

THE CORONADO NEWS

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Tennis pro: City engaged in fraudulent contract

Suit alleges a city employee violated Coronado’s conflict of interest policy in awarding contract to Impact Activities, which denied any wrongdoing

By **MADELINE YANG**
The Coronado News

A longtime tennis pro has sued the city of Coronado, alleging a contract given to a Texas company to run the community’s tennis concessions was fraudulent and in violation of city codes. The issue stems from 2020, when the city sought bids to operate the Tennis Concession at the Coronado Tennis Center. A group from Texas, known as

Impact Activities, submitted a bid to run the Tennis Center. This included running the Pro Shop and making schedules for classes. When Impact Activities submitted its bid, the company said that everything would stay the same, according to the suit filed in May of 2021. That meant a group of tennis professionals who taught in Coronado could operate as they always used to, according to Mario DiLonardo, a ten-



Mario DiLonardo

nis pro who had been teaching tennis in Coronado for over 11 years. **Full support of tennis coaches?** Impact Activities’ bid stated that they had the full support of the tennis coaches on Coronado. However, DiLonardo disputes that claim. The city chose the Texas firm after it obtained the most points through a bidding process implemented by Coronado, and the contract was awarded

in February 2021, according to Coronado’s Communications and Engagement Officer Andrea McCullough. Impact Activities was now responsible for operating the entire Tennis Center, working with the city for tennis events and advertising, among other duties, as stated in the proposal. The company has denied any allegations of wrongdoing and city officials declined to comment for this story. However, a few points of concern emerged when Impact Activities took over. “During the bidding process, Joel Meyers (“Meyers”) a fellow CTC pro

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CORONADO UNIFIED CELEBRATES STUDENTS FROM MULTICULTURAL BACKGROUNDS



Student Travel and Exchange Experiences recipient Maya Rodriguez receives an honor at the 2023 CUSD World Language Awards on April 26. Staff photo by Julieta Soto.

‘We are only beginning’

By **JULIETA SOTO**
The Coronado News

Coronado Unified World Language Department presented its first World Language Awards celebrating multilingual students on April 26. The first-ever district-wide awards ceremony at the Coronado High School Theater recognized bilingual, including trilingual, 5th, 8th, and 12th-grade students representing the four-schools.

Following awards and certificates, recipients and families enjoyed an evening at the cultural fair in the CHS quad featuring multicultural tastes, informative culture booths, and live mariachi. CUSD Superintendent Karl Mueller expressed the district’s commitment to expanding access to home language development and world languages to enhance cognitive, emotional, social, and job opportunities. “This event and the awards given out tonight represent the commit-

ment of Coronado Unified to providing robust opportunities for access to world language in our district, and we are only beginning,” said Mueller. **Expanding world language access** CUSD expanded world language access to its students, including the 41% of military connected students and over 26% of students identify-

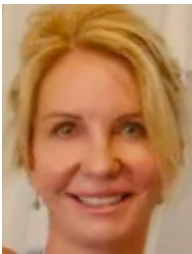
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HEALING THROUGH YOGA

Stephanie Anderson’s journey as the owner of Island Yoga Coronado

By **SOFIE FRANSEN**
The Coronado News

More than two decades ago, Stephanie Anderson found respite in yoga for the first time. She was seeking to escape two things: lower back pain and the bone-chilling, gray rain of a Seattle winter. After her second son, Ward, was born in 2000, Anderson noticed nagging issues again with her lower back. Knowing she couldn’t continue living that way, she enrolled in a Bikram yoga class where the brief respite from back pain turned into a long-term solution. Now owner of Island Yoga Coronado, instructing yoga has become a way for Anderson to share these solutions with the community. In fact, Anderson said that back issues are the number one reason why people come into her studio at 1330 Orange Ave., Suite 210. Her clients range in age, from young professionals and moms, to the consistent Coronado old-timers, like Steve Boney, who is in his 80s.



Stephanie Anderson

» Continued on Page 10

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CORONADO

CORONADO LOVE LETTER: MEMORIAL DAY

Coronado VFW hosting services at Star Park

Memorial Day services will take place Monday, May 29, at Star Park. The event begins at 10 a.m. at 1030 Park Place, and there will be a Presentation of Colors, keynote speakers, Taps, and singing of the National Anthem. Representatives and veterans from all branches of the military will be present. Coronado Veterans of Foreign Wars (Post 2422) hosts Memorial Day services in the city annually, and this year's event is located next to the historic home of L. Frank Baum, author of "The Wizard of Oz." Organizers say the event grows larger each year and everyone is encour-

aged to come down in support of our veterans and troops. This year's guest speaker will be Rear Admiral Keith B. Davids, USN, current Commander, Naval Special Warfare Command. **Post 2422 founded in 1932** Joe Ditler, who is helping promote the event for Post 2422 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, said the organization was founded in 1932, when 100 members of the community signed a petition to be granted their own chapter. Memorial Day services have been

honored in Coronado since the 1930s, in the midst of The Great Depression, according to Ditler. As traditions go, Memorial Day ranks right up there at the top of the list in Coronado, he said. The Coronado community, long influenced by the military, supports this annual event in abundant numbers, paying homage to those who served, and sacrificed their lives for their country, he said. **Community encouraged to attend** Whether directly or indirectly affected by tragedy or loss, everyone

is encouraged to attend, to help us remember those who died in the service of their nation, and to show our support, he said. The ceremonies will last about an hour. Seniors or disabled individuals are advised to arrive early to take advantage of the limited seating. Parking is available on adjacent streets to Star Park. Coronado VFW Post 2422 hosts this annual event in conjunction with the United States Navy League (Coronado Council), the Military Officers' Association of America (Silver Strand Chapter), and the Marine Corps League (Coronado Detachment).

this week

7 • sunday

The Daniel Bennett Jazz Group will perform at 3 p.m. in the Coronado Public Library Park at 3 p.m. for a one-hour performance. Organizers are asking those who attend to register in advance, which can be done on the library's webpage. New York saxophonist Daniel Bennett has been hailed as one of the most original and unpredictable musical voices of his generation, and The Daniel Bennett Group will perform a special album release concert.

For more information contact Jacqueline Luna at jluna@coronado.ca.us or 619-522-2479.

9 • tuesday

Learn about Bernoulli's Principle in this magical floating ball experiment at 3:30 p.m. at the Coronado Public Library. Tinker Tuesday is a hands-on educational program that allows children to explore, create, design, and problem solve focusing on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) concepts during the one-hour program.

10 • wednesday

May 10: Wednesday - Construct, craft, and create at our twice-monthly S.T.E.A.M. activity for teens! This in-person program takes place at 3:30 p.m. at the Coronado Public Library. This event is Candy Sushi, where attendees can celebrate Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month and learn about different types of sushi using candy.

13 • saturday

The Coronado Democratic Club is presenting a special program featuring Diane Benscoter, the founder of Antidote.ngo, at 4 p.m. in the Winn Room at the Coronado Public Library.

Benscoter will be speaking about the public health problems caused by the dangerous psychological manipulation used today by many seemingly innocent and even legitimate groups. The event is open to the entire community.

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 students win international design manufacturing competition

Coronado News staff

Coronado High School juniors Kailani Lenert and Jasmine Lo, along with freshman Sean Wilbur and El Capitan High School junior Ava Raugust, joined forces as a team and recently won first place in the high school division of the RAPID + TCT 2023 Design Manufacturing Challenge. The competition, according to the Coronado Unified School District, focused on additive manufacturing and 3D technology and is a precursor to the industry conference that will take place May 2-4, in Chicago. "We have been meeting on weekends and working on this project since December. We created design prototypes, did a lot of research and writing and video shoots before we submitted the project digitally in February, and now we are going to Chicago in May to accept our award and attend the conference" said Lenert. He added: "Our team name is 'ModMedTech' which is a shortened version of Modular Medical Technology, which is a description of our product." For their project, ModMedTech designed an 'Adaptable Emergency Survival Backpack' using multipurpose modularity. The competition theme/challenge was to create a product that could be used to help with natural and manmade disasters that cause temporary homelessness. The team's solution was a backpack (ModPack) that stores survival and first aid items in a modular cylinder (ModPod). The entire product can be 3D printed. "It's cylindrical, think of a Pringles can with different size modules that stack on top of each other," explained Wilbur. Lenert and Raugust initially paired up for the project and then invited Lo and Wilbur to join the team. "We had no experience and didn't really know the process, but we just



Coronado High School students, from left, Jasmine Lo, Kailani Lenert, Sean Wilbur, and Ava Raugust (not pictured) recently teamed up to win the high school division of the RAPID+TCT 2023 Design Manufacturing Challenge Competition. *Photo courtesy of CUSD.*

figured it out as we went. We were very fortunate to have NASA engineer Pete Waydo as our advisor, he really helped us focus on how to address the theme and what to include," said Lenert. Wilbur, who worked with Lenert on the 3D models added: "We all worked together but each brought our different strengths to the job." "Jasmine and Ava did a lot of the research and core development. Ava created meeting agendas and she and Kailani did a lot of the video editing," he explained. All four members worked on the write-up, which was a nine page research analysis of the solution to the competition challenge that addresses the theme, manufacturing process, constraints, design, cost, and conclusion. "The experience taught us a lot about leadership and collaboration," shared Lenert. Both Wilbur and Lenert spent three years on the Coronado Middle School Robotics team and now both serve as coaches for their former team. "That experience really helped us in this competition. We had learned how to manage a team and reach a

collective goal. The leadership lessons we learned through CMS Robotics were definitely applicable on this," said Lenert. Lo said that she was excited to win but shared that "it was really fun just to work together and explore additive manufacturing, and work with Pete (Waydo). The most valuable part for me was connecting as a team with a shared passion to make a product that we are all proud of and that might make a difference and have a social impact." Lenert, Raugust, and Wilbur will attend the conference in Chicago. "We are each going with one of our parents and we will receive the award, but I'm most excited to just be at the conference and meet people in the industry and interact with business people from major companies and college students who are working on manufacturing," said Wilbur. Lo is unable to attend because she is scheduled to take an AP exam during that time. "This is the first year the competition has included a high school division so I don't think they realized about the AP overlap," she said.

PET OF THE WEEK



Jonathan, a mixed breed dog, is The Coronado News Pet of the Week and can be adopted at PAWS of Coronado. *Photo courtesy of PAWS.*

Meet Jonathan, an adorable and lovable dog who just can't get enough affection — and needs a home. Jonathan is a mixed breed with a short coat and a charming personality that will steal your heart. He loves nothing more than being touched, petted, and cuddled by his human friends. He craves affection and attention, and he'll happily curl up in your lap for hours on end. He's also a big fan of treats, and he's always eager to learn new tricks or commands. Training is new to Jonathan but we have found that he is a quick learner, and he responds well to positive reinforcement training methods. While he enjoys

playtime and cuddles, Jonathan also knows how to relax and enjoy some downtime and he'll keep you company during quiet moments. **Stats**
Estimated DOB 3/24/20
Male, Terrier Mix, 49 lbs fully grown
Adoption Fee: \$150
While The Coronado News loves to find homes for animals like Jonathan, we also want to showcase other pets in the Crown City. Send your nominations for Pet of the Week to Editor Craig Harris at craig@thecoronadonews.com.

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



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Simone Real Estate Team's mascot Goose

Dear Coronado Readers,

My name is Scott Aurich with Pacific Sotheby's International Realty. I have been a broker in this community for over 33 years and have helped more than 1,000 families buy and sell here on the island.

It is my great pleasure to introduce to you Corey Simone. She first began her career working for the No. 1 team in San Diego; working with such an influential mentor allowed her to gain invaluable experience.

She built her own Real Estate Team specializing in Imperial Beach where she quickly became the top producer in IB. Her real estate career began 5 years ago and she has since helped over 250 clients buy and sell, putting her in the top 1% of real estate agents in San Diego County.

Corey Simone's success in the Imperial Beach market was a testament to her unwavering commitment to her clients and her unparalleled knowledge and most importantly her work ethic. She approached me almost a year ago about learning the ins and outs of selling luxury real estate and specifically Coronado real estate.

While new to the Coronado market, Corey is quickly developing a deep understanding of luxury real estate as she has been immersing herself in the sales data and has gained an understanding of the nuances of each area of the Village, the Cays, and the Shores.

Her dedication and hard work paid off, and she quickly established herself as one of the top 25 agents at Pacific Sotheby's International Realty in the entire county.

She is also an avid student who continuously studies the micro/macroeconomic effects in the economy and the direct impact it plays on the real estate industry. Because of that, she can share the information to help clients determine if the market conditions are favorable for buying or selling.

She is dedicated to getting her clients the best possible deal. She works tirelessly to ensure that every transaction runs smoothly and efficiently, providing guidance and support at every step of the way. Her knowledge, expertise, and commitment to excellence are qualities that will stand out in the luxury real estate market. And most importantly, she will put her clients needs first.

I am proud to have Corey Simone and her team working with me here at Pacific Sotheby's International Realty in Coronado. Whether you are looking to buy or sell a property, you can trust Corey to guide you through the process with honesty, integrity, and a deep understanding of the Coronado market.

Scott Aurich

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OPINION

OP-ED

It's past time to take back San Diego from homelessness

By **GEORGE MULLEN, BILL WALTON, BRIAN CASTER, RICHARD BAILEY and RICK SWEENEY**

San Diego (and our region) has been shamefully mismanaged over the past decade, turning our streets, canyons and public parks into ground zero in a raging homeless humanitarian crisis that is negatively impacting all of us.

In the face of this ongoing disaster, we recently authored Sunbreak Ranch Is the Answer to San Diego — and America's — Homeless Crisis in order to put forth a viable alternative path forward.

Sunbreak Ranch is about temporary, emergency tent cities, rehabilitation services and enforcement.

Desperate for a viable answer

We are desperate for a viable answer to this unrelenting humanitarian catastrophe with its accompanying devastation to every aspect of our lives, and culture.

Our article quickly drew significant positive nationwide attention in national newspaper outlets, and on top-ranked cable television news shows.

San Diego's elected officials, however, did not share this same enthusiasm or interest. Some even publicly summarily dismissed Sunbreak Ranch with callous indifference and vengeful spite, without any attempt to understand the concept, or reaching out to anyone to try to learn more.

To the contrary, none of our elected officials have offered a viable alternative of their own.

However, several have actually proposed turning part of our city's crown jewel Balboa Park into a homeless camp. David Lundin of Love Balboa Park accurately responded that doing so would be the "taking of legally dedicated park Lands within Balboa Park for a clearly inappropriate and illegal non-park use."

We are way beyond our outer limits of continuing these non-productive, shuffling games of musical chairs by our elected officials.

Take Back San Diego

We are now launching Take Back San Diego — a non-partisan, non-political grassroots coalition of native (and long-time) San Diegans who, in unison, are saying NO to the homeless status quo of the suffering of everyone of us.

In San Diego, the true (unreported) homeless numbers are likely significantly more than 20,000 in the city proper, and 45,000 countywide. (Across America the number is more than 580,000.)

Many of us can no longer walk or bicycle our streets, sidewalks, bike paths and public parks without facing an obstacle course of tents, bodies, human excrement, needles, trash and a slew of walking-zombies who are impossible to distinguish between those just down on their luck and others who are out-of-control substance abusers about to attack us.

Anarchy, chaos and misery now define San Diego.

We are in the midst of the greatest humanitarian crisis we have ever faced.

We are also devolving into the economic self-destruction of our all important and inter-related



The homeless have erected tents in many parts of San Diego. This picture is from April 22 in central San Diego. Staff photo by Craig Harris.

hospitality and tourism industries.

In 2020, the number of homeless deaths in San Diego reached 357 persons.

In 2022, deaths jumped to 574 persons. This is an astonishing 61% increase in just two years... and yet those who can do something about all of this won't.

To humanize this 574 number, think about the Super Bowl with its one-hundred-yard long football field.

If we stand one person on every yard-line in a row down the field, we would have nearly six rows of 100 persons to represent how many homeless people who died in just 2022.

Visualize these six lines of humanity stretched down the field.

These 574 persons are NOT just statistical numbers...they are individuals...our brothers and sisters...our sons and daughters...our mothers and fathers...our friends...our fellow citizens.

Something has gone terribly wrong in San Diego. We are here to Take Back San Diego and fix it. We have four achievable goals:

Four achievable goals

- 1. End the homeless humanitarian crisis that is ravaging our streets, canyons and public parks.** Despite what elected officials say, this is an achievable goal via a combination approach of Sunbreak Ranch as our region's central homeless triage location, coupled with the development of a Real Time Shelter Dashboard. This dual approach will help save thousands of lives of our fellow citizens, as well as save billions of taxpayer dollars.
- 2. Return to the rule of law on all of our streets, canyons and public parks — and establish a future of dignity and respect for all.** This is achievable once Sunbreak Ranch is opera-

tional, because "Sunbreak will establish a clean, healthy, safe, and secure place for everyone in need." This is the key ingredient to enable our return to the rule of law and establish a future of dignity and respect for all.

3. Make San Diego the cleanest big city in America. San Diego was once one of the cleanest big cities in America, but now is disgustingly filthy beyond recognition. With the Sunbreak Ranch homeless triage location operational, matched with our return to the rule of law, making San Diego the cleanest big city in America will become a reality.

4. Return our streets, canyons and public parks to clean, healthy, safe and secure places for everyone to enjoy. By achieving our first three goals, this last one will quickly fall into place.

We can't wait for others to wake up and lead us out of this crisis. San Diego is in a unique position to lead the way for itself, as well as illuminate the pathway forward for all big cities across our land.

Sunbreak Ranch is the answer.

We invite all San Diegans (and people everywhere) to join with us to Take Back San Diego in order to end this homeless humanitarian catastrophe.

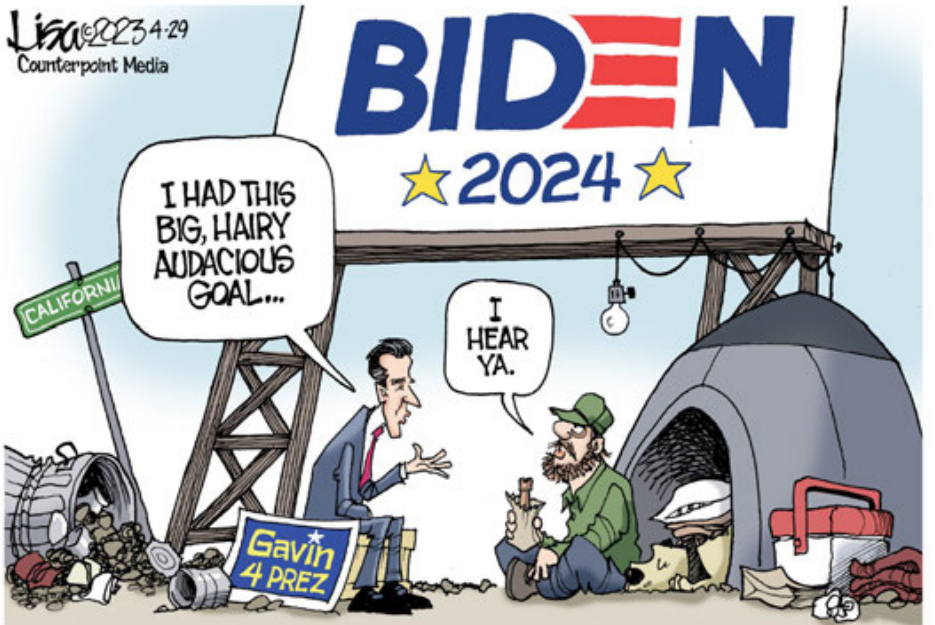
All of our lives are literally hanging in the balance.

George Mullen is principal of StudioRevolution.com. Bill Walton is a former NBA basketball player and Hall of Famer. Brian Caster is CEO of A-1 Self Storage. Richard Bailey is mayor of Coronado. Rick Sweeney is a retired business owner. All five are natives of San Diego and leaders of TakeBackSanDiego.com. Please reach out to them at gdmullen@gmail.com. This Opinion piece first appeared in Times of San Diego and was submitted to The Coronado News.

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

Artists looking forward to second annual wine festival

Selected artists participating in the showcase are notified in April. Each



One conversation starter was an image of a wild flamingo, or a local large bird down in the bay called Pink Floyd, that made Emge realize that

Scolari considers the first festival

"It's a fabulous event," said Scolari. "It's in a wonderful time of the year in May when the weather starts to become really nice in San Diego and in Coronado in general."

Wine A Bit

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Wine Club

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Answer is skin
- WHAT MONTH DOES NATIONAL WINE DAY FALL ON:
Answer is May
- WHAT HELPS PROVIDE TEXTURE, BALANCE AND STRUCTURE TO WINE:
Answer is Tannins

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Coronado Unified celebrates students from multicultural backgrounds

» Continued from Page 1

ing as Hispanic, with support from a \$2.3 million grant from Department of Defense Education Activity, following a 2019 parent survey requesting expanded access to world languages for college and career preparation.

Over 70 5th- and 8th-grade students meeting state requirements for biliteracy pathway awards received Biliteracy Attainment Recognition and the Home Language Developments Recognition, awarded to students who speak a language other than English at home or practice the second language consistently.

Languages represented among the CUSD student population across both recognitions included Dutch, German, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Spanish, Swedish, Portuguese, and Turkish.

One eighth grader received the Home Language Development Recognition in Korean and Spanish

Senior Biliteracy Awards to 51 seniors

CUSD Senior Director of Learning, Megan Battle, and CHS Principal Karin Mellina presented 51 Coronado High School seniors with Senior Biliteracy Awards. Coronado High School recognized California State Seal of Biliteracy recipients in Spanish, French and Portuguese.

There were 44 students who received the state of biliteracy in Spanish; four students received the state of



Maylén Sullivan, left, and her son join the Cuba Cultural booth by the Paula family for a picture at the Cultural Fair following the 2023 CUSD World Language Awards. Staff photos by Julieta Soto.

biliteracy in French and two students received seals of biliteracy in Spanish and French.

Robert Valencia was the only student who received the seal of biliteracy in Portuguese.

“This state seal will help open doors in life,” said Mueller about the largest ever class of seniors receiving the seal of biliteracy.

The State Superintendent of Public Instruction, since 2011, recognizes high school graduates with a high level of proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing one or more languages in addition to English marked with a gold seal affixed on diplomas or transcripts.

There were 42 CHS seniors who earned the seal of biliteracy in 2022.

Other student recognition included CHS student travel and exchange experiences presented by Rotary Club

of Coronado and Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE).

Rotary Club of Coronado representative Rob Taylor presented Rafael Roos and Jack Shumaker with exchange experience opportunities.

Roos will participate in a short-term exchange program abroad in Spain, while Shumaker will participate in a summer camp in Denmark.

The CIEE, with 75 years of sending students abroad to learn about cultures, awarded six CHS students CIEE Summer Travel Scholarships to Denmark, France, and Costa Rica.

One student will engage in climate action in Denmark. Another student will partake in environmental action in Costa Rica. Four students will immerse themselves in French language and culture.

Coronado Unified governing board

members President Renee Cavanaugh and Trustee Alexia Palacios-Peters were among those in attendance.

CUSD’s World Languages Teacher on Special Assignment Maylén Sullivan said the months-long collaboration among Public Information Officer Maria Simon and a team of about 20 to 30 employees, including teachers, school admin and district staff, allowed for a successful evening. She also credited the community and parents for their huge support.

“It took a lot of work to get all these amazing people here, and we’re really proud of the work we’ve done,” Sullivan said.

Sullivan said the seal of biliteracy numbers keep growing, and the district wants all of its seniors to earn the seal by literacy in the next few years.

“It’s an attainable goal for all stu-



Mother's Day at The Del.

Fill Mom's day with love and laughter by gathering those she cherishes most for an elegant brunch in the beautiful Southpointe Ballroom. Or treat her to a spa day, dinner, or shopping.



RESERVE YOUR SPOT
#DELMEMORIES



ABOVE: Superintendent Karl Mueller addresses the audience at the 2023 CUSD World Language Awards. Staff photos by Julieta Soto.



CHS seniors Camilah Dominguez, second from left, and Arlene Zurita, third from left, receive the State Seal of Biliteracy in Spanish at the 2023 CUSD World Language Awards.

dents,” said Sullivan. “That’s why we’ve established Spanish at K-5, we want to create a K-12 pathway so that all our students can earn the seal. Not just in Spanish, but also the other languages... We have kids who speak

Turkish, Russian, Arabic, Dutch, you name it. We want them to get the seal in their own language. You can get a seal in as many languages as possible.” One CHS parent, Ana Dominguez, shared the joy she felt about her

daughter Camilah Dominguez receiving the seal of biliteracy in Spanish. “I feel very happy because they are recognizing what was always my goal,” Dominguez said. “I always wanted her to graduate from high school being 100% bilingual in Spanish because it is her first language and I wanted her to do it academically, perfectly, like speaking, writing, and reading. That she is doing it and that she followed through is a source of pride.” Dominguez said Camilah began bilingual education during elementary school and prior to attending CMS and CHS. It was during her sophomore year that Camilah began taking Spanish classes at Coronado High. Camilah shared her mother’s joy and said she felt very happy that she was able to continue bilingual education, and she looks forward to receiving the diploma seal and adding this accomplishment to her resume. She also credits her mother’s efforts in teaching and encouraging her to practice speaking and writing

in Spanish. After graduating, Camilah plans to attend community college and transfer to the University of California, Santa Barbara and major in Political Science. “I want to help immigrants,” said Camilah. “Hopefully this can give me some opportunities and open many doors for my career.” The post-ceremony celebration had taco and churros stands, a lotería table, cultural trifolds and CHS club booths. Having previously worked at San Ysidro High School, Sullivan arranged for Mariachi Miztli to perform. “Miztli” is Nahuatl for mountain lion or wildcat and references their school mascot, cougars, and they covered songs like “Sabor a mí” and “México lindo” during the cultural fair in the CHS quad. One cultural booth about Cuba was arranged by the Paula family. CMS 8th-grade student Livia Paula is of Cuban and Mexican American descent, and chose to present about her Cuban ancestry to commemorate her grandfather’s culture, she said.



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87001

Tennis pro: Coronado engaged in fraudulent concessions contract

» Continued from Page 1

who was part of Impact’s team and the local managing agent for Impact, told the pros working at the CTC that if they endorsed Impact’s bid and Impact won, they would all be able to keep their jobs and make more money,” reads the first amended complaint in a lawsuit filed by DiLonardo.

Impact Activities put the support they had gained in their bid from the tennis pros, and they had also listed DiLonardo — and other pros — would be specifically supporting by backing the company.

However, in a series of emails given to The Coronado News, DiLonardo shows that he never offered his support.

He said in an interview that Impact Activities never put in writing what DiLonardo — and other pros — would be specifically supporting by backing the company.

“In their document, there are false statements...that’s a material aspect of the bid,” said Rob Wendt, a Coronado resident and another bidder for the proposal for tennis concessionaire.

According to the rules of Coronado’s proposal, Impact Activities’ bid should not have been chosen on that issue, and there was a false premise on the bid, says DiLonardo.

DiLonardo points to the city’s proposal that says each bid shall include a statement that all information included in the proposal is true and accurate as represented by the presenter.

Any proposal containing information proven false shall be considered rejected by Coronado.

Even though DiLonardo said he didn’t back Impact Activities’ bid as stated by the company, the city chose Impact Activities as the concessionaire.

And following Impact Activities’ takeover as concessionaire, DiLonardo said he was told his contract would not be renewed.

That means he could no longer teach in Coronado, even though Impact Activities told the pros they would be able to keep their jobs, he said.

Some residents in Coronado such

as Catherine Baker also have been dismayed by the situation.

She wrote in a Facebook group that the Texas company was “asking for upwards of 50% of the pros fees,” and set limits to where they can teach.

The city’s role also has been questioned in the suit.

At the time of the bid in 2021, there was a Coronado city employee, Samantha Nelson, who was employed by the Parks and Recreations Department.

She “managed the tennis program for the City of Coronado. She was the City’s in-house coordinator for the RFP,” as stated in the first amended complaint.

That was a conflict of interest and violated city policy, according to the lawsuit.

Nelson was a part of the bid process with the city by being its in-house coordinator for the RFP while simultaneously being offered a better salary with Impact Activities, according to the bid.

“Sam is excited about joining the Impact team as we will guarantee her more hours and therefore greater income,” stated Impact Activities’ bid.

According to the City of Coronado Administrative Procedures Code of Ethics, “[a]ny official or employee who has a substantial or controlling financial interest in any business entity, transaction, or contract with the City...[Sh]e shall refrain from voting upon or otherwise participating in the transaction or making of such contract or sale.”

The lawsuit said Nelson’s involvement in helping pick Impact Activities was improper, because Nelson would be offered more money if Impact Activities won.

“She’s working with the people who are the ones judging the selection,” says Brent Pettersson, another bidder for the Tennis Concession.

Impact Activities said “all of Mr. DiLonardo’s allegations are denied,” but the company declined further comment, citing the ongoing litigation.

Nelson and Coronado officials did not respond to questions.

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NAVY

USS Midway: A Naval symbol even today

From the Defense Visual Information Distribution Service

Off the coast of San Diego, sits the USS Midway, a once active warship now turned museum.

The USS Midway is an iconic symbol of freedom and history in a city that is home to one of the largest concentrations of military forces in the world.

The USS Midway is the namesake for the Midway class of aircraft carriers and was commissioned in 1945, eight days after the end of World War II.

It was the first aircraft carrier too large to transit the Panama Canal.

The ship served in the Vietnam War and took part in many other pivotal operations during its 47 years of service in the United States Navy.

Decommissioned in 1992, it is still serving as the largest Naval Museum in San Diego, California.

Journey from Bremerton, Wash.

On Sept. 30, 2003, the Midway began her journey from the Navy Inactive Ship Maintenance Facility in Bremerton, Wash., to San Diego, in preparation for use as a museum.

The aircraft carrier was docked in early October at the Charles P. Howard Terminal in Oakland, while work proceeded on the Broadway Pier in downtown San Diego.

On Jan. 10, 2004, the ship was moored at her final location and opened to the public as a museum on June 7, 2004.

The museum had 879,281 visitors in its first year of operation, double the expected attendance. Today, the museum averages 1.5 million visitors per year, and it will host a Top Gun Maverick Party and Movie Night on May 26. Tickets – \$30 for general admission and \$40 for limited reserve



Retired Navy Capt. Tom Finley, a 5000-hour volunteer docent at the USS Midway Museum, guides a tour aboard the ship, April 13, 2023. The USS Midway was the longest-serving aircraft carrier of the 20th century and now serves as a naval museum based in San Diego. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Megan Alexander

seating – go on sale at 11 a.m. on April 27.

“The process to turn this vessel into a museum was in motion even when it was in Bremerton,” said retired Navy Capt. Tom Finley, a 5000-hour volunteer docent at the USS Midway Museum. “We’re entirely run by volunteers like myself. I had been on seven other aircraft carriers during my time in the Navy because I was a Navy pilot, so being on this ship now feels like home. Coming here was no different for me.”

The ship was named after the infamous battle of Midway, a conflict that took place in June of 1942 during WWII. The battle was a major conflict between the U.S. Navy and the Imperial Japanese navy that took place six months after the attack on

Pearl Harbor.

The battle dramatically increased confidence and motivation amongst U.S. forces and drained Japanese morale, turning the tide of war in the Pacific strongly in favor of the allies.

Today, the only remaining Midway-class U.S. aircraft carrier, the USS Midway is a unique museum showcasing the history of the Navy.

The carrier is a popular location for reenlistments, retirements, and other important naval ceremonies.

“We’ve already held three ceremonies just today... many choose to have their ceremonies here,” said retired Navy Lt. Cmdr. Ken Fisher, a docent at the museum. “This ship is such an important symbol and place for people, whether you served or not.”

Most of the volunteers here are vet-

erans or active duty military, looking to further serve their country through volunteering, officials said.

And the ship has become an outlet for military personnel looking to maintain their connection to the Navy, even after they leave the service.

“We volunteer here because we love to be here,” said Fisher. “Most of us here are retired and this is what we know and this is what we love. I love volunteering here. The people here are amazing and the staff here is outstanding. It’s just a great place to be.”

The USS Midway was active duty for nearly a half century, the longest serving aircraft carrier in the last century, and continues to serve to this day.

Story by Petty Officer 3rd Class Megan Alexander.

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SPORTS

Decorated Olympian Jesse Smith returns to coach Coronado High water polo

By NICK HANCOCK
The Coronado News

Jesse Smith, a five time Olympian and 2008 silver medalist, will be the new head coach of water polo at Coronado High School.

Coronado High School Athletic Director Robin Nixon recently made the announcement that Smith would take over a stacked program, including a girls squad that won back-to-back CIF championships.

Nixon said Coronado High School was thrilled to bring in someone with such an impressive background in water polo, but she said what’s more important are his ties to the school.

Not only is he heavily invested in the growth of water polo in Coronado, but Smith has shown he cares about the community, she said.

“To have someone who is passionate about their sport is always a plus and Jesse seems truly dedicated to growing our program as well as growing the popularity of waterpolo in our community,” Nixon said.

Winning legacy

Smith is used to winning as a coach and player, and now wearing the familiar green and black of the Islanders, he has even more reason to want to win.

“Being an alumnus myself I think there is a special bond to having your old school succeed. There seems to be more of a buy in,” said Nixon.

When Smith was a student-athlete at Coronado, he surely did his part in instilling a winning attitude within the program.



Jesse Smith, a five-time Olympian, has been named head coach of the Coronado High School boys and girls water polo teams. In this file photo from 2016, Smith, left, shoots as Spain's Balasz Sziranyi Somogyi defends during their men's water polo preliminary round match at the Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. AP File Photo by Eduardo Verdugo.

Smith led the Islanders to three straight Division II CIF Championships from 1998 to 2000, and that winning streak earned him the title of San Diego Union-Tribune Player of the Year in 1999 and 2000.

Preparing athletes for the future

According to Smith, winning isn’t the only thing he’s come back to Coronado to do.

Preparing student athletes for the future, and ensuring each kid grows in some aspect of the game is just as important to Smith.

“While I am competitive and would

love to win everything, I believe it’s more important to focus on the journey and consider what kind of athlete, person, and teammate one is along the way,” said Smith.

When he isn’t playing for Team USA or other pro clubs around the world, Smith runs clinics or coaches high-level athletes.

“Initially, I mostly coached elite players and clinics, but now, coaching all ages and connecting with kids, parents, and families in our community is something new and exciting,” Smith said. “I see great potential for both the boys’ and girls’ teams and the community as a whole.”

The boys’ season doesn’t start until the fall with the girls beginning in the winter, so Smith will have some time to acclimate himself with a community in which he already has relatively close ties.

According to the new head coach, his goals are to further engage with the community and get more alumni involved—whether that be in a coaching role or other position.

“There’s something incredibly special about returning to Coronado High School, my alma mater, where it all began. I’m incredibly excited about this opportunity and grateful for the support,” said Smith.

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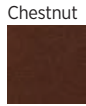
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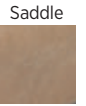
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LIFE ON THE ISLAND

Movie theaters and streamers may end up friends, after all

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — After Ben Affleck and Matt Damon test screened their Nike drama “Air,” the film executives at Amazon Studios threw them a curveball.

“They said, ‘What do you guys think about a theatrical release?’” Damon says. “It wasn’t what we expected when we first made the deal.”

“Air,” about Nike’s pursuit of a shoe deal with Michael Jordan, went over so well with early audiences that Amazon, despite acquiring the film for its Prime Video streaming service, wanted to launch it in theaters. And in its first two weeks, “Air” has been a hit.

After a strong five-day debut of \$20.2 million — especially good for an adult-skewing drama — “Air” dipped only 47% in its second weekend. Reviews have been stellar. When “Air” does arrive on Prime Video, the studio and its filmmakers expect an even better showing than if they hadn’t launched in theaters.

“It should function as free advertising to create this halo effect which in turn creates more viewers on the service,” says Affleck, who directed and co-stars in “Air.” “If that’s the case, I think the business will really expand and go back to a broader theatrical model.”

Is movie going dead?

Not long ago, some were predicting more and more films would be diverted from theaters and sent straight into homes.

Moviegoing was destined to die, they said. Not only has that forecast fallen flat, the opposite is happening in some cases.

Companies like Amazon and Apple are sprinting into multiplexes, taking a distinctly different approach to the staunchly streaming-focused Netflix.

Launched on 3,507 screens, “Air” was the biggest release ever by a streamer — and it’s just the start.

Amazon Studios, led by Jennifer Salke, is planning to release 12-15 movies theatrically every year. Apple is set to spend \$1 billion a year on movies that will land in cinemas before streaming.

Movie theaters and (most) streaming services are turning out to be fast friends, after all.

“We truly think that by putting it into theaters, you just can’t otherwise get that kind of word of mouth and press around it,” says Kevin Wilson, Amazon Studios and MGM theatrical distribution executive. “No matter how much you spend, that’s a hard thing to replace.”

That “halo effect” isn’t quite free. It takes a robust marketing blitz to raise awareness for a film. But whether a movie is headed to a streaming platform or video on demand, the splash of a theatrical run can cascade through every subsequent window.

A film dropped straight into a vast digital expanse might go viral or quickly fade into one of a million things you can click on.

Moviegoing still hasn’t yet reached pre-pandemic levels, but it’s getting close.

Movie after movie has overperformed at the box office lately, including “Creed III” (released by MGM, which Amazon owns) and Lionsgate’s “John Wick: Chapter 4.” With more than \$600 million in two weeks, Universal Pictures’ “Super Mario Bros.” is breaking records for animated films.

After a dismal 2020, a trying 2021 and a fitful comeback last year led by “Top Gun: Maverick” and “Avatar: The Way of Water,” optimism abounds that movie theaters have weathered the storm.

Amazon, Apple spending big

“It’s springtime in the theatrical business,” exclaims John Fithian, the soon-departing president and chief executive of the National Association of Theater Owners. In late April, the trade group will convene exhibitors in Las Vegas for a CinemaCon sure to be triumphant. Expect chest-thumping proclamations of revival.

Last year, Hollywood’s theatrical pipeline fell well short of the pre-pandemic rate of wide releases. With 63% of 2019’s wide releases, the box office reached 64% of 2019’s box office. The problem, exhibitors argued, was not enough supply. This year, around three dozen more wide releases are on the schedule.

“Both Amazon and Apple have signaled that they have \$1 billion-plus in forward budgeting for the production and marketing of movies to be released theatrically,” Fithian says. “We’re going to get to a point in a year or so where we have more movies distributed theatrically than we did pre-pandemic.”



Poster art for the Amazon Studios film “Air” is displayed on the marquee of the Los Feliz Theater on April 19 in Los Angeles. Amazon Studios plans to release 12 to 15 movies theatrically every year, and Apple is set to spend \$1 billion a year on movies that will land in cinemas before streaming. AP Photo by Chris Pizzello.

Financial headwinds

Movie theaters aren’t totally out of the woods. During the pandemic, the number of screens operating in the U.S. and Canada dropped from 44,283 in 2019 to 40,263, according to NATO. Though those losses are far less than many anticipated, the balance sheets for some theater chains remain strained.

Regal’s parent company, Cineworld, declared Chapter 11 bankruptcy last year. The financial condition of theater owners, Fithian says, is his greatest concern looking ahead.

Streaming, though, may be departing the role of archrival. During the pandemic, studios took different roads in trying out new methods of release. But while large numbers of films, like Apple’s starry action-adventure “Ghosted” this Friday, are still going straight to streaming, some of the biggest movie suppliers have turned away from those pandemic-era experiments.

“Direct-to-streaming movies were providing really no value to us,” David Zaslav, chief executive of Warner Bros. Discovery, said earlier this year.

New vision at Warner Bros.

Since taking over the studio last year, Zaslav has dramatically changed course at Warner Bros., which spent 2021 releasing films simultaneously in theaters and on the platform formerly known as HBO Max.

Zaslav has so soured on films going straight to their streaming platform that he altogether squashed \$70 million “Batgirl” and “Scoob! Holiday Hunt.” The data, he has said, is clear: “As films moved from one window to the next, their overall value is elevated, elevated, elevated.”

It should be noted that many made much the same argument well before the pandemic. But Wall Street craved subscription growth from streaming services, and studios eagerly chased the reward — rising stock prices — until the bottom fell out last year. As subscription numbers slowed, the signal from Wall Street shifted to: Grow your streaming platforms but make money, too.

“We have been arguing this for years,” says Fithian. “But I’m glad that they finally got it.”

Later this year, Apple will release wide in theaters two anticipated epics: Martin Scorsese’s “Killers of the Flower Moon” and Ridley Scott’s “Napoleon.” They’ll have help. Paramount is distributing “Killers of the Flower Moon” while Sony is handling “Napoleon.” Scorsese, one of the most passionate defenders of the big-screen experience, recently said he hope companies like Apple not only release films in theaters but build cinemas, too.

“Maybe these new companies might say: Let’s invest in the future of the new generations for creativity,” says Scorsese. “Because a young person actually going to see a film in the theater, that person, who knows, five or 10 years later could be a wonderful novelist, painter, musician, composer, filmmaker, whatever. You don’t know where that inspiration is going to land when you throw it out there. But it’s got to be out there.”

Netflix different than other streamers

“Driving folks to a theater is just not our business,” Ted Sarandos, Netflix chief execu-

tive, said in an earnings call. Netflix’s scale and reach, he said, makes them different than other steaming services. A recent popular release like “Murder Mystery 2,” with Adam Sandler and Jennifer Aniston, has been watched for 82 million hours in three weeks, according to Netflix.

“Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery,” despite the small footprint — it opened only on about 600 screens and played just five days — and modest ad-support, still made an estimated \$15 million in ticket sales. Some analysts said Netflix left hundreds of millions on the table. Netflix isn’t budging, but they are, at least, no longer the trendsetter.

“I hope that they will see what Amazon and Apple are doing and realize that they can both make money in theaters and drive more subscribers to Netflix,” Fithian says. “They’re kind of the last ones to the party.”

The movie business always looks better when the hits are rolling in; a few big bombs and all the doubts will start over again. Strategies can shift. But right now, theaters and (most) streamers are finding plenty of common ground. And business is booming again.



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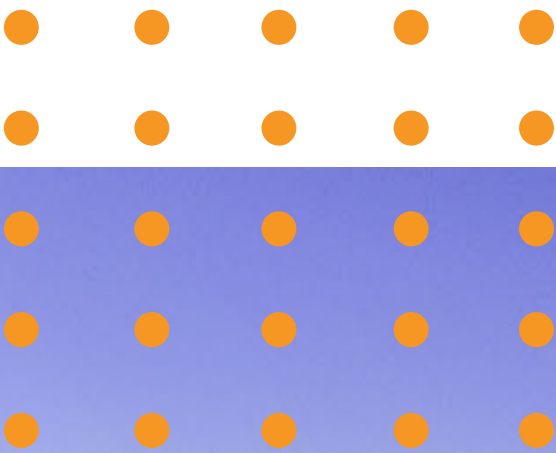
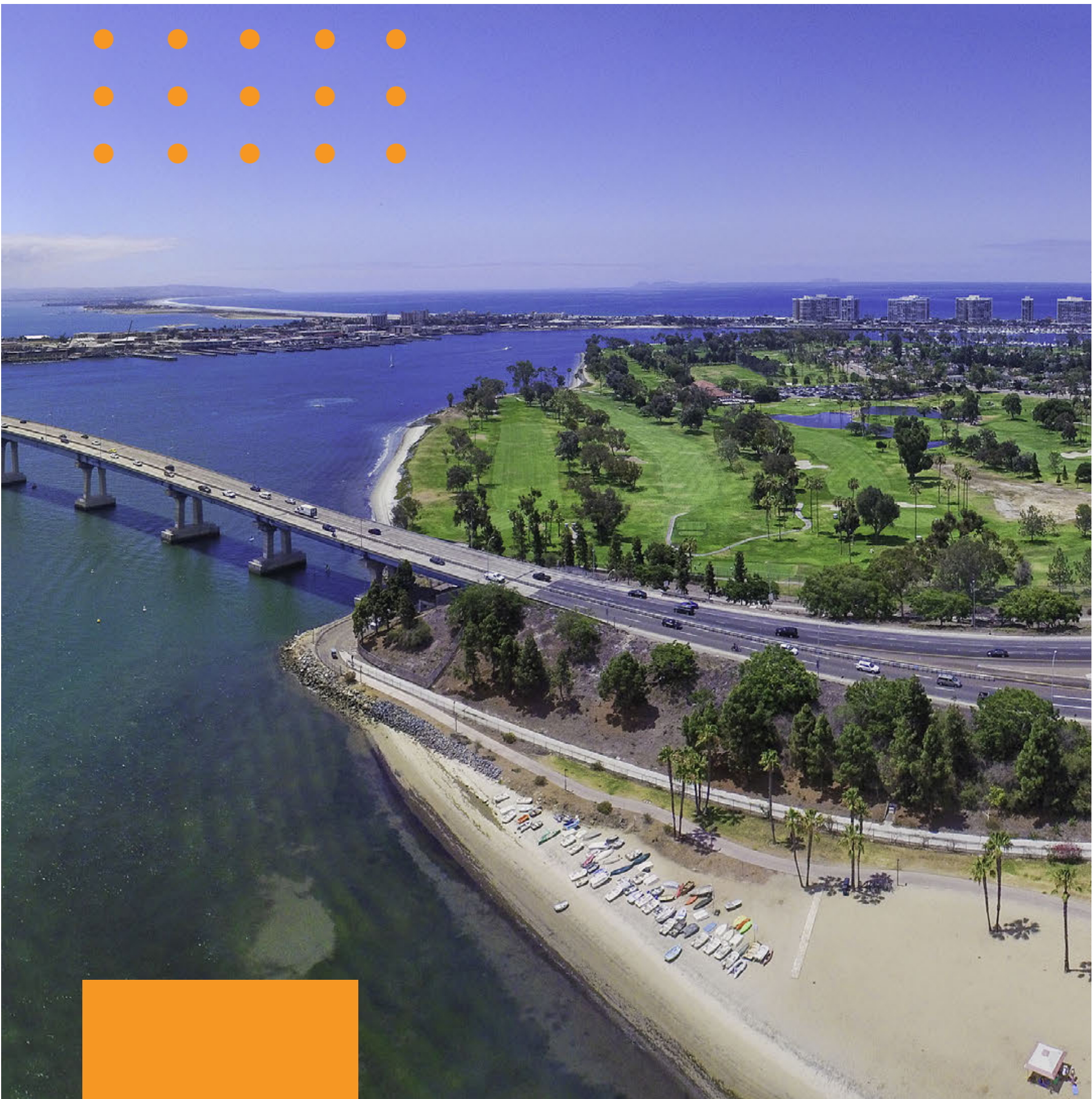
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