

Catalina Conservancy announces new chief operating officer

Tim Kielpinski brings extensive experience to Catalina post

FOR THE ISLANDER

Tim Kielpinski, a West Point graduate and former Army captain who has managed facilities at both nonprofit and for-profit organiza-

tions, recently joined the Catalina Island Conservancy as its new chief operating officer. He replaces Tony Budrovich, who became the Conservancy's president and CEO in June. "We are thrilled to have a leader of Tim's caliber join our team," said Budrovich.

Budrovich, who joined the Conservancy in 2015 after spending 18 years in leadership positions

at the California Science Center, said he had a short time of overlap with Kielpinski at the California Science Center. Kielpinski noted that "the California Science Center is a diverse campus with a wide range of facilities to be maintained and improved, as well as construction projects that needed oversight." Kielpinski graduated from West Point and began his career in the

U.S. Army, where he served for nine years and rose to the rank of captain and company commander. He then worked for two IT companies in Alabama, and moved to California in 2002 to become the owner and general manager of a retail garden center in Tehachapi before joining the California Science Center in 2013. Kielpinski is an avid backpacker and lover of the outdoors. He

has moved to Catalina where he said he's looking forward to hiking and mountain biking. He has hiked portions of the Pacific Crest and John Muir trails and climbed to the top of Mount Whitney, the highest summit in the contiguous United States.

"Catalina is such a special place," he said. "It is so close to LA but a world away from the hustle and bustle of the city."