

## Q&A: Council candidate Mark Fleming, being a servant for the City

Mark Fleming, a former business chairman, shares plans to tackle issues with the same importance and timeliness.

BY JULIETA SOTO  
The Coronado News

Mark Fleming, 66, a retired business leader, is one of six candidates running for a City Council seat in Coronado's municipal election to be held on Tuesday, Nov. 5.

The 2024 council candidates running for the two open council seats are Fleming, Andrew Gade, Christine Mott, Amy Steward, Mike Warner and Laura Wilkinson Sinton. Three current council members — John Duncan, Mike Donovan and Casey Tanaka — are running for mayor.

Depending on the mayoral result, with one continuing incumbent position term, a third council member may be selected in the process. The Coronado News will be hosting a mayoral forum on Sept. 24 and the community is welcome to submit questions and topics for discussion.

Fleming said he looks forward to working on issues currently affecting Coronado including the Tijuana sewage crisis, stormwater infrastructure projects and the Cays Park Master Plan.

"My motivation for running is not focused on me, it's focused on being a servant for this city," said Fleming.

With more than 30 years of experience as a business owner of mid-size companies, Fleming said he has extensive experience managing budgets and schedules, while overseeing long range financial planning and projections. Fleming owned and operated one commercial electrical contracting company and a technology and innovation company providing services to the construction industry, according to his candidate website.

"I can dedicate myself to serving the needs of our special community, without needing to balance my time with a career," Fleming told The Coronado News, referring to the fact that he is retired. "I bring diversity that will be of benefit to our City Council in many ways, including my ability to evaluate our city's capital projects and dedicate the time necessary to effectively fulfill the duties of the office. I humbly ask for your vote this November."

The Coronado News reached out to Fleming and all candidates with questions to learn more about their priorities and philosophy. Responses have been edited for brevity and clarity, including additional information from a follow-up conversation.

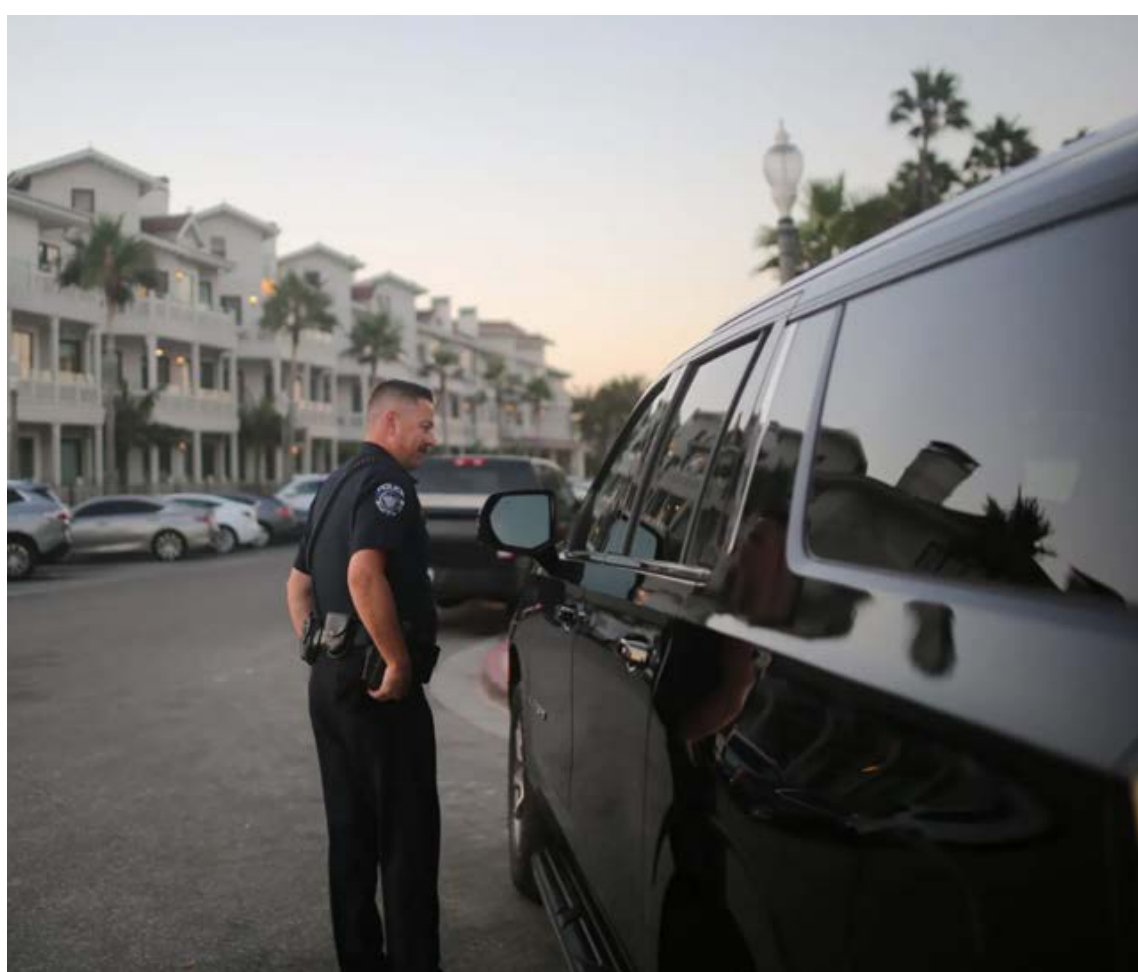
**Q:** Why did you choose to run for City Council?

**Fleming:** I decided to run for City Council because I see a lot of turn-over coming with our city leaders in this upcoming election. ...It's imperative that we elect leaders with the right experience and temperament that can help guide Coronado through the issues and challenges that we are faced with, while positioning our community for the future.

The Coronado News asked what set him apart in a follow-up interview.

**Fleming:** I sold my businesses; I'm retired; I am available to work up to full-time for the job. I'm

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Here, police officer Matthew Argandona is doing his rounds in Coronado during the night shift. Staff photos by Madeline Yang.

## A ride along with the Coronado Police Department

The Coronado News did a ride along with the Coronado Police Department to learn more about the peacekeepers of the island, like how the George Floyd protests affected them.

BY MADELINE YANG  
The Coronado News

His life is like a collection of short stories. Most lives are, but his are stories from 25 years of being a law man.

Coronado police officer Matthew Argandona has been keeping the peace in Coronado since 2019, and sitting in his black and white Chevrolet Tahoe, he feels right at home cruising the island. His beat is the west side of Orange Avenue, south of 6th St. to 10th St.

Coronado has 44 full time police officers and three reserves covering the community's nine-mile radius. From Aug. 15, 2023 to Aug. 15 of this year, they had 46,080 calls for service.

It's about 6:30 in the evening, and Coronado is washed in pink as the sun slowly goes down. Argandona is starting his 12-hour night shift, a coffee and pastry in hand. His uniform is clean and he just got a haircut, but he apologizes for a messy patrol car — it doesn't look that messy.

Argandona first drove a cop car when he was 16. His stepfather was an LA County sher-



Police officer Matthew Argandona is filing a case.

iff's sergeant and he took the wheel during a ride along. He'd known he wanted to be a police officer since he was a little boy. His stepfather had to get out of the car for an incident and then radioed in to ask Argandona to drive to him to pick him up.

Argandona beams as he tells this story. He says he was so excited to drive that car a few hundred feet, joking that the statute of

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Ian Barrows (L) and Hans Henken (R) won a bronze medal in sailing at the 2024 Olympics.

Photo by Phil Walter/Getty Images.

## Coronado native wins bronze in France, looks to become astronaut

BY CADE CAVIN  
The Coronado News

Coronado's very own Hans Henken joined former water polo Olympian Jesse Smith on the list of Islanders with Olympic medals this summer when he and his sailing partner Ian Barrows took home the bronze med-

al in Marseille, France. Finishing behind Spain and New Zealand, the American team placed third in the 49er event.

Henken said that the opportunity to compete in the Olympics was not something he took for granted, even though his experience in Marseille might have differed from many of the other

athletes.

"It meant the world to me; it was my childhood dream to compete at the Olympic Games and to finally complete that goal has been one of the best moments of my life," he said. "Since I competed at a satellite village,

» Continued on Page 13

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# this week

## 25 • sunday

If you are into cycling and enjoying the outdoors then this one is for you. The 17th annual Bike the Bay is a cycling event across the Coronado Bridge and around the San Diego Bay.

This event will take you on a scenic ride around San Diego Bay with the Bayshore Bikeway, which will take you through Coronado, Imperial Beach, Chula Vista and National City before finishing back at the start/finish line at Embarcadero Marina Park in downtown San Diego. Participants should register at <https://www.bikethebay.net/>

## 25 • sunday

The Avanti Flute Choir will present a summer concert at the Coronado Public Library on Aug. 25. The concert, which starts at 3 p.m. in the Winn Room, will feature the first movement of Symphony 25 by Mozart, as well as pieces by Viva la Vida, Under the Sea, and When I'm 64, among others.

## 26 • monday

Coronado Chamber of Commerce is hosting a mayoral forum at 6 p.m. in the Winn Room of the Coronado Public Library. Questions will focus on the vision and policies that impact Coronado's local businesses and economic development. Attendees have the chance to submit questions and must RSVP on Eventbrite.

### CONTACT US

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

To advertise contact Ad Executive Braeden Stegman at [braeden@thecoronadonews.com](mailto:braeden@thecoronadonews.com)

# Lamb's announces "The Importance of Being Earnest"

Coronado News staff

Lamb's Players Theatre announced the opening of its production of "The Importance of Being Earnest," which will run from Sept. 14-Nov. 10.

The production, which is noted as a "trivial comedy for serious people," is directed by Kerry Meads and produced by Robert Smyth.

Lamb's Players Theatre said that the show has been on their A-list to produce for many years, and Smyth became the organization's producing artistic director in 1985.

Featured cast members are: Geno Carr, Michael Lewis Cusimano, Brian Mackey, David McBean, John Rosen, Brian Salmon, Deborah Gilmour Smyth, Lauren

King Thompson and Rachael Van-Wormer.

Performances will run from Sept. 14-Nov. 10 on Wednesdays-Saturdays at 7 p.m. with matinee performances on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m.

Tickets range from \$38 to \$92, depending on the day of the week and the theatre's seating section. There are discounts available for seniors (66+) and veterans. Half-price tickets are available for active duty military, youth (ages 5-17) and young adults (ages 18-35) who join the theatre's free "under 35 club."

More information and tickets are available online at [www.lambplayers.org](http://www.lambplayers.org) or through the Lamb's Box Office by calling 619-437-6000, which is open Wednesdays – Saturdays from noon to 6 p.m.



Lamb's Players Theatre announced the production of "The Importance of Being Earnest" will run from Sept. 14-Nov. 10. Photo courtesy of Lamb's Players Theatre.

### PETS OF THE WEEK

## Meet Ravyn and Frenchy

PAWS of Coronado

Meet Ravyn! Ravyn is a sweet young 6-month-old all black German Shepherd.

Ravyn can be described as sweet, curious and engaging. Ravyn's foster reports that she loves playing with squeaky toys, exploring the trails and taking naps!

Ravyn is still getting the hang of all that this big world has to offer. Ravyn's inquisitive nature and friendly demeanor make her a delightful companion, always ready to explore and share new adventures.

Her playful spirit and affectionate personality ensure that she'll bring joy and love to any home.

Also, Meet Frenchy, a 1-year-old black and white domestic shorthair with a



Frenchy.

heart full of love! Though she may be shy at first, give her a little time, and she'll warm up to be your sweetest companion.

Once she feels safe, Frenchy turns into a total lovebug, ready to snuggle up and share her affection.

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](http://pawsofcoronado.org).



Ravyn.

# Expert Stroke Care, Close to Home



When someone is having a stroke, getting treatment quickly is crucial. Sharp Coronado Hospital is proud to be a nationally designated Primary Stroke Center.

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Learn more about Sharp Coronado's nationally recognized stroke program at [sharp.com/coronadostrokecare](http://sharp.com/coronadostrokecare).

**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

LISA BENSON



Lisa Benson 8-12  
Counterpoint Media

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JACK OHMAN

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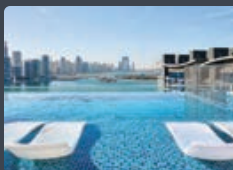


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## Attention, Coronado Art Collectors and Art Enthusiasts



Pauline Johnson- Brown  
Worldwide Art and Auction Advisor  
New York, San Diego, Washington D.C.  
San Francisco, Paris, London

I am very excited about introducing myself to the Coronado Community. Over the course of my extensive career in Real Estate and in Fine Art, I have been involved in unearthing hidden art provenances, achieving record auction results, as well as making gifts to major museums for my clients.

If you have art that you are curious to know more about and have considered selling, do not hesitate to call me. I will work as your liaison to assist you with Provenance Research, Preliminary No fee Valuations and access to the leading National and International auction houses. I will handle your art consignments and sales with the utmost integrity and discretion. As your Art liaison I will provide you with exceptional, discreet service.

Call or email today, I look forward to discussing your art with you!

Pauline Johnson-Brown

Email: [pjbrest@aol.com](mailto:pjbrest@aol.com) Phone: 646-438-0982

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# CORONADO



Dylan Matter is the ASB president for the 2024-2025 school year.  
Staff photo by Julieta Soto.

## Coronado's student representative to lead in a memorable year

**Dylan Matter, the 2024-2025 ASB President, is the new student representative at the district level.**

BY JULIETA SOTO  
The Coronado News

Dylan Matter vividly recalls the announcement that he was the new president of the Associated Student Body of Coronado High School (ASB) days after tireless campaigning in May.

"The whole classroom just like erupted. I walked out into the quad and some people were hugging me and congratulating me and shaking my hand and it was like such a cool experience," said Matter about the election he won against one other student.

Matter, 17, is a rising senior excited about leading the Coronado student body in 2024-25.

The Chula Vista resident has attended schools in Coronado since kindergarten and was once the fifth-grade class president at Village Elementary School. Matter said his two older sisters also attended Coronado schools.

"I think of it as like a second home; I'm always here. All my friends are here. This is where I spend most of my time," said Matter.

"It's gonna be fun this year," he added. "I'm excited and I want to make the most of it."

Matter said that his sophomore yearbook class pushed him to apply and be a part of ASB.

"My favorite part is really getting to know people," said Matter. "I feel like I can talk to any person. ...[ASB] breaks that barrier."

Former ASB president Wyatt Riebe presented Matter to the Coronado Unified board on the seniors' last day of school during the June 6 meeting to begin his role as president and school board representative.

"It was cool what I saw and I'm really excited to go back," said Matter. "I'm so open to sitting down with kids and being like 'Hey, what do you want to talk about? Is there anything you want heard?'...Now that I have a seat at the board, I feel like I can voice those opinions that kids necessarily wouldn't share otherwise."

This job includes reporting to the board on every school within the district on every upcoming events each month, added Matter.

Throughout the year, Matter will work alongside other ASB leaders, including the executive commission and class officers. This group got

the opportunity to collaborate and brainstorm ideas with other high schools at a camp at UC Santa Barbara.

"Ms. Belong, our ASB advisor, helps a lot. She does a great job of managing and kind of getting us on top of things...that's a big help," said Matter. "I couldn't do everything without my fellow ASB members, especially my Ex-Comm, they've done a great job just this summer alone."

Matter said that ASB has been meeting throughout the summer to begin planning for the year ahead and the first big event is the upcoming orientation for freshman and new students the day before school officially starts on Aug. 22.

Right now, ASB is focused on back-to-school activities, pep rallies and football season before transitioning to homecoming in October and eventually prom in the spring, added Matter.

"We're really trying to build culture and spirit this year," said Matter. "I want the whole school to enjoy coming to school."

Personally, Matter said he is looking forward to football games and homecoming at the beginning of the year and powderpuff by the end of the school year, an annual flag football game for juniors and seniors, where the girls play and the boys get the opportunity to cheer for the teams.

"A big goal of mine this year is to learn as many names as possible," said Matter. "I really just want kids to have fun this year."

Apart from building school spirit, Matter is also looking forward to preparing for graduation and life beyond.

Matter said his favorite classes have always been English and history. This summer, Matter got the opportunity to learn and practice journalism through a residential program at the University of Southern California.

"I love writing and going out and talking to people and that kind of led me on that program," said Matter. "USC is the goal."

Matter is interested in studying journalism in college and covering entertainment in the future, and he hopes to follow in his mother and sister's footsteps in continuing the Trojan legacy in his family.

"I think I've really gotten that high school experience that is like talked about in the movies," said Matter. "That's kind of why I joined ASB. I want kids to experience that. I really want other kids to enjoy going and feel the way I do about school."



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# CORONADO

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## CORONADO

# The New Coast Senior Softball League shares a day in the life at the ballpark

BY ELAINE ALFARO  
The Coronado News

Whoosh, whoosh, whoosh resounds from the dugout. A player in a blue t-shirt sweeps the cement floor of dust and dirt.

Well-loved, chipped bats lean on the fence by home plate. Cones mark the outfield.

The soft thud of a softball landing in a glove lilts on the slight breeze in Coronado Tidelands Park. Chuckles and banter set the scene as knee braces are slipped on.

It's about 9:30 a.m. and it's almost game time.

Four teams are slated to play on the two fields: red versus blue and green versus gold. The first pitch will be thrown at 10 a.m. There are about 50 people spread out across the teams, all of them age 55-plus.

"I need water and oxygen," one teammate calls out on the field. Laughter, in agreement, can be heard from the dugout.

While the pace of play might be a bit slower than when they were in little league, the passion and teamwork shines through.

"This is a noncompetitive league," John Meyers, a member of the green team and leader of recruitment, explained. "We don't keep standings, but that doesn't mean we're not competitive."

While many started playing softball in retirement, this hobby is simply a continuation of the athleticism many players exhibited throughout their lives.

Take Frank Lincavage on the red team and president of the NCSSL, for example. He's been playing with the senior softball league since 2011 but learned to play baseball many years before.

"I played little league up at Cadman fields," Lincavage said, referring to the San Diego ballpark. "Some of the other guys around here played with me back in the '60s."

Likewise, Troy Chang, who also grew up in San Diego, has played softball her whole life.

"I play five days a week now that I'm retired," Chang said. "I've never stopped playing softball."

Chang plays softball with a handful of teams (including the red team in Coronado). She's also the red team manager, which means she sets the lineup each Thursday.

"I figure out who I have," Chang said. "I have a spreadsheet. Whoever is not there, I color code them out, so I'm ready to go."

For others, game-day preparation looks different. Meyers, for example, volunteers his time to set up the field. He said he connects with other players through the time spent together before the first pitch is even thrown.

"I've always been the kind of person who likes to do volunteer work plus it's good exercise," Meyers said. "Dave [Surh] and I have become very close because we both set the fields up here and on Tuesday."

Many players spend their time on a softball field multiple days a week with other teams and leagues.

But the reason Paul Kotas, a player on the gold team, continues to play in this league is community (banter and all).

"We're all leftover athletes," Kotas said. "We're competitive and stuff, so we come out and try to win and keep in shape. But mostly, it's about the banter in the dugout."

Kotas started playing softball with this league when his dad was still a part of it.

"That's how I started coming out," Kotas said. "They made a special rule for me because I wasn't old enough when I first started."

Bill Saloni, a manager and



John Meyers (left), Paul Kotas, Bill Saloni, David Surh and Frank Lincavage (right) gather for a photo before their softball games on Aug. 15, 2024. Photos by Elaine Alfaro.

player on the green team, was standing next to him when he shared this story. Saloni quipped with a grin, "That was our first mistake."

Chuckles float through the group. A competitive edge and tough skin to put up with the banter are required to make it in the league, but as Kotas added, "all good company."

The first pitch is thrown and the green and gold rivalry begins. On the adjacent field, the red and blue teams are in play too.

"Ball one," the umpire calls.

Early in the game, Kotas hit the ball to the outfield.

Crack

Kotas tosses his bat to the side and takes off. He makes it to first base with ease, but the umpire calls time before he can round to second. He stays at first.

"I called time. I called time," the umpire calls out. The next batter steps up.

The rules of softball here are a bit different. Each team gets a max of five runs per inning and unlimited runs in the final inning. The goal is to keep the game moving and to level the playing field.

While the league has been around for quite some time, Meyers explained it's not always easy to find new teammates to join the league.

"I think it's harder," Meyers said. "The whole volunteerism thing and people having freetime, it's gotten harder and harder for people. But, I would say our success rate, if we get people out here, 90% of them stay, unless they get injured when they first get out here."

The secret, he said, to staying fit and healthy: keep at it every week

"That's the secret we're looking for," one teammate chuckled.

Meyers said the other thing that makes the league special is the reminiscent experience of playing as a kid.

"When we used to play as kids, people used to just grab a bat and ball and play in the morning. If your parents see you by dinner time, you were lucky," Meyers said. "It's just a different way of life and you sort of grew up that way. That's part of the reason why we feel like continuing that spirit of going out and playing together as a group."

Whether in their late 50s or clearing mid 80s, there's a range of



A red team member sits in the dugout. Teammates' gear hang on the chain link fence.



A green team member makes it to first base in the green-gold game.

ages on the field working hard to catch the pop fly or hit the desired homerun.

In the second inning of the green and gold game, there was a bit of comedic chase between second and third base and even a home run scored by the gold team.

Rounding home base, a teammate yelled, "Man, you whacked that one!"

While the competitive energy and desire to win is felt across the board, at the end of the game, all of that gets swept out of the dugout, according to David Surh, who plays on the gold team.

"Most of us don't even know the

score at the end of the game," Surh said. "We just enjoy being here and [having camaraderie] with the other team. That's the bottom line."

The New Coast Senior Softball League (NCSSL) plays every Thursday from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Coronado Tidelands Park, located at 2000 Mullinex Drive. The annual membership fee is \$80 for all players. They will still accept new players after the membership deadline passes.

Meyers said bats and gloves are available to borrow to try out if you're new and don't have gear.

To learn more about the NCSSL, visit <https://www.ncssl.org/home>.

# CORONADO

## This Coronado Promenade Concert performer's first gig was on Orange Avenue

Matt Heinecke will perform with his band for the Coronado Promenade Concert Series on Aug. 25.

BY SOFIE FRANSEN  
The Coronado News

At the ripe age of 15, Matt Heinecke walked into Cafe 1134 on Orange Avenue, now Parakeet Cafe, to see about regularly performing at the restaurant.

Guitar in hand and prepped with a five-song repertoire, he auditioned for the owner, Rick Chapman, who currently owns Coronado Brewing Company.

Chapman gave the go ahead and told him to come back the following Friday to play for three hours — to which Heinecke immediately realized he would need to prep more songs in order to fill that time.

“Rick was amazing and let me come back every two weeks,” Heinecke said. “He could have laughed me out of the shop, but instead gave me a life changing opportunity. By the end of the summer I had enough material and equipment and it became my regular gig for the rest of high school.”

Now, with a much more extensive song list and 20-plus years of professional performances, this singer/songwriter has been featured all over — from Coronado to Nashville and Los Angeles.

And, on Aug. 25, Heinecke will perform in Spreckels Park at 5 p.m. as part of the Coronado Promenade Concert Series with four others in his band.

Heinecke's unique style of guitar draws on a wide range of influences, including folk, classical, rock, jazz, country and bluegrass.

He is the band director at Coronado High School and Coronado Middle School, as well as the director of Coronado School of the Arts' instrumental music program.

He has been performing in Coronado Promenade Concerts for a decade.

“My band first performed in 2014 and have played most years since,” Heinecke said. “I love seeing the



Coronado's Matt Heinecke will perform with his band at Coronado Promenade Concerts on Aug. 25.

Photo provided by Matt Heinecke.

*“I love seeing the community come together and connect with the music, and I try to attend each week no matter who is playing. It's one of my favorite parts of living here.”*

- Matt Heinecke

community come together and connect with the music, and I try to attend each week no matter who is playing. It's one of my favorite parts of living here.”

Coronado's summer concert series will come to a close with a performance by It's Never 2L8 on Sept. 1.

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# CORONADO



Robert Redford stars in "The Natural," which will play at Village Theatre on Aug. 28. Photo courtesy of Coronado Island Film Festival.

## The Coronado Island Film Festival presents "The Natural" on Aug. 28

Coronado News staff

The Coronado Island Film Festival (CIFF) is bringing the beloved 1983 baseball classic, "The Natural," as their monthly classic movie selection for August.

Join CIFF on Wednesday, Aug. 28, at Coronado's 1947 Village Theatre, 820 Orange Avenue, to see the film on the big screen. Doors open at 5 p.m. for complimentary adult beverages, followed at 5:30 by a vintage cartoon and the feature presentation. Tickets are \$15 and are on sale now at coronadofilmfest.com.

The cast includes Robert Redford, Robert Duvall, Glenn Close, Kim Basinger, Wilford Brimley, Barbara Hershey, Robert Prosky and Richard Farnsworth. The film is based on Ber-

nard Malamud's 1952 novel and was directed by Academy Award-winning director Barry Levinson (Rain Man, 1988).

It was nominated for four Academy Awards, including Best Supporting Actress for Glenn Close.

Film critics have noted that, unlike most Hollywood actors who have starred as baseball players down through the years, Robert Redford as Roy Hobbs in the 1983 classic "The Natural," actually looks the part.

Redford, who celebrated his 88th birthday Aug. 18, was 47 when he filmed "The Natural," portraying Hobbs at ages 19 and 35.

Next month on Sept. 25, CIFF will present the powerful war drama "Saving Private Ryan." Tickets are available now at coronadofilmfest.com.

## The Coronado News is hosting a mayoral candidate debate

Coronado News staff

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

The debate 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.

## Heads of U.S. Military libraries worldwide visit Coronado



The heads of all U.S. military libraries worldwide visited the Coronado Public Library recently as part of their annual meeting.

The directors discussed their work and trends in the field with Coronado Library staff. The Coronado Library has "such a great selection of resources for military members and veterans," said Marine Corps Library Program Director, Elán Marae Birkeland. "We were inspired" by our visit. Pictured left to right: Air Force Library Chief Angela Aschenbrenner, Navy General Library Program Manager Brandy Stevens, Coronado Public Library Director Shaun B Riley, Marine Corps Library Program Director Elán Marae Birkeland, and Army MWR Library Chief Christina Kruger.

Photo courtesy of the Coronado Public Library.

## Q&A: Council candidate Mark Fleming, being a servant for the City

» Continued from Page 1

fortunate enough to be in a position where I can dedicate that amount of time to serve the city's needs. ...I'm certainly putting a focus on that because I think it's important, number one, and number two I believe that it's something that sets me apart from some of the other candidates.

**Q:** During your time living in Coronado, what is your record of civic involvement?

**Fleming:** Since selling my companies and retiring, I have supported the Sharp Hospice Care Benefit Regatta (including the use of our boat for the event), supported Generate Hope Association, supported Friends of Children United Society (FOCUS) and I am an active member of the Rotary Club of Coronado.

**Q:** Can you spell out specific plans you'd advocate for fixing the storm-water infrastructure?

**Fleming:** The City of Coronado is generally a low-lying area, which adds to the challenge of preventing flooding during 100-year and 1000-year storm events like we have experienced over the past several years. In addition, there are certain areas within Coronado that are more susceptible than others to flooding, such as the Fourth Street and I Avenue intersection, the 5-point intersection at Pomona, and the Country Club area.

Fleming later offered a detailed account of the steps he'd take to prevent and respond to flooding, including improved street designs and pump systems.

**Fleming:** If we are not already doing so, we should be performing a risk assessment on the entire storm water system to identify any potential weaknesses and developing a plan to address those weaknesses. It is important to have redundancy built into the system whenever and wherever reasonably possible. This includes redundant pumps and control systems, redundant power sources to ride us through power outages, etc.

**Q:** What are tangible examples of efforts you've made with the Tijuana



Mark Fleming at his home in Coronado. Staff photo by Madeline Yang.

sewage crisis, or what do you hope to do during your time in office? Will you push for Coronado to declare a local emergency for the ongoing Tijuana sewage crisis?

**Fleming:** The good news is that with a plan in place, funding appropriated, and shovels already in the ground, there is light at the end of the tunnel on this issue. Coronado has played an important part in this effort through the work of the council subcommittee that led the charge. With Mayor [Richard] Bailey ending his service, I would seek appointment to this committee to continue seeing the projects through to completion. Once complete, it'll be important to continue monitoring sewage flows from the two treatment plants and make sure water quality testing is accurate.

With an emergency declaration, an agency can resolve a problem in an expeditious manner by passing bureaucratic procedures such as waiting for regularly scheduled council meetings to make decisions, forgoing procurement requirements to solicit from multiple vendors, eliminating mandatory periods of review, and implementing temporary policies to protect the health and safety of residents. As it relates to the Tijuana sewage issue, although Coronado is impacted, the problem does not originate in Coronado so we would be ineligible for funding or any other type of

relief with an emergency declaration.

Fleming further articulated his stance on an emergency declaration for the sewage pollution.

**Fleming:** I don't think the City of Coronado declaring a state of emergency is going to do a thing to help to move this along any faster. ...We should be putting pressure on our elected leaders representing the state of California in Washington, D.C. They're the ones that should be advocating this on our behalf, and that's been slow coming around.

**Q:** What is your stance on the Cays Park Master plan?

**Fleming:** I view the master plan as a wish list and the truth of the matter is, many of the items are too costly for the value they would provide to our residents. Each one of the projects should be considered with an up or down vote so we can pare back the spending to a more reasonable level while providing the recreational outlets that our residents value. We have many dog lovers that enjoy the dog run, youth soccer players that learn social skills and life lessons from organized sports, an active tennis and pickleball community that deserve great facilities, and we also have an aging fire station that needs to be replaced. Investment in the Cays Park is needed, but the current plan is more than is necessary.

**Q:** What is your stance on the af-

fordable housing allocation?

**Fleming:** Coronado is already the most densely populated city in San Diego County (as measured by population over land use authority area) and it is unfair to expect us to increase our density without any consideration for existing infrastructure, parking congestion and traffic congestion. The state should be looking at more rural areas where it is easier and more affordable to build middle-class housing.

**Q:** City-wide ordinances have not been implemented for things like a single-use plastic ban. Where do you stand on this?

**Fleming:** Before passing any ordinance, it's important to have a clear and quantifiable objective as well as an understanding of the city's role. I do not believe it would be appropriate for the City of Coronado to dictate to Vons, Boney's, Smart and Final and the other stores in town that they can no longer sell water, Gatorade, vitamin water, sodas and numerous other beverages in plastic bottles.

Fleming further noted he is not against such an ordinance.

**Fleming:** I am not opposed to eventually eliminating the use of single-use plastic containers. My concern is Coronado taking that step and really having very little effect as far as improving the environment here, but instead hurting our businesses. ...It will actually drive more people that want to buy Gatorade and so on and so forth to the shopping in stores across the bridge rather than doing it locally...The plastics are still going to be coming.

**Q:** Do you favor an ordinance with greater E-bike regulations?

**Fleming:** E-bikes can be a great transportation alternative, and they have grown in popularity amongst much of our population. However, it is clear the way some riders are operating the E-bikes is unsafe. This problem is not limited to Coronado, and I am pleased the State of California is taking action by passing statewide ordinances which I fully support our police officers enforcing.

## CORONADO

# Father-and-son team of Eugene and Dan Levy to co-host the Emmys

Associated Press

Eugene Levy and Dan Levy will make history at the Emmy Awards next month as the first ever father and son co-hosts.

“We are thrilled to welcome two generations of comedy genius to the Emmy’s stage as hosts,” said Television Academy Chair Cris Abrego in a statement on Aug. 16.

The Levys cleaned up at the 2020 Emmys — the year the winners appeared remotely due to the pandemic — thanks to their hit series “Schitt’s Creek.”

Eugene Levy won for outstanding comedy actor and Dan Levy won for best supporting comedy actor. Dan Levy also picked up wins for writing and directing, while both won the outstanding comedy series trophy as executive producers.

“For two Canadians who won our Emmys in a literal quarantine tent, the idea of being asked to host this year in an actual theater was incentive enough,” the Levys said in a statement. “We’re thrilled to be able to raise a glass to this extraordinary season of television.”

The Levys will be the first-ever father-son hosts at the Emmys and the first duo to do it since 2018 with “Saturday Night Live” stars Colin Jost and Michael Che.

The 76th Emmys air live in Los Angeles on Sept. 15 on ABC, and streams the next day on Hulu.

Eugene Levy isn’t just a co-host this year — he also nominated for his Apple TV+ series “The Reluctant Traveler With Eugene Levy,” the unlikely wedding of a droll and cautious host with some of the most beautiful places on Earth.



Eugene Levy, left, and Dan Levy appear at the 71st Primetime Emmy Awards in Los Angeles on Sept. 22, 2019. Photo by Jordan Strauss/Invision/AP, File

## A ride along with the Coronado Police Department

» Continued from Page 1

limitations had run out by now and he could admit he drove the car.

And now, Argandona patrols the beaches, taking bites from his pastry as passersby wave at him. One calls him over because of a stingray incident, asks for a Band-Aid, then kids with Argandona about taking a picture with the cop car.

“They were absolutely comfortable to joke around and flag me down in the first place and say, ‘Hey, listen, this is a problem I have,’ You know, as simple as a Band-Aid,” Argandona says, reflecting on the stigma around police officers.

He started in Coronado just months before the George Floyd protests.

“Last couple of years, we kind of, you know, took a beating there,” he says, referring to public criticism of police.

But Coronado has always been tremendously supportive of law enforcement, Argandona adds.

“If we’re not reevaluating how we do our business, then we’re going to fail,” he says. “It would be irresponsible for us not to reevaluate how we do things.”

He had friends at other agencies who were wary of going out during the unrest, he notes, and they had talked about the declining number of police officers since 2020.

According to the Public Policy Institute of California, California lost 2,100 sworn police officers and 1,100 civilian staff — around 4.5% of the entire police force, from 2020 to 2021. The following year, police forces lost another 3% of their employees.

“But, you know, they’re just as dedicated as I am,” Argandona says about his friends in the force. “They’re going to put the uniform back on, they’re going to go out there and do it.”

Argandona loves being a police officer, he says, and there’s nothing else he’d rather do. Even on the night shift, he laughs.

He drives around slowly, noting the things he automatically watches out for.

He points out the e-bikes, saying that those have been a problem in the past with kids speeding or being reckless.

He mentions a busy downtown sidewalk where teenagers like to hang out.

“The kids here are absolutely cool,” Argandona says with a laugh. “They’re so respectful, it’s hard to be upset at them.”

He hops out of the car. He says foot patrols show a uniform presence and provide an opportunity to look for municipal code violations. He takes his sunglasses off joking that he doesn’t want to look like the Terminator walking around town.

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s (FBI) Uniform Crime Report (UCR) from 2022, there were 54 violent crime incidents and 57 offenses reported by the Coronado Police Department to the FBI.

An incident is defined as one or more offenses committed by the same offender, or group of offenders acting in concert, at the same time and place, according to the UCR program.

There were no homicides, 13 rape incidents, six



Police officer Matthew Argandona helping beachgoers. Staff photos by Madeline Yang.

robberies and 35 aggravated assault incidents reported in 2022.

But even though Coronado seems like the picture-perfect town with minimal crime, it doesn’t make this job less serious, and Argandona says he doesn’t take it lightly.

“You understand and realize that this job carries those responsibilities and potential dangers, different than anywhere else,” Argandona explains. “Interacting with people, you know, it’s a constant reminder of the expectations. And it’s a weight I’m willing to bear, to be out there to serve the community.”

He also says that Coronado doesn’t do anything differently than the other agency he worked at in Imperial County as a police officer.

“The way [Coronado police officers] approach the job, the mindset, the intelligence that they bring in doing this job — very impressed,” he adds. “Very impressed with the organizational structure.”

Later that evening, around 8:30 p.m., he gets a call about a problem on the bay bridge — a sensitive subject.

He doesn’t like to talk about prospective jumpers. “It’s very serious and it’s a tragedy for the families that have to be involved with that after, and bystanders who actually have to witness that,” he says grimly.

The Coronado Bridge is under the California Highway Patrol’s jurisdiction but the Coronado Police Department also gets the call if there is a potential jumper or other issue.

Coronado officers help direct traffic or shut down the entire bridge, which Argandona says they don’t



This image shows surveillance footage on a 24/7 loop at the Police Department.

like to do because there are only two ways to drive onto the island — the bridge and the Silver Strand.

As he approaches the bridge, red and blue flashing lights reveal where the incident is. He sees that it is just a U-Haul trailer that got unhitched. Two other police units are already there and helping.

He drives back into Coronado, the sky is darkening.

Out of all that he does — all 25 years of the excitement and sadness and scariness of being a police officer — he knows that being with the community is the biggest part of his job.

“The most important thing? Easily — continuously maintaining the public trust,” Argandona says. “That’s just not a fluff statement, or the right thing to say. It is absolutely fundamentally important to maintain that trust.”

# NAVY

## USS Halsey returns to Naval Base San Diego

DVIDS

The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Halsey returned to Naval Base San Diego Aug. 16, following a seven-month deployment to the U.S. 7th Fleet.

Halsey departed San Diego on Jan. 10 as part of the Theodore Roosevelt Carrier Strike Group and served as a carrier escort before detaching to conduct independent operations in the Indo-Pacific region.

"I am tremendously proud of my sailors' sense of ownership and dedication to each other and the mission," said Cmdr. Sara Lynch, Halsey's commanding officer. "We operated successfully across a wide spectrum of operations with allies and partners from around the world and displayed the

immense capability of Halsey sailors and the U.S. Navy."

While deployed, Halsey conducted operations across multiple warfare areas, providing regional stability and supporting a free and open Indo-Pacific. Halsey participated in various multi-nation exercises such as Noble Dingo, Milan, Tiger Triumph, Tenacious Trident, and Valiant Shield, which reinforced America's commitment to allies and partners throughout the Indo-Pacific region and increased force interoperability.

"I am incredibly proud of this crew for always rising to the occasion," said Lynch. "I am also extremely grateful to the families and friends back home who supported our sailors during these last seven months."



**Logistics Specialist Seaman Zion Dunnhedgepeth assigned to the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Halsey (DDG 97) reunites with family during the ship's homecoming at Naval Base San Diego on Aug. 16.** U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Maria G. Llanos.



**U.S. Marine Corps Capt. Ruben Pickering, is welcomed from a routine deployment at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California, Aug. 10, 2024.** U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Bryant Rodriguez.

## Sailors assigned to USS Somerset return home

DVIDS

Marines and sailors assigned to elements of the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, who embarked aboard the amphibious transport dock of USS Somerset, returned home on Aug. 10 after a seven-month deployment in the U.S. 3rd and 7th Fleet areas of operations.

"Our team aboard Somerset played a critical role in strengthening bonds with our partners and conducting training that informs the service," said U.S. Marine Corps Col. Sean Dynan, commanding officer of the 15th Expeditionary Unit. "They set the tone and emphasized the impact our capabilities bring to the Indo-Pacific, and even more so when combined, side-by-side our partners."

The unit participated in Exercise Rim of the Pacific 2024 held on the island of Oahu, Hawaii, as their final stop before returning home to San Diego.

Cobra Gold, the largest joint exercise in mainland Asia, was the first exercise for Somerset and the team. Marines and sailors conducted three combined, joint all-domain operations events alongside partners from Thailand, Republic of Korea and Japan, with 26 other nations participating in other training events. They included an amphibious assault exercise, noncombatant evacuation operation, and a combined arms live-fire exercise.

"Our Marines took advantage of every opportunity to learn and immerse themselves into the cultures of these great countries we had the opportunity to visit," said U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Col. Lindsay Mathwick, commanding officer of Combat Logistics Battalion 15 and commander of troops aboard Somerset. "Our allies and partners are our greatest strength, and it is inspiring to see the way our Marines were able to integrate on the training grounds and build relationships that they will truly never forget."

Somerset is part of the Boxer Amphibious Ready Group and 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit team, which is a flexible, self-sustained crisis response force, capable of conducting operations from combat missions to humanitarian aid and disaster relief. This team is the premier crisis-response force in the Indo-Pacific region.

## Coronado boy scouts visit Naval Air Station North Island

DVIDS

The Boy Scouts of America Coronado Troop 801 visited the Center for Security Forces Detachment North Island to earn their aviation merit badge on Aug. 2.

According to scouting.org, the Boy Scouts of America, formed in 1910, aims to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices throughout their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the scout oath and scout law.

"It's not only my job to teach survivor skills, but as a leader, I'm always trying to train my replacement to maintain the proud tradition of the U.S. Navy," said Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Curtis Williams, a survival instructor at Detachment North Island. "What better way to do so than to interact with today's youth and show them what the Navy has to offer."

There are more than 135 merit badges for scouts to earn as they learn about topics ranging from sports to crafts, science and trades, business and more.

Some of the requirements for scouts to earn the aviation merit



**The Boy Scouts of America Coronado Troop 801 participate in various survival exercises during a visit at Center for Security Forces Detachment North Island. The visit was part of a larger Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet tour for the scouts to earn their aviation merit badge.** DVIDS courtesy photo.

badge include describing the uses of aircraft today, explaining the operation of piston, turboprop, and jet engines, picking a career opportunity in aviation and finding out the education, training, and experience required for that profession.

Part of a naval aviator's training is to learn survival skills should their aircraft go down in a remote region or behind enemy lines in times of combat. During their visit, the scouts observed various survival skills demonstrations and participated in sev-

eral exercises.

"I was most impressed by how all the scouts were very engaged and knowledgeable about different survival elements," said Aviation Electrician's Mate 1st Class Trevor Lamoreau, survival instructor at Detachment North Island. "That made for a very interactive visit, and instilling the pride and professionalism of the Navy and Marine Corps helps develop the younger generation."

All 18 scouts earned their aviation merit badge.

## Coronado-based carrier USS Abraham Lincoln accelerates transit to Middle East

BY SOFIE FRANSEN

The Coronado News

The Coronado-based aircraft carrier, the USS Abraham Lincoln, is en route to the Middle East with a strategic assignment to defend Israel should an attack from Iran ensue.

According to the U.S. Naval Institute (USNI), the 1,092-foot long carrier, equipped with a squadron of F-35C Lightning II jets from Marine Corps Air Station Miramar and a squadron of MH-60S helicopters from Naval Air Station North Island, left the South China Sea on Aug. 16 and is in the Indian Ocean.

This decision is strategic, an order from Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin to strengthen the United States military's force posture in the Middle East, according to an Aug. 11 release from the Pentagon.

According to USNI, Austin spoke with Israeli Minister of Defense Yoav Gallant on Aug. 11, affirming the U.S. military's commitment to Israel.

"Secretary Austin has ordered the USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group, which is equipped with F-35C fighters, to accelerate its transit to [U.S. Central Command], adding to the capabilities already provided by the USS Theodore Roosevelt Carrier Strike Group," Pentagon spokesman Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder said.

But, is a deliberate placement of a U.S. aircraft carrier going to prevent any further attacks, or is it the very thing that could spark a wider regional war?

Gordon Gray, the Kuwait professor of Gulf and Arabian Peninsula affairs at George Washington University and former U.S. ambassador said that he thinks in this case, the announcement of the deployment of the carrier strike group is intended to deter Iran rather than to escalate the situation.

"The message for the Iranian regime is unmistakable: you need to very carefully consider the consequences of any attacks you or your proxies carry out," Gray said.

The United States is concerned that Iran will retaliate against Israel for the July 31 assassination of Hamas political wing leader Ismail Haniyeh. Due to the regional



**File Photo: ARABIAN SEA (June 3, 2019) The sun sets behind the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72).** Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Jeff Sherman/Released.

tension that followed this assassination, Austin ordered the carrier to "accelerate its transit" to take every possible step to defend Israel.

"No doubt, many Iranians view U.S. support of the current Israeli war effort as yet another act of American aggression in the Middle East," Gregory Daddis, professor of history at San Diego State University and USS Midway Chair in modern U.S. Military History, said. "We should ask if sending another aircraft carrier to the region would support or dispel those views."

Daddis, who regards the Oct. 7 Hamas terrorist attacks as unconscionable, said the U.S. is funding an Israeli military response that far exceeds what he personally thinks is justified.

"The trouble with deploying a carrier as part of a 'signaling strategy' is that you can't be sure what signal is received, nor how it is understood," Daddis said. "Moreover, different actors—Israelis, Palestinians, Iranians, Jordanians, to name but a few—all will take very different 'signals' from our actions. We may be trying to send a message of deterrence, warning Iranians not to escalate, but there's no guarantee that is the message they will hear."

## SPORTS

# Coronado High School football set to kick off 2024 campaign

BY CADE CAVIN  
The Coronado News

The Coronado Islanders will kick off their 2024 football season on August 23 at Coronado High School against Hilltop High School, looking to improve from their 3-8 record last year.

After a promising 3-3 start to the 2023 campaign, the Islanders dropped a nail biter to Crawford High School 28-27, and then proceeded to lose the final four games of the season.

The 2024 edition of Islanders football will begin the season ranked No. 787 in the state of California and No. 66 in the San Diego City Section.

Head Coach Kurt Hines said that despite losing key contributors from a season ago, such as quarterback/running back/free safety Graham Bower, who led the team in total touchdowns and tackles-per-game, he is ready for the season to start up already.

"I'm more amped up for this season than I have been for the last 27 years I've coached high school football," Hines said. "Offensively and defensively, we are always evolving to fit our personnel."

Adapting to make up for missing production will be a key to the success of the team this year, but the Islanders are not a team without impactful returning talent.

Among the leaders: senior quarterback RJ Sanchez, senior running back/inside linebacker Landon Sutherland and senior defensive end Cable Fledderjohn.

Fledderjohn led the team in sacks last season (7.5), while Sanchez was second on the team in pass attempts (60) and passing yards (210). Sutherland was the team's second leading rusher (372 yards) and fourth leading



Coronado High School will kick off their season starting August 23. Photo courtesy of Kelly Moore.

tackler (50).

Younger returning players such as junior linebacker Benny Roberts and junior defensive tackle Walter Hardy will provide additional experience on the defensive side of the ball, where Hines said this team looks to wreak havoc.

"Defensively, we fly to the ball and

try to create chaos and turnovers at every opportunity we have," Hines said.

Although the talent on this year's squad has flown somewhat under the radar so far, at least in terms of collegiate interest, Hines is confident his guys just need the chance to show what they can do.

"No one with any offers yet, but that will change," he said.

As the season inches closer and summer ball wraps up, Kurt Hines said he's pushing the Islanders to live out a culture summarized in four words:

"Relentlessly committed servant leaders."

## Coronado Aquatic Club Competed in Water Polo Junior Olympics

From July 25-28, Coronado Aquatic Club's (CAC) 12U and 10U teams battled it out in the San Jose area against the nation's best.

BY KYLIE CAPUANO  
The Coronado News

Just a day before the opening ceremony of the 2024 Paris Summer Olympics, Coronado's youth co-ed water polo teams were stepping into the waters of the Junior Olympics.

From July 25-28, Coronado Aquatic Club's (CAC) 12U and 10U teams battled it out in the San Jose area against the nation's best.

When the CAC teams acquired enough points during a series of qualifier tournaments in the spring, their ticket to the Junior Olympics was secured – but the work had just begun.

For the month leading up to the national competition, the teams had doubled their practice time and intensified their conditioning in the pools.

"All the kids showed up and were super focused," said 10U coach T.J. Friedman. "The buy in was just – everyone was 100% in."

Competing over the span of four days, the 12U team secured a 10th place national finish and the 10U team a 17th place finish.

### 12U team fiercely competes on day two

It was on day two of the Junior Olympics that CAC's 12U team had the chance to compete with the best of the best, moving over to play in Stanford's Avery Aquatic Center where the higher level teams were placed.

"I remember the team was actually chanting 'Stanford, Stanford' when they earned a spot," said 10U coach Bill Miantente.

The 12U team won all three of

their games in the Avery Aquatic Center. One game in particular, 12U coach Corey Berta noted, the CAC kids fought until the very end of the match, winning by one point in the fourth quarter.

"It was probably one of the most exciting games," said Berta. "At the end of the game, [12U coach and CAC Director] Jesse Smith and I were in a little hallway and we just looked at each other and started laughing and hugging and giving high fives. It was really kind of a special moment."

The 12U team's 10th place finish comes as a step up from their initial 19th place national ranking.

### 10U team comes together to secure 17th

Despite a slower start to the four-day competition for the 10U athletes, it was a hard-fought win halfway through the tournament that turned it around for them.

"We were down two goals in the half," said Miantente. "After talking to the kids and having them work through that adversity, we were able to get our first win of the tournament."

Out of a team of eight, five players scored a goal to help seal the momentum-shifting win.

"It wasn't just one kid carrying everyone," said Miantente. "That's why it was so special – because they all kind of came together."


For 10U's Kailani Miantente, her favorite moment from the Junior Olympics was scoring her first goal in that game. Looking back on her team's performance, however, she is proud of the way they finished off the tournament.



Coronado Aquatic Club's 12U co-ed team placed 10th nationally at the Junior Olympics. Photos courtesy of Annie Gardner.



CAC's co-ed 10U team placed 17th in the national tournament.



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# SPORTS



The Coronado High School girls golf team practices before a tournament at Coronado Golf Course last season. Staff photos by Madeline Yang.

## Girls golf team enters rebuilding phase as freshman-dominated roster takes shape

With seven players new to CHS's girls golf team, this season is more about rebuilding than competing at the top.

BY KATIE MORRIS  
The Coronado News

The Coronado High School girls golf team's success last season, marked by a City Conference Championship Tournament victory and a runner-up Western League finish, has given way to a rebuilding phase. Four seniors have moved on, and the current roster of nine includes seven players new to the game, along with two returning juniors.

Although most of the golfers are freshmen and have a lot to learn, head coach Stuart Gordon said they're keen and want to do well.

"The good news is they all hit the ball," Gordon said. "They're all hitting the ball longer each time we have practice [and are] gradually getting better in their swing."

Gordon acknowledged that this season — set from mid-August to the end of October — is likely to be challenging for the team, given that many other schools have retained their experienced players. With five new freshmen who show promise but still have much to learn, he anticipates

the Islanders will struggle in league play.

The departure of seasoned players has left a significant gap, making this year more about rebuilding than competing at the top.

Ines Izuzquiza, a recent CHS graduate, distinguished herself at the CIF Individual Championship Tournament last season by securing 6th place overall. Her performance placed her among a group of 12 players, selected from a field of over 115 golfers, to advance to the regional stage.

At the 2023 City Conference Championship Tournament, which featured 46 players from the Eastern and Western Leagues, four Islanders — CHS graduates Bella Villarin Emily Scheurer, Izuzquiza and junior El-leaire Lyons — secured spots in the top 16.

Faced with the crowded conditions on their home base at Coronado Municipal Golf Course, the Islanders have taken their four-day-a-week practices on the road, relocating to Colina Park Golf Course, a 10-mile trek from Coronado.

"We haven't been able to get on the course because the public has it booked solidly until 6:30 at night," Gordon said. "We've never had trouble practicing [at Coronado] before this year."

## Coronado native wins bronze in France, looks to become astronaut

» Continued from Page 1

during my competition I only stayed with sailing athletes, but overall that didn't change how I felt in the slightest."

Despite being somewhat isolated from the rest of the games, the American duo still had to weather a storm of distractions. They were in the South of France after all.

Henken said staying in the present moment and avoiding stewing over past mistakes or future problems was one of the biggest challenges.

"There are a lot of distractions at the Games, especially while competing," he said. "Some give you energy and others take away, so it's a challenge to balance all of that and continue to push to have your best performance."

Henken said he had trained to compete in each of the past four Olympic Games and came up short, so to not only qualify this time but also to medal, was an incredible and memorable experience.

"I knew we had the ability to win a medal and our goal was to go into the final race with a chance and that is exactly what we did," he said. "To win a medal means the world to me. It's a life long dream completed and really was all the hard work coming together all at once."

Although the next opportunity to compete in the Olympic Games will

be on home soil in Los Angeles, Henken said he hasn't committed to anything yet.

"For sure competing at a home Olympics in LA would be amazing, but there are a lot of other aspects of my life that I'm looking to balance out in that equation," he said.

One of those other aspects is his interest in becoming an astronaut, a career he said he's had in the back of his mind since he was 5 years old.

"I went to Stanford and studied Aerospace Engineering as a way to continue to work towards that dream," he said. "It's another goal that I have been running in the background, working on and pushing towards, and it would be another major life moment to be able to work in that sphere and take it on."

Henken spent much of his collegiate career exploring and working in the field, including working as a researcher for the Mechanical Engineering Turbulent Research Laboratory and the Propulsion System Design Laboratory at Stanford, where he worked with a group of students to develop a scaled hybrid rocket engine from the ground up.

Now that the Olympics and all its commotion have concluded, Henken aims to do one thing:

"I'm going to give myself time to really appreciate this moment and take it all in; it's been a long, long road to get here," he said.

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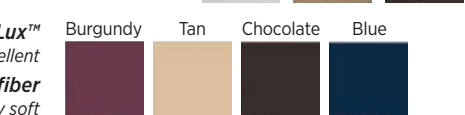
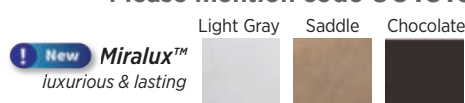
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# SPORTS

## Harbaugh says Kaepernick will not be a player or coach with the Chargers this season

Associated Press

If Colin Kaepernick wants to join the Los Angeles Chargers, it will not be until next year at the earliest.

And it will only be as a member of Jim Harbaugh's coaching staff.

"I love Colin, but he's not going to be on the coaching staff, which is set for this year. And he's not going to be playing on the roster either," Harbaugh said after practice on Aug. 15.

Harbaugh — who coached Kaepernick in San Francisco from 2011 through '14 — told USA Today Sports earlier in the week that he reached out to Kaepernick about joining his Chargers' staff shortly after being named coach on Jan. 24.

Harbaugh said that it wasn't the first time he has touched base with Kaepernick about coaching, and that he mentioned it a couple times when he was the coach at Michigan.

"I have thought that for a long time. Just the respect that I have for the football mind he has and the football man that he is," said Harbaugh when asked what made him think Kaepernick would make a good coach. "(Late Raiders owner) Al Davis saw something in me that made him think I would be a good coach, and I see those same qualities in Colin. If it is something he chooses."

Kaepernick, who turns 37 on Nov. 3, has not played in an NFL game since Jan. 1, 2017, after he began kneeling on the sideline at games during the national anthem to protest social injustice and police brutality.

Kaepernick — who played six seasons with San Francisco after being a second-round pick in 2011 — still has hopes though of playing again. He told Britain's "Sky Sports News" during the recent Paris Olympics that he is still training.

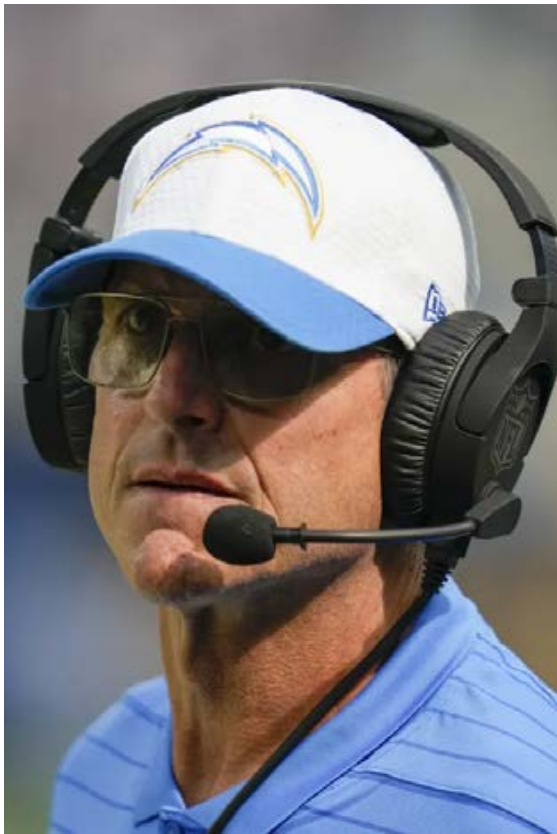
"It's something I've trained my whole life for, so to be able to step back on the field, I think that would be a major moment, a major accomplishment for me," Kaepernick said. "I think I could bring a lot to a team and help them win a championship."

Kaepernick had a 29-16 record as a starter, including the playoffs, when Harbaugh was his coach. After Harbaugh left to go to Michigan, Kaepernick's record was 3-17.

Kaepernick was the starting QB in Super Bowl 47 against Baltimore. He was 16 of 28 for 302 yards with a touchdown and also ran for a score in San Francisco's 34-31 loss.

Harbaugh has three players he coached in San Francisco on his Chargers staff — NaVorro Bowman, Jonathan Goodwin and Will Tukuafu. Mike Iupati and Delanie Walker were coaching assistants during training camp while Dashon Goldson is a coaching intern for the season.

Greg Roman, who was Kaepernick's offensive coordinator in San Francisco from 2011 through '14, is also directing the Chargers' offense.



Los Angeles Chargers head coach Jim Harbaugh watches from the sideline during the first half of a preseason NFL football game against the Seattle Seahawks in Inglewood, Calif., Saturday, Aug. 10, 2024. AP Photo/Gregory Bull.

*"I love Colin, but he's not going to be on the coaching staff, which is set for this year. And he's not going to be playing on the roster either."*

- Jim Harbaugh



Free agent quarterback Colin Kaepernick arrives for a workout for NFL football scouts and media in Riverdale, Ga., Nov. 16, 2019. AP Photo/Todd Kirkland, File.

*"It's something I've trained my whole life for, so to be able to step back on the field, I think that would be a major moment, a major accomplishment for me ... I think I could bring a lot to a team and help them win a championship."*

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