

THE CORONADO NEWS

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“I want to be a fixture on the campuses, not just in times of emergencies.”

Officer Brittany Palmore



Coronado Police Department Officer Grace Del Bagno (left) and Officer Brittany Palmore are resource officers for the Coronado Unified School District. Staff photo by Julieta Soto.

Coronado adds math classes, other programs to prepare grads

A Coronado High School report shows a large number of graduates move onto higher education following rigorous studies.

By JULIETA SOTO
The Coronado News

While a large percentage of Coronado High School graduates go to college, the leadership team is implementing new math courses and other ways to prepare students for college and career readiness.

Coronado High School Principal Karin Mellina and CUSD Lead Counselor Kristen Ereno reported on the new classes and a different approach to course planning for students at the school board meeting on Nov. 16.

Mellina said that 90% of the 2023 CHS graduates are in college, but there is a decrease in enrollment for the current school year as she presented College and Career Readiness Indicators data to the board.

Some of the work taking place includes implementing new engineering design and development, Advanced Integrated Math II and III classes, and a support class for Integrated Math I, she said.

Mellina said the high school has 17 additional courses that received state approval.

According to Ereno, the school expects to roll out Xello, an online platform to help students plan and meet college and career preparation, by the end of this year.

“This really is a platform that is all encompassing...they’re able to plan out their A-G courses, it tracks for students, counselors, and parents to know where they are on the college track,” said Ereno. “They can do multiple assessments from career interest inventories, to personality tests, to learning styles to really help curate and suggest some career options for them based on their strengths and interests. So we are excited about this.”

Among school site celebrations were the increase of students completing one of the 14 Career Technical Education Pathways, earning the State Seal of Biliteracy and State Seal of Civic Engagement, and meeting or exceeding ELA, Mathematics and Science state assessments, with percentages above the statewide average.

» Continued on Page 7

Keeping campus SAFE

Police Officer Brittany Palmore will step into her new role as Coronado’s main School Resource Officer

By JULIETA SOTO
The Coronado News

Swiftly reaching into an assortment of candy bins is a friendly face recognized by several Coronado trick-or-treaters moving towards the steps of the Police Department building on Halloween.

Along Orange Avenue, the law enforcement agency has joined other participating businesses for Mainstreet Goes Ghostly, hosted by Coronado MainStreet.

Several of the agency’s officers and volun-

teers begin to pass out candy at 3 p.m. until the last piece is claimed minutes before 5:30 p.m.

Among the officers distributing treats are Brittany Palmore and Grace Del Bagno, who co-lead as the Coronado Police Department’s School Resource Officers. They serve as full-time liaisons between local law enforcement and the school district.

“I love working with her!” shared Del Bagno as they finished distributing treats.

» Continued on Page 8

Meet Bob Rutherford, president of Coronado Rotary

Rutherford is a fourth generation career military officer and served 30 years as a Naval Aviator.

By SOFIE FRANSEN
The Coronado News

Bob Rutherford, retired Naval Aviator, is president of the Coronado Rotary as the club enters its 98th year on the island.

“We’ve been a part of Coronado for about a century now,” Rutherford said.

Rutherford has been a member of the Rotary Club for 17 years and was sworn in as the president in July for a term that runs until June 2024.

He is a fourth generation career military officer, although he jokingly calls himself the “black sheep” of the family because he served in the Navy while the rest served in the Army.

“Going back to the Civil War, every male member of my direct lineage has been a career Army officer,” Rutherford said.

Before becoming a Naval Aviator, Rutherford got a degree in aerospace engineering from the University of Arizona.

He stopped by a Navy recruiting table set up at his college campus to learn about getting into flight school, a process which, according to the commander behind the table, had a 60% attrition rate.

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Bob Rutherford is the president of the Coronado Rotary Club through June 2024. Staff photo by Sofie Fransen.

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CORONADO

this week

6 • wednesday

Film Forum Coronado will screen “The Other Son” in the Winn Room of the Coronado Public Library from 6-8:45 p.m. Film expert Ralph DeLauro provides a brief introduction to each film and leads a discussion afterwards, often including pointers about how lighting or camera angles contribute to a scene’s mood or propel the story.

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, mandolas, 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 Middle School students showcase modern monsters

Two hundred years after the story of “Frankenstein” was written, Coronado Middle School eighth-grade students in Ramona Loiselle’s English class showcased their scientific technological creations based on themes of the novel at the CMS Innovation Lab (iLab) on Nov. 3.

“When we approach a novel like this (Frankenstein: or the Modern Prometheus) we approach it for a reason. Why are we reading a book that was written 200 years ago, what’s the reason? What is the big idea? We’re looking for Shelley’s (author Mary Shelley) purpose in this novel and we see that it is in part to warn us about the dangers of science,” explained Loiselle.

Grappling with ethics

In the centuries since the classic horror story was published, scientists and society continue to grapple



Coronado Middle School eighth-graders Collin Nork, Chloe Van den Akker, Carlos Goya Minvill, and Addison Bayless in the Innovation Lab with the Modern Monster they created: “GMO Pumpkin.” Photo courtesy of CUSD.

with the ethics and responsibility of scientific creations.

During the weeks they read the novel, students also researched modern scientific advancements such as artificial intelligence, cloning, and location tracking.

Then they worked in groups to discuss how creations could grow beyond human control and what that would look like.

From those group discussions they created their own Modern Monsters. » Continued on Page XX

Pet of the Week: It’s Eve, a playful dog needing a home

If there’s one thing that defines Eve, it’s her insatiable love for play, says PAWS of Coronado.

Whether it’s chasing after tennis balls in the yard by herself, playing with interactive toys, or engaging in a game of tug-of-war, Eve’s playful spirit is contagious and will keep you entertained for hours on end. One of Eve’s most charming features is her long tongue which seems to always be out, ready to slurp up every drop of life’s goodness.

All of the animals at PAWS are spayed/neutered, micro-chipped, vaccinated, and up-to-date on flea-preventative. If you are interested in adopting Eve or any of the animals, please visit www.pawsofcoronado.org

Fostering, volunteering, or donating are other ways you can help the animals. For more information about PAWS or how to get involved contact Jennifer Stein @ Jennifer.Stein@pawsofcoronado.org



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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

OP-ED: U.S. REP. SCOTT PETERS

Congress must prioritize public health over politics on sewage crisis



Twenty-six-hundred miles exist between the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (SBIWTP) in San Ysidro and Washington, D.C.

In the continental United States, you can't get much farther from the nation's capitol.

In the decade since I joined Congress, I've made it a priority to close that distance and get the federal government to pay attention to the cross-border sewage that has fouled Coronado and South Bay beaches for too long, creating what I've described as one of the biggest environmental catastrophes in the Western Hemisphere.

If this were taking place closer to Washington, I believe we'd see a much swifter response. But getting people outside of the San Diego region to care about it has been tough.

More sewage funding an "uphill battle"

That's why, last month, I was grateful to see President Biden's request to Congress for \$310 million to fix the ailing treatment plant. I led a request from San Diego's congressional delegation, along with Sen. Alex Padilla and the late Sen. Dianne Feinstein, for this money and worked hard to get the administration to understand why it's so urgently needed.

But, as I've pointed out, this is not a "mission accomplished" moment — getting the funding approved by both chambers of Congress, especially the Republican-controlled House, will be an uphill battle.

We need to keep the momentum going. This problem has been decades in the making; residents of the South Bay and Coronado should not have to wait decades more for solutions.

SEAL training delayed from polluted water

As the Coronado News has reported, sewage-

infested waters have sickened surfers and swimmers. Last month, the San Diego Union-Tribune reported on residents sickened by the fumes. They don't just smell bad; they are toxic and threaten neighborhoods with long-term health impacts.

The tourists who flock to Coronado beaches will stop coming if they can't safely go into the ocean and the local economy will suffer. Coronado is also home to the Naval Amphibious Base whose Navy SEALs train in these waters. That training is delayed when the water is too polluted for safe use.

Repairing the plant and doubling its capacity will cost roughly \$650 million, almost twice as much as preliminary estimates. The cost nearly doubled when a recent assessment of the plant revealed just how badly it had deteriorated due to poor maintenance and overwhelmed capacity.

We already have \$350 million appropriated — \$300 million secured through the United States Mexico Canada Trade Agreement and another \$50 million pulled together from other federal sources. Some of this money has already been used for a preliminary engineering analysis. And, the International Boundary Water Commission (IBWC), which owns and operates the SBIWTP, has developed a spending strategy and is on target to comply with water quality standards.

Boosting construction funding

I am working to ensure we have the votes in Congress to get the additional \$310 million — I've also proposed legislative amendments to boost annual construction funding for the IBWC to \$100 million and allow the transfer of additional funds from other federal and non-federal entities to the plant.

Not getting this money means more beach closures, compromised public health and, ultimately, a more expensive tab for SBIWTP repairs in the future.

Mayors Richard Bailey and Paloma Aguirre have been tremendous partners — Mayor Bailey has

reached out to Republicans across the country to drive home the importance of securing the additional funding. Mayor Aguirre has been a fierce advocate for Imperial Beach.

Lawmakers, understandably, don't want to spend money without accountability. Last month, I led a letter signed by several members of Congress asking the Department of State for a full account of how SBIWTP fell into such a severe state of disrepair. It can't happen again.

Mexico must do its part

Mexico must also do its part. Under a new treaty with the U.S. signed last year, the Mexican government promised to spend \$144 million over the next five years to reduce wastewater flows into the U.S. This includes replacing the defunct San Antonio de los Buenos wastewater treatment plant. And construction has already begun on pipeline and pump station repairs that will dramatically decrease wastewater spills into the Tijuana River.

Currently Mexico pays the U.S. \$2 million per year to support treatment operations. The new treaty that binds us to expanding the plant requires them to pay more.

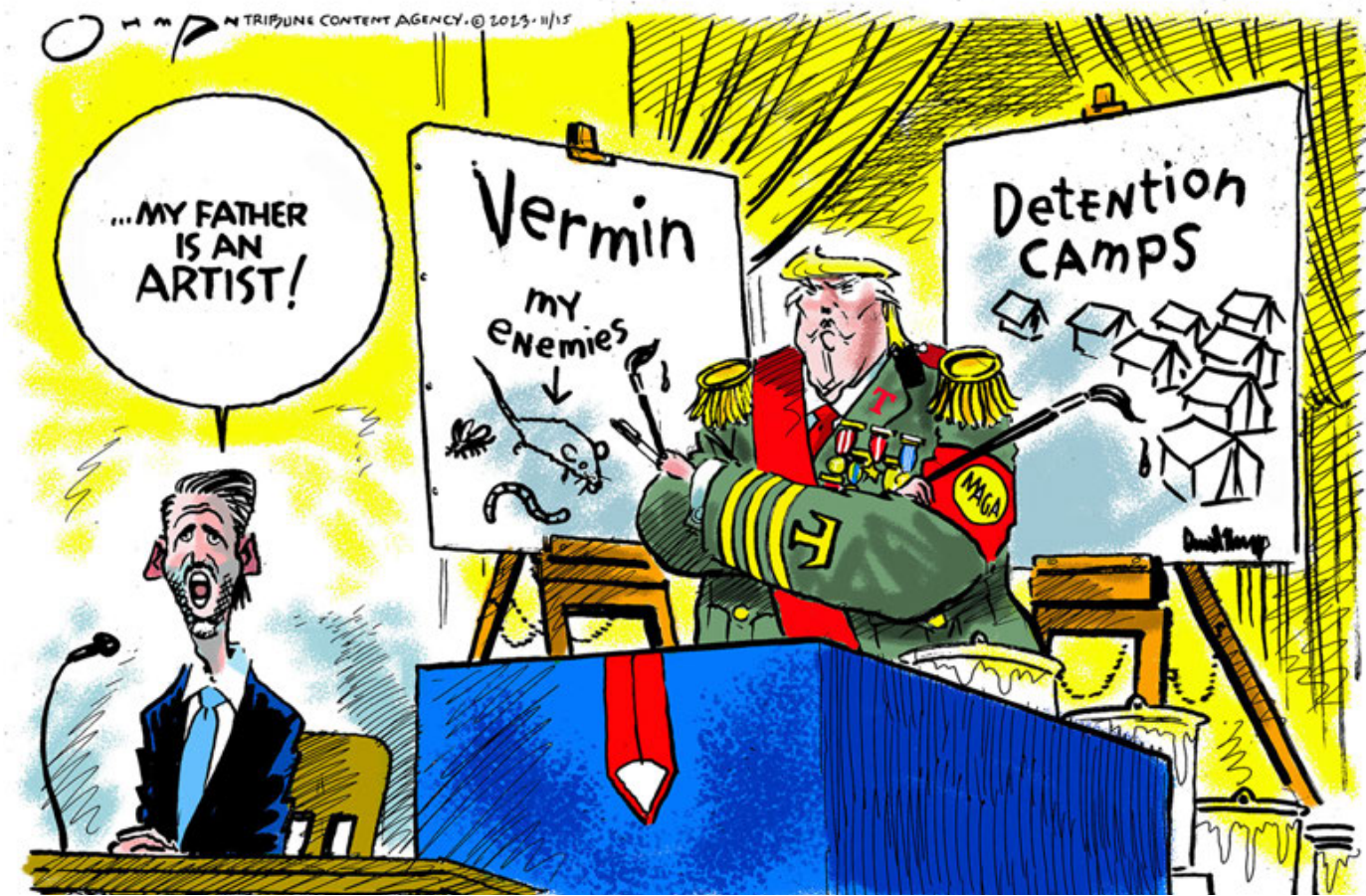
The bottom line is that we're making progress — not as quickly as any of us want —but I'm committed to getting it done. We have the attention of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Biden Administration. Now, we need all of Congress to prioritize public health over politics.

Peters serves California's 50th congressional district, which includes Coronado. He was first elected in 2012. He earned his undergraduate degree from Duke University (magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa) and worked as an economist for the United States Environmental Protection Agency before attending New York University School of Law. He and his wife of 33 years reside in La Jolla, where they raised their son and daughter.

LISA BENSON



Lisa Benson 11-17 COUNTERPOINT.COM



JACK OHMAN

Coronado Chamber putting final touches on Holiday Parade



By ZACH DINSMORE
The Coronado News

According to the Coronado Chamber of Commerce, attendees will experience a display of seasonal colors.

Organizers say the Coronado community along with families and friends are encouraged to join in and watch the parade make its way from 7th Street through Orange Avenue looping around at RH Dana & Adella.

"The community is invited to revel in the harmonic tunes of the Coronado Community Band. Their melodic performances will fill the air with holiday spirit, creating the perfect

The streets of Coronado will remain open so that residents and visitors can be fully immersed in the holiday spirit- Christmas shopping, checking out local shops and finding tasty holiday treats, chamber officials said.

CORONADO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESENTS THE 48TH ANNUAL

CORONADO HOLIDAY PARADE & TREE LIGHTING



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1ST AT 6PM



CORONADO

Coronado Middle School students showcase modern monsters

» Continued from Page 2

“Our monster is a GMO pumpkin. We talked about how the novel warned about tampering with nature. We made our GMO pumpkin a monster with all of the genetic modifications, and then it wages war against the human race,” said Carlos Goya Minvill, of his team’s monster.

Minville worked with Chloe Van den Akker, Addison Bayless, and Collin Nork.

Another monster (created by Carter Mondzelewski, Gabby Fichter, Adam Trent and Sadie Watwood) was an ‘Information Stealer’ who gets bigger as it consumes people’s private information from social media.

“The social media companies that grow their platforms with better algorithms built this monster,” explained Mondzelewski.

Fichter added: “It steals private information and exposes people.”

‘Great insight and ideas’

“I really enjoyed working with the students on this project,” said iLab teacher Laurie Fountain, who facilitated the creation of the monsters. “They had such great insight and ideas. It’s also great to see them using their presentation skills while explaining their creations to our iLab guests,” she added.

A common theme among all the student projects was that the novel warns future generations against recklessness and to be cautious of their technology because things can quickly get out of hand.

Loiselle explained: “We discussed that when the novel was written the Romantics were questioning science and industry versus nature. The students brought up great ideas about what our society is questioning today. These discussions went on for four to five weeks as we read the book...We talked



Coronado Middle School eighth graders Adam Trent, Sadie Watwood, Gabby Fichter and Carter Mondzelewski in the Innovation Lab with their Modern Monster “Info Stealer.” Photo courtesy of CUSD.

about how human struggles actually produce empathy and whether or not a perfect human would have empathy. We talked about social media bullying and platforms, overpopulation, and genetic modification of food and people. They were great discussions and all related back to the novel.”

iLab used to create projects

Each class at CMS has the opportunity to go to the iLab to work on curriculum related projects. As the iLab teacher, Fountain works in collabora-

tion with classroom teachers to provide the iLab materials and tools to create projects and experiments.

She shared that currently each English class is utilizing the iLab for a different purpose related to the “Frankenstein” novel project, including 2D visual scenes that incorporate light, movement, and sound.

Story courtesy of Coronado Unified School District Public Information Officer Maria Simon.

Coronado adds math classes, other programs to prepare grads

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Regarding continuation of the 4x4 bell schedule, now in its third year, Mellina said more kids are taking less “off roll” periods, which means a full schedule for students.

One slide presented to the board compared last year and this year’s Term 2, and it showed the number of students taking four classes has moved from 57% to 64%.

Meanwhile, sequenced courses in Mathematics, World Language, and Science show steady growth, added Mellina.

The school expects to host the second annual College and Career Day in January and other college-related programming throughout the Spring.

In other matters:

The board approved a new job description for Teacher on Special Assignment.

The board adopted Resolution 23-11-01 to receive state funding for preschool program operations at Silver Strand and Village Elementary schools with more than \$400,000 in anticipated revenues, according to district records.

The board approved a one-time retirement stipend with guidelines to encourage early notice



Coronado High School Principal Karin Mellina presents a report to the school board on Nov. 16. Staff photo by Julieta Soto.

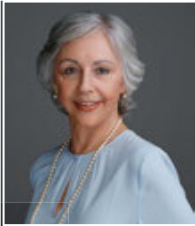
from certified and classified employees that may facilitate job opening postings.

The board took no action on an item discussed in the executive session relating to legal counsel.

The board extended its congratulations to CIF champions at the high school and Superintendent

Karl Mueller expressed holiday greetings as CUSD schools will begin Thanksgiving Recess for the week of November 20.

The next regular board meeting, an annual organizational meeting, is set for 4 p.m. on Dec. 14 at the District Office.



Enjoy Winter By The Sea!
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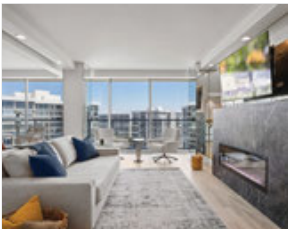
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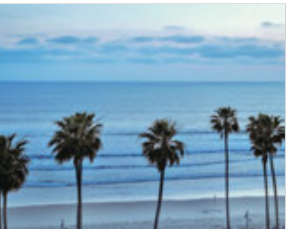
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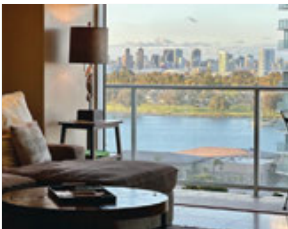
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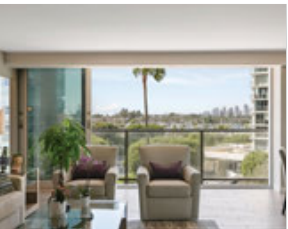
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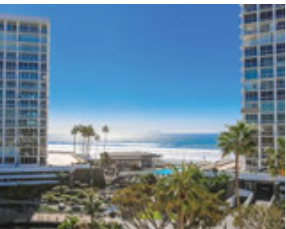
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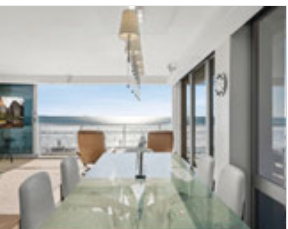
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1730 AVENIDA DEL MUNDO #208



1720 AVENIDA DEL MUNDO #203

SOLD IN 2023

CORONADO



Coronado Police Department officers take a photo with a young girl dressed as a police officer on Halloween. Staff photo by Julieta Soto.

Police Officer Brittany Palmore will step into her new role as Coronado’s main School Resource Officer

» Continued from Page 1

“The Coronado Police Department has always put an emphasis on our relationship with our schools, the staff, and students,” Police Chief Chuck Kaye told the Coronado News. “Our School Resource Officer program reflects the great working relationship we share with the schools and our focus on school safety.”

In July, Palmore’s role with the department took a shift as Del Bagno took her under her wing to begin learning and handling responsibilities for her new School Resource Officer role, which she will hold for the next two years.

Fostering relationships

Palmore will become the full time SRO in January, while the two work together this fall, Kaye said.

Del Bagno, who has spent six years as the SRO, will then return to patrol and pursue other opportunities in the department, said Palmore.

“Officer Grace Del Bagno has done a great job,” adds Kaye. “Officer Palmore will be well established when she becomes the primary School Resource Officer at the end of the year.”

Gaining recognition across the community, Palmore said she looks forward to continuing fostering relationships within the schools and making it known that she is available for any issues in the months ahead.

“I want my face to be out there,” said Palmore. “I’m assigned to the schools, so I want to be a fixture on the campuses, not just in times of emergencies. I want to be the kind of SRO that I didn’t really, maybe didn’t see when I was in school. ... you get more and more kids that say hi to you every week.”

Teach, mentor and enforce

Palmore and Del Bagno take care of any calls related to the school sites.

They also visit classrooms and teach a year-long course three days of the week and maintain a presence across the community by attending or participating in different events.

“It’s honestly been a great transition, Grace has been a great person to learn from...she’s been a wealth of knowledge for me coming into this new spot,” added Palmore.

In September, Palmore completed a week-long training course in Sacramento specifically for SROs where she got the opportunity to network with other SROs as well as sergeants and probation officers, she said.

“We had classes on juvenile justice, a drug course, and a course on mentoring which was really good information,” said Palmore. “In Coronado, we’re blessed to have relatively low crime rates in our schools, so the mentoring comes into play with the students.”

Crown City Safety Ambassadors

Del Bagno spearheaded Crown City Safety Ambassadors, a program tailored for students in Coronado to teach fourth and sixth graders about law enforcement, bullying, peer pressure, emotional support, and to spread awareness about the dangers of drug use and its consequences.

The program also encourages a community service project and wraps up with a graduation and



“We try to make our face visible, we want people to know who we are, we want people to recognize us.”

Police Officer Brittany Palmore

certificate, said Palmore.

In its second year, the two-semester class parallels the nationwide Gang Resistance Education And Training (G.R.E.A.T.) program, but Palmore added that it is specifically tailored for students in Coronado.

“We don’t need to teach them about gang resistance in Coronado, that’s not really specific to our area,” said Palmore. “Grace made this whole new program that was a little bit tailored more to our city and the things that we want to deal with the kids.”

Now the curriculum has reached more than 450 fourth and fifth graders across Coronado Middle School, Village Elementary School, Silver Strand Elementary School, Christ Church Day School, and Sacred Heart Parish School, according to a Coronado Times interview with Chief Kaye in March.

“It’s just good to get the education started early, so that’s why we do the fourth and the sixth grades,” said Palmore. “They’re very attentive to that stuff, they listen to what we’re saying. ... We’ve got their attention.”

Upholding Safety

Palmore said the first day of school in late August was a big day for them and the multiple other officers also assigned to school sites.

Palmore and Del Bagno spent their morning handing out stickers to the kids, helping with elementary school drop-off, and foot patrol around the schools, she added.

“We try to make our face visible, we want people

to know who we are, we want people to recognize us,” said Palmore.

While SROs also manage some student disciplinary cases or citations, Palmore said her overall presence is to provide safety.

Del Bagno and Palmore also can be found at school events like dances, sports games, and school board meetings.

“I’m not there to be this big enforcer,” said Palmore. “I’m there for their safety.”

Juvenile diversion program

This semester, the officers implemented the juvenile diversion program for middle and high school students to learn about traffic safety if they get their first citation.

“We use our discretion and grant them an opportunity to complete a diversion where they go to a Saturday school,” said Palmore. “In lieu of us sending the ticket to the courts, we use that as their diversion. ... They only get one opportunity. If they do it again, then we send it to the courts.”

She said a Saturday school assignment could be writing an essay on “what they did, whether it’s not wearing a helmet, what the repercussions of that could be, what they’re going to do to change.”

Palmore considers minors on e-bikes a continuous phenomenon around the city, but she said they are working to emphasize helmets, speed limits, and “trying to get kids to buy into the fact that they’re not invincible on these bikes.”

“It all boils back down to safety,” said Palmore. “We don’t want to see any terrible accidents in the city with ebikes. ...so we’re trying to do our best to educate the kids.”

Approaching ‘cop anniversary’

Palmore said February marks her “cop anniversary,” beginning her sixth year as a police officer, with most of that time serving in Coronado.

Palmore grew up in the San Marcos area and obtained her bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from Sacramento State.

Returning to San Diego following her college graduation in 2016, Palmore completed the six-month police academy in 2017 and worked as an Escondido officer for one year.

“I came to Coronado just kind of on a whim,” said Palmore. “And I ended up really liking the department here.”

Palmore returns to the department during the summer months as a patrol officer.

“She is so friendly with everybody and personable to senior volunteers,” said Lynda Balkam, a Coronado Police Department Volunteer for eight years who attended Palmore’s swearing-in ceremony.

Palmore also serves as her department’s LG-BTQ+ Liaison with other agencies throughout San Diego County, acting as a resource to bridge interactions within the department and the LGBTQ+ community.

“Parents appreciate just having a law enforcement presence at the schools,” said Palmore. “We’re there too for the kids if they just want to chat.”

Palmore encourages the community to not be shy if they see her around town.

“I like when people come to me with things,” said Palmore. “Don’t hesitate to reach out and ask questions. We’re here for the community and that’s how it’s always been.”

CORONADO

“Scrap,” “Black Barbie” and “Big Dump” among CIFF winners

The Coronado Island Film Festival, which wrapped up its eighth season on Veterans Day weekend, has announced its winners.

Here they are:
Winners of the filmmaker awards include Vivian Kerr’s “Scrap” taking the Jury Prize for Best Narrative Film, and Lagueria Davis’ “Black Barbie” winning the Jury Prize for Best Documentary.

The film festival’s coveted Emerald Award went to Brenden Hall’s “Out There: The National Parks Story.”

Jury Prize winners in the short film categories were led by Aaron Schoonover’s “The Rabbit Hole” for Best Narrative Short Film.

The Jury Prize for Best Short Documentary went to Ben Proudfoot and Kris Bowers’ “The Last Repair Shop.”

The Audience Awards include “Taste of Things” for Best Narrative Feature, “Shayda” for Best International Feature, and “Humanity Stoked” for Best Documentary Feature.

Best Narrative Short went to “Subtext” and Best Documentary Short went to “Humantee.”

In the local category, Best Local Narrative Feature went to “The Secret Art of Human Flight” and Best Local Documentary Feature went to “The Big Dump.”

For complete coverage of the Coronado Island Film Festival go to <https://thecoronadonews.com/ciff/>

2023 CORONADO ISLAND FILM FESTIVAL FILMMAKER AWARD WINNERS

FEATURE FILM JURY AWARDS

BEST NARRATIVE
“Scrap”
Director: Vivian Kerr
BEST DOCUMENTARY
“Black Barbie”
Director: Lagueria Davis
SPECIAL ADVOCACY AWARD
“Deep Rising”
Director: Matthieu Rytz
SPECIAL INTERNATIONAL JURY PRIZE
“A Kind Of Kidnapping”
Director: D.G. Clark

SHORT FILM JURY AWARDS

BEST NARRATIVE SHORT FILM
“The Rabbit Hole”
Director: Aaron Schoonover
BEST SHORT DOCUMENTARY
“The Last Repair Shop”
Directors: Ben Proudfoot and Kris Bowers
BEST INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM
“Broken Gargoyles”
Director: Freddy Carter
SPECIAL ADVOCACY AWARD – INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM
“You’re Not Crazy (No Estas Loca)”
Director: Maria Bestar

JURY CASH AWARDS

DR. GEORGE M. SANGER STUDENT FILM AWARDS
STUDENT GRAND PRIZE AWARD
“The Midwife”
Director: Anne-Sophie Bailly
BEST STUDENT FILM (Advanced)
“City of Lost Souls”
Director: Nikos Mpouyioukas

BEST STUDENT FILM (High School)
“Memories in Blue”
Director: Yezy Suh

DALE ST. DENNIS FEMALE FILMMAKER AWARDS
Fearless Female Filmmaker Award
“Breaking Silence”
Directors: Amy Bench + Annie Silverstein
“Black Girls Play”
Directors: Joe Brewster

Mary Pickford Award
“Confessions”
Director: Stephanie Kaznocha
Francis Marion Award
“Heritage Day”
Directors: Liz Blair And Lara Everly
“The Last Butterflies”
Director: Whitney Wegman-Wood
EMERALD AWARD
“Out There: The National Parks Story”
Director: Brenden Hall

AUDIENCE AWARD WINNERS

FEATURES (Narrative + Documentaries)
Best Narrative Feature
“Taste of Things”
Best International Feature
“Shayda”
Best Indie Narrative
“Heightened”
Best Documentary Feature
“Humanity Stoked”
Best Advocacy Documentary
“Common Ground”
Best Military Feature
“The Gift”

SHORTS
Best Narrative Short
“Subtext”
Best Documentary Short
“Humantee”
Best Advocacy Documentary Short
“Bumps in the Road”
Best Student Short
“Azizam”
Best International Short
“You’re Not Crazy”
Culinary Spotlight
“When You Left Me on the Boulevard”
Cultural Spotlight
“David Se Va”
ANIMATION
Best Animated Feature
“Robot Dreams”
Best Animated Short
“Boat People”

LOCAL CATEGORY
Best Local Narrative Feature
“The Secret Art of Human Flight”
Best Local Documentary Feature
“The Big Dump”
Best Local Narrative Short
“Amazing Grace”

Best Local Documentary Short
“Little Tommy”
Best Local Student Narrative
“The Baseball Cap”
Best Local Student Documentary
“Unbreakable”

THE 2023 CORONADO ISLAND FILM FESTIVAL JURY

Jury President
Leonard Maltin (Maltin on Movies)

Narrative Film Jury
Lisa Bruce (Welcome to the Blumhouse, American Refugee); Lori Huck (Senior Editorial Analyst, Metadate & Content Platforms, The Walt Disney Co.); Rob Ramsey (Life, Intolerable Cruelty)
Documentary Jury
Claudia Puig (LAFA, NPR’s Film Week); Ann Walker (Mendocino Film Festival); Kira Wojak (Mendocino Film Festival)

Shorts
Coco Francini (Emmy-nominated Producer and partner at Dirty Films alongside Cate Blanchett and Andrew Upton; Shayda, Fingernails, The New Boy, Ms. America); Jon Anderson Retired Marketing Executive, SVP Global Marketing for AMBLIN Partners and worked for Sony, Paramount, Disney, Dreamworks Animation)
International Films
Ricardo Del Rio (Co-Founder, National Film Commission – Mexico, Puerto Vallarta Film Commission); Sue-Allen Villalva (Ghosts of the Pacific, Hands of Stone)

Student Films
Mitchell Block (Sara); Vanessa Block (Pig, The Testimony); Kim Magnusson (Helium, Election Night)

Jury Cash Awards
Stephanie Allen, Kristie Kershaw (Founder, Head of Creative Marketing, Fanthropology), Nancy McRae, Peter McRae

Female Filmmaker Awards
Stephanie Allen (Actor, Screenwriter, and Co-EVP Marketing at Searchlight - Slumdog Million, Little Miss Sunshine, and Sideways); Kristie Kershaw (Founder, Head of Creative Marketing, Fanthropology)

Emerald Award
Nancy McRae
Peter McRae

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(ˈbrʌntʃ)

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To check out our menu or make a reservation for our brunch service, we invite you to visit our website at Chezloma.net or use OpenTable. Thank you for considering Chez Loma for your brunch plans. We look forward to welcoming you and your guests to our establishment and providing you with a truly outstanding brunch experience.

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The Coronado Rotary meets at the beach once a month to pick up trash. *Staff photo by Sofie Fransen.*

» Continued from Page One

30 years as Naval Aviator

He said he closed out his career as commander of Lemoore Naval Air Station from 2002 to 2005. For his second career, Rutherford developed

Member of Rotary for 17 years

With 250 members, Rutherford said there are many ways the members serve the club and community, and there are always opportunities for more engagement.

Encouraging involvement

Kitt Williams, an active Coronado Rotary mem-

He also sits on several other non-profit boards including Fisher House Southern California, the Tailhook Educational Foundation and the Davis Boyd Memorial Foundation, which raises funds for adaptive ski programs.

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NAVY

EODMU-11 changes command at Naval Outlying Field Imperial Beach

Defense Visual Information Distribution Service

Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit Eleven (EODMU-11) welcomed its newest leader during a change-of-command ceremony at Naval Outlying Field Imperial Beach in early November.

Cmdr. Ryan McGinn relieved Cmdr. Cmdr. Jay Higgins on Nov. 3 in front of friends, family members, and EODMU-11 personnel as part of an outdoor ceremony at the unit's headquarters.

Higgins took command of EODMU-11 in January 2022. As a component of EOD Group One, EODMU-11 provides EOD platoons to eliminate hazards from aviation, surface, ground, underwater and improvised ordnance.

While serving as its commanding officer, he led a team of 216 personnel on a deployment to U.S. 5th Fleet where they conducted a wide range of operations in support of Navy and special operations forces.

He also oversaw the development of training innovations that focus on preparing the unit's Sailors for future combat operations.

"This has been the most rewarding tour of my career," said Higgins. "I am honored and privileged to have been the leader of such amazing servants to our great nation. I will miss you."

Defining leadership trait was passion

Keynote speaker, Commodore, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group One (EODGRU-1), Capt. Wade Hilderbrand said that Higgins most defining leadership trait was his passion.

"Jay is fiercely passionate and dedicated to the EOD community, the mission and his teammates. And I've never seen him more passionate and proud of a unit than he has been at Mobile Unit Eleven," said Hilderbrand. "Jay, thanks for your dedicated service to Mobile Unit eleven. I wish you the best in your future."

In his first address as EODMU-11's commanding officer, McGinn thanked the crew and officers for their commitment.

"Thank you for having the courage and determination to earn your place here today," said McGinn. "Precious few Americans are willing to lay in on the line to sacrifice for our constitution, to which each of us swore a solemn oath."



The outgoing commander of Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit (EODMU) 11, Cmdr. Jay Higgins, salutes as he is piped ashore onboard Naval Outlying Field Imperial Beach on Nov. 3. Photo By Petty Officer 3rd Class Kevin Tang



Cmdr. Ryan D. McGinn, the oncoming Commanding Officer of Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit (EODMU) 11, receives his command pin from his wife during the change of command ceremony on Nov. 3 at Naval Outlying Field Imperial Beach. U.S. Navy Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Kevin Tang.



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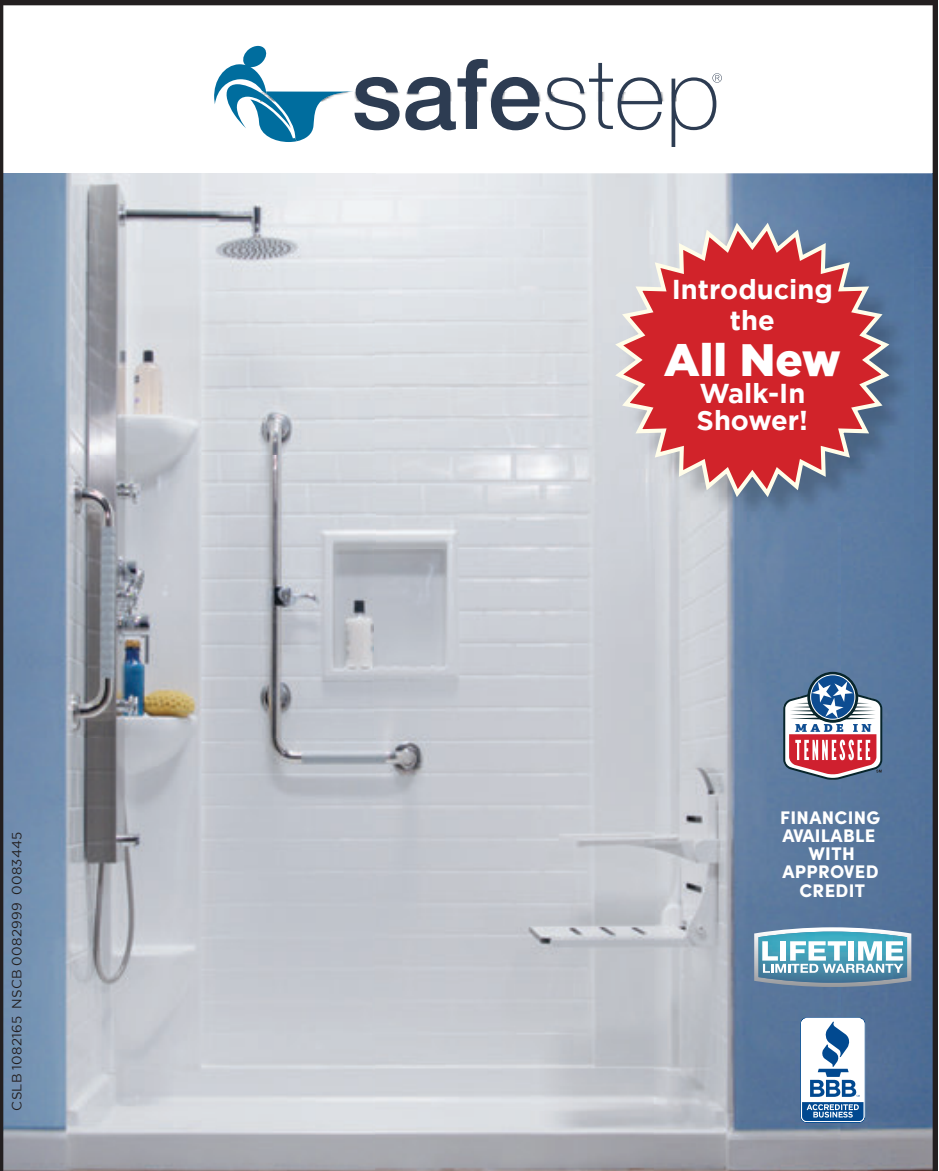
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NAVY

Naval Air Station North Island hosts exhibit on child abuse awareness

Defense Visual Information Distribution Service

The Naval Air Station North Island (NASNI) liberty center hosted the Lisa Project this fall to raise awareness about child abuse.

The Lisa Project, which started in 2010, is a mobile interactive exhibit which has visitors tour through the simulated living spaces of child abuse survivors while listening to their stories. The exhibit was from Oct. 24 to 26.

The eponymous Lisa, a real-life abuse survivor, narrates much of the exhibit.

The Lisa Projects visit to NASNI marked the first time they have ever visited a military installation. The Lisa Project has five locations spread out throughout California and Iowa, and has visited over 15 cities in California with their mobile exhibits.

“One of the things we realized with child abuse prevention is the importance of bringing awareness directly to people,” said Beth Wilshire, a project coordinator with the Lisa Project. “The exhibit is designed to be mobile, so we’ve taken it to high schools to get the students to participate so they can bring what they learn back to their communities.”

Millions of CPS investigations nationally

Organizers of the event said child abuse is a serious issue in every community with over 650,000 children being abused and over 3 million CPS investigations taking place annually.

The stories showcased within the interactive exhibit illustrated the different types of abuse children face as well as the different circumstances these children grow up in. And, they noted that child abuse occurs across all demographics and income levels.

“It happens to every walk of life,” Wilshire said. “It doesn’t matter if you’re affluent or poor, it can and has happened to everybody.”

Wilshire added that the exhibit was well received.



An aerial photo of Naval Air Station North Island on Jan. 7, 2021. The photo was taken from a U.S. Navy MH-60S Seahawk assigned to the Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 14 (HSC-14).
U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Austin Haist.

“The CO and the XO came through the first day and were really impacted by the messaging displayed in the exhibit,” she said.

Wide range of reactions

Sailors and other base personnel visited the exhibit and had a wide variety of reactions, ranging from motivating to sobering.

Many of the base first responders attended to get a better idea of what they may potentially face on the job.

“It helps our guys understand situations of domestic violence and child abuse better,” said Robert Kenny, an on base police officer at NASNI. “The heart wrenching stories here are true, and gives us a better idea of what to expect if we ever had to answer one.”

Anybody can help prevent child abuse, and the best way to prevent it is to report it wherever it is seen, Wilshire said.

“These kids are the future,” Wilshire said. “It’s much better to raise happy children than repair damaged adults.”

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SPORTS

Coronado boys water polo season ends in first round of regionals

By **SOFIE FRANSEN**
The Coronado News

Fresh off of a win to claim the Division 1 CIF San Diego championship, Coronado advanced to the first round of the regional playoffs on Nov. 14. However, the next round of the playoffs was short lived as the Islanders lost to Santana, 14-8.

The loss followed an end-of-the-season high for the Islanders after knocking out the No. 1 and 2 seeds in the semifinal and championship games in the CIF San Diego postseason.

“The kids played the best games during CIF, so it was awesome to see them peak at the end when it matters most, and they won the Division 1 championship,” Head Coach Jesse Smith said.

Santana took the win but Coronado put up a strong fight.

Coronado’s scoring came from Luke Machin (2 points), David Abdul Samad (2), Kellen O’Callahan (3) and Ryan Mondzelewski (1).

“We came mentally focused and we just weren’t able to do it tonight, but I’m really proud of the guys and I think that they finished the season really well,” Smith said after the loss to Santana.

Losing seven seniors

The Islanders are losing seven seniors, including two captains, goalie Spencer Williams and lead scorer Machin.

Machin scored two key goals at the end of the second and third quarters.

The first, a result of his defense. Machin took possession of the ball from Santana’s offense before shooting it into the cage with 30 seconds left in the first half. The second came 3 minutes before the end of the third quarter.

The Islanders went into the second half trailing 7-4.

O’Callahan with back to back goals

O’Callahan, one of the seven seniors, led Coronado’s offense in the second half, and scored two of his three goals back-to-back in the fourth quarter.



Senior Jake Walker (12) prepares for a shot at the goal against Santana on Nov. 14. Staff photo by Sofie Fransen.

His two goals—within 40 seconds of each other—with 4 minutes left in the game, were the final points for the Islanders.

O’Callahan’s success in the second half followed his two exclusions in the first and second quarters. He said he put his heart into closing the scoring gap.

“I wanted to just turn the burners on; I really wanted to win,” O’Callahan said. “It was a big goal gap, and our coach was like, ‘if you guys want to win this, you’ve got to score every possession.’”

After the game, Smith commended all of the seniors for their tremendous work ethic and respect for each other throughout the season.

‘We’re looking to win it all’

Junior and captain Mondzelewski will be returning next season with a young team.

He already has his eyes set on propelling even further than the success of the 2023 season.

“Obviously it’s going to be tough with the seniors leaving, but I think next year we’re going to have a really good team,” Mondzelewski said. “I think we can go back-to-back D1. If not, I think we’re going to be right with Santana in Open Division next year. I mean, we’re looking to win it all.”

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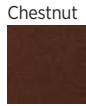
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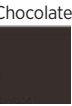
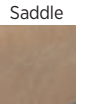
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Coronado girls cross country joyfully awaits CIF state meet

The trip to the central valley will mark the first state meet for the six Islanders participating in the



“Cross country is a very integrative sport, where one really learns to value their teammates because one’s energy pulls the others,” said Amkie. “My greatest piece of advice to the following generation of runners is to endure through all those practices, and meets because it all counts, and with each day you decide to show up you get closer to that feeling of accomplishment, which for me is

"I am excited to run my heart out and see how I place among other girls my age," DeVore said. "I like to run for fun, so earning a team spot at the state competition is a huge opportunity. I can't believe I qualified for the state competition as a freshman. It definitely puts some pressure on me for the next three years. I am looking forward to making memories and running with my team."

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LIFE ON THE ISLAND

Californians bet farming agave for spirits holds key to weathering drought and groundwater limits

The Associated Press

MURRIETA — Leo Ortega started growing spiky blue agave plants on the arid hillsides around his Southern California home because his wife liked the way they looked.

A decade later, his property is now dotted with thousands of what he and others hope is a promising new crop for the state following years of punishing drought and a push to scale back on groundwater pumping.

The 49-year-old mechanical engineer is one of a growing number of Californians planting agave to be harvested and used to make spirits, much like the way tequila and mezcal are made in Mexico.

Finding hardy crops with little water

The trend is fueled by the need to find hardy crops that don't need much water and a booming appetite for premium alcoholic beverages since the COVID-19 pandemic.

It's attracted entrepreneurs such as Ortega, as well as some California farmers. They're seeking to shift to more water-efficient crops and irrigation methods to avoid following their fields with looming limits on how much groundwater they can pump, as well as more extreme weather patterns anticipated with climate change. Agave, unlike most other crops, thrives on almost no water.

“When we were watering them, they didn’t really grow much, and the ones that weren’t watered were actually growing better,” Ortega said, walking past rows of the succulents.

Selling for \$160 a bottle

He is now investing in a distillery after his initial batches of spirits, made from *Agave americana*, sold for \$160 a bottle.

Consumers started spending more on high-quality spirits during the pandemic shutdowns, which spurred a rise in premium beverage products, said Erlinda A. Doherty, an agave spirits expert and consultant.

Tequila and mezcal were the second-fastest growing spirit category in the country in 2022,



Leo Ortega talks about the Agave Americana plants that surround his home in Murrieta, Calif., Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2023. Ortega started growing blue agave plants on the hillsides of his Southern California home because his wife liked the way they looked. (AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes)

according to the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States.

Proprietary spirits

Both are proprietary spirits under Mexican laws, which are recognized in U.S. trade agreements.

Much like how champagne hails from a region of France, anything called tequila must contain at least 51% blue Weber agave and be distilled in Jalisco or a handful of other Mexican states. Mezcal can be made from a variety of agave types but must be produced in certain Mexican states.

Agave growers and distillers in California — as well as some in Texas and Arizona — are betting there is an appetite for more agave-based spirits even if they are produced outside of Mexico and not called tequila or mezcal.

“We seem to have this insatiable thirst for agave, so why not have a domestically grown supply?” Doherty said. “I am kind of bullish on it.”

Protecting nascent industry

Much like Mexico has, California is taking steps to protect its nascent industry. The state legislature enacted a law last year requiring “California agave spirits” be made solely with plants grown in the state and without additives.

A dozen growers and a handful of distillers also formed the California Agave Council last year, and the group has tripled in size since then, said Craig Reynolds, the founding director who planted agave in the Northern California community of Davis. He said those making agave spirits have a deep appreciation for Mexican tequila.

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1			30×	1—	
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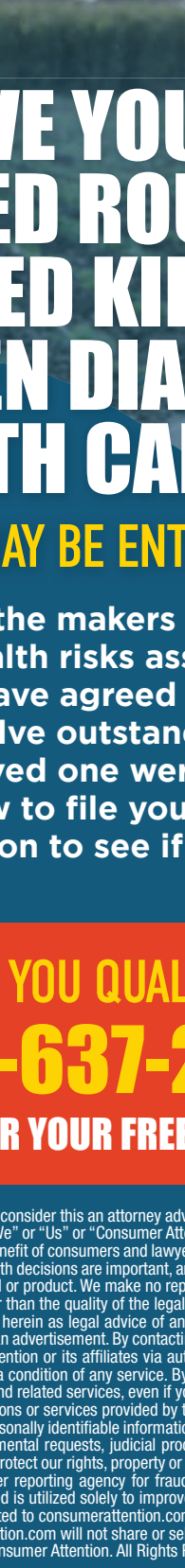
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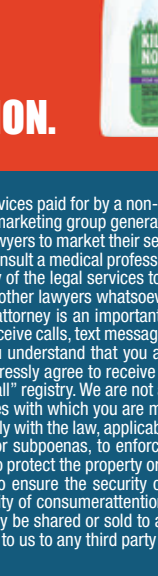
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