought 300 new millimeter wave machines in September. JWA will be one of the latest airports to get the devices.

Because the airport is building a new termi-

nal and its existing checkpoints can be converted with relative ease, JWA was "a logical next step," said TSA spokesman Nico Melendez.

It is hard to determine when the scanners will be ready because of the unpredictable permitting and installation process, Melendez said.

Already, the TSA uses full-body scanners in 78 airports nationwide, including four others in Southern California: Palm Springs, Ontario, San Diego and Los Angeles International.

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**Generic Scans**