

Daily Pilot

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 2024 /// dailypilot.com

'Balloon-free Laguna Beach' campaign launches

Citing environmental and public safety concerns, city leaders passed an ordinance restricting sales and distribution of balloons early last year.

BY ANDREW TURNER

An ordinance restricting the sale and public use of all balloons in Laguna Beach went into effect on New Year's Day.

The city is now promoting a "balloon-free Laguna Beach" campaign on its website, serving as a reminder of the action taken by the City Council in the first quarter of 2023.

A grace period had been extended for implementation of the ordinance following its adoption on Feb. 21. As of Jan. 1, a handful of regulations have gone into effect regarding the sale and use of balloons by individuals and local businesses.

The use of any balloon is now prohibited at city-sponsored

See **Balloon**, page A2



JEREMY FRIMOND, assistant to the city manager, demonstrates different types of balloons to the Laguna Beach City Council during a meeting last January.

Andrew Turner

Seaside strumming



Susan Hoffman

UNDER A LAYER of soft clouds a guitar player watches the boats cruise into Newport Harbor, adding a touch of music to the ambiance of the relaxed Big Corona beach environment on Dec. 29.

Sara Weber to run for seat on Newport Beach City Council

BY LILLY NGUYEN

Lifelong Newport Beach resident Sara Weber announced Wednesday she's tossing her hat into the ring for the District 7 seat on the Newport Beach City Council.

Weber is the first to announce her intentions to run in the district, which is comprised of Newport Ridge and Newport Coast. Mayor Will O'Neill will be vacating the seat in November as he finishes his second term. That means Weber and any other potential District 7 candidates would not be running against an incumbent, though

Newport Beach does have an at-large election system, where voters of the entire city elect all members of the City Council.

Weber grew up in Harbor View Hills and currently lives in Spyglass Hill, where she and her husband are raising their two daughters. Weber described Newport Beach as her "forever home" and joked that when most people bleed the city their colleges were in, she bleeds Newport Beach.

Weber is a public accountant and small business owner, characteristics she said position her

See **Weber**, page A2



SARA WEBER announced her run for the Newport Beach City Council on Wednesday.

Courtesy of Weber for City Council 2024

Officers in fatal police shooting cleared

Prosecutors determine Seal Beach officers acted in self-defense when they shot a man with a firearm 24 times.

BY SARA CARDINE

Two Seal Beach police officers who fatally shot an armed 47-year-old Irvine man outside the home of a woman who had filed a restraining order against him have been cleared following an investigation by the Orange County district attorney's office.

Prosecutors recently released the findings from a Nov. 29 report that determined the actions of Cpl. Bruno Balderrama and Officer Arion Knight — who on the night of Jan. 16, 2023 shot Michael Bernard Emch, Jr. 24 times after he refused to comply with commands and pointed a firearm at one of them — were reasonable and justifiable.

The incident began with a phone call to 911, placed at 9:36 p.m. by a woman living in a condominium complex on the 100 block of Old Ranch Road. The caller reported someone was trying to illegally enter her residence. "There's somebody banging on my door," an unidentified woman told a 911 dispatcher in a recording released by the Seal Beach Police Department following the incident. "Oh, my god — he's kicking my door in."

Only after hearing the suspect arguing outside with police did the unnamed woman learn it was Emch who had been at the property, according to the report. Friends since childhood, the two began dating in March 2022, but broke up four months later.

The woman told police Emch had a history of drug addiction, including methamphetamine, but had been sober when they'd started the relationship.

Following a July 2022 domestic violence incident, the woman was

See **Cleared**, page A3

Teen Marine goes from homeless to hometown hero in H.B.

BY MATT SZABO

Alexe Pappageorge Jr.'s girlfriend took the purple blindfold off his face Wednesday night and teased him a bit in the process.

"Are you ready?" Mariah Tapia asked.

"Ready for what?" Pappageorge responded with agitation.

He looked up to see his face on a banner, and then the moment hit him.

Pappageorge, after years of struggles and homelessness, now has a future in the military as a member of the United States Marine Corps.

The banner is at the corner of Main Street and Utica Avenue in Huntington Beach, adjacent to Huntington Beach High School. Installed Wednesday, it proclaims Pappageorge, 19, a "hometown hero." It was his surprise Christmas gift from the Costelloe family, which considers him one of

their own after years of helping the teenager out.

"It's pretty cool," said Pappageorge, often called "Lex" by his friends, who completed Marine boot camp in November as an honor graduate. "I dig it. It's dope. Now everyone knows me."

Laura Costelloe laughed at her newest son, as they admired the banner together.

"This is why you can't do anything bad," she told him.

Pappageorge, who graduated from Newport Harbor High School last spring, is definitely on the right path after being homeless for six years growing up. Laura Costelloe said she learned of the situation when he was in eighth grade at Sowers Middle School. Her daughter, Ella, was one of his classmates.

"I just assumed that the school or someone would get involved,"

See **Hero**, page A4



Courtesy of Natalie Moser

ERIC COSTELLOE, Laura Costelloe, Alexe Pappageorge Jr. and Mariah Tapia look up at the new "hometown hero" banner in Pappageorge's honor on Wednesday night in Huntington Beach.

MARKETPLACE

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: Self-storage Cube contents of the following customers containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by **CubeSmart Management, LLC 2892 Kelvin Ave. Irvine, CA 92614** to satisfy a lien on January 25, 2024 at approx. 2:00P.M. at www.storage-treasures.com: Melvin Rushing, Terry Rahmatulla, Eric Villarreal 1/5, 1/12/24 **CNS-3770120#** **DAILY PILOT**

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE T.S. No. 20-20265-SP-CA Title No. 200114376-CA-VOI A.P.N. 412-213-09 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 12/30/2004. 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. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, (cashier's check(s) must be made payable to National Default Servicing Corporation), 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 Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state; will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described below. The sale will be made in an "as is" condition, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Trustor: Samuel Sardon, a single man Duly Appointed Trustee: National Default Servicing Corporation Recorded 01/10/2005 as Instrument No. 2005000018326 (or Book, Page) of the Official Records of Orange County, California. Date of Sale: 02/06/2024 at 12:00 PM Place of Sale: At the North front entrance to the County Courthouse, 700 Civic Center Drive West, Santa Ana, CA 92701 Estimated amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$683,790.87 Street Address or other common designation of real property: 925 Azalea Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626 A.P.N.: 412-213-09 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any inaccuracy of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. 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. The requirements of California Civil Code Section 2923.5(b)/2923.55(c) were fulfilled when the Notice of Default was recorded. 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 or visit this internet website www.ndscorp.com/sales, using the file number assigned to this case 20-20265-SP-CA. 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*: 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 a "representative of all eligible tenant buyers" you may be able to 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 888-264-4010, or visit this internet website www.ndscorp.com, using the file number assigned to this case 20-20265-SP-CA 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 a "representative of all eligible tenant buyers" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. *Pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code, the potential rights described herein shall apply only to public auctions taking place on or after January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2025, unless later extended. Date: 12/27/2023 National Default Servicing Corporation c/o Tiffany and Bosco, P.A., its agent, 1455 Frazee Road, Suite 820 San Diego, CA 92108 Toll Free Phone: 888-264-4010 Sales Line ; Sales Website: www.ndscorp.com Connie Hernandez, Trustee Sales Representative A-4805540 01/05/2024, 01/12/2024, 01/19/2024

CITY OF COSTA MESA
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the Costa Mesa City Council at its regular meeting at City Hall Council Chambers, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, California and virtual locations on **Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.**, or as soon as possible thereafter to introduce Ordinance No. 2023-XX relating to:
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND TITLE 13 (PLANNING, ZONING AND DEVELOPMENT) OF THE COSTA MESA MUNICIPAL CODE (CMC) TO ESTABLISH AFFORDABLE HOUSING REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICABLE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

A copy of the full text of the proposed ordinance is posted and may be read in the City Clerk's Office, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa. The City's Planning Commission recommended the City Council give first reading to this ordinance at its December 11, 2023 meeting on a 5-2 vote.

Public Comments: Members of the public wishing to participate in the meeting may find instructions to participate on the agenda. Members of the public may also submit written comments via email to the City Clerk at cityclerk@costamesaca.gov and they will be provided to the City Council, made available to the public, and will be part of the meeting record. Any written communications, photos, or other materials for copying and distribution to the City Council that are 10 pages or less, can be e-mailed to cityclerk@costamesaca.gov, submitted to the City Clerk's Office on a flash drive, or mailed to the City Clerk's Office. Kindly submit materials to the City Clerk **AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE, BUT NO LATER THAN 12:00 p.m.** on the day of the hearing, **January 16, 2024.** All materials, pictures, PowerPoint, and videos submitted for display at a public meeting must be previously reviewed by staff to verify appropriateness for general audiences. No links to YouTube videos or other streaming services will be accepted, a direct video file will need to be emailed to staff prior to each meeting in order to minimize complications and to play the video without delay. The video must be one of the following formats, .mp4, .mov or .wmv. Only one file may be included per speaker for public comments. Please note that materials submitted by the public that are deemed appropriate for general audiences will not be redacted in any way and will be posted online as submitted, including any personal contact information. For further assistance, contact the City Clerk's Office at (714) 754-5225. The City Council agenda and related documents may also be viewed on the City's website at <http://costamesaca.gov>, 72 hours prior to the public hearing date. **IF THE AFOREMENTIONED ACTION IS CHALLENGED IN COURT**, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in the notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City Council at, or prior to, the public hearing. Brenda Green, City Clerk, City of Costa Mesa. Published January 5, 2024

CITY OF COSTA MESA
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the Costa Mesa City Council at its regular meeting at City Hall Council Chambers, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, California on **Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.**, or as soon as possible thereafter, to consider:
Application No.: PA-22-45
Applicant/Agent: Vista Meridian Global Academy/Joseph Smith
Site Address: 1620 Sunflower Avenue
Zone: Industrial Park (MP)
Description: Planning Application 22-45 is a request for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to allow a new public charter high school ("Vista Meridian Global Academy") within an existing building located on an industrially-zoned property and a Minor Conditional Use Permit (MCUP) for the allowance of small car parking. The proposed school would serve grades 9 through 12 for up to 500 students, 36 full-time employees, and 15 part-time employees. School hours are proposed from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Thursday and from 8:30 AM to 2:00 PM on Fridays. Student parking is proposed to be restricted with only student drop-off/pick-up allowed during limited hours. Proposed improvements would consist of interior remodeling of the existing two-story building, new building signage and paint, accessibility upgrades, and parking lot improvements. No other building or site modifications are proposed.

On November 27, 2023, the City's Planning Commission denied the project on a 6-1 vote. A member of the City Council has called the Planning Commission's decision up for review.
Environmental Determination: The project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) per CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 (Class 1), Existing Facilities.
Public Comments: Members of the public wishing to participate in the meeting may find instructions to participate on the agenda. Members of the public may also submit written comments via email to the City Clerk at cityclerk@costamesaca.gov and they will be provided to the City Council, made available to the public, and will be part of the meeting record. Any written communications, photos, or other materials for copying and distribution to the City Council that are 10 pages or less, can be e-mailed to cityclerk@costamesaca.gov, submitted to the City Clerk's Office on a flash drive, or mailed to the City Clerk's Office. Kindly submit materials to the City Clerk **AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE, BUT NO LATER THAN 12:00 p.m.** on the day of the hearing, **January 16, 2024.** All materials, pictures, PowerPoint, and videos submitted for display at a public meeting must be previously reviewed by staff to verify appropriateness for general audiences. No links to YouTube videos or other streaming services will be accepted, a direct video file will need to be emailed to staff prior to each meeting in order to minimize complications and to play the video without delay. The video must be one of the following formats, .mp4, .mov or .wmv. Only one file may be included per speaker for public comments. Please note that materials submitted by the public that are deemed appropriate for general audiences will not be redacted in any way and will be posted online as submitted, including any personal contact information. For further assistance, contact the City Clerk's Office at (714) 754-5225. The City Council agenda and related documents may also be viewed on the City's website at <http://costamesaca.gov>, 72 hours prior to the public hearing date. **IF THE AFOREMENTIONED ACTION IS CHALLENGED IN COURT**, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in the notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City Council at, or prior to, the public hearing. Brenda Green, City Clerk, City of Costa Mesa. Published January 5, 2024

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CONTACT US

Carol Cormaci
Executive Editor
carol.cormaci@latimes.com

Matt Szabo, Huntington Beach and Sports
matthew.szabo@latimes.com

Beth Raff
Advertising Manager
(424) 225-9928
beth.raff@latimes.com

Andrew Turner, Laguna Beach and Sports
andrew.turner@latimes.com

Send Letters to the Editor to erik.haugli@latimes.com. See Mailbag for guidelines. The Daily Pilot, established in 1907, is published Wednesday through Sunday by Times Community News, a division of the Los Angeles Times. Subscriptions are available only by subscribing to The Times, Orange County.

Reporters:
Sara Cardine, Costa Mesa
sara.cardine@latimes.com

Lilly Nguyen, Newport Beach
lilly.nguyen@latimes.com

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CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

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MARKETPLACE

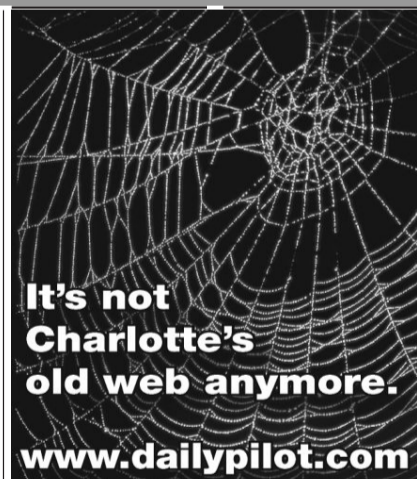
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Miscellaneous Merchandise

Vinyl Records Wanted
\$55 Top cash paid
4 all or part of collection.
Jazz, Classical, Psychedelic, Blues
949-933-6777 Mike

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Planning Commission
City Hall Council Chambers at 505 Forest Avenue, Laguna Beach, CA 92651
Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 6:00 PM

The CITY OF LAGUNA BEACH will hold a public hearing on the request below. You may participate in-person at City Hall. Case No.: Temporary Use Permit 2023-2257 and Coastal Development Permit 2023-2258 Address: 342 Ocean Ave, Laguna Beach, CA 92651 | APN: 641-254-14 Applicant: Zinc Café & Market Property Owner: Soroptimist Case No.: Temporary Use Permit 2023-2278 and Coastal Development Permit 2023-2279 Address: 220 Beach Street, Laguna Beach, CA 92651 | APN: 641-252-10 Applicant: Salerno's Ristorante Property Owner: Jordan Knickmeyer Case No.: Temporary Use Permit 2023-2303 and Coastal Development Permit 2023-2304 Address: 1826 South Coast Hwy, Laguna Beach, CA 92651 | APN: 644-272-11 Applicant: Rumari, LLC Property Owner: Chris Keller Case No.: Temporary Use Permit 2023-2280 and Coastal Development Permit 2023-2281 Address: 853 Laguna Canyon Road, Laguna Beach, CA 92651 | APN: 641-231-13 Applicant: S.P. Sapori Italiani Property Owner: Eric Boswick Case No.: Temporary Use Permit 2023-2295 and Coastal Development Permit 2023-2296 Address: 853 Laguna Canyon Road, Laguna Beach, CA 92651 | APN: 641-231-13 Applicant: McClain Cellars, Inc Property Owner: Eric Boswick Case No.: Temporary Use Permit 2023-2284 and Coastal Development Permit 2023-2285 Address: 460 and 470 Ocean Ave, Laguna Beach, CA 92651 | APN: 641-254-02 Applicant: Anastasia Café Property Owner: Amir Garhari Case No.: Temporary Use Permit 2023-2301 and Coastal Development Permit 2023-2302 Address: 859 Laguna Canyon Road, Laguna Beach, CA 92651 | APN: 641-231-13 Applicant: Laguna Beach Beer Company Property Owner: Laguna Festival Center, LLC Case No.: Temporary Use Permit 2023-2282 and Coastal Development Permit 2023-2283 Address: 31726 Coast Highway, Laguna Beach CA 92651 | APN: 056-103-35 Applicant: AhbA Property Owner: Helen Meyer **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The applicant requests approval of a Temporary Use Permit and a Coastal Development Permit to continue the use of outdoor dining until January 1, 2026. No changes regarding the temporary use are proposed from their previously approved Temporary Use Permit. **COASTAL ZONE:** The above-mentioned projects are located within a non-appealable area of the Coastal Zone. Information regarding California Coastal Commission appeal processes can be found at <https://www.coastal.ca.gov/cdnp/cdnp-forms.html>. **CEQA:** Staff recommends the Planning Commission determine that the proposed projects are categorically exempt pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, Section 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land) and, in the alternative, State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15301 (Existing Facilities). **MORE INFORMATION:** The agenda packet will be available on the City's website at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled public hearing (<https://www.lagunabeachcity.net/live-here/city-council-meetings-agendas-and-minutes>) and at the Community Development Department public counter during the following hours: Monday - Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., closed alternating Fridays. **HOW TO COMMENT:** If you have any comments or concerns about the proposed projects, please communicate those thoughts to Louie Lacasella, Senior Administrative Analyst, at (949) 497-0736 or email to llacasella@lagunabeachcity.net. In order to allow sufficient time for members of the Planning Commission and staff to review and consider your written comments, written public comments will be accepted for consideration up until the close of business (i.e., 5:30 p.m.) on the business day before the date on which the Public Hearing is scheduled. Comments may also be made during the Public Hearing in person in the Council Chambers. Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons with a disability who require a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in a meeting may request such modification or accommodation from the Planning Division at (949) 497-0329. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to assure accessibility to the meeting. Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if you challenge this application in court, the issues raised shall be limited to those raised in the public hearing or in written correspondence delivered to the public agency prior to, or at, the public hearing.

BALLOON

Continued from page A1

events and on city-owned property or in public areas. A person should not intentionally release a balloon into the air.

No business located within the city limits may sell or distribute balloons, although balloons may be purchased from businesses outside of Laguna Beach for private events in town. That provision allows for balloons to be used on commercial and residential properties.

Local businesses are being encouraged to phase out balloons from their inventory and inform customers of related changes. A notice published online by the city also urged businesses to train staff to be knowledgeable about the ordinance as it seeks compliance with the new regulations.

Penalties associated with the ordinance include a fine of up to \$100 for the first violation, a fine not to exceed \$200 for a second offense within one year, and a fine of up to \$500 for a third violation in that time frame. A business license could be revoked for any further violations.

The action was first proposed with environmental and public safety issues in mind. Proponents of a balloon ban argued that balloons could be harmful to marine and wildlife when they end up in those habitats.

The ordinance also referenced the Ocean Conservancy in stating balloons are dangerous debris items, as they can be mistaken as food by animals.

Southern California Edison reported 802 balloon-related power outages in 2022. Those incidents resulted in an interruption in service for 1.1 million customers.

State law already required balloons made of electrically conductive material filled with a gas lighter than air to be attached to an object of sufficient weight to keep them from flying away at the time of distribution or sale.

andrew.turner@latimes.com
Twitter: @AndrewTurnerTCN

WEBER

Continued from page A1

uniquely to run from a fiscal governance standpoint.

Her top three priorities for the city are maintaining the quality of life, fiscal responsibility and public safety, especially in schools.

"I had the most wonderful childhood growing up here, and I want to make sure my children get to have the same. Newport Beach is a very special place, and it's important to keep Newport Newport," Weber said. "I'll also be the first to admit that Newport is a really well-run city. I was born and raised here, and I didn't really hear of any issues around Newport because it's managed well."

"It's a testament to the fact that we have good people running our city, especially in the Finance Committee. It's good to maintain a stable budget and remain strategic about growth opportunities, where I think I can add some value in that area."

As for District 7, Weber said she hopes to be able to help highlight and continue protecting the existing amenities there.

"My youngest daughter is 4, but she'll be 5 in April. Both of my daughters go to Our Lady Queen of Angels Elementary School, so I officially had one drop-off and one pick-up. I was wondering what the next chapter of my life was. I was at a big firm for 15 years, then started a firm with my husband so I could be at home more with my kids. Now that they're attending the same school, the next step was what was important to me," she said. "What's important to me is making sure where I live was what I wanted it to be and what Newport Beach wanted it to be."

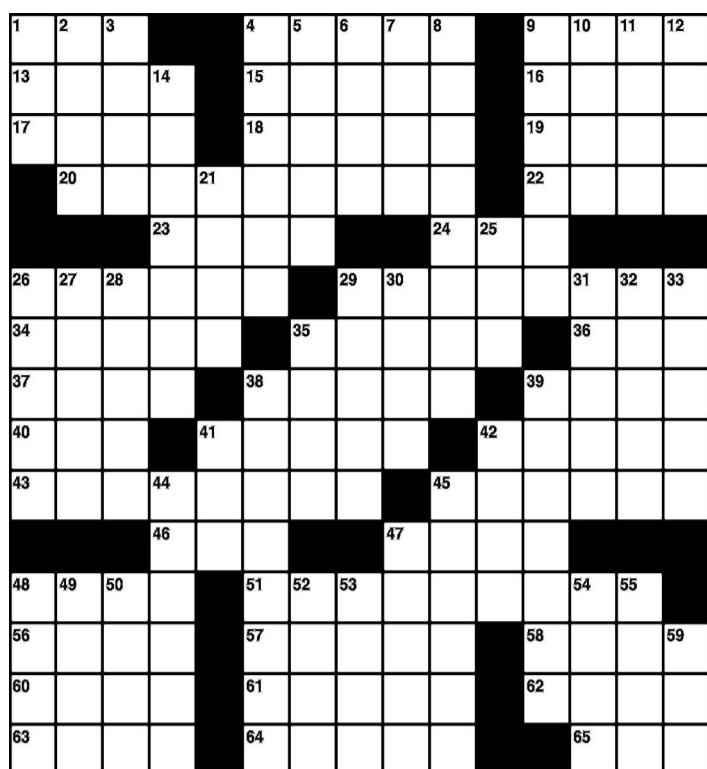
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THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

- ACROSS**
 1 CBS rival
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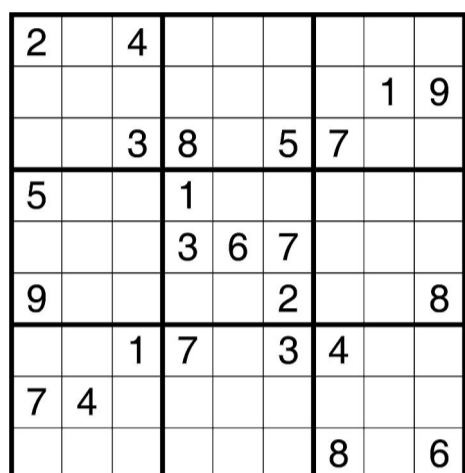
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 50 Kitchen appliance
 52 Get bigger
 53 Learn by __; memorize
 54 Flood survivor
 55 Carry
 59 In favor of



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.



For answers to the crossword and Sudoku puzzles, see page A2.

- 4 Burns with liquid
 5 Jackson or Hilton
 6 Margarita garnish
 7 Element whose symbol is Fe
 8 Taco shell
 9 Like a poor singer
 10 Evans, for one
 11 WWII Normandy invasion
 12 __ up; arranges
 14 __ on; goaded into action
 21 Take a __ off; sit down

- 25 No-goodnik
 26 Grad exams, perhaps
 27 Turn slowly on one foot
 28 Privileged group
 29 Really roughs up
 30 Family tree member
 31 Marine mammals
 32 Neighbor of Pakistan
 33 Farewell
 35 Conceited
 38 Bellies
 39 "Rawhide" or "Gunsmoke"
 41 As skinny __ rail
 42 Soothing salve
 44 Stymie; impede
 45 Sewer's need
 47 Cried for a bowl of milk
 48 Blood problem
 49 Talk wildly
 50 Kitchen appliance
 52 Get bigger
 53 Learn by __; memorize
 54 Flood survivor
 55 Carry
 59 In favor of

Tribune Media Services

Guilty plea in college firearm case

BY CITY NEWS SERVICE

A 25-year-old Huntington Beach man with a felony conviction pleaded guilty Wednesday to firing a gun on the Golden West College campus and was immediately ordered to enroll in a 90-day treatment program. Talon Brunelle accepted a plea deal from prosecutors that will spare him 90 days in jail if he completes the residential treatment program and two years of probation. Brunelle has credit for 28 days served behind bars. Orange County Superior Court Judge Kathleen Roberts also ordered Brunelle

to stay 100 yards away from the college. Brunelle pleaded guilty to a felony count of grossly negligent discharge of a gun. As part of the plea deal, single felony counts each of possessing a loaded gun on a college campus and possession of a firearm by a felon were dismissed. Police were dispatched about 2:30 p.m. July 19 to the community college regarding a call of shots fired, according to Huntington Beach Police Department public information officer Jessica Cuchilla. When officers arrived a witness said they saw

someone acting suspiciously and firing a shot in the air, Cuchilla said. On July 21, police were called to a parking structure in the 7500 block of Edinger Avenue, between Goldenwest Street and Beach Boulevard, regarding a suspicious man with a gun, police said. When officers arrived they realized he matched the description of the suspect, police said. Police arrested Brunelle nearby and found a gun and other evidence linking him to the shooting, police said. dailypilot@latimes.com Twitter: @TheDailyPilot

CLEARED

Continued from page A1

granted a restraining order that prohibited Emch from contacting her or coming within 100 feet of her home, according to police. The couple hadn't spoken for three months at the time of the incident last January. Emch, whom police found peering over the brick wall of the woman's patio, refused to raise his hands upon command by police and was later seen concealing his hand inside his front jacket pocket. Both officers were outfitted with body-worn cameras that captured the night's events. After making repeated commands, Balderrama deployed his Taser on Emch shortly after 9:42 p.m., which caused the suspect to fall back onto the patio floor, the report indicated. Seconds later, when Emch withdrew a Glock 22, 40-caliber handgun from his waistband and pointed it at Balderrama, Knight took action. "Believing his partner was about to be shot in the head, he pointed his gun at Emch and fired," the re-

port stated, indicating Knight fired until his Sig Sauer P320 handgun was empty. "In total, Officer Knight fired 21 rounds." Balderrama, who had tased Emch a second time, also drew his department-issued Staccato P handgun, firing nine more rounds at the suspect, until he saw Emch's hand release the firearm. As the three men waited for paramedics to arrive, Emch reportedly told the officers, who continued to hold him at gunpoint, "Finish me off." Orange County Fire Authority paramedics arrived at the scene minutes later and found Emch unresponsive. He was transported to the UC Irvine Medical Center and went into respiratory arrest in the ambulance, according to the report. Although staff at the hospital performed CPR on Emch for several minutes after his arrival, the Irvine resident was pronounced dead at 10:32 p.m. A toxicological examination conducted post mortem found the presence of drugs and alcohol, including methamphetamine, according to the report.

Crime scene investigators retrieved Emch's firearm, registered under his father's name, along with two folding knives and a pointed metal object located inside a utility pouch. Investigators from the district's attorney's office determined the Seal Beach officers attempted to get Emch to comply through reasonable, nonlethal means before using their firearms and generally acted in self-defense. "Corporal Balderrama and Officer Knight were justified in believing that Emch posed a significant threat of death or serious physical injury to themselves and others," investigators wrote in their report. "The evidence supports the conclusion that [they] exercised reasonable judgment when they decided it was necessary to use deadly force against Emch." A Seal Beach Police Department spokeswoman told the Daily Pilot in March the incident was the first police shooting to have occurred in the city in more than 20 years. sara.cardine@latimes.com Twitter: @SaraCardine

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12:59
 Los Angeles Times
TimesOC

California State Parks seasonal lifeguard Sierra Fockler discovered a 14-inch Pacific football fish around 10:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 15, near the lifeguard station located at Crystal Cove State Park in Orange County. It's the second such case of the fish washing ashore over the last three years. (Courtesy of California State Parks)

Good morning. It's Wednesday, Oct. 25. I'm Carol Cormaci, bringing you this week's **TimesOC newsletter** with a look at the latest local news and events.

Watch where you're stepping on O.C.'s famed sands, because you may encounter a rare specimen of marine life. One, in fact, that has very sharp teeth.

That's what happened on a recent afternoon to lifeguard Sierra Fockler, who found a spookily-looking black angler fish, specifically a Pacific football fish, while she was walking near the lifeguard headquarters building on Moro Beach, located within Crystal Cove State Park.

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HERO

Continued from page A1

Laura Costelloe said. "He and Ella started working together downtown at [the restaurant] 2nd Floor, and there was a night where he needed a ride home. That's when I found out that he was [living] in a motel in Costa Mesa. I was devastated. I texted him and said, 'Please let me help you.'"

Pappageorge, whose mother gave him up as a young child, had been living with his father in their car or hotels for years, with people sometimes interceding to help out.

He played football, and he also worked part time. Schoolwork often took a back seat.

"I was just doing what I had to do to survive," Pappageorge said. "At one point, I started having to not just provide for myself but also provide for my dad because he wasn't working."

In spite of it all, Pappageorge thrived at football. He transferred from Edison to Newport Harbor after his sophomore season. As a junior, he was a starter on the defensive line and helped the Sailors win the CIF Southern Section Division 6 title.

"It doesn't surprise me that he's doing very well and thriving in that [military] environment," Newport Harbor head coach Peter Lofthouse said. "He does his best when he's in a disciplined, very structured environment. When it came to football, he was always great. He always was where he was supposed to be, did everything you asked, 'Yes, sir, no, sir.' So it doesn't surprise me one bit that he'd be doing very well in that situation with the military."



Courtesy of Natalie Moser

LAURA COSTELLOE hugs U.S. Marine Alexe Pappageorge Jr. after his "hometown hero" banner was revealed to him.

More challenges arose later in his junior year. Pappageorge's father had unpaid debts and was jailed in April 2022. Costelloe took the teen in but searched for a more tenable solution. She reached out to Huntington Beach City Councilwoman Natalie Moser, who connected her with Planning Commissioner Oscar Rodriguez.

Rodriguez is an asset manager for the Orange County Community Housing Corp. He helped Pappageorge pay off his father's debt before a Section 8 voucher could be accepted, and the teenager was then able to move into a one-bedroom apartment in Garden Grove.

"I think it speaks to a bigger picture of second chances and the ability to get a network of people to help out," Rodriguez said. "Not everybody that's going through an issue like this has the resources."

Indeed, others also shone light onto the situation. Costelloe said Pattie Rodriguez with the nonprofit Illumination Foundation helped Pappageorge put together his first month's rent, while Mike Glenn with Costa Mesa-based Share Our Selves helped him with the de-

posit. But he continued to struggle in other ways, battling depression, loneliness and the challenges of living alone as a teenager.

That's when the idea of signing up with the Marines started to make a lot of sense. Pappageorge said Newport Harbor football assistant coach Marc De-noon told him it might be a good fit, and Costelloe agreed.

"I thought it was a good opportunity to set aside his struggles and worries about where he was going to live and how he would pay for food," she said. "They would provide that for him, and he could finally take a break. You can just see the weight that's been lifted off of him since he's gone into the Marines."

Pappageorge leaves for Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton on Tuesday to continue with infantry training. He went through boot camp with former Edison football teammate Hunter Venham and has lost nearly 60 pounds on his journey.

Venham and other supporters — the Fore family of Huntington Beach, his Marine sergeant, Moser and more — gathered Wednesday night to sur-



Matt Szabo

SUPPORTERS OF Alexe Pappageorge Jr. stand with the U.S. Marine in front of his banner on Main Street in Huntington Beach on Wednesday night.

prise Pappageorge. Costelloe said she worked with city administrative assistant Sandie Frakes to get the hometown hero banner put up.

Tapia, a senior at Huntington Beach High School, is happy she can see her boyfriend's face every day — even while he's away — as she pulls into the parking lot.

"He didn't tell me he was homeless until after he started dating me," Tapia said. "I was like, 'OK, well

that doesn't change the way that I feel about you.' I've been with him ever since."

As for his father, Pappageorge said he's out of jail currently but homeless in Huntington Beach. They saw each other a few days after Christmas when the son took some food and a couple of gift cards to his dad.

"I always try to find the positive in everything," Alexe Pappageorge Jr. said. "My whole life, I just go

with the flow, try to find the positive and do what I've got to do to stay afloat. I've been working my [behind] off."

People have noticed. "He is the happiest human and always smiling," Laura Costelloe said with pride. "The worst thing could happen, and he would be like, 'It's going to be OK.' He's just the best kid. He really is."

matthewszabo@latimes.com
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