



Mary J McQuinn holds a portrait of her late brother Andrew Graham Lounsbury.  
Staff photos by Julieta Soto.

# ‘Step into my office’

The late Andrew Graham Lounsbury is remembered as ‘Elevator Elvis’ at the Del

Andrew Graham Lounsbury (Feb. 23, 1952- April 10, 2025) embodied the soul of the Hotel del Coronado where he worked as the elevator operator for decades. Today his legacy as “Elevator Elvis” lives on

BY JULIETA SOTO  
The Coronado News

A Hotel del Coronado employee surprised Scott Carlson, his wife and their three children upon stepping into the lobby elevator 17 years ago. Andrew Graham Lounsbury pulled collapsible scissor gates enclosing guests in a 5-feet by 5-feet birdcage — one of three original elevators at the hotel — before moving to his corner of the elevator where, five days a week, he operated the box up and down. The Carlsons were not celebrities, just annual visitors from Iowa. But Lounsbury would learn the name of each family member while transporting them to one of five floors in the Victorian building. “Step into my office,” Lounsbury would say each time people entered the elevator, prepared to make the corners of their mouths curl with amusement. “Even if we were to go down one floor, [my kids] would take the elevator just to see him and be able to interact with him,” said Carlson, who visited Lounsbury even after he retired from his position at the Del. “He was just a wonderful, wonderful guy.”



Andrew Graham Lounsbury is part of a “Heart of the House” museum exposition of “People Who Deliver The Del Experience.”

In mere seconds, Lounsbury could transform into “the king of rock and roll” and belt out vibrant performances of Elvis Presley’s “Hound Dog,” “Jailhouse Rock” or other favorite artists of his, tying each song back to the guests’ hometowns or names. Lounsbury entertained visitors of the Del

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# Coronado High girls’ lacrosse wins CIF title

BY CADE CAVIN  
The Coronado News

On Friday, May 16, the Coronado High School girls’ lacrosse team defeated Cathedral Catholic 16-4, claiming the 2025 San Diego CIF Open Division championship and avenging their loss to Torrey Pines from the 2024 title game. Coach Caroline Carlson said that this year’s senior class was crucial to the team ultimately winning the CIF championship and reclaiming their 2024 loss. “They’ve set the standard with how they show up, how they practice, how they compete, and how they treat each other,” she said. “The culture we have now didn’t just happen – it was shaped by them.” A combination of culture, legitimate collegiate lacrosse talent, and good coaching culminated in an incredible 19-0 record as of May 18, along with a CIF championship title, where the Islanders beat the Dons 16-4. The team opened the game on an 11-0 run, with Siena Kieffer scoring twice in the first five minutes, and Cathedral Catholic could never fully recover. The Dons were not able to hold possession of the ball until the eight minute mark in the first quarter. Senior captain Hannah Fabiszak said Carlson’s coaching style was crucial in their preparation leading up to the game, fostering confidence and togetherness amongst the team.

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The Coronado High School girls’ lacrosse team won the CIF title. Staff photo by Cade Cavin.



Over 2,000 people attended Coronado’s Memorial Day service in 2024, and this year’s service will follow a very similar program.  
Staff photo by Madeline Yang.

# 67th Memorial Day remembrance in Star Park

Coronado will host a Memorial Day remembrance like they have every year for more than half a century on Monday

BY MADELINE YANG  
The Coronado News

Coronado will continue a 67-year tradition on Monday with the celebration of Memorial Day in Star Park, known to many as the island’s unofficial veterans park. Last year, there was a somber

energy suspended around Star Park on this particular day. A ripple of red garrison caps could be seen throughout the crowd – members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 2422 in Coronado show up to honor their fallen brothers and sisters. In 2024, nearly 2,000 people gathered for the event, sitting in

lawn chairs and on picnic blankets with small American flags, paying tribute to their fallen parents, partners, children and friends. The city has held this event since 1958, but a few decades ago, members of the Coronado VFW took over the planning. Christian Ellinger, a retired colonel, serves on the VFW’s Marine Corps League and has been

» Continued on Page 5

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this week

25 • Sunday

Coronado Promenade Concerts’ summer concert series will kick off on May 25 in Spreckels Park, featuring two bands — the Coronado Concert Band at 4:30 p.m. and SideTraxx at 6:30 p.m.

29 • Thursday

The Coronado Crown City Republican Women of California will be hosting a meet and greet event at the Coronado Veterans of Foreign Wars post for David Serpa, a candidate running for governor of California. Contact Mary Jane Clements at 619-435-4888 for more information.

30 • Friday

Each month, the Coronado Public Library invites community members to explore different spices used in dishes around the world. Registrants will pick up the monthly spice/herb selection at the library, cook with it, and join other food enthusiasts to discuss what they made and their thoughts about the spice. For the month of May, dried black limes will be featured.

The meeting will be held on Zoom on Friday, May 30 at 2:30 p.m. The Zoom link will be emailed to registrants prior to the meeting. Once registered, participants will receive an email about when they can pick up their sample of spice and a couple of recipes. To register, visit coronado.librarycalendar.com.

CONTACT US

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

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

THINGS TO DO

Youth cooking camps offered by Community Center in June

Coronado News staff

The Coronado Community Center is offering nine unique cooking camps for kids ages 3 to 11 to explore hands-on culinary fun from June 16 to Aug. 15. Each week will feature a different theme, and participants will learn a variety of kitchen skills like knife safety, baking techniques, nutrition basics, and more. Registration is now open online at [ca-coronado.civircrec.com](http://ca-coronado.civircrec.com).



Starting in June, cooking classes for children ages 3 to 11 will be offered. Photo by City of Coronado Recreation and Golf Services.



Meet Aurora, the pet of the week. She’s at PAWS of Coronado and is looking for her 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 Aurora

PAWS of Coronado

Looking for a dog who’s always down for a walk and knows how to chill? This stunning 4-year-old is your dream come true. She’s got the energy to be your trail buddy and the heart to be your couch co-pilot. Long walks? She’s all in — tail wagging, nose to the ground, ready to explore the world at your side. And when it’s time to wind down, she transforms into the ultimate cuddle companion, happiest when she’s right next to her people. She’s affectionate, loyal, and totally devoted to her humans. If you want a best friend who brings joy, love, and a whole lot of tail wags into your life, come meet this sweet girl. She’s ready to walk into your heart (and your living room). 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 Aurora or other pets, please visit [pawsofcoronado.org](http://pawsofcoronado.org).



Are you ready to get back to an active life, but pain is slowing you down? Learn about the latest treatments at two free events presented by Sharp HealthCare.

**Bone and Joint Health Expo**  
Thursday, June 12, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
Sharp Prebys Innovation and Education Center  
  
This in-person event will offer guidance on the latest treatments for joint pain, foot discomfort and spine issues. Meet orthopedic doctors, hear expert speakers, and explore educational booths and interactive exhibits.

**Live Webinar: Advanced Treatments for Hip and Knee Pain**  
Thursday, June 19, 6 to 7:30 p.m.  
Link provided upon registration  
  
Hear from a board-certified orthopedic surgeon about leading-edge surgical options available at Sharp Coronado Hospital, including Mako robotic-arm assisted surgery.

Register now at [sharp.com/joint](http://sharp.com/joint) or 1-800-82-SHARP (1-800-827-4277).





# 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

# CEO of Veolia North America responds to May 2 story about the corporation

BY KARINE ROUGÉ  
Letter to the Editor

As the chief executive of Veolia North America, the company contracted by the U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) to operate the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant, I read your May 2 story “Veolia: A look at the track record of a mega-corporation operating the border sewage plant” with close interest and some unease.

Veolia is in the news because opportunistic lawyers have filed flimsy lawsuits against our company, blaming our hardworking employees for the sewage issues that everyone else acknowledges are caused by Mexico. We had hoped your story would independently evaluate those claims and recognize that Veolia is at the forefront of fixing those problems. Instead, your story focuses on decades-old allegations from all over the world that have nothing to do with what we do in San Diego every day – treating more of Tijuana’s sewage than anyone else, including Tijuana.

The lawyers suing us have succeeded in getting your attention, but not in proving their outlandish claims. They have made outrageous accusations about Veolia at press conferences, but haven’t backed it up in their legal filings or court appearances. The U.S. government underfunded the South Bay plant for many years and denied Veolia’s requests to make vital repairs, but the U.S. government’s shortcomings pale in comparison to the millions of gallons of raw sewage that flow from Mexico directly into the Tijuana River and Pacific Ocean, polluting America every day without ever being directed to the South Bay plant.

Scientists, elected officials and government experts agree that those uncontrolled flows are the source of sewage polluting the beaches and waters of San Diego – and of Tijuana as well. It is obvious from the brown plumes in the ocean and the green muck in the river; from the testimony of Mexican environmental activists who see the sewage polluting their side of the border as well; and most recently during the visit of new U.S. Environmental Protection Administrator Lee Zeldin.



FILE: The South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant, pictured here, is operated by Veolia North America. Staff photo by Madeline Yang.

On behalf of Veolia’s San Diego-based employees who work around the clock at the South Bay plant protecting Coronado and the rest of the region from Mexico’s sewage, I wish you would have spent more time examining the facts on the ground that affect your readers, rather than dredging up Google hits about Veolia from long ago and far away.

As your story acknowledges, any company with more than 200,000 employees, running thousands of complicated environmental cleanup projects in dozens of countries, will run into occasional challenges.

To respond to just three of your examples, all of which occurred more than a decade ago: In Flint, Michigan, jurors didn’t agree with the meritless allegations lawyers made about Veolia; in Plymouth, Massachusetts, where Veolia warned that the sewer line the town designed was flawed and might fail, no one ever proved Veolia did anything wrong despite years of legal proceedings; in Pittsburgh, the head of the sewer authority said

Veolia wasn’t to blame for lead issues caused by century-old infrastructure. We take our work seriously and we’ll defend our reputation, but we’d rather spend our time focused on how to help San Diego.

The real measure of how well Veolia does its job is the thousands of clients like the IBWC that trust us to run their operations well. We take that obligation seriously in San Diego, and a news story that simply offers a he-said, she-said take on one of Coronado’s most pressing issues isn’t the coverage your region deserves.

I invite the Coronado News to tour the South Bay plant and see for yourselves what Veolia does there to protect the region, as well as the damage caused by Mexico’s uncontrolled sewage and sediment flows. We’re confident that the story you’ll see is compelling – and makes clear what’s really happening at the South Bay plant.

Karine Rougé is the chief executive officer of Veolia North America’s Municipal Water services.

LISA  
BENSON



JACK  
OHMAN

CORONADO

Review: ‘The Mountain Song’ embraces folklore storytelling, bringing Bluegrass/Americana into the theater space

BY ELAINE ALFARO  
The Coronado News

The opening scenes of the one-act production took me back to my childhood – a time of dress up, play and imagination. Plastic bottles donned in feathers became birds. A broomstick became a hunting shotgun. And a suitcase was reimagined as a horse or even a giant’s shoe. Shadow puppets flickering in the background helped set the scene.

It’s a style of theatrical storytelling that uses imagination and music to transform stripped down sets into rivers and mountains, and presents the same group of actors as a multitude of characters.

This was the setting:  
Cat Stevens’ “How Can I Tell You” cushioned the sonic atmosphere as I settled into my seat. String lights and lanterns dangled from the ceiling, and rope and fabric criss-crossed the set. A single floral pink dress hung from the rope on a hanger.

Instruments were strewn about the stage – bongos, a cajon and a piano – softly lit by hues of blue light. All would be played at some point in the production.

A bare-bones double staircase and platform formed the foundation of “the mountain.” Little did I know, “the mountain” would take center stage as both a set and personified character throughout the performance.

All these elements convey the Pigpen Theatre Company’s original approach to theatrical storytelling – stripped down, acoustic, lyrical, inspired by scraps and found objects. Alex Falberg, one of the founders of the company, describes their work in three words on the company website: Music, Stories, Nonsense.

“The Mountain Song” is the second Pigpen production to hit the stage at the Coronado Playhouse. “The Old Man and the Old Moon” was the first in 2019.

The seven collaborators who form Pigpen Theatre Company (Falberg, Arya Shahi, Ben Ferguson, Curtis Gillen, Dan Weschler, Matt Nuerberger and Ryan Melia) found their sound and vision as students at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. There, they honed a resourceful and innovative approach to theatrical storytelling with puppets, shadows and tricks of light. It’s a style that pushes back on the big Broadway sound (and budget), opting instead for unconventional props and sets to help tell the story.

Their unique approach is rounded out with a folksy, acoustic and intimate sound celebrating the banjo, accordion and multi-part harmonies. They bolster the intimate storytelling by also relying on objects (like a floral dress in “The Mountain Song”) and skilled actors to make the props come to life. The best way I can describe their work is like telling stories and playing music around a campfire – cozy, compelling, at times eerie, and always collaborative.

But with fame and fortune, Pigpen Theatre Company expanded that vision and approach. A musical adaptation of the book, “Water for Elephants,” made its way to Broadway with



The cast of “The Mountain Song” perform this one-act show through May 18.  
Photos by Ken Jacques.



Storyteller Daryl Daley guides a bird puppet in this scene with the carpenter (Shane Hennessey).



“The Mountain” is both the physical set and a personified character portrayed by Ferril Gardner.

mixed reactions and reviews in 2024.

“The Mountain Song” harkens back to their original sound and approach: a small, multifaceted cast who excel at storytelling, music and acting.

“The Mountain Song” is the tale of a carpenter who climbs mountains and traverses rivers seeking his daughter’s wedding. The musical unravels like a storybook with unexpected characters who have their own quirks and backgrounds to share – from a shoe-less giant to a hungry coyote to a talking bird.

The bird sings the words, “all we have is all we know.” For the bird, played by Sarah Jane Salonga, all she has is flight. The mountain, played by Ferril Gardner, has stories that have remained unsung until an unplanned gift from the carpenter gives her a voice. She takes center stage as the narrator. This show, like other stories of adventure, is less about the ending and more about the journey.

The play dares you to imagine, tap into child-like curiosity and encounter each character. The stripped-down set and variety of random objects take on their own life, if you’re willing to see them in that light. The actors deftly infuse personality in each character – with their pup-

peteering skills and voices. They also remind you that we all have something to learn from nature, if you’re willing to listen and willing to get a different perspective or vantage point.

The simplicity of these characters’ backstories juxtaposes the difficult underlying themes that they navigate: loss, loneliness, grief and a state of being unrooted. But the topics and characters also remind you there is resilience, and there is almost always a helping hand.

This production, paired with the Coronado Playhouse, worked because of the intimate approach to storytelling. It fit the small theater setting.

As the story unfurled, I eagerly awaited the resolution. I won’t tell you how it plays out, but I would argue the ending felt a bit abrupt. The pacing of the show was quick, given the one-act structure.

While I would’ve appreciated more time and space to let the production breathe over the course of two acts, I walked away with ruminations that stuck with me in the following days – reminders to live with dreams and enjoy life’s moments of wonder.

Contact: elainejalfaro@gmail.com

67th Memorial Day remembrance in Star Park

» Continued from Page 1

on the planning team for a handful of years.

Ellinger served from 1991-2022 and was on numerous shipboard missions before 9/11. After the terrorist attack, he deployed to Iraq and completed multiple tours in Afghanistan.

“It is a time-honored, respectful, solemn ceremony remembering the fallen service members that we have lost,” Ellinger said.

The day consists of a presentation of colors from the Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps, or NJROTC, students from Coronado High School, an invocation from Fred Yerrick, the chaplain at the VFW, and then a speech from the main speaker.

This year’s main speaker is the commanding general of the 1st Marine Division, Maj. Gen. Thomas B. Savage. He enlisted in 1986 and is currently stationed at Camp Pendleton in Oceanside.

At the end of the ceremony, gold star families – those who have lost members in service – will be able to pay their respects and offer tributes while Ellinger reads their stories to the audience.

It’s important to Ellinger to be a part of this service.

“Honoring the sacrifices of our brothers and sisters that have paid the ultimate price for the freedoms that we take for granted and just make us Americans can’t be forgotten,” Ellinger said.

“They truly are never forgotten, especially when they have their families here. There’s a huge hole in their hearts that will never be filled. There’s an empty seat at that dining room table that’s never going to be filled.”

Ellinger stressed that it was important to note the difference between Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

Veterans Day is a day of celebration for all service members that have gone before or are still alive.

The upcoming Memorial Day service is a somber remembrance, Ellinger explained. “Memorial Day remembers those that we’ve lost in the line of duty.”

The annual ceremony is sponsored by the city and several Coronado Veteran service organiza-



There is a moment at the end of the service to pay respects to fallen family members and friends. Staff photo by Madeline Yang.

tions including the VFW, the Silver Strand chapter of the Military Officers Association of America and the Coronado detachment of the Marine Corps League.

Following the ceremony, which begins at 10 a.m., everyone is invited to the VFW post at 557 Orange Ave #59 for a light lunch.

# CORONADO

## Memorial Day weekend film screening presents ‘The Best Years of Our Lives’

Coronado News staff

The Coronado Island Film Festival’s student classic film series is presenting a special Memorial Day screening — a post-WWII movie titled “The Best Years of Our Lives” — on May 25 at the Coronado Public Library.

The film follows three World War II veterans as they return home and readjust to the society they left behind a few years prior.

This post-war film directed by William Wyler won seven Oscars, with an additional Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor going to veteran Harold

Russell, who played the role of Homer Parish. Russell was also awarded an honorary Oscar for “bringing aid and comfort to disabled veterans through the medium of motion pictures.”

The event is free and open to the entire community. The screening will start at 1 p.m., concluding at 4:30 p.m.



“The Best Years of Our Lives” will play at the Coronado Public Library on May 25. A snapshot of the film is shown here. Photo provided by the Coronado Island Film Festival.

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# CORONADO

## The San Diego Master Chorale will return to Coronado after nearly 30 years to showcase their repertoire

BY ELAINE ALFARO  
The Coronado News

The San Diego Master Chorale will be returning to Coronado on May 31 to showcase the breadth and range of their repertoire, in what they're calling a "mixtape" performance.

The "playlist" for this performance started with more than 5,000 selections of music, according to San Diego Master Chorale music director John Russell. It was a big task to narrow down.

"I did my best to keep the final voting list [to] music that I thought the audience and singers would recognize ... so it didn't become too much of a chore for them to figure out," Russell said.

Once they shaved off holiday music and obscure titles few would recognize, San Diego Master Chorale leadership asked people who attended previous performances and chorale performers to vote on pieces they would want to hear live.

"I found the voting very hard because there were too many wonderful things to vote on," chorale singer Sally Greenleaf said.

The San Diego Master Chorale has been performing in San Diego County since 1961. The chorale features 130 of the region's finest singers, and they perform a wide-range of music from classical masterpieces to new music by contemporary composers. The mixtape they have planned for their Coronado performance is a showcase of their breadth of genres.

"It's kind of a great way to engage with the audience, engage with the singers, bring them into like the whole part of the process of planning a concert," Russell said about com-



The San Diego Master Chorale is bringing their "mixtape" repertoire to the Coronado Performing Arts Center on May 31. Photo courtesy of the San Diego Master Chorale.

munity members having a choice in the songs, along with the performers. "[It's] not just taking your music when you show up for the first rehearsal, or you get to the concert and looking at the program, but actually having a voice and choosing the music for the concert."

Russell said the chorale received approximately 250 votes that contributed to the final decision on their set list.

Greenleaf, Rob Taylor and Katherine Waugh are three of the chorale singers who made their voices heard on the ballot. All three happen to also be Coronado residents.

Rob Taylor said the last time the chorale came to the Crown City was

nearly 30 years ago.

"It was actually in May of 1996 at the Hotel Del," Taylor explained.

It's a homecoming for the chorale. "It means a lot," Taylor said. "I grew up in Coronado. It's been my home town since I was age 4."

Taylor joined the group after making a New Year's resolution in 2012.

Greenleaf and Waugh are newer residents to Coronado, but both said it was important for them to get involved with music and performance when they made the move to the island.

"I'm not sure how I can express it. It just is a valuable, valuable part of my life," Greenleaf said.

Greenleaf had previously been part of a master chorale and knew she wanted to reconnect to one in her new home because of the impact music had on her day.

"I would always leave rehearsals so energized and so enlivened because of the beautiful singing and the whole physical act of singing which is so helpful for your body and your mind and your spirit," Greenleaf said.

For Waugh, she said rehearsing the "mixtape" pieces has brought back fun memories.

"[It] brought back a lot of memories going through all of the song selections, referring back to times we've [or] I've sung those before in this group or in previous groups I've been a part of," Waugh said.

Outside of the chorale, Greenleaf is a local music teacher. She said this performance is an opportunity to learn more about pieces that we often see in our everyday lives and hear them performed live.

"I've seen movements from classical things, like the Mozart Requiem, used in commercials and other things, so even though [the audience]

may not know the whole work, they probably have heard some of this in commercials," Greenleaf said. "After they hear it, they may go home and hear the commercial and go, 'Oh, wait, I think that's familiar...' That's the teacher in me, always trying to connect new learning with something that's familiar that maybe you hear on TV or in other avenues."

For Waugh, seeing the chorale prepare for this upcoming performance has shown the diversity of talent and experience.

"Definitely within one performance, it's unique to be able to transition from genre to genre," Waugh said. "I think just due to the general variety of our repertoire in general, our group is well suited to that. We have performers who are well-versed in all different types of genres and have different strengths when it comes to those types of performances."

From the Beatles to Mozart, Greenleaf said these pieces featured in their performance taps into something deeper.

"The great composers, and those are not just classical composers, but the people who write music that's enduring, they're all finding a way to express something that is true and meaningful as a part of our world," Greenleaf said. "That's true whether it's 'Into the Woods,' – a Broadway musical – or a piece like 'The Lord Bless You and Keep You' by John Rutter."

The concerts will also include Billy Joel's "And So It Goes," with a special appearance by the San Diego Children's Choir during the Saturday performance in Coronado.

"Those composers and lyricists are writing about something that's important, that connects with our human condition and our walk in this world," Greenleaf said.

Performers like Taylor hope this performance kick starts a new verse for the chorale, to share these powerful pieces with the City of Coronado.

"We're going to just sort of demonstrate the gamut of what we do, and hopefully we'll be back," Taylor said.

The San Diego Master Chorale will perform at the Coronado Performing Arts Center on May 31. If you didn't get the chance to vote on the music for this performance, there will be another opportunity the day of the performance. The chorale will be doing a live audience vote for the encore.

Ticket discount programs are offered for seniors, active duty military and students 13 and older. Tickets for children ages 12 and under are always free. For more information visit <https://www.sdmasterchorale.org/tickets/>

Contact: [elainejalfaro@gmail.com](mailto:elainejalfaro@gmail.com)

### 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.

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

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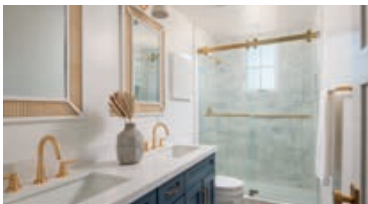
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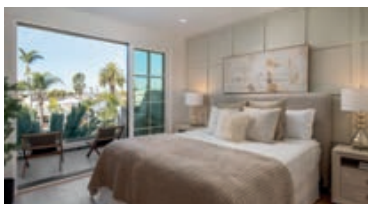
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# ‘Step into my office’: The late Andrew Graham Lounsbury is remembered as ‘Elevator Elvis’ at the Del

» Continued from Page 1

while operating the “Otis 61” elevator from 1979-2020.

For 41 years, Lounsbury cultivated a reputation within the iconic resort as “Elevator Elvis” and made lasting impressions on visitors humble or famous, including the late American actor Tony Curtis.

On April 10, Lounsbury died at 73 years old.

Today, his retired uniform is on display at the Del’s Ice House Museum and a plaque proclaims the now modernized conveyance as “Andrew’s Elevator” to honor his legacy.

“Andrew is living proof that as we honor The Del and share Her 137 year story, we are reminded that Her legacy is lived by everyday people, who get up each morning with a mission to create lasting memories and traditions for our guests,” said Corey Menotti, the Hotel del Coronado guest experience and discovery ambassador who worked closely with Lounsbury from 2005 through his retirement, in an email.

“He wanted to give you something that you can’t buy,” added Carlson, who called Lounsbury the soul of the hotel. “How often do you go to a hotel where they know your name?”

In Lounsbury’s obituary, his family wrote that he is survived by siblings Sandra, Garda, Mary, Robert, Charles, Richard and a large extended family in both California and Ontario, Canada.

In lieu of flowers, his family requested donations to either Kaiser Hospice in San Diego or New Directions Travel for people with disabilities in Santa Barbara.

“A lot of people have already donated,” said Mary J McQuinn, Lounsbury’s sister, about a scholarship fund established in his name to support travel programs for adults with mild to moderate developmental disabilities. “That’s really another way that he’s touched the lives of people.”

### A legacy beyond the Del

Lounsbury not only impressed families but he influenced businesses.

“We’re in the hospitality business as well, which I think partly is why we gravitated to him so much because when we see good hospitality, we can relish it,” said Carlson who is in the restaurant business.

Lounsbury is also the inspiration for the “Andrew Award” at a global management company.

“Andrew always shared positivity and made every guest feel special,” reads the page about the award established by Joe Cardini, president of Bristol Global Mobility. “Our annual award recognizes Bristol associates who bring the same warmth and connection to those we serve, reminding us of our mission to better people and our planet through hospitality.”

Lounsbury lived with cerebral palsy, and he overcame the challenges of his condition with the support of his entire family.

“There’s nothing, nothing that he gave up on,” said McQuinn, 81, inside her San Diego home surrounded by archives of Lounsbury’s keepsakes.

Lounsbury — who his family referred to as Graham — was born in Canada, moved to Ventura as a young boy and followed his mom to San Diego.

He struggled as a janitor in the early years, but his mother convinced him to make a change.

“She said, ‘You’ve got to get out of that line of work. You can’t do that with your physical condition and getting wet, janitorial work is not for you,’” McQuinn said, remembering her mother’s words to her younger brother.

Lounsbury applied for a job at the Del after his mother saw a newspaper advertisement about the elevator operator opening.

“They drove over the bridge, paid the toll,” said McQuinn, whose mother waited hours for Lounsbury. “And finally she looked in the rearview mirror and she saw him running across the parking lot with the uniform slung over his shoulder, and he was just grinning from ear to ear.”

Since then, Lounsbury captured the hearts of many, fostering several



A photo of Andrew Graham Lounsbury, who worked as an elevator operator at the Hotel del Coronado for 41 years. Staff photos by Julieta Soto.

friendships, including Jack Soden, the CEO of Graceland.

“The Del was his life. Basically, he came home to sleep,” McQuinn added, chuckling. “It just is amazing the backbone that he had.”

### ‘Elevator Elvis’

Lounsbury was a diehard fan of the man who became known as the King of Rock ‘n’ Roll.

Three different times Lounsbury visited his idol’s mansion, Graceland, in Memphis, Tennessee.

“He always was crazy about Elvis and he would imitate him and he went out and bought the whole [Elvis] outfit,” McQuinn said.

“He used to love to sing and he can’t sing worth a darn. He can’t carry a tune in a bucket, but here he is,” said McQuinn pointing to a photo of her brother attending a karaoke party in one of many poster boards she created for Lounsbury’s retirement party.

In one letter, Lounsbury recalls encounters with Hollywood film star Tony Curtis, including rushing to meet him on one of his days off.

“The bellman called me [Andrew] at home and said, Tony Curtis is here and he’s looking for you,” Mary said, reading off Lounsbury’s letter.

In another instance, Curtis dedicated and signed two sketches to Lounsbury and his mother, which McQuinn said were evaluated at \$1,000 each by Antiques Roadshow.

According to Menotti, the duo would entertain the crowd with a soft shoe and a song every time the “Some Like It Hot” star visited the Del.

“The Godfather of Soul,’ James Brown, saw him dancing to ‘Feel Good’ and whipped out a \$100 bill saying quite profoundly, ‘Any man dances like THAT has GOT to get paid!’” Menotti shared.

Lounsbury extended that charisma to anyone he met.

“It’s that guest interaction and that personalization,” said Gina Petrone, heritage manager at the Hotel del Coronado. “Even when he had retired, even when he was just visiting the Del. ... He just really loved the hotel.”

### Remembering Andrew

The Del hosted a retirement party for Lounsbury in October 2021.

“People from all over the country made the pilgrimage to the Coronet Room to ... sing his praises,” Menotti said.

It was around this time, Menotti added, that the resort’s executive team and ownership decided to honor the up and down life of Lounsbury with a commemorative sign recognizing the impact he had on his fellow staffers and Coronado.

“He made such wonderful memories with our guests,” said Petrone, a docent at the museum. “(He) created these relationships so that people came back year after year with their family.”

The “Andrew’s Elevator” plaque highlights Lounsbury’s contributions, and guests who knew him will remember the enthusiastic person beyond the operator.

Lounsbury loved the Del so much he referred to the hotel as if it was a lady.

“Andrew used to say,” Menotti added, “The people that came before me took their time and taught me that I am not alone in this... I am only one but together we are her history!”



The retired uniform of Andrew Graham Lounsbury, an elevator operator at the Hotel del Coronado from 1979-2020, is on display for the majority of the year at the Ice House Museum.



A plaque for Andrew Graham Lounsbury, an elevator operator at the Hotel del Coronado who hand-operated the lobby elevator from 1979-2020.



A photo shows Andrew Graham Lounsbury (left) and Tony Curtis (right).

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# NAVY

## Two veterans walking across America have finally reached their final destination, Coronado

BY MADELINE YANG  
The Coronado News

Ron Zaleski, who served two years in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Vietnam War, and Omar Rose, a U.S. Coast Guard veteran, finished their 2,900 mile hike across the United States on May 13.

Zaleski and Rose started in Key West, Florida with the goal of walking all the way to Coronado. They started on Sept. 11 last year and eight months later, arrived on the island.

The journey was part of Zaleski's nonprofit, The Long Walk Home, in advocacy of his 10-step program known as the 10 Challenges to Service. This program was designed to be a combination between a support group and a therapy session, with mentors leading a group of five or more people and tackling 10 pre-written questions.

They'll be in San Diego for about two weeks, hoping to plan a 10 Challenges to Service session before they head back to Florida.

A date and time for a session will be posted on their website in the next couple of days. Veterans, family members and civilians are all invited to join.

**RIGHT: (L-R) Chuck Chaldekas, Omar Rose and Ron Zaleski stand at the Vietnam Memorial at Naval Amphibious Base in Coronado. Rose and Zaleski just walked 2,900 miles across the country advocating for veterans and their mental health and ended their journey in San Diego. Chaldekas is a retired Navy SEAL who oversees the Vietnam Memorial site.**



Omar Rose (L) and Ron Zaleski (R) have finished their walk across America, advocating for veterans and their mental health. They have walked a total of 2,900 miles from Florida to Coronado. Staff photos by Madeline Yang.



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# NAVY

Family and friends watch as the Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine USS Alexandria returns to Naval Base Point Loma following a seven-month deployment to the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command area of responsibility.

U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Tiarra Brown.



## USS Alexandria returns to San Diego

DVIDS

Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine USS Alexandria returned home to Naval Base Point Loma following a seven-month deployment to the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command area of responsibility on May 15.

Alexandria deployed in 2024 from its homeport of Naval Base Point Loma, on a regularly-scheduled deployment in support of national security.

“This crew went above and beyond, no matter what was asked of them,” said Cmdr. Chris Rose, Alexandria’s commanding officer. “Deploying on submarines is a demanding but rewarding and consequential task. I could not be prouder of my crew’s resolve over the past seven plus months in demonstrating every day what makes our boats and our crews the apex predators of the maritime domain.”

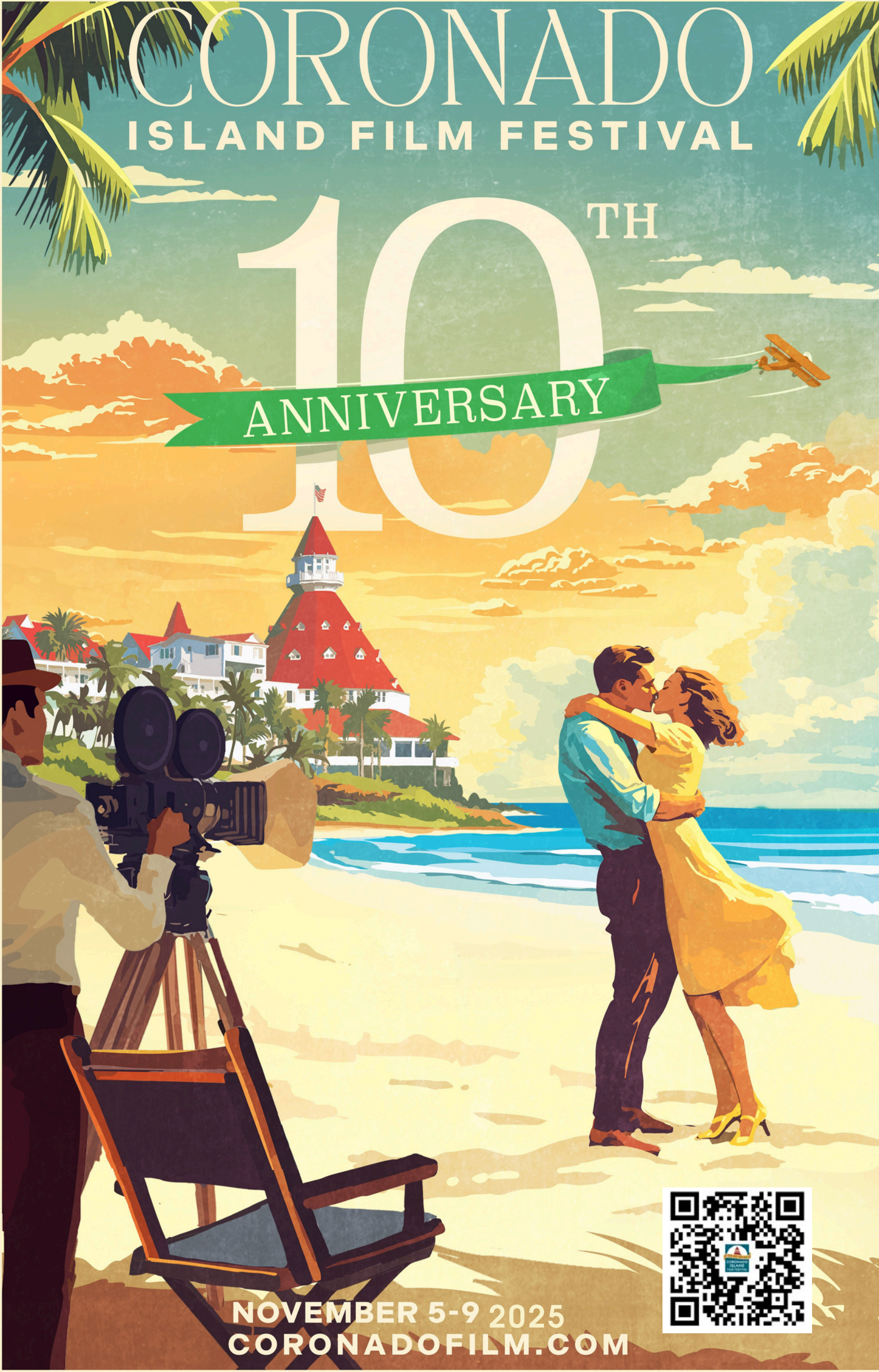
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# SPORTS

## Coronado swim team competes at Division 2 championships

Coronado News staff

At the CIF Division 2 championships on May 10, Coronado High School swimmer Chloe Quarles placed third in the 200 individual medley and second in the 100 fly.

In the latter, Quarles placed a new team record, replacing the

one she notched last season.

Gage Everitt is a repeat champion in the 100 fly, also placing first in the 100 backstroke. Ally Fabrey finished 12th in the 200 free and 11th in the 500, while Santi Garcia-Rojo finished 16th in the 200 free and seventh in the 500. Luca Morocco finished seventh in the 100 free and 13th

in the 100 breast stroke.

Quarles and Everitt moved on to the CIF state competition the following weekend to swim against the fastest swimmers in the state. Everitt placed ninth in the 100 fly and 27th in the 100 back. Quarles placed 29th in the 200 individual medley and 15th in the 100 fly.



The girls' 200- and 400-meter relay teams are made up of (from left) Kailyn Cornell, Ally Fabrey, Jillian Stachowicz and Chloe Quarles. Photo by Jodi Cornell.

## Navy Bay Bridge Run brings over 10,000 participants



On May 18, over 10,000 participants walked or ran across the Coronado Bridge for the 38th annual Navy Bay Bridge Run/Walk. Photos provided by the Navy Bay Bridge Run.



FILE - San Diego Wave forward Alex Morgan (13) runs during an NWSL soccer match against Seattle Reign, March 29, 2024, in San Diego. AP Photo/Kyusung Gong, file.

## Alex Morgan becomes a minority stakeholder in her former NWSL club, the San Diego Wave

Associated Press

Alex Morgan has joined the investor group for the San Diego Wave, the National Women's Soccer League team she played for before retiring from professional soccer.

The Wave announced on May 13 that the two-time Women's World Cup winner has rejoined the club as a minority stakeholder.

"San Diego is where I've built my home, where I am raising my children, and found a purpose beyond my playing career," Morgan said in a statement. "I believed in Wave FC before a single match was played, and I still believe this club has the power to change the future of women's sports."

Morgan announced she was retiring after a 15-year career in professional soccer last September, when she was pregnant with her son Enzo, who was born last month. A crowd of 26,516 filled San Diego's Snapdragon Stadium for Morgan's farewell match.

Morgan was among the first players signed by the Wave after the club joined the NWSL in 2021. She went on to play 63 matches with the Wave and scored 28 goals, including the team's first.

Morgan played in 150 NWSL matches over her career, which included stints with the Portland

Thorns and the Orlando Pride.

In addition to World Cup titles in 2015 and 2019, Morgan also won an Olympic gold medal in 2012 for the United States. She played in 224 matches for the U.S., with 123 goals (fifth on the career list) and 53 assists. She was named the U.S. Soccer Player of the Year in 2012 and 2018.

Off the field, Morgan advanced women's soccer through her fight for equal pay. The U.S. women filed a lawsuit in 2019 that led to a historic agreement in 2022 that provided the women with pay equitable to what U.S. men's players received.

She also paved the way for reforms in the NWSL, calling for the adoption of an anti-harassment policy after a coach misconduct scandal rocked the league in 2021.

"Alex has always fought to positively impact this game beyond the pitch," said Lauren Leichtman, controlling owner of the Wave. "She used her platform to lead, to advocate, and to build something meaningful in San Diego. Her decision to invest is not only a continuation of her leadership but also a reflection of her belief in what we are building."

In addition to their son, Morgan and her husband, Servando Carrasco, have a daughter, Charlie, who was born in 2020.

## Islander track has strong showing at League Finals

Coronado News staff

Senior sprinter Lauren Gilhooly swept every girls' sprint event at the Central League championships on May 9, claiming victories in the 100-meter dash, 200-meter dash, 4×100-meter relay and 4×400-meter relay.

Gilhooly was joined by junior Micaela Gistaro, sophomore Maya Wilson, and junior Summer Little in the 4×100. The 4×400 team was made up of Gilhooly, Wilson, Little and sophomore Nadia Roos.

Junior Nathan Ayan also won multiple events, and was the repeat league champion in the 800-meter dash. He notched victories in the 4×400-meter relay, joined by sophomore Emiliano Marquez, junior

Mason Gibbs and sophomore Xavier Marsh.

Coronado took home a win in the 4×800-meter relay as well, with Ayan, Jack Letcher, Andrew Buck and Vincent Russo. The 4×100-meter relay — with David Castillo, Davin Collins, William Heyen and Gibbs — notched a victorious time of 44.3 seconds, the fastest time in the Central League this year.

The Islander boys swept the hurdle events, with wins by Reif Souder in the 110-meter hurdles and Marquez in the 300-meter hurdles. Other Islander individual event league champions crowned at this meet included Roos in the girls' 800-meter run and Claudia Wagner in the triple jump.



The last event of the May 9 Central League Championships was the boys 4x400. Top row (L-R): Nathan Ayan and Mason Gibbs. Bottom row(L-R): Emiliano Marquez and Xavier Marsh. Photo by George Green.

SPORTS

NFL owners approve players participation in flag football at the Olympics

Associated Press

NFL owners unanimously approved allowing players to participate in flag football for the 2028 Olympics.

The vote at the spring meetings on May 20 authorized the league to negotiate safety provisions and scheduling logistics with the NFL Players Association and relevant international and national team governing bodies before it becomes reality during the Summer Games in Los Angeles.

No more than one player per NFL club would be permitted. Olympic rosters will be selected by the national committee for each country.

The NFL has been making a big push into flag football in hopes of increasing youth participation and opportunities for women in the sport.

The league played a major role in making sure the Los Angeles Olympics would be the first with flag football, with events for both men and women.

Several star players, including Kansas City quarterback Patrick Mahomes and Miami receiver Tyreek Hill, have expressed interest in the past in participating in the Olympics. Minnesota running back Aaron Jones lit up when asked last month about the possibility.

“I would absolutely love it. Every other sport gets an opportunity to win a gold medal,” Jones said. “And if you’re not serving your country in the military, I feel like that’s the



FILE - AFC wide receiver Brian Thomas Jr. (7), of the Jacksonville Jaguars, runs away from NFC return specialist KaVontae Turpin, of the Dallas Cowboys, right, during the flag football event at the NFL Pro Bowl, Sunday, Feb. 2, 2025, in Orlando. AP Photo/Chris O'Meara, File.

other highest honor.”

The proposal allows only one player per NFL team to be selected by a country for the Olympics in addition to each team’s designated international player.

It also provides for injury protection and salary cap credit in case of

any injuries and requires minimum standards for medical staffs and field surfaces.

The 2028 Games will be held from July 14-30. Training camps would typically open for teams that summer in the final week of July based on the current league schedule.

Coronado High girls’ lacrosse wins CIF title

» Continued from Page 1

“She creates plays and drills that will help us succeed on the field,” she said. “Coach Caroline also helps the team grow closer to each other. To have a successful team you need to be united, and she creates a safe space to build the community and family feel to the team.”

The Islanders won their final three playoff games in the Open Division by a combined score of 52-12, never surrendering more than five goals or scoring less than 16. They are currently ranked No. 1 in California and No. 10 in the nation.

Carlson was adamant the unity of this senior class is what is at the center of their success.

“This class is tight-knit – not in a cliquey way, but in a way that pulls everyone in,” she said. “They genuinely care for each other, hold each other accountable, and find joy in the hard work. They’re talented, yes, but what sets them apart is their character.”

Carlson said the team’s legacy goes beyond trophies and record books.

“I’ve had the privilege of coaching most of them throughout all four years,” she noted. “They’ve led in a way that’s consistent, honest, and team-first, and that’s created an environment where younger players know what’s expected and want to rise to it.”

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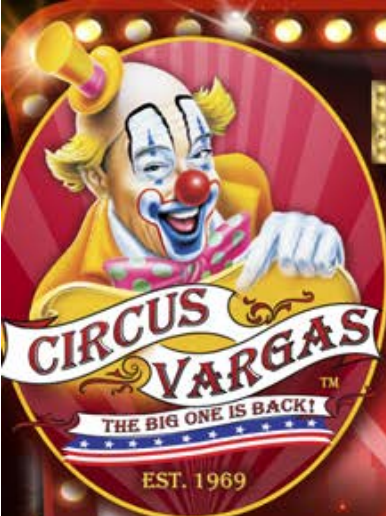
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# SPORTS

## Manny Machado’s 2 1/2-week hitting streak keeps Padres among baseball’s best

Associated Press

After the surging Padres’ latest victory, Manny Machado tried to catch the end of a victory by San Diego FC, the expansion MLS club in which he’s a founding partner and investor. His attention wasn’t all on the screen, however: He also had to keep a steady eye on his 1-year-old son toddling around the clubhouse.

Machado’s life has changed in his 30s, and he has more demands on his time than ever. Yet the San Diego slugger also played some of the best baseball of his career in the first quarter of his 14th major league season.

Machado extended his hitting streak to 14 games on May 14 with two hits, two walks and the 500th run of his San Diego career during the Padres’ 5-1 win over the Los Angeles Angels. It’s the second-longest streak of his career, trailing only a 16-game run with Baltimore in 2016.

Machado’s batting average was up to .340 as of May 15, tops in the NL. During his 2 1/2-week streak, Machado was hitting .480 (24 for 50) with five extra-base hits, nine RBIs, 15 runs scored and a 1.179 OPS.

Machado is quick to insist he’s just one part of a lineup that has kept the Padres near the top of the overall MLB standings through the first quarter of the regular season.

“I’m just having some good at-bats and making some good contact,” Machado said. “We have such a special team here. It feels great to come to the ballpark every single day and be able to go do something special every single night.”



San Diego Padres’ Manny Machado celebrates after hitting a home run during the fifth inning of a baseball game against the Chicago Cubs Tuesday, April 15, 2025, in San Diego. AP Photo/Gregory Bull.

His coaches and teammates are a bit more impressed with Machado’s performances, and the underlying numbers show why.

Machado had a hit in 34 of his 42 games as of May 15, including 15 multi-hit performances. His line drive percentage (32.8) is the fifth-best in the majors, and he has put many more balls in play than the four hitters in front of him. His expected batting average (.348) is second in the majors only to Aaron Judge, which means Machado is making quality contact constantly.

“Nothing surprises me about Manny Machado, but I don’t want to take

it for granted, either,” Padres manager Mike Shildt said. “Sometimes with guys like Manny, they play well and you’re like, ‘Yeah, he’s supposed to play well.’ But he is doing a lot of things really, really well. He’s swinging the bat well, using the whole field, driving in runs, situationally aware. I just love his swing. It’s such a pretty swing to watch. Defensively he’s been fantastic, and on the bases, he’s been tremendous. He’s a complete baseball player.”

One major aspect of Machado’s recent play is drawing praise from everybody: He has nine walks and just 10 strikeouts during his surge, dem-

onstrating the improved plate discipline of a slugger who hasn’t always been this picky.

“You’re talking about a dangerous hitter that’s got even more dangerous, because now he’s just not chasing,” Shildt said. “He’s not going to get himself out. ... He’s going to make you do something in the zone. When you’ve got that kind of talent with that kind of consistent swing, and he’s consistently (swinging) in the zone and driving the ball to all parts of the field, it’s a special thing.”

Machado’s chase rate was 21.5% during this streak — below his career average around 28%. Overall, Machado’s strikeout percentage and walk percentage this season are both fractions away from the best marks of his entire career.

He shrugs off the impressive numbers, attributing them to experience.

“Just playing the game,” Machado said. “The older you get, you know what they’re trying to do to you, or how they’re trying to attack you, so I’m just trying to have some quality at-bats.”

But his teammates have noticed Machado’s concerted effort to be disciplined, and they think it can be contagious as the Padres continue down the long road to October.

“He’s swinging at a lot of his pitches, the ones that he wants,” Xander Bogaerts said. “Not a lot of borderline pitches. When he’s swinging the bat like that, teams always tend to be a little careful with you, (but) he’s not swinging at balls. He’s not expanding as much. He’s very locked in right now.”



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