

More than a statue: the legacy of the League of Wives

A statue being unveiled in Star Park on June 21 honors the wives of military combatants who fought for their partners while they were prisoners of war during the Vietnam War.

BY MADELINE YANG
The Coronado News

There isn't much attention paid to the wives of warriors. At least historically, husbands were the sailors, soldiers, flyers and marines away fighting wars. They were the important ones, right? Yet a new statue that is about to be unveiled in Coronado explores and challenges that perception: The sculpture features four women – the wives of military combatants – who also became a force to be reckoned with. Led by Coronado resident Sybil Stockdale in 1966, who is also the first woman that can be identified in the statue, founded the League of Wives, which fought for the humane treatment of their husbands who had become prisoners of war (POWs) in Vietnam. The other three unidentifiable women represent the many other wives that gave their time to the organization.

Their campaign changed the lives of hundreds of soldiers and families. "To our knowledge, this will be the first memorial to military spouses in the country," said Alexia Palacios-Peters, the memorial project's foundation chairperson. The unveiling will be held on June 21 at 11 a.m. at Star Park in Coronado. "People talk about military spouses and how we support, and we're here, raising families and keeping the home fire burning, making sure the bills are paid," said Palacios-Peters, who is also a military spouse. "This memorial, it's to honor these ladies, these League of Wives (founders) who really broke so many barriers." One of the ladies in question, Mary-Ann Patterson Mearns, still resides in Coronado. "We were just trying to find out what happened to our husbands," Mary-Ann Patterson Mearns recalls.

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Coronado High School's senior class president, Kenzie Uyesugi (R), walks in line to her seat at graduation as Andreana Frangos (L) high-fives an advisor behind her. Staff photo by Sofie Fransen.

A celebration for the class of 2024

On June 13, the Coronado High School class of 2024 celebrated their graduation.

BY SOFIE FRANSEN
The Coronado News

Before the 2024 Coronado High School graduates threw their green caps in the air – their career and future plans artistically rendered on top and illuminated in the flood lights of the football field – retired physics teacher William Lemei urged the students to be true to themselves in values, spirit and personality. "Try to stay alive by living authentically in the world," Lemei said in the closing lines of his keynote speech. "If you do, there is every chance you can own the moments of your life." Lemei, as introduced by senior class president Kenzie Uyesugi, is a 1965 Coronado High alumnus who taught math and physics at the high school for more than 23 years before retiring this past fall. He won the

CHS teacher of the year award in 2022 and that same year, was also selected as the Coronado Unified School District teacher of the year. Uyesugi said it was most fitting to have Lemei send the class off with his words of "wizardly wisdom." Lemei was affectionately nicknamed a "wizard" around campus by students. "Despite all of the words I've used tonight, my message is fundamentally simple and, hopefully, memorable," Lemei added. "Nurture your authenticity and harness the scientifically verified power of patience and hope... Authenticity, patience, hope. That wish is the best thing that this retiring physics teacher can leave you with tonight. That wish, and the truth that I am filled with gratitude and I will never, ever, ever

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"Find out what you really want to do, and do it. Don't be afraid."
- Melanie Lococo, CHS class of 1974 alumni



From (L-R), Gabe Langevin, 2024 CHS Valedictorian. Andreana Frangos, 2024 CHS Co-salutatorian. Cate Gregory, 2024 CHS Co-salutatorian. Staff photos by Julieta Soto.

Coronado's valedictorian and co-salutatorians share memories, future plans

Graduation spurs feelings of family, connectivity and support for the Coronado High School class of 2024 valedictorian and co-salutatorians.
BY JULIETA SOTO
The Coronado News

Smiles and hugs filled the Coronado High School front office after Principal Karin Mellina's intercom address on May 29.

"Please excuse this interruption. I have a very important announcement to make: This year's class of 2024 salutatorians are Andreana Frangos and Cate Gregory, and the class of 2024 valedictorian is Gabe Langevin. Congratulations to them." "We were all super excited," Langevin said of the honor. "I couldn't be more happy, more grateful." These students finished high school

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this week

22 • saturday

The Emerald C Gallery in Coronado is set to host a unique event titled “With Love from Ipanema” on June 22. Explore the passion and beauty of a captivating range of jewelry made from exquisite Brazilian gems. The event will feature renowned artist Jenna Raskin Moreines, known for her inspirational and uplifting heart paintings and sculptures. The event will take place from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Emerald C Gallery, located within walking distance of the Hotel Del and the pristine Coronado Beach. It will feature light bites and libations, as well as live music from Brazilian artist Lua accompanied by pianist Wayne Wilentz.

28 • friday

For the Coronado Roundtable meeting at 10 a.m. in the Coronado Public Library’s Winn Room, Esther Valdez Clayton will present on immigration.

28 • friday

The Young Lions Jazz Conservatory will perform at the Coronado Public Library’s 2024 Summer Festival, a series of concerts that will take place every other Friday from June 14 to August 23 in the Winn Room. The performance is scheduled at 1 p.m. Doors will open 15 minutes before each performance.

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

Coronado Unified receives \$1M state grant to enhance biomedical and environmental pathways

Coronado News staff

Coronado Unified was recently awarded a \$1 million Golden State Pathways Program (GSPP) grant from the California Department of Education.

The grant money will help fund the continued development of robust pathways, specifically supporting the enhancement of the district’s biomedical health pathway and the development of a new interdisciplinary environmental studies pathway.

“We are excited about this opportunity to create more experiences for students to explore career options in high school,” said Kristen Caputo, CUSD pathways to college and career coordinator. “The Biomedical pathway appeals to students who want to explore a career in healthcare which is a high-

growth area in San Diego. In addition, we will collaboratively build the vision for an Environmental Studies pathway that aligns with our ‘Portrait of a Graduate’ strategic vision.”

The grant will provide \$1 million over the course of five years.

“Our goal is to design a pathway that is interdisciplinary,” said Caputo. “Pathway content will be integrated into the curriculum across academic classes. The grant will help us not only expand course offerings, but also support teachers with professional development, connections to industry experts, and the resources of an advisory board.”

Senior Director of Learning Megan Battle explained that this will be a huge boost to the district’s college and career readiness efforts.

“We have put a lot of effort into

growing our pathway programs in alignment with our long range plan and our new Portrait of a Graduate vision, and we look forward to the opportunities for expansion that this grant will provide,” Battle said.

GSPP grants were established by the California Department of Education to help provide districts with the resources to promote pathways in high-wage, high-skill, high-growth areas, including technology, health care, education, and climate-related fields that, among other things, allow students to advance seamlessly from high school to college and career and provide the workforce needed for economic growth.

Information courtesy of CUSD
Public Information Officer Maria Simon.

PETS OF THE WEEK

Meet Banjo and Emmy



Banjo.



Emmy.

Photos courtesy of PAWS of Coronado.

PAWS of Coronado

Meet Banjo, a sweet 5-year-old mixed breed male dog who weighs a charming 25 pounds. Found as a stray, Banjo has quickly proven to be a beacon of happiness and charisma. His joyful spirit and loving nature make him an irresistible companion.

Whether he’s wagging his tail, offering cuddles, or just being his delightful self, Banjo is sure to bring endless smiles to your face.

If you’re searching for a loving and charismatic friend who will fill your home with warmth and joy, Banjo is the perfect pup for you!

Meet Emmy, a stunning 1-year-old mixed breed female dog with strikingly beautiful

bright blue eyes that will melt your heart.

Emmy is a bundle of energy, always ready for playtime and adventure. Her playful spirit and attentive nature make her the perfect companion for an active family.

Whether she’s chasing a ball, learning new tricks, or simply enjoying a walk, Emmy’s enthusiasm is contagious. If you’re looking for a fun-loving and loyal friend who will brighten your days, Emmy is the perfect addition to your home!

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 any of these animals, please www.pawsofcoronado.org.

Emergency Care Close By

An accident or illness is no day at the beach. When needed, the **Sharp Coronado Hospital** ER can help 24 hours a day.

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SHARP

If you are experiencing a medical emergency, call 911 or visit the nearest emergency room.

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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

The Coronado News invites readers to participate in a survey; chance to win film festival Emerald Badges

We invite you to participate in a brief survey to evaluate The Coronado News. It will take no more than two minutes to complete. If you complete the survey, you will be entered in a raffle to win two all-inclusive Emerald Badges for the Coronado Island Film Festival from Nov. 6-10. Your insights and feedback are invaluable to us as we strive to enhance our publication. If desired, your responses will remain anonymous and will be used solely to improve our content and services. Thank you for helping us better serve our community.



You can participate in the survey online. Scan the QR code with your smartphone camera, and tap on the link.

A military mission as old as warfare itself: intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance

BY GEORGE GALDORISI
Op-Ed

For centuries, commanders have struggled to collect enough information about the adversary in order to give them the edge in combat. As the Duke of Wellington famously said, “All the business of war is to endeavour to find out what you don’t know by what you do; that’s what I call guessing what’s on the other side of the hill.”

In a naval engagement that marked the turning point of World War II, the Battle of Midway turned on one commander having more of the right information than the other. U.S. Navy PBY scout planes located the Japanese carriers first, while the Japanese Imperial Navy found the U.S. Navy carriers too late to launch an effective attack. Had Japanese Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto learned the location of his adversary’s carriers just a bit sooner, he might well have been victorious.

Intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance precede every engagement

Any wartime engagement is typically preceded by some degree of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) that is, attempting to see: “What is on the other side of the hill.” But effective ISR comes at a cost. Whether it was scout planes in World Wars I and II, modern patrol aircraft such as the P-8 Poseidon, or other means, cost is typically the limiting factor in obtaining a sufficient degree of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance.

One of the most important reasons for the high cost of ISR is simply because these platforms are manned by military people. For example, the P-8 Poseidon, an aircraft whose multiple missions includes ISR, requires a crew of seven highly trained aviation personnel. This is one reason why the U.S. Navy is moving to employing unmanned systems for several missions, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance being among the most prominent.

The United States Navy’s commitment to unmanned systems

The U.S. Navy’s commitment to—and dependence on—unmanned systems is seen in the Navy’s “UNMANNED Campaign Framework.” Indeed, this report highlights the fact that the attributes that unmanned systems can bring to the U.S. Navy fleet circa 2030 and beyond have the potential to be transformational.

Two decades of conflict in Iraq and Afghanistan accelerated the development of unmanned aerial systems (UAVs) and unmanned ground systems (UGVs). More recently, the Department of the Navy has begun to provide increased support for unmanned surface vessels (USVs).

On May 17, Unmanned Surface Vessel Squadron Three was established at Naval Amphibious Base Coronado. The squadron will oversee a fleet of small USVs.

A focus on unmanned surface vessels

Like all unmanned systems, unmanned surface vessels hold the promise to be critical assets in all scenarios across the spectrum of conflict. Unmanned surface vessels enable warfighters to gain access to areas where the risk to manned platforms is unacceptably high due to a plethora of enemy systems designed to deny access.

Unmanned surface vessels are especially adept at conducting the intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance mission, and are typically better suited for this mission than their unmanned aerial vessels counterparts. By performing near-shore intelligence preparation of the battlespace (IPB), unmanned surface vessels increase the standoff, reach, and distributed lethality of the manned platforms they support.

The need to know “what’s on the other side of the hill,” is especially acute for the Navy and Marine Corps during an amphibious assault. The prospect of assaulting a heavily defended beach without knowing as much as possible about adversary forces and obstacles courts disaster. For this reason, Navy and Marine Corps officials invited an unmanned surface vessel manufacturer, Maritime



The T-38 Devil Ray. Photo courtesy of Dave Meron.

Tactical Systems, Inc., to field its MANTAS USV as part of several exercises, experiments and demonstrations to evaluate its ability to support the ISR and IPB missions during an amphibious assault.

There are few missions more hazardous to the Navy-Marine Corps team than putting troops ashore in the face of a prepared enemy force. For this reason, the expeditionary assault force has focused on evaluating unmanned surface vessels to add to their “kit” to conduct critical ISR and IPB missions.

During the assault phase of a ship-to-shore maneuver advanced Naval technology exercise, which provided an opportunity to demonstrate innovative technology, the expeditionary commander used a USV to thwart enemy defenses. The amphibious forces operated an eight-foot MANTAS unmanned surface vessel which swam into the enemy harbor (the Del Mar Boat Basin on the Southern California coast), and relayed information to the amphibious force command center. Once this ISR mission was complete, the MANTAS USV was driven near the surf zone to provide IPB on obstacle location, beach gradient, water conditions and other information crucial to planners.

This exercise was a precursor to Bold Alligator, the annual U.S. Marine Corps Forces Command expeditionary exercise focused on exploring technologies valuable to amphibious forces. The early phases of Bold Alligator were dedicated to long-range reconnaissance. Operators at the exercise command center at Naval Station Norfolk drove the six-foot and 12-foot MANTAS USVs off North and South Onslow Beaches in North Carolina, as well as up and into the Intracoastal Waterway. These missions were designed to scout out adversary positions.

The use of medium and small USVs to conduct

the ISR mission for expeditionary forces has continued in recent major exercises such as the Commander Task Force 59 International Maritime Exercise series in the Arabian Gulf which featured USVs from the United States as well as from several regional partners, and the Pacific Fleet Integrated Battle Problem series designed to put emerging technology into the hands of Fleet Sailors. Each exercise featured larger USVs such as the Devil Ray and Saildrone which provided longer endurance assets for this mission.

A future focus for the Navy and Marine Corps

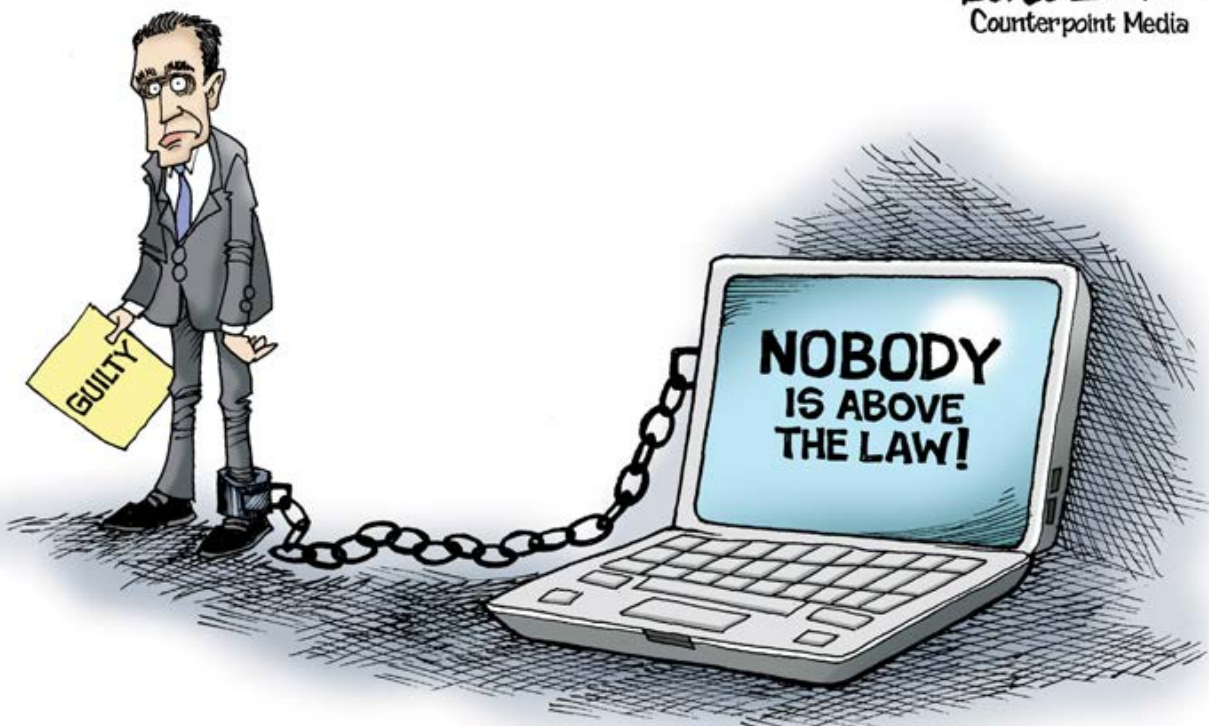
Department of the Navy leaders recognize the importance of unmanned surface vessels to support Navy and Marine Corps operations, especially in the mission critical areas of ISR and IPB. While the Devil Ray USV is only one of several unmanned surface vessels the Navy and Marine Corps are evaluating, the fact that it is scheduled to be part of several exercises, experiments and demonstrations in 2024 and beyond is a clear indication that this platform has the form, fit and function to meet Navy and Marine Corps needs today and tomorrow.

Captain George Galdorisi is a career naval aviator and national security professional. His 30-year career culminated in 14 years of consecutive service as executive officer, commanding officer, commodore, and chief of staff. He enjoys writing, especially speculative fiction about the future of warfare. He is the author of 18 books, including four consecutive New York Times bestsellers. His latest book, published by the U.S. Naval Institute, is “Algorithms of Armageddon: The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Future Wars.”

OPINION

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CORONADO

Volunteer spotlight of the week: John Meyers and the Senior Volunteer Patrol

BY ELAINE ALFARO
The Coronado News

John Meyers completed 13,000 hours over the course of 18 years, and counting.

Writer and journalist Malcolm Gladwell argued in his book “Outliers” that mastery is not born, but rather learned and practiced. Gladwell claimed it takes about 10,000 hours of guided practice to become masterful.

But John Meyers would not tell you he set out on a course for mastery. Meyers said he put in those 13,000 hours on the senior volunteer patrol (SVP) simply because he wanted to join something bigger than himself when he entered retirement.

After the prompting of his son in 2007, he joined the SVP that operates out of the Coronado Police Department to enrich his retirement and perhaps find some community.

"My son felt that [with me] being a workaholic, I needed something else to do," Meyers said. "He saw the ad in the paper and said, 'Let's go down to the police station, dad, and see about this senior volunteer thing.'"

And since then, he's stayed with the program, now one of their trainers and leaders. He typically works Saturdays, but on any given week he could be working a handful of days. From driving around and helping with traffic control to doing vacation house checks, Meyers said the senior volunteer patrol aims to support the police force.

"You really feel like you're making a difference," Meyers said. "There's nothing better when you go out and you're riding around and you see kids. We had two little kids saluting



John Meyers stands outside of the Coronado Police Services building, June 9, 2024. Staff photo by Elaine Alfaro.

to us yesterday, and we'll stop and give them police stickers and stuff. The smiles on their faces, it just really warms your heart to see kids respond that way to police and the authorities."

Meyers is originally from Delaware. His career was in chemistry; he started out as a chemist and then worked his way to becoming an international quality manager and then the technical and operations board member for a company.

He said what he learned in his career applied to his retirement volunteer work. Over the years, the volunteer program has changed, in part because of the contributions of individuals like Meyers.

“One of the things I did in my career, I used to be the international

quality manager, so in doing that, it was all about procedures, protocols, policies, auditing and training,” Meyers said. “So when I came to the police department, obviously the police is procedure and policy driven so it was a good match for me. That’s one of the things I enjoyed about it because it’s about doing the right thing over and over again and training people to do that.”

Though he is no longer a resident in Coronado, now a resident of La Mesa, he didn't give up on his law enforcement and Coronado community with the move.

“When I left, somebody said, ‘Why don’t you just go do it where you do it [in La Mesa]?’” Meyers said. “Well, I got to know Coronado. I got to know the strength of the department and

the people here. And a lot of it is just about the friendships you've developed."

Meyers said that this program is not possible without the contributions and communal efforts of a lot of retired individuals. There are currently 23 volunteers in the program, and he said they're always looking for more to join.

"It's not about me," Meyers said. "It's about the group. To me, it's all about the senior volunteer patrol, and I'm a small part."

Though he claims a small part of the SVP program, he's not a small part in other areas of Coronado.

Meyers also plays softball in Coronado, twice a week, and he manages his Tuesday team. Opportunities like these are why he continues to stay involved in the Crown city.

"It's the sense of community," Meyers said. "It's just such a small town feel, which isn't all that small when the visitors come in, but what really attracted us to it is being a beach town. The sense of community and the friends we've developed here. I really enjoy everytime you go over the bridge, it's a good feeling."

With the softball games and other visits over the bridge, you could say Meyers has exceeded 18,000 hours in the community. Perhaps the mastery is less about the volunteer work and more about knowing and calling Coronado home.

"When you're giving back, you feel good about it but you also get something back in return," Meyers said. "The most important thing is the giving back part. You feel like you're doing something that's making the community or society better than what it was before you decided to help out."



Jamie McArthur poses with adapted sailboat. His KMAC Foundation provides, at no cost, sailing opportunities for people with disabilities year round. *Staff photo by Madeline Yang.*

Sailing and training with KMAC

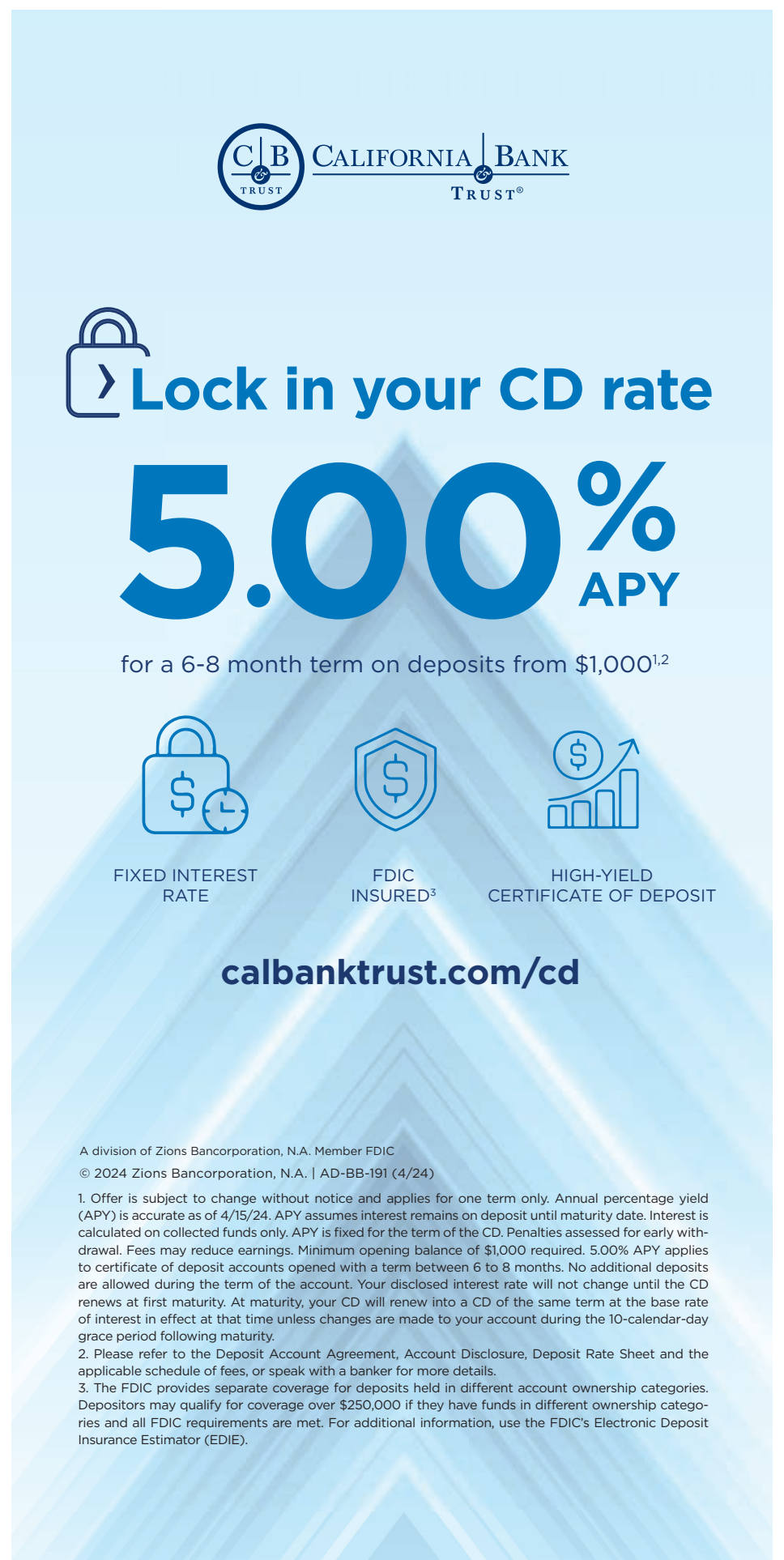
Coronado News staff

KMAC Foundation's Accessible Sailing fleet will host a training and racing session on Saturday, June 29 from 12 to 3 p.m. at the Coronado Yacht Club.

The KMAC Foundation for Accessible Sailing in Coronado uses specially adapted sailboats and provides therapeutic, recreational and other sailing opportunities for people with disabilities to enhance their mobility, well-being and independence.

Jamie McArthur, the founder of the KMAC Foundation, said the foundation provides, at no cost, sailing opportunities for people with disabilities throughout the year.

To RSVP for the June 29 session, email kmacfoundation@gmail.com. For more information, visit <https://kmacfoundation.com/>



CORONADO



The Roller Rink at the Hotel del Coronado, the first retro-inspired roller skating rink at the Del, will be open for the summer until September. Staff photos by Madeline Yang.

The Hotel Del’s new roller rink

The Roller Rink at the Del — a nod to the old days of Tent City in the early 1900s — has just opened for the summer.

BY MADELINE YANG
The Coronado News

The Hotel Del Coronado is always beautiful. That isn’t new.

But last week on a rare, sunny June day, the Del beamed with an 80s glow as they announced their newest summer addition: the Roller Rink.

Out on the lawn by the entrance to the hotel, surrounded by tall evergreen trees, sat a perfect, picturesque white roller rink.

“Any Way You Want It” by Journey played on the speakers. More 80s classics had their turn in the spotlight. A slight breeze in the air picked up the loose hair of a girl skating by. The sun was bright and just peeked over the top of the Del. The energy was light. The wind carried with it a fresh, non-placeable scent. Parents sipped on cocktails and children entered the rink cautiously.

Without sounding too cheesy, it really felt like the beginning of the perfect teen summer movie. Except with no underage drinking, of course.

A Cutwater cocktail bar overlooked the rink on the outside, and on the inside, a snack and drink bar decorated in a warm shade of pink invited skaters for a respite after breaking in the rink.

Sanjiv Hulugalle, the hotel’s managing director, leisurely paced around the rink, making conversation with those contented with observing.

Hulugalle said this idea came up at the beginning of the year as a continuation of the ice rink the Del does in the winter time. That’s how it started, but there was so much more to this roller rink in regards to the history of the Del.

“In the Tent City, there was actually a roller rink. This is bringing this whole spirit back into the original Del experience,” Hulugalle explained.

Tent City was the Del’s camp-style accommodation for tourists and travelers that couldn’t afford to stay in the hotel but wanted the Coronado experience and environment.

It operated from 1900 to 1938 and had furnished tents with lights, cots, bedding, mirrors and tables, according to the Hotel Del’s website.

This destination was designed for everyone to be together and it provided a place to visit and stay for everyone.

“The roller rink really creates a sense of place and a sense of happiness and friendship. And as you can see, there’s so much laughter and smiles, and kids running around and—” Hulugalle paused. “falling down,” he said with a big chuckle.

He wasn’t wrong.

There were two crowds at a roller rink; those who skate, and those who watch.

A little boy, maybe around 5-years-old, his face flushed with exertion, was trying to make his way around the rink.

His bright orange skates that matched his cheeks reached high up on his shins and his knees bent in whenever he lost balance.

His arms flailed about and his torso pushed forward as his body tried to right itself.

But to no avail.

He landed on his knees, his palms clapping the ground. But he got right back up, determination plastered on his round, red face.

In the other crowd, a mom in a flowy white dress, in theme with the summer mood, walked up to the edge of the rink with a margarita.

“It’s so fun!” Coronado resident Heather Haas said lightly, motioning about. “It’s a good addition to Coronado for the summer.”

Besides good, old, regular summer fun, the roller rink will also be hosting theme nights, including a disco night and a throwback to the 80s and 90s night.

It will be open Monday-Thursday from 2-10 p.m, Friday from 12-10 p.m. and Saturday-Sunday from 10 a.m. – 10 p.m.



The Roller Rink sported bright summer colors and had a snack and drink bar, as well as an ice cream cart.



The Roller Rink will have a \$28 admission fee and \$25 for military.



The Roller Rink will be open from Monday through Thursday 2-10 p.m, Friday from 12-10 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. – 10 p.m.

CORONADO

Schedule of events for the Coronado Fourth of July

Coronado News staff

The Coronado Fourth of July is celebrating the 75th anniversary of the annual Independence Day Parade this year. With a full day of events planned and over 100,000 people expected to come to the island, preparation is key.

Dave Szymanski, the parade chairman, recommends visitors plan ahead for the crowds by finding a legal parking spot and bringing a bike to get around to each event.

Taking the ferry from Broadway Pier or the San Diego Convention Center to Coronado is also a great form of transportation, as it avoids needing to navigate the parking scene in Coronado.

On July 4, the ferry will only be offering the regular schedule, not the commuter schedule, and space will operate on a first-come, first-served basis. Visit Flagship Cruises San Diego for more information on ferry services.

Here is a full schedule of events for July 4:

7 a.m. – 9 a.m.: The Crown City Classic Run will be returning to the island for its 51st anniversary. Starting and finishing at Tidelands Park, the course showcases the scenic views of the Coronado Bridge with a 12K and 5K option. Also returning in 2024 is the Crown City Half Mile for kids. To register, sign up at <https://crowncityrun.com/>.

7 a.m. – 8 p.m.: Food vendors will be offered in Spreckels Park throughout the entirety of the day's festivities.

7:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.: Pre-parade entertainment will be taking place along Orange Avenue from 1st Street to Churchill Place.

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.: The 75th annual Independence Day Parade will pack Orange Avenue and feature a variety of festive floats that will travel from 1st Street to Churchill Place. Those who can't view the parade in person can live stream it on Youtube.

The Orange Avenue medians will open at 5 a.m. for viewers to snag their spots. Setting up tents and seats on the sidewalks of Orange Avenue before 5 a.m. will be allowed, but attendees cannot leave their items unattended or block the right-of-way.

12:30 p.m. – 2 p.m.: Head to Star Park after the parade to watch the Adrian Empire recreate the arts, skills and culture of the Medieval and Renaissance eras. The group will do reenactments, competitions and showcase different weaponry of the time period.



The Coronado Fourth of July Parade crowd in 2023. File photo by Madeline Yang.

The San Diego Star Wars Society will also be available for a photo opportunity in Star Park at 12:30. Both groups will head straight to the park after walking in the parade.

2 p.m.: The U.S. Navy Parachute team “The Leap Frogs” will complete an aerial demonstration at the Coronado Golf Course’s 17th Fairway. The team is the official parachute demonstration team of the Navy, and each member has conducted real-world operations before volunteering to join “The Leap Frogs.” Most recently, the team participated in the 80th anniversary commemoration of D-Day in Normandy, France.

2:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.: Katleen Dugas, a San Diego native singer and songwriter, will perform a kids concert at Spreckels Park.

4 p.m – 5 p.m.: The Coronado Concert Band will perform a patriotic concert at Spreckels Park.

5:45 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.: The Mighty Untouchables, an award-winning band based in San Diego, will perform a dance concert at Spreckels Park.

9 p.m.: Head to the Coronado Golf Course for an end-of-the-night fireworks show sponsored by the



A military band marched in the Coronado Fourth of July Parade in 2023. File photo by Madeline Yang.

City of Coronado. The display will be launched from Stingray Point, which will result in the closure of the sandy beach. Tune in on KYYX Radio 96.5 FM to listen to a soundtrack set in time to the show.

For more information of July 4 events, visit <https://coronadofourthofjuly.com/>



Coronado High School graduates walk into the ceremony.

A celebration for the graduating class of 2024

» Continued from Page 1

forget you, class of 2024.”

To which the 254 graduates immediately responded with a high-pitched “Yew!,” an exclamation of excitement, that was repeated every time the graduating year was mentioned throughout the ceremony.

Co-salutatorians Cate Gregory and Andreana Frangos followed Limei’s with their own speeches. Then valedictorian Gabe Langevin took the stage to address not separate individuals, as he put it, but “one collective, one community, one family.”

“This is my message to you, class of 2024: Whether you end up on the other side of the world or stay



The Coronado High School graduates for the class of 2024. Staff photos by Sofie Fransen.

in Coronado your whole life, I want you to remember all the good times you experienced at CHS – all the support you received, all the love you felt, and all the families you were a part of here,” Langevin added. “I want you to take all of those emotions and go create new families, ones that will love and support you the way your CHS family has over the years.”

The collective family then walked across the stage as individuals, their names announced over the speakers as friends and family cheered them on and they received their diplomas.

Also cheering on the graduates was the class of 1974, those who had walked across the same stage 50 years prior. They received honorary diplomas.

According to Liz Forsyth-Lovell, a 50-year honorary graduate, the 1974 graduating class was one of the largest in the school’s history and she hosted a brunch for them after the ceremony.

Forsyth-Lovell urged members of the 2024 class to live genuinely: “Do whatever you want, whatever it is – work, school – because life is short and you never know what’s going to come your way,” she said.

Melanie Lococo, lifelong friend of Forsyth-Lovell and also a class of 1974 alumni, echoed that sentiment and urged the graduates to not give into fear as they step into the next stage of life.

“Find out what you really want to do, and do it. Don’t be afraid.”

More than a statue: the legacy of the League of Wives

» Continued from Page 1

In 1969, the women traveled to Washington, D.C. to talk with their representatives about their husbands who had gone missing during the Vietnam War. The goal: to fight on behalf of POWs for better care and human rights.

Before this, Mearns had been quiet for a few months.

She was told to not speak out or treatment of the POWs might get worse in Vietnam.

But this was her husband, an Air Force pilot. Her other half. And he had been shot down in 1966 while dropping bombs on railroad yards moving military equipment north of Hanoi.

“He bailed out of his airplane, his head was up,” Mearns said. “His airplane was shot down by ground fire.”

And that was the last that was seen of Major Arthur Mearns.

He was never publicly announced as a POW, but Mearns kept up hope and decided to fight – even though she had no idea where he was.

Through a friend at the Pentagon, she found a woman named Sybil Stockdale.

Stockdale’s husband was the highest ranking POW in Vietnam.

Stockdale lived in Coronado.

Mearns made her way to Coronado from Los Angeles and later wrote in a short biography of her time in the League of Wives, “I found an ally in Sybil and no longer felt alone.”

What followed was years of letters, lobbying campaigns and travels to fight for their husbands, who were unable to fight for themselves.

But it wasn’t easy.

“Do you know how women were treated back then?” Mearns asked in an interview. “It was a man’s world.”

Not only did Mearns and the other wives have to deal with the societal standards of the era, they were up against government intransigence and warnings to stay quiet.

“You don’t get a lot done in those days with politicians,” Mearns quipped.

But all the women worked hard.

There were some in Coronado, some in Los Angeles and some on the East Coast – each pushing for change.

Mearns sent hundreds of letters to congressional representatives, visited Russia, Egypt – even joined a group with Stockdale that met with President Richard Nixon.

“The next couple years were very busy and difficult with meetings, speeches, endless letter writing, phone calls, TV, newspaper, magazine and radio interviews,” Mearns wrote.



Mary-Ann Patterson Mearns (far right) with four members of the League of Wives visiting President Richard Nixon. Photo provided by Mary-Ann Patterson Mearns.

Even if she didn’t feel the change happening at the time, times were changing.

And yet, she still didn’t know what had happened to her husband – more than a decade of uncertainty, dread and frustration.

Finally, in 1977, 11 years after her husband had been shot down, Mearns got a call that his remains had been returned along with those of 21 other American service members.

Finally, she knew where her husband was: In Arlington National Cemetery.

Mearns, now 92, said that she will be with him when her time comes.

Although Mearns never got her husband back alive, many other wives did thanks to the League of Wives.

Lieutenant John Ensch had been gone since February. It was now August.

Kathy Ensch got a telegram that he was shot down, missing in action.

This was 1972, just a couple years before the Vietnam War ended. Ensch vividly recalls her eldest daughter, Beth, dealing with her father’s disappearance – filling notebooks with images of planes in the sky – some of them exploding.

“Your job while daddy’s gone is to get your grades up and make sure that your grades are good,” Ensch told her at the time.

She had no idea whether her husband was alive or dead. But she talked to the children about when he would come back. Not if.

And she would tell herself consistently that he was alive until she was told he wasn’t.

Ensch was not a member of the League of Wives, but recalls how the organization paved the way for her husband as a POW and helped her cope during months of uncertainty.



The League of Wives statue will be unveiled in Star Park on June 21 to honor the wives of military combatants that fought for humane treatment of their partners when they become prisoners of war during the Vietnam War. Photo from the League of Wives organization.

“Each of us was assigned a CACO officer, which was something my heroes, those ladies, didn’t have,” Ensch said, referring to a League of Wives liaison between families and the military.

Her CACO officer, or Casualty Assistance Calls Officer, liaison Cmdr. Sam Hallmark, provided financial guidance at a crucial time for the family.

“He was a huge help,” Ensch said. “And that’s something that those ladies had worked out. We knew because of what my heroes had to experience.”

Ensch recalls the courage and leadership shown by the League of Wives, especially Stockdale, who died in 2015.

“Sybil had a bright pink suit that she wore, and she wore it when she went to see President Nixon,” Ensch said. “I mean, they wore hats, gloves and heels.”

“There was no sniveling, there was no whining,” she added. “‘This is what we are.’ And they did it with such dignity. I was just so proud of them.”

“They talked to presidents. They went to the Vietnam embassy in Paris and presented their cause.”

When Ensch finally learned that her husband was alive – in a POW camp – Hallmark was the one to deliver the news.

“It was two or three days before Christmas,” she recalls, laughing. “What a gift, huh? That was the best Christmas ever.”

These are just two of the stories to represent the story of every woman whose husbands were POWs.

And this memorial will be the first in the country to honor their stories and work.

Coronado’s valedictorian and co-salutatorians share memories, future plans

» Continued from Page 1

with 4.0 grade-point averages. Langevin took 13 Advanced Placement (AP) classes and graduated with a 4.57 weighted GPA. Taking 14 AP classes, Frangos earned a 4.61 weighted GPA. Gregory completed 14 AP classes and earned a 4.45 weighted GPA.

The anointing of salutatorians was just one highlight among many for seniors in the days leading up to graduation.

Wearing graduation regalia, they paraded through the elementary and middle schools in the annual memory walk, high-fiving students eager to follow in their footsteps.

“The CHS Faculty and Staff are extremely proud of Gabe, Cate, and Andreana for earning this prestigious academic achievement,” wrote Mellina in a statement. “These remarkable graduates have demonstrated a commitment to scholarship and service.”

Following senior awards and other festivities, the graduation ceremony on June 13 marks a turning point in Coronado for 252 graduates whose life journeys continue across different realms.

Math aficionado

Langevin, 17, will attend the Rochester Institute of Technology where he plans to study applied statistics.

“Whenever my mind wandered, I would just think about random numbers and how they connected,” said Langevin. “Math has always really been a great thing that I just love doing. ...I don’t think I’ll ever get tired of it.”

Born in Montreal, Canada, Langevin and his family moved to Coronado when he was 6 years old.

His passion for math and statistics is something he honed at the high school, but his love for learning has been evident since he was in the second grade.

Langevin said Jodi Judd, his former second grade teacher, and all his classmates made him feel right at home instantly during his first year in the district.

“I was not surprised to see that he was wearing a valedictorian sash,” wrote Judd, a teacher at Silver Strand Elementary School. “My current second graders had several questions for him about what that meant and he eloquently explained that they just have to do their best in school and when they graduate in 10 years it could be with honors. ...I am so proud to see the kind, polite young man he has become!”

Beyond his family, Langevin said he also credits his success to teachers who have supported and inspired him throughout his academic journey.

Langevin said his favorite math class was AP Calculus BC with Elizabeth Castillo.

“It kind of felt like just one big family,” said Langevin. “It was always such a good time in that class. I always looked forward to it.”

Langevin also takes with him the memories of years-long friendships with whom he shared fun Friday afternoons either practicing with the Academic League club at lunchtime or playing volleyball and enjoying pizza at the beach after school.

“Always keep going, always keep learning. You never know when you’ll need something you might’ve not learned if you weren’t paying attention in class that day,” Langevin said. “Even if you do end up getting an ‘A,’ I think what you end up learning is more valuable.”

Pursuing a passion

At 18 years old, Frangos has reached a goal she dreamed about from a young age and set her mind to in eighth grade—to be a ‘Hoteliere’ at the Ivy League in Ithaca, New York.

This year’s co-salutatorian joins the class of 2028 at Cornell University with plans to pursue a degree in hotel administration at the Peter and Stephanie Nolan School of Hotel Administration.

Frangos has dedicated the past four years to her studies, rowing, varsity rugby and work. Last year, she earned the Yale Book Award and Girl Scout

Gold Award, which are prestigious recognitions celebrating outstanding students.

Despite being a top science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) student, Frangos said she further developed an interest for the hospitality industry through work experience.

“When I got the job at the Hotel Del this last summer as like a front agent and concierge, it was so awesome,” said Frangos. “You get to see people smile and it makes me so happy.”

Like the fictional protagonist Tiana in the animated 2009 film “The Princess and the Frog,” Frangos said she has always been fascinated by the hospitality sector.

“Her whole motto is, ‘You just got to keep working harder,’” said Frangos. “That’s been my motto since I was very little ...‘You got to keep working harder and it’ll eventually come to you.’”

Frangos also credits Castillo, along with teachers Sandra Davis and Bill Lemei, for their support.

“[Ms. Castillo] she was like, ‘Yes! It’s your dream school,’” said Frangos about her acceptance to Cornell. “Mr. Lamei, out of all people, was the first one to say, ‘I’m so happy you’re going into this because you have found your passion.’”

Besides loving hotel work, Francis said, she has a second motive for going into hospitality: “I want to see more of the world.”

Through eight years of school in Coronado, Frangos said she will always have the connections made with fellow students.

“There’s very few people that I can turn to and say, ‘I have never had a class with (you).’ We’re so close to each other and it’s been so awesome,” added Frangos.

Environmental changemaker

Gregory, who will be a freshman at the University of California Los Angeles this fall, encourages fellow graduates to follow guidance from a song in one of her favorite movies, “Finding Nemo:” “Just Keep Swimming.”

Like all 2024 CHS graduates, Gregory,

18, started high school in the midst of a global pandemic.

An AP environmental science class, her internship with Emerald Keepers, and a science writing internship at UCSD were key for Gregory’s college plans to study environmental science.

“When we were with Emerald Keepers advocating for the single-use plastic ban, ...when I spoke at city council, I feel like doing that, I really enjoyed it and I also just felt like it was really important,” said Gregory. “That was a moment where I was like, ‘Oh, I want to continue doing this type of thing in the future.’”

Gregory was also part of the Coronado School of the Arts (CoSA) dance conservatory and a member of multiple community service clubs, including the Interact and Junior Optimist clubs.

The belonging expressed by her classmates is another sentiment Gregory echoes.

“All of the teachers and faculty are super supportive,” said Gregory, who moved to Coronado in her freshman year. “The students all really care about each other.”

Gregory said two of her favorite teachers were Sandra Davis and Joshua Chao.

“Collectively, this group of students is as well-rounded as any that I have taught,” wrote Chao in an email about the three students who went through his English 10 Honors class. “I had the privilege of exposing them to literature and pushing their thinking in areas where they did not necessarily feel confident or comfortable. To their credit, they each expanded their skills and repertoire while in my classroom and leveraged their unique strengths to succeed.”

And while graduation jumbles bittersweet emotions, Gregory happily looks forward to the next chapter.

“I definitely feel prepared after CHS,” she said. “I’m most excited about meeting new people and also just having more independence.”

This year’s CHS graduation ceremony took place at Niedermeyer Field on June 13.

NAVY

A summer spent flying planes for this Coronado High School student

Connor Gray was selected as one of 28 students in the country to partake in an eight-week U.S. Navy Summer Flight Academy.

BY KYLIE CAPUANO
The Coronado News

Coronado High School incoming senior Connor Gray will spend his summer doing something that looks a little different than his classmates'. It won't be spent soaking up the San Diego summer sun, enjoying the Fourth of July fireworks off of the bay, or savoring a break from tests and homework. Instead, he'll be learning how to fly planes for the U.S. Navy.

Gray was selected as one of 28 students in the country to partake in an intensive eight-week U.S. Navy Summer Flight Academy aviation program at Delaware University where, upon completion, he will receive his Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) private pilot's license.

The U.S. Navy Summer Flight Academy looks for high performing students who are involved in Navy or Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC), exemplify physical fitness and are engaged in leadership activities.

Gray was the ideal candidate, according to Tamara Graham, program manager of the CNAF (Commander, Naval Air Forces) Flight Academy.

"He's a phenomenal student," said Graham. "He's got a 4.0 average, he's fully engaged in the NJROTC program, he's done some aviation activities outside of that to demonstrate his interest, and he's certainly physically fit. He's hitting across the board which made him stand out."

Among those qualifications, Gray is a member of the varsity water polo and swim teams, participates in CHS's mock trial team and is a National Honor Society student.

His interest in joining the program came from his future career aspirations.

"I'd like to go into either naval aviation or be an aviator for the Air Force, so I thought it'd be a good



Connor Gray receiving the Daedalians award, given to those who represent outstanding citizenship and excellence in academics, at this year's CHS JROTC awards ceremony.

Photo courtesy of Doug Gray.

idea to take a look into it and see if I actually like even just some aspects of it before I fully commit," said Gray.

From June 9 to Aug. 2, Gray will reside at Delaware State University with the other program participants, taking on 10-16 hour days of cycling between intensive ground school and hands-on flying experience. He will receive a minimum of 32 hours of classroom aviation academics and over 40 hours of flight training in either a Vulcanair V.10 single engine aircraft or Piper Warrior (PA-28). Before receiving his pilot's license, he will also be required to complete 17 hours of solo flights.

While the program costs around \$28,000 per student to put on, it is offered free of cost due to a grant funded by the Office of Naval Research (ONR).

"ONR has a STEM program where they look for opportunities to inspire kids into the science, tech-

nology, engineering and math fields that will better support our national security talent base," said Graham. "They sponsor us because this program helps get kids into aerospace engineering, the aviation field and the military."

On top of the students receiving their FAA private pilot's license, they will also receive five college credits for their academic ground school courses.

Established in 2021, the U.S. Navy Summer Flight Academy was created to broaden the reach of students interested in going into naval aviation.

"I'd say over 80% is the current stat of people that fly for the Navy that come from military families," said Graham. "With the small number of people who serve today, we don't want to neck down our talent to just kids or neighbors of folks that are already doing this job. We're trying to highlight the opportunities and also recognize that learning to fly is very expensive. The idea is to lower those barriers, get kids to see what they're capable of, expose them to aviation and opportunities to do the coolest job in the Navy – which is to be a naval aviator."

While the program hasn't been around long enough to see a naval aviator come out of it, Graham estimates a 70-78% draw rate of students who have done the program and gone on to military service, whether that's an ROTC scholarship in college or joining a service academy.

While she expects to see naval aviators come out of the program in the future, her main focus is on the next incoming class of future pilots.

"The kids get really excited and it's just amazing to see what they can accomplish because many of them have never left home," said Graham. "Now they're going to be spending eight weeks in a dorm and flying a plane by themselves. It's pretty incredible the level of accomplishment they can achieve in a short period of time."

As for Gray, he's most excited to get his hands behind the wheel.

"I'm really excited to fly," said Gray. "I think it'll be a great experience and just being able to meet all of the people in the program from around the country will be cool too."

U.S. Navy Capt. Loren Jacobi, executive officer of Naval base Coronado, learns about a penalty kick during an U.S. Association of Blind Athletes demonstration on the installation.

U.S. Navy photo by Chief Mass Communication Specialist Joseph R. Vincent.



USA men's National Blind Soccer Team visits sailors

DVIDS

The men's paralympic soccer team for the U.S. Association of Blind Athletes visited sailors on Naval Air Station North Island in Coronado.

The players, originating from around the globe, were present alongside their coach and representatives from local organizations to provide an introduction into blind soccer.

"This is an opportunity for Navy Wounded Warriors to see that there is life after a specific trauma or circumstance in your life, to really compete at a high level," said Navy Wounded Warrior Program Director Marcus Pace, who organized the event and introduced the attendees.

Blind soccer teams consist of five players per team, one of whom is sighted. The field is much smaller than normal, and sideboards are present along the length of the field with sighted guides placed at thirds—both changes implemented to assist with orientation and player positioning during game play.

Due to the spectrum of vision, all players wear eye shades to eliminate the possibility of light perception, and for overall eye protection. A smaller soccer ball is standard, with rattle pockets placed within the ball for players so players can identify its

location on the field.

"It's not necessarily just all about the sport, but it's also about that community and connection and understanding what they're going through on a day-to-day basis and how to really be able to connect on that level with some of the experiences and frustrations they have, either being blind and visually impaired or whatever disability they have," said Katie Smith, the USA Blind Soccer Men's National Team head coach. "Some of them have been blind their whole life, but others also have had tragic accidents, so a lot of these veterans can connect on the same level or a similar level to these athletes."

Adaptive sports can be traced back to post WWII, when many service members returned home with disabilities. Today, organizations such as Wounded Warrior Program create opportunities to connect service members with an adaptive athletic program to continue rehabilitation and improve quality of life.

Blind soccer originated in Spain in the 1920s, and in 1996, was recognized by the International Blind Sports Federation. Although the sport has been part of the Paralympic Games since 2004, the U.S. will be competing for the first time as the host country in the upcoming 2028 games in Los Angeles.

Attention, Coronado Art Collectors and Art Enthusiasts



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SPORTS

Coronado alum Samuel Quarles to compete in Olympic Trials

BY CADE CAVIN
The Coronado News

Former Coronado High School swim standout Samuel Quarles, who is now a University of California, Berkeley Golden Bear swimmer, will be competing in the 2024 U.S. Olympic Team Trials on June 21 in Indianapolis.

“To be going to the Olympic Trials is really a dream come true,” Quarles said.

After a successful career swimming for the Islanders, Quarles accepted a scholarship offer to UC Berkeley over the University of Texas, the University of Florida, the University of Southern California, and the University of Virginia.

Quarles credited his time with the Islanders with teaching him valuable lessons that he has applied during his time competing in the now defunct Pac-12.

“While I was at Coronado I learned a lot about camaraderie from the team aspect but I also learned a lot about attention to detail,” he said.

This learned attention to detail is not just applicable to his collegiate career. The rising college sophomore has been putting this philosophy into practice during his training back home on the island with Sea to Desert Swim Association.

“...the regimen has definitely been intense,” he said. “Before getting into my taper, or rest period, I was doing eight swims and three lifts per week and now I am doing six swims and some out of water work all for about two hours each.”

This type of intense dedication to his craft is what has helped Quarles continue to separate himself from the pack, even with the higher level of



Coronado's Samuel Quarles will compete in the Olympic Trials on June 21. Photo courtesy of Rich Koeberlein at RK2 Photography.

competition at the Division I level.

“I finaled in all of my events at conference championships,” Quarles said of his freshman season at UC Berkeley. “I was 19.84 in the 50 which was my first time under 20 and I was 46.22 in the 100 fly for a best time as well. [I] had a great time getting to know my

class and meet people from around the world while truly learning how to balance academics.”

At the Olympic Trials, Quarles will compete in the 100-meter butterfly and potentially take a shot at the time trial 50-meter freestyle, which he said he aims to race in under 53 seconds.

Quarles said the opportunity to compete at this level is not something he takes lightly.

“Since I was little I have wanted the chance to compete with the best in the world and this meet really is the fastest meet outside of the Olympic Games,” he said.

“Since I was little I have wanted the chance to compete with the best in the world and this meet really is the fastest meet outside of the Olympic Games.”

- Samuel Quarles

‘Chucky Mania’ hits San Diego as Lozano expresses desire to win titles for MLS expansion team

Associated Press

On a typically brilliant San Diego day, Mexican soccer star Hirving “Chucky” Lozano said he’d like to do something that’s generally atypical around here — win championships.

Lozano was introduced on June 13 as the first designated player of the Major League Soccer expansion team San Diego FC, which will begin play next season.

With San Diego bordering the winger’s native Mexico, the signing is expected to be popular among the region’s soccer fans. A packed news conference in a lounge at Snapdragon Stadium was the first stop of the day for Lozano and his family. The club was hosting a “Chucky Mania” public introduction Thursday evening that was expected to draw up to 10,000 fans at a concert shell on San Diego Bay.

“I want to win championships to San Diego and leave my mark to this league,” Lozano said in opening remarks delivered in English.

Following a lengthy news conference that was conducted in Spanish, the 28-year-old from Mexico City went outside and stepped onto his new pitch and posed with team officials for a few dozen photographers and videographers.

“It’s a very nice stadium, a very nice pitch,” Lozano said in English while wearing a San Diego FC scarf and holding a soccer ball.

The dearth of championships by San Diego teams came up a few times. Lozano has won titles with every club he’s been on.

“My objective is to work hard and give my all for San Diego and we’ll work hard to give San Diego championships and titles and I think we’re going to be a great, great team in MLS,” Lozano said through an interpreter. “I think the base is there and I’m sure we’ll be doing great.”



Hirving “Chucky” Lozano poses with a San Diego FC scarf during an introductory news conference for the new MLS soccer team Thursday, June 13, 2024, in San Diego. The Mexican star will be part of San Diego FC’s first season, when they join the MLS in 2025. AP Photo/Gregory Bull.

San Diego FC announced last week that Lozano signed a four-year deal through the 2028 season. San Diego FC will become the league’s 30th team.

Lozano will remain with his current club, PSV Eindhoven in the Netherlands, through this year. He’ll be formally transferred to San Diego on Jan. 1.

Asked about Lozano’s penchant for winning, San Diego FC CEO Tom Penn joked: “We don’t have a trophy case yet. We’ve got to build one. I forgot.

“He can’t do it alone,” Penn said. “I think he’s a clear signal to the market that that’s what we’re after. When you make a signing like this, you expect him to be a very elite player in the league and you expect to then invest beyond just in him in a roster that’s worthy of his talent and is worthy of this stadium and is worthy of this market.”

Lozano, a product of the academy system of Pa-

chuca in Liga MX, said one of the reasons he signed with SDFC is because he was impressed with its Right To Dream residential academy being built on the Sycuan Reservation in suburban El Cajon. SDFC’s first team will also train at the facility.

Lozano became emotional and wiped away tears while speaking about Enrique Meza, the former Pachuca and Mexico national coach who attended the news conference. Meza gave Lozano his professional start when he was 18.

“There were questions at the beginning about, with our affiliation with Right To Dream, were we going to be all about player development, were we going to have to wait seven years to be great?” Penn said. “This clearly says, no, we’re about winning now and having player development.”

PSV recently secured its 25th overall title in the top Dutch league. Lozano had six goals and three assists in 24 matches during the 2023-24 season.

Lozano has also won championships with Pachuca in Liga MX and Italian top-tier club Napoli.

He has 18 goals in 70 appearances with the Mexican national team and played in the 2018 and 2022 World Cups. He was more recently left off Mexico’s Copa America squad, along with veterans Guillermo Ochoa and Raul Jimenez, as well as striker Henry Martin.

SDFC is owned by Egyptian billionaire Mohamed Mansour and the Sycuan Tribe, the first Native American tribe to have an ownership stake in a professional soccer team. The ownership group also includes San Diego Padres star third baseman Manny Machado.

Machado posted a video greeting to Lozano on Instagram a few days ago.

“We’re looking forward to you raising many trophies like you have all over the world and to come and raise one here in San Diego,” Machado said.

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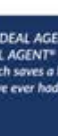
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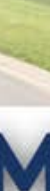
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Dick Van Dyke becomes the oldest Daytime Emmy winner at age 98 for guest role on 'Days of Our Lives'

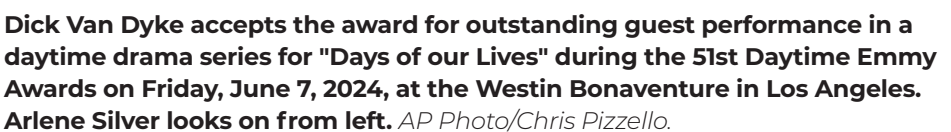
Dick Van Dyke has won a historic Daytime Emmy at age 98.

"I don't believe this. I feel like a spy from nighttime television," he said. "I'm 98 years old. Can you believe it? This really tops off a lifetime of 80 years in the business. If I had known I would have lived this long I would've taken better care of myself."

Robert Gossett of "General Hospital" won supporting actor honors. The first cousin to the late Oscar-winning actor Louis Gossett Jr. was honored for the second straight year for his role as Marshall Ashford.

Thorsten Kaye of "The Bold and the Beautiful" earned his second straight lead actor win for playing Ridge Forrester.

"I got to be very honest. I don't like award shows. I didn't like award shows until tonight," he said. "The other thing that doesn't make sense is that anyone can do this alone. You need a great boss who sees you and hears you. You need a cast that tolerates you. You need a whole village of people that have agreed that they're not going to let you drown. I've have all of that."



"I am honored to be an actor. It is the greatest gig. It is a privilege," she said. "I'm honored to entertain people."

Van Dyke received a standing ovation as he used a cane to make his way to the stage, accompanied by his wife, Arlene, who held the trophy.

"I brought this lady up because she was also on the show," he said. "She played the cop who arrested me."

Producer Norman Lear was 100 when he received his final Primetime

Van Dyke has won four Primetime Emmys, including three in the 1960s for his classic comedy series "The Dick Van Dyke Show."

Van Dyke beat out last year's winner Alley Mills of "General Hospital," Australian actor Guy Pearce of Amazon Freevee's "Neighbours," Linden Ashby of "The Young and the Restless," and Ashley Jones of "The Bold and the Beautiful."

"The Kelly Clarkson Show" continued its domination of the daytime show category with a fourth consecutive victory. The singer, who moved

"The move has been so great, not just for me and my family but for our whole show," she said, singling out NBC. "Thank you for thinking of mental health and not just a product."

Courtney Hope, who plays Sally Spectra on "The Young and the Restless," earned supporting actress honors. She originated the role on "The Bold and the Beautiful" in 2017 before moving to "Y&R" in 2020.

Melody Thomas Scott, who has played Nikki Newman on "The Young and the Restless" for 45 years, and her producer-husband, Edward Scott, were honored with Lifetime Achievement Awards. Scott worked on "Y&R" for years before moving to his current job on "The Bold and the Beautiful."

"I can't tell you how encouraging a thing like this is," joked Thomas Scott, who made her acting debut at age 8 in Alfred Hitchcock's "Marnie."

Her husband told the crowd, "I promise to do my very best to try to continue to amaze you."

The wife-and-husband team of Kelly Ripa and Mark Consuelos won daytime talk series host for their "Live with Kelly and Mark." Ina Garten won best culinary series for "Be My Guest" on Food Network.

The ceremony honoring soap operas, talk and game shows aired live on CBS from The Westin Bonaventure hotel in downtown Los Angeles.

The 51st annual Daytime Emmys returned to their usual place on the calendar, just six months after the show's 50th edition aired in December after being pushed back because of last year's Hollywood writers and actors strikes.



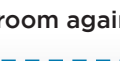
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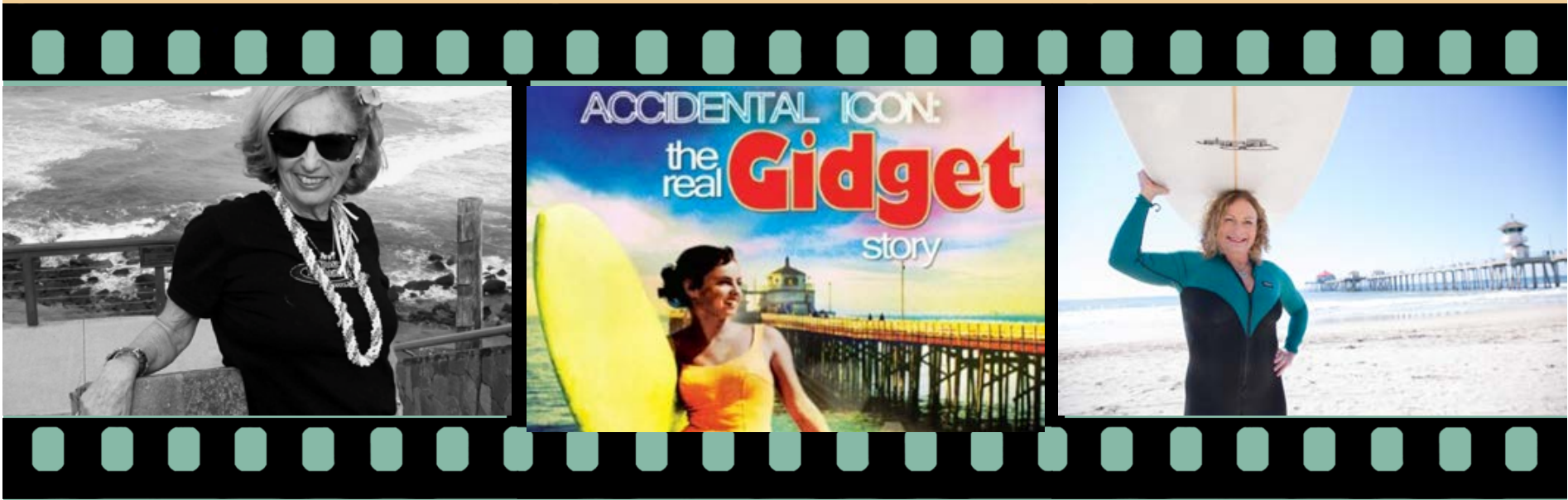
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