

THE CORONADO NEWS

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Why was the flooding so bad?

A special city council meeting extended the local emergency declaration and discussed why Coronado flooded so badly.

By **MADLINE YANG**
The Coronado News

Waters rose 2-3 feet on Coronado Island, some places seeing more than 5 feet on Jan. 22 when forecasted rain turned into an unexpected storm.

Streets submerged, homes and businesses flooded, cars were ruined.

Coronado's City Council voted on extending a local emergency decla-

ration made by City Manager Tina Friend for the next 60 days due to the severe rain and flooding at a special city council meeting held on Jan. 29.

This will allow the city to get their hands more quickly on needed equipment and resources, and opens up a channel of reimbursement and support from the government, said Friend.

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Special city council meeting held on Jan. 29 discussed extending the local emergency declaration. Staff photo by Madeline Yang.



Hans Henken, a 2010 Coronado High grad, will compete for the U.S. National Sailing team in this summer's Olympics. Hans spends six days a week training three to five hours on the water. Photos courtesy of Hans Henken.

CHS grad named to U.S. Sailing Team

Coronado High School graduate Hans Henken is training for this summer's Olympics in France where he will compete for the U.S.

By **CADE CAVIN**
The Coronado News

As a youth sailor in Coronado, Hans Henken earned the nickname "15 minutes" from his coach Jon Rogers.

"He would leave the dock 15 minutes before everyone else and he would stay out, get extra practice and get back to dock 15 minutes after everyone else. He was a great teammate as he made everyone around him better," Rogers said.

These 15 extra minutes compounded over the years paid off for the 2010 Coronado High School graduate, as Henken was recently named to the U.S. National Sailing Team and will compete at this summer's Olympic Games in France.

Henken and his teammate, Ian Barrows, compete in the Men's Double-Handed Skiff Event aboard a 4.9 meter sailboat in the 49er classification.

Coronado High School is no stranger to students going on to accomplish great athletic feats after their time on the island, with notable alumni including three-time water polo Olympian Layne Beaubien and Olympic water polo players Jesse Smith and Genai Kerr.

Henken, 31, is joining their ranks. He said it has always been a dream to represent his



Hans Henken, fourth from left, poses with his teammates after a competition.



"I have competed and trained for four Olympics and have come up short. So to have finally succeeded this time feels awesome."

- Hans Henken

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Local environmental group Emerald Keepers calls on Coronado to reduce plastics in city

Emerald Keepers continues work to reduce plastics across the City.

By **JULIETA SOTO**
The Coronado News

Empty beverage bottles, straws and take out containers are among the myriad of plastics and other trash found scattered across shorelines during clean ups time and time again—a crisis that community members in Coronado continue raising awareness about.

This trash is all similar in nature. Since the straws, bottles and containers could be tossed out after one use, they are considered "single-use" plastics. And they are the very thing that the Coronado-based environmental group, Emerald Keepers, has been working to eliminate since 2019.

Through a pilot program in their first year, Emerald Keepers helped some restaurants and businesses

move towards single-use plastic reduction and elimination, and are now looking to expand this effort.

This year, the group is pushing for the city to pass two plastic reduction ordinances.

According to the Emerald Keepers Plastic Ban White Paper shared with The Coronado News, the ordinances together would prohibit the sale and distribution of: plastic foam food containers, coolers and packing materials; single-use plastic straws, stirrers,

INSIDE: See what an Emerald Keepers intern is doing to help lead group-wide environmental considerations for the local community. **Page 6**

and utensils; plastic beverage bottles under two liters, balloons, and plastic bags across Coronado.

One ordinance looks to expand

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The Coronado Public Library, in partnership with Warwick's Bookstore, welcomes bestselling authors Kate Quinn and Janie Chang for a special book-launch event as they discuss and sign their new book, "The Phoenix Crown," on Feb. 13 at 7 p.m. in the Winn Room. Free open seating is first-come, first-served, subject to available space. Guaranteed Preferred Seating is available with pre-order of "The Phoenix Crown" through Warwick's at <https://www.warwicks.com/event/quinn-and-chang-2024> or by calling the store at 858-454-0347.

15 • thursday

The February meeting of the Republican Women's Club, Coronado Crown City will be held at the Coronado Historical Association Lecture Room, 1100 Orange Ave., Coronado on Thursday, Feb. 15 at 9:15 a.m. The speaker will be Coronado Mayoral Candidate John Duncan.

16 • friday

The Coronado Philharmonia Orchestra Trio presents "Harmony of Three," a free concert in the Winn Room at Coronado Public Library on Feb. 2 at 1 p.m. Seating is first-come, first-served and doors will open at 12:30 p.m. Please arrive early to get a seat. Information courtesy of the Coronado Public Library, CoSA and the Republican Women's Club Coronado.

CONTACT US

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THINGS TO DO

An evening with "The Rose Code" author Kate Quinn

The Coronado News

Coronado Public Library, in partnership with Warwick's Bookstore, welcomes bestselling authors Kate Quinn and Janie Chang for a special book-launch event as they discuss and sign their new book, "The Phoenix Crown," on Tuesday, Feb. 13 at 7 p.m. in the Winn Room of the library.

Kate Quinn is a New York Times and USA Today bestselling author of historical fiction. A native of Southern California, she attended Boston University, where she earned bachelor's and master's degrees in classical voice.

A lifelong history buff, she has written four novels in the "Empress of Rome" Saga and two books set in the Italian Renaissance before turning to the 20th century with "The Alice Network," "The Huntress," "The Rose Code" and "The Diamond Eye."

All have been translated into multiple languages. She and her husband now live in California with three black rescue dogs.

Janie Chang is the author of "Three Souls," "Dragon Springs Road" and "The Library of Legends." Born in Taiwan, she has lived in the Philippines, Iran, Thai-

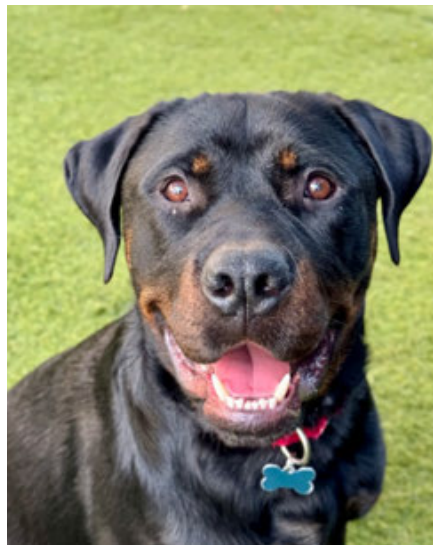


Janie Chang (L) and Kate Quinn (R) will discuss their new book, "The Phoenix Crown" on Feb. 13. Photo courtesy of The Coronado Public Library.

land, New Zealand and Canada.

She writes historical fiction, often drawing from family history and ancestral stories. She has a degree

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Meet Bernie, the pet of the week. He's at PAWS of Coronado and is looking for his forever home. Photo courtesy of PAWS of Coronado.

PET OF THE WEEK

Meet Bernie

The Coronado News

Meet Bernie, the prettiest boy you've ever laid your eyes on. Not only does he look charming, but his personality is where he takes the cake. This adorable, loyal, and goofy boy is looking for his forever home.

Bernie has no problem becoming your friend the instant you meet him; with kind eyes and a soft face, he'll make his way right over to your feet and look for affection. Bernie was an owner surrender, so he knows some basic manners like "sit," "down" and "shake," but is ea-

ger to learn more basic obedience commands.

Bernie would do best in a home that has previous experience owning Rottweilers. If you're looking for a new best friend, you should apply to adopt him today!

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 Bernie or other animals, please visit www.pawsofcoronado.org.



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Never Worry About Charging Your Golf Cart Again

OUR STORY

“Once Upon A Time” my son and I were discussing solar systems over lunch. Being licensed electricians, we were familiar with Solar Applications and its advantages.

After conducting a fair amount of research, we determined that Solar Technology had advanced to the point that adding a Solar Panel to the roof of a golf cart could significantly add to the travel range, as well as several other advantages including Green Movement Tax Credits.

I had recently moved to a golf cart community and purchased a cart of my own, after installing the best and most powerful system available, the concept of installing Solar Panels on golf carts was conceived.

We began spreading the word to our friends who owned electric carts and began installing Solar Panels on their carts in our spare time out of our garage in Oceanside, CA. Due to the publicized acceptance and popularity in Beach Communities of San Diego County, we decided to expand the business even further. Many beach cities have permitted the use of golf carts in 35 mph zones and are expanding Bike Lanes to 7 feet wide to accommodate their use.

So, there you have it. There is more to the story and we would love to discuss it with you while we install your Solar Panels on your cart.

We took the concept of Green Solar Energy and put it to practical use to lessen the carbon footprint.

We look forward to meeting you soon.

Richard Stachowicz
Ride All Day Solar Carts
Owner and Coronado Resident



ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Make the Earth Happy. Solar energy is clean. No carbon dioxide is released into the atmosphere as it is when batteries are plugged into the wall to charge. Similarly, no fossil fuels are consumed as they are in gas-powered golf carts. The sun’s energy is both clean and renewable. With their renewable, clean energy and lack of generated pollution, solar charged golf carts are an Earth-friendly option. You can help ensure that golf courses will be around for a very long time.

FINANCIAL BENEFITS

While it can be costly up front to buy a solar-powered golf cart or convert your existing cart to solar, in the long run, you might save money. You might be eligible for cost incentives offered to people who go solar. Some programs include:

- Federal tax credits
- Federal grants
- State and local utility tax credits
- Rebates

Together, these can help make solar power an affordable option for your golf cart. Additionally, you will likely save quite a bit of money on your electricity bill without having an electric vehicle drawing from your home’s electricity supply. Individuals aren’t the only ones who benefit monetarily from solar power. When entire golf courses convert their fleets to solar-powered vehicles, they can slash their annual charging costs by about 20 percent. Whether you want to enhance the performance of your golf cart, help the environment, or save money in the long run, you’re sure to benefit from changing your power to the sun.

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OPINION

Op-Ed: Homelessness is an emergency: Let's 'Parachute in' Sunbreak Ranch at Brown Field

George Mullen and Bill Walton

San Diego is currently living a homeless humanitarian catastrophe of epic proportions.

The time is now to consider deploying what we call the Sunbreak Ranch Emergency Parachute.

The tragic numbers are staggering.

According to our own local government's Regional Task Force On Homelessness, in the San Diego region there were over 4,751 new unsheltered homeless people in 2023.

This equates to a 50% year-over-year increase in the total number of unsheltered homeless people.

There were 14,258 first-time homeless people in 2023.

The number of homeless veterans increased 17% in 2023. Nationwide it rose only 7%.

Our overall number of homeless people increased 22% in the past year to over 10,264. But we all know the real figure (unreported) is multiple times higher than this number.

There have been almost 600 homeless deaths on the streets of San Diego in each of the past two years.

This is a more than 250% increase in deaths from just a few years ago. A civilized society cannot carry on this way.

The vast majority of San Diegans are people of goodwill who genuinely want to help end the homelessness ravaging our streets, canyons and public parks. We want to help our homeless brothers and sisters, and assist them on their path to better lives.

Though our approaches to help the homeless may vary, there is one harsh and startling truth facing us.

Our local government spent \$2.37

billion of our taxpayer money on solving homelessness from 2015 – 2022 and these efforts have failed miserably. Our homeless problems are worse than ever – dramatically so.

This is why Sunbreak Ranch has generated so much interest and excitement. It is a new and refreshing approach that offers real hope, not more of the inefficient, ineffective, futile same.

Sunbreak is an aggregate facility to house people, identify their needs, and move them with care and proper treatment to more permanent housing or treatment centers. It is an emergency regional "triage center" where everyone in need will have a clean, healthy, safe and secure place and bed. Even one for your son or daughter, should they ever be in such dire need. It is a voluntary facility where all residents can come and go as they please.

Aggregate facilities do work. The United Nations has run refugee centers around the world that are humane and offer extensive care and assistance. FEMA has repeatedly done the same in emergency situations across America.

Bob McElroy, respected CEO of Alpha Project, coincidentally had a similar idea to Sunbreak 25 years ago. Even then he was also eyeing the vast unused open lands of Miramar. The politics of the day sadly wouldn't allow his idea to happen. If it had, perhaps we wouldn't be facing our current humanitarian emergency.

We have a chance in 2024 to make this right.

Sunbreak Ranch is a true citizen's movement stepping in to address a massive community crisis that our elected officials are either unable or

unwilling to solve.

Sunbreak is a non-partisan, non-political, all-volunteer effort. And we are diligently searching for a suitable site for Sunbreak.

Our main focus continues to be on the vast open lands in Miramar and Otay Mesa, and we are working every possible angle trying to help San Diego get on the right course to a sustainable, safe, secure, clean and healthy future.

This is easier said than done.

With respect to Miramar, there are at least four potential sites within this enormous area. We are working our way through the U.S. Marine Corps Command at Camp Pendleton, and ultimately the Pentagon.

In Otay Mesa, there is an ideal large open site at the north end of La Media Road – but we are told it is off-limits due to owl mitigation. Likewise, there is another prime site adjacent to Brown Field – but we are told FAA regulations prevent its use.

Our bigger catch-22 problem is that we can't lock down a sizable site for Sunbreak without full community buy-in. And without a site, we can't raise money to go operational.

Our community and citizenry are enthusiastically supporting Sunbreak, as are most civic leaders.

Please see our Sunbreak Ranch Endorsement Team.

Our difficulty remains with our elected officials. Most continue to duck us and / or want to continue pursuing expensive temporary band-aid solutions that have repeatedly failed.

To be taken seriously though, we need our political leadership on board, as part of our Sunbreak team working to solve the problem.

We, again, invite Mayor Todd Gloria, the San Diego City Council, the

County Board of Supervisors, and all regional city mayors and councils to join us.

Only as a unified community force will we have the necessary muscle to be taken seriously when negotiating for a Sunbreak site on federal or state land with the powers that are at Camp Pendleton, the Pentagon, Sacramento, Capitol Hill, and the White House.

Together we can move mountains. Divided, our disastrous descent into quicksand will accelerate.

As we strive to achieve community consensus and find a permanent site, we remain neck-deep in a catastrophic humanitarian emergency.

Which is why we must consider deploying the Sunbreak Ranch Emergency Parachute in the interim.

The best location for this is on Brown Field in Otay Mesa. Having scouted Otay at least 50 times over the years for Sunbreak site locations, we have personally witnessed the minimal air traffic relative to other airfields. And most of this air traffic is centered around prop-plane flight schools doing touch and go's, skydiving, and an occasional private plane.

If there is a location that is temporarily expendable (with temporarily relocatable stakeholders) during a city emergency, this is it.

We do not want to inconvenience anyone, but in a humanitarian emergency like this one, we need to act – now.

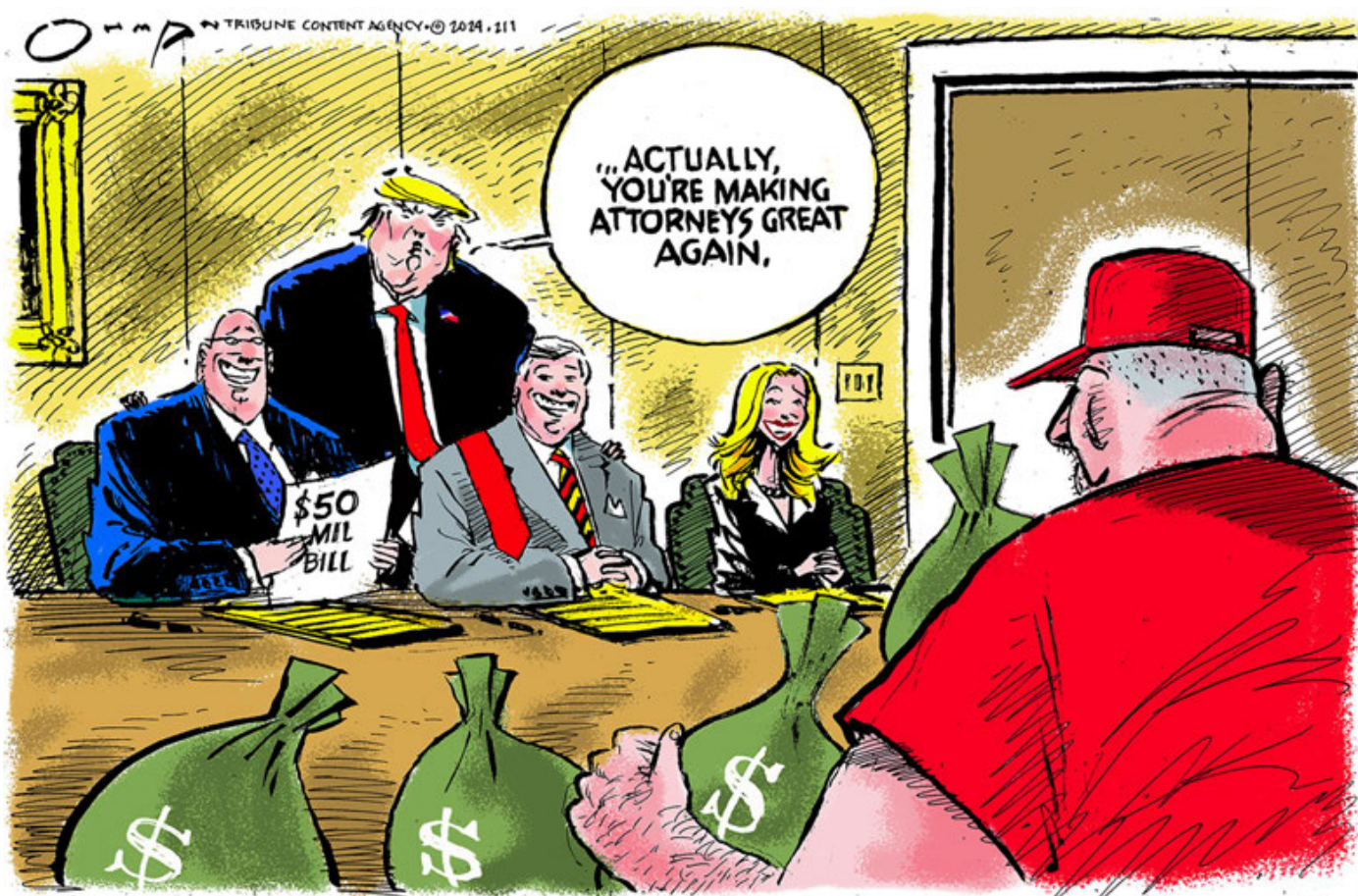


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LISA BENSON



Lisa Benson 2024-27 Counterpoint Media



JACK OHMAN

CORONADO

Coronado Philharmonia to perform the Requiem

On March 9, the Coronado Philharmonia Orchestra will perform Mozart's last composition in the Performing Arts Center.

BY ELAINE ALFARO
The Coronado News

Mozart's Requiem, a musical setting of the Mass for the Dead, heads to the Coronado Performing Arts Center.

Mozart's Requiem: the icing on the cake, the best of the best, or, in Osvaldo Mendoza's words, the "Mona Lisa" of Mozart's repertoire is coming to Coronado on March 9.

And this experience of directing and conducting the Requiem, according to Mendoza who is the music director of the Coronado Philharmonia Orchestra and Choir, has been a 20-year dream in the making.

"Even though it's a mass for the dead, the quality of the music of Mozart is just unbelievable. Just to hear his last composition, that's pretty much his Eiffel Tower, his Mona Lisa, the last thing he did," Mendoza said.

Little did Mendoza know that part of this lifelong dream to conduct this piece would require some creative orchestration and effort of his own in the community of Coronado.

"When I came to Coronado, the first question I asked myself was, 'Where is the orchestra?' I had two options: There's no orchestra so there's nothing to do here, or there's no orchestra so there's a lot to do here," Mendoza said. "That was the perspective of that opportunity."

In 2020, Mendoza began to play with the idea of creating an orchestra on the island, and through the help of the library and the community in Coronado, the Philharmonia hosted its first performance in 2021.

Since then, the Philharmonia has ushered audiences into the music world ranging from Irish music to Mariachi, exploring different cultures and historic compositions with the help of talented musicians.

Like the Philharmonia, Mozart's



The Coronado Philharmonia Orchestra will perform the Requiem on March 9. Photo courtesy of Joel Ortiz.

Requiem had its own origin story, though one with a bit more unorthodox drama and intrigue.

A mask. Mysterious circumstances. Death. Remembrance. And a score to honor the dead. These may sound like elements of a dramatic play or opera, but these elements are part of a true story, according to Keith Pedersen. This is Pedersen's sixth time conducting a choir for the Requiem.

Pedersen, a choir conductor and music professor at Point Loma Nazarene University, shared that what is known as one of the most celebrated pieces in music history by Mozart actually has, in some ways, a peculiar origin.

According to Pedersen, Mozart was approached by a man in a mask who commissioned Mozart to compose this piece. After accepting the job, Mozart began to work on the piece alongside other compositions at the time.

He began experiencing ailing health, and Pedersen said the masked stranger returned asking for the composition. His wife took the piece away to encourage him to rest and heal. Mozart eventually got back to work, but his health continued to deteriorate.

Pedersen said that even on the

night of his death, he was still working on the piece and did not finish it. And yet:

"You can see the imagination of Mozart working," Pedersen said. "Even on his deathbed, as he's going through these lines of text, [he explores], 'What kinds of music can I create that's going to express the emotion and the meaning of what we're talking about here?'"

After Mozart passed, Pedersen said Mozart's wife, Constanze, recruited one of Mozart's students, Franz Xaver Süssmayr, to finish the piece. And through Süssmayr, it was completed.

It was later discovered that the masked patron was sent by a count named Franz von Walsegg-Stuppach, an aristocrat who allegedly was in the practice of commissioning music for dinner parties and claiming it was his own work.

"All these little things pique your interest and make this very different from most other musical pieces that we listen to. The music itself is extremely dramatic," Pedersen said.

But for Mendoza, his fascination with this piece is less about the peculiar origins and the drama of the music, but more so about the religious legacy.

"It's not so much for me the drama,

but the opportunity for me to serve through this music in mass," Mendoza said. "In Catholic liturgy, we believe that the mass is the most important thing; there is the sacrifice of Christ and the resurrection of him. That's definitely something when you hear this music; all the movements are according to the mass. If you go to a Latin mass right now, and literally you play Mozart's Requiem in a Latin Mass, everything will fall in the right spot because it was written for the church."

The Coronado Philharmonia Orchestra and Choir is comprised of 60 musicians and a choir of roughly 50-60 people, including a quartet who will sing solo parts.

"The quality of the musicians we have, we're really excited about it," Mendoza said. "Out of the 60 performers [in the orchestra], easy, 45-50 something have at least a master's degree in music. They're very qualified and have a lot of experience."

The performance will open with a section of sacred music, including compositions by Bach and Piazzolla, according to Mendoza. Then, the evening will shift into a choir piece by Mozart and finally the Requiem will fill the atmosphere of the Coronado Performing Arts Center with the sounds of the Mass for the Dead.

"It's not just for [the] elite. It's for everybody. It's for anybody," Pedersen said. "All of life's emotions are represented in this piece."

The choir is also still taking auditions and prospective singers can fill out the interest form. Pedersen said they are accepting applications in all sections.

The performance of Mozart's Requiem will take place Saturday, March 9, at 7 p.m. The Coronado Performing Arts Center is located at 650 D Ave. Tickets can be bought online at coronadophilharmonia.org.

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CORONADO

Years-long volunteering inspires sustainability work

An Emerald Keepers intern is helping to lead group-wide environmental considerations for the local community.

BY JULIETA SOTO
The Coronado News

Beyond academics, Coronado High School students are leading a call for less plastic pollution in the community.

In her four years as an Emerald Keepers volunteer and current intern Hannah Cohen helped brainstorm the new Policy Liaison Team, a group of interns interested in gaining experience on how to support the organization through policy work with a current focus on a petition for city-wide waste and plastic pollution reduction ordinances at the beginning of her senior year.

Following work that began in 2019, Emerald Keepers this year is focused on proposing ordinances to the City of Coronado in hopes of improving city cleanliness and protecting marine wildlife. Eliminating single-use plastics, particularly among restaurants and businesses, is the goal.

The Coronado-based environmental organization has a total of 18 student interns for the 2023-2024 school year, all of whom collaborate with the organization's board of directors, and work to continue the Emerald Keepers' commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainability.

"It has been a really great learning



Emerald Keepers interns present about local projects at the 2023 Emerald Keepers Coronado Community Conference. Photo courtesy of Amy Steward.

experience so far," said Cohen. "Part of our thing is advocating for protecting the oceans through the plastic reduction ordinances...so a lot of what we do is figuring out ways to mobilize the students and get them to city council meetings and having ways to really specifically connect students to supporting these ordinances."

These ordinances look to prohibit the sale and distribution of: plastic foam food containers, coolers and packing materials; single-use plastic straws, stirrers, and utensils; plastic beverage bottles under two liters, balloons, and plastic bags.

"We call them passion projects," says Emerald Keepers President Amy Steward. "There's one or two students that lead for each project."

The policy team that Cohen currently leads includes CHS interns Olivia Chavez, Maria Laguna, Abigail Pearson and Cathedral Catholic High School student Liza Delach.

Throughout monthly meetings since October, the entire intern group and policy team has been collaborating with adult Emerald Keepers members on the petition and efforts to mobilize the community and youth for public input to support the ordinances.

"We're working on creating a forum that makes it more accessible to submit comments to city hall meetings if you can't be there in person," said Cohen. "I'm really optimistic about the ordinances, especially given that it's not a complete plastic ban, it's just reducing waste and plastic pollution."

While interns may participate in respective "passion projects," Cohen says the passion for policy extends beyond herself and the team.

"All the interns are helping all of them," said Cohen. "It's nice because you can learn from each other, and we're all helping each other."

Cohen said she began volunteering

with Emerald Keepers in her freshman year at the community garden events that take place every other Saturday across the Coronado Middle and High School sites.

Now, Cohen says that following her participation in the internship, she is still constantly learning and understanding how to help the environment.

"To come in and then be like, 'Wow, well look how much I learned about compost and recycling' that now I can go to events and I can teach kids and other people so they can also have this moment of, 'Wow, I didn't know that,'... It makes it so much more accessible for anyone that has an interest in the environment or wants to learn more to come in and be like, 'Teach me some stuff' and that's what we're here for," said Cohen, who will be attending Barnard College following high school graduation this summer.

Many of the interns have plans to expand their environmental knowledge and pursue related fields, like Cohen who hopes to step onto her college campus and pursue Political Science and Human Rights studies.

"It's very much in our control, the future that we want to have, especially environmental, it's not too late to make change," said Cohen. "Coronado can be that image for all the neighboring communities, ...Emerald Keepers has taught me that, to imagine a better future for your community."

Local environmental group calls on Coronado to reduce plastics in city

» Continued from Page 1

upon the statewide ban on single-use plastic bags "with a city law that bans single-use plastic bags at all city retail shops and restaurants." Another ordinance would "reduce the distribution of disposable single-use plastic" that includes polystyrene (EPS) and fluorinated (PFAS) by enforcing reusable foodware and packaging.

"To protect our ocean," Emerald Keepers says, they are urgently petitioning for Coronado to enact ordinances that will reduce the use of plastics by banning what they consider are non-recyclable single-use items, and enforcement will be up to the city.

In a statement to The Coronado News, Mayor Richard Bailey said he believes advocates of restrictions on single-use plastics in Coronado are promoting a much broader application of restrictions than the narrow prohibitions on use of plastics in some other coastal cities.

"Although a single-use plastic ban is contemplated as an option that is part of our climate action plan, the city has not begun work to consider such a ban," wrote Bailey.

To move this forward, the organization began the "Petition to Keep Our Sea Plastic Free" to gather support from locals to join their call in proposing city-wide reductions in waste and plastic pollution. The organization needs 1,000 signatures and currently has just over 350 people who have signed as of late-January.

"We plan to do much more with this petition during Earth Month (April)," said Amy Steward, founder and president of Emerald Keepers. "I would say we are off and running."

As the petition, which opened last fall, continues, Emerald Keepers has begun working on program development for eventual outreach, education and resources to support the public in what they hope will be phased enforcement.

"Everybody's focused on the sewage in our ocean. The water quality is something that Emerald Keepers has been publishing for a while now," said Steward. "The plastic, you see it swirling in the water sometimes, but what you don't realize is how much microplastics and...nanoplastics are being ingested by all of the sea animals... It's just a very, very bad cycle for all of us. It literally is a health crisis, something that we need to pay attention to and something we can do something about."

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) defines microplastics, deriving from

larger plastic debris, as being "less than five millimeters in length (or smaller than a pencil eraser)."

In an article published in 2020, Professor Paul Anastas at Yale University said there are primary and secondary microplastics. Anastas, who is also the Director of the Center for Green Chemistry and Green Engineering, added that primary microplastics can be plastic microbeads found in exfoliating face washes and larger secondary microplastics are often used in building materials, and yet both can be found everywhere including oceans, soil, air and food.

Anastas suggested then that in order to bring solutions to the phenomenon of microplastics and reduce them in the environment, avoiding single-use plastics and shifting towards new plant-based, biodegradable products should be the new norm.

A 2016 study submitted to the National Academy of Sciences examined the effects of microplastics ingestion and impacts to filter feeders in the ocean, such as oysters, showing that a diet involving styrofoam microparticles led to impacts in offspring.

Microplastics are a nationwide concern, which is reflected in the fact that over 1,000 plastic reduction laws have been adopted and implemented in more than 30 states across the U.S., according to data compiled for a Plastic Reduction Policy Map by the Surfrider Foundation in 2021.

"We'd like to have the Plastic Reduction ordinances passed in 2024," said Steward. "You really need to stop it at its source... There's a lot of waste... Certainly we'll have cleaner beaches and hopefully less plastic in our oceans, which is really what it's all about, the less plastic we have in our oceans, the less we're going to have in our bodies."

City communications officer Andrea McCullough said Coronado's contracted waste hauler, EDCO, reduces plastics in the landfill through the collection of plastic (and other items) in its residential and business recycling program.

In 2022, EDCO reported that they diverted more than 1.1 million tons from the landfill through recycling efforts, according to the EDCO 2022 Sustainability Report. The company website also features an "End Plastic Pollution" information sheet that breaks down how to reduce plastic use.

That same year, the Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packaging Producer Responsibility Act, Senate Bill 54, was signed into law on June 30, 2022 to incrementally reduce plastic pollution in California by 2032 by moving

towards recyclable and compostable packaging. Through Senate Bill 270, California became the first state to enact legislation imposing a statewide ban on single-use plastic bags at most retail stores eight years earlier in 2014, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Since its start in 2019, Steward said Emerald Keepers has also been advocating for the appointment of a municipal sustainability officer to help bring all environmental issues forward and seek available grants and funding.

"They have someone on staff who is working with businesses on recycling and organic waste," added Steward. "It is obvious what is being sold or distributed."

The City of Coronado declined to comment on the prospect of hiring a sustainability officer.

Effective as of April 1, 2023, the City of San Diego's Single Use Plastic Reduction Ordinance prohibits the distribution and sale of polystyrene foam containers, single use plastic straws and utensils.

Meanwhile in a small jurisdiction like Imperial Beach, the staff wears many hats as they prohibit plastic food packaging and other materials through their Marine and Beach Protection Ordinance, which was adopted and enforced in 2019.

Chris Helmer, Environmental and Natural Resources Director for the City of Imperial Beach, said new policies like a single-use plastic ban, don't necessarily require a new dedicated position but rather require utilizing existing staff and updating existing city programs.

"It also takes support from council and senior management for these changes to occur, which we are fortunate to have in our city," added Helmer. "As of now, ...all the groundwork has already been done, all the alternatives are already there, all the fight against accepting this seems to be gone."

The Marine and Beach Protection Ordinance is one example of how many divisions play an important role in implementing change, Helmer said.

"We have changed the way we permit and inspect special events, we seek opportunities to educate and inform businesses and the public through the Parks and Recreation department and business license program, and we incorporated awareness and enforcement through our existing commercial business inspection program under the Stormwater Division," wrote Helmer.

Violations of the ordinance may

be punishable by fine, not exceeding \$1,000, and or imprisonment, according to online code materials published by the City.

"In our stormwater program we use progressive enforcement of warning letter, then NOV (notice of violation), then fines that increase without compliance, and the option of citation and additional civil penalties if there is still willful violation of the law but that option is rarely needed in IB," added Helmer. "For single use plastic ban the farthest we ever needed for enforcement was use of NOVs."

Last year, Irvine City Council stopped short of declaring a city-wide single-use plastic ban while still voting to eliminate single-use plastic and polystyrene items from city operations and city-sponsored events, according to media reports.

Meanwhile, Emerald Keepers hopes for city-wide regulations across all retail shops and restaurants.

"I think it is embarrassing that Coronado doesn't have a plastic ban; we're surrounded by water...we've got the bay and we've got the ocean," said Steward. "Every beach community from Imperial Beach to Oceanside, except for Coronado, ...they're taking responsibility for the ocean. They're saying, 'This is our mess, we need to do something about it,'" said Steward.

In August, Oceanside City Council voted unanimously to ban single-use plastic products and is currently allowing businesses to make changes to comply with the new law that prohibits polystyrene foam, beginning July 2024, and single-use plastics, beginning on the first day of 2025.

Steward said Emerald Keepers hosted a Coronado conference in October and "one hundred percent of people who attended our conference supported plastic reduction ordinances."

In December, Emerald Keepers made the 2023 Coronado Community Conference Final Report available to The Coronado News.

Emerald Keepers scheduled a beach clean up with the U.S. Navy on Feb. 3 at Delta Beach.

"We really need your help cleaning up this stretch of beach along the bay after the month's storms and high tides," read a January Emerald Keepers newsletter.

The organization claims close to 1,300 newsletter subscribers and more than a dozen Coronado High School interns who lead environmental projects, added Steward.

"If everybody stopped picking up trash in Coronado, all of the service clubs that do it, ...for a month, it would be horrifying the amount of trash that's out there," said Steward.

CORONADO

Ranches flood in Tijuana River Valley after storm

A late-January rainstorm inundated ranch properties in San Diego, encouraging local collaboration for future rain events.

BY JULIETA SOTO
& ELAINE ALFARO
The Coronado News

As torrential rains swelled the Tijuana River with recent storms, ranches north of the U.S.-Mexico border flooded – inundating homes and forcing residents into horse-rescue operations.

A week after the initial storm on Jan. 22, Mario Bañuelos was still cleaning foot-deep mud and debris from the outdoor kitchen at his family's leisure ranch in the Tijuana River Valley. It was an arduous task, and a daunting one performed a few days before a series of new storms began to slam the West Coast.

The Coronado News, as part of its ongoing investigation into the Tijuana sewage crisis, spoke with individuals who spend significant time at the ranches in the Tijuana River Valley, which is about two miles from the border, to learn how their lives changed in a matter of minutes during a storm that brought with it cross border flows and trash severely damaging properties.

Last year, The Coronado News published a five-part series that examined a history of broken promises by U.S. and Mexican officials that resulted in a public health menace and closed shorelines in Coronado and Imperial Beach.

This environmental crisis has existed since the Great Depression and now these generational ranches find themselves affected during heavy storms, when trash and sewage flows through.

Across the coast, one week after the flooding, local leaders traveled to Washington D.C. to address the pressing Tijuana River pollution crisis and continued requests for a state of emergency declaration. (See related story on page 9)

Ranch owners and tenants said they expect rain events to bring in minor flooding, but they did not anticipate the historic rainfall of Jan. 22 and now are left to replace damaged items themselves.



The ranches and surrounding areas were flooded west and east of Hollister Street. Photo provided by Mark Payne.

The U.S. Weather Service recorded more than two inches of precipitation across much of San Diego on Jan. 22.

The following day, data shared by the United States Section, International Boundary & Water Commission (IBWC) San Diego Field Office revealed that the Tijuana River had reached its highest peak flow in over 30 years – spewing raw sewage into the Pacific Ocean.

“This storm brought the highest peak flow in the Tijuana River since 1993 and the 4th highest peak flow since the IBWC began operating the river gauge in 1962,” said Area Operations Manager Morgan Rogers.

A subsequent 12-second video sent to The Coronado News captured gray waters rushing along the Tijuana River carrying with it floating trash.

“This has been going on for years, it’s nothing new, but this one was pretty bad,” said Bañuelos. “Three feet

of water and then all the stuff that it brings in when it’s flowing, anything that’s going to float, it’s going to end up in the property.”

Mary Powell echoed Bañuelo’s concern for the amount of trash that makes its way from Tijuana into the canal, especially when it floods.

“Everybody expects there’ll be a hundred year flood or 200 year flood,” said Powell. “But this water that comes in the transboundary flows is sewage. ...I know everybody’s looking for culprits to the problems. The problem is it’s just a lack of maintenance, which has been happening all over the city.”

Across neighboring ranches, horses had to be moved to higher ground.

Powell, who serves on the IBWC San Diego Citizens Forum, a committee that discusses solutions for the Tijuana River pollution, said three of her horses, which she keeps on a private ranch along Hollister Street

south of Imperial Beach, were among those evacuated.

“We do the best we can, we take care of our animals, we get them out of the floodwater, we clean their feet, we take care of them so they’re safe,” said Powell.

Powell is also president of the Tijuana River Valley Equestrian Association (TRVEA), a 100-plus member non-profit with headquarters at Driftwood Ranch, one of the properties along the Hollister Street flood zone.

Imperial Beach resident and trainer Melissa Shanholtz said she helped evacuate 100 horses from the area.

“When I got there, it was up to my ankle, and then by the time I got to the end of my arena, it was up to the top of my boot,” said Shanholtz. “You could hear it coming, it was a current, it looked kind of like a tsunami, because it was cracking bushes down. Within 15 minutes, we were probably three feet in water.”

Shanholtz said the arena was left “like a duck pond” for about four days, and they had to drain the mud.

“The sewage water sitting is not going to be well for us over time because it gets in our ground and that causes viruses for the horses and even us,” Shanholtz said.

After the storm, Driftwood staff and volunteers convened to discuss safety protocol for rain events including leaving halters with phone numbers and lead ropes on unlocked stalls and ensuring horses have food and clean water.

“We want to make sure we can contact the owner if they’re not there or if the horse gets displaced,” said Shanholtz.

Beyond new ranch responses to storm events, Shanholtz is looking to organize a community-led effort to remove tons of trash from the river valley.

“I’m trying to get a GoFundMe going,” she added. “That way we can at least... go and clean out the valley ourselves because we’ve been waiting on the city for how long and they don’t do anything about it. I think we can get more done as a village.”

What happened with the flooding in Coronado on January 22?

» Continued from Page 1

But this isn’t the first time Coronado has flooded.

The end of 2018 saw a storm turn the city into a river when water entered the electrical system of the Parker Pump Station and shorted out the plant, rendering the pumps useless, according to Friend.

The week of Jan. 22, Coronado received 4 ¼ inches of rain during the course of the storm, according to Friend, so why were people’s homes being flooded up to 5 feet of rain this time?

What happened?

The special city council meeting on Jan. 29 saw a few members of the community come with their questions and the city came prepared to answer.

“What did we not learn from 2018? What prevented the pump from being turned on?” Coronado resident Scott Seggerman said during public comment, citing rumors that had been floating around since the storm.

The first component was the sewer pumps at Parker Pump Station – which has been going through a replacement project since Jan. 6 and will cost \$26 million.

The replacement project is in place to completely rebuild the aging Parker Pump Station, as it is critical for collecting and routing stormwater and sanitary sewer flows in the Country Club area of the city.

Friend quickly went into the history of the sewer pumps, the events of 2018 and an explanation for the effects of the storm.

She addressed that no one was at the pump station in 2018 when the electrical system shorted and since then, said that in rain events, the city has people on site in order to be prepared if something like that happened again.

Councilmember Mike Donovan said there were a lot of lessons they learned from the 2018 storm. He also said that timing is everything.

The Parker Pump Station is currently about halfway through its replacement project and the timing of the Jan. 22 storm was unfortunate because if it had happened later, the pump station would have been up and running, Donovan said.

But what happened with the flooding on Jan. 22 was very different, Friend said.

“What we had was a catastrophic failure inside the plant and flooding internally,” she said.

The plant itself is around three stories, or 35 feet deep, according to Friend. It houses large stormwater pumps, two wastewater pumps and electrical panels all around the room.

“We had 35 feet of water in there,” Friend explained.

When the water started rising and they were seeing internal damage, the city had to power down the pump station, otherwise the electrical controls would’ve been submerged and shorted out, breaking even more.

Since the pumps weren’t on, the city called in pumper trucks to pull out the water. That work went on until 2 a.m. on Jan. 23.

The city also set up a pump system to pull water from the storm water pipes under the roads and discharge them in order to free the stormwater system so that the streets could drain.

Once the water was drained, the city had their electrical contractor on site to test and replace what was needed.

“I know what you’re experiencing is so incredible, but we had to move mountains to get these steps done and work very, very hard on the community’s behalf,” Friend said.

What followed was people working around the clock for the next week

watching the sewer pumps and working on repairing them. Both pumps have to be operating in order for the system to work normally.

One of the pump’s motors was changed and the other had to go through several diagnostic correction processes in order to figure out what was wrong.

“We were able to get it working,” Friend said. “I want you to know we did not cease or let up for a moment. We were working very hard.”

Councilmember Casey Tanaka also shared that the city has put in at least \$26 million for the replacement of Parker Pump Station so that it doesn’t go 35-feet down, but that it goes up, avoiding a catastrophe like this from happening in the future.

“It’s heartbreaking that multiple councils have identified this problem, but we weren’t able to get it built quite fast enough,” Tanaka said.

The second component Friend discussed were the stormwater pumps.

“We were diagnosing, looking at the stormwater pumps. What we found is, of the four pumps, three of them failed inspection,” Friend continued.

Those three pumps were taken out immediately and brought to a factory to be rehabilitated in order to be sent back to Coronado.

At the special city council meeting on Jan. 29, Friend acknowledged the predicted rainfall on Feb. 1, and how the stormwater system is supposed to work without stormwater pumps.

“We authorized the contractor that is working on the replacement pump station to develop and build a temporary, fully functional stormwater pump system,” Friend said.

The stormwater system will run adjacent to Parker Pump Station and will have the same capacity as Parker Pump Station, according to Friend.

“We were not going to go into the

storm on Thursday and not have a solution for your neighborhood,” she said, noting that there have been several temporary pumps deployed all over town.

“We are actively taking those to areas of concern where we know we’ve had flooding,” Friend said.

Friend noted that another pump station, Bandel Storm Pump Station, did not have any problems, so any flooding that happened near Alameda Blvd and 10th St. near Triangle Park would be due to geography or the effects from Parker Pump Station, she said.

“We’ve done full inspections of our pump stations: Cays, Bandel, Transbay and Glorietta Bay as well,” Friend said, noting that the Glorietta Bay Pump Station is having some issues resolved.

Friend also addressed a community member’s question about the use of barriers and sandbags to avoid water flowing through, acknowledging that they had put out barricades and cones around the flooded area but not until the evening; and people with bigger vehicles that could make it through the storm were driving through a couple feet of water and creating waves.

“It’s important that I heard about this at your time, too, because we will build that into our operational plans as going forward,” Friend said, referencing putting out barricades and cones sooner rather than later.

As for the sandbags, Friend references a webpage that the city had put up educating residents on storm preparedness and how to set up sandbags provided by the city.

The city has developed a FAQ page since they have received a lot of questions on the 2018 storm and the storm on Jan. 22, and also regularly send out notifications for the Jan. 22 storm and the upcoming storm.

CORONADO

Hotel del Coronado opening Nobu, a world-renowned restaurant

Coronado News staff

The legendary Hotel del Coronado announced plans on Feb. 2 to open Nobu at Hotel del Coronado, marking the continued expansion of The Del's culinary experiences and the newest addition to the world-renowned Japanese restaurant empire founded by Nobu Matsuhisa and Robert De Niro.

The opening of Nobu at Hotel del Coronado is part of the last phase of Blackstone's more than \$550 million restoration and revitalization of The Del.

"Coronado is an iconic beach community in San Diego, and Hotel del Coronado is one of California's most signature beach hotels, making it the perfect place for Nobu," said Chef Nobu Matsuhisa. "We look forward to bringing guests the Nobu signatures they have come to love, along with some exceptional items and experiences that will only be available at Nobu Hotel del Coronado."

Nobu at Hotel del Coronado will offer over 3,700 square feet of stunning indoor and al fresco oceanfront dining space, including outdoor covered patio dining with a pagoda bar and dedicated sushi bar.

Nobu at Hotel del Coronado will also spotlight Nobu-signature dishes

including the iconic Black Miso Cod and Yellowtail Jalapeño, as well as Nobu's world-renowned sushi, plus locally inspired dishes and cocktails.

"We are honored to bring the acclaimed Nobu to this community and to Hotel del Coronado," said Managing Director Sanjiv Hulugalle. "Chef Nobu Matsuhisa, Robert De Niro and the rest of the Nobu organization have created a genre-defining experience and destination for impeccable food and service. Much like what Hotel del Coronado has done to redefine contemporary hospitality, Nobu has done with dining—making this a perfect marriage of quality and timeless tradition."

"The opening of Nobu at Hotel del Coronado will mark another milestone in our \$550 million investment plan to restore and revitalize this iconic property," said Brian Kaufman, the managing director at Blackstone. "From day one, it has been our goal to ensure the Hotel Del is able to provide guests and community members a one-of-a-kind experience, and we are thrilled to add a world-class dining partner like Nobu."

Nobu at Hotel del Coronado will be



Chef Nobu Matsuhisa.
Photo courtesy of the Hotel del Coronado.

located at 1500 Orange Avenue in Coronado, California and will open in early 2025.

Nobu, the world-renowned Japanese restaurant recognized for pioneering a new-style Japanese cuisine, started as a business partnership in 1994 between Chef Nobu Matsuhisa and his partners: actor Robert De Niro, producer Meir Teper, and restaurateur Drew

Nieparent.

Originating in New York as the flagship restaurant, the Nobu brand is now an empire with 53 locations that spans across five continents, with international locations in London, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Milan, the Bahamas, Melbourne, Dubai, Cape Town, Mexico City, Budapest, Perth, Monte Carlo, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Doha, Marbella, Ibiza, Los Cabos, Barcelona, Montenegro, Warsaw, Barbuda, Sydney, Istanbul, Jeddah, Singapore, Marrakech, Santorini, San Sebastian, Sevilla and national locations in Las Vegas, Malibu, Miami Beach, Dallas, San Diego, Los Angeles, Honolulu, Lana'i, Newport Beach, Palo Alto, Washington D.C., Houston, Scottsdale, Chicago, Atlantic City, and Atlanta.

Nobu continues to attract fans

worldwide for its enduring atmosphere and continuous reinvention of genre-defining cuisine. Learn more at noburestaurants.com and follow @NobuRestaurants on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook.

Set on one of America's most iconic beaches, the legendary Hotel del Coronado and Beach Village at The Del have welcomed discerning travelers for more than 135 years to experience the Southern California coastal lifestyle at its best.

Here, the magic and nostalgia of the property's storied past blends seamlessly with contemporary luxury in overnight and day experiences that offer every amenity imaginable.

Hotel del Coronado offers five distinct neighborhood experiences, including Shore House at The Del, the hotel's new residential-style villas, which complement the luxurious Beach Village; The Cabanas, where refined coastal design complements the newly refreshed pool, serving as the social center of the hotel; The Views, the hotel's home-base for coastal adventure experiences and activities; and The Victorian building, which will re-emerge in Spring 2025.

Story provided by the Hotel del Coronado.

An evening with "The Rose Code" author Kate Quinn at Coronado Public Library

» Continued from Page 2

in computer science and is a graduate of the Writer's Studio Program at Simon Fraser University.

San Francisco, 1906. In a city bustling with newly minted millionaires and scheming upstarts, two very different women hope to change their fortunes: Gemma, a golden-haired, silver-voiced soprano whose career desperately needs rekindling, and Suling, a petite and resolute Chinatown

embroideress who is determined to escape an arranged marriage.

Their paths cross when they are drawn into the orbit of Henry Thornton, a charming railroad magnate whose extraordinary collection of Chinese antiques includes the fabled Phoenix Crown, a legendary relic of Beijing's fallen Summer Palace.

His patronage offers Gemma and Suling the chance of a lifetime, but their lives are thrown into turmoil when a devastating earthquake rips

San Francisco apart and Thornton disappears, leaving behind a mystery reaching further than anyone could have imagined... until the Phoenix Crown reappears five years later at a sumptuous Paris costume ball, drawing Gemma and Suling together in one last desperate quest for justice.

Free, open seating is first-come, first-served, subject to available space. Guaranteed preferred seating is available with pre-order of "The Phoenix Crown" through Warwick's

online or by calling the store at 858-454-0347.

Please note: To facilitate a smooth and timely signing line, Kate and Janie will autograph no more than two backlist titles brought from home per attendee (signatures only—no personalization). They will autograph and personalize all copies of "The Phoenix Crown" purchased through Warwick's.

Story courtesy of The Coronado Public Library.



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Local mayors advocate for pollution crisis funds

Coronado News staff

Imperial Beach Mayor Paloma Aguirre and Chula Vista Mayor John McCann, joined by a delegation of local officials, including City of Coronado Councilmember John Duncan, traveled to Washington D.C., advocating before Congress and the White House for the approval of \$310 million in supplemental funds to address the pressing Tijuana River pollution crisis and for a state of emergency declaration.

The funds are urgently required to repair and expand the International Wastewater Treatment plant that is operated by the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC).

The mayors also requested that President Biden use the full extent of his executive authority for swift and decisive action to mitigate the amount of toxics and sewage polluting the seventh largest county in the nation.

The pollutants flowing through the Tijuana River Valley have inflicted extensive and severe consequences, adversely impacting the environment, public health, tourism and the communities and federal agencies in the region.

The deteriorating wastewater infrastructure in Tijuana and at the U.S. IBWC's International Wastewater Treatment Plant has led to over two years of continuous beach closures due to sewage contamination in the City of Imperial Beach and intermittent closures at Silver Strand State Beach and Coronado.

In their advocacy efforts, Aguirre and McCann are emphasizing the urgency of the situation and the critical need for \$310 million in supplemental funding for the IBWC.

This funding, initially included in President Biden's supplemental funding request to Congress, is essential for the repair and expansion of the International Treatment Plant, aiming to address the severe public

"Our communities can't withstand this much longer. We urge congress and our president to take immediate action."

- Paloma Aguirre, City of Imperial Beach Mayor

health threat and environmental concerns that have plagued the region.

"This crisis has implications well beyond the Cities of Imperial Beach and Chula Vista. It affects our military's readiness, our economy, and poses a serious public health threat to the entire Southbay region," said Aguirre. "Our communities can't withstand this much longer. We urge congress and our president to take immediate action."

Failure to secure the \$310 million in funding will not only delay the implementation of the proposed expansion but also make it more expensive and hinder compliance with the Clean Water Act at this federal facility. The urgency of the matter cannot be overstated, as it directly affects the safety, well-being, and economic stability of the entire region.

"The Tijuana River pollution has broad environmental and economic impact for the South Bay and urgently needs to be addressed," said McCann.

The mayors and their delegation are urging swift and decisive action from federal authorities to ensure the allocation of funds necessary to mitigate the Tijuana River Valley pollution crisis. They remain committed to safeguarding the environment, public health, and the livelihoods of the communities affected by this urgent and critical issue.

City of Imperial Beach Press Release.

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NAVY

129th Rescue Wing rescues fisherman

DVIDS

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif. – A fisherman who experienced multiple seizures and lost consciousness at sea is safely on land this afternoon after being airlifted by the California Air National Guard's 129th Rescue Wing.

The Air Force Rescue Coordination Center activated the wing on the afternoon of Jan. 31 for a medical emergency aboard the San Diego-based Independence long range sport fishing vessel 300 nautical miles southwest of Cabo San Lucas. The 112 ft. Independence left San Diego Saturday for a 16-day fishing trip, according to owner Paul Strasser.

The wing, working in partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard District 11, launched one of its U.S. Air Force HC-130J Combat King II aircraft from

Moffett Air National Guard Base in Mountain View 1,200 nautical miles to the ship Wednesday night where it delivered 300 lbs of medical supplies including tanks of oxygen, IV equipment and gauze for a doctor aboard the vessel. The doctor stabilized the fisherman and the vessel headed to Socorro Island 370 miles off the western coast of Mexico.

A second HC-130J took off from Moffett before sunrise on Feb. 1 and flew to the island with a team of highly trained pararescuemen.

At 9 a.m. on the morning of Feb. 1, the fisherman was loaded onto aircraft and the pararescuemen provided medical care as he was flown 285 miles north to Los Cabos International Airport in Cabo San Lucas.

Shortly before noon, the aircraft arrived at the airport and the fisherman

was transported by an ambulance from the Mexican Navy to a local hospital for medical care and treatment.

"I'm really proud to be part of the Moffett team," said U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Tavis McDevitt, the mission's search and rescue duty officer. "It's amazing to watch ordinary citizens with jobs and school and families and commitments dedicate a weekend every month to military training and drop what they are doing when people need help."

When the mission came in, he said the wing's Airmen stepped up quickly.

"Within an hour of being notified we had part-time Guardsmen giving medical advice, ensuring mission participants were on proper orders and would get paid, servicing aircraft, and preparing for a complex mission," he said. "I'm grateful to all

of the people in our lives who support us and give up time we might otherwise spend with them."

The mission marks the wing's 1,160th save, as credited by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center.

Located in the heart of the Silicon Valley, the 129th Rescue Wing's federal military mission is to train and prepare to perform combat search and rescue anywhere in the world.

The wing uses those skills at home to provide a wide variety of disaster relief and civil support including aiding distressed persons aboard ships, searching for lost or injured hikers, conducting medical evacuations during natural disasters, wildland fire-fighting, medical support during the pandemic and more.

Story by Staff Sgt. Crystal Housman.

New Report Reveals NAVWAR's Economic Impact

DVIDS

Naval Information Warfare Systems Command (NAVWAR) partnered with both the San Diego Military Advisory Council (SDMAC) and the University of San Diego (USD) Knauss School of Business to publish the newest edition of the NAVWAR economic impact study, unveiled at a reception and release event held at USD Jan. 30.

This study aims to quantify the economic relationship between NAVWAR and San Diego and explain NAVWAR's significance to the region and vice versa.

Utilizing IMPLAN, a regional economic analysis software used in estimating economic impact, the report determined total economic impact by combining direct impact with indirect and induced impact.

Direct impact includes direct employment and awarded contracts, while indirect impact represents how local industries are impacted as the economy responds to the new demands of NAVWAR's business-to-business activity. Induced impact measures how the economy is affected by increased household spending from NAVWAR and its contracted employees.

NAVWAR's total gross regional product economic impact, including direct, indirect and induced, was calculated to be between \$3.14 and \$3.38 billion during fiscal year 2022. Of that, \$1.74 billion was spent on contracts and \$910 million for the total NAVWAR payroll.

"As an advocate for our local military, SDMAC wanted to produce a report to help our community better understand the significant economic importance of NAVWAR operations in the San Diego region," said Mark Balmert, president and chief executive officer of SDMAC. "The independent and rigorous analysis by the team at USD's Knauss School of Business has done just that, showing that our community benefits with many well-paying jobs for people across San Diego County."

Balmert and Stath Karras, executive director of the Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate at USD's Knauss School of Business, kicked off the event with their introductory remarks.

Special guests in attendance included MaryAnne Pintar, chief of staff for U.S. Rep. Scott Peters; John Pope, executive director of NAVWAR and Capt. Dwight Clemons, chief of staff for the commander of Navy Region Southwest.

"Being where the warfighter operates, trains and modernizes in San Diego is a benefit for us and our teammates to make sure we're doing the best we can for the Navy and fulfill our information warfare and cyber missions," said Pope. "We're connected with those ships and go with them wherever they need. The enhanced connectivity between the ships, submarines, aircraft and satellites makes them so much more effective and lethal."

As one of the San Diego region's top twenty employers and the only Naval acquisition command on the West

Coast, NAVWAR is an Echelon II command that supports over 150 separate Navy programs and oversees three subordinate commands: Naval Information Warfare Center (NIWC) Atlantic, NIWC Pacific and NAVWAR Space Field Activity. That totals to 11,000 civilian, active duty and reserve professionals worldwide. 5,300 of the employees reside in San Diego County, with more than four-fifths holding at least a four-year college degree. Combining direct hiring and contracting work, over 18,000 jobs have been created by NAVWAR's presence in the region.

The last edition of the economic impact study was published in 2019 and since then, there have been numerous changes as NAVWAR has continued to innovate and grow with increased focus on cybersecurity.

To better reflect the evolution of information as a fundamental element of warfare, NAVWAR underwent a name change from Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR) in 2019 as well.

A major indication of NAVWAR's continued importance to the Department of the Navy is Project Overmatch, a Naval initiative headquartered in NAVWAR facilities and led by NAVWAR Commander Rear Adm. Doug Small.

It has remained the number two development priority for the DON since its inception in 2020 and serves as the Naval contribution to the Department of Defense's Combined Joint All-Domain Command and Control strategy. The project is focused on establishing and sustaining sea control through connecting manned and unmanned systems, with its funding increasing every year to better support this vital mission.

NAVWAR is also slated to undergo a massive transformation and overhaul of its outdated facilities through its revitalization project.

Situated in over 70-acres in the Old Town area of San Diego and residing in deteriorating World War II-era bomber aircraft factories, a renovation of the workspace is necessary to better serve its high-tech responsibilities and meet emerging security requirements.

Manchester Financial Group and Edgemoor Infrastructure & Real Estate were selected as the potential master developer of this project Jan. 9 after a lengthy bidding process. Not only will the revitalization provide NAVWAR with cutting-edge facilities to accomplish its mission, but it will also transform the Old Town landscape with new residential, commercial and transportation spaces.

"For us at NAVWAR, the revitalization is more than its economic impact on San Diego. It's our ability to recruit and maintain a top-tier workforce so they can complete our mission in facilities that better serve us," said Pope. "If NAVWAR has modern and secure facilities that allows us to have better connections with our industry partners, both small and large businesses, we can innovate faster and better together."

The relationship between NAVWAR and San Diego is mutually beneficial

for all parties. By leveraging the region's unique advantages like proximity to operational Naval forces, training ranges, high-tech industry and world-class universities, NAVWAR is able to more easily communicate with fleet customers as well as develop and test new capabilities.

Additionally, NAVWAR invests back into the San Diego region by partnering with local contracting companies, including small businesses, and participating in science, technology, engineering and math outreach to support the next generation of scientists.

"The University of San Diego is proud to partner with SDMAC to shed light on the major contribution that NAVWAR makes to our region," said Karras. "Our support for this report was driven by USD's commitment to serve as an anchor institution in San

Diego and to be a premier university for the military-connected community."

NAVWAR has been a major presence in the San Diego region for nearly thirty years and will continue to adapt and innovate in the years to come. Read the full report to get a comprehensive look at NAVWAR's economic impact in San Diego.

NAVWAR identifies, develops, delivers and sustains information warfighting capabilities and services that enable naval, joint, coalition and other national missions operating in warfighting domains from seabed to space and through cyberspace. NAVWAR consists of more than 11,000 civilian, active duty and reserve professionals located around the world.

Story by Lily Chen.

Attention, Coronado Art Collectors and Art Enthusiasts



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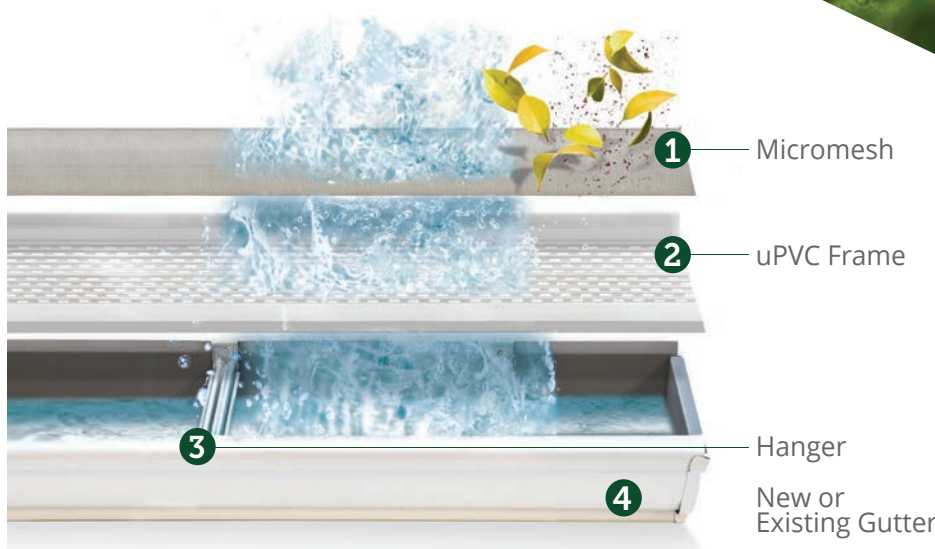


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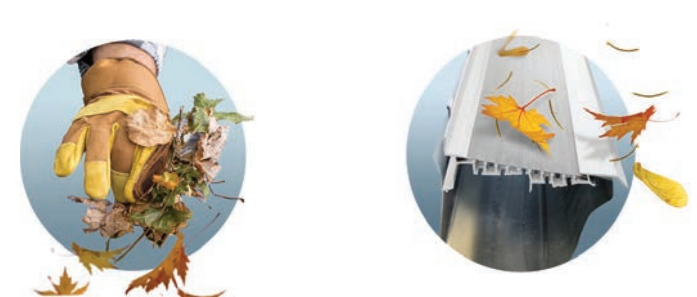
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SPORTS

CHS girl's basketball team celebrates senior night, recognizes graduating key players

Graduating seniors Susanna Pate and Virginia Ryan walked out alongside their parents on senior night.

BY KYLIE CAPUANO
The Coronado News

The Coronado High School women's basketball team hosted their senior night for their two graduating players, Susanna Pate and Virginia Ryan, on Jan. 2 as they faced the Mission Bay Buccaneers.

"I'm excited for it; I feel like I've been looking forward to this game all week," said Pate. "I feel like it's really special, it's once in a lifetime."

This was Pate's first season playing for the CHS women's basketball team. She is currently committed to play Division 1 softball for Cornell University. As the captain of the varsity softball team, the ASB Vice President, an Islander Sports Foundation student representative and National Honor Society member, she can now add varsity basketball to her list of accolades.

The decision to join the team came after overcoming years of injuries that prohibited her from participating.

"This year I was healthy and didn't have to focus on softball as much, knowing where I was going," said Pate. "It gave me a fun opportunity to work on my athleticism and have some fun at the same time."

Despite this being her first go at basketball, her integration into the team was seamless.

"Susanna came in right away," said Head Coach John Coolidge. "She's played softball her whole life, at a very high level, so she knows how to be a leader. She knows how to hold them accountable. Just by her play alone, they'll follow her anywhere."

Ryan, a 6'4" defensive asset for the Islanders, has played for the CHS women's basketball team for the past four years.

"Her defense changes a game. Coaches change how they play against us because she will make your best player think about coming into the paint," said Coolidge.

His favorite part about coaching the athlete has been witnessing her growth over time.

"When Virginia first started, she was about 6



Senior Virginia Ryan starts off the Islanders' senior night at tip off. Photo courtesy of Eddie Gonzalez.

feet tall and she looked like a baby giraffe. She had no clue what she was doing, never played a sport before. Now she's 6'4" and she actually broke the school record last year that was 30 years old for most blocked shots in a single season," Coolidge said.

Ryan averaged seven blocks per game last year, according to Coolidge. However it's her academic average she intends to carry with her into her college career. With a GPA of 4.4, Ryan hopes to attend a UC school next year.

The women Islanders stand at a record of 3-11



The CHS girls basketball team played in their senior night game on Feb. 2. Photo courtesy of Eddie Gonzalez.

this season, competing at the Division 4 level. With three games left in the season, they had to win each game in order to make it to the playoffs. Their 26-38 loss to the Mission Bay Buccaneers on senior night solidified their standing.

"It was very exciting, we all played a great game," said Ryan. "These girls have been amazing for the entire four years I've been on the team and they're always giving their 100%. We played senior night strong and to me that's all that matters."

Win or lose, Pate's season mentality was to come into each game with an optimistic mindset.

"Positivity has been something I've been trying to bring in this season. Just trying to make the most out of every game, regardless of the outcome," said Pate.

The two seniors walked out alongside their parents on senior night. Coolidge's hope is to see the girls back on that same gym floor someday down the line.

"I hope for the best, I hope they'll come back. We've had players from the past come back and practice with us," said Coolidge. "When we put our hands in when we leave timeouts, we always say, 'Family.' And they really believe that this is a family."

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ACCREDITED BUSINESS A+

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Coronado High School graduate Hans Henken is training for this summer's Olympics in France

» Continued from Page 1

country in the sport he has a passion for, a dream he has been working towards for years now.

"I have been training and competing on the U.S. National Sailing Team since 2013 and before that, I was on the U.S. National Development Sailing Team since 2008. Since I was a kid, I have also wanted to compete at the Olympic Games," Henken said. "So to be able to say that I will be going to the Olympics in Paris this summer means the world to me and it's a lot of hard work coming together."

After moving to Coronado from Dana Point when he was 13, Henken began to compete for the locally based Coronado Yacht Club. It was here in the south bay of San Diego that he first experienced high level racing and instruction.

Henken credits his success to a handful of coaches and mentors — from youth coaches Jon Rogers and Mark Gaudio, to his collegiate sailing coach at Stanford, John Vandemoer, to his mentor and coach for the past 15 years, Charlie McKee.

After multiple trials and subsequent failures, Henken emphasized the meaningfulness of this long awaited nomination.

"I have competed and trained for four Olympics and have come up short. So to have finally succeeded this time feels awesome," Henken said.

Henken's passion for the sport is rooted in family ties as his mother was an avid sailor.

"She was the sailor in the family and introduced me to sailing when I was four-years old. Both my sister, my brother and my wife are all excellent sailors," Henken said.

Henken's wife and sister were both Olympians in 2016.

Competing at an Olympic and

World Championship level requires intense training combined with sheer talent.

Henken said they typically spend six days a week training three to five hours on the water, practicing and improving techniques and skills, working on specific drills much like other sports.

"I spend three to four mornings a week in the gym," Henken added. "I have time devoted to maintenance on our equipment to make sure it's all working properly, debriefs on how training is going, debriefs on weather as it greatly affects our sailing decision making, a good sleep schedule and making sure the fridge is properly stocked."

Henken possesses a bachelor's and master's degree in Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering from Stanford and plans to work in the space industry after his sailing career is complete. Working as a full time athlete, Hans does not get paid to sail.

"I'm a full time athlete currently, training and competing for the Olympic Games has been my 'job' for the past 4 years," Henken explained. "I have to fundraise each quarter to be able to afford to keep competing which is just as challenging as the sailing in my honest opinion."

Henken and Barrows are sponsored by the U.S. Sailing Team, the Windmark Sailing Foundation, America One Racing, the St. Francis Sailing Foundation and the Sailing Foundation of New York. Hans currently represents "Whoop" as an affiliate athlete, and "Team Nuun" as an ambassador.

Although Henken has long-term sights set on the Olympics, his next competition is the World Championships in Lanzarote, Spain, in early March. Those who are interested can follow along at www.barrowshenken-racing.com.

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LIFE ON THE ISLAND

Can Taylor Swift make it from Tokyo to the Super Bowl?

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — If Taylor Swift is jetting from her upcoming Tokyo concert to Las Vegas to see boyfriend Travis Kelce play in the Super Bowl the next day, she'd better already have a place to park her plane.

Even the Japanese Embassy in Washington, D.C., seems to be rooting for her.

Places to leave private aircraft at airports in and around Las Vegas have been spoken for, airport and Federal Aviation Administration officials said on Feb. 1.

The four airports immediately around Las Vegas have about 475 parking spaces combined, said Heidi Hayes, a spokesperson for the Clark County Department of Aviation.

"Oh, they're full," said Rick Breitenfeldt, FAA spokesman for his sixth Super Bowl.

Las Vegas-area airports also reached capacity for private planes during the inaugural Formula 1 Las Vegas Grand Prix auto race in November, Hayes said.

Clark County handles Harry Reid International, one of the busiest passenger airports in the U.S., along with busy general aviation airports in suburban North Las Vegas and Henderson. Hayes also checked Boulder City Municipal Airport, about 24 miles (39 kilometers) east of Las Vegas.

Air traffic is expected to be heavy. Commercial airlines have added flights and the Las Vegas airport reported Wednesday it handled a record 57.6 million passengers in 2023. That's an average of nearly 160,000 people per day.

The last of four scheduled Tokyo shows of Swift's Eras Tour is on Feb. 10. Due to time zone differences, if she flies out at midnight, it will be 7 a.m. Saturday in Las Vegas.

A spokesperson for Swift didn't re-



If Swift is jetting from her upcoming Tokyo concert to Las Vegas to see boyfriend Travis Kelce play in the Super Bowl the next day, she'd better already have a place to park her plane. AP Photo/Julio Cortez, File

spond on Feb. 1 to questions about whether Swift plans to attend the Super Bowl, has made travel arrangements, or where her pilots could park a plane.

Swift has more than one private jet, including a Dassault Falcon 900 that can typically seat at least 12 people and fly at up to 590 mph (950 kph). Scrutiny about her jet travel has drawn some criticism for greenhouse gas emissions.

Barring delays, if Swift's flight to Las Vegas takes 11 or 12 hours, she could arrive in Las Vegas the day before the game after crossing nine time zones and the international date line.

The Japanese Embassy in Washington posted a brief social media statement Friday on official letterhead that managed to incorporate three Swift song titles — "Speak Now", "Fearless" and "Red" — in a light-hearted acknowledgment of the attention Swift's travel plans have drawn.

"If she departs Tokyo in the evening after her concert, she should comfortably arrive in Las Vegas before the Super Bowl begins," it said.

Yuki Sugiyama, second secretary at the Embassy, confirmed to The Associated Press that he made the post on Instagram and X, the platform formerly known as Twitter. He said Swift's travel arrangements were a private matter.

"The embassy has no comment on that part," Sugiyama said.

There aren't as many airports around Las Vegas as there are around Glendale, Arizona, where the Super Bowl was played last year. The WM Phoenix Open golf tournament also was played during Super Bowl week in 2023. Breitenfeldt at the FAA said all 1,100 aircraft parking pads in the Phoenix area were claimed.

The NFL doesn't handle aircraft reservations, league spokesman Brian McCarthy said, but it does coordinate with the FAA, National Business Aviation Association, host city airport authorities and commercial private aircraft service companies during Super Bowl events. McCarthy said the league doesn't comment on individual requests.

McCarthy noted that players and fans of the Saudi-funded LIV Golf

league also will be in Las Vegas for a tournament on Thursday, Friday and Saturday at Las Vegas Country Club before the football game Sunday at the 60,000-seat Allegiant Stadium.

Can planes park elsewhere?

There might still be slots available for what Hayes and Breitenfeldt termed "drop-and-go" flights. That's where pilots leave passengers and then fly to another airport to park.

Airports within 100 miles (161 kilometers) of Las Vegas include Mesquite Municipal Airport in Nevada and Laughlin-Bullhead International Airport in Arizona. Jean Sport Aviation Center, an airstrip visible from Interstate 15 that has no control tower, lies south of Las Vegas.

The closest large California airports are Ontario International, San Bernardino International, Palm Springs International and Palmdale Regional, which are each less than 200 miles (322 kilometers) away.

Los Angeles International, John Wayne International near Santa Ana, Long Beach International and Hollywood/Burbank airports are each within 250 miles (402 kilometers) from Las Vegas. Phoenix is about 255 miles (410 kilometers).

It might be cheaper for aircraft owners to park a multi-million dollar jet for the Super Bowl than an automobile owner attending the game, where seat tickets were selling at upwards of \$8,000 apiece.

Hayes said aircraft parking fees during Super Bowl weekend at Harry Reid International were unchanged from the standard rate. That's \$20 to \$150 a day, depending on the size of the plane.

Meanwhile, just one MGM Resorts International casino near the stadium, Mandalay Bay, was still offering game day garage parking reservations on Thursday, at \$100. The company's nearby Luxor and Excalibur had nothing available.

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3	5	3	6	1	4
2	1	4	5	6	2
6	4	5	2	3	1
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Bayer, the makers of Roundup, allegedly hid the health risks associated with their product. They have agreed to a \$10 billion settlement to resolve outstanding cancer lawsuits. If you or a loved one were affected, there is a limited window to file your claim. Call Consumer Attention to see if you qualify.

SEE IF YOU QUALIFY:

877-637-2159

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