

THE CORONADO NEWS

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Coronado local lost to residential fire

BY CORONADO NEWS STAFF, JULIETA SOTO & MADELINE YANG

The Coronado News

Fire officials are still investigating the cause of a Feb. 21 blaze that destroyed a Coronado home and took the life of a local “legend,” retired businessman Bob Kipperman.

Fire crews answered a call for a trapped individual at 1421 6th Street at approximately 1:15 p.m., according to Coronado Fire Chief Jayson Summers.

“The first unit arrived on scene to find a two-story home fully involved in fire throughout the first floor,” Summers said. “The team made an aggressive attack on the fire while conducting a search for

the occupant.”

Kipperman was located on the first floor and pronounced deceased, Summers said. He is survived by his wife, Carina, who managed to escape the flames.

No other injuries were reported.

The fire was extinguished with-

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Fire engines respond to a fire in Coronado. Staff photo by Julieta Soto.

Recovery operations begin

A Navy jet crash earlier last week has now begun recovery operations in the San Diego Bay. Civilians and civilian vessels are instructed not to interfere with the process.

BY MADELINE YANG

The Coronado News

Navy divers and members of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit are continuing salvage and recovery operations for the EA-18G Growler that crashed into the San Diego Bay on Feb. 12.

Two pilots ejected safely from the aircraft before it hit the water. The recovery operation, which began Feb. 16, may take up to two weeks, according to a press release from Commander, Naval Air Forces.

Personnel from a few different units, including Amphibious Construction Battalion One, anchored a barge and crane Feb. 15 between North Island and Shelter Island, where the aircraft went down. The equipment is being used to assist with recovery of the jet.

As of Feb. 21, significant progress on the salvage efforts have been made, including recovering over 16,000 lbs. of wreckage across the 13,000 square-foot debris field.

“The Navy calls San Diego home, and we appreciate the community’s patience as we work diligently to recover the wreckage, mitigate environmental effects, and restore normal operations in the channel as swiftly and safely as possible,” said Vice Adm. John Wade, commander, U.S. 3rd Fleet.

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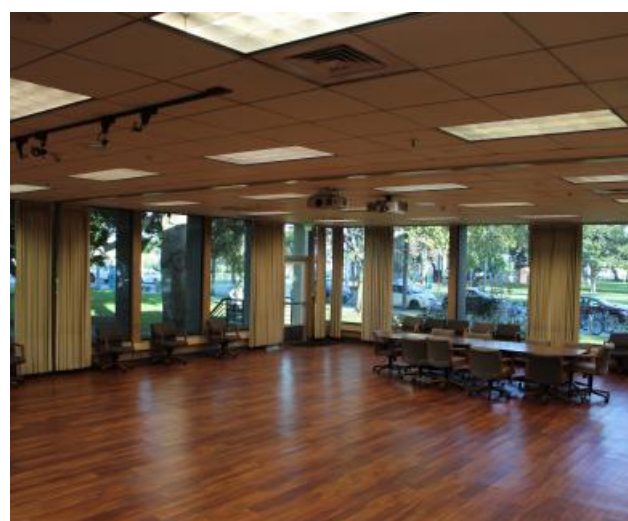
ABOVE: An EA-18G Growler from the “Cougars” of Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 139 prepares for an arrested landing on the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68) in the Pacific Ocean on Feb. 5, 2025. This is the same type of aircraft that crashed into San Diego Bay on Feb. 12.

U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Hannah Kantner.



LEFT: The recovery site for the Growler crash into the San Diego Bay on Feb. 12.

Staff photo by Madeline Yang.



The Winn Room expansion project has landed on a final option, which is also the largest renovation option, almost doubling the size of the current room. Photo from the Coronado Public Library.

City sued over removal of trees on library property

A local organization, Save the Trees, has sued the city over the Winn Room renovation project, alleging that the city violated California Environmental Quality Act laws.

BY MADELINE YANG

The Coronado News

A group of Coronado residents fighting to protect the city’s trees has filed their second lawsuit against the city in opposition of the Public Library’s Winn Room renovation because the project

would remove five mature trees on the property.

The civil complaint in San Diego County Superior Court was filed by a local group named Save the Trees, whose members include former City Council candidate Christine Mott, Coronado residents Shannon Player and

Mary Beth Milliken, plus the Animal Protection and Rescue League, a California nonprofit organization. Bryan Pease, attorney for the plaintiffs, serves on the Animal Protection group’s board.

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this week

1 • Saturday

Emerald Keepers, a local non-profit focused on environmental stewardship, will be cleaning up the bay at 8 a.m. on Saturday, March 1, and the community is invited to join. Participants can meet at the Il Fornaio parking lot and look for the Emerald Keepers flag. Participants are asked to bring buckets and pickers, and Emerald Keepers will have extras on hand.

1 • Saturday

From 12-3 p.m., the KMAC Foundation for Accessible Sailing will be hosting a sailing and training at the Coronado Yacht Club. The training is open to everyone, and no experience is necessary.

The KMAC Foundation uses specially adapted sailboats and provides therapeutic, recreational and other sailing opportunities for people with disabilities to enhance their mobility, well-being and independence.

Email kmacfoundation@gmail.com for more information.

2 • Sunday

Art in the Park features artists specializing in oil, acrylic, watercolor, etching, photography, wood and metal working, stained glass and ceramics. Artwork will be on display in Spreckels Park from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and the artists will be present to talk about their work.

CONTACT US

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

To advertise contact Ad Executive Braeden Stegman at braeden@numbersix.com

THINGS TO DO

Raising funds for PAWS, the 4th annual Ruff Run will kick off on March 8

Coronado News staff

The 4th annual Ruff Run, presented by PAWS of Coronado, is taking place on March 8 and is open to the public – humans and furry friends alike.

The event, kicking off at Tidelands Park at 8 a.m., offers a 5K and 2-mile walk/run course for dogs and their owners.

According to Andrea Lopez, the development assistant and guest services representative at PAWS, all dogs must be on a non-retractable leash and owners should ensure their dogs are comfortable

in a group setting and hydrated throughout the event. There will be an aid station available for both humans and dogs along the route, she added.

The event also comes with additional perks – an official Ruff Run dog bandana, a finisher medal doubling as a dog tag, free dog agility training, a doggie swag bag and age group awards for owners.

Lopez said the Ruff Run is designed to support PAWS of Coronado's mission to find safe and loving homes for animals. While ticket sales contribute to this cause, participants can also make additional

donations during registration.

“The funds raised will help PAWS of Coronado in multiple ways, including financing emergency surgeries, covering essential medical treatments, providing behavioral support to animals in need, and making improvements to the shelter facility to enhance the quality of care for the animals,” Lopez said.

Registration is open online, and the \$52.94 registration price point will increase after March 2 at 11:59 p.m. Those unable to attend can also support the cause by visiting <https://pawsofcoronado.org/> to donate directly.

PET OF THE WEEK

Meet Lilac

PAWS of Coronado

Lilac is an adorable 2-month-old mixed-breed puppy weighing just under 10 pounds, with a sleek black coat that adds to her cuteness.

Despite her young age, she's already showing a strong sense of loyalty and affection, always eager to snuggle up and show her love.

Lilac is great with other dogs, displaying a friendly and playful nature that makes her a perfect companion for canine friends.

Her sweet and loving demeanor makes her a joy to be around, and she's sure to grow into a loyal and devoted member of any family.

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 Lilac or other pets, please visit pawsofcoronado.org.



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

A New Frontier in Robotic Surgery



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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

LISA BENSON



Lisa Benson 2/20
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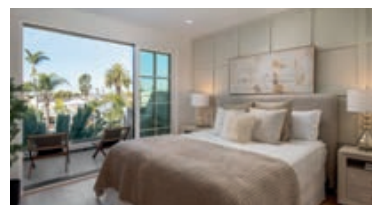
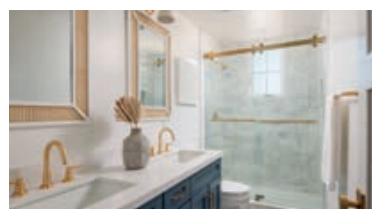


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CORONADO

Coronado City Council approves legislative policy guidelines

Every year, the city's legislative policy guidelines come up for council review in the spring. The top issues were the sewage crisis, infrastructure and regional housing needs.

BY MADELINE YANG
The Coronado News

The Coronado City Council has decided that resolving the Tijuana sewage crisis, securing money for municipal infrastructure and assessing regional housing needs are the community's top legislative priorities. The unanimous council vote on Feb. 18 followed a presentation by City Manager Tina Friend on proposed "guidelines" to pursue with Congress and the California Legislature.

Friend gave a report on the guidelines that establish the city's official position on different legislative issues. These guidelines have been established for several years now, according to Friend, and come up every spring for approval and changes.

"These guidelines are actually very helpful for us because we know we've got pre-approval of your policy positions," Friend explained to the council. "If new bills are arising, it happens pretty rapidly ... we're able to react very, very quickly and take a position of opposition or approval."

While the legislative policies are about 16 pages in length, the majority of changes made during the meeting expanded project definitions for cross-border water pollution and expanded support of alternate funding sources for infrastructure improvements and environmental restoration.

For instance, the council said it favors SB10, a state measure which would create a permanent source of funding for Tijuana River remediation efforts. The legislation would authorize funds from the Otay Mesa East Port of Entry toll road to be allocated towards the restoration of the Tijuana River Valley, according to a December press release from Sen. Alex Padilla, D-California.

These funds could be allocated for the improvement of wastewater infrastructure and related projects to address the sewage crisis.

Another bill, H.R. 5903, authorizes the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) to accept funds from other federal sources, said Friend, for activities relating to wastewater treatment and for other purposes.

As a result of the council's vote, Coronado will advocate for negotiations with Mexico to fix, improve and fund Mexican wastewater treatment facilities responsible for cross-border pollution.

Council member Carrie Anne Downey suggested adding a subsection that calls for monitoring and encouraging sewage cleanup projects in Mexico. It was approved by the council.

In addition, Mayor John Duncan said that this new subsection should include support for completion of all necessary and related infrastructure



Coronado City Council went over their legislative policy guidelines for the year, making slight changes before approving the guidelines. Staff photo by Madeline Yang.

"If new bills are arising, it happens pretty rapidly ... we're able to react very, very quickly and take a position of opposition or approval."

- City Manager Tina Friend

in Mexico as well. Duncan's suggestion was also approved.

Other policy guidelines agreed upon call for support of legislation to improve suicide barriers on the Coronado Bridge; continued collaboration

with the Navy to minimize impacts of Navy aircraft flying close to residential homes; and support for a measure that would revise the SANDAG Executive Board voting structure to give smaller cities greater power.

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CORONADO

City Council passes single-use plastic ordinance

BY MADELINE YANG
The Coronado News

A polystyrene and single-use plastics ordinance is now in place throughout Coronado after a unanimous vote from the City Council at the Feb. 18 meeting.

It will go into effect in 30 days and will be enforced 180 days after it takes effect.

The final ordinance includes more than a dozen directives for the city, including:

- Food-service providers and re-

tail establishments are not allowed to provide food in containers made from polystyrene or single-use plastic;

- Those businesses may distribute only reusable carryout bags or recyclable paper carryout bags;
- Balloon vendors may not sell or distribute any type of balloon inflated with a gas lighter than air within the city.

A violation of the new regulations will constitute an infraction. Each regulation that is infringed upon will be treated as a separate violation.

City sued over removal of trees on library property

» Continued from Page 1

“(The Winn Room) does need to be updated, it’s pretty old,” Milliken said in an interview. “But I hate it. I hate to see the trees cut down. It’s terrible.”

Coronado officials, who have not yet been served with the complaint, declined to comment on a litigation issue.

The trees in question are an Evergreen Coral, two New Zealand Christmas trees, a Canary Island Pine and a Cajeput/Melaleuca tree.

The lawsuit

The complaint cites California’s Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) which requires the city either to complete an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) before granting approval of a project or issue a declaration saying work would not significantly harm the environment.

CEQA defines the “approval” of a project as the moment a public agency commits to a definite course of action to carry out the project.

In the minutes in the agenda of the Aug. 20 City Council meeting, the staff report for the renovation calls for an environmental review after the project is defined.

“The city basically comes out and says ... ‘We’re going to do it afterwards,’ which is just wrong and it’s in conflict with state law,” Mott said. “They’ve fully disclosed that they didn’t do it and they were planning on doing it later, which is now illegal.”

The suit also alleges that the project was not reviewed by the Street Tree Committee, an advisory group that works to improve and protect the urban forests in Coronado. Additionally, the suit claims the city did not obtain approvals from the Historic Resource Commission that oversees Spreckels Park – a designated historic site where the Winn Room is situated.

Mott also said the Winn Room itself is now over 50 years old, which would potentially qualify it as a historic building in Coronado.

Pease said the lawsuit was served last week and the city will then have 30 days to respond.

“The whole point of CEQA is transparency and making informed decisions,” Pease added. “They can’t commit to a project before conducting an environmental review and actually comparing alternatives.”

The Aug. 20 meeting

During the Aug. 20 meeting, there was no discussion of an environmental review except by City Manager Tina Friend who stated during her presentation, “if we can walk away with some detailed direction, then we can proceed with design and environmental review.”

The direction that was provided at the meeting was to move ahead with the option that would remove the trees.

Some council members said they favored removing the trees because their proximity to buildings and above-ground roots create safety hazards.

Mayor John Duncan, who was a council member at the time, voiced concerns about how close the trees are standing to the building. “How many times have we had a limb break off from the trees right there and crash through a window?”

Duncan and Council member Carrie Anne Downey also both said they had tripped on the roots, making it an unsafe terrain to walk on.

History of the Winn Room project

The Winn Room was constructed in 1973 and has undergone minimal changes in the last half century, according to city staff. In January 2020, it was decided that a feasibility study would be done regarding design options for the space.

According to the suit, three of the trees are approximately 51 years old and were planted as part of the construction of the Winn Room. Two of the trees, which have been aged at around 80 to 100 years old, existed before the Winn Room was built and were incorporated into the design at the time.

In August 2024, the council voted 3-2 to move forward with the largest of four expansion options that were proposed. The approved design would extend the Winn Room onto the property where the five trees are currently standing. It would just about double the existing size of the room from 1,680 square feet to 2,931 square feet and at its highest staggered point, raise the ceiling about 10 feet higher.

It would also fit about twice the amount of people in the space, increasing from 135 seats to 208 seats.

Coronado local lost to residential fire

» Continued from Page 1

in 20 minutes and was contained to the structure. The cause and origin remained undetermined as of Feb. 24.

Municipal records show the Kipperman residence is a designated historic home – a Spanish colonial structure built in 1930.

Kipperman ran Kippys, a local fashion store located on Orange Avenue, after buying the store from his parents in 1948. Kippys closed down in 2015, but community members raved about the store on social media in the days following Kipperman’s death, commenting on the store’s iconic belts and fashionable clothes. One post referred to the proprietor as a “true Coronado legend.”

“I think of him most days as my Kippys’ key chain is with me daily,” commented Colby Erickson Freer on the Facebook group Coronado Happenings. “Bob, a true iconic member of our community.”

Coronado resident Kelly Sarber said Kipperman gave her her first job at Kippys when she was 14. “He treated me as an adult and not a kid, and I felt so grown up ... Our hearts go out to the entire Kipperman family at this tragedy,” she commented on Facebook.

Funeral or memorial arrangements are pending.

The Coronado News invites community members to submit personal experiences and stories of Kipperman to newsroom@thecoronadonews.com.



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CORONADO

CUSD approves salary increases for classified, management and unrepresented employees

Salary increases for classified employees impacts the Coronado Unified School District budget.

BY JULIETA SOTO
The Coronado News

Classified employees of Coronado Unified School District will receive a 5% salary increase following contract agreements the board approved for the 2024-25 school year.

Classified employees, represented by the California School Employees Association, will see a 4% salary increase retroactive to July 1. According to a district document, there will be an additional 1% increase effective March 1.

In November, the salary for certificated teachers increased 4%, following negotiations between the Association of Coronado Teachers (ACT) and the district.

The board also approved salary schedule updates for management and unrepresented employees — including department directors, counselors, principals and assistant principals — to receive a retroactive 4% increase as follows: 3% increase effective July 1, 2024 and 1% increase effective January 1, 2025. The schedule's maximum number of steps, or incremental raises based on years of experience, also in-



Coronado Unified has reached negotiation agreements for the 2024-2025 fiscal year with its employee unions.

Staff photo by Julieta Soto.

creased from 20 to 23 steps, with an increment of 2.5% per step.

The three year successor contract for classified employees, permitting the 5% salary increase in the 2024-2025 school year, has ongoing annual costs estimated at \$500,000.

The district will need to make \$2 million in budget solutions in fiscal year 2026-27 to maintain the minimum required reserve.

In a Feb. 14 letter to Superintendent Karl Mueller, the San Diego County Office of Education advised that Coronado Unified budget reports "must include a detailed plan to maintain required reserve levels in fiscal year 2026-27" within 45 days of board approval.

The financial strain is expected to end in two years, when Coronado public schools will

switch to a new funding program, known as "basic aid," which will generate increased revenues based on property taxes.

"We have our eye on the prize for basic aid, which is scheduled for 27-28, but we have to get there," said Deputy Superintendent Donnie Salamanca.

Salamanca told the board the Gov. Gavin Newsom's proposed education spending plan includes one-time monies of approximately \$800,000 for CUSD that could help it remain solvent prior to transitioning to basic aid — if the amount is included in the final state budget.

However, if there are cost-of-living reductions or other cuts, "CUSD will need to make budget reductions to remain solvent," according to a district memo on the employee raises.

Coronado Unified adopts revised heat day release protocols

The district's calendar committee, focused on moving Term 1 to end before winter break, presented the board with calendar drafts for two upcoming academic years.

BY JULIETA SOTO
The Coronado News

A committee of district employees, students and parents is proposing changes in the calendar for Coronado public schools, aimed at addressing final exams scheduling for high school students, but concerns about heat-day events prevail.

At the Feb. 20 school board meeting, committee members urged CUSD trustees to consider starting classes for the 2025-26 year on Aug. 18 — four days earlier than the opening day this year. Under the proposal, school would end June 4, in 2026, compared to the final day on June 12 this year.

Changes to the calendar were born from district negotiations with the Association of Coronado Teachers, and from high school students concerned about finals schedules and the toll it

had on their mental health over winter break.

The suggested changes drew mixed reviews from teachers who specifically opposed starting school on a Monday and reiterated concerns about heat temperatures and safety inside classrooms during the beginning of the school year.

Changes to the calendar for a second following school year would move the start of school to Aug. 10, eventually moving the end of term 1 to before winter break. This year, CHS finals week during the first term is scheduled to happen after winter break.

"I have a younger brother, he's in sixth grade right now, and if I can do something right now that's gonna make his four winter breaks in CUSD less stressful then I'm going to be okay with that," said Sean Wilbur, a high school junior who served on the committee.

Later in the meeting, the board approved revised "Heat Day Release Guidelines" for the district to declare shorter school days during high heat temperatures.

The new protocols allow the superintendent to declare a heat day release using the heat index (air temperature and relative humidity) as reported on the National Weather Service (NOAA) website.

Trustees approved to lower the threshold from 90 degrees to 87 degrees, changed the family notification requirement from 7 a.m. the day of a declaration to 7 p.m. the evening prior, and made other revisions to the guidelines.

"With this new administrative regulation, once the determination is made at 7 p.m. whether the temperature increases or decreases, the decision has been made," said Mueller.

In other matters

- The board approved comprehensive safety plans for all district school sites.
- The board voted for Jane Lea Smith (San Dieguito Union High School District) and Zenaída Rosario (San Ysidro Elementary School District) to serve on the 2025 California School Boards Association Delegate Assembly.
- Mueller announced bike safety rodeos this year, cosponsored by the school district and Coronado Police Department, will include guidance on e-bike safety.

The next regular board meeting is set for 4 p.m. on Thursday, March 13 at the district office.

Three students from Coronado receive service academy nominations

Coronado News staff

Three Coronado students received service academy nominations from Rep. Scott Peters, D-California, and were honored at a reception on Feb. 20.

The reception recognized 39 students from the 50th congressional district who applied for a nomination from Peters' office in the fall of 2024 in order to attend either the U.S. Military Academy West Point, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, or the U.S. Air Force Academy.

A congressional nomination is one step in the application process to attend a service academy.

The three high schoolers from Coronado — Alivia Schmidgal, Connor Gray and Shane Borunda — were selected to receive a nomination after a thorough interview process with the Service Academy Nominations board, convened by Peters' office.

Schmidgal, who was nominated for the U.S. Naval Academy, is a senior at Coronado High School. She is on the high school cheer team for both the football and basketball seasons, and



Alivia Schmidgal received a nomination from Rep. Scott Peters.
Photo by Sofie Fransen.

is a volunteer coach for Coronado Pop Warner cheer.

Schmidgal is also a member of the National Honors Society, Stop the Sewage Club and the Red Cross Club. She said her goal is to major in mechanical engineering at the Naval Academy.

Gray is also a senior at Coronado High School who was nominated for the U.S. Naval Academy. He is currently the commanding officer for the high school's Navy Junior Reserve



Connor Gray, right, holds his nomination certificate. Photo provided by Shadia Huber.

Officers Training Corps unit.

Gray spent this past summer as one of 28 students selected for an intensive eight-week U.S. Navy Summer Flight Academy aviation program at Delaware University where, upon completion, he received his private pilot's license. He said his end goal in the Navy is to become a fighter pilot.

Borunda, a senior at Francis Parker School who lives in Coronado, was nominated by Peters for the U.S. Air Force Academy. Borunda has lived



Shane Borunda holds his certificate given to him by Rep. Scott Peters. Photo provided by Michele Borunda.

in Coronado since he was 5 years old, and growing up, participated in Camp Coronado and the Junior Lifeguard program. Borunda also played water polo for the Coronado Aquatics Club, coached by Jesse Smith, for many years.

Borunda said his goal is to become a pilot in the Air Force, a pararescue specialist, or joint terminal attack controller. He is planning on studying military strategic studies at the Air Force Academy.

CORONADO

2025 Coronado Community READ kicks off Saturday, March 1

The Coronado community is invited to month-long READ festivities inspired by Kristin Hannah's "The Women."

Coronado News staff

The Coronado Public Library's 2025 Coronado Community READ program begins on Saturday, March 1.

This year's featured title is "The Women" by Kristin Hannah, and events surrounding the book are

scheduled throughout the month of March.

Hannah, who is also the author of "The Nightingale" and "The Four Winds," tells the story of nursing student Frances "Frankie" McGrath in her most recent novel.

Raised in Coronado in the 1960s, Frankie follows the rules—until 1965, when she joins the Army Nurse Corps to make a difference in Vietnam. Amid the chaos of war, she forges deep bonds, but her greatest battle comes after, facing a divided America

that wants to forget.

This year's READ programming kicks off with a "Summer of Love" concert from 1 p.m.-3 p.m. on March 1 in the library's park. The concert will feature the best of 1960s and 70s music.

Other special events for this year's READ include a conversation with Diane Carlson Evans, who inspired "The Women." The virtual event is at 11 a.m. on March 18.

Vietnamese silk painting, a macramé keychain workshop and a story-

telling festival, which highlights military experiences, are also planned activities for this month.

In addition, the Women in Uniform Art Exhibit in the Spreckels reading room features a stunning collection celebrating the presence of women in the U.S. Navy. The collection is on loan from the Naval History and Heritage Command.

A printable calendar of the month's Community READ events is available at the library as well as online at <https://www.coronadolibrary.org/>

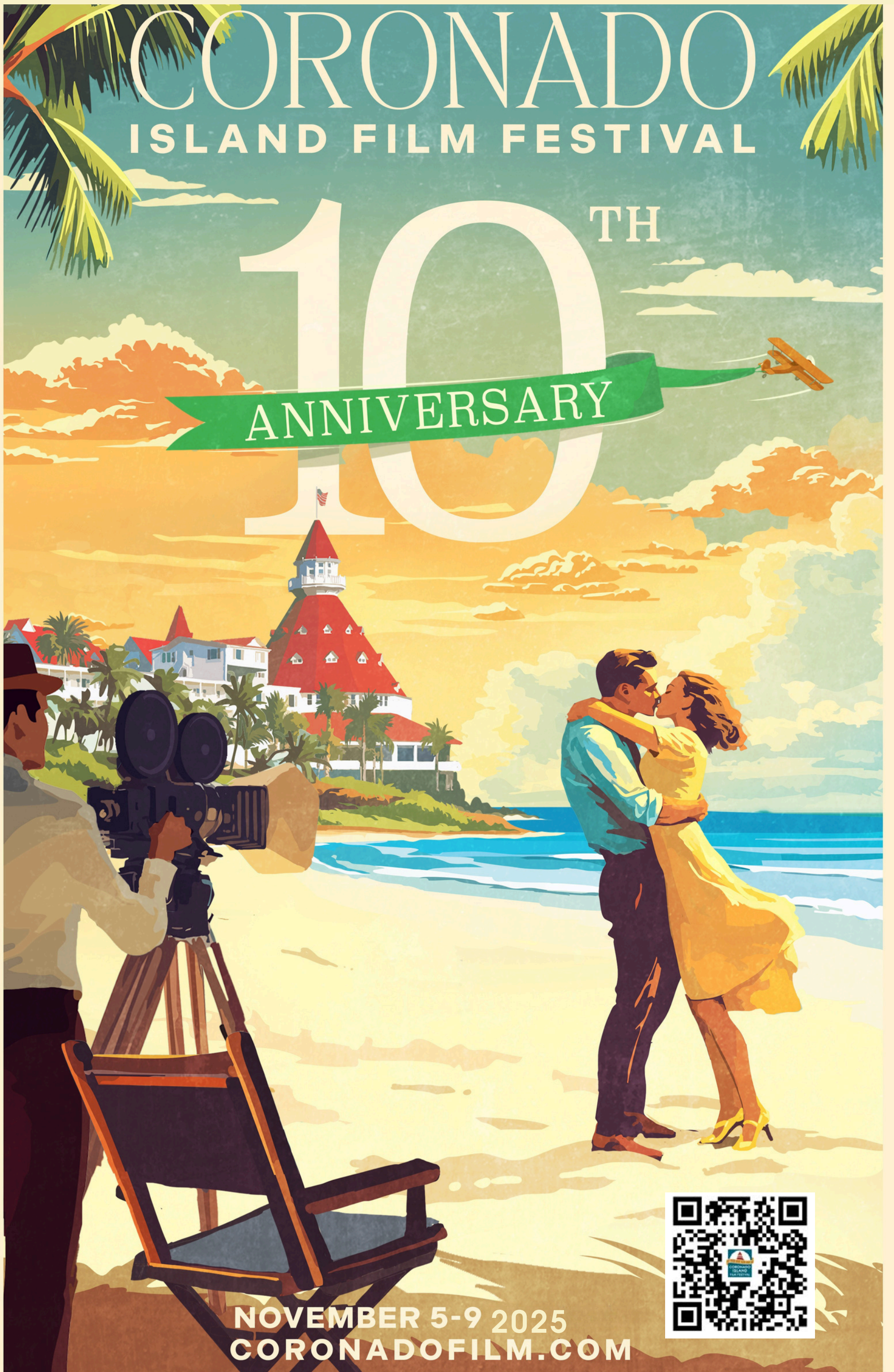
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NAVY



The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Stockdale (DDG 106) pulls into its homeport of Naval base San Diego on Feb. 21, 2025. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Kristine Joy Nool.

USS Stockdale returns to San Diego


DVIDS

NAVAL BASE SAN DIEGO — The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Stockdale returned to its homeport, Naval Base San Diego,

after a seven-month deployment to U.S. 3rd, 5th fleet and 7th fleet areas of operations on Feb. 21. Stockdale departed San Diego on an independent deployment to conduct operations in support of regional stability on July 24, 2024.

The destroyer joined the USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group from August to November 2024 and remained in 5th fleet following the departure of the Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group.



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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.

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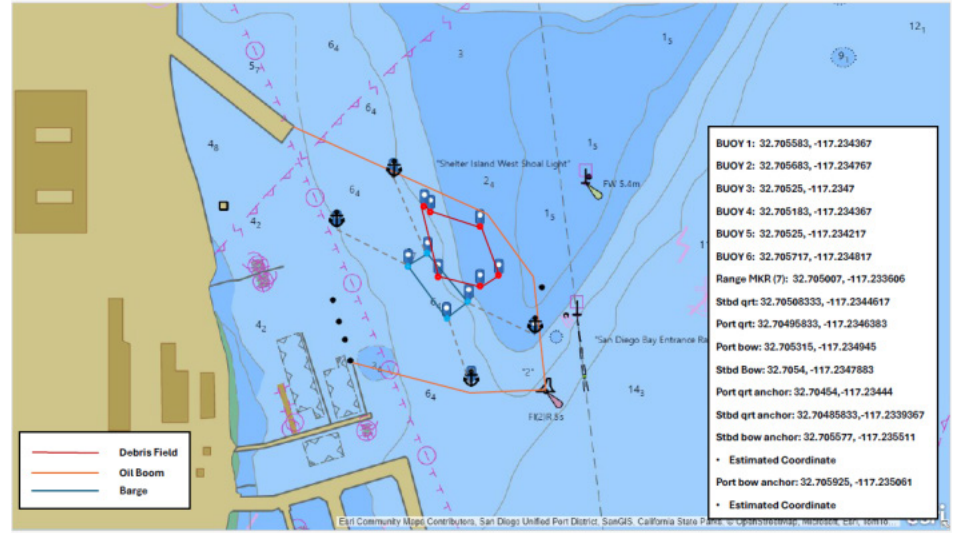
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NAVY



The perimeters for the recovery option. Provided by Commander, Naval Air Forces.

Recovery operations have begun for Navy jet that crashed into San Diego Bay

» Continued from Page 1

As the operation continues, it was announced by Commander, Naval Air Forces that civilian boats will not be permitted to transit in and out of the Shelter Island basin through the southwestern portion of the channel.

The Coast Guard established a temporary safety zone for navigable waters in order to protect personnel, vessels and the marine environment from potential hazards.

Individuals are asked to stay clear of floating cranes, barges and other

recovery units in the area and avoid interfering with ongoing recovery efforts.

Naval Base Coronado has instructed the public not to approach any debris that has washed ashore or floated away from the crash site. Debris siting should be reported to nbc_debris@us.navy.mil.

Naval Air Forces command is leading the investigation into the crash, according to the news release. To date, military officials have not publicly indicated what may have caused the accident.

“The Navy calls San Diego home, and we appreciate the community’s patience as we work diligently to recover the wreckage, mitigate environmental effects, and restore normal operations in the channel as swiftly and safely as possible.”

- Vice Adm. John Wade, commander, U.S. 3rd Fleet.

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SPORTS

Elleaire Fore Golf Tournament returns to Coronado April 27

BY JULIETA SOTO

The Coronado News

Coronado resident Elleaire Lyons is hosting the second annual Elleaire Fore Golf Tournament on Sunday, April 27.

The tournament will take place at the Coronado Golf Course, 2000 Visalia Row, and all proceeds will go to the Spastic Paraplegia Foundation to support the medical research, treatment development, and rehabilitation advancements of Hereditary Spastic Paraplegia (HSP), a rare neuromuscular disorder.

“I am thrilled to bring this tournament back for a second year and continue making an impact,” Lyons said in a release announcing the event. “Currently, there is no cure for HSP, but Elleaire Fore is committed to driving for a cure—one swing at a time!”

In 2023, Lyons founded and became president of Elleaire Fore Inc., a 501(C)3 non-profit she established to raise money for HSP — a cause that holds special significance for her because her father is affected by this condition.

The Coronado High School junior, who competes in golf tournaments across Southern California and is captain of her school’s girls varsity golf team, said she uses her platform to advocate for those impacted by HSP.

“As a competitive golfer and advocate for HSP awareness, I am deeply committed to driving change for those affected by this rare neurological condition,” said Lyons.

Elleaire Fore has raised nearly \$10,000 for HSP research to date and was recognized by the Spastic Paraplegia Foundation as its third top contributor following the first Elleaire Fore



Dr. James Lyons and Elleaire Lyons pose at the Coronado Golf Course. Photo courtesy of Elleaire Lyons.

event hosted in December 2023 and the inaugural Elleaire Fore Golf Tournament last April.

This year, Lyons said her organization is on track to surpass its second-year fundraising goals.

Lyons invites golfers, sponsors and supporters to participate in this event by visiting www.elleairefore.org or contacting team@elleairefore.org.

elleairefore.org or contacting team@elleairefore.org.

“Golf is more than just a game—it’s a platform for unity,” added Lyons. “My father, an avid golfer, shares this passion with me, and it’s a sport that allows us to play together on an equal playing field.”



UCLA center Bill Walton goes to the basket against Indiana during the semifinal game of the Final Four NCAA college basketball championship in St. Louis, March 24, 1973.

AP Photo/File.

Bill Walton’s family selling items from the late Hall of Fame basketball player’s career

Associated Press

The family of Bill Walton is selling items from the late Hall of Fame basketball player’s career covering his days as a prep player in San Diego to starring at UCLA under coach John Wooden and his time in the NBA along with his broadcasting tenure.

Walton was a San Diego native who partnered with local leaders in recent years to address homelessness in San Diego. He was also an op-ed contributor for The Coronado News.

Pennsylvania-based Hunt Auctions said on Feb. 20 it will hold the event in June. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the orthopedic department at UC San Diego.

Walton died of cancer last year at age 71.

Among the items for sale are rings from his 1977 NBA championship with Portland, his 1972 and ’73 NCAA championships with UCLA, his 1986 NBA championship with Boston, his Hall of Fame induction and his NBA 50 Greatest Players. Other items include game-worn jerseys and sneakers.

The auction will feature items related to Walton’s well-known love of the Grateful Dead.

“Our family has been blessed with many priceless experiences as a result of Bill’s basketball career,” his widow Lori said in a statement. “It is in the spirit of the support that fans displayed to Bill throughout those many seasons that we are sharing some of his memorabilia with that same group of special people.”

If Pivetta gets hurt, Padres could cut deal short after 2 years or extend it to 5th year for \$5M

Associated Press

San Diego could cut short Nick Pivetta’s \$55 million, four-year contract after two seasons if he gets a specified long-term injury and the Padres also could extend the deal for a fifth season at the relatively low price of \$5 million.

Pivetta’s agreement was announced on Feb. 17 by San Diego as a four-year contract, and it would be worth \$55 million over that length.

Pivetta gets a \$3 million signing bonus and salaries of \$1 million this year and \$19 million in 2026.

San Diego has a \$14 million conditional team option for 2027 as part of the complicated agreement, according to contract terms obtained by The Associated Press. That option could be exercised by the Padres if at any point through 2026 he has a specified injury or surgery related to the injury and is on the injured list for more than 130 consecutive days in any season or in a one-year period.

Pivetta was on the injured list from April 6 to May 8 last year because of right elbow flexor strain.

If the Padres decline the option, the contract would end after two years and \$23 million, allowing Pivetta to become a free agent again.

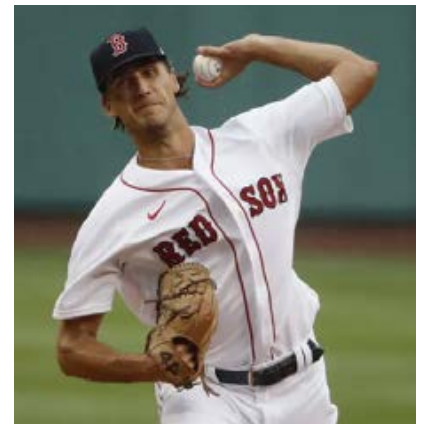
If the conditions for the team option are not met — meaning Pivetta did not have a long-term layoff caused by the specified injury — the pitcher would have a \$14 million option for 2027. If he exercises the 2027 option, he would get a 2028 player option at \$18 million.

San Diego also has a conditional \$5 million option for 2029 it can exercise if Pivetta has the specified injury or surgery related to the specified injury and goes on the injured list for more than 130 consecutive days in any season or in a one-year period,



Boston Red Sox’s starting pitcher Nick Pivetta walks to the dugout during the first inning of a baseball game against the Tampa Bay Rays, Friday, Sept. 27, 2024, in Boston.

AP Photo/Michael Dwyer, File.



Boston Red Sox pitcher Kyle Hart delivers against the Philadelphia Phillies during the first inning of a baseball game Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2020, at Fenway Park in Boston.

AP Photo/Winslow Townson, File.

Details of Jason Heyward’s \$1 million, one-year contract:

2025 base salary: \$1 million
Performance bonuses: N/A
Plus: \$50,000 each for 200, 250, 300, 350 and 400 plate appearances

Details of Connor Joe’s \$1 million, one-year contract

2025 base salary: \$1 million
Performance bonuses:
 • \$100,000 for 150 plate appearances
 • \$150,000 for 250 plate appearances
 • \$200,000 each for 350 and 450 plate appearances
 • \$300,000 each for 550 and 650 plate appearances

Details of Kyle Hart’s \$1.5 million, one-year contract:

2025 base salary: \$1 million
2026 club option: \$5 million (or \$500,000 buyout)
2026 escalator: salary increases for games started in 2025:
 • \$250,000 for 18
 • \$500,000 for 22
 • \$750,000 for 26
 • \$1 million for 30
Assignment bonus: \$250,000 any time traded
 Player will become free agent at end of contract

all occurring from July 1, 2026, through the 2028 season.

Pivetta was 6-12 with a 4.14 ERA in 26 starts and one relief appearance last year for Boston, then turned down a \$21.05 million qualifying offer from the Red Sox.

Pivetta, who turned 32 on Feb. 14, is 56-71 with a 4.76 ERA in eight major league seasons with the Philadelphia Phillies (2017-20) and Red Sox, who acquired him in an August 2020 trade.

As part of the deal, Pivetta receives a hotel suite on road trips.

SPORTS

Defensive back Elijah Molden signs 3-year extension with Chargers

Associated Press

Elijah Molden will remain with the Los Angeles Chargers after signing a three-year contract extension on Feb. 20.

The defensive back, who was acquired from the Tennessee Titans at the end of the preseason last year, started 12 games for the Bolts and was second on the team with three interceptions. He played 15 games before suffering a broken fibula during the second half at New England on Dec. 28.

Molden played both cornerback and safety on a Chargers defense that allowed a league-low 17.7 points per game this past season. He had a career-high 72 tackles along with seven pass breakups and two fumble recoveries.

Molden played three seasons for Tennessee after being a third-round pick in 2021.

In four NFL seasons, Molden has five interceptions, including two returned for touchdowns, 15 passes defended, seven tackles for loss, two forced fumbles and four fumble recoveries.



Los Angeles Chargers cornerback Elijah Molden (22) jogs back to the locker room after an NFL football game against the Tennessee Titans, Nov. 10, 2024, in Inglewood, Calif.

AP Photo/Kyusung Gong, File.



Fans pack the stands of the Neo Química arena during a Brazilian soccer league match between Corinthians and Flamengo in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Sunday, Sept. 1, 2024. The Los Angeles Chargers will play their 2025 season opener in at the arena against an opponent to be announced this spring. AP Photo/Andre Penner, File.

Chargers will play their 2025 season opener in São Paulo against opponent to be named later

Associated Press

The Los Angeles Chargers will play their 2025 season opener in Brazil against an opponent to be announced this spring, making the franchise the first to play on five continents, the NFL announced on Feb. 19.

The Chargers will be the home team for the Sept. 5 game at Neo Química Arena in São Paulo. The venue hosted a Week 1 matchup between the Philadelphia Eagles and Green Bay Packers last season

in the first game in South America.

“It’s an honor to once again represent the NFL on an international stage,” said A.G. Spanos, the Chargers’ president of business operations. “It’s also a tremendous opportunity to help grow the game and bring the Chargers brand to millions of sports fans across Brazil and Latin America.”

Since 1976, the Chargers have played regular-season or pre-season games in Mexico City, London, Tokyo, Berlin and Sydney.

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FEATURES

MLS embarks on 30th year with a 30th team, a crowded schedule and, yes, more Messi

Associated Press

While the main attraction is still Lionel Messi, it's perhaps fitting that for Major League Soccer's 30th season the league is welcoming its 30th team.

Led by winger Hirving "Chucky" Lozano, San Diego FC is among the teams to watch this year, along with the expansion club's first opponent, the defending MLS champion LA Galaxy. And, of course, Inter Miami.

Miami has sold out its season tickets as fans clamor to get an in-person look at Messi and fellow former Barcelona standouts Jordi Alba, Luis Suarez and Sergio Busquets.

Miami will be looking to again finish atop the Eastern Conference and repeat as Supporters Shield winners. Messi, the league's reigning MVP, should once more be a top candidate. But the Herons' 2024 season was marred when they were surprisingly eliminated by Atlanta in the first round of the playoffs.

"We had broken the points record, but football is not about awards, it's about what you do on the field," Suarez said at the league's media day. "We were the best team the entire regular season, we needed to show that in that playoff game against Atlanta, and we didn't. We have to learn from that and be reminded that nobody gives you anything. It was very difficult to achieve what we did all season, but we are left with a bittersweet feeling."

LAFC, the West's top seed, fell in the conference semifinals to the Seattle Sounders.

The Galaxy won their sixth overall MLS Cup title last season with a 2-1 victory over the New York Red Bulls, a dramatic turnaround for a team that finished 26th in the league the year before. But the Galaxy embark on this season without dynamic midfielder Riqui Puig, who injured his ACL in the playoffs.

The addition of the San Diego balances MLS at 15 teams per conference. The league's newest club is owned by billionaire Mohamed Mansour and the Sycuan Tribe, the first Native American tribe in the country to have an ownership stake in a professional soccer team. The team's first season kicked off on Feb. 23.

Turnover At The Top

There are 12 coaches embarking on their first full seasons in 2025. Notable among them is Gregg Berhalter, the former U.S. men's national team coach who is now leading the Chicago Fire.

In perhaps one of the most shocking coaching moves in the offseason, the Philadelphia Union dismissed Jim Curtin, a two-time MLS coach of the year who had spent 11 seasons with the team. He was replaced by Bradley Carnell, a former St. Louis coach.

Inter Miami's coach, Geraldo "Tata" Martino, departed the club in November for personal reasons after one season. He was replaced in days by former Argentina great Javier Mascherano, another Messi teammate at Barcelona.

And finally, the San Jose Earthquakes brought in the league's all-time winningest coach, Bruce Arena, after the club finished last in the standings with only six wins.

Coming and Going

MLS clubs were bullish in scooping up international talent in the offseason. Some of the notable additions were striker Emmanuel Latte Lath, who joined Atlanta from Middlesbrough, and Kévin Denkey, who arrived in Cincinnati from Cercle Brugge.

Perhaps the biggest departure was Cucho Hernandez, who left the Columbus Crew for Spanish club Real Betis. Austin FC sent midfielder Sebastián Driussi to Argentine team River Plate for a reported \$10 million fee. Sporting KC transferred Alan Pulido to Mexican club Chivas Guadalajara.

Within the league, the Sounders scored Jesus Ferreira from FC Dallas, while Dallas got Luciano Acosta from FC Cincinnati. The Timbers sent Brazilian midfielder Evander to Cincinnati, while Houston picked up Jack McGlynn from



Hirving "Chucky" Lozano poses with his new San Diego FC jersey during an introductory news conference for the new MLS soccer team Thursday, June 13, 2024, in San Diego. AP Photo/Gregory Bull, File.



Lionel Messi of Inter Miami FC acknowledges a save during the second half of a preseason MLS soccer match against Orlando City on Friday, Feb. 14, 2025, in Tampa, Fla. AP Photo/Mike Carlson.

Philadelphia.

Busy Season

It will be a busy season for MLS teams, with a number of tournaments in addition to the regular season.

Miami and the Sounders will get international attention as the league's two participants in the FIFA Club World Cup. The event for an expanded field of 32 international clubs will be played across the United States from at June 14 to July 13.

The league will take a bit of a break during the tournament. At the same time, some players will be with their national teams for the CONCACAF Gold Cup.

There's also the U.S. Open Cup, the Leagues Cup with teams from both MLS and Liga MX, and the CONCACAF Champions Cup. MLS teams can only participate in two tournaments to help alleviate the load on the players.

Building Toward the World Cup

The United States, Mexico and Canada will co-host the 2026 World Cup and MLS is hoping to capitalize as soccer's biggest tournament looms.

The addition of Messi has already brought new attention to MLS.

Attendance at games last season hit a league record 12.1 million, second only to the English Premier League. Five MLS teams are now valued at \$1 billion each.

MLS is in the third year of a media deal with Apple TV, but there have been concerns about audience growth on the streaming service. Viewership numbers have not been made available.

This year Apple TV's MLS Season Pass is available to Comcast and DirecTV subscribers — still at a fee but accessed via those platforms. Season Pass is also free for a season to T-Mobile phone service customers.

"Over the next two years, North America will be the epicenter of global soccer, our league, our clubs, our players and our fans are all committed to working together on this path to the world's biggest sporting event," Commissioner Don Garber said during his state-of-the-league address in December. "We have an unbelievable opportunity to create this great trajectory and create even more momentum as we continue to grow our sport and our league for the years to come."

"We were the best team the entire regular season, we needed to show that in that playoff game against Atlanta, and we didn't. We have to learn from that and be reminded that nobody gives you anything. It was very difficult to achieve what we did all season, but we are left with a bittersweet feeling."

- Luis Suarez



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