



Bryan Malloch

KRISTEN NUSS leaps into the arms of partner Taryn Brasher after they won the AVP Huntington Beach Open on Sunday.

Top seeds win volleyball titles at AVP H.B. Open

The duos of Andy Benesh and Miles Partain, as well as Taryn Brasher and Kristen Nuss, prevailed on Sunday on the north side of the H.B. Pier.

BY MATT SZABO

Andy Benesh was simply in the zone. The Rancho Palos Verdes native had six blocks and four aces in the first set alone of Sunday's AVP Huntington Beach Open men's volleyball title match. He's 6-foot-8, but the play seemed even bigger. "It's fun," he said after the match. "I got into a little bit of a flow state. Sometimes the plays seem like they're coming to you." Top-seeded Benesh and partner Miles Partain cruised through to their second title in Huntington Beach, taking a 21-14, 21-14 decision over fellow 2024 Olympians Chase Budinger

and Miles Evans, the No. 2 seeds, on the north side of the Huntington Beach Pier. The women's final was closer, but also featured the top seeds earning the hardware. Taryn Brasher and Kristen Nuss got past No. 3-seeded Terese Cannon and Megan Kraft, 21-17, 21-23, 15-9. Benesh and Partain, who advanced to the quarterfinals at the Paris Olympics, had previously won Huntington Beach in 2023. That was their first AVP victory together as a team, and this year's title represents their fourth as a team.

Both the men's and women's

See **AVP**, page A5



Lisa Dietrich

ANDY BENESH, left, and Miles Partain celebrate with champagne after winning the AVP Huntington Beach Open on Sunday.

Still riveting at 104: Costa Mesa woman, a Rosie during Word War II, feted on her milestone birthday



Susan Hoffman

ANGIE NICARGI receives handmade cards from great-great niece and nephew Olivia and Jacob Pineda during her 104th birthday party Friday at Coastal Heights Senior Independent Living.

BY SUSAN HOFFMAN

Costa Mesa resident Angie Nicargi, who during World War II was among the millions of American women embodied by the cultural icon known as Rosie the Riveter, was celebrated Friday to mark her 104th birthday. The daughter of Italian immigrants, Angie was born in Brooklyn, New York on May 11, 1921. She was one of six children and is the only one still living. She married her childhood sweetheart, Bill Nicargi, during the war. "Bill was a wonderful man," Nicargi said. "He was even awarded the Soldier's Medal for heroism when he saved the pilot of a burning plane." While Bill was serving in North Africa, Angie, then 21, joined the female workforce making airplane parts in a defense plant on the home front. "It gave me a good feeling doing something in wartime," she said. She and Bill made their home in Brooklyn, where they became the parents of three

See **Rosie**, page A2

School board seeker alleges 'smear' job

Lawsuits filed against companies run by Andrea McElroy have raised concerns in NMUSD board bid.

BY ERIC LICAS

A Republican-backed candidate touting experience as an entrepreneur and running for a seat on the Newport-Mesa Unified School District's board in a special election scheduled June 10 — which will cost taxpayers more than \$400,000 — claims political opponents sought to "smear" her by misrepresenting a record of litigation filed against companies run by her and her ex-husband.

Andrea McElroy is one of two people seeking to become the trustee for district Area 5, which includes neighborhoods served by Newport Elementary, Ensign Intermediate and Newport Harbor High. She's the parent of a former NMUSD student and the owner of Fair Play Active, a pickle ball-themed clothing brand, ac-

See **Board**, page A4

Triangle Square to be seen on Travel Channel

A segment hosted by Holly McDonald, a Costa Mesa resident and local real estate agent, will be aired on Friday.

BY SARA CARDINE

Costa Mesa's iconic Triangle Square will soon take a turn in the national spotlight, as a handful of tenants at the 200,000-square-foot retail complex will be featured in a segment airing on the Travel Channel Friday. Hosted by Holly McDonald — a Costa Mesa resident and agent in Compass Real Estate's Newport Beach office — the roughly 5-minute segment is set to air at 7 a.m., spotlighting upscale Western-themed steakhouse Westwood Coast along with other restaurants and entertainment destinations at the center. Since last fall, McDonald has produced a string of episodic features on area neighborhoods, cultural institutions and hot spots as a Southern California host for "American Dream," a national real

See **Triangle**, page A2

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# 3 O.C. 6th-graders bring gun, ammo to middle school

BY NICOLE CHARKY-CHAMI

Three Fountain Valley 6th-graders brought a handgun and ammunition to a middle school campus earlier this week, police announced Tuesday.

Officers responded to a report that a student possibly had a firearm at Vista View Middle School on Monday, according to the

Fountain Valley Police Department.

It was not an active shooter incident, police said.

Officers allegedly discovered a “handgun and ammunition,” while searching the students’ backpacks, officials said.

Three 6th-grade students were detained in connection, the minors’ names were not released.

Two of the students were arrested and booked at the Orange County juvenile hall. The third was taken to a hospital for a mental health evaluation.

“Preliminary investigation indicates this was not an active shooter incident,” police said in a statement. “It appears to be an isolated event, and there is no ongoing threat to campus safety. Out of

an abundance of caution, FVPD will maintain an increased presence at the school in the coming days to ensure the continued safety of students, staff, and families.”

“FVPD remains deeply committed to protecting our schools and community. As always, if you see something, say something,”

Vista View Middle

School Principal Manny Quezada assured parents that safety is a priority for students on campus. The campus remained open Tuesday following the detainment.

“The situation was investigated and has been resolved. Out of an abundance of caution, there will be an increased police presence on campus today to ensure that stu-

dents, staff and our community feel secure and have direct access to law enforcement support. We are fully committed to maintaining a safe and supportive learning environment for all,” Quezada said in an email to parents on Tuesday.

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# Trial begins for woman accused of masterminding fatal shooting

BY PAUL ANDERSON

A 29-year-old woman recruited a “killer with a smile” to gun down a friend in Fountain Valley she suspected of leaking her hiding place from an ex-boyfriend, a prosecutor told jurors Wednesday, while the defendant’s attorney argued the shooter “went rogue” and said her client had nothing to do with it.

Mary Diedra Chavez is charged with murder with special circumstances of lying in wait for the victim and conspiracy to commit murder. Co-defendant Oliver Reynaldo Leon, who is facing the death penalty, is set to go on trial separately.

Chavez, known as Mumbles, had been convicted on drug dealing and forcing currency and was on probation when she was accused of “masterminding” the July 19, 2021, execution-style killing of 26-year-old Phia Marie Albanese, Senior Deputy Dist. Atty. Nick Thomo said in court papers.

In July of 2021, Chavez was “dating” Gustavo Alvarzmoreno, whose nickname was Clumsy, while he was in prison for carjacking, Thomo said.

Previously, she had been dating “J.J.” and was the getaway driver in an attack on her ex-boyfriend, Thomo said.

When J.J. survived the attack, she feared retaliation and began “bouncing



File Photo

**POLICE WERE** called on the evening of July 19, 2021, to an address on Amberwood Circle in Fountain Valley regarding a traffic collision and found the murder victim’s body in a Volkswagen Jetta. Above, a view from Tradewinds Street to Amberwood Circle taken the week the crime occurred.

around from Airbnb to hide from J.J.,” Thomo said in his opening statement of the trial.

Her friend, Albanese, was also dating someone behind bars, so the two agreed to hang out, Thomo said.

“Guess who shows up at her door? Thomo said. “J.J.” Chavez figured Albanese told J.J. where to find the defendant, Thomo said. “Consumed by her rage over a friend’s betrayal,” she “invited” Leon and other associates to get together for a meeting to plan revenge, Thomo alleged.

“They all decided Phia has to die,” Thomo said.

Police were called at 6:11 p.m. July 19, 2021, to 10372

Amberwood Circle regarding a traffic collision and found the victim’s body in a Volkswagen Jetta, which was still in drive and on a front lawn, Thomo said. She was still buckled in the driver’s seat and sustained three gunshot wounds to the back of her head and one to her left hand, Thomo said.

Police found a receipt for the Residence Inn in Tustin in the vehicle and when they went to the room the victim rented they talked to Lisa Bergstrom, who told investigators Albanese had received a phone call alerting her that someone was vandalizing her car, Thomo said.

The prosecutor alleged

this was part of the plan to “lure” the victim out of the hotel to kill her.

When the two went out to check the Jetta, Chavez drove up in a Mercedes Benz with Leon and another man, Thomo said.

Albanese left with Chavez and the others, Thomo said.

Video surveillance from the hotel showed the Mercedes entering the parking lot at 4:44 p.m. the day of the killing, Thomo said. Albanese’s vehicle left the hotel at 5:40 p.m. with Chavez in the front passenger seat, while one of her friends trailed in Chavez’s Mercedes, Thomo said.

“This is not a whodunit,” Thomo said. “The shooter is Mr. Leon. The mastermind is the defendant.”

Chavez drove her friends back to Los Angeles and dropped them off after the fatal shooting, Thomo said.

Some of the evidence in the case will come from jailhouse phone calls, Thomo said. Chavez and her boyfriend discussed the hit on the victim, he alleged.

Leon “is the guy you bring around when you want someone killed,” Thomo said.

After the shooting, Chavez called her boyfriend in jail and “tried to be a sophisticated crook,” feigning surprise at Albanese’s killing, Thomo said.

“She pretends like she

didn’t know what happened to Phia,” Thomo said. “She tries to set up her alibi, but [her boyfriend] doesn’t catch on,” so she changes the subject, Thomo said.

Leon is “a killer with a smile... Those are his words, not mine,” Thomo said.

At one point in a jailhouse call, Leon expressed disappointment that his photo wasn’t included in a newspaper account of the killing and referred to himself as a killer with a smile,” Thomo said.

Chavez’s attorney, Jessica Ann Sweeney of the Orange County public defender’s office, said Leon “went rogue,” and said the “situation was out of Mary’s control.”

Chavez “never wanted Oliver to kill Phia. She’s not guilty of murder or lying in wait,” Sweeney said.

“The truth is this was a chaotic, drug-fueled series of events,” Sweeney said. Chavez had survived childhood sexual abuse, and her ex-boyfriend had beaten her while she was pregnant, Sweeney said. At the time she was trying to pull her life back together, the defense attorney said.

Chavez was staying with Jennifer Jacobs in a rented Airbnb at the time, Sweeney said. Jacobs told investigators Chavez admitted directing the killing of the victim, Thomo said, but Sweeney told jurors that the witness had

a motive to lie as she cut

a plea deal.

Chavez “was hiding from” her ex-boyfriend, Sweeney said.

She called Leon for protection, Sweeney said.

“Her main concern was getting out of that Airbnb alive,” Sweeney said.

Chavez even left behind a letter for her godmother in case she was killed, Sweeney said.

Chavez never told Leon to kill the victim, and “she did consider Phia her friend,” Sweeney said.

“She just wanted Oliver there for protection,” Sweeney said. “She didn’t want Oliver to hurt Phia. There was no plan. There was no agreement.”

Leon ingested methamphetamine before the shooting and “got angry and impatient,” Sweeney said.

Before the shooting, Leon told Chavez “to get out of the car,” Sweeney said.

Chavez “thought she would be next” to get killed, Sweeney said.

In the past, Chavez told Leon not to beat someone up, and he honored that, so the defendant thought he wouldn’t kill Albanese, Sweeney said.

“She thought she could trust him on his word and obviously she couldn’t,” Sweeney said. “Oliver promised not to do anything.”

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## TRIANGLE

Continued from page A1

estate and lifestyle show streaming on Apple TV+, Amazon Prime Video, Roku and other outlets.

Past installments have focused on trendy milkshake bar the Straw and Costa Mesa’s South Coast Metro Area, while McDonald is working on another show about an upcoming push-ups for charity event to raise money for veterans.

“They deal with a variety of different things, but they’re all positive and uplifting sides of the area,” said McDonald, a former producer of HGTV’s “House Hunters.” “I scout out the stories and the locations — I’m pretty much doing all of it.”

The segment featuring Triangle Square, McDonald’s first to be picked up and broadcast on the Travel Channel so far, came out of a desire to explore a place that is familiar to many but has gone through some changes since it first opened in 1992.

“Obviously, Triangle Square is a landmark here in Costa Mesa. And it’s kind of undergoing a renaiss-



Courtesy of Triangle Square



**COSTA MESA'S** Triangle Square, on the corner of Harbor Boulevard and 19th Street.

**REAL ESTATE** agent Holly McDonald, right, films a segment on Costa Mesa’s Triangle Square at Prince Street Pizza.

sance right now,” McDonald said. “[But] if people just drive by, they may not know what’s going on inside. It’s more than just nightlife, but I don’t think people realize that.”

In a sit-down interview,

Westwood Coast General Manager Michael Ruiz explains the increasing popularity of Western-themed entertainment in Orange County, particularly country line dancing, and why Costa Mesa was an ideal

spot for the San Francisco eatery’s sister restaurant.

The segment also depicts scenes from Prince Street Pizza, La Vida Cantina, Cafe Sevilla and Tavern & Bowl, giving viewers a taste of a now fully-occupied retail

Courtesy of Holly McDonald

space.

It’s a great way to showcase the progress that’s been made at the center in recent years, according to Charity Dahlke, a property manager for Cannon TTM, which purchased Triangle Square in 2017.

The owners had big plans for the property and were making major upgrades just before the COVID pandemic hit, changing consumers’ shopping behavior and impacting the center’s progress. Only now is that bigger vision starting to come to life, Dahlke said Wednesday.

And the added exposure from McDonald’s “American Dream,” which focuses on the different kinds of elevated experiences visitors can have at the center, only serves to further that cause.

“Triangle Square has definitely gone through a bit of a metamorphosis lately,” the property manager said. “This used to be a crown jewel in Costa Mesa, and now the owners are dedicated to getting this jewel back to where it was.”

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## ROSIE

Continued from page A1

children, one of whom died as a child and another as a young adult.

When Bill passed away after 52 years of marriage, Angie continued to live in New York where she immersed herself in full-time volunteering, from childcare at a convent to kitchen work at a senior center.

But after her surviving son and his family moved from the East Coast to Southern California in 2006 and settled into Huntington Beach, she took a leap in her late 80s and decided to relocate herself.

“I don’t regret moving to California,” Angie said. “I have a wonderful son and daughter-in-law and no [family member] was left in New York.”

Today she is blessed with

four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. With Mother’s Day falling on her actual birthday this year, a party in her honor with her family and friends was moved up to Friday at Coastal Heights Senior Living, an independent living facility in Costa Mesa.

For nearly 16 years, Nicargi has lived independently in her Coastal Heights apartment, where she is both the oldest at the facility, as well as its longest tenant.

“She is a definite firecracker, as someone who is full of life, a lot of energy,” said Heidi Peter, Coastal Heights activities director. “When you talk to her, she’s just full of positive energy and has a lot to say. Never negative about anything.”

When her vision began to fail, it was Angie’s optimistic attitude that led her to acquire skills needed to

live as independently as possible through the daily living training program at Helen Keller Services. Rather than give up, she learned adaptive techniques and organization systems to keep her home and life in order.

“I used to play bridge and do crossword puzzles, which I miss a lot,” Angie said. “Now I listen to [Amazon’s AI service] Alexa and ask her all about the important news.”

When asked, she lists some of her healthy habits: practicing a positive attitude, reciting the “Serenity” prayer, listening to her favorite tenors, going on little walks in her apartment, keeping up with chores, living a good, clean life and enjoying great Italian food.

SUSAN HOFFMAN is a contributor to the Daily Pilot.



Susan Hoffman

**ANGIE NICARGI** celebrates 104th birthday with son, Larry and daughter-in-law Sharilyn at Coastal Heights Senior Independent Living.





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BOARD

Continued from page A1

cording to publicly available candidate forms.

Her campaign highlights a career with Microsoft “shaping digital advertising strategies during the dot-com boom.” She also owned the Paper House, a stationery store that had been in Newport Beach, according to her website.

The Balboa Bay Club sued the Paper House in 2007, claiming the store's proprietor didn't pay for advertising in the club's monthly publication, Bay Window Magazine. The store was also sued in 2008 by its landlords for unpaid rent. A judge ruled in favor of the plaintiffs in both cases, resulting in the payment of \$1,741 and \$9,784 in damages, respectively.

Those were among six cases filed against companies run either by McElroy or in partnership with her ex-husband, Russell Young, involving allegations of unpaid rent, nonpayment of attorneys' fees and breach of contract. Critics of her bid for a seat on NMUSD's board say these raise concerns about her qualifications.

“As an entrepreneur, I can tell you that business owners in California are often targets of frivolous litigation,” McElroy said. “Business owners are often a target of false and malicious accusations, like those being leveled against me.”

“DRAGGED INTO SOME LITIGATION”

One lawsuit filed by South Coast Trade Center 3, L.P. against McElroy — known as Andrea Young at the time — and her ex-husband in 2013 resulted in a dismissal for reasons not clear in readily available court records. In that case, the defendants were contracted to develop a retail market called OC Mart Mix and attract customers as well as vendors to lease stalls at their location in Costa Mesa. In their complaint the plaintiffs claimed

that, even after three years of operating, “because of defendants’ poor management ... the company still had insufficient cash flow to satisfy the company's obligations.”

Court records show that McElroy and Young attempted to launch other similar retail concepts. The company they formed, Union Market LLC, also operated the District at Tustin Legacy. Attorneys representing McElroy described it as a “thriving business for many years,” but hardship brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic led to the closure of many of its stores.

“Union Market fought in good faith to remain open at the District and to timely pay its monthly rent,” an attorney representing McElroy, Robert P. Gowe of the firm Goe, Forsythe & Hodges, wrote in a letter sent to media outlets. “However, Union Market was unable to maintain its monthly rental payments due to the loss of revenue.”

As a result, McElroy, Young and Union Market were sued for unpaid rent in 2022 by the company their business was leasing the Tustin property from, Vestar/Kimco Tustin LP.

McElroy's attorneys note that she was dismissed as a plaintiff in that case. Judgment was rendered only against Union Market, awarding \$747,843.98 in damages to Vestar/Kimco.

Vestar/Kimco filed a second lawsuit claiming \$4.5 million in additional damages in 2023 against Union Market, McElroy and her current husband. Allegations against the latter were “frivolous and unfounded,” and he was later dismissed from that second case, Gowe said.

“Andrea has certain defenses to the 2023 Vestar lawsuit and disputes the allegations contained therein,” her attorney added.

In a statement, McElroy told the Daily Pilot she was “dragged into some litigation” with her ex-husband. She went on to say political opponents and “far-left blogs are now running

around with half-truths and full lies about that history to demonize me.”

McElroy, under her former surname, was also listed among defendants in four additional suits filed for unpaid rent between 2009 and 2012 at various residences in Newport Beach. Those, as well as a 2011 case filed by Greater California Financial Services for an unpaid loan, also resulted in judgment in favor of plaintiffs.

The Daily Pilot was made aware of past litigation involving companies associated with McElroy by an Area 5 resident who acted independently, but is listed as among those endorsing her rival, candidate Kirstin Walsh.

Walsh, an occupational therapist and Newport Harbor High Parent Teacher Assn. president, said she and her campaign were not involved in researching McElroy's legal history or the distribution of that information to the media or public.

Mail-in ballots for the election were delivered Monday, and an in-person voting center at Coastline College in room 119 will be open from May 31 through 8 p.m. on Election Day, June 10, according to the Orange County Registrar's office.

FILLING A VACANT SEAT

The term for the position McElroy and Walsh are seeking ends in December 2026. It became vacant after former trustee Michelle Barto was elected to the Newport Beach City Council in November.

McElroy was among the four potential replacements considered at that time. She had support from board president Krista Weigand and trustee Lisa Pearson; they noted former trustee Barto was elected by about 65% of voters in the 2022 election, and said they wanted to appoint someone with views similar to hers.

Those who voted for Walsh highlighted her background of service in the district. During the spe-



File Photo

**TAXPAYERS ARE** expected to pay more than \$400,000 in a special election scheduled for June 10. It will determine who fills a vacant seat on the Newport-Mesa Unified School District.

cial meeting that resulted in the PTA president's appointment to the board on a 4-2 vote, trustee Ashley Anderson described Walsh as a person of balanced, open-minded judgment who made decisions “not based on national political things that are not necessarily relevant to us.”

SPECIAL ELECTION

Walsh held the position about five weeks before a petition drive garnered 361 votes, enough to override her appointment and force a special election. Laws protecting the privacy of those who signed that petition prohibit its release to the public.

The election may cost between \$444,695 to \$493,802 in public funds, according to the Orange County Registrar's Office.

McElroy emerged as the sole candidate running against Walsh. Her list of endorsements includes Barto, Pearson, Newport Beach Mayor Joe Stapleton, the Republican Party of Orange County and that organization's chairman, Will O'Neill, the former Newport Beach mayor.

Those endorsing Walsh include NMUSD trustees Anderson, Carol Crane, Michelle Murphy and Leah Ersoylu, as well as former

Newport Beach Mayor Nancy Gardner.

Walsh said she was hesitant about entering the race, and only did so after learning that the costs incurred by the petition ousting her could not be undone even if she abstained from running. She said friends warned her pursuing public office could potentially expose details about her life, and told the Daily Pilot she hoped McElroy “had someone on her side to give her that same advice.” She declined to comment on her opponent's business background.

McElroy described concerns raised by Walsh's supporters as a “non story.”

“The story should be that my opponent agrees with Gavin Newsom on forcing schools to keep secrets from parents about their children's health and gender,” McElroy said. “Additionally, my opponent appears to be comfortable with books that are not age appropriate for young children in school.”

In past interviews with the Daily Pilot, Walsh has said she opposes censorship. She has also acknowledged the state law giving educators discretion to share or withhold information about a student's gen-

der identity, known as AB1955, may protect some from retaliation due to being forcibly outed.

Walsh said she is not interested in stirring conflict with lawmakers in Sacramento. She said her major priorities would be addressing overdue maintenance and other improvements to the district's infrastructure.

Both she and McElroy have expressed support for measures to improve campus safety, like the installation of AI-assisted surveillance cameras. They have also both voiced interest in expanding early career education for students who might want to pursue alternatives to college after high school.

SCHOOL BOARDS BECOME BATTLEGROUNDS

Newport-Mesa Unified has thus far steered clear of conflict related to alleged obscenity in materials distributed to youth or the question of whether educators should be required to divulge information about students' gender identity to their guardians. But those topics have been the center of debate in other communities across Orange

See **Board**, page A5



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THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Stella Zawistowski

ACROSS

- 1 Come across as  
5 Adjust to a change  
10 Bit of data, for short  
14 Vehicle that's "called"  
15 Hunting gun  
16 Strongly encourage  
17 All tied up  
18 Hiking path  
19 Be worthy of  
20 "Sophie's Choice" star: 2 wds.  
23 Business leader: Abbr.  
24 Meowing pet  
25 Orator  
27 Lively parties  
32 Pelvic joint  
33 Don't fail a class  
34 Yellow tropical fruit  
36 Moderate gait  
40 " \_ you for real?"  
41 Undecorated  
42 Motorist's group: Abbr.  
43 Chaotic situation  
45 Big  
46 Old data storage option: Abbr.  
47 "I've got it!"  
49 Writer of short pieces  
51 Choosing actors for a cast  
55 Business suffix: Abbr.  
56 Noah's boat  
57 Market statistics: 2 wds.  
63 Donkey's sound  
65 Asinine  
66 "Parasite" actor \_ Woo-shik  
67 Tardy

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20				21						22		23		
		24						25			26			
27	28				29	30	31		32					
33					34			35			36	37	38	39
40					41							42		
43			44		45						46			
			47	48			49			50				
51	52	53				54				55				
56				57			58	59	60				61	62
63			64		65						66			
67					68						69			
70					71						72			

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](https://sudoku.org.uk).

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

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

- 68 Not even once  
69 " \_ it a shame?"  
70 Looks over  
71 Say hi to  
72 Misplace

DOWN

- 1 Flower stalk  
2 Gutter area  
3 Works out  
4 Quorums in

- Judaism  
5 Creative pursuits  
6 Gossip, slangily  
7 A long way away  
8 Tissue layers  
9 Devices for making calls  
10 Bird of basketball  
11 Racing venue  
12 Say yes

- 13 Pavarotti's voice type  
21 Old Ford model  
22 Architect I.M. \_  
26 Well-phrased  
27 Meat in a can  
28 Rabbit relative  
29 Embedding  
30 Fancy party  
31 Catch in a trap  
35 Musician's jobs  
37 Dark red leafy veggie  
38 Rowing tools  
39 "I \_ I taw a puddy tat!"  
44 Took a chair  
46 Highly distrustful  
48 That guy's  
50 What we breathe  
51 \_-knit sweater  
52 Impressive display  
53 Hockey footwear  
54 Hopeless one  
58 Home for bats  
59 Joint above a shin  
60 Sassy  
61 Very long times  
62 Location  
64 "Sure!"

Tribune Media Services



BOARD

Continued from page A4

County.

In September 2023, the Orange Unified School District became the sixth in California to adopt a policy requiring campus staff to tell parents if their child began identifying as a gender other than the one listed on their birth certificate, directly in opposition to AB 1955. A similar initiative was considered, but ultimately rejected by the Capistrano Unified School District's board of trustees about a month later.

Last fall, conservative members of the Huntington Beach City Council approved a "Parent's Right to Know" ordinance. However, the city does not have jurisdiction over schools in Huntington Beach, which are governed by several different boards. That means the law only applies to instructors working at libraries, parks and other city facilities.

Right-leaning members of the Huntington Beach City Council also championed the implementation of a parental review board to identify and sequester material in libraries they deem either sexually charged or otherwise obscene and inappropriate for children. Opponents note that similar bodies have flagged titles for benign references to puberty and other biological functions, and decry them as an exercises in book banning and censorship.

Cultural issues associated with the perception of vulgar materials in classrooms and opposition to policies either meant to accommodate the needs and concerns of LGBTQ youth or include ethnic studies in curricula have been rallying cries for conservative politicians. As a result, school boards are repeatedly becoming battlegrounds in a broader conflict of ideologies and, according to the nonprofit CalMatters newsroom, California GOP officials have been actively recruiting and training Republican candidates to run for seats on what are officially nonpartisan boards.

eric.lucas@latimes.com  
Twitter: @EricLicas



Lisa Dietrich

**MILES PARTAIN**, from left, and Andy Benesh pose with their surfboard-shaped trophies after winning the men's title at the AVP Huntington Beach Open on Sunday.

AVP

Continued from page A1

champions received trophies shaped like a surfboard.

"I love the patriotism of Huntington Beach," said Partain, from Pacific Palisades, who has had to recover after his family home burned down in the Palisades fire in January. "American flags everywhere, I really love that about this place. It's always good competing here."

Benesh and Partain did not drop a set throughout the single-elimination tournament, earning a 21-14, 21-14 semifinal win over No. 12 Hagan Smith and Logan Webber.

Benesh said their new coach, Theo Brunner, has preached aggressive play, specifically on his serves. It paid off for him and Partain on Mother's Day, and Benesh added that both of their moms were in attendance to watch the final.

"This surface plays to our advantage," he said. "It's a fast surface, and we like to play a fast game."

Brasher and Nuss, meanwhile, won their eighth title together, their first in Huntington Beach. The 2024 Olympians took down No. 4-seeded Fullerton native Kelly Cheng and her partner Molly Shaw 21-15, 21-17, in the semifinals earlier Sunday.

They said they appreciated the vibes in the sold-out stadium court, as well as outside of it.

"We absolutely loved that people were building up



Bryan Malloch

**TOP-SEEDED** Taryn Brasher, left, and Kristen Nuss won the AVP Huntington Beach Open on Sunday.

the sand so that they could look over the fence, because there were no more tickets available," Brasher said. "We think that's amazing. There's just so much support for beach volleyball here."

They had three match points in the second set of the title match, but Cannon and Kraft were able to save each of them and force a third set.

In the decider, however, Brasher and Nuss would not be denied, beating Cannon and Craft for the seventh time in eight career meetings.

"Before every single set, Taryn always says, 'It's zeroes, it's a new game,'" Nuss said. "Whatever just happened is in the past, and this is a brand new game. I think that's how we go into every single set, regardless of who has momentum, just focusing on us and playing our game."

Benesh and Partain,

Brasher and Nuss and several other top teams in Huntington Beach will move on to the 2025 AVP League season, which kicks off in Palm Beach, Fla. on the weekend of May 23-24.

This is the second year for the eight-week AVP League, which returns to Southern California with a San Diego stop on June 6-7 and a Los Angeles stop on July 11-12.

"It's short games to 15, so it makes every point that much more important," Brasher said. "We're excited to keep growing the game. Hopefully people keep tuning in and following along."

The AVP's other Southern California stop this year will be the Manhattan Beach Open, set for Aug. 15-17. That event is not a league stop but considered a heritage event, like Huntington Beach.

matthew.szabo@latimes.com  
Twitter: @mjszabo

FOR THE RECORD

A story in Friday's news section about a vehicle that drove into the wetlands in Huntington Beach, indicated the rapid deployment unit was a part of the city's police department. It is part of the fire department's Marine Safety Division.

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

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**THU, MAY 15**  
**ALL FIRED UP**



**FRI, MAY 16**  
**RONSTADT REVIVAL**



**SAT, MAY 17**  
**DEAD MAN'S PARTY**



**SUN, MAY 18**  
**THE DAY THE MUSIC DIDN'T DIE**

5/15 **ALL FIRED UP** (PAT BENATAR TRIBUTE)

5/16 **RONSTADT REVIVAL** (LINDA RONSTADT TRIBUTE)

5/17 **DEAD MAN'S PARTY** (TRIBUTE TO OINGO BOINGO)

5/18 **THE DAY THE MUSIC DIDN'T DIE**

5/22 **FOGHAT**

5/23 **RICHIE KOTZEN**

5/24 **QUEEN NATION** (RE-IMAGINED SYMPHONIC ROCK SHOW)

5/29 **THE WAR & TREATY**

5/30 **YACHTY BY NATURE**

5/31 **KIDS OF CHARLEMAGNE** (STEELY DAN TRIBUTE)

6/1 **KEN GARCIA**

6/5 **BIG COUNTRY**

6/6 **THE WINEHOUSE EXPERIENCE**

6/7 **YYNOT** (TRIBUTE TO RUSH)

6/8 **HOWIE DAY**

6/12 **PURE PRARIE LEAGUE**

6/13 **BUFFETT BEACH** (TRIBUTE TO JIMMY BUFFETT)

6/14 **DON MCLEAN**

6/15 **LIVE DEAD & BROTHERS** (AN ALL-STAR CELEBRATION OF GRATEFUL DEAD & ALLMAN BROTHERS)

6/18 **MATTEO MANCUSO**

6/20 **EVE 6**

6/21 **CLASSIC ALBUMS LIVE:**  
DAVID BOWIE'S ZIGGY'S STARDUST

6/27 **HEARTWRECKERS** (TRIBUTE TO TOM PETTY)

6/28 **GARY HOEY**

7/3 **THE ULTIMATE ROCK BAND:**  
THE GREATEST ROCK HITS OF ALL TIME

7/5 **AMBROSIA**

7/11 **THE ENGLISH BEAT**

7/12 **THE ENGLISH BEAT**

7/13 **THE CREAM OF CLAPTON BAND** Ft. WILL JOHNS, STEVE FERRONE, NATHAN EAST AND NOAH EAST



**THU, MAY 22**  
**FOGHAT**



**FRI, MAY 23**  
**RICHIE KOTZEN**



**THU, MAY 29**  
**THE WAR & TREATY**



**SAT, MAY 31**  
**KIDS OF CHARLEMAGNE**

7/17 **DUANE BETTS AND PALMETTO MOTEL**

7/18 **JOURNEY USA**

7/19 **FAST TIMES** (ULTIMATE 80's TRIBUTE)

7/20 **STARSHIP**

7/26 **VENICE**

7/27 **BOBBY GRAY**

7/30 **MONOPHONICS**

8/1 **THE FABULOUS THUNDERBIRDS**

8/2 **HENRY KAPONO**

8/3 **HENRY KAPONO**

8/6 **TAJ FARRANT**

8/8 **STEVE EARLE**

8/9 **LED ZEPAGAIN**

8/15 **THE MOTELS**

8/16 **SKELETON CREW** (GRATEFUL DEAD TRIBUTE)

8/22 **SUPER DIAMOND** (TRIBUTE TO NEIL DIAMOND)

8/23 **SUPER DIAMOND** (TRIBUTE TO NEIL DIAMOND)

8/24 **SOUTHERN AVENUE & WILL HOGE**

8/28 **TAB BENOIT** WITH SPECIAL GUEST GA-20

8/29 **MONTROSE LIVE**

8/31 **JUDY COLLINS**

9/5 **LOVE**

9/6 **THE DEVON ALLMAN BLUES SUMMIT**

9/7 **BENISE** (25 YEARS OF PASSION)

9/12 **BEATLES VS STONES** (A MUSICAL SHOWDOWN)

9/13 **PABLO CRUISE**

9/18 **BOB ANDERSON** (TRIBUTE TO FRANK SINATRA)

9/19 **THE NELSONS**

9/20 **WHAT'S NEW PUSSYCAT** (TRIBUTE TO TOM JONES)

10/3 **WAYNE NEWTON**

10/4 **ORIANTHI**

10/5 **STEPHEN KELLOGG AND JON MCLAUGHLIN**

10/10 **DESPERADO**

10/11 **DESPERADO**

10/17 **SPYRO GYA**

10/18 **MICK ADAMS & THE STONES**

10/19 **MARTIN SEXTON**

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Finance Manager, Finance & Strategy. Develop & manage our build applications & systems on multiple platforms. Req. Bach. in Finance, Economics, Business Analytics, or rel. field & 1 yr exp in job or 1 yr exp as Financial Analyst, Acct. Assoc., Bus. Ops Assoc., or rel. occup. Any suitable combo of educ, training &/or exp is acceptable. Jobsite: Irvine, CA. Wage range: \$145,000/yr to \$175,050/yr. Send resume ref#24033 to K. Finnsson, Blizzard Entertainment, Inc. 1 Blizzard Way, Irvine, CA 92618

Network Programmer. Confer with manager, systems analysts, engineers, programmers & others to design systems & to obtain info on project limitations & capabilities, performance requirements & interfaces. Req. Bach. in Comp. Science, Comp. Engineer., Info. Security, or rel. field or foreign equiv. Jobsite: Sherman Oaks, CA. Wage range: \$105,019/yr to \$125,000/yr. Send resume ref#23334 to K. Finnsson, Activation Publishing, Inc, 2701 Olympic Blvd, Bldg. B, Santa Monica, CA 90404.

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Employment

Senior Associate Producer. Daily managing & tracking of tasks ensuring schedules are maintained & adjusted when necessary. Req. 3 yrs exp in Job or 3 yrs exp as Producer, Assoc. Prod., Lead QA, Tech. Tester, or rel. occup. Any suitable combo of educ, training &/or exp is acceptable. Jobsite: Playa Vista, CA. Wage range: \$99,902/yr to \$124,000/yr. Send resume ref#23343 to K. Finnsson, Activation Publishing, Inc, 2701 Olympic Blvd, Bldg. B, Santa Monica, CA 90404.

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Employment

Software Engineer. Own the design, implementation, & maintenance of data pipelines, infrastructure, & services, for company's Global Growth Marketing's data platform. Req. Bach. in Comp. Science, Software Engineer., Info. Mgmt., or rel. field. Any suitable combo of educ, training &/or exp is acceptable. Jobsite: Irvine, CA. Wage range: \$129,376/yr to \$155,000/yr. Send resume ref#24027 to K. Finnsson, Blizzard Entertainment, Inc. 1 Blizzard Way, Irvine, CA 92618

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Legal Notices

BSC 226817

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: CECILE DILLON

30-2025-01479204-PR-LA-CMC

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: **CECILE DILLON.**

**A PETITION FOR PROBATE** has been filed by **BOZANA BONEV** in the Superior Court of California, County of **ORANGE.**

**THE PETITION FOR PROBATE** requests that **BOZANA BONEV** be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

**THE PETITION** requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

**A HEARING** on the petition will be held on **June 26, 2025 at 1:30 p.m. in Dept. CM07** located at: 3390 HARBOR BLVD. COSTA MESA, CA 92626

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

**IF YOU OBJECT** to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

**IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR** or contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

**YOU MAY EXAMINE** the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for the Petitioner:  
TRENT C. MARCUS, ESQ  
TRENT C. MARCUS, A LAW CORPORATION  
19900 BEACH BLVD, C-1  
HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA 92648  
Published in the HUNTINGTON BEACH INDEPENDENT on: 5/15, 5/22 & 5/29/2025

Legal Notices

BSC 226818

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: STEPHEN EDWARD KITTLE

30-2025-01480195-PR-LA-CMC

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: **STEPHEN EDWARD KITTLE.**

**A PETITION FOR PROBATE** has been filed by **Betty DeKovner** in the Superior Court of California, County of **ORANGE.**

**THE PETITION FOR PROBATE** requests that **Betty DeKovner** be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

**THE PETITION** requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

**A HEARING** on the petition will be held on **July 2, 2025 at 1:30 p.m. in Dept. CM08** located at: 3390 HARBOR BLVD. COSTA MESA, CA 92626

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

**IF YOU OBJECT** to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

**IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR** or contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

**YOU MAY EXAMINE** the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for the Petitioner:  
W. VITO LANUTI, ESQ  
W. VITO LANUTI & ASSOCIATES, PC  
6621 E. PACIFIC COAST HWY., #260  
LONG BEACH, CA 90803  
Published in the ORANGE COAST DAILY PILOT on: 5/15, 5/16 & 5/22/2025

Legal Notices

BSC 226771

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: Anne Elizabeth Adamson

(aka Anne Elizabeth Adamson- Kovach)

30-2025-01476519-PR-LA-CMC

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: **Anne Elizabeth Adamson (aka Anne Elizabeth Adamson-Kovach).**

**A PETITION FOR PROBATE** has been filed by **BRYAN JAMES KOVACH** in the Superior Court of California, County of **ORANGE.**

**THE PETITION FOR PROBATE** requests that **BRYAN JAMES KOVACH** be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

**THE PETITION** requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

**A HEARING** on the petition will be held on **June 12, 2025 at 1:30 p.m. in Dept. CM07** located at: 3390 HARBOR BLVD. COSTA MESA, CA 92626

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

**IF YOU OBJECT** to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

**IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR** or contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

**YOU MAY EXAMINE** the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for the Petitioner:  
ANDREW DAVIS, ESQ  
FIRST CLASS COUNSEL  
620 NEWPORT CENTER DRIVE, STE 1100  
NEWPORT BEACH, CA 92660  
Published in the HUNTINGTON BEACH INDEPENDENT on: 5/15, 5/8 & 5/15/2025

Legal Notices

BSC 226816

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: COLUMBIA P. NELSON

30-2025-01480202-PR-PL-CMC

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: **COLUMBIA P. NELSON.**

**A PETITION FOR PROBATE** has been filed by **ERIC NELSON** in the Superior Court of California, County of **ORANGE.**

**THE PETITION FOR PROBATE** requests that **ERIC NELSON** be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

**THE PETITION** requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

**THE PETITION** requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

**A HEARING** on the petition will be held on **July 02, 2025 at 1:30 p.m. in Dept. CM08** located at: 3390 HARBOR BLVD. COSTA MESA, CA 92626

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

**IF YOU OBJECT** to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

**IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR** or contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

**YOU MAY EXAMINE** the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for the Petitioner:  
KEVIN G. RICE & ASSOCIATES  
18377 BEACH BLVD., STE 212  
HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA 92648  
Published in the HUNTINGTON BEACH INDEPENDENT on: 5/15, 5/22 & 5/29/2025

Legal Notices

BSC 226788

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: BRENT OWEN CANZANO, aka BRENT CANZANO

30-2025-01476017-PR-PW-CMC

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: **BRENT OWEN CANZANO, aka BRENT CANZANO.**

**A PETITION FOR PROBATE** has been filed by **Kirk Canzano** in the Superior Court of California, County of **ORANGE.**

**THE PETITION FOR PROBATE** requests that **Kirk Canzano** be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

**THE PETITION** requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

**THE PETITION** requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

**A HEARING** on the petition will be held on **June 12, 2025 at 1:30 p.m. in Dept. CM07** located at: 3390 HARBOR BLVD. COSTA MESA, CA 92626

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

**IF YOU OBJECT** to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

**IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR** or contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

**YOU MAY EXAMINE** the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for the Petitioner:  
CHRISTINA E. GENTILI NI, ESQ  
Williamson & Gentili  
1945 PALO VERDE AVE., STE 101  
LONG BEACH, CA 90815  
Published in the HUNTINGTON BEACH INDEPENDENT on: 5/8, 5/15 & 5/22/2025

Legal Notices

BSC 226765

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: Donald J. Riscol, aka Donald James Riscol, aka Donald Riscol

30-2025-01477134-PR-PW-CMC

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: **Donald J. Riscol, aka Donald James Riscol, aka Donald Riscol.**

**A PETITION FOR PROBATE** has been filed by **Diane Reafsnnyder** in the Superior Court of California, County of **ORANGE.**

**THE PETITION FOR PROBATE** requests that **Diane Reafsnnyder** be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

**THE PETITION** requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

**THE PETITION** requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

**A HEARING** on the petition will be held on **June 11, 2025 at 1:30 p.m. in Dept. CM08** located at: 3390 HARBOR BLVD. COSTA MESA, CA 92626

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

**IF YOU OBJECT** to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

**IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR** or contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

**YOU MAY EXAMINE** the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

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Published in the HUNTINGTON BEACH INDEPENDENT on: 5/1, 5/8 & 5/15/2025



SWIMMING

Local teams earn top-five finishes at CIF D1 swim finals

BY MATT SZABO

WALNUT — Fountain Valley High School sophomore Alyssa Ton celebrated her Sweet 16 birthday on Saturday.

Ton gave herself two great gifts at the CIF Southern Section Division 1 Swimming Championships.

She won the girls' 200- and 500-yard freestyle events going away, posting personal-best times in each event in the process.

"I didn't know [the meet] was on my birthday until maybe a couple of weeks ago," Ton said. "I think honestly, it's pretty fun to have it on my birthday. To go lifetime bests in both [events] on my birthday, that's really fun."

The special talent helped the Barons' girls place a strong third place as a team, up two spots from a year ago.

Newport Harbor's boys set three school records at the Division 1 finals and finished tied for fifth as a team.

Ton repeated as Division 1 girls' 200 freestyle champion, going out fast and cruising to a first-place finish in a time of 1 minute, 44.12 seconds.

"I wanted to go out pretty fast and see if I could hold on, and I think I did just that," she said.

She won the girls' 500 freestyle by nearly five seconds, cruising to the wall in 4:43.19. Fountain Valley coach Nathan Wilcox said that at Thursday's meet preliminaries, Ton had broken the 1974 school record of Olympic champion Shirley Babashoff in the event. She lowered that time by more than a full second on Saturday.

She also swam leadoff as the Fountain Valley 200 medley relay team, which also featured senior Kaitlyn Nguyen, freshman Audrey Prall and senior Leyna Nguyen, touched third in 1:45.04.

Kaitlyn Nguyen finished second in the 200 IM and fourth in the breaststroke for the Barons, while Wilcox said his team also benefited from the improvement of Leyna Nguyen, who made the "A" final in the 50 free and the "B" final of the 100 freestyle.

"We're building something really good at Fountain Valley," Wilcox said. "We're hoping that in three

to five years, we're up there with Santa Margarita and we have a chance of winning it every year. That's the goal. That's what we're trying to build."

Newport Harbor junior Connor Ohl won the boys' 50 free in 20.04 seconds, a week after swimming a 19.79 at Sunset League finals to become the second Orange County boy to go under 20 seconds.

"I only wanted to win when I came here today, and that's what I did," said Ohl, who also placed fourth in the 100 freestyle. "It's obviously not a 19, but to win any day is a great day. It's awesome."

Sailors senior Aidan Arie won the consolation final in the boys' 200 IM in 1:48.83, a time that would have placed him second in the championship final. In doing so, he broke the school record in the event set by Olympic champion Aaron Peirsol in 2000.

It was the third individual school record of Arie's high school career.

"[Peirsol] still has a standing world record, that's the crazy part," said Arie, who also took second place in the butterfly. "The 200 back is still his. I was looking at his record on the board, and I was like, 'Can I do that?' It's pretty cool to take him down. I'm just stoked."

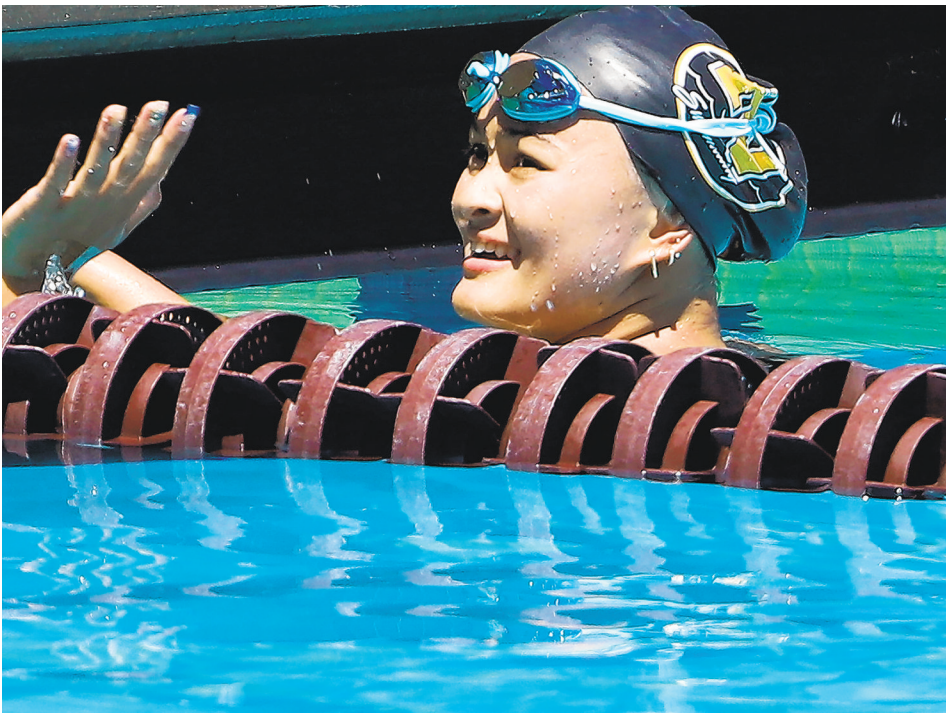
Later in the meet, Arie also helped the Sailors also set school records in the 200 and 400 freestyle relays. The 200 free relay quartet of Dash D'Ambrosia, James Mulvey, Arie and Ohl touched third in 1:22.63, while the 400 free relay featuring the same swimmers in the same order also finished third in 3:01.63.

Newport Harbor coach Kevin Potter said the Sailors boys set school records in six of 11 events this year, while Arie also set the 500 freestyle record last year. The Newport Harbor pool is under reconstruction and set to reopen next school year.

"Next year, when that new record board goes up, it's going to be a lot of new names on there," Ohl said. "Mulvey and Dash really wanted to have their names on that board."

Fountain Valley junior Peter Vu finished third in both of his individual events, the 200 IM and the breaststroke.

In the girls' breaststroke



James Carbone

FOUNTAIN VALLEY'S Alyssa Ton smiles after winning the girls' 500-yard freestyle on Saturday.

event, CdM sophomore Sofia Szymanowski broke her own school record and placed a strong second in 1:00.79, less than four-tenths of a second behind repeat champion Bella Brito from Mira Costa. Szymanowski said a bee sting suffered during preliminaries affected her in her other strokes, but not as much in the breaststroke.

"I'm going to be sad when they're graduated next year," Symanowski said of Nguyen, who is her training partner in club swimming at Irvine Novaquatics, and Brito. "I just love racing against them."

CdM's Nikki Lahey, Szy-

manowski, Alex Milisavljevic and Kennedy Smith placed eighth in the medley relay, while Szymanowski, Milisavljevic, Josie Alaluf and Lahey were ninth in the 200 free relay. CdM's girls also finished ninth as a team.

Lahey, a senior, capped her high school career with two individual championship finals. She was seventh in the girls' 100 free and eighth in the 50 free.

Edison junior Holden Lee also made two championship finals, finishing fourth in the boys' backstroke and eighth in the butterfly.

Costa Mesa's boys, who

had won the Division 3 championship in 2023 and the Division 2 title last year, found the going more tough in Division 1. Still, Mustangs junior Avrum Xagorarakis was the consolation champion in the 200 freestyle on Saturday.

Santa Margarita's girls won their 11th straight CIF team title at the meet, while the Santa Margarita boys won their fifth straight crown.

Wilcox said that several of his top Irvine Novaquatics club swimmers will now turn their attention to the USA Swimming National Championships, set for June 3-7 in Indianapolis.

But Arie said he will compete at the CIF State Swimming Championships, which begin Friday at Clovis Olympic Swim Complex.

DIVISION 2

Marina senior Jadyn Chaffins finished fifth in the 50 free on Friday at Mt. SAC, touching in 24.59 seconds and ending her career as the second-fastest in the event in Vikings history.

Among other swimmers in championship finals, Costa Mesa sophomore Melanie Pang placed sixth in the 100 breaststroke and Sage Hill senior Dylan Rosmann finished fifth in the boys' 100 freestyle.

DIVISION 3

Ocean View sophomore Thai Nguyen placed ninth in the boys' 100 breaststroke, pacing local finishers on Friday at Mt. SAC.

DIVISION 4

Ocean View's girls placed ninth as a team at the finals Thursday at Mt. SAC.

Seahawks senior Morgan Carles placed top three in each of her individual events. She was second in the 100 backstroke in 59.68 and third in the 100 freestyle in 53.11. Fellow Ocean View senior Gabrielle Singer was eighth in the 100 free.

The Ocean View girls' 400 free relay team of Singer, Gaby Zifcak, Serena Ruiz and Carles placed third in 4:01.90.

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Legal Notices

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: FREDERICK P. CEMBERLEN CASE NUMBER 30-2025-01479428-PR-LA-CMC**

**ESTATE OF FREDERICK P. CEMBERLEN**

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of Frederick P. Cemberlen

A petition for Probate has been filed by Janet Cemberlen in the Superior Court of California, County of ORANGE.

The Petition for Probate requests that Janet Cemberlen appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: **6/26/2025, 1:30 PM Dept CM07.** Superior Court of California, County of Orange 3390 Harbor Blvd, Costa Mesa, CA 92626, Costa Mesa Justice Complex

If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the **later** of either (1) **four months** from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) **60 days** from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. **Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.**

You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

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Published in the Daily Pilot 5/15, 5/22, and 5/29/2025

Legal Notices

Legal Notices

Legal Notices

Legal Notices

T.S. No. 24-70219 APN: 422-144-08 **NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 10/20/2004. 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 drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or 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, 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: **CELIA V. LITTLE, AN UNMARRIED WOMAN** Duly Appointed Trustee: **ZBS LAW, LLP** Deed of Trust recorded 10/26/2004, as Instrument No. 2004000962388, of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Orange County, California, Date of Sale: **6/4/2025** at 3:00 PM Place of Sale: On the front steps to the entrance of the Orange Civic Center, 300 E. Chapman, Orange, CA Estimated amount of unpaid balance and other charges: **\$536,204.69** Note: Because the Beneficiary reserves the right to bid less than the total debt owed, it is possible that at the time of the sale the opening bid may be less than the total debt owed. Street Address or other common designation of real property: **1973 ANAHEIM AVE COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA 92627** Described as follows: As more fully described on said Deed of Trust. A.P.N #: **422-144-08** The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness 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. **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 (866) 266-7512 or visit this internet website [www.elitepostandpub.com](http://www.elitepostandpub.com), using the 24-70219. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. **NOTICE TO TENANT:** You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (866) 266-7512, or visit this internet website [www.elitepostandpub.com](http://www.elitepostandpub.com), using the 24-70219 to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. Dated: **5/1/2025 ZBS LAW, LLP, as Trustee 30 Corporate Park, Suite 450 Irvine, CA 92606 For Non-Automated Sale Information, call: (714) 848-7920 For Sale Information: (866) 266-7512 [www.elitepostandpub.com](http://www.elitepostandpub.com) Michael Busby, Trustee Sale Officer** This office is enforcing a security interest of your creditor. To the extent that your obligation has been discharged by a bankruptcy court or is subject to an automatic stay of bankruptcy, this notice is for informational purposes only and does not constitute a demand for payment or any attempt to collect such obligation. EPP 43564 Pub Dates 05/08, 05/15, 05/22/2025

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HOW TO GET PUBLISHED

Send an email to [nicole.charkychami@latimes.com](mailto:nicole.charkychami@latimes.com) and include your full name, hometown and phone number (for verification purposes). All letters should be kept to 350 words or less and address local issues and events. The Daily Pilot reserves the right to limit the frequency of publication and edit accepted submissions for clarity, accuracy and length.



BOYS' VOLLEYBALL

# Huntington Beach tunes up for final

BY SCOTT FRENCH

It all went as it was supposed to go, another sweep to gird the resolve ahead of a top-tier boys' volleyball final — a No. 1-versus-No. 2 showdown, thanks to what was occurring up the coast — with a shot at a CIF Southern Section championship for the first time in a decade.

Everyone wished it could have been otherwise.

Huntington Beach, ranked second in the state and third in the nation, marched into Friday night's Division 1 title game at Cerritos College against top-ranked Mira Costa by making easy work of defending champion Los Angeles Loyola.

The 25-15, 25-21, 25-21 home triumph last Friday evening didn't mean a whole lot — the Oilers had clinched Pool B's berth with Tuesday's sweep of Redondo Union, and Loyola was going to miss the regional tournament regardless — except for their aspirations and, more vitally, the Cubs' desperation.

Loyola (27-7) arrived a broken team, reeling from the May 4 death of its team manager. Braun Levi, a University of Virginia-bound senior and Loyola tennis star, died early that morning after an allegedly impaired driver struck him as he walked across Sepulveda Boulevard in Manhattan Beach. Volleyball isn't the priority right now.

"They've checked out. They're not here," Loyola head coach Michael Boehle said before the game. "These guys have been hit with a lot. They got hit with my diagnosis of cancer early on [this season]. They got nailed with fires [in January]. And then they got nailed with the teammate's death. And they just aren't there.

"They're just not mentally there, you know? They're drained."

The Cubs hadn't practiced all week, and Boehle considered forfeiting their final two pool games, but "they wanted to play, and I love the fact that they gave it a shot."

Loyola, seeded third and aiming for a third successive CIF State Southern Cal-



James Carbone

**HUNTINGTON BEACH'S** Logan Hutnick (11), seen against Newport Harbor on April 30, had 14 kills on Friday against Loyola.

ifornia Regional title, had opened Pool B play by, Boehle said, "overlook[ing]" Redondo, which was "flawless" and was "not going to get beat that night." Levi, whose family had relocated to Manhattan Beach after their home was destroyed in the Palisades fire, was killed three nights later. The close-knit Loyola community — the all-boys institution is the most prominent Catholic high school in Los Angeles — was devastated.

"There really isn't any words," said Boehle, who completed his 29th campaign as head coach. "I tried to navigate this as best I can. I just didn't have any answers for it. ... It's important that these guys stay together, as a group, as a brotherhood. That's what we've been telling them all week: 'This is your family. These are your brothers.'"

So they went out together Tuesday night against sixth-seeded Newport Harbor and were listless in a four-set defeat.

"People are like, 'Hey, you're not in the finals this year,'" said Boehle, who has won seven section titles in 12 title-game appearances since 2003. "And I'm like, 'It's OK.' Like, 'We've got bigger things to worry about than being in the fi-

nals.'"

Friday night's finale was a chance for the Cubs to honor Levi. A moment of silence started the encounter, and Boehle made certain everybody got court time "so they can all say we did it for Braun."

"The outcome doesn't matter," he said.

The game was to be played Saturday, but Loyola held a "celebration of life" for Levi that evening, and Huntington Beach head coach Craig Pazanti "told Mike whenever he wanted to play, whatever he wanted to do, we were going to be OK with it."

"I think that's the great thing about the volleyball community," Pazanti said. "We can come together when we have stuff like this. As much as we want to beat each other and are at each other's throats sometimes, you never want to see anybody have to go through this situation. I've been through it, as a coach a long time ago, when I first started coaching, and I know how devastating it can be to the team and the community."

The outcome was expected. Huntington Beach (34-3) has one of its best teams since winning section and regional champi-

onships in 2013, 2014 and 2015, had beaten Loyola twice, 3-0 the second time, and came in "respecting our opponents by playing our hearts out," senior libero Aiden Atencio called it.

"We want to play one way," he said. "We wanted to come out and win, 3-0. Even though this game didn't matter and we were clinched, we wanted to come out of a victory going into the finals."

The Oilers were dominant, using their serve-and-pass game and strong performances at the net from sophomore outside hitter Logan Hutnick (14 kills, two blocks) and senior middle blocker Nick Ganier Jr. (10 kills) to lead start to finish in the first set, take a sizable lead in the second, and pull away midway through the third.

Pazanti went deeper down his bench than usual, seeing it as "a great opportunity for a lot of guys to get on the floor who might not get on the floor." Starting outside hitter Colin Choi and opposite Ben Arguello, both juniors, had most of the night off.

The Oilers are short on stars — only setter Kai Gan, headed to Harvard, is set to play Division I in college —

but big on the collective. Choi and Arguello pounce on the chances outside, with Ganier and senior Justin Bulsom but manning the middle, and Gan ("one of the best setters in CIF," Pazanti says) — and Atencio, a four-year starter, keeping things moving. Hutnick, one of the best hitters in the 2027 class, and sophomore Easton Ebmeyer, just back from an ankle injury that's sidelined him all season, provide attacking depth.

It's looked like their best shot at the program's sixth CIF title since the 2013-15 reign, except for the presence of Mira Costa (31-2). The Mustangs, who lost to Loyola in last year's final, are a monster team.

"We're going to go get our slingshot, and we're going to give it our best effort," Pazanti said. "They're a big, physical team. We're not going to change. We're going to play our game. We're going to go out there and just do the best we can do. What we've been doing has been pretty successful."

The teams met back in February, at the Redondo Classic, with Huntington Beach, without Choi, dropping a 25-23, 25-23 decision. The Mustangs' only losses were in the Best of the West tournament final to Loyola (after the Cubs topped Huntington Beach in the semifinals) in early March and against national No. 2 Marist — two days after sweeping the Chicago school on their home court — at the Karch Kiraly Tournament of Champions in Santa Barbara in early April. Marist beat Huntington Beach the same day.

"[Mira Costa has] been pretty dominant the whole year ...," Gan said. "They're huge guys. They work really hard, and they're just all-around, really big competitors. Coming into it, you have to know you have nothing to lose. Us beating them would be truly a big accomplishment."

Mira Costa has won the last six meetings, two of them in Division 1 playoff games — 3-0 in a 2019 quarterfinal and 3-2 in 2023 pool play. The Oilers won semifinal showdowns en route to their 2013 and 2015 section titles.

Pazanti, who also won a 2021 Division II regional title, sees similarities between Mira Costa and his title teams that supplied the bulk of a 2012-16 winning streak that reached 121 games.

"[Our 2013-15 teams were] a different breed," he said. "You had the guy who started in the last two Olympics [T.J. DeFalco]. You have two guys who barely didn't make that cut in the Olympics. You got guys playing professionally overseas. We had 12 Division I players on that team."

"You look at the [Mira] Costa roster, and that's kind of what they have. I don't know if they have any Olympians, but they've got 11, 12 guys that are going to go play Division I volleyball."

Atencio says it "all comes down to what we do on our side."

"I think the serve and pass game is going to be crucial, but also the blocking," he said. "They're a very big, physical team, and I think that we have the blocks to handle that, the defense to scramble, and so we just need to have that grit and show out and execute."

Loyola keeps working through the pain.

"[I feel for] the family," Boehle said. "As a parent, I can't imagine what they're going through. I've got four kids. Someone said it best at school: As a parent, I want to be buried before I have to bury my own child. My heart goes out to them."

Boehle has one last task. Levi's father, Dan, emailed the coach after the Palisades fire, sent him a photo of Braun wearing his volleyball championship ring, except it was melted.

"I ordered him a new ring, to present to him this year at the end of our banquet," he said. "And I'm not going to be able to do that. I still get goosebumps. It breaks my heart. You just never know."

"That's the one thing that I'm really crushed by, that I'm not going to be able to hand him that. But 'you earned this.' I've got to give it to his mom and dad."

SCOTT FRENCH is a contributor to the Daily Pilot.

GIRLS' LACROSSE

# Oilers bow out to El Segundo in CIF semifinals

BY MATT SZABO

The Huntington Beach High girls' lacrosse team had to deal with a lot of adversity this year, and it started a month before the season even began.

Kelly Reid, a junior who played lacrosse, flag football and soccer at the school, died with her father in a plane crash in early January.

"She would have been a huge part of our team," said Oilers coach Brian Eisenberg, knowing that Reid still played a major role, as "For Kelly" became the team chant.

Huntington Beach battled its way to the semifinals of the CIF Southern Section Division 2 playoffs, but top-seeded El Segundo earned a 13-10 win Friday night at Cap Sheue Field to end the Oilers' season.

Huntington Beach (8-12) jumped on El Segundo (16-6) early, opening up by scoring five unanswered goals in the first quarter.

As the match went on, however, the visiting Eagles did a better job of controlling the draws and fighting back.

El Segundo freshman Riley Clinton led everyone with four goals scored, while fellow freshman Contessa Tipton also scored and played a key role.

"They've just jumped right in from the start, and we're so lucky to have them," El Segundo coach Shea MacDonald said. "It's really special to have such young leaders, to have that opportunity. A lot of times, players have to wait until their junior or senior years



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**ELLE TRAN** (5) of Huntington Beach shoots and scores after a fast break on El Segundo goalie Kyra Snell (20) during the CIF Southern Section Division 2 semifinals on Friday.

to have leadership roles, but they really stepped into it on their own and the team has been better than ever because of it."

El Segundo pulled within a goal twice during the second quarter, before a late eight-meter goal from Huntington Beach senior captain Lolo Pilkington gave the hosts a 7-5 half-time advantage.

But the visitors, who will play St. Margaret's on Fri-

day in the Division 2 title match, scored three unanswered goals in the third quarter. They took their first lead at 8-7 on a quick shot by senior Arrow Koester.

Huntington Beach junior Elle Tran gained control near the left sideline midway through the fourth quarter and sped toward the goal in front of several opponents. Her strike tied the score at 9-9 with 7:37

remaining, before El Segundo scored three straight goals.

Ella Jones and Pilkington led the Oilers with three goals each, while Summer Vandergrift added a pair of goals. Tatum Viezbicke also scored for Huntington Beach, with Pilkington leading with four draw controls.

"Just to see them fight through everything and fight through that last

game; the kids are amazing," Eisenberg said. "I can't say that enough. It sucks when you lose, but I'm so inspired by them. Truly inspired."

Huntington Beach, which won the Division 3 title in its inaugural varsity season in 2023, was trying to make its second CIF final in three years. The Oilers lost Vandergrift for several games early in the season, after she suffered a

concussion against this same El Segundo team in a match that Huntington Beach lost in overtime.

Senior goalkeeper Bella Verdone also missed the entire season with a knee injury. Francesca Thong stepped up as a replacement for much of the season, and fellow junior Bleu Thomas, a recruit from softball, made five saves Friday.

Playing a tough schedule, the team lost seven of eight games heading into Sunset League play, all by double digits. The Oilers were close to the league title, losing by a goal to both league champion Edison and Corona del Mar, but continued to fight all the way to the final whistle.

Entering the playoffs, Huntington Beach earned consecutive one-goal wins over Royal and Palos Verdes to earn its semifinal berth.

"Just watching us grow together and bond as a team has been really special," Pilkington said. "I'm super grateful for the time I've had here."

Losing Reid before the season even began undoubtedly left its mark as well, she said, adding that the tragedy brought the team closer together in some ways.

"We were able to practice more as a team," Pilkington said. "We were able to bond in our sorrow, just able to share emotions. We can't change what happened, but that's why now we play for Kelly no matter what."

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