

Daily Pilot

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Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

SUGAR THE SURFING DOG, a five-time world champion, held by owner Ryan Rustan, is inducted into the Surfers' Hall of Fame on Thursday.

Sugar the Surfing Dog added to the Surfers' Hall of Fame

BY MATT SZABO

Sugar the Surfing Dog has won multiple World Dog Surfing Championships, Surf City Surf Dog and Purina Pro Plan Incredible Dog Challenge titles.

But her most impressive accomplishment still just might be that she helped save a life.

Her owner, Ryan Rustan of Huntington Beach, battled with mental health and drug issues. He got sober in his late 20s as Sugar, rescued at 7 months old from the streets of Oakland,

came into his life.

Now Sugar will forever be remembered.

The 14-year-old dog was inducted into the Surfers' Hall of Fame on Thursday morning, in a special ceremony in front of Huntington Surf & Sport on Main Street in Huntington Beach.

After putting her paws in the wet concrete, Sugar became the first animal inducted into the Surfers' Hall of Fame.

"I never would have imagined

See **Sugar**, page A2



RYAN RUSTAN

writes Sugar's name into the wet concrete during a special ceremony in front of Huntington Surf & Sport on Thursday.

Suspect in arson, fatal crash could face murder charge

BY SARA CARDINE

A Huntington Beach man who allegedly started a fire outside a Fountain Valley apartment Monday — touching off a police pursuit that ended in a fatal collision — has been booked into jail on suspicion of arson, murder and evading police.

Timothy Bradford Cole, 43, was hospitalized with serious injuries, after his Dodge Ram smashed into a white BMW at Ellis Avenue and Magnolia Street Monday night as he fled from officers, Fountain Valley police reported Tuesday.

Three female occupants of the BMW were also transported to a nearby trauma center, but one of them — 25-year-old Hong Ngoc Nguyen, a foreign exchange student from Vietnam — died from her injuries while en route, according to a FVPD release issued Wednesday.

The two other occupants of the vehicle, described as women in their 20s, were released from the hospital Wednesday and are back home in Huntington Beach recuperating from serious injuries sustained in the crash, the

See **Suspect**, page A3

Bui named Fountain Valley mayor

BY ANDREW TURNER



Andrew Turner

TED BUI, left, is sworn in as mayor by City Clerk Rick Miller after a unanimous vote of the Fountain Valley City Council on Tuesday.

Fresh off successful reelection campaigns, Ted Bui and Glenn Grandis were sworn in for their respective second terms on the Fountain Valley City Council.

Shortly thereafter, the latter ceded the chair at the center of the dais, as Bui was appointed for his first mayoral term by a unanimous vote of council members.

Councilman Jim Cunneen received the full support of the five-person panel to become vice mayor.

Bui sought to show support for the work of city staff and first responders in his initial remarks as mayor. He also expressed appreciation for the example of leadership provided by Grandis during

See **Bui**, page A3

Festive Balboa Island Holiday Home Walking Tour celebrates 26 years

BY SUSAN HOFFMAN

Among the eight houses featured on the Balboa Island Holiday Home Walking Tour this year are two that couldn't be more different both in their location and decorating style.

Stepping into Jeanne Lewand's "All Things Christmas"-themed home is like a visit to Christmasland, where Santa Claus appears in every room of the three-story house.

The enchanted space is filled with classic holiday decor, including a vignette of collectible handcrafted ice-skating figurines.

"We started collecting ice skating figures after we first took our

young family skating in New York's Central Park," Lewand said about the tradition that kept up with the growing family. "Every year we added a child and then a grandchild."

The Lewands bought the dark green shingled 1945 Cape Cod style house that sits on the East Bayfront of Little Balboa Island in 1993. Over the years, square footage was added to expand the living quarters that currently has four bedrooms and three bathrooms.

"The house is cozy and has charm, and I love the big patio in the front and also the back," said Lewand. "I like to garden, and it has enough garden to keep me

happy."

The annual holiday tradition of decorating for Christmas in the Lewand household has more to do with the nostalgia of recreating memories of Christmas past. The Byers' Choice Carolers, iconic figurines have become a strong presence occupying space on mantles, shelves, tabletops and china cabinets. Each of the collections bear special meaning and range from a Scrooge vignette, the 12 days of Christmas, the Claus family, bakers, shoppers and more.

"I've been decorating all my life, ever since the kids were

See **Tour**, page A3



Susan Hoffman

ICE-SKATING FIGURINES adorn the china cabinet in the Lewand house on Balboa Island as part of the family's Christmas tradition.

State to appeal decision on voter ID law

State attorney general and secretary of state announce plans to fight Orange County Superior Court's recent decision.

BY ERIC LICAS

Officials in Sacramento announced on Thursday that they will appeal an Orange County Superior Court judge's dismissal of a lawsuit filed by the state challenging new rules that may require voters to present photo identification in Huntington Beach's municipal elections.

Measure A passed with support from 53% of Huntington Beach voters following a special election in March. It's a collection of amendments to the city's charter that calls for additional monitoring at polling sites. It also authorizes local officials to ask people for ID before they cast a ballot.

Supporters say Measure A ensures accuracy and transparency in local government. Critics say it will suppress voter turnout without providing any real benefit.

In a statement, representatives for California Atty. Gen. Bonta and Secretary of State Shirley Weber said Measure A was put forth "without citing any evidence that fraudulent voting occurs with any regularity in the city or has ever compromised the outcome of a municipal election."

"Measure A is a solution in search of a problem," Weber said. "In California, we champion people's voices, we do not suppress them."

The state sued Huntington Beach in Orange County Superior

See **Appeal**, page A4

Laguna Beach Chamber Singers mark 10 years raising voices, lifting spirits

BY ANDREW TURNER

As the lyrics go, there's no place like home for the holidays, and where the Laguna Beach Chamber Singers are concerned, there might be no better time for an annual concert.

Now at the end of its first decade of serenading the community, the choral group will host its holiday concert, "Peace on Earth," on Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 428 Park Avenue.

The performance will include holiday favorites like "Ave Maria," "Silent Night," and "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," while also diving into the works of renowned composers from across the ages.

"We wanted to create a concert that celebrates the joy and warmth of the holiday season and brings people together in a message of peace and unity," said Ryan Brown, the artistic director of the group. "This program is a journey through the familiar and the new, meant to lift spirits and evoke reflection."

Admission for the "Peace on Earth" performance is \$30 for the general

public, while tickets are \$20 for seniors and students. For more information, visit lbchambersingers.org.

Upcoming concerts include "Handel's Messiah," which will feature a collaboration with Opera Laguna, on Friday, Dec. 20 at the Neighborhood Congregational Church, 340 St. Ann's Drive.

"Reflections: A 10-Year Anniversary Concert" is scheduled for Saturday, March 1, at 7:30 p.m., and "A Mother's Love" will take place on Saturday, May 10, at 4 p.m. St. Mary's Episcopal Church will host both shows.

LAGUNA COMMUNITY CONCERT BAND AND LAGUNA JAZZ BAND

Laguna Community Concert Band and Laguna JaZz Band are set to take center stage over the next couple of weeks, beginning tonight during the local holiday kickoff festivities known as Hospitality Night.

Celebrating its 25th anniversary season, Laguna Community Concert Band will perform at 6 p.m. in the Peppertree parking lot in downtown Laguna Beach. Laguna JaZz band will follow around 7 p.m.

On Thursday, Dec. 12, at 6:30 p.m., the jazz band will hold its holiday

concert at the Laguna Beach Community and Susi Q Center.

Laguna Community Concert Band will perform its holiday concert, "Chestnuts and Cheer," on Sunday, Dec. 15, at 2 p.m. in the Artists Theatre at Laguna Beach High.

"This program includes a little something for everyone," Jennifer Baker, assistant director of the community band, said in a release. "We chose pieces that would showcase the versatility and talent of our musicians and included classic holiday favorites from several traditions along with some surprising new arrangements. We think the audience will be delighted with the results."

The Laguna Community Concert Band and Laguna JaZz Band performances mentioned above are free and open to the public.

Musicians are welcomed to join the Laguna Community Concert Band. Those interested in playing or looking for information about the bands can visit lagunaconcertband.com.

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Courtesy of Laguna Beach Chamber Singers

THE LAGUNA BEACH Chamber Singers will perform in a holiday concert, "Peace on Earth," on Saturday at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Laguna Beach.

SUGAR

Continued from page A1

in my wildest dreams that [Sugar] is exactly why I'd turn my life around, right here," Rustan said. "This is just so special."

All seven Huntington Beach City Council members attended the ceremony, along with other local officials.

Newly appointed Mayor Pat Burns and Mayor Pro Tem Casey McKeon each gave remarks. McKeon said he was introduced to Sugar after Rustan brought her to a City Council meeting earlier this year.

Rustan and Sugar rode in this year's Huntington Beach Independence Day Parade, and Burns reached out to Surfers' Hall of Fame founder Aaron Pai.

"We were working hard to try to find something to immortalize Sugar," McKeon said. "We're really



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

RYAN RUSTAN holds Sugar the Surfing Dog next to his concrete square on Thursday. A special ceremony was held Thursday morning as Sugar put her paws into the concrete, becoming the first animal to be inducted into the hall of fame.

grateful that the Pai family made this happen today. Sugar will be forever immortalized in the Surfers'

Hall of Fame, that's pretty amazing." The Surfers' Hall of Fame seeks to pay tribute to

those who have made an indelible mark on the sport, industry and culture of surfing. Jeff Deffen-

baugh, Jamie O'Brien and Ilima Kalama were this year's human selections.

Now, a canine is in the mix.

Lisa Scolman, who put on the Surf City Surf Dog event, said it as a special day for her.

"I always dreamed that we'd have a dog in the Surfers' Hall of Fame, and there is no dog more deserving, no duo more deserving, than Ryan and Sugar," Scolman said. "We are so blessed to celebrate her today."

"Because of her, we started a shredder division. Because of her, we had dogs from all over the world come surf. Everyone wanted to surf against Sugar and Ryan."

Rustan, who now has two other surfing dogs, said he still wants to take Sugar to surf in Waikiki.

Don Ramsey used to surf with Rustan's late father, Robin, at Bolsa Chica State

Beach when Ryan was just a kid.

"I just know right now your dad is smiling up above and totally stoked about this recognition for Sugar," Ramsey said at Thursday's event. "If any of you watch any of the videos on YouTube or some of the social media, it blows my mind how intuitive the dog is on a surfboard, especially in the reform."

Sugar has won 19 titles overall in her decorated career. Rustan knows, though, that winning titles hasn't been Sugar's sole objective.

"She does a lot of surf therapy for lots of kids," he said. "It's not just [about] surfing against people but also putting smiles on the little kids' faces and the athletes that are disabled. She gets to ride with them."

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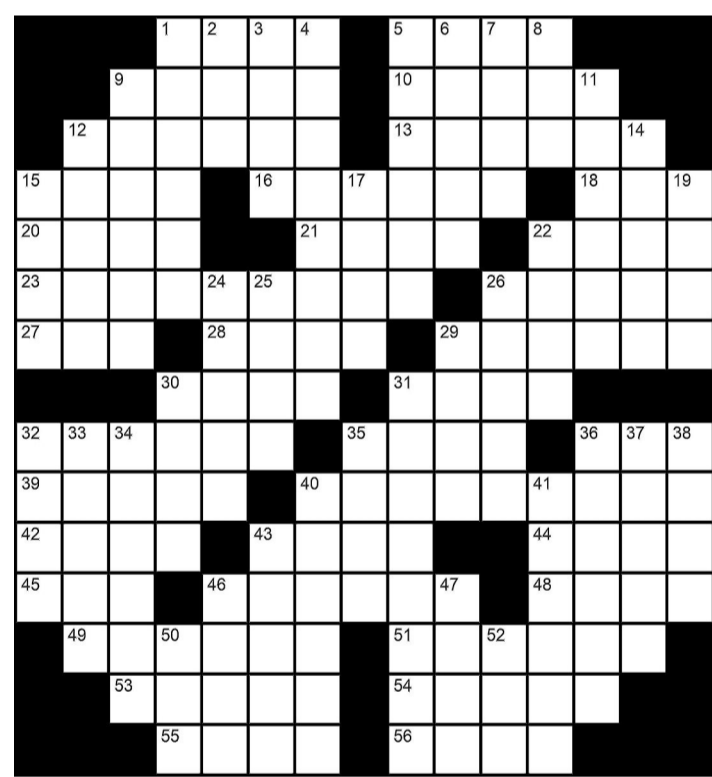
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THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Stella Zawistowski

ACROSS

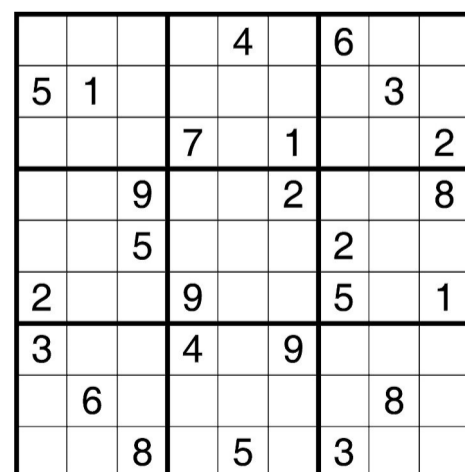
- 1 Dallas nickname:
- 2 wds.
- 5 Choral voice part
- 9 Native Israeli
- 10 A cardinal direction
- 12 Page layout
- 13 "Wizard of Oz" setting
- 15 Make simpler
- 16 Next to
- 18 Doc who treats pets
- 20 "Loose _ sink ships"
- 21 Microscope part
- 22 Overhaul
- 23 Performing a weightlifting move
- 26 Sum
- 27 Airport listing: Abbr.
- 28 Loan
- 29 Silver medalist's place
- 30 Restore to health
- 31 Quick look
- 32 Cold season
- 35 Layer of paint
- 36 Spanish "Mrs.": Abbr.
- 39 Medgar of civil rights
- 40 Temple of Athens
- 42 "Don't touch that _!"
- 43 It's right on the map
- 44 Table of contents, e.g.
- 45 Harden
- 46 Pub bill: 2 wds.
- 48 "Beware the _ of March"
- 49 Use anesthesia on
- 51 Defeated
- 53 Out of bed
- 54 Los Angeles baller



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 A3.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 55 Tin can defect | request |
| 56 Historical periods | 6 Piles of laundry |
| | 7 Song |
| | 8 Extra periods in sports: Abbr. |
| DOWN | 9 Kitchen scrubber: 2 wds. |
| 1 Most minimal | 11 Must: 2 wds. |
| 2 "Big Blue" company: Abbr. | 12 Swoon |
| 3 Take suddenly | 14 Family car type |
| 4 NBC news show | |
| 5 Making a | |

- 15 "Would you like anything _?"
 - 17 Put in the mail
 - 19 Informed
 - 22 _ of Gibraltar
 - 24 Crossword hints
 - 25 German "Mister"
 - 26 Pearly whites
 - 29 Sofa or stool
 - 30 _-Alt-Del
 - 31 Easy to carry around
 - 32 Gets married
 - 33 Princeton and Harvard, e.g.
 - 34 More shipshape
 - 35 Group of actors
 - 36 More sarcastic
 - 37 Nevada senator Jacky
 - 38 Colony insects
 - 40 Mother or father
 - 41 VIPs
 - 43 Consumed
 - 46 Bottom of a statue
 - 47 "Grizzly" animal
 - 50 Accomplished
 - 52 Letters before an alias: Abbr.
- Tribune Media Services

GIRLS' TENNIS



Matt Szabo

KATELYN NGUYEN and Kendra Ly, from left, of Fountain Valley High girls' tennis.

Fountain Valley team makes program history at CIF Individuals

BY MATT SZABO

CLAREMONT — Athletes at any level often talk about leaving a legacy.

Fountain Valley High School senior Katelyn Nguyen may have played her final competitive tennis match Wednesday morning at the Biszantz Family Tennis Center.

In doing so, however, the two-year team captain made history.

Barons coach Harshul

Patel said Nguyen and junior partner Kendra Ly were the first doubles team in program history to advance to the round of 16 at the CIF Southern Section Individuals tournament.

It was part of a big season for Fountain Valley, which as a team also earned the highest ranking

— No. 5 in the Open Division — in program history. “We definitely put Fountain Valley on the map,”

Nguyen said. “Before, people were like, ‘Fountain Valley who?’ Now they’re going to be like, ‘Fountain Valley, oh, dang.’”

Nguyen and Ly did drop their round of 16 match to Lyric Wilson and Betty Chen of Sierra Canyon, 6-0, 6-4, ending their season.

Corona del Mar junior Polina Briggs was the other local player to ad-

See **Tennis**, page A4

SUSPECT

Continued from page A1

release stated.

All three victims grew up in Vietnam and have been friends since middle school, police reported, though it is unclear whether Nguyen was officially residing in Huntington Beach at the time of her death.

Cole, who was being held Wednesday evening

in an intake facility, according to an online prison inmate locator maintained by the sheriff's department, could face charges for murder, arson and eluding a peace officer resulting in the death of another person.

Police believe the suspect was engaged in a domestic dispute shortly after 10 p.m. Monday, when he allegedly doused a bush adjacent to a residence on the 18000 block of Arches

Court with lighter fluid and lit it on fire, before fleeing the scene, police reported Tuesday.

Officers located Cole's truck in a parking lot on the 17900 block of Brookhurst Street in Fountain Valley and initiated a pursuit. The chase ended in the deadly collision at the intersection of Ellis and Magnolia.

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BUI

Continued from page A1

his term as mayor, noting a desire to continue a previously stated focus on cultural diversity.

“The demographics of the city has changed, and it is important that we need to hear everyone because we are policy-makers,” Bui said before a full house inside the council chambers on Tuesday night. “It is so important that we hear everyone, hear their concerns, hear their visions, see what the visions are, and work with that.”

Bui added that he wants to work closely with the Chamber of Commerce in the upcoming year.

“I want to be working with them very closely on that, and possibly making policy that would enhance the business(es), or make them breathe easier,” Bui said. “In other words, cutting any red tape that we can cut, that we allow to be cut, so they won't have to struggle.”

In serving as mayor for the past year, Grandis named the completion of the universally accessible playground in Fountain Valley Sports Park as a source of pride. Other highlights included a \$5-

million federal grant to go toward a new fire station and the opening of the Central Cities Navigation Center, a collaboration with the cities of Garden Grove and Westminster and the county of Orange for homeless shelter beds and wraparound services.

“My commitment to

Fountain Valley will never waver,” Grandis said. “This city will always be my home, and I look forward to continuing to serve and support our community in every way that I can.”

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Photos by Susan Hoffman

HEATHER BLAND'S updated beach-style Cape Cod living room is ready for the Balboa Island Holiday Home Tour, which takes place on Sunday.

TOUR

Continued from page A1

young, and each got a special ornament like bears, angels, soldiers and mice,” said Lewand. “With four kids they eventually had so many ornaments, they each got their own tree.”

On Christmas morning, Lewand now entertains her eight grandkids in the third-floor den where eight towers containing Dickens-wrapped houses are filled with white elephant fun gifts for each child to open.

Traveling to the northwest end of the big island, tour goers will find a very different featured second home. Also designed in Cape Cod style, the 1989 built home is a more contemporary version with a pastel color pallet of blues and greens. The three-bedroom home, located on Opal Avenue, was also selected to be the promotional face of the tour.

The Bland family of five discovered the house in 2010 when they first visited from Los Angeles to spend three weeks of their summer vacation in the rental. “I said to my husband if it ever comes up for sale we should buy,” said Heather Bland, which they did. “It



JEANNE LEWAND enjoys a moment in her cozy living room surrounded by caroler figurines and an ornate tree.

will be one year Jan. 7 since we bought the house.”

Bland, a retired interior designer, explained that although the house has not been structurally changed, every single surface has been refurbished, including the exterior and interior. “The kitchen was gutted and remodeled,” explained Bland about the dramatic statement it exudes with the open 15-foot ceiling and second-story catwalk above. “The bathrooms are redone, and we painted and wallpapered inside, and the entire outside is all new.”

“It entertains beautifully,” said Bland. “We've had up to 40 people for my husband's birthday party.”

The Christmas decorating is more subdued and far less traditional in the Bland's home. Inside the step-down living room sits an Alpine Balsam Fir tree by Balsam Hill. The nontraditional artificial slim rustic evergreen is a new addition and according to Bland was chosen because it fit the “beachy” motif.

The annual Balboa Island Holiday Home Walking Tour takes place Sunday, Dec. 8, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is presented by the Balboa Island Improvement Assn. For ticket information, visit biia.org.

Susan Hoffman is a contributor to the Daily Pilot.

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CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

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