



Fern Nelson (center), joined by longtime Coronado resident and CHS grad Asante Sefa-Boakye (right) and San Diego Historian Yvette Porter Moore (left) on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama. Photo provided by Kevin Ashley.

Coronado reflects on Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a day of introspection for some Coronado residents as the country remembers the man who helped lead the Civil Rights Movement.

BY MADELINE YANG
The Coronado News

Martin Luther King Jr.'s time on earth was short, but his legacy is not. His name and narrative will always be in history books and honored on his day of remembrance, which is on Jan. 20 this year.

In Coronado, Dr. Fern Nelson, a retired dermatologist and longtime resident of the island, said the day marks an important time to think about a historical figure and his message.

"Spend some time, if only 15 minutes, in sincere, thoughtful reflection of Martin Luther King (Jr.) and one's self and one's community and the world," said Nelson.

Nelson moved to Coronado in 2000, just a decade or so after Black families first started coming back and buying houses on the island, according to Kevin Ashley, a local historian. From the 1880s to 1920s, and again from the 1940s to 1960s, Black people made up a significant portion of Coronado's population.

For the first time in several decades, a Black family managed to buy a house in Coronado at the end of the 1980s due to a code of ethics enacted in the 1920s that discriminated against people of color.

"It's very sad that there are so few Black people

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LOS ANGELES WILDFIRES



Coronado firefighters helping fight the fires in LA. Photos taken from @coronadofirefighters_11475.

Coronado firefighters help fight L.A. wildfires



Four Coronado firefighters have joined a strike team from San Diego County and deployed to Los Angeles to help fight the wildfires that are consuming the city.

BY MADELINE YANG
The Coronado News

As Los Angeles faces one of the worst wildfire disasters in California history, Coronado is helping out in a small way.

At 2 a.m. on Jan. 7, Coronado Fire Chief Jayson Summers sent four firefighters into the fire zone as part of a strike team, joining crews from San

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Meet the applicants vying for the vacant City Council position

Three candidates from last year's election have returned to apply for the vacant City Council position, and a previous council member has come out of the woodwork.

BY MADELINE YANG
The Coronado News

The Coronado City Council has one vacant seat and local residents are lining up to apply for a position that will be filled through an appointment rather than a special election.

It is anticipated that the City Council will vote on a vacancy appointment at the next regularly scheduled meeting on Jan. 21.

So far, 10 applicants have been recorded on the city website, three of whom were contestants in the Nov. 5 election: Laura Wilkinson Sinton, Mark Warner and Andrew Gade.

One of the remaining seven applicants, Whitney Benzian, 45, was a council member from 2016-2020, when he chose not to seek re-election.

Others vying to fill the open seat are David J. Hock,

» Continued on Page 7



Several applicants have applied for the vacant City Council position. A decision will potentially be made at the Jan. 21 City Council meeting. Photo taken from CoronadoTV.

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this week

21 • Tuesday

The Storytelling Institute, a free seven-week course presented by the Storytellers of San Diego, is open to anyone who would like to hone their skills in the ancient art form of storytelling. The first session on Jan. 21 is in the Winn Room of the Coronado Public Library at 6 p.m. The Institute culminates in an optional storytelling slot for each participant at the San Diego Storytelling Festival at the Coronado Public Library on March 15, 2025.

The introductory session is on Jan. 21 and registration is required at coronado.librarycalendar.com. All other sessions are walk-in and no registration is required.

25 • Saturday

The Republican Women’s Club of Coronado, Crown City, will hold their first meeting of the new year in the Coronado Historical Association Lecture Room, 1100 Orange Ave., on Saturday, Jan. 25 from 4-6 p.m. The club encourages all members to attend for discussions of the club’s proposed options and plans moving forward. New members are welcome.

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

Coronado kids can learn musical theater through new program

Registration for the program opens on Jan. 8 and classes start on Jan. 29.

Coronado News staff

Recreation and Golf Services is casting actors in its “Introduction to Musical Theater” program, an eight-week program that kicks off on Jan. 29. Two age groups will take classes in preparation for a performance of “Wicked The Musical.”

Classes for 3 to 5-year-olds will be on Wednesdays from 4:45 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. Actors ages 5 to 7 will meet following the younger age group from 5:15 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Coronado Community Center.

Registration opens on Jan. 8. To sign up go online at www.coronado.ca.us/register or call 619 522-7342.

Ages 3-5

Ages 5-7

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For more information visit:
Coronado.Ca.Us/CivicRec
or call 619-522-7342


Recreation and Golf Services

A musical theater program is open for children to join starting on Jan. 29. Graphic from the City of Coronado.



PET OF THE WEEK

Meet Dolce

PAWS of Coronado

Meet Dolce, a sweet 2-year-old neapolitan mastiff weighing in at 80lbs. Though she’s a bit shy at first, Dolce warms up quickly once she feels safe, showing her gentle and affectionate side.

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Dolce will thrive in a patient and understanding home where she can build confidence and enjoy all the love she deserves.

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 Lolita or other pets, please visit pawsofcoronado.org.

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Never Worry About Charging Your Golf Cart Again

OUR STORY

“Once Upon A Time” my son and I were discussing solar systems over lunch. Being licensed electricians, we were familiar with Solar Applications and its advantages.

After conducting a fair amount of research, we determined that Solar Technology had advanced to the point that adding a Solar Panel to the roof of a golf cart could significantly add to the travel range, as well as several other advantages including Green Movement Tax Credits.

I had recently moved to a golf cart community and purchased a cart of my own, after installing the best and most powerful system available, the concept of installing Solar Panels on golf carts was conceived.

We began spreading the word to our friends who owned electric carts and began installing Solar Panels on their carts in our spare time out of our garage in Oceanside, CA. Due to the publicized acceptance and popularity in Beach Communities of San Diego County, we decided to expand the business even further. Many beach cities have permitted the use of golf carts in 35 mph zones and are expanding Bike Lanes to 7 feet wide to accommodate their use.

So, there you have it. There is more to the story and we would love to discuss it with you while we install your Solar Panels on your cart.

We took the concept of Green Solar Energy and put it to practical use to lessen the carbon footprint.

We look forward to meeting you soon.

Richard Stachowicz
Ride All Day Solar Carts
Owner and Coronado Resident



ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Make the Earth Happy. Solar energy is clean. No carbon dioxide is released into the atmosphere as it is when batteries are plugged into the wall to charge. Similarly, no fossil fuels are consumed as they are in gas-powered golf carts. The sun’s energy is both clean and renewable. With their renewable, clean energy and lack of generated pollution, solar charged golf carts are an Earth-friendly option. You can help ensure that golf courses will be around for a very long time.

FINANCIAL BENEFITS

While it can be costly up front to buy a solar-powered golf cart or convert your existing cart to solar, in the long run, you might save money. You might be eligible for cost incentives offered to people who go solar. Some programs include:

- Federal tax credits
- Federal grants
- State and local utility tax credits
- Rebates

Together, these can help make solar power an affordable option for your golf cart. Additionally, you will likely save quite a bit of money on your electricity bill without having an electric vehicle drawing from your home’s electricity supply. Individuals aren’t the only ones who benefit monetarily from solar power. When entire golf courses convert their fleets to solar-powered vehicles, they can slash their annual charging costs by about 20 percent. Whether you want to enhance the performance of your golf cart, help the environment, or save money in the long run, you’re sure to benefit from changing your power to the sun.

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OPINION

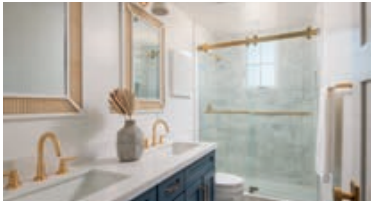
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CORONADO

EPA denies request to investigate Tijuana River Valley for Superfund designation

BY JULIETA SOTO & SOFIE FRANSEN
The Coronado News

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has denied a request from local leaders to analyze if the Tijuana River Valley qualifies for Superfund designation – a verdict determined based on a 6-year-old study.

The EPA said in a Jan. 3 letter to local officials that inspecting for Superfund designation – which could allow the EPA to clean up contaminated sites and ensure the funding to do so – is not warranted for a myriad of reasons.

In early October, Terra Lawson-Remer, the vice chair of the San Diego Board of Supervisors, urged her fellow supervisors to join her in formally requesting federal Superfund designation. While the board did not back that call, Lawson-Remer still filed a request and petition to the EPA along with Imperial Beach Mayor Paloma Aguirre, National City Council member Marcus Bush and La Mesa City Council member Jack Shu.

“I am here in strong support of the Superfund designation site given all of the pollutants that our communities have been exposed to for years,” Aguirre said about their request in October.

The written appeal, along with over 500 signatures from residents in the area, did not sway the EPA to perform an analysis of the Tijuana River Valley.

The Jan. 3 letter written by Michael Montgomery, the division director of the EPA’s Superfund and Emergency Management System, acknowledged how the “transboundary flows of sewage have negatively impacted surrounding communities” and noted the recent federally funded projects that are underway to solve the issue.



Michael Montgomery addresses the San Diego County Board of Supervisors on Jan. 8. Staff photo by Julieta Soto.

The letter also stated that while the EPA has the authority to address the release of hazardous substances, they “prioritize its Superfund remedial resources on sites which pose a higher risk and can be linked to releases from a specific location or source that can be controlled.”

The letter added that, after the EPA received the petition, agency officials conducted extensive research using data made available to them from local, state and federal agencies. Montgomery specifically cited a study by the IBWC – from 2018 – that tested for the level of contaminants in channels of the river basin.

“... None of these contaminants exceeded EPA’s regional screening levels for human health in residential soil and are commonly associated with urban stormwater runoff at these concentrations,” Montgomery said about the 6-year-old study in the letter.

In response, Lawson-Remer said she is disappointed the EPA will not conduct a site assessment.

“It is troubling that the EPA didn’t even visit the site and instead based

its decision on samples collected years ago – when the reality is that things have gotten much worse since then,” she added. “Absence of evidence is not evidence of absence.”

Lawson-Remer echoed her disappointment in the agency’s decision at a board of supervisors meeting on Jan. 8, noting that all she wants is for the EPA to come out to take soil samples.

Montgomery joined the meeting and in response, said the Superfund program “is geared towards dealing with hazardous waste, not human waste.”

Additionally, a Superfund designation also has the potential to decrease property values, which was a concern voiced during the public comment section.

A county report, submitted by Dahvia Lynch, the county’s deputy chief administrative officer, cites a finding from 2000 that property values in Superfund designated sites can drop anywhere from 2% to 8% until clean-up completion.

During public comment, Aguirre urged the county to re-petition the

federal agency for a Superfund site designation.

“We know because of scientific research there are at least 172 toxic chemicals present in this area that can be carcinogenic, biocumulative and can be resuspended in the air, in the water and the soil,” Aguirre said. “Who is going to protect our health?”

Montgomery said he was not at the meeting to discourage the board from taking action.

“If there is a revised petition, we’ll take a look at that,” Montgomery added.

“The Biden administration has failed us on this issue, they failed to declare an emergency, and our governor, I believe, has failed us to declare an emergency,” said Bush, who is open to supporting a subsequent petition. “I know that there are concerns with it, [the Superfund], but I think it’s an opportunity to really send a message that this is a crisis, that we should address it.”

The board approved the report from Lynch that informs the county on options to unlock more funding for the sewage crisis. This does not include the decision to submit a new petition to the EPA.

According to Lynch, counsel is to present the board with additional information regarding filing or joining potential litigation during closed session at a later date this month.

Supervisor Jim Desmond sided with Lawson-Remer about the urgency for intervention from the federal government to help cities like Imperial Beach and Coronado.

“This is an international border, this is not within the state itself, so we’re kind of turning to you and other entities and saying ‘help us,’” said Desmond. “The state points a finger to you and you point the finger at them and that’s where we’re stuck at. We want our beaches open.”

Author John Sayles returns to Coronado with new book, “To Save the Man”

BY ELAINE ALFARO
The Coronado News

John Sayles’ stumbled across the 1912 showdown in a nonfiction history book when he was in college.

Though no lives were on the line, it was a game that would determine what these men were made of.

The battle happened on the football field. The West Point Academy Army athletes showed their best effort, with high hopes of winning. But the Carlisle Indian Industrial School athletes were quicker, smarter.

The outcome was unexpected – the Army lost.

The Carlisle students led by coach Pop Warner took down West Point.

Sayles explained that moment as “a big upset” for the Army.

This face off of athletic prowess happened just 22 years after the Wounded Knee Massacre, an Army battle with the Lakota/Sioux that killed close to 300 Native Americans.

The Carlisle Indian Industrial School was a military boarding school that aimed to eliminate Native American culture and language, forcibly assimilating the students. One of the ways was on the football field.

The school’s motto: “To the save the man, we must kill the Indian.”

Sayles, now a film director and screenwriter, found this story in the book, “Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee” in college.

“I was struck by each chapter,” Sayles said.

He knew this story needed to be represented in cinema, and in a way, he felt like it had already.

“I felt like, not only have I seen this movie, but this real story is more interesting than the ones that they put in the movie,” Sayles said. “It’s more complex and much more interesting.

I think that was kind of the beginning of my interest in it.”

Sayles’ name might ring a bell from academy award nominations for his film writing. Some of his best known films include “Lone Star” and “Passion Fish.” Outside of being a filmmaker, he also is a director and actor.

But he says he was a novelist first.

“I got a book published when I was 25, and so I had written two or three novels and a short story collection before I started working for the movies,” Sayles said.

However, he said film captivated him before books.

“Certainly growing up, I had watched more movies and seen more television, than I had read books,” Sayles said.

He was enamored by the films produced by the greats like John Ford, and actors like Humphrey Bogart. He watched his first film in color in college. From there, Sayles carved out his own success in the industry.

But, the Carlisle School project that he discovered as a young man and wrote for the screen sat on the shelf for over two decades.

“We tried to raise the money to make the screenplay,” Sayles explained. “It just felt like such a good story. I’m not going to just leave it.”

Years went by and he decided if the story wasn’t meant to be told on the screen, why not in the pages?

“I was able to find more things,” Sayles said. “More people had written about [the Carlisle School]. More of the tribes had tried to kind of deal with that history, and, more specifically, the bodies of children who had died there.”

The result, “To Save the Man” – a novel, not a film script, tells the nuanced story of the students and Captain Richard Henry Pratt. Pratt was

the founder of the Carlisle school and, for a time, football co-coach with Pop Warner.

Though considered a “progressive” for his time because of his inclusion and advocacy for Native American military troops, Pratt’s assimilation practices targeted the students’ culture point blank.

The school forced the students to assimilate a few different ways, from sports to language. Students were placed in dorms – three girls to a room and four boys to a room. Often, no one in the room spoke the same tribal language.

“You’d have to speak English to communicate,” Sayles explained. “There’s this kind of cultural genocide going on at the same time that [Pratt] thinks he’s trying to help people.”

The book is a throughline to the language challenges that persist today for many native tribes.

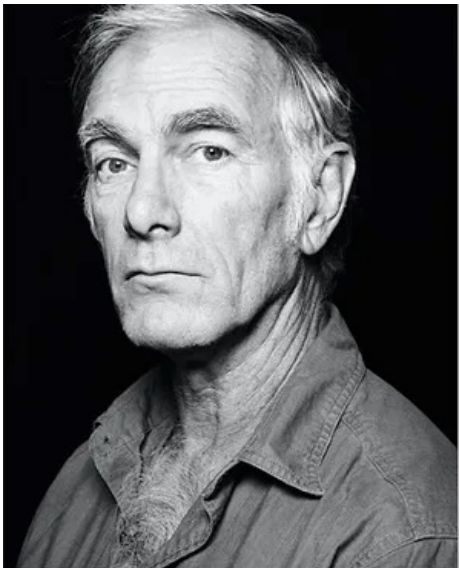
“What I hope people take away is this, how difficult the idea is of expecting people to just drop the culture,” Sayles said.

Like some of his other works of fiction, “To Save the Man” is rooted in a real story and real people. It comes on the heels of his 2023 novel, “Jamie MacGillivray: The Renegade’s Journey.” That book also was also a historical fiction film script adapted to the novel format.

But Sayles said he never took a history class in college, his interest in history is exactly that – an interest and a passion.

Merridee Book, CEO and artistic director of the Coronado Island Film Festival, interviewed Sayles on Jan. 15 at the Coronado Public Library. She interviewed him in 2023 at his book launch for “Jamie MacGillivray: The Renegade’s Journey.”

“He’s so passionate about what he



Author John Sayles returned to the Coronado Public Library on Jan. 15 for a pre-release book event. Photo provided by the Coronado Public Library.

writes and he’s so immersive,” Book said. “I think directing and writing has really honed in his ability to create these very dynamic, really vivid narratives.”

Book and Sayles talked about the process of adapting film to novel. She also dug into “To Save the Man” with him.

“He sort of carries the interview really sharing the origin story and why he wrote this book,” Book said. “He just breathed new life into it as a novel.”

Book said that what stands out to her about Sayles’ work, is all of the backdrops he brings into his stories.

“It makes you want to research, explore on your own independently,” Book explained. “A lot of the stories that he tells are overlooked by mainstream media and [he] just shines a light on social, cultural or historic narratives.”

Sayles discussed “To Save the Man” at a pre-release event on Wednesday, Jan. 15, at the Coronado Public Library. For more information, visit <https://coronado.librarycalendar.com/event/evening-two-time-oscar-nominee-and-author-john-sayles-31967>

CORONADO

Volunteers of Sharp Coronado Hospital give handmade quilts to patients



Milagros Bautista (L) and Norma Abuan (R) were two recipients of handmade quilts from a 12-member quilting group of Sharp Coronado Hospital volunteers. Approximately 50 quilts were distributed to patients and residents of Villa Coronado and the hospital's subacute unit. According to a social media post by Sharp Coronado Hospital, this tradition started years ago, an idea sparked to bring a little touch of home and warmth to the hospital's patients. Photos taken by Victoria Risovanny, the patient relations and volunteer services manager at Sharp Coronado Hospital.



Pictured here, Kary Green presents her quilt to Villa Coronado resident Johnny Obal.



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CORONADO

Coronado reflects on Martin Luther King Jr. Day

» Continued from Page 1

and so few Black homeowners on Coronado, excluding military of course,” Nelson said.

Nelson said its important to think about what Martin Luther King Jr. represented before he was assassinated, and after.

“He was an advocate of peace. So what does that say about us in Coronado and the world in terms of violence and guns?” Nelson asked rhetorically.

According to Ashley, Coronado has had a long and interesting history with African Americans — laborers and their families who moved to the island to help build the Hotel del Coronado before housing prices soared. Then, at the end of the 1920s, the National Association of Real Estate Boards put out a code of ethics that essentially barred Realtors from selling to “a person of detrimental character or race into a community that will drop property values.”

“From the mid 20’s up until about 1990, only one African American succeeded in buying a property in Coronado,” Ashley explained. “Coronado suddenly became whitewashed.”

However, there was a time in between where the Federal Housing Project brought more than 3,000 people to Coronado, including over 400 African Americans. This lasted from 1944 to 1969, and according to the Coronado Historical Association, fostered a surprising diversity on the island compared to other cities in San Diego County.

But this era ended with the demolition of a housing project in 1969.

“The diversity that you see in Coronado’s year-books ... a lot of it had to do with that housing project,” Ashley said. “(Black people) were still not able to buy or rent any of the normal residential neighborhoods of Coronado.”

In the beginning of the 1990s, the Sefa-Boakyes became the first Black family to own a home in the Coronado Cays, Ashley said.

Dr. Kofi Sefa-Boakye still works as a gynecologist on the island.

“We think that civil rights, it’s continuous, this continuous progress that’s forward and better,” Ashley said. “When in fact, it’s two steps going forward, one step back. And sometimes it’s one step forward, two steps back.”

Martin Luther King Jr. was a leader in the civil



Kevin Ashley stands at the Coronado Public Library beside his book collection used for the Coronado Black History Project, which was on display in 2023. *Staff photo by Julieta Soto.*

rights movement that helped pass the Fair Housing Act of 1968 seven days after he was assassinated. Although the law did not fully eradicate discrimination within housing, it eventually allowed some Black families to come to Coronado.

Ashley’s own family of mixed race bought a Coronado house in 2013, and is among very few of color to purchase a home on the island in the last couple decades.

Ashley is white but his wife and children are Black.

“I fear that the legacy of Martin Luther King (Jr.) will be under assault a bit, from some commentators in these next few years,” Ashley said. “I just hope that people can take their time and do their own reading of history and understand that this person was one of the greatest Americans who ever lived, and it had nothing to do with his color.”

Ashley said love was the basis of Martin Luther King Jr.’s thinking and that he was constantly talking about love being the most powerful force.



City offices will be closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. *Staff photo by Madeline Yang.*

City offices will be closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Coronado News staff

City offices and the Coronado Public Library will be closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Jan. 20.

In addition, the Coronado Community Center, Aquatics Center, Spreckels Center, the Boathouse at Glorietta Bay Park and the Coronado Skatepark will also be closed.

According to the City of Coronado’s website, there will be no delay in residential trash and recycling collection.

To Nelson, remembering this day is an opportunity for introspection. Martin Luther King Jr. is remembered for his work in the civil rights movement, but he represented many other things.

“He believed in content of character,” Nelson said. “Looking at oneself and taking a fearless inventory of one’s own character and of the people that you choose to surround yourself with ... Are we who we want to be?”

Meet the applicants vying for the vacant City Council position

» Continued from Page 1

a computer engineer, Keith James, a police officer, Richard Negrete, a semi-retired special agent, John Peterson, a recently retired Marine Corps Reserve officer, Steven Joseph Phillips, a doctor and Vietnam veteran, and Kelly Purvis, currently the senior management analyst for the city.

Only two of the applicants are women.

Wilkinson Sinton was runner-up in November’s balloting with 19% of the votes, only 80 votes behind newly elected council member Amy Steward.

Warner received 16% of the votes.

Gade finished last with 8% of the votes.

Whitney Benzian

Benzian said he didn’t run for re-election in 2020 because he wanted to spend time with his family, but filling the open seat for two years makes sense for him.

“I have four years of experience on the City Council, so in that sense, I’m a proven entity,” he added. “... I just don’t want the city to go spend all this money on an election, and I think I can do a good job.”

Benzian still has a real estate business and his family, but he said his life has changed since 2020 and he believes he can help fill the gap.

Andrew Gade

Gade, 43, who received the fewest votes during the last election, said he wants to protect the city he calls home.

He is also a business owner, owning an auto tinting shop in La Mesa.

“Being in the state of California, a lot of large cities, including San Diego, are in dire financial conditions with infrastructure deficits, budget deficits,” Gade said. “So it’s extremely refreshing to be in Coronado, in a city that’s had good leadership, good governance.”

David J. Hock

Hock, a computer engineer and entrepreneur, wrote in his application

that his extensive community service as an assistant scoutmaster for a Boy Scouts troop, captain of the Blind Stokers Club and a team leader for the American Cancer Society’s relay for life has given him “a broad perspective of the challenges facing our community.”

He also is battling prostate cancer and noted in his application that he embraces challenges.

“I pride myself in applying common sense and critical thinking when solving problems ... I also believe that new and existing laws are useless without enforcement,” he said.

The Coronado News was unable to contact him.

Keith James

James has been a police officer in Coronado for just around four decades and also owned and operated his own business for the last 10 years.

He wrote in his application that his experience in “sensitive investigations involving highly publicized incidents” has made him a valuable asset for this position.

James’ passion for serving the public doesn’t stop with his role as an officer as he said he’s developed a deep understanding of the policies and regulations that surround Coronado and wants to continue to stay up to date on the best practices of the community.

Richard Negrete

Negrete, 65, has lived in Coronado for the past three decades. He started his career as a Coronado police officer before becoming a special agent with the Department of Justice (DOJ) for 26 years.

He retired in 2020 but came back to the DOJ in 2022 and still works part time as a special investigator. This is his first time applying for a local government position.

“My focus has always been on serving the community through my professional role in law enforcement. And I was on call 24/7, so it just didn’t make sense for me to try to do both assignments or play both roles,” said Negrete, now semi-retired.

“I see this as the right time to use

my experience and dedication and capacity by representing the residents of Coronado as a member of the council.”

John Peterson

Peterson is a recently retired Marine Corps Reserve Officer and a small business owner.

“My service in the Marine Corps Reserve instilled in me a dedication to public service and a strong sense of duty, which I am eager to bring to the City Council,” Peterson wrote in his letter of interest to the city.

He added that his military career honed his skills as a leader in strategic planning and community engagement.

Peterson did not respond on deadline to inquiries from The Coronado News.

Stephen Joseph Phillips

Phillips is a board certified general and thoracic surgeon who also served in the Vietnam War from 1968-1969, remaining in the reserves from 1970 until his retirement from the military in 1993.

He was interviewed by the White House search committee for the position of commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration in 1997.

“I am passionate about improving the quality of life for all residents and fostering a city government that is transparent, inclusive and responsive to the needs of the people,” Phillips wrote in his application.

Phillips cites around 300 personal publications, 130 of them which have been peer-reviewed medical publications.

Kelly Purvis

Purvis has worked for the city since 2013 starting as contract arts administrator and then became the senior management analyst for arts and culture in 2018.

“I made significant contributions to city projects, including pandemic response coordination, the 2024 Capital Improvement Project Downtown Beautification Project, and planning and implementing civic events and

celebrations,” Purvis wrote in her resume.

She also worked as the Development Director for the Coronado Historical Association where she said she gained a deep appreciation for Coronado’s rich history and heritage.

“Having spent nearly 11 years in the City Manager’s office, I have a firsthand understanding of municipal operations,” Purvis said. “I know Coronado’s staff, projects and challenges.”

Mark Warner

Warner, 66, who finished fourth in the November election, has said Coronado boasts good leadership and is doing relatively well, but he wants to dive in and see what improvements can be made.

“Some people may posit that the city is not a business, but a political organization meant to provide health and human services. I would disagree, slightly,” Warner said in a previous interview with The Coronado News. “Coronado is a city that must be run like a business so that there are funds available for health and public services. How many candidates have operated businesses at a higher level? The answer: not many.”

Warner prides himself on owning and operating several real estate businesses in the last 44 years and wants to give back.

Laura Wilkinson Sinton

Wilkinson Sinton, 66, was the runner-up in last year’s election.

She is an entrepreneur whose background includes a professional career in media and founding large and small businesses, including Calligrown and Acme Inventions LLC.

Wilkinson Sinton said she thought a special election would have been a more fair and transparent option to fill the vacancy rather than an election that doesn’t allow voters to have agency in the choice.

“I will bring the needed qualifications and the most solid “across the bridge” relationships at agencies who affect Coronado to protect our community’s future,” Wilkinson Sinton said.



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CORONADO

The LA county wildfires could be the costliest in US history, early estimates say

Associated Press

The wildfires that erupted across Los Angeles County are still raging, but already are projected to be among the costliest natural disasters in U.S. history.

The devastating blazes have killed at least 24 people and incinerated more than 12,000 structures since Jan. 7, laying waste to entire neighborhoods once home to multimillion-dollar properties.

While it's still too early for an accurate tally of the financial toll, the losses so far likely make the wildfires the costliest ever in the U.S., according to various estimates.

A preliminary estimate by AccuWeather put the damage and economic losses so far between \$135 billion and \$150 billion. By comparison, AccuWeather estimated the damage and economic losses caused by Hurricane Helene, which tore across six southeastern states last fall, at \$225 billion to \$250 billion.

"This will be the costliest wildfire in California modern history and also very likely the costliest wildfire in U.S. modern history, because of the fires occurring in the densely populated areas around Los Angeles with some of the highest-valued real estate in the country," said Jonathan Porter, the private firm's chief meteorologist.

AccuWeather factors in a multitude of variables in its estimates, including damage to homes, businesses, infrastructure and vehicles, as well as immediate and long-term health care costs, lost wages and supply chain interruptions.

The insurance broker Aon PLC also said Friday that the L.A. County wildfires will likely end up being the



A home destroyed by the Palisades Fire is seen during sunset in Pacific Palisades, Calif., Friday, Jan. 10, 2025.

Stephen Lam/San Francisco Chronicle via AP.

costliest in U.S. history, although it did not issue an estimate. Aon ranks a wildfire known as the Camp Fire in Paradise, California, in 2018 as the costliest in U.S. history up to now at \$12.5 billion, adjusted for inflation. The Camp Fire killed 85 people and destroyed about 11,000 homes.

The L.A. County wildfires, which were fueled by hurricane-force Santa Ana winds and an extreme drought, remained largely uncontained as of Jan. 11. That means the final tally of losses from the blazes is likely to increase, perhaps substantially.

"To put this into perspective, the total damage and economic loss from this wildfire disaster could reach near-

ly 4% of the annual GDP of the state of California," AccuWeather's Porter said.

In a report Friday, Moody's also concluded that the wildfires would prove to be the costliest in U.S. history, specifically because they have ripped through densely populated areas with higher-end properties.

While the state is no stranger to major wildfires, they have generally been concentrated in inland areas that are not densely populated. That's led to less destruction per acre, and in damage to less expensive homes, Moody's noted.

That's far from the case this time, with one of the largest conflagrations destroying thousands of properties

across the Pacific Palisades and Malibu, home to many Hollywood stars and executives with multimillion-dollar properties. Already, numerous celebrities have lost homes to the fires.

"The scale and intensity of the blazes, combined with their geographic footprint, suggest a staggering price tag, both in terms of the human cost and the economic toll," Moody's analysts wrote. The report did not include a preliminary cost estimate of the wildfire damage.

It could be several months before a concrete tally of the financial losses from the wildfires will be possible.

"We're in the very early stages of this disaster," Porter said.

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CORONADO

Wildfires ravage Los Angeles area



Homes are seen burned while a few still stand, Thursday, Jan. 9, 2025, in the Pacific Palisades section of Los Angeles. AP Photo/Mark J. Terrill.



A firefighter battles the Palisades Fire in Mandeville Canyon on Saturday, Jan. 11, 2025, in Los Angeles. AP Photo/Jae C. Hong



Fire crews battle the Kenneth Fire in the West Hills section of Los Angeles, Thursday, Jan. 9, 2025. AP Photo/Ethan Swope.



A firefighter communicates in front of the advancing Kenneth Fire in the West Hills section of Los Angeles, Thursday, Jan. 9, 2025. AP Photo/Ethan Swope.



Beachfront properties are left destroyed by the Palisades Fire, Thursday, Jan. 9, 2025 in Malibu, Calif. AP Photo/Mark J. Terrill.



Fire crews walk as they battle the Kenneth Fire in the West Hills section of Los Angeles, Thursday, Jan. 9, 2025. AP Photo/Ethan Swope.

Coronado firefighters help fight L.A. wildfires

» Continued from Page 1

Diego, Poway, National City and Chula Vista. The battalion chief of Poway has also deployed with the firefighters.

The call for help came just as the Palisades Fire started on Tuesday morning. With notorious Santa Ana winds blowing, Summers said somberly, “incident commanders that were in charge up there, they just requested, you know, the world.”

Summers said the Coronado crew joined other teams along Pacific Coast Highway and then off Sunset Boulevard in Topanga Canyon. “They’ve been working really hard with minimal rest,” he added.

As of Jan. 13, four major wildfires and two smaller blazes had charred sections of Los Angeles County. The one in Pacific Palisades is biggest, covering 36 square miles with only 14% containment, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

A total of 24 people have died across L.A. as of Jan. 12.

The firefighters from Coronado are working structure protection, trying to save homes, Summers said. “(The incident commanders) say, ‘Just go. Go do something. Go save something.’ It’s very organized chaos.”

As of Jan. 10, an estimated 12,000 houses, businesses, and other structures have been damaged or destroyed, according to the Associated Press.

Summers said he has no idea how long his firefighters will be out there, but expects to swap the current crew with a fresh team around day 12.

In cases like this, Summers said, the state reimburses Coronado for all costs – fuel, food, hotels, salaries.

Summers said that he’s heard from community members offering assistance, but victims in L.A. are the ones needing help, not the firefighters.

He suggested donations to the Red Cross as “a good start.”



The Palisades fire in LA has destroyed a total of 11,471 structures since Tuesday morning. Photo taken from @coronadofirefighters_11475.

FEATURES



Megan Mantia, left, and her boyfriend Thomas, only first name given, return to Mantia's fire-damaged home after the Eaton Fire swept through the area, Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2025, in Altadena, Calif. AP Photo/Ethan Swope.

How to help those affected by the California wildfires

Associated Press

Major fires across Los Angeles this week have killed at least 24 people as of Jan. 13, forced 180,000 to flee their homes, and destroyed thousands of structures.

Here are some of the organizations accepting support for those impacted:

Children

Project Camp: The Los Angeles-based organization runs trauma-informed pop-up day camps for children displaced or out of school due to natural disasters. Its in the process of setting up multiple sites to help families impacted by the Palisades and Eaton fires. It is accepting monetary donations as well as volunteers to staff the camps. Impacted families can also find out how to sign up for a camp at projectcamp.co/camps.

Displaced households

GoFundMe.org: The crowdfunding platform's nonprofit arm uses its Wildfire Recovery Fund to give emergency grants to verified people and families fundraising for themselves or others, as well as small businesses and nonprofits.

Global Empowerment Mission (GEM) and bstrong: In partnership with Bethenny Frankel's bstrong disaster relief fund, GEM will distribute cash cards to evacuated residents to help with immediate needs like accommodation, gas and food. The organizations are accepting cash donations.

Los Angeles Regional Food Bank: The food bank is supporting a network of more than 600 partner agencies to make sure impacted households are fed. It's accepting cash donations, food donations at two sites, and volunteers. If your household needs assistance, you can find a food bank at lafoodbank.org.

First responders and volunteers

California Fire Foundation: California Professional Firefighters founded the nonprofit in 1987 to support families of fallen firefighters, firefighters and communities

impacted by fires. The foundation is supporting both firefighters responding to the Los Angeles fires as well as people affected.

Watch Duty: The nonprofit service provides real-time updates on wildfire activity, evacuations, shelters and more via its free app, which more than 1.4 million people downloaded in the 48 hours since the fires began. The organization relies on donations and a team of 200 volunteers, gathering and vetting information from radio scanners and official sources, to do its work.

Animals

Pasadena Humane Society: The animal rescue had taken in over 300 animals due to evacuations as of Wednesday night, including some with burns and injuries. Its officers are also on the ground finding animals that need help. It is accepting monetary donations as well as purchased goods from its Amazon wishlist.

Longterm recovery

California Community Foundation: The 110-year-old Los Angeles-based foundation's Wildfire Recovery Fund addresses longterm recovery needs like temporary housing, rebuilding homes, mental health and medical care. It also provides updated equipment to firefighters and helps rebuild emergency communications systems. It is accepting cash donations and helps company match employees' gifts as well.

Team Rubicon and Samaritan's Purse: Both organizations will help people who lost homes with debris removal once cleanup begins, among other work related to rebuilding. Team Rubicon is currently helping local agencies with tasks like clearing roads and Samaritan's Purse has deployed 20 chaplains from the Billy Graham Rapid Response Team to provide spiritual support.



For links to the organizations within this story, scan the QR code with your smartphone camera, and tap on the link.



Kevin Marshall sifts through his mother's fire-ravaged property in the Palisades Fire in the Pacific Palisades neighborhood of Los Angeles, Saturday, Jan. 11, 2025. AP Photo/John Locher.



Two people hold hands while sifting through a fire-ravage property in the aftermath of the Eaton Fire on Thursday, Jan. 9, 2025 in Altadena, Calif. AP Photo/Eric Thayer.

NAVY

Navy’s new destroyer named after Robert Kerrey, former Coronado SEAL Team 1 leader

BY MADELINE YANG
The Coronado News

On Jan. 4, it was announced that former Coronado SEAL Team 1 leader Robert Kerrey would have the Navy’s newest Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer named after him.

It will be the USS Robert Kerrey (DDG 146).

“This will be the first Navy vessel named in his honor,” said Carlos Del Toro, secretary of the Navy. “And it is most appropriate we do so, for his actions in Vietnam and his continued service to this country well beyond his Naval service.”

Kerrey, 81, is a former U.S. senator, governor of Nebraska and naval officer who was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroic acts during the Vietnam War.

He deployed to Vietnam as a platoon officer in March 1969, leading his team on a mission on an island in the bay of Nha Trang against Viet Cong political leaders. Their mission involved scaling a 350-foot cliff before arriving on the outskirts of the enemy camp when a grenade exploded, severely injuring Kerrey’s right leg.

Kerrey had flown backward onto jagged rocks and was immobilized due to his wounds. However, he continued to direct his team and lead them in securing the enemy camp, even planning an extraction site for a helicopter to evacuate them.

He eventually lost his lower leg



The guided missile destroyer USS Arleigh Burke (DDG 51), foreground, approaches the fleet replenishment oiler USNS Patuxent for a replenishment at sea in the Persian Gulf on April 4, 2014. The new ship named after Robert Kerrey will be an Arleigh Burke-class guided destroyer. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Carlos M. Vazquez II/Released.

but was the first Navy SEAL to receive the Medal of Honor.

“My sincere thanks to President Biden, Secretary of the Navy Del Toro, and the United States Navy

that gave me the opportunity to serve my country for three of the best years of my life,” said Kerrey. “I am very grateful for this recognition.”

The Arleigh Burke-class destroyers are highly capable, multi-mission ships that conduct a wide range of operations, from peacetime presence to national security.



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SPORTS

Coronado’s rising young lawn bowler earns fourth in World Bowls championship

This year’s event featured 42 players from 21 countries, highlighting their skills in men’s singles, women’s singles, and mixed pairs competitions.

BY KATIE MORRIS
The Coronado News

Nineteen-year-old Angel Gomez of Coronado finished fourth in his section in the men’s singles category at the 2024 World Bowls Junior Indoor Championship. Held from Dec. 2-8, the event took place at the Hong Kong Football Club in Causeway Bay, marking the first time the championship was hosted in Asia. Representing the United States, Gomez also competed in the mixed pairs competition alongside 14-year-old Adilyn Zeino of San Francisco, where the duo placed fourth in their section after several close matches. Hosted on the second floor of the Hong Kong Football Club, the event featured a striking yet subdued atmosphere in the six-rink indoor bowling green. The bright blue carpet glowed under intense fluorescent lights, prompting some players, including Gomez, to wear hats indoors. “It was a new experience for me,” Gomez said, laughing about the strict no-talking policy that created a hushed reverence for the precision required in lawn bowls. The World Bowls Junior Indoor Championship, first commenced in 2005, is open to players under 25



Angel Gomez shakes hands with a fellow lawn bowler at the 2024 World Bowls Junior Indoor Championship at Hong Kong Football Club on Dec. 5, 2024 in Hong Kong, China. Gomez finished fourth in his section. Photo provided by Angel Gomez.

from member countries worldwide. It has previously been held in Australia, Northern Ireland, Scotland and England. This year’s event brought together 42 players from 21 countries, showcasing their bowling talent in men’s singles, women’s singles and mixed

pairs competitions. This was Gomez’s third appearance at the World Bowls Junior Indoor Championship. In 2022, he made history in Ireland as the first U.S. player to compete in the tournament and continued his journey in 2023 in Scotland.

In July, Gomez clinched his first international lawn bowling win in Canada. Nine countries earned medals in the championship: Australia, Hong Kong China, Wales, the Philippines, Canada, Scotland, South Africa, Ireland and England.

No Triple Espresso as USWNT heads into annual January training camp

Associated Press

Sophia Smith, Mallory Swanson and Trinity Rodman, the trio nicknamed Triple Espresso, won’t report to the U.S. national team’s January training camp as all three continue to rest injuries. United States coach Emma Hayes on Jan. 7 announced the 26 players set to attend the squad’s camp starting on Jan. 14. The roster includes just 11 players from the team that won the gold medal at last year’s Paris Olympics. Midfielder Rose Lavelle was left off following ankle surgery, as were the players currently with European teams, including captain Lindsey Horan and teenager Lily Yohannes. Thirteen players on the roster have three or fewer appearances with the national team, including six players attending their first senior camp. All of the players are currently with National Women’s Soccer League clubs. Hayes said her first January camp gives her a greater opportunity to evaluate players after a busy start to her tenure. Hayes, a former Chelsea coach, did not join the United States in person until last May and immediately had to prepare the team for the Olympics.

Among her tasks was replacing goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher, who stepped down from the national team in December. Hayes brought four goalkeepers into camp, including North Carolina’s Casey Murphy, Angel City’s Angelina Anderson, Seattle’s Claudia Dickey and Utah’s Mandy McGlynn. Murphy is the most experienced of the group with 20 international appearances. Hayes said she and her staff will build a strategy for the team for the 2027 Women’s World Cup and beyond. One point of emphasis is building up the youth national teams: The senior players will train with prospects



United States coach Emma Hayes of Britain talks to her players after a women’s Group B soccer match between Australia and the United States, at the Marseille Stadium, at the 2024 Summer Olympics, in Marseille, France, July 31, 2024. AP Photo/Daniel Cole, File.

invited to a 24-player Futures Camp. “I want to be able to solidify the strong foundations that we’ve put in place, but also make sure more players have a better understanding of that strong foundation ... I’m desperate to make sure that we’ve got more players that are in a better position that can help us compete for the highest level,” Hayes said in a conference call. The team’s next games will come in February when the United States hosts Japan, Colombia and Australia in the SheBelieves Cup tournament. “I think when we get to SheBelieves, that will be the first camp where I can

confidently say I have seen the vast majority of the players that I wanted to look at,” Hayes said. “I feel like we’re in a good position to really push onto the next space.” The roster: Goalkeepers: Angelina Anderson (Angel City), Claudia Dickey (Seattle Reign), Mandy McGlynn (Utah Royals), Casey Murphy (North Carolina Courage) Defenders: Tiarna Davidson (Gotham FC), Crystal Dunn (Gotham FC), Naomi Girma (San Diego Wave), Alyssa Malonson (Bay FC), Tara McKeown (Washington Spirit), Jen-

na Nighswonger (Gotham FC), Emily Sams (Orlando Pride), Emily Sonnett (Gotham FC), Ryan Williams (North Carolina Courage) Midfielders: Sam Coffey (Portland Thorns), Savannah DeMelo (Racing Louisville), Hal Hershfelt (Washington Spirit), Nealy Martin (Gotham FC), Ashley Sanchez (North Carolina Courage), Ally Sentnor (Utah Royals), Jaedyn Shaw (San Diego Wave) Forwards: Ashley Hatch (Washington Spirit), Emma Sears (Racing Louisville), Ella Stevens (Gotham FC), Alyssa Thompson (Angel City), Morgan Weaver (Portland Thorns), Lynn Williams (Seattle Reign)

SPORTS



Los Angeles Chargers quarterback Justin Herbert (10) celebrates with head coach Jim Harbaugh during the second half of an NFL football game against the Las Vegas Raiders in Las Vegas, Sunday, Jan. 5, 2025. AP Photo/John Locher.

From stories to work shirts, how Jim Harbaugh’s approach has turned around the Los Angeles Chargers

Associated Press

Jim Harbaugh’s football philosophy is rooted in being physical on both sides of the ball and wearing down an opponent.

However, when it comes to relating to his players, it is nothing but love, respect and adulation.

Like he did with the San Francisco 49ers and the University of Michigan, Harbaugh has turned around the fortunes of the Los Angeles Chargers. The Bolts finished 11-6 in the regular season — a six-win improvement — and made it back to the playoffs, where they lost to the Houston Texans on Jan. 11 in an AFC wild-card round game.

“I just pretty much take on the personality of the team wherever I go,” Harbaugh said earlier this season. “The love Derwin James has for football, I gravitated to that immediately. The humble warrior Khalil Mack is, everything about Justin Herbert. The toughness, competitiveness and confidence of our players, I want to take on a little bit of that. I want a lot of that in my personality and in my life to keep going. It’s infectious.”

Harbaugh made an early impression on his new team. He participated in conditioning drills with players during offseason workouts. He also had players’ hometowns and recruiting rankings on their nameplates in the locker room to show how every-

one got to the NFL.

Before the Sept. 8 opener against Las Vegas, players received a blue-collar work shirt from Harbaugh with an embroidered name patch and the Chargers lightning bolt logo. The shirts looked like those worn by filing station attendants and mechanics. Harbaugh said the shirts for him paid homage to his grandfather, Joe Cipiti, who worked in filling stations and was a self-taught mechanic who ended up teaching automobile mechanics at a trade school in Cleveland, but also to members of players’ families who worked in the same type of jobs.

“I feel like that galvanized the team a lot because growing up as a kid, I saw a lot of people in the community who were hard workers. They always had that nameplate and always represented who that person was,” James said. “Just to have that means a lot to us.”

Harbaugh continued the motivational gifts throughout the season.

After a 17-13 victory over the Falcons on Dec. 1, players received a black metal lunch pail with their names and one of Harbaugh’s favorite words — stalwart — on the front. There were also sweatshirts with the date and score after the Chargers 34-27 victory over the Bengals in a prime-time game on Nov. 17 and the 40-7 win at New England on Dec. 28 that wrapped up a playoff spot.

“To some people, it may seem cheesy, but I enjoy those life gifts,” James said. “It’s been helping to set the culture. We wouldn’t be in the postseason without all the details and stuff we’ve done doing.”

Offensive coordinator Greg Roman, who was also on Harbaugh’s staff at Stanford and San Francisco, said the area where Harbaugh has evolved the most has been relating his experiences as a player or a coach.

Roman said the stories from Harbaugh’s 15-year playing career or previous coaching stops can help reinforce the message at different points of the season.

Harbaugh’s stories — and there have been plenty — still resonate. Players still mention Harbaugh telling the story of remembering the day he was born on the first day of training camp as one of their favorites.

“This thing is always changing with the mood of the team; what just happened, and where are we in the season? I think it can create some great perspective and bring them into one vision instead of reading a line item on the PowerPoint,” Roman said. “With Jim, he has an art to his storytelling. There’s always a moral to the stories, always, like one of those After School specials when you were a kid.”

The player Harbaugh might have had the most enormous effect on is Herbert. Harbaugh has been Herbert’s biggest supporter from the

time he was hired and catches passes from his quarterback during pre-game warmups.

Harbaugh also spends plenty of time in the quarterback room watching film with Herbert.

“The things we’ve learned from him ... I can’t tell you how much. So it’s cool to be able to share that and learn from him,” Herbert said.

NaVorro Bowman, who played for Harbaugh in San Francisco, has developed more of an appreciation for Harbaugh now that he is on his coaching staff with the Chargers.

Bowman knew Harbaugh loved football, but now he gets to see how much on a daily basis.

“Now I understand why he’s so good at what he does. He doesn’t waste a minute. I mean, if he can squeeze out everything in a minute, he will squeeze it out,” Bowman said. “I didn’t get to see or pay attention to it while playing. But now I understand why he’s so successful is because work is what he loves to do.”

Bowman also sees many similarities in the Chargers and the 2011 49ers, who went from 6-10 to 13-3 and reached the NFC championship game before losing to the New York Giants.

“No one expected us to be where we are today, and the only way that happened is because everyone here treats everyone with respect, respects each other’s space, and grinds,” he said.

“Now I understand why he’s so good at what he does. He doesn’t waste a minute. I mean, if he can squeeze out everything in a minute, he will squeeze it out. I didn’t get to see or pay attention to it while playing. But now I understand why he’s so successful is because work is what he loves to do.”

- NaVorro Bowman, Linebacker coach for the Los Angeles Chargers

SPORTS

Chargers linebacker Khalil Mack will consider retirement during the offseason

Associated Press

Khalil Mack is set to become a free agent for the first time in his 11-year career. Whether the Los Angeles Chargers linebacker decides to test the waters, though, is not the first thought on his mind. Mack said on Jan. 12 that he is considering retirement but will take his time before making a final decision.

“It’s a lot of different thoughts in my head right now. I can’t really speak on a definitive decision on what I’m going to do,” Mack said as the Chargers cleaned out their lockers after a 32-12 loss to Houston in an AFC wild-card round game. “I have to talk to my wife, spend some time with my kids and try not to make a rash decision after a loss. I’m trying not to be emotional through this process and think clearly.”

Mack was selected to his ninth Pro Bowl this season. He was the only player in the league this season with at least six sacks and nine passes defensed.

Mack’s 107 1/2 sacks since entering the NFL in 2014 are the third most over that span. His 256 hurries during that time lead the league, and his 454 quarterback pressures are second, along with forced fumbles (32) and strip-sacks (24).

However, Mack hasn’t enjoyed postseason success. This season was only the fourth time Mack has reached the playoffs, with each trip ending with a loss on the first weekend.

“I don’t want to go out with a loss based on who I am. I definitely want to make that push and play some important games in the playoffs,” he said. “I am trying not to think too much ahead but give myself some time and a grace period to think things through.”

Mack entered the league in 2014 when the Oakland Raiders made him the fifth overall pick in the NFL draft. He was the 2016 Defensive Player of the Year before being traded to the Chicago Bears the week before the 2018 season after he and the Raiders could not agree on a contract extension.

Mack signed a six-year deal with the Bears that kicked in with the 2019 season before being dealt to the Chargers in 2022.



Houston Texans quarterback C.J. Stroud (7) is sacked by Los Angeles Chargers' Khalil Mack (52) during the first half of an NFL wild-card playoff football game Saturday, Jan. 11, 2025, in Houston. *AP Photo/Ashely Landis.*

“I told myself a while ago that 10 years would be good. I fooled myself again,” Mack said. “Hoped I had a championship at the end, but things happen that you don’t plan for. I feel like my career has been rolling with the punches, going with the flow, and turning lemons into lemonade.”

Mack said he is considering retirement to spend more time with his family, which includes two sons, ages 2 and 3. He added that physically, he feels fine, especially since he usually doesn’t practice on Wednesdays leading up to games.

“It is more the mental strain of the game, just what it takes away from your family. It is one of the things that will weigh heavy on my decision,” he said.

However, Mack could re-sign and return for one more season to a Chargers squad that made a lot of progress in Jim Harbaugh’s first year as coach. The Bolts finished 11-6, a six-win improvement from 2023, allowed the fewest points in the league, and ranked 11th in total defense.

Harbaugh has been one of Mack’s biggest supporters and often lauded the veteran linebacker’s play and the leadership he brought to the locker room.

“It was a special year understanding what he has done in the short time he has been here and the potential in the building. The growth is inevitable,” Mack said about Harbaugh. “It was impressive what we were able to do and squeeze out.”



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San Diego Padres' Donovan Solano bats against the Houston Astros during a baseball game Sept. 18, 2024, in San Diego. *AP Photo/Gregory Bull. File.*

Donovan Solano and Mariners finalize \$3.5 million, 1-year contract

Associated Press

Infielder Donovan Solano and the Seattle Mariners finalized a \$3.5 million, one-year contract on Jan. 13.

Solano can earn an additional \$1 million in performance bonuses for plate appearances: \$200,000 each for 300, 350, 400, 450 and 500.

The 37-year-old Solano hit .286 with eight homers and 35 RBIs in 96 games with San Diego last year, including .302 (32 for 106) with four home runs against left-handers.

He is a .279 career hitter with 40 homers and 279 RBIs in 11 major league seasons with Miami (2012-15), the New York Yankees (2016), San Francisco (2019-21), Cincinnati (2022), Minnesota (2023) and San Diego.

Since 2019 Solano is hitting .294 with 31 homers and 180 RBIs.

“Donovan has been among the most underrated hitters in the game over the past six years,” Mariners president of baseball operations Jerry Dipoto said in a statement.

Left-hander Austin Kitchen was designated for assignment to open a roster spot. He made his major league debut for Miami at Tampa Bay on July 30, went 0-1 with a 14.14 ERA in one start and three relief appearances and was claimed off waivers by Seattle on Sept. 9.

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