

THE CORONADO NEWS

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Exclusive: Mayor Bailey getting out of politics

By **MADELINE YANG**
The Coronado News

Mayor Richard Bailey has officially pulled the plug to run for San Diego County supervisor.

And in terms of being involved in elected office, Bailey says “never say never,” but politics in Coronado is not on his radar past 2024, when his term ends.

Instead the one-time rising star in the Republican Party told The Coronado News in an exclusive interview that he plans to “travel and go climb mountains.”

“I carefully considered where I could make the biggest impact and decided that finishing out my last year and a half as mayor undistracted by the campaign was the best course of action,” Bailey told The Coronado News.

He also is working on a jetski and boat rental business in Coronado and North Lake Tahoe, a small software startup and is an investor in a new game called Board Ball; similar to Spike Ball but played with a volleyball.

Currently, Democrat Terra Lawson-Remer, who has been a county supervisor since 2020, represents San Diego County’s third district. She had ousted Republican incumbent Kristin Gaspar to give Democrats a majority on the five-member board.

Bailey had filed papers this summer to explore the possibility of running for the seat, and he made national headlines in March after appearing on FOX News and KUSI to discuss finding answers to solve homelessness.

» Continued on Page 7

OPEN FOR ALL



Frank Buncom IV, a former star Stanford football player, is the S&S Friendly Ranch President & Chief Friendly Office. Here, he’s carrying one of the goats at the ranch. Staff photo by Julieta Soto.

The S&S family farm’s legacy continues

By **JULIETA SOTO**
The Coronado News

A multi-generational Black owned and operated family ranch nestled between Imperial Beach and San Ysidro is working to keep the legacy alive for future generations.

The core team at S&S Friendly Ranch, including a former star football player at Stanford University, works long hours to maintain a homestead and vacation spot named after founders Sim Wallace and Sarah Buncom.

The ranch hands say despite their hard work, the ongoing Tijuana sewage crisis and the foul stench from the pollution has put challenges on their business.

They say they look forward to getting a resolution soon from Congress to fix a problem that has existed nearly a century but seems to have gotten worse this year as more money is needed to repair the nearby aging international wastewater treatment plant.

“It’s going to be increasingly difficult to remediate the situation without some form of human intervention,” said Frank Buncom IV, a former Stanford cornerback who has a background in human biology and laboratory research.

Along with Buncom IV, the current leadership of the ranch includes family members and cousins Derek Wallace, Frank Buncom III, and Diamond Brandon—children and grandchildren of the S&S founders.

“Overall, we want this to be a safe space for the entire community,” said Brandon. “This has been a place where a Black family was able to honestly achieve some level of the American dream...be landowners, to be stewards, to have their own businesses and have the space to do so.”

Their grandparents, siblings Sim Wallace and Sarah Buncom, established what locals and visitors have come to know as a welcoming safe space for moments of reconnection with nature.

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Local women form group to end sewage on beaches

Community activist Marelly Ramírez on her role with Stop the Sewage.org — and their work to help fix the sewage crisis.

By **JULIETA SOTO**
The Coronado News

Marelly Ramírez, a full-time community activist, has co-founded an environmental group with four other women who are demanding that elected officials find solutions to clean local coastlines contaminated by Tijuana sewage outflows.

Stop the Sewage.org already has organized two rallies at the beginning and conclusion of the summer to protest the sewage crisis that has severely limited the public’s access to the ocean for months.

“All of the women involved are passionate about helping the community,” Ramírez told The Coronado News. “That passion put together with the understanding of a problem such as the sewage crisis was a perfect formula for us to say it’s time to refocus our energy. ... This one made the top of the list because it’s affecting the young, our elders, newborns, residents, tourists, anyone who gets into those waters.”

Ramírez, Coronado Democratic Club President and InclusionNado steering committee member, said the work done by Imperial Beach Mayor Paloma Aguirre and former Mayor Serge Dedina were instrumental when the group began brainstorming during the first part of this year on what they could do.

The other co-founders of the group are Stephanie Kaupp, Jean Seager, Susan Marrinan and Laura Wilkinson Sinton. Stop the Sewage.org has partnered with community members and 40 different groups, including environmental groups Emerald Keepers and Surfrider Foundation.

“What we found out is that everyone cares about this,” said Ramírez. “I feel so optimistic that we’re going to create a stronger people power because we are uniting the communities—IB and across the border.”

Ramírez said many elected officials are doing their part to solve a crisis that has gone on for nearly 100 years.

“But when the community becomes aware of a particular issue, there’s an awakening that all of a sudden you can’t ignore.”

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CORONADO

this week

6 • friday

Listen to the beauty of the cello at 1 p.m. as Peter Ko takes the stage at the Coronado Library. Hear Bach's Suite No.1, music from the Renaissance and more. Ko is a cellist based in San Diego. As a performer, his training and projects have taken him across the USA, Mexico, Canada, and Europe.

10 • tuesday

Kitty Morse will discuss her new book "Bitter Sweet: A Wartime Journal and Heirloom Recipes from Occupied France" at 11 a.m. at Coronado Public Library. Morse felt compelled to write the book after discovering original documents her mother left her in a little black suitcase after her mother's death in 2017.

12 • thursday

George Eisen will discuss his most recent book, "A Summer of Mass Murder: 1941 Rehearsal for the Hungarian Holocaust" at 7 p.m. at Coronado Public Library. Most accounts of the Holocaust focus on camps like Auschwitz. This book provides a hitherto untold chapter of the Holocaust by exploring a prequel to the gas chambers: the face-to-face mass murder of Jews in Galicia by bullets. The summer of 1941 ushered in a chain of events that had no precedent in the rapidly unfolding history of World War II and the Holocaust. In six weeks, more than 2,000 Hungarian Jews were forcefully deported to Galicia and executed.

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

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Coronado senior Gabriel Langevin named National Merit Semifinalist

Coronado High School senior Gabriel Langevin has been named a 2024 Semifinalist in the National Merit Scholarship Program conducted by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

Langevin is a stand-out at CHS, where he currently serves as the Academic League President, is an active member in National Honor Society, and a member of the Islander Beach Volleyball team.

He also participates in the Red Bucket Brigade to raise funds for Coronado Promenade Concerts, and works at Coronado Public Library, where he has volunteered since middle school, according to CUSD.

Over 1.3 million high school juniors across the country entered the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2022 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Fewer than 1% (16,000) were named Semifinalist.

Langevin is now eligible to advance to the Finalist level, with an opportunity to compete for National Merit scholarships worth nearly \$28 million.

Finalists will be announced in February.

Three other CHS students received a Letter of Commendation: Catherine Gregory, Elek Rothrock and Sierra Knight.



Gabriel Langevin has been named a National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist. Photo courtesy of CUSD.

About 34,000 of students in the nation were recognized for their exceptional academic promise with a Letter of Commendation.

Story courtesy of Coronado Unified School District.

Pet of the Week: Casey, still a pup, needs a home

We want to introduce you to Casey.

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Apply at PAWS to adopt Casey or other animals in need of a home. Adoptions are by appointment only. If you are interested in adopting, please visit www.pawsofcoronado.org or scan the QR code above and fill out an adoption application. Fostering, volunteering, or donating are other ways you can help our animals.



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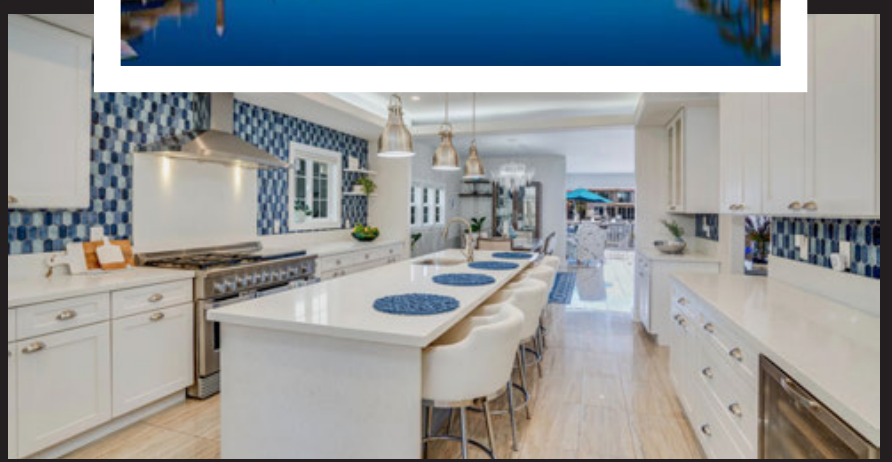
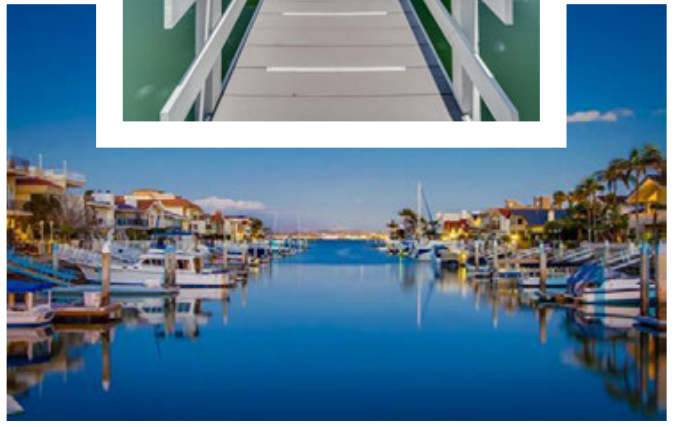
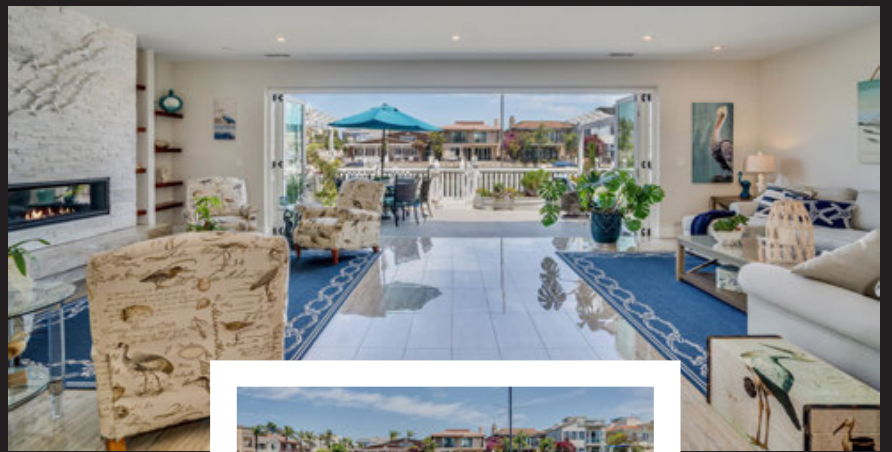
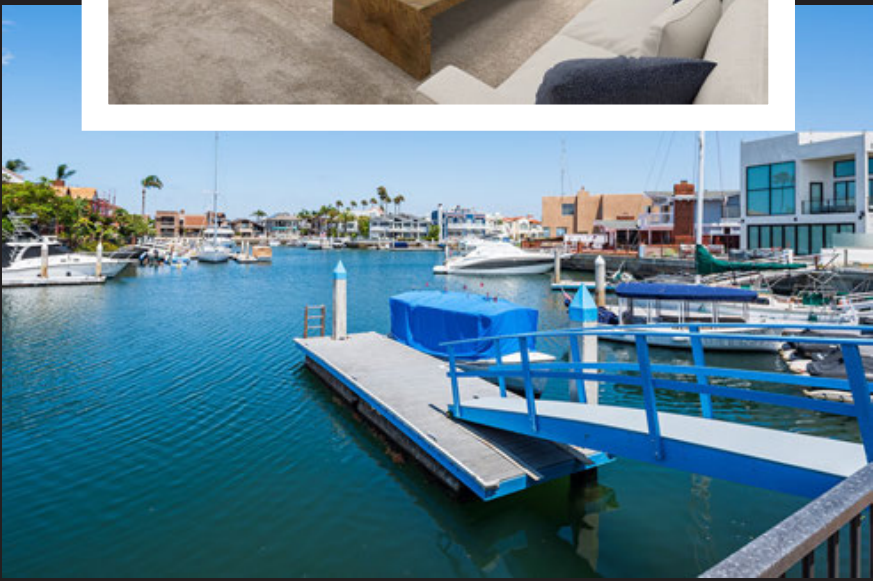
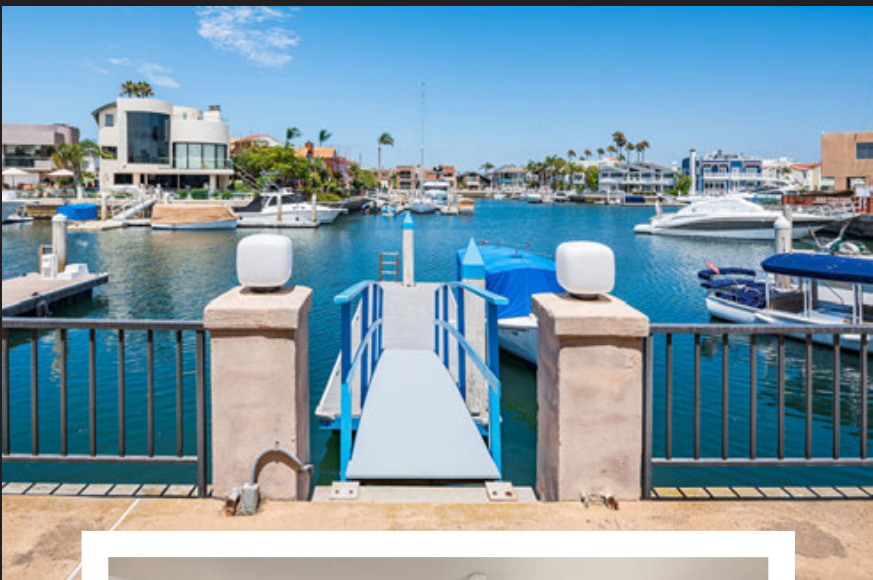
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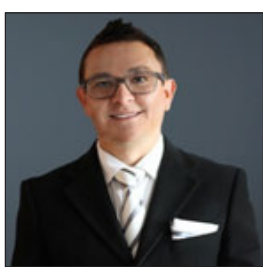
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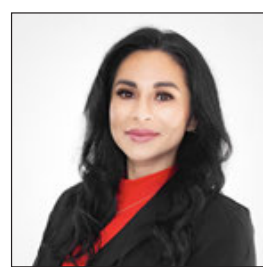
DIEGO OCAMPO
Realtor
DRE# 02015515
m 858.200.5780
Diego.ocampo@compass.com



MARY H. BOWLBY, CCIM
Realtor
DRE# 01994278
m 727.692.6516
Mary.bowlby@compass.com



ZACHARY J THORNTON
Realtor
DRE# 01911180
m 619.209.0169
Zacharyj.thornton@outlook.com



LEISSA MARTIN
Realtor
DRE# 02069541
m 619.609.9408
Leissa.martin@compass.com



STEVE CLINTON, SRES
Realtor
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m 619.279.1818
ScClinton95@gmail.com



KATHY POUNDS
Broker Associate
DRE# 01044960
m 619.997.3171
Kathypoundsteam@gmail.com



VICTORIA BIAGIOTTI-WISE
Realtor
DRE# 01464951
m 619.519.0352
Victoriawise@compass.com



KELLY SOUZA
Realtor
DRE# 02202342
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OPINION

OP-ED: CAROLYN ROGERSON

Dear StopTheSewage.org, we actually agree on the problem

Longtime Coronado resident Carolyn Rogerson rebuts critics, saying the two sides actually agree who's most at fault.

The response to my Op-Ed questioning "Where are the Democrats in the ongoing Tijuana River sewage crisis?" neglected to point out that in the body of the piece, I named those Democrats who have been in various positions of city, state and federal government leadership for at least 10 years.

Perhaps it would have been better had I titled my piece "Where are the Democrats in California Leadership on the Sewage Crisis."

If you read the entire editorial, you will see I particularly questioned the absence of Gov. Gavin Newsom, a Democrat, to helping alleviate this crisis.

You may have noted I clearly stated, "A bipartisan delegation led by Mayor Richard Bailey and then Councilman Whitney Benzian traveled to Washington, D.C. several times in 2019 to lobby Congress..."

Bipartisan – do look up the definition.

SEALs, Border Patrol suffering from crisis

The residents, Navy Seals, U.S. Border Patrol and visitors who have suffered for decades with the Tijuana River Valley sewage pollution include every age, color, non-political, political, variation of people.

Similar to folks to the non-partisan, all ages group who joined the Sept. 1 rally on the beach, I applaud the high school groups that have started "Stop the Sewage" clubs.

This crisis impacts not only the residents who live closest to the Pacific Ocean, but the many visitors traveling from far inland who reserve space months ahead at the Silver Strand State Beach Campground. Some plan six months in advance to reserve a spot.

Sewage crisis affects all walks of life

This sewage crisis is hardly effluence meets affluence.



Imperial Beach high school teacher and surfer Josh Hill stands along the city's shores in January. Hill, an avid surfer, says he's gotten sick at least 30 times from being in the Pacific Ocean, and he was once hospitalized with MRSA. Staff photo by Madeline Yang.

The residents of Silver Strand military housing can't enjoy the Pacific Ocean and beach right across from their homes.

Those who wrote questioning if I am informed are new to the fight.

A bit of research will provide you with record of my concern and stated opinion on the Tijuana River Valley pollution crisis since 2017.

I attended Surfrider meetings in Imperial Beach and reported on the many Tijuana River Valley pollution meetings in Imperial Beach and Coronado with all state and federal government agencies during 2018 and 2019.

Why isn't Gov. Newsom doing more?

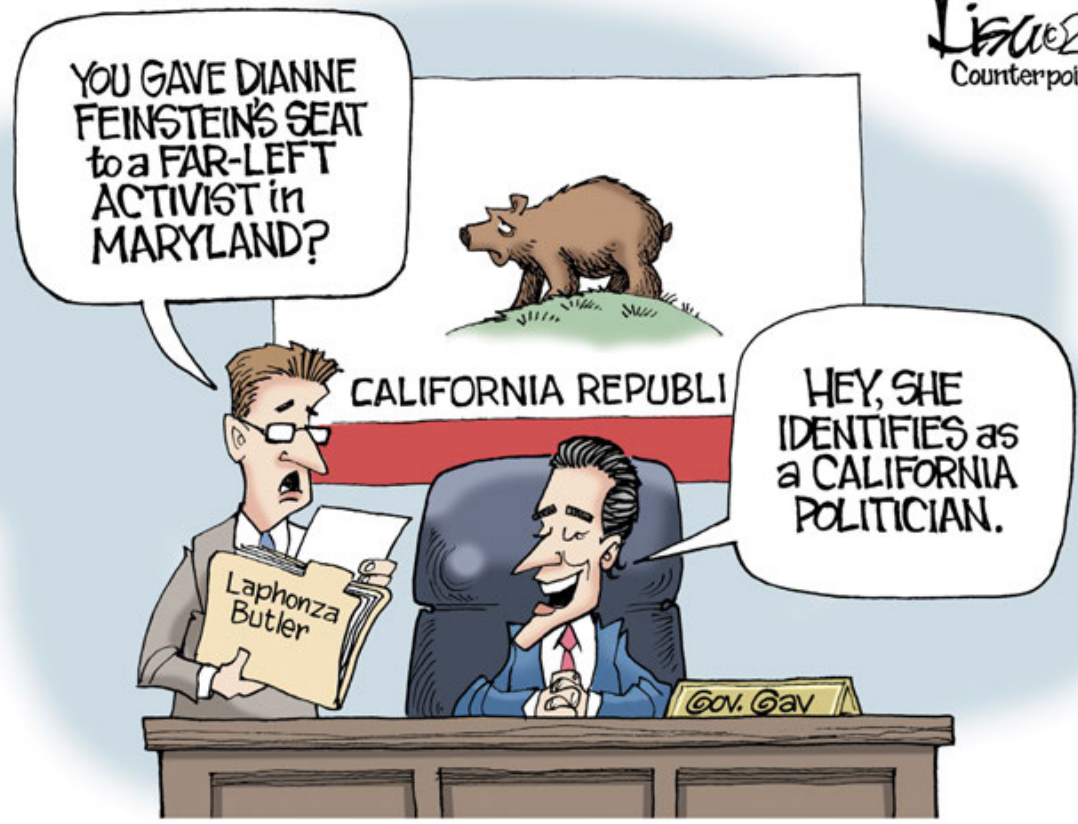
There are those who choose to paint me as a villain for questioning why those elected Democrats in California have not done more to fund clean-up of the Tijuana River Valley pollution crisis.

If you voted for them, I understand why. Look yourself in the mirror and ask why the Democrats you voted for are not using your tax dollars to address your concerns.

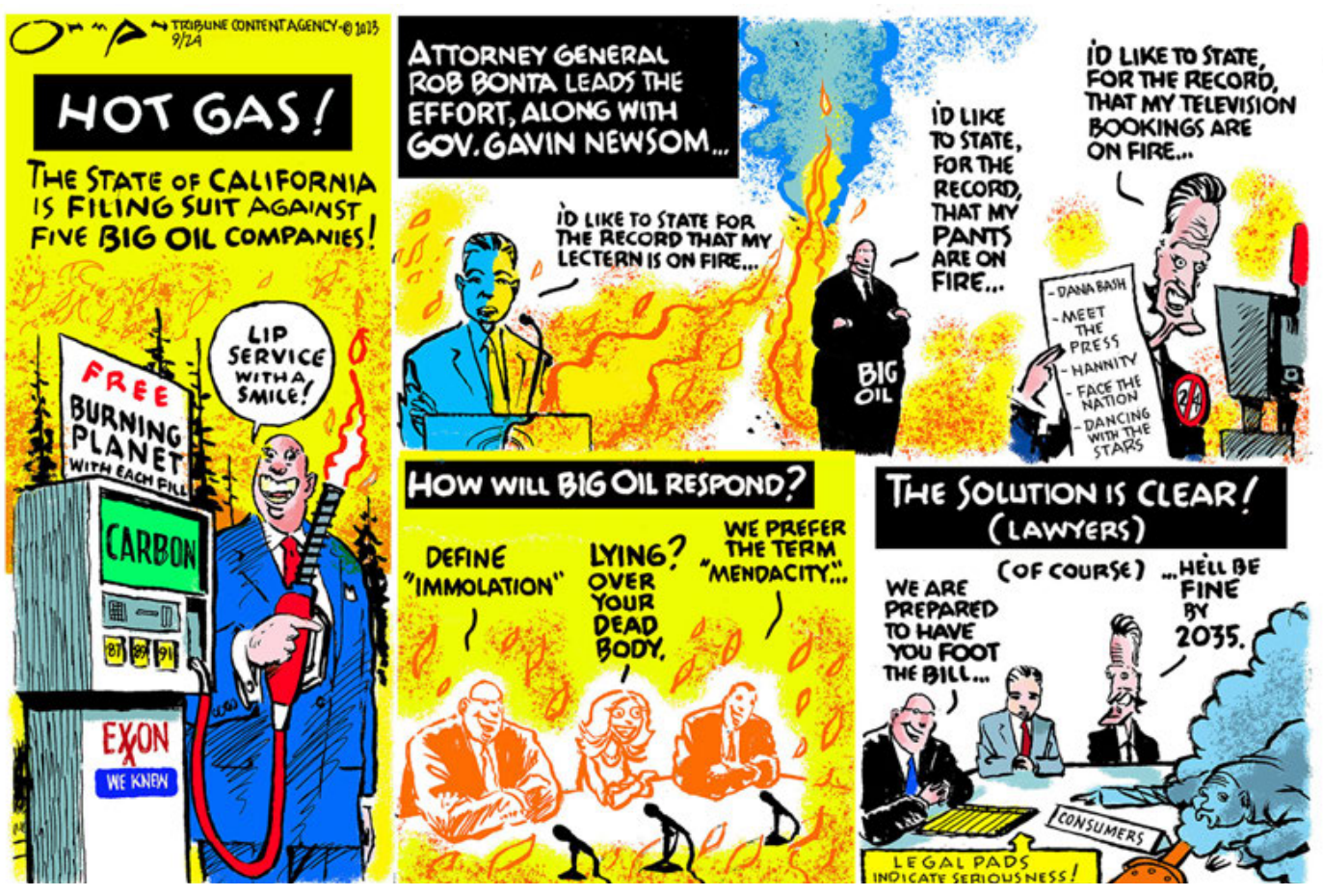
You said: "Newsom's silence and absence on this issue is unconscionable."

Nothing divisive there. We agree.

LISA BENSON



Lisa Benson 2023/10-3
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JACK OHMAN



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CORONADO

Coronado Junior Woman's Club gearing up for A Taste of Coronado

By **SOFIE FRANSEN**
The Coronado News

The Coronado Junior Woman's Club is an all-volunteer, female-led organization dedicated to promoting the social welfare and civic activities in Coronado, and A Taste of Coronado is one its signature events.

Michelle Munns, the Taste of Coronado's chair, has led the event the past three years.

Before that, she was a restaurant coordinator who worked with the restaurants and businesses.

She said that as the chair, she started putting in work for this year's event in June and volunteers are coming together to take care of every little detail—the banners, balloons, pop-up tents, check-in locations, DJ's and more.

"It's all volunteer women that are putting this event on, and it's not a big event planner or food festival like other places are," Munns said. "It's all of us just coming together for the greater good."

Self-guided culinary journey

Ticket purchasers will explore the local culinary landscape of Coronado on Oct. 11 with a self-guided journey, while raising money for charitable organizations.

For those who purchase the \$55 tickets, the event will start at one of the four check-in locations where participants will receive a tasting card.

Since 800 participants are expected, Munns said the check in locations (at the ferry landing, Rotary Park, the Hotel del Coronado, and Clayton's Bistro) will help disperse the flow of people around the island.

The tasting card will have the 40 different restaurant participants listed, according to Munns. Featured local cuisine can be sampled from participating restaurants like Seréa, The Henry and the Little Frenchie.

Trolley's will be looping the town from 5 to 10 p.m., so participants can hop on the trolley or walk to each location.

After the event, the Islander will be opening



Michelle Munns (left) is the chair of A Taste of Coronado and has led the event for the past three years. Photo provided by the Coronado Junior Woman's Club.

their doors as the afterparty for the evening. The Islander will be giving a portion of their proceeds back to the beneficiaries, and anyone can attend, whether they've attended A Taste of Coronado or not.

The Hotel del Coronado is the presenting sponsor for the event.

Proceeds to help STEP and KMAC

Organizers say 100% of the proceeds from the event will go back to the community, both to the beneficiaries—STEP and KMAC—and to the consistent organizations they fundraise for, like the Coronado Schools Foundation.

Jamie McArthur started KMAC, an adaptive sailing foundation, which is named after his son, Lt.

Junior Grade Kyle McArthur, who was involved in a fatal automobile accident in 2013.

Munns said the club is honored to name KMAC as one of this year's beneficiaries, and a couple of the club members went to high school with Kyle.

McArthur has been a special needs dad for 37 years and taught special education before starting the foundation. He is also a retired Coast Guard officer.

KMAC: Wants to get bigger for outreach

The KMAC foundation gives people who are disabled the opportunity to experience the open-water freedom of sailing through adaptive technologies on board their four sailboats.

"So the foundation was formed to support that," McArthur said about the foundation's vision for accessible sailing. "We want to get bigger and do a lot grander things...and we also do community outreach."

McArthur said the foundation survives on donations and volunteers.

"There's absolutely no cost to the participants, McArthur said. "Nobody gets paid; nobody's charged. So, that's why fundraising is such a key component of this, because without that, we can't pay our bills."

STEP is second beneficiary

STEP, a program that works to build financial self-sufficiency among junior active duty enlisted members and recently enlisted veterans facing financial crisis, will be the second beneficiary of the event's proceeds.

Munns said many people from out of state fly in to attend the event, and support the cause.

"I love that people love this event," Munns said. "It makes it so great to be a part of it because it's important to them, and it's important to the community that our great restaurants and businesses are highlighted."

Tickets are on sale for \$55 and more information about the event can be found at <https://www.atasteofcoronado.com/>

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CORONADO



Coronado Mayor Richard Bailey spoke on the continued need for federal funding regarding the Tijuana sewage crisis at a rally Sept. 1. Staff photo by Sofie Fransen.

Exclusive: Mayor Bailey says he's out of politics after 2024

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He also partnered with NBA Legend and San Diego resident Bill Walton to deal with homelessness, and Bailey has continued his fight to clean Coronado's polluted beaches from the Tijuana sewage crisis.

Coronado Mayor Richard Bailey spoke on the continued need for federal funding regarding the Tijuana sewage crisis at a rally Sept. 1. Staff photo by Sofie Fransen.

Bailey and other Republicans thought they had a chance to unseat Lawson-Remer because her district had been redrawn to run along more GOP-friendly Carlsbad to Coronado.

However, with the recent announcement of San Diego's former Mayor Kevin Faulconer running for county supervisor, Bailey feels that Coronado would be better served with him focusing on being their mayor.

End of 2024 marks a dozen years in office

By the end of his term in 2024, Bailey will have completed eight years as Coronado's mayor and 12 total years of serving the city with four on the City Council.

And even though he doesn't have plans for county supervisor, Bailey is planning his life post-politics in the private sector...and in the mountains.

He has three peaks planned for the next year and a half, and to focus on a few small businesses.

"I have a couple of businesses I'm working on right now, and I'm looking forward to seeing those grow, and then taking on some athletic adventures around the world," Bailey says.

More mountaineering on horizon

Other than being the youngest mayor to serve Coronado, Bailey has run marathons and ultramarathons, and has pushed his body to its limits with mountaineering.

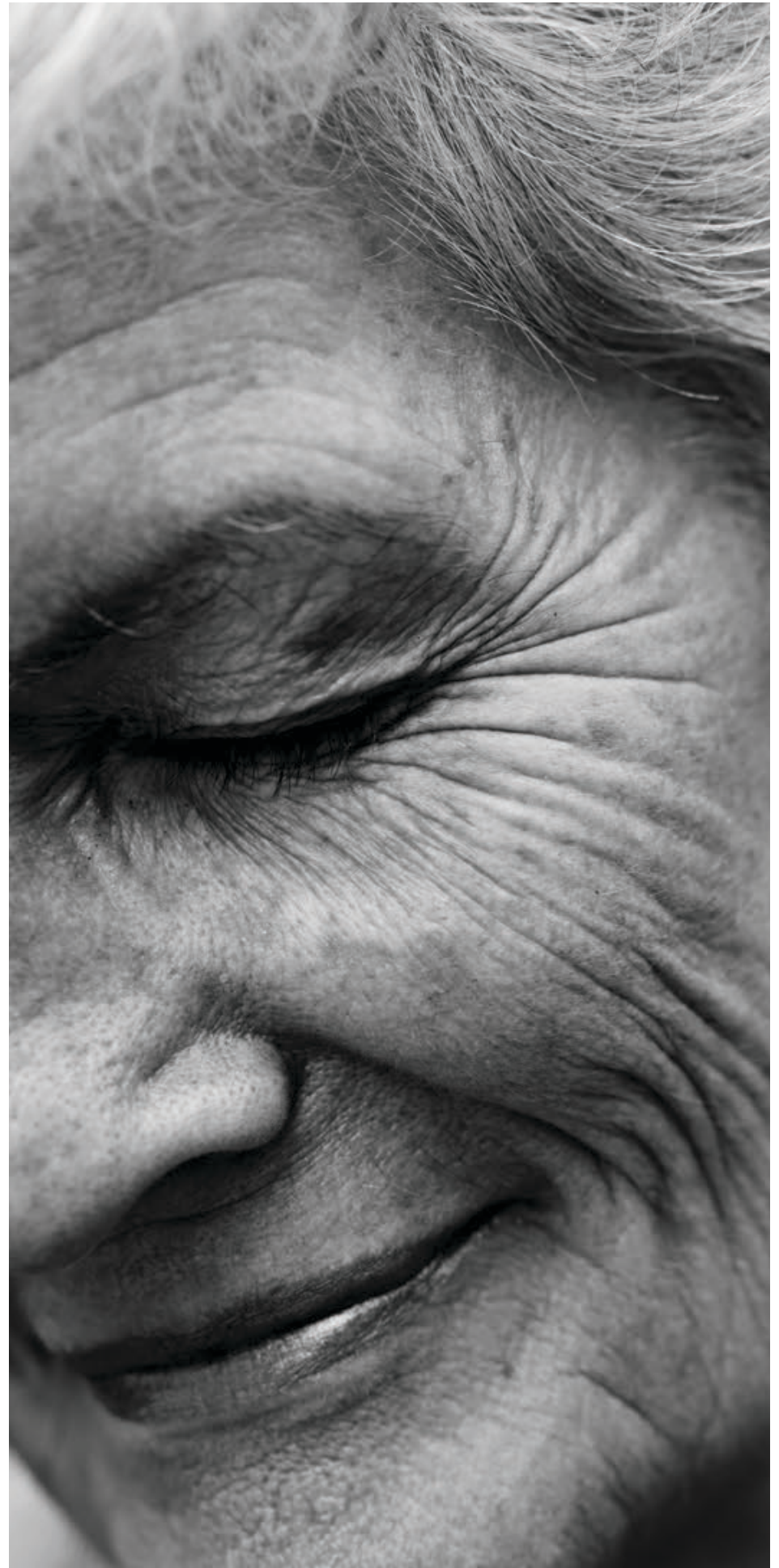
He qualified and ran the Boston Marathon in April before starting the journey for Mt. Everest a month later in May.

He was unable to complete it due to sickness, but finishing it is in his plans for 2024.

Bailey will be climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro in Africa in October, going back to Mt. Everest in May of 2024 and summiting the highest peak in Antarctica before skiing to the South Pole in December of 2024.

"I carefully considered where I could make the biggest impact and decided that finishing out my last year and a half as mayor undistracted by the campaign was the best course of action."

-Mayor Richard Bailey

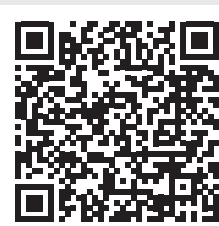


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*Data: U.S. Department of Justice.



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The S&S family farm's legacy continues

» Continued from Page 1

While Sarah and Sim were the landowners, extended family members have played a role in assisting with needs over the years and supporting the siblings' efforts, said ranch leader Brandon, who manages events.

"Our grandparents both played instrumental roles in our lives in different ways," added Brandon. "No hurdle is too big to honor that...it's worth all the hardship, it's worth all the sacrifice, it's worth all the joy."

Rural living

Originating from a family accustomed to rural living, Wallace and Buncom purchased 10 acres of land minutes from Interstate 5 in 1980.

Their parents, Deartis and Theresa Wallace, instilled in them and 10 other siblings entrepreneurship and ownership throughout the family's journey from Texas to the Coachella Valley and eventually San Diego County.

In the last few years, their children, grandchildren, and now great-grandchildren through a nonprofit organization are committed to four pillars—educating community members, regenerative farming, caring for rescued animals, and an open space for personal and wellness events—to guide their mission: To connect the broader community to immersive agricultural experiences while stewarding the earth.

The S&S Friendly Ranch at the intersection of Sunset Avenue and Hollister Street and minutes from the international border also remains "a safe place to convene, unearth purpose, and tap into the land," according to the organization.

In an interview with The Coronado News, the family members shared about the land that has sustained their family for generations, a sliver of their years-long journey.

"We all have our other jobs as well," said Buncom IV. "But we want to show love to this land, and it helps to have many hands."

'Running around with goats barefoot'

The former Stanford football player garnered Pac-12 All-Academic honors three times, according to the school. He now finds himself balancing his time in a part-time role at New Leaf Climate Partners, an investment and advisory firm focused on innovative reforestation, and being the president and chief friendly officer of the ranch.

His late grandfather Frank James Buncom Jr. played for the San Diego Chargers and Cincinnati Bengals, and in 1976 was inducted as a member in the Chargers Hall of Fame following his unexpected passing in 1969 at age 29, according to the family and online reports.

"I need to work on being less of a workaholic," added Buncom IV. "It's truly been a labor of love for me...I grew up here in San Diego...very much a city boy...now I'm running around with goats barefoot, doing yoga and headstands in the morning... My college self would have no idea who the heck I am, which I think is a beautiful thing."

The turned rancher/farmer has a bachelor's degree in human biology and is now leading multiple projects at the ranch alongside a close network of volunteers with Wallace and Buncom who also tend the gardens and care for the animals.

Servicing Every Soul

Through their 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization Servicing Every Soul, the team wants others to share in the open green space they consider a privilege that they had through their childhood.

"It's a rarity to have this experience, and it's even more rare to look up and see black and brown faces that are leading in these spaces," said Buncom IV. "To be able to pass that down, it's been incredibly enriching for me to see young black and brown folks look up and like 'oh like hey, like what, you're doing this? Like yeah!...' That's been super special for me."

S&S Friendly Ranch has welcomed the growing 250 family members for reunions every two years, as well as young children from the community for Youth Ranch Day. The ranch also is home for A Women's Health and Wellness Event and a Young Professionals Retreat.

The ranch also has taught the younger generation about ancestral legacy and history through a Juneteenth celebration that included elected officials.

Along with hosting events and bringing in the community, they are working to grow with donations and grants.

"We've gotten some small grants...but we're hoping to go out for the bigger fish," said Brandon.

Most recently, REI has donated tents for overnight events, and the team has an up-and-coming partnership with Amazon, expected to help them grow their food force, they said.

"We are also volunteers...all the dollars that we've got to date for grants have gone directly into our programming," said Buncom IV. "That's what it's taken to get this operation off the ground, and that's where our hearts have been into loving this land here. ... Right now everything is give, give,



Frank Buncom III, Diamond Brandon, Frank Buncom IV, and Derek Wallace (not pictured) are part of the leadership team at S&S Friendly Ranch that is working to serve the local and far-stretched community through programming and events offered by their 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization Servicing Every Soul. Staff photo by Julieta Soto.



The international border wall is visible to the south of the S&S Friendly Ranch as stretched clouds hover above buildings in the neighboring city of Tijuana, Mexico.

Staff photo by Julieta Soto.

give, give, and the beautiful thing about it is that the community that we're trying to pour into has been nurturing us and giving back to us."

The growing list of S&S Friendly Ranch visitors includes folks from Arizona and international tourists from Germany and Russia, whose rural living experience has included an RV camper or immersive campsite experience.

"Everyone who's come has been different races, different ages, different backgrounds, different states," said Brandon. "People come down here and have the time of their lives, and that's what we want to provide, a safe space for everyone."

Tijuana River Valley safety challenges

Although visitors express wonderful stays at the ranch in online reviews, the team shared that they've hosted curious visitors who questioned the unique smell from the decades-long sewage crisis posed by the Tijuana River, found half a mile south of S&S Friendly Ranch.

"What has been created here in the Tijuana River you can argue it is not nature, it is not natural, what has transcended is from human intervention," said Buncom IV.

Rain floods in the Tijuana River Valley are not uncommon.

The core team said that these floods wipe out crops in local ranches and the community's gardens, forcing families to wait four to six months to regrow crops.

Livelihoods affected

"For some people that's their livelihood, so that's awful," said Brandon. "For the people who've been out here for generations, and they're raising their families out here, for our government to completely ignore the fact that a strategy needs to happen... Real humans are being impacted, real animals are being impacted."

A rain flooding earlier this year caused more than two dozen horse rescues by local ranchers and the US Border Patrol San Diego Sector, according to reports.

Scarred from a great flood in the 1990s, Brandon said her grandfather, Sim Wallace, decided to raise the ground 1 to 2 feet higher above the surrounding ground with berms that protect around the ranch.

"That's the last time I remember it [S&S Friendly Ranch] majorly flooding," said Brandon. "A couple of weeks ago we did have heavy rain and some of the other ranches were like really impacted."

Apart from constant floods, the more than 10

family ranches adjacent to Hollister Street and around the valley deal with the "horrible" stench of sewage that increases in smell at night, and that has affected overnight event plans, Buncom IV said.

Buncom III said the smell is "embarrassing," and they can tell when a sewage spill occurs "because you could smell the stench throughout the whole day."

In considering ways to help with the sewage crisis, Buncom III said he joins community members at events hosted by elected officials, including a recent Community Town Hall for Imperial Beach residents with County Supervisor Nora Vargas at the local library.

Tree project

Potential plans about how to use existing resources to help mitigate the long-standing environmental crisis are not off the table for the ranch team.

"I'm trying to do a big tree planting project here and the county land for a bunch of reasons...flood prevention, air quality," said Buncom IV. "The benefits are pretty enumeral. ... We're trying to make it a community effort for all the things that we're trying to get down here."

Buncom IV, who lives on the immersive campsite, said he hopes to get a couple of hundred trees on the ranch and more along the Tijuana River with support from Nación Verde, an independent organization in Tijuana that works in restoring and reforesting forest ecosystems with plants native to the region.

'Reciprocity'

The core team shares their wealth of knowledge with some of the youngest in the family by teaching them to drive a tractor and to help with events.

"We don't think about it often, but it's a very unique experience to be able to come to a ranch and just be in nature and interact with animals," said Brandon. "It's just really opening up this space to give people a little taste of what we had naturally coming up."

The ranch will host Well-Grounded Music & Poetry Jam on Oct. 6, featuring sound bowl meditation and a community bonfire. The team said they will continue to update and fill out their event schedule which can be found on Eventbrite, which also includes an Animal Husbandry Volunteer Day.

The S&S team welcomes volunteers in any capacity. For more information about S&S Friendly Ranch, visit their official website at: <https://www.ssfriendlyranch.org>.

LOCAL WOMEN FORM GROUP TO END SEWAGE ON BEACHES

» Continued from Page 1

That awakening has taken the form of Ramírez and fellow co-founders being invited to a press conference with Port of San Diego Commissioners in the Tijuana River Valley on Sept. 20.

Echoing calls by local and state leaders, The Port of San Diego now is asking Gov. Gavin Newsom to declare a state of emergency over cross-border sewage flows. Newsom, who last year vetoed about \$50 million in funding to help clean up the pollution-blighted Tijuana River, has done little to address the problem, according to a bipartisan group of critics.

The Port wrote Newsom asking him to approve an emergency declaration that “would advance the process of funding and constructing the projects necessary to solve this crisis,” according to a letter dated Sept. 19 and sent to The Coronado News.

“This dire situation demands a coordinated State and Federal Emergency Declaration to bring a multi-agency response to address the escalating disaster at hand,” the letter said. “The Tijuana River sewage crisis requires suspension of federal statute by executive order of the President to expedite the timeline for a comprehensive solution that can move forward with appropriate urgency.”

The letter adds that “a comprehensive solution is the right approach” to construct a new treatment facility at the border “to manage storm event flows.”

Brianne Mundy Page, the Port’s spokeswoman, added the commissioners appreciate the governor’s willingness to fight for federal dollars this year to fix the sewage issues in the Tijuana River Valley.

“Whether or not there is an emergency declaration, the Port of San Diego will continue to partner with Governor Newsom’s office and the State to pursue federal funding and resources to solve this crisis once and for all,” read the statement.

Ramírez described the stench of sewage during her attendance which persists throughout the day and intensifies during the night in South Bay communities, according to locals.

“Everyone has to be involved,” said Ramírez, noting residents in Tijuana and Imperial Beach are breathing foul air because of the pollution. She added the problem eventually will make its way up the coast to Coronado, and as she understands is already creeping into the Coronado Cays.

One voice, bridging communities

Assemblymember Tasha Boerner, who represents coastal cities in San Diego including Coronado, featured Ramírez as the first Latina/o Heritage Month spotlight in September on her government official



“Everyone cares about this. I feel so optimistic that we’re going to create a stronger people power because we are uniting the communities—IB and across the border.”

Marelly Ramírez

social media pages and recognized her long-standing engagements as a founding and community member with several organizations.

“Marelly is a passionate community organizer who is committed to making our community, our state, and our nation a better place for all,” read the post. “Thank you Marelly for all your hard work for our #AD77 community!”

Moving forward, Ramírez said she is excited about creating a liaison with similar organizations in Tijuana to reach “people who are as passionate and have been as frustrated as we are now,” by using her bilingual knowledge in English and Spanish.

Ramírez said residents in Tijuana also are fed up with the sewage crisis, and “they’re advocating on their own, but it’s stronger if we cross that bridge and resonate the same message for their politicians as well.”

Ramírez has visually emphasized the hazards that the waters pose for anyone who comes in contact with them by wearing a hazmat and skeleton suit

during the rallies in May and September.

“Having some sort of physical reaction, whether it’s a rash, ... it’s inevitable,” said Ramírez. “You’re dealing with death if you’re trying to go in the waters, that’s the bottom line.”

United voice

For that reason, Stop the Sewage.org works on a regular basis to continue to push the issue forward as a united voice.

“The community needs to be heard,” said Ramírez. “Politicians, our elected officials, have to know the suffering, ... the consequences that people have to deal with on a daily basis because nothing has been done for so, so long.”

The Coronado News earlier this year published a five-part investigative series on the myriad of broken promises by U.S. and Mexican officials to fix a sewage crisis that has existed for about 100 years. The newspaper found the tens of millions of gallons of raw sewage that flows daily from Mexico into the southern San Diego County coast has severely sickened locals, tourists, U.S. Border Patrol agents and Navy SEALs.

“You’re bringing to the forefront the reality that is absolutely out of sight for us,” said Ramírez. “That interview was so focused on how Tijuana residents are also suffering when it comes to this issue.”

Growing community outreach

Stop the Sewage.org co-founders in addition to working with other community members and elected officials have lent their services to the new Coronado High School Stop the Sewage Club.

School club officer Danny Vinegrad said he considers the women’s roles in the community inspiring, and they have encouraged his commitment to helping solve the sewage problem.

“Our intent is to educate them, build awareness, and allow them to drive their initiatives,” said Ramírez about the collaboration with local teenagers who also want clean beaches.

“To see their interest was fascinating and uplifting,” she said. “That’s how you build part of the next generation who will truly take on the baton and be the change.”

Ramírez added that while it’s exciting that more community groups and local elected officials are working to stop the sewage and clean the ocean, the organizations may need to take a bit more action and personally lobby Newsom.

“If we have to, we’ll go to Sacramento,” said Ramírez.

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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.

Come See Us!
The Chez Loma Team

CORONADO



Phil Imming of Coronado created the Beer Mugs, which plays old-fashioned Bavarian music. Photo courtesy of the Coronado Public Library.

They play two kinds of music: oom-pah and oom-pah-pah

Meet the Beer Mugs, a band that plays authentic Bavarian polkas and waltzes that was started by Phil Imming of Coronado.

By ISABEL CHEESEMAN
The Coronado News

Bavarian and German culture is alive in Coronado with the traditional band, The Beer Mugs.

Phil Imming, the creator of the group, found an interest in Bavarian music during his time at Coronado High School, where he played in the school band.

They had German music books for a five-piece band, which is how he discovered this type of music. In a school talent show, he performed in a German band, and he said that he really enjoyed playing.

Oktoberfest celebrations

During his time with the Hillcrest Wind Ensemble, he sat next to a tuba player who was from Germany who said that he played in Oktoberfest at the German American Societies of SD Inc. in El Cajon.

Imming then attended the Oktoberfest performance, but he said he was disappointed because it was not the traditional music he had expected.

“Over time, Oktoberfest has stayed with the times,” he said. “It’s current music. It’s never old music.”

He said that in Munich, Germany, where the largest Oktoberfest is held, they have shifted from traditional songs to more modern and electronic music.

Maintaining Bavarian culture

He felt like the traditional music was not being played anymore, so he put together a group with the goal of maintaining Bavarian culture.

Thus, Imming started The Beer Mugs five years ago by reaching out to his connections from the Coronado Concert Band.

The current band members are Imming on the tuba, Stefanie Schimtz on clarinet, Josh Mills on clarinet, Jim Naiper on the trumpet and flugelhorn and David Murray on the euphonium.

Imming also contacted local breweries to set up shows.

However, this year, they are doing fewer performances in breweries.

Teaching about Oktoberfest

Instead, the group is focusing on teaching about Oktoberfest through their music, and the group performed at the Coronado Public Library on Sept. 17.

They also are scheduled to play at the Coronado Marines Oktoberfest at the Coronado VFW on Oct. 14.

At their shows, the band members wear blue checkered shirts, which represent the blue checkered shield on the Bavaria coat of arms.

Old German folk songs

The majority of the songs they perform are old German folk songs from the 1500s and 1600s.

“If you know what a polka is and you know what a waltz is, that’s what we play,” Immings said. “We play two kinds of music: oom-pah and oom-pah-pah.”

He said that their music provides listeners with cultural roots, and he loves that the music is being played in Coronado.

“It’s fundamental to all the kinds of music that have followed after that,” he said. “I think it’s worth tapping your foot to.”

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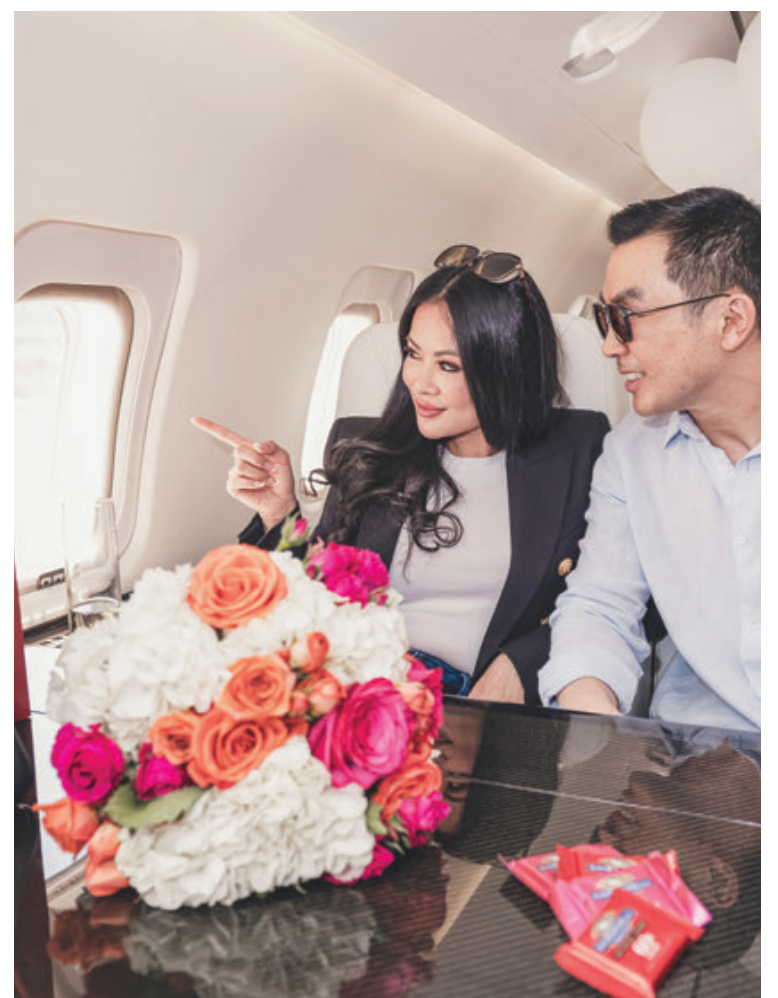


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CORONADO

Coronado Marine Corps League has fourth Oktoberfest set for Oct. 14

By **ZACH DINSMORE**
The Coronado News

The Coronado Marine Corps League is putting together the fourth annual Oktoberfest fundraiser on Oct. 14 at the VFW.

The entry fee is \$10 for the 4 to 9 p.m. event, but if you want to experience Patrick Duffy’s “world famous” bratwurst, potato salad, sauerkraut and a pretzel, the cost is \$20, according to organizers. All beer is \$5.

The man putting it together is retired Marine Buzz Buzby.

Meet organizer Buzz Buzby

From being a lieutenant colonel deployed in the Middle East, Africa, Okinawa and Stuttgart Germany, to becoming a reconnaissance Marine and working with the embassy staffs of Ankara, Turkey and Liberia, Buzby since 1984 has filled many different roles as a Marine.

Buzby retired in 2011 and is now serving Marine families through the Coronado Marine Corps

League, a non-profit organization. With the help of fundraisers like Oktoberfest, Buzby and other Marines are able to be a resource to Marine families in need, he said.

“We’ve started a disaster fund, if you will. For Marines, both former and active duty, here in Southern California, if they experience something traumatic in their lives, then we help them get through it,” said Buzby. “And if there are Marines that experience wildfire destruction or, you know, God forbid, an earthquake, then yeah, some of the money that we generate from the 14th (Oktoberfest), will go to solving those problems for folks.”

Raising money for charities

According to Buzby, another goal for the event is to raise money for the charities that the League is involved with, such as the Wampler Foundation, Honor Flights San Diego, the Jimmy Miller Memorial Surf Foundation and Toys for Tots.

Buzby is also excited for the attendees to experience what the event has to offer, promising folks will get their money’s worth.

“We have quite a bit in the way of raffles and raffle prizes, like a two night stay at the Del,” said Buzby. “The beer is going to be all locally CBC [Coronado Brewing Company] produced, Mike Hess produced and Epic Brewing produced.”

Unique food

Along with big raffles and locally brewed beer, Buzby made sure the food would be a unique aspect of the event.

“This year, we’ve got Chef Mike Bell, who’s actually going to be managing our entire kitchen,” said Buzby. “And he’s going to be bringing some of his own dishes that are traditional Bavarian dishes, like Wienerschnitzel.”

According to Buzby there also will be various competitions to participate in like the beer tray races, a lederhosen best dressed contest and a 64-ounce mug hold for both men and women.

“It should be fun; cheap dinner, cheap beer, good chance to win some really cool things. Have a good time, let your hair down and put on your lederhosen!” said Buzby.

“LITTLE WOMEN” GO BIG ON STAGE AT CORONADO HIGH’S COSA

The Coronado School of the Arts (CoSA) is excited to bring the timeless tale of “Little Women” to the stage.

The Musical Theatre and Drama Conservatory will perform “Little Women the Musical” at the Coronado Center for Performing Arts at 650 D Ave. in five shows: Friday, Oct. 27 to Sunday, Oct. 29; and Friday, Nov. 3 to Saturday, Nov. 4.

Although the original novel by Louisa May Alcott was written in 1868, the themes of domesticity, work, and love still ring true today, according to Barbara Wolf, CoSA musical theatre

director.

‘Following your dreams’

“I really think the musical is about following your dreams, and that is always relevant,” said Wolf. “The main character, Jo, stays with her passion of writing even in the face of negativity. She learns to write in the end what she knows, not what is popular.”

Based on Louisa May Alcott’s life, “Little Women: follows the adventures of four sisters: Jo (Evi Anderson), Meg (Alexa Cortina), Beth (Emile Armenta) and Amy (Scotlynn

Potter) set in Civil War America.

This captivating story is brought to life with personal discovery, heartache, hope and everlasting love.

The musical, licensed by Music Theatre International, has been produced nationally and internationally.

Embracing storyline

Wolf said that the students are embracing the storyline and musical performances.

“While the story is so empowering, the music is extraordinary,” said Wolf. “Jason Howland and Mindi

Dickstein wrote this gorgeous score which our cast performs beautifully.”

Wolf said that the students are enjoying the challenge of being part of a “period” musical and capturing the physicality of the time period.

The cast also includes Jess Nelson as Marmee March, Kenne McCann as Mrs. Laurence, Bruno Dominguez as Laurie Laurence, Addison Nesbitt as Aunt March, James Bates as Mr. John Brooke, Lili DeSisto as Mrs. Kirk, Katie Moreno as Clarissa, Haissam Kouli as Rodrigo, Ysabella Barraza as Hag, Ella Chiaos as Troll, and Maya Hurst as Rodrigo 2.

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NAVY

Navy SEALs launch suicide prevention training for spouses

Defense Visual Information Distribution Service

Naval Special Warfare Command hosted its first suicide prevention training for spouses of west-coast based Naval Special Warfare Sailors at the Silver Strand Training Complex in Coronado on Sept. 14.

The training was hosted by Adam Curtis, NSW Preservation of the Force and Family Director and Jeanne Lagorio, a licensed clinical social worker and NSW Force Suicide Prevention Coordinator.

The objective of the training was to raise awareness about suicides within the community and reassure spouses that they are not alone in this fight. Between 2017 and 2023, the Navy lost 452 active component sailors and 62 reserve component sailors to suicide, according to the Navy.

“We provide this training to our active-duty personnel, but we know that their spouses are so often the first to notice when something is off balance,” said Curtis. “Our aim is to equip them with knowledge of what to look for and what resources are available.”

Breaking down mental health stigma

This training serves as a tool to continue breaking down the stigma associated with seeking help for mental health issues.

“Our community is a revolving door,” said Lagorio. “We must continue to bridge the gap between generations when it comes to the stigma about mental health and security clearances. It is ok to reach out for help and it is non-punitive.”

The three-hour training covered a range of topics including warning signs, risk factors, lethal means, security clearances, individual protective factors, statistics, mindfulness, post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, and available resources.

‘Two platoons’ worth of lives lost’

Due to the intense nature of topics discussed, “breath breaks” were incorporated to allow spouses to take a moment and breathe. “If we had this training available to us 10 years ago, it would be a game changer,” said a teary-eyed NSW spouse. “These



Partners of West Coast based NSW Sailors attend the first suicide prevention training for spouses at Silver Strand Training Complex. Jeanne Lagorio, Naval Special Warfare (NSW) Force Suicide Prevention Coordinator, leads the training.

U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Destiny Cheek.

trainings are needed, and I wish more spouses knew about the resources and tools available to them.”

Gun locks were distributed at the end of the training as part of an ongoing effort since 2019 to combat harmful behavior. The community has distributed 2,000 gun locks so far.

Rear Adm. Keith Davids, commander, NSWC, in his message to the entire NSW enterprise, said “[Since] 2012, we’re looking at a loss of 18 active-duty members and 21 NSW veterans. We’re talking about two platoons’ worth of lives lost, and that’s a tragedy that we cannot ignore... I highly encourage everyone to know these crucial resources, whether it be for yourself or one of our teammates.”

Suicide is a national crisis

The issue of suicides is not only a problem within the military but also a national crisis. To address this, NSW is committed to providing resources to operators, combat service support, staff, and their families.

NSW has dedicated care providers such as Navy Chaplains, psychologists, and licensed clinical social workers to support the force.

The community also employs internal initiatives

like NSW Warrior Talk Videos, Military Art Psychotherapy, and Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST).

The Force Suicide Prevention Coordinator will travel to Norfolk, Virginia and offer this training to the spouses of NSW East Sailors.

Suicide prevention program ‘will evolve’

“The suicide prevention program will evolve as the community evolves,” said Lagorio. “We just have to keep working at it with new trainings such as this one.”

On Sept. 6, NSWC was recognized for its comprehensive and innovative approach to suicide prevention during the Department of Defense’s Annual Suicide Prevention Recognition ceremony hosted by the Defense Human Resources Activity.

Naval Special Warfare is the nation’s elite maritime special operations force, uniquely positioned to extend the Fleet’s reach and gain and maintain access for the Joint Force in competition and conflict.

For more news more Naval Special Warfare, visit www.nsw.navy.mil.

Story by Petty Officer 1st Class Destiny Cheek

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NAVY

Blue Angels share their stories

Defense Visual Information Distribution Service

It is a rare occasion to have members of the Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, the Blue Angels, visit a school to talk to young people about their culture of excellence and how they advanced in their careers.

But that's exactly what happened on Sept. 22 at Del Norte High School in San Diego.

Lt. Cmdr. Julius Bratton, Blue Angel #5, lead solo and operations officer as well as a native of Woodlawn, Tennessee, and Aircrew Survival Equipmentman 1st Class Brandon Gatewood, a native of Kingsland, Georgia, shared their stories.

Bratton, a Naval Academy graduate, told the students about how he came to be a Blue Angel pilot.

"My father was in the military so we moved around a lot when I was young," said Bratton. "I know how it feels to be the new kid in class, always having to make new friends."

'If you can dream it, you can see it'

"I always remember what my father told me, 'If you can dream it, you can see it. And if you can see it, you can achieve it.' I still think about his quote every day," said Bratton.

"When my family settled down in Tennessee, I did what I needed to do to be a successful student," said Bratton. "I had a 4.0 average, took AP (Advanced Placement) classes, played sports. I thought I was doing alright, until I went to the (Naval) Academy, and this big fish in a small pond became a little fish in a very large pond."

"I had to learn how to ask people for help and relearn how to study after my first semester grades came in," said Bratton. "I asked those around me how they studied and I reengineered what they did to fit my life."

Becoming a Blue Angel

Gatewood also recounted how he came to be a member of the Blue Angel team. "I didn't have a plan after graduation," said Gatewood. "I was working a lot and not liking my path at the time. I talked to a Navy Recruiter and thought this could be for me."

"When it came time to select a job in the Navy, I was given five career paths and the Aircrew Survival Equipmentman stood out to me," said Gatewood. "The job description said I would be taking care of aviation safety gear and equipment, and I thought it was a job where I could help keep people safe. That's what I want to do."

Is "Top Gun" accurate?

One student asked if the movie "Top Gun" was accurate?



Naval Flight Demonstration Squadron team member Aircrew Survival Equipmentman 1st Class Brandon Gatewood shakes the hand of Navy Talent Acquisition Group Southwest Executive Officer Cmdr. Elizabeth McMullen as Lt. Cmdr. Julius Bratton, Blue Angel #5, looks on, after engaging with students at Del Norte High School in San Diego on Sept. 22. U.S. Navy photo by Todd J. Hack.

"The training in the movie "Top Gun: Maverick" was very realistic," said Bratton.

Gatewood then stepped in to say, "in the first movie when Goose died, all of the equipment involved had to do with my job (as an Aircrew Survival Equipmentman). But I would never have let that happen on my watch."

After the questions and answers Bratton came down off the stage to take selfies with the students and to talk directly with students who had questions they wanted to ask him personally.

Assist with recruiting

One of the missions of the Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron is to assist with recruiting of both the Navy and the Marine Corps.

Recruiters from Navy Recruiting Station Poway and Marine Corps Recruiting Poway both were on hand to talk with students and to invite them to visit their static areas at the air show.

Two other groups of the Blue Angels team also visited West View High School and Scripps Ranch High School to not only spread awareness about the opportunities which the U.S. military service presents, but also to engage and get the students excited about America's Air Show, at which they will be performing.

NTAG Southwest's area of responsibility encompasses more than 210,000 square miles covering southern California, southern Nevada and western Arizona.

Headquartered at Naval Base Point Loma, San Diego, the command has 43 recruiting stations and employs more than 275 Sailors and civilian personnel with a mission to attract the highest quality candidates to assure the ongoing success of America's Navy.

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SPORTS

Hines calls out 'keyboard warriors' on the success of female players

By **SOFIE FRANSEN**
The Coronado News

Emilia Alpert and Lindsey Balsley made history for the Coronado High School football team on Sept. 22, when both female players scored for the Islanders against Mar Vista.

It was the first time each scored in a varsity football game as Alpert rushed for a 1-yard touchdown and Balsley booted an extra point in the 37-6 victory.

The achievement garnered national attention, with a story in USA TODAY as well as other publications that focus on high school sports and numerous social media posts.

"I've coached 26 years and this is the first time in my experience that I've ever heard of two young women scoring in a single game," said Coronado football Coach Kurt Hines.

Calling out 'Jackwagon, keyboard warriors'

However, not everyone was happy about the achievement.

The girls' success received some negative feedback on social media sites, which infuriated Hines.

"I think social media is like a loaded gun," Hines said. "In the right hand at the right time you can save a life and do some good and in the wrong hands it can cause lots of damage."

Hines, who has a large social media following himself with tens of thousands of followers, used those platforms to call out all of the "Jackwagon, keyboard warriors who are living in their mother's basements" and hating on young women and men.

"If any adults find themselves knocking high school athletes, they're living their lives wrong," Hines said. "It baffles me that in a world that is so overpopulated with hate, that people are going to point that hate towards a young woman or young man."

After noticing that an article was posted on MaxPreps, which calls itself "America's source for high school sports," Hines warned the girls that there might be negative feedback, since it had happened to a young female athlete he had coached in the past.

He told them ahead of time to take pride in what they do, realize the work they've put in and block out the negative noise.

Tuning out the negativity

"People have a lot of things to say and it's not new, you know, I just learned how to tune it out," Alpert said about the comments. "It's never something that makes me not want to show up to practice...It honestly just motivates me more to do my best."

Alpert said that she understands that girls don't have a lot of the same athletic opportunities as boys, and feels honored to be an advocate for women in sports.

Balsley said this is the first time she has been faced with hate for playing football because all



Lindsey Balsley (L) and Emilia Alpert (R), made team history on Sept. 22, when they each scored points for the Coronado High School football team. Staff photo by Madeline Yang.

of the people she interacts with face-to-face are supportive of her decision, and they are secure in themselves and not threatened by her.

She said those making the comments, on the other hand, have no credibility.

"I don't really care what they were saying, because it doesn't really affect me personally," Balsley said.

Support from teammates

Hines said that on the flipside, the great majority of people respect what Alpert and Balsley are doing, and they appreciate the girls for "putting themselves out there."

Hines, Balsley and Alpert all noted the support from the rest of the team.

"One of my favorite parts is... hearing the team celebrate and hearing the team get behind them because our guys understand that these young women are putting themselves out there," Hines said.

'Shove her into the end zone'

Alpert was put into the game with 5:30 left in the fourth quarter after junior Landon Sutherland maneuvered a massive 59-yard run, putting the team directly on the 1-yard line.

Right before the snap, Alpert said she looked at sophomore quarterback Trey Arnold and told him to "just shove her into the end zone."

Shoulder lowered, Alpert rushed the touchdown through Mar Vista's line and fell into the end zone, with the Coronado linemen rallying around her to

give a final shove.

Alpert said all of the linemen were a tremendous help, specifically noting how senior Graham Bower had her back.

"Falling into the end zone was just the craziest experience," Alpert said. "I'm honestly just so grateful for everyone around me and the other guys on the field that wanted it just as bad as I did. The lineman took care of me and I had an amazing quarterback to help me and calm my nerves."

The first thing Alpert saw when she looked up after the touchdown was a sea of green Coronado jerseys surrounding her. The amount of support and happiness she felt in that moment was equaled by the amount of celebration from her teammates, she said.

Same feeling of excitement

Balsley recalls the same feeling of excitement after getting an extra point for the Islanders in that game.

Balsley recounted the moment that Hines put her on the field, telling her she was on the kick.

After making it through the uprights, Balsley remembers a lot of cheering and pats on the helmet.

The Islanders, currently 3-3, had a bye Sept. 29 and will play Crawford on Oct. 6 for the homecoming game.

"These next four games after our bye week, there's not going to be a single easy game for us," Hines said. "We definitely have our work cut out for us moving forward, but we're excited about that."

Coronado girls cross country gets two wins; boys split opener

Coronado's cross country teams opened Eastern League competition on Sept. 28 with several wins at Morley Field.

Coronado's girls won both races with scores of 18-41 over San Diego and 15-44 over Crawford, according to Coach George Green.

The boys split with a close 27-30 win over Crawford and a 19-40 loss versus San Diego.

Personal records

All returning runners for the Islanders scored personal records, with the most impressive turned in by junior Jack Letcher, according to Coach George Green.

His 18:33 time was nearly 2½ minutes faster than what he ran last season, while Coronado's top finisher in the boys' overall race was senior Rafael Roos with a 66 second PR of 17:54.

Sophomore Nathan Ayan followed him with 18:32, then Letcher. Senior Jack Shumaker and freshman Xavier Marsh were the other two varsity finishers.

Maske top girls finisher

The top finisher for the girls was sophomore Morgan Maske with a 1:28 PR of 21:31.

Next for the Islanders was freshman Gwynne Letcher (22:16), then freshman Carly Devore (22:39), freshman Nadia Roos (22:41), and junior Jaya Jost (22:56) to complete the scoring.

Coronado's pushers (sixth and seventh finishers) were freshman Maesan Everitt (23:30) and sophomore Mia Sarchi



Coronado's girls cross country team got a pair of team wins on Sept. 28, when the Eastern League began. Here are (L-R) Carly DeVore, Gwynne Letcher, Jaya Jost, Morgan Maske.

Photo courtesy of Coach George Green.

City Conference course

Coronado competes against La Jolla, Crawford, High Tech High, Clairemont, Our Lady of Peace, Saint Augustine, and San Diego in the Eastern League. All leagues in the City Conference use the

same 3.11-mile course, and league scoring uses dual meet matchups instead of invitational scoring, where each school in a cluster ranks against all others, according to Green.

Submitted by Coach George Green.

For the love of the game

JUNIOR CAPTAIN EMILY PAGE HAS FAMILY TIES TO VOLLEYBALL

By **SOFIE FRANSEN**
The Coronado News

Emily Page, junior captain and starting setter for the Coronado High School volleyball team, said her love of the game started at home.

She said Tim Page, her dad and former high school and college volleyball player, instilled his passion for volleyball into her and her sister at a young age.

Emily Page fondly remembers the days she would tag along to her older sister Taylor's volleyball tournaments, play pepper in the yard with her dad and sister, and practice with them on the beach.

"There's something about my dad playing the sport, me playing the sport, my sister and my mom," Page said. "It tied us all together and it's something I feel like we can really appreciate for bringing us all closer."

Page is ranked no. 11 in the women's volleyball San Diego Section among assist leaders, totaling 365 assists through the Islander's Mission Bay tournament on Sept. 15.

The team currently runs a 5-1 offense primarily, with Page in the setter position, but there are times when they implement a 6-2 offense with Lydia Schutt, according to Coach Adeile Ahmu.

Coached by her dad

Page started playing club volleyball in fourth grade and knew she wanted to be a setter from the get go, something that her dad strongly encouraged her to do as a setter himself.

In fact, Page's dad was her club volleyball coach in sixth and seventh grade.

"I personally loved it," Page said. "I always knew he was going to be there for me whether I was on the court or off the court."

Hunger to win

On the court, Page's love for the game spills into her play, according to Ahmu, who added Page consistently brings a competitive presence to the matches with a hunger to win.

"I have definitely been able to see Emily fall in love with this sport and pour into her skill and craft over these last few years," Ahmu said. "Emily has definitely become a well-rounded volleyball player and it has been a pleasure to be able to



Emily Page celebrating with a Coronado High School teammate. Photos courtesy of Kelly Moore.



"It tied us all together and it's something I feel like we can really appreciate for bringing us all closer."

-Coronado High School setter Emily Page on her family's connection to volleyball

watch her grow, coach her and also be a mentor in life for her."

As a setter and a captain whose hand is in nearly every single play, Page's leadership is essential.

"I really love being a setter," Page said. "I love being able to be in every single play and directing things. It's made me become a really good leader and it's helped shape not only my life in volleyball, but outside."

This season, the team has been focusing especially on the mental aspect of the game, so they write journal entries on mental health at every practice.

The entries, paired with team bonding, is creat-

ing a strong web of support among the team, said Page.

Current standing

The Islanders (13-11) had two tough losses against Patrick Henry High School on Sept. 19 and Otay Ranch High School on Sept. 21.

Despite the setbacks, Page said she appreciates the team's determination.

"There is so much fight, there's... many comebacks and we don't give up this year, which is something that I really appreciate with these girls," Page said. "We have fought in every single game."

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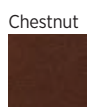
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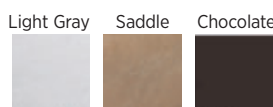
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LIFE ON THE ISLAND

Four decades and counting: A celebration for “Miss Nancy”

Resurrection Lutheran Church honored Nancy Stringer (who’s not retiring) for her 40 years of service on Sept. 24

By **SOFIE FRANSEN**
The Coronado News

Nancy Stringer built a preschool program from scratch at Resurrection Lutheran Church of Coronado around the same time Ronald Reagan was president, Michael Jackson’s “Thriller” went No. 1 in America and “M*A*S*H” went off the air.

Since then, much has changed, of course. But her dedication and commitment to the Coronado community has not, and the preschool celebrated her 40-year milestone in Spreckels Park on Sept. 24.

Love affair to a full-fledged program

What started as a love for the wonder of preschool aged children grew into a full-fledged program serving the families of Coronado.

“I just fell in love with that age because children that age are so excited about life. They’re full of wonder. I just find them enchanting,” Stringer said.

After graduating from San Diego State University in 1982 with a child development degree, Stringer looked for avenues to start her own preschool on the island, and Resurrection Lutheran Church of Coronado opened its doors.

Miss Nancy

Stringer, who is affectionately known as Miss Nancy to many, said she started teaching at a time when preschool was not as popular as it is today, implementing the timeless teaching philosophy of hands-on learning.

“You create different centers, and you put interesting things out...something to build with, something to draw with, a sensory table, books,” Stringer said. “You lay that out like a canvas and you let them find what they need to grow.”



Nancy Stringer, known as “Miss Nancy,” sings to her students during storytime, implementing her mother’s love of music into her teaching.
Staff photo by Sofie Fransen.

She said the program would not be where it is today without the help of some very influential people.

Team effort

And it has been a team effort among the church, staff and loyal families, she said.

First, her mom’s influence on Stringer’s love of music, art and children is something she still takes with her into her teaching.

Second, Stringer started out doing everything—bookkeeping, taxes and teaching—but has had a team of people come alongside her over the years.

Stringer said Karin Tanaka, the mother of former Coronado Mayor and current Councilman Casey Tanaka, helped tremendously in the beginning stages and taught at the preschool for 16 years.

And, the church and community have shown immense support, specifically with the Rev. Jim Hallerberg’s support in founding the school, Stringer said.

“The connection of Coronado has been a real blessing and a huge perk,” Stringer said. “In so many ways, it feels good to know everybody in the community.”

40 years, and counting

While there is going to be a big celebration, Stringer said she is not ready to quit yet.

That’s because she loves working with the kids. “Being a preschool teacher, there’s about 20 different hats you wear,” Stringer said. “It’s not the easiest job of all time. It’s not a glamorous job, but people do it because they love kids.”

Cheryl Ford, the parish administrator at Resurrection Lutheran Church of Coronado, said the celebration was an opportunity for parents and community members to show their appreciation.

“We are so grateful for Nancy’s hard work and dedication to the preschool, her preschool staff and the children and their families,” Ford said. “Forty years of service is an incredible milestone and we want to honor her commitment and dedication.”

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Bayer, the makers of Roundup, allegedly hid the health risks associated with their product. They have agreed to a \$10 billion settlement to resolve outstanding cancer lawsuits. If you or a loved one were affected, there is a limited window to file your claim. Call Consumer Attention to see if you qualify.

SEE IF YOU QUALIFY:

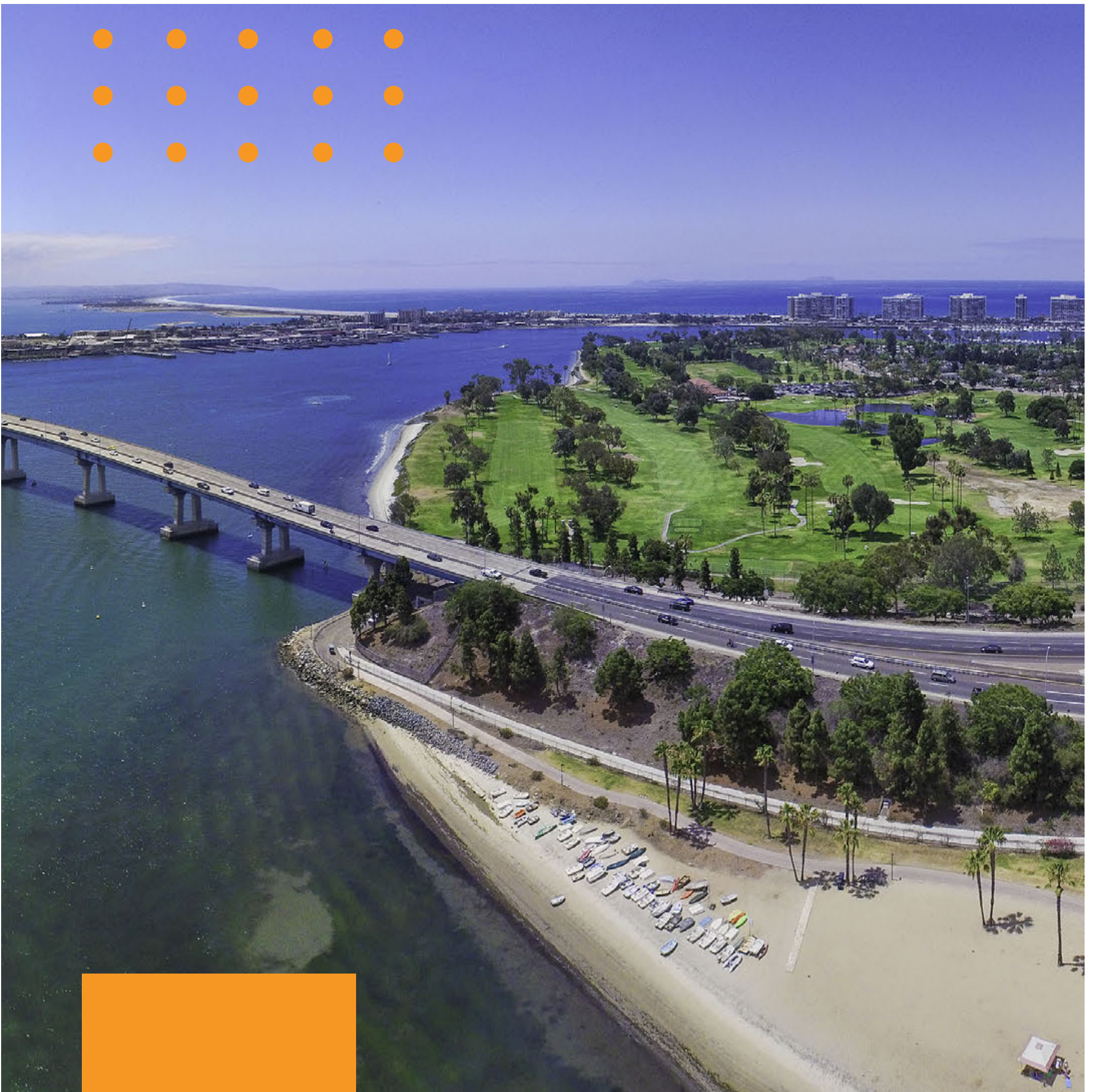
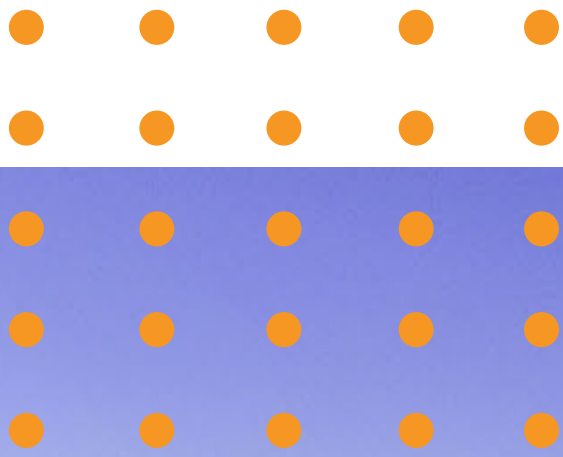
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CALL FOR YOUR FREE EVALUATION.

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