

# Daily Pilot

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2022 // dailypilot.com

## NMUSD honors outgoing Yelsey, Metoyer

Trustees praised in last time on dais as returns show proponents of public school edging out parent-choice advocates.

BY SARA CARDINE

Outgoing Newport-Mesa Unified School District trustees Karen Yelsey and Charlene Metoyer were recognized for their outstanding service Tuesday during their final appearances on the dais before election winners — two incumbents and two newcomers — likely take oaths in December.

In a farewell tribute at a regular meeting, the two school board members received commendations from elected officials and words of praise from colleagues and fellow trustees.

Metoyer has been with NMUSD for 24 years, working as an administrative intern, teacher and principal before serving eight years as a board member. Yelsey's involvement with the district began at the PTA and school-site level before her election to the governing board in 2006.

Board president Michelle Barto commended the two for their constant presence at school productions and sporting events and credited them with being role models of bravery and compassion for the entire district.

"I've learned so much from that heart that you have for all students and the appreciation

See **Honors**, page A4

## Bicyclist struck and killed by suspected DUI driver

BY ANDREW TURNER

A Garden Grove man was killed after being struck by a vehicle while riding his bike on a residential street in Fountain Valley Tuesday morning, authorities said in a news release.

Phong Khuu, 62, the bicyclist, was pronounced dead at the scene.

Fountain Valley police responded to a call regarding the incident at the intersection of Sunn Avenue and Los Coches Street, which serves as an entry point to the neighborhood off Edinger Avenue just north of Mile Square Park.

Scott McDonough, 43, of Fountain Valley, the driver of the vehicle, remained at the scene. Authorities said McDonough was driving northbound in a gray Honda CR-V, made a U-turn at

See **Bicyclist**, page A4



Andrew Turner

**FLOWERS LEFT** on the corner of Los Coches Street and Sunn Avenue, the site of a fatal accident in Fountain Valley on Tuesday.



Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**DIANA MARKS**, school board vice president; Ann Sullivan, board member; Bridget Kaub, board member; Leisa Winston, superintendent and Paul Morrow, board president, from left, do the traditional shovel scoop during the groundbreaking ceremony at Sowers Middle School on Tuesday.

## Renovations set to begin for Sowers Middle School in H.B.

BY MATT SZABO

Navigating the honeycomb-shaped building at Sowers Middle School in Huntington Beach can get confusing.

Current Sowers principal Renee Johnson, in her third year, laughs when she talks about walking around the campus of the school that was built in 1973.

"Because of that honeycomb shape, everything opens up to everything else," she explained. "Sometimes you're just like, 'Oh, I didn't realize I was over there.' There's one room, honestly when I first started as assistant principal, I'm like, 'Where are these kids coming from?' I didn't even know that room was there."

That will all be changing in the coming months, as the Huntington Beach City School District campus undergoes a \$71-million reconstruction project.

The district held a groundbreaking ceremony on the Sowers campus Tuesday afternoon, with remarks from Supt. Leisa Winston and Board of Trustees President Paul Morrow, among others.

The project will bring significant changes to the campus. The front office, currently located off Indianapolis Avenue, will be moved to the east part of the campus off Latern Lane.

"It's really designed, finally, to make sense for parents dropping off kids and [for] parking," said Morrow, who served as Sowers principal for 15 years before moving on to Marina High. "And our classrooms are going to allow windows and air conditioning, all of the things that kids need to feel comfortable

See **School**, page A4



**ABOVE:** Board president Paul Morrow and Sowers Principal Renee Johnson, from left, make comments during Tuesday's ceremony.

**RIGHT:** Members of the Sowers Middle School choir perform "Pure Imagination."



## N.B. looks to buy property for new police HQ

BY LILLY NGUYEN

The Newport Beach Police Department may move to Dove Street following City Council action Tuesday night that will allow city staff to begin the process of purchasing a 3.59-acre property for \$30.5 million to house new police headquarters sometime in the next decade.

With a 5-1 vote in favor of the purchase, the city will enter an agreement with AG Dove Owner, L.P. and begin escrow for the property at 1201 Dove Street.

Community Development Director Simone Jurjis said Wednesday the city will have a 120-day due diligence period to review title documents and lease agreements, and to inspect the property.

The city will have roughly 30 days from the end of that period to determine if it wants to move ahead with the purchase.

"We want to make sure that we know what we're buying from an asset standpoint," Jurjis said. "Once we complete our due diligence, we have to make a decision. Is the property in a state that we want to purchase it? If it is, we move forward ... or if it's not, we have to make the decision to drop escrow or not."

About \$24.1 million of the purchase price would come from the city's existing budget surplus for the last fiscal year, \$5.5 million from the facilities financial planning fund



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**THE NEWPORT BEACH** City Council is looking at purchasing the First Citizens Bank property at 1201 Dove St. for \$30.5 million for a new police station.

and \$1.5 million would come from the general fund's capital improvement plan fund. He also noted that the purchase of the

land does not immediately preclude the

See **Police**, page A3



*celebrate*  
**THE SEASON**

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*Thursday*

**NOVEMBER 17 · 7PM**

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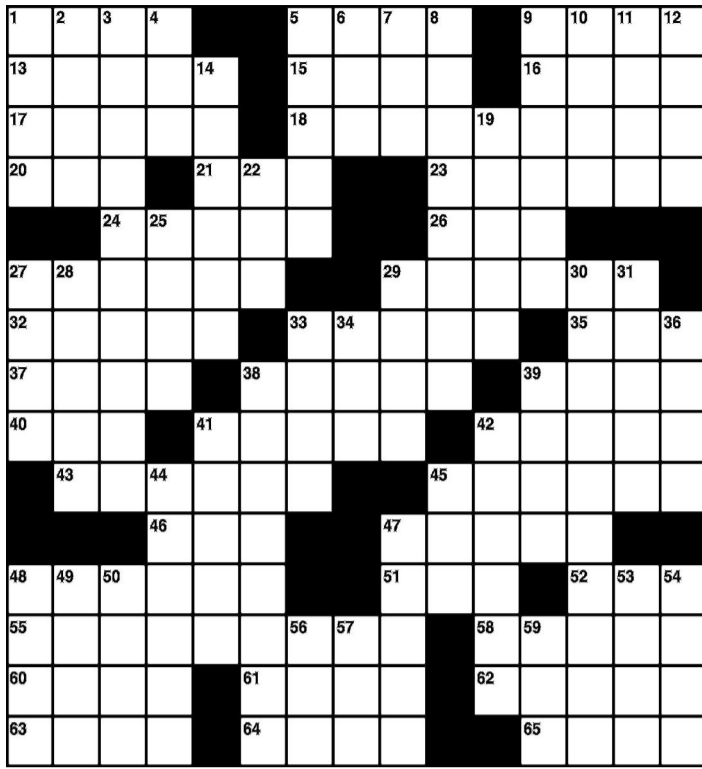
[SouthCoastPlaza.com/Holiday](http://SouthCoastPlaza.com/Holiday)

**Holiday Information**



**THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE**

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

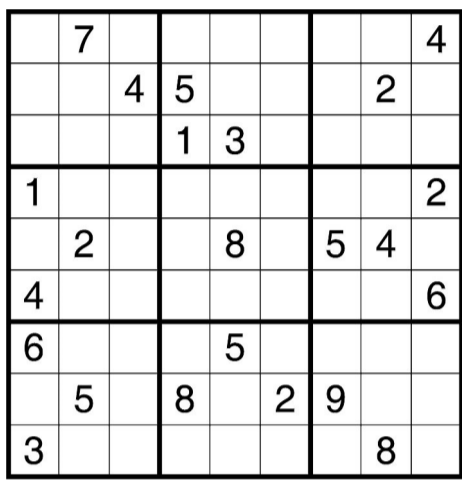


- ACROSS**  
 1 At any \_\_; regardless  
 5 " \_\_ well that ends well"  
 9 Poor box donation  
 13 Out of whack  
 15 Weaving device  
 16 Mantilla  
 17 Singer Jackson  
 18 Cajuns' home  
 20 Billboards  
 21 Be obligated to  
 23 Crown  
 24 Actress Pompeo  
 26 \_\_ it; understand  
 27 Bekins rival  
 29 Patriot Paul  
 32 Stringed instruments  
 33 Glowed  
 35 Moose's cousin  
 37 Nudge  
 38 Winter toys  
 39 MRI, for one  
 40 Make clothes  
 41 Bursting at the \_\_; overfull  
 42 Woodwind  
 43 Comic strip dog  
 45 Fake hair  
 46 Prof. sports assn.  
 47 Doorstop  
 48 Shredder  
 51 Conclusion  
 52 Tire track  
 55 GEICO's offering  
 58 Delete text  
 60 TV crime series  
 61 Warty critter  
 62 Last \_\_; extreme unction  
 63 Informal affirmative  
 64 Goofs  
 65 Yellow Muppet
- DOWN**  
 1 Princely title  
 2 "It's \_\_, Mad, Mad, Mad World"  
 3 Hollywood  
 4 Suffix for legal or journal  
 5 Steve or Marty  
 6 British bathroom  
 7 Singer Rawls  
 8 Specks  
 9 Fly a plane  
 10 "Get the \_\_ out!"; cry to a slowpoke  
 11 Not yours, his or hers  
 12 \_\_ dunk; sure thing  
 14 Shoulder wraps  
 19 Colander

**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).



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

- 22 Tie the knot  
 25 Wasn't honest  
 27 Mountains near Lucerne  
 28 Tempts  
 29 Fishing poles  
 30 Get well  
 31 Thrill  
 33 Slaughter  
 34 \_\_ and haw  
 36 Center of the leg  
 38 Split up  
 39 Strike hard  
 41 Not plastered  
 42 Silo contents  
 44 Avalanche  
 45 1 & 2 & 3 & 4  
 47 Garden intruders  
 48 Itty-bitty  
 49 Suffix for refer or insist  
 50 Bhutan's location  
 53 One who takes advantage  
 54 Grade determiner  
 56 And not  
 57 Convertible or sedan  
 59 \_\_ eye steak; cut of beef
- Tribune Media Services

# Body found near Costa Mesa apartment complex

BY ERIC LICAS



Eric Licas

**A RESIDENT** of the Costa Mirage apartments in Costa Mesa found a person dead outside of the building on Monday.

room. "We thought he had just passed out at first," the resident said. "Later I heard the officer downstairs nudging the person and asking 'are you awake,' but they didn't say anything. Paramedics came and were here for about five minutes before they blocked the area off with yellow tape." Police conducted a brief

investigation before the body was taken by coroner's officials, who were working to notify the person's loved ones Monday evening, Orange County Sheriff's Sgt. Scott Steinle said. The area was re-opened by 3 p.m., residents said.

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City staff said the existing police headquarters, which shares a 4-acre parcel with Fire Station No. 3, was built in 1973. A needs assessment determined the department has significantly outgrown the 49,284-square-foot facility, which is within 10 years of the end of its useful life. The assessment determined the future facility, already included in the city's capital improvement plan to be completed in the next decade, will need to be at least 73,000 square feet to accommodate the patrol division and a firearms training and shooting range, according to a staff report.

Jurjis said the Dove Street property has a positive cash flow that will offset the cost of purchase. Real property administrator Lauren Wooding Whitlinger noted that between the time the proper-

ty is purchased and the time the building is potentially demolished to make way for the new police department headquarters, it could generate roughly \$15 million in income for the city.

"I remember eight years ago, the first forum that we attended: They asked me the question of 'Where's the police station going?' I said, 'I don't know.' I was trying to be humble, but also I really didn't know. I actually think this is the best location, given the proximity to both sides of [Newport] Bay," said Mayor Kevin Muldoon.

Yet it was Muldoon who cast the lone dissenting vote. He said the timing could be better as it is his belief the real estate market is inflated and due for a correction.

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**POLICE**

Continued from page A1

demolition of the existing office building that sits on the property or the construction of a new police station. That still remains, at a minimum, 10 years out from the current date, he said, but the purchase is occurring now because of the property's unique size. "It's about 3.6 acres. We were looking for something that was at least 3.5 ... and to find a property of that size that was contiguous; that's a big challenge," Jurjis said. "There's properties out there that are fully developed. You can try to purchase smaller properties and try to assemble it. But that could take a long time for us. The sale of this property happened to come up at the right time for us and the seller was interested in selling it to us."

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**FRI, NOV 18  
 FUN LOVIN'  
 CRIMINALS**



**SUN, NOV 20  
 O-TOWN**



**FRI, NOV 25  
 LEE ROCKER  
 of The Stray Cats**



**SUN, DEC 4  
 FEE  
 WAYBILL**

- 11/18 FUN LOVIN' CRIMINALS
- 11/19 BEATLES VS STONES - A MUSICAL SHOWDOWN
- 11/20 O-TOWN
- 11/23 HEARTBEAT CITY (CARS TRIBUTE)
- 11/25 LEE ROCKER OF THE STRAY CATS
- 11/26 WILD CHILD (THE DOORS TRIBUTE)
- 11/27 CHEST FEVER THE LAST WALTZ
- 12/2 WHICH ONE'S PINK? (PINK FLOYD TRIBUTE)
- 12/3 WHICH ONE'S PINK? (PINK FLOYD TRIBUTE)
- 12/4 FEE WAYBILL w/SPECIAL GUESTS
- 12/8 THE IMMEDIATE FAMILY FEAT. DANNY KORTCHMAR, WADDY WACHTEL, LELAND SKLAR, RUSS KUNKEL AND STEVE POSTELL
- 12/9 BERLIN
- 12/10 FLOCK OF SEAGULLS
- 12/11 PROGJECT 'THE ULTIMATE PROG ROCK EXPERIENCE'
- 12/13 SQUIRREL NUT ZIPPERS
- 12/14 TOMMY EMMANUEL w/MIKE DAWES
- 12/15 TOMMY EMMANUEL w/MIKE DAWES
- 12/16 GARY HOEY'S ROCKIN' XMAS SHOW
- 12/17 WALTER TROUT
- 12/18 WALTER TROUT
- 12/21 THE RAT PACK - CHRISTMAS SHOW
- 12/22 DAVID BENOIT: TRIBUTE TO CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS
- 12/23 AMBROSIA A VERY SPECIAL HOLIDAY SHOW
- 12/28 DONAVON FRANKENREITER / CHRISTINA HOLMES
- 12/30 L.A. GUNS
- 12/31 THE ENGLISH BEAT NEW YEARS' EVE!
- 1/1 THE ENGLISH BEAT
- 1/6 QUEEN NATION
- 1/7 QUEEN NATION
- 1/10 JAZZ IS DEAD 25TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR
- 1/14 THE PETTY BREAKERS (TOM PETTY TRIBUTE)
- 1/21 RONDSTADT REVIVAL (LINDA RONDSTADT TRIBUTE)
- 1/22 THE HIGHWAYMAN SHOW
- 1/25 STEPHANE WREMBEL
- 1/26 ORIANTHI
- 1/28 ROBERT CRAY
- 1/29 HERMAN'S HERMITS FEATURING PETER NOONE



**THU, DEC 8  
 IMMEDIATE  
 FAMILY**



**TUE, DEC 13  
 SQUIRREL NUT  
 ZIPPERS**

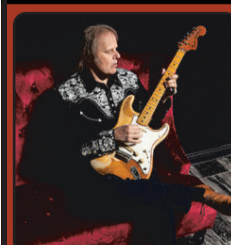


**DEC 14 & 15  
 TOMMY  
 EMMANUEL**



**FRI, DEC 16  
 GARY "HO HO"  
 HOEY**

- 2/3 DESPERADO (EAGLES TRIBUTE)
- 2/4 DESPERADO (EAGLES TRIBUTE)
- 2/10 ARETHA STARRING CHARITY LOCKHART
- 2/11 OTTMAR LIEBERT & LUNA NEGRA
- 2/12 JESSE COLIN YOUNG
- 2/16 THE GILMOUR PROJECT PERFORM PINK FLOYD'S "THE DARK SIDE OF THE MOON" 50TH ANNIVERSARY
- 2/18 JOURNEY USA (JOURNEY TRIBUTE)
- 2/24 JOHN TESH - BIG BAND LIVE
- 2/25 DENNIS TUFANO / CANNIBAL AND THE HEADHUNTERS
- 3/1 ARTIMUS PYLE FORMERLY OF LYNRD SKYNRD
- 3/2 DAVE ALVIN & JIMMIE DALE GILMORE AND THE GUILTY ONES
- 3/5 SONNY LANDRETH w/ CINDY CASHDOLLAR
- 3/11 THE SMITHEREENS WITH GUEST VOCALIST ROBIN WILSON
- 3/16 HOT CLUB OF COWTOWN AND TYLER HILTON PERFORMING ELVIS PRESLEY'S SUN STUDIO RECORDINGS
- 3/17 THE FENIANS
- 3/19 GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA
- 3/23 PETTY CASH (JOHNNY CASH & TOM PETTY TRIBUTE)
- 4/29 CREAM OF CLAPTON: KOFI BAKER (GINGER BAKER'S SON) AND WILL JOHNS (ERIC CLAPTON'S NEPHEW)
- 5/21 LET'S HANG ON! (FRANKIE VALLI & THE FOUR SEASONS TRIBUTE)



**DEC 17 & 18  
 WALTER  
 TROUT**



**FRI, DEC 23  
 AMBROSIA**



**WED, DEC 28  
 DONAVON  
 FRANKENREITER**



**FRI, DEC 30  
 L.A GUNS**

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# Irvine realty executive accused of embezzling \$2.6M

**BY CITY NEWS SERVICE**

An Irvine man suspected of embezzling \$2.6 million from a Newport Beach-based real estate agency was arrested Monday on mail and wire fraud charges.

Varun Aggarwal, a former executive of KBS Realty Advisors, submitted bogus invoices from 2012 through January 2022 for consulting services that were never performed, according to prosecutors. He used his position to have

friends and family members perform contracting work for the company, prosecutors allege. Aggarwal is also accused of directing money from payments on the bogus invoices to personal bank accounts, prosecutors said.

He resigned from the company in January when officials began investigating the invoices, prosecutors said. Aggarwal allegedly used at least six vendors to steal about \$2.6 million from KBS from Jan. 1,

2012, through Jan. 13, prosecutors said. He is charged with single counts each of mail and wire fraud.

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## HONORS

Continued from page A1

you have for everyone's growth, from kindergarten all the way through graduation," she said Tuesday. "It's been remarkable and inspiring, and we're all going to miss you."

Barto is poised to assume a second term in Trustee Area 5, according to election figures provided Wednesday by the Orange County Registrar of Voters, which had her ahead of challenger Reina Shebasta with 64.6% of the votes and 6,303 ballots. Shebasta trailed with 3,449 ballots, or 35.4%.

Incumbent Ashley Anderson similarly appears headed for victory in Trustee Area 7, where she leads with 2,634 ballots and 58.7% of the vote over two competitors — Kristen

Seaburn, in second with 26.9% (1,209 votes) and Vicky Rodriguez with 648 ballots, or 14.4%.

In the contest over Metoyer's trustee area 2 in Costa Mesa, Michelle Murphy has maintained a lead over Danielle Mills since the initial numbers were released on election night, earning 59.7% of the vote (4,372 ballots) as of Wednesday, compared to Mills' 2,952 ballots, or 40.3%.

Yelsey's district 4, which serves a handful of elementary schools in Newport Beach, will likely go to Lisa Pearson, a newcomer backed by Yelsey, who leads with 6,257 in her favor (57%) over two other candidates — Barbara "Barbie" George, who earned 34% approval and Kristen Nicole Valle, who garnered 9% of the votes.

With just 59,759 ballots

left to be processed by the county Registrar of Voters on Wednesday, preliminary results indicate no winners among a slate of challengers backed by a local contingent of parental-rights advocates, organized as "Newport-Mesa Uncensored."

Although the group maintained a public Facebook page, where members challenged district policies related to COVID-19 protocols, textbook and library book selection and programs centered on anti-discrimination, that page is no longer operable.

In her outgoing remarks Tuesday, Metoyer affirmed the value of local public schools.

"Everything we do is because of public education, which raises citizens to take care of the world when we're not in it anymore,"



**NMUSD PRESIDENT** Michelle Barto hugs outgoing board member Charlene Metoyer Tuesday after presenting her with a Distinguished Service Award for her service to the district.

Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

she said. "I wholeheartedly stand by public education, and when you work at a district like Newport-Mesa, it's so easy to do that."

Yelsey noted her relationship with the district began when her three children began attending NMUSD schools.

"It was really important for my husband and I that our kids go to public schools. And we wanted to

help make them better, so I worked in the schools when my kids were there," Yelsey said.

"But once I got [on the board], there were so many wonderful things about this district I hadn't known as a parent," she continued. "Other than my family life events, this has been the most rewarding experience of my life."

In a statement Wednesday,

Wes Smith said the departing trustees will be sincerely missed.

"I appreciate their service to our community throughout the years and the courage to do what's right, even when it's not popular," he said. "They truly put kids first."

sara.cardine@latimes.com  
Twitter: @SaraCardine

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#### Legal Notices

#### Business Names

#### Fictitious Business Name Statement NO.: 20226647744

The following person is doing business as:  
**Fictitious Business Name(s)** MARK CAMPBELL COLLEGIATE INVITATIONAL **Registered Owner (S):** PREMIER GIRLS FASTPITCH, INC.. **Business is conducted by:** a corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 10/02/2022. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime) **REGISTRANT/CORP/LLC NAME:** PREMIER GIRLS FASTPITCH, INC., 16792 Gothard Street, Huntington Beach, CA 92647. **Owner. Signature:** Dan Hay, Chief Executive Officer, Premier Girls Fastpitch, Inc. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Orange County on October 27, 2022. **NOTICE:** in accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk except, as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in the state of fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal state or common law (see section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions code). Hugh Nguyen, Clerk-Recorder. Published in the Daily Pilot on 11/10, 11/17, 11/24, 12/01/2022.

#### Legal Notices

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE (UCC 6104, 6105)

Escrow No. **NB-L-10214-22**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to creditors of the within named Seller that a Bulk Sale is about to be made of the assets described below.  
(1) The name(s) and business address(es) of the seller(s) are: **PEPPER TREE, INC., 28924 S WESTERN AVE #200 RANCHO PALOS VERDES CA 90275**  
(2) The location in California of the Chief Executive Office of the seller is: **28924 S. WESTERN AVE. #200, RANCHO PALOS VERDES, CA 90275**  
(3) The name(s) and business address(es) of the buyer(s) are: **WILD WATER SPIRITS, LLC, 6125 LUTHER LN. #270, DALLAS, TX 75225**  
(4) The location and general description of the assets to be sold are: **FURNITURE, FIXTURES & EQUIPMENT, GOODWILL, COVENANT NOT TO COMPLETE, LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS, INVENTORY OF STOCK AND TRADE NAME** of that certain business known as: **WILD WATER EXPRESS**, located at: **1195 BAKER STREET, COSTA MESA, CA 92626**  
(5) The anticipated date of the bulk sale is **DECEMBER 7, 2022** at: **12 CORPORATE PLAZA DRIVE, 120, NEWPORT BEACH, CA 92660**, Escrow No. **NB-L-10214-22** **ESCROW OFFICER: LISA EVANS**  
(6) Listed by the Seller, all other business names and addresses used by the seller within three years before the date such list was sent or delivered to the Buyer are: **SAME AS ABOVE**  
**WILD WATER SPIRITS, LLC, A CALIFORNIA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, Buyer(s)**  
**ORD-1272752 DAILY PILOT 11/17/22**

#### Legal Notices

#### Fictitious Business Name Statement NO.: 20226647745

The following person is doing business as:  
**Fictitious Business Name(s)** PGF METRICS **Registered Owner (S):** PREMIER GIRLS FASTPITCH, INC.. **Business is conducted by:** a corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 10/01/2022. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime) **REGISTRANT/CORP/LLC NAME:** PREMIER GIRLS FASTPITCH, INC., 16792 Gothard Street, Huntington Beach, CA 92647. **Owner. Signature:** Dan Hay, Chief Executive Officer, Premier Girls Fastpitch, Inc. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Orange County on October 27, 2022. **NOTICE:** in accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk except, as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in the state of fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal state or common law (see section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions code). Hugh Nguyen, Clerk-Recorder. Published in the Daily Pilot on 11/10, 11/17, 11/24, 12/01/2022.

#### Legal Notices

## BICYCLIST

Continued from page A1

Sunn Avenue, and then struck Khuu as he was crossing Los Coches Street.

Police arrested McDonough on suspicion of driving under the influence causing injury and vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated. He was being held in custody on \$100,000 bail, according to Orange County jail records. McDonough was scheduled to appear in court Wednesday.

"My heart goes out to the

family that had the loss of life," Fountain Valley Police Chief Matt Sheppard said. "We feel very saddened by this event. I believe it's 100% preventable."

Sheppard added that his department is making between 15 and 20 DUI arrests per month on average.

"It should be zero, but it's not," Sheppard continued. "It's completely preventable. The individuals themselves have to make better decisions. It's unacceptable. We've seen the trend go down over the years, but any loss of life or anyone who gets behind the wheel

that does that type of activity is putting people's lives in jeopardy.

"We will aggressively, and we do aggressively, enforce DUI patrols. We make DUI arrests on a regular basis, and we're going to continue doing that. The message has to continue to grow and push forward."

Fountain Valley police are asking anyone who witnessed the fatal traffic collision to call the department's traffic bureau at (714) 593-4481.

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Twitter: @AndrewTurnerTCN

## SCHOOL

Continued from page A1

as they learn. It's going to be an amazing time."

Additionally, the Sowers campus will get a gymnasium, a STEM lab and feature exterior opening classrooms, natural lighting and large outdoor areas for gathering.

"I think the classrooms are really going to lend themselves to 21st century technology and learning," Johnson said.

She added that currently, the Vikings' athletic teams

have to go to Dwyer, the district's other middle school, to compete.

Attendees at Tuesday's ceremony heard from another group that would benefit from the gymnasium space, as the Sowers choir performed a rendition of "Pure Imagination."

"We have such a great music program and such great athletics," Johnson said. "It's just going to be nice to have a building that's really going to showcase all of the kids' abilities and skills."

Johnson said the project is unique for her, as she

was the principal at Perry Elementary before that campus was closed by the district in 2020. Now she has the opportunity to witness her current campus become revitalized.

The project, which has Studio W Architects as the architect and Construct 1 Corp. as the general contractor, will feature five AMS Gen 7 prefabricated buildings for 27 new classrooms overall. There will also be increased security, with perimeter fencing and a single point of energy.

The Sowers reconstruction will be funded largely by Measure Q funds (an estimated \$43 million) and the sale of Gisler School (\$23 million). Gisler was another middle school in the district before it closed in 1986.

Building is anticipated to be completed in late 2024.

"We are proud of the educational programs that Sowers currently provides to our students," Winston said. "To best prepare our students for high school and beyond, the campus needs to be reimagined to continue the legacy of educational excellence into the future. We are very excited to get this project underway. When completed, our students will have a state-of-the-art campus that will make an incredible impact on the education and lives of our students, staff and community for generations to come."

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# Daily Pilot

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## CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

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## BOYS' WATER POLO



James Carbone

**THE NEWPORT HARBOR HIGH** boys' water polo team celebrates after winning the CIF Southern Section Open Division Championship game against JSerra at the Woollett Aquatics Center in Irvine on Saturday. The Sailors won 10-9.

## Sailors seal CIF title defense

BY MATT SZABO

IRVINE — “Next man up” has been the mantra all season for the Newport Harbor High boys' water polo team.

Defending the CIF Southern Section Open Division title would take a team effort. That truth manifested itself in very real ways Saturday afternoon as the No. 2-seeded Sailors took on top-seeded JSerra for the championship.

Two starters fouled out in the second half for Newport Harbor.

Next man up, as player after player provided big moments off the bench in the fourth quarter.

Junior Trey Smith scored on a post-up move, before senior left-hander Nick Kennedy provided a goal on a strong shot for a three-goal advantage.

When Newport Harbor needed defense at the end, another substitute provided it, with junior Jack Wright getting a key field block with 20 seconds left after JSerra brought goalkeeper Jack Halfer into the front court.

It all added up to another

championship in the top division for the Sailors, who earned a 10-9 victory before an overflow crowd at Woollett Aquatics Center.

The second straight title is the 14th CIF title overall for Newport Harbor (28-2).

“I'm so proud of these guys,” said Newport Harbor coach Ross Sinclair, who has now won three Open Division championships (two with the boys and one with the girls) in the last three high school water polo seasons. “It's a gauntlet. There's no easy game. We had to grind against Huntington, we battled

against [Harvard-Westlake] and we had another amazing battle against JSerra. These guys are amazing. Relentless, resilient, every attribute you can name, these guys are it.”

UCLA-bound senior left-hander Ben Liechty scored a team-high three goals for Newport Harbor, matching JSerra junior Ryder Dodd for match-high honors. Newport senior goalkeeper Cooper Mathisrud made nine big saves, including one on a Dodd penalty shot with four minutes left in

See **Title**, page A6

## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

## Jackson Kollock's five touchdowns lead L.B. to road upset of La Quinta

BY ANDREW TURNER

LA QUINTA — A multi-hour commute awaited the Laguna Beach football team prior to its second-round game on Friday, so the Breakers did not wait around.

After catching an early bus ride to the Coachella Valley, the Breakers watched “Black Adam” at a movie theater, before their quarterback would deliver a near-supernatural performance.

Sophomore Jackson Kollock threw for 368 yards and four touchdowns, leading Laguna Beach to a resounding 41-16 upset win at top-seeded La Quinta in a CIF Southern Section Division 9 playoff game.

Kollock, who also had a 3-yard rushing touchdown in the first half, completed 17 of 21 passes for 290 yards and three scores by halftime.

Senior wide receiver Jackson Rodriguez made seven catches for 114 yards and three touchdowns. Kollock completed passes to seven different receivers, six of them managing to pick up a first down through the air.

“They're amazing,” Kollock said of his receiving corps. “Each one of them brings something different to the table. We got Rodriguez, who just is a

burner. He could beat anyone off the line, and even go up for jump balls.

“Ryner [Swanson], I love throwing to him. He's huge, can catch anything, run over a couple of people for us. [Aidan] Mulkay, he's shifty. Myles [Freeman] is shifty. ... We got so many guys. It's hard to keep track of them all.”

As the top seed in Division 9 last season, Laguna Beach lost 38-7 at Claremont in the second round.

“When we went to Claremont last year, it was a long drive, late afternoon,” Laguna Beach coach John Shanahan said. “We woke up as we were piling off the bus, and we never woke up, and that first quarter was disastrous.”

“I think we're 5-0 or 6-0 at home in the playoffs as a staff, and we're 1-4 on the road, so we needed to change something. The model wasn't working, so we decided to come out here, go see a movie and relax, and try to have a different approach when we went to the field.”

Laguna Beach (9-3) will play host to Riverside Norte Vista (9-3) in the semifinals on Friday at Guyer Field. The Braves beat Garden Grove 36-27 in their second-round

See **Upset**, page A6

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**HIGH SCHOOL ROUNDUP**

**Pacifica Christian girls' basketball wins opener**

BY ANDREW TURNER

Lauryn Ham had a game-high 24 points, including six three-pointers, as the Pacifica Christian Orange County girls' basketball team opened its season with a 55-24 win over Newport Christian at home.

Charis Wondercheck added 19 points, nine rebounds and three steals for the Tritons, who won the CIF Southern Section Division 4A championship last season.

Vivian Villagrana scored 10 points to go with five rebounds and four steals, and Andi Martinez contributed seven rebounds and six steals.

Pacifica Christian plays host to Edison (1-0) on Friday in a nonleague game. The Chargers earned a 53-40 win at University in their season opener on Tuesday.

**Long Beach Wilson 41, Fountain Valley 27:** Mary Nguyen paced the Barons with nine points in Tues-



**PACIFICA CHRISTIAN'S** Lauryn Ham (10), seen against Temple City on Feb. 26, had a team-leading 24 points for the Tritons on Tuesday.

James Carbone

day's game in the Villa Park Tournament.

Karley Waite also scored eight points for Fountain Valley (0-2), which dropped its season opener to San Juan Hills 64-48 on Monday.

Nguyen again led the Barons in scoring with 14 points against the Stallions. Mars Shepard had seven points and six rebounds, and Dianna Burke supplied

seven points.

**BOYS' BASKETBALL**

**Brea Olinda 55, Ocean View 47:** The host Seahawks dropped their second consecutive game in the season-opening Jim Harris Memorial Tournament on Tuesday at Ocean View High.

Ocean View (0-2) fell to Compton Dominguez 61-47 to begin the tournament

on Monday.

**Long Beach Millikan 72, Laguna Beach 53:** Jack Halvorson had a team-high 20 points for the Breakers in Tuesday's season opener in the Jim Harris Memorial Tournament at Ocean View High.

Damian Reider added 10 points for Laguna Beach.

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**UPSET**

Continued from page A5

game. The Breakers are back in the semifinals for the first time since 2018, which ended with a 48-6 loss to Artesia in the Division 12 playoffs.

La Quinta (7-5) had come in averaging 306 rushing yards per game, including 590 yards gained on the ground in its playoff opener against Apple Valley Granite Hills.

The Breakers' defensive front limited the Blackhawks to 147 rushing yards on Friday. Laguna Beach shut out La Quinta in the second half, an interception in the end zone by Oliver Rounaghi on the Blackhawks' final drive putting the finishing touches on the defensive feat.

"We knew the run was coming," Mulkay, who played on both sides of the ball, said. "They were averaging almost 280 yards every game rushing-wise [in the regular season], so we knew if we could stop the run, that game was ours."

Shanahan and his players were effusive in their praise of defensive coordinator Hunter Braun.

"I just got to give all credit to our defensive coordinator Coach Braun," Brock Donaldson, a junior defensive end for the Breakers, said. "He did a great job preparing us in practice this week. There wasn't a single play that we didn't see in practice."

Nick Rogers carried the ball 16 times for 107 yards, including a 66-yard touchdown late in the third quarter that extended the Breakers' lead to 35-16.

Mulkay had four catches for 87 yards. Swanson added a tackle-busting 34-yard receiving touchdown up the left sideline in the first quarter.

Tommy Ansley threw for 244 yards and two touchdowns, connecting with Makaury Warren (99 receiving yards) and Isaiah Alvarado (88 receiving yards) for the scores.

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**TITLE**

Continued from page A5

the match.

At the time, it preserved a two-goal advantage.

"We put in hours and hours at practice every week," said Mathisrud, a two-year starter. "My team has some of the best shooters you'll see in high school water polo, and I'm taking shots from them for a couple of hours a day every day. When it comes down to this, I feel more than prepared."

Senior Finn LeSieur had a goal and four assists for the Sailors. Junior center Peter Castillo and junior defender Gavin Appeldorn each had a goal before fouling out.

Newport Harbor, which had split two previous meetings this season with



James Carbone

**THE NEWPORT HARBOR** High boys' water polo team is all smiles after winning the CIF Southern Section Open Division championship game against JSerra on Saturday. It's the Sailors' second consecutive Open Division title.

JSerra, didn't blink. Senior Gavin Netherton also contributed an assist off the bench for the winners, and grabbed the rebound after Wright's late field block.

"It's just filling the role," Liechty said. "It doesn't matter who it is. It just matters what you're supposed to do, and do it to the best of your ability. I think that

was a great situation to overcome, and I think we did that perfectly. Other guys were able to step up and fill that position."

JSerra (27-3) tried to respond, even after Kennedy's goal gave the Sailors a 10-7 advantage with 3:34 left. A Lions steal led to a counterattack goal by junior center Will Schneider. Then, Bode Brinkema put away a quick shot after a Newport Harbor turnover, pulling JSerra within 10-9 with 1:50 left.

But the equalizer never came. JSerra coach Brett Ormsby, a 2004 Olympian, gave credit to the Sailors after the match.

"[The Sailors], they're champions," Ormsby said. "They were champions before this game. That's the reality. They won it last year, and I thought there was a determination. Phys-

ically, I thought they were more aggressive than us in key moments."

Newport Harbor's players posed for pictures after the match. They also received a phone call from Mason Hunt, last year's senior captain who now plays for Harvard.

Hunt would be proud of the team camaraderie this year's Sailors showed, too.

"You can see that we all know how to play together," LeSieur said. "No matter who's in, no matter who's out of the game with three ejections, we can still keep control and play together. That's a testament to our brotherhood. You can't fake that."

There was nothing fake about the championship plaque for Newport Harbor. The Sailors will now more than likely be the top seed in the CIF State South-

ern California Regional Division 1 playoffs, which start Tuesday.

They will approach that season-ending tournament with the same mentality as they have every match.

Next man up. That's the kind of attitude that gets a program to 14 CIF championships.

"It's an expectation to play at a high level, to train at a high level, to buy in at a high level and be committed," Sinclair said. "I don't mean it in an arrogant way, and I'm not putting crazy expectations on every single year, but kids come into this program knowing what they sign up for and the legacy that they have to uphold."

"It's awesome. It's an amazing feeling."

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