THE CORONADO NEWS

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The Bower to bring a new chapter of luxury to Coronado this month

The luxury hotel, featuring the city's first rooftop bar and restaurant, is opening on Orange Avenue.

BY KATIE MORRIS
The Coronado News

Coronado's newest hotel, The Bower, will open March 21 on property that was once part of John D. Spreckels' Japanese tea garden. And its design pays homage to that history.

The hotel is helmed by general manager Sean Murphy, who said the architecture is influenced by the wabi-sabi philosophy, which embraces the beauty of imperfections in life and art. It features clean lines blended with organic materials, creating an effortless harmony between the indoors and out.

Thoughtful landscaping reinforces the sense of serenity, while carefully restored neon signs nod to the

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"Guests can expect Stearns & Foster mattresses, Frette robes and linens and Le Labo bath amenities," The Bower's general manager Sean Murphy said. "Rooms also include thoughtful touches such as Dyson hair dryers."

Photo by Sam Frost.

Coronado Little League opening night tailgate marks season start

The event, in its second year, invited hundreds of Coronado Little League families for a night of baseball fun.

BY JULIETA SOTO
The Coronado News

Glow in the dark sticks fly in the air and giant inflatable baseballs roll as groups of children wearing baseball uniforms play throughout Bradley Field while "Eye of the Tiger" booms from nearby speakers.

This is the last hour of "A Grand Slam Celebration of Baseball," the second annual Coronado Little League opening night tailgate to celebrate the start of another season with over 400 families in attendance.

"It gets them excited, it gets them mentally ready, it lets them see all their buddies and get ready for the friendly competition that they have each weekend," said Chad Nottmeier, manager for the "Dino Nuggets" team. "It's

» Continued on Page 12



A Coronado Little League team high fives the Coronado High School baseball team at the opening night tailgate on Feb. 28. *Staff photos by Julieta Soto.*



Coronado Little League players throw confetti to celebrate the start of a new season.



The first pitch thrown by Randy Habert, 44 Pro co-founder.



Coronado Little League players play with a giant inflatable baseball at the second annual opening night tailgate on Feb. 28.

Potentially flawed Mexico treatment plant impacts sewage crisis progress

An announcement about delays in construction comes after U.S. and Mexican officials announce a March opening.

BY JULIETA SOTO
The Coronado News

Coronado Mayor John Duncan expressed concern about a report that Mexico may have installed the wrong pumps at the San Antonio de los Buenos (SAB) wastewater treatment plant in Tijuana, further delaying efforts to stanch coastal sewage pollution.

"It is essential that the Mexico sewage treatment plant come online as soon as possible to remedy the flows that will not be treated at the plant on our side of the border," Duncan said in a statement. "The success of the Mexico plant will have a large impact on whether Coronado beaches are clean and open this summer. It is a major factor in the quality of life for Coronado and all of the Southbay."

According to a Feb. 19 Border Report article, an unidentified source familiar with the plant's design said water pumps were installed instead of pumps required for processing wastewater containing mud, thick fluids and sediment.

The plant's ability to process raw sewage will be ineffective until these flaws are corrected, the article added, and that process could take months.

Maria-Elena Giner, Commissioner of the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC), said the news report triggered inquiries south of the border.

» Continued on Page 8

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this week

8 • Saturday

From 12-3 p.m., the KMAC Foundation for Accessible Sailing will be hosting a sailing and training at the Coronado Yacht Club. The training is open to everyone, and no experience is necessary. The KMAC Foundation uses specially adapted sailboats and provides therapeutic, recreational and other sailing opportunities for people with disabilities to enhance their mobility, well-being and independence. Email kmacfoundation@gmail.com for more information.

13 • Thursday

The Coronado Public Library hosts open chess play on the second Thursday of every month between 3 and 5 p.m. in the Winn Room. On March 13, enjoy playing chess with others, or learn to play or improve your game with help from facilitator and local chess coach Chuck McClung. Chess boards and pieces provided. Open to all adults age 18 and older.

15 • Saturday

The deadline to apply for the Soroptimist International service award is March 15. The award recognizes young women leaders, between the ages of 14 and 18, who make the community a better place through volunteer efforts. The awardees will each receive $500, plus another $500 to be given to the charity of their choice. The application can be found at coronadosoroptimists.org, and once completed, can be emailed to membership@coronadosoroptimist.org.

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@numbersix.com

THINGS TO DO

Author Taylor Kiland to speak on her new book

Coronado News staff

The Coronado Public Library, in partnership with the Coronado Historical Association, will host Coronado author Taylor Baldwin Kiland, who will be talking about her new book, "Murder of the Jujube Candy Heiress: A Coronado Cold Case," on March 13 at 5:30 p.m.

The book dives into a Coronado cold case — the murder of retired librarian Ruth Quinn in 1975. Quinn was murdered, execution-style, in her cottage. Her death sent a shock wave through the community.

The granddaughter of Jujubes and Jujyfruits creator Henry Heide, Quinn was found fully clothed with her shoes on, in her bed, dead from two gunshot wounds. To this day, her murder has never been solved.

Light refreshments will be served and a book-signing will follow the author event, which is free and open to the public. Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis and is subject to availability. Limited preferred seating is offered with the pre-order purchase of "Murderer of the Jujube Candy Heiress: A Coronado Cold Case" through the Coronado Historical Association's website.



Ruth Quinn in her senior year of college, in 1921, at the Trinity College for women in Washington, D.C. *Photo provided by Taylor Kiland.*



Meet Rex, the pet of the week. He's at PAWS of Coronado and is looking for his forever home. See all adoptable animals. Scan the QR code with your smartphone camera, and tap on the link. *Graphic/photo provided by PAWS of Coronado.*

PET OF THE WEEK

Meet Rex

PAWS of Coronado

Rex is a lovable 4-year-old mixed breed dog who weighs in at a healthy 31 pounds.

His playful spirit shines through whenever he's surrounded by his favorite toys and balls, always ready for a game of fetch or some fun playtime.

Despite his playful self, Rex is incredibly sweet and gentle, always eager to show affection to anyone around him. His playful nature combined with his loving personality makes him a perfect companion, always ready to brighten anyone's day with his wagging tail and friendly demeanor.

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 Rex or other pets, please visit pawsofcoronado.org.



Sharp Coronado Hospital is one of the first hospitals in the world to offer patients the next generation in robotic surgery — the da Vinci® 5 system. The advanced platform gives surgeons greater control and vision in the operating room, which can result in smaller incisions, less pain and scarring, better surgical outcomes, and a quicker return to daily activities.

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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

A modest ethics proposal

Editor's note: Check thecoronadonews.com for continuing coverage on this issue.

BY LAURA WILKINSON SINTON
Op-Ed

Let's suppose in ten years a future mayor of Coronado and two of the future council members (a majority) decide to secretly join forces with a private equity company, buy up three city blocks in the village, convert them to condos and change the law to allow both a zoning variance and daily rentals for those dozens of condos through Airbnb for their own secret personal profit.

Coronado's municipal code of ethics does not require them to disclose these conflicts of interest nor recuse themselves from these decisions at City Hall while changing the laws and profiting from actions like this. A part-time lifeguard and full-time librarian are subject to the Coronado City code of ethics. But the mayor and City Council – astonishingly – are not. The code applies only to "employees who report to the city manager."

A new state law known as the Levine Act requires local elected officials to publicly disclose gifts of $500 or more for decisions directly affecting those advocating at council meetings (known as "pay to play" laws). Coronado's contribution limit of $200 means that threshold can't be met, so that disclosure scenario would never apply here.

While the state ethics authority, the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) is tasked with legal oversight of local elected officials, its enforcement bureaucracy moves at glacial speed and requires information updates on financial conflicts from officials only once a year.

The FPPC relies on voluntary compliance. By the time the citizenry catches up to this type of secrecy, it's too late. Residents of Bell, California, for instance, learned the hard way after a lack of ethics oversight allowed its elected officials to pillage the city treasury while state officials scrambled to catch up years later. That scenario actually happened and is not terribly different from the fictional one I imagine above.

Local ethics codes and ethics commissions are the customary and truest guardrails in California cities. Coronado currently has neither where our elected officials are concerned.

While in office, former Coronado Mayor Richard Bailey potentially may have violated both Coronado laws and several California State laws. Bailey sent campaign mass mailings electronically on what appeared to be an official city communication using a Coronado City Mayor letterhead with his "election recommendations" containing mischaracterizations and outright untruthful allegations about candidates he opposed, disparaging their character and diminishing their public service and promoting his favorites in what appeared to be a city sanctioned communication.



Laura Wilkinson Sinton is the co-founder of StopTheSewage.org. *Photo provided by Laura Wilkinson Sinton.*

This alleged act would normally be handled swiftly by a local city's ethics code of conduct requiring a retraction and apology, but it was never acted upon by the Coronado special counsel as demanded by the harmed parties. Why? Because Bailey's actions were not covered by the ethics code of conduct in the city of Coronado. He was exempt from those laws and constraints and there was no enforcement nor penalty.

The current mayor, John Duncan, and council members Amy Steward and Mark Fleming, violated their signed California Code of Fair Campaign Practices pledge during the election—also without consequence from the state.

The pledge demands candidates who sign it speak out against disparaging rhetoric, yet while the three of them benefitted from direct-mail "hit" pieces disparaging their opponents, none publicly denounce those mailers. None of the other candidates who ran for mayor or Council violated their signed ethics pledge.

You read that right. The city of Coronado does have an ethics code but it does not apply to the Coronado mayor or council members. That has to change. Coronado needs an ethics code of conduct that applies to our elected officials, and an ethics commission to monitor and enforce compliance as many other California cities do. State ethics laws look good in theory, but in practice the state doesn't have the bandwidth to be a local watchdog as the last election showed. This is about trust in local government.

At its worst, an ethics commission can operate like the city of Chula Vista's former ethics commission. "Advisory" only, it was stocked with friendly political patrons chosen by the mayor and council themselves, meeting irregularly and wielding powers similar to a Nevada Boxing Commission (in essence, zero).

The Chula Vista Ethics Commission has functioned more as a stalling mechanism for elected officials to stretch any alleged wrongdoing out beyond the statute of limitations (yes, that actually happened). And recently, a sitting councilmember was indicted and convicted of federal felony financial crimes while the Chula Vista Ethics Commission did nothing. Toothless, ineffective ethics commissions can breed unwarranted distrust and cynicism towards honest, forthright local elected officials. That is the opposite of what their mission should be, and it is what we should avoid in developing Coronado's model for ethics reform.

The better model to look toward is the San Francisco ethics commission. Established by the voters themselves, their true independence comes from appointments by various officials — not just the city council — and with the requisite disciplinary and subpoena powers to investigate.

Ethics commissions can carry the responsibility and authority to censure and assess steep fines for proven acts of wrongdoing. They assure maximum transparency and accessibility to the public of campaign financing, including outside PAC contributions, and prevent conflicts of interest and other acts that would damage confidence in our elected officials. Those trusted commissioners are qualified professionals who act in the best interest of the public – not merely in the best interest of elected officials.

Assuring transparency and accountability are the keystones of public integrity. To operate in the public trust, you maintain independent verification for compliance of the ethical conduct required of sitting officials. Watchdogs help us sleep better at night. A truly empowered ethics commission helps citizens trust that enforcement of these rules will happen. It instills faith and renewed confidence in our public officials, and allows them to truly succeed in their duties. That is what we want for our elected officials.

That is why Coronado citizens, led by local attorney Christine Mott, have drafted a petition on Change.org https://bit.ly/92118ETHICS asking Coronado voters to join us to ask the council to enact ethics reform. Ronald Reagan often repeated the adage "Trust– but verify." To be able to verify proper conduct and assure public trust, Coronado needs both an ethics code to guide our council and an empowered ethics commission to enforce it. Let's get started.

Laura Wilkinson Sinton is the co-founder of StopTheSewage.org and a community organizer. She lives in Coronado with her husband and two rambunctious Australian Shepherds they are fostering for an active-duty Navy couple.

LISA BENSON



JACK OHMAN



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CORONADO



Brian Archibald has been named Hotel del Coronado's newest executive chef. *Photo provided by Hotel del Coronado.*

Hotel del Coronado appoints new executive chef

BY MADELINE YANG
The Coronado News

Brian Archibald will be the new executive chef of the Hotel del Coronado. After the closure of the Del's Laundry Pub, two brand new restaurants will be opening in the spring at the Del: Nobu Del Coronado and Veranda, in addition to the four existing restaurants and bars.

Archibald will oversee culinary operations at the resort and lead the property's culinary team across all concepts. The four concepts located on at the Del include Serēa, Sun Deck, Babcock & Story Bar and ENO Market & Pizzeria – and soon, Nobu and Veranda.

A graduate from California Culinary Academy in San Francisco, Archibald has over 25 years of hospitality experience. He's worked in Michelin-starred kitchens alongside several powerhouse chefs, like Daniel Boulud and Alex Lee.

Archibald has served many different positions including sous chef, executive chef and director of culinary and beverage. Throughout his career, he's led culinary teams at The Graduate Hotel, The Boulders Resort & Spa and JW Marriott Desert Ridge and more.

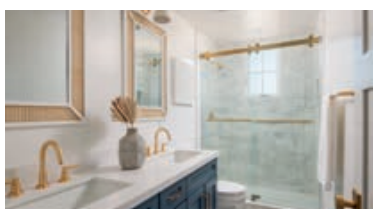
"With Nobu Del Coronado and Veranda restaurant set to open in the coming months, our team is aiming to create dining experiences that are as unforgettable as our oceanfront setting." Archibald said. "I'm looking forward to elevating the resort's already exceptional dining scene and offering guests an experience that is both innovative and deeply connected to the local culture."

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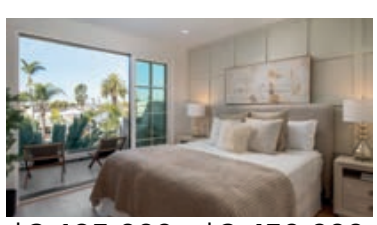
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CORONADO

Scout's eagle project helps KMAC Foundation set sail with new trailer

Sixteen-year-old Trey Gregory is rebuilding a boat trailer for the KMAC Foundation to become an Eagle Scout.

BY KATIE MORRIS
The Coronado News

To achieve the highest rank in Boy Scouts of America, a youth must complete a major project involving community service.

For 16-year-old Trey Gregory, a junior at Coronado High School and a member of Troop 801, that assignment is to rebuild a boat trailer for the KMAC Foundation, a Coronado-based organization dedicated to providing accessible sailing opportunities to individuals with disabilities.

A scout since kindergarten, Gregory's path has spanned both coasts. He began with Cub Scouts in Virginia Beach before moving to Coronado in 2020.

Now, as he nears the final stage of scouting, his project is well underway.

In 2023, there were 392,275 Boy Scouts across the United States, yet only about 6% of them would earn the rank of Eagle Scout.

To achieve this distinction, scouts must meet a set of requirements before they turn 18: sustained involvement, a demonstrated scout spirit, the completion of 21 merit badges, six months in a troop leadership role, an Eagle Scout board of review and a scoutmaster conference.

Yet it is the final, and perhaps most defining, requirement that extends a scout's journey beyond the bounds of personal achievement and into the realm of civic engagement: to conceive, organize and lead a service project.

Founded in memory of avid sailor Kyle McArthur, the foundation has long sought to expand its reach beyond the waters of the Coronado Yacht Club – where their adaptive sailboats are currently located. Since KMAC's current trailer is outdated and not roadworthy, Gregory's project will allow the foundation to go to events outside of local waters.

Among the sailors who relied on these boats in February was Tracy Schmitt — better known as Unstoppable Tracy — a Canadian athlete, motivational speaker and quadruple amputee. Later this March, she will take that spirit to Australia, alongside the foundation's Hansa 303 boats, competing in the Hansa Class World Championships.



Tracy Schmitt sailing KYLE, the KMAC Foundation's yellow Hansa 303, on Feb. 15. *Photo by Jeff Lee.*

For years, KMAC has relied on a donated trailer outfitted with secondhand racks — equipment that, while serviceable, has never quite fit the needs of the organization's adaptive sailing program.

Jeff Lee, the foundation's vice president, explained that KMAC is currently working on establishing a community boating center for accessible sailing with the National City Aquatic Center.

To fully utilize the location, he noted, they need the ability to launch from there — a venture that requires transporting their boats across the bridge.

When it came time to undertake his Eagle Scout project, Gregory approached Jamie MacArthur, the president of the KMAC Foundation, to see how he could contribute.

The answer came quickly: the trailer. It needed to be roadworthy and able to transport the foundation's three Hansa 303 boats and three Hansa Liberty boats.

In December, Lee and MacArthur tasked the scout with redesigning the racks that hold the three-meter-long fiberglass boats in place, making sure they fit the dimensions of these specialized vessels while also ensuring safety during transport.

"Trey came down with his tape measure and measured everything — the trailer, the boats," Lee said. "We worked together to figure out what we needed, and then he designed the racks himself. It's been incredible to see him grow in this role."

The trailer has been measured, and National City's Megla Manufacturing is fabricating three to four new metal frames over the next few months.

After that, Gregory and his troopmates will take over — painting, laying carpet and making the final adjustments to ensure that the boats are safe and secure during transport.

Lee, himself an Eagle Scout, emphasized the leadership aspect of the project.

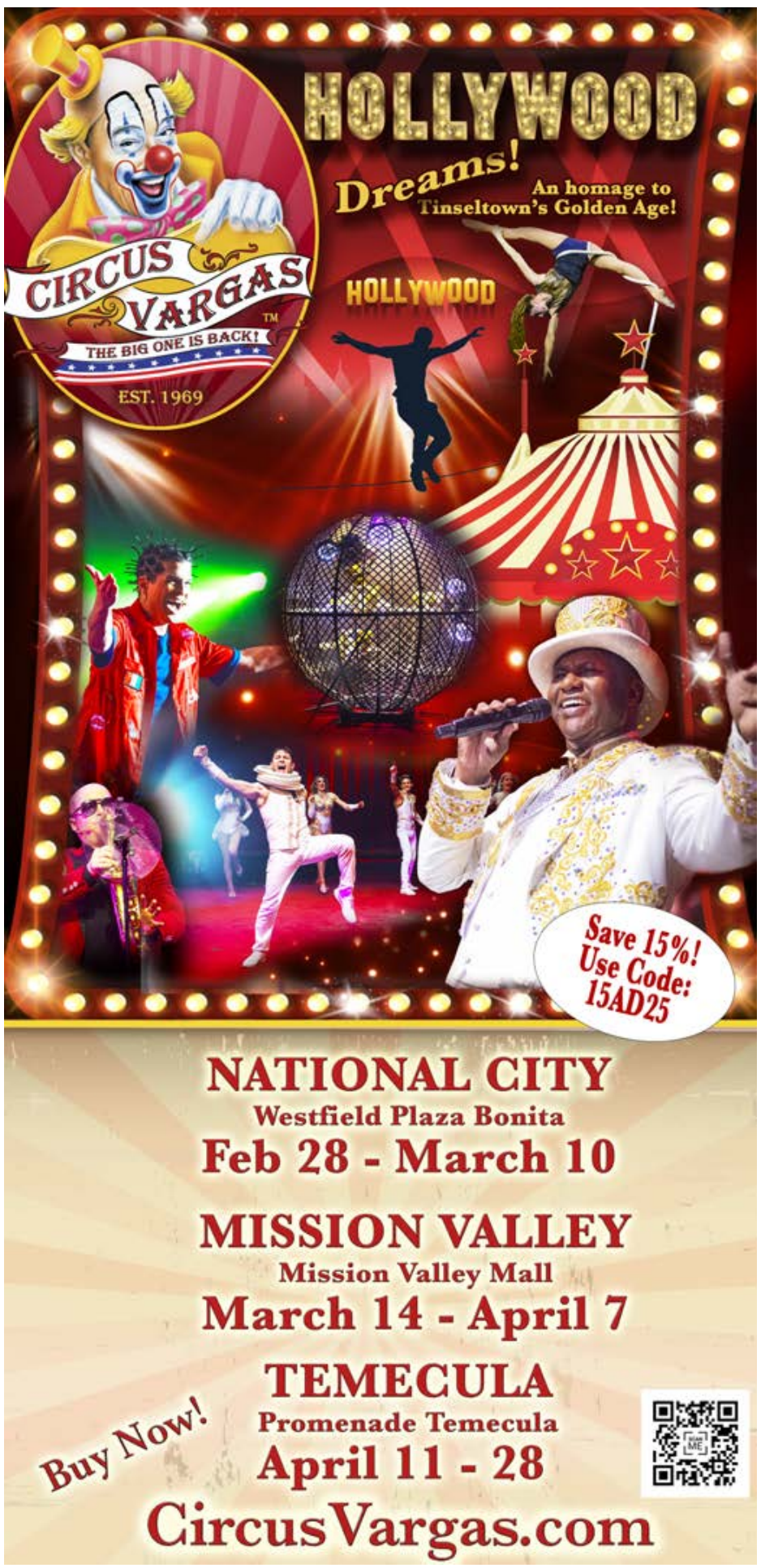
"Scouting is about more than just completing tasks; it's about leading others, solving problems and giving back," Lee said. "Trey embodies that spirit."

The importance of the KMAC Foundation's work is something Gregory has witnessed firsthand.

"I have seen the KMAC Foundation's boats in action many times, and every time, the sailor has the biggest smile on their face," he said. "It gives people who would otherwise not be able to sail, the ability to sail them at a national level…I hope for people to take away from this project that no matter how busy you are, it's important to take time to help others less fortunate than yourself."

For Lee, a retired Coast Guard veteran with 25 years of service, being on the water is more than second nature; it's a lifelong passion.

"It is a magnificent feeling helping these people out and seeing the challenge they get… and their happiness once they get out on the water," he said. "It makes it all worthwhile."





CORONADO



Kate Bennett (left) and Grace Dabbieri are pursuing their Gold Award project. *Photo by Melissa Bennett.*

Coronado Soroptimist Club to host event honoring girl scouts

Coronado News staff

Two members of Coronado's Girl Scout Troop 6136, Kate Bennett and Grace Dabbieri, will display their Gold Star Award projects on March 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the Coronado Public Library's Winn Room.

The Gold Star Award project is the highest achievement within girl scouts, akin to the Eagle Award in boy scouting. The project must demonstrate leadership, address national or global issues, and create a measurable, sustainable and positive impact.

Bennett's presentation will focus on adding Naloxone to first aid kits as preparation for responding to an opioid overdose. Based on RSVP attendance, she will have Naloxone supplies available to hand out to attendees.

Blind from birth, Dabbieri will be discussing all things that individuals who are blind can accomplish, as well as explaining the importance of access. She plans to provide a relevant gift for those who attend.

All attendees who RSVP will receive gift items from both speakers. Those interested in attending can RSVP at SignUp Genius.



Maggie Anderson, the 2024 Grand Prize winner for the home front judging contest, stands with a ribbon in front of her home on 9th Ave. *Photo by Lori P. Smith.*

Volunteers needed for 2025 Home Front Judging

Coronado News staff

The 103rd annual Coronado Flower Show is fast approaching, and the Home Front Judging committee is seeking volunteers.

Home Front Judging, which celebrates the beautification of Coronado through awarding ribbons to homes with exceptional landscaping, will take place the weekend of March 28-30. The Coronado Flower will run on April 12 and 13.

The co-chairs of the event, Lori P. Smith and Kelly Kindorf, said no green thumb is required to volunteer — only an appreciation for all things that grow and a willingness to stroll Coronado's streets, handing out ribbons to homeowners.

Volunteers can pick up their supplies and instructions in the Winn Room of the Coronado Public Library from 5 to 6:30 p.m. on March 27.

Those interested in volunteering can sign up on signupgenious.com.

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Students at Sacred Heart Parish School participate in science and engineering fair

BY SOFIE FRANSEN
The Coronado News

For the past six weeks, 84 middle schoolers at Sacred Heart Parish School have been investing their time, energy and creativity into projects that went on display at the science and engineering fair on Feb. 26.

In a room filled with posters, replicas, models, artwork and experiments, each project tapped into life skills that went way beyond the artistic visuals of their project.

"One of my goals is to always kind of prepare them for whatever they aspire to, whatever that may be for them, or whatever career path they pick," said Emily O'Neal, the science and social studies teacher for sixth through eighth grade. "You have to be able to develop these soft skills to be able to read well, research well, be curious about a topic, and then to also persevere."

The projects showcased the middle schoolers' creativity through ornate displays, catered to each student's interest.

Take sixth-grader Cristiana Otero's project for instance. Otero, 12, created a complex diagram of the water cycle, her display incorporating a wide range of materials – string for rain, a light for the sun, cotton for clouds, brown paper for the mountains, and paint to highlight the variations of blue in the ocean.

She said her favorite part of the project was creating the nature scene.

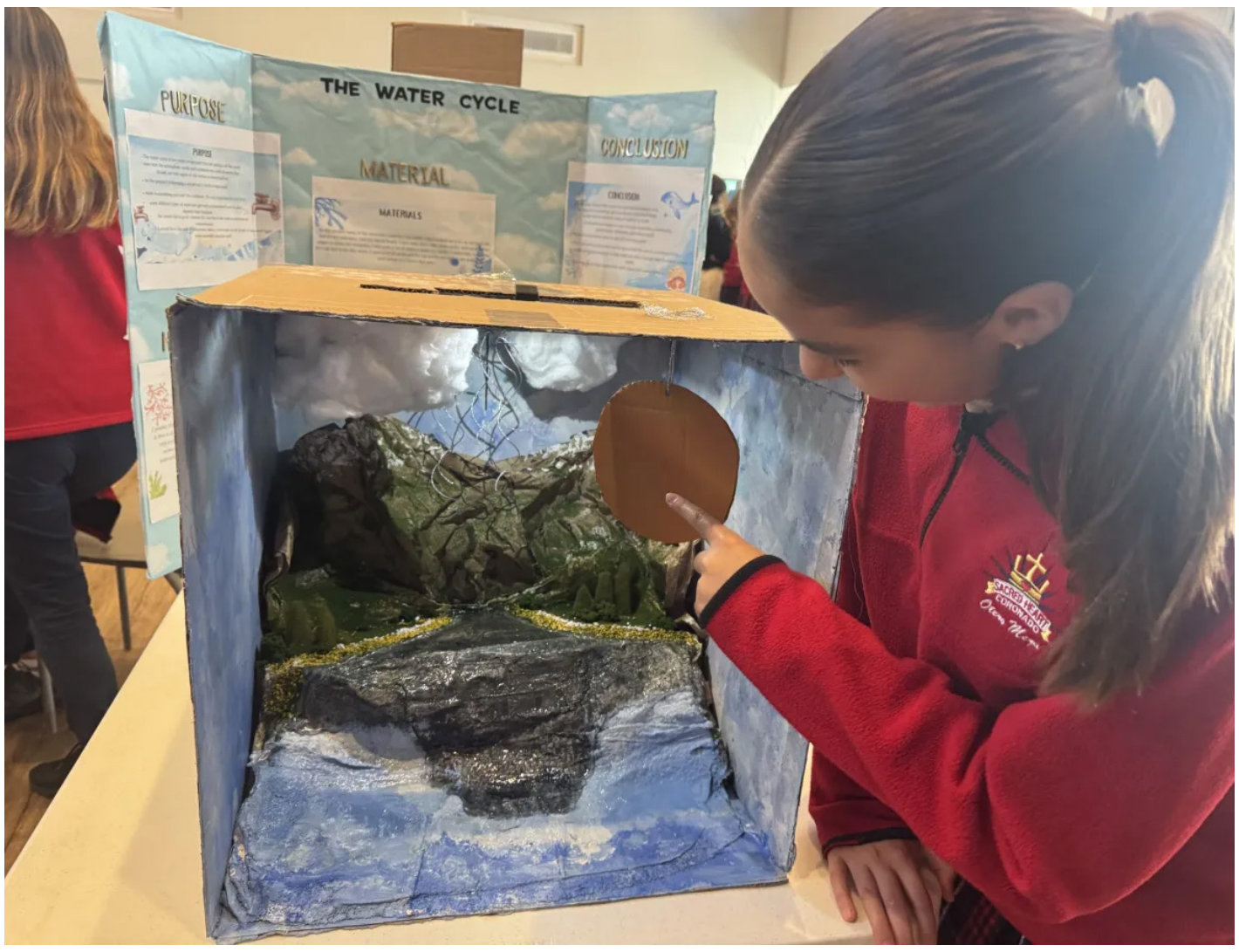
While the students had the creative freedom to make a final project based on a topic they were passionate about, all of their choices had one thing in common: lots of research.

The students needed to learn how to become researchers, find credible sources and become an expert on their topics.

Victoria Cantu and Thomas Warwick, both in eighth grade, researched the question: How strong is the Coronado Bridge?

Their final display, a replica of the curved overpass over the bay, was built with their newly acquired knowledge that the real bridge can hold over 10,000 tons and can withstand earthquakes. They presented their findings to passing family members and teachers at the fair.

"We want to have kids be able to present, to be able to be articulate, to be able to engage with an audience," O'Neal said. "That's going to serve them well in whatever they do – even their high schools they go to, their scholarships they try to get for college, when many have interviews for that, and then down the road, an interview for their dream job or whatever it might be."



Cristiana Otero, 12, points to the materials she used in her water cycle display. *Staff photo by Sofie Fransen.*



Paulina Moreno Magoni and Galia Serio present their final project on the chemicals in fast food. *Photo provided by Erika Rosas.*



Cristiana Otero created a diagram of the water cycle for her project. *Staff photo by Sofie Fransen.*



Thomas Warwick (left) and Victoria Cantu present their final project: an analysis of the strength of the Coronado Bridge. *Staff photo by Sofie Fransen.*

Potentially flawed Mexico treatment plant impacts sewage crisis progress

» Continued from Page 1

"The USIBWC, along with the U.S. Consulate in Tijuana, immediately reached out to Mexican officials for additional information," Giner said on Feb. 25. "They advised us that the article is not accurate. However, my staff and I are requesting more details to get a better idea of the situation at SAB. I will share with you what we learn as soon as we have more information."

Testing, stabilizing the SAB plant

The Coronado News was unable to independently verify whether or not the correct pumps were installed.

Mexican authorities have said pumping equipment for the new San Antonio de los Buenos wastewater treatment plant has been installed in accordance with the executive project, which will ensure the correct operation of the plant, and is already in its testing and stabilization phase, said Manuel Morales, secretary for the Mexican Section of the IBWC known as CILA.

The assertion that there is a problem with such equipment, or that it could cause further delays in the opening of the plant, is unknown, Morales added.

The Mexican treatment facility south of Tijuana has been inoperative for years. In February, Giner announced construction at the plant had been completed and it was being tested and stabilized so that Mexico could have full operation of the plant by March.



U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) Commissioner Maria-Elena Giner and Mexican Section Commissioner Adriana Reséndez Maldonado participate in an annual joint meeting on Jan. 15. *Photo taken from USIBWC Office of Public Affairs.*

The plant, whose construction is being supervised by the state of Baja California and SEDENA, Mexico's defense secretary, is expected to treat 17 million gallons per day of untreated sewage.

Jesús García Castro, director of the Comisión Estatal de Servicios Públicos de Tijuana (CESPT), the wastewater provider in Tijuana, also said treatment at the plant could begin as early as March, according to an article published by ZETA on Feb. 23.

"I am in regular contact with the Commissioner of the IBWC to ensure we receive accurate information and that the opening of the Mexico plant is not delayed," Duncan said.

Phased project in Mexico

Giner also gave an update on construction of a new international collector in Mexico, one of the projects identified in Minute 328.

Minute 328 is a binational agreement signed by the U.S. and Mexican federal agencies in 2022 as a commitment to reduce transboundary wastewater in the Tijuana River watershed and Pacific Ocean through a suite of infrastructure projects on both sides of the border.

Currently, the collector manages average flows of 32 million gallons per day, but portions of it are aged and in disrepair.

The project is intended to increase capacity to approximately 58 million gallons per day, reducing discharges of untreated wastewater into the Tijuana River, according to the IBWC.

"Getting the new international collector in operation as soon as possible is a crucial milestone and will bring more resiliency to the sewage infrastructure in Tijuana," said Giner.

U.S. agencies urged Mexico to develop a bypass solution to avoid a discharge of approximately 25 to 30 million gallons per day of wastewater into the river during the construction project.

According to Giner, the work on the collector now will be completed in two successive phases that, combined, will take about a month.

"The preliminary work on Phase 1 has begun, with the work on the international collector and bypass set to begin by the end of this week," added Giner in an announcement on Feb. 25.

The Bower to bring a new chapter of luxury to Coronado this month

» Continued from Page 1

Coronado of decades past.

Murphy, whose resume spans The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel; The Ritz-Carlton Bacara, Santa Barbara; Mexico's Hotel Esencia and other luxury properties, was hired in advance of the grand opening.

Among The Bower's offerings is Dive, Coronado's first rooftop bar and restaurant with views from Point Loma to Mexico.

Murphy said he sees The Bower as more than a place to stay — it is a shift in the island's hospitality landscape.

"If Hotel del Coronado is a grand cruise ship, The Bower is a luxury yacht — offering a refined, boutique experience where every guest is known by name," he said. "While The Del is an iconic destination, The Bower provides a secluded retreat within the energy of Coronado."

Murphy said he envisions The Bower attracting a younger, design-conscious traveler, someone drawn to Coronado's natural beauty but craving a modernized experience.

To that end, the hotel offers private sunset cruises aboard a 1931 vintage speedster boat, Mini Moke beach picnic outings and e-bike tours.

The general manager said guests will also find an integration of local craftsmanship throughout the hotel.

Pour-over coffee in each room is made with beans from San Diego-based roaster Genteel. The plates are handcrafted by a local artisan pottery studio, The Wheel. Even the stationery is provided by Coronado's own Seaside Papery.



Influenced by the wabi-sabi mentality, The Bower's architecture features clean lines blended with organic materials. *Photo by Sam Frost.*

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NAVY

Capt. Ladislao Montero updates community about plane noise at the Shores

BY MADELINE YANG
The Coronado News

A new flight path for Navy aircraft coming into Naval Amphibious Base Coronado has resulted in decreased noise for residents living at the Coronado Shores; however, the volume levels are expected to increase again in May.

Capt. Ladislao R. Montero, commanding officer of Naval Base Coronado, updated the city on the Navy's flight patterns over the Shores during a Naval Complex meeting on Feb. 24.

While Shores residents have complained about aircraft flying directly over the apartment buildings, worried about the planes being too close and too loud, Montero assured the community that all flights coming over the Shores are within full compliance with Federal Aviation Administration safety criteria.

"I understand and very much respect the residents concerned about noise. All of the approaches are safe," Montero said.

Coronado resident Joe Ditler also thanked Montero for a new flight path that made some of the planes coming in quieter.

Some of the planes have been taking a slightly different approach to landing at Naval Air Station North Island and not passing over the Shores.

Montero said that this was due to better weather conditions allowing the pilots to fly using a visual approach. However, in a few months, that could change.

"As we go into May and June gloom, the cloud layer will come back down and those flights will go back to using instrument approaches that do fly over the Shores," Montero explained.



Retired Navy Capt. John Rotruck, a native of Portsmouth, Virginia, and a veteran with extensive operational experience and proven leadership in military medicine, steps into the role of chief medical officer for Defense Health Network Pacific Rim. *Photo by Regena Kowitz.*

Former USNS Mercy commander takes helm as Pacific Rim medical officer

DVIDS

Retired Navy Capt. John Rotruck, a native of Portsmouth, Virginia, and a veteran with extensive experience in military medicine, has stepped into the role of chief medical officer for Defense Health Network Pacific Rim, which is headquartered in San Diego.

Rotruck, whose career spans operational medicine and leadership positions including command of the hospital ship USNS Mercy, now oversees medical quality and safety across nine military treatment facilities throughout the Pacific region.

"As chief medical officer, I have a responsibility for the overall quality and safety oversight of the care delivered in our network's military treatment facilities," said Rotruck.

Rotruck's Navy journey began with the Health Professions Scholarship Program, which helped fund his medical education at the University of Miami. His family connection to naval service — his father is a retired Navy chief warrant officer — made the Navy a natural choice.

"Being commanding officer of the Mercy was the best job I've ever had in Navy Medicine," Rotruck said. He commanded the floating hospital during Pacific Partnership 2018, where he worked directly with civilian and military medical leaders in Vietnam.



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Attention, Coronado Art Collectors and Art Enthusiasts



Pauline Johnson- Brown
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Call or email today, I look forward to discussing your art with you!

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SPORTS

Coronado High boys volleyball has sights set on CIF crown

BY CADE CAVIN
The Coronado News



From left: Ryan Nanoff (10), Reese Pagon (13), Cameron Lenert (4), Aiden Arendt (2), Ryder Moore (2), Logan Berk (15), Vinson Nguyen (3), Dylan Tuckey (14), Jackson McMullen (11), Carl Allen (20), Gage Gilby (6), Lyonel Mancilla (1), Greyson Glorieux (8). *Photo taken from the Coronado High School boys' volleyball instagram page.*

Fresh off of a successful 2023-2024 campaign in which the Coronado High School boys volleyball team posted a 24-11 record with a 9-1 record in the City League, the Islanders are looking to pick up where they left off last season.

Coach George Cavaco, who has been at Coronado High since 2012, said the goal for the coming season is simple: repeat as City League Champions, then add a CIF title to their resume.

Growing up in Hawaii, Cavaco played volleyball all four years of high school and was surrounded by the game at home around his family. He credits those experiences with teaching him much about the sport – and about life.

"Be consistent. No matter the outcome of the game, just have fun and make lasting memories with my athletes," Cavaco said. "[I coach to] be a mentor to these young men, and because I love the sport."

The Islander's started off their 2025 season with a 3-1 victory over Helix High School. According to Cavaco, senior setter Greyson Glorieux has moved positions for his final year to help the team perform at its best.

A four year varsity performer, Glorieux raved about the expertise and coaching ability of Cavaco.

"I think this year, as I'm one of the veteran players on the team, coach gets the most from me by reminding me that I am an example and a leader for some of the younger guys that are new and haven't played as much," Glorieux said.

Glorieux echoed Cavaco's sentiments about the team's goals for the year, setting his sights on a CIF championship.

"We lost in the finals last year so we are really looking to complete the second part of that this coming season," he said.

The Islanders will look to make that CIF title game last season, a 3-1 loss to High Tech High, a motivator this year as they work towards another shot at the championship.

Glorieux believes the synergy this year's squad has is what will separate them from the rest of the pack as the season progresses.

"Most of us have either known each other for a long time or have been playing with each other and we get along well, so our overall connection and familiarity with our teammates is really strong," he said.

San Diego FC makes its home debut before a sellout crowd in a city hungry for top-level soccer

Associated Press



San Diego FC fans sing before the team hosts St. Louis City in an MLS soccer match Saturday, March 1, 2025, in San Diego. *AP Photo/Gregory Bull.*

Every seat at Snapdragon Stadium appeared to be filled well before San Diego FC took the field. When the MLS expansion franchise finally kicked off its inaugural home match, the sellout crowd let loose with a roar decades in the making.

Major League Soccer's 30th franchise is officially in business in a city starved for elite professional sports — and particularly hungry for top-level soccer.

San Diego's first MLS team played a scoreless draw with St. Louis City in its home debut Saturday night before the biggest crowd in the history of its new stadium. While the inaugural match didn't have goals, it represented the achievement of a goal set out by San Diego FC owner Mohamed Mansour and his partners two years ago.

"It's a very historic day," Mansour told The Associated Press. "I'm so excited. It's a big day for us, and I just hope we continue to do our best and work hard. It's going to be a journey, but we're winners by nature, and we will come up with a club that will make everybody happy in San Diego."

The night was a dream come true for generations of San Diego soccer fans, who have watched while products of their extensive youth systems advanced to all levels of the international game. San Diego's year-round sunshine and location on the border with Mexico make it a soccer haven, but after years of failed attempts to get a team in a top North American league, those fans have a well-organized, well-funded club to call their own.

San Diego's first MLS team made an immediate splash in its inaugural match last weekend by beating the LA Galaxy on the six-time MLS Cup champions' home field.

A week later, San Diego formally began play at the young arena built on the Mission Valley grounds once occupied by the oft-renamed former home of MLB's Padres and the NFL's Chargers.

For MLS Commissioner Don Garber, the evening was another exciting milestone in his league's rampant expansion across the continent.

"I think this is a great sports town," Garber said. "Soccer has a great history here, as many of you know. We worked hard for years and years to get an MLS team here. We went through some different iterations, and I thought a lot about that today. We tried to get control of the (stadium) site. And now sitting here today, being in Snapdragon and seeing what's been happening with the community, how (everything) came together, this is a great outcome."

Snapdragon turned out the lights for its pregame festivities, which included a fireworks show. Padres slugger Manny Machado, a founding partner in San Diego FC, took the field to loud cheers while carrying a large, glowing blue orb with the team crest.

The fans cheered every starter, but they shook the stadium for Hirving "Chucky" Lozano, the 29-year-old Mexican national team stalwart who signed with San Diego last year after a pro career in the Netherlands and Italy.

Lozano made a handful of daredevil runs in the opening minutes against St. Louis, epitomizing the up-tempo offensive game that San Diego hopes to play. But the festivities were slightly dampened when Lozano clutched his leg and left the game with an apparent injury in the 31st minute.

San Diego FC has arrived at a good time in a soccer-crazed city eager for a pro sports franchise to cheer in what had become a bit of a sports desert.

When the NFL's Chargers moved 90 miles north to Los Angeles in 2017, only the Padres were left among the continent's most popular pro sports for the San Diego area's 3.2 million people, although the NWSL's San Diego Wave also began play in 2022.

Every other U.S. metropolitan area with more than 2.7 million people had at least two teams in North America's major pro sports — except the Lakers-and-Dodgers-loving Riverside/San Bernardino area, which is considered a separate metro area from Los Angeles by demographers.

The well-to-do San Diego market was ripe for new sports, but its lack of a world-class indoor arena has quashed any ambitions for an NBA or NHL franchise. San Diego also didn't have a top-quality outdoor arena besides the Padres' Petco Park, which is why the Chargers left town.

"It's an amazing opportunity, and I think MLS is right on the tip of the iceberg," Mansour said.

Coronado Little League opening night tailgate marks season start

» Continued from Page 1

a nice way to kick things off."

This year's event sponsor was 44 Pro, co-founded in 2011 by Randy Habert and his son Brent Habert, a business that prides themselves in affordable and fully customizable gloves.

"It's really special for us to reconnect with the people who supported us the most, which is the local community," said Brent Habert. "To come out here and be able to sponsor the little league and just have fun with all the community makes it really special and exciting for all of us."

Community-wide support

Several local businesses also partnered with the league, including: ImagiDough, 5ive Tool Baseball, Live Nado, Water & Sports Physical Therapy, and Confections of a Navy Wife.

Throughout a night full of baseball festivities, families got a chance to participate in exciting games and activities, including taking pictures in a photo booth, shopping from local businesses, jamming out to the Ballpark DJ, and enjoying snow cones from Kona Ice Truck and food provided by Blue Bridge Hospitality — a continued sponsor of the league.

The highlight of the evening was the hundreds of high fives shared amongst the local high school team, sponsors and CLL board members, whose hands were touched by the players and coaches running through bases as team names were announced.

"I got to run with my team and I like running a lot so I ran as fast as I could," said one second-grade CLL player who added that his favorite MLB player is Bryce Harper.

"Every year, I look to beat the past year in some extra way that people will never forget," said Coronado Little League board member Stephanie Dooley. "I'd say this year was an epic hit."

"Together we are just making a community that loves baseball," added Dooley.

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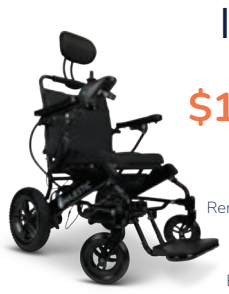
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FEATURES

Secrets of the trade



San Francisco Giants clubhouse attendant Riley Halpin gathers a mound of dirty clothes in the clubhouse after spring training baseball practice at the team's facility, Monday, Feb. 17, 2025, in Scottsdale, Ariz. *AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster.*

Learn a few laundry secrets from the baseball pros — the clubhouse staffers who wash MLB uniforms

Associated Press

From the pinstripes of New York all the way to the Dodger blues of Los Angeles, there is a strong connection among the clubhouse staffers who wash the dirt-caked, hard-worn uniforms of the major leagues.

Just like the players who wear the jerseys.

"The clubhouse community is really close," says Riley Halpin, 29, a clubhouse attendant for the San Francisco Giants.

"There's not a guy in the league I don't think that I can't call with a laundry question that won't answer it," says Kiere Bulls, a home clubhouse manager for the Pittsburgh Pirates.

On the eve of another season — as players throw their spring training apparel into hampers on wheels in Arizona and Florida — here is a closer look how laundry is done in the major leagues, along with a few tips for your own dirty uniforms — and other items — at home:



San Francisco Giants clubhouse attendant Riley Halpin removes stains from baseball pants in the laundry room sink during baseball spring training at the team's facility, Monday, Feb. 17, 2025, in Scottsdale, Ariz. *AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster.*

Dirt is worse than grass stains

TEAM: Chicago White Sox

LAUNDERER: Rob Warren, clubhouse manager

TIP: Dirt on uniforms is more difficult to get out than grass stains. When it comes to the biggest laundry challenges, he preaches patience. "We'll throw it in, and then usually check it again," he says. "We'll run it through once and then after that first load is when we kind of do the scrubbing and spraying."

QUOTABLE: "So we'll get the first load started within 15, 20 minutes after the end of a game," Warren says. "Basically as soon as we have enough to start a load, we'll start a load. Things will change that time. Sometimes a win is quicker or shorter, or you know, getaway day, hopefully quicker."

First, soak it

TEAM: Cleveland Guardians

LAUNDERER: Sam Hindes, home clubhouse supervisor

TIP: Soaking is important. When it comes to tough stains, sometimes they let the uniforms soak overnight in a mixture of detergent and other products. "Then a big thing that works is a lot of people don't know that pressure, like not necessarily a pressure washer, but the higher the pressure on the water, the better it gets stains out," he says. "I never really knew that until I started doing the uniforms."

QUOTABLE: Hindes says position players usually have the dirtiest uniforms — one in particular. "José Ramírez is one that you always know is going to come back that night and it's going to need some work on it," Hindes says. "He has pine tar on his jersey and he's always out there, he's a grinder. He steals bases. He's always diving all over the place. He plays his heart out."

Let that 'pretreat' sit for a bit

TEAM: New York Yankees

LAUNDERER: Lou Cucuzza Jr., director of clubhouse operations

TIP: It's all about "pretreating" and letting the pretreat treatment soak in for a while. "So if you've got something dirty and you're pretreating it, don't throw it right into the machine because that pretreat's just going to get washed away. You want that pretreat really to soak up that stain and separate the fibers of the uniform or apparel, whatever you're wearing."

QUOTABLE: The clay that surrounds the field differs around the majors, presenting a unique challenge "So we could come off the road or I'll get a team off the road that played, let's say, in Baltimore. They have a tough clay or Boston, their clay is very different than the clay at Yankee Stadium," Cucuzza says. "The clay at Yankee Stadium, I have no problem getting visiting uniforms clean. It's really quick. Sometimes I'll get a team, maybe from Baltimore, and it's like, wow, that's a tough red clay. It's a little hard getting out so it may have to go through two washes to get it out."

Make sure you're using the right solutions

TEAM: Philadelphia Phillies

LAUNDERER: Sean Bowers, home clubhouse assistant

TIP: Using the right chemicals is crucial. Some of the laundry chemicals in big league clubhouses aren't widely available, but Bowers says he likes Goof Off for pine tar stains and detergents with protein release for dirt-related issues.

QUOTABLE: "When the field gets painted, getting the paint out is really tough. Just a regular grass stain I can get out fairly easily. But the paint, especially around opening day or after there's concerts and where the stage was, they have to take care of that part of the field. Those outfielders, it's really difficult to get that out."

Spray, spray and spray again

TEAM: Pittsburgh Pirates

LAUNDERER: Kiere Bulls, home clubhouse manager

TIP: For uniforms (and, presumably, anything else) caked with dirt, Bulls recommends spraying off as much of it as possible before it even goes into the laundry. He has some chemicals that he uses at the ballpark, but he likes OxiClean and Shout for dirt predicaments at home.

QUOTABLE: "There's a lot of times that if a player's real, real bad that it may have to get washed three times just to get the stains out. But the uniforms are hung dry. … They don't go in the dryer. They just get washed and hung right outside the lockers."

If at first you don't succeed …

TEAM: San Francisco Giants

LAUNDERER: Riley Halpin, clubhouse attendant

TIP: Halpin says washing uniforms is "a trial-and-error process" much of the time. "Obviously when it comes to the at-home kind of washing, you don't have these top-of-the-line chemicals that professional teams have," he says. "So I would say just do a little bit of research. … Find out what the top kind of brands people are using at the Walmarts and stuff like that. And go with it."

QUOTABLE: Halpin says he gets to the ballpark around noon for a typical night game and leaves around 1 a.m. "It's long days. But it's kind of what you sign up for, you know, with this job. And it's super cool just to obviously get to do what we get to do. So we all put up with it."



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