

THE CORONADO NEWS

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How vermin make life – and business – miserable for Coronado restaurateurs

County inspection reports repeatedly show rats and roaches have forced temporary closures at local eateries

BY JULIETA SOTO
The Coronado News

Editor's Note: Findings in this report pull from data available on the County's SD Food Info website up to Aug. 21, 2025.

At one restaurant on Orange Avenue, San Diego County Health Services inspectors found four dead rodents in activated traps.

At another Coronado business, they observed live German cockroaches.

And, at a third, they photographed more than a dozen rodent droppings in mechanical portions of coolers, cabinets and ovens.

Those businesses are among 20 food fa-

cilities on the Emerald Isle that were temporarily forced to close during the past three years based on suspected vermin infestations — sometimes more than once per year — following health inspections that found evidence of pests like rodents and cockroaches.

Bill Rogers, general manager for Shore Duty restaurant, which previously operated at 126 Orange Ave., said infestations are the bane of local eateries.

"If you do spray and you do pest control, basically, what you try to do is make your

» Continued on Page 8



A cockroach observed during an inspection at a Coronado eatery by the County of San Diego's Environmental Health & Quality staff during an inspection that led to a temporary closure requiring correction of health violations for approval to reopen.

Photo from San Diego County Health Services records.

Scripps scientists are working on swimmer illness risk forecasts

This information will be included in a bilingual online dashboard that predicts future levels of sewage pollution in the ocean

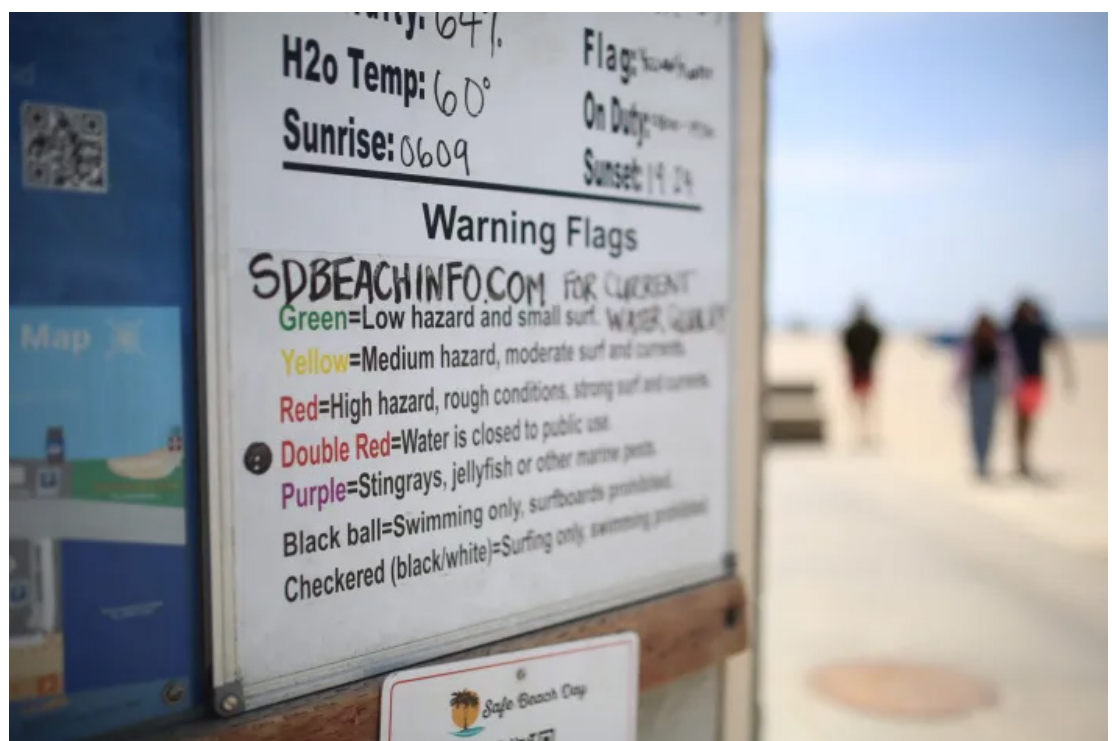
BY JULIETA SOTO
The Coronado News

Scientists at UC San Diego's Scripps Institution of Oceanography recently launched a tool that can predict the health of water conditions five days in advance, and now a second phase will inform the public how much norovirus is in the water.

A team of researchers is working to improve the newly unveiled Pathogen Forecast Model, with plans to implement norovirus and human health forecasts in detail next summer.

The model was released in July. Its website, available in English and Spanish, aims to help families make informed decisions about when it is safe to go to the beach and swim in the ocean.

"The Pathogen Forecast Model has considerable skill in predicting five days into the future the beach water quality measurements made by San Diego County from Imperial Beach to Coronado," said project lead Falk Feddersen about the website, which is updated daily. "Of course, just like with weather forecasts, the model has error. It is still experimental."



Pedestrians walk along Coronado's Central Beach past signs warning the public to check online for water quality levels due to sewage pollutants. Staff photo by Madeline Yang.

According to the research team, they are in the process of performing observations of ocean currents and norovirus from the Tijuana River Estuary to Coronado.

Feddersen said they have been collaborating with Universidad Autónoma de Baja California to collect ocean current measurements. The teams began gathering samples on respective sides of the border in June 2024 and will continue through December.

According to Feddersen, norovirus, which causes gastrointestinal distress, can be contracted when swimming in sewage.

"It's never been measured in a systematic way," said Feddersen. "We are now measuring norovirus in a systematic way."

The scientists are working with the county's division of environmental health.

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Coronado school board OKs loan to close \$2 million budget shortfall

CUSD leaders report lower than expected enrollment at the start of a new school year

BY JULIETA SOTO
The Coronado News

The Coronado Unified School District board of trustees approved a multimillion-dollar loan expected to help the district comply with a San Diego County Office of Education directive to maintain a positive fund balance

that meets the state's 3% reserve requirement through 2027.

During the first week of school in August, the board unanimously approved a lease-purchase financing agreement capped at \$3.4 million.

Deputy Superintendent Donnie Salamanca said the lease-purchase financing is a mechanism for school districts to take out a loan. This loan will help CUSD close its budget deficit to ensure fiscal solvency until it reaches Basic Aid, while maintaining programs for students and reducing

the need for painful staffing reductions, he said.

"The staffing reductions that we anticipate in the next several years would be in alignment with enrollment and not in response to the need for budget reductions," added Salamanca.

This decision comes as CUSD works toward becoming a Basic Aid school district, to become funded through property taxes, and follows a letter from the county office specifying the need to identify budget solutions for upcoming years.

In June, the district had \$300,000 of approximately \$1.7 million needed in the 2026-27 reserves. That month, the board approved a resolution committing to reduce expenditures or add financing sources to cover the shortfall in order to maintain a 3% reserve required by the county.

"Subsequent to that we're providing this as a potential viable option," Salamanca told the board on Aug. 21. "We're borrowing money in order to

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this week

30 • Saturday

The Avanti Flute Choir is scheduled to perform a summer concert at the Coronado Public Library at 3 p.m., featuring classical and pop music.

3 • 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, often including pointers about how lighting or camera angles contribute to a scene's mood or propel the story. On Sept. 3, the featured film will be Alfred Hitchcock's "Rope."

31 • Sunday

A free weekend concert is slated at the Coronado Ferry Landing from 2 to 5 p.m., featuring the band Pomerado.

5 • Friday

The Coronado Public Library's autumn concert series is scheduled to take place on Fridays from Sept. 5 to Oct. 31. Each concert will begin at 1 p.m. in the Winn Room. Doors will open 15 minutes prior to the performance. On Sept. 5, Jeremy Kurtz-Harris will be on the double bass, performing classical works inspired by folk music, world music, and more.

CONTACT US

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THINGS TO DO

Coronado Philharmonia Orchestra kicks off new season

Coronado News staff

The Coronado Philharmonia Orchestra is scheduled to launch its 2025-26 season with a vibrant concert that celebrates the power of youth on Sept. 6 at 7 p.m. at the Coronado Performing Arts Center.

The performance, titled "Beethoven's 5th Symphony + Youth Performance," will take audiences on a journey through Beethoven's Symphony No. 5 in C minor. The Fifth Symphony has a four-note motif and sweeping emotional arc. This will follow the youth soloist showcase which includes pieces from Grieg, Mendelssohn and Mozart.

Coronado's Philharmonia Orchestra is led by founder and director Osvaldo Mendoza. The orchestra's mission is to provide at least four professional symphonic concerts



The Coronado Philharmonia Orchestra launches its 2025-2026 season with "Beethoven's 5th Symphony + Youth Performance" on Sept. 6.

Photo courtesy of Joel Ortiz.

a year, sponsor free small venue community outreach concerts and inspire and educate youth in the fine arts.

The show begins on Sept. 6 at 7 p.m., but there will be a pre-talk at 6:30. Visit www.coronadophilharmonia.org for more information.

PET OF THE WEEK

Meet Chewy



Meet Chewy, the pet of the week. He's at PAWS of Coronado and is looking for his forever home. See all adoptable animals: Scan the QR code with your smartphone camera, and tap on the link.

Graphic/photo provided by PAWS of Coronado.

PAWS of Coronado

Chewy is a sweet, 4-year-old Labrador mix with a heart full of love and a tail that never stops wagging.

This gentle boy is the perfect balance of playful and cuddly — he loves a good butt scratch and is just as happy to curl up next to you for a nap or play in the yard or lean in for some quality neck scratches.

Chewy gets along well with every human he meets! He's house-trained, knows basic commands,

and is eager to please. Chewy would thrive in a quiet home where he can be part of the family, and get lots of belly rubs. If you're looking for a loyal, affectionate companion, Chewy might just be your perfect match.

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 Chewy or other pets, please visit pawsofcoronado.org.

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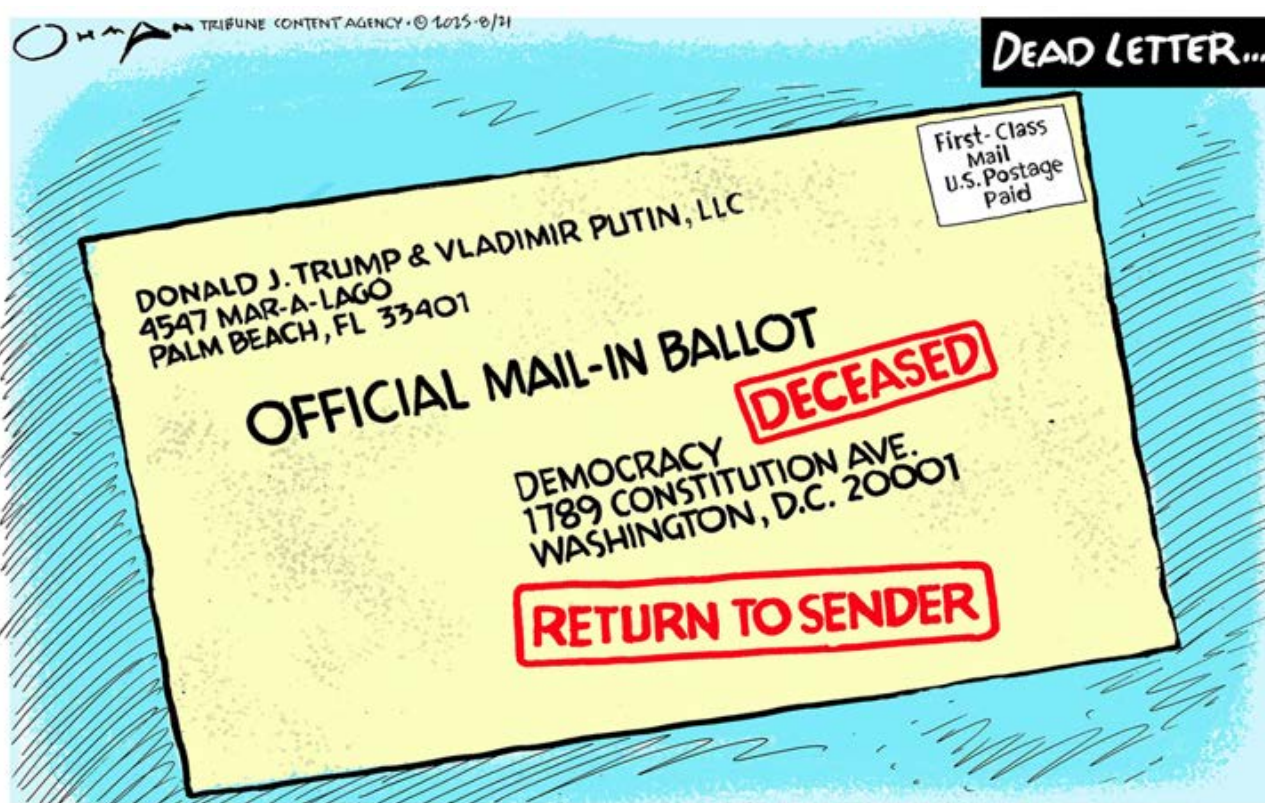
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OPINION

LISA BENSON



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CORONADO

FORK FIRST WITH LILLY

Review: on the restaurant for every occasion

Welcome back to Fork First with Lilly, a column highlighting the plates and places shaping Coronado's food scene

BY LILLY CORCORAN
The Coronado News

I've been to The Henry in Coronado many times: with my friends, on first and last dates, alone, with my parents, with my friend's parents. And let me tell you, there is something deeply comforting about having a restaurant for everything. The Henry is like an old friend you can come to with anything. They won't judge, but they will charge an exorbitant amount for dinner. Hey, a small price to pay for a little reprieve.

As I arrived, the sun was setting and everything was bathed in a warm orange glow. The sound of gentle ambient house music and conversation bled onto Orange Avenue. I sat outside and watched a group of vintage cars drive by, pleasantly surprised and languoring in the warm summer night breeze.

The menu is one I know well, and I decided upon a rather peculiar trio. A parmesan truffle fry, rigatoni alla vodka and strawberry and watermelon salad. Other notable options are umami brussel sprouts, seared tuna chop salad and wild caught bay scallops.

The parmesan truffle fry is wonderfully reliable and consistent – thin warm fries in a blizzard of finely grated parmesan with a kiss of truffle notes. The rigatoni alla vodka had a milky burrata ball melting into the



The sun sets over The Henry. Staff photo by Lilly Corcoran.

red vodka sauce and was topped with chili flakes, mint and breadcrumbs. The salad intrigued me. The cilantro, avocado, watermelon and peppers worked together as a cohesive team, however the cherry tomatoes staged a bit of a coup d'etat and felt out of place. Remarkably cilantro-forward and followed most closely by watermelon, the salad nearly tasted like a cocktail.

I sat for a long while at the table, sinking into the white and black rattan bistro chair and digesting my 60-something dollar meal. To my previous aside, exorbitant may be a

melodramatic way to categorize the cost, but it's no Leucadia Pizza for sure.

As the upper limb of the sun descended over the Pacific Ocean and the street lights flickered on, I collected myself and dreamed about the next circumstance that would find me at The Henry.

The Henry Coronado is open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Contact: lilly@thecoronadonews.com

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CORONADO

Hidden in plain sight: Coronado's thriving nightlife scene

From Navy SEAL bars to dive bars, Coronado has an impressive selection of watering holes

BY LILLY CORCORAN
The Coronado News

I'll be honest, when I got assigned to write a story on Coronado's nightlife, I wasn't feeling very confident. In my mind there was no way a town with an average age of 41.9 would know how to get down, but boy was I wrong. I started my Wednesday night at McP's Irish Pub and Little Club, and it was the perfect cure to my Hump Day blues.

Orange Avenue was dead as can be, the buzzing streetlights highlighted the empty sidewalks. However, as I approached McP's I heard the sweet familiar sound of glasses clinking and booming conversation.

When I walked into McP's I was not anticipating the full bar I was met with, and not only that, everyone seemed to be having the time of their lives. Socializing, drinking, laughing. Everyone seemed to know everyone. It felt like I walked into a party I wasn't invited to.

I am nothing in my soul if not a dive bar girl. Neon lights suspended by chains illuminated the military patches stapled to the posts around the bar. I felt right at home.

I picked up a conversation with Chris Hutton, who has been a regular for around 20 years. He explained that this was not only the premiere Navy SEAL bar, it was one of the last mom-and-pop establishments in Coronado. Hutton said the giant patio attached to the bar used to be a gas station, but due to zoning restrictions, they couldn't build on top of it, so they decided to transform it into a patio. Now the giant outdoor space is a huge selling point, allowing patrons to party right on Orange Avenue, the main artery of Coronado.

Former Navy SEAL Greg McPartlin founded the bar in 1982, and it has been a cornerstone of Coronado's nightlife ever since. With live music four nights a week, a large menu and a great atmosphere, it's easy to see why.

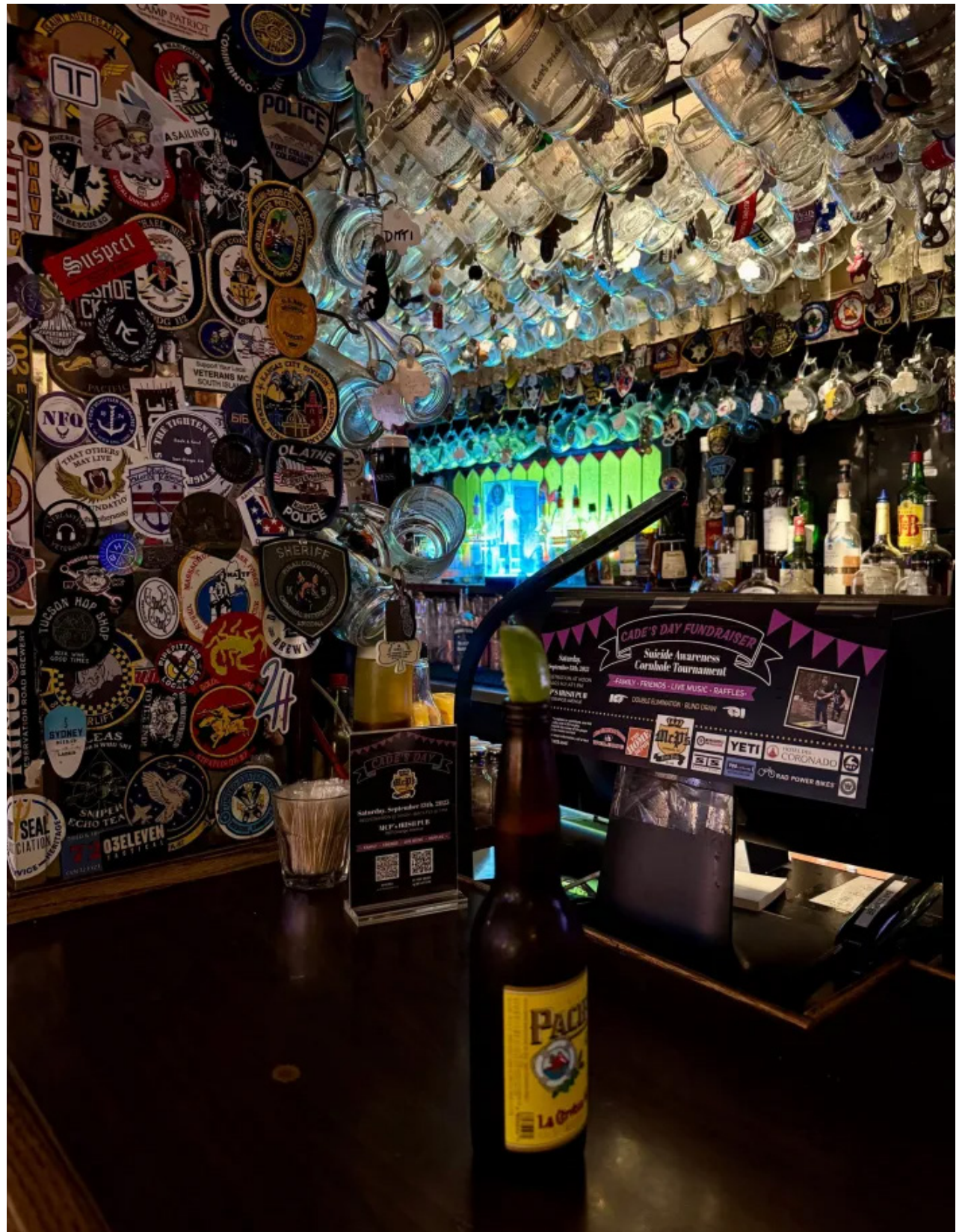
Hutton told me one of the craziest times at McP's was in 2011 on the night Osama bin Laden was killed. He said it was packed, people brought in American flags and calls were coming in from around the country donating money so that members of the military could drink for free.

"They went through eight kegs of Guinness that night," Hutton recalled.

Some patrons recommended I check out Little Club next, wanting to ensure I hit another Coronado classic. Happily, I obliged.

Yet again, I was surprised with how many people were there on a Wednesday night at 11 p.m. Little Club is a dive bar, with plush bar seating, a jukebox and pool table. The lighting was dim and warm with a quieter crowd. Everyone kept to themselves and their hushed conversations. With the exception of three guys in their early 20s, they sang every word to Sade's Kiss of Life over a game of pool.

I ordered a beer and got talking to Caine Noteware, who has been a bartender at Little Club



At McP's, mugs and military patches adorn the ceiling and walls. Staff photo by Lilly Corcoran.

for 17 years. He explained that the client base is pretty consistent, even with the fluctuating tourist seasons.

"Everyone here knows each other... you might not have that connection in places like Gaslamp," Noteware explained.

And this idea seems to be the crux of Coronado's nightlife, rooted in deep community but welcoming to new faces. When I set out to write this story I naively thought it would be a bore, I couldn't have anticipated all the locals and new friends I met along the way that were excited to share part of the Coronado culture with me.

McP's and Little Club aren't your only nightlife options in Coronado, here are some other bars and

restaurants you should consider.

- **Babcock & Story Bar:** open seven days a week, Sunday to Thursday from noon to midnight and open until 1 a.m. Friday and Saturday
- **Coronado Brewing Company:** open seven days a week, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- **Dive:** open seven days a week, Sunday to Thursday 8 a.m. to midnight and Friday and Saturday 8 a.m. to 2 a.m.
- **Danny's Palm Bar & Grill:** open six days a week, Tuesday and Sunday from 2 to 10 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday from 11 a.m. to 1 a.m., Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Contact: lilly@thecoronadonews.com

Imperial Beach mayoral vacancy filled, leaving District 3 councilmember seat open

BY LILLY CORCORAN
The Coronado News

The Imperial Beach City Council swore in Mitch McKay as the city's new mayor at an Aug. 20 meeting, and his empty council seat will now be filled through an appointment and application process.

The string of vacancies on Imperial Beach's council started when Paloma Aguirre, the former mayor, was elected as the District 1 San Diego County supervisor. Following a majority vote, the City Council appointed then Council member McKay to fill the vacancy through November 2026.

This move left the District 3 council seat open.

On Aug. 20, the council debated between beginning an appointment process or calling a special election to fill the spot. A special election in these circumstances was estimated to cost between \$125,000 to \$250,000.



Mitch McKay has been sworn in as the mayor of Imperial Beach. Staff photo by Julieta Soto.

A motion was passed to direct staff to begin preparations to fill the District 3 vacancy by appointment and application process.

To be eligible for the District 3 council

seat applicants must be registered as a voter in the City of Imperial Beach, reside within District 3, be 18 years of age or older, and have not been convicted of a felony "involving accepting

or giving, or offering to give, any bribe, the embezzlement of public money, extortion or theft of public money, perjury, or conspiracy to commit any of those crimes."

The deadline to submit an application is Sept. 10 at 5 p.m. Applications are to be submitted in person to the City Clerk's Department of City Hall and will require prospective applicants to bring a form of identification.

On Sept. 4, the city will hold a candidate information forum. Qualified candidates will be required to attend the regular City Council meeting, taking place on Sept. 17. During this meeting applicants will be interviewed by the City Council. Based on the outcome of these interviews, the council will make an appointment to interview or schedule a second round of interviews.

For more information check out the imperialbeach.gov.

Contact: lilly@thecoronadonews.com

Coronado school board OKs loan to close \$2 million budget shortfall

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make ends meet and reduce the need to identify further reductions.”

According to Salamanca, the options keep the district solvent until Basic Aid, scheduled for 2027-28.

The loan amount totals approximately \$3 million in financing options — a taxable \$1.01 million loan and tax-exempt \$2.10 million loan.

Salamanca presented the board with payment options for the financing as early as September of 2027 and recommended paying off the loans at the earliest possible date to avoid incurring unnecessary interest costs.

“The financing has a 15-year term and can be prepaid earlier at the District’s option,” says the report submitted to the board. “It is expected to generate General Fund savings of over \$700,000 in Fiscal Year 2025-26 and Fiscal Year 2026-27 combined.”

Salamanca said the 2025-26 First Interim Report in December will present the district’s budget solutions, including these financing options, as requested in the county’s letter.

“By taking out the \$2 million we’re providing a little bit of an additional buffer that would have otherwise impacted the general fund which would have had a negative impact on programs,” said Salamanca about the greater loan.

Low enrollment

Amid a budget shortfall, CUSD continues to struggle with declining student enrollment.

The district had 2,778 students enrolled on the first day of school last year.

As of Aug. 18, the first day of the 2025-26 school year, CUSD had 2,691 students enrolled.

This shows a decrease of 87 students

enrolled from the last year, Salamanca told the board, which he said impacts the student-teacher ratio across classroom averages in elementary classrooms.

Duties reassigned

The district’s Director of Special Programs and Director of Adult Education resigned in July.

Earlier this year Superintendent Karl Mueller said the district is focused on reducing the number of employees and is not looking to fill positions following staff resigning or retiring from CUSD.

“After much reflection, CUSD staff made the difficult decision not to hire replacements for these integral members of the district’s management and support team,” says a report Salamanca presented to the board. “Instead, the duties have been redistributed to other team members...”

The report shows 21 director duties were reassigned to seven district departments and staff.

In other matters

- Mueller reported on safety initiatives undertaken over the summer including a new gate installed at Coronado Middle School and the purchase of two-way radio equipment expected to arrive in September. Salamanca said the gate and radios were funded by a grant, U.S. Department of Justice’s School Violence Prevention Program, awarded in 2024.
- The board welcomed Coronado High senior Haissam Kouli, the new student board member.

The next regular board meeting is set for 4 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 11 at the district office.

Contact: julieta@thecoronadonews.com



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How vermin make life – and business – miserable for Coronado restaurateurs

» Continued from Page 1

restaurant a bubble,” said Rogers. “We kept doing that and stuff kept showing up. ... We had a real issue with just the area.”

Rogers, 51, said he has lived in Coronado more than half of his life and believes the presence of rats in Coronado has worsened over the years but he remembers seeing cockroaches locally even as a young boy.

“We’d be fine and then someone else, our neighbor, would spray and the bugs would just move. And then we spray and the bugs would move back,” Rogers said, explaining the phenomenon his business experienced.

Rogers said costs and friction among building landlords prevented what he thought was the only way to really correct the issue affecting an aging building with multiple restaurants: tenting and spraying the entire block.

Rogers said dealing with vermin was one of the reasons Shore Duty permanently closed last year.

“As bad as it sounds,” he added, “you can be vigilant and still get shut down. ... It’s Coronado, what are you going to do?”

The San Diego County Department of Environmental Health and Quality says a “major vermin violation” exists when there is the “presence of cockroaches, mice, rats and similar vermin (that carry disease) within the food facility as evidenced by live bodies, fresh droppings, vomitus, urine stains, or gnaw marks that has resulted or would likely result in contamination of food, equipment, packaging or utensils.”

The department notes that these infestations can lead to diseases such as salmonella, meningitis and hantavirus.

“Our commitment is embedded in our goals and objectives that focus on reducing risks that can lead to food-borne illness,” says the department’s website, emphasizing health and safety for the 2.9 million residents and 14.7 million yearly visitors.

“Rats have unfortunately been a long-standing issue in the streets and alleys of Coronado, and it’s something many local businesses are forced to deal with,” said Alexandra Gallegos Esquer, the owner of Night & Day Cafe.

Coronado is not alone in that struggle.

“Everyone in Southern California is experiencing some [rodent] issues,” said Efrain Velasco, a board-certified entomologist and technical director of Lloyd Pest Control in San Diego. “There’s no real seasonality anymore.”

Velasco said German roaches are found year-round due to temperatures maintained in homes, apartments and restaurants. And now, rodents have mirrored this frequency.

“Since vermin are found throughout San Diego County, a closure of a food facility can occur if the proper steps are not taken to exclude them from a specific location through proper pest control,” said Ryan Johnson, chief of operations in the county’s food, water and housing division.

Closures this year

So far this year, three facilities in Coronado have had vermin-related closures.

County reports show Glorietta Bay Inn, at 1630 Glorietta Blvd., and Coronado Community Center, at 1845 Strand Way, were closed temporarily after a specialist found rodent droppings during respective January and April inspections.

The kitchen at the Community Center is primarily used by catering vendors hired by individuals or groups who rent rooms for private events, explained Kelli Maples, senior management analyst with the City Manager’s Office.

On April 14, the county found a dead mouse in a snap trap underneath a rack used for storage of equipment in a room connected to the kitchen.

Maples said a pest control contractor performed a removal and sweep of the premises followed by a deep clean of the kitchen and storage area.

“The facility was reinspected and reopened without any impacts to any events,” said Maples. “Our staff perform daily inspections of the kitchen, and we continue to have pre- and

post-event inspections with the caterers using the kitchen to ensure we are maintaining the cleanliness and safety of our facility.”

Glorietta Bay Inn could not be reached for comment.

The county’s SD Food Info website grants public access to the most recent inspection information for retail food facilities. Available reports date back to 2022.

Among the Coronado restaurants temporarily closed due to vermin in 2024: Heave Ho Coffee Co (1019 C Ave.), Lobster West (1033 B Ave., Suite 102), Mac Daddy Coronado (1019-1021 C Ave.), Bluewater Boat-house Seafood Grill Coronado (1701 Strand Way), Coronado Yacht Club (1631 Strand Way), Coronado Island Marriott Resort & Spa’s Main Kitchen (2000 2nd St.) and Burger King (1201 1st St., Suite 201).

A Burger King spokesperson said the company prioritizes the health and safety of employees and customers.

Regarding a temporary closing on March 11, 2024 the company said: “The franchisee of this restaurant addressed the issue immediately and passed reinspection the next day. The location has had no issues since and continues to maintain ‘A’ grades from the Health Department.”

Reports indicate Burger King reopened with an “A” grade on March 13, 2024.

In 2023, Hotel Del Coronado’s main kitchen (1500 Orange Ave.) and Silver Strand Exchange at Loews Coronado Bay Resort (4000 Coronado Bay Rd.) also temporarily closed, with reports citing active infestation of cockroaches.

Hotel Del Coronado could not be reached for comment.

Angela Trantham, area director of public relations for Loews Coronado Bay Resort, said Silver Strand Exchange was temporarily closed following a county-issued boil water advisory that year.

“A health inspection followed, and any observations were immediately addressed by our team,” said Trantham. “The (dining) outlet reopened within 48 hours after passing a complete health inspection and has passed every inspection since.”

County records describe a major vermin violation on Aug. 30, 2023.

The report says there were: “Multiple alive adult and nymph brown-banded and German cockroaches (too many to count)” behind a preparation table, refrigerator and beside a pasta preparation area in the facility.

The report says the facility was approved to reopen on Sept. 1 with no health violation cited following county re-inspection.

What does the county’s oversight look like?

Each year, environmental health specialists in San Diego County conduct more than 32,000 inspections at 13,800 permanent retail food facilities across 18 cities, including more than 8,100 restaurants.

The department aims to educate food facilities during annual inspections and offers online resources to encourage “active managerial controls” to prevent vermin issues year-round, said Johnson.

“Our focus during inspections is to ensure the public’s health and safety,” he added. “If a vermin infestation is identified, the facility must be ordered closed until the problem has been properly resolved.”

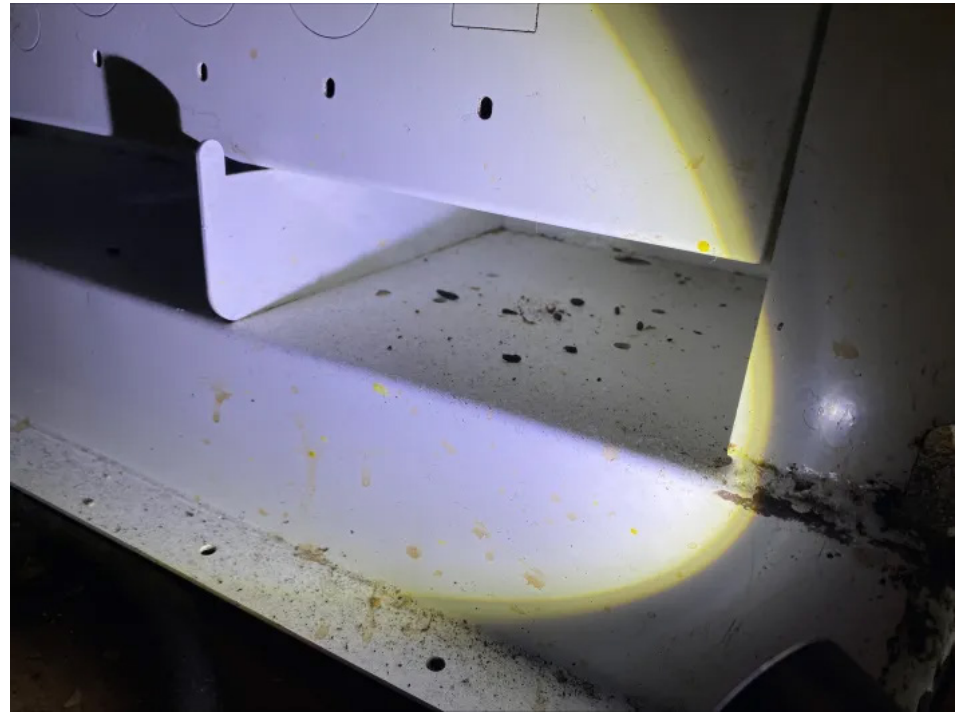
County specialists conduct at least one unscheduled, routine inspection per year for restaurants. There are up to two additional routine inspections for facilities ordered closed or downgraded.

Johnson said the department also conducts additional inspections when complaints are received from the public. Business operators are given direction on steps needed to correct an identified issue, he said.

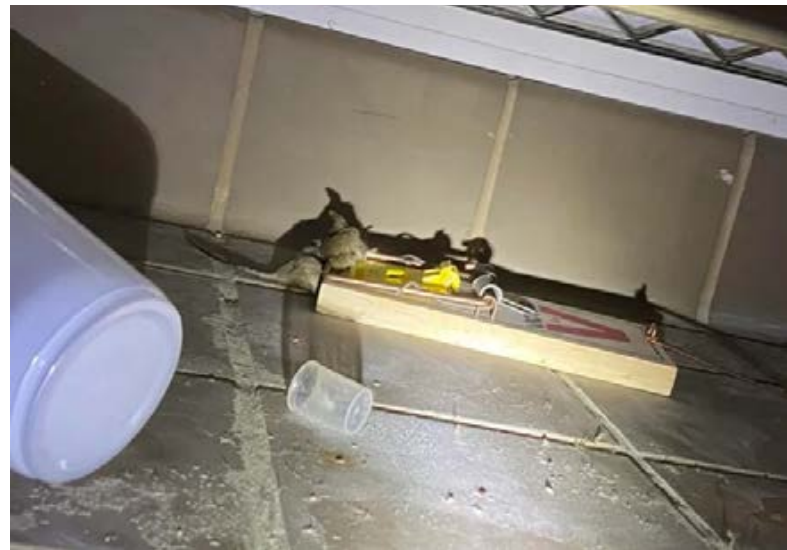
Following inspections, facilities earn letter-grade report cards that must be displayed near public entrances during hours of operation.

The state’s standardized “Food Inspection Report” used by inspectors lists all possible violations, from major to minor, according to the county’s Food Program website.

If a facility has an imminent health hazard, it is required to close and inspectors issue a “CLOSED” sign that lists the reason.



Rodent droppings found during a health inspection at a Coronado eatery.
Photo from San Diego County Health Services records.



A dead mouse in a snap trap observed during an inspection of a facility in Coronado.

Photo from San Diego County Health Services records.

“A closed food facility must remain closed until written authorization to re-open is given by this department,” the page says. “All major violations must be corrected or a suitable alternative must be implemented before the facility is granted permission to re-open. The CLOSED sign is then replaced with a grade card.”

If inspectors observe repeated major violations in a food facility, they will schedule an administrative hearing where the food facility owner meets with the inspector and a supervisor to develop a plan for improvement.

“When we talk about closures that’s just a single point in time but also we have to work with facilities that have multiple closures and have that continued non-compliance,” Johnson explained in a webinar earlier this year. “When that happens, we have to start our enforcement process which leads us into scheduling an administrative hearing.”

In the fiscal year of 2024-25, the county temporarily closed 799 restaurants due to health and safety concerns – 668 of those being due to vermin, according to Donna Durckel, a communications officer at the county.

For successful inspections, facilities must take proper steps to clean, treat, seal up cracks and holes to prevent further harborage of vermin.

When facilities can verify they no longer have an infestation, they call and request a reopening inspection.

The county’s website says minor violations do not directly cause food-borne illnesses but could lead to imminent health hazards if left uncorrected.

“Protecting public health is a top priority for the County of San Diego,” said Durckel. “When a major risk factor violation is observed, our environmental health inspectors ensure the violation is corrected while onsite or we close the restaurant until the violation is eliminated and it is safe to again serve food to the public.”

A major vermin violation is an “active infestation by rodents or vectors that are disease carriers that would likely result in the contamination of food-contact surfaces or adulteration of foods and will warrant an immediate closure,” explains the department online.

“Our staff, we are trained to find vermin as part of our inspection process,” Johnson said. “We really want to empower our food facilities to do the exact same thing.”

A business owner’s experience

Shore Duty temporarily closed on Oct. 24, 2024 after an inspector found live and dead German cockroaches and rodent droppings.

The facility also was found out of

compliance with vermin-proofing.

“We thought we were doing everything we could,” said Rogers. “It was a really big building. It’s stuff that we didn’t really think about because we weren’t using the basement area. We had to go in and seal everything in the basement.”

A report says Shore Duty was clear of vermin but was still out of compliance with requirements for food storage and other issues when the business reopened with an “A” grade on Oct. 26.

“The entire area — I don’t care if it’s Coronado or San Diego — there’s lots of vermin,” said Rogers, a years-long restaurant owner who co-founded Shore Duty in the middle of last year.

Rogers said he believes the county began enforcing new standards and performing unusually thorough inspections around that same time.

“They’re being extra thorough, so it’s not just a Coronado thing. It’s a San Diego County-wide thing,” he said. “The reason I think they’re doing it is they’re using it to monetize it. ... they’re kind of picking on restaurants a little bit more than they have in the past.”

Johnson said there have been no changes to state law or county procedures regarding steps to be taken when a food facility is found to have a vermin infestation.

“If a facility is found to be operating with an imminent health hazard present, our staff will take the necessary steps to protect the public until such a time that the issues have been properly resolved,” he added. “Because we are mandated by the Board of Supervisors to be full cost recovery for our programs, there are additional fees for service that a facility will be invoiced for if they are found to be operating with an imminent health hazard and did not take steps themselves to proactively close and treat their facility.”

Inspection reports say a facility is allowed one free re-inspection per fiscal year while all subsequent re-inspections are assessed a fee. Additionally, two downgrades or closures within an 18-24 month period will result in an administrative hearing.

Johnson said sites requesting a reopening inspection are billed at a program rate of \$194 per hour.

As of July 1, an administrative hearing costs \$784, according to the county’s fee schedule.

An Oct. 24 report says Shore Duty was issued an administrative hearing, totaling \$776 after it was ordered closed and continued service for two to three hours.

“Specialist discussed with facility operator that refusing to stop operations when a closure has been issued

» Continued on next page

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may result in an administrative hearing with applicable fees to apply," says the report.

According to Rogers, his team refused to comply because cockroaches and rodent droppings were found in a non-food area, the basement.

"Everything was in the basement," Rogers said. "I don't remember any of that being upstairs."

Rogers said Shore Duty had to correct findings specified on the report, which included cleaning, pressure washing everything and spraying for pests.

"Usually you spray once a month," said Rogers, at a cost of \$200. "We were spraying weekly after that. ... We went way overkill."

Landlord disputes about a deteriorating building and other maintenance costs that caused them to flunk the county's health inspection led to Shore Duty's permanent closure in December, Rogers said.

"You're not going to get a lot of sympathy from people," he added. "...It probably hurt our entire block when people learned that all these businesses are getting shut down for vermin. The locals talk ... and I get it. I mean, I'm a local too."

In the same month that Shore Duty temporarily closed, Villa Nueva Bakery, at 956 Orange Ave., also temporarily closed due to major violations of proper reheating and vermin. It reopened two days later with an "A" grade.

But on April 30, 2025 the establishment was once more ordered closed due to observed rodent droppings, accumulation of shredded debris and short gray hair and fruit and drain flies.

That visit was a routine follow up inspection, according to the report.

Additional violations were for improper refrigeration and contaminated food. It was also out of compliance with refrigerated raw foods, clean nonfood contact surfaces, equipment and vermin-proofing.

The establishment reopened on May 1, 2025 with an "A" grade.

"We just want to kindly clarify that Villa Nueva Bakery reopened the very next day after our recent health inspection," management posted to a Facebook group on May 5. "The vermin issue noted is something many businesses in Coronado are currently facing, but we acted immediately and resolved the situation in under 24 hours. We're proud to share that we've since been awarded an A rating for cleanliness. We truly appreciate your continued support."

The business passed a subsequent re-inspection on May 21.

Entomologists on closures

Chow-Yang Lee, professor and endowed presidential chair in Urban Entomology at the University of California, Riverside, said cockroaches — especially the German cockroach — rats and mice are major pests in food establishments.

As a customer, Lee said he would stop patronizing his favorite restaurant if he discovered it had a serious cockroach or rat infestation.

With 30 years of researching the behavioral, ecological, and physiological adaptations of cockroaches to inform urban pest management, Lee said stopping these pests is a routine challenge that requires consistent attention.

"Many of these pests are potential



Rodent droppings found beside plastic spice bottles during a health inspection at a Coronado eatery. Photo from San Diego County Health Services records.

contaminant agents of pathogens that could cause food poisoning and other gastrointestinal complications," he added.

Lee said a low-level German cockroach infestation can often be managed through proper sanitation practices and control methods like toxicant bait.

But that is not the case for a severe infestation wherein one or more cockroaches crawl around sometimes in the dining area.

Lee said that "is nearly impossible because it is a costly process requiring appropriate treatment strategies."

"Many German cockroach populations have developed resistance to commonly used insecticides," Lee explained, pointing out spray applications are often ineffective. "Unfortunately, many restaurant owners tend to take action only when the infestation has already reached a critical level, making it much more difficult for pest management professionals to control or eliminate the population."

To prevent both, Lee stressed the critical importance of limiting resources pests need to survive and reproduce: food, moisture and harborage.

"It is essential for food establishments to engage pest management professionals for regular inspections and timely application of appropriate treatments," he added. "Waiting until a problem becomes severe before taking action is not advisable."

Velasco, another years-long entomologist, can usually walk into a restaurant and tell if there's roaches or rodents, he said.

"I'm not scared of going into a restaurant that I don't know very well, that has passed county inspection," said Velasco.

Temporary closures on Orange Avenue

Almost half of the food facility closures in Coronado due to vermin infestations during the past three years were on a 12-blocks stretch of Coronado's main street, Orange Avenue, from First Street through Rh Dana Place.

Most of the establishments have steered clear of additional temporary closures.

A majority of the owners declined to address inquiries for this story or could not be reached.

One said the business was under different ownership during the temporary closure. Another said they have always maintained professional pest control, an internal maintenance team and high standards for cleanliness and food safety.

Parakeet Juicery, at 1138 Orange Ave., is where the rodents were found on Aug. 16, 2022 and then temporarily closed upon site investigation due to vermin infestation.

According to a report, the inspector responded to a complaint.

"Specialist observed rodent droppings in the mop sink closet, ... 4 dead rodents contained in activated traps in the overhead box storage area as well as gnaw marks on cardboard boxes," the report says. "No food contamination observed at time of inspection."

During an inspection the following day, the specialist reviewed pest control invoices over the prior 24 hours and conducted a thorough search of the facility, specifically in areas where vermin activity was previously observed.

After no evidence of an ongoing infestation was observed during that re-inspection, the facility was approved to re-open, the closure sign was removed and replaced with a grade "A" card.

Night & Day Cafe, at 847 Orange Ave., also temporarily closed due to vermin on June 13, 2022: "Observed several live cockroaches in the kitchen and ware washing areas," the report says.

The manager of the facility then was able to show pest control invoices dating from two weeks prior. Three days later, the business earned a letter "A" card from the same inspector, who found zero health violations in a re-inspection.

Gallegos Esquer, the current owner of Night & Day Cafe, said the vermin issue occurred before she and her husband took over ownership.

"Since then," she added, "we've had zero incidents."

As an extra precaution, Gallegos Esquer said, the couple sealed a small attic space and added a tighter spring to the cafe's back door so it stays closed.

"We take a lot of pride in the fact that we've had — and continue to maintain — zero activity or incidents at Night & Day since then," she added. "Cleanliness and compliance have always been a top priority, and we've worked hard to keep our space safe, clean, and welcoming for both our team and our guests."

Five other Coronado eateries have been temporarily shut down by health inspectors during the past three years for vermin, according to a list maintained by the county:

- Village Pizzeria, at 1206 Orange Ave., temporarily closed on Nov. 6, 2023, after inspectors found rodent droppings beside machinery, alongside the front service counter, a storage area not connected to the main kitchen and in the basement. The facility reopened the next day earning an "A" card.
- Fonda Don Diego, the former business name of a facility currently operating as "Rosemary Trattoria," at 120 Orange Ave., temporarily closed more than once in 2024 due to a German cockroach infestation beginning on Feb. 28. The facility reopened on March 1 with an "A" grade card, but was shut down again Aug. 8, 2024. The restaurant failed reinspections on Aug. 9, Aug. 10 and Aug. 12. On Aug. 14, the restaurant reopened with an "A" grade.
- Saiko Sushi, at 116 Orange Ave., temporarily closed on June 4, 2024, following an inspection where rodent droppings and dead roaches were observed in multiple locations. The facility reopened the next day with an "A" grade.
- Danny's Pub, at 965 Orange Ave., temporarily closed July 31, 2024 due to major violations like holding temperatures, adulterated food and proper sewage disposal system. It reopened on Aug. 8 with an "A" grade, but closed again Sept. 5 due to a German cockroach infestation and non-compliance with cleanliness, vermin-proofing and structure requirements. The facility reopened on Sept. 10 with an "A" grade.
- Nicky Rottens, at 104 Orange Ave., temporarily closed on Oct. 23, 2024, due to rodent droppings found atop a storage rack, underneath electrical panels and in the corner beside a refrigerator. The report also says dead German cockroaches were found on glue monitors in an upstairs dry storage area. The facility reopened the following day with an "A" grade.

"Vermin is a San Diego thing, especially a Coronado thing that we see," said Rogers, who co-owned Shore Duty. "So long as you don't see people closing because of hand-washing or temperature or hygiene issues, that speaks volumes. ... As much as it hurts restaurants, I completely understand and agree with the standards that the health department's trying to impose."

Contact: julieta@thecoronadonews.com

Scripps scientists are working on swimmer illness risk forecasts

» Continued from Page 1

"They have collected water samples for us to test for norovirus," said Feddersen, who added his team is using the county's ddPCR Enterococcus data. "Phase two will entail a norovirus pathogen ecology module as well as perform a process called 'data assimilation' to improve the forecasts. Data assimilation is something that is routinely done in the weather forecasting world."

New web dashboard

The current tool, developed with funding from the state of California, has years in the making and follows previous studies that show how the untreated sewage flows entering the ocean at San Antonio de los Bue-

nos travel north during summer currents.

Four sources of information feed the online dashboard's forecast: weather forecast, offshore ocean and tide forecast, wave forecast, and river flow forecast.

In a YouTube video available on the dashboard, Feddersen says the color key — including red, yellow and green — represents the percentage of sewage at the ocean surface, indicating swimmer illness risk. The tool can be applied to the Playas de Tijuana, Imperial Beach Pier, Silver Strand and Coronado Avenida Lunar shorelines.

The colors indicate swimmer illness risk based on sewage percentage as follows:

- Red indicates high risk represent-

ing greater than 0.1% sewage

- Yellow indicates moderate risk at values between 0.001% and 0.1% sewage
- Green indicates low risk at values less than 0.001% sewage

According to Feddersen, those percentages are based on 2021 findings about human health risk monitoring of norovirus that show the value of 0.1% sewage corresponds to a 10% risk of swimmer illness and a value of 0.001% sewage corresponds to a 1% risk of swimmer illness.

"This forecast is experimental, no one has ever done anything like this before" said Feddersen who noted the forecast has 82% accuracy. "We're gonna get it right a good chunk of the time, but not all the time."

The dashboard, however, is not a

beach advisory or closure tool.

Official beach water quality conditions are available at <http://www.sdbeachinfo.com/>, as reported daily by the County of San Diego Beach & Bay Water Quality Monitoring Program.

On Aug. 20, the county and the city of San Diego began the installation of new warning signs alerting the public about the health risks from hydrogen sulfide gas in sections of the Tijuana River Valley Regional Park and Saturn Boulevard.

Earlier this year federal health survey results found that South Bay residents experience health symptoms including headaches and nausea related to the sewage crisis.

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MILITARY

Vice Adm. James and Sybil Stockdale award presented to North Island couple

Aviation Maintenance Administrationman First Class Toby Lehr (far right) and his wife, Rebecca (second from right), were presented with the Vice Adm. James and Sybil Stockdale Community Service award by the Coronado Chamber of Commerce during the chamber's Military Appreciation Day event on Aug. 3. Lehr is the assistant lead petty officer at the Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit (CNATTU) North Island.

The prestigious award recognizes Navy couples who have demonstrated their leadership qualities both professionally and personally. Also pictured are (from left): Naval Base Coronado Commanding Officer Capt. Loren Jacobi, Chamber boardmember Mike Woiwode, and Sid and Taylor Stockdale, sons of Vice Adm. and Mrs. Stockdale, who presented the award to the Lehr couple.



Photo by Jerron Barnett.

USS Pierre heading to San Diego following commissioning

DVIDS

The U.S. Navy will commission the future USS Pierre (LCS 38), an Independence-variant littoral combat ship, in Panama City, Florida, on Nov. 15.

Following the commissioning, the Pierre will transit to its new homeport in San Diego.

Pierre is the 19th, and final, Independence-variant littoral combat ship constructed. It is the third ship named in honor of South Dakota's capital city, and the second Navy warship to bear the name.



The USS Pierre will head to San Diego after its commissioning.

Photo courtesy of Austal USA.

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SPORTS

Q&A: CHS girls volleyball coach shares outlook for 2025-26 season

BY ELAINE ALFARO
The Coronado News

Coronado High School's girls volleyball team reached a peak last year; the momentum they set early in the season came up just short of CIF victory.

The team won the first league title – it had been a decade since the team clinched that title. They also won 25 consecutive games in a two-month span, and they won more than two-thirds of their matches in straight sets. Among other accomplishments, last season's successful run prior to CIFs earned them top ranking among 22 Division II programs.

The loss in the CIF semifinals was unexpected, but coach Adeile Ahmu said that it lit a fire in returning players. Heading into the 2025-26 season, The Coronado News spoke with Ahmu about the team this year, especially as they step into the more competitive Western League and CIF Division I. Responses are edited for clarity and brevity.

Question: How is the team shaping up this season? How did tryouts go?

Adeile Ahmu: Tryouts were pretty extensive. We had a lot of returning underclassmen that were trying out. So, for the first couple of days, there were a lot of girls just putting their best foot forward, and we were really looking to fill two major roles that we lost last year in our offense.

So, [we were] taking a look at all the centers and the hitters that were coming out. That's what the coaches were looking for, and that's what we were looking for to fill in. We got a couple of new surprises. We got some transfers that came out from Washington, due to military purposes, so it was refreshing to see new talent on the court. We kept a pretty big team this year, [as] opposed to last year. I was looking for a lot of depth in the lineup, so I was also looking for a couple more defenders, like defensive specialists, to help us out just with our passing and our defense.

CN: Like you mentioned, last year's team was pretty small. Why did you want to make the team bigger this year?

AA: I think because we have a very large senior class... I wanted to make sure that there weren't too many gaps we had to fill next year. We took an older JV team as well... The focus point is always the current year. But when you have a large senior class like we did this year, I'm always kind of looking ahead to make sure that it's not too much of a stressor next year when tryouts come out.

Q: With navigating this new team, how have you guys been working on building that sense of team rapport that really drives a successful team?

Ahmu: Oh, that's a good question. That was a big thing. They're new. Even though we had a lot of returning players, they're still getting to know the new kids on the team and we do a lot of cooperative communication drills.

And hopefully, that really helps [and] forces them to communicate on the court with each other during ball play. So for me, it's just a lot of repetitive drills where we have to communicate.

Their goal is to communicate because the skill is there. They have the skills. They just need to work on putting it all together.

With the seniors that are coming back, like Avalon [Haro] and Lydia [Schutt] and Ari [Van Handel], they've been on the team the longest, and they're setting their leadership qualities out on the court. So hopefully they can all mesh well as we continue to practice and take some



Coach Adeile Ahmu shared vision and hope for the 2025-26 volleyball season. Credit: Kellie Schneider

time off the court and hang out. Things like that so the girls can get acquainted.

Q: You mentioned leadership... Have the captains for the season been chosen, and if so, what qualities do they have that make them good candidates for this team?

Ahmu: We just picked captains this week, and the big thing with me was just consistency, communication and setting examples for the team. I gave them two weeks to show their leadership on the court and, not just during the games, but practice wise and off court situations.

We went with Ashlynn Proctor as a captain [and] a new face on the team, Angelique Bernard. She came in, and she's been dealt a pretty bum hand. She can't play; she's a sit out transfer. So, she took on the role in our tournament – she kept our bench really hyped. She made sure that everybody was engaged. She inserted herself giving service areas, which was totally fine with me because that's one less thing I have to worry about.

I can focus on the team, on the court. She took that role, and she led our service runs a lot. And then, we went with Alyssa Jovero. She's a big force on the court when she's on the court. She's our defensive specialist. She's always the first one there and the last one to leave. So, we went that route with our captains.

Q: I want to take us back to last year. It was a banner year for the team, a lot of accolades and accomplishments in the span of a season. How do you hope to keep that momentum going for the team this year following that banner year?

Ahmu: Keeping a winning mindset and making sure that the girls are locked in – that's the goal. Always be better than the last year. I mean, that year, it's gone. It's over; it's a new year. And you got to keep that mindset and make sure that you're out there to give it your all. The goal is to win. What are we going to do as a team to get there? That takes a lot of buying into the program, buying into your leadership, buying into everything that we're doing. And hopefully, the girls can keep that mindset this year. I mean, they've already been talking about trying to win league again.

We went back into the [opening] tournament, the same tournament we opened up with last year. We came in second last year against San Marcos. That was the only loss that we had in that tournament. And then, it was almost like

a repeat this year. We came back here. We lost to Bishops on the first day, two and one, same thing. And then we met them up in the championship.

I gave [the team] a quick pep talk before we went into the semifinals. I said, "Hey, we got to win together. This is your time now to either lock in and work together and win or only think about yourself and you can possibly lose this game." They brought it. They were very loud on the court. They worked hard to play defense. We came out on top...

Q: Like you said, it's a new season. But for the returners who were on the team last year, that loss in the Division II semifinals last year, that was tough to watch.

Ahmu: That was really heartbreaking.

Q: Do they still think about that, or walk me through what's motivating them this season?

Ahmu: When we lost that match, at the end of the match, we were leaving. The girls were like, "We'll be here next year. We don't want to feel the same way we feel now." I think that's a really big driving force for them. They're going to continue to put their best foot forward, but they don't ever want to feel that. They knew they could have taken that game.

They knew they could've beat them. They're going to do their homework better this time. They want to win. Most of them are seniors that are returning from last year, I think five out of the seven that returned are seniors.

They want to have a fun season. They want to make sure that they're not stressing each other out, but they also know that this team also can take them very far. They just got to work together.

Q: Looking ahead, which teams do you think will be some of your toughest opponents this year? And is there anything you guys are going to be doing specifically as you prepare to face off those teams?

Ahmu: We were bumped into Western League, which is probably the toughest league in the City Conference – those are Cathedral Catholic, OLP, Christian and Scripps Ranch.

I think all of those teams are very competitive. I think we'll probably, like everybody else, be competing against Cathedral, who is No. 2 or No. 1 in the state. They're a very competitive team. I told the girls, "Hey, we can compete. We've competed before and all we have to do is keep our game simple and make sure that we are fundamentally sound when we go into this game, because they're big." We're big too. They hit hard; we hit hard. We just have to make sure that we're ready to defend, pass and serve.

To be honest, my game is to keep it simple as possible with as much defense as possible. I don't want to get too fancy out there.

Q: Is there anything else you'd like to share or add about this coming season or the team in general?

Ahmu: These girls are ready to compete. I think their self-esteem and their confidence is really high, and it's something that's going to carry them... I mean, we have great leadership on the court and on the sideline, with all our seniors that are returning, like Lydia and Avalon, who've been there for four years. They know what it takes. They've been here and they're ready to help lead their team.

We would love for our stands to be packed. Hopefully, we get more people to come in and watch our games.

To check out the team's schedule, visit <https://www.maxpreps.com/ca/coronado/coronado-islanders/volleyball/schedule/>

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BUD/S Class 29 reunion and lawn bowling

During the UTD/SEAL West Coast reunion, the Coronado Lawn Bowling Club hosted a lawn bowling event for the Magnificent Seven (MAG 7), comprised of seven officers who graduated BUD/S Class 29 in 1962 and became SEALs in SEAL Team One. Pictured from left: Lt. Perry Wooten, Lt. Willy White, Capt. Martin McNair, Lt. Will Sawyer, and Lt. Pete Nair. Deceased: Cmdr. John Boyd and Capt. Brooks Wrightnour.

Photo provided by Ted Sawyer.



SPORTS

Tatis makes spectacular leaping catch to rob Devers of a home run

Associated Press

San Diego right fielder Fernando Tatis Jr. made a sensational leaping catch to rob San Francisco's Rafael Devers of a home run in the first inning on Aug. 20 in the Padres' 8-1 victory.

The left-handed Devers lifted a high fly ball off left-hander JP Sears with one out. Tatis tracked it to his left, perfectly timed his leap and got his glove above the wall to make the catch. When he came back down, he landed on his backside and sat against the wall for a

moment. He popped up and tossed the ball from his glove to his right hand and threw it in.

Sears pointed and smiled at Tatis.

Tatis then hit a leadoff double and scored on Ryan O'Hearn's two-out single.

Devers hit one of the Giants' three home runs in the first inning Monday night in a 4-3 victory.

It was the latest home run robbery for Tatis, who took a two-run shot away from Mark Vientos of the New York Mets on July 28.

"It's absolutely huge," manager Mike Shildt said. "You're talking

about right off the (get-go) again. ... He makes so many great plays, it's like routine greatness. That was just pure greatness. There's a lot of good players in this league, but if you put his body of work together and he's not the Platinum/Gold Glove winner, then I want a recount."

Tatis began his career as a short-stop and was an All-Star in 2021. After missing the 2022 season with injuries and a PED suspension, he was moved to right field in 2023 and won both the NL Gold Glove Award and the Platinum Glove Award.



San Diego Padres right fielder Fernando Tatis Jr. makes a catch at the wall during the first inning against the San Francisco Giants on Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2025, in San Diego. Meg McLaughlin/The San Diego Union-Tribune via AP.



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SPORTS

Padres put outfielder Jackson Merrill on injured list with sprained left ankle

Associated Press

Outfielder Jackson Merrill was placed on the San Diego Padres' 10-day injured list as he recovers from a sprained left ankle.

The Padres put Merrill on the list on Aug. 23 for the third time this season, making this move retroactive to Aug. 20.

The Padres made the move before they surged into first place in the NL West with a 5-1 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers at Petco Park. San Diego has won five straight without Merrill, who has missed their last six games since Aug. 17 after spraining his ankle last weekend at Dodger Stadium.

"I'm just proud of our boys," Merrill said. "They're grinding it out right now, and I can't appreciate them more."

"I want to play right now," Merrill said. "I think these aren't must-win games, but they're very fun games to play in. I was just really excited and looking forward to this week, but we're winning, and that's all that matters."

San Diego waited to make the roster move until it was clear Merrill couldn't get fully healthy within the 10-day window. Merrill and Shildt said the outfielder wanted to play through the injury, but the Padres elected to be cautious.

"It's been in flux the last couple of days," Shildt said. "Jackson had a willingness to go out and play a little compromised, and I feel like he could definitely do it ... but we looked up and did the math, and if he's ready for (next week), he can go ahead and do his rehab, and we feel like it's his best



San Diego Padres' Jackson Merrill, Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2025. AP Photo/Jeff Chiu.

opportunity."

Merrill has been moving with a limp since he rolled his ankle at the plate on Aug. 15, also incurring a bone bruise. He still played in two more games before sitting out.

Merrill is batting .261 with nine homers and 51 RBIs this season after finishing as the runner-up for the NL Rookie of the Year award in 2024. He hasn't been able to maintain his formidable rookie production in his sophomore season, with his OPS dropping from .826 to .729, but he has remained a steady offensive contributor and an excellent defender in center field.

Merrill also spent time on the injured list this season with a hamstring problem in April and a concussion in June.

"It's been really up and down," Merrill said. "It's all flukes, and I don't think there's much I can control besides getting better. I'm just going to focus on the future right now."

Ramón Laureano has replaced Merrill in center, and Gavin Sheets has taken over in left field. Laureano delivered a key two-run single in the fourth inning of the Padres' victory on Aug. 23.

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SPORTS

Maria Sharapova, Bryan brothers to be inducted into Tennis Hall of Fame

Associated Press

Maria Sharapova has never been the type to look back on her accomplishments. Joining the International Tennis Hall of Fame has given her a chance to do just that.

“Wow, there was a lot of sacrifice. There was a lot of hard work,” she said on Friday, a day before she was to be enshrined along with the dominating doubles brothers, Bob and Mike Bryan. “And, boy, was it worth it.”

One of 10 women ever to win an individual career Grand Slam, the telegenic Sharapova became an instant star when she won Wimbledon in 2004, beating two-time defending champion Serena Williams in the final. She also won the U.S. Open in 2006, the Australian Open in 2008 and the French Open in 2012 and 2014 and was the first Russian to reach No. 1 in the WTA singles rankings.

Sharapova also helped Russia win the team competition now known as the Billie Jean King Cup in 2008, and she claimed a silver medal in singles at the 2012 Olympics, losing to Williams in the final.

And she earned millions of dollars more in endorsement deals than prize money, appearing in fashion shoots and sharing the cover of the Sports Illustrated swimsuit edition with supermodels.

Sharapova retired in 2020 at age 32 after a 15-year career that was interrupted by multiple shoulder surgeries and a 15-month doping ban after she tested positive for the newly banned drug meldonium at the 2016



FILE - Maria Sharapova of Russia holds the trophy after winning the women's final match against Sara Errani of Italy at the French Open tennis tournament in Roland Garros stadium in Paris, June 9, 2012. AP Photo/Michel Euler, File.

*“Wow, there was a lot of sacrifice.
There was a lot of hard work.
... And, boy, was it worth it.”*

- Maria Sharapova

Australian Open. (The initial two-year penalty was shortened by the Court of Arbitration for Sport, which ruled that she bore “less than significant fault” in the case and could not “be considered to be an intentional doper.”)

Sharapova got a tour of the remodeled Hall in Newport, Rhode Island, on Friday and said she was giddy like

a teenager as the induction ceremony approached to reconnect with people who had been so important in her career.

“There’s the feeling that you have to walk through those halls,” she said. “You realize you’re a small part of such a bigger piece, the history of our game and all the athletes that just accomplished what they have.”

Twins who won a record 16 major titles in men’s doubles together, Bob and Mike Bryan spent 438 weeks as the No. 1 doubles pair. (Mike Bryan is actually the career leader with 18 major men’s doubles titles; he won two with Jack Sock while Bob was injured in 2018.)

They also helped the U.S. to the 2007 Davis Cup title and won the gold medal at the 2012 Olympics — an occasion that is already noted in the Hall’s exhibits.

“Just walking through and seeing ... all the people we idolized and their relics in there, and then coming down the hallway and seeing our shirt that we wore at the Olympics is incredible,” Bob Bryan said. “It’s humbling.”

Hall president Patrick McEnroe was captain of the Davis Cup-winning team in 2007 — the last for the Americans. Bob Bryan was the captain of the U.S. team that failed to end the drought in Spain last year.

“That Davis Cup and playing for their country in the Olympics, I know was very important to them,” the younger brother of Hall of Famer John McEnroe said. “Something that I grew up with, my brother and I, from our parents, was that if you had ever had the chance to represent your country, you do it.”

About 16 hours before the induction ceremony, Sharapova said she had her speech about 80% written. In a rare instance of being on different pages, the Bryans quibbled over whether they were going to give one speech, together, or two.

“I think I’m going to wing it,” Bob Bryan said.

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