

Maria-Elena Giner urges momentum-driven vision for IBWC following her resignation

'It's a team effort,' says former IBWC Commissioner Giner, who encourages continued advocacy and holding Mexico accountable

BY JULIETA SOTO
The Coronado News

In four years as the first Hispanic U.S. leader of the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission, Maria-Elena Giner oversaw dramatic changes. The agency finally developed a \$650 million plan to address Tijuana sewage that has contaminated south San Diego beaches for decades, and it began operating with transparency.

Now leaving office – abruptly replaced by President Donald Trump – Giner said she hopes her successor will carry on the momentum.

"The funding is there, the plan is there, the construction team is on site, it just needs to keep moving forward," said Giner in an exit interview with The Coronado News.

Trump replaced Giner with William "Chad" Mc-

Intosh, a registered professional chemical engineer and an attorney. McIntosh previously served as acting deputy administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency under Lee Zeldin.

Giner became the second woman and first Latina to hold the title when President Joe Biden appointed her in August 2021.

Giner posted her resignation letter across online platforms on April 22 and said it was the honor of a lifetime to serve as commissioner.

"The hardest job I've ever had but the most rewarding," she wrote.

"My next chapter will be hard to transition to because I love the agency, I love the staff and I love the people I served," Giner said, an emotional ring carrying her words during an interview. "Which is



Work on Junction Box 1 represents the "first thing" in a series of projects, said Maria-Elena Giner, past commissioner for the U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission, in a press conference on Sept. 30. Staff photo by Julieta Soto.

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'I can't imagine living with it'

Tijuana River sewage crisis brings head of EPA to San Diego

EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin will ask Mexico to agree with a list of plans to resolve the ongoing cross-border pollution following a binational meeting, tours and discussions

BY JULIETA SOTO
The Coronado News

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lee Zeldin traveled to San Diego on April 21 pressing for solutions for cross-border sewage contamination from Tijuana.

He did not immediately come away with an agreement, but said the United States is urging Mexico to accept a list of unspecified plans that would end the flow of wastewater onto south San Diego beaches – and the health hazards that result.

"I am not going to stand before you right now and sugarcoat that smell and tell you that the situation as it relates to public health in the environment – which is the core mission of EPA – that this is a situation that can be tolerated," Zeldin said when asked about odors in the Tijuana River Valley.

Zeldin, alongside elected officials, held a press conference announcing the potential rollout of a mutual U.S.-Mexico statement on updated plans to address the cross border crisis.

He said the statement is expected to be finalized in the days or weeks following his



U.S. EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin (second from left) speaks about a binational meeting with Mexican officials held in San Diego at a press conference with local leaders on Tuesday. Staff photo by Julieta Soto.

visit. As of April 27, the statement was not released. According to Zeldin, it will include a comprehensive list of things that U.S. stakeholders consider necessary to end the crisis.

But Mexico has to agree.

"We cannot view this as a U.S. problem just because their [Mexico's] contamination reached U.S. soil," Zeldin said. "We need Mex-

ico to not just commit to all the projects that will stop the flow but, in order to actually finish this project, they're gonna need to commit to that final clean up."

On April 21, Zeldin spoke with Mexico leaders. The approximately 90-minute meeting

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The Coronado Fourth of July fireworks show is still on for now, but the future is uncertain

The Coastal Commission has been putting pressure on the San Diego Bay's Fourth of July fireworks show, calling for a drone show that would reduce air and water pollution

BY MADELINE YANG
The Coronado News

While the future of the Big Bay Boom fireworks show – which launches from barges in San Diego Bay – is now questionable due to pressure from the Coastal Commission, Coronado's own Fourth

of July firework display has so far received green lights for the upcoming holiday.

This year will be the 76th annual Coronado Fourth of July parade. It's the city's largest and most anticipated event each year, bringing in over 100,000 residents and visitors in 2024 for the 75th anniversary.

The day is chock-full of patriotic activities, and a defining element is the firework display in the evening, where people can enjoy a show put on by Coronado Fourth of July from the Coronado Golf Course, or anywhere with a view over Stingray Point.

The Coastal Commission recently directed the

Port of San Diego to undertake a study exploring the possibility of replacing fireworks with an aerial light show or drones, beginning with the Fourth of July in 2027, according to the Big Bay Boom's website.

According to Jamie Hartnett, the president of Coronado Fourth of July, the city's fireworks show will continue as planned and she has not heard of any kinks in the chain for this year's production.

"At this time we are not aware of any proposed stoppage," Hartnett said.

She said the board has turned in paperwork to

» Continued on Page 8

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this week

6 • Tuesday

From 6:30-7:30 p.m., an adult crafting program will be held at the Coronado Public Library. This month, participants can relax for Mental Health Awareness Month by painting soothing zentangles. All supplies are provided. This event is free thanks to the support of the Friends of the Coronado Public Library. Registration is recommended but not required. Register and learn more about this event at coronadolibrary.org.

7 • Wednesday

The Coronado Public Library, in partnership with the Coronado Island Film Festival, presents Film Forum Coronado, taking place the first and third Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. in the library's Winn Room. Film expert Ralph DeLauro provides a brief introduction to each film and leads a discussion afterwards. The film shown on May 7 will be "The Magnificent Ambersons."

10 • Saturday

In this collaborative film class with executive producer Tony Perri, aspiring filmmakers will work together to create a short film that will be submitted to the Coronado Island Film Festival.

Participants will learn scripting, direction and every aspect of pre-production, production and post-production. The course is eight weeks long and participants are encouraged to attend as many sessions as possible on Saturdays from 1 to 2 p.m. Registration closes at coronado.libriarycalendar.com on May 11.

CONTACT US

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

THINGS TO DO

Library hosting event in celebration of Asian American Pacific Islander month

Coronado News staff

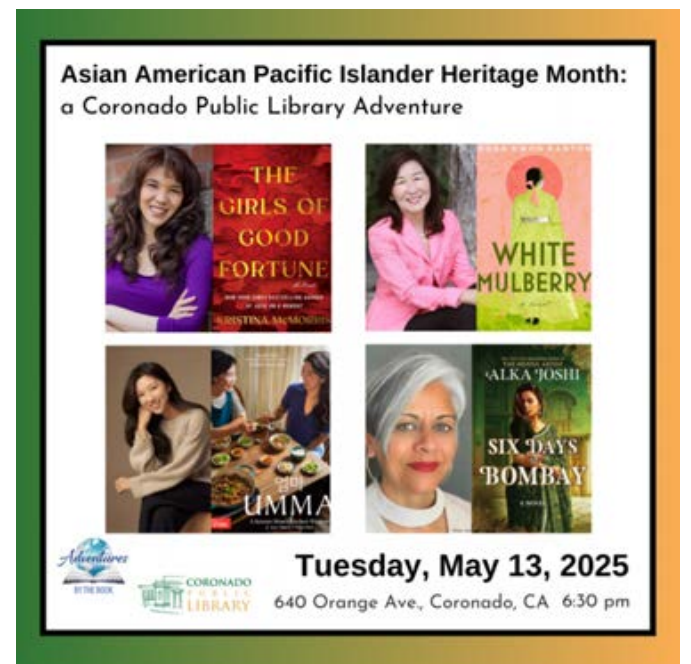
Adventures by the Book, a company that organizes events and book clubs, will be hosting an event featuring four authors at the Coronado Public Library on May 13, in celebration of Asian American Pacific Islander month.

The four featured speakers are New York Times best-selling author Alka Joshi; TikTok and Instagram star and founder of Ahnest Kitchen, Sarah Ahn; debut novelist and attorney Rosa Kwon Easton; and New York Times bestselling author Kristina McMorris.

Registration for this event, which begins at 6:30 p.m., is free and open to the public, but seating is limited. Those who purchase a book ahead of time can get guaranteed event admission and priority seating, but there are limited spaces available.

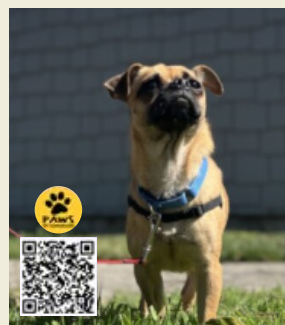
Register online at adventuresbythebook.com.

RIGHT: The library will be featuring four authors on May 13. Image provided by Adventures by the Book.



PET OF THE WEEK

Meet Fruity-Pebbles



Meet Fruity-Pebbles, 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.

PAWS of Coronado

This one year and seven-month-old tan and black pug mix, with a possible dash of chihuahua or beagle, is as quirky and delightful as her name suggests!

Fruity-Pebbles may be a little shy at first, but don't let that fool you — she warms up quickly and will soon be flashing her signature goofy grin. She's a big fan of giving gentle chin licks and playful nibbles once she feels at home, and her affectionate personality makes her an easy pup to fall for.

Fruity-Pebbles gets along well with other dogs and would love a canine companion to hang with, but she's looking for a home without toddlers so she can enjoy a calmer, more predictable environment. Sweet, silly, and full of charm, Fruity-Pebbles is ready to find her forever home where she can shine her brightest!

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 Fruity-Pebbles or other pets, please visit pawsofcoronado.org.

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When someone is having a stroke, getting treatment quickly is crucial. Sharp Coronado Hospital is proud to be a nationally designated Primary Stroke Center.

For Coronado residents, this means advanced stroke care is close to home. Our exceptional care team provides specialized stroke treatment from the moment patients arrive at the emergency room and throughout their stay and recovery.

Learn more about stroke awareness and prevention at a free seminar presented by Sharp Coronado and the Coronado Fire Department on Thursday, May 15, at 2 p.m. at the Spreckels Center. Call 619-522-7343 to register.

If you think that you or someone else may be experiencing a stroke, call 911.





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



JACK OHMAN

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CORONADO

How well is Coronado prepared for a natural disaster?

A recent earthquake that shook the town and all of San Diego has brought up Coronado's emergency preparedness plan and what would happen in the case of an extreme situation

BY MADELINE YANG

The Coronado News

An earthquake felt at least a hundred miles away from its epicenter in Julian hit San Diego on April 14. Those few seconds of shaking and tremors – felt throughout Coronado – served as a reminder of the city's emergency preparedness protocol.

The city's emergency manager, Brian Standing, said Coronado is absolutely ready for a major catastrophe. "Emergency preparedness is really a multi-pronged approach, and we do a lot of public education outreach to try to notify our citizens of how to prepare themselves."

Coronado has an Emergency Operations Center, or the EOC, that is activated every time the city experiences any sort of crisis – like the April 14 earthquake that triggered the center to operate.

The EOC acts as a communication hub where people from different departments would coordinate operations during an extreme situation. For example, Standing explained that there would be someone from the finance department of the city managing the logistics and potential supplies needed.

The top threats locally, according to Standing, are earthquakes, wildfires and tsunamis. Coronado is called an island for a reason, it is nearly surrounded by water.

Last January, flooding overwhelmed some areas of the island, causing waters to rise up to five feet in certain areas and prompting a local emergency declaration. The EOC was in operation during that time.

Coronado's fault lines

San Diego also sits on several fault lines, the most significant one is known as the Rose Canyon Fault Zone which has multiple fracture lines running through Coronado – including the Silver Strand Fault and the Spanish Bight Fault running down Pomona Avenue and parallel to the Sea N Air Golf Course, according to the San Diego Association of Geologists.

The Rose Canyon Fault Zone is described as a "dextral strike-slip fault



The Rose Canyon Fault Zone fracture lines that run through the city of Coronado are pictured in Orange. Photo taken from San Diego Association of Geologists.

that is part of the greater San Andreas Fault System" according to the California Geological Survey fault evaluation report released in 2021. It stretches over a hundred miles from near Beverly Hills in Los Angeles to San Diego Bay.

This fault's last major event was in 1933 near Long Beach.

"While fault activity is less frequent than some of the major faults in the region, it is still a source of concern for the area," wrote Michael F. Ballard, a San Diego student of geology, in his research of faults in Southern California.

He wrote that large earthquakes, meaning those 7 magnitude or higher, can and will eventually occur along this fault. And because it runs through dense cities, devastating effects are possible.

How to prepare

Coronado is enrolled in a regional warning system from the County of San Diego that will send phone notifications to residents and businesses that might be impacted by an emergency or disaster.

California has a free earthquake warning app that residents can download. When a quake begins, the app instantly sends out a text. Except near the epicenter, those who receive it have critical seconds to take precautions before the quake arrives. Thousands of people in San Diego County had advance notice of the Julian quake.

Getting notified of a potential threat would be the first step in taking the necessary precautions if an earthquake and/or tsunami were to hit the island.

The city recommends residents be ready for a natural disaster, with plans and a stockpile of provisions. That includes a flashlight and batteries for power outages, sandbags in cases of floods and awareness of

potential evacuation routes.

The city has also provided several resources on its website for those wanting to get preparations in order.

Drills

The municipality takes part in "all-hazards planning," which means it focuses on preparedness for a full spectrum of emergencies or disasters. The key components: proper training, supplies and leadership to address a broad range of threats.

"We're always looking at risks and managing risks, and thinking of the what-ifs," City Council member Kelly Purvis said. "Preparation is the key, so we don't get hit flatfooted."

Standing said he just participated in the Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drill in October that simulates a magnitude 7.8 earthquake along the southernmost San Andreas fault. He also participated in a county-wide Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, drill back in December where they practiced a large earthquake simulation.

That was also why Sharp Coronado Hospital practiced an emergency drill at Tideland Park across from the hospital last week. If the bridge were down, ambulance transport via the Silver Strand could take too long with a critical-care patient. A helicopter would perform the task in minutes.

Standing said that the bridge and the Strand being inoperable is highly unlikely, but in the event that it did happen, the city would connect with the county's resources.

"It would be such a large-scale event for the region that it would be a large collaborative approach," Standing explained. "You'd likely have military collaboration, potentially have Coast Guard, ... county resources."

In the case of a mass casualty, Purvis said, the city has been practicing critical egress, which is how to safely evacuate an area due to an emergency.

"We plan with other communities, so there's a lot of reciprocity between us," Purvis explained. "Obviously, we have ferries, we have boats with the military – which is key."

Naval Base Coronado, which Naval Air Station North Island is a part of, is listed in the plan as a liaison for specialized support and a partner for local resource assistance in case of an emergency.

The Navy

If something drastic were to happen, Coronado could call on the Navy's help through a system known as the Defense Support of Civil Authorities, or DSCA.

DSCA is a process where the military would assist the city in missions led by local government officials. Missions would include disaster response and law enforcement support.

After the city has exhausted all its own resources and support with surrounding cities and the county and state, they can request for help from Naval Air Station North Island.

"We have a strong partnership with the city of Coronado, their mayor, as well as their EOC," Stacy Urreola, the emergency management officer for Naval Base Coronado, said.

North Island does operate with their own EOC in the same way the city does. When an emergency happens, it triggers its operations and depending on the situation, brings individuals into the center to plan how to move forward.

"Something happens, then that subject matter expert comes over and it could be anybody in their branch with knowledge of that branch," Kevin Dixon, the PAO for Naval Base Coronado, explained.

If the bridge and the Strand were both inoperable, Urreola said that they would open the EOC and assess the situation, have a shelter in place and make sure they are self-sufficient for at least a few days.

"We want to make sure that our sailors and our civilians, everyone on this installation, is safe," Urreola said.

Even though the base and the city sit on the same island, Urreola said that the base is essentially its own city and they need to ensure the safety of their own personnel and property first.

"We completely understand that, obviously, we have to take care of ourselves, but at the same time, we also want to show support and be supportive as well. Because in times of need and there's a threat to life, we want to make sure that we're able to support in any way that we can," Urreola said.

The art of not looking: a Coronado exhibit asks viewers — and artists — to see differently on Mother's Day

BY KATIE MORRIS

The Coronado News

On Mother's Day this year, in the Spreckels Reading Room of the Coronado Public Library, a group of mothers — and perhaps their sons, daughters, or anyone else drawn in by curiosity — are invited to sit for a portrait from 2 to 4 p.m.

But these will be no ordinary portraits.

The artist will not look at the paper. She may not even look at her hand.

And the resulting image might resemble the subject about as closely as a Picasso resembles a passport photo.

The live portrait drawing session — billed as "Quick Draw Contour Portraits" — features two artists and two styles.

Tina Christiansen, architect by trade and artist by calling, will draw on 11x14 illustration boards using a Sharpie in permanent ink.

Her portraits will be loose, unpredictable and entirely blind.

Meanwhile, fellow artist Nancy Plank, a classically-trained painter with roots in figure drawing and oil realism, will do a variation: cross-contour sketches where she's allowed to peek at the paper.

"Her portraits actually look like the person," Christiansen said with a laugh. "Mine... not so much."

Mothers can enter their names into a hat for the chance to be selected as a portrait subject during the event.

The portrait drawing session is a part of this year's annual art show curated by the Coronado Art Association. This year's theme: The Art of Abstraction.

Christiansen said her live drawing event — a blend of demonstration, performance and community icebreaker — aims not just to exhibit artwork, but to explore what it means to see.

"Blind cross-contour drawing," she explained, "is about training your eye to be your pencil. I'm looking at your face — but I'm not looking at my hand. Or the paper."

The result is often delightfully distorted.

"Your nose may end up on the side. One eye might be higher than the other." But that, she insists, is part of the point. "Art isn't just about representing. It's about perceiving. And playing."

The May 11 event continues a tradition that dates back to 1947, when a group of Coronado artists first band-

ed together to share their work with the public.

Christiansen said their spirit of grassroots creativity still defines the group today, many who continue to display their work on the first and third Sunday of each month at Spreckels Park.

Christiansen herself has helped reimagine what an art show can be. A few years ago, she looked at the four walls of the Spreckels Room — crowned by the names of philosophers and adorned with old-world woodwork — and saw a book.

That first themed show became The Coronado Storybook, each wall a page, each painting a chapter in the life of the island.

This year, The Art of Abstraction explores visual ambiguity and emotional expression, featuring works that stretch across genre and technique.

"I range from realism to abstraction myself," she said. "This is a genre that people often don't understand — or think they don't. But we wanted to create an exhibit that invites people in, that engages them. Not just something you glance at over a glass of sparkling water."

But Christiansen said the focus is



Artist Nancy Plank completed this cross-contour drawing. She and Tina Christiansen will be doing a live drawing event on Mother's Day. Photo provided by Tina Christiansen.

not about accuracy, but vulnerability — for both the sitter and the artist.

"It's kind of brave to be drawn like that in front of a room full of people," she explained. "And it's brave for the artist, too, to let go of control. You're watching your mind try to connect what you see with what you do — and letting it be a little wild."

Ultimately, this is what abstraction offers: a loosening of the strictures of realism, and an invitation to imagine more, she said.

"If they laugh," Christiansen said, "if they take the portrait home and pin it to the fridge — or throw it away — that's okay. Either way, they've seen something differently. And that's what art should do."

The event, sponsored by the Coronado Public Library, is free and open to the public.

CORONADO



The "Best in the Village" award for the 2025 homefront judging contest went to 416 10th Street. Photo provided by Lori P. Smith.

Results for 2025 Home Front Judging contest

Coronado News staff

The results of the 2025 Home Front judging contest have been released, and 416 10th Street took home the "Best in the Village" award.

The contest celebrates the beautification of Coronado through awarding ribbons to homes with exceptional landscaping. Volunteers walked through Coronado's streets and handed out ribbons to homeowners at the end of March.

The results:

Best in Village: 416 10th Street

First runner-up: 311 9th Street

Second runner-up:

1704 Visalia Row

Best in the Cays:

32 Green Turtle Road

Cays First Runner-up:

80 Marti Gras Road

Cays Second Runner-up:

92 Trinidad Bend

To view the complete list of results, visit coronadoflowershow.com/homefront-judging

Marilyn Foster Scholarships offered to class of 2025

Coronado News staff

The Coronado Junior Woman's Club will award three class of 2025 graduating senior girls, either attending Coronado High School or a Coronado resident, the annual Marilyn Foster Scholarship in the amount of \$2,500.

The scholarship honors the legacy of the late Marilyn Foster, one of Coronado's philanthropists who was known for her dedication to serving the community. She was a military spouse, an award-winning gardener and an active member of the club.

The scholarship is for those who have plans to attend a higher education institution in the fall and are interested in establishing a commitment to their community. Each of the three awardees will receive the \$2,500 scholarship mailed directly to their college's registrar. The CJWC started accepting applications on April 1 and the deadline to apply is May 15.

Find the application and more information at coronadoiniorwomans.org.



Left to right: Jessica Cunningham, Cory Stege, Chloe Von Koehe, Susanna Pate, Lucia Kenny, Heather Barnett and Mercedes Armendariz stand with a scholarship award last year. Photo provided by the Coronado Junior Woman's Club.

Coronado to host three spring bike rodeos

Coronado News staff

The City of Coronado is co-hosting three bicycle safety clinics, known as bike rodeos, this May. All students are encouraged to attend and there will be a special focus on e-bike safety.

Together with the Coronado Unified School District and the San Diego County Bicycle Coalition, the city is organizing the rodeos to inform students and parents about the rules of the road and how to register bikes. There will also be a raffle contest.



The City of Coronado will be hosting three bike rodeos this spring. File photo by Julieta Soto.

Event Dates:

- Wednesday, May 7 at 2 p.m. – Coronado Middle School
- Tuesday, May 13 at 3:15 p.m. – Village Elementary School
- Tuesday, May 20 at 3:15 p.m. – Strand Elementary

All bikes, e-bikes, scooters, and skateboards are welcome. Learn more at <https://www.coronado.ca.us/242/Safe-Cycling>

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Maria-Elena Giner urges momentum-driven vision for IBWC following her resignation

» Continued from Page 1

probably why I was so driven to get this result.”

Giner, who has a PhD in public policy, said she is open to all forthcoming possibilities to serve people along the border or other communities in need.

“I remind myself I’m a woman of great faith,” she said. “I try not to get emotional. ... As unexpected yet expected as this was, I knew my path will be revealed fairly soon.”

“I thank Commissioner Giner for her dedicated service,” Rep. Scott Peters, D-California, said in a statement on X on April 21. “She was always an honest partner, giving us the true picture of the problem even when it was not convenient. ... While she may not be commissioner when we finally cut the ribbon on our improved treatment plant, the communities in the South Bay and Coronado will not forget her role in making it possible. I look forward to meeting and working with the new commissioner as soon as possible so we can put an end to this crisis.”

Commissioner McIntosh

McIntosh was appointed in 2019 as the assistant administrator for tribal and internal affairs at the EPA during Trump’s first presidency.

He has 40 years of experience in environmental and public health protection, and began working at the federal agency after being responsible for environmental permitting at the Ford Motor Company, where he was also a part of Ford’s global environmental leadership team.

Prior to his career at Ford, McIntosh served as the natural resources and policy advisor to Michigan Gov. John Engler.

The White House did not respond to a request for comment about this decision on deadline.

Giner’s legacy

The change in leadership comes as the IBWC is working to repair the

dilapidated South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant, which is spilling raw sewage into the Pacific Ocean.

Giner said she was asked by the White House to resign following an April 19 phone conversation with McIntosh.

“It’s not a surprise that I would either be asked for my resignation or terminated because of the fact it’s a new administration,” said Giner, who noted she was given until April 21 for either action. “Jan. 20 was notification.”

Giner said she is grateful that she was allowed to remain in office the ensuing four months – and that the position was not left vacant.

“A vacancy would have been a disaster for the agency,” she said.

Years of mismanagement and insufficient funds had led to millions of gallons of partially treated sewage making its way to the ocean. Since her appointment, Giner has worked to bring funding and transparency to the issue.

“I’m not going to see through a lot of the initiatives that I created,” she said. “(But) I’m very satisfied that I did the best that I could.”

During the 10-year period from 2010 to 2020, the agency worked with \$32 million annually to maintain 500 miles of levies, two international dams, two wastewater treatment plants, two ports of entry and 800 boundary monuments.

This small budget led to the deterioration of IBWC’s infrastructure.

Giner’s resignation letter praises the agency’s staffers and encourages them to continue the job through McIntosh.

“It’s important that he set his vision as to how he’s going to accomplish the mission,” she said. “And disseminate that as quickly as possible.”

Giner said she instilled a “you protect the lives of the residents along the U.S.-Mexico border” mission for everyone at IBWC.

Giner also created an agency-wide strategic plan, whose posters could

be found throughout all IBWC facilities, she said, to communicate her vision, which included her priorities for staff, infrastructure projects, and policies.

“I didn’t send out people to meet with the public,” Giner said about the core of her work. “I went.”

Accessible fact sheets, a social media presence and published materials from past citizens forums are some of the results Giner credits to her four-year plan.

“The biggest challenge will be to maintain the stamina on this,” she said. “And to maintain the stamina, you have to know the details and you have to know Mexico.”

Giner, a registered professional engineer, previously served as general manager of the Border Environment Cooperation Commission, an institution that developed environmental infrastructure along the U.S.-Mexico border in association with the North American Development Bank.

“Having that background in Mexico and knowing their programs, knowing the technical language and not relying on translators ... those are the things that I think are really important in being able to advance the interests of the United States when an important piece of it involves activities in Mexico,” Giner added.

Giner also holds a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from Loyola Marymount University and a master of business administration from the University of Texas at El Paso.

Emily Allen, IBWC area operations manager, announced work on the International Collector in Mexico continues as of this week during a forum in Coronado.

“We will have less debris and sediment at our plant which is the big challenge that we have had,” Giner said about a successful completion of the International Collector. “It’ll also help control the volume of flow coming into our plant, so we won’t have the damage that was caused by our plant when we had so much flow and we could not get it under control.”

Prior to her resignation, Giner informed staff, U.S. elected officials and the public about daily meetings with Mexico on that project.

“I think that built a lot of trust,” she said. “Change comes at the rate of trust.”

This year, the plant’s contract for management and maintenance will go out to bid with Giner anticipating a lot of interest.

Giner declined to comment on lawsuits alleging Veolia’s mismanagement of the plant.

“I think the competitive process will select the best company to operate this plant,” she said.

Giner pointed out Mexico only has 40% of the funding in the third year of Minute 328, a five-year U.S.-Mexico agreement of infrastructure projects.

“If they don’t meet their commitments, there should be consequences,” she said, “for discharging wastewater into another community.”

Coronado’s commitment

Coronado has been affected by out-

flow from Tijuana for almost a century, as north-flowing currents carry human and industrial waste to local beaches. In 1934, the United States and Mexican governments instructed the International Boundary Commission to help prepare a report on a cross-border water pollution issue.

Since then, Tijuana’s sewage system has overwhelmed U.S. and Mexican treatment plants, pouring into the ocean and causing an environmental threat that has closed beaches and endangered public health.

The commission is in the midst of spending \$600 million to repair the plant, which may take up to five years to complete.

Earlier this year, Coronado Mayor John Duncan wrote a letter to Sergio Gor, director of the White House Presidential Personnel Office, about a commitment to end cross-border pollution and protect Coronado’s beaches, economy and military personnel.

“Should the Trump-Vance administration wish to nominate a different commissioner, the city respectfully urges the administration to consider an individual whose qualifications are as outstanding as those of Dr. Giner, and who has significant experience managing large infrastructure construction projects,” said Duncan in a letter on March 12. “We are at a critical juncture given the relatively recent award of the design-build contract and groundbreaking on the expansion of the plant.”

Coronado Councilwoman Carrie Anne Downey said she was heartened by the selection of Commissioner McIntosh considering his background and decades of experience.

“[McIntosh] has seen how to comply with environmental regulations both from a regulated as well as a regulator,” said Downey in a statement. “I’m very hopeful he will continue Dr. Giner’s very open and transparent management of the plant and keeping the public informed.”

Considering Mexico has much less resources, Giner urged the need to continue to monitor and track important milestones so that this situation does not slip again in Mexico.

“You need to continue advocating for yourself. You need to keep speaking up. You need to keep holding the IBWC accountable, like you did for me, and you need to keep holding Mexico accountable. It’s a team effort,” she said, addressing communities affected by the crisis.

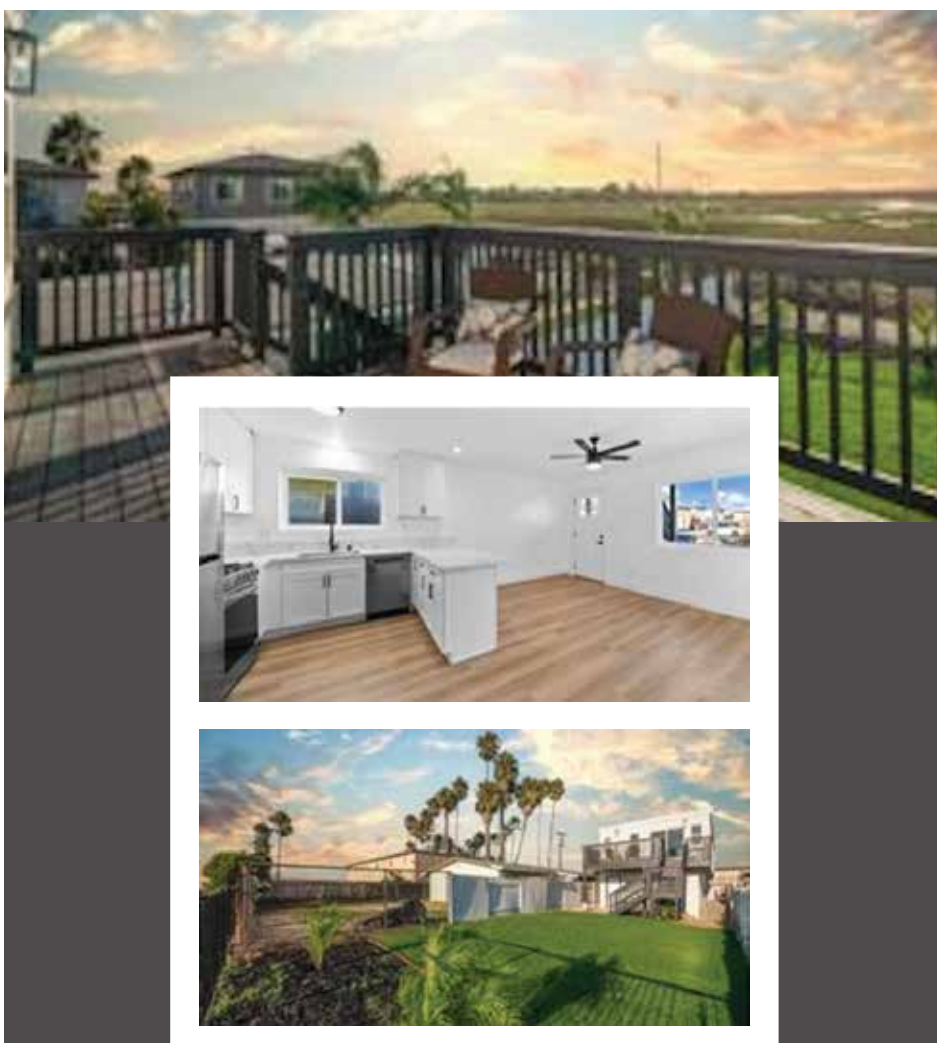
“I wish I could have waved a wand and got that relief because I know people are suffering down [in the South Bay] and I think it’s important to continue pushing for that relief,” Giner added.

Giner received a plaque signed by her colleagues, including a poem, among gifts and cards she received during luncheon in the days following her resignation on April 21.

“A beacon bright, a guiding light, You pushed this agency to take flight,” the poem says. “So thank you, MEG, from all of us, For the opportunities and undaunting trust Your legacy is forever etched In the 2,000-mile southern border stretch.”

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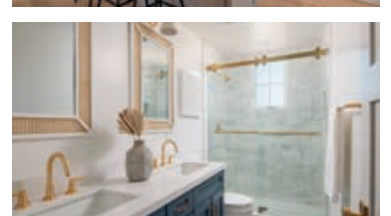
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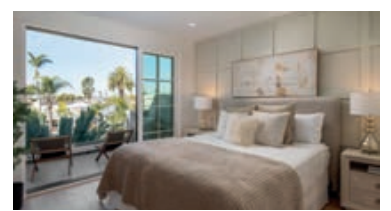
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The Coronado Fourth of July fireworks show is still on for now, but the future is uncertain

» Continued from Page 1

the Water Quality Control Board and the fireworks vendor has permits all lined up.

“It’s our annual tradition that is highly anticipated and celebrated,” she added.

Coronado is under the Port of San Diego’s jurisdiction, and Port Commissioner Frank Urtasun confirmed that the city’s show this year has not been affected.

Joshua Smith, the public information officer with the Coastal Commission, said that the Port has approved the island’s fireworks show with a coastal permit exemption.

The Big Bay Boom, which is located at the San Diego Bay, however, is under the jurisdiction of the Coastal Commission.

A few months ago, the Coastal Commission approved a permit for fireworks at the Big Bay Boom this year, but with several conditions that would

ultimately “limit impacts of fireworks on San Diego Bay and explore options for alternatives in future years,” according to the commission’s staff report on Jan. 23.

The report said the commission was concerned about the event impacting coastal wildlife and impairing water and air quality as well as potentially increasing the risk of fire.

The Armed Forces YMCA, which puts on the show alongside the San Diego Unified Port District, had nine special conditions attached to its approval, including hiring a biologist to conduct bird nesting surveys and record any behavior that might be related to the fireworks show. A water quality monitoring report was also required to see if pollutants from the fireworks affect the bay.

Commission staff had asked the YMCA to look into a drone show for this year to avoid some of these environmental hazards, but it was decided

that the YMCA had no experience operating a drone show and would not be able to put one up for this year’s Fourth of July. The YMCA was also unable to secure liability insurance in connection with the commission’s new requirements.

Another condition places limits on the type and design of fireworks that can be used. The commission has banned materials that don’t fully burn away when the fireworks go off, causing them to fall and contaminate the water such as plastic casings, labels and wiring.

The Coastal Commission’s intervention raises a question of how future fireworks productions will operate in San Diego and Coronado – if they operate at all.

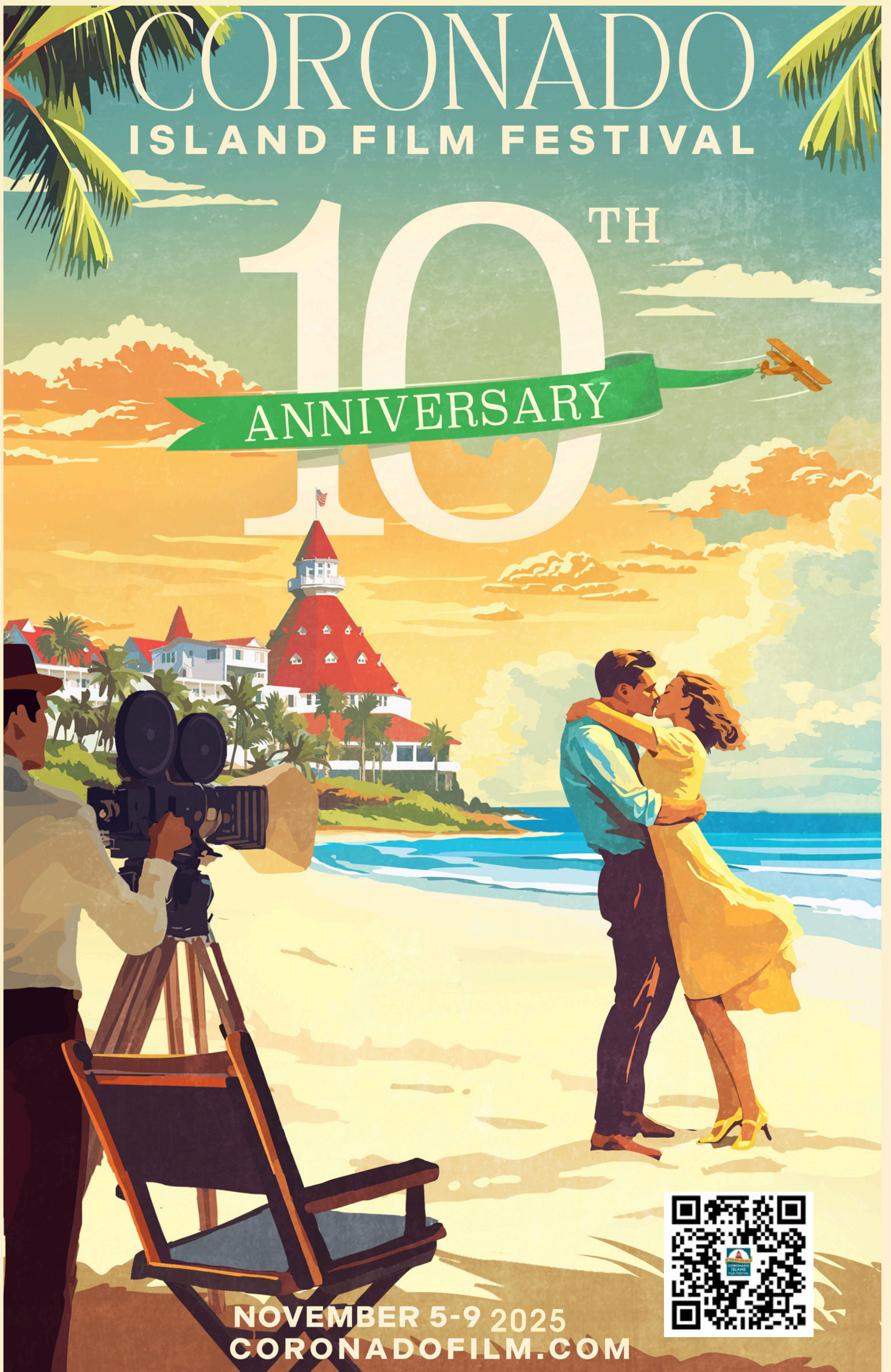
However, at this moment, Hartnett said she is not aware of anything potentially blocking Coronado’s eagerly awaited Independence Day production in 2025.

“We are all systems go,” she said.

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'I can't imagine living with it': Tijuana River sewage crisis brings head of EPA to San Diego

» Continued from Page 1

was led by Mexico's environmental secretary, Alicia Bárcena, he said.

On April 22, Zeldin toured the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant, joined by Imperial Beach Mayor Paloma Aguirre, and participated in a roundtable discussion with community leaders, including Coronado Mayor John Duncan and Chula Vista Mayor John McCann. A helicopter tour of the U.S. Southern border and a meeting with Navy SEALs followed.

Earlier this year, the Department of Defense's inspector general reported that Coronado's sewage-polluted waters sickened Navy SEAL trainees.

"We look forward to in the hours to follow, not years ... (to) finalize a complete list," said Zeldin. "Mexico is either going to agree on it or they're not ... and then we'll go from there in terms of strategy and tactics."

Zeldin's visit occurred just days after Maria-Elena Giner resigned as head of the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) – the agency responsible for solving the Tijuana sewage problem.

The Trump administration replaced Giner, who put in motion a \$650 million plan to repair and expand cross-border sewage treatment, with William "Chad" McIntosh, who previously served as Zeldin's acting deputy administrator.

Binational meeting

Zeldin said he is committed to stress testing every single project and every timeline. He said Mexico needs to increase the number of projects on their part to ensure solutions.

"It was actually very helpful in identifying a couple of other projects that are needed that aren't on the current list of Mexican-side projects," said Zeldin about his tour to the U.S. plant. "As was pointed out, (if) you do everything that's currently on the list but you still have the flow into Tijuana River, well, the beaches are still



U.S. EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin (second from left) visits the Naval Special Warfare Center, where he met with leadership, toured the Navy SEAL training facility, and heard their firsthand accounts of dealing with the sewage and how it impacts the SEALs. Photo courtesy of the Environmental Protection Agency.

gonna remain closed."

Zeldin said he proposed several considerations for Mexican officials.

"We were also emphasizing the need that Mexico factors in population growth in Tijuana to ensure that if we get to the end of that current list ... years from now we're not back sitting on a table again because 'Oh, we forgot to anticipate the factor of population growth,' and we're right back to where we are today," he said.

One key in Mexico involves the San Antonio de los Buenos Wastewater Treatment Plant, about six miles south of Tijuana. The plant had been defunct for years, allowing untreated sewage into the ocean. It was repaired recently, and reportedly is back in operation. EPA employees confirming it is in working order was a topic discussed, according to Zeldin.

"We want to ensure that this statement is informing the public on specifics so that they don't have to take anyone else's word for it, they can read directly with the Mexican government signing off," said Zeldin.

Emily Allen, the IBWC's area operations manager, said in a community forum on April 23 that Mexico is finishing up stabilization of its completed plant, which treats 18 million gallons per day. She said the Mexican Army, which oversaw the plant's construction, is turning over management to a local agency, the Comisión Estatal de Servicios Públicos de Tijuana (CESPT), Baja California's Public Services Commission in Tijuana, next month.

Meanwhile, the International Collector, the main sewer system for Tijuana, is an ongoing project.

"We meet with Mexico constantly to make sure every step of the way in the project, they don't cause additional spillage, additional flow into the river," said Allen.

Before Zeldin was named administrator in January, the EPA denied requests by local officials asking the agency to designate the Tijuana River Valley as a Superfund site. EPA leaders reiterated that decision in a March 14 letter addressed to Aguirre.

Officials who attended the roundtable discussion with Zeldin said talk of a Superfund was only briefly brought up and could be on the list. Zeldin did not address that issue during the news conference.

Zeldin also did not mention McIntosh replacing Giner.

"The last two years, [Giner] made major strides. We've had ground-breaking on the expansion. We finally fixed the old plant, and she helped give me information to get the construction budget raised," said Duncan. "[McIntosh] knows this issue, ... so I'm excited about the future."

The list of necessary projects has not yet been released pending more discussion between both countries. Zeldin said U.S. and Mexico commissioners for the IBWC will meet in addition to the North American Development Bank board to talk through projects and timelines on the Mexican and U.S. sides.

"It feels like it's being treated as an emergency now," said Duncan.

San Diego's congressional delegation has secured \$653 million to repair and expand the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant.

"The [Trump] administration was not inclined to support one penny more from the federal government until Mexico designates the funds needed to complete the projects that they agreed to in the treaty with them, known as their Minute 328 allocations," Representative Scott Peters, D-California, said at a community forum presented by Coronado High School's Stop the Sewage Club on April 23.

Dr. Paula Stigler Granados, associate professor in SDSU's School of Public Health, urged attendees at the community forum to participate in an ongoing community health survey.

Granados said data from the more than 372 survey participants show that 77% have upper respiratory symptoms, gastrointestinal conditions like diarrhea, 22% have missed work, others have headaches, difficulty concentrating and trouble sleeping.

"A lot of people from Imperial Beach have filled this out," she said. "We definitely need Coronado's perspective on this as well."

The survey is intended to identify health issues linked to environmental conditions in the communities impacted by the crisis from resident experiences and concerns about the quality of air and water with the goal of aiding research that could lead to improvements in public health and the environment, according to the project's website.

"Your voices matter in the fight, your persistence, your advocacy, and your engagement are the reason why we've been able to make this progress and the reason we will get this done," added Peters in remarks shared by his staff.

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NAVY

Fallen Navy SEAL Nathan Gage Ingram awarded posthumous medal of heroism

Coronado News staff & DVIDS

Nathan Gage Ingram, the Coronado-based Navy SEAL who was lost at sea last year while conducting a night-time seizure of a vessel illegally transporting advanced lethal aid from Iran to resupply Houthi forces in Yemen, was posthumously awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for Heroism.

Ingram, 27, jumped into the water on Jan. 11, 2024 to rescue his teammate, Chris Chambers, after he fell in.

At night, Ingram and his teammates were part of a mission that interdicted a vessel with an illegal shipment of Iranian-supplied ballistic-missile and cruise-missile components, preventing them from reaching Yemen.

“The Navy and Marine Corps Medal is reserved for those who undertake extraordinary acts of selflessness, often at great peril to themselves, even more so than those they seek to save,” said a Naval Special Warfare operator during the award ceremony on April 18. “Today, Gage will join the ranks of distinguished recipients of this esteemed medal, and we will etch his name into the hallowed halls of Naval Special Warfare, our Navy, and our country for all time.”

Ingram enlisted in the Navy on Sept. 25, 2019, and graduated from boot camp in Illinois in November 2019.

Ingram served with West Coast-based SEAL units since graduating



Navy SEAL Nathan Gage Ingram was on deployment on the USS Puller about a week before he passed. Photo provided by Jewel Ingram.

from SEAL qualification training in Coronado in 2021.

“One thing that stood out was Gage’s clear understanding of the fallen heroes who came before him and the profound legacies they left within the teams of Naval Special Warfare,” said Jewel Ingram, Gage’s wife. “In Gage’s words, ‘We have to lose one of us to learn and do better. It’s the only way we improve.’”



Ticonderoga-class guided missile cruiser USS Cape St. George arrives at the mouth of San Diego Bay on April 22. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Kelby Sanders.

USS Cape St. George arrives in San Diego

DVIDS

The Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Cape St. George arrived in its new homeport of Naval Base San Diego on April 22.

The ship came from Naval Base Everett after conducting phased modernization at Vigor Shipyard in Seattle. This move was a permanent change of station for the crew and family members.

“I am so incredibly proud of this dedicated crew and for all of the hard work and sacrifice that brought Cape St. George back to life,” said Capt.

Jennifer Pontius, commanding officer of Cape St. George. “Repairing and restoring systems after an extended modernization was a herculean effort, and this talented crew is the reason the ship was able to return to sea and reintegrate into our Navy’s fighting force.”

The cruiser began modifications in June 2021 and is scheduled to conclude in 2025. During this time, Cape St. George underwent extensive upgrades to its hull, mechanical systems, engineering and combat systems in preparation for rejoining maritime operations.



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SPORTS



Left to right: Anton Youngblood, Oscar Alicandri, Ziggy Raunig and Nathan Ayan compete in the boys' 1600-meter race on April 17. Photo by George Green.

Coronado boys' track and field wins Central League

Coronado News staff

The Coronado High School boys' track and field team is the 2025 Central League champion after finishing the season undefeated, with a perfect 4-0 record.

At the April 24 league meet against Crawford High School, Kearny High School and Madison High School, junior sprinter Davin Collins led the boys' team with victories in both the 100- and 200-meter dashes. He is the Central League winner in both events.

Collins also ran legs on the victorious 4x100 and 4x400 relay teams. For the former, he was joined by senior David Castillo, junior William Heyen, and junior Mason Gibbs, as they recorded a time of 45.60 seconds. For the latter, he was joined by sophomore Emiliano Marquez, junior Nathan Ayan, and freshman Niko Andretic. This quartet recorded a time of 3:35.87.

Other individual event winners on the boys' side included Marquez, who won the 300-meter hurdles; Ayan, who won the 400-meter dash; junior Vincent Russo, who won the 800-meter; and senior Reif Souder, who won the 110-meter hurdles. Ayan is also the Central League leader for both the 400- and 800-meter runs.

The Islander girls were led by junior sprinter Micaela Gistaro, who notched double victories in the 200-meter dash and 400-meter dash events. Gistaro's 400-meter time is the leading time in the Central League this year.

She was joined by senior Lauren Gilhooly, sophomore Maya Wilson and junior Summer Little to claim victory in the 4x100-meter relay, with a time of 48.52 seconds. This relay quartet is the leading girls sprint relay team in the Central League and the third fastest in the entire San Diego CIF section.

Other Islander girls' winners included sophomore Nadia Roos in the 800-meter run, and freshman Claudia Wagner, who claimed double victories in the long jump and triple jump events with leaps of 14'10" and 31'5", respectively. Wagner is the Central League leader in both events.

Previous meets

On April 17, during the league meet against Crawford High School, Madison High School and Morse High School, both the Islanders' boys and girls teams defeated Crawford. While the boys' team beat Morse 81-28, the girls fell to the team by a slim margin.

The distance crew led Coronado High on April 17, with Russo finishing first in the 800-meter run and Ayan winning the 1600-meter dash. On the girls' side, senior Olivia Monette won the 1600-meter with a personal record time of 7:10.47.

Two days later, the Islanders took part in the 65th annual Mt. SAC relays held at Mt. San Antonio College in Walnut, California.

The Islander girl's 4x100-meter relay team — with Gistaro, Little, Wilson and Gilhooly — qualified for the competition. In addition to the 4x100, Gilhooly also competed in two individual sprint events, the 100- and 200-meter dashes, and continues to lead the San Diego CIF section in both races.



Coronado High School swimmers line up at a meet in 2024. The team defeated University City this year on April 17. Photo by Kelly Moore.

Coronado High swim defeats University City

BY CADE CAVIN

The Coronado News

The Coronado High School swim team defeated University City on April 17 with multiple competitors earning first place finishes.

Luca Morocco took first place in the 200 freestyle, and Russell Richardson won the 200 individual medley. Van Marniacs came out on top in the 500 freestyle, while Gage Everitt earned the win in the 100

backstroke.

Coronado also notched two relay victories — the 200 freestyle relay team made up of Morocco, Richardson, Andre Poole, and Liam Knapp — and the 400 freestyle relay team of Everitt, Cedrick Tolentino, Santi Garcia-Rojo, and Devin Ertekin.

On the girls' side, the Islanders also came away with a strong showing. Jillian Stachowicz won both the 200 freestyle and 100 breast-

stroke, while Mirren Fallon picked up victories in the 200 individual medley and 500 freestyle.

Cal Poly commit Chloe Quarles added wins in the 50 freestyle and 100 butterfly, and Kailyn Cornell took first in the 100 freestyle. Stachowicz, Fallon, Quarles and Cornell, along with Ally Fabrey, Audrey Howard, Sofia Kelly, and Chloe O'Keefe, all contributed to winning relays throughout the meet.

Coronado High swim team celebrates senior night



The swim team celebrated 11 seniors following their final dual meet on April 25, where both the girls and boys' teams fell short to La Jolla High School by slim margins. Pictured from left to right: Brandon Waterlander, Simon Cohen, Delaney Carstens, Chloe O'Keefe, Andre Poole, Aubrey Howard, Chloe Quarles, Ally Fabrey, Sienna Phelps and Luke Rivera.

Photo by Jillian Stachowicz.

Chargers will take on the Lions in the annual Hall of Fame game

Associated Press

The Los Angeles Chargers will take on the Detroit Lions in the annual Hall of Fame game as part of enshrinement week.

The Hall announced the matchup for July 31 with the Chargers playing just days before longtime tight end Antonio Gates will be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Gates will be joined by three other modern era candidates with Eric Allen, Jared Allen and Sterling Sharpe also getting inducted on Aug. 2.

The Lions will be designated as the home team for the game after going 15-2 last season before losing in the divisional round to Washington. The Chargers went 11-6 and made the playoffs as a wild-card team in coach Jim Harbaugh's first season.

This will be the fourth trip to Canton for the Lions and the third for the Chargers. Detroit last played in the game in 1991, beating Denver 14-3. The last appearance for the Chargers in the Hall of Fame game was a 21-17



This is the The Pro Football Hall of Fame logo at midfield at Tom Benson Field before a Hall of Fame exhibition game Aug. 1, 2024, in Canton, Ohio. AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar, File.

loss to Atlanta in 1994.

The game will be broadcast by NBC.

SPORTS

Addressing offensive skill positions was emphasis for Chargers in NFL draft

Associated Press

The Los Angeles Chargers figured out their defense in coach Jim Harbaugh's first season, but the offense was a work in progress.

The needs on that side of the ball were evident throughout the three days of the NFL draft, bringing in four skill position players among their first six selections, starting with North Carolina running back Omarion Hampton with the 22nd pick.

General manager Joe Hortiz said it wasn't intentional that their draft played out so heavy toward the offense.

"You want to keep it balanced, you do," Horitz said. "But the board, you got to follow the board. You can't (be like), 'Oh, we got to take a defensive player because we haven't done that' while you have better offensive players sticking out that can help us. So you just take the best players. It's not always going to be balanced."

The Chargers were 11th in points per game (23.6) last season.

However, a good deal of that success happened because of a stout defense which helped create short fields. In the wild-card round loss to the Houston Texans, Los Angeles' lack of playmakers around quarterback Justin Herbert was exposed.

In addition to Hampton, they also brought in wide receivers Tre Harris and KeAndre Lambert-Smith and tight end Oronde Gadsden II, who started his college career at Syracuse as a wideout and is the son of former Miami Dolphins receiver Oronde Gadsden.

"We added speed, we added tough-



Los Angeles Chargers head coach Jim Harbaugh, left, introduces running back Omarion Hampton, the Chargers first round draft pick, No. 22 overall, during an NFL football news conference at The Bolt in El Segundo, Calif., Friday, April 25, 2025. AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes.

ness, even at the receiver position, at the tight end position, certainly at the running back position," assistant general manager Chad Alexander said. "Those guys are going to come in and help us as offensive players, so just really excited about being able to add those guys."

Second-round spark?

The Chargers struck gold by drafting wide receiver Ladd McConkey in the second round last year and will be hoping Harris can repeat the feat after being selected No. 55 overall on Friday. McConkey set team rookie records in catches (82) and receiving yards (1,149) working out of the slot,

but a lack of capable options outside the numbers limited what Herbert could do. Harris could be that missing piece at 6-foot-2 and 205 pounds. He had 114 receptions for 2,015 yards and 15 touchdowns in two seasons at Mississippi after starting his college career at Louisiana Tech, with Harbaugh singling out Harris' route-running as a strength.

Man in the middle

Addressing the interior defensive line was going to be an emphasis long before the Las Vegas Raiders took Boise State star runner Ashton Jeanty in the first round, potentially giving the Chargers a third capable

rushing game to contend with in the AFC West. Third-round pick Jamarie Caldwell showed a variety of skills in defending the run as a three-technique at Houston for two years before playing nose tackle at Oregon last season, and the Chargers will need him to help plug up the middle after losing starter Poona Ford in free agency.

For the future

With Khalil Mack returning for another season, the Chargers are set at edge rusher for the short term with the three-time All-Pro, another steady veteran in Bud Dupree, and productive youngster Tuli Tuipulotu despite releasing Joey Bosa in March.

Kyle Kennard, their fourth-round selection from South Carolina, could be part of the succession plan after Mack while also offering some production in obvious passing situations this fall. He had 26 1/2 sacks in his final two collegiate seasons for Georgia Tech and the Gamecocks, but likely will need some time to become more a well-rounded defender. Kennard should also fit in on special teams immediately.

Inside out

The interior offensive line was the last glaring need for the Chargers as they worked through the third day of the draft, and Pittsburgh's Branson Taylor will be in the mix after being taken in the sixth round. Although he primarily played left tackle for the Panthers, Los Angeles expects Taylor to start his career at guard. If Zion Johnson gets a look at center, Taylor could be an option to take over at left guard.

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Seattle Reign players celebrate a goal by forward Maddie Dahlien in the first half of an NWSL soccer game against Portland Thorns FC in Seattle, Friday, April 18, 2025. Kevin Clark/The Seattle Times via AP.

NWSL submits request for lower-tier women's league to develop players

Associated Press

The National Women's Soccer League has asked U.S. Soccer to sanction a lower division women's professional soccer league that could launch as early as next year.

The six-team league would sit on the second tier of the U.S. soccer pyramid, below the NWSL and the USL Women's Super League, and would serve to develop young players.

The NWSL on April 25 confirmed that it had "formally submitted an application and supporting documentation for a new for a Division II league" with the U.S. Soccer Federation. The move was first reported by CBS Sports.

"As a global leader in the women's soccer landscape both on and off the pitch, the NWSL and its member clubs are committed to grow-

ing our sport in meaningful ways," the league said in a statement. "The demand for professional soccer has never been higher. We look forward to working to build a strong foundation for future generations of players, officials and coaches and ensure the continued advancement of the women's game."

U.S. Soccer has certain conditions for Division II sanctioning, including a minimum number of teams and stadiums that seat at least 2,000. In the case of the NWSL, all of the lower-division teams would be affiliated with top-tier clubs, sharing ownership and infrastructure.

The NWSL clubs that would field a Division II team include the Kansas City Current, Bay FC, North Carolina Courage, Racing Louisville, Gotham FC, Orlando Pride, Seattle Reign and Washington Spirit.

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SPORTS

Simone Biles undecided on competing at LA Olympics, says 2028 'seems so far away'

Associated Press

Simone Biles is unsure whether she will compete at the Los Angeles Olympics in 2028.

For now, the most decorated gymnast of all-time has other priorities and is listening to her body, too.

"I'm really trying to enjoy life, to spend time with my husband (Chicago Bears safety Jonathan Owens), go support him at his games, live my life as a woman," she said in an interview with French sports daily L'Equipe published on Tuesday. "I've accomplished so much in my sport. For me to come back, it would really have to excite me."

The 28-year-old American will be in Los Angeles for the Games but does not yet know in which capacity.

"Whether on the apparatus or in the stands, I still don't know that," she told L'Equipe. "But 2028 seems so far away, and my body is aging. I felt it in Paris."

The American gymnast won three gold medals and a silver at the Paris Olympics, taking her career tally to seven Olympic golds and 11 medals



Simone Biles celebrates her Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year award, during the 2025 Laureus World Sports Awards ceremony in Madrid, Spain, Monday, April 21, 2025. AP Photo/Manu Fernandez.

overall.

But her body cracked from the strain.

"I went back to the village, I took

the elevator and my body literally collapsed. I was sick for 10 days," she said, before recounting another experience. "The other day, we were sprinting in the garden with friends, I had aches and pains for three days. So, I honestly don't know. We'll see."

She praised her rival, Rebeca Andrade of Brazil, for recovering from injury and for "pushing me beyond my limits," but also said gymnastics no longer needs both of them.

"It only needs one of us, no? Especially since (Andrade) will not be alone," Biles said. "A young generation will knock at the door and everything will start again."

"I'm really trying to enjoy life, to spend time with my husband (Chicago Bears safety Jonathan Owens), go support him at his games, live my life as a woman. ... I've accomplished so much in my sport. For me to come back, it would really have to excite me."

- Simone Biles

The interview took place before Monday's Laureus Awards in Madrid, where she was named sportswoman of the year.

Whatever she decides regarding her career, Biles will continue to speak about mental health.

"I am very proud of the work accomplished to reach this point," she said, "and I will continue to be the voice of the voiceless."

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