

Daily Pilot

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Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

COSTA MESA Fire Chief Dan Stefano has been serving as acting city manager since mid-July as City Manager Lori Ann Farrell Harrison recovers from an injury and second-in-command Assistant City Manager Susan Price announced last week she'd retired.

Costa Mesa's fire chief has assumed city manager role

Fire Chief Dan Stefano became acting city manager when Lori Ann Farrell Harrison underwent surgery. Assistant City Manager Susan Price retired Friday.

BY SARA CARDINE

Costa Mesa's fire chief has been running the city for the past month, as City Manager Lori Ann Farrell Harrison recovers from an injury and second-in-command Assistant City Manager Susan Price announced last week she'd retired.

Chief Dan Stefano said he assumed the title of acting city manager after Farrell Harrison underwent surgery due to an injury sustained in mid-July.

"She injured her leg very badly, and we had the discussion about me moving into the role temporarily," he said Tuesday. "She was going to try to come back, and she did, but sub-

See **Chief**, page A2



Courtesy of the city of Huntington Beach

COSTA MESA City Manager Lori Ann Farrell Harrison has been on medical leave since July, due to a leg injury.



Courtesy of the city of Costa Mesa

SUSAN PRICE announced last week she'd retired from her role as assistant city manager of Costa Mesa while on leave.

See **Doctor**, page A2

Man fatally struck by HBPD SUV was from Rancho Palos Verdes

BY ERIC LICAS

A Huntington Beach police SUV struck and killed a Rancho Palos Verdes man in Sunset Beach while responding to a call for service early Saturday.

The crash happened at about 5:30 a.m. on North Pacific Avenue, near Broadway, California Highway Patrol officials said in a news release. A pedestrian was hit and later pronounced dead at a hospital. He was identified as Derrick Deon Flanders, 45, of Rancho Palos Verdes by Orange County Coroner's offi-

cial.

Bucky Lee, 40, lives less than a block away from the scene of the crash, and said the area was blocked off by yellow tape for hours on Saturday. Brightly colored evidence markers sat in the street, several feet away from a stop sign, as he passed by at about 7 a.m. that day. One was next to what appeared to be a fairly new pair of Vans shoes.

The officer behind the wheel of the Ford Explorer that struck Flanders has been placed on

See **Fatal**, page A2



Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

A PEDESTRIAN CROSSES the street at North Pacific and Broadway in Sunset Beach on Monday. The intersection is the site of an incident Saturday morning when a Huntington Beach police vehicle struck and killed a pedestrian.



Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:

HIGH SCHOOL ROUNDUP: CDM GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL HOLDS ON TO BEAT SOUTH TORRANCE PAGE A3

COSTA MESA'S JAKE KNAPP EARNS FIRST PGA TOUR CANADA WIN OF SEASON PAGE A4

Huntington Beach man arrested, charged in Jan. 6 U.S. Capitol breach

BY MATT SZABO

A Huntington Beach man was arrested Thursday in connection with the breach of the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

Brandon Cavanaugh, 30, was arrested in Huntington Beach after a warrant was issued nine days earlier. The charges against him include knowingly entering or remaining in any restricted building or grounds without lawful authority, disorderly and disruptive conduct in a restricted building or grounds, disorderly conduct in a Capitol building and parading, demonstrating or picketing in a Capitol building.

According to the federal complaint filed Aug. 16, the FBI identified messages attributed to Cavanaugh in a private Telegram chat, while executing a search warrant on a different Capitol riot suspect.

The contact was saved in the phone as "Brandon HB Groyper,"

See **Capitol**, page A2



Courtesy of FBI

BRANDON CAVANAUGH of Huntington Beach has been arrested and charged with breaching the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

Doctor in sex message case found guilty

Newport Harbor High cheerleaders reported the physician after they experienced suspicious activity on social media.

BY ERIC LICAS

A jury on Monday convicted a Newport Beach doctor accused of sending sexually charged messages to Newport Harbor High School cheerleaders.

David Lee Haller, 55, was found guilty of two misdemeanor counts of annoying or molesting a minor, according to court records. He is currently free on bail and scheduled to appear for a sentencing hearing on Oct. 14. The charges he was convicted of are eligible for a maximum sentence of two years in jail.

Haller was charged in June 2018 after a cheerleading coach told authorities members of the team had been followed by suspicious accounts on Instagram and Snapchat. Haller had apparently been watching the team's activities and used the screen names "miaperv," "Anh Tran" and "Anh Nguyen" to send messages commenting on what they had been doing.

Haller, a family practice physician, began contacting one girl in August 2017 and another about two months later, according to court records. The mother of one of the victims told the Daily Pilot in 2019 that he had posed as an Ensign Intermediate School student who wanted to make a donation to the cheer team in an attempt to arrange a meeting with her daughter.

Haller told authorities he did not try to threaten any of the girls he contacted nor intend to lure any of them into having sex with him, according to a report by a Newport Beach police school resource officer who investigated

Flight at the Top of the World



AN ANISE SWALLOWTAIL butterfly flutters near vegetation along a trail at Alta Laguna Park at the Top of the World neighborhood in Laguna Beach.



Photos by Don Leach Staff Photographer

FATAL

Continued from page A1

administrative leave while the crash is under investigation, which is "common" whenever an officer is involved in a fatal collision, Huntington Beach police

said in a statement Tuesday morning. He had been identified only as 22-year-old "Robert M." in a department news release. Details regarding the nature of the call he was responding to and where he was going were not immediately made public.

The collision is under investigation by the CHP. They have asked anyone who may have witnessed it to contact investigators at their Westminster-area office at (714) 892-4426.

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CAPITOL

Continued from page A1

and the cellphone number matched Cavanaugh's, according to the report. He is alleged to have sent two graphically violent messages. One, which used racist language, was sent in March 2021 and the other in June, according to an FBI agent's affidavit.

The unidentified agent wrote in the report the term "Groyper" meant the person was part of the America First movement.

"Groypers believe they are defending against the

demographic and cultural changes that are destroying the 'true America,' a white, Christian nation," the agent wrote. "Groypers attempt to normalize their ideology by aligning themselves with 'Christianity' and 'traditional' values, such as marriage and family."

Cavanaugh also allegedly posted a government work ID in the chat. His LinkedIn page states he is the founder, CEO and lead engineer of a technology company, and he also worked as an intern at NASA in 2019.

Investigators found that Cavanaugh flew to Wash-

ington, D.C. with another person from Jan. 4 to Jan. 7, 2021, staying at a hotel in Virginia. Video surveillance, witness interviews and other steps established that on Jan. 6, Cavanaugh was inside of the U.S. Capitol for 13 minutes.

A man identified by law enforcement as Cavanaugh is pictured on surveillance video wearing a black leather jacket, blue plaid shirt and red beanie, and carrying a large blue "AF" (America First) flag.

The FBI agent wrote that Cavanaugh also bragged about it on a live streaming website on Jan. 6 and 7. An

THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

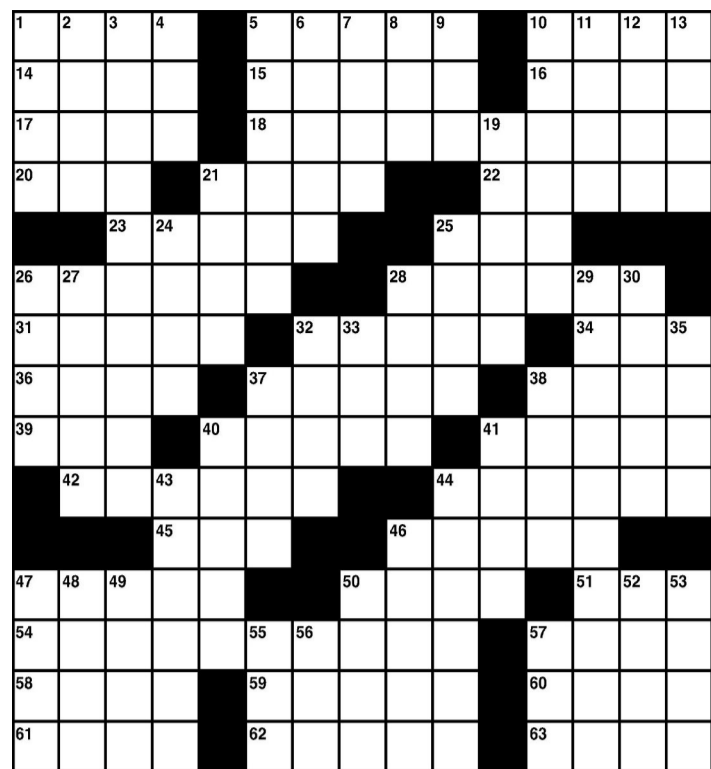
By Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS

- 1 Tagalong sibling, often
- 5 Indian princes
- 10 Role on "Bonanza"
- 14 Arthur with a racket
- 15 Cleverly avoid
- 16 "Queen for _" of old TV
- 17 Praise
- 18 Filet mignon
- 20 Pigsty floor, perhaps
- 21 Under the weather
- 22 Antelope groups
- 23 Entryways
- 25 Prefix for agree or trust
- 26 Treeless tract
- 28 Of the mind
- 31 Planet with one moon
- 32 Car rental agency
- 34 Marsh
- 36 That's partner, in phrase
- 37 Wrecks
- 38 Suitor
- 39 Male relative
- 40 Darns
- 41 Brass instruments
- 42 Braggart
- 44 William Randolph _
- 45 Colony member
- 46 Major airline
- 47 Unwelcome indoor breeze
- 50 _ the way; pioneer
- 51 Recipe amt.
- 54 Enrollee
- 57 "Bye!"
- 58 Dollar bills
- 59 Part of a car wash
- 60 First word in a warning
- 61 Ritzy; elegant
- 62 Venomous viper
- 63 Brings to a close

DOWN

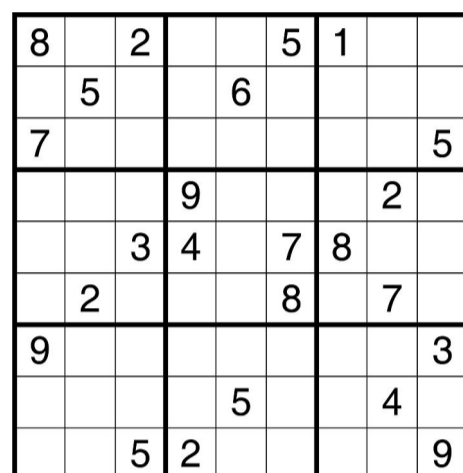
- 1 Part of the hand
- 2 Jacob's twin
- 3 Quivering
- 4 Man's nickname
- 5 Accept one's pension
- 6 Guinness & others
- 7 Worthless stuff
- 8 Tally up
- 9 Observe
- 10 Most robust
- 11 Disagreeable smell
- 12 "Who _ so?"; skeptic's query
- 13 Thesaurus entries: abbr.
- 19 Thick-skinned



SUDOKU

By The Mepham Group

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.



For answers to the crossword and Sudoku puzzles, see page A4.

- mammal
- 21 Last yr.'s frosh
- 24 Makes a selection
- 25 FDR & JFK: abbr.
- 26 Rolls the hair
- 27 Lake near Reno
- 28 No_-land; area between armies
- 29 Anomaly; abnormal thing
- 30 Borrowed amounts
- 32 Dad's sister
- 33 Tupperware piece
- 35 Powerful wind
- 37 Sit for a bit
- 38 Ferry or tug
- 40 Breath fresheners
- 41 _ on to; clutched
- 43 Dumb & clumsy
- 44 Winter warmer
- 46 Jam-packed
- 47 Bit of rain
- 48 Late Attorney General Janet
- 49 Gets older
- 50 Hit the runway
- 52 Beach surface
- 53 Cauldrons
- 55 Refrain syllable
- 56 Get _ of; shed
- 57 Encyc. volume, perhaps

Tribune Media Services



Raul Roa

A JURY on Monday convicted a Newport Beach doctor accused of sending sexually charged messages to Newport Harbor High School cheerleaders on Instagram and Snapchat.

DOCTOR

Continued from page A1

the matter.

"Somehow, in my head it's gotten mixed up between 'This girl is hot and I

want to have sex with her' and 'this girl's hot, I want to give her money,'" Haller said during a conversation with a Newport Beach school resource officer investigating the matter.

Haller also told police

that, on at least one occasion, he had felt guilty while watching a cheerleader bend over during a sporting event. He said he was seeing a therapist regarding his actions.

Members of the team reported feeling scared and constantly anxious after they started receiving his messages, according to their coach, Kris Higman.

About six months after Haller was charged, prosecutors learned he had sent similar messages to a Cal State Long Beach student and traveled to Orlando to attend a cheer competition she was performing in. Authorities were notified, and he was forced to leave by law enforcement. He was subsequently ordered to stay away from youth or collegiate cheer events.

Attorneys representing Haller could not immediately be reached for comment.

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Henry Agnew

September 29, 1975 - July 4, 2022

A Man of Few Words. A Friend to Many. An Intellectual Genius.
Memorial @ HB Lake Park Clubhouse on 09/02/22. 5:00-7:30 PM



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

COSTA MESA Fire Chief Dan Stefano, pictured speaking during a city event in June, has temporarily assumed the role of acting city manager.

CHIEF

Continued from page A1

sequently had surgery."

Stefano, who holds master's degrees in public policy and administration as well as executive leadership, said Farrell Harrison was currently undergoing an "exhaustive rehabilitation" and hoping to resume work duties as early as mid-September.

Although an assistant city manager is typically tapped to fill in during a city manager's absence, Price was unavailable due to also being on medical leave at the time. Stefano was unable to provide details related to her condition.

City officials on Friday announced Price's retirement after nearly three years with the city.

During her tenure, Price assisted in opening a 72-bed permanent bridge shelter with the city of Newport Beach and helped secure state and county funds for the transition of a Motel 6 into permanent supportive

housing for homeless residents, veterans and at-risk individuals.

"I'm so proud to have been a part of this chapter where so much progress has been made," she said in Friday's statement. "I have appreciated the opportunity working with Lori Ann and the leadership team to deliver results. I plan to continue my work on homelessness well into the future."

City spokesman Tony Doderio confirmed Monday that Price, who turned 55 last week, had been scheduled to retire in August.

Some key personnel shifts have been made to accommodate the temporary executive shifts. Costa Mesa Fire and Rescue Division Chief Jason Pyle, as acting fire chief, is handling some of Stefano's more internal duties.

Meanwhile, Nate Robbins, a neighborhood improvement manager for the city, has taken on some of Price's responsibilities related to the city's homeless services, while Farrell Harrison's assistant,

Alma Reyes, is helping Stefano during the transition.

"We've moved some people into key positions to support our leadership," Stefano said. "Cities usually have a contingency plan set up. Because we've prepared for this and planned for this, it's been seamless."

City officials stated Price's position will be filled through a formal executive recruitment process. Stefano confirmed Tuesday a previously approved search for a second assistant city manager in Costa Mesa was already underway and could help fill the gap.

Still rehabilitating at home, Farrell Harrison sent well wishes to Price.

"I applaud her accomplishments and contributions in the region and in the city of Costa Mesa," she said in Friday's statement. "We wish her continued success in retirement and all future endeavors."

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PGA TOUR

Costa Mesa's Jake Knapp earns first PGA TOUR Canada win of season

BY MATT SZABO

Wil Bateman of Edmonton, Canada.

"I'd say I played conservatively aggressive today," Knapp told pgatour-canada.com. "I knew I was hitting it well. So, if there were some holes where it fit me, I was taking it at the pin. But I just stayed patient all day ... I'm somebody that likes to play really aggressive, and I'm not afraid to. Sometimes that can get me into trouble. So, out here, I just wanted to make sure I



JAKE KNAPP

competes at the U.S. Open Sectional at Big Canyon Country Club in Newport Beach in 2015. Knapp finished at 26-under-par for the title Sunday at the CRMC Championship in Brainerd, Minn. He was two strokes better than second-place finisher Wil Bateman of Edmonton, Canada.

Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

Daily Pilot advertisement containing contact information for Carol Cormaci (Managing Editor), Beth Raff (Advertising Manager), address in Fountain Valley, CA, business office and newsroom contact details, and a company info section stating it's a Times Community News publication.

made it kind of easy and not stress myself out as much as possible." Knapp finished his final round with six birdies and no bogeys. The former Estancia High and UCLA star, now 28, won his third PGA TOUR Canada event title overall. He made five eagles in the tournament, which tied

a tour record. That included back-to-back eagles to close the second round — a hole-in-one on the par-3 17th hole and a three on the par-5 18th hole.

The victory, Knapp's first on the tour since 2019, pocketed Knapp \$36,000. It also pulled him into second place in the Fortinet Cup standings with two tournaments remaining in the PGA TOUR Canada season.

Bateman leads with 1,031 points, but Knapp is in close second place with 1,014 points. The top five players earn Korn Ferry Tour membership for next year, with \$25,000 going to the Fortinet Cup champion.

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CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

Crossword puzzle grid with filled-in words: PEST, ASHE, LAUD, MUD, STOEORS, DEPPES, EARTH, THIS, SON, EGOIST, DRAFT, REG, ONES, POSH, RAJAS, ELUDE, TENDER, SICK, DEORS, ALAMO, RUINS, MENDS, ANTI, LEAD, REGISTRANT, RINSE, AD, HOS, A DAY, LOIN, HERDS, MENTAL, BOG, BEAU, HORNS, HEARST, CIAO, DONT, ENDS

Sudoku puzzle grid with numbers 1-9 arranged in a 9x9 grid.

MARKETPLACE To place an ad, go to http://timescommunityadvertising.com/

BSC 222113 NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: BENJAMIN WILLIAM FRANKEL. Text describing the estate of Benjamin William Frankel, appointed as personal representative to administer the estate.

BSC 222119 NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: JULIE AMANDA HERMES. Text describing the estate of Julie Amanda Hermes, appointed as personal representative to administer the estate.

BSC 222154 NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: JOAN ALYN JACOBS, aka JOAN MULIK JACOBS. Text describing the estate of Joan Alyn Jacobs, appointed as personal representative to administer the estate.

LEGAL NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND AVAILABILITY OF 2021-2022 PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION REPORT FOR THE FEDERAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT AND HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP GRANT PROGRAM.

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