

# Daily Pilot

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2023 /// dailypilot.com



Photos by James Carbone

**LOCAL DIGNITARIES** shovel sand at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Surfside-Sunset Beach sand replenishment project in Seal Beach.

## Officials take to the beach as sand replenishing continues

BY MATT SZABO

What is a beach without the sand?

Those grains mean everything for coastal communities like Newport Beach, Huntington Beach and Sunset Beach.

"Without sand, Newport Beach would simply be just called Newport," Newport Beach Mayor Will O'Neill said.

O'Neill was one of several local leaders who gathered Wednesday at Surfside Colony for a

groundbreaking ceremony for Stage 13 of the Surfside-Sunset Beach sand replenishment project.

The \$23.1-million project, which began late last month, is expected to dredge and backpass 1.2 million cubic yards of sand along the coastline. The sand is in the process of being deposited on the beach, where it will eventually make its way down the Orange County coast via ocean cur-

See **Sand**, page A3



**SAND IS** pumped from a ship two miles offshore in Sunset Beach as part of the sand replenishment project on Wednesday.



Courtesy of the city of Costa Mesa

**CECILIA GALLARDO-DALY** began her new job at Costa Mesa City Hall on Tuesday.

## Assistant city manager travels north to fill role in Costa Mesa

BY SARA CARDINE

Costa Mesa officials welcomed a new face to City Hall Tuesday as Cecilia Gallardo-Daly started her first day on the job as assistant city manager, occupying a seat that's been vacant for more than a year.

Gallardo-Daly — who previously served in the same role in San Clemente — was appointed to the position following a

national search after her predecessor, Susan Price, announced her retirement in August 2022.

Costa Mesa City Manager Lori Ann Farrell Harrison said in a news release issued Tuesday Gallardo-Daly's extensive record of accomplishments, including nearly a decade of experience working in executive management, made her a standout candidate.

"She is results driven and puts

a premium on customer service," the city manager said. "Her 27 years of experience in successfully managing complex and controversial issues and projects will make her a valuable asset to the city and the entire Costa Mesa community."

Tuesday found the 56-year-old San Diego resident accompanying Farrell Harrison to various

See **Travels**, page A2



File Photo

**SUE KEMPF**, shown in 2020, accepted the gavel Tuesday night to serve as mayor of Laguna Beach for the second time.

## GIRLS' BASKETBALL

## Sage Hill, among state's best, places third at Troy Classic

BY ANDREW TURNER

FULLERTON — With each passing season, the Sage Hill School girls' basketball program has grown in belief, eyeing the top of the mountain and taking aim at the obstacles that stand in front of that goal.

A decorated core group has helped bring the school its first CIF Southern Section title as freshmen, a state title as sophomores, and elevated the program to the top division in the sport as juniors.

In this final chance to run it back together, the Lightning con-

tinue to embrace the role of the hunter, looking up at just a few teams in the state.

Sage Hill, which is now fifth in California, as ranked by MaxPreps.com, took on top-tier competition in the Troy Classic, where the Lightning placed third last week.

The first litmus test for Sage Hill in its aspirations to be the best came on Friday, when the Lightning dropped their semifinal game to Mater Dei 74-64 in a battle of the top two teams in Orange County.

Jenessa Cotton had 19 points,

See **Sage**, page A4



Photos by James Carbone

**SAGE HILL'S** Annabelle Spotts (15) drives to the basket against Mater Dei in the semifinals of the Troy Classic.

### SAGE HILL'S

Alyssa Cuff (22) shoots from under the basket against Mater Dei on Friday.



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SAT, DEC 23  
**FLOCK OF SEAGULLS**

THU, DEC 28  
**L.A. GUNS**

DEC 29 & 30  
**DONAVON FRANKENREITER**

SUN, DEC 31  
**LOS LOBOS**  
New Year's Eve

- 12/15 BERLIN
- 12/16 GARY HOEY'S *Rockin Holiday Show*
- 12/21 THE CHAIRMAN & THE BOARD (*THE RAT PACK TRIBUTE*)
- 12/22 AMBROSIA *A VERY SPECIAL HOLIDAY SHOW*
- 12/23 FLOCK OF SEAGULLS
- 12/27 THE NELSONS
- 12/28 L.A. GUNS
- 12/29 DONAVON FRANKENREITER / *GOODNIGHT, TEXAS*
- 12/30 DONAVON FRANKENREITER / *GOODNIGHT, TEXAS*
- 12/31 LOS LOBOS *NEW YEAR'S EVE!*
- 1/5 QUEEN NATION (*QUEEN TRIBUTE*)
- 1/6 QUEEN NATION (*QUEEN TRIBUTE*)
- 1/7 BOBBY GRAY
- 1/11 CANNED HEAT
- 1/12 TOMMY CASTRO
- 1/13 WILD CHILD (*THE DOORS TRIBUTE*)
- 1/14 CUBENSIS (*GRATEFUL DEAD TRIBUTE*)
- 1/18 ERIC SARDINAS /  
w/ SPECIAL GUEST MARCO MENDOZA
- 1/19 MARC COHN
- 1/20 MARC COHN
- 1/21 BIG MOUNTAIN
- 1/26 PETTY BREAKERS (*TOM PETTY TRIBUTE*)
- 1/28 THE FOUR FRESHMEN
- 2/3 GLENN HUGHES *DEEP PURPLE SET*  
- 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BURN
- 2/6 RICKIE LEE JONES
- 2/9 FAST TIMES (*80s CONCERT EXPERIENCE*)
- 2/10 JOURNEY USA (*JOURNEY TRIBUTE*)
- 2/14 OTTMAR LIEBERT & LUNA NEGRA
- 2/15 KARLA BONOFF
- 2/16 PRINCE AGAIN (*PRINCE TRIBUTE*)
- 2/17 THE MOTELS



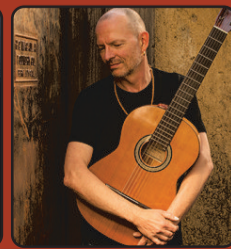
THU, JAN 11  
**CANNED HEAT**

FRI, JAN 12  
**TOMMY CASTRO**

THU, JAN 18  
**ERIC SARDINAS**

JAN 19 & JAN 20  
**MARC COHN**

- 2/18 ALBERT CUMMINGS
- 2/22 SHAWN PHILLIPS
- 2/23 BEATLES VS STONES - *A MUSICAL SHOWDOWN*
- 2/24 DADA
- 3/1 G. LOVE & SPECIAL SAUCE
- 3/7 THE BODEANS
- 3/9 SUPER DIAMOND (*NEIL DIAMOND TRIBUTE*)
- 3/13 REVEREND HORTON HEAT
- 3/14 COLIN JAMES
- 3/15 THE FENIANS
- 3/23 THE HIGHWAYMAN SHOW  
(*CASH, NELSON, JENNINGS, KRISTOFFERSON TRIBUTE*)
- 3/28 HERMAN'S HERMITS STARRING PETER NOONE
- 3/29 HERMAN'S HERMITS STARRING PETER NOONE
- 4/4 THE KINGSTON TRIO
- 4/5 ULI JON ROTH  
- INTERSTELLAR SKY GUITAR TOUR
- 4/6 RONSTADT REVIVAL (*LINDA RONSTADT TRIBUTE*)
- 4/7 CINDERELLA'S TOM KEIFER
- 4/10 JOAN OSBORNE ACOUSTIC TRIO
- 4/11 JIMMIE VAUGHAN
- 4/12 ROGER CLYNE & THE PEACEMAKERS
- 4/13 TINSLEY ELLIS
- 4/14 THE FABULOUS THUNDERBIRDS
- 4/18 SPONGE
- 4/19 RICHIE FURAY
- 4/20 GEOFF TATE
- 4/21 VONDA SHEPARD
- 4/25 ISRAEL VIBRATION & ROOTS RADICS
- 4/27 KIDS OF CHARLEMAGNE (*STEELY DAN TRIBUTE*)
- 5/24 DON'T STOP BELIEVIN' (*JOURNEY TRIBUTE*)
- 7/20 Y&T 50TH ANNIVERSARY



SUN, JAN 21  
**BIG MOUNTAIN**

FRI, FEB 2  
**GLENN HUGHES**

WED, FEB 14  
**OTTMAR LIEBERT**

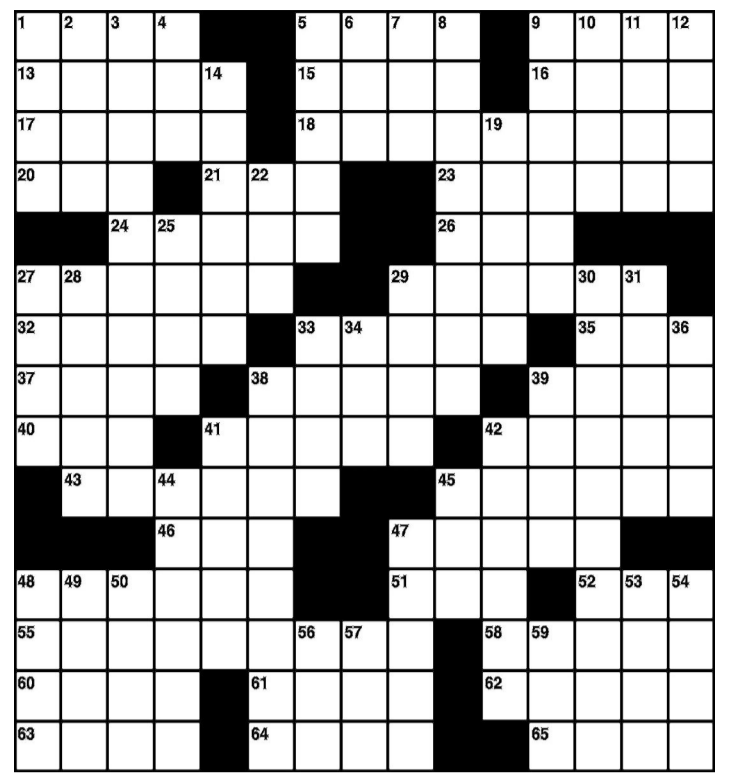
SAT, FEB 17  
**THE MOTELS**

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## THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Matthews

- ACROSS**
- 1 Jackal's cry
  - 5 Doesn't just sit there
  - 9 Leo XIII or Pius X
  - 13 Climbing plants
  - 15 Fingerprint feature
  - 16 Swing back & forth
  - 17 Sorority letter
  - 18 Opposite of guilt
  - 20 Come to a stop
  - 21 Singer Davis
  - 23 Has confidence in
  - 24 Marry without fanfare
  - 26 Young fellow
  - 27 Positive in attitude
  - 29 French impressionist painter
  - 32 Astronaut John
  - 33 Cook's utensil
  - 35 Clean the floor
  - 37 Made up stories
  - 38 Simon & Sedaka
  - 39 \_ on; incite
  - 40 "Certainly!"
  - 41 Rent long-term
  - 42 Snapshot
  - 43 Smacked
  - 45 Advantages
  - 46 Pen fluid
  - 47 Denims
  - 48 Word with gown or shower
  - 51 "Ode on a Grecian \_"
- DOWN**
- 1 Stay out of sight
  - 2 JennAir appliance
  - 3 Safari sighting
  - 4 "\_ Me Call You Sweetheart"
  - 5 Wonderland visitor
  - 6 Felon
  - 7 Truck scale unit
  - 8 Pristine
  - 9 Not genuine
  - 10 Has purchased a home
  - 11 Treaty
  - 12 Peepers
  - 14 Pago Pago native
  - 19 Pencil sharpener handle
  - 22 Isn't \_ to; probably won't
  - 25 Give for a time
  - 27 Hideous
  - 28 Toilet paper layers
  - 29 Aggravate
  - 30 Not doable
  - 31 Line of travel
  - 33 Feeble
  - 34 "...America! God shed \_ grace on thee..."
  - 36 Experts
  - 38 Piece of jewelry
  - 39 Give the cold shoulder to
  - 41 \_ eclipse; full moon event
  - 42 Boeing projects
  - 44 Passengers
  - 45 \_ person; each
  - 47 Naomi & Wynonna
  - 48 Hard hit
  - 49 Become delirious
  - 50 \_ tea
  - 53 Suddenly bright star
  - 54 Floored
  - 56 \_ degree; somewhat
  - 57 Mess up
  - 59 Friendly dog



For answers to the crossword, see page A4.

## MAYOR

Continued from page A1

trying on our part, try to get the money to get that project going," Kempf said. On a related note, Kempf spoke about the city working toward putting in a new fire station in South Laguna. She also said she was looking forward to reviewing the design plans for the Promenade on Forest. Housing also remains a concern, with the city on the hook for adding plans for 394 units in response to its regional housing needs assessment.



Andrew Turner

**BOB WHALEN**, second from left, is presented with a resolution in recognition of his fifth term as mayor of Laguna Beach.

Kempf, who was first elected to the council in 2018, said she came to realize community engagement is a key aspect of the role of mayor during her first term. "The job of mayor, some people think it's ceremonial, but there's actually a lot of work involved," she said. "I think the biggest learning for me was that when we have significant issues in the community, you have to get out front and communicate right away, because then that kind of puts people at a comfort level if they under-

stand the facts. Rather than not responding right away and letting things spiral out on their own, it's best to get out in front of prominent issues." Whalen, the outgoing mayor, was recognized by resolution. First appointed to the top job in 2015, he has served five terms as mayor, including three consecutive terms from 2019 to 2021 as the council leaned on his experience to navigate the city through the coronavirus pandemic. "It's always an honor to serve as mayor, no matter whether you've done it

once or more than once," Whalen said. "It's a great responsibility, something I take very seriously, and I've worked hard at to represent the community well. "A lot of these things in [this resolution], I contributed to, but it takes all of us. It takes a team, and I'm really pleased to be working with this group of colleagues. I think we're doing some good things and making some really good progress for the community." andrew.turner@latimes.com Twitter: @AndrewTurnerTCN

## NORTH

Continued from page A1

meetings, where she was introduced to other members of the city's executive team, and preparing for a council study session on the city's housing element later that evening. Gallardo-Daly is no stranger to planning and community development issues. A graduate of UCLA, where she earned an undergraduate degree in political science and a master's in urban planning, she has worked for a number of municipalities, from Sierra Madre to San Diego. "I really love working with communities," she said in an interview Tuesday. "I love that neighborhood focus, where you can work with business owners, property owners and residents to understand what they're looking for to make their community better or

keep it the way it is, then take their input, what they value and implement it at the local level." After working 12 years for the city of San Diego, where she handled matters related to community planning, coastal resilience, historical preservation and economic development, Gallardo-Daly spent some time as a consultant before accepting a position as San Clemente's community development director. There, her experience in land-use planning, project facilitation and general plan implementation continued to grow, which led to her appointment as assistant city manager. She served in that position from Oct. 2 until Nov. 30. Gallardo-Daly said while she was familiar with Costa Mesa, it wasn't really on her radar until earlier this year, when she was asked to participate on a review panel tasked with rating candi-

dates for a Costa Mesa position and met Farrell Harrison in person. "I was so impressed with her leadership and impressed with her vision and relationship with the City Council and all the things she was doing here in the city," she recalled. "I thought Costa Mesa is a really exciting place and lots of things are happening there." The new assistant city manager said she initially hopes to focus on community and economic development as Costa Mesa implements the housing element portion of the city's general plan. She and her husband, in the meantime, will be looking to move closer to Orange County on a permanent basis. Gallardo-Daly's annual salary will be \$255,132, according to city officials. sara.cardine@latimes.com Twitter: @SaraCardine

## FOR THE RECORD

In the story "Petition aims to buoy marine habitats" that ran in Saturday's paper, it was incorrectly reported that a petition by OC Coastkeeper sought the redesignation of two marine protected areas to be off limits to the general public. No MPAs can be off limits to the general public, nor does OC Coastkeeper's petition state that request.



