

Daily Pilot

FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2020 /// Now including Coastline Pilot and Huntington Beach Independent /// dailypilot.com



A BEACH NEAR lifeguard tower 74 at the mouth of the Santa Ana River in Newport Beach, pictured on Wednesday, is near a sensitive bird habitat.

Unofficial Santa Ana River dog beach to get more warning signs

The county has been cleared to post “no trespassing” signage in the area designed to keep dogs and their people away from sensitive bird habitat nearby.

BY HILLARY DAVIS

The California Coastal Commission has cleared Orange County to place more “no trespassing” signs at the mouth of the Santa Ana River to keep dogs and people away from sensitive bird habitat nearby, although birders and commissioners both wonder how much good it will really do.

It is, however, a start, they say.

The commission agreed to signage Wednesday specifically targeting commercial dog-walkers, who bring packs of often off-leash dogs along with individual dog owners to the jetty where the river meets the Pacific Ocean. That’s because commercial dog-walking, commission staff argues, is potential “development” in violation of the state Coastal



AN ENDANGERED Western snowy plover parent keeps a close watch on its chick on the Huntington Beach side of the mouth of the Santa Ana River on Wednesday.

Photos by Raul Roa Staff Photographer

Act, in addition to long-known but little-enforced bans on dogs on county beaches, leash laws, and dogs and humans in a flood control channel that the county says is unsafe for either to enter.

Nardy Khan, from Orange County Public

Works, said the county is working on a solution but it’s difficult for sheriff’s deputies to enforce trespassing laws along all the hundreds of miles of flood control channels in

See Dog, page A2

County leaves it up to each business to inform

The health department does not make public any temporary closures due to COVID-19 cases.

BY COLLEEN SHALBY

At least half a dozen restaurants in Orange County temporarily closed for cleaning after announcing an employee had tested positive for the coronavirus or come into contact with someone exposed to the disease.

The additional closures follow similar plans to deep clean and sanitize spaces after restaurant employees at other locations became infected with COVID-19.

The county, which reported more than 1,000 coronavirus cases and three new deaths Tuesday, is one of more than two dozen instructed by the state to temporarily suspend indoor operations at businesses, including restaurants, after a surge in infections.

That list includes Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Riverside counties. However, unlike the public health departments in those counties, which identify restaurants and businesses with a cluster of three or more coronavirus infections, the Orange County Health Care Agency does not share that information with the public, and officials say they have no immediate plans to do so.

Restaurants are required to follow guidelines from Orange County’s health department about safety protocols to guard against the virus and must contact health officials if an employee tests positive. But in the absence of a public database, it’s up to individual restaurants to inform customers about positive tests among staff members.

In light of that, more than 1,000

See Business, page A2

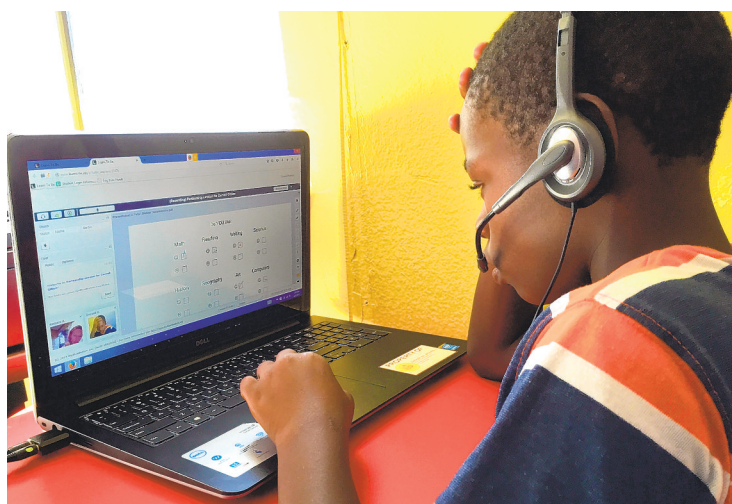
Mesa Water District, IT firm donate computers to children’s charities

BY SARA CARDINE

Even amid a pandemic, opportunities exist. Take, for example, Mesa Water District, where employees found themselves transitioning in mid-March to a work-from-home model and looking for computers that could handle an increased virtual workload.

New equipment was procured, leaving the Costa Mesa utility with about 70 gently used desktop and laptop computers no longer of use. Thanks to some quick thinking on the part of T2 Tech Group, which provides IT services for the district, some new owners were quickly identified.

In late June, 40 desktop models were wiped of their data, sanitized, boxed up and sent to Children’s Bureau, a Los Angeles-area nonprofit that supports at-risk children and their parents. Another 30 laptops went to School on Wheels, which provides free tutoring and mentoring services for homeless children in six counties, including



Courtesy of Bolt PR

SCHOOL ON WHEELS, a nonprofit that provides tutoring to homeless youth in Orange County, recently accepted 30 donated laptops from Mesa Water District they say will help kids learn during the pandemic.

Orange County.

“The opportunity came to work with T2, and we jumped on it,” said Celeste Carrillo, spokeswoman for Mesa Water District, crediting the IT firm with identi-

fying the recipient groups. “We put our heads together and said this is a chance to give these computers to someone who

See Donate, page A2

COVID-19 concerns sink Laguna’s Jr. Lifeguards program for the summer

BY LILLY NGUYEN

Lars Knepper would rather be at the beach.

Normally at this time of the year, he’d be down at the beach with dozens of other junior lifeguards. Now, in what would be his third year, Lars, 10, is at home watching dishes dive into the sink instead of diving into the ocean himself.

The Laguna Beach Junior Lifeguards program is officially canceled for the summer.

The city of Laguna Beach announced Wednesday that it would be canceling its last session of the summer for the 2020 Junior Lifeguards program, which teaches ocean safety, rescue techniques and marine safety operations.

Marine Safety Captain Kai Bond said the city was monitoring the state’s plan for reopening, but saw that the next stage for reopening was not expected to occur until after the prospec-

tive start date for the last session. The first session for the program was canceled earlier this summer.

“We want to protect the health and safety of our staff, the public and our junior lifeguards and stop the spread of COVID-19,” Bond said.

COVID-19 cases have continued to rise in Orange County, with the Orange County Health Care Agency reporting 1,292 new cases on Thursday.

This brings the total number of cases in the county to 21,517, with 691 of current cases currently hospitalized and 236 of those cases in the intensive care unit. Twenty-six deaths were also reported Thursday, with deaths totaling 402 to date, 203 of those deaths are of skilled nursing facility residents and 14 are assisted living facility residents.

A total of 3,514 tests were reported in Thursday’s county

See Program, page A2



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MAILBAG

Orange County delegation, Costa Mesa City Council show leadership on other 'pandemic' – climate change

Re "Commentary: Join the Costa Mesa council and members of the O.C. delegation in supporting climate bill," (June 17): Robert Taylor's recent op-ed clearly and concisely lays out reasons we need to pay as much if not more attention to climate change as a killer than the current pandemic.

Make no mistake: The coronavirus is a respiratory disease that kills humans. We mourn the staggering loss of human life.

Carbon pollution in the atmosphere attacks the air we all breathe and is killing the planet. No comparison.

We must find a cure for global heating as surely as a vaccine for the virus. Our best hope for a solution to carbon pollution is legislation in Congress through the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act.

I attended the hearing when Costa Mesa's City Council wisely supported this bill. I am a strong advocate for finding a way to stop runaway climate change. We will find a cure

HOW TO GET PUBLISHED

Email us at erik.haugli@latimes.com. All correspondence must include full name, home-town and phone number (for verification purposes). The Pilot reserves the right to edit all submissions for clarity and length.

for the pandemic. We must do the same for climate "pandemic."

Curt Abdouch
Costa Mesa

The author's suggested reframing of the climate crisis as a carbon-pollution pandemic is brilliant because it leads policymakers to focus on solutions that reduce emissions.

Responses to a warming planet or changing climate often focus on adapting to or armoring against the problem. For example, here in Orange County,



SAGE BOLEYN, 24, of Irvine, holds a sign during the "Climate Strike" climate change protest in Irvine in September 2019. Readers write in support of Orange County members of Congress and some local officials who are advocating legislative solutions climate change.

Raul Roa
Staff
Photographer

where sea levels are projected to rise, coastal cities are wasting precious time and taxpayer money on plans to build sea walls, dredge harbors or replenish sand, none of which will actually stop the sea from rising. Only reducing emissions will do that.

Thankfully, our O.C. members of Congress and some city councils understand this and are advocating bipartisan national legislation which offers a real solution.

Richard H. Williams and Carolyn J. Williams
Corona del Mar

for this support of the best plan for solving climate change.

The newspaper coverage is also appreciated. Until we can get the price of carbon high enough to account for the cost of the pollution, no one should rest.

Kadence Martin
Huntington Beach

side by side with no masks and certainly not from the same household.

While I appreciate the information the mailer contained, I found it ironic that a supervisor who advocated lax use of masks in public, who pushed hard for businesses to reopen without health safeguards, who helped get rid of our county health chief, Dr. Nichole Quick, for bucking Steel's views on coronavirus protocols, and who fudged COVID-19 recovery data to be now so concerned with senior health (the greatest risk population for both COVID-19 and mental health issues). How disingenuous!

It is clear that Steel cares more about political posturing than preventive protections for her constituents.

Tim Geddes
Huntington Beach

Bob Taylor makes a compelling case that climate change affects everyone and that placing a price on carbon pollution is the most effective way to address the problem.

Hopefully other cities in Orange County, including Huntington Beach, will join Santa Ana and Costa Mesa in supporting the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act.

We must act without delay to combat this pandemic crisis.

Paul Horgan
Huntington Beach

We are certainly thankful

Steel mailer feels like posturing

In today's mail, I received a slick one-pager allegedly from the County of Orange (although it had Supervisor and GOP candidate for Congress Michelle Steel's name on it) touting the county's mental health resource and COVID-19 testing locations in my area (Steel's district).

All well and good for us seniors. However, the photo had five seniors (race and gender balanced)

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BEES	HABIT	PAPA
SWAP	ACUTE	RIAL
TRUMPETER	ALLS	
REED	NOW	
AMENDS	SKILLETS	
MALES	SUITE	LOL
AMID	SPICY	SAKE
SIT	FRANK	METED
SEEDLING	HELENS	
YUL	LOAF	
ASAN	ATTENTION	
RAJA	NAIVE	SMUG
CLAM	KNEES	HIDE
HERO	ASSET	TEE

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



Courtesy of Phillip Darlington

HUNTINGTON BEACH resident Tiffany Gil, 21, is competing in a cross-country lawnmower race beginning Friday. The race should last three months.

Huntington resident Tiffany Gil to vie on 'The Great Grass Race'

BY ANDREW TURNER

Some people may have to think twice before putting their life on hold to be cast in a show.

Even the coronavirus pandemic cannot keep Huntington Beach resident Tiffany Gil from finding new ways to satisfy her wanderlust.

Gil, 21, will be one of 12 contestants on "The Great Grass Race," a show that will feature six teams attempting to travel from California to New York by Oct. 10. They will be racing on Craftsman T110 lawnmowers at a speed of 5.5 mph.

The teams will chart their own course, with the competitors beginning their journey from Moorpark on Friday at 9 a.m. Gil likened the unknown of the adventure to living through the pandemic.

"I guess it's kind of just like COVID times," she said. "I mean, it's very uncertain and very like, 'Well, I guess we're just going to have to go with it.' What's thrown at me is thrown at me, and I'll just have to persevere."

A 2016 graduate of Huntington Beach High School, Gil is a world traveler who has been to 27 countries, but only 12 states in her home country so far. Most of the states she has been to have been along the coasts, but she is doing all she can to prepare.

"I went to AAA, and I literally got 40 maps, so I think I'm definitely aware of the challenges of finding out my route and kind of prepared," Gil said. "I got a one-person tent



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

TIFFANY GIL will wear a hat and face covering to protect her from the sun while competing.

and a sleeping mat, so we have a trailer on the back of our lawnmower. It's a six [feet]-by-four [feet], so I'm going to attach a one-person tent on the back, and hopefully me and my partner will switch off taking naps and driving."

Gil, who is a senior business major at San Diego State, indicated that her initial strategy will be to travel across flatter terrain, although she figures that they will have to deal with sweltering heat in doing so.

The lawnmowers are not registered vehicles. Unable to travel on public roads, teams must find alternative routes like side roads and open fields to travel across the country.

Teams will earn points when riding the

lawnmower, and they will lose points if someone is towing them. The first team to arrive at the final destination in New York will have its points multiplied by 10, the second by five, and the third by three.

People skills and an ability to wheel-and-deal for resources will be vital. The teams will not be given food, gas or money, so they must rely on the kindness of strangers to acquire those essentials.

Denis Oliver, the producer of the show, said that the teams are competing for a \$100,000 cash prize.

Should she win prize money, Gil said that she would like to donate a portion of her winnings to fight hunger for children abroad.

Gil said she was a big fan of shows like "Survivor," "The Amazing Race," and "Fear Factor" growing up. She would watch the shows with her father, Fred, who made a point of teaching his daughter to fend for herself.

Fred said he taught her how to drive a stick shift when she had just gotten her driving permit at 15. She has also learned how to scuba dive, snowboard and surf.

Fred called Tiffany his "hero," and he has little doubt that she will find a way to succeed.

"She's very adventurous," Fred said of Tiffany, describing her as a leader who will not give up. "She's sharp. She's smart. I'm not concerned with her journey."

See **Race**, page A6

GIRLS' WATER POLO

4 from Laguna Beach High commit

BY MATT SZABO

Four incoming seniors from Laguna Beach High girls' water polo have committed to play in college, coach Ethan Damato confirmed Wednesday.

Nicole Struss, the Daily Pilot Dream Team 2019-20 Player of the Year, has committed to UCLA. Left-hander Emma Lineback also committed to the Bruins.

Emma Singer and Jessie Rose have each committed to Cal, Damato said.

The four players are each key pieces for the Breakers, who won their second straight CIF Southern Section Division 1 title in February. It was the fifth CIF championship in seven years for Laguna Beach (33-1), which also won the CIF State Southern California Regional Division I title.

Struss, a center who was the Surf League MVP and CIF Southern Section Division 1 Player of the Year, was second on Laguna Beach with 74 goals. She also had 28 assists and 25 steals.

She said she enjoyed the family atmosphere that UCLA provided. The Bruins were 19-2 this year before the rest of the season was canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"I think it's something that once you're a part of, you're a part of it forever," Struss said. "It kind of reminded me of what we have here in Laguna. I think they've created

See **Laguna**, page A6

TENNIS

Breakers begin their season this weekend

BY MATT SZABO

The Orange County Breakers will start — and finish — the 2020 World Team Tennis season far from Orange County.

The league is playing all of its matches this year in one place, due to the coronavirus pandemic. Each match will be played at The Greenbrier Resort in White Sulphur Springs, W.Va.

The good news for Breakers fans, who are used to the team playing at its home venue of Palisades Tennis Club in Newport Beach, is that each WTT match will either be televised or streamed live on CBS, CBS Sports Network, the CBS Sports app, Tennis Channel, ESPN+ or Facebook Watch.

A 14-match regular-season, which runs through July 30, awaits the Breakers. The chase for the King Trophy begins this weekend, as Orange County plays the rival San Diego Aviators at 5 p.m. Sunday Pacific time. The match will be televised on ESPN2.

Orange County will follow that with a match Monday at 6 p.m. against the Philadelphia Freedoms, on CBS Sports Network.

The Breakers have won the league's championship twice, in 2004 and 2017. They bring back an experienced player this year in Steve Johnson, 30, who is a former Orange High and USC star.

Luke Bambridge of England, 25, returns for his second season with the Breakers. Andreja Klepac of Slovenia, 34, will be in her fourth straight year with the team. She was the 2017 WTT Female MVP after leading Orange County to the title.

Former UCLA star Jennifer Brady, 25, will be in her second WTT season and first with the Breakers. She is ranked No. 48 in the world in women's singles and was an Australian Open doubles semifinalist in 2019.

Rick Leach returns for his seventh year as head coach of the franchise.

See **Breakers**, page A6

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKETBALL

Ocean View High hires Rusty Van Cleave as coach

BY ANDREW TURNER

Ocean View High School has hired Rusty Van Cleave as its new boys' basketball head coach.

"I am incredibly excited about being the head coach at Ocean View," Van Cleave said via text message on Wednesday. "It is an awesome opportunity, and I am really grateful for the chance to be at a program with such great tradition. We have an experienced group returning, and we all are looking forward to getting started."

Van Cleave, 50, brings a decorated résumé to the Seahawks bench, having won two CIF Southern Section championships as the head coach of Foothill for 13 seasons (2004-17). Those titles came in 2010 (Division 3AA) — 64-58 win over Ocean View — and 2015 (Division 1A) — 65-58 win over Edison. Van Cleave also earned CIF Coach of the Year honors in each of those seasons.

Foothill also won four league championships and made four state playoff appearances under his tutelage.

In his final eight seasons at Foothill, the Knights averaged 23 wins per season, a feat accomplished while competing in the deep Century and Crestview leagues. Over that period, the Knights went 186-55, a winning percentage of 77.2%.

Van Cleave left as the winning-



RUSTY VAN CLEAVE served as an assistant coach with the Mater Dei High School boys' basketball team.

Courtesy of Amy Van Cleave

est coach in Foothill history with 257 victories. Van Cleave has also served as an assistant coach at Estancia, Santa Margarita, Villa Park and Mater Dei.

Serving most recently as an assistant on the coaching staff at Mater Dei, Van Cleave said he felt an undeniable tug to become a head coach again.

"It was really a very rewarding few years away from being the head coach," Van Cleave said of his time with the Monarchs. "Once you've sat in that chair, either the desire has left you, or it's still there, and it was very evident to me that I wanted to get back and run my own program."

"Ocean View opening up seemed like a great opportunity to build on a great tradition. I'll be able to coach local kids that want to play for that school and be at a school that loves basket-

ball, [and has] great facilities. [Having] an athletic director like Tim Walsh [at Ocean View], that's a former coach, is always a good thing."

Walsh, like Van Cleave, believes the shoe fits.

"He did very well in a league with some very good basketball teams, and he brought Foothill from a team that probably wasn't, when he first got there, on the same level as those guys, but by the time he left, they definitely were one of the best programs in Orange County," Walsh said. "His ability as a coach is impressive, and what he's able to do with the program, what he's done in the past, we're confident he can bring that magic to Ocean View."

The Seahawks have had a highly successful boys' basketball program in their own right with 26 league championships and

two CIF titles.

Ocean View has continued to make postseason appearances despite a revolving door of head coaches as of late. Roger Holmes and Walsh served as co-head coaches from 2014-18. Jimmy Harris took over the following year, and Brendan Holmes was the head coach last season.

Walsh acknowledged that experience coaching against Van Cleave factored into the decision to bring him on as head coach of the Seahawks. During the 2009-10 season, Walsh was an assistant coach for the late Jim Harris when Ocean View lost to Van Cleave and Foothill in the Division 3AA final.

"I've coached against Rusty a few times, and I've seen him coach a bunch of times because they were in our tournament a few years, too," Walsh said. "The thing about coaching against him, what was always so difficult, his teams were so prepared. They were so tough to play against because the game plan was so solid."

"Unfortunately, I have bad memories of coaching against Rusty, going back to the 2010 championship game."

Ocean View went 16-13 overall and 6-4 in the Golden West League last season, finishing in third place.

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GIRLS' BASKETBALL

H.B.'s Marisa Tanga, Alyssa Real share Surf League MVP



Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

HUNTINGTON BEACH'S Marisa Tanga defends Lexi Alvarez of Newport Harbor while Alyssa Real, left, runs back on defense during a Sunset League game on Jan. 4, 2018.

BY DAILY PILOT STAFF

Huntington Beach High guards Marisa Tanga and Alyssa Real shared the Surf League MVP award for helping the girls' basketball team repeat as the league champion.

Tanga, a senior, averaged 7.1 points, 4.1 rebounds, 3.3 assists and 2.8 steals per game. She played all four years on varsity.

Real, a junior, provided 7.9 points, 3.8 assists, 2.7 rebounds and 2.4 steals per contest.

The Oilers also had senior power forward Madeline Krause and junior center Andie Payne on the first team.

Krause was one of Huntington Beach's top three-point shooters, connecting

on 31.7% of her attempts.

Payne led the Oilers in scoring at 10.6 points per game, also chipping in with 8.9 rebounds, 1.9 steals, 1.6 blocked shots and 1.4 assists.

Huntington Beach went 23-6 overall and 6-0 in league. The Oilers lost to top-seeded Studio City Harvard-Westlake 67-37 in the second round of the CIF Southern Section Division 1 playoffs. The Wolverines won the CIF title.

Corona del Mar had two first-team selections in junior guard Trasara Alexander and sophomore center Makena Tomlinson.

Alexander scored 15 points to go with nine rebounds and three assists per game. In league competition, her scoring average

went up to 17 points.

Tomlinson compiled 10 points and nine rebounds per contest.

CdM went 23-8 overall and 4-2 in league play, finishing in second place. The Sea Kings lost to Lancaster 34-28 in the Division 3AA quarterfinals.

Senior power forward Taylor Fullbright made the first team for Edison.

Fullbright averaged of 10 points, seven rebounds and two steals per game.

Edison, the third-place team in the league, finished the season at 15-13 overall and 2-4 in the league.

The Chargers did not qualify for the Division 3AA playoffs.

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RACE

Continued from page A5

Oliver got the idea for the three-month-long race while watching a drama about a World War II veteran traveling by lawnmower across Iowa and Wisconsin to visit his dying, estranged brother.

"I was looking for a simple concept that could relate to anyone, that could bring people together, that could show the generosity

of people in a world that usually shows negativity," Oliver said. "Everyone has mowed a lawn in their life. Everyone can afford a lawnmower."

"I was starting to watch the movie 'The Straight Story' from [director] David Lynch, and after the first 15 minutes, I got the concept of what we shall do. I didn't even finish the movie actually, started to work on the concept right away. We worked on this idea for the past year and a half."

Those looking to track the progress of Gil and the other contestants can find content on the streaming platform Menace Vision for free on smartphones and computers. The show is also available on the Menace Vision app on Amazon with a subscription. Oliver added that the show will be available on Roku next week. Daily episodes will be produced for 90 days.

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BREAKERS

Continued from page A5

2020 ORANGE COUNTY BREAKERS SCHEDULE

(All matches at The Greenbrier in West Virginia, all times Pacific)

Sunday: Orange County at San Diego, 5 p.m. (ESPN2)

Monday: Philadelphia at Orange County, 6 p.m. (CBS Sports Network)

Wednesday: Orange County at Chicago, 8 a.m. (ESPN+)

July 16: Las Vegas at Orange County, 8 a.m. (ESPN+)

July 18: Orlando at Orange County, 9 a.m. (ESPN2)

July 19: San Diego at Orange County, 5 p.m. (ESPN+)

July 20: New York at Orange County, 4 p.m. (Tennis Channel)

July 21: Orange County at Las Vegas, 4 p.m. (CBS Sports Network)

July 23: Orange County at Washington, 4 p.m. (ESPN+)

July 24: Orange County

at Philadelphia, noon (Tennis Channel)

July 25: Orange County at Springfield, 9 a.m. (CBS Sports Network)

July 27: Chicago at Orange County, 8 a.m. (Tennis Channel)

July 29: Orange County at New York, noon (Tennis Channel)

July 30: Springfield at Orange County, 9 a.m. (Tennis Channel)

Aug. 1-2: WTT Playoffs (TBD)

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LAGUNA BEACH'S

Nicole Struss, bound for UCLA, helped the Breakers win their second straight CIF Southern Section Division 1 title last February.

Don Leach
Staff
Photographer

LAGUNA

Continued from page A5

an amazing culture that I really wanted to be a part of."

Lineback, a dangerous left-handed attacker, also is headed to Westwood. She was a first-team Dream Team selection and had a team-best 80 goals, adding 59 assists and 32 steals. She scored all of the Breakers' fourth-quarter goals in the Division 1 final to help them rally past

Foothill.

Singer, a second-team Dream Team selection, had 34 goals, 40 assists and 23 steals while aiding the Breakers' defense. Rose, an attacker who is also a cross-country standout for Laguna Beach, had 30 goals, 32 assists and 32 steals.

"I think that [all of us committing] really shows all of the hard work that everyone has put in," Struss said. "To have already four girls going to great schools just amazes

me.

"When I heard about each of the girls committing to each school, it brought me to tears. I was just so happy for everybody. We've all grown up together, and we've seen all of these waves of girls going to amazing schools. We were just hoping one day, that could be us. For it to start to become a reality is just surreal, amazing and a really cool experience."

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