

# Daily Pilot

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2025 // dailypilot.com



Don Leach

**TWO PLANES** make a pass over the Huntington Beach pier during the Pacific Airshow press conference announcing the 2024 Pacific Air Show.

## Surf City ordered to cover cost of lawsuit

Judge rules city must pay petitioner's attorney fees after initially not releasing full air show settlement to the public.

BY MATT SZABO

The city of Huntington Beach must pay more than \$180,000 in attorney's fees after failing to release to the public the full Pacific Airshow settlement when it was reached, a judge has ruled.

The operator of the Pacific Airshow sued the city after the final day of the October 2021 event was canceled due to an oil spill off the coast and the city made a multimillion-dollar settlement with the company. At the time, City Atty. Michael Gates issued a one-page summary document rather than all the details of the full settlement.

Gina Clayton-Tarvin, a public school teacher and longtime Ocean View School District Board of Trustees member, submitted a California Public Records Act request for the full settlement between the city and the air show's operator, and she sued after the city denied her request.

Clayton-Tarvin eventually won her case in May 2024. The full settlement was released in July.

Orange County Superior Court Judge Jonathan Fish issued a tentative ruling last week that the city must pay Clayton-Tarvin's three attorneys, Gregory Pleasants, Brett Murdock and Lee

See **Cost**, page A3

## Night falls on catastrophe



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**WEDNESDAY'S SETTING SUN** behind Catalina Island from the view of Corona del Mar is nearly blocked out by smoke from the fires in Los Angeles County. At least five fires were reported, with crews from coastal Orange County fire departments assisting in the emergency response.

## Calling it unconstitutional, Huntington Beach sues California over sanctuary law

BY MATT SZABO

Having been unsuccessful in its first attempt nearly seven years ago, Huntington Beach has again filed a lawsuit against the state of California and its sanctuary state law.

City leaders announced the federal lawsuit filed in the Central District on Tuesday morning. In it, they argue that the law, which limits local police from working with federal immigration officials, is unconstitutional and should not apply, as it violates the Supremacy and Naturalization clauses of the U.S. Constitution.

The complaint lists the city itself, City Council, police department and police chief as plaintiffs.

Huntington Beach City Atty. Michael Gates said in an interview that the sanctuary state law also "runs complete interference for good law enforcement practices."

"The sanctuary state law by its own terms violates federal immigration law," Gates said. "Harboring of illegal aliens is a crime, and the sanctuary state law literally directs local officials to engage in violations of federal immigration law."

See **Law**, page A2



File Photo

**HUNTINGTON BEACH** City Atty. Michael Gates speaks at a mayor's town hall meeting in 2023. Huntington Beach leaders filed suit in federal court Tuesday against the state's sanctuary law, claiming the city should be able to fight crime locally without state interference.

## Upper Newport Bay's innovative trash interceptor nears completion

BY ERIC LICAS

During a storm, garbage carelessly discarded in the street in Lake Forest or Irvine doesn't stay there. Each year, between 100 to 300 tons of trash winds up flowing up to 15 miles downstream along San Diego Creek, ultimately polluting the Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve.

"We're the end of the pipe, right?" John Kappeler, a senior civil engineer in the Newport Beach Public Works Department told the Daily Pilot Tuesday.

The accumulation of that much refuse in the nature preserve alone poses a threat to the rare species calling it home. And fishing out disposable bottles, food wrappers and other items from the preserve can be just as problematic.

"We actually do more harm than good by going out and picking up that trash because we're stepping on native plants and wildlife," Kappeler said.

That's why the Newport Beach City Council approved construction of a garbage interceptor at the end of San Diego Creek in July 2023. It's a preventive waste management system similar to



Courtesy of the city of Newport Beach

**A CITY OFFICIAL** notes that the \$5.5-million Newport Beach trash interceptor could not only reduce trash in Upper Newport Bay but could also offer students to learn more about the environment.

Baltimore's two Mr. Trash Wheels, which use floating containment booms to direct debris toward a conveyor belt powered by a water wheel and solar panels.

The \$5.5-million project is about 90% complete, with its conveyor belt barge and other components already positioned

at the creek, Kappeler said. Crews were in the process of installing its solar panels and battery Monday. The trash wheel could be up and running as soon as late February.

"It's taken a while, it really has," Kappeler said. "But when

See **Trash**, page A3

### ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



Don Leach | Staff Photographer



James Carbone

**NEWPORT HARBOR GIRLS' WATER POLO EARNS RUNNER-UP FINISH AT BILL BARNETT HOLIDAY CUP**  
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**CDM GIRLS' BASKETBALL BEATS HUNTINGTON BEACH, SETTING PACE IN SUNSET LEAGUE**  
PAGE A4



# THE COACH HOUSE

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FRI, JAN 10  
**TOMMY CASTRO & THE PAINKILLERS**



SAT, JAN 11  
**AC/DC vs OZZY**



FRI, JAN 17  
**DADA**



SAT, JAN 18  
**DSB (DON'T STOP BELIEVIN')**

- 1/10 **TOMMY CASTRO & THE PAINKILLERS**
- 1/11 **AC/DC vs OZZY (Rock N Roll Showdown)**
- 1/12 **BURTON CUMMINGS (OF THE ORIGINAL THE GUESS WHO)**
- 1/17 **DADA**
- 1/18 **DSB (JOURNEY TRIBUTE)**
- 1/23 **PAT TRAVERS**
- 1/24 **GENE LOVES JEZEBEL & BOW WOW WOW**
- 1/25 **PRINCE AGAIN**
- 1/26 **WHAT'S NEW PUSSYCAT? (Tom Jones Tribute)**
- 1/30 **CANNED HEAT**
- 1/31 **DESPERADO (EAGLES TRIBUTE)**
- 2/1 **DESPERADO (EAGLES TRIBUTE)**
- 2/2 **RICKIE LEE JONES**
- 2/5 **LEO KOTTKE**
- 2/7 **DAVID COOK**
- 2/8 **LED ZEPAGAIN (LED ZEPPELIN TRIBUTE)**
- 2/14 **OTTMAR LIEBERT & LUNA NEGRA (VALENTINES SHOW)**
- 2/16 **INCENDIO with ARDESHIR FARAH (OF STRUNZ & FARAH)**
- 2/20 **THE HEART OF ROCK & ROLL**
- 2/21 **CHEST FEVER (TRIBUTE TO THE BAND)**
- 2/22 **FAST TIMES (ULTIMATE 80'S TRIBUTE)**
- 2/23 **ALWAYS ADELE**
- 2/26 **HUMMEL HARP BLOWOUT**
- 2/27 **VANESSA COLLIER**
- 2/28 **G LOVE & SPECIAL SAUCE**
- 3/1 **VERY IMPORTANT BEER FT FOREIGNER'S MICHAEL BLUESTEIN, LUIS MALDONADO, JEFF PILSON, BRUCE WATSON.**
- 3/6 **ALTAN**



THU, JAN 23  
**PAT TRAVERS**



FRI, JAN 24  
**GENE LOVES JEZEBEL & BOW WOW WOW**



SAT, JAN 25  
**PRINCE AGAIN**



SUN, JAN 26  
**WHAT'S NEW PUSSYCAT**

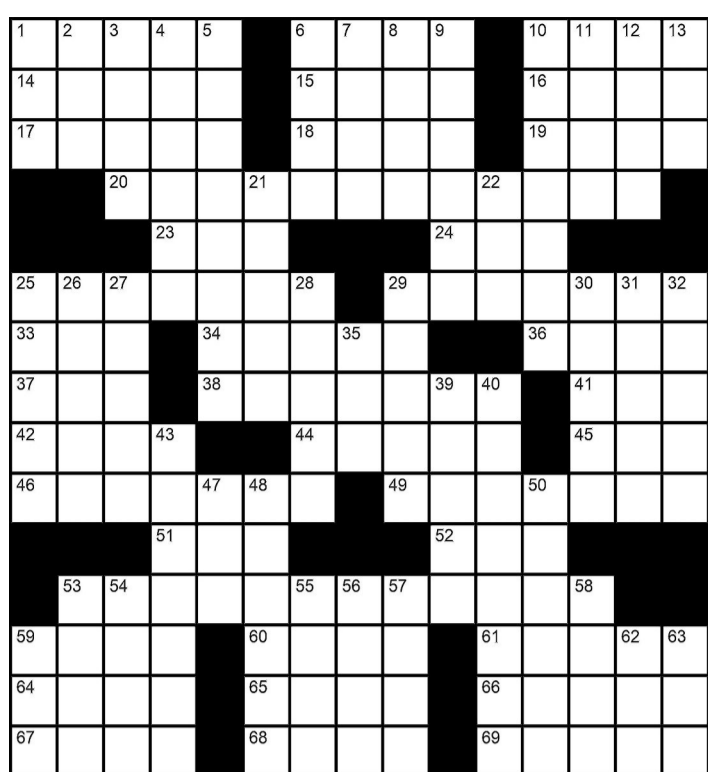
- 3/7 **COCO MONTOYA & RONNIE BAKER BROOKS**
- 3/8 **MARC COHN**
- 3/9 **MARC COHN**
- 3/13 **SONS OF CREAM FT KOFI BAKER, MALCOM BRUCE, ROB JOHNSON**
- 3/14 **THE FENIANS St PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION**
- 3/15 **WALTER TROUT**
- 3/16 **WALTER TROUT**
- 3/21 **THE THIRD MIND FT. DAVE ALVIN, JESSE SYKES, MARK KARAN, VICTOR KRUMMENACHER, MICHAEL JEROME**
- 3/22 **KING'S X**
- 3/26 **RUSSELL HOWARD**
- 3/28 **THE ENGLISH BEAT**
- 3/29 **SUPER DIAMOND (NEIL DIAMOND TRIBUTE)**
- 3/30 **COLIN JAMES**
- 4/1 **JORMA KAUKONEN**
- 4/4 **THE SMITHEREENS WITH ROBIN WILSON**
- 4/5 **HERMAN'S HERMITS FT PETER NOONE**
- 4/6 **HERMAN'S HERMITS FT PETER NOONE**
- 4/7 **LEARNING TO FLY (A TOM PETTY TRIBUTE)**
- 4/11 **DON CARLOS**
- 4/13 **BOBBY GRAY**
- 4/19 **KEVIN NEALON**
- 4/24 **THE WAILERS**
- 4/25 **TOM GREEN - HOME TO THE COUNTRY**
- 4/26 **PIANO MEN: GENERATIONS**
- 5/3 **THE OCEAN BLUE**
- 5/8 **ROBERT CRAY**
- 5/9 **ROBERT CRAY**
- 5/11 **ISRAEL VIBRATION & ROOTS RADICS**
- 5/16 **RONSTADT REVIVAL (LINDA RONSTADT TRIBUTE)**
- 5/18 **THE DAY THE MUSIC DIDN'T DIE**
- 5/31 **KIDS OF CHARLEMAGNE (STEELY DAN TRIBUTE)**
- 6/6 **THE WINEHOUSE EXPERIENCE**
- 6/7 **YYNOT (TRIBUTE TO RUSH)**

## THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Stella Zawistowski

### ACROSS

- 1 Drink noisily
- 6 Rapid
- 10 Lower part of the leg
- 14 "In \_ news..."
- 15 Salt Lake City's state
- 16 Opera solo song
- 17 40-40 in tennis
- 18 Italy's capital
- 19 Rip
- 20 Phrase said at midnight: 3 wds.
- 23 Actor Mineo
- 24 "On \_ Majesty's Secret Service"
- 25 In the middle
- 29 Snaps: 2 wds.
- 33 Chicken \_ king: 2 wds.
- 34 \_ Gay (WWII plane)
- 36 Be bold
- 37 Film graphics tech: Abbr.
- 38 Weird
- 41 Text-message giggle: Abbr.
- 42 Work the soil
- 44 Reside
- 45 "Weekend Update" show: Abbr.
- 46 Shoe accessories
- 49 Chilean fish: 2 wds.
- 51 What we breathe
- 52 Gorilla, e.g.
- 53 Brit celebrity chef: 2 wds.
- 59 1969 NASA destination
- 60 Sheep product
- 61 Not skilled
- 64 Loaf or loll
- 65 "What \_ can I say?"
- 66 Stealthy warrior
- 67 Ran in the wash
- 68 Produces eggs
- 69 Painting surface



## 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](http://sudoku.org.uk).

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

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

### DOWN

- 1 Roll of turf
- 2 Cellular standard: Abbr.
- 3 "No way!"
- 4 Found new actors for
- 5 Gets ready
- 6 Extreme anger
- 7 Lots: 2 wds.
- 8 Identical
- 9 "Baba O'Riley" band: 2 wds.
- 10 Provided food for
- 11 Field of study
- 12 Teller of falsehoods

- 13 Not near
- 21 Flower or fern
- 22 "Sure!"
- 25 Prickly 21-Down
- 26 Baylor of basketball
- 27 Like \_ on a chalkboard
- 28 Noblemen
- 29 Country roads
- 30 Latin dance
- 31 Some golf clubs
- 32 Tattles
- 35 Piece of legislation
- 39 Glisten
- 40 Going by
- 43 Highly educated
- 47 Get \_ of
- 48 Cement-laying tool
- 50 Propeller hat
- 53 Soccer score
- 54 Seep slowly
- 55 The Big Easy
- 56 Optimistic
- 57 Pub beers
- 58 Earnings
- 59 Group with Reds and Red Sox: Abbr.
- 62 Nightclothes, for short
- 63 Chinese philosophy

Tribune Media Services

## LAW

Continued from page A1

Huntington Beach Mayor Pat Burns said in a statement that the sanctuary state law, also known as SB 54 or the California Values Act, obstructs the city's ability to fully enforce the law and keep its citizens safe.

"When the stakes are currently so high, with reports of increases in human trafficking, increases in foreign gangs taking over apartment buildings in the U.S., killing, raping and committing other violent crimes against our citizens, we need every possible resource available to fight crime, including federal resources," Burns stated. "Huntington Beach will not sit idly by and allow the obstructionist sanctuary state law to put our 200,000 residents at risk of harm from those who seek to commit violent crimes on U.S. soil."

With Donald Trump set to begin his second term as president later this month, unlawful immigration has been a hot topic across the nation. The president-elect has tapped one of his political advisers, immigration hardliner Stephen Miller, to serve as deputy chief of staff for policy and homeland security adviser. Miller's nonprofit, America First Legal, recently sent hundreds of letters to states and cities with sanctuary policies warning them of consequences for interfering with illegal immigration enforcement.

During his first term in office, Trump's administration tried to fight three California immigration laws, including SB 54, which went into effect in 2017.

But a three-judge U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals panel rejected the attempt to derail the law in a 2019 decision.

"That decision says federal law and the Supremacy Clause of the Constitution do not prevent California from enacting this law," said UC Irvine law professor Annie Lai, who specializes in immigration law and is co-director of the school's Immigrant Rights Clinic. "It's within California's traditional police powers as a state to enact a law. Moreover, it can't really conflict with federal law because California has a 10th Amendment right not to have its resources co-opted by the federal government."

Huntington Beach in April 2018 filed suit against then-California Atty. Gen. Xavier Becerra seeking exemption from the sanctuary state law due to its charter city status. An Orange County Superior Court judge ruled in Surf City's favor that year, but that ruling was overturned in 2020 by the state's 4th District Court of Appeal.

The California Supreme Court declined to hear the case later that year.

Lai said she thought the lawsuit filed by Huntington Beach this week "might be rhetorically attractive, but it's legally pretty weak. These questions have basically already been decided by appellate courts.

"Unless there's some kind of dramatic change in the law, which I'm not anticipating, but I can't predict the future, I



File Photo

**IMMIGRATION HAS** been a hot topic with President-elect Donald Trump, shown here on the tarmac at John Wayne Airport in 2020.

think the result is going to be the same," Lai continued. "So, for the city to be bringing this lawsuit, to expend resources on this lawsuit, seems to me to be a political decision. Maybe they think they can get some kind of political traction, not a legal decision to challenge some open question of law."

Niels Frenzen, an immigration law specialist at USC, is the director of the Gould School of Law Immigration Clinic. He said the sanctuary law sends a message that state and local governments are not out to arrest people for simply being undocumented immigrants living and trying to survive within the state of California.

"We want people to cooperate with police when they're witnesses, we want people to cooperate with police when they're victims of crime," Frenzen said. "We want people to get vaccinated, we want people to send their kids to school, all of these things that are important to society. If people are fearful of having those in their household being arrested, they'll become even more embedded in the so-called shadow population. That is just not good for citizens, let alone good for immigrants."

In the complaint, however, Gates cites previous state attorneys general publishing opinions in 1984 and 1992, stating that they believed local sanctuary policies were illegal and a violation of the U.S. Constitution and federal immigration law.

"We're basically throwing the California attorney general's own opinions back in the face of [current] Atty. Gen. [Rob] Bonta," Gates said. "It's a really, really good lawsuit, actually. We included a bunch of legal authorities in there in addition to the opinions."

Frenzen said he did not see a clear argument that the city has been injured by SB 54, especially in light of the 4th District Court of Appeal decision from 2020.

"That's a threshold question that will have to be addressed by the federal court," he said.

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## GIRLS' WATER POLO

## Newport Harbor has runner-up finish

BY MATT SZABO

Newport Harbor High girls' water polo senior Caitlin Stayt made a last-second heave from about eight meters with the shot clock running down.

The ball caromed off the right post and into the goal late in the first quarter of Saturday's Bill Barnett Holiday Cup tournament championship game against Mater Dei, pulling the Sailors within a goal.

Stayt broke into a grin. "That was fun," she said after the game. "A goal like that, I feel like it keeps everyone going a little bit. We were down two goals early. It was a funny one, so in a way I just laughed it off, but I think it definitely helped our momentum a little bit."

Newport Harbor felt like it did take momentum from the tournament, even if the last match did not go the Sailors' way. Mater Dei won the Holiday Cup for the first time, beating Newport Harbor 15-9 at Corona del Mar High.

Corona del Mar and Laguna Beach placed eight and ninth, respectively, in the 16-team tournament.

Newport Harbor (11-2) was able to avenge an early-season loss to Oaks Christian in the tournament semifinals, posting a 7-6 victory.

"They were definitely the hardest team we played going into this tournament," Stayt said. "I think having a lot of easy games, people could assume we wouldn't come out as strong. But we

came out 3-0 against Oaks [after the first quarter] and I think that showed that we were ready to compete, even though we hadn't had a test in a while."

Sophomores Gabby Alexson and Emerson Mulvey had three and two goals, respectively, to lead the way against Oaks Christian, while Stayt and Sutton Harrington also scored.

The Sailors were able to limit the Lions to a one-for-10 showing in power play opportunities, holding on after taking a 7-3 lead into the fourth quarter.

Mater Dei (7-1), which outlasted top-seeded two-time defending tournament champion Orange Lutheran 10-9 in the other semifinal, had too much firepower for the Sailors in the title match. Junior Kirra Pantaleon (five goals) and sophomore Delaney Hook (four goals) were precise with their shooting, and senior EJ Hourigan had three goals for the Monarchs as well.

Junior goalkeeper Sienna Sorensen made eight saves for Mater Dei, which pulled away after a goal by Newport Harbor's Valery Verdugo narrowed the Sailors' deficit to 8-6 midway through the third quarter. Hook scored a power-play goal less than a minute later, before walking in and scoring again from about five meters. Hook then fed Maggie Ryan for another six-on-five goal, giving the Monarchs an 11-6 lead after three quarters.

"It was nice," Mater Dei coach Chris Segesman said.



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**NEWPORT HARBOR'S** Harper Price (2) shoots at close range on Oaks Christian goalie Alexandra Stoddard during the Bill Barnett Holiday Cup semifinals on Saturday.

"We work a lot on pushing the tempo of the game, and that transition is such a big difference in water polo for any team. Delaney hit some really nice shots. You get that three or four goal cushion and you have a good defense, it's hard for teams to play against that."

Mulvey, playing against her former team, scored four goals to lead the Sailors, half of those on penalty shots drawn by Alexson. Stayt had two while Sophia Verdugo and freshman Addison Ting also scored. Senior goalkeeper Lydia Soderberg made 10 saves.

Ting, left-handed attacker Campbell Pence and center Caroline Daniel were three freshmen who saw

playing time in the final for Newport Harbor, which sees its depth as a plus moving forward.

"Overall, I told the girls I'm really happy with the weekend," Sailors coach Ross Sinclair said.

Next up is another key tournament next weekend, the Santa Barbara Tournament of Champions.

"It's definitely a quick turnaround, but we have three quality practices this week, and I know we're going to watch a ton of film," Alexson said. "This momentum of being in the finals is awesome, so we're just going to carry that into Santa Barbara, and hopefully we'll be successful."

Meanwhile, Corona del

Mar suffered a pair of close losses to finish out the tournament on Saturday at its home pool.

CdM fell to San Marcos 11-9 in a fifth-place semifinal, before Foothill earned a 7-6 win over the Sea Kings in the seventh-place match.

"San Marcos is strong, physical," CdM coach Marc Hunt said. "They're a battle ... We lost 13-6 to OLu [in the quarterfinals] and what I liked out of that game is that we got to play a strong, physical game. Then the same thing against San Marcos."

Foothill took a 7-4 lead late in the third quarter of the seventh-place match. CdM (9-3) responded with a rebound goal by Morgan

Dollander. Piper Sidebotham found the right corner with 5:15 left in the fourth quarter to pull the hosts within a goal, but the equalizer never came.

Reagan Weir and Sidebotham led with two goals each in the loss, while senior goalkeeper Gabby MacAfee made eight saves.

Seniors Mackenzie Dollander and Didi Evans each scored three goals in the loss to San Marcos.

"We were right in it," Hunt said. "When you come home to practice this week and you know there's some very reasonable skills that we need to improve and shine up a little bit, that's encouraging. That was my message to the group — we got what we needed out of this tournament."

Laguna Beach (3-6) ended the tournament with a pair of wins Saturday at Foothill High. The Breakers beat Carlsbad 9-8 in overtime in a ninth-place semifinal match, then handled San Clemente 12-10 in the ninth-place match, avenging a loss from earlier this season.

Laguna senior Kara Carver led the way with six goals against Carlsbad. Carver also scored three goals against San Clemente, with Brooke Schneider and Presley Jones each scoring twice. Senior goalkeeper Sienna Jumani made nine saves for the Breakers in the tournament finale.

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## GIRLS' BASKETBALL

## CdM beats H.B., setting pace in Sunset League

BY SCOTT FRENCH

Corona del Mar's girls' basketball team caromed through the second of three successive early-campaign showdowns for the top spot in the Sunset League, turning a quick run at the start into, on the surface, a snug and vital victory over Huntington Beach.

Saturday afternoon's 44-32 decision on the Oilers' court was vital, for sure, but comfortable? Not so much. A chaotic series of scrums nearly everywhere on the floor, so many of them producing a turnover (and often two), left little space for much else.

"It wasn't," Huntington Beach coach Russ McClurg put it, "for the faint of heart."

The Sea Kings (12-7, 4-0 in the Sunset League) used a 10-0 run to take command early in the first quarter, with Sienna Knodogah scoring seven of her team-best 11 points on two fastbreak chances and a three-pointer, then withstood a second-half challenge and pulled away in the last four minutes or so.



James Carbone

**CORONA DEL MAR'S** Alexa Rokos (4) drives to the basket against Huntington Beach's Emily Hoang (42) in a Sunset League girls' basketball game on Saturday.

They did so with 19 turnovers — one fewer than Huntington Beach (11-7, 2-2) — and while shooting 15% from the field through the second and third quarters. The Oilers in that span: 17.4%. A combined seven for 43.

"Any time you can get a win in Huntington, you take it, and you run out as quickly as you can," CdM coach Brason Alexander said. "We'll take it. There's some moments [that weren't

great], but [playing the second of] two games in two days, there's going to be some ugliness. I'll take it."

Center Kayly Honig grabbed 10 rebounds, scored seven points and with forward Lark Walz led Corona del Mar's defensive effort, and Sawyer Blumenkranz and Alexa Rokos contributed 10 points apiece.

Emily Hoang, one of three sophomores in the Oilers' lineup, scored 20

points with six rebounds.

The victory followed Friday night's 47-45 thriller over Fountain Valley (12-6, 3-1), another title contender, on Honig's basket with four seconds to play and gave the Sea Kings the Sunset lead with about a month to go. Corona del Mar then solidified its standing with a 50-31 win at home on Tuesday over Los Alamitos (12-6, 2-1), which was the league's only other unbeaten foe.

Corona del Mar shared the Surf League title with the Griffins two years ago and finished second to them last season, but it had lost four of the past five meetings, last year's by 32 and 34 points.

"We want nothing more than to win that championship. It's going to be a big challenge to see who gets it this year ...," Honig said. "I think our team can play up to that level, but we have to be ourselves. We can't let any mistake get to us, and we have to play through everything. We have to keep going, play at the fastest speed we've ever played at. We can't let anything get to our heads."

Alexander says it's "going to be fun."

"They're good. They're fast," Alexander said of the Griffins on Saturday. "We've had battles with them the last couple of years. We've got to get ready for them. We've got to take care of the ball. They turn turnovers into points really fast. And you've got to rebound."

Neither side took particularly good care of the ball against highly aggressive defenses Saturday. Zones collapsed on whoever handled the ball, paths to outlets were cut off, and possession — often one after another — was thrown or fumbled or taken away.

"This was the first game we've played in a while, where it was, like three [defenders] on one," Honig said. "Every time I got the ball in the middle, there'd be three people on me, so I just had to kick it out. It was a lot to adjust to. ... We're going to take a lot from this."

Corona del Mar looked sharp at the start, forcing six turnovers to build a 19-8 lead late in the first quarter, then suddenly went cold.

The Sea Kings missed their first seven second-quarter shots and turned the ball over six times — on four successive possessions at one point — as Huntington Beach pulled within three points.

A Walz three-pointer, two Blumenkranz free throws, and Honig's basket inside from Walz's feed restored a double-digit edge by halftime, and it was 28-17 when Honig again finished inside. The Oilers trimmed the deficit to four points as Hoang scored eight points in a 9-3 run. Corona del Mar responded with a fluid finish, scoring six points off quick transitions and closing with a Walz 3-pointer.

Huntington Beach is aiming for a playoff berth, more if possible.

"I love the fact that we played hard tonight," McClurg said. "I feel like our league is very balanced, and this will definitely help us grow, since we're such a young team. I'm excited about the future with our kids."

Scott French is a contributor to Daily Pilot Sports.

## GIRLS' BASKETBALL

## Sage Hill looking to get back on track

BY ANDREW TURNER

It is a new era for the Sage Hill girls' basketball program, the Lightning now looking to find their form while flooring a lineup without a senior in their starting five.

Sage Hill experienced such an infusion of youth four years ago, and it was the beginning of a great ascent.

A group led by Emily Eadie (Princeton), Kat Rigeimer (Northwestern) and Annabelle Spotts (University of Chicago) helped Sage Hill win a CIF title as freshmen, a state title as sophomores, and qualify for the Open Division in the next two seasons.

Sage Hill coach Kerwin Walters looks for this new version of the team to learn how to close out games.

Those struggles continued for Sage Hill in a 63-46 loss to Fairmont Prep on Saturday in the Kiernan Klassic at Mater Dei High.

"Youth has nothing to do with us at this point," Walters said. "We are talented all around. We have great length, we have good basketball ability. ... It is all specific in the decision to say, 'All right, this is what we're going to do, and this is how we're going to do it, and we just didn't do it today.'"

Sage Hill (8-7), which plays host to Woodbridge (3-14) on Tuesday in its Pacific Coast League opener, has lost five of its last six, a stretch that began against Mater Dei and also included the team's trip to Arizona for the Nike Tournament of Champions.

The Lightning held a modest 29-28 lead over the Huskies at halftime on Saturday, before managing just 17 points in the second half and two points in the fourth quarter.

"We have to play as a team, we have to go and do the extras, we got to box out, we got to rebound, we have to do the little things

that make us successful, and if we're not going to do the little things, games like this become like that," Walters added. "Fairmont did their job. They played with six girls. They played hard, they played with intention, they wanted it more, and they did what they're supposed to do. That is my fault as a coach to not be able to get that energy through our girls, and that's why we take these losses."

Amalia Holguin is now the most experienced member of the Lightning. The junior point guard had seven points, three assists and three steals. Sophomore wing Kamdyn Klamberg has stepped into an increased role. She had a team-high 16 points and three steals.

They also combined for 11 of the 21 turnovers committed by the Lightning, while the team generated just eight assists.

Freshman center Eve Fowler had five points and

14 rebounds, while fellow newcomer Addison Uphoff had 12 points, three assists and two blocked shots.

Fairmont Prep (11-5) was led by junior sharpshooter Adyra Rajan, who netted a game-high 28 points, including four three-pointers, to go with eight rebounds and four steals. She distributed her scoring output evenly across each half.

"When she starts getting hot like that, it opens up so much more for us," Fairmont Prep coach Josh Lozano said. "Now, Lesina [Afu] has driving lanes, or Sarah [Aldeguer] has driving lanes, or Maria [Mejia] can pick teams apart with her passing, but it all starts with Adyra coming out strong like that."

Aldeguer contributed across the board with 11 points, eight rebounds, three assists, three steals and the lone block of the contest for the Huskies. Mejia provided 10 points, eight rebounds, four assists



James Carbone

**SAGE HILL'S** Kamdyn Klamberg (33), seen against Ontario Christian on Feb. 28, had a team-high 16 points for the Lightning against Fairmont Prep on Saturday.

and four steals. Afu also scored 14 points.

"We have such a hard schedule, and this is what prepared us for these types of games," Rajan said. "... At the end of the day, we're preparing for the playoffs, and hopefully the Open Division. We're ready, and I think this is a great game to help us boost up."

In the long view, Walters believes the Lightning will get there, too.

"We are just not playing great defense," Walters

said. "We're just not doing what we're supposed to do at this moment. I am optimistic about the future for these girls. I think these girls are going to be incredibly talented. They're going to be one of the toughest teams in the state when it's all said and done. ... Hopefully, it's this year, and if it's not this year, it will definitely be next year, but we got to play better as a unit."

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