

Daily Pilot

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Photos by Raul Roa | Staff Photographer

SENIORS FROM Huntington Terrace Senior Living wave at a van with a message as the Sycamore Creek Community Charter School Senior Cheer Parade drives by their location on the 18800 block of Florida Street in Huntington Beach on Saturday.

Sycamore Creek school cheers on seniors, essential workers with parade in Huntington Beach

BY LILLY NGUYEN

Students, teachers and community members of the Sycamore Creek Community Charter School were planning for a parade for weeks.

On Saturday, the “cheer parade” in Huntington Beach for seniors and healthcare workers was scheduled to start on Franklin Drive. The plan was to loop participants down Delaware Street and past several senior housing and care facilities along the way.

The goal of the parade, Sarah Bach, founder and executive director of the charter school, said, was to connect students with the Huntington Beach community.

“We were having a meeting [for fundraising and community building on May 8] and we were trying to think of different things that we could do. Who needs help? What can we do that builds our own community of families during this time, because it’s really hard on everyone to be separated,” Bach said.

After thinking about the seniors and essential workers affected most by the coronavirus pandemic, the team struck upon the idea of holding a parade, similar to the birthday parades that have grown in popularity since state and local regulations prohibited large gatherings.

“We kind of bounced off of that idea that we could bring cheer to a ... retirement or senior living row that has so many centers and all different kinds of levels of isolation



BEV ISON, 79, right, from Huntington Terrace Senior Living waves as the Sycamore Creek Community Charter School Senior Cheer Parade drives by in Huntington Beach on Saturday.

right now and hopefully impact as many people as possible and also thank those hero workers on the front lines with those individuals,” Alisha Walker, board president of the charter, said.

“I was able to reach out [to] some of the centers,” Walker said. “We don’t want to give them any extra work. How can we cel-

See **Parade**, page A2

HIGH SCHOOLS

CIF commissioner optimistic about return of sports

BY ANDREW TURNER

Rob Wigod, the commissioner of athletics for the CIF Southern Section, has consistently said recently that the section has a goal to have a fall, a winter and a spring sports season in the school year to come.

Although it is not known exactly when high school sports will be able to return after the coronavirus pandemic forced a shutdown, Wigod has maintained that the section will be ready when it is deemed safe to play.

“I always just say to people, ‘You give me a date and I’ll give you a calendar,’ and that’s true,” Wigod said. “We’re prepared for any eventuality, but the question that no one has the answer [to] on May 28 is, ‘What is the date?’”

The original calendar for high school sports in the section remains in place at present. Time will tell just how creative and flexible CIF has to be to work in a



Rob Wigod

fall sports season, but Wigod has no intention of moving forward without one.

Some contingency plans would include pushing back the start of the season.

A period for student-athletes to reacclimate themselves to the training regimens associated with their sports, a league schedule and full section playoffs would be the minimum that CIF is hoping for in any plan to get back on the field.

“We would have to be cognizant of definitely including league play,” Wigod said.

“I don’t believe we can really have a viable regular season without full league play and allow leagues to

See **Sports**, page A3



Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

ALSO FROM THE DAILY PILOT:

WORLD TEAM TENNIS TO HOLD 2020 SEASON IN WEST VIRGINIA

The Orange County Breakers will be one of nine franchises to play at The Greenbrier resort starting July 12. **PAGE A5**

D.A. TO HOLD NEWS CONFERENCE ABOUT HOMELESS POISONINGS ON MONDAY **PAGE A2**

MAILBAG: IF YOU’RE HEALTHY IN NEWPORT BEACH, YOU MAY WANT TO THANK GOV. GAVIN NEWSOM **PAGE A4**

Mariners Christian School bids farewell to departing students with socially distanced ‘Drive-Bye’ event

BY SARA CARDINE

The carpool lane at Costa Mesa’s Mariners Christian School recently became a makeshift party venue as families and teachers convened for a “Great MCS Drive-Bye” on May 22 to celebrate the end of a school year marked by distance and coronavirus cautions.

Hundreds of parents lined up their vehicles and waited for a chance to drive their children through a corridor of teachers and staff, some of whom dressed in costumes specially for the occasion.

Music blared from cars as students stood and waved through sunroofs.

Among them was eighth-grader Clay Riener, who festooned the family SUV with individualized poster-board greetings made out to his favorite teachers.

Mom Valerie Riener said it was the perfect end to a year marked by a lot



Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

ABIGAIL AND Elia Choi, 5, hold signs and wave to staff members at Mariners Christian School during “The Great MCS Drive-Bye” on May 22.

of new norms. “We were excited to participate and say good-bye and thank you to the school. They’ve done such a great

job to keep that community feeling going,” she said. “Just to go through

See **Mariners**, page A3

O.C. tops 6,000 cases of COVID-19

One death and 181 new incidents of the coronavirus Saturday are among the latest numbers provided by the county’s healthcare agency.

BY ANDREW TURNER

Cumulative cases of the novel coronavirus in Orange County have reached 6,100, according to the latest numbers released by the Orange County Health Care Agency.

Of the confirmed cases of COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus, there have been 665 skilled nursing facility residents and 377 county jail inmates infected.

The county reported one death and an additional 181 confirmed cases. There have now been 146 deaths countywide due to COVID-19, with 61 of the fatalities involving skilled nursing facility residents.

Within the last day, there were 1,927 more coronavirus tests performed, bringing the number of tests administered to 121,811.

There are 272 cases that currently require hospitalization, and 89 of the patients hospitalized are in an intensive care unit. The 272 hospitalizations are the second-highest total for a single day during the pandemic, trailing only the mark of 274 in Wednesday’s report. Twenty-four of 25 eligible hospitals reported for this period.

An estimated 2,447 people have recovered to date from COVID-19. The county healthcare agency is using the difference between the prior 28-day cumulative case count and the current day’s mortality to determine the approximate figure of those who have recovered on a specific day.

Broken down into age groups, those ages 25-34 and 45-54 have each accounted for 18% of the county’s total infections. The age brackets of 35-44 and 55-64 each come in at 15% of the cumulative cases. Ten percent have been 18-24, while 9% have been 65-74. Another 10% of the total cases have involved persons that are at least 75 years old.

By ethnicity, 37% of the county’s COVID-19 related deaths have been white, 32% Hispanic, 18% Asian and 2% African American. Looking at the death toll by gender, 58% of those to succumb to the disease have been male.

Updated figures are posted daily at occcovid19.ocalthinfo.com/coronavirus-in-oc. For information on getting tested at one of the nearly two dozen public clinics around the county, visit occcovid19.ocalthinfo.com/covid-19-testing-and-screening.

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Air Force vet joins Laguna Beach American Legion Auxiliary as its first male member of the chapter

An Air Force veteran has joined the Laguna Beach American Legion Auxiliary Unit chapter as its first male member.

Richard Moore previously served as an American Legion Post 222 commander for more than nine years and currently holds the rank of 2nd vice commander. Moore joins his wife, Evelda Loftsgaard, who was a veteran of the Marine Corps, in Laguna Beach's American Legion Auxiliary Unit 222.

Both are also members of American Legion Post 222.

For about a century, auxiliary



Richard Moore

membership was available only to women as membership of American Legion Post, a national veterans' service organization, were only available to veterans.

Women were required to be related to a veteran to join the American Legion Auxiliary, which supports families of military officers.

Men are now eligible to join

American Legion Auxiliary if they are related to a female veteran that is a member of American Legion Post, regardless of military service.

Moore officially joined the organization chapter, but has not been formally welcomed because of the suspension of events due to the coronavirus pandemic that has swept through the country. But the organization hopes to resume its social gatherings in the fall, said Sandi Werthe, a spokeswoman for the organization.

— Lilly Nguyen

News conference set Monday about homeless poisonings

An arrest has been made after a series of poisonings targeted homeless individuals in Huntington Beach, sending several to the hospital, authorities said on Friday.

The Orange County district attorney's office issued an advisory that it will be holding a joint news conference Monday at 10 a.m. with the city of Huntington Beach and the county of Orange to further discuss an ongoing investigation into the matter.

Kimberly Edds, a spokeswoman for the district attorney's office, said that eight victims have been identified so far (there have been no deaths reported). The food poisonings are not considered to be a countywide issue, as all of them occurred in Hunting-

ton Beach.

She added that one adult arrest has been made in relation to the food poisonings, which she said began in mid-May.

Homeless people received food laced with oleoresin capsicum, considered to be "twice as strong as the pepper spray used by police," the announcement said. The statement also said that the reaction of those who were given the poisoned food were filmed.

"The victims suffered a variety of symptoms including seizure-like symptoms, difficulty breathing, vomiting, and intense mouth and stomach pain," the release said. "Several of the victims required hospitalization."

— Andrew Turner

Local fitness instructor stays busy during the pandemic

BY MATT SZABO

Kelly Evans is getting creative with what she uses as weights.

In recent weeks, she said things such as iron skillet, propane tanks, tool boxes and cinder blocks have been viable substitutions.

The personal trainer and fitness instructor, who lives in Costa Mesa, has her garage as her studio during the coronavirus pandemic. She does four Zoom classes a week — two for adults, two for children — and also posts exercise videos to a website she's started. The videos are 30 minutes.

Evans, 37, is doing what she can to get by. She was furloughed from her job at the Newport-Mesa Family YMCA on March 16, a day before the gym closed.

Evans, who has been working at the YMCA for eight years, was working on small-group classes, as well as one-on-one training and a 12-week course that is an offshoot of the P90X program, before she was furloughed.

"I do feel like I get a specific type of demographic of person coming there," she said. "They do seem to be interested in overall lifestyle changes and healthy habit formation, as opposed to just getting into their bikini for Cabo [San Lucas] or ready for spring break. I feel like I can help people really improve their quality of life, and just see their day-to-day energy and abilities with their kids change. It's definitely very rewarding and motivating to keep coming back for, day after day."

Evans is optimistic she will be able to return to the gym sooner rather than later, though it remains to be seen what restrictions will be in place.

She said she has been reinstated as an active employee, albeit on a limited basis. She takes a



Photos by Kevin Chang | Staff Photographer

COSTA MESA resident Kelly Evans, 37, uses a pair of 5-pound iron skillet as dumbbells in her exercise routine. Evans has been holding online classes via Zoom and posting exercise videos on her website via YouTube.



EVANS INCORPORATES a 25-pound propane tank into her routine.

couple of hours per week to make training videos for the YMCA website.

"It feels nice to have active status again," she said. "They're doing their best to keep everyone in the area active and healthy."

Gia Gaffaney of Corona del Mar is one client who has followed Evans from the brick-and-mortar building to the internet.

"I like her because her routines are never the same, and I get bored so easily," Gaffaney said. "Hers is the only class that keeps me interested, because it's always dynamic. Every time I go, I feel so strong."

Evans said she has valued the time at home with her three chil-

dren ages 10 to 13. Her husband Scott, who works for the Special Olympics, has managed to keep his job and has been supportive of Kelly, who has stayed positive.

She said she's able to supplement her income because many of her clients are still paying her, though the videos posted on her website are free.

"It's definitely far more rewarding getting to see their faces through Zoom," Evans said. "Depending on the size of the group and which type of group you're joining into, I stop and check everybody's form. I'm able to make sure that they're staying safe. It's definitely been a good avenue to be able to continue to keep people motivated."

One local teenager is also using Zoom to keep her friends active. Newport Beach resident Natasha Hill, a senior at Mater Dei High, started running Zoom classes for about 20-30 people while on spring break.

Hill, who has signed with Arizona State for women's tennis, said the Tabata sessions have been high energy.

She said she's become closer with Mater Dei ASB President Kody Rymer, a Huntington Beach resident who has been a participant.

Hill created an Instagram account to chronicle her experiences, and videos are available on her YouTube page.

"I've been very active during this quarantine," Hill said. "We're bonding over sweat, and it's been a lot of fun. I've gotten a lot of feedback from my friends, which is why I've expanded it so much and started my own Instagram. Obviously, I'm not famous or anything right now, but the plan is to continue doing this after quarantine."

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PARADE

Continued from page A1

ebtrate them without creating more work for them? We know that you're impacted in a really real and significant way."

Students were asked to write three letters each and the charter school on 17131 Emerald Lane provided supplies to do so during a supply pickup on May 12.

Older students were asked to write letters, while younger students were asked to draw or paint something to give to seniors and healthcare workers currently in isolation.

As of Saturday afternoon, the

number of COVID-19 cases had reached 6,100 with about 665 of those cases reported in skilled nursing facilities in Orange County.

The goal was to send at least 240 letters, though some families have written and drawn more, including Daisy Linser and her son, Lincoln, who wrote almost 40.

Linser, who is an office manager and Spanish teacher for the charter, said she felt that having students and her son participate in the cheer parade helped model behavior for them to consider others.

Linser said the practice has made her think about how first responders have been asked to

"step into adverse situations."

But in this period in our community with the virus, it's thought-provoking and how fortunate we are that this group of community workers have always sacrificed for us," Linser said. "Not just now, but always."

"I think we're just trying to hope to convey that we care about [seniors and healthcare workers]," Walker said. "You're an important part of our community and we hope that we can spread some joy and let you know that we're all in this together and that we're thinking about you."

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Raul Roa | Staff Photographer

ANGELINA, center, and her sister Shelby Kliever, right, hold signs as Corine Witherby, 91, left, applauds during Saturday's parade.



MARINERS

Continued from page A1

that and get a glimpse of people and wave through the car — he craved that.” Mariners Christian Middle School Dean Katie Niles said the end-of-school event was as much a celebration for faculty and staff as it was for students and families.

“Not being able to see our students and end the year with them was really difficult. It really was, for lack of a better word, a bummer,” Niles said.

“This was the best way we could have ended the year together. It was incredibly special.” The school also invited families to take and personally sign bricks which will be installed in an atrium floor being built as part of a campus modernization, scheduled to be completed this fall.

School Head Heather Harrison said in a release issued by Mariners Christian the event was intended as an end-of-the-year tribute to the 735-member student body, in-



Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS at Mariners Christian School wave and hold signs during “The Great MCS Drive-By”, a celebration of the last day of school on May 22.

cluding eighth-graders like Clay, who will be moving on to other schools next academic year.

“We couldn’t be prouder of our students and hope they feel celebrated for all they have accomplished this year,” Harrison said. “It’s the best way to conclude a year that brought such unexpected challenge.”

For Valerie Riener, having the opportunity to bid

farewell to a school that has been like a second home to her son for the past six years was priceless.

“It’s bittersweet for the eighth-grade families, but we just had to celebrate what a great job the school and families have done through this pandemic,” she said. “It’s been unreal.”

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SPORTS

Continued from page A1

have that take place, and then obviously send their playoff entries to us for our section championships.”

As was the case when spring sports were sent to the sideline by COVID-19, the ability to resume athletic activities is an issue to be discussed and ruled on by local schools, local school districts and private schools following the guidelines of local and state authorities, Wigod said, adding that the CIF will not be in a position to mandate certain health and safety protocols.

With 567 member schools, Wigod suspects that a variety of decisions will be made across the expansive geographic area that the section encompasses.

There are 10 sections of the CIF in total. Only the Southern Section has at least 200 member schools (Sac-Joaquin Section has 198).

Wigod added that the message is clear that schools want to play sports again, and he is committed to making that happen in whatever way possible, even if it means doing so without fans.

“We can’t make decisions as important as these and use finances as a main factor in that decision,” Wigod said. “If we get to that point where games can be conducted but there won’t be, or the recommendations from the health professionals are not to allow fans, then I believe our membership wants to play.”

“I would see us doing that. It would be hard. I don’t know how you keep parents and their fellow

students and people that want to come and watch from being able to do so, but again, it would be preferable, I know, for our schools to play, even without fans versus not to play at all.”

Should high school sports return in the fall, CIF is set to see a return of its boys’ and girls’ cross-country postseason to the famed course at Mt. San Antonio College.

The CIF also plans to roll out a new football playoff format that will place teams in a playoff division based on in-season performance.

The section would also once again be looking forward to its first-ever boys’ and girls’ lacrosse championships after the coronavirus wiped out the spring sports season.

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THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS

- 1 Word with zip or area
5 Talkative
10 Decays
14 Till drawer section
15 "Bye, Pierre!"
16 Waikiki's island
17 Damon or Dillon
18 Rickety old car
20 180 degrees from WSW
21 Sleeve fillers
22 Goes on and on
23 After-bath garbs
25 Tit for _
26 Uproar
28 Inns
31

SUDOKU

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20				21							22			
		23	24						25					
26	27						28				29	30		
31						32	33				34		35	
36					37						38			
39				40						41				
	42		43						44					
			45					46						
47	48	49				50					51	52	53	
54					55	56					57			
58					59						60			
61					62						63			

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.

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

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

- 3 Strong-willed
4 Ending for meek or bleak
5 Attic
6 Last name for 2 U.S. presidents
7 Drill tips
8 Wager
9 Deborah's "The

- King and I" costar
10 Spin
11 Boatman's items
12 This and _; hodgepodge
13 Eats
19 Make joyful
21 Competent
24 Kick out of

- office
25 Old Roman robe
26 Evening bugle call
27 Come together
28 Ancient vandals
29 Keep a _; avoid attention
30 Garden pest
32 Plague carriers
33 Umpire's shout
35 Williams or Griffith
37 Sought legal redress
38 Diamonds or hearts
40 Segment
41 Popular pets
43 Motorist
44 Violin
46 Shows courage
47 Bernie & others
48 Share a border with
49 Asian desert
50 Singer Patti
52 Word attached to ball or board
53 Wrought _ fence
55 Brown- _ it; bring one's lunch
56 Afternoon hour
57 Phlebotomist's workplace

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forum

COMMENTARY | FRED NAVARRO

Much more than a ceremony for Newport-Mesa class of 2020

Graduation is an important and memorable accomplishment, and we are extremely proud of our Newport-Mesa Unified School District seniors, our schools, parents and teachers for the collective resilience as we finish the school year strong during this most difficult time. We share in the disappointment that our seniors are not able to participate in the in-person traditions associated with the culmination of high school.

School districts across the country have had to make difficult choices about what graduation looks like at a time when government and healthcare experts are doing all they can to keep COVID-19 at bay. This virus has devastated many families in our communities and continues to be a threat.

As Orange County re-opens businesses, the sobering reality is that the Orange County Health Care Agency recorded the high-



Photo by Drew A. Kelley

CORONA DEL MAR High School seniors throw their caps in the air after graduating in 2015. This year's class will have a virtual ceremony because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

est number of COVID-19 cases in a day last week, and as of May 25, Costa Mesa and Newport Beach are two of the top five cities with reported cases of COVID-19 in the county. So, while an in-person

high school graduation is indeed one of life's major milestones, our district, along with high school principals, came to the recommendation that this year's commencement would be broadcast online,

so that all students and their families can participate in this momentous occasion in a safe manner. We understand that this is a disappointment for graduating seniors, their families, and us at the dis-

trict who look forward each year to seeing our students receive their diplomas and participating in the joy with our school community.

Instead of letting our graduations in 2020 be defined by what we couldn't do, let's celebrate and recognize that this graduating class not only did what was needed to earn their diploma, but they did it in a way to protect their families, their teachers and their classmates from contracting COVID-19.

Our graduation broadcasts will be produced by Van Wagner Sports and Entertainment, a leading entertainment company that works with the biggest sports organizations and brands in the world including the NFL, NBA, NHL and NCAA.

It recently broadcasted the NFL Draft and USC's 2020 commencement ceremony — both as a result of COVID-19 impacts.

The ceremony broadcast will allow us to experience

a ceremony together with the graduate and a live broadcast of the master of ceremonies, guest speakers, a personalized photo and video montage of the graduating class, and a presentation of diplomas. Students also will get a digital copy of the ceremony as a keepsake.

In addition to our graduation broadcasts, all of our high schools plan to celebrate seniors with an informal, in-person event later this summer, with the hopes that state orders and social distancing requirements allow it.

As we look ahead, the class of 2020 will not be defined by this, but instead on how each graduate will define their lives from this day forward and enrich our society through career, educational, civic and personal achievements.

FRED NAVARRO is the superintendent of the Newport-Mesa Unified School District.

MAILBAG

If you're healthy in Newport you may want to thank Gov. Gavin Newsom

If you are alive and well in California, you can pretty much thank the governor in large part for his quick reaction to the coronavirus threat.

While far from being out of danger, as many indicators will attest, our relatively successful battle with the virus so far has been a result of the governor's quick and resourceful actions.

Nowhere, and at no time, has the governor tried to tie his success to his political party affiliation.

That is why I find it so distasteful that two of our local leaders have submitted articles this week to

local news agencies that are critically implying that the governor has overreacted to the virus.

I could make a pretty good case for underreaction to this grave threat by local leaders, but I do not want to stoop to their level.

To make use of a major catastrophe for political purposes, one responsible for about 4,000 deaths in California and approximately 6,100 cases in Orange County, not only demeans the authors but, in my opinion, minimizes the suffering of the victims.

Lynn Lorenz
Newport Beach

Place health ahead of partisanship

I had to laugh and then cry when I read Newport Beach Councilwoman Diane Dixon's commentary bashing the rational and responsible response of Gov. Gavin Newsom to the COVID-19 pandemic ("Commentary: Governor's order to close Orange County beaches reflects his autocratic approach to leadership," May 20).

We need to remind ourselves that Dixon is not only a member of an autocratic city council in Newport Beach, but the top vote-getter in the GOP primary for the Republican Central Committee in our district (AD 74).

If elected to the state Legislature, Dixon would seek to follow the typical GOP pattern of being a partisan warrior with a "just say no" attitude.

Tim Geddes
Huntington Beach



Rich Pedroncelli | Associated Press

TWO LETTERS to the editor support the response of California Gov. Gavin Newsom to the coronavirus threat.

Few follow the rules at the beach

I walked down to the beach today (May 24) and to my amazement, even with a large sign with big bold red letters clearly saying, "Active Recreational Use Only," I saw hundreds on beach towels, blankets and the sand. Who knows? Maybe the

powers that be have no inkling as to what's going on, and all the rule breakers know what's right.

Bill Spitalnick
Newport Beach

Rouda responding to the crisis

Last week Rep. Harley Rouda (D-Laguna Beach) flew back to Washington,

D.C., to vote for the Heroes Act, pragmatic legislation that we hope Senate Republicans and the president will support in response to the coronavirus pandemic. At a time when trust and confidence in politicians is at an all-time low, constituents in the 48th District can be proud that we have a capable and responsible representative working for our health, safety and welfare.

Caroline Kerr Taylor
Newport Beach

Home developer became a friend

Re "William Lyon, Orange County real estate magnate who foreshadowed region's growth, dies at 97," (May 23): I met William Lyon long before he became known as the General. His niece and two nephews and I all became friends in the mid-1950s.

After I graduated from USC and moved to Orange County half a century ago, our paths crossed many times at family functions and civic events.

My fondest memory occurred in New York City of all places. That's where several Lyon family members and I had dinner together in 1972. At one point, Mr. Lyon, as he was known to me then, asked me about my job as a congressional staff assistant in Washington, D.C. We joked about our politics being as different as night and day. It was a terrific evening.

As we all stood outside the restaurant waiting for cabs, I felt a hand on my shoulder. You can guess who it was. I never will forget the words I heard that night: "Now that you're working on Capitol Hill, you should call me Bill." Rest in peace, Bill. You had a huge impact on people's lives, especially mine.

Denny Freidenrich
Laguna Beach

Daily Pilot

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CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS

C	O	D	E	G	A	B	B	Y	R	O	T	S
O	N	E	S	A	D	I	E	U	O	A	H	U
M	A	T	T	R	A	T	T	L	E	T	R	A
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C	U	B	E		A	N	G	E	L		A	L
S	T	I	R		G	E	E	S	E		B	E

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

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TENNIS

THE ORANGE COUNTY Breakers' Steve Johnson, shown hitting a forehand during the 2016 World Team Tennis season, returns to the Breakers for the 2020 season in West Virginia.

Kevin Chang
Staff
Photographer



World Team Tennis to hold 2020 season in West Virginia

BY MATT SZABO

The Orange County Breakers will be playing across the country this summer in their quest to take home the King Trophy, which is awarded to the World Team Tennis champion.

The league has announced that all 2020 matches will take place at The Greenbrier resort in White Sulphur Springs, W.Va. The season begins July 12 and concludes Aug. 2 with the World Team Tennis championship match.

"We've had a group message going around with all of our players, and they've been constantly wanting updates on everything that's going on," Breakers general manager Allen Hardison said. "They're very, very excited to play, that we'll get the 2020 season in. I think everybody was a little bit concerned for a little bit, if we'd be able to get it in or not.

Hardison said the team will miss playing in front of its home fans at Palisades Tennis Club in Newport Beach. World Team Tennis announced earlier this month that it would be holding all its matches at one venue, eliminating travel due to the ongoing novel coronavirus

pandemic.

"They'll miss that home feel, that home-court advantage, but obviously we're excited to play," Hardison said. "I heard [The Greenbrier] is a beautiful resort. I know our team will put up a great fight to try to take the King Trophy back this year."

On a recent Zoom call with reporters, World Team Tennis CEO Carlos Silva said The Greenbrier was selected for several reasons. He said 500 fans will be able to attend matches at the venue, 20% of the stadium's capacity of 2,500.

"We had so many great choices, from Florida to Austin, Texas, to Las Vegas to La Costa [Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, where the Breakers' rival San Diego Aviators play]," Silva said.

"That process was difficult ... but in the end, with both the governor's support and the resort's support and the guidelines they put in place, they allowed us to have 500 fans. We thought at that 20% level, it felt good. Being able to bring fans back and have a little bit of that energy for the players in the stadium, that eventually made that decision easy for us."

The tennis amenities at The

Greenbrier also include five outdoor courts and five indoor courts.

"West Virginia has had a low incidence of COVID-19, lower than most of the states in America," Silva said. "Here at the resort, they have a great list of guidelines in place ... we felt comfortable."

The Breakers are one of nine franchises in the league, which enters its 45th season. At least three matches per day are planned at The Greenbrier stadium. The top four teams at the end of the regular season will advance to the playoffs.

Orange County's 2020 roster includes former Orange High and USC standout Steve Johnson for the entire season, along with newcomer Kristyna Pliskova and returners Andreja Klepac and Luke Bambridge. Former world No. 3 Grigor Dimitrov was signed for one match.

Orange County finished 6-8 last season and missed the playoffs for the second straight year. The Breakers have won the King Trophy twice in their history, in 2004 and 2017.

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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Junior Dane Brenton of league champ Marina shares MVP honors in Big 4

Marina High junior Dane Brenton shared the Big 4 League MVP award after helping the football team win its first league title since 1986.

The Vikings also took two of the league's other big awards. Senior running back Pharoah Rush was the Co-Offensive Player of the Year, and senior lineman Isaia Regan shared the Lineman of the Year award.

Brenton, Rush and Regan helped the Vikings go 12-3 overall and 3-0 in the league. Marina made the playoffs for the first time since 2001 and won its first CIF Southern Section title in program history, beating Pasadena Muir 18-9 in the Division II championship game.

The Vikings' season finally ended in a 27-14 loss to La Jolla in the CIF State Southern California Regional Division 4-A Bowl Game.

First-team all-league players

from Marina included senior receiver/defensive back/kicker Eric Church, senior defensive back Ronny Slavens, senior linebacker Nathan O'Rourke, senior linebacker Conner Long, junior quarterback Jack Miller, junior defensive end Darren Vasquez and junior running back/linebacker Brantt Riederich.

Brenton led Marina with 39 catches for 683 yards and 13 touchdowns and had five interceptions on defense, including two in the victory over Muir. He also averaged nearly 30 yards per kickoff return and 26 yards per punt return.

Rush shared the running back duties with Riederich but still tallied team-best totals of 169 carries for 1,258 yards and 13 touchdowns. He had six 100-yard rushing games.

Regan had 56 tackles for the Vikings, including seven tackles for a loss. He also had five quarterback

sacks.

Marina senior offensive lineman Chase Hoglund, senior offensive lineman Joseph Kelso, junior quarterback Gavin del Toro, senior defensive back Maguire Dobkins, senior linebacker Ryder Malloy and senior defensive end Seth Wilson all earned second-team accolades.

Segerstrom senior running back/defensive back Andrew Schouw earned Big 4 League Co-MVP honors, while Segerstrom junior quarterback Angel Vega was the Co-Offensive Player of the Year.

Garden Grove senior lineman Tafisi Gauta shared the Defensive Player of the Year award with Segerstrom senior linebacker Rey-mundo Garcia.

Segerstrom senior defensive end Saul Ramirez was the Co-Lineman of the Year.

— From staff reports

GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

Corona del Mar's Molly Joyce is selected Surf League MVP

Corona del Mar High junior outside hitter Molly Joyce was named the Surf League MVP after helping the girls' volleyball team claim a second straight undefeated Surf League championship.

Joyce led the Sea Kings with 331 kills, 26 service aces and 17 total blocks.

The Sea Kings (22-7, 6-0 in league) also had senior outside hitter Nikki Senske and senior libero Michelle Won included on the all-league first team.

Huntington Beach had senior opposite Xolani Hodel and senior libero Mia Christensen put on the first team.

Edison had senior outside hitter Nikki Logan and senior setter Emily Sparks named to the first team.

Senske compiled 294 kills, 107 digs and 21 aces, while Won anchored a defense that propelled CdM to four five-set victories in six league matches.

CdM ran its winning streak in league play to 24 matches. The Sea Kings lost in three sets at Vista Murrieta in the first round of the CIF Southern Section Division I playoffs.

In the CIF State Southern California Regional Division I playoffs, CdM swept La Jolla The Bishop's 25-18, 25-23, 25-21, before losing to Carlsbad La Costa Canyon in four sets.

Hodel, who signed with Stanford for beach volleyball, had a team-best 347 kills on .308 hitting. She added 195 digs, 38 blocks and 32 aces.



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

CORONA DEL MAR outside hitter Molly Joyce (6) puts the ball away against La Costa during the regional playoffs.

Christensen, a UC Riverside commit, provided 328 digs and 21 aces.

Huntington Beach (24-14, 3-3) tied for second place in the league with Los Alamitos (27-13, 3-3). The Oilers lost in three sets at Foothill in the first round of the Division I playoffs.

In the Division I regional playoffs, the Oilers had to go on the road again, losing to La Costa Canyon in four sets.

Sanchez distributed 634 assists to go with 179 digs, 83 kills and 19 aces. Carlton provided 152 kills on .350 hitting, also supplying 64 blocks.

Logan led the Chargers with 272 kills on .286 hitting. Sparks handed out 381 assists, adding 169 kills and 61 aces.

— From staff reports

Laguna Beach's Hallie Carballo is chosen Wave League MVP

Laguna Beach High senior libero Hallie Carballo earned the Wave League MVP award for leading the girls' volleyball team to its 15th consecutive league title.

Carballo, a USC beach volleyball commit, led the Breakers with 520 digs, while also providing 712 service receptions, 93 assists and 27 service aces.

Laguna Beach senior outside hitter Piper Naess, senior setter Soren Patchell and sophomore opposite Sophie Reavis were also selected to the all-league first team.

Fountain Valley had senior outside hitter Phoebe Minch and junior setter Lauren Mena named to the first team.

Senior setter Jasmine Amirie was Newport Harbor's first-team representative.

Marina senior middle blocker Helen McMullin, a Cal Poly Pomona commit, received first-team honors.

Naess, a Cal Poly San Luis Obispo signee for beach volleyball, makes her third appearance on the first team. She finished the season with a team-high 416 kills, adding 368 digs, 40 blocks and 33 aces.

Patchell, bound for UC Irvine, led the Breakers with 838 assists and 49 aces. She added 237 digs, 84 kills and 20 total blocks.

Reavis supplied 267 kills on .274 hitting. She also had 140



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

LAGUNA BEACH'S Hallie Carballo makes a diving dig during the CIF Southern Section Division I playoffs.

digs, 37 total blocks and 35 aces.

Laguna Beach (28-11, 6-0 in league) lost to Manhattan Beach Mira Costa in five sets at home in the first round of the CIF Southern Section Division I playoffs.

In the CIF State Southern California Regional Division I playoffs, the Breakers were swept by No. 2-seeded Foothill in their opener.

Minch, who committed to Westmont College, earned a varsity letter in all four years, helping the Barons reach the postseason twice.

— From staff reports

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