

Attendance decline raises budget concerns for Coronado Unified

The school district’s attendance rate goal of 97% has not been met across all schools.

BY KATIE MORRIS
The Coronado News

The Coronado Unified School District board responded to concerns regarding the elimination of some Association of Coronado Teachers (ACT) members’ positions and the impact that decreased attendance has on the district’s funding. The regular board meeting on April 18 heard from ACT Presi-

dent Jennifer Landry, who revealed that eliminated ACT positions would transition to general education classrooms come fall. Currently, these ACT members support “struggling readers and English-language readers.” “We are worried that parents aren’t being informed of these changes, and members at large at a site are not being informed,” Landry said. “These cuts will impact every classroom that usually

has students who receive these services. We, as their teachers, are not being told what is going to occur to support these students in the fall, so we are assuming that the extra reading supports are going to fall on our plate.” Landry said she hopes that parents will be told that their students are receiving less support so they can supplement the aca-

» Continued on Page 6



Senior Director of Learning Megan Battle shared about the most recent Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) 2024 grant that CUSD applied for.

Motion passes to ban fires on beach outside the Coronado Shores

Many residents came to the city council to implore for a restriction on beach fires outside the Coronado Shores apartment complex due to smoke impacting the air quality, while other residents came to fight for Coronado’s long-standing tradition of allowing beach bonfires.

BY MADELINE YANG
The Coronado News

The Coronado City Council voted on April 16 to pass a motion that would restrict all beach fires in front of the Coronado Shores apartments on South Beach, while allowing for bonfires to be in personal smokeless stoves or propane stoves at Central and North Beach, in addition to the city-provided fire rings. Mayor Richard Bailey, who was participating remotely from Nepal, was the only one who voted no against the motion. The discussion on beach fires started in November 2023 when Council member John Duncan first brought up reviewing the policy on beach fires on South Beach — the beach that is only 150 feet away from the Las Palmas Tower at the Coronado Shores. For reference, South Beach stretches from the end of Avenida Del Sol south to the fence line of the Naval Special Warfare Command Complex. Central Beach stretches from the intersection of Rh Dana Place and Ocean Boulevard north to the main Lifeguard tower. North Beach stretches from the main Lifeguard tower to the fence line of Naval Air Station North Island. In the February city council meeting, city staff presented a full report of the regulations of fires on public beaches. From 1979-2014, bonfires were permitted



» Continued on Page 8 The Coronado Shores and South Beach from the air. Staff photo by Madeline Yang.



Coronado Middle School program specialist Brooke Barto has been selected for a Special Education Award to be honored at the annual South County SELPA awards event on May 23rd. Photo courtesy of Brooke Barto.

Leading with the ‘intention of creating inclusive outcomes for everyone’

CMS Program Specialist Brooke Barto will be recognized for years-long student teaching and support.

BY JULIETA SOTO
The Coronado News

For the past seven years, Brooke Barto has served multiple roles within the Coronado Unified School District—an education specialist working with students with mild to moderate disabilities, an English and math teacher in a general education environment and now, the program specialist at the

middle school. She came to Coronado in 2017 after working as an instructional assistant and a registered behavior technician for three years before receiving teaching credentials in two areas of study. “I’m really passionate about helping all students,” Barto said. “I was working as a registered behavior technician with military families, and I was super passionate about supporting those

families. And there was an opening in Coronado, and when I came to do the interview, I just knew in my heart that this was the community that I wanted to work in.” Since becoming a program specialist in August, Barto said she works very closely with the school’s vice principal and principal, with a focus on support-

» Continued on Page 8

this week

27 • saturday

From 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Grand Caribe Shoreline Park, join the Coronado Library on the hunt for wildlife in the City Nature Challenge. As part of the 2024 City Nature Challenge, San Diego County will join the world in taking part in a four-day collaboration to get people observing the natural world through photography.

How to participate: Just take a picture of any plant, animal, or other evidence of life you find in your city and share your photo using the iNaturalist app. The library will have a green pop-up tent at the park.

28 • sunday

The Coronado Island Film Festival's student classics film series presents "The Philadelphia Story" at 1 p.m. in the Winn Room.

This program is open to any upper-middle and high school students attending public, charter, or parochial schools, as well as homeschooled students. Students will be able to attend the screening of the film, which is based on a Broadway play by Philip Barry. This film opened box office records and won critical acclaim, including an Oscar nomination for Best Picture.

CONTACT US

For news tips, story submissions and letters to the editor, contact Editor Sofie Fransen at sofie@thecoronadonews.com or 619-990-8465.

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

SCHOOLS

CUSD opens preschool applications

Coronado News staff

Coronado Unified School District preschool applications for the 2024-2025 school year are now open. The district has two preschool programs on site at Village and Silver Strand Elementary schools that welcome part-time students ages 3-4 in either a morning (8:15 a.m.-11 a.m.) or afternoon (12:05 p.m.-3:05 p.m.) option. According to the district, space is limited and applications are now open for next school year. The district says the schools offer quality early childhood development curriculum based on the California Preschool Foundations and Curriculum Frameworks, with activities designed to establish academic capabilities that will serve as the foundation for a lifetime of learning. Additional information about preschool registration can be found online at coronadopreschool.com.

PETS OF THE WEEK

Meet Jonathan and Valentina

PAWS of Coronado

Meet Jonathan, an adorable and lovable dog who just can't get enough affection! Jonathan is a mixed breed with a short coat and a charming personality that will steal your heart. Jonathan 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. Jonathan is a young dog, full of energy and curiosity. He loves to explore his surroundings and play with toys, especially those that squeak or bounce. 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.

Meet Valentina, the wonderful 7-year-old female lab mix with a heart of gold and a passion for food.



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



Meet Valentina, the pet of the week. She's at PAWS of Coronado and is looking for her forever home. Photo courtesy of PAWS of Coronado.

for life, making every mealtime a joyous occasion.

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 Jonathan, Valentina, or other animals, please visit www.pawsofcoronado.org.



Spot a Stroke, Save a Life

Free Community Event

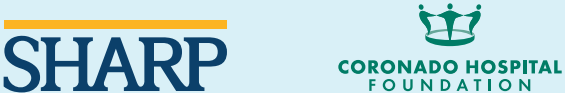
When someone is having a stroke, every minute matters.

Learn the signs of stroke, how to act fast in an emergency, and how to reduce the risk of stroke at this free community event with Gregory Apel, MD, chief medical officer at **Sharp Coronado Hospital**.

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Coronado Community Center — Nautilus Room
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OPINION

Reagan National Defense Forum highlights the relevance of new technologies on the battlefield

Career naval aviator and national security professional shares how one of the most cutting-edge technologies, unmanned security vehicles, were a topic of focus at the Reagan National Defense Forum.

BY GEORGE GALDORISI

The Reagan National Defense Forum (RNDF) is one of the most important national security dialogues of the year. “Everyone who is anyone” in the national security space is either an invited speaker or an in-person attendee.

Given Coronado’s long association with the U.S. military, as well as today’s substantial military presence and number of residents who are either active duty or retired military members, what occurs at this event is likely of keen interest to the Coronado community.

Speakers at the most recent RNDF included the secretary of defense, secretaries of the military services, uniformed chiefs of the military services, key innovation and acquisition leaders such as the Defense Innovation Unit (DIU) director, senators and congressmen from key defense committees and others who help shape U.S. national security policy.

Unmanned surface vehicles (USVs) represent one of the most cutting-edge and innovative technologies in today’s defense space. Given the scope of the RNDF, not every speaker’s remarks were directly focused on unmanned surface vehicles. That said, what was discussed was national security gaps that the U.S. military needs to address, and filling these gaps had a strong emphasis on USVs.

Relevance of new technologies

- Some of the high points of the event included:
- During his remarks, the Director of the Defense Innovation Unit, Doug Beck, described three lessons about the use of disruptive technologies in the conflicts in Gaza and Ukraine:
 - The relevance of new technologies on the battlefield, especially unmanned systems.
 - The power that alliances and partnerships can bring to the table.
 - The power of talent, meaning the need for smart operators to fully exploit emerging technologies.
 - Beck noted that these are three lessons that the Department of Defense is leveraging as it looks to help the United States prepare for conflict anywhere in the world, but especially



A T-38 Devil Ray unmanned surface vehicle. Photo courtesy of Dave Meron.

in the Indo-Pacific region. For example, he noted that USVs such as MANTAS and Devil Ray have been invited to Pacific Fleet Integrated Battle Problem events over the past several years (and into 2024) due to their usefulness in the high-end fight in the Pacific theater.

- As PACOM Commander, Admiral John Aquilino, pointed out, the United States needs to understand that our primary peer adversary, China, is also watching the conflicts in Gaza and Ukraine carefully to develop the force structure, doctrine, tactics, techniques and procedures to prevail against the United States.
- In his remarks, the Secretary of the Air Force, Frank Kendall, noted that one of the important lessons we have learned from the conflicts in Gaza and Ukraine is the growing need for more autonomy in unmanned systems in all domains. He called out Israel’s Harpy system (an unmanned, loitering, weaponized autonomous UAS) as one example of the kind of weapon that will be important in any conflict in the Indo-Pacific region.
- During his remarks, Kendall noted that a key technology vital for future conflicts, especially in the Indo-Pacific region, is the ability to implement manned-unmanned teaming to fully exploit the best attributes of both the human and the machine. As an example, he used the Air Force Collaborative Combat Aircraft (CCA) program (a manned aircraft such as the Joint Strike Fighter operating with two or more (up to five) “loyal wingmen” unmanned aircraft).
- During her remarks, the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Lisa Franchetti, called out unmanned surface vehicles, which were used with deadly effect in the war in Ukraine, as key assets in any conflict with a peer competitor. She cited the work of the Navy’s Unmanned Task Force as well as numerous

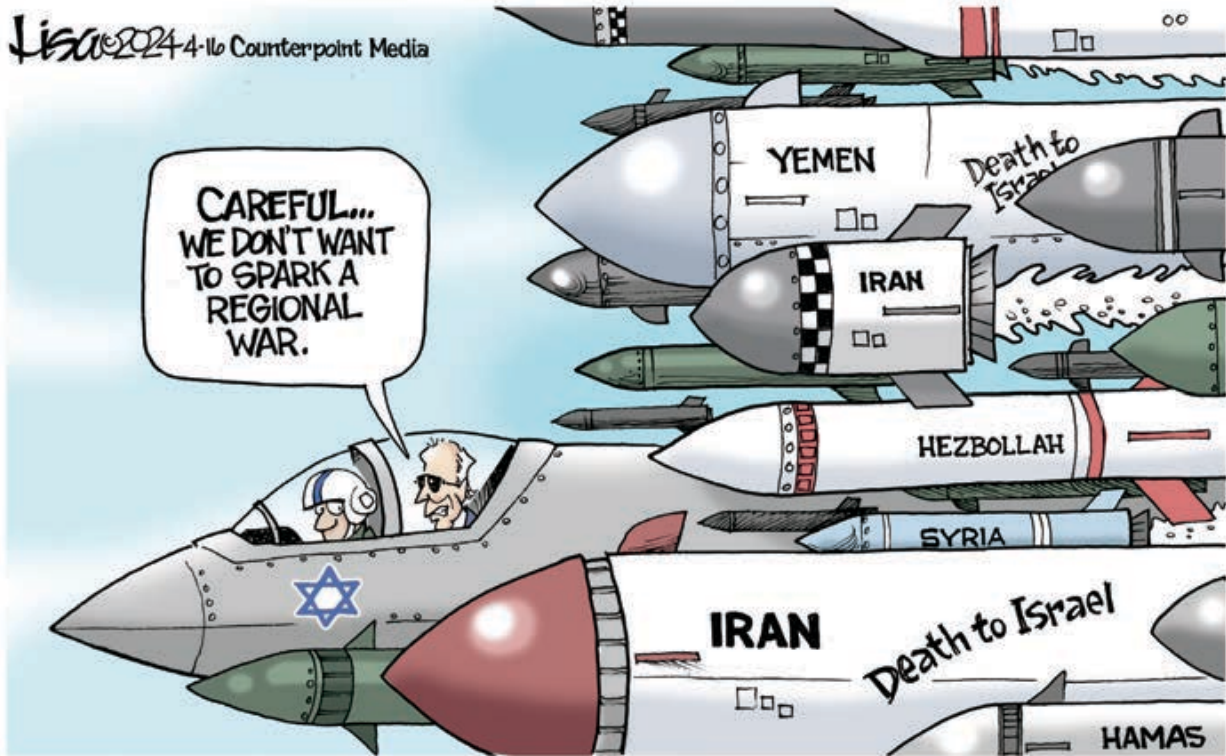
exercises, experiments and demonstrations to not only develop technology, but to put it in the hands of sailors and Marines to determine its usefulness. Admiral Franchetti spoke explicitly about the work of Commander Task Force 59 in the Arabian Gulf as well as the Integrated Battle Problem series of exercises where Saildrone, MANTAS and Devil Ray USVs performed several missions.

- During his remarks, Representative Mike Gallagher, chair of the House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), noted that other speakers had talked about the DoD’s “Replicator” program (a favorite program of Deputy Secretary of Defense Hicks). While noting that it was a good program in concept, he was concerned that the United States does not yet have the technology to control a thousand or more drones simultaneously.
- Representative Gallagher also noted that a key U.S. vulnerability vis-à-vis new technologies is that the U.S. hesitates to pick technology “winners and losers” (especially with AI) the same way that the CCP does. He suggested that this is slowing down the effective insertion of AI into U.S. military platforms, systems, sensors and weapons.
- During her remarks at the Reagan National Defense Forum, the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, Heidi Shyu, reminded attendees that in seeking to develop artificial intelligence and machine learning (ML) for military uses, it is important to remember that without well-curated data to mine, AI and ML are all but useless.

Readers of The Coronado News who have read previous articles focused on unmanned surface vehicles are likely not surprised that this signature national security event had a strong focus on one technology. Momentum is building for the U.S. Navy to continue designing, testing, and fielding unmanned surface vehicles as one way to help secure the global commons and enhance the security and prosperity of our nation.

George Galdorisi is a career naval aviator and national security professional. His 30-year career as a naval aviator culminated in 14 years of consecutive service as executive officer, commanding officer, commodore, and chief of staff. He is a 40-year Coronado resident and enjoys writing, especially speculative fiction about the future of warfare. He is the author of 16 books, including four consecutive New York Times best sellers.

LISA BENSON



JACK OHMAN



CORONADO

Coronado Unified plans according to foreseeable basic aid status

CUSD's business team discuss 2023-24 Second Interim Report as they prepare for a \$2.3 million shortfall identified for the next school year.

BY JULIETA SOTO
The Coronado News

The Coronado Unified School District plans to reach basic aid status in the next five years, a title that would ultimately allow for local property taxes exceeding the Local Control Funding Formula to fund the school district while also keeping excess tax overflows in house.

Amid negotiations with the teacher's union, the school district is prioritizing cutting back on current spending to reach basic aid by the 2027-28 school year — a goal that was originally projected for 2036, but is now planned for almost 10 years earlier, according to Deputy Superintendent Donnie Salamanca.

More than a dozen district staff members, parents and community members attended a budget study committee meeting on April 17 to further discuss the Second Interim Budget.

Throughout the meeting, Salamanca guided the committee through an interactive dialogue regarding the impact of state funding and the challenges of maintaining programs and services in the face of declining enrollment and increasing costs.

"We have a few challenges that we're facing as a district, but we're really excited about the landscape looking forward to basic aid which we anticipate being in 27/28 if not sooner," Salamanca said.

The Second Interim Budget report was first presented at a regular school board meeting in March, following Gov. Gavin Newsom's budget proposal of addressing a \$38 billion state budget gap.

According to Salamanca's presentation in March, Newsom is also proposing to pull \$18.8 billion out of state reserves.

Last month, CUSD staff discussed



The Budget Study Committee welcomed the community to a meeting discussing the second Interim Budget on April 17. Staff photo by Julieta Soto.

approval of resolutions to adjust for what they've identified as a \$2.3 million deficit in the upcoming 2024-25 academic school year.

"Our commitment to the board is to present budgets that look to basic aid in mind," Salamanca said at the special budget meeting on April 17. "Things changed at the state level that forced us to modify our multi-year outlook. ...We currently do not have a full bridge to basic aid...we started to make some cuts, but additional reductions are still in the mix."

Now the school district finds itself participating in teacher layoffs and continues negotiations with the Association of Coronado Teachers (ACT).

According to the district's Labor Negotiations page, ACT's initial proposal value dropped from \$4.5 million to \$2.5 million of ongoing costs to the district as of April 12.

Meanwhile, CUSD's counter proposals on March 26 are valued at approximately \$272,000.

According to the proposal summary page, ACT is proposing a 10% increase to the salary schedule, adjustments to the teacher work day and other additional compensation.

CUSD rejected the initial \$4.5 million ACT proposals because it would cause the district to be insolvent by the 2025-2026 school year, according to the same proposal summary page

from the district.

Looking to ensure every ACT member will get a pay raise annually until the district reaches basic aid status, CUSD looks to add three additional steps beyond Step 31, valued at 2.5% each year and proposed a "salary increase equivalent to the CoLA it will receive from the State (0.82% as of April) in addition to step increases that every employee is eligible to receive."

The district document says the next bargaining date between ACT and CUSD is scheduled for April 30.

The April 17 meeting also discussed the impact of interdistrict transfer students.

The district plans to enroll 2,800 total students in the next school year, and there are an average of 300 interdistrict transfer application requests each year, Salamanca said.

"As of this morning, we are at 290 requests to join our district," Salamanca told the committee on April 17 about the transfer applications that opened in February.

For over more than 20 years, CUSD has averaged between 14-19% of interdistrict transfer student enrollment, said Superintendent Karl Mueller.

Salamanca said that 100 transfer students could bring in about \$1.2 million and 300 would more than double that amount.

"We're setting ourselves up for

some significant decisions to be made around staffing cuts, not allowing students who are current students to return on interdistrict transfers," said Mueller about the inability to accept all applicants to balance the district's budget.

While Mueller expects the average transfer enrollment to change considering that as a basic aid district, CUSD is less prone to receiving revenue for these students, he said he believes the district will continue to enroll interdistrict transfer students because "we can't operate our schools and our programs without some IDTs."

Salamanca noted that with about 300 applications last year, CUSD accepted 150 students and the enrollment remained at 2,700. The annual applications also include those students who have to reapply because they are moving from one grade level to the next like those leaving the elementary schools and entering middle school, added Salamanca.

The committee also discussed the increasing property values and decreasing number of new family homes with school aged children moving to Coronado, a situation that helps basic aid revenue but fails to fill seats, noted Mueller.

According to Mueller, CUSD is considering full or partial funding for transfer students attending the conservatory at Coronado High School by exploring the possibility of one of two realistic models, the District of Choice Program, to increase revenue that could help the district once in basic aid.

"Let's say we're in basic aid, we add a hundred students to the Coronado School of the Arts, we're getting 25% of the revenue that they would have received in their home district," said Mueller. "The other 75% of their experience would be funded through our local property taxes. We are not getting additional revenue for IDTs or per pupil once we're basic aid. It's 100% based off of property taxes."

The next committee meeting will take place on June 19 in the District Board Room.



On April 12, the Coronado High School concert band received a Unanimous Superior rating. Photo courtesy of Emily Foster.

Coronado High School concert band received highest possible honor

The CHS concert band received a Unanimous Superior rating at the California Music Educators Association Band and Orchestra Festival.

Coronado News staff

For the first time in 40 years, the Coronado High School Concert Band received the highest possible honor, a Unanimous Superior Rating, at the California Music Educators Association Band and Orchestra Festival (CMEA).

The band, directed by Matt Heinecke, consisted of 24 CHS band students and seven advanced band students from Coronado Middle School.

The April 12 festival evaluated musicians on a wide set of criteria including tone quality, rhythmic precision and dynamic contrast, among other things. And the Islanders earned top marks across the board.

"I want to convey how proud I am of these guys and how much they worked to accomplish this," Heinecke said.

Heinecke graduated from CHS in

1997 and was a member of the band in high school. He returned to his alma mater to direct the high school band in 2008 and then started at the middle school in 2016; he also previously taught at Village Elementary School.

With a long history directing local student bands, Heinecke has had a front row seat observing this group's persistence and tenacity to get to this point, especially considering their rebuild after the pandemic.

According to Heinecke, it has been a long process to virtually start over from scratch after diminished participant numbers.

"Our numbers are still low, which is why I supplemented with the middle school students," he said. "To be able to have kids as young as 13 playing with 18-year-olds and be able to come away with a top rating— I couldn't believe that we pulled that off... It was really remarkable."

Winner announced for 2024 home front judging competition

The home front judging competition was started by the Coronado Floral Association as an initiative for island beautification.

BY KYLIE CAPUANO
The Coronado News

Over 3,000 Coronado homes were judged by 175 volunteers for the 2024 home front judging competition, but only one took home the title of "Best in Village." That crown was given to 311 9th St.

The home front judging competition has been going on for decades and was started by the Coronado Floral Association as an initiative for island beautification.

The "Best in Village" title is given to what Home Front Judging Co-chair Lori P Smith calls "for lack of a better description, a 'wow' home," which was true for this year's home front winner for its colorful, flourishing garden.

"You would think you are walking into a garden in Tuscany," said Smith. "It is just stunning, really no words. It's very thoughtful, it's mature — she has plants that are over 100 years old."

From April 5-7, Coronado home fronts were judged based on how well-tended, blooming and cohesive their plants were, as well as the overall design of the yard.

The Best in Village, 1st Runner Up (445 Pomona Ave.), 2nd Runner up (416 10th St.) and top ten home fronts were named after careful



"Best in Village" home front winner Maggie Anderson poses in her garden. Photo courtesy of Lori Smith.

consideration from the judges. There were also winners for special categories such as Best Earth Friendly, Best Coronado Park, Best Motel & Hotel Front, Best Church Grounds and more.

CORONADO

THE CORONADO FLOWER SHOW

Photos by Madeline Yang, The Coronado News.



See the full gallery online. Scan the QR code with your smartphone camera, and tap the link.



The Coronado Flower Show has earned the title of the largest tented flower show in the nation.



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Attendance decline raises budget concerns for Coronado Unified

» Continued from Page 1

demic service changes.

“If we are going to make a change to how we’ve been doing something for years, then we get in front of those possible outcomes and not play catch-up with it,” Landry said.

Trustee Renee Cavanaugh said reducing or eliminating positions is not something that the board takes lightly.

“Sometimes no matter how careful financial planning and projections are, it just doesn’t line up with what our final funding amounts are,” Cavanaugh said. “I understand the anxiety that some people are feeling and I am hopeful that a positive outcome is still possible with that.”

During the deputy superintendent updates, Deputy Superintendent Donnie Salamanca shared that the school district’s attendance rate goal of 97% has not been met across all schools. CUSD’s 2024-2025 budget projects a 96% attendance rate.

“If that percentage doesn’t come to fruition, then we are actually funded less than what we’re included in our budgeted numbers,” Salamanca said. “That could potentially mean more cuts.”

Salamanca said the school district has built in a slight increase in enrollment to calculate next year’s attendance projections.

“Every year, we have to forecast what attendance will be to forecast how much we as a district can expect in LCFF (Local Control Funding Formula) revenues,” Salamanca said. “Based on historical numbers, mostly pre-pandemic, we have a long history of 96.5% in terms of attendance.”

Currently, the attendance rate at CHS is 95.6%; Coronado Middle School is 95.3%, Silver Strand Elementary School is 95.2% and Village Elementary School is 94.9%. As a result of the number of student absences and lost instructional time, the school district’s lost revenue is \$1,058,720.

During the Learning Department Report, Senior Director of Learning Megan Battle shared about the most recent Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) 2024 grant that CUSD applied for.

The \$1.25 million 2024 Project Computer Sci-

ence Plus grant would fund additional CUSD science, technology, engineering, math (STEM) and computer science (CS) programs for kindergarten through 12th grade (K-12) if accepted in September.

The grant will support STEM/CS professional development and course expansion, as well as provide funding for technology tools like Gizmos, CS Pocket Lab sensors and CodeHS software, among others.

“We added in the opportunity to earn certifications in commercial and recreational FAA drone flight before [students] leave high school,” Battle said.

Part of the grant would entail CUSD partnering with the County Office, which has a computer science coordinator who has “created documents on aligning the computer science standards and how they’re connected to English-language arts standards and math standards,” Battle said.

In other matters:

- Village Elementary School raised \$85,000 during its annual Jog-A-Thon, hosted on March 21.
- The board recognized Linda Kullman as the CMS, Nicole Belong as the CHS, Gisele Rently as the SSES and Kelly Fortson as the VES CUSD’s 2024 teachers of the year.
- The governing board honored the life of the late Kathy Vienna, who served as a CUSD trustee and president from 2002-2010 and a Coronado Schools Foundation board member and was involved with the construction of key CUSD buildings.
- CHS seniors Kyle Kuester and Aiden Anderson, members of the high school’s Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC) program, shared their experiences as military children in CUSD.
- The board did not approve adjusting the 2024-2025 academic calendar to reflect student and community member desires to have finals prior to winter break.

The governing board passed the new job description for the Mental Health Counselor role at CUSD. The school district will now distinguish between counselors who work primarily with students on

Month of the Military Child

BY KATIE MORRIS
The Coronado News

With April being the Month of the Military Child and Coronado being a military town (34% of CUSD’s students are military children), many attendees wore purple to honor military children at the April 18 school board meeting.

Kelly Fortson, who runs the Anchors for Life program at Village Elementary School, shared about the program and introduced two 5th-grade team leaders, who each shared their experiences in the program.

CHS seniors Kyle Kuester and Aiden Anderson, members of the high school’s Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC) program, also shared their experiences as military children in CUSD.

“There is a very like-minded community that [students] are put into with a lot of people who have similar experiences to [them],” Anderson said.

Kuester, who has attended three different high schools in the past four years, said CHS excels in establishing a community for military children through its clubs and programs like NJROTC.

“The majority of JROTC cadets are military children, and that really helps us fit in immediately,” Kuester said.

academic counseling, the School Counselor position, and those who work with students on mental health concerns, the Mental Health Counselor.

The next regular board meeting is set for 4 p.m. on May 16 at the District Office.

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THE CORONADO NEWS

Coronado resident win International Masters I

Coronado senior Gabriel Langevin named National Merit Semifinalist

Coronado News staff

September 29, 2023

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Motion passes to ban fires on beach outside the Coronado Shores

» Continued from Page 1

on Coronado when using city-provided fire rings, personal barbecues and personal fire ring containers.

In 2014, the ordinance was changed to only allow for fire materials to be charcoal and clean wood in order to be consistent with the San Diego County Air Pollution Control District.

More than a handful of residents of the Shores showed up to the meeting on Feb. 20 to ask the council to restrict fires at South Beach because of the smoke rising to their apartments.

The council then approved a motion to limit beach fires to only the city and state-provided rings and prohibit all use of portable fire pits, grills and barbecues.

February’s meeting also brought up a potential option of using smokeless fire pits as a compromise to the wood-burning fire pits that bring smoke to the Shores residents.

The smokeless fire pits still allow for a contained fire, but certain engineering lessens the smoke produced by the fire.

The meeting on April 16 was the first official reading of the ordinance to amend the Coronado Municipal Code regarding the fires, which previously allowed for personal fire rings such as grills or fire pits.

Over an hour’s worth of the city council meeting was absorbed by public comments from community members on both sides of the issue.

One side stated that the smoke from the fires reaches the residents at the Shores, affecting the air quality of those who live right on the beach.

“My unit is heavily impacted by the fires,” Coronado Shores resident Andrew Corley said. “I come in and the apartment is full of smoke and it smells like smoke. It’s visually in my house.”

The other side stated that windows and doors that let in the smoke in the apartments can be closed, and fires on the beach are a tradition that shouldn’t be taken away.

“Banning beach fires would not only take away beloved pastimes, but also diminish the cultural and recreational fabric of our city,” Coronado resident Maggie Olsen said.

Bailey reminded the community of the initial question: “What are we trying to solve and where are we trying to solve it?”

Bailey said that the initial problem was to improve the air quality outside of the Coronado Shores apartments.

“I do believe there is an impact,” Bailey said about the smoke affecting residents. “But we haven’t quantified that, so it’s impossible to know which solution is most effective.”

He said that he was most supportive of limiting beach fires on South Beach to the smokeless fire pits, as he believes it is the most balanced and the most environmentally friendly option the city currently has.

“Allowing beach bonfires to continue and personal smokeless devices acknowledges that one,



April 16th’s city council meeting passed a motion to ban beach fires on South Beach, outside of the Coronado Shores apartments, but allow for personal smokeless fire pits at Central and North Beach. Staff photo by Madeline Yang.

some Shores residents are adversely affected by the smoke,” Bailey explained. “Two, it recognizes that many of our Coronado residents responsibly enjoy beach bonfires with their friends and family in small gatherings.”

Councilmember Casey Tanaka agreed with Bailey and said that the smoke issue is an important issue, and something that should be seriously considered. However, he said he has to listen to multiple groups.

“As much as I want to mitigate the smoke problem for those who face it at the Shores, I can’t mitigate it entirely,” Tanaka said. “And there’s nothing wrong with the argument of a group of 4 to 8 people who want to sit around a solo stove and use it appropriately.”

Councilmember Mike Donovan also believed there was a compromise. His ideas were to restrict beach fires at the Shores but allow personal propane stoves to be brought to Coronado’s Central and North Beach along with the city-provided fire rings – which is the decision that ultimately ended up being passed.

All council members voted to pass the motion, except for Bailey, who said he couldn’t pass this motion because of what was brought up during public comment – that many people outside of the Coronado residents use the city-designated fire pits.

“What this motion would accomplish, is it would essentially allow members from outside the Coronado community to come and burn wood in our fire pits,” Bailey said. “But it would not allow our own residents to take portable wood fire burning devices, unless they were a specialized device, in these same areas.”



Council member Casey Tanaka sitting in as mayor pro tem while Mayor Bailey is away. Staff photo by Madeline Yang.

Leading with the ‘intention of creating inclusive outcomes for everyone’

» Continued from Page 1

ing the special education staff and community.

“In my last seven years working here, the staff and professionals that I work with have truly become part of my family,” said Barto.

Her dedication to the community will be honored on May 23, when she will receive the San Diego South County Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) award for her years-long work. Barto was named the district nominee for the award in April.

“She builds strong connections with students, families, and colleagues across the district, and she is known for creative problem-solving, relationship-building, and a commitment to growth and success for all students,” Coronado Unified School District Special Education Coordinator Ryan Keller said in an announcement released by the school.

South County SELPA coordinates special education program development and student placements for more than 11,000 students from birth through age 22 in the elementary and high school districts of Coronado, Chula Vista, National, San Ysidro, South Bay, Sweetwater and San Diego County Office of Education programs.

According to San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) Communications Director Elizabeth Cox, each of the member districts and county program district administrators select a recipient for this award.

“Ms. Barto was selected for her contributions to the field of special education, outstanding provision of services to students with disabilities, and overall contributions to the culture of community participation for her students and families,” said Keller.

Coronado Middle School Principal Brooke Falar said Barto’s ability to nurture meaningful connections makes all students and staff feel included.

“I am so proud to have her representing CUSD as an outstanding educator for all students. Ms. Barto is such a valued part of the CMS community!” wrote Falar.

Barto is also the administrative designee in Individual Education Plan (IEP) meetings for the middle school, and she said her credentials allow her a multifaceted lens in education.

“My goal as a leader is to use my skillset coupled

“I feel humbled in reflecting on the work that I’ve done in Coronado over the past years. I’ve learned a lot. I’ve had some incredible mentors that have helped guide my pathway towards leadership and I’m very excited for what’s to come.”

- Brooke Barto,
Coronado Middle School program specialist

with my experience and my education in both areas to improve student achievement, systems development and community connectivity,” added Barto.

Apart from providing feedback to support legally compliant IEP goal writing for students, Barto said she helps staff successfully learn co-teaching models and oversees the classified instructional aid schedule throughout the school year to ensure that students are receiving their services as per written on their IEPs.

According to the American Advocacy Group, “An IEP provides more comprehensive support and services for students with disabilities who require special education services.”

“I also help to facilitate transition meetings,” Barto said. “When fifth graders are coming into sixth grade at Coronado Middle School, I help with the planning, creating schedules and making sure that their services transfer from school to school smoothly, as well as when our eighth graders are ready to leave the middle school and go off to high school.”

Barto also provides training with a fellow non-crisis intervention instructor from the district. The training is modeled to certify staff in a year-round

format, typically with one in the spring and one in the summer.

As a certified instructor under the Crisis Prevention Institute, Barto said their framework introduces a four step process for turning crises into an opportunity for positive outcomes.

“We’re looking at equipping our staff and giving them the tools to respond to behavior and in turn, reduce the chances of any negative or severe outcome,” said Barto. “We specifically look at what’s causing behavior and what can we do to help a person in crisis—how can we respond in a way that will deescalate the situation.”

Barto said this framework is applicable to anyone in the school setting and the training helps increase fidelity that staff is able to respond rather than react to any sort of challenging behavior that may happen across the district.

“She was informative and professional,” said CUSD Silver Strand Elementary School educator Antonella Palmiero about her experience in a 2023 training. “The training I had with Brooke supports special education and general education staff by teaching verbal and physical strategies to appropriately and safely intervene during challenging behaviors.”

Barto said she has also participated as a teacher induction mentor for new CUSD teachers through the SDCOE where she said she guided and provided feedback to teacher candidates through the action research process.

Beyond her current teaching credentials and master’s in education, Barto is currently wrapping up a third credential in administration and education and looks to serve as a school administrator in the future.

“I feel humbled in reflecting on the work that I’ve done in Coronado over the past years. I’ve learned a lot. I’ve had some incredible mentors that have helped guide my pathway towards leadership and I’m very excited for what’s to come,” Barto said.

And while Barto’s current and future roles may not be entirely in the classroom she holds the same intention of creating inclusive outcomes for everyone.

“Even if I’m not in the classroom, I will always be a teacher at heart,” added Barto. “I don’t plan on leaving Coronado anytime soon...this school and this community and this district is like my home.”

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NAVY

Sailors of the Year named at Naval Amphibious Base Coronado

DVIDS

Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet (CNSP) named the active and reserve 2023 Sea and Shore Sailors of the Year on April 18 during the annual Sailor of the Year week at CNSP headquarters on Naval Amphibious Base Coronado.

The selections were announced at the dinner hosted by Commander, Naval Surface Forces/CNSP Vice Adm. Brendan McLane.

Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (SW/FMF) Joshua P. Moore, assigned to San Diego-based San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock USS John P. Murtha (LPD 26) was announced as the Sea Sailor of the Year.

Boatswain's Mate 1st Class (SW) Denver J. Burkley, assigned to Afloat Training Group Middle Pacific, was announced as the Shore Sailor of the Year.

Moore, a 12-year Sailor and native of Camp Lejeune, North Carolina is currently the Murtha's leading petty officer for the health service department. He is the command personnel qualification standard (PQS) coordinator, medical training team coordinator, anti-terrorism training team coordinator, and an engineering training team member. His naming as CNSP Sea Sailor of the Year comes with a meritorious advancement to chief petty officer. His advancement will take place later this year.

"This is a great honor that will take a while to sink in, though I plan to pay this forward every single day," Moore said. "You're only as good as your foundation, and mine is my wife. So, I thank her for all the sacrifices she's made to get me here; I would not be here today if not for her, my sailors, and my leadership supporting me all these years."

Burkley, a native of Huntington, Indiana, is currently the search and rescue warfare lead at Afloat Training Group Middle Pacific in Hawaii. Joining the Navy in 2015 as a nuclear power Sailor, he was force-converted to Boatswain's Mate in 2017 and hasn't looked back.

Prior to his current assignment, Burkley spent five years on the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Momsen (DDG 92) where he was not only the deck division leading petty officer, but that command's 2020 Sailor of the Year while still a second class petty officer.

"I'm so honored to be selected out of such an



Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet (CNSP) named the active and reserve 2023 Sea and Shore Sailors of the Year. From left to right, Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (SW/FMF) Joshua P. Moore as the Sea Sailor of the Year. Boatswain's Mate 1st Class (SW) Denver J. Burkley was named the Shore Sailor of the Year. In February, Boatswain's Mate 1st Class Jovie A. Ruiz was announced as the 2023 Reserve Enterprise Sailor of the Year. U.S. Navy Composite photo.

amazing group of sailors," Burkley said. "But this isn't an individual achievement and there's no "I" in team, so I really owe so much to the all the junior sailors I've worked with – I just want to pay it forward to them, because that's what it's all about."

Acting Force Master Chief, Command Master Chief Keith Metcalfe spoke highly of these two sailors and their success so far in the Navy, encouraging them to keep striving for excellence as they move on to compete at the next level.

"The selection for this year's CNSP Sea and Shore Sailors of the Year was a tall order as each and every Sailor in this competition had a realistic chance of being selected. There is no doubt that these emerging leaders are the cream of the crop, picked from hundreds of first class petty officers across the force – that in and of itself is an accomplishment to be proud and humbled to earn," Metcalfe said. "You are winners at the highest level, continue to do your best in representing your command, your family and the Navy."

Moore and Burkley were selected from sea and

shore duty finalists from around the force.

On February 18, CNSP also announced Boatswain's Mate 1st Class Jovie A. Ruiz as the 2023 Reserve Enterprise Sailor of the Year. Ruiz is currently assigned to Navy Reserve Beachmaster Unit One, where she is the unit's leading petty officer. She is awaiting the results of a board that will determine if she will be included as a top five finalist for Reserve Sailor of the Year.

Sailor of the Year is a time-honored tradition introduced in 1972 by Chief of Naval Operations, Adm. Elmo Zumwalt and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy John Whittet. This annual competition is held to recognize the superior performance of individual sailors who best exemplify the ideals of professional sailors throughout the fleet.

The mission of CNSP is to man, train, and equip the Surface Force to provide fleet commanders with credible naval power to control the sea and project power ashore.

DVIDS courtesy story.

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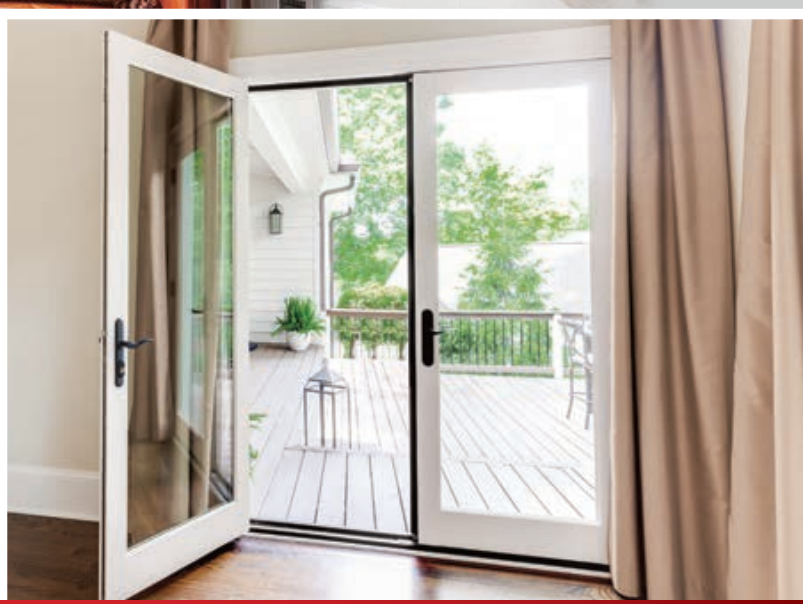
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SPORTS



From left to right: Seniors Raine Wilson, Riley Coker, Sydney Jones and Emily Wygal. Staff photo by Kylie Capuano.

CHS girls beach volleyball celebrates senior night

April 18 was a day to celebrate the seniors as they faced up against Clairemont for one of their last games wearing a Coronado High School jersey.

BY KYLIE CAPUANO
The Coronado News

Emily Wygal, Sydney Jones, Raine Wilson and Riley Coker each walked out alongside their parents on the Central Beach sands as their teammates surrounded, cheering them on. April 18 was a day to celebrate the soon-to-graduate seniors as they faced up against their opponent Clairemont High School for one of their last games wearing a Coronado High School jersey.

Their sophomore year, these players saw girls beach volleyball transition from a club to a CIF-recognized sport. Their senior year, they welcomed in change once again as an entirely new coaching staff took over the program. Head Coach Ginny Alexander said she “couldn’t have stepped into a better situation with a group of seniors.” “They’re an incredible group of young women,” said Alexander. “They have a lot of ability that I think was unrecognized and I think they are realizing now how good they really are and they’ve stepped up.”

Alexander saw that potential from the beginning of the season when she decided to appoint all four seniors as co-captains of the team – a role she says they have excelled in. The four girls currently hold a combined 48-12 win record, each senior holding down a spot in the top seeds.

Wygal has moved around between the first and second seed, and is currently paired in the second with Jones. “[Wygal] right out of the gate with me has been a leader,” said Alexander. “We’ve had her with a couple different partners and she adjusts and talks through it in a very adult, mature manner. I’ve asked her to do some things, step up, and she has never even resisted that opportunity and has done it in a really positive way. She’s going to be someone who leads quietly in whatever she does.” Her partner, Jones, is just as integral to the success of the second seed team, according to Alexander.



Riley Coker beside her parents during the senior game ceremony. Staff photo by Kylie Capuano.



Raine Wilson beside her mom before the senior game against Clairemont. Staff photo by Kylie Capuano.

“[Jones] has no idea how good she is and she has hit some balls that are just jaw droppers. We watch her go up and hit straight down and everybody is just in awe of her ability,” said Alexander. Wilson and Coker compete as partners in the third seed. While Wilson began playing volleyball just a year ago, Alexander describes her as a “super big asset to [their] lineup.” As one of the taller players on the team, she has excelled in blocking and hitting, and has seen significant improvement in her ball control, according to Alexander. Coker is what Alexander calls the “ultimate teammate.” “She just wants to be a part of the team. She’s funny, she’s gregarious,

she can be serious when she needs to be. She’s just a fun person and she’s easy to talk to,” said Alexander. “I don’t think she realizes how much better she has gotten since the beginning of the season as compared to now.” Now, as their season draws to a close – with their game against Clairemont signifying the end of conference play, the seniors look back on not just a successful season, but an end to their competitive volleyball career. Wilson describes this feeling as bittersweet. “I’m super sad to see it coming to an end,” said Wilson. “I’ve been so thankful for the opportunity to play on the beach of Coronado.”

“They’re an incredible group of young women ... they have a lot of ability that I think was unrecognized and I think they are realizing now how good they really are and they’ve stepped up.”

- Ginny Alexander, Head Coach

All of these athletes were inspired in one way or another to pick up the sport by a family member who played. For Wilson and Jones it was their mom; Wygal, her sister and Coker, her older brother. During their time at CHS, they spent their fall season playing indoor volleyball and their spring season on the beach courts. This time around, their senior night holds a different significance for them. “I knew I was going to see most of those girls again [after indoor volleyball senior night] so it was more like the loss of indoor itself and the coach,” said Wygal. “Versus now, it’s more heavy because it’s coming up on the end of the year, so everything is kind of coming to a close.” While none of the graduating seniors have plans of competing for a college volleyball team, they all expressed hopes of continuing to play one way or another – whether it be on a club or intramural team. Still each in the decision process of where they want to attend college, Alexander’s hope is to send the athletes off on the right foot. “College is important, it’s a big step in their lives so I just want to help them in any way that I can,” said Ginny. “Whatever they decide is up to them, I support them fully and I just want them to know they have a lot of choices out there.”

SPORTS

Islander track team scores personal records

Several athletes scored personal records at the Jaguar Invitational on April 13, and Lauren Gilhooly now holds the invitational's record for the 200-meter dash.

Coronado News staff

The Islanders traveled to Valley Center to take part in the Jaguar Invitational on April 13, where several athletes scored personal records and Lauren Gilhooly surpassed the meet's record for the 200-meter dash.

Nathan Ayan ran a personal record (PR) in the 800-meter dash, Rafael Roos in the 1600-meter and Davin Collins notched two PRs in the 100 and 200-meter races.

The girls 4 x 100-meter relay team—Gilhooly, Tatiana Potter, Lindsey Balsley and Summer Little— finished second in the invitational heat. This same group took third overall in the 4 x 400-meter relay with a City League leading time.

Gilhooly, a standout for the track team, won both the 100 and 200-meter dashes. For the 200-meter dash, her time of 24.71 seconds holds the Jaguar Invitational meet record.



Rafael Roos (left in green) and Nathan Ayan (right in green) notched personal records at the Jaguar Invitational on April 13. Photo by Dennis McClanahan.



Lindsey Balsley (left) and Reif Souder (right) won the 300-meter hurdles at the league meet against Madison High School on April 11. Photos by George Green.



Lauren Gilhooly won both the 100 and 200-meter dashes at the Jaguar Invite. Photo by George Green

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SPORTS

Fernando Tatis Jr. has 50 custom cleats planned this year, including odes to Gwynn, Curry and more

Associated Press

Fernando Tatis Jr. had Tony Gwynn with him when he rounded the bases after a dramatic, go-ahead home run against the Chicago Cubs.

The San Diego Padres star stutter-stepped into third base with his right cleat, designed with the look of the team's home white pinstriped jerseys from 1998, when Gwynn led the Padres to their most recent World Series.

Tatis' left cleat was in the brown and yellow color scheme from the 1980s. Both cleats had "Mr. Padre" on the back to honor the late Hall of Famer.

Perhaps divine providence led Tatis to unveil those custom cleats on the 20th anniversary of the first Padres game at Petco Park, where a statue of Gwynn stands beyond the center field fence.

Or maybe it's just the swagger and flair that sets Tatis apart from most other ballplayers.

"Definitely the shoes," Tatis said after helping turn an 8-0 deficit into a 9-8 win. "The power came from above. Always grateful. Definitely a little bit inspired today. Just happy I was wearing those shoes today."

He's hoping to pull more inspiration from the ground up this season. Tatis plans to unveil 50 pairs of custom cleats in conjunction with his branding company, Xample, and Los Angeles-based Shoe Surgeon.

The cleats will honor people, events and whatever strikes the 25-year-old Tatis' fancy.

"It's a crazy idea," Tatis said. "We're definitely having fun with them."

Tatis previously had a shoe deal with Adidas, but the company ended that days after MLB suspended him for 80 games for testing positive for performance-enhancing drugs in August 2022. Being a shoe free agent has allowed the dreadlocked Dominican to be creative and use different brands, although he favors Jordan 1 Mid cleats by Nike.

"I think that really made him more expressive in terms of really showing the world who he is," Xample founder and CEO Nick Drbal said. "Never judge a book by its cover or else we'll just write our own book."

In 2019, MLB began allowing more colorful cleats. Tatis, along with Bryce Harper and a handful of others, have been at the vanguard of creativity.



San Diego Padres' Fernando Tatis Jr. (23) wears cleats commemorating the Padres's 1980's and 1990's teams during a baseball game against the Chicago Cubs, Monday, April 8, 2024, in San Diego. Tatis plans to unveil 50 pairs of custom cleats this season in conjunction with his branding company, Xample, and Los Angeles-based Shoe Surgeon. The cleats will honor people, events and whatever strikes the 25-year-old Tatis' fancy. AP Photo/Denis Porov. File

Tatis unveiled his first custom pair during a two-game series against the Los Angeles Dodgers in Seoul, South Korea.

For the home opener, he honored late Padres owner Peter Seidler with cleats that included images of Seidler, who died Nov. 14 at age 63, and palm trees. Seidler stood by Tatis during the PED suspension and was at the star's first game back. Tatis put Seidler's quote, "I believe in him," on the back of the cleats. Tatis plans to give them to Seidler's family.

The next night, Tatis wore "Tatis & Co." shoes in stylish Tiffany Blue to match the Padres' colorful City Connect uniforms. He homered twice.

A pair called "Platino" honored his 2023 NL Platinum Glove Award and featured the silhouette of Tatis leaping to make a home run-robbing catch last season.

On Military Appreciation Day, he wore cleats made from the camouflage uniform Army veteran Mark Bartlett wore while deployed in Afghanistan and a uniform worn by Navy veteran Jared Kenney, including their name tags. That project came about after Tatis asked fans on Instagram what they'd like to see.

A longtime Padres fan, Bartlett, 41, said he was “speechless and emotional” when he found out at game time that Tatis was wearing the cleats. “I was celebrating Easter with my family and I had to go in the garage to let it out. Started bawling when I first set eyes on them.”

Raised in a military family, Bartlett applauded Tatis for supporting San Diego's military community. He said his father, a 24-year Navy veteran who died during the pandemic, "would be so proud to see his family name on one of his favorite player's cleats."

Tatis opened a series in San Francisco by wearing a pair of Stephen Curry's Under Armour basketball shoes that had been modified into cleats. The Golden State Warriors superstar personalized them with his favorite Bible verse, "I can do all things."

Curry said he and Tatis connected through a mutual friend.

"It's kind of cool to see him wear it. One of one," said Curry, a four-time NBA champion and two-time MVP. "The love and respect from fellow athletes, guys that are — how old is he? — the fact that he felt a certain type of connection to me and my story knowing where he is and the profile he has now, I know his intention is good so that's pretty dope that he wanted to rock them with pride."

Tatis honored his father with cleats named "In The Blood" for the opener of a series at Dodger Stadium, where Tatis Sr. hit two grand slams in the same inning on April 23, 1999.

For Jackie Robinson Day, he wore "Never Let Them Know It" cleats with beautiful laser-etched images of Robinson, who broke baseball's color barrier.

"Every one of them have a different type of value, but I feel they're coming out really nice so far," Tatis said. "When you look good, you play good."

Tatis and Drbal began dabbling with custom cleats last season and decided to go all out this year.

"He is the most swaggy player in baseball. His fashion is unmatched. He's very different in that regard," Drbal said. "I've never really met someone who takes such pride in the details in every part of his life, let alone his wardrobe. He's 100% the right guy for this."

"It's completely collaborative. It's beautiful," said Drbal, who also works with Ronald Acuna Jr., Vladimir Guerrero Jr. and Oneil Cruz on their shoe designs.

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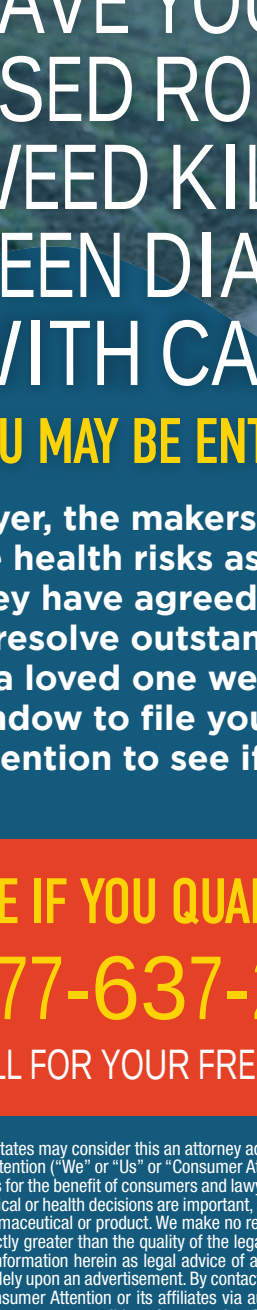
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5	2	6	3	1	4

1	3	4	2
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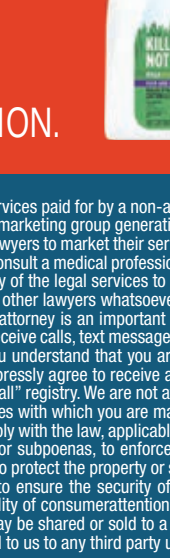
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