

Daily Pilot

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H.B. to consider library review board

Mayor pro tem's policy proposal aimed at kid's access to books with sexual content will come to a vote Tuesday.

BY MATT SZABO

The Huntington Beach City Council will consider creating a review board that could stop sexually explicit children's books from hitting library shelves at Tuesday night's meeting.

A resolution proposed by Mayor Pro Tem Gracey Van Der Mark would do just that.

The resolution states that no city library or facility shall allow children access to books or materials that contain any content of a sexual nature. Parental or guardian consent would be required before accessing or checking out these books.

Additionally, the resolution would create a parent/guardian review board to examine any new children's books containing sexual writing, references, images or other sexual content. Each council member would be able to appoint up to three adult community members to the board, up to 21 total members.

The board would meet at least twice a year and vote on whether children's books recommended to the city library meet the city standards. If not, the review board may reject them.

Van Der Mark first brought library books into the spotlight in June, when the conservative majority of the City Council voted 4-3 to support her item seeking

See **Library**, page A3

Pot shop limits on agenda in Costa Mesa

Council will consider amending cannabis laws Tuesday and review stance on emergency operations center.

BY SARA CARDINE

After processing dozens of applications from cannabis retailers looking to do business in Costa Mesa, the city could soon close the floodgate as the council is poised Tuesday to discuss potentially halting the practice.

The panel in September directed city staff to work with the Planning Commission to determine whether local ordinances allowing for the sales and delivery of retail cannabis may be leading to an over-concentration of dispensaries and the displacement of local businesses.

So far, the commission has approved 21 conditional use permits for storefronts, three standalone cannabis delivery permits and nine minor conditional use permits to allow legal cannabis manufacturing and processing enterprises operating in an approved "Green Zone" to add delivery services to their offerings. Of those, eight storefronts and a total of seven delivery businesses are operating in the city.

Councilman Don Harper during an Oct. 3 meeting requested the council engage in a conversation about whether the city may want to issue a temporary moratorium

See **Agenda**, page A2



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

THE EDWARDS Big Newport marquee lights up during the 2023 Newport Beach Film Festival opening night on Thursday.

Stars light up Newport Beach as 24th annual festival begins



ABOVE: Patricia Clarkson, Artist of Distinction for "Monica," arrives on the red carpet on Thursday.

RIGHT: Director Kevin McNamara and actor Mark O'Brien, from left, arrive on opening night at the Edwards Big Newport.



The 24th annual Newport Beach Film Festival is back in town.

The weeklong event kicked off its run on Thursday with a red carpet premiere of "The Absence of Eden," a drama directed by Marco Perego that focuses on a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent who wants to help an undocumented woman trying to escape a cartel and save the life of a young girl. The film features actors Zoe Saldana, Garrett Hedlund and Adria Arjona.

Thursday's opening screening at Regal Edwards Big Newport welcomed actors and actresses receiving awards throughout the festival. The screening was followed by an opening night party held at Fashion Island.

The festival includes 91 films, 14 of which will have their world premieres and 14 their U.S. premieres.

Centerpiece films come from streaming giant Netflix this year and include "May December," directed by Todd Haynes and starring Natalie Portman, Julianne Moore and Charles Melton; "NYAD," directed by Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi and Jimmy Chin and starring Annette Bening, Jodie Foster and Rhys Ifans; and "Rustin," directed by George C. Wolfe and starring Colman Domingo.

Another centerpiece film, "Fingernails," directed by Christos Nikou, stars Jeremy Allen White, Riz Ahmed, Annie Murphy, Jessie Buckley and Luke Wilson, is coming from Apple Original Films. The festival's closing night screening of "The Holdovers," directed by Alexander Payne and featuring actors Paul Giamatti, Da'Vine Joy Randolph and Dominic Sessa, is already sold out.

The festival typically attracts about 50,000 visitors annually.

For more details on the festival's screenings or to buy tickets, visit newportbeachfilmfest.com.

— Lilly Nguyen

Moto Beach Classic wheels back to Bolsa Chica

BY MATT SZABO

Roland Sands grew up in Long Beach, not far from Bolsa Chica State Beach by any means.

He doesn't take it for granted that Saturday's Moto Beach Classic at Bolsa Chica feels like hosting an event in his own backyard.

"I remember coming to this beach in like second grade," Sands said. "I remember eating Cool-a-Coos in the sand and riding boogie boards. We went from just being dumb kids to actually being able to do stuff like this."

The Moto Beach Classic, a free one-day event presented by Roland Sands Design, is expected to bring thousands to Huntington Beach this morning. The event kicks off at 10 a.m. just south of Warner Avenue and Pacific Coast Highway.

The Moto Beach Classic started in 2017 in Huntington Beach. Last year, it partnered with the Red Bull Straight Rhythm competition, but it's



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

CHIEF EVENT organizer Roland Sands of Roland Sands Design is excited about the Moto Beach Classic happening at Bolsa Chica State Beach this morning beginning at 10.

See **Moto**, page A4

AROUND TOWN

Tickets on sale now for Night of 1,000 Lights at Sherman Library & Gardens

The Sherman Library & Gardens has announced the dates for its ninth annual Night of 1,000 Lights. This year's theme is "Candy Land" and will feature decorations that are reminiscent of the board game.

The event will be held for 13 nights in December, and tickets are on sale now. Dates are Dec. 9 and 10 and Dec. 14 through 22, from 6 to 9 p.m. Each night will have three separate entry times at 6, 7 and 8 p.m. Admission is \$25 for members and \$35 for nonmembers.

Visitors ages 3 and under are admitted at no charge.

Tickets can be purchased at *experience.thesherman.org/nights-of-1000-lights*.

"We look forward to witnessing lasting memories being created with friends and family as they celebrate the magic of the season at Sherman Library & Gardens," said executive director Scott LaFleur in a statement.



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

MARIA KHO walks through the tunnel of lights with her baby during the Nights of 1,000 Lights event at the Sherman Library & Gardens in 2022.

L.B. Open Volleyball Tournament returns

The 68th annual Laguna Open Volleyball Tournament at Main Beach started Friday and concludes Sunday, co-hosted by the city, Assn. of Volleyball Profession-

See **Around**, page A3

AGENDA

Continued from page A1

torium on the processing of cannabis applications while staff and commissioners engaged in their evaluation.

As such, the panel will discuss the matter Tuesday, the same night the council will be asked to consider an appeal filed by a local business owner against a 5,941-square-foot pot shop at 1505 Mesa Verde Drive East, approved by the Planning Commission in August.

Mark Les, owner and property manager of Mesa Verde Plaza, located at 1525 Mesa Verde Drive East, in an appeal filed Aug. 22, claimed the dispensary would be detrimental to several nearby businesses that serve children and youth, as well as the site's parking, security and ability to attract and keep tenants.

UPDATE ON RESPONSE TO STATE PLAN

Council members Tuesday will also provide an update on the city's re-

sponse to a proposal put forth by the California Office of Emergency Services to redevelop a 15-acre portion of the 114-acre Fairview Developmental Center into a regional emergency operations center.

City officials have submitted a response to an environmental impact report for the project, which includes a 30,000-square-foot office building, a 20,000-square-foot warehouse, helipad and 120-foot communications tower.

The plan would require demolition of multiple historic buildings on the state-owned property.

In their response, officials claim the site is not appropriate for an emergency operations center and would potentially cause undue noise, traffic and visibility impacts to the space and would reduce the number of acres that could be redeveloped into housing, which the state's Department of Housing and Community Development has already identified as a priority use for the site.

CMPD COULD GET \$3.5M TO COMBAT RETAIL THEFTS

Officials with the Costa Mesa Police Department last month were among 37 area law enforcement agencies to receive funds from the Board of State and Community Corrections' Organized Retail Theft Prevention grant program.

With authorization from the council and city manager, CMPD would stand to receive \$3,518,133 in grant funding for its efforts to tackle a rise in retail thefts, as well as motor vehicle thefts and other related crimes.

The grant program was mandated by Senate Bill 154, passed in 2022, which authorized the allocation of more than \$242.5 million to the state board for distribution to qualifying agencies.

The Costa Mesa City Council is scheduled to meet Oct. 17 at 6 p.m. at City Hall, 77 Fair Drive. For more, visit *costamesaca.gov*.

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THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

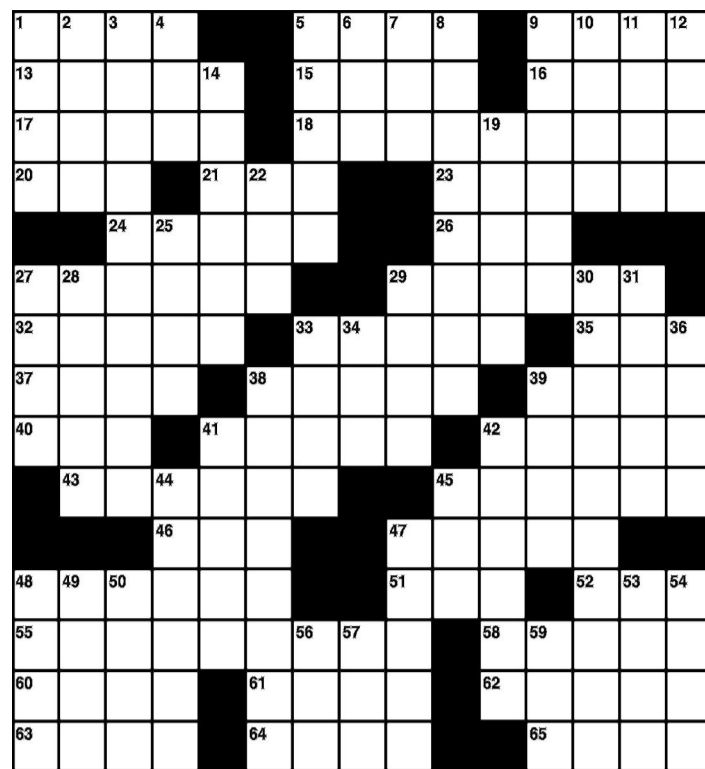
By Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS

- 1 Name for a Beatle
- 5 Trade
- 9 Foot part
- 13 Tennessee _ Ford
- 15 Singer Patti
- 16 Delhi dress
- 17 Dark orange-yellow
- 18 Worship
- 20 Bread for a Reuben
- 21 Blushing
- 23 Carve statues
- 24 Proverb
- 26 Cauldron
- 27 Bold
- 29 To the point
- 32 Modify
- 33 Contempt
- 35 Haw's partner, in phrase
- 37 Margarine containers
- 38 Make joyful
- 39 Family member
- 40 Annex, often
- 41 Holds on to tightly
- 42 Monarch or president
- 43 Monotony
- 45 Cereal grain
- 46 Knock
- 47 Filthy _; ill-gotten gain
- 48 Not in class
- 51 Certain vote
- 52 Prof. sports league
- 55 Kinfolk
- 58 Blows one's stack
- 60 Wound severely
- 61 Artist's medium
- 62 Beef lover's entrée
- 63 Soap lather
- 64 Jules Verne captain
- 65 _ and crafts

DOWN

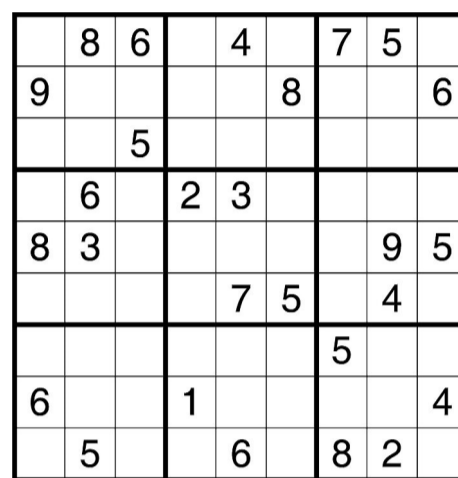
- 1 Fruit salad fruit



SUDOKU

By the Mephram Group

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



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

- 2 Navy's football rival
- 3 Intolerable
- 4 Recline
- 5 Digger's tool
- 6 Fistful of cash
- 7 Long _; way back when
- 8 Sweet

- 9 Mentally sharp
- 10 Metal bar
- 11 Farmer's concern
- 12 Helpful tip
- 14 Wayward
- 19 _ squash; winter veggie
- 22 Custard

- ingredient
- 25 Guacamole & salsa
- 27 See socially
- 28 Big person
- 29 Specks
- 30 Ill-fated 1986 space shuttle
- 31 Cone-shaped home
- 33 Slender
- 34 Head topper
- 36 Nativity set figurine
- 38 Threat from Mauna Loa
- 39 Contented sound
- 41 Green _; frozen vegetable brand
- 42 Earnhardt & Petty
- 44 Fantasies
- 45 Broker's advice
- 47 Cowboy's need
- 48 Provides with guns
- 49 Boyfriend
- 50 Skidded
- 53 Outscore
- 54 Inquires
- 56 "C'est la _"; "That's life"
- 57 Shade provider
- 59 TV's "One Day _ Time"

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LIBRARY

Continued from page A1

to make books deemed by a panel to be obscene and/or pornographic unavailable to children. During the June meeting, Van Der Mark read from some of the books she considered explicit and inappropriate, including "Gender Queer," "Grandad's Pride" and "The V-Word: True Stories about First-Time Sex."

"Parents, check these books out," Van Der Mark said during the June meeting. "If this is what you want for your kids, go for it, but a lot of parents don't know this material is in these books. A lot of parents don't know these books are in the library. I know this because I've been doing this for six years ... These [proposed restrictions] are safeguards to protect our kids."

The vote in June sought for City Manager Al Zelinka and City Atty. Michael Gates to work with staff



File Photo

STEPHEN ECHEVERRIA looks at a book at the Huntington Beach Public Library in May. A proposal before the City Council would limit children's access to certain books there.

and return with options from stopping minors from accessing such books at public libraries. A study session on the topic with suggestions is planned for 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, with Van

Der Mark's agenda item to come up later in the meeting.

Suggestions listed on the PowerPoint presentation include having a parental control library card, and re-

quiring minors 12 years old and younger to be accompanied by an adult at all times in the library. Currently, that policy is for children 10 and younger. Some in the community

have expressed concern that Van Der Mark is trying to solve problems that don't exist. The majority of the more than 600 emails received at the time of the June meeting were against her item.

According to city staff's presentation, there have been only five challenges to the library's current review system in the last five years, and none in 2023. One of the challenges was by Van Der Mark herself.

Dina Chavez is a past president of Friends of the Huntington Beach Public Library. She said she spent Friday morning talking to representatives from groups like Fight for the First, PEN America and the American Library Assn.

"They're all saying the same thing, that this is the most egregious thing they've seen so far for a public library," Chavez said. "This is not a school, this is a public library and this is just insanity that they're going this far."

Attempts to censor li-

brary books nationwide have been growing. The ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom documented 1,269 demands to censor library books and resources in 2022, the highest number since the ALA began compiling data about censorship in libraries more than 20 years ago. Between January and August of this year, there were 695 more attempts to censor.

Van Der Mark has said multiple times that what she is seeking does not amount to a book ban, but Chavez disagreed.

"They're basically getting a committee to do the book banning for them, right?" she said. "It's still a book ban. A library of our size orders about 9,000 children's books a year, so I don't know where they think the committee's going to find the time to read these books. It doesn't seem like a workable plan at all."

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AROUND

Continued from page A2

als, the California Beach Volleyball Assn. and locals.

Play begins at 8 a.m. every day. Players will compete for \$25,000 with finals scheduled for noon on Sunday. As part of the main schedule, locals will also be able to compete in the Battle of the Beaches Four-Person City Championship on Sunday with pool play at 10 a.m. and finals at 2 p.m. The event is free to attend.

Sgt. Pepperoni raises \$75K for Julian's LEGO Corner

Sgt. Pepperoni's Pizza Store announced Friday that it raised \$75,000 and collected nearly 400 Lego kits for Julian's LEGO Corner at the Children's Hospital of Orange County during its recent drive. Throughout September, three of the Sgt. Pepperoni locations donated a portion of their proceeds to the fund, which was created in memory of Julian Dunn, who died of pediatric cancer in 2013.

Realtor opens pumpkin patch in Costa Mesa

Torelli Realty has announced the return of its annual pumpkin patch, which will feature a trunk-or-treat event, free pump-

kins, face painting, a photo booth, food, a petting zoo and live music. The event will be held on Oct. 19 from 5 to 7 p.m. at 1700 Adams Ave., Costa Mesa.

OCC Friends of the Library Book Sale returns

Orange Coast College Friends of the Library will host its fall book sale on Oct. 24 and 25 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Most books are priced at \$1, though the event will conclude with a \$2-a-bag deal during the last two hours of the sale. Members and OCC students can enjoy a presale exclusive from 9 to 10 a.m. on Oct. 24. The sale will be held in the Library Lecture Room.

The book sale is open to the general public, and attendees can park in Lot E and purchase a parking permit at the kiosk near the library.

OC Japan Fair returns to Orange County Fairgrounds

The 13th annual OC Japan Fair will be held the weekend of Oct. 27 at the OC Fair & Event Center. The fair will open on Friday from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. while the weekend hours are from noon to 10 p.m. on Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

Tickets are \$9 to \$10, but early bird tickets can be purchased at oc-japanfair.com/ticket#ticket-info.

— From staff reports

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GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

CdM outlasts Newport Harbor in 'perfect ending'

BY ANDREW TURNER

When Kirsten Dauderman fell to the floor after her match-winning service ace Thursday night, it seemed as if a weight had been lifted off her shoulders.

The Corona del Mar High libero was mobbed by her teammates, all but one on court for the decisive point playing in their final Battle of the Bay girls' volleyball match.

A senior-laden CdM squad staved off match point, eking out a 25-14, 22-25, 25-20, 22-25, 16-14 win over visiting Newport Harbor to complete a home-and-home sweep of the rivalry series this season.

"I was just like in shock," said Dauderman, who had 29 digs and four aces. "I did not believe that that happened because I missed my serve on game point last time we played them. It was a perfect ending. I was so happy and excited."

After beginning their careers with a lost season in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic, CdM's seniors had not enjoyed a win over their crosstown rivals until five weeks ago, when the Sea Kings earned another five-set victory Sept. 7 at Newport Harbor (15-15).

That preceded an undefeated run through the Wave League for CdM (17-10), which now looks ahead to the CIF Southern Section Division 2 playoffs. The section will release its girls' volleyball playoff pairings on Saturday at 10 a.m.

Opposite Lauren Esquino said she felt the season is already a success. She added that the Sea Kings want to advance as far as they can in the post-season, and learning how



James Carbone

THE CORONA del Mar girls' volleyball team celebrates after beating Newport Harbor in the Battle of the Bay.

to play in close games could contribute to that cause.

"I think we just learned to play more together as a team and not break apart into our little groups when we were having our little moments of not doing as well," said Esquino, who compiled 19 kills and four block assists.

Corona del Mar is 3-2 in five-set matches this year. Two have come in a span of eight days, including the league-clinching result at Fountain Valley.

"I think after winning [the] Queen's [Court Tournament], after winning league, and after beating [the Sailors] twice in the Battle of the Bay, that's all I can ask for," said outside hitter Reiley Murphy, who had 20 kills, 19 digs and three aces. "I'm really happy to end this way because it was a rough start."

Setter Eva Link distributed 61 assists to go with 10 digs for CdM. Middle blocker Hailey Shaw had five kills and 2½ blocks. Freshman outside hitter Sofia Dajnowiec, the only underclassman to start for the Sea Kings, paced the team with 24 kills. Paige Carrillo, another senior,

had three aces off the bench.

A comparatively younger Newport Harbor saw freshman outside hitters Ella Olson (24 kills) and Vladimira Kotzakov (19 kills) make major contributions on the pins.

Senior setter Drue Coberly handed out 40 assists, and senior libero Fiona Gaffney helped keep points alive on defense. Junior opposite Jordan Surber added five kills and four block assists.

Newport Harbor also received a boost from the service line from its reserves. Ava Christiano chipped in with three aces, and Talea Berry and Zoe Schulman each had two.

"We've got a lot of youth on this team," Newport Harbor coach Andrew Mabry said. "We're playing against some of the best teams every night in [the Sunset] Conference and all year long, and I think we're getting better. We're excited about the possibility of being an at-large in the playoffs and hopeful that we can get in and keep growing."

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GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

Marina clinches entry into playoffs

BY SCOTT FRENCH

Marina came up with big plays in pivotal moments, a lot of them by its freshman sensation, to sweep its way into the CIF Southern Section girls' volleyball playoffs.

The Vikings claimed the Wave League's second guaranteed postseason berth Thursday night, a stunning 25-23, 25-23, 30-28 triumph over Laguna Beach in a playoff at Huntington Beach High, their second triumph over the Breakers in eight days.

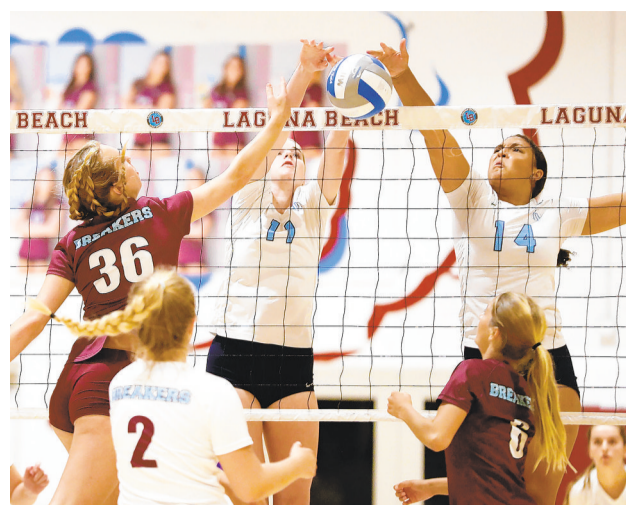
It was anything but a romp. Marina took leads in all three sets, a couple of them substantial, and Laguna Beach (7-21) rallied each time. The Vikings survived four set points in the third set.

"That's the thing about volleyball," Marina head coach Ryan Parker said. "You can have a sweep be very competitive, and it doesn't look like it when you look only at the [3-0 scoreline]. Every set was very competitive, and it very easily could have gone five [sets]."

"I didn't come in saying, 'Oh, we're going to sweep them, win in three,' but it's nice to do it, get a little confidence boost."

The victory was the third in a row for Marina (17-12) — starting with last week's five-set home win over the Breakers to force the playoff — after a 1-6 spell in Surf League crossover play, against Wave League champion Corona del Mar, and in a loss three weeks ago at Laguna Beach that went the distance. Now the aim is to make a Division 3 run similar to last year's in Division 5, in which they reached the final after finishing third in the Wave League standings.

"All you have to do is win one game at a time, and anyone can win one game," Parker said. "There's definitely some teams [atop] the rankings that are tough,



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

MARINA'S KORYNN MAYO (14), seen against Laguna Beach on Sept. 19, had 23 kills to lead the Vikings Thursday in the Wave League second-place tiebreaker match.

but I believe that we're in the mix for contenders, at least."

Outside hitter Korynn Mayo, a 6-foot freshman, was dominant for the Vikings, putting away 23 kills (on a .386 hitting percentage), with an ace and team-best 13 digs. She had kills for Marina's last four points in the first set, which was tied nine times from 14-all; three of the last four in the second set, including the winner after the Breakers turned a nine-point deficit into a one-point fight; and seven down the stretch in the third game, six for side outs, as Laguna Beach rallied from five down to take four late leads.

"She's our monster freshman, our 14-year-old phenom ...," Parker said. "Something we've been very vocal with her about is confidence late in games. We know if we check [her] a high ball, we expect the outcome to be a kill. She's one of the toughest on herself of any player I've ever coached."

The Vikings got strong play in the middle, from senior Lyndsey Wessel (eight kills on nine attempts, three blocks) and sophomore Addison Brown (seven kills), and served up

10 aces, three by freshman Brooklyn Enriquez in the third set. Senior outside hitter Jenna Zaffino added eight kills.

Laguna Beach, which will miss the postseason for the second successive season, was without star junior Kyra Zaengle, a USC beach volleyball commit who is playing at the AVP Laguna Beach Open this weekend. Seniors Meg Gardner (eight kills) and Sara Johnson (six kills, four aces, one block) led the Breakers, who had won the first nine meetings (with a 25-5 advantage in sets) with Marina since joining the Sunset Conference in 2018.

"In a way, we miss [Zaengle] a lot, but everyone stepped up, everyone did a little extra to cover for her," Laguna Beach head coach Sinan Tanik said. "We see that it was a close game. It could have gone either way, all three sets."

Scott French is a contributor to the Daily Pilot.

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3 Beds / 2 Baths / 1,778 SF / List Price: \$3,445,000
Represented Seller



Sold

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



Sold

223 Via Orvieto, Lido Isle
4 Beds / 2 Baths / 1,649 SF
List Price: \$3,995,000
Represented Buyer & Seller



Sold

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