Daily Pilot

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 2023 /// dailypilot.com

Rally held in H.B. for Trump

About 50 supporters gathered nearby the Huntington Beach pier after news of the former president's indictment.

BY ERIC LICAS

In response to the filing of criminal charges against Donald Trump, dozens gathered in Huntington Beach Saturday for a rally in support of the former president that was interrupted when at least one demonstrator was struck in the head with a skateboard.

Trump was indicted March 30 by a grand jury in Manhattan in connection with the payment of hush money to adult film actress Stormy Daniels, becoming the first former U.S. president to ever face criminal prosecution. On Tuesday, he appeared in a Manhattan courtroom to plead not guilty to 34 felony counts of falsifying business records.

The charges are typically misdemeanors, but prosecutors elevated them to felonies because they argue the alleged offenses were committed to conceal violations of New York's election laws.

The details of the case filed against Trump had been under seal Saturday as some of his supporters gathered in front of the pier at Pacific Coast Highway and Main Street in Huntington Beach. Many of them were convinced the allegations had no merit, though they had not yet been released to the public at the time.

"The impact it will have will ultimately be favorable to Trump," Huntington Beach resident Kelly Johnson said. "Because the people will see it's nothing more than a personal attack. Just that — a witch hunt."

Victoria Cooper of Westminster and Lam Tran of Santa Ana were among several Vietnamese Americans who took part in the demonstration. They said they were prisoners of war who fled persecution from communists in the 1970s and support Trump and other Republicans because they believe Democrats will lead the country toward

See **Rally,** page A2



VICTORIA COOPER, 72, of Westminster, joins supporters of former President Donald Trump at a rally in Huntington Beach.



Photos by Eric Licas

A MOTORIST gives a thumbs up to supporters of former President Donald Trump during a rally in Huntington Beach on Saturday.

San Bernardino man arrested in alleged assault at Trump gathering



Eric Licas

SKATEBOARDERS CLASH with a group of demonstrators gathered in support of recently indicted former President Trump in front of Huntington Beach Pier on Saturday.

BY MELISSA GOMEZ

A 33-year-old San Bernardino man was arrested after a fight broke out during a Saturday protest near the Huntington Beach Pier, where supporters of former President Trump gathered following the announcement he had been indicted.

Daniel Salvador Angulo Serrano was arrested around 1:30 p.m. after a fight broke out near the pier, according to Huntington Beach Police. He was arrested on suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon that was not a firearm, according to police records.

"We did have, for the most part, a peaceful protest," said Jennifer Carey, public affairs manager for the city of Huntington Beach. A person who suffered "minor injuries" related to the fight was taken to a hospital as a precaution, Carey said.

The Times previously reported that two demonstrators at the protest were hit with skateboards, and one of the victims had been leading chants that denounced the indictment against the former president. The victim was bleeding from the head. One demonstrates

See **Assault**, page A2

LUPE

Bouncer gets 18 months for dealing drugs in N.B.

BY PAUL ANDERSON

A 49-year-old former security manager for a Newport Beach bar, who was acquitted of distributing fentanyl that killed a man at the club seven years ago, was sentenced Monday to 18 months in federal prison for possessing and dealing other drugs.

Sean Robert McLaughlin was

acquitted Oct. 26 of one count of distribution of furanyl fentanyl resulting in death and serious bodily injury. Jurors deliberated for about a day.

However, McLaughlin was convicted of a count of distribution of cocaine and four counts of possession with intent to distribute cocaine, methamphet-

See **Dealing**, page A4

HUNTINGTON BEACH UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT Congratulations LUPE MELGOZA 2024 TEACHER OF THE YEAR

MELGOZA, center, was named one of the Huntington Beach Union High School District's 2024 Teachers of

the Year.

Courtesy of Huntington Beach Union High School District

ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



Courtesy of Melissa Vandenbosch

Melgoza, Gillett honored as H.B. Union High School District Teachers of the Year

BY MATT SZABO

For more than two decades, Guadalupe "Lupe" Melgoza has been the Practitioners of English Language Learning (PELL) coordinator at Marina High.

Several years ago, she also became the English Language Learners facilitator for the entire Huntington Beach Union High School District.

Taking that second position required some coaxing from her

husband, she said.

"I think the most rewarding thing about teaching is the fact that you have the opportunity, as an educator, to sort of push your students to leave their comfort zone," Melgoza said. "I know that for me, personally, that's how I've grown. When this position opened up as a facilitator, I had

no intention of coming in."

But she pushed forward. Melgoza, who has taught English at Marina High for the last 24 years, makes a positive impact on the Viking campus and in the district.

Viking campus and in the district. She and Ocean View High teacher Courtney Gillett have been named the 2024 Huntington Beach Union High School

See **Teachers,** page A2

Irvine pharmacist sentenced to 15 years in \$11M scheme

BY CITY NEWS SERVICE

A former Orange County pharmacist was sentenced Monday to 15 years behind bars for her role in a healthcare fraud scheme that bilked the U.S. military's healthcare plan out of more than \$11 million.

Sandy Mai Trang Nguyen, 43, of Irvine, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Otis D. Wright II, who also ordered her to pay \$11,098,755 in restitution, according to the U.S. attorney's office.

Nguyen was convicted

in November in Los Angeles of 21 counts of healthcare fraud, and one count of obstruction of a federal

The scheme involved the filling of more than 1,000 bogus prescriptions for compounded medications at the expense of the Tricare healthcare plan.

Compounded drugs are tailor-made products doctors may prescribe when the Food and Drug Administration-approved alternative does not meet the health needs of a pa-

Nguyen was the lead pharmacist at the nowshuttered Irvine Wellness Pharmacy. From late 2014 to May 2015, Nguyen and others under her supervision filled about 1,150 compounded prescriptions for pain, scarring and migraines, with Tricare funding reimbursements of tens of thousands of dollars per prescription.

Prosecutors said the bulk of the prescriptions were directed to the pharmacy by so-called market-

See **Scheme**, page A3

TEACHERS

Continued from page A1

District Teachers of the Year.

Melgoza, who is also a leader for the Marina Youth Theatre program, said she empathizes with her students. Though she was born and raised in Huntington Beach, both of her parents are immigrants from Mexico.

She taught an Intro to Theater summer school course last summer and convinced many of her English language learners to take the course. She said that many ended up riding their bikes from Marina to the Huntington Beach High theater, as Marina Youth Theatre readied for its initial production of "Shrek the Mu-

"I myself was an English language learner in kindergarten, all the way to maybe third grade," she said. "These kids mean a lot to me because I feel like there's a connection. I know exactly what they're going through. Missing home is something that I grew up with, too. Not that I missed home, because I was born and raised here, but I experienced watching my mom also miss

Gillett said she is rarely



Courtesy of Huntington Beach Union High School District

COURTNEY GILLETT, center, was named one of the Huntington Beach Union High School District's 2024 Teachers of the Year.

speechless, but she was just that when she found out about earning Teacher of the Year honors.

She is the teacher behind the Ocean View IDE-AS program, an inclusive program designed to support students with special

Gillett also serves as the district liaison for Unified Sports, which hosts events across the district that unite special education students with their classmates in a game setting. Last fall, Ocean View High was honored as a Special Olympics National Banner Unified Champion School

"It's really exciting, every step that it grows,"

said Gillett, who has been at Ocean View since the 2019-20 school year and was at Fountain Valley High before that. "I'm always looking like, what better can we do? People are starting to see the value of it. Even the [general education] kids at Ocean View are like, 'When's the next tournament?' It's exciting to see the excitement.'

One thing that's unique about the IDEAS program is that Gillett has her students for all four years. She said that's led to a bit more urgency in her teaching, coming back from the coronavirus pan-

See **Teachers**, page A3

ASSAULT

Continued from page A1

strator who said he witnessed the attack on fellow demonstrators told The Times that the attack was

unprovoked.

Earlier last week, Trump's attorneys confirmed the former president had been indicted in New York City on charges related to an alleged payment made to a porn actor during the final days

of the 2016 presidential campaign. It is the first time in history that a former U.S. president has been criminally prosecuted.

Melissa Gomez is a reporter for the Los Angeles Times.

RALLY

Continued from page A1

socialism.

About 50 people joined Cooper and Tran during the rally. Some bore signs, flags or crosses as they chanted "stand up for Trump" and other slogans, occasionally garnering honks thumbs up from passing motorists.

Palm Springs resident Martha Hart, 70, stays at a second property in Huntington Beach on weekends and stopped to take in the rally as she passed by the pier Saturday. She describes herself as pro-Trump and said all of her friends and relatives do too.

"Everybody I talk to now is supporting Trump ... everyone I know is on the same page," she said. "I think the charges are a ridiculous joke."

Another passerby, Huntington Beach resident Sean Olson, 46, said he didn't vote for Trump in 2016. But he approved of his leadership and said he dislikes what he has seen so far from the Biden administration.

Olson said he believed the charges filed against Trump were "political grandstanding" on the part of Manhattan Dist. Atty. Alvin Bragg. But, he said, a guilty verdict would cause him to reevaluate his position and should cause other conservatives to do the same.

"I think any case he's found guilty, that absolutely should [be taken into consideration]," he said. "But until there's a guilty verdict, that's pretty tough because in this country it's supposed to be innocent until proven guilty."

A few people with bullhorns made repeated references to the gender identity of the suspect in the shooting that left six people dead at a school in Nashville,



Photos by Eric Licas

NICK

FRANCES EDWARDS, right, gets into a heated debate with supporters of former President Donald Trump on Saturday.



TAURUS wipes blood from his face

after he was struck by a skateboard during a fight at Huntington Beach Pier.

Tenn. They were heard saying "Hey, tranny [sic], leave those kids alone" and "build the wall."

Not everyone who encountered the demonstrators was supportive.

Frances Edwards, who identifies as a Christian, was born and raised in Huntington Beach and moved to Northern California about three years ago. She was visiting over the weekend and became upset when she heard demonstrators claim that God was on their side and that Donald Trump was a "king."

"Nobody is king of the United States, that was the whole point of the constitution," she told the Daily Pilot after getting into a heated discussion with several Trump supporters. "It just makes me so sad because this is not Huntington

The rally was briefly interrupted when a fight broke out at about 12:30 p.m. A handful of people exchanged blows after a group of young men passing by exchanged insults with people at the protest.

One Trump supporter, vocal Orange County conservative Nick Taurus, was left bloodied after he was struck in the head with a skateboard. He was taken to a hospital, while Huntington Beach police took a suspect in the altercation into custody.

The suspect was identified by police as Daniel Salvador Angulo Serrano, 33, of San Bernardino. He was released after posting \$25,000 bail, and charges had not been filed against him as of Tuesday.

eric.licas@latimes.com Twitter: @EricLicas

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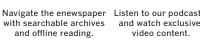
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THE DAILY **COMMUTER PUZZLE**

By Jacqueline E. *Mathews*

ACROSS

1 Flood refuge 4 As a hornet 9 Think deeply 13 Cry loudly 15 _ legislation; make laws 16 As straight arrow 17 Minstrel's harp 18 Concur 19 _ a hand to; assist 20 Most emaciated 22 Vexes 23 Realtor's deliaht 24 Mattress problem 26 Dwell in 29 Virtue 34 Once the world's largest retailer 35 Mortgages, e.g. 36 Kick oneself for 37 Walking aid 38 Pieces of silverware 39 Sketch 40 "Not Stranger"; Sinatra film 41 Hereditary factors 42 Pet _; thorn in one's side 43 Fell off the wagon 45 _ together; united for a cause 46 Yoga pad 47 Accepted standard

48 Having the needed skills 51 Crucial 56 Luau spoiler 57 Legally binding 58 Bug spray 60 Not indecent 61 Make laugh 62 Approx. 2.2 lbs. 63 Not his, mine or yours 64 Beer

65 Gen. Robert E.

SUDOKU

By The Mepham Group

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve

Sudoku, visit <i>sudoku.org.uk</i> .											
		1				7					
				9				2			
9	3				6		4				
3			1					6			
5			3	7	8			1			
8					9			5			
			5				1	3			
6				8							
		2				9					

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

DOWN

1 Belt-maker's tool 2 Sunbeams 3 Actor Douglas 4 In a cruel way 5 Girl's nickname 6 Take a risk 7 Large diamonds

8 Cowboy hats

9 Vilify 10 Drug addict 11 Didn't float 12 Loose _; unfinished business 14 Free time

21 Takes a rest 25 Product pitches

charming 33 Made clothes 35 "The _ Ranger" 38 Gala event 39 European nation 41 Univ. admission factor 42 Hair line 44 Rectifies; reforms 45 Outermost edge 47 Bang or boom 48 Prefix for enemy or angel 49 Actor Christian 50 One not to be trusted 52 First word, perhaps 53 Sink stopper 54 Hammerer's target 55 Rummikub piece

26 Green Muppet

28 Erie or Panama

27 Discontinue

30 Thousand _,

29 Pierced

31 Misspoke

32 Smoothly

CA

Tribune Media Services

female deer"

59 "_, a deer, a

SCHEME

Continued from page A2

ers who received kickbacks of nearly 50% of the Tricare reimbursements.

According to prosecutors, beneficiaries were solicited to provide their Tricare insurance information for medications they did not need, and most were never examined by a physician.

The jury in Los Angeles federal court heard that Nguyen knew the prescriptions were written by doc-

tors who didn't live in the same state as the supposed beneficiaries. In some cases multiple members of the same families received the same medications. In one case, a 13-year-old boy in Chicago received the same prescription as an 86-year-old woman in Orange County who turned out to be Nguyen's grandmother, prosecutors said.

The pharmacy billed beneficiaries for hundreds of dollars in required copayments, but they balked at the payments, saying they understood the medications were fully covered by Tricare. The total copayments due during the scheme exceeded \$16,000, but the pharmacy never collected them.

Nguyen obstructed a federal audit by providing bogus, cut-and-pasted prescriptions to cover-up Tricare's effort to validate millions of dollars paid for the same prescriptions.

Last month, Marcus Armstrong, 56, of Miami, was sentenced by Wright to 9½ years in federal prison

Legal Notices

for his role in the scheme. Armstrong was once the director of operations at the Irvine pharmacy. pleaded guilty in October to two counts of paying illegal kickbacks for healthcare re-

Codefendants Leslie Andre Ezidore, 53, of West Los Angeles, and Alexander Michael Semenik, 51, of Las Vegas, have pleaded guilty to felony charges in this case and await sentencing.

dailypilot@latimes.com Twitter: @TheDailyPilot

TEACHERS

Continued from page A2

"As a teacher, I struggled through COVID," she said. "I had my own kids at home too, so they were struggling. I hated every second of being home, and I think now it's just really given me a new perspective.

"I mean, there are still mornings where I'm like, 'Oh, my gosh, it's cold, I'd rather stay in bed.' But students were to come back, they craved social interaction with each other. I think I've just learned not to take anything for granted."

seeing how happy our

Melgoza and Gillett will be honored this spring by the Orange County Department of Education. If selected to represent the county, they may move on to compete at the state

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LOSCALZO in the Superior Court of California, County

LOSCALZO be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

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

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affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California

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 Petitioner

ERIC B. JETER, ESQ. - SBN 261839 JETER LAW

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CNS-3684570# DAILY PILOT

BSC 223115 **NOTICE OF PETITION** TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: Sue Matsuyo Teraoka 30-2023-01314889-PR-LA-CJC To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent

creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: Sue Matsuyo Teraoka. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by

David Yoshio Teraoka in the Superior Court of California, County of **ORANGE**. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that David Yoshio Teraoka be appointed as personal

representative to administer the estate of the

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 May 04, 2023 at 1:30 P.M. in Dept. CM6 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.

Published in the ORANGE COAST DAILY PILOT on:

Attorney for the Petitioner: TRENT Ć. MARCUS, ESQ TRENT C. MARCUS, A LAW CORPORATION 19900 BEACH BLVD, C-1 HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA 92648

3/31, 4/5 & 4/6/2023



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Legal Notices Legal Notices NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS No.: MACD.077-529 APN: 139-081-06 Title Order No.: 2230196CAD YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 10/17/2016. 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: Mark A. Olson a single man Duly Appointed Trustee: PROBER AND RAPHAEL, ALC Recorded 10/24/2016 as Instrument No. 2016000519408 in book N/A, page N/A of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Orange County, California, Date of Sale: 5/1/2023 at 9:00 AM Place of Sale: Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Anaheim - Orange County, 100 The City Drive, Orange, CA 92868, Auction.com Room Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$380,139.95 Street Address or other common designation of real property: 3221 MINNESOTA AVENUE COSTA MESA, California 92626 A.P.N.: 139-081-06 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 (855) 976-3916 or visit this Web

https://tracker.auction.com/sb1079, using the file number assigned to this case MACD.077-529. 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. For sales conducted after January 1, 2021: 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 (855) 976-3916, or this website internet https://tracker.auction.com/sb1079, using the file

number assigned to this case MACD.077-529 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. Date: 3/24/2023 PROBER AND RAPHAEL, ALC 20750 Ventura Blvd. #100 Woodland Hills, California 91364 Sale Line: (855) 976-3916 Rita Terzyan, Trustee Sale Officer A-4778869 04/05/2023, 04/12/2023,

04/19/2023

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

Oilers capture prestigious tournament title

BY MATT SZABO

The Huntington Beach High baseball team won the prestigious National High School Invitational tournament on Saturday. The Oilers defeated Orange County foe JSerra 8-1 in the championship game, held at the Baseball Training Complex in Cary, N.C.

Huntington Beach won the NHSI for the second time in program history; the 2016 team also won the title. Sophomore right-handed pitcher Tyler Bellerose, who pitched into the seventh inning of the title game and also pitched three scoreless

innings in relief earlier in the tournament, earned tournament MVP honors. Bellerose is committed to Pepperdine University.

Senior USC signee Dean Carpentier and senior Arizona State signee Ralphy Velazquez also earned alltournament team honors Huntington Beach (12-6), which has now won 10 straight games.

The Oilers took a 1-0 lead in the third inning of the title game on Tony Martinez's RBI single, before JSerra tied it up in the seventh. The score stayed 1-1 until the ninth, when Huntington Beach erupted for seven

After sophomore Linkin Garcia drove in a run, senior Aidan Espinoza tripled with the bases loaded to give the Oilers a 5-1 lead. Senior Bradley Navarro added a two-run triple of his own.

Huntington Beach became the third team to win multiple NHSI titles, joining Mater Dei and Orange Lutheran. Three of the four semifinalists also were from Orange County; Huntington Beach beat Bishop Gorman of Las Vegas 3-2 in one semifinal, while JSerra beat Santa Margarita 4-1 in the other semifinal.

Following the win, Huntington Beach jumped up to No. 5 in the CIF Southern Section Division 1 rankings released Monday. The Oilers were unranked last week.

Huntington Beach has a home-and-home with Corona del Mar this week in Surf League action, playing at the Sea Kings' field on Tuesday and at home on Thursday. Next week the Oilers play in another prestigious tournament, the Boras Baseball Classic, hosted by Mater Dei and JSerra.

matthew.szabo@latimes.com Twitter: @mjszabo



Courtesy of Melissa Vandenbosch

HUNTINGTON BEACH HIGH defeated JSerra 8-1 in the prestigious National High School Invitational tournament over the weekend in Cary, N.C.

HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL

H.B., Marina reach semifinals of Michelle Carew Classic

BY ANDREW TURNER

After another storm impacted the scheduling for the Michelle Carew Classic - cutting it down to two days of play — a couple of local softball teams produced better than fair showings in the restructured tournament.

Huntington Beach and Marina both reached the semifinals of the Sweet Sixteen bracket, earning notable wins along the way in a weekend spent at Peralta Canyon Park in Anaheim.

A dramatic opening day saw Marina notch extra-inning wins over Esperanza, 6-3, and Murrieta Mesa, 6-1. The Aztecs and Rams entered the week ranked No. 6 and No. 3, respectively, in the CIF Southern Section Division 1 poll.

"We just have slowly been putting it together," said Shelly Luth, who cocoaches Marina along with Dan Hay. "We've got really good senior leadership. We have a freshman pitcher on the mound who is really good. She's competitive, and the whole team has got fantastic chemistry, and I think that's the difference is the chemistry on the team. It gels. It's working, and we are there to battle every game and do our very best. We're all committed to one anoth-



Photos by James Carbone

MARINA'S MIA VALBUENA (44) pitches against St. Francis in the Michelle Carew Classic softball tournament at Peralta Canyon Park in Anaheim on Saturday.

Center fielder Makayla Mathis had a four-hit game against Esperanza, while shortstop Anaya Togia homered against Murrieta Mesa. Freshman pitcher Mia Valbuena, an all-tournament team selection, covered all 16 innings Friday for the Vikings.

Marina (17-3), the topranked team in Division 2, was silenced by Mountain

View St. Francis in the semifinals. Boise Statebound Shannon Keighran struck out seven in a nohitter, as the Lancers edged the Vikings 1-0 Saturday afternoon.

"I noticed in like the fourth inning, but I was like, 'Nope, not happening,'" Keighran said of not letting the no-hit bid become a distraction. "I changed my mindset and just kept grinding."

Alexis O'Gorman, a UC San Diego commit, homered to start the fourth. In the bottom half of the inning, she robbed Rachel Ruiz of a game-tying home run, flipping over the fence as she made the catch.

"I love robbing home runs," O'Gorman said when asked which she enjoyed more. "I think it's so fun. I've actually never hit



MARINA'S COURTNEY HAMES (3) tags St. Francis' Rebecca Quinn (12) at second in the Michelle Carew Classic.

a home run before in a high school game, so I think hitting it was really fun, too. Probably robbing the home run, though, just because [Keighran] got a no-hitter out of it, and it really helped the team."

Huntington Beach authored wins over top-ranked Norco, 2-0, and Canyon View by a count of 8-5 on Friday. Los Alamitos, which went on to win the tournament, beat the Oilers 12-3 in the semifinals.

Zoe Prystajko, the Stanford-bound ace of the Oilers, had 17 strikeouts in the nine-inning win over the Cougars.

"Zoe was amazing," Huntington Beach coach Jeff Forsberg said, recalling a number of close calls against Norco. "The kids played great, the energy level was up. We've always been knocking on the door, could never move on through the door with [Uribe], Devyn Grace [Greer] and all those kids. This time, Zoe just went through the door and pushed the door open.'

Sophia Knight and Prystajko were named to the all-tournament team for Huntington Beach (10-4), Forsberg said. The Oilers finished third in the bracket with Marina forfeiting the third-place game.

andrew.turner@latimes.com Twitter: @AndrewTurnerTCN

DEALING

Continued from page A1

amine, MDMA and hydrocodone.

McLaughlin would have faced 20 years to life in prison if convicted of dealing fentanyl leading to death, his attorney, Dan Chambers, said.

Federal prosecutors argued for 21 months in prison, and probation officials recommended 15 months.

U.S. District Judge David O. Carter credited Mc-Laughlin for his rehabilitation through Alcoholics Anonymous.

"I want to compliment you on your rehabilitation," Carter said. "It's genuine ... On the other hand this is a horrific occurrence."

Carter said McLaughlin was in a "position of trust" as head of security and he exploited that to deal

McLaughlin, who relies on a wheelchair, was recently diagnosed with diabetes in addition to other health issues related to pneumonia and a bout with COVID-19, so Carter recommended to prison officials that they prepare for an inmate with significant health issues. Carter also recommended the defendant enroll in a program for addicts that could knock off a few months from his prison term.

McLaughlin was given until June 26 to surrender to authorities. He wanted to stay out of custody so he could still celebrate his wife's birthday before he goes to prison.

McLaughlin said he got into dealing drugs because his wife was diagnosed with an autoimmune dis-

"So when my wife was diagnosed, the love of my

life, I didn't know how to react," he said. "I went to go get her medication and I learned at that time that medication was not covered by insurance and we could not afford that medication."

McLaughlin said he was also grieving deaths in the family and was preparing for his mother-in-law to move in with them.

"So we were overextended," he said. "I made a very poor decision on emotion.'

McLaughlin said he did not believe in counseling, but he reached out for help when he fell into a deep depression following the death at the club. He said he has participated in Alcoholics Anonymous meetings daily.

"I do what I can do to share my experience," he said. "To help people, to prevent them from making the same mistakes ... I have doubled down on my recovery."

McLaughlin had been accused by prosecutors of selling the lethal dose of fentanyl to 25-year-old Ahmed Said of Santa Ana on Nov. 18, 2016.

Chambers argued that there was a "mystery man" at the bar that night who likely gave the drugs to the victims. He said the lack of fentanyl in the bar and at McLaughlin's home complicated the argument that his client was the dealer.

In closing arguments, Assistant U.S. Atty. Melissa Rabbani argued that while there was a "mystery man," who was also dubbed "the haircut guy" at the bar that night, two of the overdose victims who survived testified that McLaughlin sold them the fentanyl.

Said and two other men who overdosed had the "designer drug" in their system, Rabbani argued.

"They told you who gave them those drugs,"

The prosecutor said Mc-Laughlin was an "amateur" drug dealer, who looked up online how to "cut cocaine," which is how dealers add in other drugs.

"He was selling cocaine, he was doing Google searches and watching videos on how to cut cocaine," Rabbani argued. "There's absolutely no reason to watch a video on how to cut cocaine other than you're getting started as a drug dealer."

Rabbani also pointed out how McLaughlin deleted messages from his phone after the investigation began and had an iPad wiped.

Another man also overdosed at the bar that night, but he was not a charged victim in the case. Rabbani suggested that perhaps he got drugs from the "haircut guy."

Rabbani argued that investigators did not find fentanyl in searches of the bar or defendant's home because he had time to dump them.

"In November of 2016, defendant Sean Robert Mc-Laughlin worked at a bar in Newport Beach known as American Junkie," Assistant U.S. Atty. Bradley Marrett told jurors in his opening statement. "He had two jobs — head of security ... and he was also the bar's resident drug dealer.'

McLaughlin kept his 'stash" in a locker at the bar on Newport Boulevard, Marrett said. When Newport Beach police conducted a search warrant on the bar after the overdoses, 'They found a pharmacy of drugs" in the locker Mc-Laughlin allegedly used, Marrett said.

There were "baggies of cocaine ready to be doled out to customers," the prosecutor said.

Police also found he searched for small glass vials such as the ones "loaded with cocaine" that

were found in his locker, the prosecutor said. Investigators also recov-

ered text messages from patrons to McLaughlin, Marrett said. In one exchange, a patron messaged the defendant, "need a

> sponded, "bathroom." The bathroom was the one place in the bar without surveillance cameras,

bag," and McLaughlin re-

Marrett said. The prosecutor showed jurors surveillance video at American Junkie when the victims overdosed. The video was accompanied by audio of a 911 call in which a dispatcher attempts to coach security guards to do CPR on the victims as paramedics raced to the scene.

In addition to Said, patrons Joshua Selley and Daron Muratyan overdosed, but they were revived with Naloxone, a drug that can block opioids and save the lives of overdose victims, Marrett said. Another patron, Francisco Alvarado, also overdosed at the bar, but not as a result of the drugs McLaughlin distributed, the prosecutor said.

Chambers said surveillance video shows the "mystery man" going into the bathroom with the four overdose victims.

The unnamed suspect is also seen at the tables of the men, Chambers said. The "mystery man" is seen again returning to the bathroom with the victims, and when they exit he returns to their table to resume partying, according to the defense attorney.

Alvarado happened to be partying with a different group of people, Chambers

Just before the men overdosed, "Who slinks out? That's right, the mystery man," Chambers said.

dailypilot@latimes.com

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CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

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CONTACT US

Carol Cormaci Executive Editor carol.cormaci@latimes.com

> **Beth Raff** Advertising Manager (424) 225-9928

beth.raff@latimes.com 10540 Talbert Ave.,

Suite 300 West. Fountain Valley, CA 92708

Reporters: Sara Cardine, Costa Mesa sara.cardine@latimes.com Lilly Nguyen, Newport Beach lilly.nguyen@latimes.com Matt Szabo, Huntington **Beach and Sports**

matthew.szabo@latimes.com

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

Eric Licas, Public Safety eric.licas@latimes.com

Sarah Mosqueda, TimesOC sarah.mosqueda @latimes.com

to erik.haugli@latimes.com. See Mailbag for guidelines. The Daily Pilot, established in 1907, is published

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