

NAVAL AIR STATION NORTH ISLAND

Aircraft carriers perform hull swap



The USS George Washington. Staff photos by Madeline Yang.

The USS Ronald Reagan is being relieved of its command as the only forward-deployed aircraft carrier in the Navy while the USS George Washington takes up this position and heads to Yokosuka, Japan.

BY MADELINE YANG
The Coronado News

The USS George Washington pulled into Naval Air Station North Island on July 10 to start performing a hull swap with the USS Ronald Reagan that had been stationed in Yokosuka, Japan, since 2015.

Contrary to how it sounds, a hull swap does not involve structural changes. Rather, the giant ships trade crews in a maneuver designed by the Navy to cut relocation expenses and allow sailors to stay in their home ports as vessels relocate.

The USS Ronald Reagan is the Navy’s only forward-deployed aircraft carrier, meaning that it is permanently stationed in a different country or region of the world, in this case, Japan.

“We operate it in international waters every day. We fly international airspace every day. [Forward-deployed aircraft carriers] are designed to execute operations that reinforce the rules-based order that the world operates on,” Rear Adm. Gregory Newkirk said.

Newkirk is commander of Carrier Strike Group Five, which is permanently assigned to the U.S. 7th Fleet, the Navy fleet headquartered at Yokosuka.

Newkirk said forward-deployed groups train and operate with allied nations so that in the event that there is a challenge to the “international norm” they



Executive Officer of Naval Base Coronado Capt. Loren Jacobi in front of the USS George Washington.

are there to uphold international order.

This hull swap has been years in the making, according to the commanding officer’s of both aircraft carriers, and includes moving people, equipment and anything else the crew might need for their next mission.

Coronado typically has three aircraft carriers stationed at the base – the USS Carl Vinson, the USS

» Continued on Page 8

Amy Steward runs for City Council

The Coronado News previously covered the City Council member candidacy announcements of five Coronado residents as soon as they made their announcements. There’s another candidate to add to the list.

BY MADELINE YANG
The Coronado News

Five residents have already announced that they are running for Coronado’s two City Council member seats. However, the candidate filing period officially opened just under two weeks ago with two weeks to go, and a new candidate entered the race.

Amy Steward is the sixth person to announce a run for Council member.

Steward has been in Coronado for the past 35 years and she said there’s a reason she moved here and stayed.

“We all moved here because of what it has to offer,” Steward said to The Coronado News in her first interview regarding her run for Council member. “I want to keep Coronado moving in the right direction, to preserve what makes Coronado so special.”

This is the first time Steward has made a move, politically, in her career.

But definitely not the first move she’s made in her community.

Steward has been highly involved in Coronado with starting several programs at Village Elementary and Coronado Middle School, and is the founder and president of Emerald Keepers, a non-profit organization in Coronado that aims to address local needs related to environmental stewardship and sustainability.

Steward started the “Take a Veteran to School Day” program in Coronado after winning her National Teacher Award in 2009. To accept the award, she flew to Washington D.C. and there met with Mead Rust, the vice president of the History Channel who was speaking at the award ceremony.

She later learned from Rust at the History Channel, from which this program originated, that Coronado’s program was the largest in the United States.

With her run for candidacy, Steward has a few issues she wants to focus on, one of them being the Tijuana sewage crisis, which is one of the problems her own nonprofit aims to tackle.

» Continued on Page 9

Filing period for school board opened through Aug. 9

Trustee Renee Cavanaugh announces candidacy for the Coronado Unified School District school board with seats to be voted on this fall.

BY JULIETA SOTO
The Coronado News

Two four-year term seats on the school board of the Coronado Unified School District are open in the 2024 election cycle.

The candidate filing period began on July 15 and will continue through August 9, according to San Diego County’s candidate schedule.

The open seats in Coronado Unified are currently held by Whitney Antrim and Renee Cavanaugh.

Cavanaugh announced she is seeking re-election on July 16 and is the only candidate for CUSD listed online as of July 24. Antrim has not disclosed any plans for re-election at this time.

A list of candidates became available on July 18 at the Registrar of Voter’s website and will be updated daily, said the county.

A final list of qualified candidates will be determined after the Registrar, who administers the election on

behalf of the school district, receives the certified list of candidates from the Secretary of State by August 29, according to the Registrar’s office.

The last day to register to vote in the November election is Monday, October 21, according to the City of Coronado website, and forms to register are available at the City Clerk’s Office at 1825 Strand Way, or from the Registrar.

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this week

5 • monday

Steve Reiss, who owns the Reiss SAT Seminars and the Math Magician, will host an SAT Prep Workshop in the Winn Room of the Coronado Public Library from 6-8 p.m. The workshop includes four sessions, beginning on July 30 and ending on Aug. 8, and each session is two hours long. Attendance is not required, but it is highly recommended. Students can register for the workshops now at cplevents.org.

6 • tuesday

Celebrating San Diego and Tijuana as the 2024 Word Design Capital, Rene Peralta will discuss the urban border between the United States and Mexico, specifically between the cities of Tijuana and San Diego in “Cultural Imaginaries and Border Narratives: A Speculative Design Perspective.” This presentation at 7 p.m. in the library’s Winn Room delves into how architects and designers harness speculative design to construct and deconstruct the cultural narratives that define physical and metaphorical borders.

7 • wednesday

Coronado Public Library, in partnership with the Coronado Island Film Festival, presents Film Forum Coronado, taking place the first and third Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. in the library’s Winn Room. On Aug. 7, the film “The Cassandra Cat” will be featured.

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

Coronado Playhouse to present a dark revenge comedy

Coronado Playhouse is announcing its latest production, “Exit, Pursued by a Bear,” a dark revenge comedy, by celebrated playwright Lauren Gunderson.

The show will be directed by Kira Blaskovich, marking her second directorial project at Coronado Playhouse following her successful direction of “Ripcord” last year.

All performances will be held at Coronado Playhouse from Aug. 16 – Sept. 8. “Exit, Pursued by a Bear” dives deep into themes of recognition, education and forgiveness, all wrapped in a comedic yet thought-provoking narrative.

“Last year, I chose to direct ‘Ripcord’ because it was a story of people who seemed vastly different finding common ground and a deep understanding of each other,” Blaskovich said. “This play takes that theme and expands it. At its core, it is about how we can see each other through the lens of empathy, even when so much baggage is piled up

between us.”

Inspired by one of the most famous stage directions in theatre from William Shakespeare’s “A Winter’s Tale,” where a character exits the stage “pursued by a bear,” Gunderson’s play takes this absurd and bizarre direction and weaves it into a story full of wild and beautiful characters.

The plot centers around Nan, who ties up her abusive husband, surrounds him with honey and meat, and hopes bears will come to remove him from her life. With the support of her gay best friend dressed in a cheerleader costume and a stripper friend who introduces her to Shakespeare, the play navigates between humor and shocking twists seamlessly.

Blaskovich, an award-winning actor and director with over 25 years in the performing arts, brings a wealth of experience to this production. Having performed in Coronado Playhouse’s productions of “Clue,” “The Old Man in the Old

Moon,” and “Macbeth,” all directed by Desha Crownover, Blaskovich is no stranger to the stage. Her impressive directing credits in San Diego include “Witness for the Prosecution” and “Anything Goes.”

“This play inspires its characters toward self-examination and hope – hope that, by making different choices, we can acknowledge our mistakes, forgive ourselves and each other, and move on to a brighter future. Hopefully, before we get eaten by bears – cause they’re out there, y’all!” Blaskovich adds.

Performances will take place at Coronado Playhouse from Aug. 16-Sept. 8 Thursdays-Saturdays at 8 p.m. There will be matinee performances at 2 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

Note: This play contains strong language and themes that may be inappropriate for younger and sensitive audience members.

Information courtesy of Coronado Playhouse.

PETS OF THE WEEK

Meet Jovie and Chani



Jovie, top, and Chani.

True to her name, Jovie is a celebration waiting to happen. Her exuberance is contagious, turning every moment into a lively event.

Whether it’s playtime, a walk in the park, or just lounging around, Jovie’s joy radiates in every direction. Jovie’s loyalty knows no bounds.

She’s not just a dog; she’s a steadfast friend who will stand by your side through thick and thin. The bond she forms with her humans is as unbreakable as it is heartwarming.

This one-year-old dynamo is not just a pet; she’s a living testament to the incredible companionship that a loyal, loving, and extravagant dog can bring.

Also, meet Chani! Chani is a lovable 5-year-old Domestic Shorthair female cat that is looking for a cozy home to relax in. Chani came to us as a stray, so we’re not totally sure what her background is. We think Chani would do best with a family that would be patient with her as she gets used to her new surroundings. If you’re interested in taking this beauty home apply to adopt her today!

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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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

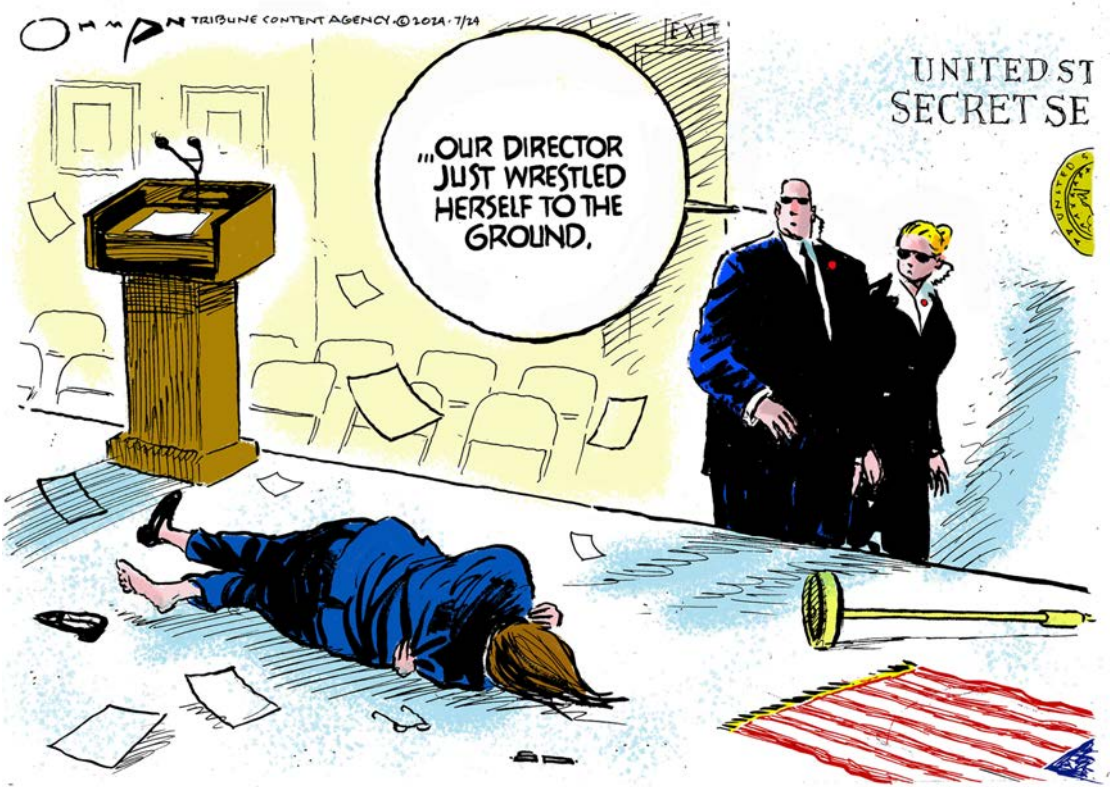
Together, these can help make solar power an affordable option for your golf cart. Additionally, you will likely save quite a bit of money on your electricity bill without having an electric vehicle drawing from your home’s electricity supply. Individuals aren’t the only ones who benefit monetarily from 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



JACK
OHMAN

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 Phone: 646-438-0982

<https://paulinejohnsonbrown.com/>

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CORONADO



The patio of L'Orangerie is shown in this exterior photo on July 25. Staff photos by Sofie Fransen.

L'Orangerie brings traditional French cuisine to Coronado

BY ELAINE ALFARO
The Coronado News

Beautiful place, beautiful product, beautiful ambiance – these are the three things Jonathan Basinger, L'Orangerie director of operations and general manager, said the owner had in mind for the restaurant in Coronado.

Originally from France, chef Philippe Maurin brings his cultural roots with him into this new restaurant. He formerly worked for a Michelin star restaurant and carries a seasoned approach to French gastronomy.

“The owner is really excited,” Basinger said. “He really wants to be able to give people an authentic experience and incorporate his vision for the restaurant to Coronado.”

Basinger said Maurin discovered Coronado through his son’s wife, whose family has a home in the city.

“The idea was to be somewhere where it was local, very central to a beautiful location, and being able to provide a product and an experience that really correlated and gave you the essence of a French feel to it,” Basinger said.

Located in the heart of Coronado where Tent City Restaurant used to be, the outdoor patio seating provides plenty of people watching opportunities — an ambiance similar to dining experiences found in a bustling European city.

The menu approaches meals in a way that prioritizes pairings of alcohol and locally sourced food. From cheese and meat boards to escargot, the menu encourages patrons to give the cuisine a try, even if it is a new experience.

“Obviously, it’s different,” Basinger said. “A lot of people are trying to gather what a quiche is or escargot. The charcuterie boards are a lot more robust. The meats the chef chooses are a little different and the

cheeses are a lot different than American.”

Basinger said fresh bread is delivered everyday by a local company, and produce is sourced from north Oceanside and Carlsbad.

“The things that determine the menu are the seasonal vegetables and fruits,” Basinger said. “We can incorporate the daily deliveries from local purveyors, so we can hit on the summer time vibes right now. For example right now, we’re doing Persian cucumbers, heirloom tomatoes, carrots, pickled onions, peppers in our seasonal vegetable platter with some radishes on top.”

The spices get imported directly from France, as does the wine, according to Basinger. From oaky white wines to bubbly champagnes, there is a wide array of bottles that come from different regions of France.

“[It’s] very much a French-inspired experience coming from a lot of Bordeaux. You’re gonna have your rosés, champagnes, whites,” Basinger said. “We have lots of different things that give you a feel for what a very authentic French wine would be.”

They also offer a two-hour bottomless mimosa special and a variety of other options.

While L'Orangerie is new to the neighborhood and still settling in, Basinger said he hopes people will come with open minds to try something new, enjoy the atmosphere and see the heart of the chef.

“I really believe in Philippe’s vision and goal,” Basinger said. “It seems like he cares about his family and wants to succeed here, and it trickles down to the staff.”

L'Orangerie is open Tuesday and Wednesday 4-8 p.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekends (Thursday-Sunday). Happy hour is 3-6 p.m. everyday. L'Orangerie is located at 1100 Orange Avenue within the Coronado Historical Association Museum.



Chef Philippe Maurin is standing at the entrance of L'Orangerie.



Photo provided by Delaney Dodge.

Surfer O'Brien is coming to the Del

BY MADELINE YANG
The Coronado News

The Hotel del Coronado is hosting an open invite paddle out with professional surfer Jamie O'Brien on Aug. 10 for the debut of his latest surf film, “Chasing the Dream.”

O'Brien 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 Pipeline Masters at 21, becoming one of the youngest surfers to do so, and he continues to be active in the surfing world.

He's been involved in multiple film projects through the years and the Del will be debuting his newest film with a surf invite alongside some surfing pros at Coronado Beach, as long as participants bring their own surfboards.

There will be a raffle to benefit Coronado lifeguards and a happy hour with a live DJ. It starts at 5 p.m. and is free to the public.

Summer Festival Concert series continues with the Red Fox Tails

Coronado News staff

The Red Fox Tails will bring their distinctive surf rock sound to the Coronado Public Library on Friday, Aug. 9 at 1 p.m.

Their performance will channel the nostalgic essence of an undiscovered 70s surf movie soundtrack, with a blend of instrumental jazz, grooving rock and diverse international influences that will have the audience relaxed and grooving simultaneously.

Since their formation in 2010, the Red Fox Tails have brought their unique-relaxed yet spirited sound to venues and private events across Southern California, Baja and New Orleans. The Red Fox Tails features Felipe Benavides on guitar, Ron Bocian on drums, Troy Jennings on saxophone and Doug Walker on bass.

Doors will open 15 minutes before the performance. Find out more by heading to cplevents.org.

World Design Capital lecture presents border narratives

Coronado News staff

Architect Rene Peralta will lead a lecture on the urban border between the United States and Mexico at the Coronado Public Library on Aug. 6 at 7 p.m. as part of the area wide celebration of the selection of San Diego and Tijuana as the 2024 World Design Capital.

Titled “Cultural Imaginaries and Border Narratives: A Speculative Design Perspective,” Peralta’s presentation will focus specifically on the dynamic between Tijuana and San Diego.

The event, presented in collaboration with the Coronado Cultural Arts Association, will explore the transformative potential of speculative design

in shaping cultural identities at the U.S.-Mexico border.

Peralta will illustrate how architects and designers can utilize speculative design to both construct and deconstruct the cultural narratives that define both physical and metaphorical borders. This unique exploration promises to shed light on the intersection of architecture, culture and identity in one of the world’s most significant border regions.

Peralta studied architecture at the New School of Architecture in San Diego and the Architectural Association in London, England. He has a Master of Science in planning with emphasis in history and theory from the University of Oklahoma.

Peralta is a co-author, with Fiamma



Rene Peralta will lead a lecture at the Coronado Public Library on Aug. 6 titled, “Cultural Imaginaries and Border Narratives.” Photo provided by Rene Peralta.

Montezemolo and Heriberto Yeppez, of the book “Here is Tijuana.” He co-edited, with Tito Alegría and Roger Lewis, the commemorative edition of the book “A Temporary Paradise: A look at the Special Landscape of the San Diego Region.”

His work investigated the urban and cultural futures of the U.S. – Mexico border region, specifically between the cities of Tijuana and San Diego. Peralta is currently part of the full-time faculty at The Christopher C. Gibbs College of Architecture at the University of Oklahoma.

Learn more about this event at cplevents.org.

Information courtesy of the Coronado Public Library.

CORONADO

From Basque country to Coronado: an exchange of religion and culture

A young man traveled from the Basque country to Silverdale, Washington in 1991, sparking a trickle effect.

BY KYLIE CAPUANO
The Coronado News

For the past two summers, Maren Munoz has traveled from the San Sebastián region of the Basque country to live with the Machin family in their Coronado home.

From June 28 to July 30 each summer, high school-aged students from Basque come to America to live with host families and partake in their day-to-day lives, while strengthening their English skills and encountering Christianity through church and casual discussion.

This year, 10 of those students are located in San Diego County, including three who are residing with a Coronado family.

Almost instantly upon taking Munoz in, the Machin family's daughter, Ellie Machin, and she developed a bond.

"It's kind of like having a sister," said Ellie Machin. "We're similar in age and we just like to go to the beach, hang out and talk."

From traveling to volleyball tournaments for Ellie, to dropping their son Luke Machin off at the United States Air Force Academy, Munoz is treated as one of the Machin's own.

"Our whole thing is making sure that she feels part of the family," said Paul Machin. "It's a good balance for our family with her here and the things that she can share about her culture and the things we can share with her from ours."

The cultural exchange occurring in the Machin's household, as with the other host families, dates back to 1991, when the seed for Summer in the USA (SUSA) was planted.

Between 1931-1936, Spain was undergoing a period of change. Taking on a more democratic approach, liberal governments challenged religious strictures by legalizing divorce and removing state financing for the Catholic church.

In response, Francisco Franco — a known authoritarian rightest — launched a nationalist coup backed by the Catholic church, which ultimately led to the Spanish Civil War. What his supporters and clergy members referred to as a "national crusade," turned into a disruption of peace for many.

This was especially true for the Basque Country of Northern Spain. An area known for its coastal views, serene landscape and farmlands was suddenly transformed into a place of political unrest and religious persecutions. Franco enforced Catholicism upon the Basques, banned their native language from being spoken outside of the home, dismantled labor unions, forbade Basque names for newborns and instilled various other strict policies. The Basques endured these harsh conditions throughout Franco's rule as dictator of Spain from 1936-1975.

Catholicism persists as the dominant religion in the Basque country. In 2019, 60% of Basques identified themselves as Roman Catholic. However, among Basque youths aged 15-29, that number drops to 34%, with only 4% identifying as practicing Catholics, according to a study conducted by the Basque Youth Observatory.

"Most of the churches are treated more like a museum," said SUSA West Coast Director Chris Probasco. "There's some churches that are only open one day a year. The big churches that are frequented do have some devout Catholic followers who come, but most of them are 78 years old and up."

As the origin story for SUSA goes, according to Probasco, in 1991 a young man traveled from the Basque



SUSA San Diego students on their way to Yosemite National Park. Photo courtesy of David Preston.



From left to right: Ellie Machin, Gerri Machin, Maren Munoz and Paul Machin. Photo courtesy of Paul Machin

“Before coming here with SUSA, my beliefs were not very solidified and I was not clear about what I believed. Talking to people and going to new churches has been very beneficial to my religious background and SUSA helped me become clearer on my beliefs – even though I still think I have a lot to learn and reflect on.”

Maren Munoz

country to Silverdale, Washington as part of a year-long student exchange program through his high school. Bill and Jane Robinson volunteered to open up their home to the young man, and indirectly, an insight into their Christian faith.

"During his time there, the boy had a very, very moving, intimate, powerful encounter with God at the Christian church that Bill was pastoring at," said Probasco. "The kid and his family were just blown away by how loving and kind that the community there was."

That one student's experience began a trickle effect. Soon after, the boy's brother visited, then his cousin, then his friends and word continued to spread.

"The church and the Robinsons were recruiting families to host these kids every year just because they had kind of fallen in love with these kids and these kids were falling in love with these families – it was a very organic thing," said Probasco.

The Robinsons realized there was a need they could fill for the young Basque people, which led them to officially found SUSA in 2000, expanding their reach and network of host families.

Rather than taking a typical missionary approach by preaching in their country, the idea was to expose the young Basque people to a new culture by bringing them to America and allowing them to experience church in a different way.

Paul Machin's hope is to familiarize Munoz with Christianity in a way that allows her to come to it on her own terms.

"We go to church on Sunday and she gets to meet some other kids from the church – it's just kind of a gradual thing," said Paul Machin. "We want her to see that Christians are not what some people might think. It's the way we live our lives. There's that great song – 'they'll know we are Christians by our love.' We hope she'll see that and maybe go back to her country with a different view than what has been exposed to her."

Although the Christian aspect to the program did not play a role in her decision to come to America, Munoz said she has learned more about her own personal faith through conversation and exposure.

"Before coming here with SUSA, my beliefs were not very solidified and I was not clear about what I believed," said Munoz. "Talking to people and going to new churches has been very beneficial to my religious background and SUSA helped me become clearer on my beliefs – even though I still think I have a lot to learn and reflect on."

Along with the days spent with her host family, Munoz will also be participating in activities with the other SUSA students. From sailboating to traveling to Yosemite, to exploring San Diego – experiencing American culture is as rooted in the program as Christianity.

Munoz has appreciated living in Coronado and the experience of independence that it has brought her.

"The people here are so nice and it's a small town so everyone knows each other," said Munoz. "In Spain, I have my own group of friends and family, but here I have to talk to people I have never talked to before. I've learned how to stay out of my house and live with another family and it's important to know how to socialize with people you don't know."

SUSA San Diego Coordinator David Preston said he hopes the program will build bridges for new connections across the globe – which has rang true for the Machin family and Munoz.

"We're planning to make a trip to visit her town and meet her parents and her grandparents," said Gerri Machin. "[Munoz's] mom said, 'You're like our family.' There's something really sweet about having something like that – taking a teenager into your home and loving them as if they're your own child."



Uber and Lyft drivers remain independent contractors in California Supreme Court ruling

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — The California Supreme Court ruled on July 25 that app-based ride-hailing and delivery services like Uber and Lyft can continue treating their drivers as independent contractors rather than employees.

The unanimous decision by the state’s top court is a big win for tech giants. It also ends a yearslong legal battle between labor unions and tech companies over a law dictating the status of app-based service workers in the state.

The ruling upholds a voter-approved law passed in 2020 that said drivers for companies like Uber and Lyft are independent contractors and are not entitled to benefits like overtime pay, paid sick leave and unemployment insurance. Opponents said the law was illegal in part because it limited the state Legislature’s authority to change the law or pass laws about workers’ compensation programs.

A lower court ruling in 2021 had said the measure was illegal, but an appeals court reversed that decision last year. The California Supreme Court’s decision means companies like Uber and Lyft can continue their operations as before.

Uber called the ruling “a victory” for drivers. Companies like Uber, Lyft and DoorDash spent \$200 million on a campaign in 2020 to help the law pass.

“Whether drivers or couriers choose to earn just a few hours a week or more, their freedom to work when and how they want is now firm-



FILE - Dozens of supporters of a measure to limit when companies can label workers as independent contractors circle the Capitol during a rally in Sacramento, Calif., on Aug. 28, 2023. The California Supreme Court ruled July 25 that app-based ride sharing and delivery services like Uber and Lyft can continue treating their drivers as independent contractors rather than employees. AP Photo/Rich Pedroncelli, File

ly etched into California law, putting an end to misguided attempts to force them into an employment model that they overwhelmingly do not want,” the company said in a statement on July 25.

The ruling is a defeat for labor unions and their allies in the Legislature who fought to secure more rights for drivers.

“What’s going on is not just. It’s not

what California is about,” said Nicole Moore, president of Los Angeles-based Rideshare Drivers United. “It’s a sad day for workers.”

Labor unions vowed to continue fighting for drivers’ job protections and benefits, noting that an earlier ruling in the appeal process had opened doors for the Legislature to pass laws to allow drivers to join a union.

“We are committed to fiercely backing workers across our economy who have been written out and left behind and helping them knock down big obstacles to winning their union rights,” Service Employees International Union President April Verrett said in a statement.

Lawmakers in 2019 passed a law aimed directly at Uber and Lyft, mandating they provide drivers with protections like minimum wage, overtime, health insurance and reimbursement for expenses. It changed the rules in California of who is an employee and who is an independent contractor.

While the law applied to lots of industries, it had the biggest impact on app-based ride-hailing and delivery companies. Their business relies on contracting with people to use their own cars. Under the 2019 law, companies would have to treat those drivers as employees and provide certain benefits that would greatly increase the businesses’ expenses.

In November 2020, voters approved a ballot proposition to exempt app-based ride-hailing and delivery companies from the law. The proposition included “alternative benefits” for drivers, including a guaranteed minimum wage and subsidies for health insurance if they average at least 25 hours of work a week.

Labor groups and drivers across the nation are pushing for more job protections, higher wages and increased benefits. Drivers in Massachusetts are rallying behind what they describe as a first-of-its-kind ballot question that could win them union rights if approved.

Aircraft carriers perform hull swap at Naval Air Station North Island

» Continued from Page 1

Theodore Roosevelt and the USS Abraham Lincoln – but they are currently underway, leaving room for the two new carriers to port for a few weeks.

“This is a really, kind of, historic event,” said Capt. Loren Jacobi, executive officer of Naval Base Coronado, during a July 24 press conference. “Normally, we don’t host these two ships here.”

The USS George Washington has been dry docked in Virginia since 2017 and the USS Ronald Reagan was in Japan, so neither crew is from Coronado.

“This is something that happens about once every ten years where we switch out the aircraft carrier that is forward deployed in Japan,” Newkirk said. “One of the most important global alliances that we have.”

The USS Ronald Reagan will travel to the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Washington, D.C., for a scheduled maintenance cycle for nuclear-powered aircraft carriers.

And this is the second time the USS George Washington is going back to Yokosuka, having previously arrived in Japan in 2008 as the first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier to be forward-deployed there, before being relieved by the USS Ronald Reagan in 2015.

“This is a milestone event that we have been working for,” said Capt. Timothy Waits, commanding officer of the USS George Washington. “It will be, sort of, a homecoming.”

With the two ships swapping crews, Coronado City Council member Mike Donovan mentioned at the July 16 meeting that there might be an increase in activity on the island.

“There’s going to be as many as 9,000 people that are going to be here that typically aren’t,” Donovan said.

However, according to Jacobi, the influx of people from the new aircraft carriers should not make a difference environmentally or socially on the island in terms of traffic and population, as the crews of the permanently assigned carriers are at sea.

“Really no net increase in impact



The USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) will be performing a hull swap with the USS George Washington (CVN 73) as the USS George Washington takes its place as the only forward-deployed carrier in the Navy. Staff photo by Madeline Yang.



(L-R) Rear Adm. Gregory Newkirk, Capt. Loren Jacobi, Capt. Daryle Cardone and Capt. Timothy Waits.

to the local area or local environment because we haven’t changed the number of ships that are here at any given time,” Jacobi explained.

Jacobi also added that, because these crews are not from Coronado, Naval Base Coronado has made an effort to make them feel welcomed

“We operate it in international waters every day. We fly international airspace every day. [Forward-deployed aircraft carriers] are designed to execute operations that reinforce the rules-based order that the world operates on.”

– Rear Adm. Gregory Newkirk

to the city, organizing comedy nights and other events so the sailors can get to know the people and the island.

Coronado Island Film Festival presents ‘Límite’

Coronado News staff

The Coronado Island Film Festival and Planet 9 Films is proud to present a screening of *Límite*, a George Nicholas short film, on Thursday, Aug. 8 at Village Theatre in Coronado.

Límite is a 40 minute film that follows Manuel, a 16-year-old living in Tijuana, Mexico with his grandfather while his mom works in the United States. When he meets a girl, he sees an opportunity to assert his independence, but what he doesn't know about her will push him to the limit.

"This powerful film sparks tough conversations, calling for humanity and compassion. It reveals the complexities of drug-related issues and youth involvement in cartels, urging against blanket judgment for real change, or at the very least awareness to ignite change," says Merridee Book, CEO and Artistic Director of Coronado Island Film Festival.

According to Nicholas, "*Límite*" is his creative reaction to a real event.

"On the evening of Nov. 18, 2013, a 16-year-old boy from Mexico attempted to enter the United States with two bottles of unidentified liquid," Nicholas said. "When questioned by the U.S. border patrol, he claimed it was apple

juice. Suspecting the true contents, the agents demanded he prove it was apple juice. One of the agents made a motion with her hand – 'Drink it.'"

This story reminded Nicholas of his own teenage experiences.

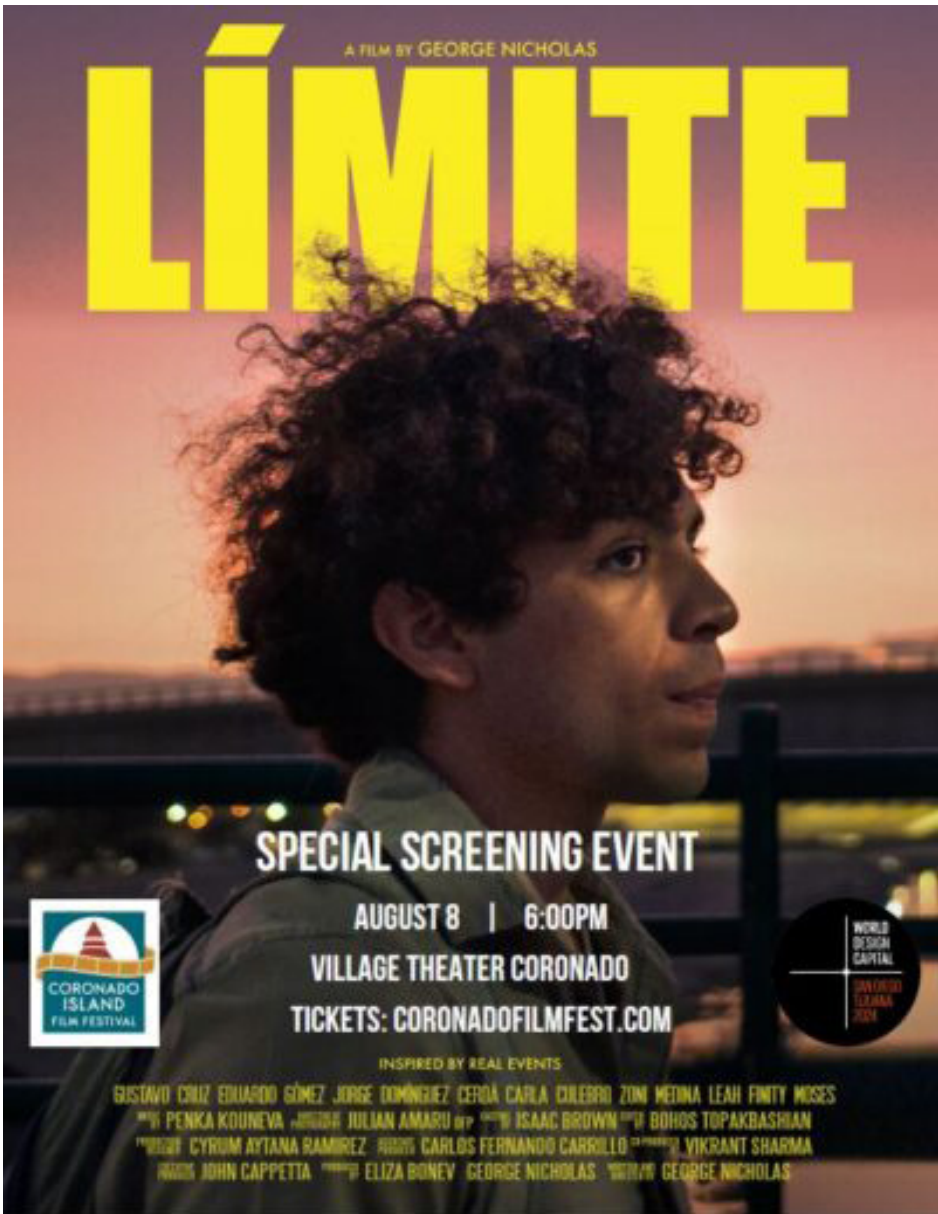
"I felt compelled to tell this story because I knew that teenager could have been me," Nicholas said.

A Q&A will follow the screening with Cast Members Jorge Domínguez Cerdá (Manuel Sr.) and Carla Culebro (Maria), Director George Nicholas, Executive Producer John Cappetta, Producer Eliza Bonev, Associate Producer Carlos Carrillo, and Casting Director Isaac Brown.

VIP tickets are available and include a post screening reception with the cast and crew at the Brigantine in Coronado. The reception includes a curated Mexican-inspired menu and a no-host bar.

The screening is part of the collective series of events hosted throughout the year, on both sides of the border, celebrating and highlighting the distinguished World Design Capital (WDC) designation awarded to San Diego and Tijuana.

Tickets can be purchased at CIFF's website at <https://coronadofilmfest.com/>.



"Límite" will screen at the Village Theatre on Aug. 8. Photo courtesy of Coronado Island Film Festival.

Filing period for school board opened through Aug. 9

» Continued from Page 1

trar's office.

The county's candidate filing guide lists specific qualifications for school governing board candidates, such as being a resident and registered voter of the school district. It also requires employees of a school district to resign before being sworn into office as an elected or appointed member of a district's governing board.

Election day result updates are expected to be available on election night at sdvote.com, but are unofficial until completion of the official canvass.

The two winners are set to begin their terms on December 13.

Anyone interested in elective office may review the guide and contact the Registrar of Voters office at (858) 505-7260 for additional information.

Cavanaugh, 57, a former teacher in the district, said she brings a unique perspective on issues facing students, teachers and staff.

"I have been honored to serve the students, families and community

as a Coronado Unified School District School Board Trustee for the past two years," wrote Cavanaugh in her reelection statement. "Serving as President of the Board allowed me an opportunity to further develop my leadership skills and to build collaborative working relationships."

During her first year, following a swearing in with three other new trustees in 2022, Cavanaugh was appointed to board president and served in that role throughout 2023.

Cavanaugh stepped in to finish the term of a former Coronado trustee, Stacy Keszei, who resigned Jan. 11, 2022, according to a district letter submitted to The Coronado Times.

"My goals were to ensure our focus as a community remained steadfast on helping all students reach their potential and that we, as the adults who support those students, would come together with greater cooperation and unity," Cavanaugh said.

Cavanaugh said she believes there has been progress across the district like board meetings that remain



Renee Cavanaugh, a trustee for the Coronado Unified School District governing board, announces reelection. Photo courtesy of Cavanaugh.

cussions is more productive and cooperative, resulting in better addressing the issues of the school district, she added.

Before Cavanaugh stepped in for Keszei, CUSD had faced months-long division over a controversy involving the Coronado Boys Basketball team in 2021, including an Oct. 21 school board meeting which the Times reports ended abruptly.

Student achievement, improved attendance and a safe school environment are among district issues that Cavanaugh listed, who also said CUSD's financial state is a big concern.

"I am proud of our district, and I am inspired by our students who engage in activism, who challenge their athletic abilities, who participate in artistic endeavors, who maintain a growth mindset, who foster an acceptance of others, and who strive for their own personal achievement," added Cavanaugh. "I welcome the challenges and opportunities the next four years will bring, and will always advocate what is best for students."

Steward runs for City Council

» Continued from Page 1

While she was a teacher, her students produced a film about the crisis that won the People's Choice award at the Coronado Island Film Festival in 2017.

"Sewage is a huge factor. In fact, when we did the film way back when, when we interviewed a City Council member, he said, 'You know, the city has no official stance on the sewage issue,'" Steward said.

Now, she believes the current City Council members are doing a great job of getting the word out about the issue and really pressing it.

And she wants to continue that momentum.

Steward is also passionate about the City's emergency preparedness and infrastructure, referencing the Jan. 22 storm that brought in a few feet of flooding to many residents in Coronado.

"We need to really have a deep dive study into our infrastructure and what is needed because storms, monsoonal moisture, atmospheric rivers...we will be hit with typhoons in the future or hurricanes in the future," Steward said.

She said she also wants to look at the traffic, roads and water lines, taking inventory of what risks or hazards would impact them.

As Council member, Steward additionally would want the City to be more prepared for their budgets.

"We spend money in a reactive way



Amy Steward, founder and president of Emerald Keepers, is running for City Council. Photo provided by Amy Steward.

on a lot of problems," Steward said. "Where if you could have some sort of forum where we bring in experts who can help educate all of the City Council, staff members and the community too, to understand the different issues and options that are out there."

Steward explained that she would like to research and have all risks be assessed, and then make decisions on the budget based on priorities and a strategic plan that was thought of prior.

"I just feel that I can do the job and do some good," Steward said. "People who know me know that when I take on something, I go all in. And I expect to do the exact same as a Council member."

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NAVY

USS Jackson conducts change of command

DVIDS

SAN DIEGO — Cmdr. Michael Winslow was relieved by Cmdr. Nick Van Wagoner as commanding officer of the Independence-variant littoral combat ship USS Jackson during a change of command ceremony held at Naval Base San Diego on July 19.

“A time-honored tradition, change of command ceremonies celebrate the accomplishments of a commanding officer and his crew, and ceremonially transfer responsibility, accountability and authority to his relief,” said Capt. Douglas Meagher, commodore, Littoral Combat Ship Squadron 1. “Nick, welcome home. For those that don’t know, Cmdr. Van Wagoner did his Executive Officer tour on USS Jackson...Continue to lead with the inspiration you have in the past, determine the appropriate level of risk to assume for the ship and crew, and ready her for sea, she



Cmdr. John "Nick" Van Wagoner, center, the oncoming commanding officer of the Independence-variant littoral combat ship USS Jackson (LCS 6) renders honors during a change of command ceremony held in the ship's hangar bay, July 19. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Vance Hand

will stay busy.”

Among many accomplishments, during Winslow’s time in command, Jackson transitioned from a dual-

crew to a single crew and deployed in support of Pacific Partnership 2023 less than two months later.

During the ceremony, Winslow was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for his superior accomplishments.

Jackson is homeported in San Diego as a part of Littoral Combat Ship Squadron 1. Littoral combat ships are fast, optimally-manned, mission-tailored surface combatants that operate in near-shore and open-ocean environments, winning against 21st-century threats.

“To my friends, shipmates and colleagues who are in the audience today, thank you for your continued support and mentorship over the years,” said Van Wagoner. “I love this crew, I asked to come back and actually got my wish! You have an outstanding waterfront reputation, and I’m so proud to be back as your captain.”



Arial shot of Naval Information Warfare Systems Command (NAVWAR) Old Town Campus (OTC). Photo by Rick Naystatt.

Navy’s Old Town Campus revitalization moves forward

DVIDS

San Diego —The U.S. Navy’s proposal to revitalize the 70.3-acre Naval Base Point Loma Old Town Campus to provide new facilities for Naval Information Warfare Systems Command (NAVWAR) continues to move forward.

The Navy is working closely with selected developer Manchester Financial Group/Edgemoor Infrastructure and Real Estate (Manchester/Edgemoor) to potentially revitalize the Navy’s Old Town Campus in San Diego, California.

The Navy is currently in the environmental review process as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to assess potential environmental impacts of revitalizing the site.

The Navy released a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in 2021 for public review and comment. In response to comments received, the Navy began a competitive solicitation process in November 2022 and in January 2024 identified a potential master developer, Manchester/Edgemoor, to work with the Navy to develop site-specific details before a final alternative is selected.

Now in an exclusive negotiation period, Manchester/Edgemoor may pursue local approvals such as permitting, any necessary environmental documentation, secure financing, and negotiate a potential lease with the Navy.

“The Navy’s enduring partnerships with the City of San Diego and surrounding communities are essential to this successful initiative moving forward,” said Rear Ad-

miral Brad Rosen, Commander of Navy Region Southwest. “While the Navy’s goal is new mission-capable facilities for NAVWAR and other tenant commands, the Navy recognizes that any project that is good for the Navy should also provide positive impacts to the community.”

In the Navy’s largest leasing initiative, the Navy would potentially make available for lease, underutilized property at Naval Base Point Loma in exchange for new mission-capable facilities for its primary tenant NAVWAR.

NAVWAR currently operates out of 80-year-old World War II era aircraft manufacturing plants. The Navy proposes to replace these obsolete buildings with state-of-the-art facilities to meet NAVWAR’s mission requirements.

Revitalizing the property, which is centrally located and ideal for transit-oriented development, could provide much-needed housing to help address San Diego’s housing shortage and provide a possible new tax base for the City, County, and state.

NAVWAR is a significant economic contributor to San Diego, with an annual budget in excess of \$11 billion, the command infuses \$3.3 billion annually to the region. In fiscal year 2022, NAVWAR created 18,858 jobs in San Diego, generated \$8.4 billion in contracts with private industry, and \$1.74 billion in contracts in San Diego. NAVWAR provides 50% of all cybersecurity jobs in San Diego.

Revitalization of the Navy’s Old Town Campus could achieve mutually beneficial outcomes for the

Navy and San Diego. In this potential leasing initiative, the developer would provide new NAVWAR facilities in exchange for private development of the remainder of the site to include housing, retail, commercial and potentially a transit center. The Navy must still complete an EIS and reach a Record of Decision before the project can begin.

“The Manchester/Edgemoor team is excited to start engaging with the local community as we move forward with the Navy through the environmental review process. This project represents a generational opportunity for the Navy and City of San Diego, and we intend to make sure the community is involved in each step along the way,” said Neal Fleming, President of Edgemoor Infrastructure & Real Estate.

Since their selection earlier this year, the Manchester/Edgemoor team has initiated outreach and engagement with the City of San Diego, County of San Diego, state and local transportation agencies, and others, to better understand their priorities.

“We remain dedicated to continuing our collaboration with the Navy and the City of San Diego to create cutting-edge government facilities for the Navy, alongside an engaging mixed-use development for the wider community,” said Ted Eldredge, President & CEO of Manchester Financial Group.

The Navy and Manchester/Edgemoor are committed to remaining engaged with the community throughout all phases of the project. Details of future public engagement opportunities will be announced when scheduled.

WWII sergeant honored with reburial in California

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — After 80 years, a World War II sergeant killed in Germany has returned home to California.

On July 25, community members lined the roads to honor U.S. Army Air Force Tech. Sgt. Donald V. Banta as he was brought from Ontario International Airport to a burial home in Riverside, California.

Banta, 21, was killed in action in early 1944 when his plane was hit by anti-aircraft fire over Gotha, Germany, according to Honoring Our Fallen, an organization that provides support to families of fallen military and first responders.

One of the surviving crewmembers saw the plane was on fire, then fell in a steep dive before exploding on the ground. After the crash, German troops buried the remains of one soldier at a local cemetery, while the other six crewmembers, including Banta, were unaccounted for.

Banta was married and had four sisters and a brother. He joined the military because of his older brother Floyd Jack Banta, who searched for Donald Banta his whole life but passed away before he was found.

Donald Banta’s niece was present at the planeside honors ceremony at the Ontario airport coordinated by Honoring Our Fallen.

The remains from the plane crash were initially recovered in 1952, but they could not be identified at the time and were buried in Belgium. Banta was accounted for Sept. 26, 2023, following efforts by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency within the U.S. Department of Defense and the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System.



This 1944 photo shows WWII veteran U.S. Army Air Force Tech. Sgt. Donald V. Banta from Los Angeles. Banta, 21, was killed in action in early 1944 when his plane was hit by anti-aircraft fire over Gotha, Germany. Honoring Our Fallen via AP

SPORTS

Coronado Youth Soccer League has British ties

Meet Simon Hayward, the director of Coronado Youth Soccer League. His love for the game comes from growing up as a fan of the Tottenham Hotspurs, a professional soccer club in London.

BY CADE CAVIN
The Coronado News

Growing up in London with a dad who was a dedicated fan of a professional soccer club, the Tottenham Hotspurs, now San Diegan Simon Hayward knew he was destined for the sport.

Hayward, the current director of coaching for the Coronado FC, the Coronado Youth Soccer League, said his father was born very close to the former Tottenham stadium, White Hart Lane.

“I was born in London myself and so I was always going to be a Tottenham fan,” Hayward said.

However, to Hayward, soccer is more than just a way to compete or even pass some time.

“I believe strongly in the ability for sports to teach valuable life lessons to young people,” he said. “The classroom and school are vital parts of education, but there are some things that are easier to teach on the sports field and the two can work very well hand-in-hand. I love using sport to help young people grow up and develop into decent, well-rounded young adults.”

It is this ideal that the Coronado Youth Soccer League is focused on. Hayward explained that he believes when adults make sure to shift the focus of youth sports from winning to growing, that is where the magic happens.

“There can be too much focus on winning, this applies in both the UK



Simon Hayward is the director of the Coronado Youth Soccer League. Here, he is talking with a team. *Photo courtesy of Coronado FC.*

and the U.S.— and probably most of the world — and this can create a fear of making mistakes. Learning happens when we support people through making mistakes, the mistakes are a vital and necessary part of the learning process,” Hayward said.

Hayward has been coaching the game of soccer since he graduated from the University of Exeter in 2001 overseas, working with both professional and youth teams in England.

After a handful of Southern California vacations, he explained that he fell in love with San Diego, and more specifically, the island of Coronado where he has been directing the league since November 2023.

“I love the culture that comes with

the great weather we have here, I enjoy an active, healthy outdoor lifestyle and I’m grateful for the opportunity to do a job I love in a place that I love,” he said. “Having played a part in making two youth soccer programs in England very successful, I plan to play my part and work hard here to make this club as successful as possible.”

The Coronado Youth Soccer League will host the second weekend of the Crown City Classic youth soccer tournament on Aug. 3-4. The first weekend was July 27-28.

Hayward said that the event is the first time the teams have competed this season.

“We are all excited to get our players and teams on the field,” he said. “Our

coaches have been doing a wonderful job of implementing a new approach at Coronado FC this season, I’m confident that I speak on behalf of the club to say that we are all excited by the progress that is happening.”

With the second weekend of the tournament approaching, Hayward and the rest of the soccer league hope to show off the island and all it has to offer.

“We hope that all of the teams competing and visiting have a great experience, we hope the event attracts people to Coronado and showcases our beautiful island and we appreciate all of the Coronado residents’ understanding as we take up a lot of field space across these two weekends,” Hayward said.

US beach stars Kloth, Nuss didn’t need the Golden State. They’re going for gold at Olympics anyway

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — A South Dakota native, Taryn Kloth had never even played beach volleyball until after she graduated from Creighton as a star in the indoor version of the sport. In pursuit of a business degree, she landed at LSU without any beach skills at all.

“I actually got dismantled. I was horrible. I couldn’t even talk and walk in the sand at the same time,” she said. “I just remember going home and calling my parents and I’m like: ‘Oh, my gosh. They should probably kick me off the team.’”

Unlike the generations of Californians who grew up playing volleyball on the local beaches as kids, Kloth and teammate Kristen Nuss came to the sandy side of the sport late. After teaming up at LSU, they stayed in Louisiana, training in Nuss’ hometown of New Orleans.

And when the world’s second-ranked team made its debut with a 21-17, 21-14 victory over Canada at Eiffel Tower Stadium in Paris on July 27, it was the first American beach volleyball pair ever to go for Olympic gold without any connection to the Golden State.

“We kind of said we wanted to rewrite the script, and kind of change that,” Nuss said in a recent phone interview before the pair departed for Paris. “You had to move out to California. You had to live in California to make it into something in this sport. And I feel like we really done a good job of kind of changing that.”

Beach volleyball was made for — and made in — California, with its miles of sandy shoreline and weather that allows athletes to play year-round.

The two-person game was invented there, and it has thrived on beaches where volleyball nets welcome professionals and recreational players alike. The Volleyball Walk of Fame on the Manhattan Beach Pier commemorates the winners of the annual tournament there — one of the sport’s most prestigious.



United States’ Taryn Kloth and Kristen Nuss celebrate victory in the women’s pool B beach volleyball match between USA and Canada at Eiffel Tower Stadium at the 2024 Summer Olympics on July 27 in Paris, France. *AP Photo/Louise Delmotte*

And since the NCAA first sanctioned beach volleyball in 2016, California schools — UCLA and Southern California, to be precise — have won every national championship.

“When people say California is the hotbed of the sport, it really is,” Nuss said. “People grow up going to the beach, playing the sport. People love it there.”

“Louisiana was definitely not the hotbed of beach volleyball when I was growing up,” said Nuss, who started playing beach volleyball as a sophomore in high school. “We would almost have to beg other junior teams to play in tournaments, so we could just have a juniors tournament.”

Kloth played indoor volleyball at Creighton in Omaha, Nebraska — another distinctively nonbeach town — and arrived at LSU ready to, and needing to, learn. Her only experience with the beach game was hitting the ball around with friends at a lake back in South Dakota.

“I wouldn’t even call it a beach. I would call it dirt,” she said. “It was

like concrete with a little bit of dust on the top of it, and we would just play indoor volleyball outside.”

(Beach volleyball is a totally different sport than the indoor game, with two players on a team instead of six. But the biggest change is going from the hardwood to the flexible surface, which makes running and jumping — any sudden movement, really — a new challenge.)

“When I came on my visit, I didn’t even know where LSU was. I thought it was in New Orleans. I show up in January and what happens a month later? Mardi Gras,” Kloth said. “Yeah, I was already thrown into, like, the most Louisiana time ever.”

Kloth managed to master the beach game quickly enough so that by her first full season at LSU, 2020, she went 27-0 with two different partners. In her second year, she and Nuss teamed up to go 36-0 — including a pair of doubleheader victories over UCLA and top-ranked USC.

And by the time she had her degree, Kloth also had acquired enough of a

support system to want to stay.

“I was just thrown into this very different culture,” she said. “And they were just very gracious in welcoming me and knowing that I did not have a family here like everybody else probably did.”

So when the time came to move out to California — like every other would-be beach volleyball Olympian the United States has ever produced — they didn’t.

Training in New Orleans meant they wouldn’t be surrounded by the best competition and all of the resources that California could offer. But Kloth didn’t need her MBA to know that it would also be cheaper — an important factor for two people starting out in a sport that can be a tough living.

In Louisiana, though, they had a place to stay and a gym; their coach was local, too.

“For us, our coach was here. We had a place to stay. We had our gym. And I think, for sure, the cost of living was definitely something that steered us away,” Nuss said. “Because it was like: ‘Why? Why would we go pay a large sum of money when we can just stay here?’”

The Americans have dominated Olympic beach volleyball — especially on the women’s side, with Misty May-Treanor and Kerri Walsh Jennings winning three straight gold medals from 2004-12 and April Ross and Alix Klineman winning it all in Tokyo three years ago.

Their resumes read like a California atlas: Long Beach, USC, Stanford.

In fact, all 32 pairs the U.S. previously sent to the Summer Games has had some connection to the Golden State.

Nuss and Kloth are hoping to start a new trend.

“They obviously have a great support system where they’re at. And they felt like there’s no need to come to California,” Walsh Jennings, who is in Paris as an analyst, said. “They knew what they wanted and they just went with it.”

SPORTS

Harbaugh’s first practice give Chargers a feeling of rebirth

Associated Press

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP) — The Los Angeles Chargers’ first practice of training camp had elements of a rebirth.

Not only was it the first practice under coach Jim Harbaugh, who made an appearance at this year’s Corona-do Fourth of July parade, it was the team’s first workout in their new practice facility.

The Chargers held a ceremonial ribbon cutting for “The Bolt” before the start of practice on July 24, even though work is ongoing on some of the final details at the 150,000-square-foot facility built on 14 acres in El Segundo.

Even Harbaugh used a child birth analogy in describing how his first practice in the NFL since 2014 felt.

“The way it feels, it is like being born, like coming out of the womb. Everything is very nice, comfortable, safe and now you’re out. The lights are out, people are out looking at you. It feels good to have it happen,” Harbaugh said after the 90-minute practice.

Harbaugh was signing autographs for fans 30 minutes before practice started. Once it began, he was constantly rotating between two practice fields.

When the Chargers had 11-on-11 team drills late in practice, he stood 10 yards behind the offensive backfield so he could see the play develop.

With the Chargers not having their first padded practice until July 29, Harbaugh’s goal for the first week was to make sure his team remains healthy.

“Just making sure we don’t have any mishaps while we’re in this glide stage,” he said. “In my experience, a lot of those injuries that happen in day one or day two are long term.



Los Angeles Chargers head coach Jim Harbaugh instructs on the field during NFL football training camp July 24 in El Segundo, Calif. AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez

So, sometimes you have to pull them back a little.”

Harbaugh was mostly pleased until near the end of practice, when he thought some players were taking unnecessary risks without pads, such as receivers diving for overthrown balls or trying to break up a pass that might be intercepted.

With the Chargers already thin at receiver, the last thing they need is one going down with a separated shoulder.

Joshua Palmer, who comes into training camp as the Chargers’ most experienced receiver, made the nicest catch of the day with a sliding

reception during red zone drills, even though it might have caused a little bit of angst for Harbaugh since the fourth-year receiver went to the ground to make the grab.

The Chargers were ranked 30th in last season’s NFLPA report card, including a D-minus for locker room, F-minus for training area and F for nutrition. They were in a converted office building for seven seasons after moving from San Diego.

Those marks are bound to change with the move to the new facility.

The Chargers have three full-sized practice fields at their disposal as well as a palatial locker room, training

area and weight room. The cafeteria is being run by Wolfgang Puck Catering, and features a pizza oven shaped like a Chargers helmet.

“I’ve been very fortunate to have been a part of two of the best facilities in the nation at Oregon and now here,” quarterback Justin Herbert said. “The weight room, the facilities, the locker room, everything about it is top notch.”

NOTES: Rookie linebacker Junior Colson is on the active/non-football illness list after recently having an appendectomy. Harbaugh did not have a timetable on when the third-round pick might be able to return.

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FILE - San Diego Padres' Kyle Higashioka reacts after catching a pop foul by Cleveland Guardians' Will Brennan during the fifth inning of a baseball game in Cleveland, July 19, 2024. Higashioka received a replica of the Congressional Gold Medal awarded to his grandfather's World War II unit July 22 at a ceremony at the National Museum of the United States Army. AP Photo/Phil Long, File

Padres catcher Higashioka receives replica medal for grandfather's WWII service

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — San Diego Padres catcher Kyle Higashioka received a replica of the Congressional Gold Medal awarded to his grandfather's World War II unit on July 22 during a ceremony at the National Museum of the United States Army.

The late G. Shigeru Higashioka was part of the 100th Infantry Battalion of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, a unit made up Nisei soldiers — second-generation Japanese Americans who demanded the opportunity to join the armed forces even after President Franklin Roosevelt ordered Japanese Americans on the West Coast to be incarcerated in camps.

After retired Gen. Eric Shinseki

presented the younger Higashioka the medal, he received a tour of the museum.

“It was a really cool experience, just learning more about my grandfather's time in the war, because before this year I really didn't know much about it at all,” Higashioka said. “So it was really cool to hear from the general and the National Veterans Network, who did a lot of research.”

The unit was first presented the Congressional Gold Medal in 2011.

Higashioka said he looked at a digital soldier registry that included an entry on his family's behalf for his grandfather detailing what he did during the war. He also saw an exhibit for Nisei soldiers as well as artifacts and medals during his visit.

First runners reach the finish in Death Valley ultramarathon

Associated Press

DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK, Calif. (AP) — The first few runners of an ultramarathon that steps off in desolate Death Valley hit the finish line early on July 24, a little more than 24 hours after they began this year's Badwater 135, billed as the world's toughest foot race.

Ninety-seven runners launched the 48-hour race on July 22, most of them starting with a light jog during a rainstorm that partially obscured the light of a nearly full moon.

The men and women ranging in age from 19 to 69 and hailing from 21 countries and 26 U.S. states were running amid daytime temperatures as high as 120 degrees Fahrenheit (48.8 Celsius) and night heat above 100 F (37.7 C). They ran over roadways open to traffic and passed through places with names like Furnace Creek, Devil's Golf Course and Devil's Cornfield.

“For me it's all about seeing what I can do, you know, testing my own limits, seeing how well I can do these extreme things,” said 46-year-old runner Jessica Jones from Dauphin Island, Alabama, who was running her second Badwater 135, which starts in the valley's Badwater basin.

Luke Thomas, 44, from San Diego, was running his fourth 135-mile (217-kilometer) ultramarathon this calendar year.

Thomas didn't know if the humidity from the late storm would make the first part of the race harder or easier. While running an ultramarathon race in Brazil in January, “the humidity almost killed me,” he said.

Results available online Wednesday morning showed that this year 37-year-old Shaun Burke, of Du-

rango, Colorado finished first in the men's division at 23 hours, 29 minutes and 0 seconds, and 52-year-old Line Caliskaner, of Lorenskog, Norway, led the women's division, at 27 hours, 36 minutes and 27 seconds.

The fastest record for the race was set by 31-year-old Yoshihiko Ishikawa at 21 hours, 33 minutes and 1 second for the men's division in 2019, and 41-year-old Ashley Paulson at 21 hours, 44 minutes and 35 seconds in the women's division in 2023.

The race, which started in 1987, always takes place in mid-July, when temperatures peak in Death Valley National Park. The park has seen record-setting temperatures this month, including nine straight days of 125 F (51.6 C) or above.

It is so dangerous that a motorcyclist traveling in the park died from heat-related illness on July 6, and several more in his group fell ill. A woman with heat illness was rescued in the park on July 25 after she and a man got lost on a hike in an area called Badlands Loop as temperatures hit around 110 F (43.3 C) at 9:30 a.m.

No runner has died during the race, but a few people have landed in the hospital, said race director Chris Kostman, of AdventureCORPS, which organizes the race. The route actually dates back to a decade earlier when it was successfully completed by a solo runner, he said.

Participants start at the lowest point in North America at 282 feet (86 meters) below sea level. The finish line is 8,300 feet (2,530 meters) high at the Whitney Portal, the trailhead to California's Mount Whitney, the highest point in the contiguous U.S.

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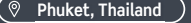
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