

Daily Pilot

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Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

A PHOTO of a duck covered in oil from last year's Huntington Beach oil spill is displayed during news conference held Thursday at the Orange County district attorney's office. Amplify Energy Corp., the company operating the pipeline that caused the spill, agreed to pay nearly \$5 million.

Pipeline operator agrees to pay nearly \$5 million

BY MATT SZABO

The company operating the pipeline that ruptured last October, causing at least 25,000 gallons of crude oil to spill off the coast of Huntington Beach, pleaded no contest in Orange County court Thursday to six criminal charges.

Amplify Energy Corp., based in Houston, and subsidiaries Beta Operating Co. and San Pedro Bay Pipeline Co. were charged with misdemeanor counts by Orange County and state prosecutors this week. They included

pollution and failing to immediately report the oil spill in state waters to the Office of Emergency Services.

Additional misdemeanor charges included two counts of unlawful taking of a fully protected bird — a brown pelican — and two counts of taking a migratory nongame bird, a Brandt's cormorant.

Under the plea deal, Amplify pays nearly \$5 million in fines and penalties, split between the state and county governments.

California Atty. Gen. Rob Bonta said Thursday during a news conference at the

district attorney's office in Santa Ana that the plea deal is believed to be the largest state misdemeanor criminal fine in Orange County history.

He said Amplify will also be placed on probation for a year and that it must train and instruct employees to immediately notify the appropriate agencies of potential spills. Amplify must also install and improve advanced leak detection systems and conduct safety measures including biannual vis-

See **Pipeline**, page A2

HBPD mount hearty welcome for new member Guardian

Horse named to honor Officer Nicholas Vella, who died in a February helicopter crash.

BY SARA CARDINE

Huntington Beach recently welcomed a new member to its police force — an 11-year-old American Quarter Horse named Guardian who was selected to serve in the department's Mounted Enforcement Unit.

Guardian joins four other horses who work with MEU officers to assist with crowd surveillance and control as well as during moments of civil unrest or

disorder. Together, the teams may be called to serve at both spontaneous and planned events at Huntington Beach parks, beaches and downtown areas.

They may also be helpful in responding to incidents and investigations that take place in hard-to-reach areas where larger police vehicles may not be able to reach.

Huntington Beach Police spokeswoman Jessica Cuchilla said the department put out a call to nearby cities with equestrian units and learned about Guardian. Because of the nature of their work, horses must pos-

See **Guardian**, page A4



GUARDIAN, an American quarter horse, is the newest member of Huntington Beach Police Department's Mounted Enforcement Unit. The 11-year-old is named to honor fallen Officer Nicholas Vella, who died in a helicopter crash in February.

Courtesy of the city of Huntington Beach

Case of bookie killing goes to jury

Dennis Tri Gia Dang, 32, of Westminster, is accused of the shooting death of Linh Ho, then 48, of Fountain Valley.

BY ERIC LICAS

Attorneys on Thursday concluded their arguments in the case of a man accused of killing a bookie he worked for and owed about \$60,000 to in Huntington Beach three years ago, then placed the matter into the hands of a jury.

More than a dozen friends and relatives of the victim, then 48-year-old Linh Ho of Fountain Valley, were present each day of trial, as were the parents of the defendant, Dennis Tri Gia Dang, 32, of Westminster, his attorney, Ricardo Nicol, said after jurors left court to begin their deliberations. He and witnesses described Ho as a close friend of Dang's father and someone the defendant had looked up to.

The victim ran a sports betting operation, and Dang started working part time for him shortly after graduating from UC Irvine with a degree in criminal justice. The defendant would find gamblers interested in placing bets and collect payment from them if they lost. He and Ho developed what was described as a good working relationship and were in business together for about eight years.

But at some point, players Dang had recommended had wracked up debts totaling about \$60,000. The morning before the Oct. 20, 2019 shooting, Ho told the defendant in a text message to meet him with the money "... or else you can't blame me for what happens to you."

Dang called Ho an "O.G." in a

See **Jury**, page A2

ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

FILIPE TOLEDO, STEPHANIE GILMORE CROWNED SURFING WORLD CHAMPIONS PAGE A3

Protestors call for removal of fence around county parkland

Thursday's protestors at Back Bay carried signs that read "Give back our public park" and "Take down the fence."

BY LILLY NGUYEN

A small but vocal group of protestors gathered at Newport Beach's Back Bay Thursday evening, brandishing signs and calling out for the removal of a fence surrounding county-owned land that was nearly sold to a local political donor last year — had it not been for the intervention of residents and Orange County Supervisor Katrina Foley.

The issue centers on the 2021 proposed sale of a .32-acre parcel of parkland to Buck Johns, whose private property abuts the parcel in upper Newport Bay, for an estimated \$13,000. While the deal ultimately didn't go through, its process and aftermath have been the subject of scrutiny for one

county grand jury and, most recently, the state Coastal Commission.

While the land remains owned by the county, a fence still stands around the parcel and, in backing down from removing the fence after Johns' attorney sent a letter threatening legal action, county officials "inappropriately ceded [the parcel] to private use," according to the Orange County grand jury report released in June.

Thursday's protestors carried signs that read "Give back our public park" and "Take down the fence" as they stood at the corner of Mesa and Upper Bay drives.

They were occasionally met with supportive honks and some people passing by on foot who took up a sign and joined the protest just outside of Johns' home.

The group later marched to the fence at the rear of Johns' property, tying signs to it with zip ties

See **Fence**, page A4



James Carbone

ABOUT 40 protestors gather at the fence site demonstrating against the proposed and failed sale of the property to a political donor, at the Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve. County officials nearly sold the land for \$13,000 to a wealthy political donor, Buck Johns. Local and state officials have since scrutinized the process.

Daily Pilot

A Times Community News publication incorporating the Huntington Beach Independent, Coastline Pilot, Orange Coast Daily Pilot and the Newport Harbor News Press combined with Daily Pilot

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PIPELINE

Continued from page A1

ual inspections of its pipeline.

“The oil spill that occurred off the coast of Orange County had a devastating toll on our wildlife,” Bonta said. “It also had a human impact, on small businesses near the shoreline, restaurants, ice cream shops, surf shops and commercial fishermen who all rely on California’s waters and beaches for their livelihood. They were all impacted ... and today, subject to the court’s approval, we are announcing a meaningful, significant resolution and ensuring accountability and justice.”

“These are strong penalties, but let’s be clear here. This spill should not have happened in the first place. Amplify’s leak detection system worked, and Amplify failed to take appropriate action. No reports of a leak or potential leak



CALIFORNIA ATTY. GEN. Rob Bonta said in a news conference at the district attorney’s office in Santa Ana that the plea deal is believed to be the largest state misdemeanor criminal fine in Orange County history.

Kevin Chang
Staff Photographer

were made for over 16 hours.”

Orange County Dist. Atty. Todd Spitzer said Amplify “unequivocally hit the snooze button.”

“They shut down the pipeline, they started it up again, and there were seven more instances where the alarm notified them that there was a leak,” he said. “Snooze, snooze, snooze, snooze, snooze. Over and

over, they kept ignoring it. That is criminal, and that is why they’ve been charged.”

On Aug. 26, Amplify and its two subsidiaries agreed to plead guilty to violating the federal Clean Water Act and agreed to pay a \$7.1-million criminal fine and compensate federal programs about \$5.8 million. Those pleas were also entered in federal court on Thursday and accepted by Judge David O. Carter.

The state also has an ongoing civil case against Amplify, Bonta said.

Amplify President/CEO Martyn Willsher said in a statement Thursday that the company has continued to cooperate with the various agencies investigating the incident.

“We believe this resolution, which is subject to court review and approval, reflects the commitments we made immediately following the incident to impacted parties and is in the best interest of Amplify and its stakeholders,” Willsher said. “We are committed to safely operating in a way that ensures the pro-

tection of the environment and the surrounding communities.”

The news conference was also attended by Orange County Supervisor Katrina Foley, Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris (D-Irvine) and state Sen. Dave Min.

In July, Foley and her fellow supervisors accepted nearly \$1 million from Amplify to cover expenses related to the emergency response and cleanup efforts.

“I think there’s a strong message sent that we will not tolerate polluters, and they will be held accountable,” Foley said Thursday. “It’s an important message to hear because the consequences of allowing oil companies to manage their equipment, to not manage their employees well, are dire to all of us. The coast is filled with lots of wildlife, but also this is a tourism community reliant on the coastal economy.”

City News Service contributed to this report.

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MARKETPLACE

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<http://timescommunityadvertising.com/>

LEGAL NOTICES 1300

Business Names

Fictitious Business Name Statement
The following person(s) is/are doing business as: **MARIAN WAY APARTMENTS** 838 S. MARIAN WAY, ANAHEIM, CA 92804, ORANGE County, KENNETH L. MCKAY, TRUSTEE KEN AND DIANE MCKAY FAMILY TRUST, BYPASS TRUST DATED JUNE 30, 2000 22982 MILL CREEK DRIVE, LAGUNA HILLS, CA 92653. This business is conducted by a Trust. The Registrant(s) Commenced to transact business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) listed above on: 07/01/2022 Signed Kenneth L. McKay, Trustee This statement was filed with the County of ORANGE on 08/12/2022. 2022 6641674 8/19, 8/26, 9/02 & 9/09/22

Fictitious Business Name Statement
The following person(s) is/are doing business as: **OAKTREE APARTMENTS** 8081 7TH STREET, BUENA PARK, CA 90621, ORANGE County, 360 EAST ERNA AVENUE, LLC. 22982 MILL CREEK DRIVE, LAGUNA HILLS, CA 92653. This business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company. The Registrant(s) Commenced to transact business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) listed above on: 07/01/2022 Signed Kenneth L. McKay, Trustee This statement was filed with the County of ORANGE on 08/12/2022. 2022 6641665 8/19, 8/26, 9/02 & 9/09/22

MERCHANDISE 800

Miscellaneous Merchandise

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Legal Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to the California Self Service Storage Facility Act (B&P Code 21700 ET seq.) The undersigned will sell at public auction on Friday September 23, 2022 at 12:00 pm Personal property including but not limited to furniture, clothing, tools and/or other household items located at: The sale will take place online at www.selfstorageauction.com
Morgan, Joseph D.
Myrick III, George T.
Jackson, Patricia Diane
All sales are subject to prior cancellation. All terms, rules and regulations are available online at www.selfstorageauction.com.
Dated this 9th of September and 16th of September 2022 by Costa Mesa Self Storage 3180 Red Hill Costa Mesa, CA 92626 (714) 966-9901
9/9, 9/16/22
CNS-3622395#
DAILY PILOT

CITY OF COSTA MESA PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Costa Mesa Zoning Administrator will render a decision on **Thursday, September 22, 2022**, or as soon as possible thereafter, on the following item:
Application No.: ZA-22-12
Applicant/Agent: Lin He/ Peng Jiang
Site Address: 482 Costa Mesa St.
Zone: R1 (Single Family Residential)
Description: Zoning Application 22-12 is a request for a Minor Conditional Use Permit to construct an attached 3-car garage greater than 700-square-feet in area (762 square feet) proposed for a new two-story single family residence.
Environmental Determination: The project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) per CEQA Guidelines Section 15303 (Class 3), New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures.
Additional Information: For more information, call (714) 754-5245, or email planninginfo@costamesaca.gov Planning Division staff are available from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Thursday and alternating Fridays, except specified holidays. There will be **no public hearing** on this request. Any written correspondence must be emailed to ZAPublicComments@costamesaca.gov prior to **12:00 PM** on the day of the decision date (see above). The decision letter can be downloaded from the City’s website following the decision date at: <http://www.costamesaca.gov/index.aspx?page=940>
If you challenge this action in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you, or someone else raised, prior to the decision date.

Legal Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to the California Self Service Storage Facility Act (B&P Code 21700 ET seq.) The undersigned will sell at public auction on Friday September 23, 2022 at 2:30 pm Personal property including but not limited to furniture, clothing, tools and/or other household items located at: The sale will take place online at www.selfstorageauction.com
Lucas, John P.
Alvarado, Fernando L.
Anderson, E. Marie
Thomas, Joy C.
All sales are subject to prior cancellation. All terms, rules and regulations are available online at www.selfstorageauction.com.
Dated this 9th of September and 16th of September 2022 by Irvine Self Storage 2960 Maine St. Irvine, CA 92614 (949) 851-7900
9/9, 9/16/22
CNS-3623119#
DAILY PILOT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to the California Self Service Storage Facility Act (B&P Code 21700 ET seq.) The undersigned will sell at public auction on Friday September 23, 2022 at 12:30 pm. Personal property including but not limited to furniture, clothing, tools and/or other household items located at: The sale will take place online at www.selfstorageauction.com
Julia Bridget Slagle
Miguel Calderon Navarro
Jeremy T Contreras
Hasheem J Hicks
All sales are subject to prior cancellation. All terms, rules and regulations are available online at www.selfstorageauction.com Dated this, September 9 and September 16, 2022 by Woodbridge Self Storage, 5020 Barranca Pkwy., Irvine, CA 92604 949-857-4900
9/9, 9/16/22
CNS-3623256#
DAILY PILOT

BSC 222191

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF MARLENE M. LAMASTER
CASE# 30-2022-0127782-PR-NC-CJC
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF ORANGE
Notice is hereby given to the creditors and contingent creditors of the above-named decedent, that all persons having claims against the decedent are required to file them with the Superior Court, at 700 Civic Center Dr., West, Santa Ana, CA 92701, and mail or deliver a copy to Anna Marie Marciano, as trustee of the Marlene M. La Master Trust dated October 25, 2007 wherein the decedent was the Trustor, at 17782 E. 17th St., Ste. 109, Tustin, CA 92780, within the later of four months after September 7, 2022 (the date of the first publication of notice to creditors) or, if notice is mailed or personally delivered to you, 60 days after the date this notice is mailed or personally delivered to you, or you must petition to file a late claim as provided in Section 19103 of the Probate Code. A claim form may be obtained from the court clerk. For your protection, you are encouraged to file your claim by certified mail, with return receipt requested.
Attorney for Trustee
Robert E. Pearson II, ESQ
Robert E. Pearson, APLC
17782 E. 17th St., Ste. #109
Tustin, CA 92780
Published in the ORANGE COAST DAILY PILOT on: 9/7, 9/9 & 9/14/2022

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE (UCC Sec. 6105)

Escrow No. **16023**
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a bulk sale is about to be made. The name(s) and business address of the Seller are: **YUNG CHEUNG KO, 320 SUPERIOR, SUITE 120, NEWPORT BEACH, CA 92663**
Doing Business as: **MARINER'S PHARMACY**
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 location of the chief executive office of the seller is: **YUNG CHEUNG KO, 320 SUPERIOR, SUITE 120, NEWPORT BEACH, CA 92663**
The name(s) and address of the Buyer(s) are: **SWEET CUTE, INC., A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION BY: SHIRIN-NAZ MOLTAJJI, C.E.O., 118 BARRINGTON, IRVINE, CA 92618**
The assets being sold are generally described as: **INVENTORY, FURNITURE, FIXTURES, TRADE FIXTURES, EQUIPMENT, CONTRACT RIGHTS, STOCK IN TRADE, MATERIAL CONTRACTS, COMPUTER HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE, CUSTOMER AND CLIENT LISTS, PRESCRIPTION FILES AND RECORDS, TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND FAX NUMBERS, SUPPLIES, TRADE NAME, GOODWILL, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, WEB SITES, E-MAIL ADDRESSES, DOMAIN NAMES, SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS, COVENANT NOT TO COMPETE, LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS, SIGNS, ETC.** and are located at: **320 SUPERIOR, SUITE 120, NEWPORT BEACH, CA 92663**
The bulk sale is intended to be consummated at the office of: **JEAN ALLEN ESCROW CO, INC, 3341 CERRITOS AVENUE, LOS ALAMITOS, CA 90720** and the anticipated sale date is **SEPTEMBER 27, 2022**
The 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: **JEAN ALLEN ESCROW CO, INC, 3341 CERRITOS AVENUE, LOS ALAMITOS, CA 90720**. And the last day for filing claims by any creditor shall be **SEPTEMBER 26, 2022** which is the business day before the anticipated sale date specified above.
Dated: **AUGUST 15, 2022**
SWEET CUTE, INC., A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION,
Buyer(s)
1151372-PP DAILY PILOT 9/9/22

LEGAL NOTICE



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Planning Commission
In-Person: City Hall Council Chambers at 505 Forest Avenue, Laguna Beach, CA 92651
Virtual Zoom Link PC: <https://lagunabeachcity.zoom.us/j/93696942810>
Virtual Phone No. PC: (669) 900-9128 / ID NO. 93696942810
Wednesday, September 21, 2022 at 6:00 PM

The CITY OF LAGUNA BEACH will hold a public hearing on the request below. You may participate in-person at City Hall virtually on Zoom. Case No.: Local Coastal Program Amendment 22-1745. Location: Downtown Specific Plan Area, Applicant: City of Laguna Beach, PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Local Coastal Program Amendment 22-1745 to amend Table 5-1 (Allowed Uses and Permit Requirements) of the Downtown Specific Plan related to eating and drinking establishments. The Planning Commission will review the draft amendment and make a recommendation to the City Council. COASTAL ZONE: The Downtown Specific Plan includes areas that are within the appealable area of the coastal zone. A Local Coastal Program Amendment is required. CEQA: A Local Coastal Program Amendment is required because all amendments to the City’s certified Local Coastal Plan require Coastal Commission approval. The Local Coastal Program Amendment has been determined to be an exempted project pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, Sections 15060(c)(2) and 15061(b)(3) in that the proposed amendments are not anticipated to result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, nor will the proposed changes have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Additionally, Public Resources Code Section 21080.5, a provision of CEQA, and Section 15265(c) of the State CEQA Guidelines shift the burden of CEQA compliance to the California Coastal Commission in connection with the preparation or amendment to a Local Coastal Program (LCP). The Coastal Commission’s LCP review and approval procedures have been found to be functionally equivalent to the environmental review process. MORE INFORMATION: The staff report will be available on the City’s website the Saturday before the public hearing (<https://www.lagunabeachcity.net/live-here/city-council-meetings-agendas-and-minutes>) and at the Community Development Department public counter during the following hours: Monday – Friday: 7:30am – 4:30pm, closed alternating Fridays. HOW TO COMMENT: If you have any comments or concerns about the proposed project, please communicate those thoughts in writing to Wendy Jung, Senior Planner at wjung@lagunabeachcity.net or submit to the Community Development Department located at 505 Forest Avenue, Laguna Beach, CA 92651. Planning Commissioners may also be contacted to discuss issues and questions about the proposed project. A listing of the Planning Commissioners and their contact information is available in City Hall and on the City’s website at www.lagunabeachcity.net. Comments may also be made via teleconferencing during the Public Hearing from a computer, iPad or smart phone or in-person in the Council Chambers. Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons with a disability who require a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in a meeting may request such modification or accommodation from the Zoning Division at (949) 497-0329. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to assure accessibility to the meeting. Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if you challenge this application in court, the issues raised shall be limited to those raised in the public hearing or in written correspondence delivered to the public agency prior to, or at, the public hearing.

JURY

Continued from page A1

recorded statement following his arrest and said he had been receiving threats from him in the weeks leading up to the killing. Nicol argued that his client feared for his life and acted in self-defense when he got into the victim’s silver Escalade in front of a restaurant near Warner Avenue and Magnolia Street and shot him once in the right temple.

“Linh Ho planned a confrontation with Dennis,” Nicol said. “Linh Ho was planning to get tough with Dennis, do what an ‘O.G.’ does to collect what they’re owed.”

However, Orange County Deputy Dist. Atty. Janine Madera said there was no evidence to suggest Dang had any reasonable belief he was in imminent mortal danger. She pointed out that there were no threats of physical violence made by the defendant. He also chose to meet at an occupied strip mall in broad daylight and was unarmed.

“Linh Ho was such a tough guy, such an ‘O.G., that he brought car keys to a gun fight,” Madera said.

Dang had told a long-time friend, 34-year-old Casey Ngo of Midway City, about the money Ho was demanding and said he wasn’t going to be able to pay in full. The defendant said he expected the victim to be upset with him and asked Ngo to ride with him to their meeting but didn’t mention he was bringing a gun.

Nicol claimed that Dang wanted someone he could trust nearby in case he needed help. However, Madera noted they parked in a back lot, out of view of where the encounter with the victim took place. She suggested that was because he had already decided to kill Ho and set Ngo up as an unwitting getaway driver.

“He just didn’t want his best friend to see what he was going to do,” Madera said.

Dang told investigators Ho became aggressive when he told him he didn’t have all of the cash he had asked for, so he pulled a gun out of his waistband and told Ho to stop threatening him. In his recorded

statement he claimed the bookie reached at him in an apparent attempt to swat the weapon out of his face when he pulled the trigger.

The exchange unfolded over the course of less than a minute. Nicol suggested that his client was fearful and acted in the heat of the moment.

Dang then jumped into the passenger seat of his car and told Ngo to “just go,” the defendant’s friend recalled during testimony. He changed his clothes as they drove, just as he had just before the meeting. Madera argued Dang did that because he had planned his actions ahead of time and wanted to avoid being recognized at the scene of the crime.

Meanwhile, Ho stumbled out of the passenger side of an SUV and collapsed onto a nearby patch of grass. Good Samaritans and first responders came to his aid, but he died six days later in a hospital.

“It’s a hard thing to kill someone, especially someone you’ve known for that long. Maybe he wishes he didn’t. But the law doesn’t do Mulligans,” Madera said Wednesday just before displaying a photo of victim in court. “This was Linh Ho. He was 48. He doesn’t get to come back.”

Surveillance footage led Huntington Beach police to identify Dang as a suspect. During his initial interview with police, he denied being at the strip mall on the day of the shooting. But he later acknowledged his role in the shooting after investigators told them they had footage placing him at the scene.

Dang went on to provide the recorded statements that were presented as evidence with what his attorney characterized as “an air of resignation. He was resigned to the fact that everything was going to come out.”

However, Madera pointed out that the defendant has an education in criminal justice and was well aware that what he said at that time would likely be played to jurors if he was put on trial.

Dang did not testify during his murder trial. Whether or not jurors believe the account of events he gave to police will be a key factor in deciding the outcome of the case.

“You’re going to have to deal with a lot of black, white and a lot of shades of gray,” Nicol told jurors before they began deliberations.

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RIP CURL WORLD SURF LEAGUE

Toledo, Gilmore capture surfing world titles

BY JOE HAAKENSON

SAN CLEMENTE — Filipe Toledo and Stephanie Gilmore won the Rip Curl World Surf League Finals on Thursday at Lower Trestles in San Clemente, but the similarities of their crowning achievements end there.

For Brazil's Toledo, 27, the men's world title was his first but wasn't unexpected considering he was the No. 1 seed.

For Australia's Gilmore, 34, the women's world title was her eighth, the most by a woman in pro surfing history (surpassing Layne Beachley's seven). But it seemingly came out of nowhere, since she arrived as the No. 5 seed.

Toledo beat fellow Brazilian Italo Ferreira in two consecutive heats after Ferreira had to climb his way up as the No. 4 seed.

Ferreira was spectacular in beating Huntington Beach local and No. 5 seed Kanoa Igarashi, No. 3 seed Ethan Ewing of Australia and No. 2 seed Jack Robinson of Australia to reach the best-of-three finals matchup with Toledo.

But Ferreira seemed to run out of gas after relying on his air game early in the day, and Toledo was obviously fresh and ready to go. Toledo won the first heat 15.13-14.97, then won the second heat 16.50-14.93.

"Being No. 1 it's a good advantage, I was sitting at home watching and cruising and having fun with my kids and family," Toledo said. "Preparing myself and preparing my mind. Finally got to surf the first heat and felt really good."

Toledo joins the club that includes Gabriel Medina, Ferreira and Adriano de Souza as Brazilian world champions. The quartet has combined to win six of



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

AUSTRALIA'S STEPHANIE GILMORE competes at the World Surf League finals at Lower Trestles Beach.

the last eight men's world championships.

"It's a feeling that obviously I've never felt before," Toledo said. "It's just the relief, all the hard work of nine years (on the Championship Tour) of sacrificing a lot, my family — you know how hard it is to leave your kid behind. For this moment, for my family, to see the spark in everybody's eyes, there's no price."

Gilmore had to work her way up as the No. 5 seed, surfing the first heat of the day at 8 a.m. and falling behind quickly to No. 4 seed Brisa Hennessy of Costa Rica.

Gilmore, though, rallied to beat Hennessy, beat No. 3 Tatiana Weston-Webb of Brazil and No. 2 Johanne Defay of France before going up against No. 1

seed Carissa Moore of Hawaii.

Moore, the two-time defending world champion, a five-time world champion overall and the Olympic gold medalist, was the favorite but was unable to slow down the momentum Gilmore had built up throughout the day.

Gilmore won both heats against Moore, 15.00-10.90 and 15.23-11.97.

"To be honest, I disliked this format," Gilmore said. "I thought the world champion should be crowned in all the different waves over the entire period of the year. And now I love it. That's the beauty of it. I've never won a world title sitting in the water against the world No. 1. There really are no words to describe this feeling right now."

For Huntington's Igarashi, the

quest for a world title ended early when he lost the first men's heat of the morning to Ferreira, 13.37-11.83.

The heat was a rematch of the Olympic gold medal matchup last year in Japan when Ferreira came out on top. Ferreira essentially won the heat Thursday with one spectacular maneuver, a huge full rotation air reverse that was scored an 8.17.

That score left Igarashi needing a 5.68, but when Ferreira improved his backup score without priority, Igarashi was left needing a 6.55 with just four minutes remaining.

With 2:30 to go, Igarashi got a wave that just didn't provide the push he needed, and Igarashi pulled out of the wave and never got another. That left Ferreira in

position to win and eventually get all the way to the final.

"It was just one of those things where it was a rhythm thing, and he had more rhythm than me," said Igarashi, who finished the season ranked No. 5 in the world. "The ocean got me today. There's gonna be a couple heats today where the ocean decides the winner and that's just the way it is. I wish I had a fighting chance at the end but the ocean didn't give me that option today, so it's one of those things where I'm grateful to be surfing and be healthy and be home."

There were some tense moments early in the heat when Igarashi and Ferreira bumped into each other paddling for a wave, and when Igarashi took the wave, he immediately went down.

"His hand got stuck in my leash, his hand or maybe his board, I didn't see, I wasn't looking back," Igarashi said. "His hand got stuck in my leash and made me kind of go over the handlebars. So it was unfortunate, yeah, there's a couple question marks but it's just competition. It got a little bit physical in the beginning but we were able to clean it up toward the end and have a good heat."

Ferreira and the Brazilians are known for their aggressive approach in the water, so Igarashi said it wasn't unexpected.

"There was some strategy involved there, so it was one of those things where I control what I can control," he said. "All our heats are like, hey, let's go toe to toe here. It's a lot less strategy than I would have in a lot of other heats, which is really fun for me, that's why I enjoy competing against Italo."

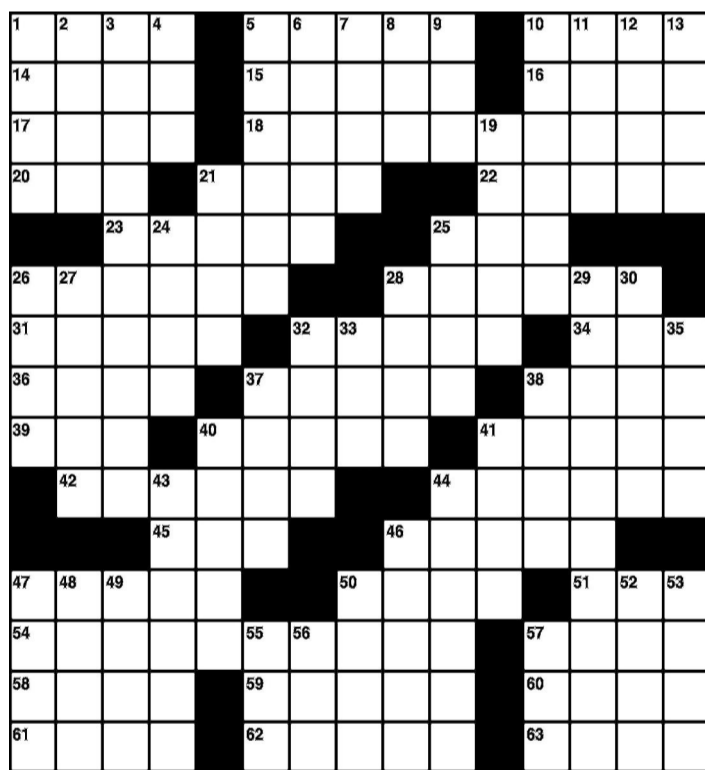
Joe Haakenson is a contributor to the Daily Pilot.

THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS

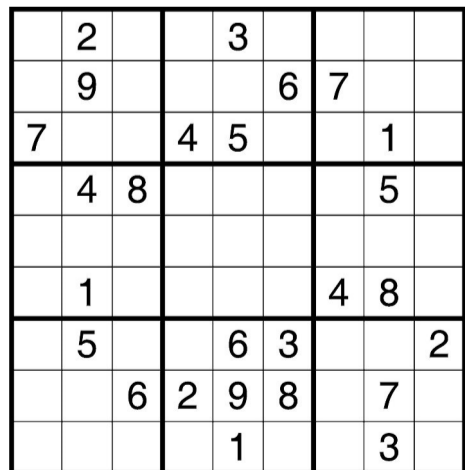
- 1 Frame of mind
- 5 Actress
- Moorehead
- 10 Frozen waffle
- 14 Data, for short
- 15 Tipsy
- 16 Spinnaker or jib
- 17 Performances
- 18 Vengeful
- 20 Notice
- 21 Novak & Basinger
- 22 Detests
- 23 Boisterous
- 25 Nixon or Boone
- 26 Shrewd
- 28 Ne'er-do-wells
- 31 Bring together
- 32 Line of people
- 34 Listener's need
- 36 Glasgow caps
- 37 Most popular German meat product
- 38 Make nails smooth
- 39 Raw mineral
- 40 Drizzles or pours
- 41 Fisherman's delights
- 42 Chaperone
- 44 Not at all boastful
- 45 "We _ It All"; Waylon Jennings hit
- 46 More modern
- 47 Soft drinks
- 50 Broker's advice
- 51 Not long _; recently
- 54 Punctuation mark
- 57 Throw for a loop
- 58 1/100 of a euro
- 59 Informed
- 60 Satan's realm
- 61 _ socks; bagpiper's hosiery
- 62 Waiter's handouts
- 63 Get a glimpse of



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.

DOWN

- 1 War casualties, for short
- 2 In the past
- 3 Frequently
- 4 Uno, _ tres
- 5 Give counsel to
- 6 Like coal miners' clothes
- 7 Convent dwellers
- 8 At the _ of the day; ultimately
- 9 Enjoy a winter sport
- 10 Subject of a will
- 11 Trot or canter
- 12 _ in; relent
- 13 Spanish cheers
- 19 Run after
- 21 High-flying toy
- 24 Pitcher's

- delights
- 25 Mope
- 26 Car
- 27 Catch in a trap
- 28 Not as much
- 29 Repeats
- 30 Soupy of slapstick
- 32 Throw in the towel
- 33 Decorative vase
- 35 Nap
- 37 Beaver's dad
- 38 Bona _; genuine
- 40 Cut of beef
- 41 Cereal eater's need
- 43 Immaculate
- 44 Free-for-alls
- 46 India's first prime minister
- 47 Bag
- 48 _ house; realtor's event
- 49 "Been there, _ that"
- 50 Bridge
- 52 Swallow hard
- 53 Part of SRO
- 55 NFL team member
- 56 Be beholden to
- 57 That woman

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PROTESTORS PUT signs on a fence site demonstrating against the proposed sale of a .32-acre parcel on Thursday.

FENCE

Continued from page A1

and evoking references to the Berlin Wall with one shouting, “Mr. Gorbachev — I mean, Buck, tear down this fence!”

The state Coastal Commission in August sent a letter to county officials saying the fence is in violation of the Coastal Act. In the letter, District Enforcement Officer Nicholas Tealer noted recommendations from the grand jury report and said the state agency supported removal of the fence and any other encroachments.

Tealer said the fence is considered development that is “inconsistent with public access policies of the Coastal Act and a violation of the Coastal Act and [local coastal plan’s] permitting requirements.”

County spokeswoman Molly Nichelson declined to comment on the commission’s letter and Johns’ attorney Patrick Muñoz did not respond to a request for comment as of press deadline.

In a prepared statement issued by her office Aug. 23, Foley said the Coastal Commission’s letter “confirms that public land must remain for the public use — not private interests. At my first Board of Supervisors meeting in April 2021, the board considered the sale of public land for a mere \$13,000. I immediately stopped the sale from moving forward in order to review the details and legalities. Then more than 1,000 residents presented signatures opposing the sale, and I removed the item.

“After the property owner sent a letter threatening litigation, the county refused



Photos by James Carbone

PROTESTORS MARCH to the fence site demonstrating against the proposed and failed sale of a property in Newport Beach’s Back Bay. County officials nearly sold the land for \$13,000. Government officials have since scrutinized the process.

to require him to take down his fence,” Foley continued. “I’ve consistently stood with the community in disagreement with this inaction, and I’m glad the Coastal Commission finally weighed in to confirm the unlawfulness of allowing his fence on public land.

“I look forward to the day when we see the fence removed and allow the community and wildlife to enjoy this beautiful land once

again.”

Dan Jamieson organized Thursday’s protest in coordination with Susan Skinner, with plans coming together over the last week.

Skinner said this is the first of a number of protests planned if the county doesn’t remove the fence.

“This is a situation where you have the public locked out of their property and they know it and they know it’s illegal to do so,” Skinner

said. “The Coastal Commission has said take it down ... the grand jury has said take it down, and they are not willing to do so.”

Skinner said she sees the refusal to take the fence down as political favoritism.

Dan Cohen of Newport Beach said he was out protesting Thursday evening in place of his mother, Jean Beek, an activist who helped save Newport Bay.

“The Irvine Co. was all set to develop the entire Back Bay. Her friends and she worked to stop the trade and you now see the result. Here we are 50 years later fighting the same fight we fought 50 years ago, which is public lands should remain in public hands,” Cohen said. “It’s strange, but here we are.”

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Twitter: @lilibirds

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

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

GUARDIAN

Continued from page A1

sess certain qualities that will assist officers on the job.

The gelding was evaluated and found to be a good fit.

“What we look for in a horse are their personality traits, their ability to interact with people and their response to stressful situations and noise,” Cuchilla explained Thursday.

Named as a tribute to fallen HBPD Officer Nicholas Vella — a 14-year veter-

an of the department who died in a Feb. 19 helicopter crash in the line of duty — Guardian has been partnered with MEU Officer Victor Ojeda. His first day on the job was July 29.

In addition to receiving regular training at the city’s Central Park Equestrian Center, where they are boarded, MEU equines like Guardian engage in weekly training alongside their officer partners, going out on trail rides together so horses can become attuned to their riders and vice versa.

Cuchilla said Guardian

was purchased with donations made to the nonprofit Huntington Beach Police and Community Foundation, which provides supplies and equipment and also funds special programs.

Guardian and Officer Ojeda, along with the rest of the HBPD Mounted Enforcement Unit, may be seen out on patrol during the upcoming Pacific Air Show, which runs from Sept. 30 through Oct. 2 over the Huntington Beach Pier.

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By **Christina Ham**
Directed by **Logan Vaughn**
Oct. 2 – 23

This deeply personal play with music imagines how the iconic chanteuse gave voice to countless other Black women fighting to overcome stereotypes and racism.
Recommended for Ages 14+

The season continues with...

Snow White
Adapted by **Greg Banks**
Directed by **H. Adam Harris**
Nov. 4 – 20, 2022
Theatre for Young Audiences & Families
Ages 4+

Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol
Adapted by **Jerry Patch**
Directed by **Hisa Takakuwa**
Nov. 26 – Dec. 24, 2022
Ages 6+. Children under age 6 will not be admitted

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