

# Daily Pilot

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2023 /// dailypilot.com



Photos by James Carbone

**CALIFORNIA LT. GOV.** Eleni Kounalakis, left, listens to UC Irvine political science student Kylie Halliday talk about the history of Mesa student housing during a tour of the Mesa Court expansion on Monday. The expansion will provide more student housing on the north end of campus.

## Lieutenant governor gets tour of UCI housing site

BY MATT SZABO

Housing is a vital need in Orange County, and college campuses are not exempt from that need.

UC Irvine is preparing for an \$80-million expansion of its Mesa Court residence halls. On Monday afternoon the university welcomed California Lt. Gov. Eleni Kounalakis for a tour of the residence hall site and two other projects, a medical complex construction site and a forensic exam site.

The new housing will be located on the north end of campus, off of Campus Drive near University Drive. It will provide about



**THE AREA** for the Mesa Court residence housing expansion at UC Irvine.

See **Tour**, page A4

## State of California goes after Huntington Beach following housing plan rejection

BY MATT SZABO

State of California leaders announced Monday they are suing the city of Huntington Beach for violating state housing element law.

Atty. Gen. Rob Bonta, Gov. Gavin Newsom and the Department of Housing and Communi-

ty Development jointly announced a motion to amend the state's existing lawsuit against Huntington Beach, which was filed on March 8.

The move came after the Huntington Beach City Council, by a 4-3 vote led by the conservative majority, decided last week not to approve a state-

compliant draft housing element of the city's general plan. Mayor Tony Strickland, Mayor Pro Tem Gracey Van Der Mark, Councilman Casey McKeon and Councilman Pat Burns voted against the plan, which would zone for slightly more than the 13,368 units required as part of the mandated Regional Housing

Needs Assessment.

The state seeks both penalties and injunctive relief. It also seeks suspension of the city's permitting authority and mandating the approval of certain residential projects until the city comes into compliance with the law —

See **Housing**, page A3

## Laguna Beach releases footage of traffic citation

City Manager Shoreh Dupuis was accused of using her position to affect the outcome of a Nov. 16 traffic stop.

BY ERIC LICAS

Laguna Beach officials hoped publishing footage Friday from a traffic stop involving City Manager Shoreh Dupuis would exonerate her of accusations that she tried to use her office to pressure the officer who pulled her over.

People who spent months trying to gain access to the video say the city paid well over \$12,000 in attorney's fees fighting its release.

The interaction captured by the body-worn camera of Laguna Beach Officer Matt Gregg happened shortly after 9 a.m. on Nov. 16 near Pacific Coast Highway and Glenneyere Street. He was on his motorcycle when he rolled past Dupuis' white Lexus sedan and spotted her speaking into her cellphone. She still had the device in hand as he introduced himself.

"We cannot be on the phone today," Gregg said after pulling the city manager over and exchanging polite greetings with her.

"I was talking to [Police Chief]

See **Traffic**, page A2

### ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



James Carbone

**OCEAN VIEW SOFTBALL GETS TIMELY HITS IN WIN OVER GARDEN GROVE** PAGE A4

**NEWPORT HARBOR'S KEATON ROBAR AN EMERGING STAR AFTER ARCADIA INVITATIONAL** PAGE A4

### 2024 CAMPAIGNS

## N.B. businessman announces campaign for seat in CA-47

BY LILLY NGUYEN

A new Republican candidate has entered the race for the congressional seat expected to be vacated by current Rep. Katie Porter (D-Irvine) in her previously announced bid to become a U.S. senator.

Newport Beach resident Max Ukropina announced that he would be running in the upcoming primaries for California's 47th Congressional district, which includes Irvine, Huntington Beach, Costa Mesa, Newport Beach and Laguna Beach.

Ukropina joins an already crowded race, with the majority of those running declared as Democrats. He and former state Assemblyman Scott Baugh are the only Republicans who have publicly an-



Courtesy of Max Ukropina for Congress

**MAX UKROPINA** announced his bid to represent California's 47th Congressional District on Monday.

See **Campaign**, page A3

## Rouda pulls out of race citing traumatic brain injury from fall

BY SARA CARDINE

Former Rep. Harley Rouda announced Tuesday he will withdraw his bid for a seat in the U.S. Congress being vacated by Rep. Katie Porter (D-Irvine), after having suffered a traumatic brain injury stemming from a recent fall.

The Laguna Beach resident explained via social media that as a result of a fall last month, he'd sustained two intra parenchymal hemorrhages, which can cause oxygen loss and tissue damage in the brain, and had to be transported to the hospital.

"Thankfully, my doctors say that I have started on the path to a full recovery," Rouda said. "But on their advice, I am ending my campaign for California's 47th Congressional District today.

"This is not the outcome I wanted. But my family



Allen J. Schaben | Los Angeles Times

**FORMER U.S. REP.** Harley Rouda, seen at a 2019 event in Costa Mesa, announced Tuesday he was withdrawing his bid for a seat in the 47th Congressional District.

comes first, and to be there for them, I need to focus fully on my recovery in the months ahead."

Rouda's statement came three months after he an-

nounced his candidacy in a race that, as of Tuesday, has drawn at least eight other candidates from both

See **Race**, page A3

**TRAFFIC**

Continued from page A1

Jeff Calvert, sorry," Dupuis replied.

The video footage shows that after Dupuis handed over her license and registration, Gregg walked back to his motorcycle and called Calvert, who told the officer he was not on the phone with the city manager.

However, phone records show Dupuis and Calvert were on a call with each other at the time she was stopped. City officials described the discrepancy as a "misunderstanding" in

commentary text accompanying the footage they released.

Gregg returns to check Dupuis' insurance information, then explains why he is giving her a ticket. She accepts the citation without complaint and leaves.

"She didn't do anything wrong," Laguna Beach City Mayor Pro Tem Sue Kempf said during a public meeting on March 21. "On the other hand, I don't want to fuel this any longer. Because it's just, to me, it's a nonissue; she got a ticket and a lot of people in this town get a ticket."

Kempf and Mayor Bob



Courtesy of the city of Laguna Beach

**LAGUNA BEACH** City Manager Shoreh Dupuis hands her license and registration to Officer Matt Gregg during a traffic stop on Nov. 16. Dupuis was pulled over for driving while using a hand-held cellphone.

Whalen voted against making the video public. They were among four out of five council members who said they found no evidence of wrongdoing in what they had seen.

Michele Monda, a local resident and former columnist for the Laguna Beach Independent, learned about the traffic stop and began filing public records requests two days after it happened. After going back and forth with officials and attorneys that she said were specifically hired to resist her inquiries, she views things differently from Kempf and other members of the council.

She and others who have been pushing for the release of the body cam video believe Dupuis dropped Calvert's name in an attempt to affect the outcome of the traffic stop. "To say 'I'm on the phone with the chief' is really, to me, a way of attempting to obstruct the officer in the performance of his duty," Councilman George Weiss said during the March 21 meeting. "It's unduly influencing him."

Weiss submitted a motion to make the footage public. Council members Alex Rounaghi and Mark Orgill also voted in favor of it, even though they agreed with dissenters Kempf and Whalen that Dupuis had done nothing wrong.

"I too, originally when this first happened, thought, 'Let's just get it out of the way and release it' because of the fact that there was nothing in it," Orgill said. "After I saw the video, to be honest, I felt even stronger about that."

Monda began working with attorney James Grossberg after her initial requests for records were denied. During a City Council meeting in January, Dupuis read a written statement dismissing their inquiry and denying any wrongdoing. She also accused them of bullying her at meetings and online. Monda said she has not been active on social media.

As she and others pressed for more information, they learned that the law firm Liebert Cassidy and Whitmore had been hired to respond to their appeals for information. The cost of services they rendered between Feb. 9

and Feb. 27 totaled \$12,468.50, according to bills obtained by Monda.

Monda said this is not the first time footage has surfaced depicting what some have interpreted as Dupuis attempting to use her position to gain special treatment. On Jan. 7 she introduced herself as "Shoreh" as she was approached by an animal control official responding to reports of dogs off leash at a public park.

Dupuis was given a written warning during that encounter but no citation or fines. Monda believes the city manager would be recognizable by first name to most city employees, and she thinks that may have contributed to the leniency she received during that exchange.

Footage of that warning was "inadvertently" made public, city officials told Monda after she had asked to view that prior incident. Although the Laguna Beach Police Department does not have an official written policy on the sharing of body-worn camera video and other materials from non-critical events, it has by and large denied requests to do so.

"It has been the past practice and policy, albeit not written, of the police department that body camera videos and dispatch call logs are not disclosed in response to public records act request," City Atty. Philip Kohn said during the March 21 council meeting. "So, in a sense, it would be precedent in that it would be in contrast to what the past practice has been. But whether the determination tonight is to apply to simply this instance or to all cases would be something warranting further discussion."

Orgill had expressed interest in cementing such a policy. However, Whalen said he could not foresee such a discussion reaching their agenda in the near future.

"I think it would be difficult if not impossible to draft a policy for all situations that is factually driven," Whalen said during a brief interview Tuesday. "If things come up in the future, I think we'll have to address it on a case by case basis."

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**Daily Pilot**

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The state of what's next. **Los Angeles Times**

**THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE**

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

- ACROSS**
- Annoyingly slow
  - Cash substitute
  - Aquarium buildup
  - "If \_ a Hammer"
  - Chicago airport
  - Tiny skin opening
  - German one
  - Post-wedding parties
  - Musical notes
  - WWII turning point
  - European language
  - Look forward to
  - Become firm
  - Not spoken
  - Party attendees
  - Treaties
  - Circular
  - Prepare to shoot
  - Leave out
  - Bursting at the \_; too full
  - Suffix for attain or avoid
  - Butterfly catcher's need
  - Desires
  - Bass organs
  - Bundle of energy
  - Stray cat hangouts
  - "\_ we having fun yet?"
  - Uncouth
  - Superior to
  - \_ to rest; buried
  - Veggie casing
  - Official recordkeepers
  - Unpleasant
  - NASCAR's
  - Yarborough
  - Forfeit one's rights
  - Seep
  - Colors
  - Monsters

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
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47	48	49						50			51	52	53
54								55	56			57	
58								59				60	
61								62				63	

**SUDOKU**

By the Mephram Group

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

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

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

- 63 Cold flakes
- DOWN**
- Like Hamelin's piper
  - Where to find Columbus
  - Chiefs' home
  - Linear measures: abbr.
  - Filthy
  - Peek at the answers
  - Risque
  - Wrath
  - Gusto
  - Salesmen's pitches
  - Like sweater weather
  - Crematory shelf supplies
  - Fit together, as gears
  - Rough woolen material
  - Speaker's spot
  - Light bulb unit
  - Pistols
  - "Once \_ a time"
  - Appointed
  - Mouth parts
  - Piece of silverware
  - Ridiculous
  - Clinton's AG Janet
  - Word attached to meal or cake
  - Predicament
  - Identical
  - Needs medicine
  - Merchandise
  - Thrilled
  - Sea forces
  - Leaves the bed
  - Make a jack-o'-lantern
  - Prefix for bishop or duke
  - Suitor
  - Flirt with
  - Lion's hideaway
  - Anise-flavored aperitif
  - Carey, for one
  - Deuce
  - Scrap of cloth
  - Scouring pad brand

Tribune Media Services

# HOUSING

Continued from page A1

known as builder's remedy. "California is in the midst of a housing crisis, and time and time again, Huntington Beach has demonstrated they are part of the problem by defiantly refusing every opportunity to provide essential housing for its own residents," Bonta said in a statement. "The city's refusal last week to adopt a housing element in accordance with state law is just the latest in a string of willfully illegal actions by the city — decisions that worsen our housing crisis and harm taxpayers and Huntington Beach residents. We won't stand idly by as Huntington Beach continues to flagrantly violate state housing laws designed to bring crucial affordable housing opportunities to our communities. We'll use every legal tool available to hold the city accountable and enforce state housing laws."

The state filed suit against Huntington Beach on March 8, arguing that the city's ban on the processing of SB 9 and accessory dwelling unit applications violated state housing laws. Those bans have since been reversed by the City Council, but the revised lawsuit relates to the city failing to adopt a housing element that was originally due in October 2021. City Atty. Michael Gates filed a still-active lawsuit in federal court last month, arguing that the state is violating Huntington Beach's 1st and 14th Amendment rights. That lawsuit claims the state cannot have preemptive power over Huntington Beach's charter-city rights to zone property.

But on March 21, a federal court judge rejected the city's request for a temporary restraining order against the state, barring it from enforcing fines and penalties related to failed compliance with housing laws.

Strickland released a statement Monday evening



Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

**NEWLY ELECTED** members of the Huntington Beach City Council, Gracey Van Der Mark, left, Tony Strickland, Pat Burns and Casey McKeon on Dec. 6, 2022.

saying the state cannot simply "amend" the existing lawsuit involving SB 9 and ADUs but that procedure laws say that leaders need to file a new lawsuit against the city regarding its housing element.

He also pointed out that the state has more than 240 other cities that do not have certified housing elements. Of Orange County's 34 cities, 15 have a compliant housing element as of Tuesday per the state's tracking information, including Fountain Valley, Laguna Beach and Newport Beach.

"The fact that the attorney general is singling out Huntington Beach only strengthens the city's arguments in court that the state is not following the law with these housing mandates," Strickland said in the statement. "These regular state press releases announcing legal actions against Huntington Beach may grab headlines, but they do not intimidate or deter the city, and they have no effect in the court of law, where these conflicts of law will ultimately be decided."

According to the state's amended lawsuit filed Monday, a draft housing element completed by Huntington Beach city staff was verified to meet HCD's statutory requirements on Sept. 30, 2022. But it was never voted on by the City Council last fall.

HCD met with city representatives on March 8, and

again on March 24, to discuss the city's violation of the housing element law.

At the meeting last week, Strickland and Van Der Mark claimed they could not support a statement of overriding considerations, a document required by the California Environmental Quality Act that states that the benefits of the housing outweighs environmental impacts.

Some, including Councilman Dan Kalmick, have called that refusal a technicality. And now the city is without a certified housing element and at continued odds with the state.

It's not the first time. In 2019, Newsom announced the state was suing Huntington Beach, accusing Surf City of deliberately blocking new homebuilding. That lawsuit was settled after the city reinstated 413 affordable housing units into its plans.

"Huntington Beach continues to fail its residents," Newsom said in a statement Monday. "Every city and county needs to do their part to bring down the high housing and rent costs that are impacting families across this state. California will continue taking every step necessary to ensure everyone is building their fair share of housing and not flouting state housing laws at the expense of the community."

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# CAMPAIGN

Continued from page A1

nounced campaigns for the seat so far, though the Federal Election Commission as of Monday also listed Brian Burley, who has run in the primaries for this district before, and Julia Hashemieh, as other Republicans seeking the office.

The Democratic candidates in the race so far include state Sen. Dave Min, Huntington Beach business owner and activist Dominique "Dom" Jones and community activist Joanna Weiss. Campaign paperwork has also been filed for Lori Kirkland Baker. Former Rep. Harley Rouda had announced his candidacy as

well but on Tuesday withdrew from the race citing health reasons.

Ukropina was born and raised in Orange County and is a graduate of Corona del Mar High School and USC. According to his LinkedIn account, Ukropina currently works as an adviser and consultant but previously was chief executive officer and founder for Float, which is described as a "credit app for couples."

"I've dedicated my career to getting start-ups off the ground to help make the new economy work for small businesses and working families," Ukropina stated in a news release announcing his run. "I'm not a politician. I'm a business-

man, and I know what it takes to build our economy. With D.C. politicians' reckless spending unleashing a record inflation crisis, it's clear that we need new leadership in Congress.

"I can no longer stand by and watch as the failures of career politicians continue to crush local families. Our district is a slice of paradise on the coast with safe neighborhoods, excellent schools and beautiful communities. But drive 30 minutes north, and it's a different world. We cannot let the failed policies of cities like L.A. and San Francisco be imported into Orange County," he stated.

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# RACE

Continued from page A1

sides of the aisles, including state Sen. Dave Min (D-Irvine) and former state Assemblyman Scott Baugh, a Republican.

The seat is being vacated as Porter seeks to replace outgoing U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, who announced in February she would not run for reelection next year. Her term ends in January 2025.

Rouda, 61, was elected to Congress in 2018 representing the 48th District but was unseated in 2020 by Rep. Michelle Steel (R-Cypress). Redistricting later shifted him to the 47th Dis-

trict, which includes Irvine, Huntington Beach, Costa Mesa, Newport Beach and Laguna Beach, as well as Irvine and Seal Beach.

In a statement issued Tuesday, Min and his wife Jane Stoever sent out thoughts and prayers to Rouda's family.

"Knowing the fighter that Harley is, I have no doubt that he will have a full and speedy recovery," Min said. "I want to thank Harley for his public service, his decency and patriotism."

Porter offered her own words of consolation in a comment Tuesday on Rouda's Twitter page.

"Wishing you a thorough recovery and keeping you, Kaira, and your kids in my

thoughts," she wrote. "Get well soon."

Rouda thanked his supporters and apologized for "not being able to fight on."

"I love this community and this district," his Tuesday statement read. "I still believe today that we need moderates in office who will reach across the aisle and actually do the work of governing."

"I believe we need to elect people who don't care for antics, props and sound bites but care about serving the greater good — people who run for office to actually serve the people who elected them."

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Theodore J Hennes Gen Next, Michael Davidson  
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Notice is hereby given that a bulk sale is about to be made. The name(s) and business address(es) of the seller(s) are: TEAPC G5, LLC, A CALIFORNIA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, 17011 BEACH BLVD, STE 676, HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA 92647. The location in California of the chief executive office of the seller is: SAME. All other business name(s) and address(es) used by the seller(s) within the past three years as stated by the seller(s), are: NONE. The name(s) and address of the buyer(s)/applicant(s) is/are: TEAHOWAN LLC, A CALIFORNIA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, 10471 RIVADEFIORRE, LAS VEGAS, NV 89135. The assets being sold are generally described as: FURNITURE, FIXTURES AND EQUIPMENT and are located at: 507 SPECTRUM CENTER DRIVE, IRVINE, CA 92618. The business name used by the seller at that location is: THE ALLEY. The anticipated date of the bulk sale is APRIL 28, 2023 at the office of: NOVARE NATIONAL SETTLEMENT SERVICE, A DIVISION OF FIDELITY NATIONAL TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY, 4400 MACARTHUR BLVD SUITE 801, NEWPORT BEACH, CA 92660. This bulk sale is subject to California Uniform Commercial Code Section 6106.2. The name and address of the person with whom claims may be filed is: Darleen Sweet, NOVARE NATIONAL SETTLEMENT SERVICE, A DIVISION OF FIDELITY NATIONAL TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY, 4400 MACARTHUR BLVD SUITE 801, NEWPORT BEACH, CA 92660, and the last date for filing claims shall be APRIL 27, 2023, which is the business day before the sale date specified above. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have executed this document on the date(s) set forth below. BUYER: TEAHOWAN LLC, A CALIFORNIA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY  
Date: 3-3-2023  
1603030-PP DAILY PILOT 4/12/23

### NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:

**THOMAS LOSCALZO**  
**CASE NO. 30-2023-01315584-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 THOMAS LOSCALZO.

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by KATE LOSCALZO in the Superior Court of California, County of ORANGE.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that KATE LOSCALZO 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 in this court as follows: 05/04/23 at 1:30PM in Dept. CM06 located at 3390 HARBOR BLVD., COSTA MESA, CA 92626.

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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.

Attorney for Petitioner  
ERIC B. JETER, ESQ. - SBN 261839  
JETER LAW  
3655 TORRANCE BLVD. 3RD FLR.  
TORRANCE, CA 90503  
4/5, 4/6, 4/12/23

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# CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

P	O	K	Y		S	C	R	I	P		S	C	U	M		
I	H	A	D		O	H	A	R	E		P	O	R	E		
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N	E	T		W	A	N	T	S		G	I	L	L	S		
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						A	R	E			C	R	A	S	S	
A	B	O	V	E			L	A	I	D		P	O	D		
R	E	G	I	S	T	R	A	R	S		S	O	U	R		
C	A	L	E		W	A	I	V	E		O	O	Z	E		
H	U	E	S		O	G	R	E	S		S	N	O	W		

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

**HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL**

## Ocean View gets timely hits in league win

BY ANDREW TURNER

Having reached the halfway point of its Golden West League schedule, the Ocean View High softball team had a chance to improve its playoff outlook with a big game at home on Friday.

The Seahawks kept themselves in the fight for the league's three automatic playoff berths with a clean week on its own diamond.

Sydney Fullbright's run-scoring, ground-rule double in the sixth was the difference, as Ocean View rallied past Garden Grove for a 4-3 win.

The junior right fielder smacked a one-out double to the gap in left-center, scoring Sienna Erskine, who had led off with a single and stole second to get into scoring position.

Garden Grove had battled back from a 3-1 deficit in the fifth, a two-run double by Kayden Connaty tying the score.

"Our team has always kind of been a team that keeps going even when we're down, like always play like it's a 0-0 ballgame," Fullbright said. "You always want to get that next run, situational hitting. I was confident that as long as we kept our energy good, and as long as we kept supporting our teammates, that we could continue to hit and come back in that game."

Ocean View (11-5, 3-2), which also beat Katella at home on Wednesday, is one of just two teams in the league to have



James Carbone

**OCEAN VIEW'S** Sydney Fullbright gets a hit against Garden Grove on Friday in a Golden West League game. The Seahawks rallied in the sixth inning to defeat the Argonauts 4-3.

played five league games so far. Segerstrom (5-12, 2-0) is the only unbeaten team in the league.

Westminster (13-6, 4-1) is in second place, while the Seahawks dealt Garden Grove (11-5, 2-2) a key defeat to keep themselves firmly within the playoff picture. Ocean View's league

losses came against Segerstrom and Westminster.

Just two years removed from winning the CIF Southern Section Division 5 title over Upland Western Christian, several members of that team are still around and looking for another chance at postseason glory.

Erskine, the starting second baseman on that title-winning team, was a catalyst for the Seahawks against the Argonauts. She had lead-off singles in the fourth and sixth innings, stealing second base within the next at-bat both times before coming around to score.

In the fourth, it was a double by third baseman Kaylah Arteaga that would get the job done. A single by first baseman MacKenna King later in the inning provided the 3-1 advantage.

"I'm looking forward to hopefully getting back to CIF," Erskine said. "We didn't make it last year, so I'm definitely trying to get my team there one step at a time, one hit at a time, one pitch at a time."

A double by left fielder Emily Mayorga gave Ocean View its first run in the third inning, center fielder Kaya Collado coming home after reaching on a bunt single.

Kayla Delgado picked up the victory for Ocean View. She limited the damage to three runs, despite allowing nine hits. She struck out seven.

"I knew we were coming [against] a pretty good team," Ocean View coach Keala Cordeiro said of the Argonauts. "I've heard a lot about them, that they have some good hitters and some good fielders, but Kayla came out today and really pitched a good game."

"I kind of did that because I know they've seen [Kaitlyn Knobbe], our second pitcher, a lot from last year, so I wanted to give Kayla a chance to see. Our hitters came through when we needed it the most, especially with runners on."

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**HIGH SCHOOL TRACK AND FIELD**

## N.H.'s Keaton Robar impresses at Arcadia Invitational

BY ANDREW TURNER

ARCADIA — The Arcadia Invitational prides itself on drawing elite athletes to compete in each track and field event, especially for the prestigious Saturday night meet.

In awe of the spotlight and the collection of talent, Newport Harbor sophomore Keaton Robar fought nerves going into the girls' 800-meter race. She proved up to the task.

Robar, who has been on a tear for the past month, posted her third consecutive personal record-setting performance, completing the two-lap race in 2 minutes, 9.13 seconds to finish fifth in a race that featured the top four times in the nation this year.

"Everyone in that race is just so fast," Robar said. "Leading up to it, it's so nerve-racking because I'm running against the fastest people in the nation right now. I feel like to me it's just a number, like I don't realize how crazy this is."

The second-year standout has yet to finish first in the event this season, though she has been shaving seconds off her lifetime best since she was the runner-up at the Irvine Invitational in 2:14.19 on March 11. She dropped her time down to 2:10.82 at the Azusa Pacific Distance Meet of Champions two weeks later.

Robar ranks first in the county, fourth in the state and 12th in the nation in the 800. The Orange

County track and field championships take place Saturday at Mission Viejo High, where she could see stiff competition from JSerra's Georgia Jeanneret, who placed sixth in 2:09.55 at Arcadia.

Newport Harbor had a host of athletes representing it in the night meet, including Natalie McCarty, the only freshman to qualify for the invitational flight in girls' high jump.

McCarty cleared the opening height of 5 feet, 2 inches, but that was where her night ended. She flew over the bar at 5-6 in the season-opening Eagle Invitational at Santa Margarita.

Newport Harbor also had two seniors in pole vaulter Leo Davis and distance runner Kenny Wanlass compete on the boys' side.

Davis finished in a tie for seventh after clearing 15-3, a seasonal-best mark and 2 inches shy of his personal record set at the CIF Southern Section Masters Meet last year.

Wanlass, competing in his second Arcadia Invitational, improved by 10 seconds at the meet with a time of 9:15.21 in the seeded 3,200 meters.

Fountain Valley's Benjamin Prado, Jack Todd, Luke Dias and Diego Alonso combined to place 12th in 10:29.82 in the boys' distance medley relay. The time bested the school record of 10:34, Fountain Valley assistant coach Steve Knowles said.

The event is broken up into legs of 1,200, 400, 800 and 1,600 meters. After completing the last

mile, Alonso was met at the finish by Dias, who shared the news in an embrace.

"I wanted to tell him immediately because I knew he would be kind of dead and not immediately responsive, so I wanted to tell him because I was making sure, keeping track of the time," Dias said. "As much as we wanted to get all the way to 10:08, the handoff is so bad. There's so many people on the track. I got boxed in, Diego got boxed in, Ben also got boxed in. I know we still tried our hardest."

Edison's Alexa Sheldon was invited to compete in both the girls' shot put and discus throw. She leads the county in the shot put with a mark of 40-8, and though she will be a favorite in the county championships, the junior is taking aim at her own school record.

"I want to break 41 [feet]," Sheldon said. "I'm 4 inches off from it, and then the main goal at the moment is to beat my school record, which is 41-11½, so that's really the goal right now."

The area had two boys' triple jumpers compete in the invitational flight. Marina's Khang Nguyen rode a career-best mark of 46-2 on his first attempt to a seventh-place finish, while Fountain Valley's Jonathan Yu (43-10¾) did not advance to the finals.

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Photos by James Carbone

**NEWPORT HARBOR'S** Keaton Robar competes in the 800 meters during the Arcadia Invitational on Saturday. She finished in 2:09.13.



**EDISON'S** Alexa Sheldon competes in the discus throw during the Arcadia Invitational on Saturday. Sheldon also competed in the shot put.

**TOUR**

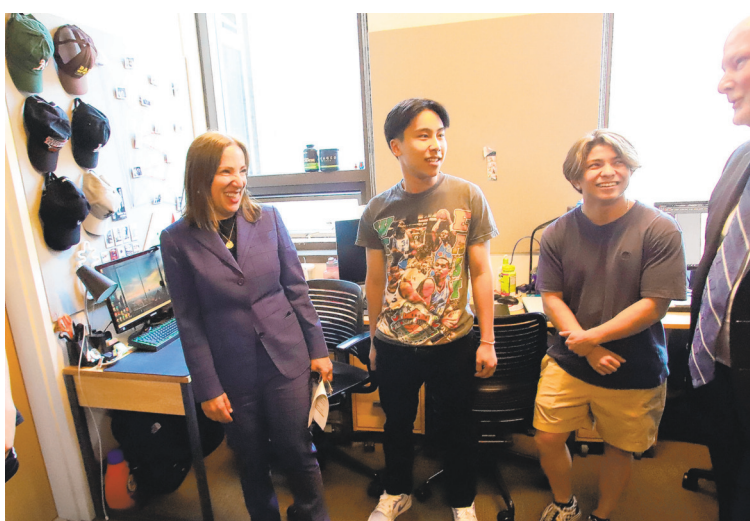
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300 new affordable residence hall beds for lower-division undergraduates.

"We should be breaking ground within the next six months here," said Tim Trevan, the UC Irvine assistant vice chancellor for student housing, adding that the five-to-six-story structure is slated to open in the fall of 2026. "Students are coming from a far enough distance that they really need to have a place on campus to live. And then a lot of our students who are even local choose to live on campus for that kind of full college experience. The local housing market has been pinched for rental units."

Students in the Mesa Court expansion will be predominantly first-year students, Trevan said; UC Irvine houses about 80% of its freshmen.

Of the \$80 million for the expansion, about \$65 million is coming from state student hous-



James Carbone

**CALIFORNIA LT. GOV.** Eleni Kounalakis meets UC Irvine students in their dorm room with Chancellor Howard Gillman during a tour Monday.

ing grants, UC Irvine associate vice chancellor of auxiliary services Brice Kikuchi said.

Kounalakis' visit was part of a mini-tour this week of campuses that have received state grant money. She visited Sierra College

in Rocklin on Tuesday and is also set to go to San Francisco State.

On Monday, she was joined on the UC Irvine tour by officials including Irvine Mayor Farrah Khan and Vice Mayor Tammy Kim, as well as UCI Chancellor

Howard Gillman. A group of several resident advisers led her around the Mesa Court Towers, which were completed in 2016. She even stopped by the dorm room of four UCI students who live on the fifth floor of the Caballo Tower.

"Billions of dollars were allocated by the governor and the Legislature for basic needs across the CSU, UC and community college systems," Kounalakis said. "Irvine is one of the larger recipients of grant money, and it's clearly being put to good use. The bottom line is that students deserve to be able to focus on their studies and not worry about where they're going to sleep at night."

Housing is an issue close to Kounalakis' heart. Before serving as President Obama's U.S. Ambassador to Hungary from 2010 to 2013, she was president of AKT Development Corp., one of California's largest housing development firms. It was founded by her father, Angelo Tsakopoulos, in 1964.

"We need more housing in

California," the lieutenant governor said. "We need more affordable housing in California. The grant funds allocated here will help students from lower-income, underrepresented communities to have housing. It's a great project."

Third-year UC Irvine student Ella Lee, an education sciences major, was one of the RAs chosen to lead the tour.

"It was definitely an interesting opportunity," Lee said. "It was very fun to have a genuine conversation with her, where she's asking us about our experiences too. It just felt like she cared about us."

Lee is plenty knowledgeable about the UC Irvine campus, as a two-year RA as well as a campus representative who does tours. But she was still happy that her room wasn't on Kounalakis' itinerary.

"If she went into my room right now, it would be a mess," Lee said with a laugh.

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