

Daily Pilot

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Pet program unleashed for U.S. veterans

BY ANDREW TURNER

The Laguna Beach Animal Shelter has begun the process of waiving adoption fees for Orange County military veterans who qualify to take a pet home.

While the Pets for Vets program is being initiated just in time for Veterans Day, shelter manager Nancy Goodwin said the intention is to continue the program going forward.

The city-funded shelter, located at 20612 Laguna Canyon Road, is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. It generally charges a \$125 fee to adopt an adult dog. Pets up for adoption come vaccinated and neutered or spayed, Goodwin said.

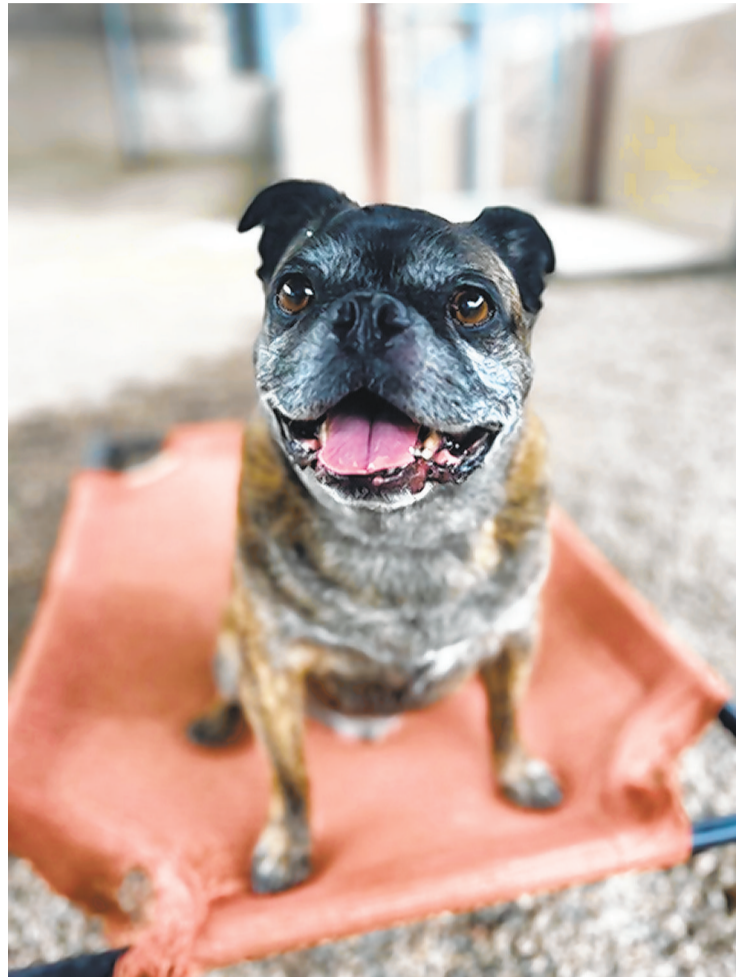
The shelter has been known to house dogs, cats, birds and rab-

bits. Goodwin mentioned it has even had exotic options such as an iguana or a bearded dragon in the past.

Pets for Vets is being offered to Orange County residents who are active duty, retired or honorably discharged members of the U.S. military. The program extends to members of the National Guard and reservists.

"As a veteran, I love seeing our police department recognize our local veterans and thank them through great programs, such as the new Pets for Vets program," Police Capt. David Dereszynski said in a statement. "This program will help low-income veterans adopt a pet for no charge, connect veterans to animals in

See **Program**, page A5



Photos courtesy of the Laguna Beach Animal Shelter

POTATO, SPARKY and Mimi (clockwise from top) are among the pets available for adoption through the Laguna Beach Animal Shelter. The shelter recently started a Pets for Vets program that waives adoption fees for Orange County residents who have served in the military.



Laguna council holds back report

Despite public urgings, majority declines to disclose findings into former city manager's exit, harassment claims.

BY SARA CARDINE

A split Laguna Beach City Council voted 3-2 not to release the findings of an investigation into claims by former City Manager Shohreh Dupuis that Councilman George Weiss had discriminated against her and created a hostile work environment.

Dupuis vacated the position on Sept. 1 in accordance with a settlement agreement executed one week earlier, under which she received \$223,077 as well as nine months severance pay and health benefits and \$10,000 in legal fees.

The move came after the former city leader threatened to sue the city for \$3 million, claiming Weiss had exhibited intimidating behavior toward her at a number of private and public meetings, raising his voice, interrupting her and, at one point, pounding his fist on the dais.

According to an Oct. 30 memo sent to Weiss by an attorney whose firm was hired to investigate the matter, Dupuis further alleged the councilman discriminated against her and attacked her integrity regarding a controversial Nov. 16, 2022, traffic stop and her actions in the wake of altercations at two local hotels in May.

A report compiling the findings of an independent investigation, undertaken by Los Angeles-based law firm Liebert Cassidy Whitmore, was submitted Aug. 31.

While the council publicly released the contents of the memo and several closed session minutes, members Tuesday weighed whether to also release the report and, if so, whether its contents should be redacted or

See **Report**, page A3

Father-daughter pair plead not guilty to murder and robbery in Newport Beach

BY LILLY NGUYEN

The father-daughter pair accused of robbing 46-year-old Robert Tamaccio, an incident that led to Tamaccio's death, have both pleaded not guilty to all charges filed against them by prosecutors earlier this month.

Randolph Loren Aguirre, 55, and Desiree Aguirre, 30, are next scheduled to appear at the Central Justice Center in Santa Ana on Dec. 1 for a pretrial and bail hearing. A preliminary hearing in the case will be held on Dec. 14.

Newport Beach police responded to reports of a man down at 1:36 a.m. on Sept. 30. Prosecutors said the victim, Tamaccio, had passed out in an alleyway near 34th Street and Seashore Drive after a night of drinking.

The Aguirres are alleged to have stopped their truck to rob Tamaccio, an act which included taking his Rolex watch.

Randolph Loren Aguirre is alleged to have stabbed Tamaccio, kicked him in the head several times and stolen his shoes.

Both Aguirres have been charged with robbery in the second degree, and the elder Aguirre faces the charge of murder and two sentencing enhancements for the personal use of a deadly weapon and one sentencing enhancement of special circumstances robbery.

The younger Aguirre faces a sentencing enhancement for a secondary offense when temporarily released from custody. Both remain in jail.

If he is convicted of all charges, the Orange County district attorney's office confirmed that Randolph Loren Aguirre may face the death penalty.

Aguirre is a "third-striker" under the state's controversial "Three Strikes and You're Out" law, which California voters passed in 1994 in response to the murders of Kimber Reynolds in 1992 and Polly Klaas in 1993. The law imposes a life sentence on those suspects who have one or two other serious convictions.

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ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



James Carbone

LAGUNA BEACH GIRLS' TENNIS TRIUMPHS FOR FIRST CIF TITLE IN 18 YEARS PAGE A4

Huntington Beach's Edinger Avenue set for sewer upgrades

BY MATT SZABO

Edinger Avenue in Huntington Beach is already busy, but residents can likely expect traffic delays starting in January.

The city is planning for sewer replacements along Edinger, from the railroad tracks east of Gothard Street to just west of Beach Boulevard. To that end, the City Council unanimously approved a nearly \$4-million contract Tuesday with Big Ben Engineering.

More than \$1 million of the funds for the \$5-million project also will come from the PCH Restroom Sewer Lift Station Project, according to a staff presentation.

Huntington Beach director of public works Chau Vu said in her presentation there is a sag in the 8- and 10-inch sewer lines along Edinger. They will be replaced with 8- to 15-inch sewer lines.

"We're trying to fix the sag that

is causing a lot of constriction along Edinger, restricting flow," she said. "We want to improve capacity, not only for residents along that area but also the businesses along Edinger."

Beginning in January, construction hours will be 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. from the railroad tracks to Sher Lane, due to residents at the Residences at Bella Terra. In the commercial section of Edinger, from Sher Lane east, night work will take place from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m.

"We anticipate traffic delays," Vu said, adding that there will be warning signs and detour signs along the corridor in advance. "At least one lane will be open [on Edinger] throughout the entire construction process."

The project will reduce sanitary sewer overflows, preventing grease build-up. It got more expensive than its \$3.6-million budget because of the night work

as well as inflation, Vu said.

The staff report indicated construction would take 16 to 20 weeks, though Vu had in her notes that it could take 10 months. She said she would clarify that with the City Council by the Dec. 1 meeting.

"This is one of our most complained about corridors, Beach and Edinger," Councilman Dan Kalmick said. "I drive through it daily, probably. As the 405 project concludes Dec. 1, we will be picking up and tearing open the street on Jan. 1, roughly. I mean, it's for repair work, it's not like we waited to do this ... we have aging infrastructure in this city."

Those looking for alternate routes do have options.

"Heil [Avenue] is your friend," Councilman Casey McKeon said.

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File Photo

BELLA TERRA mall in Huntington Beach sits off Edinger Avenue, where sewer repairs are slated to begin in January.

AROUND TOWN

STILT WALKER

SuzE-Q hams it up with Dennis Bress during the 2021 Balboa Island Museum Fun Zone Festival. This year's festival is set for Friday, Nov. 17.



Susan Hoffman

Balboa Island Museum's Denim and Diamonds fundraiser set for Friday

The Balboa Fun Zone will again be the venue when the Balboa Island Museum holds its annual Denim and Diamonds event on Friday, Nov. 17, from 6 to 10 p.m.

Organizers promise food, an open bar, carnival games, live entertainment, an auction and more at the cowboy-themed event. Tickets are \$200 and can be purchased online at balboaislandmuseum.org.

Protect Huntington Beach to hold kickoff event today

Protect Huntington Beach, a grassroots committee hoping to defeat charter amendment ballot measures the Huntington Beach City Council has placed on the March 5 primary ballot, will hold a kickoff event at 1 p.m. Saturday in Central Park.

All community members interested in learning more about the ballot measures or volunteering for the campaign are invited to attend.

Former mayors of the city and other community members will discuss the proposed measures. Light snacks will be provided, but attendees are asked to bring their own water bottles.

Corona del Mar Residents Assn. to meet Nov. 16

The Corona del Mar Residents Assn. (CdMRA) will hold its monthly meeting at 7:30 a.m. on Thursday, Nov. 16, at OASIS Senior Center, Room No. 2.

The morning's guest speaker will be state Assemblywoman Diane Dixon, who will update interested Corona del Mar residents on the status of legislative mea-

sures on issues that affect Newport Beach.

City Councilwoman Lauren Kleiman and Mayor Pro Tem Will O'Neill will present an update on city business, and a member of the Newport Beach Police Department will speak on public safety.

The OASIS center is located at 801 Narcissus Ave. Reservations are requested by noon Wednesday and can be made online at CdMRA.org.

Costa Mesa Middle/High School Drama to present 'Frozen Jr.' musical

"Frozen Jr.," a musical based on the Disney animated film and Broadway production "Frozen," will be presented Thursday, Nov. 16, through Saturday, Nov. 18, by the Costa Mesa Middle/High School Drama program.

Curtain time is 6 p.m. on Thursday and Friday; 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. on Saturday at the Costa Mesa High School Performing Arts Center on the Costa Mesa High School campus, 2650 Fairview Road.

Tickets can be purchased over the phone at (714) 424-8706 or at the door 45 minutes prior to each show. Admission is \$10 for students and seniors; \$15 for adults.

Costa Mesa mayor to join OCTA board of directors

Costa Mesa Mayor John Stephens has been elected to represent Orange County's Fifth Supervisorial District as a director on the Orange County Transportation Authority's board of directors. His two-year appointment will begin Jan. 1.

The 18-member panel is responsible for coordinating transit services, approv-

See **Around**, page A3

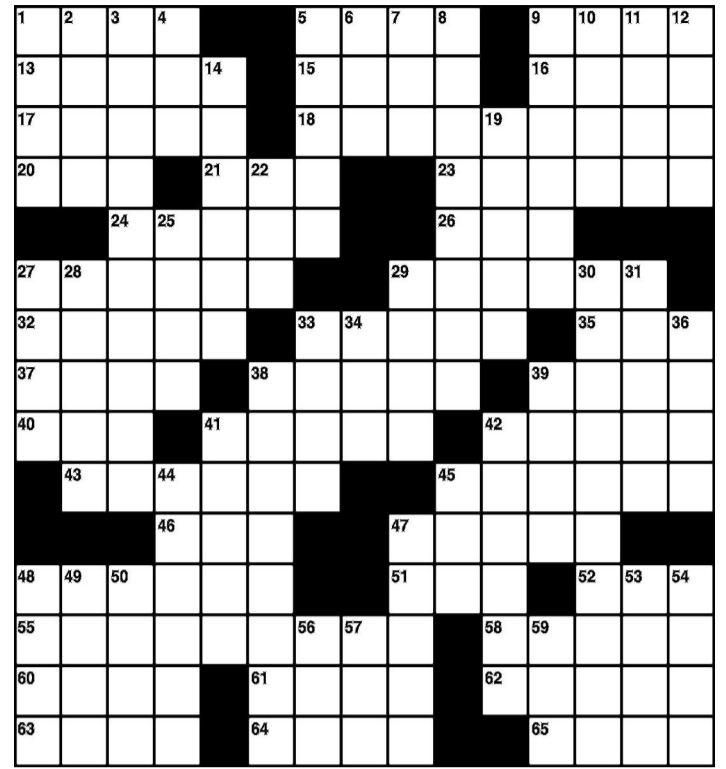
THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS

- 1 Take a __ off; sit down
- 5 __-bodied; hale
- 9 Austrian peaks
- 13 Fairy tale monsters
- 15 Froot __; bit of cold cereal
- 16 __ parmigiana; entrée choice
- 17 Goodyear airship
- 18 Louis Armstrong's state of birth
- 20 "Ready, __, go!"
- 21 Battery size
- 23 Venus, for one
- 24 Laurel's partner
- 26 Derby or bowler
- 27 Military forces
- 29 Least nuts
- 32 Fishing line holders
- 33 Not tactful
- 35 In favor of
- 37 New York team
- 38 Yes-man
- 39 "__ there, done that"
- 40 __ jumping; Olympics sport
- 41 Cleansers
- 42 __ point; center of attention
- 43 Threaded fasteners
- 45 Gorgeous woman
- 46 Be in the red
- 47 June birthstone
- 48 Grave; gloomy
- 51 Asner's namesakes
- 52 Man's nickname
- 55 Too faint to be heard
- 58 Ryan's daughter
- 60 Plays a role
- 61 Tide type
- 62 __ whale; deep-diving mammal
- 63 TV's "__ the Press"
- 64 Chokes
- 65 Take notice of

DOWN



SUDOKU

By the Mephram 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.

		5						
8								2
		9		7		3	5	
			1	4			6	
	8		5		6		2	
	6			9	7			
	3	8				5		
6					1			8
						4		

For answers to the crossword and Sudoku puzzles, see page A5.

- 1 Bowls clumsily
- 2 Make eyes at
- 3 Elementary school subject
- 4 Carter or Clinton: abbr.
- 5 Ease, as another's fears
- 6 Startling word

- 7 "Skip to My __"
- 8 January 6 celebration
- 9 Fly a plane
- 10 Bony
- 11 French door square
- 12 Venetian blind piece

- 14 Extra tires
- 19 Tilt
- 22 Promos
- 25 Needs medical care
- 27 Sleeve fillers
- 28 Stinks to high heaven
- 29 Detergent's lather
- 30 Guesses; theorizes
- 31 Give medical care to
- 33 Long fluffy scarves
- 34 Drink like Rover
- 36 Roy Orbison's "the Lonely"
- 38 Lofty; very high
- 39 Male animal
- 41 Sutured
- 42 Banquets
- 44 Vigorous
- 45 Flower garden
- 47 Easter candies
- 48 "The King and I" setting
- 49 "__ upon a time..."
- 50 Husband or wife
- 53 Belch
- 54 Acting award
- 56 Arthur, for one
- 57 Remain behind
- 59 Hairy animal

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MAILBAG

Disagreement about the direction of H.B.

It appears all the people who contributed to the commentary against the current council majority (Daily Pilot, Oct. 29) are loony libs or the town criers against what they call a power-hungry agenda. I am certainly for a strong conservative council to keep Huntington Beach on the conservative side of issues, especially with what is all going on in the country now. The council should do all it can to bring visitors to Huntington Beach to spend their money and return home.

Rick Anderson
Huntington Beach

The speakers at the Nov. 1 press conference of Protect Huntington Beach, all former mayors and council members, spoke about their terms on the H.B.

City Council when no matter their political party, they voted on issues they thought represented the majority of the interests of the community.

They're unlike the present City Council, where the conservative four members have plotted to force their agenda on concerned citizens no matter their interests.

The council majority is part of a national movement to take over public libraries first and then take over public education to force their particular viewpoints on others.

Those present at the press conference were not necessarily members of the Protect H.B. community group but concerned citizens alarmed by the tactics of the right-wing council members. These



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

FORMER MAYORS Linda Moulton-Patterson, Jill Hardy, Shirley Dettlof and Vick Leipzig, from left, comment during Protect Huntington Beach rally at City Hall on Nov. 1.

citizens will continue to act to reverse these actions by voting against the charter changes at the March 5 primary and will urge oth-

ers with the same concerns to do the same.

Richard C. Armendariz
Huntington Beach

Guilty plea in mail, catalytic converter thefts

BY CITY NEWS SERVICE

One of four people charged with stealing mail and catalytic converters pleaded guilty Thursday and was sentenced to 210 days in jail for grand theft and attempted grand theft, Laguna Beach police said Friday.

Felix Rodriguez, 31, also pleaded guilty to a felony count of burglary. He was placed on two years of formal probation.

Co-defendants Karina Esquivel, 38, Edgar Antonio Guzman, 35, and Moses Rodriguez, 27, are awaiting trial. Esquivel is due to be arraigned Nov.

28, Guzman Dec. 15 and Moses Rodriguez Nov. 30.

Police were called about 3:41 a.m. Oct. 29 regarding a vehicle burglary in the 100 block of Mountain Road, near South Coast Highway, police said. Police stopped a suspect vehicle near Canyon Acres Drive and Laguna Canyon

Road where they found the stolen goods in the vehicle, police said.

All the defendants were charged Wednesday with grand theft, attempted grand theft and burglary, all felonies.

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AROUND

Continued from page A2

ing plans for bus and rail systems and working on transportation capital and service priorities. It also administers the county's voter-approved half-cent sales tax for the improvement of freeways, local streets and roads as well as rail and transit service countywide.

"Transportation, including public transit, is a critical issue for District 5 and the entire county, especially as our population ages and the expense of owning and operating a car increases," Stephens said in a state-

ment Monday.

"I look forward to working with my fellow directors to increase bus routes and ridership and to improve our freeways, streets and roads."

Pacific Marine Mammal Center collects over \$550K at fundraiser

Pacific Marine Mammal Center announced Friday it raised more than \$550,000 at its annual fundraiser on Nov. 5, an event held on the Festival of Arts grounds that included live and silent auctions, as well as a performance by vocalist

Marissa Matthews.

"What an exciting night at Splash! The PPMC annual fundraiser far exceeded our expectations! Great fun and great energy! Thank all of you that attended to lead to our success. We look forward to seeing all of you at our next event," said Jeff Meberg, Pacific Marine Mammal Center board chair, in the statement.

The center also announced a donation of \$1 million from the Massen Greene Foundation for a new expanded education building and a \$1 million gift from Bob Barker, for a visitor center and underwater viewing pool.

— Daily Pilot staff

REPORT

Continued from page A1

unredacted.

More than a dozen residents speaking in public comments largely defended Weiss against Dupuis' claims and urged the city to make the full findings of the report public.

"Release the report in full to be transparent," said Gene Felder. "We all rallied around the city manager [in February] because feces was thrown on her house — I don't believe that for a second. What is in the report about that? What actually happened?"

Council members who'd taken part in four closed session meetings in July and August, during which the terms of the agreement were hashed out (Weiss was excluded from the discussions), waived the confidentiality of the sessions to explain their rationale for settling.

Mayor Bob Whalen provided a timeline of events, saying Dupuis lodged her complaint in February. In a July 18 letter, her attorney threatened to sue for discrimination to the tune of \$3 million but offered to settle in exchange for 33 months of Dupuis' pay and attorney's fees.

The city made a counter offer of 18 months salary plus severance and requested an independent firm conduct interviews and make findings as to seven claims alleged by the city manager.

Although a case for discrimination was not supported, Whalen said the city still faced a significant risk of exposure if the matter was put to a jury trial.

"Paying her roughly \$450,000 was the least expensive way for us to get out of the situation we found ourselves in," he said Tuesday.

"The best interest of the public was reaching a settlement, putting it behind us and moving forward to select a new city manager, getting back to conducting

the business of the city. I'm still confident we made the best and right decision."

Weiss defended his actions and treatment of Dupuis, reading from prepared remarks.

"Asking meaningful questions that test the presumption of the city manager and staff is not harassment — it's called functional representational government," he said. "Pointing out misrepresentations or omissions of info by the city manager is not bullying, it is accountability that supports informed decision making by council."

When it came to releasing the findings, Whalen, Mayor Pro Tem Sue Kempf and Councilman Alex Rounaghi supported not releasing the document, in part, to protect the identities of employees who'd testified for investigators.

"There are scenarios where transparency can create chaos in a governing organization and, in this case, have a chilling effect on future investigations," Rounaghi said. "No one in the city would have any reasonable expectation of privacy."

He said because the decision to settle was made before the findings were even submitted, releasing the document would do little to enlighten readers as to the reasons for settling. Further, a redacted report would hardly satisfy the many speakers who insisted on the full findings.

"I think I'm fine just closing this and moving on," he said ahead of a 3-2 vote. "It's time to move forward, there are so many big issues for us to work on."

Weiss, who'd insisted on a full disclosure of the investigation, said the decision to withhold the findings provided a political cover for the council majority.

"The desire is to be the least transparent you can be," he said.

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PROGRAM

Continued from page A1

need of a forever home, and further highlight the efforts of the staff and volunteers at the Laguna Beach Animal Shelter.”

Jim Beres, a professional services administrator with the police department, called it a “win-win” if a shelter pet can be put in the household of a veteran, providing valuable companionship.

“First responders, fire and police deal with similar issues, PTSD and other

mental health challenges from the kind of negative things that they see due to their jobs,” Beres said. “Pets can help with that. You have emotional support pets that are out there that can help you cope and reintegrate into civilian life maybe a little bit better than otherwise.”

Shelter animals are brought in by animal control when they are found in Laguna Beach or Laguna Woods. The shelter also works with rescue organizations when space allows.

Applicants have a chance to see and connect with the

prospective pets in the facility’s play yard, providing for a sort of matching process.

“We’ve done this since the 1980s, and our return rate is under 5%,” Goodwin said. “Nationwide in shelters, it’s anywhere from 40 to 50% return rate. It’s very hard on animals to be adopted and returned continuously. It really messes them up. Our being able to not see them come back is very rewarding.”

Adoption rates have slowed around the country, Goodwin said. The program aims to boost animals

finding new owners.

“We’ve never ever had this happen before, but adoptions just have come to a big halt,” Goodwin said. “There’s people coming through, everybody’s looking and visiting, but they’re just not adopting right now. All the shelters are having the same problem. They’re all overcrowded. We’re full, which is unusual for us, because we’re so small. We do a lot of adoptions, but it’s very much slowed down.”

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ARIEL IS is a Doberman Pinscher available for adoption through the Laguna Beach Animal Shelter.

Courtesy of the Laguna Beach Animal Shelter

ATHLETES

Continued from page A4

EDISON

Hailey Clingan, UC Irvine women’s soccer

Chloe Lam, Santa Clara University women’s golf

Morgan Gillingier, Cal State Northridge beach volleyball

Elia Reyes, Lewis and Clark College lacrosse

Summer Witherby, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo beach volleyball

Sammy Wood, Santa Clara University beach volleyball

FOUNTAIN VALLEY

Makenzie Butt, Boise State softball

Jessica Jang, Cal Baptist women’s water polo

Kayla Knoob, Cal State San Marcos women’s soccer

Anthony Lucio, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo men’s wrestling

Taylor Reynolds, Wagner softball

Ryland Whitworth, West Point men’s wrestling

Hercules Windrath, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo men’s wrestling

HUNTINGTON BEACH

Nathan Acevas, UC Santa Barbara baseball

Jaiden Anderson, USC women’s soccer

Sage Anderson, UC Santa Barbara softball

Ben Bray, Grand Canyon University men’s volleyball

Marley Garwick, Fresno State University women’s water polo

Lola Fernsten, UC Davis women’s volleyball

Meghan Freck, UC Davis women’s volleyball

Macy Fuller, Cal State San Marcos softball

Christian Hammonds, UC San Diego men’s water polo

Matt Hansen, BYU baseball

Lyndsay Harris, Alabama State women’s volleyball

Sydney Harris, Tennessee rowing

Haylee LaFontaine, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo women’s volleyball

Kylie Leopard, Cal Poly Pomona women’s volleyball

Ashley Long, University of Nebraska, Omaha softball

Liah Lummus, Loyola

Marymount softball

Collin McNiven, Claremont McKenna baseball

Jake Pazanti, Long Beach State men’s volleyball

Zoe Prystajko, Stanford softball

Jay Pyle, Air Force men’s water polo

Dani Sparks, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo women’s volleyball

Ethan Spoon, UC Irvine men’s water polo

Justin Tauanuu, USC football

LAGUNA BEACH

Cade Anderton, Pepperdine University men’s water polo

Sam Burchi, Lewis and Clark University baseball

Emerson Hensley, Brown University women’s water polo

Ava Knepper, USC wom-

en’s water polo

Jessica MacCallum, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo women’s tennis

Kate Parker, Auburn University equestrian

Ryner Swanson, BYU football

Tyler Swensen, Santa Clara University men’s water polo

MARINA

Coral Piramo, Slippery Rock field hockey

NEWPORT HARBOR

Gavin Appeldorn, Princeton men’s water polo

Quinn Bartlett, Navy men’s water polo

Peter Castillo, UCLA men’s water polo

Ryan Chalupnik, UCLA women’s water polo

Taryn Graves, Tennessee rowing

Riggs Guy, UC Santa Barbara men’s volleyball

Kate Kubiak, Oregon women’s soccer

Angelena Peterson, Marist College women’s water polo

Chloe Rizof, Santa Clara University women’s water polo

Ally Thomas, University of Mississippi women’s soccer

Owen Tift, Pepperdine men’s water polo

Jack Von Der Ahe, USC men’s volleyball

OCEAN VIEW

Ashley Capelouto, Tennessee Tech softball

Sienna Erskine, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo softball

PACIFICA CHRISTIAN

Alex Stewart, Vanguard University men’s basketball

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CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

L	O	A	D		A	B	L	E		A	L	P	S	
O	G	R	E	S		L	O	O	P		V	E	A	L
B	L	I	M	P		L	O	U	I	S	I	A	N	A
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6	9	4	7	5	1	2	3	8
5	1	2	9	8	3	4	7	6

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Newly Listed



235 Via Lido Soud, Lido Isle
3 Beds / 4 Baths / 2,794 SF / 2,880 SF Lot / List Price: \$13,150,000



Newly Listed

2421 E 16th Street, Newport Heights
3 Beds / 2.5 Baths / 2,169 SF
List Price: \$1,795,000



Newly Listed

209 Via Dijon, Lido Isle
4 Beds / 4 Baths / 3,761 SF / 5,816 SF Lot
List Price: \$6,350,000



Sold

908 Zurich Circle, Lido Isle
4 Beds / 4 Baths / 3,850 SF
List Price: \$6,295,000 / Represented Seller



Sold

2511 Bayshore Drive, Bayshores
4 Beds / 5 Baths / 3,813 SF
Sold Price: \$13,000,000 / Represented Buyer



Sold

621 West Bay Avenue, Balboa Peninsula
3 Beds + Office / 5 Baths / 2,336 SF
List Price: \$5,655,000 / Represented Seller



Sold

218 Via Ithaca, Lido Isle
4 Beds / 2 Baths / 1,939 SF
List Price: \$3,595,000 / Represented Buyer & Seller



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