



The late Larry Lawrence, former owner of the nearby Hotel del Coronado and U.S. ambassador to Switzerland under President Clinton, added the brick privacy wall outside Crown Manor during his tenure at the estate in the 1980s and early '90s. Photo by Carson Vaughan for the Flatwater Free Press

The illustrious tale of Crown Manor

The historic mansion on Coronado's Ocean Boulevard has been in the hands of a cattle baron and the former owner of the Del. It can be yours for a mere \$40 million.

By CARSON VAUGHAN
The Flatwater Free Press

The tides were hungry in the winter of 1905, the waves relentless, and Bartlett Richards' new mansion – his wife called it “Tranquillo” – teetered on the edge.

The wide, dirt boulevard that once separated his tidy front yard from the beach now crumbled into the Pacific.

Neighboring homes stood on jacks, awaiting a horse-drawn retreat, and sweaty men in salty boots stacked 200-pound sandbags like hay bales in the surf. Seven thousand down. Twenty thousand stuffed and ready. The highest tide, newspapers reported, still to come.

For the most notorious cattle king in Nebraska history, founder of the iconic Spade Ranch and president of the Nebraska Land and Feeding Company, his family's winter retreat wasn't likely his main concern.



Two bronze lions, and two large tusks stand sentry beside the marble fireplace in the living room at Crown Manor. Photo by Carson Vaughan for the Flatwater Free Press

» Continued on Page 8

School district doesn't have to sell property for affordable housing

A district property was identified in the city's housing plan, but no one can force CUSD to sell.

By JULIETA SOTO
The Coronado News

The Coronado Unified School District has no intention of selling one of its properties that has been identified as a location to help with the city's housing shortage, and it's unlikely any government entity can force district officials to change their minds, The Coronado News has learned.

The school district issued a statement on Oct. 19, expressing resistance to the city's plan to include the CUSD site at 201 6th Street, with a total of 3.36 acres, for more than 100 affordable housing units.

The location was among 10 sites the city identified in mid-October to accommodate 912 new state-mandated affordable housing units. Coronado was forced to propose the locations as part of its Housing Element Update or HEU under a legal settlement with the state because it was in violation of California's Housing Element Law.

However, the Coronado News has found that no one can force the school district – or any of the property owners of the proposed sites – to sell their land for affordable housing.

Andrea McCullough, a city spokeswoman, said “nothing in the HEU requires an owner to sell their site, let alone do anything differently with it.”

McCullough added that should the city run out of proposed housing units then officials “would then have

» Continued on Page 7

Don't forget!

The 48th Annual Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting starts tonight at 6!

Details, Page 6



Nicole Paquin is the author of “Sofia Madison and the Voice Within” and has two more upcoming novels. Photo courtesy of Paquin.

‘To my fellow Coronado Islanders’

Local author Nicole Paquin dedicates upcoming novel, “The Islanders” to Coronado alumni and shares her journey

By SOFIE FRANSEN
The Coronado News

“Occasionally a story resurfaces and resonates with a generation.”

That's the tagline of Nicole Paquin's upcoming novel, “The Islanders”—a book that she dedicated to her fellow hometown alumni who have the niche, shared experience of growing up in Coronado and Imperial Beach in the 1980s.

Even more specifically, she said the book will resonate with those who were raised during that time and remembers that “se-

cretly crossing the border into Tijuana was a rite of passage for San Diego teenagers.”

Paquin was raised in Coronado and now lives in Imperial Beach. She is an author and screenwriter of contemporary, historical, women's, paranormal and young adult fiction as well as steamy romance, romantic comedy and coming of age novels.

Before her first book, “Sofia Madison and the Voice Within,” was published in 2020, Paquin spent 25 years on the stage as an actress and singer.

» Continued on Page 11

CORONADO

this week

7 • thursday

An Evening with Author Douglas Preston is presented by the Coronado Public Library and Warwick's bookstore. Preston will be discussing and signing his new book "The Lost Tomb: And Other Real-Life Stories of Bones, Burials, and Murder" in conversation with Steve Elkins at 7 p.m. in the library's Winn Room.

8 • friday

The San Diego Mandolin Orchestra will present a concert of holiday music at 3:30 p.m. in the Winn Room. The San Diego Mandolin Orchestra has played for more than 50 years and is part of the Classical Mandolin Society of America. Instrument groupings that make the orchestra include mandolins, octave mandolins, mandolins, mandocellos, basses, a zither, and guitars. Registration is not required for this concert.

9 • saturday

The Coronado Historical Association presents the 100th birthday party of the Laundry Truck from 4 to 6 p.m. Help us celebrate the 100th birthday of the iconic Model T Laundry Truck with an unforgettable afternoon filled with history, fun, and community spirit, organizers say. Tickets are \$75 for families, \$20 for adults and \$10 for children.

CONTACT US

For news tips, story submissions and letters to the editor, contact Editor Craig Harris at craig@thecoronadonews.com or 619-539-9738

To advertise contact Ad Executive Braeden Stegman at braeden@thecoronadonews.com

Coronado's Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps planning for big year

Kaelyn Krueger took the opportunity as a freshman to join the Coronado High School Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps and has never looked back.

Now a senior, Krueger is the organization's public affairs officer.

It's her job to get the word out about NJROTC as students learn about discipline and leadership skills.

The group also known as the Islander Company held its one-per-term fundraiser, which ended Nov. 14.

"We do it through Snap! Raise, and we basically just send emails out to family members or friends, anyone who we can really think of, and we raise money for trips, gear that we need, any kind of equipment that we need to make our program better," Krueger said.

Competing is another way the Islander Company prepares cadets,



Coronado High School's Islander Company Marksmanship team competed in the Good Vibrations meet on Oct. 21. Photo courtesy of Kaelyn Krueger.

and they recently competed in Fullerton in a JROTC quiz bowl at Troy High School.

A few of the cadets placed high in the quiz-style competition, she said.

"We ended up getting first and third, which actually qualified the first place team for nationals, later

on this school year," Krueger said. "So, in May, they're gonna head out to Georgia and compete in the national competition."

The national competition will consist of Jeopardy-style questions about the ROTC and basic naval knowledge, she said.

Pets of the Week: Stevie & Wonder called to say they love you

Meet Stevie and Wonder, two charming male cats who know what friends are for.

They would be overjoyed to have a new home as they have been through thick and thin together. And they are so loveable, they would just purr to say I love you.

They are living for the city or country, as the inseparable duo came to PAWS of Coronado as strays, and they've shared a bond of brotherly love that can't be ignored.

Now, they're looking for a forever home as that's what friends are for to continue their journey together, adding a double dose of joy to your life.

All of the animals at PAWS are spayed/neutered, micro-chipped, vaccinated, and up-to-date on flea-preventative. Adoptions are by appointment only. If you are interested in adopting, please visit www.pawsofcoronado.org. Fostering, volunteering, or donating are other ways to help animals at PAWS.



Stevie and Wonder are looking for a home. You can adopt them from PAWS of Coronado.



Give the Gift of Relaxation This Season

Help loved ones revitalize their emotional, spiritual and physical health with a gift certificate to the **Sewall Healthy Living Center at Sharp Coronado Hospital**.

At our tranquil, spa-like destination, guests can receive treatments for more than 40 conditions — including arthritis, back pain and headaches — in a safe environment. We offer customized Swedish, hot stone, deep tissue and sports massages; acupuncture; microneedling and more. Certified massage therapists and licensed acupuncturists incorporate clinical aromatherapy in their treatments.

The Sewall Healthy Living Center also offers personalized weight-loss programs to help people achieve their goals.

Gift certificates for all services can be purchased in person or by calling **619-522-3798**. Learn more about the Sewall Healthy Living Center at sharp.com/healthylivingcenter.





Never Worry About Charging Your Golf Cart Again

OUR STORY

“Once Upon A Time” my son and I were discussing solar systems over lunch. Being licensed electricians, we were familiar with Solar Applications and its advantages.

After conducting a fair amount of research, we determined that Solar Technology had advanced to the point that adding a Solar Panel to the roof of a golf cart could significantly add to the travel range, as well as several other advantages including Green Movement Tax Credits.

I had recently moved to a golf cart community and purchased a cart of my own, after installing the best and most powerful system available, the concept of installing Solar Panels on golf carts was conceived.

We began spreading the word to our friends who owned electric carts and began installing Solar Panels on their carts in our spare time out of our garage in Oceanside, CA. Due to the publicized acceptance and popularity in Beach Communities of San Diego County, we decided to expand the business even further. Many beach cities have permitted the use of golf carts in 35 mph zones and are expanding Bike Lanes to 7 feet wide to accommodate their use.

So, there you have it. There is more to the story and we would love to discuss it with you while we install your Solar Panels on your cart.

We took the concept of Green Solar Energy and put it to practical use to lessen the carbon footprint.

We look forward to meeting you soon.

Richard Stachowicz
Ride All Day Solar Carts
Owner and Coronado Resident



ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Make the Earth Happy. Solar energy is clean. No carbon dioxide is released into the atmosphere as it is when batteries are plugged into the wall to charge. Similarly, no fossil fuels are consumed as they are in gas-powered golf carts. The sun’s energy is both clean and renewable. With their renewable, clean energy and lack of generated pollution, solar charged golf carts are an Earth-friendly option. You can help ensure that golf courses will be around for a very long time.

FINANCIAL BENEFITS

While it can be costly up front to buy a solar-powered golf cart or convert your existing cart to solar, in the long run, you might save money. You might be eligible for cost incentives offered to people who go solar. Some programs include:

- Federal tax credits
- Federal grants
- State and local utility tax credits
- Rebates

Together, these can help make solar power an affordable option for your golf cart. Additionally, you will likely save quite a bit of money on your electricity bill without having an electric vehicle drawing from your home’s electricity supply. Individuals aren’t the only ones who benefit monetarily from solar power. When entire golf courses convert their fleets to solar-powered vehicles, they can slash their annual charging costs by about 20 percent. Whether you want to enhance the performance of your golf cart, help the environment, or save money in the long run, you’re sure to benefit from changing your power to the sun.

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OPINION

OP-ED: CHERYL LONDON

Pride, prejudice and hope – the genesis of Michael Landon

Coronado's Cheryl Landon shares the story of how her dad became Michael Landon with a message of hope for the holidays.

My Dad's life was filled with fierce prejudice, shameful humiliation and broken dreams. He was a Jew with long hair in an anti-Semitic neighborhood. He had a clinically ill mother who attempted suicide in front of him almost daily, starting at 5 years old. She further terrified him with public humiliation throughout his early teen years. Dad wrote about this public humiliation in the movie: "The Loneliest Runner". Her insanity continued to haunt him at every phase. Fortunately, Eugene Orowitz, (Michael Landon), had a dream of being in the Olympics. He held the national record for javelin throwing. Awarded a scholarship to USC, Eugene's dream of escaping the insanity now became reality.

Leaving nightmares of New Jersey

Eugene was excited to leave the nightmares in New Jersey, and start a new life in Los Angeles. Eugene Orowitz would finally become somebody special. But, his dream was short lived. The USC football players at that time hated Jews and especially Jews with long hair.

Samson complex

Eugene had a Samson complex. He believed his long hair gave him strength. One day, the players captured Dad and chained him to a sink, shaving his head bald. The next day, Eugene tried throwing the javelin. To no avail, he tore the cartilage in his elbow from hours of trying to throw the spear. Needless to say, Dad lost his scholarship and left his dream.

Finding ways to survive

Humiliated, scared and alone in a strange city, he



Actor Michael Landon is seen here with his daughter, Cheryl Landon. Photo courtesy of Cheryl Landon.

found humble ways to survive. He even worked as a lifeguard at the YMCA, and he didn't know how to swim. Yet, every night, he'd sneak into the "Y" and practice how to swim. There were barely any breaks in his life for years until he landed a role in a long-shot gamble television show, "Bonanza." Eugene Orowitz became the superstar who would become Michael Landon, reaching millions in the media encouraging hope, belief in God and love. Dad had a core belief: "Love, it's the most powerful force, it's what lets us live on. Don't ever take it for granted."

'How my father got his name.'

I ask you, how is it that a man who had every right to hate and be angry instead teaches us about the power of loving one another? It began when Eugene Orowitz became Michael Landon. Many ask me how my father got this name? Dad told me when he knew he was destined to be an actor. A friend he met on the job in a warehouse asked him to help with an audition for a play. All he had to do was read the other role. It was a cold reading, which a person is reading impromptu. No problem.

Well, shocking, Dad's reading was quite emotional. He easily felt the pain from how sad his life had been. Dad described how there were huge emotional releases he felt reading the script, which he was a natural. His delivery was passionate, he even cried. It all came to him so easy and he got the part.

Becoming Michael Landon

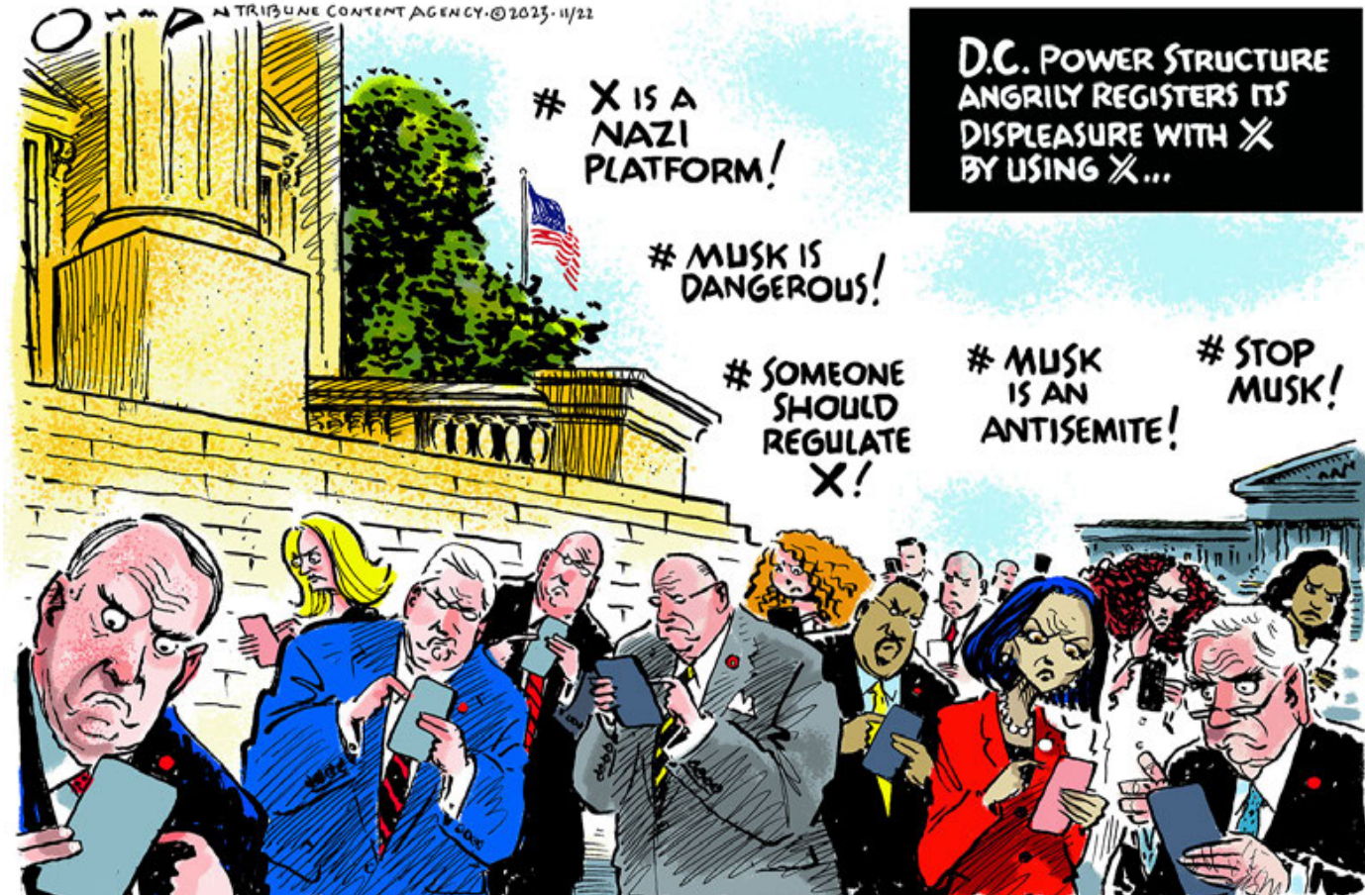
Eugene was thrilled to have discovered this creative outlet. He had found a way to release his pent up emotions. This was divine guidance, opening up a perfect arena to be expressive, while earning money. Now his name was next. One sunny afternoon, Eugene was being interviewed by an agent. He was in a public phone booth. The agent asked his name. Dad couldn't be Eugene Orowitz. So he randomly opened the phone book attached to the phone booth, and there was the name: "Michael Lane." The agent told dad that name had been taken. Well Eugene responded, "What about Michael Landon?" That's how Eugene Orowitz became Michael Landon.

'Live out a greater good'

I share this story as I propose a simple yet powerful solution for this holiday season: For each of us to look inside ourselves and see what elements of prejudice, anger, fear, even supremacy we may have hidden. Pull these roots out. Outdated beliefs are passed down through generations and need to be tossed out so that destructive, toxic beliefs will go no further. I'd like to close by borrowing a line from the Rev. Craig D. Lounsborough, a licensed professional counselor, life coach and minister. He says: "There's no greater way to destroy the negative rhetoric in our culture than to consistently live out a greater good."

Lisa Benson 11-21
Counterpoint Media

LISA
BENSON



JACK
OHMAN

OPINION

OP-ED: KEVIN REILLY

What should the City Council do about Cays Park?

Attention Coronado.
Do you care about our parks?
On Tuesday, Dec 5, just a few days away, the Coronado City Council is going to make the one big decision that will determine the future of our city's largest park, forever.
But incredibly, the city staff and their park design contractor have not gathered one bit of statistically significant or statistically valid feedback from residents to help them in that regard.

Huge park, seaside location

Yes the park is in the Cays, but at 15 acres it's huge, and it has an incredible seaside location.
It used to be the city dump, today it's just grass and sprinkler heads, tomorrow it could be something fabulous for us all.
That's what the Master Plan is all about, and the council has

spent 4 years and hundreds of thousands of dollars getting to this point.

One key question to answer

But there is one key question they must answer before they go forward.
It doesn't matter where you live in 92118; we are all paying for this park and it exists for all of us.
If you care at all, this is the time to speak up.
Regardless of any extent to which you may have participated up to this point, please take a minute now to share your views on the one question our council needs our help to answer, right now, because Tuesday, Dec 5. is not far away.
It will take you less than a minute.
Access it here:
<https://nadopark.weebly.com/>



Here is an aerial photo of Cays Park, which could be transformed into numerous soccer fields. Photo courtesy of Kevin Reilly.

CORONADO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESENTS THE 48TH ANNUAL

CORONADO HOLIDAY PARADE & TREE LIGHTING



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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1ST AT 6PM



CORONADO

Ho, Ho, Ho! Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting is 6 p.m. on Dec. 1

One of Coronado’s top events — the 48th annual Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting — starts at 6 p.m. on Dec. 1.

According to the Coronado Chamber of Commerce, attendees will experience a display of seasonal colors, twinkling lights and festive music down the streets of Coronado.

The parade make its way from 7th Street through Orange Avenue looping around at RH Dana & Adella.

It will consist of vibrant floats, marching bands and a cheerful cavalcade spreading Christmas joy, organizers said.

Following the parade, Santa Claus will lead the countdown and unveil the 18,175 beaming lights surrounding the massive Rotary Club tree.



New 2024 Coronado Fourth of July board, executives sworn in

Coronado Fourth of July (CFOJ) has announced its Board of Directors and the election of Jamie Hartnett as the 2024 president.

The new executive committee will ensure CFOJ’s continued success and effectiveness in its mission to produce and execute an inspirational, family-friendly community experience celebrating our nation’s Independence Day, organizers said.

The CFOJ board of directors, recently sworn in by Coronado Mayor Pro Tem Casey Tanka, are Debra Balsley, Doug Clarke, Judy Clarke, Carrie Downey, Andrew Gade, Maggie Hannegan, Jamie Hartnett, Bridgette Jorgenson, Robert Kracht, Lori Luhnnow, Jennifer Stein, Kathy Summers and Dave Szymanski.

The Executive Committee includes: Jamie Hartnett (president), Carrie Downey (secretary) and Bridgette Jorgenson (treasurer).

Immediate past-president Robert Kracht will serve as chair for the 75th anniversary of the Coronado Fourth of July Parade. Maggie Hannegan will continue as VP, Development.

“As we embark on planning the 75th anniversary of the Coronado Fourth of July parade, we have renewed our efforts to produce a full day of spectacular patriotic splendor,” said Hartnett. “I’m so excited about the cohesive group of tireless volunteers who bring their ideas, enthusiasm, time and energy together to make Coronado Fourth of July an amazing and memorable celebration for all.”

Anyone interested in supporting the Coronado Fourth of July by serving on a committee, making a donation or for more information can contact Info@cfoj.events or call 833-435-2365 or go to www.coronadofourthofjuly.com.



The 2024 Coronado Fourth of July board of directors. Back row from left: Doug Clarke, Dave Szymanski, Robert Kracht, Mayor Pro Tem Casey Tanaka, Lori Luhnnow, Andrew Gade. Front row from left: Jamie Hartnett, Bridgette Jorgenson, Jennifer Stein, Carrie Downey, Kathy Summers, Judy Clarke, Maggie Hannegan. Not pictured: Debbie Balsley.



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CORONADO

Historic homes in Coronado to be categorized in three tiers

By **MADELINE YANG**
The Coronado News

The Coronado City Council deliberated for just under 2 hours on Nov. 21 regarding the process to determine whether a person's property is a historic home and approved a draft proposal that will include further community input.

At issue was the city's "historic context statement" that provides a framework for determining the relative significance of properties and evaluating their eligibility for landmark designation, according to categories assigned by the National Park Service and California's State Office of Historic Preservation, according to a staff report.

Studies conducted by city staff found that there were three tiers of homes in Coronado that fell under the historic context statement.

These findings sparked strong feelings during the public comment portion of the meeting.

"The context statement's analysis of potential historic districts in Coronado is misleading," said Vickie Stone, curator of collections at the Coronado Historical Association. "The survey exclusively examines the architectural aspects of a property, neglecting the broader historical context and significance of these homes."

Tiers of historic homes

The survey was broken into three tiers:
Tier 1 were properties that were potentially eligible for city designation under Coronado's Historic Designation Criteria Guidelines (Criterion C) that requires a property to possess distinctive characteristics of an architectural style, and to have not been substantially altered.



The Coronado City Council deliberated for just under 2 hours on Nov. 21 to reach a decision on how to classify historic homes in the city. Staff photo by Madeline Yang.

Tier 2 properties retain aspects of a particular architectural style but lack the integrity or distinction for designation under Criterion C.

Tier 3 properties are heavily altered properties that retain little to no elements of a particular architectural style and have no potential for eligibility under Criterion C.

Although some public commenters showed support for the survey, there were many who asked the council to not eliminate any property, such as the 1,698 properties that were identified as Tier 3 locations. "There are homes that have been designated that haven't met the architectural criteria, but it seems to me there should be maybe a little more thought and maybe just some different ideas brought up before this is put into place," said Coronado resident and architect Kevin Rugee.

After council deliberation, Mayor Richard Bailey

and Councilmembers Carrie Anne Downey, John Duncan and Mike Donovan voted to notify all residents regarding the three tiers of historical inclusion while asking the public for additional feedback on whether to move properties from Tier 3 to either Tier 1 or 2.

Further, the city would notify community members about additional decisions regarding their homes.

Councilmember Casey Tanaka voted against the plan. "People that move here and buy here, have the right to expect that the city and historic homes aren't going to be easily torn down, and there is going to be some kind of objective review process," Tanaka said. "I don't think this current process is broken...I would rather keep the systems that we have in place because they'll have fewer mistakes with historic homes being taken down."

School district doesn't have to sell property for affordable housing

» Continued from Page 1

to revisit the plan and identify additional sites." McCullough said the 10 housing locations had to have lot sizes greater than a half acre, which are few in Coronado.

She added the CUSD parcel met the state's "potential housing development" guidelines and "an area where housing could be developed, but there is no obligation for development."

McCullough added: "Changes or selling of a property are at the property owner's discretion. ... CUSD retains full control of its property and decisions on how to use it. The inclusion of the parcel in the Housing Element has no bearing on its use, now or in the future."

Community resistance

Many community members have been against the housing plan, saying it will cause additional congestion and hurt the city. And, the Coronado Unified School District was

one of the first property owners to publicly object after the city council on Oct. 17 approved its housing plan that was sent to the California Department of Housing & Community Development.

The district said on Oct. 19 that the city's plan had "no influence on the current or future plans for CUSD and carries no authority."

In a more recent statement, district officials said they haven't changed their minds.

"The Coronado Unified School District recognizes and respects the efforts of the City of

Coronado to complete its state-mandated California Department of Housing and Community Development proposal," reads the Oct. 19 statement. "The CUSD Governing Board has not discussed or considered selling the property at 201 Sixth Street."

During that Oct. 17 public meeting, citizens voiced their concern about many of the sites, including the district's property of a former elementary school on 6th Street that currently houses a childcare and pre-K center as well as the district office.

"CUSD is not considering any activity related to

the site at 201 Sixth Street identified by the City of Coronado in its Housing Element Update," CUSD Public Information Officer Maria Simon told The Coronado News on Nov. 6.

Housing plan spans years

The city's housing plan follows a process that goes back to 2018.

The draft comes after years of public pushback and litigation between the city and SANDAG in 2021 resulting in a recent settlement requiring Coronado to meet a portion of the 170,000 new affordable housing units across the San Diego region.

Now the city will continue working with the California Department of Housing & Community Development as it waits for the review, certification and approval of the housing plan.

A state spokesperson said the legal settlement requires Coronado to adopt a "compliant" housing plan by no later than April 16, 2024, where potential sites can be found.

The settlement was approved on Nov. 8.



Enjoy Winter By The Sea!

Olga Minvielle Stevens
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olgaminvielle1@gmail.com
DRE# 01105050



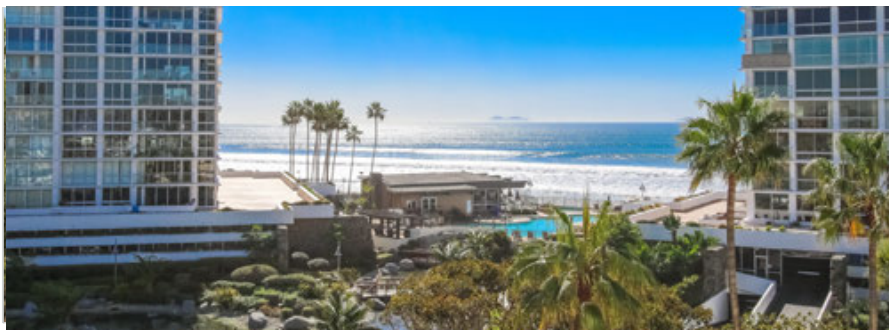
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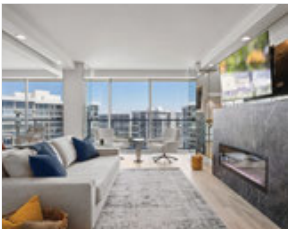


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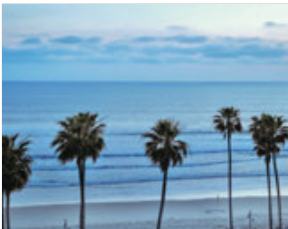
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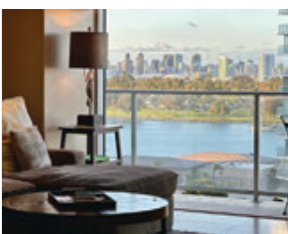
1730 AVENIDA DEL MUNDO #1401



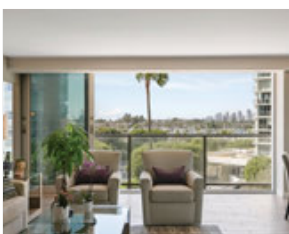
1820 AVENIDA DEL MUNDO #201



1780 AVENIDA DEL MUNDO #1009



1830 AVENIDA DEL MUNDO #1101



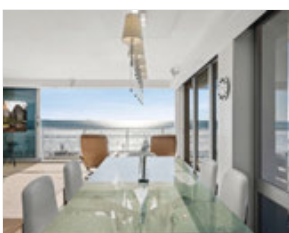
1780 AVENIDA DEL MUNDO #302



1750 AVENIDA DEL MUNDO #409



1770 AVENIDA DEL MUNDO #504



1730 AVENIDA DEL MUNDO #208



1720 AVENIDA DEL MUNDO #203

CORONADO

The illustrious tale of Crown Manor

» Continued from Page 1

Just two years before, a federal grand jury had indicted the Spade for illegally fencing more than 200,000 acres of government land. His lobbying campaign to maintain said fences had withered in Washington. And he and his partner Will Comstock were now awaiting trial in the U.S. District Court in Omaha. All the while, a new wave of immigration – spurred by the Kinkaid Act and its promise of free land – was laying claim to what Richards and other Sandhills stockmen had long considered open range.

Richards’ empire, like Ocean Boulevard itself, was crumbling fast. And yet here he was, 1,600 miles from the ranch, fighting the tide all over again – literally.

He served with a committee representing property owners along the boulevard. He advocated for a sea wall constructed by the city of Coronado. And he offered \$1,000 toward any such undertaking, which the city completed the following year by passing a bond and laying roughly 67,000 tons of granite by rail and crane.

Looming large today

As a result, Tranquillo still looms large today – twice as large, in fact.

The mansion almost doubled in square footage. The boulevard was paved. New owners moved in. Old owners moved out. Celebrities dined, and lawmakers dined, and now this forgotten slice of Nebraska history – what many Coronadans consider the island’s most iconic estate – could be yours for a cool \$40 million.

“Go tell Warren [Buffett] about it,” said broker Scott Aurich in August, standing in the horseshoe drive between two stone lions and his blinding white convertible, an Aston Martin DB9 GT Volante. “Tell him Bartlett Richards lived here.”

Aurich added recently that if someone paid the asking price, it would set a record for a home sold in Coronado.

Known today as “Crown Manor”

More commonly known today as “Crown Manor,” Richards’ second home stood one block north of the famous Hotel del Coronado, where he often sojourned after marrying his niece, Inez, in 1897.

They stayed for weeks, sometimes months at a time, usually when his beloved Sandhills were covered in snow, hobnobbing with the Coronado elite. Sometimes they were accompanied by Richards’ brother-turned-father-in-law DeForest Richards, then governor of Wyoming.

Eventually, they established roots.

In March 1901, they bought four lots on Block 13, less than 500 yards from The Del and a stone’s throw from the Pacific, with an unobstructed view of the Point Loma peninsula spooning around the bay.

According to local historian Ray Brandes, who compiled the property’s historic resource application for the city in 1984, the same land had changed hands roughly 30 times over the previous decade alone. Some for speculation. Others, he wrote, “stimulated by the prospect of a vacation spot,” only to back out when “more reality set into their lives.”

1890s brought sweeping development

The Richardses, no doubt, were stimulated by the same, but unlike their predecessors, the reality back home only reinforced their investment. Despite drought and depression, the 1890s were a decade of sweeping development on the Spade, an operation spanning nearly 800 square miles in Sheridan and Cherry counties. By the turn of the century, newspapers nationwide often referred to Richards not merely as a rancher, but a “wealthy cattleman.”

Come October, a massive pile of bricks appeared on Block 13. By November, specs had been submitted to the county recorder for “a very handsome house,” according to the San Diego Union newspaper.

Designed by Frederick L. Roehrig, nicknamed the “Millionaire’s Architect,” plans for the home “were laid down in an evident spirit of hospitality,” the Union reported, “as there were something like twenty guest rooms and fourteen maids’ rooms...” (Many today credit the design to architects Irving J. Gill and William S. Hebbard. But the Coronado Historical Association notes the original plans no longer exist, and no documentation directly links the mansion to the partners’ firm.)

Three times a mansion for \$25,000

Historically, any residence greater than 5,000 square feet was considered a mansion. Tranquillo, from its very inception, was roughly 15,000 square feet, not counting the larger estate on which it stood, abloom with agave and shade trees, nor the mirage of eternity – the shimmering Pacific – crashing ashore just outside the screened and double-hung windows.



The dining room at Crown Manor features a table set for 16. Photo by Carson Vaughan for the Flatwater Free Press

Completed for roughly \$25,000, the Tudor Revival stood three stories tall and included, beyond the aforementioned guest rooms: a formal living room gilded with gold leaf and encased in old mahogany, a full basement, a dining room tailored for 20, a kitchen, a butler’s kitchen, a map room, seven and a half bathrooms, three mammoth fireplaces, steam heating, two elevators, and a red shingled roof to clothe the timbered gables.

“One of the most attractive homes on the beach is that of the Bartlett Richards’ on the Ocean Boulevard,” reported the Union in December 1902. “The interior fittings are very elaborate, and the furnishings are splendid throughout the house.”

Over the next decade, Richards continued to migrate between the ranch back home, his business interests elsewhere, and his very own Xanadu in the so-called “Crown City” of California.

Garden parties and fundraisers

Though he’d built a stunning home at the Spade Ranch headquarters in tiny Ellsworth, Nebraska, the rest of his family spent more and more time in Coronado. By 1903, even Richards’ mother, Harriett Bartlett Jarvis Richards, had comfortably settled in.

They hosted garden parties and fundraisers and a musical for Harriett’s birthday – costumes and old Irish ballads – and a wedding reception for Spade partner Will Comstock, too.

They built a garage for Richards’ new cars when the word “garage” still required quotation marks. They welcomed their fourth child, Elise. And in 1905, they fought the sea; or rather, they watched The Del’s growing army fight the sea, desperate to save the hotel and the resort town it birthed, the pier – like the boulevard – already swept away.

Inez named the mansion “Tranquillo,” a musical directive used to indicate a calm or relaxing manner. Whether her husband ever obeyed the directive, given the chaos back home, is another matter.

Violating the Van Wyck Law of 1885

A jury soon found Richards and Comstock guilty of violating the Van Wyck Law of 1885, which prohibited fencing of the public domain. A year later, after an exhaustive 24-day trial, they were convicted of land fraud and conspiracy to commit perjury. Like other Sandhills ranchers, they had paid Civil War widows, the elderly and other so-called “dummy entrymen” to file homestead claims and turn them over to the Spade. They were fined \$1,500 each and sentenced to one year in prison.

They appealed for years, but finally, in 1910, Richards landed behind bars at the Adams County jail in Hastings, a world apart from the opulence of his winter quarters. Convinced of his innocence, he refused visitors to the very end. Not his children. Not even Inez. He wrote to them at Tranquillo, instead, planning future vacations while ignoring the reality of his failing intestines.

With just weeks to go on his sentence, Bartlett Richards died. Doctors called it “ileitis,” or inflammation of the small intestine. Others called it shame.

“So keenly did Mr. Richards feel the sting of the trial, conviction and the wearing of the convict’s garb that it is said he became a changed man at once,” wrote the Los Angeles Herald. “And with the progression of time that humiliation increased until it ate its way into the innermost recess of his heart and caused it to break.”

Tranquillo sold to preeminent polo player

During his earliest years in Coronado, when he was still lodging at The Del, Richards sometimes golfed with a fellow guest named Walter Dupee, a skilled horseman and the son of a wealthy Chicago

stockbroker.

How close they remained in later years is uncertain, but shortly after Richards’ death, Inez sold Tranquillo to Dupee, who had since established himself as the country’s preeminent polo player. Today, he’s widely credited with popularizing the sport in North America.

“So, when Bartlett Richards owned the house, it stopped right here,” Aurich said, pointing toward a faint discoloration in the brick. Everything beyond it was the Dupee addition. “He used this whole place to house polo players.”

Expanding the home by 10,000 square feet

In 1914, Dupee and his wife Florence contracted with Roehrig, the original architect, to expand the home by an extra 10,000 square feet, creating two additional wings for another \$22,000.

When the construction crews finally cleared out, the mansion boasted 40 rooms. To keep them clean, reports claimed, they hired 10 servants. To furnish them, they hired the country’s most renowned interior designer, Elsie de Wolfe, now considered the inventor of the entire profession.

Soon the Dupees divorced. Florence remarried U.S. Congressman George Burnham. They hosted parties and fundraisers, navy admirals and big-wigs from The Del and President Taft’s brother and sister. After the congressman died, Florence tried converting the lots into a Christian Science resort. The zoning commission said no.

Florence sold the estate to a man, who sold it to another man, who sold it to some other men, who sold it, in 1978, to Dr. Morton and Carol Pastor, who put their seven daughters to work stripping away decades of ivy and old carpet and cleaning up the mess the previous owners had left behind.

“It was in absolute shambles,” Carol said recently, picking apart her scone at Tartine, a small cafe on the opposite side of the island. “This group of guys would throw their keg parties in the dining room. And because the plumbing wasn’t working – there was only one bathroom that worked out of 13 – they would open a window and urinate into the bushes.”

Black-tie fundraisers and “The Fonz”

They refinished the floors and remodeled the kitchen. They hired plumbers and electricians. They added a swimming pool. A diving board. A waterfall. They hosted the mayor of Los Angeles and the governor of California and a black-tie fundraiser for the theater arts department at San Diego State, attended by director Ron Howard and “The Fonz” himself, Henry Winkler.

In 1979, what they now called the “Richards-Dupee Mansion” was chosen by the San Diego chapter of the American Society of Interior Designers for its annual showcase, ushering thousands into their home.

“It was open season,” Carol said.

They spent six happy years in the mansion before the owner of The Del, now a National Historic Landmark, came knocking.

The legend of Larry Lawrence

His name was Larry Lawrence. He was a major donor to the national Democratic Party. He was one of the richest men in America. And he was envious, Carol claimed, of all the publicity they’d received for the restoration.

Whatever the case, he proposed a trade: the Richards-Dupee mansion for one of the many other homes in his nationwide portfolio. The Pastors settled on his property at the local golf course, admitting amongst themselves the mansion had grown “ridiculous” with only two daughters left at home.

» Continued on next page

CORONADO

Lawrence rechristened his new mansion “Crown Manor,” hoping to make it a satellite of The Del, “where executives would stay and pay big bucks,” Carol said. The city planning commission swiftly rejected his request, just as it had Florence Dupee’s so many decades before.

But he held onto it regardless, ripped out the pool, put another one in, made extravagant renovations, and finally, after he was appointed U.S. ambassador to Switzerland in 1994, opened the home to President Bill Clinton, triggering rumors of an extramarital affair between the president and Lawrence’s fourth wife, Shelia. Under deposition, both parties denied the accusation.

Lawrence died in 1996. His family sold it.

Current asking price: \$40 million

For more than 20 years now, Crown Manor has been owned by Christopher J. Bower, founder and CEO of Pacific Corporate Group, a private equity firm. In 2020, after living in the home for roughly 20 years, Bower submitted a joint request with Hilton Hotels – which now owns The Del – to repurpose the property for special events.

“I have taken great pride to maintain a historically accurate property inside and outside, to preserve the legacy of Crown Manor for the community, but I can’t continue to do so,” he told the commission via Zoom. “If I can’t make Crown Manor economically viable, I would have to sell it.”

The commission, once again, denied the request, flooded by what the vice chairman called “a tidal wave” of negative feedback.

Shortly after, Bower re-listed Crown Manor for \$34 million. Then \$36 million. And as of May 2022, \$40 million. It’s been on and off the market ever since.

Carol scoffed at its trajectory, calling it “overpriced up the wazoo,” but for Aurich, and presumably Bower – who couldn’t be reached for comment – it’s hardly out of line.

“Look at it this way: Most of the houses in this market have gone up more than three times what they could have sold for in 2003. He bought this 20 years ago for \$15 million,” Aurich said. “Or you can look at it this way: the average square foot price of these houses on Ocean Boulevard is over \$2,000 per square foot. And this is 24,000 square feet. That’s \$48 million.”

The issue is less the asking price, he argues, than the mansion’s “functional obsolescence.” Hence Bower’s request for a zoning exception, and



The front of Crown Manor on Ocean Boulevard. Photo by Carson Vaughan for the Flatwater Free Press

Aurich’s preference – currently shelved – to split Crown Manor into eight condominiums.

Protected from Mills Act

Since 2002, the mansion has been protected from demolition under the Mills Act, which provides owners of historic homes a tax break in exchange for preservation and restoration of the property.

“But there’s probably a way it could happen,” Aurich said. “The irony is that if this house was torn down, the land’s worth \$40 million. So I worry that at some point in time, it’s just going to be so functionally obsolete that someone goes that route ...”

In recent weeks, Bower removed Aurich from the assignment and again delisted the home.

According to Seth Nelson of The Eklund/Gomes Team at Douglas Elliman Real Estate, Bower’s new brokerage in New York City, “\$40 million is the current asking price ... It is an exclusive off market opportunity at the moment, but will likely resurface to the open market by year’s end – if we haven’t sold.”

First ornamental electric lights

Nearly a decade after the sea wall was com-

pleted, the city of Coronado redirected Richards’ \$1,000 donation toward the purchase and installation of the first ornamental electric lights along Ocean Boulevard.

“The poles are to be placed along the curb of the walk next to the seawall, and will make a beautiful promenade, and one that will show up in great shape to passengers of ships making the first port of call,” reported the Coronado Strand in 1914.

It was a project, Inez claimed, “directly in line” with her late husband’s interests, and one he would have heartily approved for “the place he loved to rest in.” A bronze plaque was later placed along the boulevard in Richards’ honor, though what became of it, said Vickie Stone, curator of collections at the Coronado Historical Association, is unknown.

“Pure speculation on my part, but there were several bad winter storms in the 1920s that may have damaged it or required it to be removed.”

And so perhaps the tides won out after all, his memory swept clean from Coronado, his slice of paradise for sale, his peace of mind “an exclusive off market opportunity” for anyone with \$40 million to spare.

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Paquin is planning to publish “The Islanders” in February. *Photos courtesy of Nicole Paquin.*

"You have to just put yourself through it and don't give up," Paquin said. "I'm one of those people who has lots of books in me, and I'm going to keep going."

NAVY

Fleet Week in San Diego showcases military’s innovation

Defense Visual Information Distribution Service

NAVAL AIR STATION NORTH ISLAND – Fleet Week in San Diego unfolded in early November as a grand spectacle of innovation and technology, transforming the Port Pavilion Building into a vibrant hub of the future.

The nearly 4,000 enthusiastic students in attendance created an endearing scene with children eagerly asking one another, “What do you want to be when you grow up?”

This simple yet profound question underscored the event’s impact, notably at the Fleet Readiness Center Southwest (FRCSW) booth within the “Innovation Zone.”

Innovation Zone

Introduced in 2017 and making a triumphant return this year, the Innovation Zone is a showcase of advanced technology applications in both military and civilian realms.

Captivating visitors with a glimpse into the technological advancements shaping our world, the event’s agenda was diverse and comprehensive.

The first two days, designated as Student STEM Days, brought in students from fourth grade onwards. This exclusive early access to the STEM Innovation Zone ignited a spark of curiosity and excitement among young minds and offered an immersive experience of new and innovative technologies, relevant in both military and civilian contexts.

Students enthralled by interactive displays

Elementary, middle, and high school students were visibly enthralled by the interactive displays, engaging tours, and live demonstrations.

The event resonated beyond just the display of technology. It served as a catalyst for the children, inspiring them to contemplate future careers in STEM fields and even the military.

This aspect was particularly evident in the interactions and reactions of the students, as they were exposed to real-world applications of science and technology.

FRCSW STEM program showcased Snap Circuits and a Van De Graaff Generator. Their platform offered a unique opportunity to engage and reach the community, leaving a lasting impression and nurturing aspirations.



U.S. Navy LCDR Angelo Lonero, assigned to the “Blackjacks: of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 21 (HSC-21), speaks to students on the capabilities of an MQ-8C Fire Scout helicopter on the flight deck on the Independence-variant littoral combat ship USS Jackson (LCS 6) during a ship tour in support of Fleet Week San Diego (SDFW) 2023. Photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Kevin Tang.

turing aspirations.

FRCSW’s STEM portfolio

Such large-scale events form an integral part of FRCSW’s STEM portfolio, not only reinforcing its commitment to educational outreach but also demonstrating steadfast support for the fleet, fostering a connection between the community, education, and national service.

FRCSW encourages technological advancements and recognizes that they can provide significant advantages for its future workforce, as STEM becomes even more essential for the United States Navy and Marine Corps.

This importance comes from STEM’s influence in propelling technological progress, bolstering strategic capabilities, and fortifying national security.

Facing constantly shifting challenges in maritime operations and defense, STEM fields are crucial for creating state-of-the-art equipment, advanced communication systems, and innovative tactical approaches.

By nurturing skills in science, technology, engi-

neering, and mathematics, the Navy and Marine Corps are empowered to stay at the forefront, adapt to new threats, and effectively tackle intricate global matters. This commitment not only protects national interests at home but also asserts the nation’s influence on the global stage.

Fleet Week’s vibrant showcase of STEM not only ignited curiosity among thousands of young students but also highlighted the seamless integration of technology and education.

As FRCSW continues to harness the evolving potential of STEM, it strengthens its ability to fulfill its pivotal role.

This synergy between expanding technological knowledge and mission execution is essential, ensuring that the Navy and Marine Corps are always equipped with the cutting-edge tools they need to triumph in their endeavors.

Such endeavors reflect the profound connection between learning, innovation, and national security, setting a formidable foundation for future success.

Story by Janina Lamoglia



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SPORTS

Maske top runner for Islanders at girls’ state cross country meet

Coronado’s freshmen carried the day at Woodward Park at the California State Championships in Fresno on Nov. 25.

Coronado’s young team consisted of four freshmen, one sophomore, and one junior.

It was the girls’ team’s 30th trip since 1987 to state, either as a team or as individual qualifiers. according to Coach George Green.

Coronado’s top runner was sophomore Morgan Maske, who clocked 21:08 over the 5000-meter state meet course.

The next four finishers for the Islanders were freshman Carly DeVore, with a time of 21:31, followed by Gwynne Letcher (21:34), Nadia Roos (23:10), Maesan Everitt (23:31), and junior Jaya Jost (23:39).

Rebuilding thanks to freshmen

Before COVID, Coronado’s girls had a 14-year streak at the state meet that ended in 2000 when the meet was canceled.

Since then, Coronado has been rebuilding but could not qualify anyone for the 2021 and 2022 seasons, Green said.

This season, thanks to four freshmen joining the team from the middle school program, Coronado qualified as a team by placing third at the CIF finals, Green said.

Challenging race

The California State Meet is very competitive, with 10 races in five divisions (girls and boys).

Each race has around 200 top runners by division in the state, so the starting line is a bit crowded, Green said.

For Coronado’s division (D4), the Islanders were the only team with four freshmen running; only six teams had two running, and no other team had as many as three, Green said.

Out of all the girls’ teams running, with around 1,000 girls, only one other school had more than three freshmen on their team.



Morgan Maske (420), Carly DeVore (to her right), Nadia Roos (421), Gwynne Letcher (419), Maesan Everitt (behind Letcher) and Jaya Jost (418) take off at the state meet for the Coronado girls cross country team
Photo courtesy of George Green.

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SPORTS

Coronado girls hoops looking forward to new season

By NICK HANCOCK
The Coronado News

Backed by Coach John Coolidge, the Coronado High School girls basketball program is ramping up for its winter season.

The squad is coming off of a 1-18 season that saw the Islanders win their first game in two seasons in a thrilling victory over Castle Park High School.

While Coronado may not see Castle Park during this upcoming season, the team is in line for plenty of exciting match ups, Coolidge said. The team is 0-3 this season, but the Islanders were competitive in losses to Pacific Ridge and Point Loma in mid-November.

Coolidge said the team is focused on building on the spirit and morale they created last season. He adds they are excited to go out and look to improve each day, and hopefully get some wins.

Rivalry with Madison

“Myself and the girls are looking forward to games against Madison. This will be the third year that we have been in the same league, so it seems to be a new rivalry and high school rivalries are always fun,” said Coolidge.

Coolidge said he has always focused on developing the character of his players, and the excitement of rivalries and winning can come second.

“Hopefully what the returning players will remember is to play hard, respect the game, be a good teammate, always have fun, and just enjoy the journey and all that sports teaches you,” said Coolidge.

As for his returning players, Coolidge said there are two girls in particular to keep an eye on: Selena Herrera and Virginia Ryan.

Herrera, who is entering her junior year, was one of the team MVPs last season and used a large portion of her playing time as an underclassman to learn from last season’s senior core.

Herrera showed off her athletic, slashing ability in the final game against La Jolla High School, giving the Islanders something to look forward to this



Selena Herra (with ball) is expected to be one of the key players for the Coronado girls hoops teams this season. Photo by Eddie Gonzalez

coming season, Coolidge said.

Ryan will lead defensive efforts

The other standout returner is the 6-foot-4 Ryan who is expected to be a much needed paint presence for the Islanders.

While former MVP Herrera remains a focal point of the Islander offense, Ryan will lead Coronado’s defensive efforts, the coach said.

“Virginia broke the school record for block shots in a single season averaging seven blocks per game. We have new and old players that are very

good athletes, and are going to help the team get some wins,” said Coolidge.

With a new season there always comes adjustments, and this year Coronado will have to navigate filling the shoes of five key seniors.

According to Coolidge, losing those seniors isn’t always about the talent the Islanders will miss but more than anything their leadership.

Navigating the strong Central League, the Islanders will need a level-headed squad willing to stay positive during a long season, Coolidge said.

But, he’s also confident this newer, younger group of girls is up for the challenge.

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