

More funding for the Tijuana sewage crisis is in the works

Congressional leaders have included more than \$200 million in recent bills for water projects in San Diego County.

BY JULIETA SOTO
The Coronado News

The House of Representatives and Senate recently approved their respective versions of the Water Resources Development Act of 2024 (WRDA), which totals approximately \$210 million in funding for San Diego County and the Tijuana River Valley watershed. Earlier this year, \$156 million in additional funding for the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) through an appropriations bill was passed by Congress. But this fell short of President Biden’s \$310 million request last October. This additional funding is necessary to help offset a funding deficit for the rehabilitation and expansion of the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant, said Imperial Beach Mayor Paloma Aguirre. The South Bay facility, built and operated by the United States, treats sewage effluent from Mexico. It is routinely overwhelmed in storm events, causing beach contamination and beach closures from Tijuana north to Coronado. Officials estimate the plant needs a total of at least \$600 million in repairs and upgrades.

Every two years since 2014, Congress has passed a water resources measure with new funding. The House’s announcement was made on July 22. The Senate’s WRDA passage followed on Aug. 2. This legislation authorizes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to improve the nation’s ports and harbors, inland waterway navigation, flood and storm protection, and other aspects of water resources infrastructure, according to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure website. The Corps Public Affairs Office did not comment about the pending or proposed legislation. They said the House and Senate will confer to resolve differences in their versions of WRDA before it can be signed into law by President Biden. The House bill authorizes 161 new feasibility studies for locally proposed projects and 12 projects that have been thoroughly reviewed by the corps and have culminated in a final report to Congress with approval by the chief of engineers or the director of civil works, according to the committee’s announcement.

The offices of Sen. Alex Padilla and Rep. Scott Peters said this would be new funding. Peters, who represents Coronado, said \$200 million can be used for fixes and upgrades at the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant and for other purposes, such as countywide wastewater treatment.

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Pro surfer Jamie O'Brien signed just under 300 posters on Aug. 10 for the premier of his latest film, "Chasing the Dream." Staff photo by Madeline Yang.

Jamie O'Brien surf film premiered at Hotel Del

He's a pro-surfer, a Red Bull sponsored athlete and a YouTube sensation; he's Oahu grown Jamie O'Brien and he just premiered his latest film at the Hotel Del Coronado.

BY MADELINE YANG
The Coronado News

He drops into a 15-foot wave — almost three times his height — his bright pink board disappearing in the dark barrel. The lip of the wave curls around him, so large that it forms a perfect funnel around his silhouette. Whitewash forms at the base as the waves crash upon each other. And then he shoots out the other end. It's like the wave spits him out as the pressure of the water and the air in the barrel compress, leaving nowhere to go except out, bringing him with it. Jamie O'Brien, or more fondly known as JOB, leans back off his pink board into the water as the barrel dies and another scene of him surfing a barrel comes on the screen, which was set up right in the back of the Hotel del Coronado's Beach Village on Aug. 10 for the premier of his latest film, "Chasing the Dream."

Who is JOB

O'Brien was a pro surfer who grew up on Oahu's North Shore, with the Banzai Pipeline — one of the most famous surf breaks in the world — in his backyard. In 2004, he won the Rip Curl Pipeline Masters at 21, becoming one of the youngest surfers to surf one of the most notorious surf contests at the Banzai Pipeline, and he continues to be active in the surfing world and the online world today. His YouTube channel has over a million followers where his sponsorship with Red Bull is featured in his videos as he surfs while being set on fire and slides down one of the largest

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Former council member seeks school board seat

Bill Sandke, a former councilman, announces candidacy for Coronado school board seats in November elections.

BY JULIETA SOTO
The Coronado News

Bill Sandke, a former Coronado City councilmember, announced his plans to run for the Coronado school board, which has two four-year term seats open in the 2024 election cycle. This week Sandke became the second candidate, after incumbent trustee Renee Cavanaugh, to issue and file documents for the Coronado Unified School District governing board, ac-

cording to the San Diego County Registrar of Voters' website. As of Aug. 9, the official last day in the filing period, Cavanaugh and Sandke have been the only two candidates who have announced they are running. Coronado is among the districts identified in the Registrar's list whose incumbents did not file candidacy documents by last Friday, extending the candidate filing deadline to Wednesday, Aug. 14 at 5 p.m. Sandke said his approach is to make

sure that Coronado has a school system to be proud of. "It's really exciting to possibly have another opportunity to officially serve my city," said Sandke. "It was an honor before and I'd be honored again." Having an active and vibrant school system with good enrollment numbers contributes not only to the vitality of the community, he said, but it also contributes to residents' property values and the overall value of the community.

"I think a solid school system is something that Coronado has had for years and is very proud of and continues to deserve, and I think the opportunities presented by the Basic Aid funding will allow the school system to improve, and I'd like to be a part of that," said Sandke. Coronado Unified anticipates becoming a "basic aid" school district by the 2027-28 school year, 10 years

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this week

17 • saturday

The Coronado Democratic Club invites community members to attend their next general meeting on Aug. 17 at the Coronado Public Library's Winn Room at 10:30 a.m. The meeting is set to provide insightful analysis and non-partisan discussion on upcoming ballot propositions.

21 • wednesday

Film Forum Coronado, presented in partnership with the Coronado Island Film Festival and the Coronado Public Library, will take place at 6 p.m. in the library's Winn Room.

Film expert Ralph DeLauro provides a brief introduction to each film and leads a discussion afterwards, often including pointers about how lighting or camera angles contribute to a scene's mood or propel the story.

On Aug. 21, "The Purple Rose of Cairo" will be shown.

22 • thursday

Coronado Optimist Club meetings take place at 7 a.m. on Thursdays at the Coronado Community Center. On Aug. 22, Beau Dorion will be the featured speaker discussing the topic of foster homes. Anyone who would like to learn more about the club is encouraged to attend a weekly meeting.

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

Susan Casey discusses new book

Coronado News staff

On Saturday, Aug.24, at 1 p.m., join the Coronado Public Library, in collaboration with Warwick's bookstore, as Susan Casey will discuss and sign her recently released paperback, "The Underworld: Journeys to the Depths of the Ocean."

A book with "enough deep-sea biology and geology to dazzle" according to the Wall Street Journal, "The Underworld" is a fascinating tour of the ocean's most hidden and mesmerizing realms that will entertain both deep sea enthusiasts and casual explorers alike.

This event is free and open to the public. Seating is first-come, first-served, subject to availability. Limited preferred seating is available with purchase of the book through Warwick's bookstore.

For all of human history, the deep ocean has been a source of wonder and terror, an unknown realm that

evoked a singular, compelling question: What's down there?

Unable to answer this for centuries, people believed the deep was a sinister realm of fiendish creatures and deadly peril. But now, cutting-edge technologies allow scientists and explorers to dive miles beneath the surface.

For "The Underworld," Casey traversed the globe, joining scientists and explorers on dives to the deepest places on the planet, interviewing the marine geologists, marine biologists, and oceanographers who are searching for knowledge in this vast unseen realm.

Casey is the author of New York Times bestsellers "Voices in the Ocean: A Journey into the Wild and Haunting World of Dolphins," "The Wave: In Pursuit of the Rogues, Freaks, and Giants of the Ocean," and "The Devil's Teeth: A True Story of Obsession and Survival Among America's Great White Sharks."



Susan Casey. Photo from susancasey.com.

She is the former editor-in-chief of O, The Oprah Magazine. She is a National Magazine Award-winning journalist whose work has been featured in the Best American Science and Nature Writing, Best American Sports Writing and Best American Magazine Writing anthologies; and has appeared in Esquire, Sports Illustrated, Fortune and Outside.

Visit <https://www.warwicks.com/event/casey-2024> or call the store at 858-454-0347. For more information visit cplevents.org.

Information courtesy of the Coronado Public Library.

PETS OF THE WEEK

Meet Bert and Joker



PAWS of Coronado

Meet Bert, the lively and athletic 1-year-old Black Mouth Cur mix who was found as a stray.

Although his background is a mystery, Bert's charming personality shines brightly. This funny and food-loving pup is always ready to bring a smile to your face with his playful antics.

Bert's athletic nature makes him an excellent companion for active adventures and fun-filled days. If you're searching for a spirited and loving friend to share your life with, Bert is the perfect match. Open your heart and home to this delightful dog, and let the adventures begin!



Bert (top), and Joker.

Also, meet Joker, the 1.5-year-old Lab/Cattle Dog mix with a mischievous streak! True to his name, Joker is a playful prankster who loves to keep everyone on their toes with his exuberant energy and active nature.

Always ready for an adventure, Joker brings a lot of fun and laughter wherever he goes. If you're looking for a lively and entertaining companion, Joker is your guy!

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

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If you think that you or someone else may be experiencing a stroke, call 911.





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

Your family’s safety from
gun violence is on the ballot

Therese Hymer is the president of San Diegans for Gun Violence Prevention. In this op-ed, she writes about decisions for November’s ballot.

BY THERESE HYMER
Op-Ed

There’s a critically important local race on the ballot this November — the most important in the region in terms of gun safety.

For the past four years, the County Board of Supervisors has had a 3-2 majority for common-sense gun regulation. The board majority has stood strong against the powerful gun lobby and listened instead to the real-life concerns of their constituents. It’s one reason San Diego is among the safest metropolitan areas in the nation.

Unfortunately, that could change this fall. The outcome of one key race this November will determine how safe you and your loved ones are from random acts of gun violence.

The incumbent is Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer, who has championed common-sense gun safety laws and actions throughout her time in office. Her challenger is Kevin Faulconer, who is supported by the same hard-core gun fanatics that tried to defeat those laws.

Lawson-Remer’s credentials as a fighter for safe neighborhoods are without question:

- She advocated for the county’s important safe firearm storage law, which keeps children safe, protects against the use of guns in suicides, and protects against theft.
- She helped to pass the county’s law against untraceable ghost-guns and parts, and prohibiting 3D printing of guns or parts.
- She supported the county’s lawsuit against a company whose ghost-gun machine allows people to build unregistered firearms. Giffords Law Center’s pro bono representation of the county keeps legal costs in check while fight-



Therese Hymer is the president of San Diegans for Gun Violence Prevention. Photo courtesy of Therese Hymer.

- ing to keep us safe.
- She hosted a summit to educate the community on local leaders’ actions to reduce gun-related suicides, homicides and crime.

Lawson-Remer was also the driving force behind the county’s thoughtful Gun Violence Reduction Plan, the result of extensive study and public hearings. It promotes gun safety training, suicide prevention education, safe storage of firearms and community-based intervention programs focused on high-risk populations like potential gang members.

Who could oppose that? Well, the opposition was led by Faulconer’s cheering section, the San Diego County Gun Owners. Two SDCGO-supported su-

pervisors voted against the plan when it first came for a vote in 2023. If he wins, Faulconer would become the third vote SDCGO needs to overturn the plan.

Faulconer, a career politician, has a history of siding with the gun lobby. When he was mayor of San Diego, he opposed the city’s Safe Storage of Firearms Ordinance, a law designed to keep children and criminals from having access to unlocked firearms. Luckily the City Council overwhelmingly supported the ordinance, so it became law without his signature.

After only one term in office, Lawson-Remer was named a Gun Violence Prevention Champion by San Diegans for Gun Violence Prevention, which carefully screens candidates to determine who has your safety at heart. Faulconer instead won the endorsement of the San Diego County Gun Owners, so they clearly liked what they saw.

SDCGO isn’t shy about opposing reasonable gun laws. It opposed the county’s safe storage and ghost gun laws. It opposes the state assault weapons ban, firearm waiting periods, bans on the open carry of firearms in sensitive areas (like schools and playgrounds) and the ban on the high-capacity magazines favored by mass shooters.

Finally, where gun-safety groups want to keep guns as far away as possible from schools and school children, the Gun Owners host an annual “Gun Prom,” an event whose title is a constant reminder of their insensitivity to the hundreds of victims of school shootings in America.

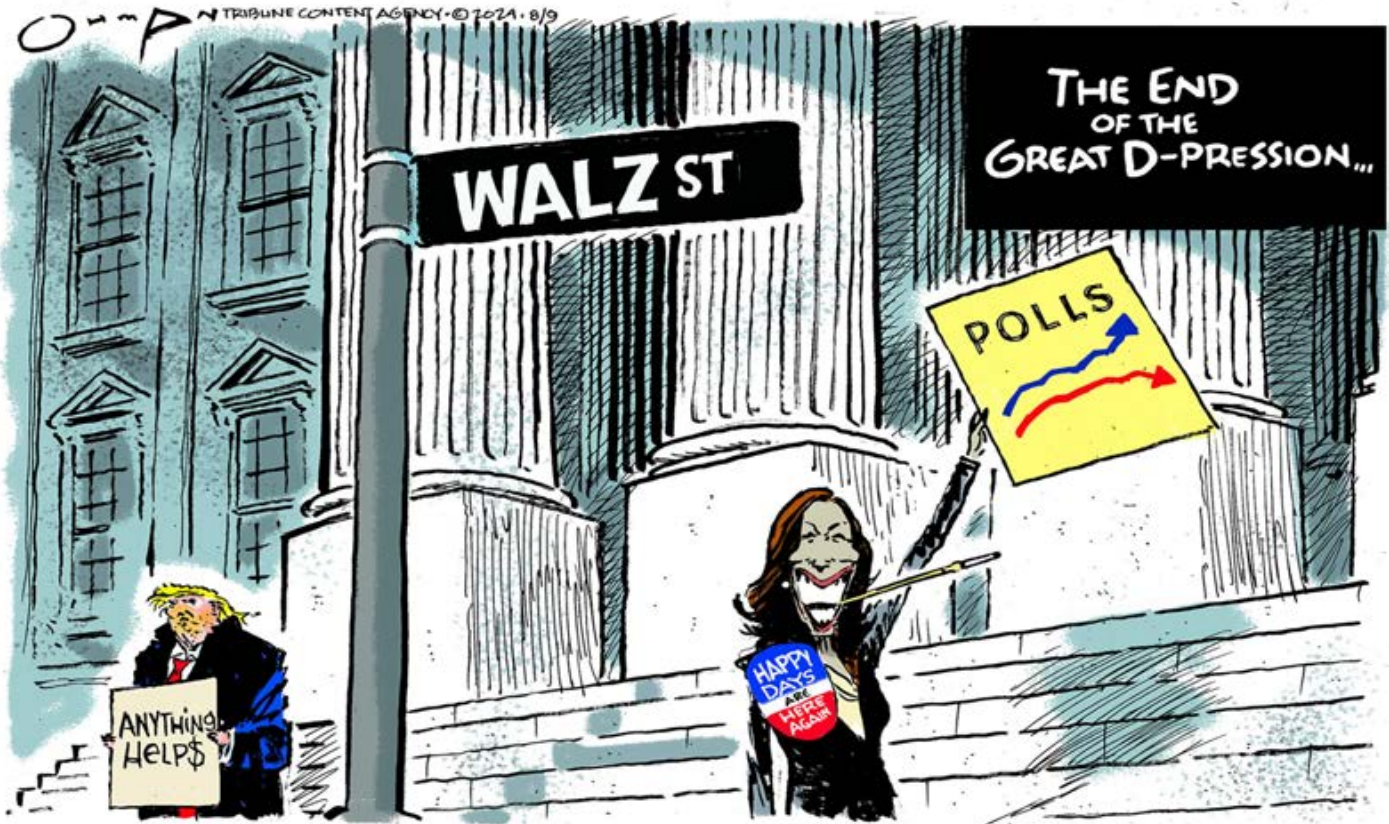
When you vote in local elections this fall, remember there is no more important vote you can cast than for Terra Lawson-Remer and against Kevin Faulconer. Vote like your life depends on it. It very well could.

Therese Hymer is president of San Diegans for Gun Violence Prevention, a volunteer coalition of citizens and community organizations dedicated to ending gun violence in America.

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CORONADO

Celebrate Coronado Community Awards will honor local heroes

City employees and community members are recognized annually in Coronado Chamber of Commerce’s awards ceremony.

BY JULIETA SOTO
The Coronado News

This fall, the Coronado Chamber of Commerce will be presenting its 43rd annual Celebrate Coronado Community Awards ceremony.

The 2024 event will honor outstanding community members and city employees of the year during a four-course, sit-down dinner at Feast and Fareway, 2000 Visalia Row, located in the Coronado Municipal Golf Course. Tickets to attend are \$49 and the ceremony will go from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 2.

The evening will honor and celebrate Coronado’s police department, fire department and lifeguard services and the city employees of the year, along with chamber members reaching milestone anniversaries.

The chamber’s prestigious award, presented annually since the event’s inception, is the Lewis R. Hardy Jr. Memorial Award which bestows the highest honor to one local leader who is an excellent promoter of business and gives back their time.

“That’s presented to someone who has significant economic and community impact,” Rena Clancy, the chamber’s executive director, said. “We just have so many great people in our community. We never have a shortage of a great list.”

And while there are a number of people eligible for this award, Clancy said, the winner is decided by the organization’s board members and past recipients who nominate a person who fits the description. The board then decides who is the most qualified.

“I don’t believe it’s a hard qualifier but to make significant community and economic contributions, it’s almost always been a Coronado resident,” added Clancy about the history of award winners being local to the island.

Each department in the City of Coronado nominates employees of the year.

According to the Chamber of Commerce, each departmental entity — the police department, fire department and lifeguard services and the City of Coronado City Manager



For the past 43 years, the annual Celebrate Coronado Event has served to celebrate local heroes.
Staff photo by Sofie Fransen.

— will present their awards followed by short speeches.

Andrea McCullough, Coronado’s communications officer, said the 2023 employee of the year, Police Officer Grace Del Bagno, was recognized by the city in April and will be presented an award at the October event.

Clancy said that attendees can expect the same celebratory atmosphere as last year because the event will take place in the same venue.

“It’s a great location and Feast and Fareway is so beautiful,” Clancy said about the space.

This year, the chamber expects more than 100 people at the Awards.

“We acknowledge past presidents of the chamber, the partnership with the City of Coronado and the Chamber of Commerce and how important our public services are to our city and how it really makes Coronado the place that we all love,” said Clancy. “It’s a really good feel good event.”

Clancy said the chamber’s mission is helping businesses succeed in order for the community to prosper.

“A lot of our major events and things that we are able to do through community grants is all possible because of the work that we are able to do with the city,” said Clancy.

And hosting these awards is one way the chamber can acknowledge the magnificent community that works together in every way for the mutual benefit of all of Coronado, she added.

“To see how passionate each group of people are...the all-hands-on-deck to make Coronado as wonderful as possible is the very best takeaway,” Clancy said.



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CORONADO

Giant pandas have returned to San Diego

Two giant pandas have returned to the San Diego Zoo through a panda conservation partnership with China. Meet Yun Chuan and Xin Bao.

BY MADELINE YANG
The Coronado News

Panda Day is now officially Aug. 8 – as designated by California Gov. Gavin Newsom as the San Diego Zoo officially welcomes two new furry San Diegans, Yun Chuan and Xin Bao – giant pandas that arrived in June from China in a significant, diplomatic partnership with the United States.

Yun Chuan’s round body was facing away from the glass in his new home, resembling a slowly breathing, plump ball, while Xin Bao was resting, her large head balanced on her two front legs dangling off the side of the rock as she lay in the shade.

Their new habitat, Panda Ridge, is now four times bigger than the previous one.

These pandas, the rarest members of the bear family, have come to the U.S. as a result of the two countries’ conservation efforts in keeping populations from going extinct.

Their arrival marks the 30th anniversary of a relationship between the China Wildlife Conservation Association and the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, an international, nonprofit conservation organization.

“This is truly one for the record books,” said Paul Baribault, president and chief executive officer for the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance. “Today, we celebrate collaboration on a global level.”

Several Chinese dignitaries flew in for the occasion including Xie Feng, Chinese ambassador to the U.S., and Si Ping, deputy secretary general for China Wildlife Conservation Association.



Xin Bao rests in her new habitat after traveling from China to San Diego and arriving at the San Diego Zoo in June. Staff photo by Madeline Yang.

A Chinese orchestra and dance team also performed for the opening ceremony, with a man in the Chinese traditional lion dance costume greeting the guests as they made their way down to the panda exhibits.

“The world is too small and our time is too limited to win fleeting victories at other people’s expenses. We’ve got to triumph together,” Newsom said. “Mr. Ambassador, it’s that spirit of an open hand, not a closed fist. It’s in that spirit of cooperation, it’s that spirit that I’m here, proud.”

Xie Feng said the president of the People’s Republic of China, Xi Jinping, is ready to continue cooperation with the United States in panda conservation. He joked that people have written to him offering to trade grizzly bears for panda bears.

“Today, I am most happy to tell them, after eight months of joint effort, we have finally brought Yun Chuan and Xin Bao to San Diego,” Xie Feng said. “The San Diego Zoo is the first American institution to carry out cooperation on panda conservation with China.”

According to the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance’s website, the first time San Diego welcomed pandas from China was in 1987, after they began the San Diego Zoo-based collaborative panda program when the species was on the verge of extinction. The zoo became part of an international collaboration that included the China Wildlife Conservation Association.

Xie Feng said that over the past three decades, the partnership between China and the United States has helped increase survival rates for panda cubs from around 10% to over 90%.

“China-U.S. cooperation on panda conservation will not cease. Our people-to-people exchanges and subnational cooperation will not stop,” Xie Feng said. “And, once opened, the door of China-U.S. friendship will not be shut again.”

This is the first time in over two decades that pandas have been flown into the states.

Bai Yun was one of the first pandas to arrive in San Diego in 1996 where she lived for more than 20 years before being flown back to China in 2019 when the conservation loan ended

Giant panda fast facts

- The scientific name of a giant panda is the *Ailuropoda melenoleuca*.
- They live in the mountains of Southwestern China in old-growth forests.
- Pandas spend about 12 hours a day eating bamboo.
- Because of their bamboo diet, they have the most jaw strength of any bear.
- Babies weigh 3 to 5 ounces at birth, but will reach about 1,000 times that size when fully grown.
- Fully grown females weigh 155 to 220 pounds and fully grown males weigh 190 to 275 pounds.
- They are about five to six feet long and two to three feet tall.
- Pandas are arguably the most vocal of all the bears, with a distinctive “bleat” sound, but scientists have identified 12 different sounds they can make.
- They have a lifespan of 15 to 30 years.

Information from San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance.

between the two countries. She gave birth to six panda cubs while at the San Diego Zoo. One of them was Zhen Zhen, born in 2007.

Zhen Zhen went back to China where she had her son, Yun Chuan, who, at the age of five, has now made his way back to the zoo his grandmother, Bai Yun, knew as home for over two decades.

“To Yun Chuan and Xin Bao, our newest, furriest, cutest San Diegans: We are so glad to have them here,” said Todd Gloria, mayor of San Diego.

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CORONADO

Free concert event returns to the library, featuring the Topaz Duo

BY ELAINE ALFARO
The Coronado News

Gregory and Ian Lawrence have a few things in common: they are both born in November; they both share a love for music and performance, and they both share a last name.

As trained and seasoned musicians, this father-son duo brings their expertise across genres into performance spaces in San Diego. They started their group, the Topaz Duo, in 2016, but they’ve been playing together for much longer.

“We’ve played music together since I was like 15, doing jazz standards, where I’d just accompany him on the guitar,” Ian said about playing with his father. “That’s kind of how it started.”

Both grew up surrounded by music. “My mother was very influential,” Gregory said. “She took me to concerts when I was really young. It just drew me. I’ve done other things, but I’ve always been a musician.”

Ian said he knew from an early age that the guitar would be his craft.

“I started playing guitar when I was 12 years old,” Ian said. “Pretty much from then on, I just knew that was what I wanted to pursue, to spend my time and my life doing.”

Ian is also part of a rock band, while Gregory is the executive and artistic director of the Cabrillo Chamber Orchestra. But together, the Topaz Duo will perform a variety of pieces at an Aug. 31 concert presented by the Coronado Philharmonia Orchestra, featuring Ian on the guitar and Gregory on the violin.

Osvaldo Mendoza, the conductor of the Coronado Philharmonia Orchestra and composer, said this is the second year they’ve put on this free concert. The concert event functions like an “opener” to the upcoming season performance in September.

“The idea is to warm up people to get ready for our big concert,” Mendoza said. “I wanted to introduce the guitar, even though it’s not part of the orchestra, it is a solo instrument. For the free concerts I wanted to introduce that, so people get a little bit of a feeling between the mixture of strings and guitar.”

On Sept. 21, the Philharmonia Orchestra will be sharing the stage with Angel Romero, who some believe is the world’s most gifted classical guitarist.

Ian said he took a masterclass with Romero in the past, and now he is excited to be opening for Romero with this upcoming concert.

“In a way, I consider him one of my teachers,” Ian said. “It’s an honor to be the opener for that show.”

Ian and Gregory will be playing a wide-ranging repertoire of music, from Baroque to classical to



Ian Lawrence (left) and Gregory Lawrence (right) gather for a photo, showing their instruments in this undated photo. Photo courtesy of Gregory Lawrence.

tango.

“I’m excited for the Baroque music we’re going to play,” Ian said. “We’re going to play two pieces by two of the very first Baroque composers when the style of music changed from Renaissance to the Baroque style. I’m excited to play that music.”

They’ll also play traditional folk songs from Spain and Peru. One of the compositions they’re looking forward to is El Cóndor Pasa – a song some might recognize from the Simon and Garfunkel cover. However, this song is a traditional Peruvian folk song composed by Daniel Alomía Robles.

Ian will guide the audience through the performance as they experience the different genres.

“He’s very knowledgeable about guitar literature,” Gregory said. “He’s well spoken with it.”

With San Diego being home for both these musicians, they said they’re excited to contribute to the music landscape in San Diego and Coronado.

“Personally, I’m just looking forward to performing,” Ian said. “We’ve done a lot of gigs throughout the county, but we haven’t done a formal recital in quite awhile. It will be fun to get out there and do that again.”

The concert is happening Saturday, Aug. 31, at 2 p.m. in the Winn Room at the Coronado Public Library: 640 Orange Ave. Doors will open at 1:30 p.m. and seating is first-come, first-served.

Former council member seeks school board seat in November elections

» Continued from Page 1

earlier than the original 2036 projection, and local property taxes are expected to increase district revenues.

For Sandke, these opportunities include improved wages for employees, addressing facility and infrastructure issues at the schools and enriching basic curriculum and programs.

Sandke, 60, was three when his family first moved to Coronado from Point Loma.

From that age through fifth grade, Sandke attended Crown Elementary School until the military relocated his family for several years. They eventually returned to Coronado for his senior year of high school.

In 1982, Sandke graduated from Coronado High and later graduated from UCLA in 1986 with a degree in political science.

Sandke returned to Coronado in 1989 and purchased what is now called Crown City Photography. He has also worked as the Hotel del Coronado’s resident photographer since 1999, through five different ownership groups.

Sandke served as a Coronado City Council member for two consecutive terms from 2014-2022.

“Community service is something I’ve participated in for 30 years,” said Sandke. “When I was appointed to the Planning Commission and then elected to City Council, twice, those were really rewarding to me both personally and internally in terms of giving back to a community that’s given me so much, to myself and my family, but also it was a lot of fun to do,” said Sandke.

Now the professional photographer said he looks to continue nurturing Coronado’s cohesion and fabric through leadership in a district where his own children were educated.



Bill Sandke announces candidacy for the 2024 Coronado Unified school board. Staff photo by Julieta Soto.

“I think the school system represents a place where that cohesion can be strengthened and built upon,” said Sandke. “That Coronado connection, that sense of Community is really what makes Coronado so unique.”

“The importance of the schools was actually very vividly told to me by my mother...I had just started running for City Council. And my mom told me, ‘Hey don’t screw up the schools’...I told my mom, ‘Well, I’m running for City Council not for the school board, but I’ll keep an eye on the schools,’”

added Sandke. “To a certain extent that’s always been in the back of my mind...I think it’s a nice, opportune time for me to get involved.”

Sandke said he understands the relationship between the school and the city, and the overlap between some of the facilities.

“Partnerships are hugely important in any industry, in any community. The partnership between the school system and the city is tremendously important and I look forward to making that even better going forward,” Sandke said.

“Partnerships are hugely important in any industry, in any community. The partnership between the school system and the city is tremendously important and I look forward to making that even better going forward.”

- Bill Sandke



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The Coronado Playhouse has opened its 80th season. Pictured in the center of the photo is Kimberly Miller, who played Sweet Sue, in the 2016 production of “Sugar.” Photo by Barron Henzel.

Coronado Playhouse announces 80th season

Coronado News staff

Coronado Playhouse announces their 80th season, featuring a diverse assortment of main shows, including a free classic production, big musicals, new and exciting plays, theatre for young audiences and special events throughout the year, organizers said.

Coronado Playhouse has been a San Diego tradition since 1946. It is the oldest arts organization in Coronado, the oldest community theatre in San Diego County, and according to the Los Angeles Times, the longest continuously running playhouse on the West Coast. Since its inception, the Playhouse has produced over 600 productions. Countless performers, designers and patrons have been a part of the Playhouse’s colorful 80-year history.

“We look forward to celebrating our 80th year,” said Marc Caro-Willcox, the board president. “A 75th anniversary celebration was postponed due to the pandemic restrictions. So, we are eager to bring the celebration to 2025 and are hoping to announce anniversary events soon.”

The Playhouse has simplified pricing and will continue to offer all performances at \$27 per person.

They also offer a \$3 active military, student and senior discount, while group rates are available for parties of eight or more.

Shows are offered Thursday to Saturday at 8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m., with Sunday matinees almost always selling out.

“We listen to our patrons and are providing many show time options throughout the productions,” said Caro-Willcox. “And we work hard to keep ticket prices accessible while maintaining the highest quality we can using local talent. A big thank you to all our members, donors and patrons who help us in this endeavor.”

Meanwhile, the free Classic Series will continue for the 29th year, bringing audiences a quintessential Shakespeare that will appeal to the entire family.

Current season ticket holders can renew starting Aug. 5 by visiting coronadoplayhouse.org/2025-season/ or by contacting the box office at (619) 435-4856 or boxoffice@coronadoplayhouse.com.

New subscribers can purchase their season beginning Oct. 14. And single tickets will be available on Nov. 11.

The 2025 season line-up:

“Barbecue,” Jan. 10-Feb.2
“Barbecue,” a dark comedy, ex-

plores family dynamics and addiction through the O’Mallery family, who stage a ham-handed intervention for their sister Barbara at a local park barbecue.

“Curtains,” March 7-30
“Curtains,” the hilariously suspenseful musical comedy whodunit is set in the bright and promising year of 1959 when Boston’s Colonial Theatre hosts the opening night performance of “Robbin’ Hood,” a new musical. When the talentless leading lady mysteriously dies on stage, the entire cast and crew are suspects.

“The Mountain Song,” April 25-May 18
“The Mountain Song,” a captivating theatrical experience from PigPen Theatre Company, the same innovative team that created the Playhouse favorite “The Old Man and the Old Moon,” blends music, storytelling, and inventive stagecraft into a delightful tale of adventure and self-discovery.

The story follows a carpenter who climbs mountains and traverses rivers in order to attend his daughter’s wedding – without a clue as to where its taking place.

“As You Like It,” June 13-29
“As You Like It” by William Shakespeare is a whimsical exploration of love, identity, and pastoral life. Set in the enchanting Forest of Arden, the play follows the resourceful Rosalind as she flees persecution in her uncle’s court, accompanied by her loyal cousin Celia and the jester Touchstone.

“Head Over Heels,” Aug. 8-31
“Head Over Heels,” the vibrant jukebox musical, fuses an Elizabethan love story with the infectious pop-rock music of The Go-Go’s. Set in the mythical kingdom of Arcadia, the plot follows King Basilius and his family on a quest to save their realm from a dire prophecy.

“Pippin,” Oct. 10-Nov.2
With an infectiously unforgettable score, “Pippin” is the story of one young man’s journey to be extraordinary. Guided by a mysterious troupe of performers and led by the charismatic Leading Player, Pippin explores various paths, including war, political power, love and simple domesticity.

“Holiday Cabaret,” Dec. 12-14
In what has become a holiday tradition at Coronado Playhouse, past performers will present a holiday sing along.

The Coronado News is hosting a mayoral candidate forum

Coronado News staff

The Coronado News invites the community to attend a mayoral candidate forum on Sept. 24 from 5:30-7 p.m. in the Nautilus Room of the Coronado Community Center.

The forum will hear each of the 2024 candidates for mayor — John Duncan, Casey Tanaka and Mike

Donovan — answer questions about specific topics in Coronado.

This will be a moderated discussion and community members are encouraged to attend.

We want to hear from the community! What questions do you have for the mayoral candidates? Submit any questions or topics of discussion to newsroom@thecoronadonews.com.

More funding for the Tijuana sewage crisis is in the works

» Continued from Page 1

"I'm committed to securing every eligible penny possible, as soon as possible, so that South Bay and Coronado residents, Customs and Border Patrol officers, and the Navy SEALs who train off Coronado no longer have to worry about the health risks posed by water polluted with untreated sewage," said Peters in a written statement.

"Rep. Peters is committed to doing everything possible to make sure that any funding appropriated by Congress that could go to the cross-border sewage crisis will go to the cross-border sewage crisis," wrote Kelly Davis, Peters' press secretary, in an email. "It remains one of his top priorities."

The Senate bill authorized \$10 million for the Tijuana River Valley Watershed to help address the ongoing transboundary sewage crisis through stormwater conveyance, environmental restoration, and water quality protection projects, according to Padilla's announcement this month.

"California communities are bearing the brunt of climate catastrophes, from toxic sewage jeopardizing public health...I look forward to working with my House and Senate colleagues to make sure these critical California priorities become law," said Padilla.

The United States Section of the Boundary and Water Commission, which oversees wastewater treatment along the border, expressed appreciation for efforts from federal, state, and local partners to solve the transboundary flows originating in Tijuana.

“We are making repairs to our South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant and planning for its expansion as we actively monitor Mexico’s wastewater infrastructure improvements,” said Commissioner Maria Elena Giner in a statement. “I am committed to doing all I can to help eliminate the transboundary flows in the Tijuana River and canyons currently impacting so many communities.”



Pro surfer Jamie O'Brien premiered his latest film, "Chasing the Dream" at the Hotel del Coronado on Aug. 10.

Staff photo by Madeline Yang.

Jamie O'Brien surf film premiered at Hotel Del

» Continued from Page 1

The film, "Chasing the Dream," which documents the last two years of surf trips to places around the globe like Japan, Africa and Tahiti, drew about 400 people to the beach outside of the Hotel Del.

But with all the countries he's traveled to, O'Brien said he finds himself thinking about Southern California – which is why he wanted to start his surf school in Coronado.

The Jamie O'Brien Surf Experience

His surf schools are known as the Jamie O'Brien Surf Experience, and the Coronado school was started in July of 2023. His surf schools offer group and private lessons at their respective locations to anyone who wants to surf.

"It was cool to partner with the Del here with the surf school and, kind of, just show the world that we're here as well as give back to all the fans," O'Brien said as he signed posters. This was his first time hosting an event on the island.

Hundreds of fans lined up on the beach, holding surfboards, skateboards and other knick-knacks they wanted the pro-surfer to sign as the sun set behind them.

O'Brien was supposed to sign posters for just an hour before having an open invite paddle out before the debut of his film, but he signed posters for almost three hours, going through around 300 posters.

O'Brien has opened up other surf schools, two in Oahu and a third just this last year through a partnership with the Del.

"Southern California is such a large market for me and my demographic," O'Brien said, adding that

he chose Coronado because of the surf culture in California and the beginner-friendly waves.

And he wasn't wrong about his demographics as hundreds of surfers and fans gathered for the event.

"Grab your seat and get psyched," O'Brien said.

His fans yelled and whooped as scenes of him surfing barrels, cutting in and out of waves and spraying powder on his snowboard on the slopes of Japan played to hungry eyes.

The "Chasing the Dream" premier was two years of surfing in a 25 minute adventure film, and not one second was wasted for the Jamie O'Brien Surf Experience.

Those interested in taking part in the Jamie O'Brien Surf Experience can head to his website to book classes at <https://www.jobssurfsurfexperience.com/san-diego/>.

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NAVY

Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron welcomes new commanding officer

DVIDS

NAVAL AIR STATION NORTH ISLAND – The “Merlins” of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 3 welcomed a new commanding officer during an official change-of-command ceremony held at Naval Air Station North Island on Aug. 8.

This squadron is responsible for training pilots and air crewmen by providing the most capable warfighters to the fleet. They deploy expeditionary helicopter detachments to carry out naval special warfare, search and rescue, theater security cooperation, strike coordination and reconnaissance, anti-surface warfare, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions.

During the ceremony presided over by Capt. William “Easy” Eastham, Cmdr. Ian “Zoo” Adams relieved Capt. Thomas “Smokey” Butts as the 47th commanding officer of the squadron.

Butts, who hails from Erlanger, Kentucky, led the Merlins from August 2023 to August 2024. During his tenure as the 46th commanding officer, Butts managed multiple units.

Under his astute leadership, Butts directed the efforts of over 1,000 squadron personnel in the main-



Capt. Thomas Butts renders a salute to sideboys as he prepares to be relieved as the commanding officer of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 3, during a change of command ceremony held aboard Naval Air Station North Island in Coronado, California. *U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Sara Eshleman.*

tenance and operation of nearly 40 permanently assigned aircraft, and surpassed 17,722 cumulative Class A mishap-free flight hours. Following the

change of command, Butts is slated to report to Helicopter Sea Combat Wing, Pacific as deputy commodore.

“It has been an incredible honor to lead the Merlin Team here at HSC-3,” said Butts. “Although leaving command is bittersweet, I’m thrilled to see... Ian ‘Zoo’ Adams take the helm... Under his leadership, I look forward to seeing the Merlins continue their rich tradition of being the HSC standard bearers and Naval Aviation Enterprise community leaders.”

Adams, a native of Fairfax, Virginia, is joining the Merlins from his position on the Office of Naval Operations staff, where he served as a director of aviation requirements officer.

He graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 2005, earning a bachelor of science in political science with a minor in Japanese, and earned his wings of gold in May 2007.

“As we stand at the forefront of defending our great nation, I am committed to upholding the highest standards of training and readiness,” said Adams. “Together, we will ensure that our pilots and aircrew are prepared to face any challenge with skill, courage, and unwavering resolve.”

Weak spots in metal may have led to fatal Osprey crash

Associated Press

A gear crack that led to a fatal crash of a V-22 Osprey last year may have been started by weak spots in a metal used to manufacture that part, according to documents obtained by The Associated Press.

The November crash killed eight Air Force Special Operations Command service members. It was the second time in less than two years that a catastrophic failure of a part of the Osprey’s proprotor gearbox, which serves as its transmission, caused a fatal accident. In June of 2022, five Marines were killed when a different part of the proprotor gearbox system failed.

The crashes have led to an aggressive effort by the V-22 program office and manufacturer Bell Flight to find fixes for the critical system, which has had some components wear down earlier than the military expected. While investigators still don’t know for certain what caused either crash, this latest finding might hold some clues.

There’s no other aircraft like the Osprey in the fleet. It can speed to a target like an airplane then rotate its engines to land like a helicopter.

Program leaders have pointed out that the Osprey has been vital in special operations and combat missions and has flown hundreds of thousands of hours successfully.

But the aircraft also has a troubled crash history, and the proprotor gearbox has been a persistent problem.

Data gathered by The Associated Press through the Freedom of Information Act shows 609 proprotor gearboxes have been removed for repair in the past 10 years. Over the last five years, the Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force have reported 60 incidents involving the proprotor gearbox.

In the last week of July, the Air Force identified cracking in a pinion gear, a part that’s about the size of a large jar lid, as one of two factors that caused the crash off Japan. The Air Force also faulted the pilot and crew, because the Osprey sent six warnings during their flight that the proprotor gearbox was in trouble.

But additional crash report documents obtained by the AP show this is not the first time this metal has failed in Osprey proprotor gearbox components, although it was the first time it failed in this specific gear.

There have been seven previous cracking incidents in related gears that were likely caused by the same metal weakness, investigators reported.

It’s not clear if that information had previously been shared with the services, which could have led them to take a much more restrictive approach to how pilots were instructed to respond to any proprotor gearbox

warnings.

In a rare move, as part of the accident report released publicly, the Air Force faulted the V-22’s program office for not sharing data that could have better informed crews of the severity of the risk.

The pinion gears are located inside the proprotor gearboxes on each wingtip. The gearboxes take in power from the Osprey’s engines and process it to turn the Osprey’s masts and rotor blades.

To do that, the gears spin rapidly under extreme pressure. They can overheat and break off metal flakes, called chips, which can move through the transmission and destroy it. Loss of a proprotor gearbox is dangerous and can lead to loss of an aircraft and crew.

In the November crash, investigators believe the first of the six chip warnings was an indication that a crack in the pinion gear had already taken hold and it was fracturing off small metal flakes as it continued to spin. The warnings progressed as the gearing shed more debris and ultimately broke apart, leading to rapidly cascading failures throughout the Osprey’s entire drive system and the fatal crash.

In the supplemental crash documents, investigators said analysis of the recovered pinion gear pieces revealed multiple inclusions. An inclusion is a microscopic weak spot in metal caused by foreign substances getting mixed in during the manufacturing process. Those weak spots can lead to fatigue cracking.

The specific alloy used to manufacture the Osprey’s pinion gears is called X-53 VIMVAR. Crash investigators found multiple inclusions in the failed pinion gear and similar inclusions in a second pinion gear on the aircraft, the report said. While the inclusions were found to be within the microscopic size limits allowed, investigators noted that “initiation of a fatigue crack is dependent on the size of the inclusion and its location within the gear material.”

Investigators concluded they could not determine whether the inclusions led to the cracking. But they left open the question of whether there may have been larger inclusions that could have caused the cracking and were lost as the pinion gear broke apart. “If the pinion did crack due to an inclusion, the evidence was obscured by the secondary damage,” the report found.



Read the full story online. Scan the QR code with your smartphone camera, and tap on the link.



Rear Adm. Milton J. Sands relieves Rear Adm. Keith B. Davids, commander, Naval Special Warfare Command. *U.S. Navy photo my Mass Communication Specialist 1st Keypher Strombeck/Released.*

Change-of-command ceremony for Naval Special Warfare

DVIDS

SAN DIEGO – Rear Adm. Milton J. Sands III relieved Rear Adm. Keith B. Davids as commander of Naval Special Warfare Command during a ceremony at Naval Amphibious Base Coronado on Aug. 2.

Adm. Lisa Franchetti, chief of naval operations, attended the ceremony and provided welcoming remarks by thanking Davids for his innovative leadership in ensuring Naval Special Warfare (NSW) provides access and capabilities to the warfighter.

“You provided options to our nation’s decision makers every single day, keeping our most elite warriors—our naval commandos—at the forefront of the changing character of war, finding, testing and using new technologies and innovating to ensure that we would be postured and ready to respond to any threat anytime and anywhere,” said Franchetti. “Keith, you will leave behind an incredible legacy through those that you have trained, mentored and led, but you will also be known for your laser focus on prioritizing and reinvigorating the connection between the Fleet and Naval Special Warfare. This is a game changer for our nation.”

Davids assumed command of Naval Special Warfare Command in August 2022.

“As we speak, our teammates are conducting sensitive maritime missions in multiple theaters around

the globe,” Davids said. “They are closing gaps in national intelligence, strengthening strategic partnerships, helping friends and allies build their resilience, and fielding new capabilities that make the naval commando force extremely valuable to both the Joint Force and the Navy.”

The ceremony marks the end of a two-year command tour for Davids, whose operational tours include commander tours at SEAL Team Two, an executive officer of SEAL Team Seven and commanding officer of SEAL Team One.

“Life’s greatest gift is doing hard work that is worth doing with people you love,” Davids said to his friends, family, and staff. “The Navy and the Special Operations communities have allowed me to enjoy that for over three decades. To cap it off, serving with all of you has been the biggest honor of my life.”

Davids welcomed Sands and his family and spoke to the journey that lies ahead under his leadership.

“Today marks the dawn of a new chapter,” said Davids. “NSW’s future is extremely bright with Rear. Adm. Milton ‘Jamie’ Sands at the helm. I have no doubt you will continue to thrive under his strategic vision and leadership.”

NSW is the nation’s premiere maritime special operations force and is uniquely positioned to extend the fleet’s reach and deliver all-domain options for naval and joint force commanders.

SPORTS

CHS girls volleyball gears up for season with balanced lineup

Despite this being coach Adeile Ahmu’s smallest squad in her seven seasons of coaching, she believes it to be her strongest.

BY KYLIE CAPUANO
The Coronado News

Around 70 girls showed up to the Coronado High School girls volleyball tryouts from Aug. 1-3, and only 12 of them made the varsity roster – seven of whom are returners from last year. Despite this being coach Adeile Ahmu’s smallest squad in her seven seasons of coaching for CHS, she believes it to be her strongest.

“There was a lot of competition out there for all positions,” said Ahmu. “It was a tough year for tryouts. We had long deliberations at the end to try and keep the girls that were the strongest and most fit for the team. I think we did a really good job of choosing girls that can play multiple positions and share a lot of their skill across the board.”

Among the seven returning varsity players is last year’s co-captain and setter, senior Emily Page, who is committed to play for Biola University next fall. After getting a chance to see the new group in action during their first practice on Aug. 5, Page said she anticipates a successful season for the Islanders.

“There’s a lot of kinks to work out, but when we finally become a really united team, we definitely could win league – we have all the parts,” said Page.

This year, two freshmen join the varsity team. Middle hitter Emily Al-



The 2024-25 girls varsity squad. Back row (L-R) – Emily Albin, Maddie Davis, Ashlynn Proctor, Julia Josset, Lydia Schutt and Sadie Proctor. Front row (L-R) – Elle Bradbury, Sophie Petersen, Avalon Haro, Alyssa Jovero and Emily Page. Missing: Ariana Van Handel. Photo courtesy of Adeile Ahmu.

bin and outside hitter Ashlynn Proctor are expected to be big assets in the front row.

“The freshmen are really good,” said Page. “They’re probably what’s going to raise our season this year because we really needed their positions.”

Ashlynn Proctor is coming on as the second Proctor to line the roster. Her older sister, senior outside hitter Sadie Proctor, was a co-captain for the varsity squad last year and a major presence on the court.

“Both Sadie and Ashlynn play outside, which means they’ll be on the court the whole time,” said Page. “That’ll be a game changer because we’ll have two strong hitters – one back row and one front row – so I’ll be able to spread the ball around more.”

Similar to Page, Ahmu has high hopes that the Islanders will be able to run a wider range of plays with their hitters this season.

“Once we get our middles established and connecting with our setters, that’s going to be a very fun and

very fast game for us,” said Ahmu. “We’re going to be a pretty big powerhouse.”

The girls will be competing in the Division 2 Eastern CIF league, with their first game set at home for Aug. 13 against El Cajon’s Christian High School at 6:15 p.m.

While the Islanders expect some competition from Christian, they are also gearing up for games against Point Loma High School, University City High School, Scripps Ranch High School, and ultimately – another chance to take home the league title.

For the past two seasons, the Islanders have been knocked out in the first round of playoffs against Mission Vista High School in Oceanside. This year, they are hoping for a different outcome.

“We just have to work on trying to keep our mental game leveled and just being a little more calm out there on the court,” said Ahmu. “Even though we want to compete and we want to win, we also have to remember to have fun and that we’re out here because we love the game.”

As Sadie Proctor prepares to head into her last season after four years with the Islanders, she hopes to leave behind a positive impact for the years ahead.

“This season is really special for me, not only because I’m a senior, but this is also my younger sister’s first year,” she said. “It’s really cool for me to just kind of start leading the other girls even more and to take what I’ve learned from the past four years and pass it onto them and hope they will continue to do that.”

Angel Gomez clinches first international lawn bowling win

Before heading to Hong Kong this December for the World Bowls, the 18-year-old represented the U.S. in Calgary’s RoarFest Youth Open.

BY KATIE MORRIS
The Coronado News

In the early morning light of Calgary, Canada, an 18-year-old Coronado native with a poised, almost stoic expression, stepped onto the manicured green for his first singles match at the Bowls RoarFest Youth Open, an international tournament for lawn bowlers aged 25 and under.

The smooth, low hum of Icelandic jazz-pop filled his left ear, courtesy of an Apple AirPods discreetly nestled within, Laufey’s melodies offering a calm counterpoint to the palpable tension of the day.

Lawn bowling, a sport as contemplative as the music Angel Gomez favors, begins with the gentle roll of the jack – a small white ball – sent down the green to establish the target for ensuring the play. It’s a move requiring both precision and an almost philosophical patience, qualities that Gomez said he hoped to channel as he prepared to make his mark on the international stage.

At RoarFest, an event that unfolded from July 26-28 at Calgary Lawn Bowling Club, 18 athletes, all aged 18-25, represented the future of a sport often associated with more seasoned players.

Amid the predominantly Canadian field, Gomez stood out as the sole representative of the United States and the youngest participant.

Two years ago in Ireland, Gomez became the first U.S. player to compete in the World Bowls Junior Indoor Championship, and in 2023, he returned to play at the Worlds in Scotland. On top of winning various local and national tournaments in the past year, Gomez and his father, Javier, won the Southwest Division Pairs Playdowns last month.

The first day at RoarFest tested Gomez as he faced three singles match-

es back-to-back. In the first match, he secured a decisive win against Nathaniel Hui, taking the first set 8-3 and the second 6-4. The second match was tougher, with Curtis Wartman forcing a 6-6 tie in the first set. Gomez, however, edged out a 6-5 victory in the second set.

The final match against Mason Boyd was even more challenging, as Boyd won the first set 8-4. But Gomez fought back, winning the second set 5-3 and clinching the match in the one-end tiebreaker.

The ends – the rink’s vertical boundaries – define the starting line for the lawn bowlers who roll their four bowls as close as they can to a small white ball known as the “jack.” Points are awarded at each end after all bowls have been played.

Saturday shifted the focus to pairs, where the Point Loma Nazarene University sophomore teamed up with 23-year-old Amy Spence. Playing lead, Gomez was responsible for delivering the first bowls of each end, setting the pace and aiming to place the bowls as close to the jack as possible.

Spence, as the skip, played the final bowls of each end, perfecting their strategy and making crucial shots. In pairs matches, the players competed over 10 ends, rather than the seven played in singles.

Their game began with a narrow 7-8 loss in the first match and was followed by a tight 10-9 win in the second. Their third match saw them secure an 8-6 victory, only to fall 4-12 in the fourth.

Going into Sunday’s semi-finals, Spence and Gomez were tied for third place with two other pairs teams. However, they lost their first match 5-9, leaving them tied for fifth or sixth. The day ended with another defeat, marking the end of their pairs run.

Sunday was also the finals for singles matches, where Gomez played against Hui, both vying for first place.

Javier, who’s also Gomez’s coach, likened the sport to chess, emphasizing the strategic depth where players anticipate their opponent’s next



Angel Gomez played singles at the Bowls RoarFest Youth Open. Photo courtesy of Angel Gomez.

move.

“He had already been studying me throughout the games,” Gomez said, “so he was on a mission.”

Gomez started strong, winning the first set 8-3. The second set was competitive, with the score tied 4-4 as he and Hui approached the final end. Gomez knew that if Hui won this set, the match would go into a one-end tiebreaker.

Gomez said he adopted a relaxed attitude, feeling content with whatever the outcome might be.

“We were still having laughs out there on the green,” he said.

As Gomez approached his final bowl, the stakes were clear – he had to place it close to the jack to stay in control. His bowl rolled well, stopping just inches from the target, leaving Hui with a difficult shot.

Hui’s final effort missed the mark, leaving Gomez with a 5-4 victory and his first win at an international event.

“It was mind-boggling to me,” Gomez said. “Throughout the three days, my game had improved. I had never seen myself play that well before.”

Unbeknownst to him, Javier had signed him up to play in the 20 to

25-year-old category of the tournament.

“I knew Angel could play competitively since he plays in the world events with 25-year-old and older players, so there was no reason for me to change that,” Javier said. “If he didn’t win, it [the tournament] would be practice for the next event.”

Since picking up the sport in the summer of 2020, Gomez said his father has been there to help him out every single time, supporting him every step of the way.

Alongside his father’s backing, Gomez receives support from his mother, Martina, who serves as his manager and cheerleader and habitually says, “A family that bowls together, stays together.”

This September, Gomez and his father will attend the Bowls USA National Championships in Milwaukee, Wis., and in November, the U.S. Open in Sun City, Ariz. The following month, Gomez will return to the World Bowls Junior Indoor Championship, set to be hosted in Hong Kong.

“I’ve been mentally preparing myself for Hong Kong,” Gomez said. “I’m ready to tackle this.”

SPORTS

American Rai Benjamin finally gets gold in the 400-meter hurdles. He beat the world-record holder

Associated Press

Karsten Warholm has the world record. Alison dos Santos had the purple hair to match the purple track. Rai Benjamin?

The American who had consistently finished behind his Norwegian and Brazilian rivals in the 400-meter hurdles showed he's got staying power.

And gold now, too.

After three silver medals in the 400-meter hurdles at the Olympics and world championships, Benjamin convincingly beat Warholm and Dos Santos at the Paris Games on Aug. 9.

"I got it done," the 27-year-old Benjamin said. "It has eluded me so long. ... I don't think I ever doubted it. It was more just staying patient and keep showing up every day and something has to shake. I told myself, 'This has got to go my way at some point.' And it went my way today."

Benjamin clocked 46.46 seconds, finishing several strides ahead of Warholm (47.06) and Dos Santos (47.26).

Benjamin flashed a wide grin when he crossed the line and let out a scream while Warholm slammed his hand on track.

"To do it in front of my mom and my dad and my aunts and uncles and my friends from back in L.A.," Benjamin said. "That one was for them."

Benjamin trailed Warholm for most of the race, and landed awkwardly coming over the eighth hurdle. But he was able to straighten out his stride and then burst past the Norwegian over the final 100 meters.

"I just remember freaking landing awkward off seven and then eight came up and I had to reach because



Rai Benjamin, of the United States, celebrates after winning the men's 400-meter hurdles final at the 2024 Summer Olympics, Friday, Aug. 9, 2024, in Saint-Denis, France. AP Photo/Petr David Josek.

I landed so awkward and I was like, 'Please don't fall.' And then I had to reach for 10 and switch legs and at that point I was like, 'Please don't get walked,'" Benjamin said. "It wasn't particularly the quickest but we got it done."

Benjamin won silver behind Warholm when the Norwegian set the

world record at the Tokyo Games three years ago. He also took two silvers and a bronze at the last three world championships. That includes a runner-up finish to Brazil's Dos Santos on home soil at Hayward Field in Eugene, Oregon, in 2022.

Benjamin said he was hurt when he lost a great race in Tokyo, and also in-

jured in 2022 and 2023.

Not this time.

It was Team USA's 11th gold medal in track and field of these Summer Games.

Meanwhile, Clement Ducos crossed fourth in 47.76 as host France remained without a medal in athletics at its home games.

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SPORTS

After Paris Olympics shined, Los Angeles in 2028 brings new and returning sports, plus a fresh look

Associated Press

The Olympics will always have Paris. Next up for the Summer Games: Los Angeles 2028.

The baton was handed from one third-time Olympic host city to another at the closing ceremony on Aug. 11 in Paris, and much will be different in four years' time.

New sports will make their Olympic debuts, picked by organizers in LA who also are bringing back others that left the program more than 100 years ago.

While Paris had the Seine River, LA has the Pacific Ocean and its beaches.

Paris' unmatched historic buildings gave the city a cinematic look. LA's streets are a living history of film and television.

Here's a look at some things that will be different about the next Summer Games.

Flag football, squash and obstacle racing. Yes, “American Ninja Warrior”-style obstacle racing, to replace the horses and pep up modern pentathlon.

Sports that get invited into the Olympics typically are played across the world. In the modern Olympics, however, they also must be wanted by the host city.

Flag football is a good fit for Los Angeles organizers, who last year told IOC members before they voted that it represents “the future and the tip of the spear for American football’s international growth.”

Squash will join tennis and badminton as racket sports at the Games. Could padel or pickleball one day follow?

Squash lost out in several previous campaigns and, like flag football, now goes Games to Games with no guarantee of staying for the 2032 Brisbane Olympics.

Modern pentathlon has been an Olympics staple since 1912 but often has seemed close to being ousted. Equestrian is being replaced as one of the five disciplines as requested by the IOC after a horse was abused in Tokyo three years ago.

In comes obstacle racing in LA, aiming to make the sport more accessible and relatable.

Lacrosse last was played at the Olympics in 1908, cricket not since 1900.



As the Olympics close in Paris, Los Angeles will take the torch. The city will become the third city to host the games three times as it adds 2028 to the locally legendary years of 1932 and 1984.

AP Photo/Richard Vogel. File.

Both return in 2028 with eager support from Los Angeles organizers and in viewer-friendly short formats; Lacrosse in a six-a-side version, cricket in the aggressive, hard-hitting T20 version that does not require five days per match.

Lacrosse pays respect to the Indigenous roots of the sport: "It is truly authentic to the land we are on," LA 2028 chairman Casey Wasserman said Saturday.

Cricket has been coveted to connect especially with the more than 1.6 billion people in India and Pakistan.

“They are going to be paying attention to the Olympics like they never have,” Wasserman said. Cricket surely will be kept in 2032 by Brisbane, which is home to one of the sport’s most storied venues.

Baseball and softball have perhaps the most unusual modern Olympics story: out after the 2008 Beijing Games, back in at Tokyo in 2021, out in Paris, back in LA. Well, Oklahoma City, in softball's case.

Home to women's softball in 2028 is Devon Park that stages the Women's College World Series each

year, about 1,300 miles (2,100 kilometers) from the Pacific Ocean.

Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred has said he's open to allowing Major League Baseball players to participate in the LA Games, but significant challenges remain. Insurance policies for players like Shohei Ohtani and Aaron Judge, whose contracts are worth hundreds of millions of dollars, may be the biggest sticking point.

The next Summer Games start two weeks earlier than this one, with an opening ceremony on Friday, July 14.

There's no river in LA to match Paris' athlete parade on boats on the Seine, though it will use two stadiums instead of one: both SoFi Stadium and the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum will be in play.

Track and field is at the Coliseum — as it was in 1932 and 1984 — and now moves up a week, replacing swimming as the front-loaded anchor sport. That is because So-Fi must be converted into a spectacular temporary venue for swimming with seats for 38,000 fans. Races will move back into the second full week of action.

The July 30 end date in Los Angeles is the first time a northern hemisphere Summer Games will finish so early since the 1924 Olympics closed July 27 in Paris.

The Paris Olympics often looked incredible on screen. Los Angeles practically invented the look of modern cinema and television and is a creative hub of music and fashion.

The message here to LA is consistently: Don't try to copy Paris.

“Paris is the most beautiful city in the world,” Wasserman said Saturday. “The 2028 Games will be authentically Los Angeles.”

The IOC's head of Olympic broadcasting, Yiannis Exarchos, said LA "cannot redo a city (Paris) with a history of 500 years. LA speaks about the future, about new frontiers, about technology."

Road events such as marathons and cycling can show “where a big part of the mythology of the 20th century has been created, because of Hollywood,” Exarchos said in an interview.

"This is where I am more intrigued. I find interesting to see how we can recreate the television geography of L.A."

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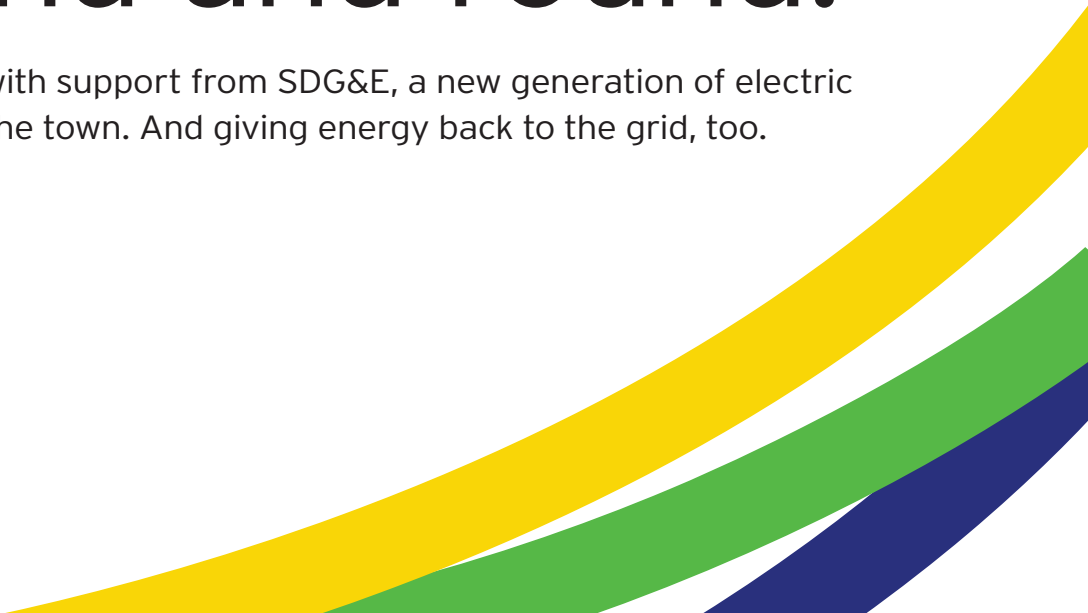
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