

THE CORONADO NEWS

Merry Christmas

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CORONADO GIRLS' WATER POLO



CHS water polo coach David Throop is coaching the girls' team. Photo by Kelly Moore.

UNDEFEATED

Coronado girls' water polo off to 8-0 start this season

BY CADE MICHAELSON
The Coronado News

Roughly a year after finishing the season with 10 consecutive losses for a record of 3-17, the 2025-26 Coronado High School girls' water polo team is off to as good a start as possible.

In head coach David Throop's first season at the helm, and after making the move from Division 1 to Division 2, the Islanders are 8-0 and have outscored opponents 114-47 in that span.

Throop said increased preseason training – which the Islanders did not have last year – may be key to the team camaraderie and early success.

“Part of that is learning aspects of a system, but most importantly, the camaraderie and teamwork that grew from those early trainings,” he added.

As evidenced by the wide scoring margin for the Islanders over the course of the season thus far, protecting the goal has been a high priority. Throop said the defense has been working well as a collective unit, with sophomore Inah Bingham, junior Ellie Machin and sophomore Aniella Orgill serving as the anchors.

“Our ‘help’ defense has been a nice element,” Throop said. “It still needs some work, but the girls are doing a good job of helping back to the center of the pool to neutralize positional advantages.”

Meanwhile, freshmen Audrey Roberts and Baleri Garces are leading the team

» Continued on Page 12

The United States and Mexico sign Minute 333

A new agreement for the U.S. and Mexican sections of the International Boundary and Water Commission plans to address the ongoing Tijuana River sewage crisis

BY JULIETA SOTO
The Coronado News

The U.S. and Mexico signed a new agreement, Minute 333, outlining project timelines for both countries to reduce cross-border sewage pollution from Tijuana.

David Fotouhi, deputy administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), unveiled Minute 333 on Dec. 15 calling it another “historic milestone” in the federal administration's effort to urgently and permanently end the crisis.

Fotouhi said Minute 333 includes infrastructure projects, research, enhanced monitoring, and planning for operation and maintenance of critical sites and systems that will account for future population growth in Tijuana.

“This is a key component that was missing from previous agreements made prior to the Trump administration,” said Fotouhi.

“With the signing of this minute, the United States has met all of its 2025 obligations under the (memorandum of understanding),” he added. “Notably, Minute 333 does not obligate any additional U.S. taxpayer funding, including for Mexican side

» Continued on Page 8



The Tijuana River runs through this canal. Staff photo by Madeline Yang.

Rotary Santa program spreads Christmas Eve cheer in Coronado

The program, in its 96th year, anticipates delivering up to 500 gifts to Coronado families this 2025 Christmas Eve

BY JULIETA SOTO
The Coronado News

“Ho! Ho! Ho!”

That is the magical greeting being heard by Coronado residents as the local Rotary Club continues its annual

gift-giving program this Christmas Eve.

According to the club, Santa Claus will stop at hundreds of homes in Coronado marking the 96th year of memorable visits for everyone from newborns to 90-year-old residents.

“Its a group effort,” said Coronado resident Bob Syverson, who co-chairs the Rotary Santa Program. “It’s a labor of love for everyone.”

Syverson, alongside other Rotarians like his wife, Debby, and Tim

Hodges, spent 23 hours collecting gifts at Chase Bank beginning Dec. 17. These gifts, addressed to homes all over Coronado, are delivered on Christmas Eve through the Santa program.

The evening of Dec. 22 marked the conclusion of gift collections.

This year, Santa and elves will be transported around town by reindeer, delivering gifts in what Syverson calls “a family affair.”

“It’s a way that they spend Christmas Eve together,” said Syverson. “It’s just fun for them.”

A ‘spirit of the season’ tradition

Syverson said gift deliveries in the past have included a horse, puppies and engagement rings.

Coronado resident Dan’l Steward remembers Santa delivering a teddy bear to his daughter, D’amy, when she was an infant.

» Continued on Page 8

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★ ★ ★ INSIDE THIS ISSUE ★ ★ ★

Opinion/Letters
Local News

4
6-9

Military
Sports

10
12-15

this week

28 • Sunday

The Coronado Ferry Landing is slated to host a free weekend concert on Dec. 28 from 1 to 4 p.m. featuring the band The Exit.

28 • Sunday

Today is the last day to attend Lamb's Players Theatre's annual festival of Christmas, featuring a show titled "Let it be Christmas" that explores the way the season builds community. Sunday will have a matinee showing at 2 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at lambplayers.org.

29 • Monday

A bimonthly program at the Coronado Public Library invites children ages seven and older to sculpt a work of art using quick dry clay. Register for the event, on Dec. 29 at 3:30 p.m., at coronado.librarycalendar.com.

31 • Wednesday

Children are invited to the Coronado Public Library at 11 a.m. to celebrate the new year with a 2026 headband, streamers and a balloon drop at noon sharp.

CONTACT US

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

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

AROUND THE COMMUNITY

A festive family feud to be hosted at Spreckels Center

Coronado News staff

As the holiday season comes to a close, the John D. Spreckels Center invites the community to join a "Family Feud: Snowy Showdown" on Dec. 30, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Four teams will be formed to face off in a friendly, fast-paced competition to guess the most popular answers to holiday-themed survey questions. This event prices range from \$5 to \$9, depending on senior discount and residency. To learn more about this event or other seasonal activities, visit www.coronado.ca.us/civicrec, call (619) 522-7343, or stop by the John D. Spreckels Center at 1019 Seventh Street.



A family feud event is coming to the John D. Spreckels Center to close out the holidays. Staff photo.



Call us at:
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Meet Maya, 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.

PET OF THE WEEK

Meet Maya

PAWS of Coronado

Maya, a black retriever-labrador mix, is up for adoption at PAWS of Coronado. Staff members at PAWS of Coronado, a non-profit that provides adoption and rehabilitation services to animals, said that Maya has a friendly nature and loves playing fetch and cuddling. Those interested in adoption can visit www.pawsofcoronado.org. Fostering, donating and volunteering are other ways to support the organization.

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 Maya or other pets, please visit pawsofcoronado.org.

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OPINION

A big thank you to the community
this holiday season

BY THE EDITORIAL BOARD
The Coronado News

It's an ambiance that's rare to come by these days – that small-town holiday feeling that's timeless, cozy and full of nostalgia.

Amid countless Christmas events and holiday celebrations each year, Coronado somehow makes the feeling tangible. And that's thanks to community members who carry on traditions set long ago.

The world's first outdoor, electrically-lit, living Christmas tree was unveiled in 1904 by the Hotel del Coronado. It was a Norfolk Island pine, right on the hotel's grounds, that hosted a string of about 250 electric bulbs during a time when electricity was still on the rise and candles were commonplace.

The hotel has continued the ritual of lighting this same tree, along with a slate of additional festivities – noteworthy ones this year being an ice skating rink overlooking the ocean, Santa skydiving onto the beach, and the entire hotel decked out in Wizard of Oz-themed holiday decor.

Located a little ways up the street is another tree lit up for the season. The Rotary Plaza tree is wrapped in over 18,000 colorful lights (the strand is about two-miles long). Its illumination on Dec. 5 was accompanied by a holiday parade featur-



A gingerbread man walks through a past holiday parade in Coronado. Staff photo.

ing fun and festive floats.

Two other parades feature decorated golf carts cruising the city streets and lit-up boats in the waters of San Diego Bay. Oh, what fun it is to find seasonal celebrations in Coronado.

Meanwhile, behind the scenes, local organizations have been finding ways to give back to the community.

So, this time of year, we celebrate the individuals who make all of these events possible – the ones who add joy, spirit and generosity to our

community. It's a feeling that Coronado captures so well.

Merry Christmas from The Coronado News' editorial board. However you may be celebrating this year, we wish you time well-spent with family and friends.

How to be a part of
The Coronado News:

Submit a news tip

Capture a cool photo of Coronado and send it in for publication consideration

Respond to an editorial or a news story by writing a letter to the editor

All submissions can be sent to newsroom@thecoronadonews.com

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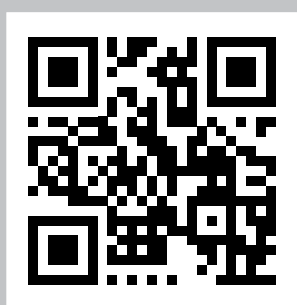
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SCAN ME

CORONADO

MOUTHFUL!

Review: Can a sushi minimalist love an over-the-top roll?

Welcome back to Mouthful! with Michelle, a review column exploring the eateries shaping Coronado's food scene

BY MICHELLE ARMAS
The Coronado News

I have always been something of a minimalist. I don't keep trinkets, I can fit all my clothes into one suitcase, and I have one small box of memories for my entire life. I'm drawn to a less-is-more mentality. That restraint doesn't always apply to food, however. One of my favorites is pad thai, layered with lemongrass and the complexities of sweet and sour spice. But I also love when ingredients can speak for themselves. Sushi is one of those, leading me to shy away from excessive frills — crunches, heavy sauces and embellishments that overshadow the fish and the rice.

Still, knowing this kind of extravagance appeals to many sushi lovers in the West, I stepped outside my comfort zone at Yummy Sushi, where the menu runs from straightforward nigiri to fully loaded rolls.

When I walked inside after climbing a set of fluorescent-lit stairs, there was already a line as early as 6 p.m. on a Tuesday. Inside, a sushi counter sat to the left, and on the right, a football game played on a big screen. String lights brimmed the interior, warming the space and giving it a cozy feel.

Once seated, I noticed that while the Hotel del Coronado's winter wonderland was in full effect across the street, there were no windows facing that direction. Instead, the windows from my table looked out onto a dark neighborhood street.

When a young server approached wearing shorts and a white tank top, her backdrop of Christmas stockings further grounded me in the fact that I was, indeed, in a Coronado winter.

The server quickly asked for my order, putting me into a mild panic. I got the sense she wanted me out of her hair. When I asked for guidance on the menu, her response was brief and offered little beyond what I had already read. I tried to press for more insight but stopped when her annoyance became apparent. A few nega-



Sushi rolls from Yummy Sushi are pictured here on Dec. 16. Photo by Michelle Armas.

tive Yelp reviews I had seen mentioned poor service, and I was disappointed to find that criticism rang true.

Looking at the menu, I briefly considered the all-you-can-eat option for \$45, which ultimately would have been cheaper than my three plates. I ended up naively ordering salmon belly nigiri — my favorite — along with two rolls: the Hotel Del Coronado roll and the Long Weekend roll.

The salmon belly arrived quickly. It lay there with marbled white signaling it was indeed the belly. As I swallowed it in one succinct bite, I was pleased by the buttery texture. The rice, however, felt slightly stiff, lacking the soft fluff that complements the richness of the fish, but I don't think a casual sushi eater would notice. I'm just a sucker for fluffy rice.

For the main course, I ordered a couple of over-the-top rolls, inspired by the plates on my neighbors table and the server's recommendation. When the rolls arrived, they were nicely presented, and the fish looked enticing. I reached immediately for the Long Weekend roll, which fea-

tures spicy tuna, cucumber, avocado and shrimp tempura inside, topped with seared salmon, spicy mayo, eel sauce, green onions and crispy onions. It was a mouthful — literally.

The first bite delivered the richness of lightly cooked salmon. The sear gave the fish a depth that felt both fresh and decadent. The eel sauce added sweetness, while the spicy mayo brought a touch of creaminess. Green onions and crispy onions provided a mix of fresh snap and fried crunch. Plump shrimp tempura introduced another layer, and the spicy tuna added a kick that made my lips sting. Everything came together seamlessly.

The final roll was my least favorite, though I can't say the server didn't warn me. I should have taken the hint that it wasn't a go-to choice. The Hotel Del Coronado roll — which, based on the name, I assumed would be the star — features real crab and avocado inside, topped with bluefin tuna, house-made soy sauce, yangpa (pickled onion) and black pepper.

That simplicity, however, did not equal power. The roll end-

ed up being too crab-forward. Minced crab, whether imitation or real, needs a counterbalance. That texture called for crunch or fat — something to offset its disconcertingly mushy quality. But the crab filled roll reminded me of taking a bite of tuna salad.

The bluefin tuna on top was fresh and easily the best component, but it was topped with pickled onions that missed the mark. Instead of tasting bright and tangy, they carried a dull, roasty flavor that suggested they were over-pickled or out of a jar.

Overall, the most important test for any sushi restaurant is the quality of the fish, and Yummy Sushi passed. For a more traditional sushi experience, Saiko Sushi remains my first choice for the reasons my predecessor, Lilly Corcoran, noted in her review, but Yummy Sushi is not far behind.

Yummy Sushi is open Monday to Friday from 2 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday 12 p.m. to 10 p.m. located on 1330 Orange Ave, Coronado.

Contact: michelle@thecoronadonews.com

Coronado reviews its yearly legislative policy guidelines

The council will come back in January to review the changes and adopt the updated guidelines

BY MADELINE YANG
The Coronado News

Coronado's municipal staff has recommended a set of legislative priorities for the city in 2026 – a list that focuses on sewage pollution, flood control, affordable housing and E-bike regulations. And the City Council is expected to vote on a revised list of those priorities next month.

A new subcommittee might also be established in the new year that deals specifically with Coronado's municipal legislative policy guidelines for 2027.

Every year, Coronado City Coun-

cil members review their legislative policy guidelines, a document that establishes the city's positions on legislative issues and is used as a framework when contacting members of the U.S. Congress or other agencies about matters affecting the city.

A staff report for the Dec. 16 City Council meeting explains that city "staff is authorized to communicate the city's position ... and prepare correspondence on behalf of the city for the mayor's or city manager's signature," based on the policy instructions.

City staff members also use these instructions to regularly track bills of specific interest to Coronado in order to bring periodic updates to the City Council if needed.

Even though the guidelines exist, Coronado can still have another opportunity to make a position state-

ment on a specific issue if brought to a meeting, according to the staff report.

Coronado Mayor John Duncan suggested a subcommittee to look at 2027's policy recommendations when city staff comes back in January.

The priority legislative goals for 2026 that council members looked at on Dec. 16 were to:

- Eliminate cross-border water pollution
- Increase infrastructure funding for storm water, wastewater, recycled water and major capital and resiliency projects
- Implement reasonable 7th cycle Regional Housing Need Assessment (RHNA) projections and policies
- Allow for local establishment of E-bike regulations.

However, there is a much longer list of other legislative goals includ-

ing city positions on state and federal mandated programs, local educational funding, public protection like crime and air quality.

"Sometimes bills move and change very quickly, and so having a sense of council's direction really provides us that freedom and flexibility to be able to respond quickly as needed," City Manager Tina Friend explained.

Council members moved through the document and suggested changes, but there was no motion made to accept these changes at the meeting.

Friend suggested that city staff come back in January with all recommendations and edits made to the guidelines, and at that time, council members can decide whether to adopt the proposed priorities.

Council may also decide at that meeting to form a subcommittee to handle the legislative policy guidelines for 2027.

CORONADO

Meet Claudia Ludlow and Marco Tabet, Discover Coronado’s interim leaders

BY MICHELLE ARMAS
The Coronado News
& San Diego Documenters

Claudia Ludlow and Marco Tabet were appointed as interim chair and interim vice chair of Discover Coronado, the city’s tourism marketing organization. They both have extensive experience in hospitality and with Coronado’s tourism industry. They will serve in the role temporarily until June 30, 2026.

Ludlow previously served as vice chair from 2013-2014 and chair from 2014-2018. She is the manager of the Glorietta Bay Inn and has a deep history with Coronado.

“My family has been here since 1919,” she said. Her first job was at the Hotel del Coronado at 18 years old, and she has worked in hospitality for more than three decades. “My grandfather fought in the Spanish-American War. I’m Black and Mexican and about two years ago they designated Black History in the City of Coronado on Feb. 2, and my family was a part of that story.”

Ludlow describes herself as someone who runs nonstop. She also serves on the board of the Coronado Chamber of Commerce, is an honorary Optimist Club of Coronado member and walked in the annual holiday parade on Dec. 5.

“It’s always a balancing act to run a hotel at the same time as overseeing an organization, but our executive director, Todd Little, is wonderful

San Diego Documenters

This story came from notes taken by Taylor Rau, a San Diego Documenter, at a Discover Coronado meeting this month. The Documenters program trains and pays community members to document what happens at public meetings. It’s run by inewssource, a nonpartisan nonprofit newsroom dedicated to investigative and accountability journalism. Read more about the program at sandiegodocumenters.org and inewssource.org

at what he does,” she said. “I’m just excited to help out in any way I can.”

Because the organization is in its mid-year budget cycle, Ludlow said her focus will be on keeping operations running smoothly, including setting agendas and facilitating meetings.

“Ultimately, the board makes the decisions,” she said.

Ludlow said Discover Coronado’s goal is to keep hotel beds filled. If one hotel reaches capacity, the organization works to help fill another through collaborating with Little and his marketing team. Higher occupancy generates more revenue and increases the city’s transient occupancy tax, or TOT, which hotels col-



Claudia Ludlow (left) and Marco Tabet (right) were appointed as interim chair and vice chair of Discover Coronado. *Photo on the left provided by Claudia Ludlow. Photo on the right provided by the Hotel del Coronado.*

lect and remit to the city, according to Ludlow.

Marco Tabet was appointed as interim vice chair on Dec. 4 and will serve through June 30, 2026. The board is expected to elect officers for fiscal year 2027 this spring.

Tabet is currently the general manager of the Hotel del Coronado and has more than 20 years of experience in hospitality, working in 10 countries, including Mexico. Prior to joining the Hotel del Coronado, he served for six years as general manager of the Conrad Punta de Mita in Nayarit, Mexico. He has also held general manager and leadership positions at Hilton Los Cabos Beach & Golf Resort, Hilton Lima Miraflores

in Peru and the Waldorf Astoria Panama.

As interim vice chair, Tabet said the role functions as a “right-hand person,” ready to step in when needed.

“Every board member of Discover Coronado is focused on efforts that attract groups and guests to our resorts and local businesses,” Tabet said in an email. “With the challenging economy, the work is even more important. I hope all the experiences I’ve collected around the world have prepared me to make a positive impact here.”

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CORONADO

City holiday closures and trash schedule

Coronado News staff

The City of Coronado will observe the Christmas holiday on Wednesday, Dec. 24 and Thursday, Dec. 25. City offices, the community center, the John D. Spreckels Center, and the Coronado Public Library will be closed.

There will be a one-day delay in residential trash and recycling collection for Thursday and Friday customers.

City facilities will also be closed on New Year's Day, with revised hours on New Year's Eve.

To view the full 2025 holiday schedule for the Recreation and Golf Services facilities, visit ca-coronado.civicplus.com.



Rotary Santa visits the Everett Family in Coronado. *Courtesy photo.*

Rotary Santa program spreads Christmas Eve cheer in Coronado

» Continued from Page 1

"I saw that magic ... and I thought, well, I'd like to be part of that," said Steward, who is now a Rotary Santa.

The Steward family has been involved with this cherished Christmas Eve tradition for over 10 years.

"Some people say, 'Well, you're giving up your Christmas Eve,'" said Steward. "No, you're not giving up your Christmas Eve, you're sharing Christmas Eve joyfully with a lot of other families."

Steward's wife, Amy, and D'amy have joined him in creating a memorable experience for Coronado children, many of whom they've seen grow over the years.

"It's so magical and it is a group effort," he said. "It's one of those small community traditions ... a marvelous tradition."

Commending the decades-long service by the Syverson family, Steward said Rotarians in Coronado enjoy helping out fellow citizens.

According to Syverson, the Coronado Rotary Club, established 1926 and celebrating its 100th anniversary in March, houses the only Rotary Santa program internationally.

"We're proud of it," Syverson noted, "but it's not pride. We're just really lucky that we live in a village. That this kind of tradition can be carried on, because we haven't outgrown it."

And Syverson says the program would not be possible without the support of the Coronado Fire Department, Chase Bank and all its volunteers.

"It's the manifestation of the spirit of the season," added Steward. "It allows you to see Christmas again through a child's eyes."

Contact: julieta@thecoronadonews.com



Coronado provides a few options for recycling Christmas trees. *Photo by Pexels in the public domain.*

Recycling and drop off locations for Christmas trees

Coronado News staff

Christmas trees, including flocked trees, may be recycled in Coronado by using either the green waste curbside program or the drop-off program between Dec. 26 and Jan. 19.

For the green waste curbside program, 4-foot sections of Christmas trees can be placed in yard waste recycling containers that are then placed on the curb. Sections of trees can also be bundled with twine — at a maximum size of 4 feet in length and 18 inches in diameter — and set on the curb.

Two drop-off locations will be taking trees (no size restrictions) from Dec. 26 to Jan. 19: The Glorietta Bay boat launch parking lot and the Cays Park parking lot.

Trees of any size can be placed in the large roll-off dumpsters at those locations.

Christmas tree recycling tips from the city:

- Strung lights cannot be recycled. They tangle the machines and cause the system to shut down for detangling.
- Flocked or fake snow (flock) contains chemicals. Therefore, these trees cannot be composted.
- Tinsel must be completely removed and placed in the trash before a tree can be recycled.
- Make sure to remove all ornaments, garlands, lights, nails, tree bags and tree stands (metal or plastic) before recycling.
- Reuse or donate artificial trees that are in good condition. Purchasing new plastic trees create more waste and greenhouse gasses. To show any environmental benefit, they need to be used for at least 20 years.
- Real trees should not sit around too long after the holidays. They can dry out and become fire hazards. Organic wreaths and similar organic decorations can be recycled with trees.

Information provided by the City of Coronado.

The United States and Mexico sign Minute 333

» Continued from Page 1

projects."

For decades, untreated raw sewage and industrial waste from Tijuana has entered South San Diego directly impacting the Tijuana River Valley and surrounding communities. The crisis has sickened people, led to beach closures, given rise to noxious odors and affected the economic opportunity of cities being polluted.

During a visit to San Diego in April, EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin discussed the sewage crisis with his Mexican counterpart, toured the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant (SBIWTP), met with Navy SEALs and spoke with elected officials.

Zeldin and Alicia Bárcena Ibarra, Mexico's secretary of environment and natural resources, signed a memorandum of understanding in July addressing a list of priorities on both sides of the border. Identified in the memorandum was a 10-million-gallons-per-day (mgd) expansion of the South Bay plant in 100 days, completed earlier this year. The MOU also set a Dec. 31 deadline for the new Minute, which was met with this Dec. 15 announcement.

"This new Minute, along with the significant improvements we have made at our San Diego plant and Mexico's commitment to finish its projects ahead of schedule, will improve the health and safety of Americans," said Chad McIntosh, commissioner of the USIBWC.

Key projects in Minute 333

Fotouhi said the EPA and USIBWC are working with the urgency de-

manded by President Trump, San Diego area residents and the American people.

On Dec. 10, Trump addressed the crisis with a 19-second clip on Truth Social showing untreated Tijuana River flows.

"Mexico must take care of its water and sewage problem, IMMEDIATELY," wrote Trump online. "It is a true Threat to the People of Texas, California, and the United States of America!"

According to Fotouhi, Minute 333 was negotiated and signed in less than five months as a direct result of the July memorandum.

Fotouhi said everything the U.S. identified in July as the memorandum's fourth section is "part of a 100% solution to the crisis" now included in Minute 333.

The section identified actions to be accomplished through binational workgroups led by the commission.

Fotouhi said some Minute 333 projects are being worked on now, some are slated for 2026 and others for 2027.

A Minute 333 work group is expected to initiate studies that inform recommendations for the installation of an ocean outfall at the San Antonio de los Buenos Wastewater Treatment Plant (SAB WWTP) within six months.

Supplementary treatment for the plant's effluent, such as ozonation for disinfection, odor control, and reduction of chemical usage, will also be evaluated by the group by December of 2026.

The minute also looks to expand treatment capacity of the plant in Tijuana from 18 mgd to 43 mgd.

Minute 333 actions also include:

- Mexico's development of an updated water master plan for Tijuana within six months, to ensure sufficient infrastructure is constructed proportionate to anticipated population growth.
- Development of a monitoring system of the flow in the Tijuana River and water quality data from the treated effluent discharged by wastewater treatment plants including SBI-WTP and SAB WWTP within six months.
- Mexico's construction of a sediment basin in Matadero Canyon (Smuggler's Gulch), which is located near the international boundary, prior to the 2026-2027 rainy season.
- The creation of an account at the North America Development Bank to reserve dollars provided to Mexico for future operations and maintenance costs, with recommendations from the binational work group due within 12 months of signing.

"To be crystal clear, this human health and ecological crisis will not end solely with the swipe of a pen," said Fotouhi. "The next step is for both nations to faithfully implement the agreed upon items in Minute 333."

To view the full list of Minute 333 projects, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-water-infrastructure/minute-no-333>.

Contact: julieta@thecoronadonews.com



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MILITARY

USS Essex returns to San Diego

Wasp-class amphibious assault ship USS Essex approaches the Coronado Bridge as the ship transits the San Diego Bay as it returns from an underway period on Dec. 15. Essex is homeported in San Diego.

U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Apprentice Zachary Warr.



Pulitzer Prize-winning correspondent Peter Arnett, who reported on Vietnam and Gulf wars, has died

Associated Press

Peter Arnett, the Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter who spent decades dodging bullets and bombs to bring the world eyewitness accounts of war from the rice paddies of Vietnam to the deserts of Iraq, has died. He was 91.

Arnett, who won the 1966 Pulitzer Prize for international reporting for his Vietnam War coverage for The Associated Press, died on Dec. 17 in Newport Beach and was surrounded by friends and family, said his son Andrew Arnett. He had been suffering from prostate cancer.

“Peter Arnett was one of the greatest war correspondents of his generation — intrepid, fearless, and a beautiful writer and storyteller. His reporting in print and on camera will remain a legacy for aspiring journalists and historians for generations to come,” said Edith Lederer, who was a fellow AP war correspondent in Vietnam in 1972-73 and is now AP’s chief correspondent at the United Nations.

As a wire-service correspondent, Arnett was known mostly to fellow journalists when he reported in Vietnam from 1962 until the war’s end in 1975. He became something of a household name in 1991, however, after he broadcast live updates for CNN from Iraq during the first Gulf War.

While almost all Western reporters had fled Baghdad in the days before the U.S.-led attack, Arnett stayed. As missiles began raining on the city, he broadcast a live account from his hotel room.

“There was an explosion right near me, you may have heard,” he said in a calm, New Zealand-accented voice moments after the loud boom of a missile strike rattled across the airwaves. As he continued to speak air-raid sirens blared in the background.

“I think that took out the telecommunications center,” he said of another explosion. “They are hitting the center of the city.”

Reporting from Vietnam

It was not the first time Arnett had gotten dangerously close to the action.

In January 1966, he joined a battalion of U.S. soldiers seeking to rout North Vietnamese snipers and was standing next to the battalion commander when an officer paused to read a map.

“As the colonel peered at it, I heard four loud shots as bullets tore through the map and into his chest, a few inches from my face,” Arnett recalled during a talk to the American Library Association in 2013. “He sank to the ground at my feet.”

He would begin the fallen soldier’s obituary like this: “He was the son of a general, a West Pointer and a battalion commander. But Lt. Colonel George Eyster was to die like a rifleman. It may have been the colonel’s leaves of rank on his collar, or the map he held in his hand, or just a wayward chance that the Viet Cong sniper chose Eyster from the five of us standing in that dusty jungle path.”



Associated Press correspondent Peter Arnett, left, marches with Vietnamese troops in Vietnam, Nov. 11, 1965. AP Photo, File.

Arnett had arrived in Vietnam just a year after joining AP as its Indonesia correspondent. That job would be short-lived after he reported Indonesia’s economy was in shambles and the country’s enraged leadership threw him out. His expulsion marked only the first of several controversies in which he would find himself embroiled, while also forging an historic career.

“Peter Arnett was one of the greatest war correspondents of his generation — intrepid, fearless, and a beautiful writer and storyteller.”

- Edith Lederer, AP’s chief correspondent at the United Nations

At the AP’s Saigon bureau in 1962, Arnett found himself surrounded by a formidable roster of journalists, including bureau chief Malcolm Browne and photo editor Horst Faas, who between them would win three Pulitzer Prizes.

He credited Browne in particular with teaching him many of the survival tricks that would keep him alive in war zones over the next 40 years. Among them: Never stand near a

medic or radio operator because they’re among the first the enemy will shoot at. And if you hear a gunshot coming from the other side, don’t look around to see who fired it because the next one will likely hit you.

Arnett would stay in Vietnam until the capital, Saigon, fell to the Communist-backed North Vietnamese rebels in 1975. In the time leading up to those final days, he was ordered by AP’s New York headquarters to begin destroying the bureau’s papers as coverage of the war wound down.

Instead, he shipped them to his apartment in New York, believing they’d have historic value someday. They’re now in the AP’s archives.

A star on cable news

Arnett remained with the AP until 1981, when he joined the newly-formed CNN.

Ten years later he was in Baghdad covering another war. He not only reported on the front-line fighting but won exclusive, and controversial, interviews with then-President Saddam Hussein and future 9/11 mastermind Osama bin Laden.

In 1995 he published the memoir, “Live From the Battlefield: From Vietnam to Baghdad, 35 Years in the World’s War Zones.”

Arnett resigned from CNN in 1999, months after the network retracted an investigative report he did not prepare but narrated alleging that deadly Sarin nerve gas had been used on deserting American soldiers in Laos in 1970.

He was covering the second Gulf War for NBC and National Geographic in 2003 when he was fired for granting an interview to Iraqi state TV during which he criticized the U.S. military’s war strategy. His remarks were denounced back home as anti-American.

After his dismissal, TV critics for the AP and other news organizations speculated that Arnett would never work in television news again. Within a week, however, he had been hired to report on the war for stations in Taiwan, the United Arab Emirates and Belgium.

In 2007, he took a job teaching journalism at China’s Shantou University. Following his retirement in 2014, he and his wife, Nina Nguyen, moved to the Southern California suburb of Fountain Valley.

Born Nov. 13, 1934, in Riverton, New Zealand, Peter Arnett got his first exposure to journalism when he landed a job at his local newspaper, the Southland Times, shortly after high school.

“I didn’t really have a clear idea of where my life would take me, but I do remember that first day when I walked into the newspaper office as an employee and found my little desk, and I did have a — you know — enormously delicious feeling that I’d found my place,” he recalled in a 2006 AP oral history.

After a few years at the Times, he made plans to move to a larger newspaper in London. En route to England by ship, however, he made a stop in Thailand and fell in love with the country.

Soon he was working for the English-language Bangkok World, and later for its sister newspaper in Laos. There he would make the connections that led him to the AP and a lifetime of covering war.

Arnett is survived by his wife and their children, Elsa and Andrew.

“He was like a brother,” said retired AP photographer Nick Ut, who covered combat in Vietnam with Arnett and remained his friend for a half century. “His death will leave a big hole in my life.”

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SPORTS

CHS ROUNDUP

Islander sporting events this week

BY CADE MICHAELSON
The Coronado News

Coming off the holiday break, winter sports will be back in full swing this week for Coronado High. Most notably, the boys' basketball and soccer teams play two games this week.

6 • Tuesday

Islanders girls' soccer opens the week with a match at home against Eastlake. JV starts at 4, varsity follows at 6 p.m.

Boys' basketball plays their first of two home games this week. The Islanders are hosting La Jolla Country Day. JV tips off at 5, varsity at 6:30.

7 • Wednesday

CHS boys' soccer hits the road for a game against Clairemont. JV plays at 4, varsity at 6 p.m.

9 • Friday

Boys' soccer plays their second road game of the week, this time against Santana. JV game starts at 5:30, varsity follows at 7 p.m.

CHS girls' basketball play their first game back from break against High Tech High. JV is on the road and plays at 4. Varsity is at home, tipping off at 6 p.m.

Islander boys' basketball closes the school week out with a game against Patrick Henry. JV is on the road and starts at 5:45. Varsity is at home for a 7:30 tip.

10 • Saturday

Girls' water polo is competing in the Spartan Invite. Game time and venue TBD.

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FILE - San Diego Padres pitching coach Ruben Niebla looks on during a baseball game against the Washington Nationals, July 19, 2025, in Washington. AP Photo/Nick Wass, File.

Padres finalize coaching staff with Ruben Niebla returning

Associated Press

The San Diego Padres have finalized rookie manager Craig Stammen's coaching staff for the upcoming season, retaining Ruben Niebla as their pitching coach and hiring Steven Souza Jr. as their hitting coach.

The Padres also announced on Dec. 17 that Randy Knorr will be Stammen's bench coach.

Niebla was a finalist in the competition to replace Mike Shildt, who resigned after his second 90-win season ended with a wild-card playoff round exit in October. The top job went to Stammen, a former reliever for the Padres and the Washington Nationals who has never managed at any level, but worked for general manager A.J. Preller for the past two seasons.

Niebla still agreed to return to San Diego, where he has earned significant respect and influence in the clubhouse since joining the coaching staff in 2022. Niebla also received the additional title of associate manager.

The 36-year-old Souza has never been on a major league coaching staff. The outfielder's major league playing career began alongside Stammen with the Nationals in 2014 and ended in 2022. Victor Rodríguez, the Padres' hitting coach last season, left to take the same job with Houston.

Knorr also worked with Stammen in Washington, where he was the bench coach for managers Davey Johnson and Matt Williams a decade ago.

David Macias will return as the Padres' first base coach, while Bob Henley will be the Padres' third base coach after spending the past decade working for the Nationals.

Among the additional returnees from Shildt's staff are bullpen coach Ben Fritz and infield coach Nick Punto.

Coronado girls' water polo off to undefeated 8-0 start

» Continued from Page 1

in goals and assists, respectively.

This rendition of the CHS girls' water polo team is very young. The squad is made up of one senior, three juniors, nine sophomores and four freshmen – with only six returners total.

“What I’ve been impressed with the girls in relation to their youth is the resiliency in situations that aren’t going their way,” Throop said. “Whether it’s an offensive possession that goes sideways or we give up a goal, their ability to move on and keep playing has been awesome.”

Throop spoke positively about how the team is playing on both sides of the ball, but made it clear that the recent focus has been on how the players move around the ball and set themselves up for success.

“We’re really spending a lot of time on spacing and working for positioning without the ball, which is crucial in many sports such as water polo, and that helps make the offense versatile and difficult to defend,” Throop said.

After winning eight games in a row in a short span, the Islanders now have a long break. Throop acknowledged the challenges that come with a winter sports schedule, which he said adds more importance to the practices held over the break.

“We regularly discuss the need to focus on our weak points in practice, so the group sometimes needs to be reminded why we’re looking at certain looks or reads when what we do well is available,” he said.

Despite the hot start for the Islanders, there’s a lot of regular season left, that goes into February and could extend for two more months depending on playoff schedules and results.

“The goal the team has right now is to be competitive as the season goes on, stay cohesive in negative situations, and support each other no matter the circumstance. In other words, be a team throughout the good and bad.”

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Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone, Gabby Thomas among those owed six figures by bankrupt Grand Slam Track

Associated Press

Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone, Gabby Thomas, Melissa Jefferson-Wooden and four other Olympic medalists are among those owed six-figure sums by Grand Slam Track, the racing league that filed for bankruptcy earlier this month.

The league resubmitted forms on Dec. 15 for its Chapter 11 bankruptcy, one of which was a required list of its top 20 creditors.

McLaughlin-Levrone, the four-time Olympic champion and world-record holder in the 400-meter hurdles, was owed the fifth most on the list: \$365,250.

Others included Kenny Bednarek, Josh Kerr, Marileidy Paulino and Alison Dos Santos. Dos Santos and Jefferson-Wooden were each owed \$190,625. The rest were owed between \$211,000 and \$250,000.

Olympic gold medalist Michael Johnson formed the league by signing athletes who received salaries and appearance fees to compete on the four-event circuit. They also competed for prize money at each race and in a season-long series that was cut short when Grand Slam Track abruptly called off its final event, set for Los Angeles in June.

The organization also amended its estimated assets to between \$1 million and \$10 million instead of less



FILE - Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone crosses the finish line to win the women's 4 X 400 meters relay at the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo, Sept. 21, 2025. AP Photo/Matthias Schrader, File.

than \$50,000, which is what it said in the original filing.

It said it owed between \$10 million and \$50 million to between 200 and 999 creditors, with the largest sum,

\$3.036 million, due to Momentum-CHP Partnership, a joint venture created for the league's TV productions.

“With a rightsized financial pro-

file, the League will have the ability to return for future seasons and pursue new initiatives,” GST said in a news release last week that announced the bankruptcy.

SPORTS

From grandpa to gridiron:
Philip Rivers’ inspiring NFL return

Associated Press

The “Gridiron Grandpa” thrilled both young and old alike with his return to the NFL 1,800 days after last throwing a touchdown pass. Philip Rivers nearly helped the injury-riddled Colts (8-6) pull off the upset at Seattle, completing 18 of 27 passes for 120 yards and a touchdown with one sack and an interception in an 18-16 loss to the 11-win Seahawks. “I was just thankful — grateful — that I was out there,” said Rivers, whose pick came on his final pass as he tried to force the ball down the field in the closing seconds. “And it was a blast — it was a blast — but obviously the emotions now are disappointment. This isn’t about me. We have a team scrapping like crazy to try and stay alive and get into the postseason.

For much of the NFL, it was all about Rivers, who admitted he wasn’t even sure how he’d play coming out of retirement as a Pro Football Hall of Fame semifinalist. “There is doubt, and it’s real,” Rivers said. “The guaranteed safe bet is to go home or to not go for it, and the other one is, ‘Shoot, let’s see what happens.’ I hope in that sense that can be a positive to some young boys, or young people.” The high school team that Rivers coaches in his native Alabama, the St. Michael Catholic Cardinals, who finished 13-1 this season, gathered at a local restaurant in Fairhope for a watch party and went wild when Rivers threw a touchdown pass to Josh Downs that put Indianapolis ahead 13-3.



Indianapolis Colts quarterback Philip Rivers reacts during the second half of an NFL football game against the Seattle Seahawks on Sunday, December 14, 2025, in Seattle. AP Photo/Stephen Brashear.

And you can bet plenty of gray-haired football fans were just as thrilled as those teen-agers to see “Old Man Rivers” slinging it again and joining other sports greats who returned from retirement with less hair or more gray, including the likes of Michael Jordan, George Foreman, Mario Lemieux and Magic Johnson. Rivers definitely has a dad bod, and last week he couldn’t even tell reporters what his weight was, only that it was certainly higher than when he walked away after the 2020 season. For nearly five years, Rivers’ seemingly final touchdown toss was caught by tight end Jack Doyle in Indy’s 27-24 loss to the Buffalo Bills in an AFC wild-card game on Jan. 9, 2021. The one he threw to Downs on Dec.

14 was Rivers’ 438th career touchdown toss, counting the playoffs, and few could have been more thrilling. Rivers was the butt of plenty of old-man jokes and the subject of innumerable social media memes after the Colts called him out of retirement to try to salvage a once-promising season that’s been sabotaged by injuries, including the one to starting quarterback Daniel Jones, whose stirring comeback season ended with a torn Achilles. Rivers did nothing to embarrass himself on Dec. 14, not even when he slipped down without contact on one drop-back before scrambling to his feet and darting up the middle. Rivers insisted he enjoyed the few hard hits he took from the Seahawks’ stout defense, saying, “I never mind-

ed that part of it. My wife always tells me I’m crazy because there’s been times in the last three or four years I said, ‘I wish I could just throw one and get hit — hard.’” Tim Hasselbeck, the 47-year-old ex-NFL QB turned ESPN analyst who recently became head football coach at The Ensworth High School in Nashville, was thoroughly impressed by the way Rivers handled himself after just one short week of practice with the Colts. “That’s something that people need to understand, too,” Hasselbeck said on the “Scott Van Pelt Show,” stressing that Rivers risked not just his health but his reputation by returning to the gridiron. “He’s been out of the game for nearly five years. The risk associated with (returning to the NFL): getting hurt, tearing your knee up, blowing out an Achilles — and then more honestly — humiliating yourself by playing,” Hasselbeck said. “There were risks associated with what he’s doing.” “I work with colleagues that were just flat wrong,” Van Pelt concurred, “that acted like it was embarrassing that this guy was going to go do this. No, it wasn’t. They lost by two points to one of the best teams in football.” Colts coach Shane Steichen on Dec. 15 confirmed that Rivers will be the Colts’ starter against the San Francisco 49ers (10-4) next Monday night. If he stays upright and keeps the starting job, it won’t get any easier for Rivers, who would have to face the AFC South-leading Jacksonville Jaguars (10-4) on a short Christmas week before a trip to Houston (9-5) to close out the regular season.

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FILE - Los Angeles Dodgers World Series MVP Yoshinobu Yamamoto holds his trophy as teammates celebrate their win in Game 7 of baseball's World Series against the Toronto Blue Jays, Sunday, Nov. 2, 2025, in Toronto. AP Photo/Ashley Landis, File.

World Series champion Dodgers’
full share is \$484,748, up from
2024 but below 2022 record

Associated Press

A full postseason share for the World Series champion Dodgers totaled \$484,748, up from the amount Los Angeles players earned in 2024 but still down from the winner’s figure in 2022 and 2023. The total postseason pool of nearly \$128.2 million was down slightly from the record \$129.1 million in 2024, the commissioner’s office said Thursday. The yearly pool amount is impacted by ballpark capacities. Los Angeles players voted 82 full shares and 12.5 partial shares for 94.5 full share equivalents plus \$340,000 in cash awards in dividing a pool of \$46.1. million. Houston received a record full share of \$516,347 in 2022, when the World Series champion Astros divided their pool into 59 full shares, 14.14 partial shares and \$940,000 in cash awards. A full share on the 2023 champion Texas Rangers was worth \$506,263, and the 2024 Dodgers’ full share was \$477,441. Full share equivalents have risen in recent years. San Francisco had 56.65 when it won the title in 2014. All players and managers eligible for the World Series who were with the team or on an injured list from June 1 or later get a full share. Those

not with the team on or after June 1 are eligible to get a full share or percentage share as voted by that team’s players along with two certified athletic trainers and one strength and conditioning coach. Spring training coaches, scouts and the grounds crew are eligible for cash awards but not shares. Executives such as general managers, assistant GMs, directors of baseball operations, team physicians and resident security agents are not eligible for any part of the pool. A full share for the AL champion Toronto Blue Jays came to \$354,118 just below the \$354,572 last year for the New York Yankees when they lost to the Dodgers in the World Series. Toronto had 70 full shares, 15.44 partial shares and \$508,5000 cash awards. Full shares for other playoff teams this year were:

- \$182,376 for Seattle
- \$168,853 for Milwaukee
- \$52,044 for Philadelphia
- \$48,741 for the Chicago Cubs
- \$47,318 for the Yankees
- \$46,865 for Detroit
- \$11,528 for Cincinnati
- \$11,057 for Cleveland
- \$10,711 for San Diego
- \$9,347 for Boston

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SPORTS

Surging Chargers defense is turning coordinator Jesse Minter into a hot head coaching candidate

Associated Press

There's a good reason why Chargers defensive coordinator Jesse Minter has been on those lists of prospective head coaching candidates all season long.

The past two weeks, including a 16-13 win over the Kansas City Chiefs on Sunday, have only served to solidify why the 42-year-old Minter will be in demand.

With quarterback Justin Herbert dealing with a broken non-throwing hand behind a makeshift offensive line and working with an erratic run game, Minter's defense has stepped up to put the Chargers (10-4) on the brink of a playoff berth.

"It has just been great," coach Jim Harbaugh said. "Just calling a great game and coordinating and getting us ready for it."

In a 22-19 overtime win against the Philadelphia Eagles on Dec. 8, the defense forced five takeaways, didn't allow a red-zone touchdown in two opportunities and held strong on third down (4 of 13).

To complete the Chargers' season sweep of the Chiefs, the defense came up with five sacks, allowed 2.3 yards per carry and was generally able to limit Patrick Mahomes.

Minter successfully deployed linebacker Daiyan Henley as a spy after Mahomes scrambled for a 12-yard touchdown on Kansas City's opening drive, helping keep the Chiefs out of the end zone for the final 53:52.

Those sorts of adjustments have Minter in line for a promotion in short order.

"I'm Jesse Minter's biggest fan,"



Los Angeles Chargers safety Derwin James Jr. (3) celebrates after intercepting a pass during the second half of an NFL football game against the Kansas City Chiefs Sunday, Dec. 14, 2025, in Kansas City, Mo. AP Photo/Ed Zurga.

Harbaugh said. "I don't know of anybody who's a bigger fan of Jesse Minter than I am. In fact, the Harbaughs love the Minters."

The son of longtime college and NFL coach Rick Minter, Jesse got his first NFL seasoning under John Harbaugh in Baltimore starting in 2017

before joining Jim Harbaugh at Michigan in 2022.

Minter then followed Harbaugh to Los Angeles after helping the Wolverines winning the national championship, and he has overseen two outstanding defenses for the Chargers. They rank second in yards allowed

(279.1) and sixth in yards per play (4.95) this season, elevating their performance just in time for the stretch run.

If the defense can maintain this strong form into January, other teams might have to wait a little longer before trying to hire Minter.

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