

THE CORONADO NEWS

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Are teachers leaving Coronado for better pay?

By JULIETA SOTO
The Coronado News

The Association of Coronado Teachers (ACT) President Jennifer Landry has told the School Board this year that “highly qualified teachers” are leaving the district for salary increases and smaller class sizes.

The claims have come as the teachers’ union and district are bargaining for a new contract, with teachers also wanting higher pay for substitute

teachers and to provide more accommodations for pregnancy leave.

Landry has told the board she has tracked the district’s teacher departures since 2017, but she did not share those records with The Coronado News.

She also declined to comment for this story, but she has expressed concern about educators leaving CUSD due to retirements, COVID, and personal decisions during the March and April board meetings.

However, Coronado Unified School District’s Human Resources Department data shared with The

Coronado News show the district has not experienced a high level of departures because of pay and smaller class sizes.

Instead, those records show the majority of teachers left the district because they retired, moved away because of a military deployment, completed a short-term teaching assignment or died.

Further, just a fraction of the 115 teachers who left the district said they did so for higher pay, district records show.

» Continued on Page 10

Japanese internment to Little League legacy

Setsuo Iwashita was taken away from Coronado as a child, but he returned after World War II to create a baseball heritage



By MADELINE YANG
The Coronado News

The heat beats down on his small frame. The barracks he lives in are made of wood and tar paper, exacerbating the temperature in the 100-foot-long building.

A bead of sweat rolls down his face. He looks down and eyes a scorpion crawling through the floor.

Unable to take it anymore, he gets out of his bed and runs outside to join his siblings and friends.

His name is Setsuo Iwashita.

It’s 1944, and he’s just 4 years old.

He’s living in a Japanese internment camp in Arizona. This is the second camp he’s lived in.

The door swings open and his body is hit with a rush of air.

He experiences relief for a split second before his skin adjusts and the air around him quickly settles into its original hot form.

It’s triple-digit degree heat in Poston, Arizona, where more than 18,000 Japanese Americans were placed by their government at internment camps on an Indian reservation.

“They wanted us to go there and turn that reservation into a farm. So, when you

» Continued on Page 8

(Above) Setsuo Iwashita stands outside his home on Isabella Avenue in Coronado after the family returned home from an internment camp in World War II. (Right) Setsuo Iwashita, in his 1959 high school graduation picture. Photos courtesy of Iwashita family.



Jan and Setsuo Iwashita sit at Vernetti Stadium in Coronado to watch their grandson, Mark, play Little League on May 15, 2023.



Coronado Fourth of July is coming. Here’s what you need to know!

By FIONA RASAK
The Coronado News

It’s almost here.

Planning for Coronado’s Fourth of July celebration — by far the biggest event in the city that attracts 100,000 to 150,000 visitors — has been in the work for months by an all-volunteer organization.

The Coronado News visited with Coronado Fourth of July President Robert Kracht and his team to get a historical perspective of the event and to find out what’s in store for the big day.

The Coronado News will be providing numerous Coronado Fourth of July stories up to the big day and in-depth coverage on Independence Day. Keep checking at TheCoronadoNews.com for stories and information.

Here’s our interview:

Q: When did this Fourth of July event start?

A: According to Coronado historian Joe Ditler, the first Fourth of July parade in Coronado occurred in 1888.

Events were periodic back then, and interrupted by two World Wars.

The annual event started in 1948, and 2023 is the 74th anniversary.

We strive to make the experience better every year.

Q: Tell us about the volunteers. How many does it take and what do they do to help and facilitate the event?

A: It takes 80-100 volunteers and

» Continued on Page 11

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CORONADO

CORONADO LOVE LETTER

Meet Audrey Pearl Smock of the Coronado VFW Auxiliary

As we grow closer to Memorial Day (May 29), it is only fitting the spotlight turn towards the Coronado chapter of the VFW Auxiliary and Audrey Pearl Smock.

Smock, 94, was born in 1929, and hails from Decorah, Iowa. She met her husband, Donald Wesley Smock, in Decorah in 1946, and they married a year later. They came to Coronado for her husband's first Navy duty station in the late 1950s.

In 1966, they made the decision to stay in Coronado. They purchased their home the following year and she has lived there ever since.

They raised two young boys in Coronado, who went through the school system here.

She has four grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Her oldest grandson is Brian Smock, the Coronado Municipal Golf Course professional. Smock's husband Donald died in 1999.

Long Navy Exchanges service

Smock worked 23 years at US Navy Exchanges as a civilian employee.

She worked at the Navy Exchange in Guam in 1955, the Long Beach Navy Exchange, the Great Lakes Navy Exchange, and then worked at North Island Navy Exchange from 1966-1981.

Smock was active in the VFW Auxiliary when they lived in Iowa. After her husband retired from the Navy (1973), she signed up at the Coronado Auxiliary and the Fraternal Order of Eagles.

The Coronado branch of the VFW Auxiliary began in 1932, and Smock joined in 1968. There were



Audrey Pearl Smock, 94, is part of the Coronado Chapter of the VFW Auxiliary.
Photo courtesy of Joe Ditler.

93 members then, and today there are 167.

Smock is the oldest living member and serves as VFW Auxiliary president.

“We have many programs we promote,” Smock said. “The VA Hospital is one of them. We volunteer at the VA and do whatever we can to help our veterans and their families.”

Smock works annually on the Buddy Poppy pro-

gram, and helps create ditty bags and backpacks that contain clothing, bedding, books and puzzles, and personal care items to help veterans and their families.

“I’ve witnessed a profound change in the people we’ve helped through the Auxiliary. When I began, it was mostly men we helped. Today there are many, many lady veterans, and that has been very rewarding to see,” she said.

Citations and awards

Smock's home is filled with citations and awards, thanking her for many thousands of hours dedicated to helping our veterans and their families.

“We do a good job of honoring those who have served,” Smock said. “The VFW and VFW Auxiliary give me a place to go, and provide a way to help our veterans. It's a friendly group, and has been since my first day. At my age, I feel very fortunate to still be able to help others.”

Memorial Day Services will be held Monday, May 29, at 10 a.m.

The hour-long service will be held at Coronado's Star Park, and is open to the public. Nearly 300 seats will be provided on a first come basis. Visitors are encouraged to bring beach chairs.

More information is available at www.vfwpost2422.org or by calling (619)435-6917.

Submitted by Joe Ditler, a Coronado storyteller and historian.

this week

26 • friday

Discover a new favorite spice or herb with the Coronado Public Library. Each month, the library invites community members to explore different spices used in dishes around the world. For May, participants will explore cooking with baies rose pink peppercorns. (Note: this ingredient can cause allergic reactions in people with severe cashew/tree nut allergies.)

The meeting will be held on Zoom, at 2:30 p.m. Once registered, participants will receive an email about when to pick up their sample of peppercorns and a couple of recipes. To register, visit the Library's calendar at cplevents.org.

28 • sunday

The Coronado Promenade Concerts in the Park at Spreckels Park, 601 Orange Ave., will have the Coronado Concert Band deliver a rich mix of music at 4:30 p.m. The city of Coronado is sponsoring the first concert. Side Traxx, which will play classics from the 1970s, will play at 6:30 p.m. California American Water is sponsoring the nightcap concert. More information and future concerts can be found at coronadoconcert.com

29 • monday

Memorial Day Services will be held at 10 a.m. The hour-long service will be at Coronado's Star Park and is open to the public. Nearly 300 seats will be provided on a first come basis. Visitors are encouraged to bring beach chairs. More information is available at www.vfw-post2422.org or by calling (619) 435-6917.

11 • sunday

A public art exhibition featuring the work of six Coronado contemporary artists is open through July 9 in the Spreckels Reading Room at Coronado Public Library. The show is sponsored by the Library and the Coronado Art Association. Meet the artists at a reception to be held from 2 to 4 p.m. on June 11 at the Library. The reception will feature musical accompaniment by harpist Amy Kanner. The exhibition includes paintings by Uwe Werner, Teresa Espaniola, Tina Christensen, and Beate Bermann-Enn; as well as photographic prints by Greg Kallajian and ceramic sculptures by Gerry Werner.

CONTACT US

For news tips, story submissions and letters to the editor, contact Editor Craig Harris at craig@thecoronadonews.com or 602-509-3613

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

SCHOOLS

CORONADO UNIFIED ANNOUNCES 2023 TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

Four teachers, one from each of the Coronado Unified School District schools, have been selected as Teachers of the Year, the district announced May 17.

The four awardees were nominated and selected by their colleagues and will be recognized publicly at the May 18 school board meeting.

“Recognition of these four outstanding educators is also a celebration of the profession, and our amazing team of teachers across the district. I am inspired by their commitment to our children. Each day, they creatively engage our students and their colleagues,” said Superintendent Karl Mueller.

Here are the winners:

CHS Visual Arts Laura Hill

In addition to being selected as the CHS Teacher of the Year, Laura Hill was chosen as the CUSD Teacher of the Year.

Hill is a 27-year veteran of the district and teaches Art Foundations, and Advanced, Portfolio, and AP Art. Colleagues Bill Lemei and Sandy Davis both commended Hill for her passion for both art and teaching.

“She takes all the risks she asks her students to take. She usually jumps off the emotional cliff first. She models living a life open to risk-taking,” said Lemei. Davis added, “Laura always goes above and beyond in all aspects of her job.

“She spends weekends photographing artwork for AP portfolio. She spends evenings and weekends working on major art installations. Laura has many special education and ELL (English Language Learner) students involved in her dynamic classes. She has given selflessly of her time and energy. I can think of no other teacher who spends so much out-of-class time fostering a love of art and love of the environment.”



Coronado High School Teacher of the Year Laura Hill.
Photo courtesy of CUSD.

Hill has received numerous arts education awards including most recently a San Diego Arts Empower Creative Leader award for her longtime dedication to student-created campus art installations and her unique ability to guide students to find their personal creativity.

She also serves as an advisor to the Interact Club and the Emerald Keepers Club.

» Continued on Page 16

PET OF THE WEEK

Meet Athena

Are you looking for a loyal companion with a heart full of love and wisdom?

Look no further!

Athena is gentle and sweet in nature and eagerly waiting to find her forever home.

Athena may have a brindle coat that catches your eye, but it's her gentle soul that truly sets her apart, according to PAWS of Coronado.

At first glance, you'll notice her calming presence and the warmth in her expressive eyes, which seem to hold the wisdom of ages.

Despite her youthful energy, Athena possesses an old soul that brings a sense of tranquility wherever she goes. She adores walk time with the staff at PAWS and volunteers exploring the great outdoors.

She has excellent leash manners and after a few minutes of investiga-

tive sniffing, she will stroll right by your side. Athena is truly a special dog that is guaranteed to brighten your day, according to PAWS.

STATS
Estimated DOB 5/8/2021
Female, mixed breed, 53 lbs full grown
Spayed, vaccinated, microchipped, and up to date on flea/heartworm prevention
Adoption Fee \$150

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



Brought to you by Simone Real Estate Group

ISLAND INSIDER



Expert Analysis on the Coronado Housing Market

HELLO CORONADO!

Corey Simone here. Every Friday moving forward, I will be bringing you news, stats and information in the ever changing real estate market. Should you have a topic you want covered please email me at info@simonerealestategroup.com

From excavating artifacts to becoming one of San Diego’s top real estate agents....

For the past few months, I’ve introduced myself to you by offering advice and insights on the Coronado housing market. Now, I’d like to tell you a little bit about me and my family.

I am a proud native of San Diego, having grown up in Santee.

This month my family celebrated my parents’ 42nd wedding anniversary, a truly remarkable achievement.

I revel in my role as the middle sibling amongst a trio of remarkable sisters. (Ah, the plight of our dear father, outnumbered by our feminine charm, yet his adoration for his daughters knows no bounds—a true girl-dad, if you will.)

My sisters, not only siblings but my best friends - have blessed me in various ways, including allowing me to be an Auntie.

Canine companions, particularly those of considerable stature, also hold a special place in my heart.

I am new to pickleball and love it! I will never turn down a sailing trip, and I grew up playing competitive soccer and have lifelong friends because of it.

My collegiate years allowed me to earn dual degrees in Business and Archaeology.

Now, I can anticipate your curious thoughts, pondering who in their right mind would opt for Archaeology as a major?



Well, ever since I was little I knew I wanted to be an archaeologist. In fact, while applying to graduate schools, my letter of intent recalled a story of an audacious 8-year-old (me) persuading her parents to partake in the burial of dead animals for subsequent excavation and meticulous observation of decomposition’s impact on the soil. Some might think that is very strange, but luckily the people reading my graduate school applications loved it!

Thrillingly, I secured a coveted place for my doctorate degree at one of the world’s preeminent universities for Classical Archaeology, embarking upon an odyssey of excavation across diverse corners of the globe.

From the bustling metropolis of London to the resplendent antiquity of Pompeii, Rome, Greece, and even Egypt, my efforts culminated in many unforgettable moments with my favorite being the unearthing of the illustrious Kushite Pharaoh’s daughter. She’s revered as the Nubian Princess within the hallowed grounds of Luxor’s Valley of the Queens. Radiocarbon dating placed her existence during the 25th dynasty, an accomplishment that resonates deeply within me.

Yet now, instead of plunging my hands into the earth’s embrace, I find myself dealing in the very substance I once excavated—dirt!

I have ventured into the realm of real estate and this second calling has kindled within me a comparable sense of satisfaction and purpose. In this chapter of life, I have the privilege of helping friends and clients build generational wealth and, if you’ll permit the indulgence, transform dreams into tangible realities.

For help finding your perfect Coronado home or if you are looking to sell, please call me at (619) 568-0568.

As a trusted and experienced real estate agent in your area, I not only understand the value of your property, but I’m here to provide you with market expertise - and some additional insight about archaeology.

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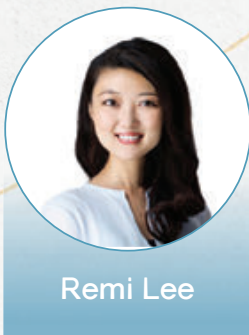
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OPINION

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Harris is wrong about Coronado Schools Foundation

I've read, and reread, Craig Harris's op-ed piece about the Coronado Schools Foundation – and I can't figure out what he's getting at. I guess there might be a problem there, somewhere – but I'm not seeing it. As Mr. Harris reports, CSF is a nonprofit organization that donates approximately \$800,000 annually to the Coronado Unified School District. That is their only mission. We, the taxpaying citizens of Coronado, give CSF office space at CUSD headquarters – for which we do not charge them rent. Well... that seems like a pretty good deal, to me. Apparently, the rent on that office space could be something like \$40,000/year; and I'm perfectly happy to comp CSF on that, to help facilitate that \$800,000/year donation to CUSD. If Mr. Harris knows about anything improper going on here – then let's hear what it is.

I did check out the Coronado Schools Foundation a little bit (website, etc,) – and maybe that's a good thing to do, anyway. It looks like they are exactly who they say they are; and they score 99% on Charity Navigator. Again: I don't see the problem. And, no, I don't believe we're obliged to extend any breaks on the rent, to any other organization that might ask. If any of them can raise and donate some hundreds of thousands of dollars a year, for a decade or two – then maybe we should talk about it.

Murray Nies
Coronado

The Coronado News welcomes Letters to the Editor and Op-Eds. Please send them to craig@thecoronadonews.com

How has the Tijuana sewage crisis affected you?

The Coronado News for much of this year has investigated and reported on the Tijuana sewage crisis. We have taken you to Tijuana to show you how 29 families didn't have a sewage system and share a water hose, and we have given you first-hand stories about pollution victims like Imperial Beach teacher Josh Hill. We have profiled elected leaders like Coronado Mayor Richard Bailey and Imperial Beach Mayor Paloma Aguirre, who are fighting to end the millions of gallons of sewage flowing from Tijuana onto their beaches. Now, we are teaming with MuckRock, a non-profit collaborative news site that gives you the tools to keep our government transparent and accountable, to do additional stories. But, we need your help. Please consider filling out our online form to give us additional information in how we can continue our coverage of this important issue. —Craig Harris, Editor

OP-ED: DONNA MANNING AND ALLEN FRANCES

Clarifying Coronado's School Board controversies

We are grateful that Carolyn Rogerson has offered us an opportunity to clarify our views on Coronado's school board controversies. Since Ms. Rogerson has raised the fact that we are psychiatrists, let's first be clear that we speak only as concerned citizens and grandparents, not as mental health professionals – and we are certainly not saying anyone involved in the various Coronado controversies suffers from mental disorder. Instead, we are saying that a small, but vocal and influential group is attempting to politicize our school system and polarize our community. This has nothing to do with psychiatry and everything to do with bigotry, a denial of history, and a lack of civility. Their attitudes and actions threaten the integrity of our school system and the stability of our community. Coronado bigotry was most obvious in the attempts by the mayor and others to whitewash the shameful Tortilla-gate incident and to shift blame onto school officials for apologizing. Please read the April 15 Op-Ed by Kevin Ashley if you have forgotten how ugly and embarrassing this episode was, and the national shame it brought to Coronado.

Bigotry is displayed in gay bashing

Similar bigotry is displayed in the gay bashing and racial dog whistling that have too often been used to attack the school curriculum. CUSD is not independently or arbitrarily introducing gender and race issues into the classroom; it is merely following what is mandated by the state. We refer Ms. Rogerson to California's 'Fair, Accurate, Inclusive, and Respectful (FAIR) Education Act', which "prescribes inclusion of the contributions of groups previously excluded in the history of California and the U.S. This section previously included men and women and numerous ethnic groups; the expanded language requires inclusion of the contributions of LGBT Americans to California and U.S. history as well as their roles in contemporary society."

"We are saying that a small, but vocal and influential group is attempting to politicize our school system and polarize our community."

Donna Manning MD & Allen Frances MD

and enlightening.

Standard civics lesson

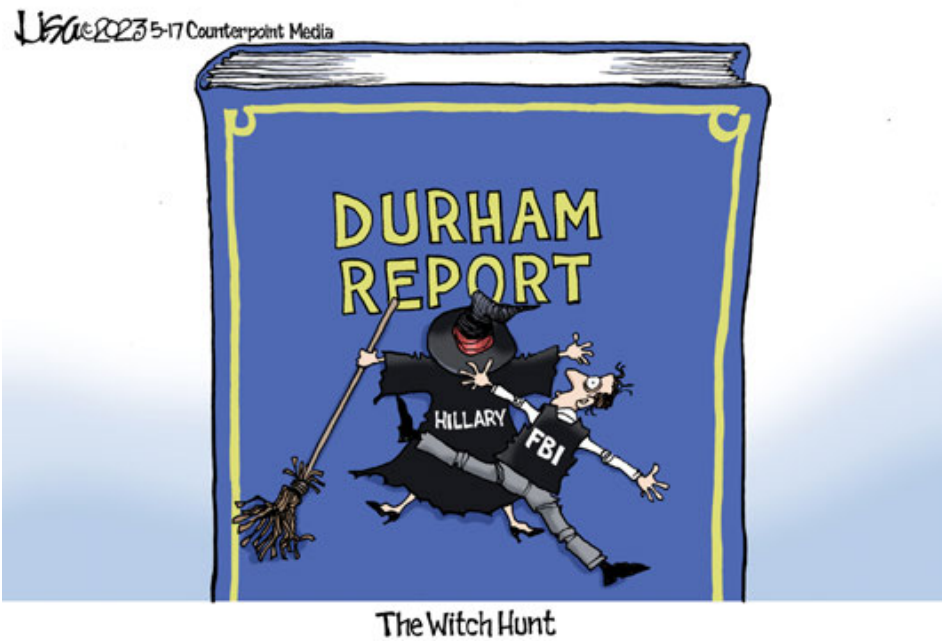
Teaching respect for diversity is nothing more than standard civics education- not some sinister plot to seduce children or make them feel guilty. It is just simple decency to promote empathy for minority and LGBTQ students- and to protect them from bullying. Parents need not fear that such education will increase the odds their kids will turn out gay or transexual- sexual and gender preferences are biologically driven, not taught in classrooms. The lack of civility in our community has improved considerably since the recent school board election. Because extremist candidates lost, we now have a solid majority of reasonable people, representing the moderate majority, who are eager to fulfill their educational role unimpeded by partisan politics. Previously, school board meetings were repeatedly disrupted by raucous demonstrations and individual school board members were subjected to crude and cruel intimidation. We must let our school board focus on the real educational needs of our kids- not be distracted by political dirty tricks. We love our school system. It has provided our grandchildren with the best possible education we can imagine. They say that many of their best teachers were at Coronado High School – not at Harvard or Berkeley or Duke. We are blessed with a wonderful school system – don't mess it up!

Donna Manning MD & Allen Frances MD are Coronado residents.

The Coronado News accepts Op-Eds and Letters to the Editor. Please send them to Editor Craig Harris at craig@thecoronadonews.com.



JACK OHMAN



LISA BENSON

COMMITTEE GIVES FINDINGS TO CONTROVERSIAL 4X4 CHS BELL SCHEDULE

» Continued on Page 16

CORONADO

CORONADO RANKS AS SIXTH-BEST U.S. BEACH

Coronado Beach came in as the sixth best beach in America, according to the 33rd annual Top 10 Beach List, produced by coastal expert Stephen P. Leatherman, a professor in the Department of Earth & Environment at Florida International University in Miami.

Leatherman ranked St. George in Florida as the No. 1 beach.

Leatherman called Coronado Beach the “toast of Southern California,” adding “it is a veritable oasis by the sea that is hundreds of yards wide.”

Leatherman goes on to say this: “With its subtropical vegetation, unique Mediterranean climate, and fine sparkling sand, beach-goers flock to this beach for great ship-watching and the summer’s warm and mild surf. The local landmark, Hotel del Coronado, was built over a hundred years ago; kings, sheiks, ac-



Coronado has the sixth best beach in America, according to Florida professor who publishes an annual listing of America’s best beaches.
Photo courtesy of Dr. Beach.

tors, and actresses have stayed at this iconic hotel.

As for the No. 1 beach, St. George Island State Park on Florida’s Gulf

Coast was described as a favorite destination for beachgoers, anglers and bird watchers. The park offers nine miles of some of the most pristine

beach in the United States, and its remote location is perfect for stargazing and enjoying spectacular sunsets.

“Dr. Beach” (www.DrBeach.org), Leatherman has selected the annual Top 10 Beaches since 1991, and he uses 50 criteria to evaluate beaches, which include water and sand quality as well as safety and management.

Leatherman is an internationally known coastal scientist who has published 20 books and hundreds of scientific articles and reports about storm impacts, coastal erosion and ways to improve beach health and safety.

Bonus points are awarded for prohibition of smoking on beaches, and Coronado was the only California beach to make the list. Coronado moved up a spot from last year and has been a regular inclusion on Leatherman’s annual rankings, according to the Times of San Diego.

Coronado Fourth of July expands board

Coronado Fourth of July (CFOJ) has expanded its Board of Directors with the appointments of several new members, the organization announced.

Officials said the move was to ensure continued success and effectiveness in its mission to produce and execute an inspirational, family-friendly community experience celebrating Independence Day.

The day-long events attract more than 100,000 visitors to Coronado.

Joining the CFOJ board of directors are Debra Balsley, Doug Clarke, Carrie Downey, Andrew Gade, Jamie Hartnett, Kathy Summers and Dave Szymanski.

“As we continue to focus on producing a great event for the Coronado community and as we look forward to our 75th anniversary next year,” Robert Kracht, interim president of the Coronado Fourth of July Board of Directors, said. “It became clear to the CFOJ Board that we continue to grow and make sure the board is representative of a variety of Coronado voices.”

The new board members join Kracht (interim president), Maggie Hannegan (vice president), Judy Clarke and Jennifer Stein.

The CFOJ Coronado Fourth of July is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

The group’s primary objective is to organize and fund the Coronado Independence Day festivities, including the renowned parade, fireworks and other day-of-event activities.

It is an all-volunteer group.



Shown here are board members of the Coronado Fourth of July, which expanded its board. L-R back row: Doug Clarke, Debra Balsley, Dave Szymanski, Robert Kracht, Andrew Gade. Front row: Carrie Downey, Judy Clarke, Kathy Summers, Jennifer Stein. Not pictured: Maggie Hannegan and Jamie Hartnett. *Photo courtesy of Coronado Fourth of July.*

DELICIOUS BRUNCH NOW OFFERED AT THIS ‘50 YEAR OLD’ ISLAND GEM!



brunch *noun*
(ˈbrʌntʃ)

: a meal usually taken late in the morning that combines a late breakfast and an early lunch.

Also defined as: An excuse to have breakfast at 11 am; a reason to look chic on Saturday or Sunday morning; the reason the Mimosa’s exist.



Chez Loma is now offering brunch service every Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 am to 1:30 pm. Our brunch dining space on the second floor is designed with sophistication and style in mind, featuring an abundance of natural light and a refined, white linen classic ambiance.

Our brunch menu is carefully curated with the finest ingredients and flavors to bring you a memorable and satisfying dining experience at a great value. From classic breakfast dishes to innovative seasonal creation. Our bar will be open as well and will feature specialty cocktails for you to enjoy. Our menu truly offers something for everyone to enjoy.

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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GLENDALE
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(623) 344-5000

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(480) 289-6400

OUTLET CENTER
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All prices and special offers are valid on in-store purchases of open-stock items through 5/29/23. No adjustments to previous purchases. Offers not valid online and may not be combined with other coupons or special offers. Not valid on Ledge Lounger products. Minimum purchase of \$999 required. Free delivery & setup limited to Phoenix, Tucson and San Diego metro areas only. Regular delivery and shipping rates apply to all other delivery areas. See store for complete terms and conditions.

JAPANESE INTERNMENT TO LITTLE LEAGUE LEGACY



David, Mark and Setsu Iwashita (L-R) stand together on the pitchers mound at Vernetti Stadium after a Little League game on May 15, 2023. All three played in Coronado Little League. Staff photo by Craig Harris. (Front page photo also by Craig Harris.)

» Continued from Page 1

go there today, you wouldn't know there was a prison there. It's all green from the vegetation that the Japanese fixed," Iwashita says.

"It's a prison camp"

Iwashita was born on Coronado, and his family was one of 20 Japanese American families who called the island home before Japan bombed Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt about two months later issued an executive order that resulted in the imprisonment of roughly 120,000 Japanese Americans in makeshift camps in desolate areas in the West.

The Iwashitas initially were taken to at an internment camp in Santa Anita at a racetrack, where the entire family of six lived in a horse stall. It was there that Setsuo's brother was born.

They waited for six months like other Japanese Americans who toiled as so-called camps and barracks were built along the West. What came next was a train ride to the scorching heat of southwestern Arizona for the Iwashitas.

It has been decades since then and Iwashita is back in Coronado, far, far away from his days living in the internment camps. His family was just one of three who returned to the island.

At 82, his salt and pepper hair sits neatly on top a pair of glasses. The corners of his eyes crinkle when he talks, the light bouncing off his glistening eyes.

He talks quietly of the past, as if to not wake a sleeping child.

Jan Iwashita, his wife of 49 years, sits beside him.

Setsu describes how his father worked in the camp's mess hall for \$6 a month while his mother raised him and his three siblings.

As a child, all he knew was play, he says with a dry chuckle.

"Kids always have fun. The parents are agonizing, but the kids don't know," he says.

But, even as a 4-year-old, way of life in the camp didn't go unnoticed.

"It's a prison camp, like barbed wire. If you got too close to the barbed wire, you were shot," Iwashita recalls. "Can you imagine doing that to a person?"

Bus tickets and \$25

"Can you imagine?" Iwashita says this multiple times throughout the conversation about different aspects of his life.

His soft voice strains at these words as he shakes his head.

And it is hard to imagine.

"They took all your money, radios, cameras, cars, everything. Everything was gone," Setsuo says.

After four years of being incarcerated, the government gave the family \$25 and bus tickets back to California, Jan says.

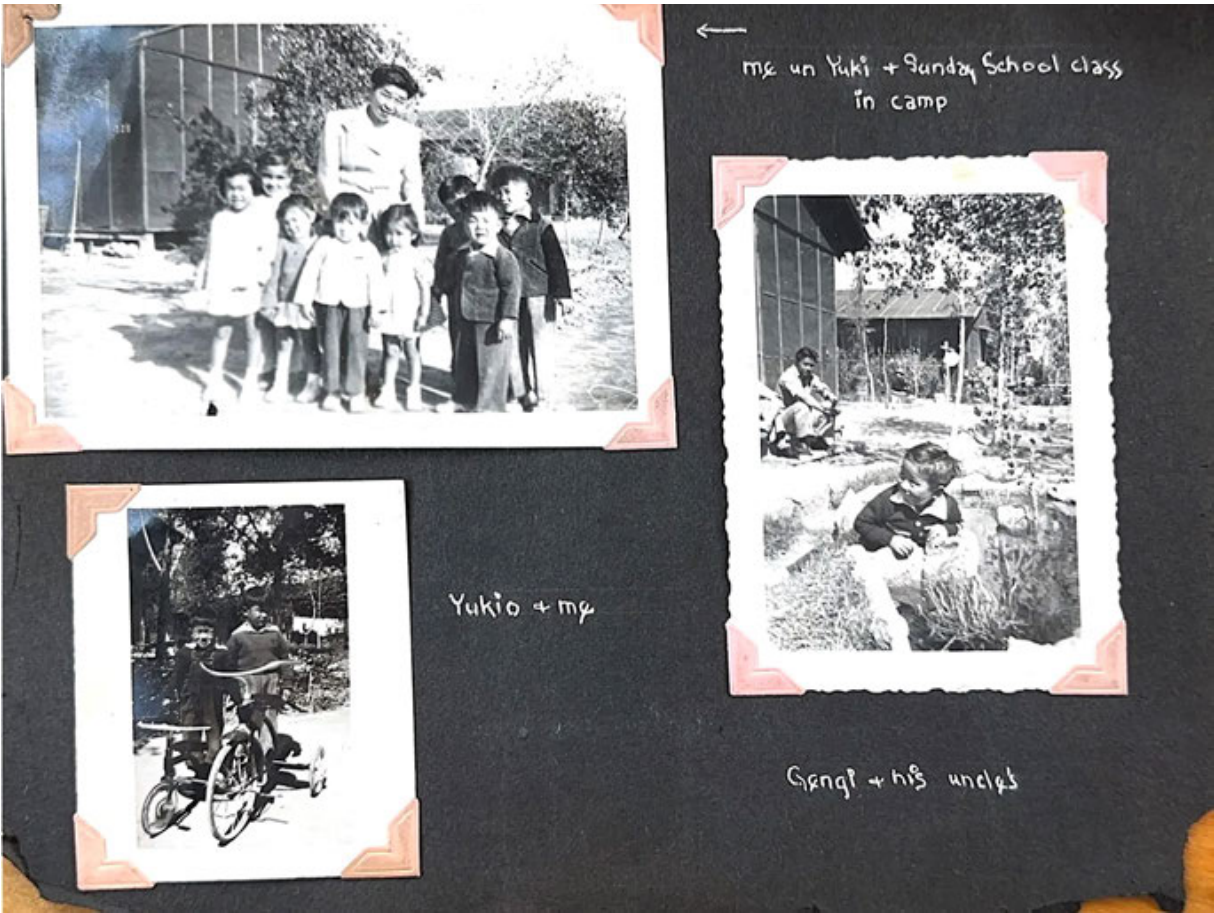
Setsuo jumps in: "Imagine, after four years."

Return to Coronado

When the Iwashitas arrived back in Coronado, they managed to secure a one bedroom apartment above a garage on Isabella Avenue.

A one bedroom for all six members of the family, and a child they took in for the next year or so because that boy's father was ill. He was Setsuo's friend, Tetsuden.

By 1951, the Iwashitas had made enough money to buy their own house.



Setsuo Iwashita is seen in these pictures when he and his family were interned during World War II. Photo courtesy of Iwashita family.

"Most people, when they found out you were Asian, they wouldn't sell you a house," Setsuo says, remarking that it was fortunate they were able to find someone who would sell to them.

They settled in and a year went by.

"His catcher, to this day, his catcher talks about him all the time," Jan says. His catcher was Robin Crenshaw, who still resides in Coronado.

Iwashita flips the pages. He comes to a page filled with newspaper clippings.

"Iwashita Hurls One-Hit Game."

"Iwashita Pitches No-Hitter."

"All the people that played baseball, it's the first thing they'd say," Setsuo Iwashita says.

"Even today, even today! 'We never got a hit off of you,'" Jan continues.

The clippings, however, refer to him as Melton, his middle name.

Setsuo said a teacher called him Melton and it stuck as well as the nickname "Charlie," which some kids called him because of Charlie Chan movies at the time.

"They got the nationality wrong," Setsuo says with a chuckle.

Following in the footsteps

Setsuo was the beginning of the Iwashita Little League legacy.

In 1979, his second son, David, was born.

David went through Little League, just as his father did.

"You would hear dad's friends talk about his Little League past," David says. "It's always tough following in someone's footsteps. It either makes you work harder or it makes you feel like you'll never be able to match up...it was a driver for me."

He says his dad never pressured him to play Little League.

"I was probably the last of all my friends to start playing baseball. I had to work a little harder," David says.

But when he did start playing, he had a role model in his father.

"You want to be the pitcher and emulate your favorite hero, which was my dad," David says.

David went on to play through high school and when he graduated, made it to USC, playing at one of the top universities for baseball.

» Continued on next page



Newspaper clippings from when Setsuo Melton Iwashita played Little League. Courtesy of Iwashita family.

Coronado Little League born

And in 1952, Coronado's Little League was born. "There was a doctor in town. Dr. Verneti," Jan starts.

"He's the guy that started Little League in Coronado," Setsuo adds.

Little League ends when you're 12, and Little League in Coronado started when Setsuo was the same age. So, he was only able to play one season.

"But I was a good baseball player," he says. "My batting average was .882."

He flips through an old picture book his sister made decades ago, gingerly turning the pages. Some of them fall out.

He points to a photo of him in his backyard, dressed in his baseball uniform. It's an action shot of him taking a swing.



Sets and Jan Iwashita and their family are big parts of Coronado Little League and the family sponsored the snack shack at Verneti Stadium.
Staff photo by Craig Harris.

Legacy continues

David has his own children now, and the legacy of baseball in the Iwashita family continues.
His son, Mark, is the same age his grandfather was when he started playing in Little League.
David coaches Mark's Little League team.
He instills in his son the same principles his dad taught him.
"I remember one kid on the team saying [to Mark], 'Your dad played at USC! You have to be good!'" David says.
But David makes sure his son understands just because his father and his grandfather played baseball, doesn't mean he needs to as well.
"I tell him, 'You need to want this on your own. You need to have your own desire for this,'" David says.

Third generation

And Mark does seem to enjoy being the third generation Iwashita to play Little League on Coronado.
After a recent playoff game in which Mark pitched, David coached and Set-suo watched with his wife just behind home plate, the youngest Iwashita said having his grandfather at the games "makes me try harder."
Mark has been playing since he was 4, and is poised to make the All Star team.
"He has more opportunities in baseball than I ever had," David says.
But Iwashita's baseball heritage is not the only history that carries through the family.
Having Iwashita as a father, David grew up learning a lot about what it means to be Japanese American.
"All of the hardships and name calling, and all of the things thrown at him, it made him that much stronger. He truly is my hero," David says. "Being Japanese American and having the family go through the internment camps, it was a huge part of our upbringing...it's shaped us and made us who we are."

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ARE TEACHERS LEAVING CORONADO FOR BETTER PAY?

» Continued From Page 1

Records compiled by The Coronado News show that Coronado teachers, on average, make less than a typical teacher across the state and in San Diego County. However, Coronado has just four public schools in its unified system, making it one of the smallest districts in the county.

District turnover data

CUSD Human Resources Director Armando Farias said that as of April, 115 educators have left the district since 2017.

That breaks down to 92 general educators and 23 special education teachers.

He said three educators left CUSD due to an opportunity for advancement, promotion or higher salary according to a voluntary 'departure survey' that Farias started about a year ago, which gathered responses from 13 teachers who have left the district.

Farias said departures of general educators are due to a variety of reasons.

Those include two deaths; temporary end of assignment (10); five military moves/move out of state; retirement (30); and resignation (38).

Special education employees have left the school district since 2017 for the following reasons: four were not rehired for different reasons; six had military moves; one moved closer to home; three finished temporary assignments; one was an intern; and one moved out of state.

“For the rest we were not able to capture a reason for leaving CUSD,” said Farias.

He said the district currently has 380 employees, of which 187 are credentialed teachers.

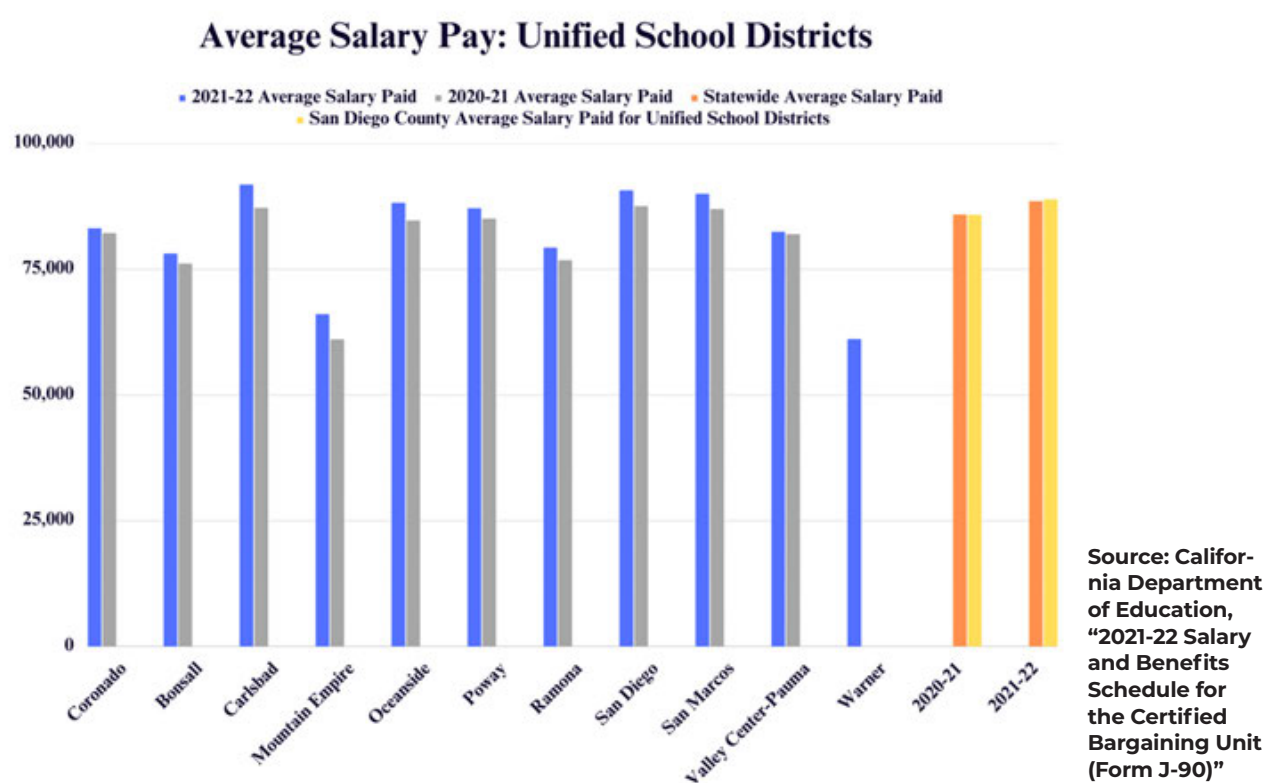
Other labor disputes

Voicing a lack of salary competitiveness in CUSD is not a new effort among educators.

In 2018, The Coronado Times reported on teachers advocating for change due to growing class sizes, attracting and retaining quality educators, and the need for more special education teachers. Meanwhile, strides towards higher wages across the state have increased educators' participation in strikes.

This month, the New York Times reported that the Oakland Unified School District recently reached a tentative agreement to raise salaries for teachers, librarians, nurses and other staff members after a nearly two week strike. Starting teacher salaries may increase from \$52,905 to \$62,696, according to the union's tentative deal.

The Los Angeles Times reported that members of the United Teachers Los Angeles union approved an agreement for 2022-2025 allowing a 21% salary



increase and class size reduction of two fewer students, following a teacher strike in March.

Coronado News findings

The Coronado News found that CUSD pays its teachers more than similar small districts in San Diego County. But, Coronado teachers on average are paid less than typical teachers at unified (K-12) districts in the county and across the state.

The average teacher salary in the Coronado Unified School District was \$83,101 in 2021-22, the most recent figures compiled by the California Department of Education. The 2021-22 statewide average teacher salary was \$88,508 and teachers working for unified school districts in San Diego County on average were paid \$88,871. Coronado Unified had a lower average salary than five other unified districts: Carlsbad (\$91,818), San Diego (\$90,641), San Marcos (\$89,968), Oceanside (\$88,164) and Poway (\$87,096).

Meanwhile CUSD had a higher average salary than five other unified districts, including Valley Center-Pauma District (\$82,422), Ramona (\$79,265), Bonsall (\$78,080), Mountain Empire (\$66,006) and Warner Unified (\$61,073).

Among these unified districts, CUSD was among the five smallest districts with 2,800 students.

Warner Unified School District has less than 2,000 students and San Diego Unified has more than 121,000 students enrolled.

CUSD had a higher salary average than other

small school districts whose student enrollment is below 6,000 such as Valley Center-Pauma District, Ramona and Mountain Empire.

Bargaining updates

Meanwhile, Landry, the Coronado union chief, in March discussed the continued need for instructional assistants and turnover data related to educators including speech-language pathologists, psychologists, counselors and teachers.

Along with salary issues, since March 14, 2023, the teachers union is requesting an increase in the cost to hire substitute teachers and a more flexible “pregnancy” leave.

Teachers also want to move the salary cap for 2024-25 to 15-years, which is expected to attract experienced educators. And they want compensation increase for prep time coverage and for chaperoning sixth grade camp, with additional non-per diem hourly rate and a one time off schedule stipend for certified employees of up to \$1,800.

In reports as union president, Landry has repeatedly said that instructional assistants are essential, and in February she said that the lack of instructional aides impacts classrooms because students don't feel comfortable with temporary educators.

As of April 24, both parties have agreed on the proposed calendar for the 2023-2024 school year, approved by the governing board at the May 18 school board meeting.

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CORONADO’S FOURTH OF JULY IS COMING. HERE’S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW!

» Continued from Page 1

they serve in a variety of roles including assisting with lining up the parade entry groups, monitoring the streets where the horses are staged, volunteering at the information booths, decorating the grandstands, seating the VIP and distinguished guests, helping the flow of the parade, carrying banners, assisting the 15 emcees with engaging the children in games and chalk art before the parade and more.

The variety of volunteer needs is detailed on our website www.coronadofourthofjuly.com. We encourage those interested to sign up early in order to get their desired first choice of roles.

While we know our volunteers have a love for Coronado and the community on this special day, they also get a CFOJ Volunteer t-shirt.

These hard-to-come-by shirts have become collector’s items and we could not be happier about that.

Q: Why should the community come to this event?

A: The Fourth of July in Coronado is iconic. It’s like a second Christmas for a city steeped in patriotism and military tradition.

As a result, we have the biggest and best small city Independence Day commemoration west of the Mississippi.

Coronado Fourth of July provides free, family-friendly entertainment to the Coronado community from sunup to after sundown.

There is something for everybody.

Q: What time does the parade begin?

A: The 74th Annual Independence Parade begins at 10 a.m. along Orange Avenue, but pre-parade entertainment starts at 7:30 am.

Q: What can people expect?

A: The Coronado community and visitors can expect a full day of events.

Our signature parade leads off the day’s events, featuring equestrians, military entries, bands, and a wide variety of community and other groups.

Patrons wake up before dawn just to secure a coveted viewing spot on the Orange Avenue median; pre-parade entertainment is provided for all beforehand; food vendors offer a wide variety of treats at Spreckels Park.

Throughout the day, people flock to our beaches, parks and the best restaurants San Diego has to offer.

After the parade, the back nine of the Coronado Golf Course become event central and the largest picnic area in San Diego and prime viewing spots to get up close and personal with the Navy Leap Frogs Aerial Demonstration team.

Following the Leap Frogs, our outdoor concerts, featuring a variety of musical acts keep the fun going into the evening. We close our commemoration with a patriotic firework show, soundtrack simulcast on KYYX 96.5.



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“What my wife especially loves is it gives her back feelings of safety and independence which has given a real boost to her confidence and happiness! Thank You!”
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The Zinger folds to a mere 10 inches.

backseat or trunk. Then, there are the steering levers. They enable the *Zinger* to move forward, backward, turn on a dime and even pull right up to a table or desk. With its compact yet powerful motor it can go up to 6 miles an hour and its rechargeable battery can go up to 8 miles on a single charge. With its low center of gravity and inflatable tires it can handle rugged terrain and is virtually tip-proof. Think about it, you can take your *Zinger* almost anywhere, so you don’t have to let mobility issues rule your life.

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Recovery swimmers assigned to Underwater Demolition Team 11 rehearse the recovery of Apollo Spacecraft in San Diego Bay. The practice of anticipating and rehearsing contingencies remains a crucial aspect of contemporary special operations mission planning and execution.
Courtesy photo of DIVDS.

invaded Kuwait. Within 72 hours, our guys deployed to Saudi Arabia. Our mission was now Operation Desert Storm.”

As Operation Desert Storm developed, SEAL Team 5 would send an additional platoon tasked to work with the CIA and Kuwaiti special operations units to infiltrate behind enemy lines to call in airstrikes and provide deconflictions.

“Our platoon was tasked with the coastal reconnaissance of Kuwait to locate a beach appropriate for the Marines to do an amphibious landing,” said Dietz. “The enemy was expecting this, even though the Marines weren’t going to do it, and one night six guys swam in with 20 pounds of explosives each and simulated a large amphibious Marine assault drawing in and relocating enemy forces allowing our military to conduct other missions nearby. Those missions were all a success.”

Support of Desert Storm

Further on in the 1990s, SEAL Team 5’s Delta platoon conducted operations from amphibious ships in continued support to Operation Desert Storm. Following the completion of the platoon’s cycle, they headed back to the U.S. when the 1991 Bangladesh cyclone occurred – one of the deadliest tropical cyclones on record.

“Combat operations are important – it is our mission – but so are humanitarian operations,” said Dietz. “We support our nation’s missions, whatever it may be. A massive typhoon struck Bangladesh and Delta platoon was able to go in there and provide humanitarian support.”

Following the Battle of Mogadishu in 1993, popularly depicted in Hollywood film “Blackhawk Down,” SEAL Team 5 sent a platoon to Somalia in the spring of 1994 to provide support in the extraction of all United Nations forces in country.

“We had a platoon pulled off an amphibious ready group to support this,” said Dietz. “These operations continued to 1996.”

Dietz would become SEAL Team 5’s executive officer in 1997. Operations continued with a stronger emphasis on maritime interdiction operations. And the platoons aboard the amphibious ready groups would engage enemy ships out of Iraq against United Nations sanctions.

“We sent a lot of guys out there to operations out in Bosnia and Herzegovina,” said Dietz. “So you look at the operations we did across this decade alone – underwater, above water and land mission sets. It was the mindset in the leaders from this decade, those who were molded from those in the 80s and UDT era. The approach these guys had in finding solutions is a testament to the resilient mindset that continues to the shape our special operation forces in upcoming decades.”

Responding to 9/11 attacks

Following the attacks on 9/11, SEALs were in theater less than one month later.

SEAL Team 5 would deploy platoons to Afghanistan to work with inter-agency and international partners. What started off with the deployment of platoons to theater, and by the Iraq War, turned into full SEAL team deployments.

“That little thing called ‘to serve’, where we didn’t have enough SEALs to go into combat for Afghanistan and Iraq,” said retired Master Chief Petty Officer Ron Culppepper, a former SEAL Team 5 command master chief. “We became tired. What were typically six-month deployments turned into seven, eight, all the way up to eleven. We answered the call of our nation, and we were willing to pay the ultimate sacrifice in doing so.”

The wars in Afghanistan and Iraq extended into the next decade.

“The war continued, and it always came back to being ready,” said an active-duty operator and former SEAL Team 5 commanding officer. “We continued to train as much as we could, while still fighting the fight. You never knew what was going to come next, but as it did, it came very quickly.

“It was the shift in tactics and our approach that changed the dynamic, eventually leading local counterparts to gain traction,” added the former SEAL Team 5 commanding officer. “This ultimately led to the securing of East Mosul and eventually set the conditions for forces to continue westward.”

Understanding history

The speeches all reflected on the evolution of SEAL Team 5.

“To truly appreciate history, you first have to understand it,” said the current commanding officer of SEAL Team 5. “Regardless of the size of platoon and whatever the mission tasking may be, the warriors here today carry the same DNA in their blood as the generations before. As we look towards the future, we can expect SEALs to continue to be a critical component in our National Defense Strategy.”

“I could not be prouder to serve at SEAL Team 5, nor could I be more excited for the future of this great command,” added the current commanding officer. As the ceremony concluded, past and present teammates along with their families gathered in small circles in front of the stage. Frogmen shared their stories, laughed and reminisced about their days as SEAL Team 5 operators.

Today’s SEAL teams, along with other components of Naval Special Warfare, represent a unique ability to access denied environments, providing scalable kinetic and non-kinetic effects that set the conditions to undermine adversary confidence and provide diplomatic leverage in competition, and higher end options in crisis and conflict.



Capt. Amy N. Bauernschmidt, left, outgoing commanding officer of the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln, shares a fist bump with her relief Capt. Peter J. Riebe, right, during a change of command ceremony on May 18 presided by Rear Adm. Kevin Lenox, commander, Carrier Strike Group 3, on the flight deck. U.S. Navy photo by Chief Mass Communication Specialist Raymond D. Diaz III.

USS Abraham Lincoln holds Change of Command ceremony

Defense Visual Information Distribution Service

Capt. Amy Bauernschmidt was relieved by Capt. Pete Riebe as commanding officer, USS Abraham Lincoln, during a change of command ceremony held on the flight deck on May 18 in San Diego.

Bauernschmidt successfully completed her command tour, marking a milestone in U.S. naval history – being the first woman to command an aircraft carrier.

“Lincoln’s strength is the Sailors,” Bauernschmidt said addressing the crew. “What we all do matters and our hard work makes the difference.”

During her 21 months of command, the Sailors of Abraham Lincoln completed a seven-month deployment to the U.S. 7th and 3rd Fleet Area of Operations, culminating in the Lincoln serving as the flagship for the largest Rim of the Pacific Exercise to date with 32 coalition partners.

“There remain complicated challenges around the globe,” said Bauernschmidt. “We must remain steadfast in doing the right thing because it is the right thing to do. I know under Capt. Riebe’s leadership you will continue to strive for excellence in daily tasks and cohesion across Lincoln Nation, addressing obstacles, remaining ready and continuing your development into the most effective, powerful and trusted fighting force.”

Hosting first Marine Corps F-35C

Other significant events during Bauernschmidt’s tenure include Lincoln hosting the first Marine Corps F-35C squadron integrated into the Air Wing of the Future and hosting the NCAA Armed Forces Classic basketball game on Lincoln’s flight deck in San Diego.

Rear Adm. Kevin Lenox, Commander, Carrier Strike Group Three, presided over the ceremony.

“Over the course of her CVN command tour, Capt. Bauernschmidt has shown herself to be an immensely impactful leader,” said Lenox. “She did this job as well I as I have ever seen it done, by anyone.”

“At sea, she led 5000 Sailors, operating forward, supporting the international rules based order, ready to compete and prevail at any level on the spectrum of conflict,” Lenox continued. “Once home she prepared her ship for extensive improvements ensuring that USS Abraham Lincoln will emerge later this year with the Navy’s newest combat capabilities, ready again answer the nation’s call.”

Bauernschmidt was awarded the Legion of Merit for her superior accomplishments and will report to Commander, U.S. Seventh Fleet for her next tour of duty.

A time-honored naval tradition, the ceremony allows the crew to formally acknowledge the passing of command from the current commanding officer to the next.

Riebe takes command

Capt. Riebe takes command of Lincoln after serving as Commanding Officer of USS Anchorage (LPD 23) and executive officer of USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71).

He completed the Aviation Nuclear Officer training pipeline in 2018 and has accumulated more than 3,800 flight hours throughout his career.

“Thank you and congratulations to Capt. Bauernschmidt,” said Riebe. “Clearly you have led this ship and crew well, and I’m thankful for the thorough and complete turnover. I look forward to seeing your continued success in the Navy and know that you are always welcome on Abraham Lincoln.”

“Our mission is no-fail and America is counting on us,” Riebe said, addressing the crew. “We are a critical cog for the United States to maintain our maritime superiority and military dominance. We will ensure that we are ready and focused on maintaining the warfighting advantage needed to win.”

Pioneer to run combat squadron

Capt. Bauernschmidt commissioned in 1994, was designated a Naval Aviator in 1996. She was one of the first women to be assigned to a combat squadron in the Navy after the combat exclusion policy for women was lifted in 1993.

This year, the U.S. Navy commemorates 50 years of women flying in the Navy.

The first class of women entered flight school in 1973 and one year later, six of those women earned their wings of gold.

USS Abraham Lincoln is home-ported at Naval Air Station North Island. For more information visit www.facebook.com/Lincoln or <https://www.airpac.navy.mil/Organization/USS-Abraham-Lincoln-CVN-72/>.

For complete coverage of the change of command ceremony, please visit <https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/USSAL-CVN72>.

Story by Lt.j.g. Brinn Hefron

SPORTS

Coronado girls' lacrosse season ends with CIF nailbiter

By NICK HANCOCK
The Coronado News

All eyes were fixated on a matchup between two of San Diego's best girls' lacrosse teams coming out of the CIF Open Division playoffs on May 16, when the fourth-seeded Coronado Islanders faced off against the top-seeded Torrey Pines Falcons.

The semifinal match was a highly anticipated rematch for two teams that hadn't seen each other since late March, when the Islanders stole a game on the road by beating the Falcons 8-7.

However, it was the Falcons coming out on top this time around, securing a 15-14 victory in a game that held far more significance.

The story of the year for the Islanders has been the impact their freshmen class has made on the field, and this continued in the biggest game they had played this season.

A dozen goals from freshmen

Of the 14 goals the Islanders scored, 12 of them came from freshmen. And half of those freshmen scores came from Sydney Dunn, who continued her impressive playoff run with an assist to go with her offensive output.

Dunn also scored multiple times against La Jolla in Coronado's first-round playoff victory.

Meanwhile, junior Lauren Hundley was active on the offensive side for Coronado, with two goals and four assists.

Torrey Pines responds

Torrey Pines responded to the aggressive offensive attacks from Coronado with plenty of goals of their own.

Falcons' junior, Laurel Gonzalez, had multiple goals that kept Torrey Pines in the game until they were ultimately able to pull away with the one-goal victory.

Coronado knew they had their work cut out for them, as Torrey Pines had won 11 of its last 13 matches heading into the semifinal, and the Falcons were 8-3 at home.

Primed for next year

According to Coronado's head coach Caroline Carlson, the Islanders played very well but the Falcons' efforts kept it tight all match.

"Unfortunately, we didn't come out with the win this time, but it just fueled our fire even more for next season," said Carlson.

After breezing through the Division 1 playoffs a year ago to win the title, the Islanders and their young core were moved to the Open Division



Coronado High School sophomore Katie Collins attempts a shot near the net against La Costa Canyon on May 3. Photo courtesy of Eddie Gonzalez.

where they managed to hold their own.

Carlson noted it was encouraging to see how well the younger girls on the team handled the pressure and made noise offensively.

Blistering season start

To earn the fourth seed in the playoffs this year, the Islanders kicked off their season with a blistering hot 6-0 start.

Taking down teams such as San Marcos and Scripps Ranch solidified Coronado as a legitimate contender in its division.

They came back down to earth after that, but still went 8-4 in league and proved to be one of Open Division's best teams.

"The future is bright," said Carlson.

From their goalie to some of their top goal scorers, the core talent from this year's squad will be back competing for Coronado next season as the Islanders look to hang another championship banner up.

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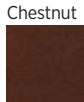
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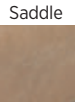
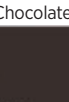
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LIFE ON THE ISLAND

International chess grandmaster on hand for Coronado Library youth tournament

By **FIONA RASAK**
The Coronado News

International chess Grandmaster Vasif Durarbayli was on hand May 20 at the Coronado Public Library for the fifth annual San Diego-Azerbaijan Youth Chess Tournament.

The event attracted players between 8 and 18, and the library teamed with Global Neighborhood Project, which is developing cultural and educational partnerships in several countries.

Durarbayli, who is a native of the country of Azerbaijan, shared tips and knowledge on how to improve in chess.

He currently lives in St. Louis, Missouri, and at the end of the event he presented certificates.

Elite distinction

To become a grandmaster of chess a person must earn that designation from the International Chess Federation.

Currently, there are only 1,721 people worldwide who have that distinction.

Durarbayli, who started playing chess at the age of 6, became an international master at the age of 15 in 2007, and three years later became a grandmaster.

Learning about Azerbaijan

The youth also learned about Azerbaijan by seeing pictures and hearing information about the country, which is in southwestern Asia.

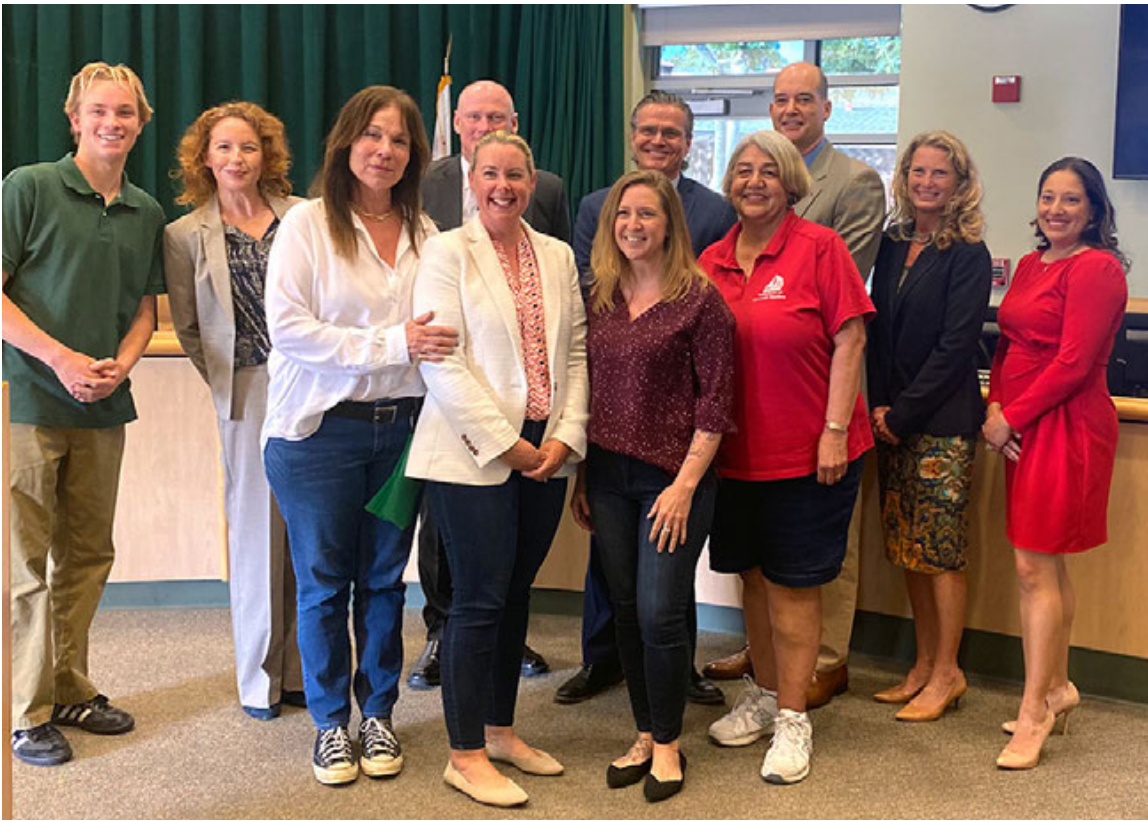
The country is bordered by the Caspian Sea in the east, by Iran in the south, by Armenia to the west and Georgia and Russia to the north.

The country has a very rich and fantastic culture according to Lee Wakefield, who is part of the Global Neighborhood project.

He added most people don't even know where the country is despite being one of the leading oil and gas producing countries in the world.



The Coronado Public Library on May 20 held a youth chess tournament that included an international chess grandmaster and a cultural lesson on Azerbaijan. Staff photo by Fiona Rasak.



The Coronado Unified School Board honored its 2023 Teachers of the Year on May 18. The teachers honored were Laura Hill (CHS), Kelly Sailers (CMS), Robyn Fullmer (SSes), and Allyson Bans Silva (VES). Hill was selected as the CHS Teacher of the Year and chosen as the CUSD Teacher of the Year. Staff photo by Julieta Soto.

» Continued from Page 5

He encouraged the board to continue surveys. Joseph Piepenkotter told the board that the amount of homework under the new bell schedule has increased dramatically, and said that another important aspect of high school is socialization.

Anne Sonne spoke about the time spent in classrooms and said that students are not getting as much time in the classroom in the 90-minute classes that extend beyond the teenage optimal attention span.

Youngblood shared that it was concerning that 42% of students said it is difficult getting classes they want, but encouraged everyone to “make this current schedule work as best as we can.”

Former educator’s legacy

Earlier in the evening, the board recognized the significant contributions and lasting impact of previous Coronado educator Brenda Kracht following her passing in April.

Superintendent Karl Mueller shared comments from the Kracht family and former colleagues that highlighted Kracht’s passion for education, leadership, and selflessness.

The board recognized the Kracht family, and presented them with flowers.

A special board meeting at 1 p.m. on May 31 will include a board self evaluation and a school safety operation report. The next regular board meeting will take place at district offices at 4 p.m. on June 8.

CORONADO UNIFIED ANNOUNCES 2023 TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

» Continued from Page 2

CMS Kelly Sailers, 7th & 8th grade history

Sailers has taught for 18 years in the district and currently serves as the history department chair and on the MTSS committee.

CMS English and History teacher Kathy Cotten, shared enthusiastic praise for Sailers, saying: “Kelly is loved by all! Former students, including my own son, love to visit her even while in high school and beyond. They love to stop in and discuss with Empress Kellysama their memories of Warlords of Japan, or what their next adventure in life will be.

“She is proactive with parents and assures them that working as a team they can support their student as needed. Kelly is very respected by her colleagues. She offers support and guidance to new teachers as well as seasoned veterans.”

CMS Principal Brooke Falar echoed the praise for Sailers, adding: “We are proud to have her represent CMS, she is an inspiration to all of us.”

Silver Strand Elementary Robyn Fulmer

Fullmer is a 27-year dedicated CUSD staff member. Her classroom is a place of learning through discovery and she incorporates class pets, her world travels, art, and investigative projects along with curriculum. As a veteran teacher, she is always willing to share experience with colleagues and serves in leadership roles on campus, including on the School Site Council, the MTSS committee, and as a union site representative.

“Robyn is a stellar teacher. She has the expertise and compassion to ensure each student in her charge has access to the curriculum and is

given every opportunity to succeed,” said colleague Jodi Judd.

“She is well-spoken and kind when interacting with all stakeholders. She is a quick thinker and is able to bring students, parents and colleagues together to find solutions when problems arise. Robyn’s students love being in her class and learning through discovery. Her reptilian class pets are a hit with her students year after year.”

Village Elementary Allyson Bans Silva

Bans Silva has patiently and caringly taught generations of Coronado kindergarteners during her career.

This August she will celebrate her 30th anniversary with CUSD, and she continues to provide a nurturing and engaging classroom for the district’s youngest learners.

As a veteran teacher, Silva provides leadership and mentorship to her colleagues and serves as a union site representative.

Art teacher Cynthia Fuhrmann said “Allyson is consistently calm and respectful while challenging her students to be their best and is a mentor for both students and teachers.”

Third grade teacher Rise Cooley added “I can’t think of anyone else at this campus that more emulates the quality of a teacher that all should strive to obtain. Hundreds of students have had the privilege, and the fortune, to be in Allyson’s class, receiving her love, care, and expertise.”

All four teachers will be recognized by their school principals at the beginning of the governing board meeting at 4 p.m. on Thursday, May 18 at the CUSD District Office, 201 Sixth Street.

Submitted by CUSD Public Information Officer Maria Simon



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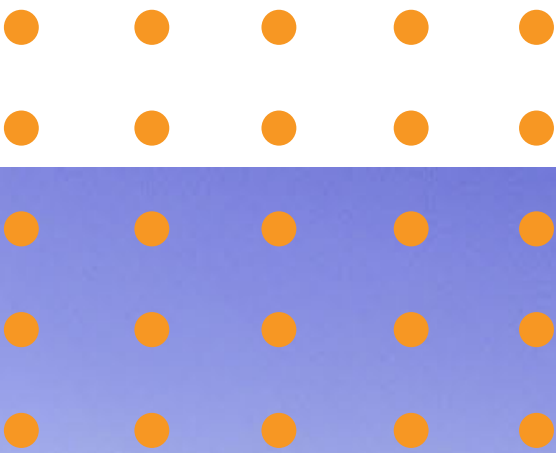
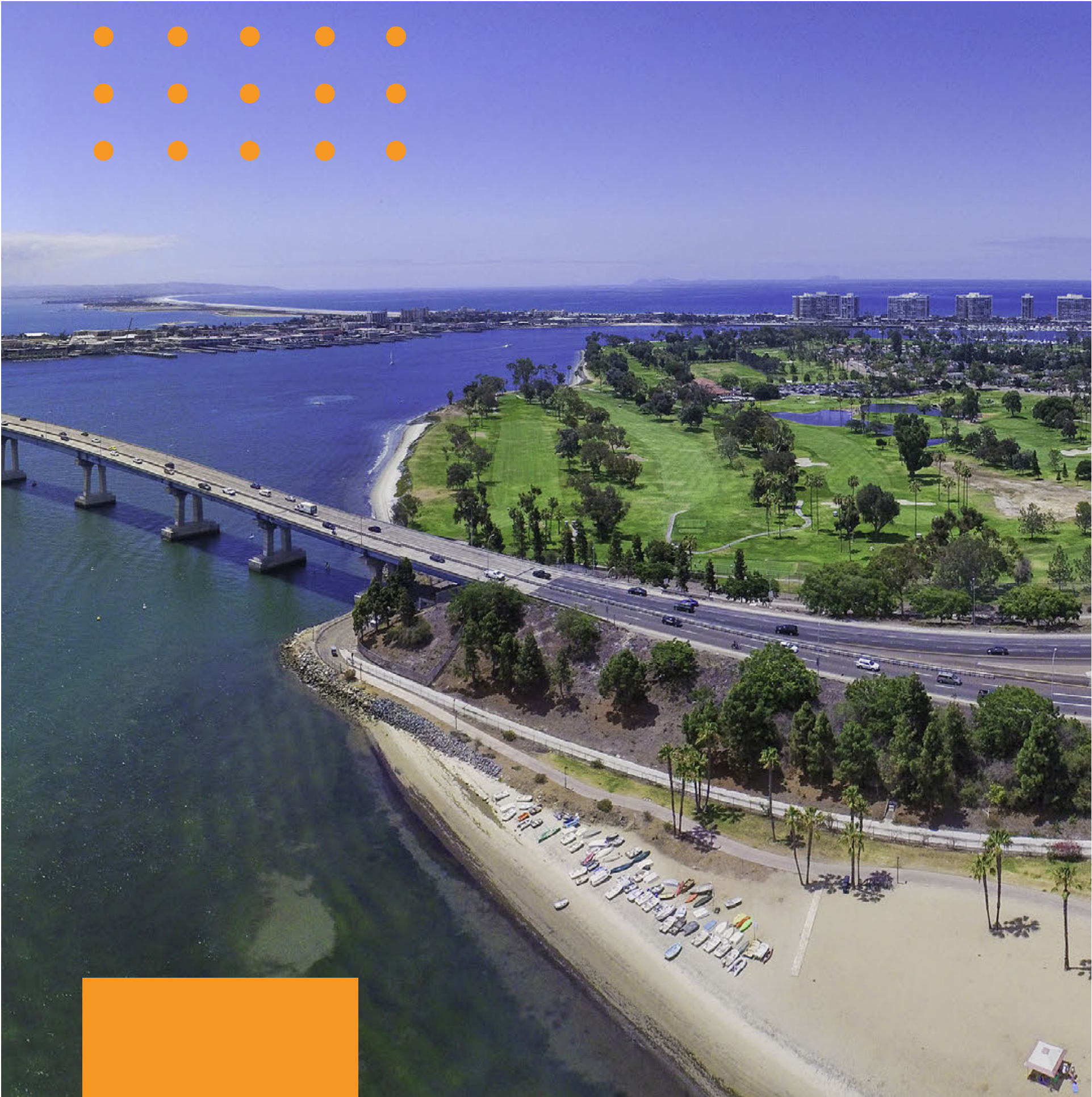
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