

THE CORONADO NEWS

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AS PART OF OUR INVESTIGATION INTO THE SEWAGE CRISIS, WE SPENT TIME IN TIJUANA TO SEE HOW RESIDENTS COPE



Trash and flows in Los Laureles, Mexico, that eventually end up in the U.S. through tunnels. Staff photo by Julieta Soto.

‘We struggle... we grab water from a pipe’

By JULIETA SOTO
The Coronado News

TIJUANA, Mexico – It’s late November and inside a Mariscos restaurant beside the Malecón of Playas de Tijuana, or the famous boardwalk bordering the US-Mexico fence limits, is a group of 20 or so locals gathering to discuss the ongoing binational sewage water crisis.

Their special guest speaker is Laura Silvan, a longtime environmentalist and founder of Proyecto Fronterizo de Educación Ambiental.

Grupo Madrugadores de Playas de Tijuana A.C. kicks off their last weekly meeting of the month with attendees singing in unison their hymn and declaring a shared mission: “Queremos una ciudad sana y alegre en la que se mantenga constantemente el orgullo de radicar en ella.” [We want a healthy and happy city in which the pride of living in it is consistently maintained.]

This group of Mexican citizens, who deeply love their country and community, have the same wants – a clean, Pacific Ocean that’s not polluted from sewage – as residents in Coronado and Imperial Beach.

The Coronado News, as part of its ongoing investigation into the Tijuana sewage crisis, spent two days in Tijuana



Neighbors in Los Laureles connect to water pipes on a weekly basis. Staff photo by Madeline Yang.

na to learn from the group and give a snapshot into the lives of individuals who live about 30 minutes across the border who are severely affected by an environmental crisis that has existed since the Great Depression.

While locals and tourists have become severely ill and complained about closed beaches in Coronado and Imperial Beach because of the sewage flowing from Tijuana, they – in nearly all cases – at least have running water and sewer pipes

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A new documentary explores something deeper: It’s a personal look into the lives of Tijuana and San Diego County residents, and how this issue is so much more than just sewage systems failing. PAGE 8

Watch “Promises, Promises: The Tijuana Sewage Crisis” at thecoronadonews.com/tijuana-sewage-crisis.



U.S. Rep. Scott Peters spoke at the Dec. 21 Optimist Club meeting. Staff photo by Sofie Fransen.

Congressman Scott Peters speaks at Optimist Club

By SOFIE FRANSEN
The Coronado News

Bright and early on Dec. 21, U.S. Rep. Scott Peters visited the Optimist Club of Coronado’s weekly meeting as a guest speaker.

Peters serves California’s 50th Congressional District, which includes the cities of Coronado, San Marcos, Escondido and coastal San Diego.

At the meeting, he touched on the four economies that power this region: military, tourism, technology and the border, specifically focusing on the border sewage pollution.

The Coronado News earlier this year published a five-part series that examined decades of broken promises by U.S. and Mexican officials to end the continual sewage flow from rapidly growing Tijuana. Further, the public health crisis continues to cause widespread illnesses on both sides of the border, including to U.S. Border Patrol Agents and Navy SEALs.

In a recent letter, Peters, along with other California Representatives and former Navy SEALs urged leaders of the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate to include President Biden’s \$310 million supplemental budget request to repair the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (SBIWTP) in an upcoming funding package.

Peters said they worked really hard to get the president to ask for it, and President Biden did.

“We’ve got the whole delegation and a lot of Californians to support it,” Peters said to the Optimists and visitors. “Everybody who’s running for senate can spell Coronado and sewage, which is good. We’ve got, also, three Navy SEALs who are super conservative Republicans to help

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Community gives thanks to retiring Police Chief Chuck Kaye

By MADELINE YANG
The Coronado News

In keeping with the news from the last several days, the City Council meeting on Dec. 19 saw a recognition of Coronado’s Police Chief Chuck Kaye as he steps down from his role and retires in January of 2024.

A line of service members stand at the back of the room, lining the council chamber with dark blue uniforms. Councilmembers, the city manager,

the mayor and a few members of the community including Fire Chief Jayson Summers thanked Kaye for his service to the city of Coronado.

“Chuck’s always been there for me,” Summers says, warning Kaye not to cry otherwise he might as well. “I don’t think I called him once that he



Kaye

INSIDE

Saying goodbye to Police Chief Chuck Kaye. PAGE 7

didn’t pick up after one or two rings. It’s been a tremendous partnership.”

Kaye accepted the key to the city from Mayor Richard Bailey before saying a few words, emotion rising to the surface for just a few moments.

“I would just like to make sure that everybody understands that the cops

have done everything they can for y’all and they try to do it every day,” Kaye says. “I really have enjoyed it and that’s what I will remember most, is being a part of the community.”

Other council action

The rest of the city council meeting saw an update from Port Commissioner Frank Urtasun and a review

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this week

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Author Dale Halaway will present his book "Being Called to Change" in the Winn Room of the public library from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. "Being Called to Change," is an opportunity for introspection and to create a plan for your New Year's resolutions that may be applied to understand the nature of change, how to recognize when it's knocking on your door and then embrace change in your life. Contact wfitjet@gmail.com for more information.

7 • sunday

Art in the Park features more than fifty top artists in every genre including oil, acrylic and watercolor painting, etching, photography, wood and metal working, stained glass, ceramics and a variety of other unusual and distinctive art forms. The artists whose work is on display reside throughout San Diego County. Many are represented in galleries and specialty shops throughout the San Diego area.

Library Holiday Closures:

The Library will be open its regular hours on Dec. 31, and be closed on Jan. 1. Tinker Tuesday, the after-school STEAM program that takes place weekly at 3:30 on Tuesdays, is going on a holiday hiatus. Dec. 19 was the last Tinker Tuesday before the holidays. The program will resume on Tuesday, Jan. 9.

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

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Coronado's Isabella Pruter wins 'Winner with Distinction' medallion

From the community

Coronado School of the Arts (CoSA) senior Isabella Pruter was awarded the highest category of 'Winner with Distinction' medallion in the Theater/Musical category of the 2024 YoungArts national competition, according to the Coronado Unified School District.

Pruter is a four-year CoSA Musical Theatre and Drama conservatory student.

"It's surreal for me, and I'm so grateful and honored. I actually got the call while I was on an airplane coming back from college auditions," said Pruter.

CoSA acting teacher Kim Strassburger, who worked with Pruter on her application which included one monologue and two songs, said she was proud of Pruter.

"The YoungArts winner with distinction award is extraordinarily prestigious for high school theater; it's one of the most important recognitions there are," Strassburger said.



Coronado School of the Arts senior, Isabella Pruter, was awarded the highest category medallion in the Theater/Musical category of the 2024 YoungArts national competition. Pruter is a four-year CoSA Musical Theatre and Drama conservatory student. Photo courtesy of CUSD.

The winner with distinction category recognizes the best of the best, students whose work "dem-

onstrates exceptional technique; a strong, sophisticated, nuanced, and clear artistic point of view; and a depth of thinking/performance that far exceeds the level of peers at this career stage."

Winners are chosen by esteemed discipline-specific panels of artists through a rigorous blind adjudication process.

The annual YoungArts awards are highly competitive and attract the best young artists (ages 15-18 or grades 10-12) in the nation. Nearly 700 winners were selected from more than 9,000 applications across 10 artistic disciplines.

As part of the recognition, for the duration of their careers, winners are eligible for exclusive creative and professional development support; microgrants and financial awards; presentation opportunities in collaboration with major venues and cultural partners nationwide; and access to YoungArts Post,

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PET OF THE WEEK

Meet Tulip, a cat with quiet charm

Coronado News staff

Tulip is a master of the slow reveal. She may take some time to warm up to new people, but the patience is well worth it, says PAWS of Coronado.

Once you earn her trust, you'll be rewarded with a bond that's as beautiful as the most vibrant spring blossoms. Tulip's affection is a treasure reserved for those who truly understand and appreciate her quiet charm.

If you're seeking a cat who embodies elegance, mystery and a touch of independence, Tulip is the perfect choice.

All of the animals at PAWS are spayed/neutered, microchipped, vaccinated, and up-to-date on flea-preventative. Adoptions are by appointment only. If you are interested in adopting any of these animals, please www.pawsofcoronado.org.



Meet Tulip, the pet of the week. She's at PAWS of Coronado. Photo courtesy of PAWS



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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



The Coronado bridge. Staff file photo.

OP-ED

The Coronado News reporters share their year in review

By **SOFIE FRANSEN, JULIETA SOTO and MADELINE YANG**

Just under a year ago, The Coronado News first launched a 24-hour news website and direct-mail free newspaper in Coronado. Over the course of this past year, the three reporters, Madeline Yang, Julieta Soto and Sofie Fransen, along with other interns, have covered everything including the city government, schools, local events, business, entertainment, sports and the Navy. In addition, The Coronado News for all of 2023 has investigated a nearly century-long legacy of broken promises by U.S. and Mexican officials that have resulted in millions of gallons of raw sewage flowing regularly into the Pacific Ocean.

The Coronado News' reporting is honest, fair and objective. While the reporters have spent the year researching, understanding and informing the community about these topics, the three of them can all agree that they are the ones who have been the most impacted—by the community and the lessons they've learned along the way.

Each of The Coronado News reporters— Madeline Yang, Julieta Soto and Sofie Fransen— would like to say thank you to the community for opening up their home, sharing their stories and giving The Coronado News a chance.

It has been a great year, and this is just the beginning.



Madeline Yang covers the City of Coronado and the Navy.

This was a transformative year for me. I honestly could not have asked for a better year, and I'm not just saying that. Coronado had a lot to do with it.

Creating my first ever documentary on the Tijuana sewage issue, putting together a podcast episode with Bill Walton on the homeless crisis, spending the night on the Carl Vinson aircraft carrier and being flown out on an Osprey; those are all things I've done for The Coronado News and they're easy to be proud of — and I am. But what stands out to me more than the exciting things I've been able to be a part of while doing this job is getting to feel the heartbeat of the community.

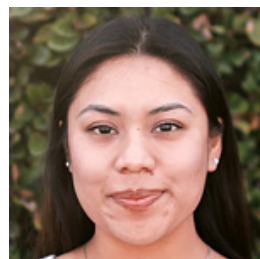
I cover the City of Coronado and the U.S. Navy's presence on the island. My full-time job is to listen to Coronado and what goes on every single day. And I've learned that this community cares, cares to sit through a five hour city council meeting about their park, cares to submit thousands of comments about something new happening in their city, cares to fight for the city they've chosen as their home.

I've learned that it's mutual. The city cares about its people; the mayor and council members involve the residents, meeting with them individually, validating their experiences on this island.

I haven't been here long, so I don't personally understand the full story. What I know is what I've seen from writing stories about Jamie McArthur from the KMAC Foundation, talking to Christine Stokes from the Coronado Historical Association and sitting through almost every single city council meeting.

I know what it means to be a journalist covering a small but proud town. I aim to be objective and to tell it as it is; we are the news after all.

So, even though I'm new (and thank you for having me) and don't know the full story, I can't wait to get to meet the hundreds of other people from both sides of the story who I'll have the pleasure of covering, and hopefully piece together the anatomy of this beautiful city's beating heart.



Julieta Soto covers the school board and the sewage crisis.

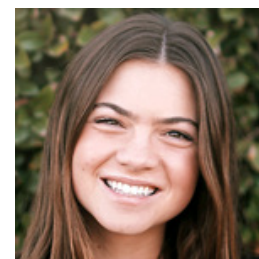
As we bid farewell to 2023, I would like to express my gratitude to the entire Coronado community for the opportunity to learn more about what I have come to learn as a close-knit community that places importance on the things they care about.

In reporting for The Coronado News, I have learned what it means to show up for oneself and one's village, motivating my desire to continue discovering what ignites the personal and shared passions across the island.

From the local activists working towards clean and open beaches in Coronado, to the coaches and students that work hard to be the best athletes and set new records, to passionate educators and community members at the regular school board meetings I have covered in the past months, I have witnessed commitment and responsibility to our future.

A hearty thank you too to the communities of Imperial Beach and Tijuana, whose residents have opened the doors to their home and trusted that our reporting on the binational sewage crisis can be a step toward change to improve their livelihoods.

Every single person that has picked up the phone and replied to my requests for interviews, has taught me so much about connecting, representing and amplifying the voices of la comunidad, and I look forward to connecting with more villages as we step into 2024. Have a blessed and safe Holiday season!



Sofie Fransen covers feature stories, profiles and sports.

It has been a joy getting to connect with the Coronado community over this past year. I primarily cover feature stories and high school sports — two beats that often serve to amplify people's life stories, to dig deeper into the events that have made them who they are today.

As such, I have had the opportunity to spend time with the impactful people of Coronado, and I have so enjoyed getting to sit down, listen and understand pieces of their stories.

The profile stories of people like Jane Mitchell, Jeanne Daugherty Jameson, Bob Rutherford, Rob Arnold, Bill Huck, Tiffany Lewis and Mike Parry (to name a few), have shown me the incredible, intricate network that is Coronado, a place that is made up of individual people who each contribute so much to the community.

In covering stories like KMAC Foundation's small boat regatta and the Department of Defense Warrior Games Challenge of Naval Station North Island, I was able to sit down and have honest conversations with the competitors about all of the challenges they've overcome, challenges that I could not begin to imagine. I will never forget their stories.

And as sports are typically a binding agent in any community, I was especially blown away by the amount of support that Coronado shows for their high school athletes.

Water polo, football, volleyball, soccer—you name the sport, I've written about it. And what I've found is that the community of Coronado is tight knit, and this is especially evident in the way that everyone shows up for their local teams.

If there's one thing I am certain of, it's that everyone has a story to tell.

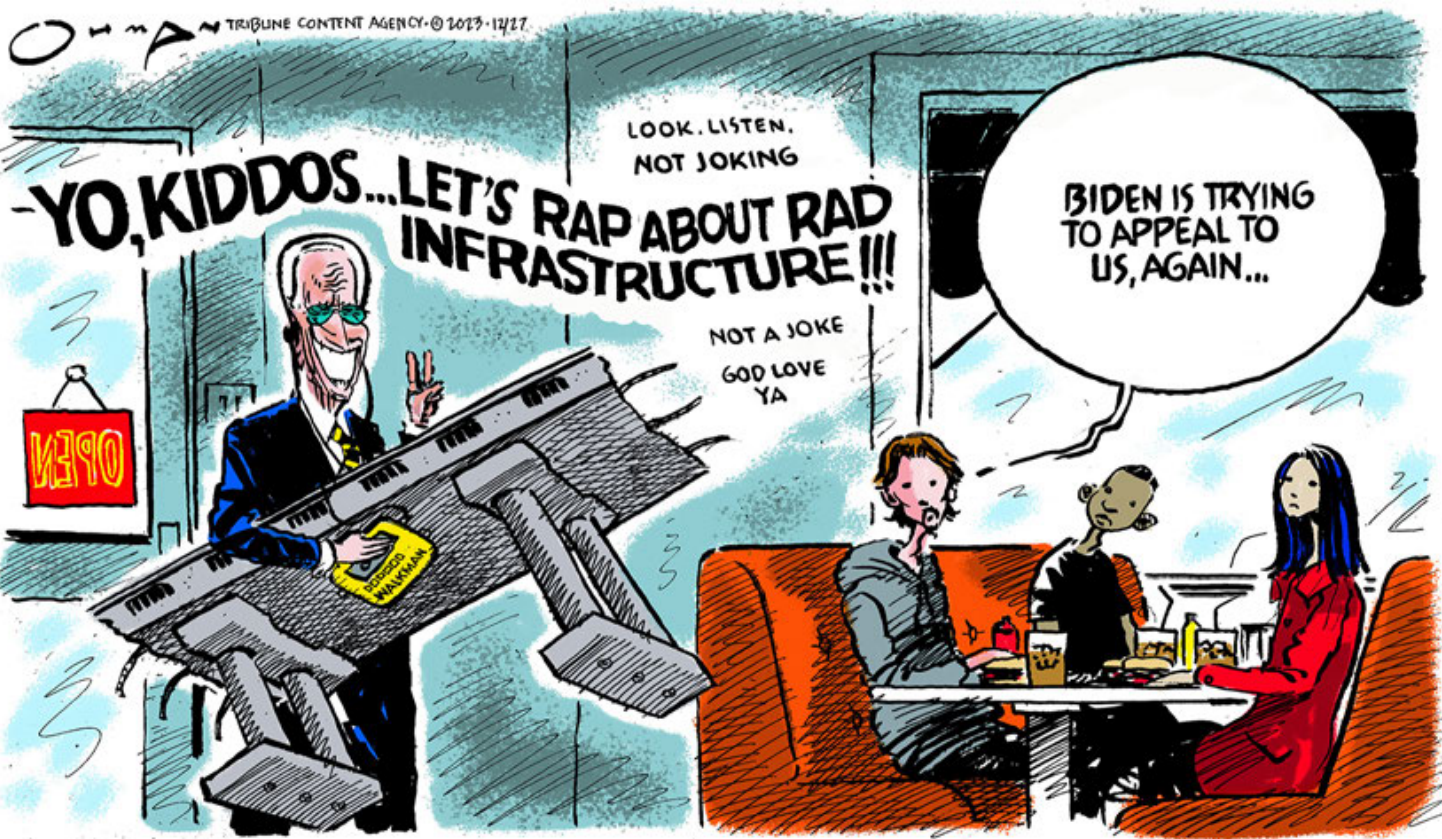
So thank you, Coronado, and to everyone who I've written about in this past year. Thank you for entrusting me with the job of sharing your voice.

Know that being trusted with your stories is not a job I take lightly.

OPINION

Lisa Benson 2023 12 19 Counterpoint Media

LISA BENSON



JACK OHMAN

Engaged

12/1/2023



Richard Gutierrez and Natasha Dasaad

Natasha, today is a day on which I love you three hundred and sixty-five days more than I did a year ago and three hundred and sixty-five days less than I will a year from now. But I wonder how I lived at all for all the three hundred and sixty-fives before I met you.

All my love,

Your Fiancé

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CORONADO

Vote for the Community READ winner at the Coronado library

Coronado News staff

Voting is now taking place to select this year's Coronado Community READ from among five final titles.

Now in its eighth year, the Coronado Community READ is Coronado's "one city, one

book" program that aims to bring the community together for discussions and programs around a single book.

The program encourages discussion and participation in planned community-building events around the theme of the title, selected by the readers.

The five finalists, in no particular order, are: "Into the Beautiful North" by Luis Alberto Urrea; "Lessons in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus; "The Rescue" by T. Jefferson Parker; "Remarkably Bright Creatures" by Shelby Van Pelt; and "Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and The Teachings of Plants" by Robin Wall Kimmerer.

Voting is open through Jan. 5, and programs will take place at the Library during the month of March.

Here's how to vote:

- Through ballot boxes on the Library's checkout desk, and at the John D. Spreckels Center, Coronado Historical Association, Bay Books, and the Coronado Community Center.

- Online at: <https://coronado.library.org/242/Coronado-Community-READ> (from homepage, click Using Your Library, then Coronado Community Read)

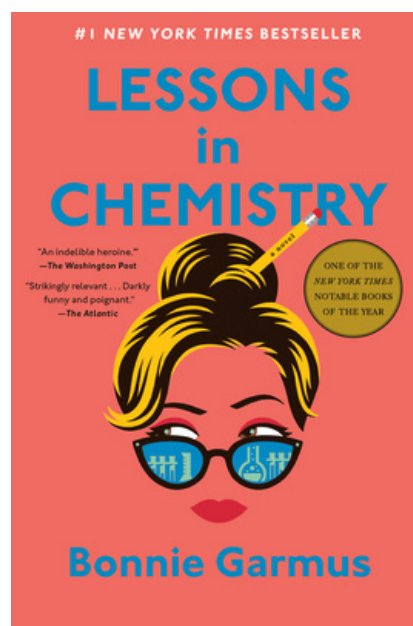
- Through the City's Project Coronado (formerly Comment Coronado) site, [https://www.project](https://www.projectcoronado.org)

Voting is now taking place to select this year's Coronado Community READ from among five final titles at the Coronado Public Library. "Lessons in Chemistry," right, which has become a hit show on Apple TV, is one of the finalists. Logo courtesy of the library.

coronado.org/

Descriptions of all of the Top 5 books are at the above websites and, for those voting via paper ballot, there is a QR code that will deliver descriptions of the books.

The winning title will be announced in January.



Californian passes state bar exam at 17 and is sworn in as an attorney

ASSOCIATED PRESS

VISALIA — A county prosecutor's office says one of its law clerks passed the State Bar of California exam at age 17. The Tulare County District Attorney's Office said in early December that, according to research, Peter Park is the youngest person to pass the exam.

The State Bar said that it could not confirm that Park is the youngest, but it hailed his achievement.

"Passing the California Bar exam is a major accomplishment at any age, and for someone as young as Mr. Park, it is quite an extraordinary feat and one worth celebrating," Executive Director Leah Wilson said.

Park took the exam in July and received the test results on Nov. 9, according to a news release issued by the District Attorney's office this week.

"It was not easy, but it was worth it," Park said in a statement.

Park began high school at Oxford Academy in Cypress, in 2019 at age 13 and simultaneously began a four-year juris doctor program at the Northwestern California University School of Law after completing college-level proficiency exams, the office said.

Park graduated high school in 2021 by taking the state's high school proficiency exam and focused on law school, graduating this year.

He became a law clerk for the District Attorney's office in August, turned 18 in late November and was sworn in as an attorney in early December.

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CORONADO

Saying goodbye to Police Chief Chuck Kaye

By **MADLINE YANG**
The Coronado News

Call after call after call. College student Chuck Kaye sat in the passenger seat of a police vehicle. The officer was rushing to respond to a call about a fight in El Cajon, and in an hour he would rush to respond to a call about a crime scene in the opposite direction. And that would continue for the next eight hours of Kaye's ride along.

It was never-ending, and Kaye decided then and there that that was the way he wanted to spend his days.

Thirty three years later, Kaye is finally stepping down as Police Chief at the Coronado Police Department.

In looking back at more than three decades of police work, he says that he is happy at how it's turned out.

"Really, when you look back at a career, it's not necessarily just the experiences, but I've had such a great time working with some great people," Kaye says in an interview with The Coronado News.

And the Coronado Police Department is definitely no exception to that. Kaye was hired in 2018 as the Police Chief and immediately found that the city of Coronado knew what they wanted out of their police department.

He set out to carefully curate the team of 71 at the department, including a fully staffed dispatch center and



Police Chief Chuck Kaye (second from left) with officers. Photos provided by Chuck Kaye.

admin professional support personnel rank.

"That's a result of a very supportive city council, very supportive city manager and a community who wants a quality police department," Kaye says.

"I would say, most currently, the thing I'm proud of are the people that we've been able to hire here in Coronado and the people we've been able to promote into leadership posi-

tions," Kaye says.

And apart from leading the police department for the last five years, Kaye has also been leading police officers in training at two academies, the San Diego Regional Public Safety Training Institute and Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training in San Diego for over a decade.

He's not sure what he'll do after he steps down as Coronado's Police Chief, but he does know that teaching



"The thing I'm proud of are the people that we've been able to hire here in Coronado and the people we've been able to promote into leadership positions."

- Chuck Kaye, retiring police chief at the Coronado Police Department

is something he is passionate about. "I promised my wife that I would take some months and not do anything or make any decisions," Kaye says, ready to figure out what his retirement looks like.

City council gives thanks to retiring Police Chief Kaye

» Continued from Page 1

from the Americans for the Arts & Economic Prosperity 6 (AEP6) Report from the Cultural Arts Commission.

Urtasun gave a summary of projects happening in Coronado and where they are currently at, including the Cottages at the Cays project.

"Our representation, our relationship with the Port of San Diego in the city of Coronado are excellent," Urtasun says.

The Cottages at the Cays doesn't look like it will be built at the moment, according to Urtasun. There is an environmental assessment with an agreement to complete it that has not been signed, and so that has yet to have taken place and move the project forward.

The ferry landing marketplace went through a design change with the Hotel del Coronado in mind and is now submitted to the port for processing. The restaurant pad project will be

coming to the Port board in a closed meeting in February to decide how to move forward with it, Urtasun said.

The Loews Coronado Bay Resort is in the works of completely upgrading hotel rooms, different facility spaces and the entrance to the hotel, with this project estimating to be around \$100 to 150 million.

Moving on with the city council meeting, the last item on the agenda was the Arts & Economic Prosperity Report, a nationwide study that Coronado participated in for the first time, being approved in 2021, according to the staff report.

The study was conducted in 373 diverse communities and regions across the country, representing all 50 states and Puerto Rico, the study summary noted.

The results of the report made clear that the arts and cultural organizations and activities were powerful for the economic success in a community. In Coronado, the nonprofit arts and



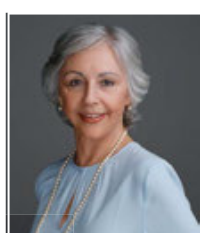
Mayor Richard Bailey presenting on Dec. 19 as Police Chief Chuck Kaye steps down starting January of 2024. Photo from Coronado TV.

culture industry contributed just over \$39 million to the local economy in 2022. Nonprofit organizations spent about \$14 million and audiences spent around \$25 million in events, supporting 616 jobs and generating \$10.3 million in government revenue.

The study also found that non-locals spent the most money on Coronado, spending almost three times as

much as Coronado residents on arts events on the island.

"There are a lot of people that this is how they want to spend their time, whether it's their weekends, their retirement, whatever it is. So for me, that was the worth of this presentation," Councilwoman Carrie Anne Downey comments. "That's the worth of this study."



Enjoy Winter By The Sea!

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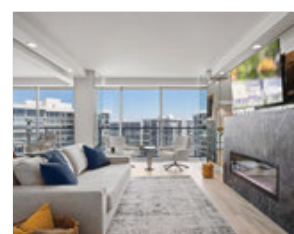
SOLD IN 2023



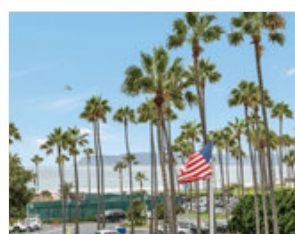
1820 AVENIDA DEL MUNDO PH7
3Bd/3Ba 3,115 sq.ft | Offered at \$4,490,000



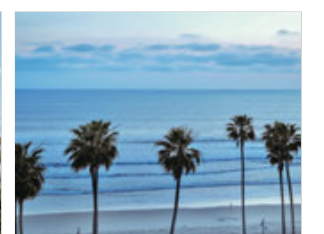
1750 AVENIDA DEL MUNDO #404
3Bd/3Ba 1,789 sq.ft. | Offered at \$3,849,000



1730 AVENIDA DEL MUNDO #1401



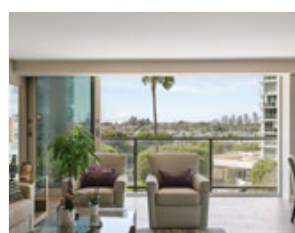
1820 AVENIDA DEL MUNDO #201



1780 AVENIDA DEL MUNDO #1009



1830 AVENIDA DEL MUNDO #1101



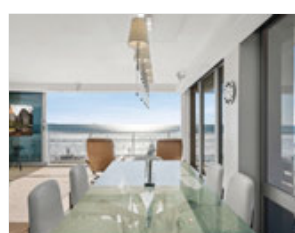
1780 AVENIDA DEL MUNDO #302



1750 AVENIDA DEL MUNDO #409



1770 AVENIDA DEL MUNDO #504



1730 AVENIDA DEL MUNDO #208



1720 AVENIDA DEL MUNDO #203

'We struggle... we grab water from a pipe'

» Continued from Page 1

connected to their homes.

That isn't the case in Tijuana. And some have gone without running water for a quarter century.

Life in Los Laureles

Two miles east of Playas through a one-way mud street that enters Los Laureles one can find multiple homes lacking access to several public service utilities with scarce water and no connection to the sewer pipes.

"That canyon is one of the biggest canyons...the type of development that happens in them is pretty much the same wherever you go, it's kind of haphazard, usually not well financed," Playas resident Kim Johnson tells The Coronado News.

These establishments are considered unofficial homes along canyons (or "los cañones") that have become additions to neighborhoods (or "colonias").

"The people just build their homes," says Johnson. "Some houses are real nice and some houses are very poorly built, and all of them have to deal with issues of runoff water due to rain, the water supply and sometimes they live there years before they have lighting."

Inside a converted space called Iglesia Rio de Dios ("Pastora") María del Rosario Godínez García leads a Christian church that she also uses as a hostel and rehab center for mothers, migrants and other houseless newcomers who need support.

According to Godínez García, houses found on the northern end of her street, between Calle 18 de Marzo and Anexa Los Laureles, do not have running water and are not connected to the sewerage system.

That is the case for Jose Rico, Luz Elena Garcia, and Lilia Garcia Sanchez, all of whom have lived without water for more than 25 years.

"We struggle and it would be better if we had clean and running water," Rico told The Coronado News. "We grab water from a pipe that's by the tubes, we've always grabbed from there."

Every week these affected residents in Los Laureles need to refill barrels and other buckets to use for everyday necessities like cooking, laundry, and showering. Then they recycle this water to flush their toilets.

"We have been requesting water service for a long time, but for some reason the supervisors come and ...leave us in a state of uncertainty," Garcia said of city officials. "We need the service because it is a lot of trouble to have to go around struggling with water barrels to use for our bathrooms, for dishes and for everything. We would appreciate it if there is any way we could receive support... water, electricity and all that is very necessary."

Apart from recycling clean water for secondary use, Garcia Sanchez also said that the overflow of rain water causes street flooding and that open sewers with missing lids that often get stolen force her and other neighbors to stay indoors for days at a time.

"You cannot leave your house when it rains," said Garcia Sanchez.

Although a lack of public services is among the biggest issues found on this street, parishioner Martha del Carmen Hernandez Romero said it is also a hub for crime-related activities.

According to Hernandez Romero,



("Pastora") María del Rosario Godínez García preaches her Christian faith to surrounding neighbors and all newcomers with the resources she manages to gather for food and living to house and feed those in need. Staff photo by Julieta Soto.



Cars enter Los Laureles through a one way street in Tijuana. Staff photo by Julieta Soto.

shootings and drive-bys occur often averaging four to five deaths per week.

"We didn't have public service for electricity either...my sister put a street lamp here and another one there, because here at night it looks like a wolf cave, it's pitch dark," added Garcia. "We live in a neighborhood that is too dangerous and with that darkness, one is afraid to enter their houses at night. I come home from work and I go inside, and I don't want to come back out."

When inquired about the lack of water and sewer connections in Los Laureles, a CESPT or State Commission of Public Services of Tijuana communications representative said there are plans to expand to canyon neighborhoods while the city continues to rapidly grow.

Tijuana has more than doubled its population since 1996 to more than 2.2 million. San Diego, by comparison, is America's eighth largest city with nearly 1.4 million people.

The representative also said that throughout 2023, the commission has been dedicated to providing services to eight locations across Tijuana and Rosarito.

This month Jesús García Castro became Director General of Comisión Estatal de Servicios Públicos de Tijuana (CESPT), taking over for Víctor



Laura Silvan joins Grupo Madrugadores de Playas de Tijuana A.C. for a meeting about the history and future of local environmental work in late November. Staff photo by Madeline Yang.

Daniel Amador Barragán, who moved to become Secretary for the Water Management, Treatment and Protection Agency for the State of Baja California (SEPROA).

Godínez García - frustrated with the lack of help from CESPT - calls upon God for a miracle to bring water for her church center and encourages families like Garcia's to do the same.

The city's water issues, according



Lilia Garcia Sanchez uses recycled water from her laundry to flush her toilet. Staff photo by Madeline Yang

to CESPT, extend to the homes that are not regulated but remain a very important issue. The official added the governmental organization works 24/7 on what remains a problem due to the overly abundant population.

Civic leadership

At the a Mariscos restaurant, a two-hour meeting that integrates breakfast, Silvan and Grupo Madrugadores includes a hearty discussion about the history of environmentalism, the impact of pollution and water contamination, and the importance of civic participation.

Silvan, who has dedicated more than 30 years to the non-profit currently working on water sampling results across Tijuana and Rosarito beaches, talks about the importance of creating environmentally friendly products and services.

"It's important that we recognize the footprint we leave in our community over time," said Silvan.

Silvan also encourages the group to focus on the population and commercial waste that has caused a binational crisis affecting communities in Tijuana and coastlines across San Diego County.

"There is still a lot to do, but it is worthwhile to continue insisting on a strong environmental legal framework and to promote citizen participation so that every day we all become more aware, more educated in our behavior and more participative in solving the environmental problems of this looming climate crisis," added Silvan in closing remarks.

Documentary takes you into the lives of residents affected by sewage crisis

By MADELINE YANG
The Coronado News

The Coronado News for all of 2023 has investigated a nearly century-long legacy of broken promises by U.S. and Mexican officials that have resulted in millions of gallons of raw sewage flowing regularly into the Pacific Ocean.

The environmental crisis not only pollutes the water and shutters beaches, but it also affects sea life and causes health problems to residents, tourists, U.S. Border Patrol agents and Navy SEALs.

The Coronado News this year examined hundreds of public records and conducted dozens of interviews with U.S. and Mexican government officials, water contamination organization directors, environmentalists and individuals in the two countries.

The newspaper made several visits to Tijuana and gathered hours of footage and interviews while attending numerous public meetings and protests.

Throughout the year of constant coverage, there has been significant progress towards a solution.

President Biden sought \$310 million in additional funding, the California Congressional delegation began speaking up on this issue, federal money that had been stalled was allotted for construction projects, and political leaders in Coronado and Imperial Beach finally began working together while new environmental groups were formed to protest the pollution.

While The Coronado News has covered all of this, this documentary explores something deeper: It's a personal look into the lives of Tijuana and San Diego County residents, and how this issue is so much



more than just sewage systems failing.

Watch the complete documentary, "Promises, Promises: The Tijuana Sewage Crisis," and read ongoing stories in the series at [thecoronadonews.com/tijuana-sewage-crisis](https://www.thecoronadonews.com/tijuana-sewage-crisis).

Rep. Peters urges congress to support President Biden's request for \$310 million

WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Rep. Scott Peters (CA-50) along with California Representatives Sara Jacobs (CA-51), Mike Levin (CA-49), Zoe Lofgren (CA-18), Grace Napolitano (CA-31), Jimmy Panetta (CA-19), Katie Porter (CA-47), Adam Schiff (CA-30), and Juan Vargas (CA-49) as well as former Navy SEALs and current Representatives Dan Crenshaw (TX-02), Derrick Van Orden (WI-03) and Ryan Zinke (MT-01) urged leaders of the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate to include President Biden's \$310 million supplemental budget request to repair the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (SBIWTP) in any upcoming funding package.



South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant that currently processes up to 25 million gallons of sewage per day. That number is to hopefully increase to 50 million gallons of sewage a day in a few years.

Staff photo by Madeline Yang.

The plant, which was constructed in 1997 to treat sewage originating from Baja California, Mexico has not been properly maintained for decades, causing raw sewage to pollute San Diego's beaches, jeopardizing the health and safety of South Bay residents and U.S. Navy SEAL special operation forces who train in these waters.

In their letter, the members state, "Navy SEAL training in Coronado is often forced to move ocean training events to different locations to ensure our warfighters are not sickened by polluted waters containing fecal matter. Similarly, federal Homeland Security agents assigned to the region have identified extensive hazards they confront when patrolling the Tijuana River Valley. An inability to train for military operations or patrol our nation's border represents an unacceptable risk to our national security and to the health of our servicemembers and law enforcement personnel."

The letter continues, "Without this additional funding, SBIWTP is forced to keep pumping untreated water into the ocean, threatening the health and national security of the region."

While the San Diego congressional delegation secured \$300 million

in 2019 to double the plant's capacity, members learned in June that it needs hundreds of millions of dollars for necessary repairs before it can be expanded.

In October, Rep. Peters led a bipartisan letter to the Department of State demanding a full account of how the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (SBIWTP) fell into such a severe state of disrepair.

In September, he proposed an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2024 Interior, Environment, and Related Programs Appropriations Bill to boost U.S.- Mexico Border Water Infrastructure Grant Program (BWIP) funding. Additionally, he proposed two amendments to the Fiscal Year 2024 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Bill (SFOPS) to boost annual construction funding to the USIBWC to \$100 million.

In August, he led two letters to the Office of Management and Budget and to OMB and the State Department, calling for urgent additional funding to confront this crisis.

In July, members of the San Diego congressional delegation requested that the Environmental Protection

Agency (EPA) assist with directing environmental justice funds from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) to help stop the flow of pollutants and urged Secretary of State Antony Blinken to tour the broken plant.

Earlier in July, they sent a letter to President Biden and submitted an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024, calling on the administration to declare this crisis a federal emergency.

In June, Rep. Peters led a letter with other members of the San Diego Congressional delegation to the governor of Baja California urging accountability for the Mexican government's commitments to build wastewater treatment infrastructure.

In previous years, Peters along with colleagues, has secured funding, introduced legislation, called for investigations and arranged a visit by EPA Administrator Regan in response to the wastewater contamination crisis.

Story courtesy of the press secretary of Representative Scott Peters (CA-50).

Solicitation posted for USIBWC South Bay rehabilitation and expansion

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico (USIBWC) has posted the solicitation for the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (SBIWTP) Rehabilitation and Expansion Progressive Design-Build on SAM.gov.

The project includes essential rehabilitation of existing infrastructure and expansion from 25 million gallons per day to 50 MGD with additional capacity to treat daily peak flows up to 75 MGD reliably for temporary periods and still meet permit compliance.

This project contributes toward implementing the binational agreement known as Minute No. 328.

The project is also issued in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and funded through the 2020 U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement. Under Minute 328, a 50 MGD wastewater treatment plant, in combination with wastewater infrastructure improvements in Mexico, is necessary to eliminate 90 percent of untreated flows reaching the coast.

"Our commitment to advance the improvements necessary to improve water quality is a priority. Many actions are currently underway, such as plant repairs, community outreach, compliance coordination, congressional and administration briefings, among others to ensure solutions are advancing and we are transparent and accountable," said Dr. Maria-Elena Giner, USIBWC Commissioner. "We recognize the cost will exceed the current available funding. We will structure the contract to proceed in phases as funding becomes available."

Story courtesy of the International Boundary and Water Commission United States and Mexico.

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Mobility issues affect over 1 in 5 Americans. These individuals, and their loved ones, know how decreased mobility can result in loss of independence, pain and falling hazards. They are often stuck at home, missing out on a variety of activities, in a vicious cycle that diminishes their quality of life. In the past, mobility devices like scooters and power chairs were too heavy and bulky to transport easily. Now, carbon fiber material invented for the aerospace program has been used to create the ultimate mobility device. It's called the Journey Air Elite ... and there's nothing else like it on earth.

At only 26 pounds, the Journey Air Elite combines lightweight portability with world class performance. It's simple to use joystick and powerful dual-motor drive system enables you to zip around quickly and safely. It's easy to maneuver, never tips, fits easily through doorways, and can go right up to a table or desk. Once you are done, just one pull on the seat handle folds it up. There's a fold-down back to make it even easier to stow and store.

It features flat-free tires and rear anti-tippers for added convenience and safety.

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» Continued from Page 2

a free, private online platform for YoungArts artists to connect, collaborate and discover new opportunities.

Pruter lives in Clairemont and commutes to Coronado High School daily to be part of the prestigious CoSA program.

"I have performed professionally in San Diego since I was eight years old. I'm passionate about it and wanted to be pushed and challenged in the best high school program. I have learned so much here (at CoSA) from my teachers," she shared.

CoSA turned out to be a great choice for Pruter.

"I've had roles in 'Mamma Mia,' 'The Laramie Project' and 'The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later,' and my favorite role, Lenora in 'Cry Baby,'" she said.

Strassburger added: "Izzy is a powerhouse and we saw it right away in her freshman year when she was cast in 'The Laramie Project.'"

The role in "CryBaby" was extra

special to Pruter because her teachers accommodated her playing the role while on crutches.

"It's a crazy 'fun fact' story. I got nerve damage in my foot just before junior year, I got stung by a stingray at Coronado beach. I couldn't dance for a whole year. I crewed for shows, and then they allowed me to have crutches in the show. I'm so grateful for that!" she said.

"I am also very thankful that my teachers allowed me to take the time and supported my performances outside of CoSA. I got to play Betty Lou Who in 'How The Grinch Stole Christmas' at the Old Globe Theater," she shared.

Strassburger added that, "CoSA is a pre-professional program for the arts, which is a different type of program from most other regional high school programs. Our faculty have or are working professionally in the artistic areas they teach."

Pre-professional training programs not only offer intensive training and study, they provide career guidance

and direction.

As a winner with distinction, Pruter will participate in National YoungArts Week, Jan. 7-13, 2024, in Miami.

During the week, artists have opportunities to share their work, experience interdisciplinary classes and workshops, and receive mentorship from leading artists in their fields.

The 2024 winners with distinction will have the chance to learn from notable artists such as Denyce Graves, Lois Greenfield, and Ranee, Aparna, and Ashwini Ramaswamy of Ragamala Dance.

Throughout the week award winners are further evaluated for cash awards of up to \$10,000.

Following National YoungArts Week, Pruter will be eligible to be nominated to become a U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts, one of the highest honors given to high school seniors by the president of the United States.

YoungArts, the sole nominating agency, nominates 60 artists to the White House Commission on Presi-

dential Scholars, from which the 20 U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts are selected.

Pruter is looking forward to going to Miami and says her family is very supportive of her.

"I definitely got my love of singing and arts from my Dad. We love listening to music together. He has a huge music collection and he's also really into movies. He used to be in a band called the Jam Daddies. My younger brother is 14 and not artistic at all, but loves sports. And my mom, who immigrated from the Philippines when she was young, supports all of us!"

YoungArts, the National Foundation for the Advancement of Artists, is a non-profit organization established in 1981 to identify accomplished young artists and provide them with creative and professional development opportunities throughout their careers.

Submitted by Coronado Unified Public Information Officer Maria Simon.

Congressman Scott Peters speaks at Optimist Club

» Continued from Page 1

us as well, because the SEALs who've actually trained here, they know what the situation is."

Peters said his SEAL colleagues will vote for the \$310 million, an effort which is important because it shows bipartisan support of the issue.

The deal would put them on track to get a permanent solution, Peters said, but they are also looking at ways to further efforts in the interim.

Peters said they funded a study by Scripps Institution of Oceanography to research the health effects of the sewage in Imperial Beach.

MaryAnne Pintar, Peters' chief of staff, said they have also been working

with the San Diego Community Foundation. The foundation is compiling all of the studies that have been done over the years, including the Scripps study, to provide an executive summary.

This executive summary is what they are using to explain the health effects to members of congress.

"We can quantify the closed beach days; we've got that data. But the health effects data is what we have really been using in our arguments to other members of congress," Pintar said. "If you're asking, 'are we advocating using that information?,' we absolutely are. In fact, we have this new tool that we've got this executive summary of all of the different data that has been very helpful."

Other points of discussion

In addition to detailing the current situation with the sewage crisis, Peters noted that the 50th Congressional District happens to be the tenth best educated congressional district in the country out of 435.

"We started Qualcomm here, we're big in telecommunications and this is the third leading biotechnology hub in the country, maybe in the world," Peters said.

Peters also touched on the housing crisis, noting that "the cost of housing may be the biggest impediment for the continued prosperity of the Golden State and San Diego."

At the end, audience members

raised questions about the California Coastal Commission, migrant crossings at the border and whether or not there will be funding to sustain the SBIWTP once it's repaired.

Pintar commented on the last point, saying that there is a requirement for maintenance in Minute 328, a binational agreement calling for both nations to address the pollution issue. She said there is also a requirement for operational costs to be funded.

"The focus for us federally, in terms of bringing resources here, is the Coronado sewage issue, which you've waited too long for, and I think we're really making good progress on that," Peters reiterated.

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NAVY



The San Diego Unified School District College, Career and Technical Education Office hosted a Health Career & College symposium for its high school STEM students at the UCSD Park and Market venue in downtown San Diego. Supporting STEM programs is a fundamental part of NHRC's community outreach effort. U.S. Navy photos by Danielle Cazarez

Naval scientists join host for Health Career and College Symposium

DVIDS

SAN DIEGO – Research scientists from Naval Health Research Center's (NHRC) Operational Readiness directorate joined forces with San Diego Unified School District's Health Career and College Symposium on Dec. 7.

More than 300 students selected from the school district's Pathways Program, representing 23 schools participated in the event at the University of San Diego Park and Market venue in downtown San Diego.

NHRC scientists gave hands-on demonstrations of research techniques and allowed students to interact with laboratory instrumentation for the tabling event part of the day long program.

"It was encouraging for me to see such genuine engagement by the students," said Capt. Eric R. Welsh, commanding officer, NHRC. "We will definitely continue to work together with San Diego Unified School District on future STEM outreach. The event program and venue were top notch."

Supporting STEM programs is a fundamental part of NHRC's community outreach effort. Throughout the year the command hosts lab tours for grade school students, graduate students, teachers, and university professors providing guidance, inspiration, and pathways to successful careers as re-



Naval Health Research Center staff (from left to right) Capt. Eric Welsh, Tyler Whittier, Dr. Pinata Sessoms, Hedaya Rizeq and Carlie Daquino were at the NHRC booth at the Health Career & College symposium.

search scientists.

NHRC's mission is to optimize military operational readiness through cutting-edge research on warfighter, veteran and family health, and has been designated as the Department of Defense Deployment Health Research Center since 1999.

Our distinguished scientists and researchers consist of active-duty

service members, federal civil service employees and contractors, whose expertise includes physiology, microbiology, psychology, operations research and data science, epidemiology and public health, and biomedical engineering.

Story by John Marciano, Naval Health Research Center.

USS John L. Canley to commission in San Diego

DVIDS

The future USS John L. Canley (ESB 6) will join the active fleet Feb. 17, with a commissioning ceremony at Naval Base Coronado's Naval Air Station North Island in San Diego.

The first of its name, the ship honors United States Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. John L. Canley, Ret., who was awarded the Medal of Honor 50 years after his actions during the Battle of Hue City.

Canley served as Company Gunnery Sergeant, Company A, First Battalion, First Marines, First Marine Division in the Republic of Vietnam from Jan. 31 to Feb. 6, 1968. Sgt. Maj. Canley passed away in Bend, Oregon May 11, 2022.

On Nov. 10, 2020, then Secretary of the Navy Kenneth J. Braithwaite announced that ESB 6 would be named USS John L. Canley to honor a man who exemplified all that has made our service strong and our Nation thrive.

The ship's sponsor is Patricia Sargent, Canley's daughter.

ESB 6 will be the newest commissioned Expeditionary Sea Base (ESB) and the sixth ship in the expeditionary mobile base platform.

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The future USS John L. Canley will be part of the Forward Deployed Naval Force operating from Saipan.

For more news from Naval Surface Forces, visit DVIDS — Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet and Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Story by Julie Ann Ripley, Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Cold spray technology rises at Fleet Readiness Center Southwest

DVIDS

NAVAL AIR STATION NORTH ISLAND, Calif. – In the realm of naval aviation maintenance, repair and overhaul, a transformative technology is taking flight.

At the heart of this revolution is Fleet Readiness Center Southwest (FRCSW), where a team of dedicated engineers is pioneering the use of cold spray technology. This innovative approach is not only enhancing the repair capability for aging aircraft but also paving the way for substantial cost savings, an increase in readiness and environmental benefits.

Luc Doan, a Senior Materials Engineer with nearly three decades at FRCSW, alongside fellow F/A-18 Senior Engineer, Conrad Macy and Materials Engineers, Stoney Middleton and Matthew Chu spearheaded this initiative.

Cold spray, a subset of thermal spray technologies, stands out for its unique method of depositing metallic powder. Unlike other thermal techniques that rely on heating the powder to its melting point, cold spray propels the metal powder at high velocities, creating a solid-state process without the need for melting.

This technique creates a metallurgical bond with the substrate, resulting in a robust and durable repair. What distinguishes FRCSW in this field is

not just the technology itself but also the scale and sophistication of its implementation.

The Materials Engineering Department boasts an array of cold spray and ancillary equipment, including multiple low-pressure cold spray systems manufactured by Centerline and Inovati as well as a high-pressure VRC cold spray system, which has just been added to FRCSW's repair toolbox.

These systems are capable of both hand-held and robotic spray operations. Hand-held spraying accounts for over half of their repairs.

This capability has led to over 35 approved repairs and the restoration of 400 parts, a testament to the technology's growing significance in maintaining and extending the life of naval aircraft. None of the Cold Spray repaired parts has returned to the depot because the repair failed in service so we know the technology is working.

Introduced to FRCSW in 2009, cold spray technology was initially used in partnership with original equipment manufacturers, academia, and other partners.

Conrad Macy, a Fleet Support Team Engineer known for his innovative and passionate approach, was instrumental in recognizing the potential of the Cold Spray technology to repair corrosion and wear damage.

He implemented it to repair the low

in-supply, long lead-time, and high-value F/A-18 Aircraft Mounted Auxiliary Drive (AMAD) gearboxes. A year later, the first NAVAIR Cold Spray repair was approved for the Super Hornet AMAD Hydraulic Pad with fretting damage.

The first AMAD was repaired and returned to the supply system in February 2011 and installed on a Super Hornet in May 2011. To date, 35 AMADs have been repaired by Cold Spray comprising an asset that has over 24,500 flight hours as of May 2023.

The success of cold spray hinges on the skilled artisans who undergo rigorous training and certification to master this technique.

A Job Qualification Requirement (JQR) was established in 2020 that contains classroom and on-the-job trainings for cold spray artisan certification. The benefits of cold spray extend beyond the technical prowess it provides. It represents a shift in maintenance philosophy, moving away from traditional methods like adhesives, sealants, and paints for blend-and-fill repairs. These hazardous materials are less corrosion and wear resistant, and pose environmental risks as well as risks to human exposure.

Cold spray, with its metallic composition, offers high adhesion strength (over 5000 PSI) and plays a crucial role in corrosion mitigation, a critical

aspect of aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul.

Financially, the impact of cold spray at FRCSW is profound. With over 35 approved repairs across various platforms like the F/A-18A-F, EA-18G, MV-22, E-2C/D, C-2A, AH/UH-1 and CH-53, the technology has led to significant cost savings and avoidance.

These repairs range from individual components to on-aircraft repairs. For instance, the repair of the F/A-18 APG-73 Radar Rack Aft Bulkheads alone saved millions of dollars.

To date, FRCSW has repaired 51 Aft Bulkheads with another 6 Aft Bulkheads scheduled to be repaired in FY24. A stark contrast to the high costs and long lead-times associated with procuring new parts.

Additionally, the F/A-18 AMAD gearbox and associated repairs have saved multiple millions of dollars and prevented fleet supply shortfalls because of lengthy lead times for new gearbox castings.

Another example is the on-aircraft repairs that were performed in the last ten months. The cold spray technology also repaired 1 CH-53 for corrosion damage, 4 E-2Ds for gouge damage, and 5 UH-1Y for corrosion damage at Camp Pendleton.

Story by Janina Lamoglia, Fleet Readiness Center Southwest.

SPORTS

Harper Gilbert, the backbone of Coronado water polo's defense

By **SOFIE FRANSEN**
The Coronado News

As the goalie of the Coronado girls water polo team, Harper Gilbert is the backbone of communication for the small, all-senior squad.

Gilbert has been the starting varsity goalie for the past two years—a performance which caught the attention of UC Davis, where she has verbally committed to play for next year.

In college, she plans to double major in political science and international affairs with the overarching goal to become a lawyer.

Gilbert said she first moved to Coronado six years ago, and she has been playing water polo for about as long.

Since her dad was in the Navy, Gilbert grew up in a variety of places—Florida, Virginia and Japan, to name a few.

Her dad's military service brought the family to Coronado, and he retired from the Navy about three months ago.

Gilbert said that water polo was a sport she decided to try for fun shortly after coming to the island, and it stuck.

She started out as a field player before moving in front of the cage.

"It's definitely more of a cerebral position I would say," Gilbert said about being a goalie. "You have to run the defense. The analogy is always, you're the quarterback of the defense."

Now, Gilbert leads the team through communication. On defense, she determines if the team needs to drop back, press, or take away the super high percentage



Goalie Harper Gilbert takes on a role of communication for the Coronado High School girls water polo team. Photo courtesy of Kelly Moore.

shots. The quality of her passes also set up the offense for success.

The team this season is small. With all seniors and only one substitute, the girls have to be intentional in their movements and smart with how they pick apart teams, since they don't have extra people to fill in any gaps of fatigue.

"Our strengths are definitely our endurance and our grit," Gilbert said.

The team also has a unique bond. The majority of the girls have been

playing together for four years, so over that time, they have developed the chemistry and cohesion that only comes with longevity.

"We've all kind of had three or four seasons together to learn how we work together," Gilbert said.

This season, the team is headed by coach Jesse Smith, who just led the Coronado boys water polo team to a Division 1 title in the fall.

The girls were 6-2 as of mid-December, and started the year with a 21-0 drubbing of Steele Canyon.

"Our strengths are definitely our endurance and our grit. ... We've all kind of had three or four seasons together to learn how we work together."

— Harper Gilbert, starting varsity goalie for the past two years

Dodgers gave Ohtani \$700M to hit and pitch — also because he can sell

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shohei Ohtani's jaw-dropping \$700 million, 10-year deal with the Los Angeles Dodgers has some similarities to other contracts for the world's biggest sports stars, including soccer icons Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, along with NFL quarterback Patrick Mahomes.

In terms of his marketability, experts point to another name — Taylor Swift. The global music sensation's broad appeal is an extremely rare phenomenon that Ohtani shares.

There's no doubt the Dodgers hope they can leverage the Japanese star's arrival into even more money for a franchise that is already one of the most popular in MLB.

Ohtani was expected to sign the biggest deal in MLB history as a free agent this offseason and didn't disappoint. Further, he's the sport's best two-way player ever — not even Babe Ruth hit and pitched at the same time so effectively — and though he won't be able to pitch in 2024 following Tommy John surgery, he should provide plenty of value at the plate before he returns to the mound in 2025.

"If Ohtani is marketed right, he's a globally iconic player," said Mike Lewis, a professor of marketing at Emory University who specializes in sports business. "It could be like something from Formula One, where you've got the attention of the whole world. Baseball has sometimes struggled to gain national attention, but he's the kind of guy who attracts millions of eyeballs, and not just from the U.S."



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Angel Gomez: The youthful trailblazer of lawn bowling

The Coronado High School graduate and freshman at Point Loma Nazarene University continues to rack up international accolades.

By **NICK HANCOCK**
The Coronado News

Tucked next to the John D. Spreckels Center, which serves those 50 and older, the Coronado Lawn Bowling Club rarely attracts youngsters.

Given that the average age of a lawn bowler is 55, and known to be a sport of patience and precision, it's not difficult to see why 18-year-old Angel Gomez may be an outlier.

Gomez, who grew up on the island and now studies at Point Loma Nazarene University, is the youngest certified coach for Bowls USA after getting certified before he could even register to vote. And, he doesn't even turn 19 until Aug. 12.

However, this story begins long before Gomez's teenage years.

According to Gomez, he was 7 when his family discovered the sport.

A "Free Family Bowling Night" out on the lawns prompted the Gomez family to try out the unfamiliar sport, and after that Gomez and his dad, Javier, were hooked.

"Over the next few years, I watched my dad practice and compete. We had the opportunity to travel to other greens for his competitions, and I got to watch his hard work pay off and I wanted to do the same," said Gomez.

In summer 2020, after years of seeing his dad's success in a competitive lawn bowling setting, Gomez stepped onto the scene.

In three years, the game has become more than just a hobby for Gomez. To name just a few of Gomez's accolades: He was the first person to represent the U.S. in the under-25 division for Lawn Bowls, won first in the second flight of the U.S. Fours Open with his dad and two others, and most



Angel Gomez is becoming one of the best lawn bowlers in the country. The 18 year old is a Coronado High School graduate and is currently a freshman at Point Loma Nazarene University. Photo courtesy of Berie Grobe.

recently won the Southwest Division play downs to earn him a spot in the National Championship later this fall.

According to Gomez, the success he has had in these major tournaments has reaffirmed his love for the sport and desire to get better.

"It [U-25 Championships] was an incredible experience that has fueled my training over the course of this year, where I will return to the U-25 international indoor championship next month in Scotland," said Gomez.

The college freshman has gained a great amount of momentum in the sport, but with all these achievements comes balance.

According to Gomez, navigating college life and his commitment to bowling has come with certain challenges.

"I'm in a difficult major [biology] and I know that school comes first, so juggling my dedication for school and my passion for lawn bowling is something I'm working on balancing," said

Gomez. "College is one roadblock for younger people in the world of bowls, but I hope the sport and universities figure out ways to be more inclusive of these kinds of situations."

Point Loma Nazarene has a mandatory attendance policy for freshmen who also are prohibited from bringing a car on campus.

Gomez said these challenges have made it harder to practice, and traveling to competitions he's dreamed about for years now comes with the price of breaking the rules and missing class.

Berie Grobe, former president of the Coronado Lawn Bowling Club, has known Gomez since his beginning days in the club, and she calls him a trailblazer of the sport.

According to Grobe, Gomez has accomplished so much in the sport in such a small amount of time, and she is confident he will remain a familiar face in the lawn bowling world thanks to his calm demeanor and dedication to lawn bowling.

"With coaching from his father and watching his father's successes, Angel developed the mental focus that improved his performance and allowed him to acquire strategy. Angel is also an accomplished chess player, which likely contributes to his ability to remain focused," said Grobe. "Besides the upcoming championships in Florida and Scotland, my hope is to see Angel represent the USA in the 2032 Olympics in Melbourne, Australia where lawn bowling will debut as an Olympic sport."

But according to Gomez, it's not always about winning.

He wants people his age to appreciate the sport as much as he does, and he said he cares more about young adults growing in lawn bowling than the trophies he can stack on the mantle at home.

"I always try to remember that no lawn bowling game is above camaraderie and there is an abundance of respect and admiration between players. Regardless of a win or loss each game is a good game," he said.

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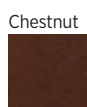
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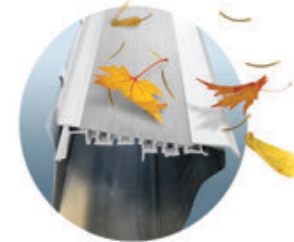
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LIFE ON THE ISLAND

ANALYSIS

The Golden Globe nominees are out. Let the awards season of Barbenheimer begin

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Early honors in Hollywood’s unfurling awards season have gone to films like Celine Song’s tender relationship drama “Past Lives,” Jonathan Glazer’s piercing Holocaust film “The Zone of Interest” and Martin Scorsese’s sprawling Osage murders epic “Killers of the Flower Moon.” But a showdown was always brewing.

“Barbie” and “Oppenheimer,” those summer sensations united in release date if little else, have loomed as perhaps the most potent Oscar contenders of the year.

When the Golden Globes on Dec. 11 announced picks for its 81st awards, the scandal-plagued, comeback-seeking Globes put their full weight behind the twin phenomena of the movie year.

Greta Gerwig’s “Barbie” landed nine nominations, tied for second-most in Globes history. (Only Bob Fosse’s “Cabaret” has matched it and Robert Altman’s “Nashville” exceeded it.) Its edge over “Oppenheimer” was slight; Christopher Nolan’s massive J. Robert Oppenheimer biopic took in eight nominations.

Though the Globes will separate the competition in some categories, keeping “Barbie” in comedy and “Oppenheimer” in drama, the two films will go head-to-head in many key races. Gerwig or Nolan for best director? Ryan Gosling or Robert Downey Jr. for best supporting actor?

Each has their own captivating narratives. Nolan, seen by many as the most talented big-screen artist of his generation, has never won the Oscar for directing, and his films



From left, Gabrielle Roitman, Kayla Seffing, Maddy Hiller and Casey Myer take a selfie in front of an “Oppenheimer” movie poster before they attended an advance screening of “Barbie” on July 20 at AMC theaters in Los Angeles. AP Photo/Chris Pizzello

have never won best picture. Gerwig and “Barbie” are at the forefront of a sea change in a long male-dominated Hollywood. Each film managed to do something spectacularly original in a movie industry where sequels and reboots reign — while making a combined \$2.4 billion in the process.

These debates will surely continue until the Academy Awards on March 10. But the Globes on Dec. 11 made it clear: Barbenheimer, phase two, has begun.

The central presence of those two films will surely help the Globes, which are seeking stability after years of turmoil. The Hollywood Foreign

Press Association, which was known for some wacky nominations in years past (remember “Salmon Fishing in Yemen?”), has been disbanded.

A new voting body of about 300, more than three times the size of the HFPA, picked this year’s nominees.

After The Los Angeles Times reported the press association had no Black members, Hollywood boycotted, the 2022 awards weren’t broadcast and now the newly for-profit Globes owned by Dick Clark Productions and Eldridge Industries have set up shop at CBS after decades at NBC. (The ceremony is Jan. 7.)

The reception was much as it al-

ways was: some low-key celebration from nominees and gentle mockery for an awards show with a checkered history.

The Globes expanded their categories from five to six nominees, which meant far fewer snubs than there might have been.

Still, the most surprising omission was “The Color Purple,” Blitz Bazawule’s Oprah-produced show-stopping musical, which was left out of the best comedy or musical category. (Stars Fantasia Barrino and Danielle Brooks were nevertheless each nominated.)

Films like “The Color Purple” that have not yet opened widely in theaters generally had a tough time. Michael Mann’s “Ferrari” and Ava DuVernay’s “Origin” were both shut out. Instead, the Globes closely followed the buzz.

That included making room for Time Magazine’s Person of the Year, Taylor Swift, in the new cinematic and box office achievement award. (To be eligible, a film must have grossed \$150 million, including \$100 million in the U.S., or been a hit on streaming.) “Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour” passed that mark, giving the Globes a chance to substantially boost the star power of its broadcast with Swift, a pop star with growing moviemaking ambitions.

That new award follows similar efforts by the Academy Awards, which in 2018 proposed a “popular film” award that prompted an immediate backlash from academy members that torpedoed it. Both broadcasts have seen ratings dwindle in recent years, and strived to get box-office hits into the show. Last year’s Globes were watched by just 6.3 million.

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