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ALAMITOS BAY

Naples Island Swim tests entrants

Dating to 1903, open water competition attracts 730, setting a participation record

By Christina Merino
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Hundreds rushed to get into the cold water of Alamitos Bay on Sunday morning, marking a start to the 121st annual Naples Island Swim.

The Naples Island Swim is an open water swimming competition, which began in 1903. Officials say that the event is

an excellent venue for beginning, intermediate and expert open water swimmers, which is proven to be true as people of all ages line up to compete.

It continues to be one of the best loved aquatic events for Long Beach, officials say.

“Our youngest swimmer is 6 and our oldest swimmer is 83,” said Chairman Greg Shea. “We have parents, grandpar-

ents, kids and grandkids all swimming together; it’s definitely sweet to see.”

This year’s event was the largest Naples Swim in its history, with about 730 entrants, surpassing the top participant mark of 700 swimmers in 1970, Shea said.

“I’m doing the mile, which I typically do, and just got back doing this a couple of years ago after about a 10-year hiatus,” said Robynn Pennala, 62, of Long Beach, who entered the

SWIM » PAGE 5



Young participants prepare to enter the water for the 121st annual Naples Island Swim on Sunday in Alamitos Beach in Long Beach.

PHOTO BY HOWARD FRESHMAN

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Solar projects anything but sunny for some



PHOTOS BY DEAN MUSGROVE — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lopsie and Andrew Schwartz stand next to yet-to-be installed solar panels at their Northridge home on Aug. 6.

\$80,000 bill for unfinished rooftop system exposes pitfalls for consumers

By Tony Saavedra
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Lopsie Schwartz was looking for ways to lower her energy bill when the solar panel salesman knocked on her door in Northridge. Already a believer in green

power, she didn’t take much convincing.

But instead of paying less, Schwartz is now on the hook for an \$80,746 loan on a rooftop solar system left unfinished after the contractor abandoned the job. That doesn’t include the de-

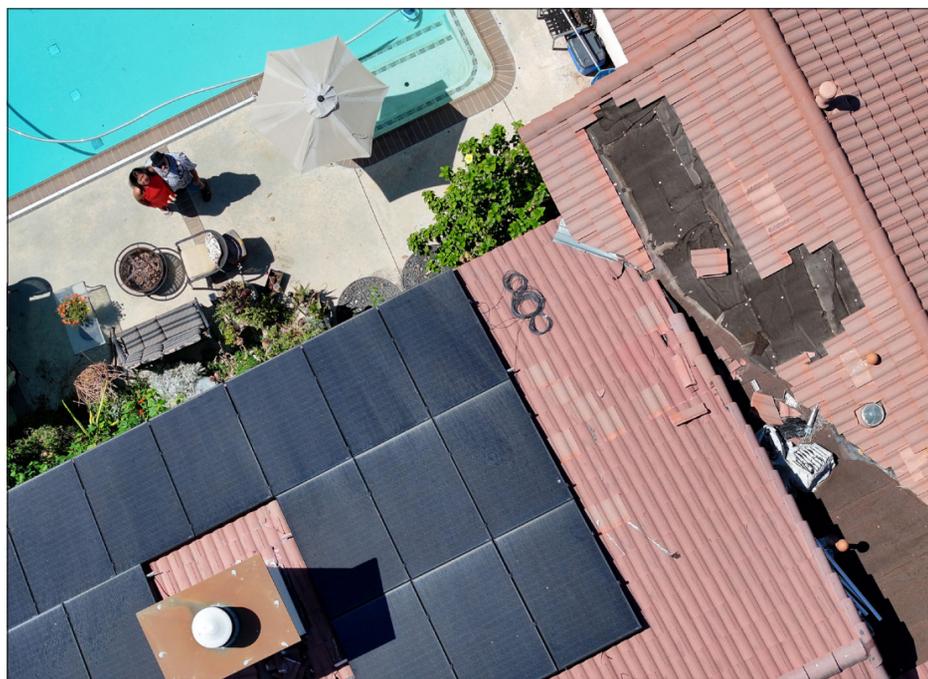
struction of her Spanish tile roof caused by workers and the damage to her family’s credit score for refusing to make payments on the unfinished system.

“It’s caused so much stress, it’s affected our health. ... We are afraid for

our future,” Schwartz said, adding that she and her husband, Andrew, might have to sell their \$1.5 million house on Halsted Street to cover the debt to the bank.

“We can’t get a loan to fix anything because our credit is so bad,” she said.

SOLAR » PAGE 6



The Schwartzes stand next to their pool looking up to the roof with an unfinished solar installation and damaged roof tiles at their Northridge home.

NEWHALL

Officer is critically hurt aiding motorist

CHP says driver hit patrolman while he stood next to his vehicle

By City News Service

A California Highway Patrol officer is in critical condition after he was struck by a Tesla driver early Sunday while assisting with a disabled vehicle on the 5 Freeway in the Newhall area.

The crash occurred around 3:30 a.m. on the southbound freeway, north of the 14 Freeway, where officers were dispatched to assist a disabled vehicle and began attempting to move it from the roadway, the CHP reported.

“As the CHP officer was assisting the disabled vehicle, a 2023 Tesla struck the officer standing outside his patrol vehicle,” the agency said. “The CHP officer suffered major injuries, was transported to a local trauma center, and is currently listed in critical condition.”

CHP » PAGE 5

CHICAGO

Dem delegates will nominate Harris again but with festivities

Celebratory roll call among highlights of convention getting underway today

By Robert Yoon
The Associated Press

It’s been nearly two weeks since Vice President Kamala Harris officially won the Democratic presidential nomination in an online vote, the first time a nominee was named prior to a party’s convention.

But the roughly 4,700 delegates charged with picking a nominee to lead the ticket did so from locations around the globe on their laptops and devices in relative isolation from one another.

VOTE » PAGE 5

INDEX

Bridge..... B9 | Comics.....A11-12, B9 | Nation+World.....A9 | Ship arrivals.....A2
Classifieds..... B9 | Local.....A3 | Puzzles.....A10, 12-13, B9 | Sports.....B1

TODAY H: 88 L: 66
TUE. H: 90 L: 68
WED. H: 86 L: 68
Full weather report B12

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CRIME

Victorville man arrested, suspected of killing family member at Gardena business

By Hunter Lee
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A Victorville man was arrested on suspicion of killing an 82-year-old family member at a Gardena business on Saturday, authorities said.

Around 9:15 a.m., a 911 caller reported screaming

coming from the business along the 1500 block of West 130th Street, according to the Gardena Police Department.

Arriving officers found Donte Harris with blood-stained clothing outside the business, and an unresponsive man

inside.

The victim, Le Roy Harris, of Inglewood, was pronounced dead at the scene.

Donte Harris, 43, was arrested on suspicion of the killing.

Information on the precise relationship between the suspect and victim, and a motive

for the attack, if known, was not immediately available.

Police didn't immediately say if a weapon was involved in the death.

Gardena police asked that anyone with information on the killing to contact Detective Ryan Sproles at 310-217-9618.

CHP

FROM PAGE 1

The Tesla driver stopped on the right shoulder and the motorist cooperated with the investigation, the agency said. Alcohol and drugs are not believed to be a factor in the accident.

It was unknown if any automated driving features were activated on the Tesla at the time of the crash.

The southbound freeway was closed for hours north of the 14 Freeway while the crash was investigated. All lanes were reopened at about 10:30 a.m.

Anyone with information about the crash was urged to call the CHP's Southern Division at 323-644-9550.

Swim

FROM PAGE 1

event for the 15th time.

"It is very competitive. I believe a lot of the swimmers belong to various water polo or aquatics clubs and Long Beach is known for all of that ... so this is like a race for them. For me, it's more can I do it and keeping up my health. A long time ago it was more competitive for me."

Sunday's first race started at 9 a.m. with 80 Long Beach kids, ages 14 and younger, ready to take on the open water for the 500-yard swim.

Proceeds from the event are used to underwrite youth swimming programs in Long Beach. The organization helps fund children who are part of the YMCA of Greater Long Beach to take classes and participate in the event as well, Shea said. It is part of the organization's partnership with Aquatic Capital of America.

The 1-mile swim and the 3-mile swim both began at the northwest side of the U.S. Sailing Center between the pier and the small swim area. Returning champions attended each race, with many world-class athletes participating in the three-mile swim.

"We're doing some innovative things this year, we have a team championship," Shea said. "So, teams that have more than 10 swimmers we get their finish times and the top five finishers for each team's score and they get scored kind of like cross country. We'll see how that goes, it's our first year."

Interest for the team championship has grown, he added, with 16 teams last year and close to 30 teams this year.

Family, friends and community members lined up along Bay Shore Avenue



PHOTOS BY HOWARD FRESHMAN

Participants gather for the start of the 121st annual Naples Island Swim on Sunday in Long Beach.

and Ocean Boulevard to catch a glimpse of the participants as they splashed by trying to make it to the finish line.

"I'm doing the mile and just saw the route we're going to be swimming and I'm looking forward to it," said Michael Kieran of Manhattan Beach, participating for the first time at Naples, but has competed in other competitive swim events.

Kieran said he appreciated "the healthy, competitive nature of it. I do a little over a mile four nights a week so I'm ready and I look forward to finishing."

Long Beach legend Bruce McRae and Boat-house on the Bay restaurateur John Morris served as the grand marshals for the

swim, riding in a gondola that led the 3-mile swim.

Many in Alamitos Bay worked to make the event possible, including Long Beach Marine Safety Captain Omar Naranjo, Alyssa Gonzalez from the Special Events and Filming Department, Bryan Plante from the Marine Bureau and Third District Councilmember Kristina Duggan.

Other organizations such as Alamitos Bay Yacht Club, Long Beach Yacht Club, Long Beach Rowing Club, Kahakai Paddlers, U.S. Sailing Center and Kayaks on the Water helped as well.

Freelance photographer Howard Freshman contributed to this report.



Entrants take off Sunday for the 1-mile Naples Island Swim.

Vote

FROM PAGE 1

There was none of the pomp and fanfare that usually accompany the selection of the party's standard-bearer. In other words, it wasn't very fun.

Democratic party leaders hope to make up for that by holding a ceremonial vote at the Democratic National Convention, which begins today in Chicago. Among the major agenda items will be what's essentially a re-staging of the official presidential nomination vote from early August, mirroring the sometimes-festive, sometimes-raucous roll call votes that have been a staple of in-person party conventions for almost 200 years.

The Democratic National Committee calls it a "celebratory Roll Call" and said in a statement the event would give delegates the opportunity to "celebrate the nomination" of Harris, who is the first woman of color to lead a major party presidential ticket.

Here's how it will work:

WHEN IS THE ROLL CALL? » Delegates will gather on the convention floor Tuesday to cast their symbolic votes. It's the third consecutive Democratic convention when the roll call was held on a Tuesday and the first in-person roll call since 2016. For decades, Democrats held their roll call on a Wednesday, the second-to-last day of the

convention.

ANY SUSPENSE? » It's been more than 40 years since there's been any question about who the nominee would be heading into a convention roll call vote. Since then, a single candidate has always emerged in each party as the presumptive nominee well before the convention, making the vote itself a foregone conclusion.

That is especially true in the 2024 Democratic convention, since the ceremonial vote is nonbinding and cannot undo or modify the results of the earlier, official vote to nominate Harris held over five days in the first week of August. That's not to say there can't be some attempt to stage a protest vote from the convention floor, but it won't have any impact on the outcome.

The result from the official nomination vote from early August was 4,563 votes for Harris and 52 for "present," the only other option on the ballot. An additional 79 delegates did not cast votes.

WHAT WILL IT LOOK LIKE? » Convention organizers have indicated the ceremonial vote will follow the general format of past in-person convention roll calls, with some stylistic flourishes. State delegations will still call out their votes from the convention floor in a session presided over by the convention secretary.

These presentations are usually an opportunity for each delegation to express

their support for the nominee and the party, while also demonstrating their state pride.

This year, each presentation will be accompanied by a song to represent the delegation, similar to a star batter's "walk-up" song at a baseball game. A DJ will play the song on the main stage, while iconic images from each state and territory will be displayed on large screens.

WHAT'S THE ORDER OF STATES? » The convention secretary will call on state delegations to vote mostly in alphabetical order, with a few key exceptions.

Voting in the celebratory roll call will begin with President Joe Biden's home state of Delaware as a tribute to the president. The roll call vote will conclude with vice presidential nominee Tim Walz's home state of Minnesota and Harris' home state of California.

Organizers say the modified order symbolizes the passing of the torch from Biden to Harris and the "next generation of Democratic leadership."

Modifying the order in which delegations cast their votes is a common tool that both parties have used to choreograph the roll call to allow certain states to play a heightened role in the process.

VOTE STRAIGHT THROUGH? » In past roll call votes at both parties' conventions, the voting temporarily stops once the nominee surpasses the votes needed to win the nomination so that delegates

mark the occasion and hold a celebration on the floor. Eventually, the voting resumes until all delegations have voted.

Convention organizers have not indicated how or whether delegates would mark the milestone of Harris symbolically clinching the nomination. The distinction is somewhat moot this year, since Harris is already the nominee, based on the official vote held earlier in August.

VOTE FOR VP NOMINEE? » Delegates will cast symbolic votes in the celebratory roll call for both Harris and Walz, according to a statement from convention officials, a departure from traditional roll calls.

Normally, the vice presidential nominee is officially chosen by delegates through a separate procedure, often on a different day of the convention.

Vice presidential nominees of both parties are usually selected by acclamation, or a voice vote by the entire convention delegation, rather than through a separate roll call vote. This separate process is usually a formality, since the identity of the presumptive vice presidential nominee is often known well before the start of the convention.

This year, Walz won the vice presidential nomination in early August.

After becoming the presidential nominee, Harris officially nominated Walz to be her running mate, and the convention chair declared

Walz the nominee in accordance with party rules. The same procedure was used to nominate Harris as the vice presidential nominee at the 2020 convention.

WHEN WILL THEY ACCEPT NOMINATIONS? » Harris and Walz became the Democratic presidential and vice presidential nominees Aug. 6. But each will symbolically accept the nominations in speeches before the full convention.

Harris will speak Thursday, in keeping with both parties' tradition of the nominee addressing the convention on the final night. Walz will speak Wednesday night.

For decades, the Democratic vice presidential nominee addressed the convention on the final night, just before the presidential nominee. That practice ended at the 1996 convention, and the vice presidential nominee's speech has been held on Wednesday night ever since, with the exception of 2012, when it was held on Thursday.

WERE ROLL CALLS ALWAYS DONE IN-PERSON? » At the 2020 convention, then-candidate Joe Biden won the nomination after delegates cast their votes virtually through a series of elaborate live remote video presentations from every state and U.S. territory, a process created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The unique and sometimes quirky nature of the remote presentations

quickly became a convention favorite.

This year, convention planners said in a statement on Sunday that the celebratory roll call will once again incorporate some live video elements to "showcase the diversity and beauty of America."

WHY THE EARLY NOMINATION? » DNC officials first indicated in May that they would conduct a virtual roll call before the convention to clear a potential hurdle in getting the Democratic nominee on the ballot in Ohio. Ohio's deadline to file for the general election ballot was Aug. 7.

Although the deadline had been modified in previous presidential election years to accommodate late-summer conventions of both parties, this year state Republicans initially planned to enforce the existing deadline, with one GOP lawmaker calling the scheduling bind "a Democratic problem."

The Republican-controlled Legislature did eventually make an accommodation for the convention at the behest of Republican Gov. Mike DeWine, but the law does not go into effect until Aug. 31.

Citing concerns that Ohio Republicans could still try to block their candidate from getting on the ballot despite the legislative fix, DNC officials moved forward with their virtual roll call as originally planned.