

THE CORONADO NEWS

ONLINE 24/7 @ THECORONADONEWS.COM • FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2026 • VOLUME 4, NUMBER 08

A Centennial celebration: Coronado Rotary Club turns 100

Curators walk through a museum exhibit commemorating the historic milestone

BY JULIETA SOTO
The Coronado News

It was the 1920s when American aviator Charles A. Lindbergh departed from North Island to New York in the Spirit of St. Louis – weeks before he completed the first transatlantic

flight to Paris. Halfway into that decade, also known as the Roaring Twenties, a group of businessmen formed what has become the longest standing service club in Coronado. On March 8 the Rotary Club of Coronado celebrated 100 years of commitment to “Service Above Self.” “We decided we’d have a celebratory exhibit,” said Coronado resident Steve Duermeier.

The Coronado Historical

» Continued on Page 8



A Coronado Historical Association exhibit features the Coronado Rotary Club's initial members' first official photograph circa 1927. Staff photo by Julieta Soto.

Coronado High School girls' lacrosse looks to defend title

BY CADE MICHAELSON
The Coronado News

Last year saw the Coronado Islanders' girls' lacrosse team put together the best possible season, going 19-0 en route to a CIF championship win over Cathedral Catholic in the open division. Though the start to this year hasn't lived up to the undefeated season of last, the Islanders – who retained many of the players on last year's championship-winning team – are still on track to make a playoff push. With their recent double overtime loss to Agnes Irwin, the team is now 6-3, including a 20-4 win over Scripps Ranch in their lone league game thus far. Following the end of the season, head coach Caroline Carlson departed from the school. The void has been filled by a pair of leaders who also are coaches for the Coronado LaCrosse Club: Jada Cade and David Kieffer. Cade is married to the Coronado High boys' coach, Alex Cade, and their daughter, Lilah, plays for the Islanders. Kieffer's daughter, Siena, also is a lacrosse player. The Coronado Lacrosse Club is a nonprofit organization for girls under age 16. Cade and Kieffer coach together for the 10-and-under team. Cade and Kieffer each played



Sydney Dunn is a midfielder and Brown University commit. Photo by Kelly Moore.

college lacrosse – Cade at William & Mary, Kieffer at Michigan State. Although the record hasn't lived up to last year's achievement, Cade said the Islanders are in a good position, with room to improve down the stretch. “I think all of the girls are per-

forming at a really high level individually,” Cade said. “They're all sort of taking their play to the next level ... Many of them are going to go on to play at a higher level in college.” Sydney Dunn has been one of the key players for the Island-

ers, notching a few scores and assists in the loss to Agnes Irwin on March 27. Dunn is optimistic not just because of the talent on the roster, but the commitment to each other and a willingness to

» Continued on Page 13

REVIEW



A By the Border Benedict was served at Crown Bistro in Coronado on April 1. Photo by Michelle Armas.

Crown Bistro is the crown jewel of Sundays

Welcome back to Mouthful! with Michelle, a review column exploring the eateries shaping Coronado's food scene

BY MICHELLE ARMAS
The Coronado News

I am curious about what the Coronado community thinks of brunch. Because it's a rather

controversial meal in the culinary world. The late celebrity chef, Anthony Bourdain, once said, “Then there are the People Who Brunch. The ‘B’ word is dreaded by all dedicated cooks.” Food writer Jeff Gordinier has described brunch as “the gastronomic version of the walk of shame.” And while gastronaut skeptics may have a point, with brunch bringing a certain crowd of de-

manding customers, and perhaps hungover ones, it also comes with a sense of tradition. And that is Sunday. And not just any Sunday, but a sun-filled, ritualistic, Easter Sunday. And at Crown Bistro, the Easter glow is in full bloom, with yellow umbrellas polka-dotted the sidewalk, pastel egg decorations in the garden, tulips on the tables,

» Continued on Page 6

****ECRWSSSEDDM****

Postal Customer
Coronado, CA 92118

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SAN DIEGO, CA
PERMIT NO. 3337

★ ★ ★ INSIDE THIS ISSUE ★ ★ ★

Opinion/Letters
Local News

4
6-9

Military
Sports

10
12-15

this week

10 • Friday

The Coronado Junior Woman's Club has opened applications for the Marilyn Foster Scholarship, offered to four senior girls graduating in the class of 2026, in the amount of \$2,500 each. Those who either attend Coronado High or are a Coronado resident, and have plans to attend higher education in the fall, can apply by May 15 at coronadojuniorwomans.org/the-marilyn-foster-scholarship.

11 • Saturday

The Coronado Democratic Club will host Brian Adams, professor of political science at San Diego State University, as its featured speaker on April 11 in the Winn Room of the Coronado Public Library. His presentation will focus on how local campaigns take place, and why early activity can play a decisive role. There will be a question and answer session following the 11 a.m. presentation. A social hour begins at 10:30 a.m.

11 • Saturday

The KMAC Foundation's Accessible Sailing fleet will host a volunteer training from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Coronado Yacht Club. The 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.

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

SOMETHING TO DO

A Monday night mystery author event

Coronado News staff

New York Times bestselling authors Ellery Adams and Wendy Walker are scheduled to speak at the Coronado Public Library on April 27 at 6:30 p.m.

Adams, author of more than 40 novels, will talk about her new release, "Invasive Species," a chilling mystery.

Walker will discuss her psychological thriller, "Blade," set in the world of elite figure skating.

The event, hosted in partnership with Adventures by the Book, is free and open to the public. Seating is first-come, first-served, and limited preferred seating is available with purchase of the newest release of one of the authors through adventuresbythebook.com.



Wendy Walker (left) and Ellery Adams (right) are presenting their new releases on April 27. Photos provided by Adventures by the Book.



Call us at:
(619)
435-8247



Meet Ambrose, 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 Ambrose

PAWS of Coronado

Ambrose is available for adoption at PAWS of Coronado.

Staff members at the non-profit, which provides adoption and rehabilitation services to animals, said that Ambrose is a loving dog that needs a home where he is the only pet.

Those interested in adoption can visit www.pawsofcoronado.org. Fostering, donating and volunteering are other ways to support the organization.

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 Ambrose or other pets, please visit pawsofcoronado.org.



New Year, Healthier You

Are you ready to take steps toward losing weight and improving your health this year?

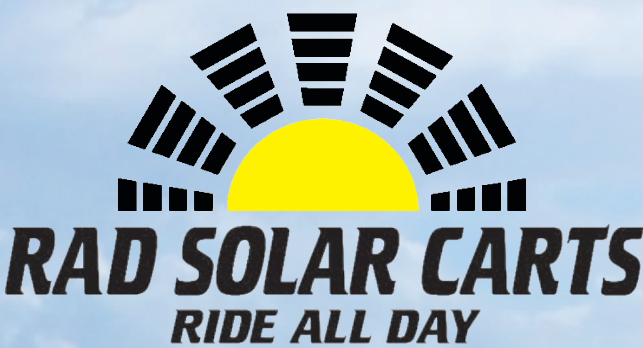
At Sharp Coronado Hospital, we know that effective weight loss depends on a person's unique needs. That's why we offer prescription GLP-1 injectables and oral weight loss medications to help address health conditions related to obesity, such as joint pain, heart and liver diseases, infertility and sleep apnea.

Meet with a board-certified obesity doctor to learn if weight loss medications are right for you. Patients remain under the close care of our specialized health professionals and trusted pharmacy team.

Call 619-522-7118 or visit sharp.com/weightloss to get started.



***STOP PLUGGING IN
& CONNECT WITH SOLAR!***



- No Conventional Charging Necessary*
- Extended Travel Range
- Charges in all Daylight Conditions
- Limits the Frequency of Expensive Battery Replacement
- No Carbon Dioxide Charging Emissions (Green)
- Works with Lead-Acid and Lithium Batteries

INTRODUCTORY OFFER

\$1,695
(Regular Price: \$2,395)

*Includes 335 Watt Solar Panel &
36V 48V Solar Charge Controller,
Complete System Parts & Labor*
OFFER EXPIRES: 3/31/26



**We Also Do
RV's &
Boats**



**CALL OR TEXT
619-844-4511
www.RideAllDaySolarCarts.com**

Ask About Military Discount

*May require conventional charging under certain weather and night travel conditions.

OPINION

This is no way to address home affordability

BY THE EDITORIAL BOARD
The Coronado News

Among the top crises facing California is the affordable housing issue. Just in San Diego alone, the city will need 108,000 new homes by the end of the decade to meet the demand of all income levels, according to the San Diego Association of Governments’ Regional Housing Needs Assessment. A scarcity of such size drives up competition and costs, making the available homes on the market shockingly unaffordable.

But, we don’t need to explain the basics of supply and demand to you, or convince you of the gravity of the issue. Coronado has been dealing with its own version of affordable housing shortfalls for years.

So let’s call it as it is: A statewide crisis. A strategy that fundamentally, is not sustainable, no matter how many bills legislators throw at it.

To attempt to curb the affordable housing mess and put more units back on the market (and more money in the city’s general fund), our neighbors across the bridge are considering adding an empty home tax to houses that sit vacant for more than half the year – a move San Diego voters will see on their ballots in June.

From the outset, we should be concerned about “money grabbing taxes” that boost the city’s general fund in the middle of a huge budget shortfall.

If it passes, an initial annual tax of \$8,000 would be imposed on homes that are empty for more than 182 days of the year (or six months) starting in 2027. Corporate-owned dwellings would need to add a \$4,000 surcharge.

Every year after that, the rate would rise to \$10,000 plus a \$5,000 surcharge for corporate-owned



San Diego is considering an empty home tax. Staff photo by Madeline Yang.

homes.

This proposal is punitive in nature, penalizing home owners who leave their houses vacant for a chunk of time, rather than addressing the root of the affordable housing issue. Why aren’t we instead, implementing additional housing tax policies that reward permanent home ownership?

The empty home tax has been adopted in other California cities such as Berkeley and San Francisco, the latter of which is now in a legal dispute over whether the law is constitutional.

San Diego’s independent budget analyst says the move could generate \$9.2 million to \$21.4 million in the first year, according to an article from the San Diego Union Tribune.

While Coronado is not currently considering the empty home tax, and currently has a balanced budget, this is an interesting case study to observe from afar, since the island has more-than-double the amount of vacant homes compared to the San Diego-Chula Vista-Carlsbad metro area.

According to 2024 U.S. census data, 26% of Coronado’s homes are vacant, and a high portion of those fall under seasonal or recreational use. In San Diego, the percentage lands at 7%.

The numbers speak for themselves. If Coronado was to follow suit, many homeowners would be affected.

But we should be wary of this move as a money grabbing scheme – a technique to fill a budget deficit caused by overspending – and avoid following in the footsteps of San Diego.

Rather than penalize homes that are underutilized, there should be tax incentives for primary homeowners. The tax structure needs to be shifted to address home affordability. The last thing we need is another tax that will run folks out of California.

How to be a part of The Coronado News:

Submit a news tip

Capture a cool photo of Coronado and send it in for publication consideration

Respond to an editorial or a news story by writing a letter to the editor

All submissions can be sent to newsroom@thecoronadonews.com

LISA BENSON

LISA BENSON 327 Tribune Content Agency

JACK OHMAN



CORONADO ISLAND FILM FESTIVAL

NOV. 4-8, 2026^t



BADGES ON SALE
Prices increase **MAY 31, 2026**

CORONADO

Feds ramp up scrutiny in yearslong dispute over California airport money

Associated Press

Hundreds of millions of dollars could be at stake if California cannot solve a yearslong dispute with the Federal Aviation Administration.

The federal agency questions whether California is spending money gleaned from taxing jet fuel according to federal rules, which aim to ensure states are maintaining airport infrastructure. It gave the state's Finance Department until the end of March to produce detailed records on how it is spending those taxes, or it "reserves the right to take appropriate compliance and enforcement actions as necessary," according to a letter it sent to the state agency dated March 5.

The finance department responded March 20, telling the FAA that the state spends more on its airports than it collects in jet fuel taxes, and that therefore it is in compliance with the spirit of the regulations. The state will have spent more than \$2 billion on its airports from 2020 to 2026, and would have taken in a total of \$226 million from the tax revenue over that period, according to the department's analysis.

California has long reallocated funds from jet fuel tax revenue to other accounts, including its general fund, according to an audit by the U.S. Transportation Departments' Office of Inspector General published in December 2023. That revenue, based on a tax of 3.9%, fluctuates depending on how much jet fuel is sold to airlines. An analysis of related legislation cites tax-revenue totals much higher than the finance department numbers: more than \$100 million a year, based



FILE - Flowers bloom along the runways as a Delta Airlines jet takes off at the Los Angeles International Airport in Los Angeles, April 12, 2024. AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes, File.

on state Tax and Fee Administration Department data: In 2024, it was \$134 million and the previous year it was almost \$154 million. The discrepancy may be explained by the finance department's disagreement with the FAA over grandfathered taxes exempt from the FAA's policy on jet fuel tax revenue.

FAA spokesperson Cassandra Nolan confirmed that the agency is "assessing" whether California is in compliance, but did not answer CalMatters' question about what form possible enforcement would take. In a September 2020 letter to the finance department, the FAA said it was "prepared to seek assistance from the U.S. Attorney's Office" if needed.

At least \$650 million in federal funding is pending for eight airports around the state this year, said Jim Lites, executive director of the Cali-

fornia Airports Council, a trade group for the state's airports. The airports with pending federal capital project funding are in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Palm Springs, Burbank, Orange County, Monterey, San Jose and Sacramento.

The state and the FAA have been in contact about the issue for more than a decade, according to the letters seen by CalMatters. It is unclear why the federal government is asking for records of amounts collected, expended, transferred and appropriated now; Nolan did not address that question, either. The FAA is also asking for documentation from accounts using the proceeds from the tax revenue.

For decades, the FAA did not enforce a 1980s mandate that aviation fuel tax revenue be used for airports, according to the audit. The agency signaled it would begin doing so in

2014 and gave states three years to comply. California remains one of four states not in compliance, according to the 2023 audit.

One state senator's bill addresses the issue while trying to help her constituents at the same time. Senate Bill 661 would ensure that half of that tax revenue supports non-commercial airports. The other half would be retained by the airport where the jet fuel was sold. Currently, according to an analysis of the bill, the state collects fuel taxes from retailers, deposits its share into the general fund and other state funds, then allocates local taxes to the proper jurisdictions.

Besides the Airports Council, other supporters of the bill include the cities of Merced and Bakersfield, whose airports would benefit from allocating tax revenue as mandated, as well as the airline industry. The author of the bill, Sen. Melissa Hurtado, is a Democrat representing Bakersfield. Her bill also proposes a formula for allocations of the tax revenue to better address the needs of all airports in the state, she has said. "Obviously I represent a rural community and the goal is to ensure that these funds are able to go back to those communities, and right now they're not," she said to the Assembly Standing Committee on Transportation last summer.

California finance department representatives did not agree to be interviewed about the state's talks with the FAA, though the department shared some of its correspondence with the federal agency.

This story was originally published by CalMatters and distributed through a partnership with The Associated Press.

The Very Berry Mascarponi French Toast served at Crown Bistro in Coronado, Ca on April 1, 2026.

Photo by Michelle Armas.



Crown Bistro is the crown jewel of Sundays

» Continued from Page 1

and mascarpone French toast on the menu. Even on a gloomy week, this restaurant casts rays of sunshine that cascade over the whole block. It might be a little happy-clappy for my taste, but brunch is supposed to be happy-clappy.

The menu offers classic modern American breakfasts: omelets, benedicts, trendy French toasts (they had a Dubai chocolate special), and waffles.

I ordered the "By the Border Benedict" and the "Very Berry Mascarponi French Toast" to try one sweet thing and one savory.

The benedict featured a chorizo sausage patty, a poached egg, smashed avocado, and hollandaise sauce over an English muffin, served with a side of hash browns. The chorizo ignited my curiosity immediately. It was a Mexican chorizo, not the cured Spanish variety, but shaped like a patty nonetheless.

Layering it with the benedict made sense; however, the meat was quite tough to cut. Most chorizos I've had are tender or even ground, saturated with a spicy oil that you want to mix with potatoes or eat with a crispy bread. This one was dry, and the texture made it difficult to chew. Still, I enjoyed the addition of spice to a softer sauce like hollandaise. The poached egg was perfectly done, and the creamy sauce drenched everything in a buttery richness. The hash browns on the side were crispy and

crunchy, not overly greasy or soggy.

I ate the French toast directly after since it was served at the same time as my benedict. I will note that everything came out within 15 minutes and the server ended every conversation with a smile. The French toast was deliciously displayed, with a single flower resting on top. The toast was drenched in a thick strawberry sauce, with some cooked strawberries still intact.

The mascarpone was dolloped in the center, and I blurred it in with the sauce to homogenize everything together. I drenched it all in a luscious maple syrup and took one succinct bite. The blueberries, sprinkled on top, were fresh and poppy, and the French toast was warm but not as thick and gooey as others I've enjoyed before. The mascarpone balanced the acidity of the berries and left me satisfied.

I still left not knowing exactly what I think of brunch. Is it the "girlfriend recap" meal? A time to gather the family? A simple excuse to dress in pastels and linens? Or is it just a pseudo-meal — something that attracts crowds and should be avoided at all costs?

Crown Bistro, located at 520 Orange Ave. is open Monday through Sunday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dinner is currently closed, according to the restaurant's website.

Contact:
michelle@thecoronadonews.com

! Stop. Hang Up. Tell Someone.



A Message from the San Diego County District Attorney



Microsoft isn't calling – scammers are.

They want your trust and your money. If you're told to give computer access, withdraw funds, or purchase gold – it's a scam.

Report scams to local police and FBI at IC3.gov.



UP TO
65%
OFF
1 ROOM

UP THE
UP TO
70%
OFF
2 ROOMS

SAVINGS!
UP TO
75%
OFF
3+ ROOMS

FLOORING SALE*
+ 0% INTEREST FOR 12 MONTHS, WITH
PAYMENTS AS LOW AS: \$49/MONTH
OFFER ENDS: 4/30/26
 **619-452-0543**

 FREE FURNITURE MOVING

 FREE IN-HOME SHOPPING

 FREE LIFETIME INSTALLATION WARRANTY

 NEXT DAY INSTALLATION

 WATER & PET PROOF FLOORING





CARPET | TILE | HARDWOOD | LAMINATE | LUXURY VINYL PLANK

*Offer not available in all areas and ends 4/30/26 . Offer good at initial consultation. Up to 65%, 70%, or 75% Off applies to select styles and the base material. Does not include labor, underlayment and other sundries needed to complete the installation. Deferred interest for 12 months available to well qualified buyers on approved credit only. Offer not valid on previous purchases and cannot be combined with other offers. Residential projects only. See website for further details. CLSB 1107441



SPEAK WITH A PRIVATE JEWELER TODAY! (480) 600-2624

LONDONGOLD.COM

SCOTTSDALE
(480) 367-1717

CHANDLER
(480) 705-4191

ARROWHEAD
(623) 979-4445

A Centennial celebration: Coronado Rotary Club turns 100

» Continued from Page 1

Association (CHA) opened “A Century of Service: 100 Years of the Rotary Club of Coronado,” at the centennial mark. The free exhibit is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through June 14 at the Coronado Historical Association at 1100 Orange Ave.

Christine Stokes, CHA director, said the association spent the past year working with the Rotary Club Exhibit Committee to research, interview and organize years of the club’s history.

“This exhibit brings to light all of the work that they’re doing but also in a way that puts it in a historic context which is really important for people to understand how Rotary has been so impactful but also so essential to Coronado over the years,” said Stokes.

Rotary history

Paul P. Harris, from Chicago, established the first Rotary club in 1905 with the vision “to create a club of professionals from diverse backgrounds who could form meaningful friendships and support one another both personally and professionally.”

Similarly, Albert H. Foret, part owner of the Coronado Journal in the 1920s, helped establish the Coronado Rotary Club composed of under two dozen Coronado residents when it received its new charter, dated March 8, 1926.

The Coronado Rotary Club’s website says it has over 270 dedicated men and women doing community, international, vocational, club and special activities. Club membership is attained through an invitation, nomination and screening process.

The club is part of more than 45,000 rotary clubs globally, including a separate binational club locally.

Duermeyer said the exhibit pays tribute to prominent rotarians such as Ron Beaubien who joined the club in 1976, served as president from 1984-85 and was selected as member of the Rotary International Board of Directors for 2003-05. Beaubien is credited for establishing the annual Coronado Christmas Parade after he lobbied in Sacramento to close a section of Route 75.

“None of these gentlemen are alive but we sort of dedicated this exhibit to their honor and explain what their accomplishments were in the area but also in the world stage,” said Duermeyer.

Global impact

The club continues to support the international mission to eradicate polio, an infectious disease that affects the nervous system and can lead to paralysis, through an annual fundraising event which dedicated \$645,000 in 2024.

“The Rotary Club of Coronado has done so much for End Polio Now,” said Stokes. “But also so much that we’ve done just over the border.”

The club has provided over 2,000 prosthetic limbs through its international initiative, Limbs of Freedom, based in Ensenada since 1998.

Duermeyer said the club has also built half-dozen homes for families in Tijuana.

The club leads an exchange program for youth, the Interact club for high schoolers, and provides scholarships to local graduating seniors.

“You’re doing these rotary projects because you know that this is going to improve not just our community but the world,” said Stokes, a Rotarian since 2017.

While the club centers on service, Stokes said, it’s also about boosting the local economy and businesses.

“In some communities service clubs aren’t as popular anymore,” she added. “Coronado has kept this service club for 100 years and I think that you see through the impact of its programs and the inclusivity of its membership that that’s why it continues to thrive.”

As for the centennial exhibit, Duermeyer said, “It saves our history and it shows it to the world – and it makes us proud.”

To learn more, visit: <https://coronadohistory.org/> and <https://www.coronadorotary.org/>.

Contact: julieta@thecoronadonews.com



Artemis 2 crew members, from left, Mission Spc. Jeremy Hansen, of Canada, Mission Spc. Christina Koch, Commander Reid Wiseman, and Pilot Victor Glover pose for a photo after the crew’s arrival at the Kennedy Space Center Friday, March 27, 2026, in Cape Canaveral, Fla. AP Photo/Chris O’Meara.

Meet the Artemis crew in NASA’s first astronaut mission to the moon in more than a half-century

Associated Press

The four astronauts making NASA’s next lunar leap bear little resemblance to the Apollo era.

The Americans who blazed the trail to the moon more than half a century ago were white men chosen for their military test pilot experience. This first Artemis crew includes a woman, a person of color and a Canadian, products of a more diversified astronaut corps.

None of them were alive during NASA’s storied Apollo program that sent 24 astronauts to the moon including 12 moonwalkers. They won’t land on the moon this time or even orbit it, but the out-and-back journey will take them thousands of miles deeper into space than even the Apollo astronauts ventured, promising unprecedented views of the lunar far side.

Here’s a look at the Artemis astronauts whose mission aims to pave the path for future moon landings:

Commander Reid Wiseman

Leading the nearly 10-day mission is a widower who considers solo parenting — not rocketing to the moon — his biggest and most rewarding challenge.

Wiseman, 50, a retired Navy captain from Baltimore, was serving as NASA’s chief astronaut when asked three years ago to lead humanity’s first lunar trip since 1972. His wife Carroll’s death from cancer in 2020 gave him pause.

He’d spent more than five months at the International Space Station in 2014, and his two teenage daughters, especially the older one, had “zero interest” in him launching again.

“We talked about it and I said, ‘Look, of all the people on planet Earth right now, there are four people that are in a position to go fly around the moon,’ he said. “I cannot say no to that opportunity.”

The next day, homemade moon cupcakes awaited him, along with

his daughters’ support. The toughest part isn’t leaving them — “it’s the stress that I’m putting on them,” he said.

Open with his daughters about everything, he recently told them where he keeps his will.

Pilot Victor Glover

As one of NASA’s few Black astronauts, Glover sees his presence on the mission as “a force for good.”

The 49-year-old Navy captain and former combat pilot from Pomona, California, makes it a habit to listen to Gil Scott-Heron’s “Whitey on the Moon” and Marvin Gaye’s “Make Me Wanna Holler” from the white-dominated Apollo era.

“I listen to those for perspective,” he said. “It captures what we did well, what we did poorly.”

The ability for him now to offer hope to others is “an amazing blessing and a privilege.” Despite having one spaceflight behind him — an early SpaceX crew run to the International Space Station — he finds himself in new personal territory. His four daughters are in their late teens and early 20s, “and I spend as an much time and thought preparing them as NASA does preparing me.”

He’s hyper-focused on running “our best race so that we can hand the baton off to the next leg” — a 2027 practice docking mission in orbit around Earth between an Orion crew capsule and one or two lunar landers. The all-important moon landing would follow in 2028 with yet another set of astronauts.

Mission specialist Christina Koch

The last time Koch blasted into space, she was gone almost a year, so she’s not sweating a quick trip to the moon and back.

The 47-year-old electrical engineer from Jacksonville, North Carolina, holds the record for the longest single spaceflight by a woman — 328 days. She took part in the first all-fe-

male spacewalk during her lengthy stay at the space station in 2019.

More than any one individual, “it’s about celebrating the fact that we’ve arrived to this place in history” where women can fly to the moon, she said.

Before she got called up by NASA, Koch spent a year at a South Pole research station. Between that and her space stint, she feels she’s “inoculated” most of her family and friends.

“So far, I haven’t gotten too many nerves from folks. Maybe my dog, but I’ve reassured her that it’s only 10 days. It’s not going to be as long as last time.”

Her and her husband’s rescue pooch is named Sadie Lou.

Canadian Space Agency’s Jeremy Hansen

The Canadian fighter pilot and physicist is making his space debut, stressful enough, but also serving as his country’s first emissary to the moon.

“Maybe I’m naive, but I don’t feel a lot of personal pressure.”

Hansen, 50, grew up on a farm near London, Ontario, before moving to Ingersoll and pursuing a flying career. The Canadian Space Agency selected him as an astronaut in 2009, and he was named to the Artemis crew in 2023.

He realizes only now how much effort it took to send men to the moon during Apollo.

“When I walk out and I look at the moon now, it looks and feels a little bit farther than it used to be,” he said. “I just understand in the details how much harder it is than I thought it was watching videos of it.”

Dangers still loom — something he’s shared with his college-aged son and twin daughters. “The most likely outcome is that we will come back safe. There’s a chance we won’t, and you will be able to move through life even if that happens,” he assured them.

Coronado Island Film Festival presents noir classic, ‘The Maltese Falcon’

Coronado News staff

The Coronado Island Film Festival is slated to screen the 1941 film, “The Maltese Falcon,” a Best Picture Oscar-nominated feature.

The screening, at 1:30 p.m. on April 12 in the Ruby Room of the Coronado Public Library, is free and open to the public and part of the festival’s educational classic film series.

The film, directed by John Huston, is an enduring detective mystery movie in the American film canon.

Leading the cast as detective Sam Spade is Humphrey Bogart, with a supporting cast of: Mary Astor as the story’s femme fatale, Sydney Greenstreet and Peter Lorre in their first of many screen pairings, and the Elisha Cook, Jr. as Greenstreet’s gun-toting “boy.”



The Coronado Island Film Festival presents "The Maltese Falcon" on April 12. Image provided by the Coronado Island Film Festival.

Home Buying is a *Journey*

Find The Path That's Best For You



Right now, the Buyer's journey to a new home is full of obstacles. Having a great guide, one that can help the process go faster, smoother and less expensive, is the best investment you can make.

AddressCoronado.com
will connect you with the best
in the marketplace

**DON'T BE AFRAID
TO TAKE THE EASY WAY**

MILITARY

Yemeni lawmaker sues US military veterans, accusing them of attempting to kill him

Associated Press

A Yemeni lawmaker says in a lawsuit that U.S. military veterans who worked for a private security firm were hired as mercenaries to kill him in 2015 on behalf of the United Arab Emirates as part of a campaign by the U.S. ally that targeted political opponents.

The lawsuit by Anssaf Ali Mayo in federal court in San Diego was unsealed last week, revealing details of the allegations against former executives and employees of Spear Operations Group, a private military contracting firm that incorporated in Delaware in 2015 but was dissolved in 2018. Many of the employees were former U.S. special forces operators.

Mayo — a member of Yemen’s parliament, who is represented by the Center for Justice & Accountability — accuses two military veterans and the founder of Spear Operations of carrying out war crimes, crimes against humanity and an attempted extrajudicial killing. The complaint said the UAE paid the private military contractor \$1.5 million per month, plus bonuses for successful killings in Yemen, including Mayo’s.

The scheme described in the lawsuit echoes a 2018 report by BuzzFeed News that U.S. veterans were behind the attempt on his life.

According to the complaint, Spear founder and CEO, Abraham Golan, an Israeli-Hungarian dual

“Our government has a duty to regulate how former members of our military use their training and know-how, and a responsibility to hold them accountable when they break the law.”

- Daniel McLaughlin,
Legal Director for the Center for Justice & Accountability

citizen, recruited U.S. military veterans, including former Navy SEAL Isaac Gilmore, who later became chief operating officer of Spear, and former U.S. Army Special Forces member Dale Comstock. According to the complaint, the three men have admitted to their roles in the assassination campaign and the attempt on Mayo’s life.

“There was a targeted assassination program in Yemen,” Golan confirmed to BuzzFeed. “I was running it. We did it. It was sanctioned by the UAE within the coalition.”

At the time, according to court documents, Golan and Gilmore lived in the San Diego area and held meetings about their plans there.

Gilmore did not immediately respond to a voicemail message

seeking comment. Comstock also did not respond to a message left on his professional website seeking comment. The Associated Press was not able to reach Golan.

The UAE has said it has supported counterterrorism operations in Yemen but has denied targeting political opponents there. The Emirati foreign ministry and the Gulf nation’s embassy in Washington did not immediately respond to a request for comment on March 30 about the lawsuit.

Mayo does not live in the U.S. but under the Alien Tort Statute, foreigners can sue in U.S. federal court for violations of international law.

Daniel McLaughlin, the legal director for the Center for Justice & Accountability, said the lawsuit highlights the importance of pros-

ecuting the illegal actions of former U.S. military members.

“Our government has a duty to regulate how former members of our military use their training and know-how, and a responsibility to hold them accountable when they break the law,” he said in a statement.

In 2015, the UAE intervened in Yemen’s civil war as part of a regional coalition, backed by the United States. The war was in its early stages after Iranian-backed Houthi rebels seized the capital, Sanaa, and much of northern Yemen.

The contractors have described carrying out the mercenary mission in war-torn Yemen in media interviews, saying their target was Mayo, the local leader of the Islamist group Al-Islah. The UAE considers Al-Islah to be a terrorist organization, though many experts say it is a legitimate political party that has spoken out against the Emirati government’s ambitions in Yemen.

On Dec. 29, 2015, Mayo said Spear planted explosive devices at his office building in the city of Aden in southern Yemen but the lawmaker fled minutes before the explosion. After the attempt on his life, he fled his homeland for Saudi Arabia.

“Spear tried to assassinate me ten years ago. I survived but have been forced to live in exile separated from my family,” Mayo said in a statement.



Sustainability is a powerful ingredient.

SDG&E is proud to support The Plot, in Oceanside, where sustainability is always on the menu. Their zero-waste approach and our net-zero initiatives are serving up a healthier environment for our communities every day. [Learn more at SDGEtoday.com](#)

We Bring Good Energy.





Tudal Wine



**POUR SOMETHING
WORTH THE VIEW**

Enjoy 50% off at TudalWine.com
with promo code **CORONADO50**

SCAN ME



SPORTS

CHS ROUNDUP

Islander sporting events this week

BY CADE MICHAELSON
The Coronado News

It's an important week for Coronado athletics, as league play is ramping up. The week is highlighted by Coronado High baseball, playing two games against league opponent Cathedral Catholic.

13 • Monday

CHS freshman baseball opens the week for the Islanders with a game against Mission Bay at 4:30 p.m. The game is at Mission Bay High.

14 • Tuesday

Varsity golf is headed to Riverwalk for a match against St. Augustine High School. Teeing off at 3 p.m.

Islanders swim faces Eastlake at Brian Bent Memorial Aquatics Complex, starting at 3:30 p.m.

Girls' beach volleyball is at home for a game against Mission Bay at 3:30 p.m.

The Islanders boys' tennis team has their senior night at home against Clairemont High. Matches start at 3:30 p.m.

Coronado softball plays against San Diego High. Varsity is at home, JV on the road. First pitch for both is at 4 p.m.

Boys' lacrosse opens its week with a road game against Santa Fe Christian Schools. JV starts at 4, varsity follows at 5:30 p.m.

CHS girls' lacrosse plays a league matchup against Cathedral Catholic at home. Games are at 5:30 and 7 p.m.

15 • Wednesday

Boys' volleyball plays its first game of the week against Mira Mesa, on the road. Games start at 4:30 and 6 p.m.

Islanders JV and varsity baseball play their first of two games this week against Cathedral Catholic. JV is at home, varsity on the road. First pitch is at 4 p.m.

16 • Thursday

Varsity golf plays at Coronado for a match against Bishops. Tee off is at 3 p.m.

Islanders tennis heads to Mission Bay. Games start at 3:30 p.m.

CHS swim has its second meet of the week, this time on the road at Cathedral Catholic at 3:30 p.m.

Softball closes its week with a game against Lincoln High. Varsity is on the road, JV at home. Both games start at 4 p.m.

Islanders girls' lacrosse is at home to face Patrick Henry. JV starts at 5:30, varsity at 7 p.m.

CHS track and field is headed to Madison High for its fourth league meet of the season. Events start at 4 p.m.

17 • Friday

Girls' beach volleyball closes its week with the one road game of the week, against Mira Mesa. The game starts at 4 p.m.

CHS boys' volleyball is on the road for the second time this week, this time against University City. Games start at 4:30 and 6 p.m.

Boys' lacrosse also plays, but the team is at home for their senior night. The squad plays La Jolla and games start at 5 and 7 p.m.

Varsity baseball finishes the week with its second game against Cathedral Catholic. This time, varsity is at home and JV's on the road. First pitch for both games is at 4 p.m.

Contact:
cade@thecoronadonews.com

Naomi Girma set to play for USWNT match against Japan

Associated Press

Naomi Girma is going to play at home in Northern California with the U.S. national team later this month for the first time since a send-off game for the 2023 Women's World Cup.

Coach Emma Hayes announced on April 1 that Girma, who was born in San Jose and played at nearby Stanford, will be on the roster when the U.S. plays the first of three matches against Japan on April 11 at San Jose's Pay Pal Park.

Her last U.S. national team appearance in her hometown was in a 2-0 victory over Wales ahead of the 2023 World Cup.

"Playing for the national team in the Bay always just feels like kind of surreal, and seeing a lot of people who come to support me, who were there when I was playing club soccer, just playing for fun, and being like, 'Wow, I can't believe that we're all here and we've made it this far.' So it always is really special for me," Girma said.

Girma's Stanford teammate Sophia Wilson was named to her first roster in 15 months after taking last year off for the birth of her daughter.

Defender Tierna Davidson, who tore her ACL last season, will also return.

"I think it's a great test for us," Girma said about Japan. "They're a great side, just won the Asian Cup. And I think they're very organized in their defense, but then also in their attack and they bring something different to a lot of other opponents that we play. So I think it's always a good test for us to measure ourselves against them."

Girma plays professionally in England for Chelsea. She joined the Women's Super League club in early 2025 on a \$1.1 million transfer from the San Diego Wave. This past



FILE - England's Alessia Russo and United States' Naomi Girma challenge for the ball during the international friendly women's soccer match between England and United States at Wembley stadium in London, Nov. 30, 2024. AP Photo/Kirsty Wigglesworth, File.

weekend the defender scored her first WSL goal in a 4-3 victory over Aston Villa to move the Blues in to second in the standings behind Manchester City.

She made her debut for the national team in 2022. She has appeared in 52 games with the United States and played on the squad that won the gold medal at the Paris Olympics.

Wilson was left off the U.S. roster for the recent SheBelieves Cup as she worked her way back from maternity leave with her club team, the Portland Thorns. Wilson has played in 58 games for the national team, scoring 24 goals, including three at the Olympics in France.

After the match in San Jose, the series against Japan will move to Seattle's Lumen Field on April 14. The final game is set for April 17 at Dick's Sporting Good's Park in Commerce City, Colorado.

The roster by position with club affiliation:

Goalkeepers: Jane Campbell (Houston Dash), Claudia Dickey (Seattle Reign), Phallon Tullis-Joyce (Manchester United).

Defenders: Tierna Davidson (Gotham FC), Emily Fox (Arsenal), Naomi Girma (Chelsea), Avery Patterson (Houston Dash), Lilly Reale (Gotham FC), Emily Sams (Angel City), Emily Sonnett (Gotham FC), Gisele Thompson (Angel City), Kennedy Wesley (San Diego Wave).

Midfielders: Sam Coffey (Manchester City), Lindsey Heaps (OL Lyonnnes), Claire Hutton (Bay FC), Rose Lavelle (Gotham FC), Olivia Moultrie (Portland Thorns), Jaedyn Shaw (Gotham FC), Lily Yohannes (OL Lyonnnes).

Forwards: Michelle Cooper (Kansas City Current), Jameese Joseph (Chicago Stars), Trinity Rodman (Washington Spirit), Emma Sears (Racing Louisville), Ally Sentnor (Kansas City Current), Alyssa Thompson (Chelsea), Sophia Wilson (Portland Thorns).

USWNT's Sophia Wilson gave herself grace after the birth of her daughter

Associated Press

Sophia Wilson says being a mom has helped with her "goldfish mentality" of living in the moment.

Wilson was named to the U.S. national team roster for three upcoming matches against Japan, starting April 11 in San Jose, California. She took time away from soccer for the birth of her daughter and has not played for the United States in 17 months.

"I feel like my perspective on just life in general has shifted a lot, I think, in all the best ways," Wilson said Thursday. "I feel more grounded, I feel more present. And I think that's how I view the game as well. I'm trying to approach it with — I always have, but I think more than ever — a goldfish mentality. It's just, be present in whatever practice, whatever game I'm in, and then it's on to the next."

Wilson gave birth to daughter Gianna last September. Formerly Sophia Smith, she is married to Arizona Cardinals wide receiver Michael Wilson.

The 25-year-old forward was on the national team that won the gold medal at the 2024 Paris Olympics. Fans nicknamed the front line of Wilson, Trinity Rodman and Malory Swanson as "Triple Espresso."

She has also worked her way back to a starting role this season for her club team, the Portland Thorns, after taking all of last season off on maternity leave.

"Watching her play 70 minutes the other night, it was almost like I couldn't believe she's had a baby and come back to perform at the level she's done," U.S. coach Emma Hayes said. "Real, real credit to her and the team around her that have



FILE - United States' Sophia Smith celebrates after scoring her side's first goal, during the women's Group B soccer match between the United States and Germany at the Velodrome stadium, during the 2024 Summer Olympics, in Marseille, France, July 28, 2024.

AP Photo/
Daniel Cole, File.

really positioned pre- and post-pregnancy planning in a fantastic way."

Wilson gave herself grace as she worked her way back.

"Knowing that getting back to playing at a high level, it's not just a straight path. It's not going to happen with the snap of my fingers," Wilson said. "A lot of work went into it behind the scenes a lot of people didn't see, and a lot of work is still going into it. And I think for me, it's just being gracious with myself, and going into it with the perspective of look at what my body has done for me and what it's still continuing to do for me, and knowing that it is very possible to be great at both things, be a great mom, be a great athlete."

Wilson has played in 58 games with the national team, scoring 24 goals. She was named U.S. Soccer women's Player of the Year in 2022 and Young Player of the Year in 2017.

She will be a key member of the team as it prepares for the 2027 World Cup in Brazil. Qualification starts in late November.

"This absolutely feels like the

right time, not just because she's playing again at a high level, but I think it's really important for us to start getting these players like Soph back into a rhythm in preparation for the World Cup qualifiers," Hayes said. "So I cannot wait to welcome her and Gigi. I know there will be a lot of fussing over them. I know I will steal Gigi a few times for sure."

Wilson had role models to lean on for advice, including Alex Morgan, Crystal Dunn and Thorns goalkeeper Bella Bixby. She is the 18th mother to play for the U.S. national team. Eight moms have scored.

"I feel like I'm in a really great place right now. I think I've taken this journey the right way," Wilson said. "I've had so much support, so much help, and I haven't felt pressured in any way, which I think is also really special, because there's obviously a lot of reasons that someone would want to get back sooner rather than later. But I felt like I've taken my time and gone about it how I need to go about it, and I feel like I'm in a really great place and have balanced all the things graciously, because I've seen people before me do the same."

SPORTS



San Diego Padres third baseman Manny Machado gestures while rounding the bases after hitting a three-run home run in the fifth inning of a baseball game against the Boston Red Sox, Sunday, April 5, 2026, in Boston. AP Photo/Robert F. Bukaty.

Manny Machado’s well-timed kick helps Padres rally to win in Boston

Associated Press

Padres third baseman — and San Diego FC part-owner — Manny Machado is making his case to move from the baseball diamond to the soccer pitch.

Machado kicked aside a pickoff attempt to help the Padres score two runs as they rallied from a four-run deficit on their way to an 8-6 victory over the Red Sox on April 5. The error charged to Boston catcher Carlos Narváez moved up two runners who eventually scored, and Machado’s three-run homer in the next inning gave San Diego a 6-4 lead.

“I think I picked the wrong sport,” Machado said. “FC should probably sign me up.”

So, did he do it on purpose?

“Nah, I mean, I’m trying to get out of the way,” he told reporters. “It was perfect timing. ... I couldn’t be better

than that.”

A seven-time All-Star in a 15-year major league career, Machado is also a founding partner of San Diego FC, which joined MLS as an expansion team last year. He has won two Gold Gloves, a Platinum Glove and three Silver Slugger awards.

Might a Golden Boot be next?

“I’ve got to hit ‘em up now,” Machado said. “Think I’ve got a slot now.”

With runners on first and second and one out in the fourth inning, Machado took his lead and Narváez threw behind him in an attempt to pick him off first base. Machado went back toward the bag and jumped, stutter-stepping with his right foot before bringing it right down as the throw arrived.

The ball ricocheted into foul territory, putting runners on second and third. One out later, Nick Castellanos singled them both home.

“Kind of got me by surprise, saw the ball coming in, trying to jump out of the way and as it came down I had perfect timing,” Machado said. “You’re trying to bounce up and get out of that way of that ball, you know?”

“I started low, obviously. So I’m trying to decide if I’m going to slide or not, going back into the base. And then obviously I saw the ball coming kind of down low so I kind of jumped up in the air. As I’m coming down and kind of my foot just came in and I obviously hit it.”

Padres manager Craig Stammen said Machado was watching Red Sox first baseman Willson Contreras to see if he was going to beat him to the bag.

“He doesn’t have to beat the throw, he only has to beat the first baseman,” the rookie manager said. “It was just a bad throw that hit his ankle.”

Coronado High School girls’ lacrosse looks to defend title

» Continued from Page 1

work.

“Every single person on this team wants to be here working outside of practice, and we’ve all been playing together for 10 years now,” Dunn said. “Everyone just really wants it. There’s never an off moment. We’re all just really locked and we all want to win.”

Despite the Islanders having three losses, they post an impressive goal differential of +87, as Coronado has netted 148 while only allowing 61. Of their wins, the closest games were against San Marcos and Mt. Carmel, both of which the Islanders won by 12 scores.

Cade said she believes the pressure that’s come with the expectations from last season is positive.

“When you’re coming off a season that was clearly, you know, exceptional and incredibly successful, there’s always pressure to kind of continue to maintain that steam and that level of intensity,” Cade added. “It’s been good to sort of challenge the girls to remain focused and handle that pressure.”

This year’s Islanders features nine seniors, according to the roster on the Islander Sports Foundation’s website. Of that group, six are committed to play lacrosse collegiately. Five of the juniors are also committed to various colleges to play at the next level.

“We have a tremendous amount of leadership, but we’re also really trying to make sure we’re looking to develop the younger players, and sort of keep the momentum of the program going,” Cade said.

Cade said the team’s goal remains the same: to play solid lacrosse and win the CIF championship.

The Islanders will look to bounce back from the Agnes Irwin loss with a league game against La Jolla on April 7. The game is on the road, at La Jolla High.

Contact: cade@thecoronadonews.com

Super Bowl heading back to Las Vegas in 2029

Associated Press

The Super Bowl will return to Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas in 2029 for the second time after NFL owners voted on March 30 in Phoenix to award the nation’s gambling and entertainment capital the big game.

Las Vegas getting the Super Bowl back after Kansas City defeated San Francisco 25-22 in overtime in February 2024 seemed like only a matter of time.

Commissioner Roger Goodell all but gave that possibility his blessing after the first Super Bowl in a city the league long shunned because of concerns about legalized sports betting.

“We’re excited to bring the Super Bowl back to Las Vegas and provide our fans another incredible experience in one of America’s greatest sport and entertainment destinations,” Goodell said in a statement.

“Super Bowl LVIII demonstrated the scale, energy and hospitality the city brings to global events, and we look forward to working alongside the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, the Raiders and the community to deliver an even greater experience this time around.”

Next year’s Super Bowl will be played in California for the second straight time when Inglewood hosts. Santa Clara was the site of this year’s game in which Seattle beat New England 29-13.

Atlanta will host the 2028 game.

“It’s a testament to the Raiders, the LVCVA, civic leaders, the community, and the NFL working together as one,” Raiders owner Mark Davis said in a statement. “Super Bowl LVIII set a high bar, and for Super Bowl LXIII we are committed to raising it even further.”

In addition to hosting a Super Bowl,



The Super Bowl will return to Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas in 2029 for the second time. AP Photo/Ian Maule.

Las Vegas has been the Raiders’ home since 2020 and site of the 2022 NFL draft.

The city’s first attempt at hosting the country’s most popular sporting event was largely well-received. Most game-week events are close together on the Strip, and even the stadium is within walking distance of the south end of Las Vegas Boulevard.

“Clearly, Super Bowl 58 in Las Vegas was a tremendous success,” NFL executive vice president Peter O’Reilly said. “Every element of that, everything that Las Vegas brought to bear, the energy,

the size, the scale, the hospitality. That’s why Las Vegas is the host of so many premier sports and entertainment events. Clearly, NFL ownership supported that in its unanimous decision. We’re thrilled to be back there.”

The 2029 Super Bowl will highlight a busy sports calendar for Las Vegas in the coming years.

The College Football Playoff national championship will be played at Allegiant Stadium in 2027, and the Final Four will be there in 2028. Also, baseball’s Athletics are scheduled to begin play at their new Las Vegas stadium in

2028, and it’s possible a new NBA team will open its first season later that year.

“The commitment that Mark Davis made 10 years ago to bring the Raiders to Las Vegas, to build Allegiant Stadium, to bring the NFL to our city has been transformational for Las Vegas,” LVCVA CEO/President Steve Hill said. “It has elevated our city, it has raised our global profile and it has given us the opportunity to host the Super Bowl.”

“This is a city that is built to host. It’s who we are. It’s not just what we do, it is how we measure ourselves.”

THE CORONADO NEWS

Need to Advertise?

- ✓ A Job Opening
- ✓ Your Business Services
- ✓ A Legal Notification
- ✓ Sell your Car, Pet, Boat or House

The Coronado News has options for any budget!

For more information contact Braeden@thecoronadonews.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.

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

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

Pauline Johnson-Brown

Email: pjbrest@aol.com Phone: 646-438-0982

<https://paulinejohnsonbrown.com/>

Principal | Consultant | Broker | Auction Specialist
San Diego | New York | Washington DC | San Francisco | Paris | London



Tudal Wine

CORONADO
DESERVES A
WINE THIS
EXCEPTIONAL



Savor the elegance of Tudal Wine, now available with an exclusive offer for our Coronado community. Enjoy **10% off** your order with promo code **CORONADO10** and elevate your next gathering with handcrafted Napa Valley wines.

Shop TudalWine.com
and Enjoy 10% Off

SCAN ME



SPORTS

Lauren Betts used lessons learned to lead UCLA to its 1st NCAA national championship

Associated Press

Lauren Betts forced herself to repeatedly watch last season’s Final Four debacle against UConn, using the lessons learned in this year’s return trip to the national semifinals.

The two-time All-American did her homework following a season-low points in UCLA’s only loss of the season, applying what she gleaned from the game film to help take down Texas in the rematch.

Betts opened up about her mental health issues, the honesty taking a weight off her shoulders while, hopefully, helping others facing their own darkness.

This life of hers has been a pursuit of perfection — or at least the best version of herself — and Betts capped the college basketball portion of it by reaching the pinnacle of her sport with one final dominating performance.

UCLA won its first NCAA national championship with a 79-51 blowout of South Carolina on March 5 and Betts, as she’s been throughout her career, was the catalyst at both ends of the floor.

“I showed up with zero confidence and wasn’t sure if I wanted to really play basketball for that much longer,” Betts said. “Coach Cori (Close) really believed in me and wanted to see me accomplish everything that I’d ever dreamed of. They wanted me to see myself the way they all see me and and I feel like now at this point I can finally, truly do that.”

The 6-foot-7 senior shook off a first-half coughing fit — the dry desert air got to her — to finish with 14 points, 11 rebounds and two blocked shots. She altered and prevented even the



UCLA center Lauren Betts (51) shoots over South Carolina center Madina Okot (11) during the second half of the women's National Championship Final Four NCAA college basketball tournament game, Sunday, April 5, 2026, in Phoenix. AP Photo/Rick Scuteri.

thought of several others at the rim to give UCLA its first national championship since taking the 1978 AIAW title.

“She’s a very dominant player,” South Carolina’s Tessa Johnson said. “She’s consistent and effective. It’s hard to scout that.”

Betts had a similar impact in UCLA’s 51-44 shutdown of Texas in the national semifinals, a 16-point, 11-rebound, three-block performance that set the stage for her to be selected as the Final Four’s most outstanding player.

So what if there wasn’t a trophy at the announcement.

Betts got to share a national championship with her younger sister, Sienna, a freshman on the team, along with friends and family in the stands.

“They were crying more than I was because they’ve seen me since my sophomore year, just how I matured and it has been really special for them,” Betts said. “They mean so much to me.”

The closing flourish capped a rocky-at-times career.

Betts was the nation’s No. 1 high school recruit out of Grandview High School, in Aurora, Colorado, and chose to play at perennial powerhouse Stanford. She had a solid fresh-

man season, but the building mental health issues she had been struggling with began to bubble closer to the surface even after she transferred to UCLA.

Betts opened up about her struggles last year and expounded upon it in a recent first-person story, in which she detailed the brutal hospital conditions and the epiphany once she got out — that she wanted to be here.

“I just feel like for me, basketball and this platform that I’ve been given, I was put on this earth to do more than play basketball,” Betts said. “I think the journey I’ve had, the hardships I’ve went through are to help other people.”

Betts dedicated herself to getting better, on and off the court, and became one of the nation’s best college basketball players.

She was UCLA’s first Associated Press All-American a year ago and backed that up with another All-American nod after averaging 18.5 points and 7.6 rebounds while shooting 60.1% from the field and leading the Bruins with 71 blocked shots.

With Betts anchoring the middle, the Bruins (37-1) one-upped the program’s first trip the Final Four last year with the best season in history.

UCLA reeled off a school-record 31 straight wins following the 76-65 loss to Texas, including the payback win in the national semifinals. The Bruins then erased memories of last year’s blowout Final Four loss to UConn with its first NCAA national championship.

Betts, as usual, was at the center of it all, the best version of herself leading to the greatest moment of her and her teammates’ lives.

LIMITED TIME!

75% OFF*

Product Only. Select Styles.

CARPET & FLOORING

Schedule a FREE In-Home Estimate!

Shop Floors From Your Home

Call 619-365-8024

Visit EmpireToday.com/SAVE

* Discount is applied to the regular price of select styles of carpet, hardwood, tile, vinyl, and laminate when you pay regular price for installation, padding and materials. Excludes stairs, miscellaneous charges, and prior purchases. Product may not be sold separately from installation. Residential installations only. Not available in all areas. Valid 02/24/2026 through 04/06/2026. Subject to change.
With approved credit. Details at EmpireToday.com/financing.
Installation provided by independent contractors. Licensure at EmpireToday.com. CSLB 1047108
© 2026 Empire Today, LLC

Celebrate that special loved one and tell their story

The Coronado News is direct mailed to every Coronado Residence every Friday and is now taking Obituaries and In Memorium notifications.

THE CORONADO NEWS

For more information contact Braeden@thecoronadonews.com



TAILORED. TIMELESS. UNIQUE.
Made to Be Yours



At Woodbridge Interiors, custom upholstery is crafted with intention and precision. From hand-selected fabrics to expert tailoring, every detail is thoughtfully considered to create pieces that are as enduring as they are distinctive. Designed to complement your space and reflect your style, each piece is made to feel uniquely yours.


Woodbridge
I N T E R I O R S

Woodbridge Interiors - San Diego
7480 Miramar Road Suite B106
San Diego, CA 92126
858-578-4900

Woodbridge Interiors - Mission Valley
1530 Camino De La Reina
San Diego, CA 92108
619-296-7500

woodbridgeinteriors.com

COMPLIMENTARY DESIGN SERVICES

Our team of design experts can help
you customize and create your dream home!