# Daily Pilot

THURSDAY, JULY 4, 2024 /// dailypilot.com



Susan Hoffman

**POLICE** investigate at Fashion Island mall, where a woman, 68, was accosted, dragged into a parking lot and subsequently run over by the getaway car on Tuesday afternoon.

## Tourist killed in botched Newport Beach robbery

BY RICHARD WINTON, JAMES RAINEY, NATHAN SOLIS, LILLY NGUYEN, SUSAN HOFFMAN

A tranquil summer afternoon at the upscale Fashion Island mall in Newport Beach disintegrated into violence Tuesday, with a woman killed after a botched robbery attempt.

Two men accosted the 69-year-old tourist and her husband near the Barnes & Noble

Police say two people tried to rob a couple visiting Fashion Island mall from New Zealand, then ran over the woman, killing her.

bookstore at the mall, authorities said. Shots were fired, but police said no one was struck by bullets.

The woman was identified as Patricia McKay, who was visiting from New Zealand, the Newport Beach Police Department announced Wednesday in a news release.

The couple had been walking at Fashion Island when they were approached by two men who attempted to rob them, according to police Sgt. Steven Oberon.

A struggle ensued, and McKay was dragged

See **Robbery**, page A2

## Huntington Beach will bring possible zoning charter amendment to voters

BY MATT SZABO

The city of Huntington Beach has been warring with the state of California over housing mandates for a while now.

Now Surf City voters may have a say before some projects

can move forward.

The City Council voted 4-0-3 on Tuesday night to put a charter amendment on the November general election ballot related to zoning changes or general plan updates.

The proposed amendment

would require the voters to sign off on any changes an environmental impact report shows would present "significant and unavoidable" negative impacts to the environment.

Councilman Casey McKeon, Mayor Gracey Van Der Mark and Mayor Pro Tem Pat Burns brought the item forward, and it was also supported by Councilman Tony Strickland.

The three members of the council minority — Dan

See **Ballot**, page A3

## Jurors: 2018 murder was a hate crime

Defendant Samuel Woodward showed no visible emotion when the verdict was read in the stabbing death of Blaze Bernstein.

#### **BY PAUL ANDERSON**

A 26-year-old man was convicted today of first-degree murder, along with a hate crime allegation, for killing a gay former classmate in Foothill Ranch six years ago.

Jurors, who began deliberating Tuesday afternoon, convicted Samuel Lincoln Woodward for the Jan. 3, 2018, stabbing death of Blaze Bernstein, 19.

Woodward's attorneys conceded during the trial that he killed Bernstein, but denied it was a hate crime or a premeditated act, saying at worst he should be convicted of voluntary manslaughter.

The jury, however, found Woodward guilty of first-degree murder, and also found true allegations that the killing was a hate crime, and that he personally used a deadly weapon —a knife.

Cheers were heard in the courtroom audience as the verdict was read, particularly when the hate crime allegation was found to be

There was no visible reaction from Woodward, whose sat facing forward, his face obscured by his long, shaggy hair.

Sentencing was scheduled for

The hate-crime enhancement alleged Woodward killed Bernstein because of the victim's sexual orientation, not because he was Jewish, though jurors were also given evidence of the defendant's association with a neo-Nazi group known as the Atomwaffen Division to consider a pattern of big-

Woodward and Bernstein attended the Orange County School of the Arts together for four years.

See **Verdict,** page A4



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**TIMES MEDIA** Group has acquired Firebrand Media, which is located in Laguna Beach and operates the Laguna Beach and Newport Beach Independents and a number of magazines.

### Laguna's Firebrand Media purchased by Times Media Group

#### BY LILLY NGUYEN

Firebrand Media, the content marketing company that owns the Laguna Beach and Newport Beach Independents, has been acquired by Arizona-based Times Media Group, it was announced by the new owners this week.

Both local publications will be folded into the Arizona publishing group, along with Firebrand's magazines. The Laguna Beach Independent was launched in 2003 and was acquired by Firebrand in 2009, the same year the Newport Beach Independent was started.

Steve Zepezauer, Firebrand's chief executive, said the sale was made official on July 1 and that employees were notified the same day of the change in ownership.

See **Sale,** page A2

### West-side Costa Mesans hope to see restrooms in 2 pocket parks

#### BY SARA CARDINE

If you don't build bathrooms, they won't come. That was the reasoning of Costa Mesa residents and park commissioners who, in a recent discussion of improvements at two west-side pocket parks, decided space should be

carved out for restrooms.

Parks and Community Services
Commissioners on June 27 were
asked to weigh in on new designs
for Ketchum-Libolt Park, a onethird acre lot at the corner of Victoria and Maple streets, and
Shalimar Park, a .18-acre parcel
nestled between two Shalimar
Drive apartment buildings.

Despite their diminutive proportions, both pocket parks provide valuable amenities for west-side residents and children, for whom green space within walking distance is a rare but precious commodity.

For that reason, the spots were targeted for improvement funds given to Costa Mesa by two area legislators in 2022. Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie Norris (D-Irvine) earmarked \$1.2 million for Ketchum-Liebolt, while \$1 million was taken from a \$10 million allocation granted the city by Sen. Dave Min (D-Irvine).

Two separate consulting firms led the redesign campaigns, during which park users, residents



File Photo

**COSTA MESA'S** Shalimar Park, seen in July 2022, is due for \$2.3 million of upgrades. Some would like to see a restroom there.

and community members were asked to provide input on a multitude of features, layouts, themes and color schemes.

From that process a coastal concept — executed in marine-colored blues and greens with turf space and separate play areas for young and older children — was

space and separate play areas for young and older children — was preferred at Ketchum-Libolt. Because the park was named for Costa Mesa police officers James "Dave" Ketchum and John

"Mike" Libolt, killed in a 1987

helicopter crash, a first respond-

ers theme rose to the surface during talks with stakeholders, one consultant explained.

At Shalimar families showed a

At Shalimar, families showed a strong preference for a mini-pitch soccer court with a basketball hoop, as well as shaded bench swings and an open concept that, when paired with lighting, security cameras and traffic calming measures, would enhance safety at the site.

One thing citizens were not

See **Restrooms**, page A3

## THE COACH HOUSE

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SUN, JUL 14

**CREAM OF** 

**CLAPTON** 



THE 5TH

**DIMENSION** 





MON, JUL 24 HALEY REINHART

FRI, JUL 26 KEN **GARCIA** 

**WALTER MICHAELS BAND** 7/5 SHINE ON (PINK FLOYD TRIBUTE) 7/6 7/12 YYNOT (RUSH TRIBUTE) 7/13

FAST TIMES - THE ULTIMATE 80s TRIBUTE! THE CREAM OF CLAPTON BAND 7/14

FEAT. WILL JOHNS & NOAH EAST THE 5TH DIMENSION 7/19

7/20 Y&T 50TH ANNIVERSARY 7/24 **HALEY REINHART** 7/25 THE RAT PACK **KEN GARCIA** 7/26 7/27

**BOB SCHNEIDER BOBBY GRAY** 7/28 CASH'D OUT (JOHNNY CASH TRIBUTE) 8/1

**BEACH BOY AL JARDINE** 8/2 CUBENSIS (GRATEFUL DEAD TRIBUTE) 8/3 **UKULELE STAR: TAIMANE & HER TRIO** 8/4

8/9 **BIG BAD VOODOO DADDY** 8/10 THE BUSBOYS

8/11 THE JAMES KELLY BAND 8/17 **PIANO MEN: GENERATIONS** 8/23

SUPER DIAMOND (NEIL DIAMOND TRIBUTE) SUPER DIAMOND (NEIL DIAMOND TRIBUTE) 8/24 **TAB BENOIT & ANDERS OSBORNE** 8/27 WITH SPECIAL GUEST JD SIMO

8/28 **TOM RUSH** THE PETTY BREAKERS (TOM PETTY TRIBUTE) 8/29 GLENN HUGHES - DEEP PURPLE SET 8/30

**MICK ADAMS & THE STONES** 8/31 **MIDGE URE** 9/1

**SOUTHERN ROCK THROWDOWN** 9/7 **GRAHAM BONNET** 9/12

RICHIE KOTZEN WITH SPECIAL GUEST MARK DALY 9/13

JOURNEY USA (JOURNEY TRIBUTE) 9/14 BENISE: FIESTA! 9/15

THE MAN IN BLACK (JOHNNY CASH TRIBUTE) 9/19

WILD CHILD (THE DOORS TRIBUTE) 9/20 9/22 **JANE MONHÈIT** 

**ANA POPOVIC** 9/25 **DAVE MASON** 9/27







FRI. AUG 9 **BIG BAD VOODOO DADDY** 



**BUS BOYS** 

TAB BENOIT ANDERS OSBORNE

9/28 **ORIANTHI** ZEBRA W/SPECIAL GUESTS FUZZBUBBLE 10/3

**DAVE MASON** 10/4 10/5 KIMBERLY PERRY (OF THE BAND PERRY)

10/6 **DAVE HAUSE** 10/9 AL DIMEOLA THE ELECTRIC YEARS **10/10 HENRY KAPONO** 

10/11 HENRY KAPONO 10/12 PABLO CRUISE

10/16 JIMMIE VAUGHAN 10/18 GARY PUCKETT & THE UNION GAP

10/20 THE YOUNG DUBLINERS 10/25 MIRAGE (FLEETWOOD MAC TRIBUTE)

10/30 THE MUSICAL BOX PERFORMS GENESIS LIVE 1973 10/31 OINGO BOINGO FORMER MEMBERS /

**UNTOUCHABLES** 11/1 **OINGO BOINGO FORMER MEMBERS /** 

UNTOUCHABLES 11/2 **VENICE** 

11/3 THE WINEHOUSE EXPERIENCE

**COMMON SENSE** 11/8 **TYRONE WELLS** 11/9

11/13 JOHN HIATT 11/15 RONSTADT REVIVAL

(LINDA RONSTADT TRIBUTE) 11/16 **JOSHUA RADIN & RON POPE** 

11/22 SPACE ODDITY (DAVID BOWIE TRIBUTE) 11/23 **RUFUS WAINWRIGHT** 11/26 LEONID & FRIENDS (CHICAGO TRIBUTE)

11/27 BEATLES VS STONES

11/29 THE PLATTERS

11/30 LEE ROCKER OF THE STRAY CATS

LIVINGSTON TAYLOR 12/4

& LOUDON WAINWRIGHT III 12/11

DAVID BENOIT CHRISTMAS TRIBUTE TO CHARLIE BROWN

**KY-MANI MARLEY** 

12/15 THE GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA – CHRISTMAS SHOW

12/21 AMBROSIA Holiday show 12/29 L.A. GUNS

12/31

THE ENGLISH BEAT

**TOMMY CASTRO & THE PAINKILLERS** 1/10

**GENE LOVES JEZEBEL / BOW WOW WOW** 1/24

2/16 **INCENDIO** 

with ARDESHIR FARAH (of STRUNZ & FARAH)

3/6 ALTAN

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#### THE DAILY COMMUTER **PUZZLE**

20

**SUDOKU** 

By the Mepham Group

By Stella Zawistowski

**ACROSS** 1 Crumbs of food 5 La \_ Tar Pits 9 Part of a process 13 Feel sore 14 Cuban dance style 16 Reason for a lawsuit 17 Rip 18 Most-wanted celebs 19 Actress Shawkat 20 1965 Beatles #1: 3 wds. 23 Star pitcher 24 End of a prayer, often

25 Berate 28 \_ Beta Kappa 30 Bicycle part 34 \_ and crafts 35 fat 37 Sandwich shop 38 Keep after taxes 39 Place to stay on vacation 40 Negating word 41 Ready to hit, as a golf ball 43 Nail-file abrasive 44 Belonging to me 45 Kitchen

garment 47 Pegs 48 "The Iliad" poet 49 Person, place, or thing 51 Terrible 52 Talented

newspaper employee: 2 wds. 57 "Huh?' 58 Nonsensical 59 Big jump 62 Have aspirations

63 Threaded fastener 64 Competitive advantage 65 Had to pay back

66 Slippery fish

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit sudoku.org.uk. 9 2 8 1 9 7 8 6 5 9 3 6 5 2 1 9 2 7 1 5 8 3 7 3 4

58

63

#### For answers to the crossword and Sudoku puzzles, see page A3.

67 Entryway **DOWN**1 Flying mammal

2 Cover with frosting 3 "\_ does it!" 4 Ongoing stories 5 Slow a car down 7 Give off 8 They're present but not voting 9 Besmirched 10 Informed 11 A Great Lake 12 School fundraising group:

6 Regulation

64 Abbr. 15 Molecule part 21 Included on an email 22 Sales 25 Christmas visitor 26 Sleazeball 27 Playful river critter 28 Fame 29 Couldn't stand 31 Jeans material 32 By oneself 33 Soda bottle unit 35 "What's \_ use?" 36 Cunning 42 Gave to charity 44 Posed for photos 46 Sweden neighbor: Abbr.

48 Boater, e.g. 50 Author Leon 51 Makes beer 52 Demonstrate 53 Sticky strip 54 Trim down 55 First-year law student 56 Mulligan 57 "\_ goes there?" 60 In the past

Tribune Media Services

61 The P in MPH

#### ROBBERY

Continued from page A1

into a parking lot and subsequently run over by a white Toyota Camry driven by a third suspect, police said. There were no other reported injuries.

Police pursued the suspects after the incident, a chase that took them into Los Angeles County. Authorities reported that the Camry reached speeds of up to 110 mph as it sped north. A television news helicopter captured video of the car speeding on the left shoulder of the 105 Freeway and at one point grazing the concrete center median.

During the pursuit, police said the getaway driver let at least one accomplice out in Cypress before he and another man sped on. The pair eventually jumped out of the car in South Gate, fleeing on foot around Harding and Hoover avenues, according to police and video of the chase shown on multiple news stations.

News video showed one bare-chested man being taken into custody minutes after he jumped from the driver's side of the car. Eventually, three people were taken into custody, police said.

Authorities identified the suspects as 26-year-old Leroyernest Joseph Mc-Crary of Compton; 18-yearold Jaden Cunningham of Lancaster: and 18-vear-old Malachi Edward Darnell of Los Angeles. All three were booked on suspicion of homicide, robbery with a firearm and conspiracy. The shooting occurred

just after 3:30 p.m. Tuesday at what is known as a usually peaceful shopping center that sits on a bluff above the ocean in the wealthy coastal community. The Newport Beach Fire

Department reported that a person was found dead in the parking lot adjacent to the bookstore.

Authorities nearby residents around 4 p.m. to avoid the shopping plaza as they investigated. Police were seen on site guiding the public to safety,

and helicopters were flying overhead.

A woman who was shopping in the area at the time described the situation as a "hullabaloo." She said she was from Los Angeles and was thankful that police responded quickly. She declined to give her name.

A young man who asked not to be identified said he was at Cucina Enoteca in Fashion Island when the incident occurred.

"About 20 people were running and screaming, 'Someone's shooting!' They locked us in the restaurant," he said.

"This doesn't happen in Newport Beach," Mayor Will O'Neill told KCAL-TV News. "Fashion Island is an incredibly safe place. This is a tragedy, and I'm furious."

City News Service contributed to this report. Winton, Rainey and Solis are L.A Times staff writers. Nguyen is a staff writer for the Daily Pilot while Hoffman is a regular contributor.

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#### **SALE**

Continued from page A1

In a statement on the acquisition, Steve Strickbine, founder and president of Times Media Group, said he was pleased to be adding Firebrand and its products to the company, which already included the Capistrano Dispatch, the Dana Point Times and the San Clemente Times, all of which were acquired from Picket Fence Media last August.
"I couldn't be more

thrilled to add the Firebrand team and its great products to Times Media Group," Strickbine said in a statement. "Firebrand's commit-

good journalism make them a perfect fit for partnering and moving forward with our overall growth plans," he continued. "Add to that the custom publishing arm of their business, and Firebrand introduces a whole new set of opportunities for us to bring value to our advertisers and readers." Zepezauer, who will be

serve as director of custom publishing for TMG, said it's the intention for Firebrand to remain in its Glenneyre Street office in Laguna Beach, adding the acquisition would allow for more assets to be put into the brand's core business units. "I've been open to a sale

or merger for a couple ment to excellence and years and this was a great

opportunity to join an organization that values local journalism as much as we do. It was also important that I stayed on with the company and be a part of the overall growth plans for TMG in both community journalism and custom publishing," Zepezauer said in an email.

"I'm especially looking forward to seeing both Laguna Beach Independent and Newport Beach Independent thrive with the additional editorial and sales support."

Some freelancers for the paper are cautiously optimistic about the sale.

Barbara McMurray, who writes features for the Laguna Beach Independent,

See Sale, page A4

#### A NOTE TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS

To allow our staff to enjoy the Independence Day holiday Thursday, there will not be a print edition of the Daily Pilot on Friday, July 5. The newspaper will resume its regular delivery schedule on Saturday, July 6

#### **BALLOT**

Continued from page A1

Kalmick, Natalie Moser and Rhonda Bolton abstained from voting, with Moser indicating that she was abstaining based on the rushing of the process.

The city still has not adopted a complaint housing element for the current Regional Housing Needs Assessment cycle, which runs to 2029. In March of 2023, the council failed to approve the EIR related to the general plan housing element update. The conservative majority refused to sign a statement of overriding considerations, that maintains the need for housing outweighs damage to the environment.

In May, a San Diego Superior Court judge ruled that Huntington Beach must pass a housing element compliant with state law. The city is appealing.

Last November, a federal judge ruled against Huntington Beach City Atty. Michael Gates' argument that housing mandates violated the city's 1st Amendment proteccompelled tion for speech and 14th Amendment due process protections. Gates, again, appealed to the Ninth District Court of Appeals.

Now, the council majority is saying it believes city-initiated changes should first receive approval by a vote of the people.

"If the EIR has significant or unavoidable negative impacts to the environment, that's permanent," McKeon said. "That cannot be undone. When you hit that very high threshold, I think it's too important for four council members to make that permanent decision. I think it should go to the voters."

The city's RHNA number requires it to plan for 13,368 units. But more than 8,000 of those are required to be affordable to either very-low income, low-income or moderate income house-

Since the housing element contemplates a 20% affordability component, McKeon said in actuality the methodology requires more than 40,000 units be to planned for in Surf City.

"In our 27-square mile city there's 81,000 housing units, and you say we're going to put in 50% more," said McKeon, a real estate developer by trade. "Where are you going to do that? There's no new roads being built. I mean, infrastructure, circulation, traffic... that is so drastic, it's crazy.'

He emphasized that the proposed charter amendment, if approved by voters, would affect city-initiated changes only, not private sector developments, and that it would affect any retail, commercial or industrial zoning changes as well as residential.

The proposed charter amendment would be the fourth put on the ballot this year in Huntington Beach by the conservative majority, which ran two years ago on a ticket that was critical of amendments brought forward by the previous council. Measures A and B, related to voter identification and flag policies, passed in the March primary election.

Kalmick said in a lengthy response to McKeon from the dais that the charter amendment amounted to a dereliction of duty by the council members, who were elected to make decisions like this, instead of handing them off to residents to weigh complicated and lengthy environmental documents.

"You don't go to a heart surgeon to fix a blocked artery and ask him to poll the waiting room, to see if you should put a stent in or do open heart surgery," he said. "You rely on the heart surgeon's expertise and that of his support staff in the operating room. [The California Environmental Quality Act] is really complicated, and it has nothing to do with if you're smart enough to figure it out. It has to do with the time and learned skill set to evaluate what the hell it's trying to tell you."

Kalmick showed a video from the Yorba Linda City Council meeting on June 18. That city is placing a measure on the ballot so that the voters can approve the zoning for their housing element, after a similar measure in the 2022 election had just 24% of the voters in favor.

Yorba Linda Councilwoman Peggy Huang, a senior deputy city attorin Huntington Beach, stressed to her Council colleagues during that meeting the importance of passing a housing element to avoid penalties.

"If this housing element doesn't pass, then when a project comes before us, we rubber stamp it," she said, referring to builder's remedy concerns. "We lose all local control."

Kalmick also brushed aside any notion that the amendment proposed was about environmental

concerns. "They killed the Environmental Board, so tell me how this is about environmental

stewardship," Kalmick said. Moser said the city cannot survive a "forever

war" against the state of California.

Bolton referenced a case in which a judge ruled earlier this year that Senate Bill 9, a law ending single-familyhome-only zoning in California, was unconstitutional as applied to charter cities like Redondo Beach, though not to general law cities like Manhattan Beach. Huntington Beach, like Redondo Beach, is a charter

city.
"I'll bet anyone a chicken dinner that case gets reversed on appeal,' said Bolton, a lawyer, from the dais. "Any takers? Anyone want a chicken dinner?"

Gates, smiling, raised his hand.

"OK, you're on," Bolton said.

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#### RESTROOMS

DAILY PILOT | COASTLINE PILOT | HUNTINGTON BEACH INDEPENDENT

Continued from page A1

however, whether plans should include public restrooms, a fact pointed out by multiple citizens who spoke in public comments at the commission meeting.

'You're not serving the needs of the community by creating this wonderful park with all these amenities — it's great — and then not having a place to defecate and to wash your hands before you eat," reasoned resident Cynthia McDonald.

"It's human dignity to have someplace to go when you need to go."

Juana Trejo, a former neighborhood Shalimar resident who now works as a health promotora for the area advocacy group Familias Unidas, suggested the lack of such accommodations presents a public health concern.

"When I go to the park, I see they do not have a bathroom. We need a place where we can wash our hands," Trejo said through a Spanish interpreter. "This is something that we need. It's a necessity."



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**KETCHUM LIBOLT** Park, a pocket park located at 2150 Maple St. in Costa Mesa, is due for upgrades.

City staff explained most city parks smaller than 2.5 acres do not have restrooms, due to their limited size and the steep cost of installing the utilities necessary for them to operate. Pocket parks, in particular, are intended to serve as hyper-local greenspace for those with homes nearby.

"Adding restrooms would be quite an additional cost," said maintenance services manager Rob Ryan, estimating the work could cost up to \$400,000 per site. "It would also take up the potential play area."

Commission Chair Eliza-

beth Dorn Parker acknowledged public opinion on the benefit of such amenities seems to be split but favored broaching the subject with City Council members, who will be tasked with approving the park plans.

"We have people in the city who've connected with me who want all the restrooms shut down, because they believe it brings in elements that shouldn't be there," she said, "Then, we have those who believe that it's just a basic park amenity.'

Bathroom backers, how-

claimed measures could be taken to shut down the facilities after dark and suggested that citizens shouldn't be punished by the symptom of bigger societal issues, such as homelessness or criminal activity.

Commissioner Cristian Garcia Arcos — who represents the 4th Council District where both parks are located — requested the recommended design concepts, along with a proposal to examine the possibilities of restrooms at both sites, be put before the City Council in a meeting later this month.

"I want to see if we can talk to the City Council and try to have the community give more input toward the restrooms," Garcia Arcos said, recognizing the renewed interest in providing the facilities. "You heard it here tonight, and I've also heard it over the past few meetings we've had with the community."

The motion passed 5-1, with Commissioner Scott Glabb opposed and Commissioners Kelly Brown and Shayanne Wright absent.

sara.cardine@latimes.com Twitter: @SaraCardine

## MARKETPLACE

**Bids Wanted** 

**Bids Wanted** 

**CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH** 

**NOTICE INVITING BIDS** 

Sealed bids shall be submitted electronically via PlanetBids to office of the City Clerk, 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660 Before <u>10:00 AM</u> on the <u>25th</u> day of <u>July</u>, 2024, at which time such bids shall be opened and read for

SAN MIGUEL PARK ACCESSIBILE PARK

Contract No. 9371-1

**Federally Assisted Project** U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

\$763,480



James M. Houlihai **Deputy PWD/City Engineer** 

Prospective bidders may obtain Bid **Documents, Project Specifications and Plans via** PlanetBids:

http://www.planetbids.com/portal/portal.cfm? CompanyID=22078

Contractor License Classification(s) required for this project: "A" with all playground installation work to be performed by a Contractor with a "D-34" License and "D-12" shall be required of any Contractor performing rubber surfacing

For further information, call Kyle Aube, Project Manager at (949) 644-3296

#### 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 work on a 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.

This is a HUD Section 3 construction contract. Contracts of \$100,000 or more shall be required to address the Section 3 employment, training and subcontracting opportunity regulations set forth by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development at 24 CFR Part 135 by 1)

demonstrating that the firm is a Section 3 Business, or 2) submitting a written commitment (Economic Opportunity Plan) to hire Section 3 Residents or to subcontract with Section 3 businesses, or 3) certifying that no new hires are necessary to complete the contracted work and that no subcontracts will be awarded.

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#### **Legal Notices Legal Notices**

In accordance with the California Self-Service Storage Facility Act, Alton Self Storage LP, 2215 Alton Parkway, Irvine, California 92606, will sell by competitive bid on July 18th, 2024. Property to be sold as follows: Miscellaneous household goods, personal items, furniture, clothing, and/or business items/fixtures belonging to the following.

**Advertisement of Public Sale** 

TENANT NAME SPACE NUMBER Chen Fei Huang1180 Han Jia 1200

Marcela Montiel Pace 1234 Winnie La Treece Alfred 2191 Noe Oliva 2241 Toby B. Pesce 2276 Han Jia 2336

Ulices Alarcon 2532 Noe Oliva 2533 Elham Alavi 3175 June Licata Evans 3209 Christina Parrish 3223

Lourdes Nalus 2430

Alexandru Florin 3563 Purchase must be paid for at time of purchase in cash only. All purchased items sold as is where is and must be removed at time of sale. Sale is subject to cancellation in the event of a settlement between owner and obligated party. Dated this July 4th, 2024, and July 11th, 2024. Auction Listed on storagetreasures.com. Final bid at 12:00 noon. 7/4, 7/11/24

CNS-3828314# **DAILY PILOT** 

#### BSC 225351 **NOTICE OF PETITION** TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: **GREGGORY SCOTT WOLF**

30-2024-01407167-PR-LA-CMC To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of:

GREGGORY SCOTT WOLF. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by CHARLES J. WOLF in the Superior Court of

California, County of **ORANGE**. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that CHARLES J. WOLF be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the

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 on September 11, 2024 at 1:30 P.M. in Dept. CM08 located at 3390 HARBOR BLVD. COSTA MESA, CA 92626

The court is providing the convenience to appear for hearing by video using the court's designated video platform. This is a no cost service to the public. Go to the Court's website at The Superior Court of California - County of Orange (occourts.org) to appear remotely for Probate hearings and for remote hearing instructions. If you have difficulty connecting or are unable to connect to your remote hearing, call 657-622-8278 for assistance. If you prefer to appear in-person, you can appear in the department on the day/time set for your

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 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: ROBERT E. PEARSON ROBERT E. PEARSON APLC

17782 E. 17TH ST., WEST BLDG., SUITE 109 TUSTIN, CA 92780 Published in the NEWPORT HARBOR NEWS PRESS

combined with the DAILY PILOT on 6/28, 7/4, and

**Legal Notices** 

**Legal Notices** Order No.: 15950844 FC #: 24-107 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED SEPTEMBER 6, 2023. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On July 11, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. of said day, at: The front steps to the entrance of the Orange Civic Center located at 300 East Chapman, Orange, CA 92866 CJ Investment Services, Inc., a California corporation the Trustee or Successor Trustee, or Substituted Trustee, will sell at a public auction to the highest bidder for cash (payable at the time of sale in lawful money of the United States) the following described property situated in the County of ORANGE, State of California, and described more fully on said deed of trust. The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 2616 Bungalow Pl., Corona Del Mar, Ca 92625 APN: 934-61-220 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown here. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (844) 477-7869 Internet www.stoxposting.com, using the file number assigned to this case 24-107. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. NOTICE TO TENANT:

You may have the right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible buyer", you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder", you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right to purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (844) 477-7869, or visit this internet Website www.stoxposting.com, using the file number assigned to this case 24-107 to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee received it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder", you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. Said sale will be made AS IS, without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to satisfy the obligations secured by and pursuant to the Power of Sale conferred in a certain Deed of Trust executed by TRUSTOR(S): Steven C. Arenal and Cristelle Steenson Arenal, husband and wife as joint tenants, Recorded September 28, 2023, as Inst. #2023000237280, in the office of the County Recorder of ORANGE County. At the time of the initial publication of this Notice, the total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the above-described Deed of Trust and Modification and estimated costs, expenses, fees, and advances is \$984,849.56 To determine the

opening bid, you may call: The day before the sale

(831) 462-9385. Dated: June 10, 2024 CJ

Investment Services, Inc. 331 Capitola Avenue,

Suite G Capitola, Ca 95010 By: Sue Jamieson,

Foreclosure Officer

#### VERDICT

Continued from page A1

Bernstein graduated after six years at the school and went on to become a premed student at the University of Pennsylvania.

Woodward, meanwhile, transferred to Corona Del Mar High School, from which he graduated. He then attended Cal State Channel Islands before dropping out in his second semester.

Following the verdict, Bernstein's mother, Jeanne Pepper Bernstein, thanked everyone who has supported the family since Blaze's death. She also asked the media to give the family time to "process this outcome and to live our lives knowing that this murderer will no longer be able to hurt any other people.

'This is a great relief that justice was served and this despicable human who murdered our son will no longer be a threat to the public," she said.

Woodward spent five days testifying during the trial, often taking up to 30 seconds to respond to yes

or no questions. said Woodward he reached out to Bernstein hours after a long text-exchange conversation with his big brother's best friend, Dylan Gronendyke, on New Year's Day in 2018. As Woodward complained that he could not establish any meaningful relationships and would even leave the house and go to a parking lot alone just to give his parents the impression he went

out with friends, Gronendyke encouraged him to return to college and to not give up trying to make

Nearly a day passed before Bernstein responded to Woodward, and the two agreed to meet up the night of Jan. 2, 2018. Woodward stuffed snacks and drinks and marijuana into a sleeping bag and picked up Bernstein, who directed the two to Borrego Park, where the victim's mother said he had many lifelong memories, such as playing soccer as a youth.

Woodward testified he took two hits off a heady strain of marijuana and felt he was nodding off until he felt a strange sensation on his legs and immediately thought he had gotten too relaxed and urinated on himself as he had done previously.

When he snapped to, Woodward testified, he realized his pants were undone and the victim had his hand on his groin. Bernstein also appeared to be photographing or video recording the encounter, he testified.

This triggered panic in Woodward, who said he was in "mortal terror" his family, who objected to homosexuality on religious grounds, would find out. He said the "look" on his father's face alone could be so upsetting he struggled to get the phone away from Bernstein, defendant the claimed, was saying words to the effect that he would "out" Woodward, who had a reputation in high school for homophobia.

When he could not get



Leonard Ortiz | Orange County Register/Pool

**SAMUEL WOODWARD** testifies in Orange County Superior Court on June 13, in Santa Ana. Woodward was found guilty Wednesday of stabbing his former classmate Blaze Bernstein to death more than six years ago and burying his body near a Foothill Ranch park.

the phone, Woodward said he snapped and repeatedly stabbed Bernstein and then smashed the phone. Woodward said he dug a shallow grave with his hands and left the body in the park.

When Bernstein failed to show for a dental appointment, which was unusual, and could not be contacted, his worried parents began searching for clues and contacted authorities. The victim's body was found Jan. 9, 2018, in an area of the park that had been scoured previously, but a recent rain made it easier to see him, Senior Deputy Dist. Atty. Jennifer Walker said.

Attorney Ken Morrison of the Orange County Public Defender's Office presented evidence during the trial about Woodward's diagnosis of autism, saying it was not an effort to excuse the crime, but to help jurors understand his state of mind - and for them to reject the hate-crime allegations and accept a lesserdegree of homicide.

"Samuel Lincoln Woodward should be held accountable for what he did," Morrison said during his closing argument. should not be held accountable for what he did not do. This case was charged."

Morrison characterized his client as someone struggling through life, not understanding until he was 18 that he had autism when it was too late for the usually prescribed interventions. The disorder made it difficult for him to communicate and led to social awkwardness and loneliness, and the late diagnosis made him especially vulnerable to being wooed by a fringe, extremist group like Atomwaf-fen Division, the defense attorney argued.

The group's attraction was a sense of belonging, a "brotherhood" of "strong men," Morrison argued.

Woodward told a defense-hired psychiatric expert, Martha Rogers, that he didn't pay much attention to the group's hateful rhetoric and was buoyed by their positive reinforcement, Morrison argued.

Woodward grew disillusioned with the group, he told Rogers, after a twomonth excursion in the summer of 2017 to Texas with the man who lured him into the group, when he ran out of money for food and a motel, Morrison said.

Morrison argued though Woodward Bernstein did not interact much when they were classmates, there were projects they worked on together and that Woodward considered him a "chill guy." Morrison said the defendant was surprised to find out Bernstein was gay when they reconnected on a dating app in June 2017, and Woodward grew to admire how the victim was comfortable with his sexual orientation while the defendant struggled with his own.

Walker argued to jurors that the evidence pointed to Woodward planning to attack Bernstein in a "ceremonial" killing to win the prestige of the neo-Nazi group. She said he wore a sweater with a skull image on it to "strike fear" into the victim, and that it had Bernstein's blood spattered on it after the attack.

When Bernstein's panicked parents went through their missing son's social media looking for clues, they called Woodward, who lied to them about what had happened to their son, according to the prosecutor. Walker said Woodward also began searching for information on DNA and even got a haircut to change his appearance while search for Bernstein made headlines.

"The abundance of evidence here is overwhelming," Walker said.

She brushed aside Morrison's arguments that Bernstein had betrayed Woodward's requests to keep it quiet that the two matched on a dating app.

Walker said Bernstein was rightly "shocked" to see Woodward seeking males on the dating app and sent a link to his public profile to a few fellow classmates from the school of the arts.

Walker said Bernstein kept his promise not to share the details of their conversations with others.

"Blaze Bernstein is not here to defend himself against these allegations," Walker said.

PAUL ANDERSON writes for City News Service.

## **MARKETPLACE**

**Legal Notices** 

**Legal Notices** 

**Legal Notices** TS No: CA2000014-23-2S APN: 423-083-12 TO No: 230407196-CA-VOI NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE (The above statement is made pursuant to CA Civil Code Section 2923.3(d)(1). The Summary will be provided to Trustor(s) and/or vested owner(s) only, pursuant to CA Civil Code Section 2923.3(d)(2).) YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED September 9, 2021. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On July 22, 2024 at 01:30 PM, at the North front entrance to the County Courthouse at 700 Civic Center Drive West, Santa Ana, CA 92701, MTC Financial Inc. dba Trustee Corps, as the duly Appointed Trustee, under and pursuant to the power of sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust recorded on September 30, 2021 as Instrument No. 2021000606329, of official records in the Office of the Recorder of Orange County, California, executed by LIDO 10, LLC, A CALIFORNIA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, as Trustor(s), in favor of RIVERBEND FUNDING, LLC, A DELAWARE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY as Beneficiary, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER, in lawful money of the United States, all payable at the time of sale, that certain property situated in said County, California describing the land therein as: AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN SAID DEED OF TRUST The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 626 CLUBHOUSE AVE, NEWPORT BEACH, CA 92663 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the Note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said Note(s), advances if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligations secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of this Notice of Trustee's Sale is estimated to be \$5,927,561.34 (Estimated). However, prepayment premiums, accrued interest and advances will increase this figure prior to sale. Beneficiary's bid at said sale may include all or part of said amount. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept a cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the California Financial Code and authorized to do business in California, or other such funds as may be acceptable to the Trustee. In the event tender other than cash is accepted, the Trustee may withhold the issuance of the Trustee's Deed Upon Sale until funds become available to the payee or endorsee as a matter of right. The property offered for sale excludes all funds held on account by the property receiver, if applicable. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. Notice to Potential Bidders If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a Trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a Trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same Lender may hold more than one mortgage or Deed of Trust on the property. Notice to Property Owner The sale date shown on this Notice of Sale may be postponed one or more times by the Mortgagee, Beneficiary, Trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about Trustee Sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call Nationwide Posting & Publication at 916.939.0772 for information regarding the Trustee's Sale or visit the Internet Website www.nationwideposting.com for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case, CA2000014-23-2S. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. Notice to Tenant NOTICE TO TENANT FOR FORECLOSURES AFTER JANUARY 1, 2021 You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First,

48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call 916.939.0772, or visit this

internet website www.nationwideposting.com, using the file number assigned

to this case CA2000014-23-2S to find the date on which the trustee's sale was

held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee.

Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the

trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must

submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the

trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or

"eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real

estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. Date: June 13, 2024 MTC Financial Inc. dba Trustee Corps TS No.

CA2000014-23-25 17100 Gillette Ave Irvine, CA 92614 Phone: 949-252-8300

TDD: 711 949.252.8300 By: Bobbie La Flower, Authorized Signatory SALE

INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED ONLINE AT www.nationwideposting.com FOR AUTOMATED SALES INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: Nationwide Posting &

Publication AT 916.939.0772 NPP0461937 To: NEWPORT HARBOR NEWS PRESS

COMBINED WITH DAILY PILOT 06/27/2024, 07/04/2024, 07/11/2024

#### **Legal Notices**

**Legal Notices** 

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION LIEN SALE West Coast Self Storage 2059 Harbor Blvd Costa Mesa, CA 92627 (949) 631-6666

In accordance with the provisions of the California Self-Storage Facility Act, Section 21700, et seq. of the Business and Professions Code of the State of California the under-signed will be sold at public auction conducted on STORAGETREASURES.COM on July 12, 2024. The personal property including but not limited to: ersonal and household items stored at 2059 Harbor Blvd, Costa Mesa, CA 92627, County of Orange, by the following persons:

Size <u>Name</u> Katherine Burk Daniel Krieg

Property is sold "AS IS BASIS." There is a refundable \$100 cleaning deposit on all units. Sale is subject to

Published: June 27, and July 4, 2024

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE (UCC Sec. 6105) Escrow No. 240373-JS NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a bulk sale is about to be made. The name(s), business address(es) to the Seller(s) are: THE POKE' ME WORLDWIDE INC., 18066 CULVER DR, IRVINE, CA 92612 Doing Business as: **POKE ME** 

All other business name(s) and address(es) used by the Seller(s) within three years, as stated by the

The name(s) and address of the Buyer(s) is/are DLTW INC., 18066 CULVER DR, IRVINE, CA

The assets to be sold are described in general as: ALL STOCK IN TRADE, FIXTURES, EQUIPMENT, GOODWILL, LEASE, LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS, AND COVENANT NOT TO COMPETE and are located at: 18066 CULVER DR, IRVINE, CA 92612

The bulk sale is intended to be consummated at the office of: TEAM ESCROW BP, INC, 6025 BEACH BLVD, BUENA PARK, CA 90621 and the anticipated sale date is JULY 23, 2024

The bulk sale is subject to California Uniform Commercial Code Section 6106.2.

[If the sale is subject to Sec. 6106.2, the following information must be provided.] The name and address of the person with whom claims may be filed is: TEAM ESCROW BP, INC, 6025 BEACH BLVD, BUENA PARK, CA 90621 and the last date for filing claims shall be JULY 22, 2024, which is the business day before the sale date specified

BUYER: **DLTW INC.** 2468435-PP DAILY PILOT 7/4/24

> NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE (UCC Sec. 6105) Escrow No. 10602-AK

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a bulk sale is about to be made. The name(s), business address(es) to the Seller(s) are: SILVERLAKE SL LLC, A CALIFORNIA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, 707 E. OCEANFRONT STE A, NEWPORT BEACH, CA

Doing Business as: CRAFTED DONUTS All other business name(s) and address(es) used by

the Seller(s) within three years, as stated by the Seller(s), is/are: **NONE** The name(s) and business address of the Buyer(s)

is/are: JUSTIN CHENG, 707 E. OCEANFRONT STE A, NEWPORT BEACH, CA 92661 The assets to be sold are described in general as: FURNITURE, FIXTURES, AND EQUIPMENT, GOODWILL, INVENTORY, COVENANT NOT TO

LEASE, AND LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENT and are located at: 707 E OCEANFRONT STE A, NEWPORT BEACH, CA The bulk sale is intended to be consummated at

the office of: DETAIL ESCROW, INC, 13737 ARTESIA BLVD. #105 CERRITOS, CA 90703 and the anticipated sale date is JULY 23, 2024 The bulk sale is subject to California Uniform

Commercial Code Section 6106.2. [If the sale is subject to Sec. 6106.2, the following information must be provided.] The name and address of the person with whom claims may be filed is: DETAIL ESCROW, INC, 13737 ARTESIA BLVD #105 , CERRITOS, CA 90703 and the last date for filing claims shall be JULY 22, 2024, which is the business day before the sale date specified

Dated: JUNE 27, 2024 BUYER: JUSTIN CHENG 2469231-PP DAILY PILOT 7/4/24

#### SALE

Continued from page A2

said she was hopeful that those employed would be able to keep their jobs and that the change would bolster the editorial side of the weekly.

"I remember when ... there were different people and beats. We had education, city, fire, police, sports — I'd love to see it get back to that. I'm hoping for the best and I'm hoping that [Times Media Group] will give some good, strong financial footing so that it can continue on," said McMurray. "We need our local paper and we need it to have more factual news stories. I'm just as guilty. I write fea-

"Clara [Beard, the managing editor,] does her best, given the constraints, but ... in this town, you really have to dig to understand the important issues. You need to pay attention to City Council. You need to read the staff reports to really fully understand and no one really has the time to do that and that's the service that a local newspaper should be providing. Someone has to put in a lot of time uncovering that and the local papers are really where people's lives

are lived," she said. Opinion columnist Billy

Fried said he's been writing for the Laguna Beach Independent for more than 10 years and he agreed with McMurray's take. He commended the papers for sticking it out as they did against changes in publishing and the turbulent news industry. He said he was hopeful the purchase means more resources can be put behind the editorial team for the paper's suc-

But, those at the Orange County Press Club have raised concerns about the purchase, pointing to layoffs that happened after TMG bought Picket Fence Media.

"I'm concerned about this acquisition because of what we saw at Picket Fence Media where, following TMG's acquisition, staff at Picket Fence were laid off," said Brandon Pho, president of the OC Press Club's board of directors. "Before Picket Fence was acquired, all three of the local papers were more distinct and had their own reporters and a managing editor. After the purchase, there were fewer staffers and a lot of their positions seemed to be replaced by freelancers."

Zepezauer said Wednesday that there were no planned layoffs.

lilly.nguyen@latimes.com Twitter: @lillibirds

#### **CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS**

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